

BMG Wins Silver in Singapore

Our BMG Mustangs faced off against a formidable No. 1 South African team in the final on Monday 27 November. Our team showcased incredible talent, giving it their all and being fiercely competitive in the first half. Although South Africa proved too strong, our girls earned the well-deserved Silver Medal for their outstanding efforts throughout the tournament!

It's a moment of immense pride as our team triumphed over sports schools from Malaysia, Singapore (x3), Hong Kong, and South Africa, securing a remarkable achievement! The girls not only played their hearts out but also formed lasting friendships and cherished memories with athletes from around the globe.

Within the week, our girls had a fantastic cultural experience in Singapore, exploring iconic landmarks like the Singapore Flyer, The Gardens by the Bay, the Marina Bay light show, Universal Studios, and Bugis Markets, and China Town. What an incredible way to round off an already amazing trip!

A big shoutout to our amazing coaching and management team - Nicole Garner, Tienielle Brown, and Liam McMahon - whose unwavering efforts played a crucial role in this journey!

We can't wait for the girls to return and share their incredible experiences with everyone. [Click here to view more photos on Schoolbox.](#)



Mr Andrew Perks – Assistant Principal



Prep Reception – an End of an Era

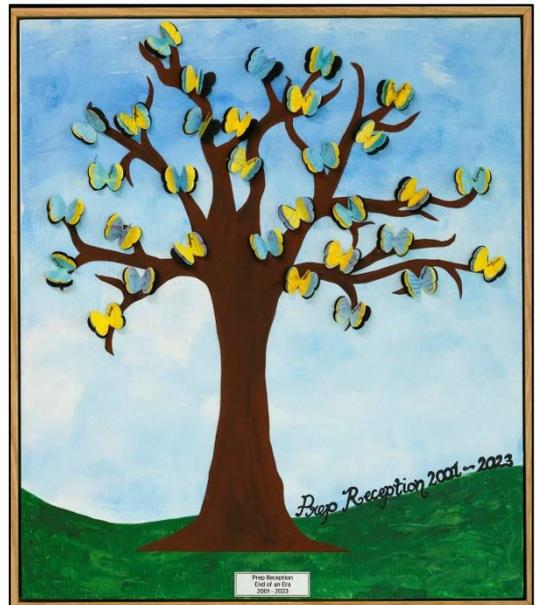
With a touch of nostalgia, we celebrated the conclusion of the Prep Reception program at Bacchus Marsh Grammar after 22 years (2001 – 2023).

To commemorate the 'End of an Era', Bacchus Marsh Grammar held a special event in the John Leaver Gymnasium to reflect on the wonderful history of this program, whilst graduating our final Prep Reception class. We were fortunate enough to welcome back to Maddingley campus the three main drivers of the Prep Reception program, Mrs Elizabeth O'Day Mrs Chris Kerambrum and Mrs Kerry Osborn, who were able to share the history and memories of the Prep Reception program with our current families.

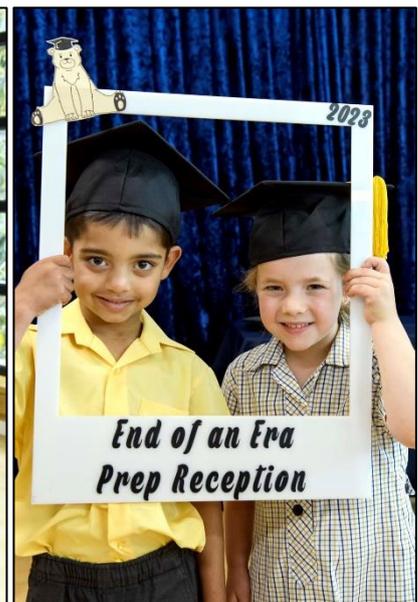
Student alumni from the first class in 2001 were in attendance to share in this celebration, with Ms Antonia Neal sharing a reflection from her time. It is clear how supportive the Prep Reception program was in setting up our learners for their school education.

As part of the graduation ceremony, our 14 Prep Reception students proudly donned their academic caps and performed for their families and our special guests. It was important to us that our 2023 Prep Reception class was able to share a lasting memory of this significant time at Bacchus Marsh Grammar. The 14 Prep Reception students and our amazing art team worked incredibly hard to help the students create a commemorative art piece. This masterpiece will proudly adorn our school walls, serving as a timeless reminder of their journey.

