



# Bruthen Primary School

"Learning for Life"

31 Great Alpine Road, Bruthen Vic 3885  
PO Box 101

Phone: (03) 5157 5445

Email: [bruthen.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:bruthen.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

Principal: Michelle Young

RESPECT

COURAGE

HONESTY

TEAMWORK

FUN

## Newsletter Term 2, Wednesday 18th June 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

Dear Parents,

### Weekly Events

**Tuesday** Grade 3/4 Art Science, PE & Wellbeing

**Tucker Tuesday**

**Wednesday** Grade 5/6 Art Science & PE

**Thursday** Grade 1/2 Art Science, PE & Wellbeing

Foundation & Gr3/4 Wellbeing

**Active Kids 0–5-year-old health program**

**Friday** Foundation Art, Science & PE

**MARC Van dates** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June & 2<sup>nd</sup> July

### Upcoming Events

#### June

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup>** Whole School Assembly 3:15pm-3:30pm

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup>** **Whole School Closure Day**-Staff Professional Development

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July** Last day of Term 2, Early Finish at 1:30pm.

### Heads Up Term 3 Dates

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July** Author Visit for Grades 3-6

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July** Mitchell Cluster Athletics F-6 Bairnsdale

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July** Regional Winter Sports Tee ball & Soccer

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August** District Athletics Howitt Park Bairnsdale

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August** Book Week Dress Up Parade

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September** Division Athletics Howitt Park Bairnsdale

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>-Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept** Gr3/4 Karoonda Camp

### **Empowering Students Through Protective Behaviours: A Visit from the Kids ROAR Program**

On Monday, our school had the privilege of hosting a visit from KidsROAR—a valuable initiative focused on teaching children protective behaviours in a safe, age-appropriate, and engaging way.

The KidsROAR Program is designed to empower young people with the knowledge and skills they need to

- recognize unsafe situations,
- trust their instincts, and
- speak up when something doesn't feel right.

Using child-friendly language and interactive activities, the program encourages students to

- identify "early warning signs" and
- understand the difference between safe and unsafe secrets, touches, and feelings.
- Identify three trusting adults



**2026 Prep Enrolments Now Open**

**Book a School Tour Now**

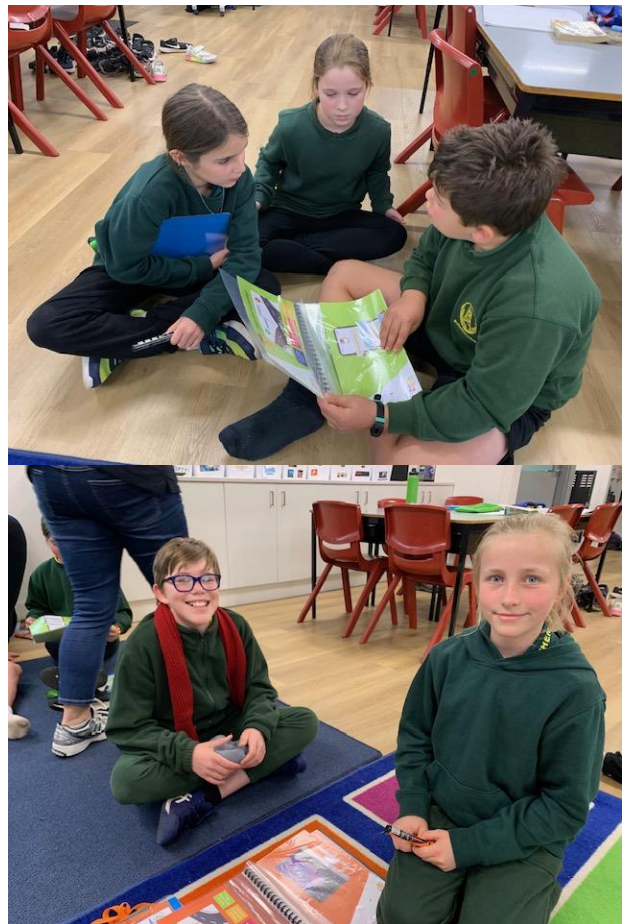
**Enrolment forms are available from the office**







Our students responded with great enthusiasm to the session. Many shared thoughtful questions and engaged in meaningful discussions about personal safety, trusted adults, and how to use their "safety network." These are vital conversations that not only help protect children from harm but also build their self-confidence and emotional intelligence



#### **Matilda's reflection on the KidsRoar Incursion:**

The KidsROAR program informed us about our body and the dangers of social media. Emily showed us how we can recognise red flags when we are online. She gave some examples of children who got tricked into sharing images of pbp (private body parts) to random people. Emily explained that the best way to tell somebody about online issues/ red flags: TELL A TRUSTED ADULT!

But there are other ways too.

