



*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:

Referendum Day Fundraising

On Saturday, the school will be open as a ballot centre and it will be a great opportunity to raise more money for our main priority being lighting equipment for the gym/hall. School Council have discussed the idea that a moderate percentage of the money will go towards purchasing future teaching and learning resources to support a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

A Bell PS RAP is something the School Council flagged as an action back in early 2020 with some initial investigation started. Unfortunately the pandemic put a hold on this project. The revitalised Diversity and Inclusion sub-committee has identified a RAP as one of their key actions to explore and, given this moment in time with this referendum, it seems appropriate to re-start that process. At various stages of the RAP process, key stakeholders will be consulted and I will also reach out to other local schools on a similar path or schools that have already completed a RAP.

Scroll down to page 9 to see the details of the Referendum Day stalls and how you can volunteer to do some baking or help throughout the day.

Upcoming Working Bee (Bell Blitz)

There is a working bee planned for **Saturday 11 November** with a blitz on all the garden beds around the school to weed, tidy up edges and spread mulch. Main focus areas are at the north end of the school in between portables, in the Northern PlaySpace, around the Learning Centre, plus the fence lines at the south end. After the massive tree planting exercise last holidays, if we can finish off the above listed areas, our school will start to look and feel like an engaging place to be and help foster greater pride across the entire school community. More details with a sign-up link to come soon.





Leaving Bell in 2024?

As we continue forward planning for 2024, predicted enrolments are a crucial element to the process. Any families intending to leave the school, I ask that they 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 2024

Staff will be starting the transition work for next year's grade combinations soon 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.

The 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. 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.

Pupil Free Day

As part of the DoE and AEU Agreement, schools are able to allocate one of their Professional Practice Days as a common day where students do not attend school, enabling teachers to work on key tasks related to their role. After consultation with staff, I have determined that a Pupil Free Day will be held on **Monday 6 November** (the day before Melbourne Cup) where teachers will work on the end of year student assessment and reporting process.

This gives families the opportunity for an extended weekend if work arrangements allow. OSHClub will run a service for the day if enrolments justify a program.

Assembly on Fridays

After analysing the feedback from students, staff and parents/carers, it is clear that many favour the Friday afternoon assembly timeslot. Therefore, the end of week assembly will remain in place for the foreseeable future. With the warmer months coming and an amazing gym/hall to be finished in the future, Friday afternoons will become a special time to connect and mingle with the Bell community if you have some free time.

David Twite
Principal

From our Assistant Principal:

We are undertaking a review of our reporting cycle that informs and engages parents and carers in their child's learning.

For parents/carers of students in the middle-senior years, you will recall that a similar survey was conducted at the end of 2019. Based on the feedback from the school community, parents/carers community, teachers and students, a number of strengths and areas for adjustment were identified. Subsequently both minor and major changes have been strategically implemented between 2020-2023, including but not limited to:

- Information nights scheduled for earlier in Term 1 with administration reminders removed. This has enabled teaching teams to focus on sharing relevant teaching and learning or year level specific information. Administration reminders are now documented, sent out via Compass Newsfeed annually and available on the website.
- Semester reports now sent out at the end of term 2 instead of early term 3. Adjustments to Specialist comment areas and inclusion of effort/behaviour scales for each area.
- Term 3 student led conferences were replaced by a Parent/Carer-Teacher Conference. Student led conferences evolved into Celebrations of Learning, enabling termly opportunities for students to share their learning with parents/carers in a more structured way.
- Blogs were strategically abandoned and Parent/Carer Learning Support documents implemented to keep parents/carers connected with the learning happening in the classroom each term, including provision of suggestions to support learning at home.

As all changes have now been implemented, we are once again seeking feedback to identify and further refine, and ensure our whole school approaches are meeting the needs of all members of our school community- parents/carers, teachers and students.

While there are additional and more individualised communication processes between school and home, this survey is solely focused on our whole-school processes.

*The survey will take approximately 10-20 minutes to complete and will close on **Friday 3 November**.*

<https://forms.gle/vy7F5JFXhLPap437A>

2023 Bell PS Calendar:

Enter dates to remember in your diary, or take a screenshot each week for quick reference!



OCTOBER 2023

- Fri 13: School Assembly (weather permitting) 3pm
- **Sat 14: Referendum Voting Day Stalls + BBQ**
- Tue 17: Prep Celebration of Learning
- Fri 20: School Assembly (weather permitting) 3pm
- Sun 22: Scholastic Book Club Orders Close @ 9pm
- Tue 24: Mango Orders Close
- Fri 27: School Assembly (weather permitting) 3pm
- Tue 31: **Grade 1** Merri Creek Local Walking Excursion
- Tue 31: **Prep 2024** Parent/Carer Info Evening #1, 6pm (School Operations, Q+A online)

NOVEMBER 2023

- Fri 3: 'Reporting Cycle' Parent Survey Closes
- Fri 3: School Assembly (weather permitting) 3pm
- **Mon 6: **Pupil Free Day****
- **Tue 7: Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday**
- Wed 8: **Prep 2024 Optional** Transition Session (9.30-10.30 : parents/carers remain onsite)
- Fri 10: World's Greatest Shave Event
- Fri 10: School Assembly (weather permitting) 3pm
- **Sat 11: Bell Working Bee, 9am-12pm**
- **Mon 13: FINAL DAY COMPASS PAYMENT/CONSENT: *Gr6 Set for Secondary Online Sessions \$13***
- Wed 15: **Prep 2024** Transition #1, 9.30-11.00 (parents/carers to drop off and return)
- Wed 15: **Grade 6 Parents** Online Webinar #1
- Thu 16: **Grade 6** Set for Secondary Online Session #1
- Fri 17: **Grade 6** Graduation Dance Session #1
- Fri 17: **Grades 4-6** Swimming Carnival, Oakpark
- Fri 17: School Assembly (weather permitting) 3pm
- Wed 22: **Prep 2024** Transition #2, 9.30-11.00 (parents/carers to drop off and return)
- Wed 22: **Grade 6 Parents** Online Webinar #2
- Thu 23: **Grade 6** Set for Secondary Online Session #2

- Fri 24: **Grade 3-6** Swimming Carnival
- Fri 24: **Grade 2** TaskWorks Incursion
- Fri 24: School Assembly (weather permitting) 3pm
- **Tue 28: Whole School Transition #1/3**
- Wed 29: **Prep 2024** Transition #3, 9.30-11.00 (parents/carers to drop off and return)
- **Wed 29 – Fri 1 Dec: Grade 4 Anglesea Camp**
- Wed 29: **Grade 6 Parents** Online Webinar #3
- Thu 30: **Grade 6** Set for Secondary Online Session #3

DECEMBER 2023

- Fri 1: **Grade 6** Graduation Dance Session #2
- Fri 1: School Assembly (weather permitting) 3pm
- **Tue 5: Whole School Transition #2/3**
- Tue 5: **Prep 2024** Parent/Carer Info Evening #2, 6pm (A Day in the Life of a Prep, Q+A Face to Face, LC)
- Wed 6: **Prep 2024** Transition #4, 9.30-11.00 (parents/carers to drop off and return)
- Wed 6: Funkey Music EOY Concert, Learning Centre
- Fri 8: **Grade 6** Graduation Dance Session #3
- Fri 8: School Assembly (weather permitting) 3pm
- Mon 11: **Grade 6** Kids Helpline Transition Session
- **Mon 11: FINAL DAY COMPASS PAYMENT/CONSENT: *Grade 6 Luna Park Big Day Out \$49***
- **Tue 12: Whole School Transition #3/3**
- Tue 12: Statewide Year 6→7 Transition
- Tue 12: Optional Welcome BBQ for **Prep 2024** Families (4.00pm-6.00pm)
- **Thu 14: Grade 6 Luna Park Big Day Out**
- Fri 15: **Grade 6** Graduation Dance Session #4
- Fri 15: School Assembly (weather permitting) 3pm
- Mon 18: **Grade 6** Colour Run + Picnic
- Tue 19: **Grade 6** Graduation, Northcote Theatre (doors open 5.30pm for a 6.00pm start)
- **Wed 20: Final Day Term 4, 1.30pm dismissal**

Term 4 Book Club:

Students should have already received a copy of the Term 4 Scholastic Book Club catalogue – please see your eldest child's teacher if they haven't. Now is the time to think about ordering for Christmas and the summer holidays! **Orders close on Sunday 22 October at 9.00pm.** To save \$5 off your order, use the promo code **SAVEEXTRA** (note: \$5 off applies to orders over \$25 and is only available for orders placed before midnight on Friday 6 October). To order, visit www.scholastic.com.au/loop.



Library News:

This newsletter article is here to inform you about the new display of traditional Aboriginal items in the library and why we have them. These items include a didgeridoo, a spear, a throwing stick, a shield and two bonecrusher boomerangs. We added this display to acknowledge the traditional practices of the Australian Aboriginal people. As you can see, we are going to continue building on the library of Bell Primary to make it a calm and quiet place for the whole school. Also, these items weren't purchased recently, the school has had them in storage since the renovations to the main building and have finally found the best spot for them.

Written by the library leaders of 2023, Darcy, Jem, Maya and Flynn

From the Admin Office:

ADMINISTRATION STAFF:

Lu Paglia: Business Manager (Mon/Tue/Thu/Fri) : **Jo Taylor:** Finance/Excursions (Mon/Wed/Fri)
Tania Levens: Facilities/OHS/Communication (Tue-Fri) : **Jessie Storm:** Attendance/Enrolments/Medical (Mon-Fri)
OFFICE HOURS: 8.00am – 4.30pm

2024 Prep Enrolments



We kindly ask any current Bell families with a 2024 Prep child to submit an enrolment form **as soon as possible** for planning purposes. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website or collected from the front office. We look forward to welcoming the next cohort of Bell siblings to the school! Please contact Jessie in the office with any questions about the enrolment process.

LATE ARRIVALS, EARLY DEPARTURES OR STUDENT ABSENCES

1. **Late Arrival:** **ONLY** enter this on the Compass Kiosk at the office on arrival.
2. **Early Departure:** **ONLY** enter this on the Compass Kiosk at the office on arrival.
3. **Whole Day Absence:** **MUST** be entered on your Compass Parent Portal either in advance, or on the day by clicking the absence SMS link.

Please help the Admin Team out by NOT entering medical/dental appointments, etc, through your Compass Parent Portal – simply follow the early departure / late arrival procedure when you come in to drop off or collect your child.

COVID Requirements Update

As of July 10, Victorian schools are no longer required to keep records of student COVID cases, however the DET recommendation remains in place that any staff or students who test positive for COVID should stay home for 5 days minimum and only return to school when they are symptom-free. We kindly ask that you continue to inform office staff or your child's teacher if your child tests positive for COVID. Free rapid antigen tests are still available at the front office. **Thank you for your continued co-operation.**

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 run by a parent volunteer once per week. **The Shop will now be open every FRIDAY afternoon from 3.15-3.45pm.** Don't forget your gold coins – no credit or credit card facility is available.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Please see our website for details on these activities offered both after school and/or during school time in Room 14 – please make direct contact with the provider:

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



Year 4-6 World's Greatest Shave Sign-up

On November 10, the Junior School Council of Bell will run a World's Greatest Shave fundraising event to support the Leukaemia Foundation.

Students in Grades 4-6 who are interested in becoming fundraisers and shaving their heads will be able to register their interest with a JSC representative who has visited their classroom in Week 1.

Students who register will need their parents' permission and to sign up as a fundraiser. This can be done by [signing up using the link here](#) or the QR code attached. Students and their parents should complete the online sign up for the Bell Team as soon as possible, and by 22 October (end of Week 3) at the latest. Once students are signed up they can get fundraising!

All students will be able to donate to the Leukaemia Foundation as we will have a gold-coin donation Special Hair Day as part of our World's Greatest Shave event on November 10.

Get in touch with Claire or Hannah if you need further information.

Thank you for your support!
Claire, Hannah, and the Junior School Council



From the Specialist Team:

SPECIALISTS "METAL OF HONOUR" AWARD

A huge CONGRATULATIONS to

4B

for winning the 'Metal of Honour' Specialists Award for Term 3!

It was a massive team effort and you are all so deserving. 4B have been working hard demonstrating the school values and working on the Learning Assets in all their Specialist classes. Thank you for choosing kindness and making good behaviour choices every single session.

The Specialist team would like to congratulate every class in the school for doing an amazing job in all their Specialist classes.

Josh, Professoressa Sam, Miss Corinne and Ms S



Arty fun!

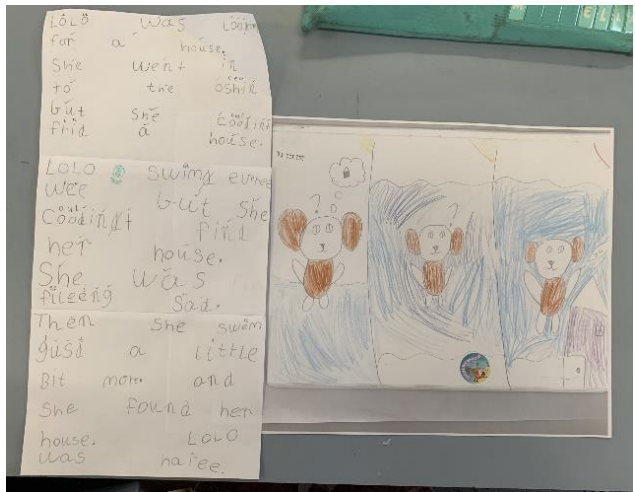
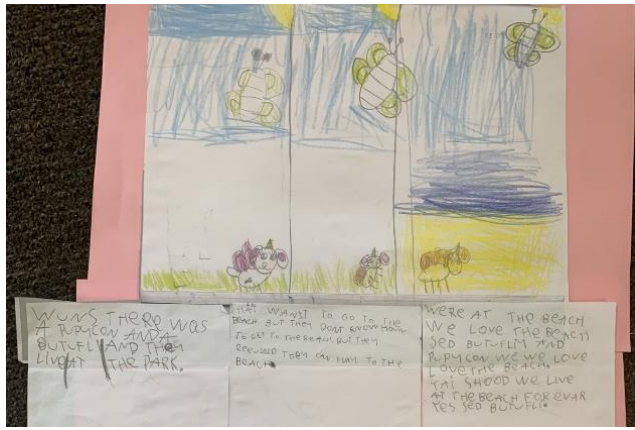
If you need to use your brain a little bit, especially during wet weather, <https://artsandculture.google.com/play> is a fantastic online tool! There are lots of arty games to explore.

Miss Corinne's current favourite game is 3D Pottery. You can create and design your own pot using this link: <https://artsandculture.google.com/experiment/3d-pottery/nwHg1D0riJ1ItA>

Enjoy!



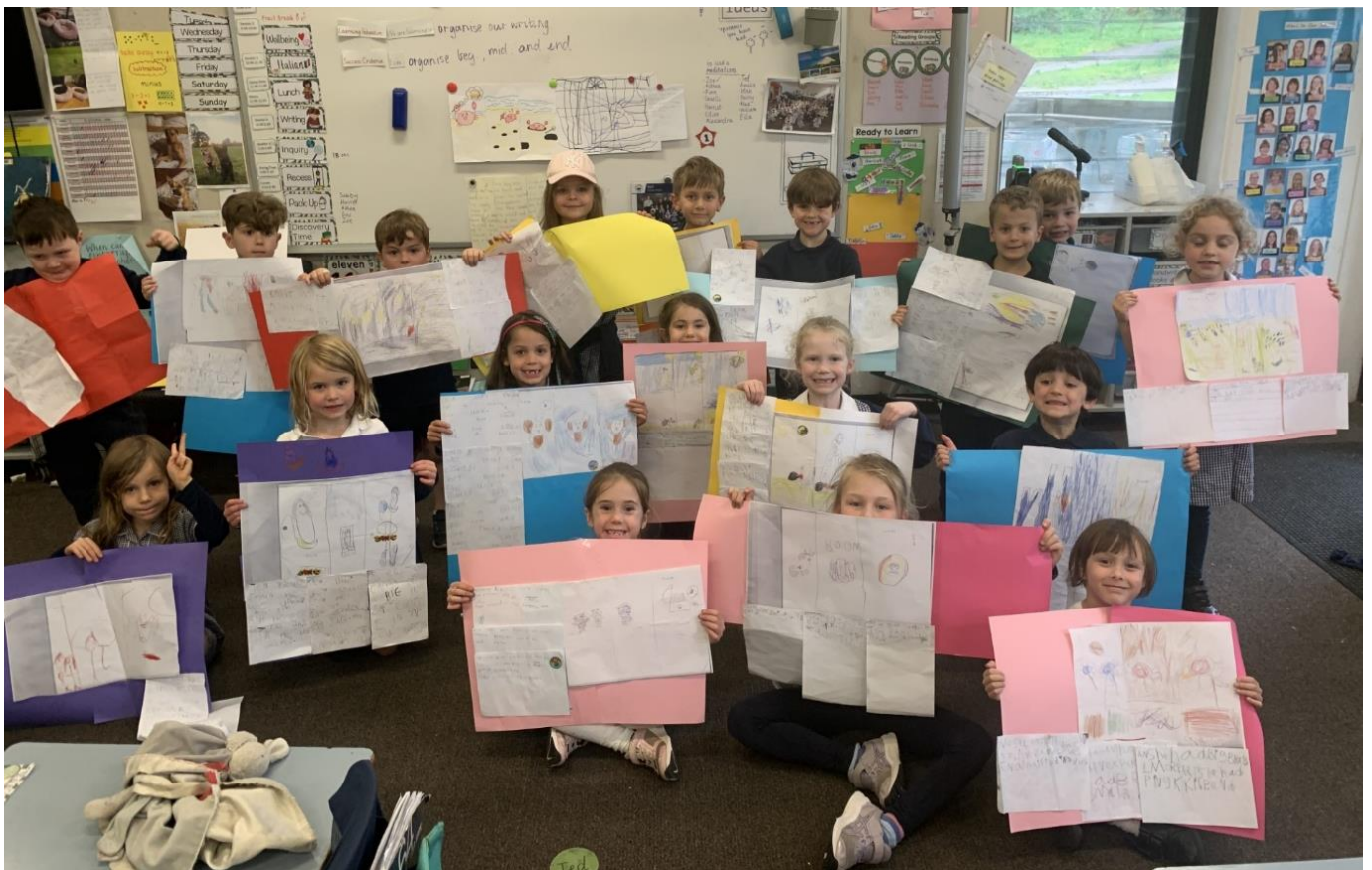
From the Prep Team:



Narrative Writing in Prep C!

This week in Prep we have been focusing on the Writing Trait of Organisation. We have been illustrating and writing a beginning, middle and end of a story. We have learnt that including detail is important to create an interesting story for our readers.

We can show our ideas in different ways, including telling someone, drawing and writing!



Referendum 2023 Fundraiser

Cast your vote at
Bell Primary School
and help raise money for the school

BBQ*
**CAKE
STALL**
BOOKS
TOYS

* Includes egg and bacon
rolls and vegetarian
options until sold out

Saturday 14 October

8am – 2pm

EFTPOS available



Fresh North Queensland Mangoes

Direct from the farm to you!

Support Our Mango Fundraiser

If you *love mangoes*, here's your chance to indulge in fresh juicy Kensington Pride mangoes and support our fundraising drive.

We are selling trays of mangoes picked and packed during the premium harvest.

Cost per Tray is: **\$26 - only available via Qkr!**

Place your order by: 24th October

Delivery: Late November / Early December

Money raised will be used for: Audio Visual equipment for the Gym Hall



**CALLING ALL
2024 PREP
ENROLMENTS**



With planning for next year now underway, we ask that any families who have not yet submitted a Prep enrolment form for their child please do so as soon as possible.

Enrolment forms are accessible on our website or in the school office, and can be submitted in person or to **bell.ps@education.vic.gov.au**

Please contact Jessie in the office for any questions about the enrolment process.

GET ACTIVE IN DAREBIN

**FREE
EXERCISE**

SPRING

MONDAY 9TH OCTOBER UNTIL SUNDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2023

*Not running 7th November (public holiday) Melbourne Cup **Running at Narrandjeri Stadium on 7th November

ACTIVITY	LOCATION	SUBURB	START	FINISH	TIME
MONDAY					
Walking Group	Narrandjeri Stadium	Thornbury	9 Oct	13 Nov	10.30am – 11.30am
Hula Hooping	Darebin Community Sports Stadium	Reservoir	9 Oct	13 Nov	2pm – 3pm
TUESDAY					
Aqua Moves*	Reservoir Leisure Centre	Reservoir	10 Oct	14 Nov	9am – 9.45am
THT (Tummy, Hips & Thighs)*	Reservoir Leisure Centre	Reservoir	10 Oct	14 Nov	9.30am – 10.25am
Tai Chi	Penders Park	Thornbury	10 Oct	14 Nov	9.30am – 10.30am
Walking Basketball*	Narrandjeri Stadium	Thornbury	10 Oct	14 Nov	10.30am – 11.30am
Pickleball**	Darebin Community Sports Stadium	Reservoir	10 Oct	14 Nov	10.30am – 11.30am
Gentle Exercise	Keon Park Children's Hub	Reservoir	10 Oct	31 Oct	10.45am – 11.30am
Cricket Blast for Juniors*	CT Barling Reserve	Reservoir	10 Oct	14 Nov	4.30pm – 5.30pm
Soccer Mums*	Mayer Park	Thornbury	10 Oct	14 Nov	5.30pm – 6.30pm
WEDNESDAY					
Table Tennis	Narrandjeri Stadium	Thornbury	11 Oct	15 Nov	10.30am – 11.30am
Come-N-Try Tennis	Darebin Community Sports Stadium	Reservoir	11 Oct	15 Nov	2pm – 3pm
THURSDAY					
Pilates	All Nations Park	Northcote	12 Oct	16 Nov	9.30am – 10.30am
Walking Group	Darebin Community Sports Stadium	Reservoir	12 Oct	16 Nov	10.30am – 11.30am
Cardio Tennis	Narrandjeri Stadium	Thornbury	12 Oct	16 Nov	2pm – 3pm
Go Soccer Girls	Mayer Park	Thornbury	12 Oct	16 Nov	5.30pm – 6.30pm
Zumba	Reservoir Leisure Centre	Reservoir	12 Oct	16 Nov	7pm – 7.55pm
FRIDAY					
Yoga	East Preston Community Centre	Reservoir	13 Oct	17 Nov	11am – 12pm
Social Badminton	Narrandjeri Stadium	Thornbury	13 Oct	17 Nov	12pm – 1pm
Meditation	Reservoir Leisure Centre	Reservoir	13 Oct	17 Nov	12.35pm – 1.05pm
Roller Skating	Darebin Community Sports Stadium	Reservoir	13 Oct	17 Nov	2pm – 3pm
Get into Golf - Women & Girls	Bundoora Park Golf Course	Bundoora	13 Oct	17 Nov	5pm – 6pm
SATURDAY					
Parkrun	CT Barling Reserve	Reservoir	14 Oct	18 Nov	8am
SUNDAY					
Cricket for Girls	A H Capp Reserve	Preston	15 Oct	19 Nov	10am – 11am



DAREBIN.VIC.GOV.AU/GETACTIVE



the place
to live

FAMILY FUN DAY

10am-2pm at Batman Park
Corner of St Georges Rd & Separation St

Everyone is welcome!

Proudly supported by:

