



Bruthen Primary School

"Learning for Life"

31 Great Alpine Road, Bruthen Vic 3885
PO Box 101
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Principal: Michelle Young

RESPECT COURAGE HONESTY TEAMWORK FUN

Newsletter Term 2, Wednesday 25th 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

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 2nd & 30th July

Upcoming Events

June

Friday 27th Whole School Assembly 3:15pm-3:30pm in the Foundation classroom

Monday 30th **Whole School Closure Day**-Staff Professional Development

Friday 4th July Last day of Term 2, Early Finish at 1:30pm.

Heads Up Term 3 Dates

Friday 25th July Author Visit for Grades 3-6

Monday 28th July Mitchell Cluster Athletics F-6 Bairnsdale

Wednesday 30th July Regional Winter Sports Tee ball & Soccer

Monday 11th August District Athletics Howitt Park Bairnsdale

Monday 18th August Book Week Dress Up Parade

Monday 8th September Division Athletics Howitt Park Bairnsdale

Wednesday 10th-Friday 12th Sept Gr3/4 Karoonda Camp



2026 Prep Enrolments Now Open

Book a School Tour Now

Enrolment forms are available from the office

Dear Parents,

The Power of Student Voice: Learning Through Conferencing

At Bruthen Primary School, we know that learning is most powerful when students are actively involved in the process. One of the keyways we support this is through student-teacher conferencing.

Conferencing is a regular and meaningful conversation between students and their teachers, where students are encouraged to talk about their learning, share their learning goals, and reflect on the strategies they're using to achieve success.

During these conferences, students:

- Discuss their personal learning goals and what they're working on,
- Use their success criteria to monitor how they're progressing,
- Reflect on their learning achievements and identify areas for growth,
- And most importantly, have their voice heard in shaping how they learn best.

These conversations not only build confidence and independence but also help students to take ownership of their learning. By understanding the "why" and "how" behind their goals, students become more engaged, motivated and empowered learners.

Conferencing also gives teachers valuable insight into each student's needs, helping them

to provide timely feedback and tailor support to ensure every learner can grow and thrive.

We are proud of the way our students are developing as reflective, goal-driven learners—and we look forward to seeing their progress continue to shine!



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.

Smartwatches at School – A Reminder About Messaging and Social Media Use

Smartwatches can be a great tool for telling the time and keeping organised, but at school, it's important that students use them appropriately.

To support a focused and safe learning environment, **students are not permitted to use messaging, texting, or social media features on their smartwatches during school hours**. These functions can be distracting in the classroom, disrupt learning, and may also lead to issues around privacy, cyber safety, and communication outside of approved school channels.

If students need to contact home during the school day, they are always supported to do so through the school office. Likewise, parents who need to send a message to their child can do so via our **UeducateUs communication app**.

We ask for your support in reminding your child to use their smartwatch responsibly at school. If watches are used inappropriately, students will be asked to remove them and store them securely at the office for the day.

Thank you for helping us maintain a respectful and focused learning space for all students.

Fuel for Learning: The Importance of a Healthy Snack and Lunchbox

At school, students are busy learning, thinking, creating and playing—and all of that takes energy! That's why it's so important for students to come to school each day with a healthy snack and lunch packed in their lunchbox.

Nutritious food helps students:

- Concentrate and stay focused in the classroom,
- Maintain steady energy levels throughout the day,
- Support their growth, brain development and overall wellbeing, and
- Stay calm and ready to learn.

We encourage families to pack snacks and lunches that include:

- Fresh fruit and vegetables
- Wholegrain sandwiches or wraps
- Dairy or dairy alternatives (like yoghurt or cheese)
- Lean proteins (such as boiled eggs, chicken, or legumes)
- Water is the only drink of choice at school

Highly processed or sugary foods (like chips, lollies or soft drinks and cordial) can lead to energy crashes and difficulty concentrating, so we recommend saving these for occasional treats at home rather than school.

A well-balanced lunchbox gives children the best chance to make the most of their learning, play actively, and feel their best throughout the day.

Thank you for helping us support healthy habits and strong minds at school!



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.

Standing Together Against Racism

The Department of Education has launched a new **Racism Policy** to ensure Victorian government schools remain **safe, inclusive, and respectful learning environments**.

At its core, the policy affirms that:

- **Every student has the right to feel safe, respected and included**, regardless of their background, culture, language or appearance.
- **Racism—in all its forms: verbal, physical, written, online or exclusion—is not acceptable**, and schools are required to respond and prevent it.
- **Schools will take proactive steps** to teach inclusion, fairness, respect and diversity, in line with Child Safe Standards and Victoria's anti-racism strategy.
- **Students, staff and families are encouraged to speak up** if they witness or experience racism; the school will listen and act.

What This Means for Our School

- We are committed to embedding this policy in our everyday practices and school culture.
- We will **name and address racist behaviour** explicitly—this is not the same as bullying and will not be treated lightly.

- We will continue to build respectful relationships, deepen cultural understanding, and foster belonging—particularly for First Nations, multicultural and multifaith students.

➡ Need Support or Want to Know More?

- Read the full policy and access guidance at the Department's website: **Preventing and Addressing Racism in Schools**
[www2.education.vic.gov.au](http://www2.education.vic.gov.au/www2.education.vic.gov.au)
- If you'd prefer one-on-one support or need guidance in your language, contact our school or visit the Department's "Report Racism" page.
vic.gov.au/vcass.vic.edu.au

Together, let's ensure Bruthen Primary school is a place where **everyone feels safe, valued and respected.**

Snap Shots from the Art Room

Grade 1/2 Kerri Blades inspired ducks.

This month Grade 1 and 2 students explored the amazing techniques of Kerri Blade, a talented artist known for her vibrant and expressive animal paintings. Using some of Kerri's unique methods- vibrant colour, pattern and use of textiles, our class created their own stunning duck artworks, full of colour and personality!





'Winners are Grinners'

The Tee ball and Girls Soccer teams have now qualified to compete at the **Regional Winter Sports Carnival** on **Wednesday, 30th July**. These teams will play four games starting at 10:00am and finishing at 2:00pm.

The Tee ball is being played at:

Venue: Maffra Cameron Sporting Complex

Address: Morison St, Maffra VIC 3860

The Girls Soccer is being played at:

Venue: Sale United Soccer Club

Address: Baldwin Reserve, Raglan Street, Sale Victoria 3850

Permission forms have been released on UeducateUs app today.



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.

Foundation Chameleons



Grade 3/4 Peter Diem Inspired Cow Sculptures

Peter Diem is a Dutch artist well known for his vibrant, expressive cow paintings—most notably part of the *Koeienparade* (Cow Parade), a global public art event. His style, characterized by bold colours, thick brushstrokes, and whimsical forms, is very accessible and inspiring for young students.





Tucker Tuesday

This week, Aurora, Evie and Thomas stepped into the kitchen to cook a delicious chicken and vegetable hot pot—and the learning that happened was just as rich as the recipe!

As part of their learning journey, they explored how to **hold and use knives safely** under close supervision. With safety and fun top of mind, the young chefs worked together to chop vegetables and help prepare a delicious lunch.



Next Week's Menu

Main: Macaroni Cheese

Dessert: Carrot 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.



Mitchell Cluster Athletics Carnival

On Monday, **28th July**, all students from Foundation to Grade 6 will participate in the Mitchell Cluster Athletics Carnival. This event will be held at the Howitt Park Athletics Track in Bairnsdale.

Students will travel to and from the event using Phelan's Bus Services, our school bus, and a self-drive hire bus, departing school at **9:00am**.

- **Foundation to Grade 2** students will rotate through a variety of modified athletics activities for two hours and will return to school by **12:00pm**.
- **Grades 3 to 6** students will participate in traditional athletics events and return to school by **3:00pm**.

All students need to bring:

- A **packed snack and lunch**
- A **refillable drink bottle**

Students are to wear **school uniform** (shorts are recommended) and **appropriate footwear** suitable for running and jumping activities.

Please note: Students who are **9 years of age** will compete in their own age group and will receive ribbons on the day for their events. However, to qualify for the **Central District Athletics Carnival**, 9-year-old students must achieve a better result than the 10-year-old competitors in the same event. Students who place **first** in the **11- and 12/13-year-old** events will automatically qualify for the next round.

The **four fastest runners in the 100m event** in each age group will be selected to form the **Mitchell Cluster relay teams** for the Central District Competition.

Parents and friends are warmly invited to attend and cheer on our competitors.

Permission forms for the Mitchell Cluster Athletics Carnival were released on the UeducateUs app today.

Smile Squad Returns Tomorrow

We're excited to welcome the BRHS Smile Squad team back to our school **tomorrow** for their six-monthly fluoride varnish visit! As part of their ongoing dental health program, the Smile Squad will be applying fluoride varnish to the teeth of students who have previously provided consent. This quick and painless treatment helps strengthen tooth enamel and prevent cavities, promoting healthy smiles all year round. We thank the Smile Squad for their continued support in helping our students maintain strong dental hygiene habits. If you have any questions about the fluoride varnish application or your child's participation, please contact Joanna Ding, details below. Let's keep those smiles shining bright!

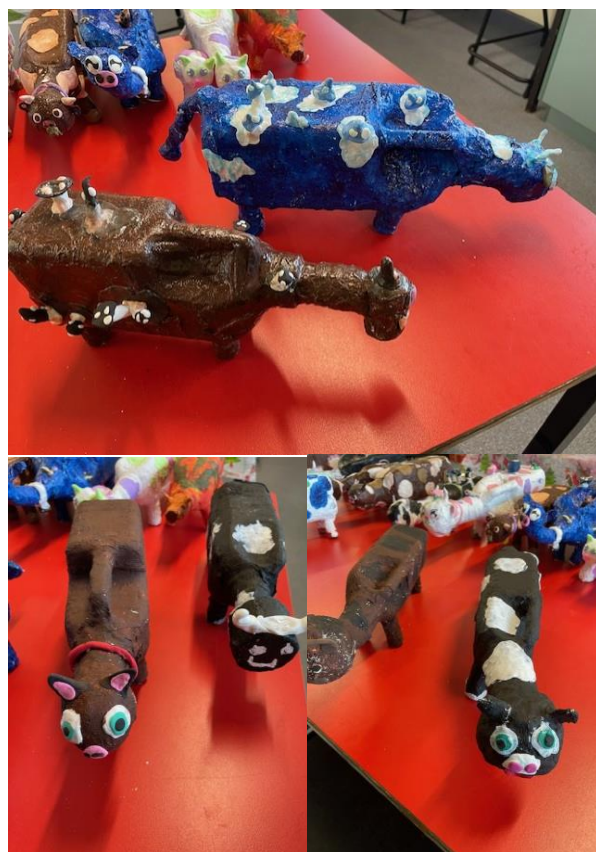
Joanna Ding

Oral Health Therapist
Smile Squad Coordinator

Bairnsdale Regional Health Service
Ph: 03 5152 0278
Smile Squad Mobile: 0437 341 484
www.brhs.com.au

Grade 5 and 6 John Kelly Inspired Cows

John Kelly is a Melbourne artist well known for his many cow sculptures and paintings, identifiable by the boxy shape and elongated neck and small head.






2026 Prep Enrolments Now Open!

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

• 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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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

Next Whole School Assembly is on Friday 27th June, in the Foundation Classroom

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, continuing Term 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
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Open Day

Monday 30 June 2025

4.00pm - 5.00pm

Get in touch
T 1800 183 103
E earlylearning@vt.uniting.org
unitingvictas.org.au/el

Uniting

THE NEXT GENERATION: STRENGTH, VISION & LEGACY
6-13 JULY 2025

NAIDOC WEEK

at GEGAC

MONDAY 7/7
Flag Raising & Welcome Baby to Country

WEDNESDAY 9/7
NAIDOC March & Community Gathering

SATURDAY 12/7
Dhuna Wannik Wurk Wurk Ball

More info & updates at:
gegac.org.au/NAIDOC