We learnt all about our rights online. For me, things that stood out were:

- protect your own body
- be aware of possible things that CAN occur
- don't send ANY photos of your pbps
- realise when red flags are showing up and tell someone
- DONT KEEP ONLINE SECRETS WITH PEOPLE YOU DONT KNOW/ TRUST!!







### Lily's reflection on the KidsRoar Incursion:

The KidsROAR program informed us about the dangers of social media. Emily told us about the stories of kids who got tricked into showing others their pbp. We learned ways to keep our pbps safe from others and speak up to what has happened. We also learned the best ways to keep your body safe:

- Screenshot any inappropriate online content
- report
- TELL A TRUSTED ADULT!

We also learned that we had the right to feel safe online. We also did a kahoot to help our understanding. Thanks, Emily, for helping our understanding.

We encourage families to continue these important conversations at home. Ask your child about what they learned during the KidsROAR visit—who is in their safety network, what their early warning signs are, and how they know when to ask for help.

Here are some questions you can use to start these important conversations at home.

1. Who is on your Safety Hand?
2. Where should you put your Safety Hand?

3. What does 'Private' mean?
4. Can you name the Private Body Parts on a child's body?
5. If a child needs help with Private Body Parts (such as help needed to wipe themselves on the toilet or rash on their bottom) who could help them?
6. Can ANY child look or touch a child's Private Body Parts?
7. Can ANY adult look or touch a child's Private Body Parts?
8. If someone looks or touches, or wants to show a child their Private Body Parts (and they shouldn't be) what could that child say? *(You can expand this question to include online safety, use an example such as if someone wants to show private body parts on a device such as a phone or iPad and they shouldn't, what could that child say?)*
9. WHO could that child tell?
10. If someone asks a child to keep a SECRET that makes them feel worried/unsafe, or a SECRET about their body parts, WHO could they tell?

A big thank you to the KidsROAR team for their impactful visit and to our staff and families for supporting this important part of our students' wellbeing and education.

Together, we can help our children grow into confident, empowered individuals who know their rights, understand their feelings, and always feel safe to speak up.

### Community Member Vacancy – School Council

Bruthen Primary School currently has a vacancy for a **Community Member** on our School Council.

We warmly invite interested community members to join our dedicated team as we continue to enhance learning and wellbeing outcomes for our students.

If you're passionate about education and community involvement, we'd love to hear from you!

**To express your interest or learn more, please contact Michelle Young on (03) 5157 5445.**

## 'Winners are Grinners'

We are proud to congratulate the Mixed Tee Ball team and the Girls Soccer team for winning the Division Winter Sports Competition last Friday. Our students displayed fantastic sportsmanship, encouraging both their teammates and their competitors throughout the event.

These teams have now qualified to compete at the **Regional Winter Sports Carnival on Wednesday, 30th July**. We wish them all the best as they represent our school at the next level!

Permission forms and details will come home before the end of the term.



## **Whole School Closure Day**

### Cultural Understanding and Safety Training

On Monday, 30th June, staff will be participating in **Cultural Understanding and Safety Training (CUST)**. This important professional development session is designed to deepen our understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, and perspectives.

As part of the day, staff will work collaboratively to develop meaningful sequences of learning that respectfully embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into the curriculum. This training supports our ongoing commitment to inclusive education and reconciliation, ensuring all students can engage with and appreciate the rich cultural heritage of Australia's First Nations Peoples.

We look forward to building knowledge, reflecting on practice, and continuing our journey towards culturally responsive teaching.

## Semester 1 Student Reports

Our teachers are currently busy preparing end of Semester 1 reports, celebrating the fantastic learning and achievements of our students so far this year. These reports reflect each child's progress, effort, and growth across a range of learning areas.

**Reports will be available to parents via the uEducateUs app on Monday, 30th June.**

If you would prefer to receive a hard copy of your child's report, please don't hesitate to contact the school office and we'll be happy to provide one.

Please note that these reports are *not* accompanied by formal parent-teacher interviews. However, if you would like to discuss your child's report in more detail, you are warmly encouraged to contact your child's teacher to arrange a suitable time for a conversation.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to celebrating your child's learning journey together!

## **SCHOOL SAVING BONUS UPDATE**

The Victorian Government is delivering the School Saving Bonus (SSB) – a one-off support of \$400 for eligible government school students from Prep to Year 12 in 2025.

The SSB can be used for uniforms and approved textbooks until Monday 30 June 2025.

Action needed: Any funds remaining after 30 June 2025, including online voucher amounts that have not been spent, will become a credit to use on school activities such as School Camps, Excursions etc.

However, the credit will not be available on your family account at our school until late July.

To use any remaining SSB funds to cover the cost of school activities in July, please refer to the SSB online system and allocate the funds to school activities before 30 June 2025.

