



**Bruthen
Primary School**

"Learning for Life"

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Principal: Michelle Young

RESPECT

COURAGE

HONESTY

TEAMWORK

FUN

Newsletter Term 4, Monday 15th December 2025

School Council Members – President: Sarah Kennedy **Vice President:** Lucy Whillance **Secretary:** Kathleen Callow

Treasurer: Kelsey Schueler **Executive Officer:** Michelle Young; **Committee Members:** Alyson Nichol, Lahnne Tong, Rachel Rogers, Jade Simpson, Stephanie Cooke and Tina Tallberg

Upcoming Events

December

Tuesday 16th - Evening Performance

Wednesday 17th – Water Fight p.m.

Thursday 18th – Clean Up Day

Friday 19th – Last Day Term 4 – Clean up Day. 1.30 pm Dismissal

2026

January

Tuesday 27th – Staff Return

Wednesday 28th - All students Begin

February

Monday 9th – Thursday 12 – Grade 5/6 Camp

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of another wonderful year, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our parents and families for your ongoing support, trust and partnership throughout 2025. Your involvement plays a vital role in the success of our school community. I also warmly acknowledge our dedicated teachers and staff for their professionalism, care and unwavering commitment to supporting every student to be the very best they can be. To our students—thank you for your kindness, positive attitudes to learning, and for the fun, laughter and joy you bring to our school each day. You have created countless special memories this year, and we are incredibly proud of you. On behalf of all staff at Bruthen Primary School, we wish everyone a safe, restful and happy holiday break.

Class Structures 2026

Looking ahead to 2026, we are pleased to share our grade structures and staffing arrangements.

- **Foundation/Grade 1** will be taught by Ms Natalie Rainsbury, supported by Chris Blackwood and Matilda Young as Educational Support Staff. (To be confirmed).

- **Grade 2/3** will be led by Mrs Alison Alying, with Kirsti Penglase providing Educational Support.

Grade 4/5/6 will be taught by Miss Nicole Hood, supported by Katrina Hersey as Educational Support Staff.

- Penny Young will continue in her role as Wellbeing and Disability Inclusion Coordinator, and Mrs Susie Grinter will remain our Art, Science and PE specialist.

- Rocky Furnell will continue as Business Manager.

- And we are pleased to announce that **Miss Tina Tallberg will take on the role of Acting Principal for Term 1, 2026.**

End of an Era-Mrs Young says Goodbye

As this year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students, staff, parents and the wider Bruthen Primary School community for your incredible support over the past nine years in my role as Principal. Together, we have grown the school from 32 students to 72 students and transformed Bruthen Primary School from an underperforming school into one that consistently achieves strong educational and wellbeing outcomes. With the school now in such a positive and sustainable position, I feel this is the right time to begin a planned transition toward retirement. This will involve easing back from the principalship and stepping into a new role focused on supporting teaching and learning across schools in the Far East Gippsland Network, based in Orbost. Bruthen Primary School will always hold a special place in my heart, and I am forever grateful for the opportunity and privilege to have led this school alongside such a wonderful and supportive community. Our

school has just completed a glowing school review and is well positioned to continue optimising learning and wellbeing outcomes with fresh leadership and renewed enthusiasm. Bruthen Primary School is ready to keep growing as a place where our community proudly sends their children, and where every student is supported to shine in their own unique way. I know that everyone will get behind Tina in Term 1 – she is ready to lead this school to bigger and better things.

End of Year Celebration Night

As the year comes to an end, we look forward to celebrating "The Year That Was" tomorrow night (Tuesday 16th December) at the Bruthen Mechanics Hall. We can't wait to see you there to watch your children shine as they perform "Dragon," our whole-school production. Grade 5 & 6 students are asked to arrive at 5:00pm, and Foundation to Grade 4 students at 5:30pm.

Order of events:

- **6:00pm** – Welcome
- **6:05pm** – Whole School Production
- **6:40pm** – Grade 6 Graduation Presentation
- **6:50pm** – The Year That Was!
- **6:55pm** – Christmas Raffle Draw
- **7:00pm** – Goodnight

Thank you for a truly memorable year.

Grade 6 Graduation Picnic

Thank you to all the families who joined us to celebrate the completion of our Grade 6 students' primary school journey. It was a wonderful evening, beginning with a relaxed picnic dinner under the shade of our trees, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for this special milestone. The celebration was made even more meaningful as our Grade 6 students shared a speech and photo story, reflecting on their achievements and many memorable moments throughout their time at Bruthen Primary School.

We are incredibly proud of each of these students – their dedication to being the best they can be, their resilience through challenging times, and their growing capacity to take agency over their own learning. As they prepare for the next chapter of their education, we wish them every success in their future endeavours. We are confident they will continue to grow, lead and make a real difference in the world in the years to come.

Whole School Water Fight

To finish off the school year, we will be continuing our much-loved tradition of the whole school water fight on Wednesday 17th December, starting at 2:30pm. This is always a

fun and exciting way to celebrate the end of the year together.

Students are asked to bring their bathers and a towel. We do have some water pistols available at school; however, students who have one at home are encouraged to bring it along, clearly labelled with their name. Please note that students will not be getting changed at the end of the day and will go home wearing their bathers with a towel around them.

We're looking forward to lots of laughter and a great whole-school celebration to wrap up the year! 💧 😊



Last Day Arrangements-Early Dismissal 1:30pm

Thursday 18th and Friday 19th December will be clean-up days at school. Students may come out of school uniform and are asked to wear old clothes, as they will be helping to clean classrooms, storage areas and the school yard.

We will hold a very brief whole-school assembly at 1:10pm on Friday to say our final goodbyes and to wish everyone a safe, relaxing and happy holiday break at 1:30pm

Starting Dates for 2026

Tuesday 27th January-Teachers return- Whole school Professional Learning Day- 'Responsive Teaching'

Wednesday 28th January-ALL students return. Foundation students also attend this day.

Foundation Rest Day Dates

Every Wednesday in February is a rest day for our new Foundation students- Wednesday 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th February.

Beginning Monday 2nd March Foundation students will attend school full time.

Foundation/ Grade 1 and 2 Big Day Out

Grades Prep and 1/2 enjoyed a lovely excursion to the Buchan Caves. We enjoyed the beautiful playground and had a sausage-sizzle lunch.

Many of us had never been in a cave before, and there were some very serious, deep discussions about Bat-Man's cave and what that might look like.

Toby's mum and Lily's dad joined us for the day and were a wonderful help.

A highlight was when our tour guide told us he would turn the cave lights out to show us how dark a cave was. We were nervous, so Mrs Ayling told us to huddle together and hold hands, and to our delight, we discovered that Toby glows in the dark (his tshirt). So we asked the guide to turn the lights off again 3 more times and had a good giggle! (thanks Toby). It was a wonderful opportunity to learn about local areas of historical significance.





Whole School Big Day Out

Little Legends Continues

Come and join the fun.
Every Thursday 9:30am-11:00am
at the sports' shed.



Neighbourhood Houses
The Heart of Our Community

GIPPSLAND
Community
Foundation

Bruthen & District
Neighbourhood House

**FREE
COMMUNITY
PLAYGROUP**

**Little
Legend's**

Please bring a
piece of fruit &
water bottle

Held @ Bruthen Primary School

Every Thursday
during Term
9:30AM- 11:00AM

Outdoor play, games, kids crafts, music, dress-up days, story telling
~ *Kindergarten* and much more!

Are you looking for a fun and enriching experience for your little one?
Then look no further than Little Legends Play Group! Designed for children ages
0-5, our playgroup offers a vibrant and engaging environment where young
minds can thrive.

Each week with Kellie brings a new adventure, with activities ranging from
active play to creative art projects and musical exploration. We also incorporate
story time and music sessions to spark imagination and foster a love of learning.

Little Legends Play Group is more than just playtime - it's a chance for you and
your child to develop socially, physically, and emotionally in a supportive and
stimulating setting.

FOR MORE INFO CALL 86DNH 0497 544 490




Bruthen & District
Neighbourhood House

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL OR SMS
0497 544 490

**LITTLE LEGEND'S
TWEEN - AGES 9-13**

LEVEL-UP

EXPLORING INDEPENDENCE
FRIENDSHIP & BELONGING
LIFE & SOCIAL SKILL GROWTH
NAVIGATING CHANGE & TRANSITION
SELF ESTEEM & STRENGTHS
SAFE ENVIRONMENT

**TWEEN SOCIAL GROUP
AGES 9-13**

4:00PM - 6:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY
DURING SCHOOL TERMS
36 MAIN STREET BRUTHEN
FREE PROGRAM AGES 9-13 SIGN UP TODAY

• EXPLORE INDEPENDENCE
• SOCIAL EXPERIENCE
• NETWORKING
• GAMES
• ART & CREATION
• MUSIC & DANCING
• FASHION
• COOKING SESSIONS
• GROUP EXCURSIONS/ DAY CAMPS
• MOVIE & GAMING NIGHTS
• YOUTH LEAD ACTIVITIES

Little Legend's 9-13 is a BCDNH initiative supported by the Gippsland Community Foundation.
Bruthen & District Neighbourhood House thank GCF for their ongoing support, which allows us to continue
working towards a stronger, more resilient community.
We deeply value our partnership with GCF and our shared commitment to fostering growth in our region.

GIPPSLAND
Community
Foundation

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