



*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:

The Great Primary School Mystery

Exciting, fun, nerve-racking, scary! These were just some of the reflections from our 3A students yesterday after their debut performance in 'The Great Primary School Mystery' on Wednesday night. What a performance it was!

Students took to the stage with energy and excitement to showcase the dances they have been learning over the past term. For many children (just like some of us adults) performing in front of an audience meant stepping outside their comfort zone. We congratulate our students on overcoming their nerves and embracing this opportunity to build resilience and confidence.



Congratulations to our magnificent cast who blew the audience away with their talents: Johny 5C (*Casey Closed*), Henry 6A (*Justin Case*), Ashley 6A (*David Twite*), Polly 6B (*Emma Heywood*), Odette 5A (*Ms S*), Remy 5B (*Josh Grogan*), Ngiya 6B (*Tania Levens*), Aisha 6B (*Jessie Storm*), Opella 5B (*Gab Goss*), Delilah 6A (*Karen Elsbury*), Oscar 5B (*Daniel Jeffery*), Clementine 5B (*Joy O'Neill*), Caspar 5B (*Ramzey Fayad*), Banjo 5C (*Mr. Nicho*), Ellie 5B (*Stacey Valentinis*), Amelie 5B (*Student 1*), Finn 5C (*Student 2*), Minty 6A (*Student 3*) and Gil 6A (*Narrator*).



A huge thank you to Ms S and Claire for their incredible organisation and coordination of the entire production from start to finish. Their level of commitment to making this a memorable event for families cannot be overstated.

Thank you to all other staff who attended to support through various roles. We are incredibly fortunate as a school to have such dedicated staff who consistently go above and beyond to ensure our students have the most memorable experiences of primary school.

Thank you also to our amazing parents, carers, family and friends who came along to support our students. It was wonderful to see so many grandparents, aunties, uncles, cousins and friends come along as extended members of our school community.

Changes to Digital Device Use

From 2027, the Victorian Government is introducing changes to the use of digital devices for students from Prep to Grade 6. Under the new guidelines, schools:

- will no longer invite families to purchase or bring their own digital devices to use at school for Prep to Grade 6
- will follow new recommended digital device times, including minimal device time for Prep to Grade 2; and a maximum of 90 minutes per day for grades 3 to 6.

This means our current BYOD program for Grades 4-6 will be phased out from 2027. Instead, we will provide class sets of digital devices for use by students. Students who have been using BYO devices prior to 2027 will be able to continue to bring their devices to school. This means that for our current Grade 3 students, the BYOD program and information night scheduled for next week will proceed as planned.

While we already took a balanced approach to the use of digital devices as a tool to support learning, we will conduct an audit to ensure our current practices align with the new recommended time limits.

Students with a disability who use a digital device as a reasonable adjustment are exempt from these changes.

These changes are intended to support families with cost-of-living pressures and reduced student screen time. You can read more about the changes on the Department's website: [Digital Learning: Policy](#).

Bell Blitz

Last Sunday, a small but dedicated and hard-working group came along to progress the development of our new Indigenous Biodiversity Garden at the front of the gym.

Thank you to the following students, staff, parents/carers and extended community members for generously giving your time and energy:

Gemma, Trevor, Will, Bea and Esther; Ciannon and Jo; Julie; Ellie; Aaron; Angus, Maggie and Rose; Nicola and Harriet; Dusty and Ngiya; Nic; Megan; Denise, Luke and Cillian; Fairlie and Winter; Jude, Hamish and Jules; Hamish; Ivy, Tim and Bruce; Tina; Mr. Nicho; Brett, Eddie and Lewis.



It is exciting to see this new space taking shape. As part of the next stage, all classes will have an opportunity to actively contribute through a school wide planting day next week.

A special thank you to Trevor and Gemma for feeding the crew.

Grade 6 Camp

The Grade 6s returned last Friday from their four days at Camp Jungai in Rubicon.

Day One began with students embracing the full camping experience: hiking with their camping gear, cooking their own food, setting up and sleeping in tents.

During the week, students were involved in a range of adventure activities including high ropes and raft building, developing their collaborative and communication skills and individual persistence and resilience. Students also participated in a range of nature art and First Nations cultural activities, learning about our waterways, boomerang throwing and experiencing various kinds of bush tucker.

David also made his way up to share in the camp festivities and silent disco with students on the Wednesday night.

A huge thank you to our staff, Josh, Stacey and Sarah, and parent helpers Mark and Anton, for supporting our students during their time away. Thank you to Dave for giving our Grade 6s one last silent disco!

Bell Babies!

We are thrilled to share the wonderful news that **Sarah** and **Josh** are expecting their first child early next year. A big congratulations also to **Rosie**, and her partner Matt, who are likewise expecting their first child in the new year. We're so excited for both families and wish them all the very best as they prepare to welcome their little ones!



Emma Heywood
Principal

2025 / 2026 Calendars

October 2025

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:	Common Professional Practice Day (Pupil-Free)
Tue 4:	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
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 \$0
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 \$472
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

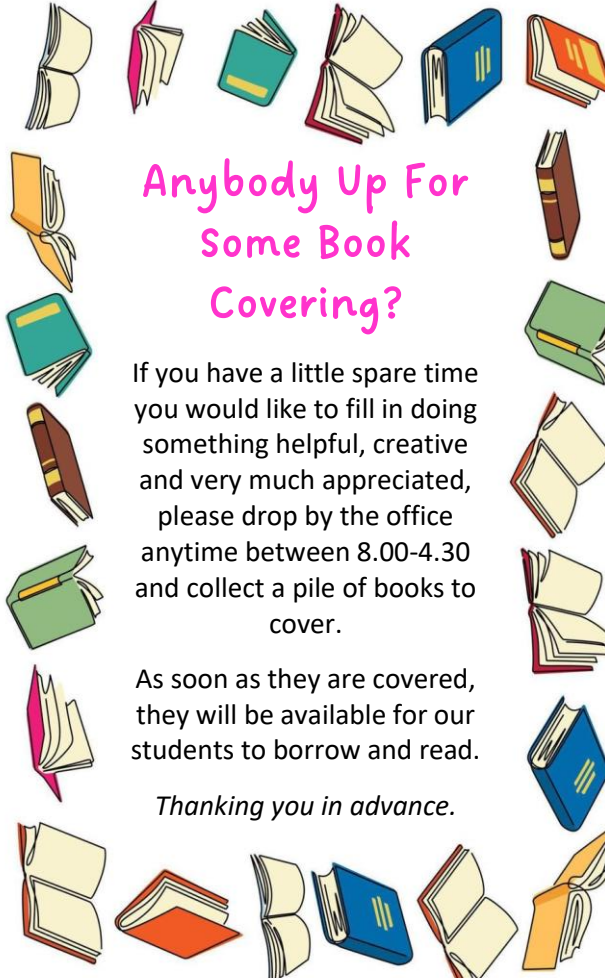
January 2026

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****



Anybody Up For Some Book Covering?

If you have a little spare time you would like to fill in doing something helpful, creative and very much appreciated, please drop by the office anytime between 8.00-4.30 and collect a pile of books to cover.

As soon as they are covered, they will be available for our students to borrow and read.

Thanking you in advance.

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



From the Clubs Team – Term 4:

Monday

First Break: No Clubs this break

Second Break:

Drawing Club for Grades 1 and 2 in the Art Room with Julia

Tuesday

First Break:

S.A.U. (Student Activist Union) (interactive) with the Sustainability Leaders and Ivy in the Library

Just Dance Kids for Grades P-2 in Room 12 - 2A with Kerry

Second Break:

Green Thumbs Club - please meet Julie at the Shed (weeks 1-5)

Mindfulness Club for Grades 3 and 4 in Learning Centre Room 4 with Ms T and Athena

Wednesday

First Break: No Clubs this break

Second Break:

Writing Club for all year levels in the Prep B classroom in the Learning Centre with Nicki

Robotics Club for Grade 5s in the STEAM Room with Mollie

Thursday

First Break: No Clubs this break

Second Break:

News Reporter Club with Miss M and Mr Lakin upstairs in the main building with selected Grade 6 students (*even weeks*)

Drama Club for Grades 5 -6 upstairs in the main building with Miss M (*odd weeks*)

Friday

First Break:

Open Mic Club for Grades 3 and 4 in the Music Room with Ms S

Soccer Club for Grade Preps in the Gym with Josh

Grade 6 Camp Newsletter by Nao, Xavier + Clem:

Day 1

After a two hour drive to Camp Jungai, we had a warm welcome from Auntie and the camp staff. We started off by packing the hiking bags that the camp provided for us. Then we started walking towards a field of grass where we met up with the other groups. We started to settle in, set up our tents and play some games. Four selected students from each group made our dinner - gnocchi. There were three groups: *Gangerlangers* - Group 1, *Tim Tams* - Group 2, and *Monster Trucks* - Group 3. After dessert, Oreos and marshmallows, it took a while for everyone to settle down and go to sleep. The grade sixes were all excited for the first full day of Camp Jungai.



Day 2

After everyone woke up, we raced to have breakfast. After breakfast, we all got ready to hike back to camp. Once we were there, we got into our cabins and got dressed for our activities. We did high ropes, bush craft and raft building. They were all fun and we all got wet. For lunch we had baked potatoes, for dinner we had a pasta bake with garlic bread, and for dessert we had apple crumble with custard.

Day 3

Everyone woke up and got prepared for the last full day of camp. In the morning and early afternoon, we did some activities which included things like canoeing, boomerang painting/throwing, bushcraft, nature art and more. For lunch we had bread rolls, for dinner we had roast chicken and vegetables, and for dessert we had chocolate mousse with cream. Later on in the evening, we had Dave Hall join us for a Silent Disco which everyone loved. After that, Mark came in and sang some songs and played the ukulele. After all that fun, everyone went back to their cabins and got ready for their last sleep of camp in Primary School.



Day 4

We did one last main activity but after that we played some Indigenous games. For lunch we had burgers and finally we got on the bus and went home.





School Production Photo Gallery:



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLIMATE ACTION FRIDAY 24TH OCT

**WEAR GREEN TO SHOW
LOVE FOR OUR PLANET**

**REDUCE YOUR CARBON
FOOTPRINT – WALK OR
WHEEL TO SCHOOL**

**GET INVOLVED IN
COMMUNITY PLANTING**

**RAISE YOUR VOICE AT
THE S.A.U CLIMATE
RALLY**

PARENT HELPERS NEEDED FOR PLANTING. PLEASE EMAIL IVY IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET INVOLVED:
IVY.CALLANDER@EDUCATION.VIC.GOV.AU



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! ✨

! Bell Spotlight !

Meet Julie Waugh, 1C Classroom Teacher

What do you love the most about being a teacher at Bell?

I love how kind, inquisitive, enthusiastic and sincere the students of Bell are.

What is your ideal holiday and why?

Camping in a forest by a beach because I love being in nature and swimming in the ocean, or spending time in the bush on Boandik land because it helps me feel more connected to my family's past.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Apart from spending time with my family, I most love to spend my time in the garden. I love growing vegetables, flowers and natives, and I even love composting. I also enjoy swimming and singing in a choir.

What made you want to be a teacher?

I absolutely loved primary school when I was a kid and I wanted to be a part of helping other children to have a positive empowering experience of school too.



From the Sports Department:

On Wednesday, we had our biggest Bell team to date head out to the Regional Athletics Carnival at Meadowglen Athletics Track.

This is a massive achievement, and all the students should be incredibly proud of their efforts - I know the whole Bell community is. Congratulations to Olive from Grade 4; Amelie, Jude, Finn and Izzy from Grade 5 and Jack, Fergus, Ave, Phoenix, Hazel and Ngiya from Grade 6.

A special mention to Rani from Grade 5 who came first in the Under 10 High Jump and has progressed through to the State Athletic Championships in November at Lakeside Stadium.

Josh Grogan
PE Teacher





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



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   



WALK & TALK

4K WALK FOR BLOOD CANCER
Big steps, small steps,
everyone & pets welcome!



Every step supports blood cancer patients and research. Together, we walk towards zero lives lost by 2035.

Proudly supporting
Leukaemia Foundation



DATE



16 NOVEMBER 2025, SUNDAY

TIME



STARTS FROM 10.30AM

LOCATION



**MERRI PARK, 1 SUMNER AVENUE,
NORTHCOTE, VIC, 3070**

HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

- Support the Cause
- Sausage sizzle, T-Shirts & Raffle Tickets
- All proceeds goes to the Leukaemia Foundation



JOIN US • \$20 TICKETS

(Children \$10 • Family \$55)



SCAN ME

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION**



leukaemia_vic

Oakover Road, Preston VIC

Dear Resident,

Please be advised that power works will be conducted in your area for a power pole replacement which may affect access to and from your property.

These works will take place on **Tuesday, 11 November 2025**

Between the hours of **7:00AM & 3:00PM**.

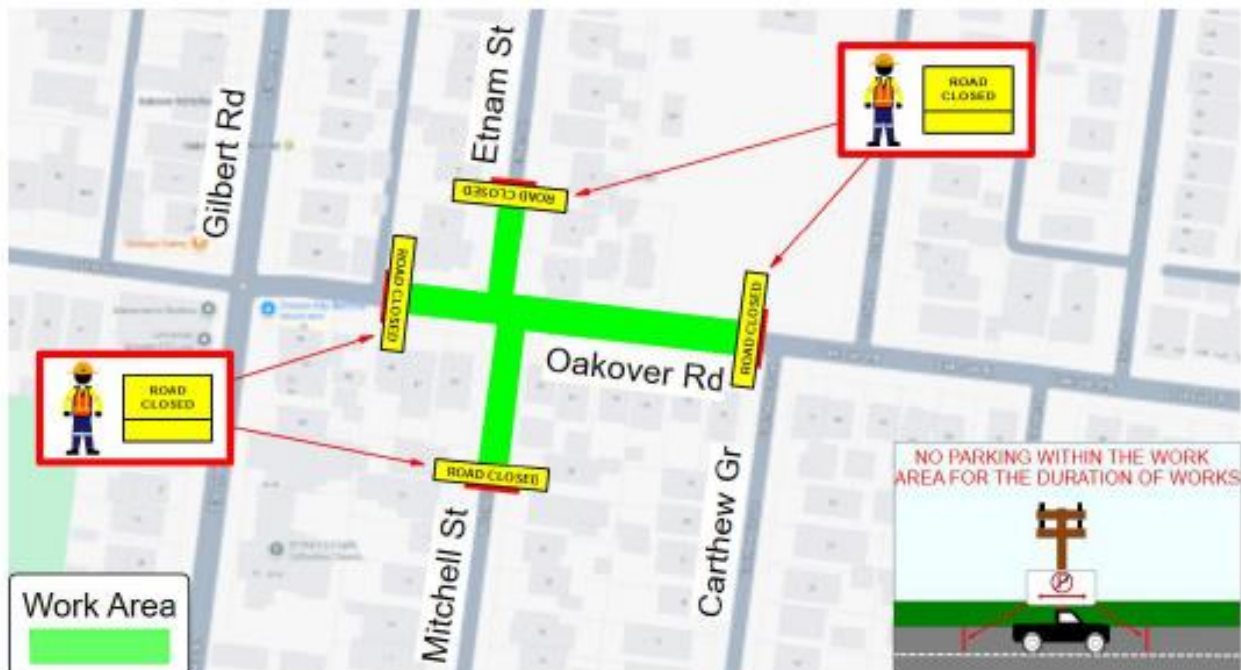
See map below for road closure points, this should help with planning your commute. It would be appreciated if you could minimise traffic flow to avoid delays and disappointment on this day.

We are not the power provider so we cannot advise if your power will remain on. If your power is to be turned off, it is the power providers responsibility to notify you.

Our friendly staff will be onsite to aid you, help with pedestrian movements and accommodate emergency vehicles should the need arise. We ask that you treat them with respect as they are there to help you.

Kindest regards,

ATC



www.atctrffic.com.au



03 9739 5880



Factory 3B, 97-107 Canterbury Rd, Kilsyth 3137



PRESTON BULLANTS JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

WHERE IT'S MORE THAN A GAME

GIRLS COME 'N' TRY FOOTBALL CLINICS



Scan me!

THE PRESTON BULLANTS JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB IS MORE THAN JUST A SPORT. IT'S A VIBRANT HUB AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY, BRINGING FAMILIES, PLAYERS, AND SUPPORTERS TOGETHER THROUGH A SHARED PASSION FOR FOOTBALL.

SPORTING CLUB — IT IS A COMMUNITY CLUB. DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS OR JUST COME FOR FUN!

NEW AND EXISTING PLAYERS ARE WELCOME. BRING A FRIEND. BUILD CONFIDENCE. SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY CLUB. DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS OR JUST COME FOR FUN!

IDENTITY. SUPPORT YOUR CLUB. DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS OR JUST COME FOR FUN!

WHERE: HP ZWAR RESERVE, CNR JESSIE & CRAMER STREETS, PRESTON (ENTER VIA BRUCE STREET)

WHEN: MONDAY 10TH, 17TH AND 24TH OF NOVEMBER 2025

TIME: 5.30 PM - 6.30 PM

CLINICS ARE FREE AND SUPPORTED BY QUALIFIED COACHES

TO REGISTER, FOLLOW THE LINK [HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/SXSZVWUXRQXG3V1Y8](https://forms.gle/SXSZVWUXRQXG3V1Y8) OR USE THE QR CODE

RECRUITING NOW FOR 2026 U10'S, 12'S, 14'S & 16'S

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE KYM ON 0438 015 498



Secondary Education Guide

To assist your decision making in relation to your child's education for 2026 and beyond, please find below a link to the November 2025 edition of the Secondary Education Guide:

<https://victoriaschoolguides.starcommunity.com.au/secondary-education-november/>