## Tucker Tuesday

**A huge thank you to this week's master chefs, Harper and Kingsley,** for cooking up a *not-so-chilli con carne* with corn chips – the perfect comfort food for a cold winter's day. And to top it all off, a delicious pear and maple cake that hit just the right note. We're grateful for the warmth and flavour you brought to the table!





## Next Week's Menu

**Main:** Chicken and Vegetable Hot Pot

**Dessert:** Chocolate Cake

**All lunches are \$6**

Orders can be placed via the UeducateUs App-Tucker Tuesday or by bringing \$6 to the office before each Friday.

Please have your order in by **Friday** for catering purposes.

## Smile Squad six-month fluoride varnish visit

The BRHS Smile Squad team are heading back to our school to complete six-monthly fluoride varnish applications for those students who have provided consent. Fluoride varnish applications help make sure students have the best chance of preventing tooth decay, so we're excited Smile Squad are coming back.

## Parent Action Required

Consent for this fluoride varnish application was provided when students' initial consent forms were returned. However, if anyone has changed their mind and do not wish to receive a fluoride varnish application, they can

contact BRHS directly to let them know. Please contact the Smile Squad team via:  
(03) 5152 0278  
[dental@brhs.com.au](mailto:dental@brhs.com.au)

### **Smile Squad is back – you may need to complete a new CDBS form for 2025**

A new year means a new Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) form. If you are eligible for CDBS please complete the attached form and return it to reception as soon as possible. Don't worry, Smile Squad services are still free of charge, even if you can't claim CDBS. Would you still like an appointment but haven't signed up to the program yet? We need your consent before we can provide services. Consent is usually provided by a parent or guardian.

Sign up to Smile Squad  
at: <https://bit.ly/smilesquadvic> OR use the below QR code:



Please complete and submit the consent form by **18<sup>th</sup> June 2025**.

The Smile Squad team look forward to visiting soon.

If you have any further questions or need more information about this visit, please feel free to contact me at any time on 0437 341 484.

Kind regards,

#### **Joanna Ding**

Oral Health Therapist  
Smile Squad Coordinator


Bairnsdale Regional Health Service  
Ph: 03 5152 0278  
Smile Squad Mobile: 0437 341 484  
[www.brhs.com.au](http://www.brhs.com.au)

### **2026 Prep Enrolments Now Open!**

We're excited to announce that Prep enrolments for 2026 at Bruthen Primary School are now being taken!



Enrolment packs will be delivered to Bruthen Kinder and Swan Reach Kinder next week and sent home with families who are considering joining our school community next year.

 Enrolment forms are also available from the Bruthen Primary School office — feel free to drop in and collect one.



Good news! Bruthen Primary School has capacity to accept all enrolments, so there's no need to fill out a register of interest form.



We kindly ask that completed enrolment forms be returned by Friday, 25th July.

Late enrolments will still be accepted, but early submission is appreciated.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school office. We look forward to welcoming new families to Bruthen Primary School!

### **Kinder to School Transition Program**

Starting school is an exciting time for children and parents.

We know that children who have a positive transition between kinder and school begin their first year of school with confidence. Over the course of our 5-week program your child will build strong connections with their teachers, peers and school community, learn school routines and experience some of our learning programs.

**Every Wednesday**

**October**

**8th 9:00am-11:00am**

**15th 9:00am-11:00am**

**22nd 9:00am-2:30pm**

**29th 9:00am-2:30pm**

**November**

**5th 9:00am-3:30pm**

Please pass on these details to friends or family with children starting school in 2026.

**Enrol Now**

## 2026 Prep Tours

### School Tour Bookings

Contact: Michelle Young

Phone: 51 575 445

Mobile: 0407628053

Email:

michelle.young@education.vic.gov.au



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Follow us on Facebook 'Schoolworks Bairnsdale'

### Author Visit: George Ivanoff Inspires Our Young Writers!

We are excited to announce that on **Friday, 25th July**, acclaimed author **George Ivanoff** will be visiting Bruthen Primary School to work with our Grade 3 to 6 students. George will be sharing his expert tips on developing writing skills, with a special focus on crafting exciting **'choose your own adventure'** stories.

This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to learn from a professional author and ignite their creativity!

George will also be available to sign books on the day. Students are welcome to bring any of George's books from home, or parents can purchase his books from **School Works in Bairnsdale**.

For added convenience, parents can use the QR code below to order George's books online. Orders can either be picked up directly from School Works or delivered to the school.



### Rainy Days Are Here – Gear Up for Fun!

Winter's arrival means rainy days ahead, and students know that's the perfect time to splash and play outside! But to stay warm and dry, you need the right gear:

- ✓ Waterproof Raincoat
- ✓ Umbrella
- ✓ Gumboots

Don't let the rain stop the fun — gear up and enjoy every splash this winter!



**Stay dry, stay happy!**

### Whole School Assemblies

**Whole School Assemblies Are Back!** 🎉

We're excited to announce that whole school assemblies have returned **this term**, bringing our school community together to celebrate learning and achievements.



 **When:** The **last Friday of each month**  
 **Time:** 3:15 PM – 3:30 PM **Professional Learning Opportunity**

## Breakfast Club



Breakfast Club is back, starting Week 3. Toast, cereal, porridge, spaghetti/baked beans and fresh fruit will be available on the breakfast menu.

Students can fuel their brains at Breakfast Club

- Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
- 8:15am-8:45am.
- Staffroom

This program will be run by a volunteer student leadership team.



Bruthen Primary School is looking for volunteers to hear students read.

**Foundation:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 2:25-3:00pm

**Grade 1/2:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 2:25-3:00pm

**Grade 3/4:** Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00am-9:30am

If you can help, please contact the school on 51 575 445 or see Michelle.

## Active Little Kids

**Come and join the fun.**

**Every Thursday 9:30am-11:00am at the sports shed.**



Open for ages 5-12 and they can use this direct link to register: <https://www.playhq.com/afl/org/bairnsdale-holiday-program/842e2c83/register>



Early Learning

Bruthen Uniting Kindergarten

Places open for 3 and 4 year old kinder in 2026.

Enrol now.

Proposed 2026 Program

3 and 4 year old kindergarten

3s GROUP

Monday and Tuesday

8.30am – 4.00pm

4s GROUP

Monday and Tuesday

8.30am – 4.00pm

&

Thursday

9.00am – 2.00pm

Open Day

Monday 30 June 2025

4.00pm - 5.00pm

Get in touch

T 1800 183 103

E [earlylearning@vt.uniting.org](mailto:earlylearning@vt.uniting.org)

[unitingvictas.org.au/el](http://unitingvictas.org.au/el)

Nairn Walker

presents

~ CELEBRATING CAPACITY ~

harnessing resources to create even better outcomes

CELEBRATING CAPACITY:

OPTIMISING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, AGENCIES AND ORGANISATIONS

STRONG CONNECTIONS | STRONG COMMUNITIES

When the families we work alongside and the communities we serve engage in behaviours that are considered difficult in mainstream settings, it may not be immediately recognised that for all the challenge this may cause, they have usually also developed an enormous amount of initiative and resource to navigate their daily reality.

This workshop supports practitioners and services to be able to identify even more effectively the capacity that clients have, and ways to harness this to increase competence & create beneficial outcomes for individuals, children, families, practitioners and organisations.

Monday, 23rd June

9am - 4pm

Eastwood Club - 117 Great Alpine Road, Lucknow

To secure your place please go to: <https://www.trybooking.com/DBLNE> or scan

This event is funded through Communities for Children East Gippsland - Uniting Vic Tas

For further information please contact Jenny St John - [jenny.stjohn@vt.uniting.org](mailto:jenny.stjohn@vt.uniting.org)

This intensive workshop explores key constructs for understanding human behaviour to inform strategies, increase engagement, optimise program design, policies, and procedures to improve outcomes.

Participants will identify key principles of practice and apply the material to their personal and professional settings and individual and organisational frameworks.

*This training is designed for practitioners, case managers and policy makers, community organisations, law enforcement, counsellors, employment agencies, health care professionals, church communities, social service providers, welfare agencies and community leaders.*

SOCIAL Solutions

NAIRN WALKER

Educator Nairn Walker has spent over 30 years working across Australia, NZ, the US and the UK with over one hundred thousand professionals to:

- identify potential,
- highlight capacity and
- increase outcomes for individuals, organisations, schools and communities.

Drawing on expertise distilled from three decades of working in Community Development, with business and industry, in Education and employment and with social services and allied sectors, she has crafted together learning from a range of world renowned Thought Leaders and Change Agents including her personal international mentors. Working framework for optimal relationships and communication, Payne's 'Bridges' insights and Bernards' psychological expertise, all inform her practice which is committed to raising awareness, understanding and outcomes through sharing insights, frameworks and strategies that make a difference.

Her aim? Maximise our ability to recognise, harness, increase and Celebrate Capacity.

Australian Government

Services Australia

Australian Government mobile service centres

Serving regional Australia

Visit the mobile service centre to find out about Australian Government payments and services for rural families, older Australians, students, job seekers, people with disability, carers, farmers and self-employed people.

We can also help veterans and their families connect to the Department of Veterans' Affairs phone line and online services.

Staff can provide you with information and support. They can also help you create a myGov account. myGov is a simple and secure way to access government services online.

Thursday, 3 July 2025

9:30 am to 2:30 pm

Near the Bruthen Mechanics Hall, Main Street

BRUTHEN

For more information, go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice](http://servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice)