



# Newcomb Newsletter

Term 4, Week 8, Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November



## IMPORTANT DATES

### NOVEMBER

28<sup>th</sup> - Publishing Party BER 12.30pm  
28<sup>th</sup> - Assembly 2.50pm All welcome

### DECEMBER

2<sup>nd</sup> - School Council Meeting 4.45pm  
9<sup>th</sup> - Whole School Transition Day 9-12.30  
10<sup>th</sup> - Volunteer Morning Tea 11.00am  
10<sup>th</sup> - Prep Christmas Lunch  
12<sup>th</sup> - Assembly 2.50pm All welcome  
16<sup>th</sup> - Year 6 Graduation  
17<sup>th</sup> - End of year class celebrations  
17<sup>th</sup> - Reports available on Compass  
18<sup>th</sup> - Final Assembly & Xmas Spectacular! 9am  
19<sup>th</sup> - Last day of Term 4 Early finish 2.15pm

### JANUARY

28<sup>th</sup> - Assessment Day (individual timeslots)  
29<sup>th</sup> - First day for all students (F-6)



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we head towards the end of another school year we would like to thank our teachers and education support staff for the incredible work they do each day. We are exceptionally lucky with the team we have had this year who have gone above and beyond for our students and families. We know that Newcomb PS is a special community because of the people here. We are excited to share our teaching team for 2026:

- Prep - Morgan Devlin
- Year 1 - TBC (this position is currently advertised)
- Year 1/2 - Jess Fatone
- Year 2 - Melissa Gee
- Year 3 - Chelsey Vipont
- Year 4 - Tyler Boots
- Year 5 - Cayla Marino
- Year 6 - Sherridan Woolard

At the end of the school year there is always some farewells and some welcomes as we appoint our team for the new year. We would like to wish Zarly Smith well as she heads off to a new school for the next step in her career. We would also like to congratulate Joseph Nguyen on his appointment to a school in Melbourne as he makes a move to the big smoke! A big thankyou and best wishes to Amanda Wright who is taking on a teaching role closer to home for 12 months at Wangala PS. We look forward to welcoming her back in 2027. Paige Clay who has been in intervention this year has also taken a transfer position for 12 months closer to home and we look forward to seeing her in 2027. We congratulate Grace Dennis who has accepted an ongoing position closer to home at Biyala PS Primary School. We are excited to welcome back Melissa Gee and look forward to introducing our new teachers Jess Fatone and Sherridan Woolard. We look forward to sharing a final update on our Education Support Staff team in our next newsletter

Stay tuned for our staffing profiles on our socials as we introduce each of our staff members for 2026!

Blanche Denmead & Carmen Britnell - Principal Team

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION & UPDATES

## TRANSITION DAY - TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

On Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of December we have our annual whole school transition day. Our Year 6 students spend the day at their new school learning about all high school has to offer and meeting their peers for 2026.

Our students will spend the morning in their new classroom with their new class teacher for 2026. The transition session runs from 9am until 12.30pm. It aims to reduce anxiety about the coming school year and gives the opportunity to get to know their new classroom teacher and Education Support staff for the new school year.

Throughout the morning students will be involved in community and team building activities and will have the chance to share about themselves, while getting to know more about their peers. Our new Preps and students coming to us from other schools will also join us for the day. On this day all students will bring home a note so that parents are informed of their class teacher for 2026.

## CLASS PLACEMENT FOR 2026

In 2026 we will have a mix of straight year level classes and some composite classes, based on our current and future enrolments. We decide on class composition with consideration to academic, social and behavioural considerations. This is a thorough process with great thought given to ensuring students are placed in a class that will provide optimal learning.

## SUNSMART

There is a large number of students continuing to come to school without a hat. Please ensure you check with your child each morning to see that they have their hat packed for the day. Students who do not have a hat will need to play under cover.

Please also remember to put sunscreen on your child/ren each morning. If they have some in their school bag please remind them to re apply as required.



## STUDENT LEADERSHIP 2025

We would like to acknowledge the exceptional work of our school leaders in 2025. They have shown great leadership at assemblies, conferences and our big school events. It is an incredible opportunity for our students and we look forward to announcing our 2026 school leaders at our final assembly on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December.

We would like to thank our Junior School Councillors for 2025. They have done an incredible job of leading our termly events and have fundraised for a number of important causes.

We would also like to acknowledge Ms. Smith and her incredible leadership and organisation of this group. The JSC has been very successful as a result of your guidance, Ms. Smith, Thankyou!

At the beginning of 2026 we will be appointing our new Junior School Councillors for the new school year. This is a great leadership opportunity and we encourage students to apply for the position to lead their class. This process will happen early in 2026.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL 2025

Our School Council plays a vital role in our school. If you have any ideas, suggestions or feedback about our school please feel free to contact any member of school council or email our School Council President at pinkpawprincess@hotmail.com. Our school council representatives for 2025 are: Natalie Edwards (President), Calista Davis (Vice President), Amanda Wright (Secretary), Allison Fogarty (Treasurer), Morgan Foster (Community Representative), Meagan Morris (Parent Representative), Lyn Wilcock (Parent Representative), Penny Winbolt (Parent Representative), Rachel Smith (Parent Representative), Donna Parsons (DET Representative), Michelle Stewart (DET Representative), Carmen Britnell (Principal).

The next school council meeting for Term 4 is on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> of December.



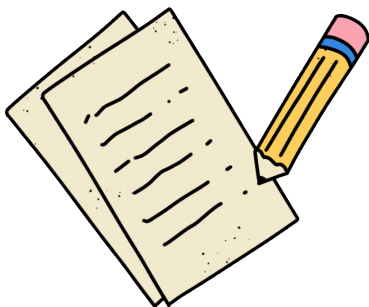
## ENGLISH

Every day at Newcomb PS our students participate in evidence based fluency instruction.

Expectations are set and include the following:

- Teaching student routines (each technique, how to time, how to give feedback).
- Teacher feedback should be explicit and be focused on rate, accuracy or expression.
- Partnering students appropriately (can use WCPM/ORF to support text selection).
- Goals as per norm:
  - By the end of year 1: 60 WPM (39-75)
  - By the end of year 2: 90-100 WPM (94-127)
  - In years 3-6: 100-120 WPM (114-163)
- Teacher read aloud- modelling fluent reading (accuracy, rate, expression)- during novel study, Core Knowledge etc. Minimum three times per day e.g. during eating time.

We include partner, repeated, echo and choral reading.



## ASSESSMENT

All classrooms have now completed our end of year assessments. These have included:

**DIBELS** - (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills), a set of short, research-based assessments used to measure and monitor foundational literacy skills in students from kindergarten through 8th grade.

**Acadience Math** - measures of early numeracy, computation, and problem-solving that function as indicators of the essential skills that every child must master in order to become proficient in mathematics.

It is wonderful to see the growth children have made throughout 2025. This table is from our incredible prep students.

	Beginning of Year	Middle of Year	End of Year
Well Below Benchmark	58% 15 Students	58% 14 Students	20% 4 Students
Below Benchmark	19% 5 Students	21% 5 Students	15% 3 Students
At Benchmark	12% 3 Students	21% 5 Students	35% 7 Students
Above Benchmark	12% 3 Students	0% 0 Students	30% 6 Students

Thanks, and have a great week  
 Robyn Evans  
 Assistant Principal



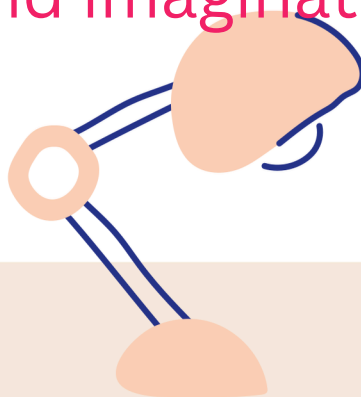
# Whats been happening in the 1/2's

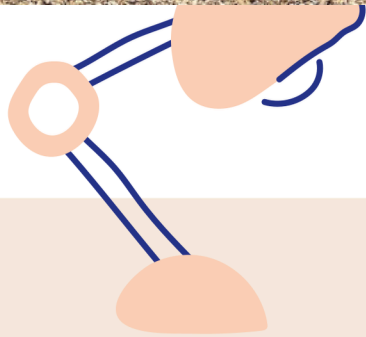


What a wonderfully busy and exciting term it has been in Grade 1/2! The students have shown enthusiasm, curiosity, and a great sense of fun as they've taken part in a range of engaging learning experiences.



One of the biggest highlights this term was our Halloween Dress Up Day. The students absolutely loved coming to school in their creative costumes, and we had some truly spooky (and sometimes very silly!) monsters roaming the classroom. It was a fantastic day filled with laughter and imagination.





Another standout event was the school swimming program. It was fantastic to see students grow in confidence and skill each session. We are so proud of the effort and persistence everyone showed throughout the program.





In the classroom, the students have been exploring Holidays Around the World. They have learnt about a range of celebrations, including Ramadan and Eid-Al-Fitr, Chinese New Year, Diwali, Hanukkah, Carnival, Día de los Muertos, and Bastille Day. The children loved discovering the traditions, foods, stories, and symbols connected to each celebration.



It has certainly been a busy term, but also a very joyful one. We have had so much fun learning together and celebrating all the wonderful things that make our world unique.

# Instead of 'How was your day at school?' try

.....

What did you do that's kind?

What was your favourite thing about playtime?

What story did your teacher read today?

Who had the best snack today?

Did you help anyone today?

What was your favourite class today?

What did you learn that was fun today ?

If you were the class teacher, what would you teach the kids?

What are you looking forward to tomorrow?



# Values Awards

This weeks SWPB focus is...

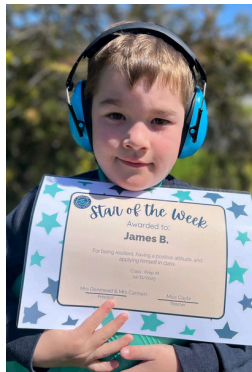
**RESPECT/ ALWAYS**

We wear school uniform including our hats with pride.




# Student of the Week Awards

Congratulations to these students who have been working hard this fortnight!





MELI



# NPS

We would like to invite all younger siblings of NPS students



# Sunshine Circles



## What is Sunshine Circles?

Sunshine Circles® group gives you the opportunity to support your child to practice self-regulation skills and to feel encouraged to have a go at achievable challenges. Facilitators will lead playful, cooperative, and nurturing activities to create a fun, caring, accepting and encouraging experience. The goal is to enhance children's social, emotional and cognitive development while creating an opportunity for joyful moments together.

AFTERNOON  
TEA  
PROVIDED

**Term 3**

**Wednesday- 2:15pm-3pm**

0352484176

Newcomb Primary School

Richard Street, Newcomb

# Schools Round – Geelong Venom WNBL Home Game

It's not just about basketball – we've got a wild lineup of entertainment including a special Venom appearance from Wildlife Exposure! Meet pythons, crocodiles, and more up close. Plus, enjoy giveaways and surprises throughout the day.

**NEXT  
GAME**

**GEELONG VENOM vs MELBOURNE CAPITALS**

**SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER  
12:30PM AEDT**

Geelong Arena

Scan Me

gawko

athletic

WNBL

IEF INFASTECH  
Engineered Fastening

W

The poster features a close-up of a female basketball player in a blue Geelong Venom jersey. The background shows a crowd of fans at a game. The text 'NEXT GAME' is prominently displayed in large, bold, green and white letters. Below this, the matchup 'GEELONG VENOM vs MELBOURNE CAPITALS' is shown with their respective logos. The date and time 'SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER 12:30PM AEDT' and the venue 'Geelong Arena' are also included. A QR code with a 'Scan Me' button is provided for more information. The player's jersey has 'gawko' and 'athletic' logos. At the bottom, the WNBL logo and sponsors 'IEF INFASTECH Engineered Fastening' and 'W' are visible.

# Prep 2026 Transition for Nature Links



# MELI

## SOCIAL MEDIA CHANGES EXPLAINED

### JOIN OUR FREE PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

Helping families navigate the upcoming social media changes for under-16s.

#### What You'll Learn

- Accurate information on the upcoming social media ban
- Practical tips for supporting your child through this change
- Resources from the eSafety Commissioner
- A space to share concerns and ask questions

**Date: Tuesday 2nd December**

**Time: 4:30pm - 6:00pm**

**Location: Korayn Birralee Family Centre**

**146/152 Purnell Rd CORIO 3214**

**Cost: Free**

## Register Now



## Spots are limited - inquire now!

### Prepping for Prep

Over 6, 2-hour sessions, children work towards their own goals in a small group environment. With a focus on confidence, skill-building, independence, and social communication, your child will be ready to start school feeling prepared and proud.

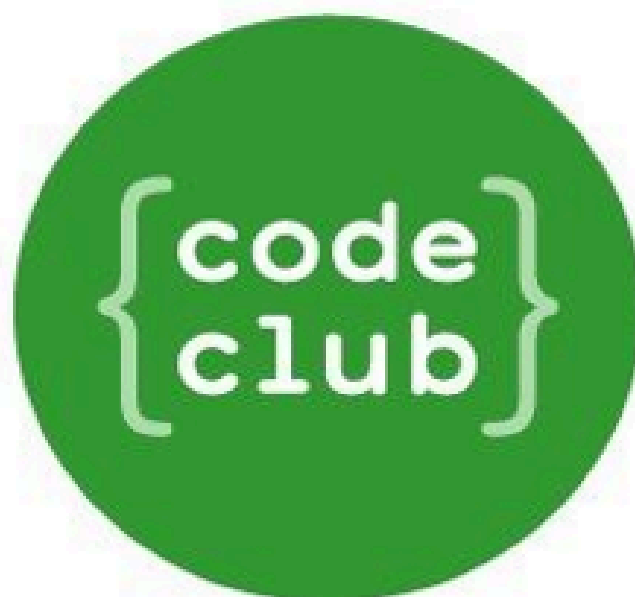
### Confidence on Wheels

Does your child have new wheels on their Christmas list? Our intensive programs are run over 3 fun 1.5 hour sessions. For ages 4+ our experienced physios will have your child rolling into the holidays with confidence.

### Literacy Booster

Perfect for primary school aged children. Over six fun 2-hour sessions, your child will improve handwriting, boost reading confidence, spark imagination through creative play, and build teamwork with shared projects and games.

Register online [www.childrenstherapyservices.com.au](http://www.childrenstherapyservices.com.au)  
or call our friendly team on 03 5221 1078



## AUSTRALIA

### CODE CLUB

Join us for Code Club and take a tour of Scratch 1 or stretch your coding muscles with advanced projects in Scratch 2 and 3.

Children will need a Scratch account. To create an account, go to [scratch.mit.edu](https://scratch.mit.edu). Please bring along their username and password each week.

Recommended ages 8-15.

Bookings essential.

book  
now



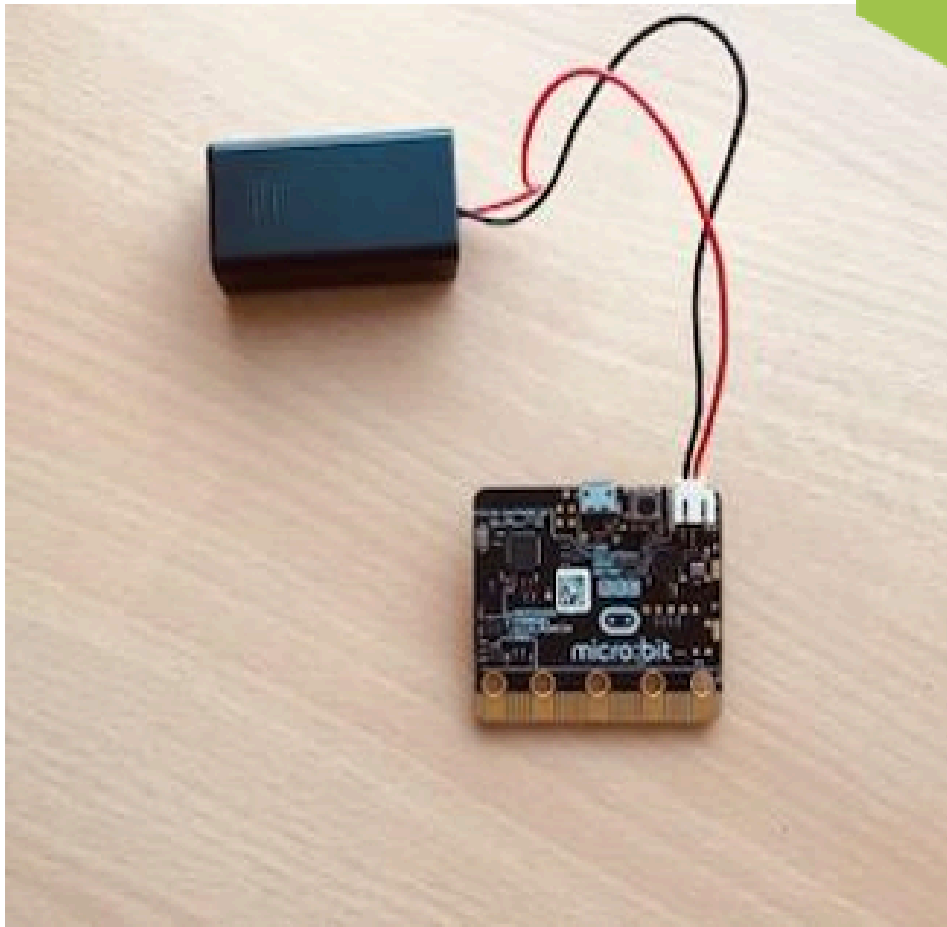
**Every Wednesday**  
**Commencing 4 March 2026**  
**Finishing 1 April 2026**  
**4:00pm – 5:00pm**  
**Level 1, Meeting Room**  
**Newcomb Library**

[grlc.vic.gov.au](https://grlc.vic.gov.au)

book  
now

All events are **FREE** unless otherwise specified.  
**Bookings essential.**  
Online [grlc.vic.gov.au](https://grlc.vic.gov.au)  
In person at any branch, or phone 03 4201 0655





## CODING WITH MICROBITS

Experience some of the endless possibilities of the micro:bit micro-computer in this 4-week program. Learn coding skills while creating games, music and more.

The micro:bit is a handheld programmable micro-computer that can be used for all sorts of cool creations. This 4-week course is designed to progressively build on the skills developed each week.

Recommended ages 8-15.

book  
now



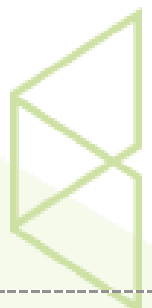
**Every Wednesday**  
**Commencing 4 February 2026**  
**Finishing 25 February 2026**  
**4:00pm – 5:00pm**  
**Level 1, Meeting Room**  
**Newcomb Library**

Bookings essential.

[grlc.vic.gov.au](http://grlc.vic.gov.au)

book  
now

All events are **FREE** unless otherwise specified.  
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Online [grlc.vic.gov.au](http://grlc.vic.gov.au)  
In person at any branch, or phone 03 4201 0657





## ARTISTS ASSEMBLE!

Calling all artists & creative legends. Get hands on with painting, origami, cut & pasting, & all things art & craft. Activities vary each week. Come along & let your imaginations fly!

Recommended ages 5-18



**No Booking Needed**

**Every Thursday**

**Commencing 5 February 2026**

**Finishing 2 April 2026**

**4:00PM to 5:00PM**

**Children's Area**

**Newcomb Library**



# PARENT EDUCATION EVENTS

GEELONG and BARWON  
SOUTHWEST REGION



## TERM 1, 2026

All Regional Parenting Service programs along with MELI (formerly Barwon Child Youth & Family (BCYF) and Bethany), Family Relationship Centre, Drummond St Services and Barwon Southwest Region programs will be offered face to face or online. Bookings are essential. For details of dates, times and venues please see below.

### FEATURE FORUM

#### THE PARENTING MANIFESTO SERIES

Wednesday nights  
18<sup>th</sup> March to 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
7.00pm – 8.30pm  
Waurm Ponds Library,  
230 Pioneer Rd, Grovedale



Scan the QR code to learn more and book,  
or visit [Geelong.link/ParentingManifesto](https://geelong.link/ParentingManifesto)

Presented by Sue Wong and Justin Robinson

Parenting is one of life's greatest responsibilities — and one of its most rewarding challenges. Amidst the noise, the nappies, and the never-ending to-do lists, it's easy to lose sight of who you are.

This in-person series, guided gently by My Manifesto co-authors Sue Wong and Justin Robinson, offers parents of young children and teenage children a unique and inspiring opportunity: to pause, reflect, and intentionally create a life statement that anchor them in their values, strengths, dreams, and personal wisdom.

Over six intimate and uplifting workshops, you'll craft your personal manifesto – your private declaration of intention and clarity – and reconnect with the self you want to bring to parenting, partnership, and daily life.

All participants receive a complimentary copy of the book: My Manifesto – A compassionate guide to reveal your best life, and a beautiful set of inspiration cards to accompany their journey.

### GRANDPARENTING PROGRAM

Being a grandparent is one of the most exciting times in our life. A lot of information and safety recommendations have changed since we had our own children.

In this program join other grandparents as we look at:

- understanding and managing child behaviour
- connecting in meaningful ways to strengthen relationships
- safety tips
- looking after ourselves within the context of grandparenting
- where to find reliable information regarding raising children

### BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS

#### The First 1000 Days

The first 1,000 days of life is a program for parents with children aged under 2 years and designed to nurture parents as they embark on their journey. It provides parents with knowledge about brain development and an understanding of how children grow and what they need. The centrality of family relationships and opportunities for parents to reflect on their own childhood and how to connect with their children are all explored.

### BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS

Bringing up Great Kids is a 6-week supportive program for parents of children aged 12 months to 9 years.

The program aims to:

- develop parents' skills to enhance communication with their child/ren
- promote positive interactions between parents and their child/ren
- encourage the development of a child's positive self-identity

### CIRCLE OF SECURITY

Circle of Security is an 8-week supportive program for parents of children aged birth to 5 years.

The program aims to:

- help parents understand how to build feelings of security for children in their early years
- assist parents with skills to build on the positive relationship with their child
- develop confidence in parents to respond to their child in a way which builds a secure foundation for children

### TUNING IN TO KIDS

Tuning in to kids is a 6-week supportive program for parents of children aged 4 to 10 years.

The program aims to:

- help parents teach and support their child/ren to understand and manage their emotions
- support parents in encouraging children to express emotions appropriately
- maximise children's social, behavioural and learning outcomes

### BRINGING UP GREAT KIDS

#### Parenting Adolescents

The program builds on maintaining positive relationships and interactions between parents and adolescents during the ages of 10 to 17 years.

This 6-week program will look at having a better understanding and being able to support your adolescent.

- finding meaningful ways to stay connected with your adolescent
- understand that all behaviour and interaction have a meaning attached to it
- develop an increased understanding about the messages that they communicate to their adolescent through their behaviour, actions and attitudes
- develop skills to identify and manage their stress associated with parenting

### STRENGTHENING FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Strengthening Family Connections is a free 8-week program for parents and their children aged 8 to 12 years. The program aims to build a positive family culture and strengthen family connections.

### OUR KIDS – Parenting After Separation

Our Kids is a 6-week course on parenting after separation and the impact of parental conflict on children. The course encourages parents to focus on the needs of their children and develop helpful communication strategies following separation. Courses run weekly for 6 weeks during school terms. Morning and evening sessions are available.

### FLOURISHING FAMILIES

A 5-week program for parents with children of all ages to discover how you can help your family to flourish.

Learn about:

- how you can promote resilience
- increase awareness of your family's strengths
- create and nurture positive family relationships
- give feedback to support individual growth

### THE ANXIETY COACH

#### Reducing Anxiety and Building Resilience in Children

A 5-week program for parents of children 5 to 12 years to gain an understanding of the increasing levels of anxiety in a child and strategies to help manage the "traps and tripwires" with strengthening sayings, questioning strategies and mindful exercises.

### TUNING IN TO TEENS

Tuning in to teens is a 6-week supportive program for parents of teens aged 12 to 18 years.

The program aims to:

- support parents to connect and communicate with their teens
- assist parents with understanding adolescent development
- help parents to assist their teen to develop emotional intelligence
- remain empathetic and stay connected

### THE DAD WORKSHOP

This 6-week program will focus on giving you the tools you need to create a better life for your entire family.

We will look at simple things you can do to improve:

- your relationship with yourself
- your relationship with your partner
- your relationship with your kids

### POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM

Available online via the Triple P website

[www.triplep-parenting.net.au/vic-uk/en/triple-p/](http://www.triplep-parenting.net.au/vic-uk/en/triple-p/)

### LIVING WITH TEENS

A model for building strong, secure connections. Living with Teens is a 3-week program.

The program aims to cover:

- what parents need to be able to meet teen's needs
- what teens need from parents
- adolescent development

### BUMPS TO BUBS

Bumps to Bubs brings young mothers and mothers-to-be (up to 23 years) with babies 0 to 1 year, together to support the journey of parenting.

### DADS TUNING IN TO KIDS

Dads Tuning into Kids is a 6-week supportive program specifically for Dads of children aged 3 to 12 years.

The program aims to:

- help dads to effectively tune in to their child's emotions
- encourage dads to strengthen their emotional connection with their child
- support dads to build skills in emotion coaching to assist their child's individual needs

### BUBS TO TOTS

Bubs to Tots brings mothers (up to 24 years) of children in the 1 to 2 year age group together for support and education.

### STEPPING STONES

Stepping Stones is a 5-week program for families with a child who has a disability. The program aims to help parents use Positive Parenting to acquire new skills and knowledge. Skills are practiced and parents receive constructive feedback about their use of skills.




## Parent Education Events

Term 1, 2026

Program	Location / Venue	Days / Dates	Time	Bookings
Tuning in to Kids	Grovedale Child and Family Centre 45 Heyers Road, Grovedale	Thursdays 05 Feb – 12 Mar	7.00pm – 9.00pm	 <p><b>Regional Parenting Service</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/parenting">www.geelongaustralia.com.au/parenting</a></p> <p>Ph: 5272 4741</p> 
Tuning in to <u>Teens</u>	Online via Zoom	Wednesdays 11 Feb – 18 Mar	7.00pm – 9.00pm	
Bringing up Great Kids – Adolescents	Online via Zoom	Thursdays 12 Feb – 19 Mar	7.00pm – 9.00pm	
Anxiety Coach	Online via Zoom	Tuesdays 17 Feb – 17 Mar	7.00pm – 9.00pm	
The Parenting Manifesto	Waurm Ponds Library, 230 Pioneer Rd, Grovedale	Wednesdays 18 Mar – 06 May	7.00pm – 8.30pm	
Our Kids – Parenting after Separation (Parenting Orders Program)	Family Relationship Centre Level 1 92-100 Brougham Street, Geelong	Thursdays 05 Feb – 12 Mar	11.00am – 1.00pm	 <p><b>Family Relationship Centre - Geelong</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.catholiccarevic.org.au">www.catholiccarevic.org.au</a></p> <p>Ph: 5221 7055</p>
Online parenting programs	Drummond St Services offer a range of online programs, please see their website for further details.	Various dates	Various times	 <p><b>Drummond Street Services</b></p> <p><a href="http://ds.org.au/events/">ds.org.au/events/</a></p>

## Parent Education Events

Term 1, 2026

Program	Location / Venue	Days / Dates	Time	Bookings
Various parenting programs	CatholicCare Victoria – Warrnambool offer a range of parenting programs, please see their website for further details.	Various dates	Various times	 <p>CatholicCare Victoria – Warrnambool  <a href="http://www.catholiccarevic.org.au">www.catholiccarevic.org.au</a>                      Ph: 5559 3000                      E: <a href="mailto:helen.diamond@catholiccarevic.org.au">helen.diamond@catholiccarevic.org.au</a></p>
Circle of Security	Norlane Child and Family Centre 52-56 Gerbera Ave, Norlane	Thursdays 05 Feb – 26 Mar	10.00am – 12.00pm	 <p>Meli, the new name for BCYF and Bethany  <a href="http://www.meli.org.au">www.meli.org.au</a>                      Ph: 5226 8900</p> 
Dads Tuning In to Kids	Meli 16 Ballarat Road, Hamlyn Heights	Wednesdays 11 Feb – 18 Mar	5.30pm – 7.30pm	
Tuning In to Kids	Meli 16 Ballarat Road, Hamlyn Heights	Tuesdays 10 Feb – 17 Mar	10.00am – 12.00pm	
Tuning In to Teens	Poa Banyul Community Hub 110-122 Unity Drive, Mount Duneed	Thursdays 12 Feb – 19 Mar	1.00pm – 3.00pm	
<p>To express your interest for the following programs please contact MELI</p>				
<p>Bumps to Bubs    Strengthening Family Connections    Bubs to Tots    Navigating Separation</p>				

