



*Bell Primary School is a caring community that fosters a love of learning in young people. At school and beyond, students are confident to think critically and empowered to thrive in a rapidly evolving world. We are grounded by our school values of **resilience, creativity, curiosity, collaboration** and **respect**.*

Bell Primary School is a Child Safe School. We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people and have zero tolerance for child abuse.

Bell Primary School acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the land the school is located upon, and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.



From our Principal:

Celebrating David

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended David's final assembly at the end of last term. Your presence helped make his last day truly special. The students — and David — had an absolute ball on the inflatable obstacle course and the atmosphere throughout the day reflected the deep appreciation felt by all.

In conversations afterward, David shared how genuinely touched he was by the community's support, kind words and turnout. He was overwhelmed in the best possible way.

We've had several requests for the farewell video shown during the assembly, and we hope to make it available for the community to access in the near future. Thank you again for helping us give David the send-off into retirement he deserved.

The Great Primary School Mystery - Final Countdown

Excitement is certainly building as we approach our first whole school production in the Sports and Performing Arts Hub! Classes have been enthusiastically rehearsing their dances again this week, and we're all looking forward to seeing the performances come to life next Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support and for adhering to the initial four-ticket limit per family. Additional tickets became available yesterday for those wishing to invite extended family or friends. At the time of writing, there were still 115 tickets available for Wednesday and 130 for Thursday.

Please ensure you have read the important information sent earlier this week by Milica and Claire regarding costumes and student drop-off/pick-up arrangements. A reminder that students will not be dismissed without an accompanying parent or carer from the designated pick-up point.

Doors will open at **5.35pm**, with the performance starting promptly at **6.00pm**.

All attendees must have their tickets ready (either on their phone or printed) for entry and to assist with locating allocated seats.

We can't wait to share this special event with our school community!

Upcoming Working Bee (Bell Blitz)

A reminder that our Working Bee is scheduled for this **Sunday 12 October** between **9:30-12:30pm**, to help progress the development of our new Indigenous Biodiversity Garden at the front of the gym.

A huge thank you to Brett Allen and Ivy Callander for their work so far, and a special thanks to Julie Garbutt, who has been generously volunteering her time each week to drive this project forward.

Thanks to a successful 2024 Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grant, along with generous donations from our community to the grounds fund, this project is well underway. However, we now need your help to bring it closer to completion.

Once finished, the space east of the gym will become a rich, biodiverse learning environment — an outdoor classroom where students can connect with and learn from nature.

Please register your attendance through this link- <https://forms.gle/q1PiGf2iLizp19Cv8>

We hope to see many of you there on Sunday to lend a hand!

School Review – Stakeholder Focus Groups

Our School Review is scheduled to commence in Week 4 of this term, with Day 1 focusing on key learning and wellbeing outcomes achieved over the course of our current Strategic Plan.

Day 2 (Fieldwork Day) will involve a series of stakeholder focus groups, led by our reviewer, Leslie Tulloch, and regional representative, Graham Stevenson. These sessions will gather valuable feedback from students, staff, and parents/carers to help shape the future direction of our school.

We invite all parents and carers to participate in an online focus group on Thursday 30 October at 6:00pm (link to be shared closer to the date). Your insights and reflections are an important part of this process, and we encourage as many voices as possible to be part of the conversation.

Pupil Free Day

As previously communicated, the Department of Education and AEU Agreement allow schools to set one common Professional Practice Day for staff. This year, it will be on **Monday 3 November**, which will be a pupil-free day. This provides families with a potential Melbourne Cup long weekend, while giving teachers time for Semester 2 assessment analysis and reporting. Team Kids will offer care on the day if there is enough demand.

Leaving Bell in 2026?

As we continue forward planning for 2026, predicted enrolments are a crucial element to the process. Any families leaving Bell in 2026 are kindly requested to contact the office as soon as they can to assist us with decisions on class structures and next year's staffing profile. We understand there are many reasons why families move on and always appreciate early communication when possible.

Grade Combinations for 2026

Next month, staff will be starting the transition work for next year's grade combinations, with Step Up sessions later in the term. Our starting point for grade allocation is for grade teachers, specialists and leadership to reflect on the dynamics within each grade this year and then seek input from both parents/carers and students.

These steps are done systematically with the parent/carer Google form that will be sent out early next month, and with students having input to their friendship selections as per previous years. Please do not contact your child's current teacher or anyone in leadership via email or request a meeting yet. Please wait for the Google form, which will be flagged in forthcoming newsletters, to provide your thoughts about your child/ren's needs for next year.

As I complete my first week as Principal, I want to sincerely thank the entire community for your kind words and support. It's been a privilege to begin this new chapter and continue my journey at a school that has become so special to me over the past six years.

I look forward to working together as we support every student to grow, learn and thrive. Thank you again — I'm excited for what lies ahead.

Emma Heywood
Principal

2025 / 2026 Calendars

October 2025

Sun 12:	Bell Blitz Working Bee, 9.30-12.30
Wed 15:	<i>The Great Primary School Mystery, 6-7.30</i>
Thu 16:	<i>The Great Primary School Mystery, 6-7.30</i>
Tue 21:	Gr5 Yarning Conference \$31
Tue 21:	Gr3 BYOD Info Session, online
Thu 23:	Gr6 Northcote HS Public Speaking \$0
Fri 24:	Biodiversity Garden Planting Day
Fri 24:	International Day of Climate Action
Tue 28:	2026 Prep Parent/Carer Information Evening #1 (online, 6.00)
Wed 29:	Gr5 Celebration of Learning
Thu 30:	School Review Stakeholder Focus Group (online, 6.00)
Fri 31:	World Teacher's Day

November 2025

Mon 3:	<i>Common Professional Practice Day (Pupil-Free)</i>
Tue 4:	<i>Melbourne Cup Public Holiday</i>
Wed 5:	2026 Prep Optional Transition Session (9.30-10.30, parents/carers to remain onsite)
Mon 10:	Prep Celebration of Learning
Wed 12:	2026 Prep Transition Session #1 (drop off 9.30; pick up 11.00)
Fri 14:	Gr6 Coburg High School Excursion
Tue 18:	Gr4 Celebration of Learning
Tue 18:	Gr5 Camp Info Session, 5pm, online
Wed 19:	2026 Prep Transition Session #2 (drop off 9.30; pick up 11.00)
Tue 25:	Funkey Music EOY Concert, LC
Wed 26:	2026 Prep Transition Session #3 (drop off 9.30; pick up 11.00)

December 2026

Mon 1-Wed 3:	Gr5 Camp Anglesea
Tue 2:	2026 Prep Parent/Carer Information Evening #2 (Bell PS Learning Centre, 6.00)
Wed 3:	Gr3 Celebration of Learning
Wed 3:	2026 Prep Transition Session #4 (drop off 9.30; pick up 11.00)
Wed 3:	International Day of People with Disabilities
Fri 5:	2026 Prep Starting School Information will be made available on Compass
Tue 9:	Statewide Gr6 to Yr7 Transition Day
Tue 9:	2026 Prep Families Optional Welcome BBQ (4.00-6.00, Bell PS – location tba)
Thu 11:	Gr1 Celebration of Learning
Thu 11:	Gr3-6 Swimming Carnival
Fri 12:	Gr6 Luna Park Excursion
Thu 18:	Gr6 Graduation Night
Fri 19:	Final day Term 4 – 1.30pm dismissal

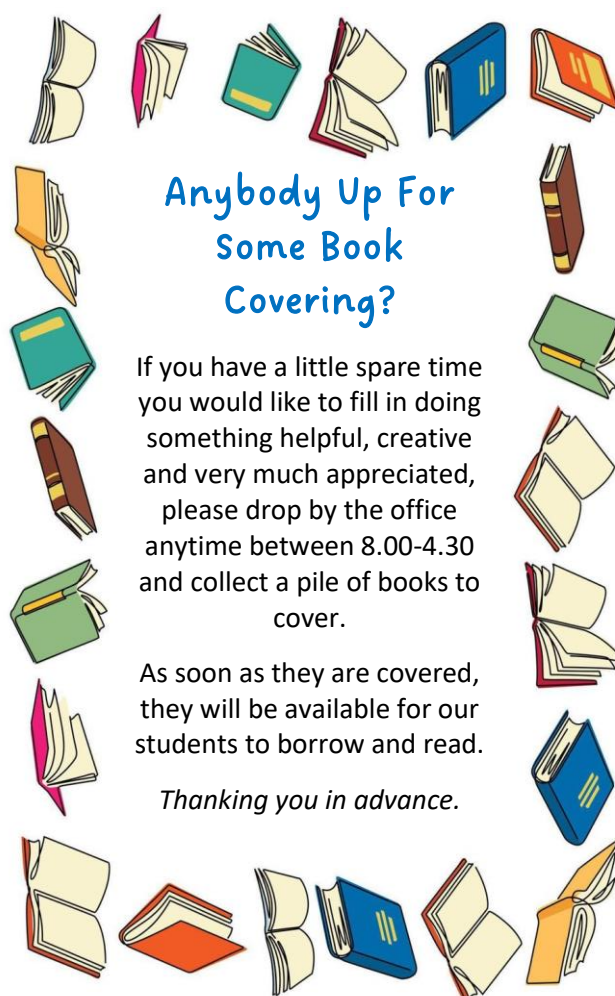
January 2026

Tue 27:	Statewide Curriculum Day – Grade 1-6 families welcome to drop in to their new classrooms between 2.40-3.30
Wed 28:	Grades 1-6 return
Wed 28:	Prep Drop In Day (scheduled times only)
Thu 29:	Prep Group A commence
Fri 30:	Prep Group B commence

February 2026

Mon 2:	All Preps commence
Wed 4:	Prep entry assessment (scheduled time only)
Wed 11:	Prep entry assessment (scheduled time only)
Wed 18:	Prep entry assessment (scheduled time only)
Wed 25:	Prep entry assessment (scheduled time only)

Prep students attend on only one of the Wednesdays in February, at the time scheduled for their Prep Entry Assessment



From the Office #1:

Office Hours: 8.00am – 4.30pm

Lu Paglia, Business Manager:	School Council, Finance, Fundraising	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri
Jo Taylor, Finance Administration:	Events, Payments	Mon, Wed, Fri
Tania Levens, Administration:	Newsletter, Facilities, OHS	Tue – Fri
Jessie Storm, Student Administration:	Enrolments, Medical, Compass	Mon – Fri

😊 Please email Newsletter items directly to Tania at bell.ps@education.vic.gov.au 😊

Update: SSB Use for School Activities

The Department has finalised the transfer of SSB funds to schools for allocation to events. Any new events will now automatically have SSB applied before you give consent, **UNLESS** you have notified Jo Taylor that you would like to save it for future Camp payment.

TeamKids:

To enquire about enrolling your child/ren into TeamKids for Before or After School Care, or any Curriculum Day or Holiday Program, please make initial contact at either www.teamkids.com.au or 1300 035 000.

Bell PS Uniforms

1. **NEW** Bell PS uniforms can always be purchased from PSW.
2. **SECOND-HAND** Uniforms can be purchased from our Second-Hand Uniform Shop (far side of the basketball court) run by two fantastic family volunteers twice per week – Wednesday mornings around drop-off time and Friday afternoons from 3:15-3:45. Don't forget your gold coins – **no credit or credit card facility is available**.

Late Arrivals, Early Departures + Authorised Pick-ups

Don't forget to come through the front office before going to the classroom for any late arrivals (after 9am) or early departures (before 3:30pm). Your child must be signed in/out on the Compass Kiosk and the corresponding card should be taken to give to your child's teacher, indicating that you have completed the arrival/departure process.

**** CHILDREN ARRIVING LATE MUST BE WALKED TO THEIR CLASSROOM BY A PARENT/CARER ****

If your child will be collected early for any reason by someone who is not their legal guardian, the school office must be informed in advance as your child cannot be signed out in these instances without authorisation from a parent/carer.

From the Office #2:

Extra-Curricular Activities

Please see the Community tab on our [website](#) for details on activities offered both after school and/or during school time in Room 18 + 19 – always make direct contact with the provider:

Keyboard : Guitar : Violin : Ukelele : Singing : Dancing : Computer Programming



Working With Children Checks

Parents/carers who intend to participate in any volunteering with the school (eg reading, excursion support, etc) **must** hold a current Working With Children Check card. Even if you don't have your name down for any volunteering on the immediate horizon, we strongly suggest applying for a WWCC as soon as possible- a Volunteer WWCC is free! List Bell Primary on your WWCC application and we will automatically receive a copy in the mail for our records, or you can supply your card to the front office for us to add to our parent/carer register. If you are a current VIT card holder, you can provide to the office in lieu of a WWCC.



NB- if you are volunteering with activities onsite that don't involve working directly with students (eg organising resources, fundraising stall set-up, etc), you must still hold a valid WWCC and supply it to the office.

[Click here to apply for a WWCC.](#)

PLEASE NOTE: All school volunteers must also have completed the OHS Volunteer Induction process, and returned the Induction Checklist to the office, to be able to volunteer.

Lost Library Book Procedure

If your child has lost a school library book, please follow the steps below:

1. On the Qkr! app, select Bell Primary School -> Payments -> Lost library book
2. Make a payment of \$5 per lost book
3. Email a screenshot of your [receipt](#) and child's name to bell.ps@education.vic.gov.au
4. School staff will then remove the lost/overdue book from your child's library account



The poster features a light beige background with a subtle pattern of small green leaves. Various gardening tools are illustrated in a stylized, hand-drawn manner: an orange watering can in the top left, a green shovel with a wooden handle on the left, a pair of orange gloves on the right, a pair of orange rubber boots at the bottom left, a pair of green-handled pruning shears in the center, and a green garden hose with a brass faucet at the bottom right. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical layout, with the date and time at the top, the event title in large green letters in the center, and the details and QR code below. The overall aesthetic is warm and inviting, encouraging community participation in sustainability efforts.

DATE

SUNDAY 12TH OCT

TIME

9:30AM - 12:30PM

Working Bee

**Sustainability House Points
for participating families!**

**Focus Area: New Indigenous
Biodiversity Garden**

**Volunteer or find out more
here**



The Great Primary School Mystery



What? Whole-School Arts Production
Who? All Bell Primary School students (Grades P-6)
When? Two performances: Wednesday 15 & Thursday 16 October 2025 (6:00pm-7:30pm)
Where? Bell Primary School Sports and Performing Arts Hub (SPAH)

Our 2025 school production is less than 1 week away — and we're excited to let you know that there are more tickets available to purchase! The 4 ticket limit has been removed, and families are welcome to purchase additional seats for those who may wish to see the show twice or have additional family/friends who would like to watch.

Tickets are available to book here: <https://www.trybooking.com/DFKQR> Please note it is allocated seating.

****All attendees must have their tickets ready to present at the door (on a phone or printed) to assist with locating allocated seats****

Come and support our amazing students as they take to the stage for a night full of fun, surprises, and mystery-solving magic! This is one show you won't want to miss!

Reminder:

Children of preschool age do not require a ticket if seated on a parent/carer's lap. However, if the child occupies a seat, a ticket must be purchased for them.



Dear Bell Families,

We are all excited to be getting close to showcasing our whole-school production **'The Great Primary School Mystery'** on **Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th October** in the Sports and Performing Arts Hub.

COSTUME INFO FOR STUDENTS:

- **LABEL ALL** costume items
- Bring your whole costume in a reusable bag **WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME + CLASS CLEARLY MARKED ON THE BAG**
- Give your costume bag to your classroom teacher by this **THURSDAY 9th OCTOBER**
- **GRADE 6** costumes bags due by **MONDAY 13th OCTOBER**, due to camp.

Why are we bringing our costumes to school before the performances?

- We need to make sure each student has the correct costume ready. Bringing the costumes in early will give us time to troubleshoot.

What happens to the costumes once I bring them in to the classroom teacher?

- Students will be participating in a dress rehearsal on Wednesday 15th October, during the day.
- Students will bring their costume bag home on Wednesday afternoon so that they can get changed into their costume at home, before getting dropped back at school at 5:30pm for the first performance.
- Students will wear their costumes home when they get picked up on Wednesday evening.
- Teachers will hold on to their school bought accessories, such as headbands, etc. These will not go home.
- Students will NOT need to bring their costumes back in to school on Thursday. They will get changed at home before getting dropped back at school for the second performance, on Thursday at 5:30pm.

What if my child is attending Team Kids?

- Team Kids students leave their costumes in their reusable bag in their classroom at school. They will get changed at school with TK supervision.

PRODUCTION DROP OFF INFORMATION:

- Parents are to drop off students in their costumes at 5:30pm to their designated drop-off point (as listed below).
- Teachers will mark students on the roll on arrival and sign them out on departure. Students will be supervised for the duration of the event and will need to be signed out by a parent/carer at the end of the concert, at the designated pick up point.

What else do they need to bring?

- Please send your child with a water bottle.
- Students can have a snack or dinner at home, before they are dropped back at school.

Meeting places for drop-off and pick-up
Preps - Learning Centre (LC)
1A & 1B - 1A classroom. Room 8 (Portable)
1C & 2A - 2A classroom. Room 12 (Portable)
2B & 2C - 2C classroom. Room 17 (Portable)
3A & 4A - 4A classroom. Room 20 (Portable)
3B & 3C - 3B classroom. Room 11 (Portable)
4B & 5C - 5C classroom. Room 5 (Main Building)
5A & 5B - 5A classroom. Room 3 (Main Building)
6A & 6B - 6B classroom. Room 2 (Main Building)
Production cast- Music Room (Side of Gym)

If you have any queries, please contact your child's classroom teacher. We look forward to seeing you at the show!

Milica Stefanovic & Claire Strasser
Production Team



Wed 15th & Thurs 16th October
6:00pm

Bell Primary School SPA Hub (Sports and Performing Arts Hub – Gym/Hall)

Poster Artwork by Ave, 6A



Join the Bell Primary Fete Team

28 March 2026 **78A Oakover Rd Preston** **12pm – 6pm**

We're excited to bring the Bell PS community together for another fun and fabulous Fete in 2026 – but we need your help to make it happen!

No experience needed – just enthusiasm, some spare time, and a willingness to pitch in. Whether you've got project management skills, a knack for organising, or just love being involved, there's a role for you!

Key Roles to Fill

Fete Co-Captain

The Co-Captain shares that leadership role an equal partners with the Captain, Together, they make decisions, divide tasks, and support each other throughout the planning and on the day.

Entertainment

Book and manage our stage performers and keep the day lively.

Stall Coordinators

Coordinate specific stalls like books, plants, toys, cakes or games.

Sponsorship

Contact local businesses to help support our fete – either with money, prizes or services.

Risk & Safety

Keep everyone safe! Check plans and help make sure we're covered with insurance and permits.

How to Get Involved

If you're keen to join the committee or help in any way – big or small – we'd love to hear from you!

Contact: Vaia Smirneos,
vaia.smirneos@gmail.com

Let's make our 2026 Fete one to remember! 🌟

TEAMKIDS NEWSLETTER

WEEK 1
TERM 4



Vacation Care

We hope you had a wonderful break. Our Spring Vacation Care Program was a huge success, filled with fun, creativity, and plenty of new friendships. From high-energy activities and hands-on crafts to special incursions and outdoor adventures, the children made many fantastic memories. Thank you to everyone who joined us. As we head into Term 4, we have a full calendar of events to celebrate the end of another incredible year together. Here is a look at what is coming up:

Community Connection Challenge
We are also launching a six week Community Connection Challenge in Week 1. Children will work together on exciting projects that build teamwork, empathy, and local connections.

We look forward to sharing these experiences with the children and finishing Term 4 on a high note.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and partnership.

Service Mobile: 0434 416 584
Office Phone: 1300 035 000

Upcoming

October

- World Food Day: A day of tasting and learning about different cultures.
- Halloween Celebrations: Costumes, games, and themed activities.

November

- Lunchtime Legends: Friendly sports and games to keep the energy high.
- Universal Children's Day: Honouring the rights and voices of children everywhere.
- National Fairy Bread Day: A sprinkle of colour and lots of joy.

December

- Elf on the Shelf: Kits handed out at our PD Day to spread festive cheer.
- Festive Feel Good Friday: A celebration of kindness, giving, and gratitude.
- End of Year Parties: A big celebration to finish 2025 with fun, laughter, and community spirit.



Service Email: bellps@teamkids.com.au
Office Email: info@teamkids.com.au



2026 PREP ENROLMENT



With the formal 2026 Prep enrolment period now over and applications for next year in the final stages of confirmation, Bell Primary School kindly requests that enrolment forms are submitted to the school office as soon as possible.

While placement priority must be given to families living within our Designated Neighbourhood Area, families living beyond our school zone are able to apply, however due to the volume of 2026 enrolments, we cannot guarantee that there will be space available.

Enrolment forms are available on our website or from the school office.

For further information on enrolment, please email **bell.ps@education.vic.gov.au** or call **(03) 9480 5622**.

THORNBURY'S Rossmoyne Rummage

**HIGH STREET TO DAREBIN CREEK
2.5KM OF GARAGE SALES**

SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER
10AM TO 3PM
ROSSMOYNE STREET, THORNBURY



Featuring Scarecrow Festival
Awards at 2pm.
More info including garage sale
and scarecrow maps:



Rossmoyne Street Thornbury
@rossmoynestthornbury



Scarecrow Festival October 2025

Every October for thirteen years
scarecrows have appeared in
Rossmoyne Street and surrounds,
welcomed with delight and amusement
by locals and visitors alike.

This year you're invited to create your
own scarecrow and be part of this annual
tradition, which is now Darebin-wide.
Entries from 20 September to 17 October.

Award ceremony will take place at 2pm
outside 87 Rossmoyne Street on
19 October at Rossmoyne Rummage.

More info including categories,
entry details and scarecrow map:



Rossmoyne Street Thornbury



Supported by:
**Nelson
Alexander**
GED
Together for better





SATURDAY 25 OCT
10AM TO 4PM

MERRI CREEK PRIMARY SCHOOL
IDA ST & MILLER ST
FITZROY NORTH

ENJOY A FUN FILLED FAMILY DAY OUT

CAKE STALL **BOX MAZE** **RIDES FOR ALL AGES**
SIDESHOW ALLEY **DODGEM CARS!**
DELICIOUS FOOD & COFFEE **MERRI MAKERS** **BOOKS**
CLOTHES & PLANTS **BAR & LIVE BANDS**
FACE PAINTING **LEGO ROOM** **GIANT STREET SLIDE**



SCAN HERE FOR
FETE PROGRAM



@mcpsfete

Nelson
Alexander



IMAGINE THE FUN

2025-26



KEON PARK CRICKET CLUB

Join Woolworths Cricket Blast

Designed specifically for kids, our weekly 60-90 minute sessions are full of movement, friendships and fun!



SIGN UP TODAY!

Snap the QR Code to Register

Play Cricket

BALIT Community
Kindergarten

FAMILY

FUN DAY

Sunday 26 October
10am-2pm
Batman Park

Corner of St Georges Rd
and Separation St

Respectfully on
Wurundjeri Country

Food. Rides. Stalls.
Live Entertainment.
Everyone's welcome!

WEEKEND CLINICS

BELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

👉 **SOCCER SEASON OVER?**
CONTINUE YOUR SOCCER
DEVELOPMENT WITH FOOTBALL
STAR ACADEMY IN TERM 4

📅 **EVERY SUNDAY 11:00AM**
⚽ **BOYS & GIRLS 8-12**
📱 **FREE TRIAL? SMS HEAD**
COACH LUKE AT 0431 217 998

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR
REGISTRATION & DETAILS ↓



Voted Best national school
aged activity (5-12 years old)



MORE THAN SPORT

DISCOVER OUR PROGRAMS

SPORTSTARACADEMY.COM/FOOTBALL

1300 372 300   





**WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE 5
COMMUNITY PREMIER LEAGUE GIRLS
COMMUNITY GIRLS
TRIAL DATES**

**U10 COMMUNITY GIRLS
U12-U13 COMMUNITY GIRLS & CPL
U14-U15 COMMUNITY GIRLS & CPL
5:30PM - 6:45PM
TUES 14 OCT 2025
THUR 16 OCT 2025
FRI 17 OCT 2025**

**U16-U17 COMMUNITY GIRLS & CPL
WOMEN'S - STATE LEAGUE 5
7:00PM - 8:15PM
TUES 14 OCT 2025
THUR 16 OCT 2025
FRI 17 OCT 2025**

APPLY VIA THE LINK BELOW

<https://www.northcotecity.com.au/eoi-2026-players>

<https://northcotecity.majestri.com.au/eoi-coaches-2026>

Any questions: girls@northcotecity.com.au



THE
YARRA
VOICES
75 Reid St Fitzroy North



AUDITIONS *bursaries available
NOVEMBER 2025 for our 2026 youth choir programs

visit our website
for more information
www.theyarravoices.com