To view more photos on Schoolbox, [click here](#).



Mrs Melanie Morton - Deputy Head of Junior School



Music News

Instrumental Concert Series

Throughout Week 7 and Week 8, Maddingley's Music department hosted its annual Instrumental Concert Series in Wilson Hall. Across four afternoons, nearly two hundred of our talented instrumental students graced the stage and gained valuable performance experience.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the students who showcased their skills, the instrumental staff for their hard work behind the scenes, and the supportive staff, parents and family members who attended. Your presence made this musical event a success, and we appreciate your contributions to the thriving music community at Maddingley. From all of us in the Performing Arts Department, we wish you a safe and happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you again in 2024. [Click here to view more photos on Schoolbox.](#)

Mr Troy Westgarth - Head of Faculty: Music and Performing Arts



Music Lessons at Woodlea Campus

There are limited spaces available for trial drum kit lessons in the final week of Term Four, 2023. Learning to play the drums can provide a fantastic foundation in rhythm reading, as well as establishing a strong sense of beat and time - vital for all musical pursuits. Please get in-touch at bells@bmg.vic.edu.au if you would like me to organise a trial lesson with your child during Week 10.

Mr Steve Bell – Music Teacher

Reports

Semester Two Reports

At the conclusion of each semester, we provide parents with a formal report that provides important information about each student's academic performance, their approach to studies and attendance. In addition, teacher comments on the reports provide information about each child's involvement in the school community, strengths, improvement areas and, importantly, strategies to support the identified next steps for improvement.

The semesterly reports supplement the range of other ways that the School communicates with parents about their child, including parent-teacher interviews, contact with teachers, Schoolbox and celebrations of learning in the weekly BMG newsletter.

Previously, reports have been provided in both digital and hardcopy formats. As a result of community feedback, we will be providing reports in digital format only, as the default. If parents still wish to receive a paper copy, they may

request this by emailing: reports@bmg.vic.edu.au. We trust that families will appreciate this more convenient format which has the added bonus of reducing our environmental footprint.

We anticipate that the digital copies of reports, accessed via Schoolbox, should be available by Friday 15 December, with paper copies to follow after the Christmas shut down period. Should any unforeseen technical issues prevent this, further communication will be made.

Mrs Emma Kannar – Deputy Principal, Teaching and Learning

Junior School News

2024 Maddingley School Leaders and House Captains Announced

Today we announced the Maddingley Junior School Leaders and House Captains for 2024. Congratulations to the students below:

Junior School Leaders 2024

Hamza Qureshi and Charlotte Murphy

House Captains 2024

Ethan Holman
William Winter
Ayush Kelkar
Ayaan Desai
Nihal Gill
Lewis Fowler
Jake Ruffo
Avyan Mathur

Tisha Goregaonkar
Olivia Gera
Zoe Pearson
Charlie Borlase
Ariella Kubianga
Darcie Young
Sophie Dilges
Attaya Agius

Year 3 Update

As the end of Year Three academic year is close approaching, we are filled with immense pride at the remarkable growth and achievements of our students. This year has been on a journey of discovery, filled with engaging learning experiences, creative explorations and personal development.

Lady Northcote Camp:

As the echoes of laughter and camaraderie fade from the campgrounds and our Year Three students returned home with hearts brimming with memories, we take a moment to reflect on the remarkable experience that was this year's camp at Lady Northcote.



The camp was packed with a variety of engaging activities that challenged our students, fostered their creativity and encouraged teamwork. They embraced nature's wonders through bushwalking, nature walks and canoeing, discovering hidden treasures amidst the greenery and developing their paddling skills as they glided across the calm waters of the dam.

With unwavering determination, they conquered the heights of the giant swing, their faces etched with exhilaration as they soared through the air. They honed their aim with archery targets, their focus improving with each arrow they released. The camp experience was not just about activities and challenges; it was also about the cherished moments shared among friends, the laughter that echoed through the camp, and the bonds of friendship that were forged.



As the Year 3 students embarked on an unforgettable adventure to Lady Northcote, they are now immersing themselves in the rich history of immigration and migration of the camp site and personal experiences.

Immigration Project:

Students have been diligently working on a captivating project that shares diverse experiences of immigration. This project has provided them with an opportunity to explore the stories of individuals and their families who have made Australia their home, gaining insights into the motivations, challenges and contributions of immigrants and migrants.

In their upcoming class presentations, our students will share their research findings, showcasing the rich tapestry of cultures and traditions that have shaped Australia's identity. They will present compelling narratives, highlighting the personal journeys of individuals who have left their home countries and embarked on a new life in Australia.

Year Three Team

Equestrian Challenge

Last Wednesday, Year 7 student Molly Rowarth, made her mark at the Stratford Pony Club Interschool Equestrian Challenge. Together with her horse Cody, Molly displayed exceptional equestrian skills as they navigated six different events with grace and agility.

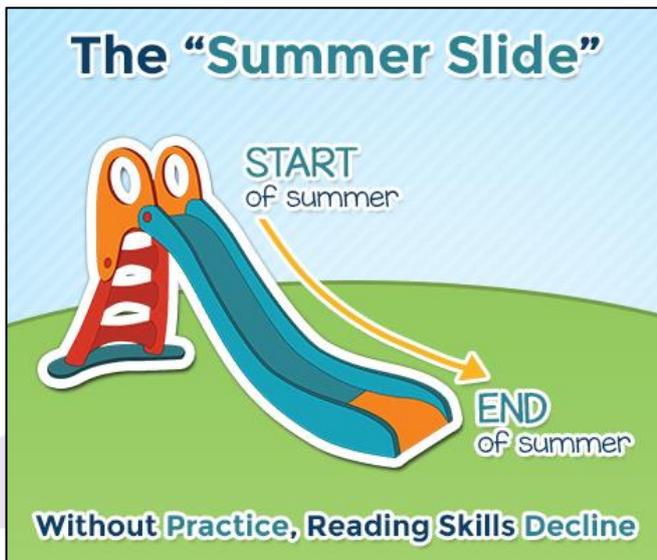
Competing against 150 other students from across the region, Molly and her trusty steed showcased remarkable talent and dedication. Their impressive performance earned them first place in three out of the six events, securing Molly the prestigious title of Overall Year 7 Individual Champion. This achievement is a testament to Molly's hard work, unwavering passion for equestrian sports, and the strong bond she shares with Cody. Congratulations Molly!

Mrs Georgia Low - Teacher



Spotlight on Teaching and Learning

Junior School Maddingley



Avoiding 'Summer Slide': The importance of reading during the summer holiday break.

'Summer Slide' is a phenomenon backed by extensive research and refers to the loss of literacy skills over the summer holidays. Research indicates that an average of 2-3 months of reading proficiency is lost by students who don't read over the break.

The effects of 'Summer slide' are well documented.

Summer Slide has been shown to be cumulative, to the extent that, over time, some children may be two or more years behind their peers in reading skills. The annual accumulation of Summer Slide is a major factor in the growing achievement gap between successful and unsuccessful children through the primary grades.

Furthermore, two thirds of the Middle and Senior School achievement gap is attributed to the loss of summer learning during the foundational years. Children who are struggling readers are more susceptible to summer slide due to their lack of motivation to practise reading during the summer months.

Preventing 'Summer Slide'

After a school year invested in learning, growth and development, it is an abomination for children to lose months of progress during the summer break. Therefore, it is critical that they are provided with learning opportunities and continue to engage in reading over the summer months.

Read, read, read ...

Daily reading is essential. Read to your child and have your child read for at least 20 minutes per day. Make time for reading, and even better, a special spot to read in like a fort, hammock, a reading nook or cubby in the garden can encourage more reading!

Read anything and everything!

All reading is good reading. Spend time revising phoneme-grapheme correspondences and decoding or sounding out words. Vary reading materials to include comics, magazines, recipes, road signs and maps, advertisements and catalogues, holiday brochures, pamphlets for tourist attractions and instructions for games. E-books, audio books and podcasts are also great resources to engage reluctant readers or children with reading difficulties.

Play - Reading that doesn't feel like reading!

Games are a great way to consolidate and maintain reading skills. A game of I Spy in the car can help children to practise associating letters or sounds with objects in the real world. Board games like Scrabble or Boggle and card games also cultivate language and literacy skills.

Visit the Local Library

Choice is a powerful motivational factor for reading. Allow your child to explore topics that interest them or they have wondered about by selecting their own reading material at the local library.

Public Libraries Victoria has developed the BIG Summer Read, a fun and dynamic campaign, to engage children and families in slowing the slide. The challenge is supported by **Beanstack**, a user-friendly website (with mobile app) that makes it easy to register, track reading and earn digital 'badges' as rewards.

More Information

The following websites provide tips and ideas for maintaining your child's growth over the holiday break:

BIG Summer Read – Public Libraries Victoria Summer reading campaign.

<https://www.plv.org.au/projects/big-summer-read/>

Beanstack – a digital platform used by Libraries Victoria for logging and tracking reading.

<https://www.beanstack.com/>

Nessy – an evidence-based program for phonics, spelling and reading.

<https://www.nessy.com/en-us/product/summer-pack-home>

Learning Links – great reading ideas and resources including Booktok.

<https://www.learninglinks.org.au/resources/school-holiday-reading-activities/>

All About Learning Press – a blog that includes a useful list of resources to beat Summer slide:

<https://blog.allaboutlearningpress.com/summer-slide/>

Mrs Sian Rawlinson – Deputy Head of Junior School: Teaching and Learning (Maddingley)

Middle School News

A Productive Term in Year Five at Maddingley

This term, the Year Five students have been enthusiastically learning about The Renaissance. They identified this period on a timeline and located the European countries involved. Notable people and their achievements were also studied. Everyday life was investigated, and comparisons made between wealthy and poor citizens. The Renaissance occurred after the Middle Ages when there was a renewed interest in Ancient Greece and Rome, literature, philosophy, science and art. The Year Five students were provided with topic sentences and were required to plan and write a series of informative paragraphs. They were encouraged to include complex sentences to provide their reader with ample information. *Here are some student sentences extracted from their paragraphs;*

In 1508, Michelangelo was commissioned by Pope Julius II to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. He had to access the ceiling with scaffolding, and it was very unstable. Eventually, his eyesight faltered, his hands grew calloused, and his muscles ached. **(Abbey)**

The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel was the size of two tennis courts! Michelangelo finished four years later, and the centre piece was the Creation of Man, one of the most famous Renaissance paintings. **(Xylo)**

Cosimo started a tradition of loving art that would transcend three generations of Medicis and would fuel the Renaissance. Lorenzo, Cosimo's grandson, was a great patron to many artists like Michelangelo. **(Kaleb)**

One of Leonardo's most famous paintings was the Last Supper. He did not add that much detail to the background of the painting, so it was all focused on the table with every one of Jesus' closest friends, as it was the moment Jesus announced that one of them would betray him. Leonardo got inspiration for the faces by sitting on the streets and looking at people for reference. **(Mitchell)**

Only women from wealthy families with a high social status could be educated and thrive. However, women who were not from wealthy families were stuck at home doing chores, taking care of children and being loyal to their husbands.

(Danish)

Isabella D'Este was the most powerful woman in Mantua, the city she and her husband ruled. She was a patron of the arts which was uncommon. Isabella started a school where girls could learn Greek, Latin, the arts, philosophy and literature. **(Celeste)**

Year Five Team

A Busy Semester in Year Six at Maddingley

In Term Three, the Year Six students studied World War Two including the events that led to its commencement, the countries involved and the battles that took place over the six-year period. They investigated the events of the Holocaust and the effect it had on Jewish communities across Europe. Students were required to research an aspect of World War Two, then plan and write an informative essay using the Multiple Paragraph Outline (MPO) structure. The background knowledge they obtained about World War Two and the Holocaust assisted students to comprehend the novel, "Once" by Morris Gleitzman, read in Term Four. The characters, plot and themes were explored. Students were given a choice of two thesis statements. They had to plan and write a text response essay using the MPO structure once again. They were encouraged to include complex sentences to ensure they were analysing the novel and providing their reader with ample information. Here are some student sentences extracted from their essays;

Children need a parent figure as they grow – someone to look up to in their darkest hours. Barney acts like a 'father figure' for these orphaned children and especially for Felix and Zelda, who need it most. By taking care of these children, Barney's compassion makes him a hero. **(Stephania)**

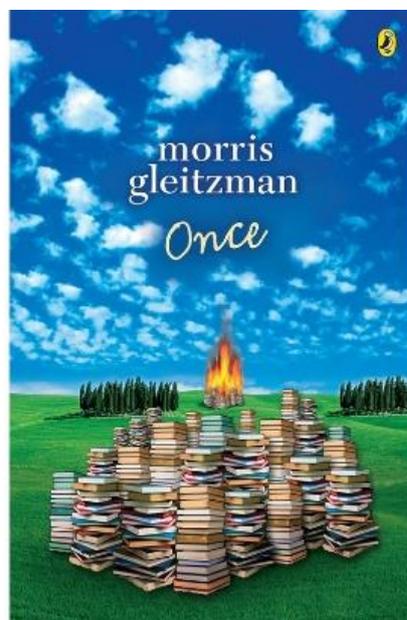
Authors occasionally capture in books how people need help and charity to survive a challenging situation. The novel, Once, is narrated by a character who navigates his way through the Holocaust and World War Two, where millions of Jewish people were murdered, tortured and mistreated. **(Alden)**

Even though Mother Minka and Felix are from different religions, she still protects Felix with all the power she has. She is good friends with Felix's parents, so after they left him in her hands at the orphanage, she protects his identity by making everyone believe that he is Catholic. **(Guntas)**

Although Felix was aided by many adults, the assistance given to him by other children was just as crucial. Felix had a close friend called Zelda who helped him through hard times by giving him hope when he wanted to give up. **(Gunnika)**

Barney, a character of Once, helped the orphaned children when they needed it the most. He stayed as calm as possible, especially in life-threatening situations like when he saved Felix and Zelda from a Nazi officer and provided them with food and shelter. **(Anandjot)**

For many people in the Holocaust, help was crucial to survival, not unlike Felix's experience. Morris Gleitzman conveys to the reader that without help, it is very difficult to achieve or endure an experience. **(Aanya)**



Year Six Team

Senior School News

We would like to give a big congratulation to all students in the Senior School for their approach to their end of Year examinations.

Students showed maturity and created a calm and structured environment for examinations. The feedback from all staff who supervised the examinations has been positive and made note of how seriously the students took these examinations and how hard they worked during the examination period. This will hold our students in good stead when they are required to take VCAA examinations and beyond.

Students have begun Head Start subjects for 2024 this week. All students are encouraged to make the most of these classes and get to know their new teachers and classmates. The effort applied now in Head Start will ensure a more settled and smooth transition into 2024. Although, starting new classes can be daunting, especially for the new Year 9 students, we encourage all students to go into new classes with an open mind and be willing to work with and get to know other students. One of the main aspects of the Senior School is that students will have classes with lots of different students and have a wide variety of teachers; this gives students an opportunity to work with many different people and an opportunity to make new connections and friendships.

Mrs Natalie Desira – Deputy Head of Senior School and Mrs Erin Thornton – Head of Senior School

BMG Paddlers conquer the Massive Murray Paddle!

Last week marked an incredible feat of determination, teamwork and sheer grit as Bacchus Marsh Grammar students and staff embarked on a monumental journey along the Murray River. Seven students from Years 8 to 10, accompanied by three staff members, fearlessly took on the challenge, navigating the waters in two double kayaks in what can only be described as an awe-inspiring display of resilience and camaraderie.

Covering an astonishing distance, each student paddled an average of 160 kilometres in blazing heat and thunderstorms, dedicating themselves to approximately 4 hours of continuous paddling daily. This wasn't merely a physical test; it was a testament to their unwavering spirit, tenacity and unwavering determination to push their limits.

What truly set these students apart wasn't just their endurance; it was their attitude. Their positivity showed throughout the journey, infusing the team with an infectious energy that spurred everyone forward. Their determination was tremendous, guiding them through every challenging bend of the river and fostering an environment of encouragement and support, both practical and moral.

Their accomplishment isn't just about covering an impressive distance; it's about the invaluable lessons learned along the way. These young paddlers showcased resilience in the face of adversity, discipline in their dedication, and the power of teamwork to conquer even the most daunting challenges.



As a school, we celebrate these students' remarkable achievements, not just for their physical prowess but for the character and spirit they displayed throughout this incredible endeavour. Their journey down the Murray River will undoubtedly serve as a source of inspiration for many, reminding us all of the heights we can reach when we channel our determination and positivity.

Congratulations to our intrepid paddlers for their outstanding accomplishment, a true testament to the indomitable Bacchus Marsh Grammar spirit!

Mr Ben Davie – Assistant Principal

Bus Update

2024 Private Bus Travel

Private Bus allocations for 2024 were emailed to parents via EdSmart last week. Acceptances are due back today, Friday 1 December, to ensure that your child has a seat on a private bus in 2024. If you DO require your child/ren to travel via private bus in 2024, you must submit your Edsmart slip by COB today. If your child/ren DO NOT require a seat on a private bus in 2024, please ensure you DECLINE your seat/s within the Edsmart Slip. Students whose slips have not been submitted will automatically be allocated to their bus for 2024 and will be selected to board and disembark at Stop 1 on roll call. Student Bus Allocations will not be changed unless there is a permanent change of address.

End of Term Dismissal

Friday 8 December 2023, ALL buses (Private, Public & Country) will run as per their normal timetables.

Mrs Leanne Robertson - School Bus Services Administrator

Roll Call Update

Parent App and Web portal users - Minimal Impact

Roll call will be upgrading to V2 over the weekend, please see the information below.

Parent App users (majority of users) may need to re-enter their login credentials, but should not notice any other difference.

Parent mobile web portal users (mobile web browser) will no longer be able to use this access method. These parents have been prompted over the last few months to download/update the Rollcall parent App from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store and most would already be using the correct software to access information from their existing Rollcall platform. After migration, they will be required to use the Mobile App or PC web portal.

Parent PC web portal users can continue to access Rollcall on their PC with the following URL for access <https://schoolcode.v2.rollcall.com.au/login> in any compatible web browser. N.B. (substitute school code in the URL address with your school code from below).

IMPORTANT: All parents will see a message "Rollcall in Maintenance" over the weekend and may be required to re-enter their login details following the migration. There is no change to these details from the old platform to the new platform.

School code: **bmj**

Login email address:

Login password:

Please [click here](#) to view our video guide on 'How to Login'

School Policies

The following School policies have been reviewed and updated:

- 2024 Student Technology Handbook
- Concussion Policy

These policies are available to view on the School Policies page in Schoolbox.

2024 Term Dates

The 2024 Term Dates have been published on the [school's website](#).

Events Calendar

Dates for upcoming events and excursions can be viewed via the events calendar on the [school's website](#).

Uniform Shop

Uniform information and shop business hours for both the Maddingley Campus Onsite Shop and Rushfords in Werribee are listed on the [school's website](#). Please note that uniforms can also be purchased online via <https://www.noone.com.au/>.

Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) – The Y Ballarat



The Y Ballarat operates the Out of School Hours Care at Bacchus Marsh Grammar. Upcoming Term Break and Vacation Care information can be found on the YBallarat website listed below.

Enrolments are completed online. For full information please visit the [school's website](#).

Email: chrisshie.ashmore@yballarat.org.au **Phone:** 0490 178 638 **W:** <https://yballarat.org.au/>

Maddingley:
maddingley.oshc@yballarat.org.au
0438 154 842

Woodlea:
woodlea.oshc@yballarat.org.au
0490 490 362

Summer Holiday Program
Maddingley, December 2023 | 7 am - 6 pm

LIMITED SPOTS!
Book now to avoid disappointment

Monday Dec 11	Tuesday Dec 12	Wednesday Dec 13	Thursday Dec 14	Friday Dec 15
Arty Crafty Day All things art and craft with plenty of fun activities.	Wheels Day Don't forget your bike or scooter and safety gear. It's going to be a Wheely good day!	Movie Mania It's Movie Mania. Today we are heading to Melton to watch the latest kids flick. Excursion: Readings Cinema, time TBC	The Amazing Race Will you be the first to complete all the challenges?	Friday Fun Day Let's finish the week with a fun Day. Filled with lots of crazy and fun activities.
Monday Dec 18	Tuesday Dec 19	Wednesday Dec 20	Thursday Dec 21	Friday Dec 22
Ooey Goey Day A day filled with all things ooey, Goey and messy.	Circus Day Step right up and see the most amazing show in OSHC. It will be a day full of fun circus activities.	Games Day A fun day filled with all sorts of games.	Mystery Day Where is Sherlock? OSHC needs your help to solve a mystery!	Christmas Celebrations Come join us for a celebration where we will share some christmas traditions with our friends.

Scheduled activities and bus times may change due to circumstances beyond our control. Please confirm with the venue if needed.

Venue Incursion Excursion

For more information and to book call 0438 154 842 or visit yballarat.org.au

Australian Childhood Foundation INDEPENDENTLY REVIEWED

Regular Contacts

Maddingley Campus

South Maddingley Road
Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340
P +61 3 5366 4800
F +61 3 5366 4850

Woodlea Campus

111 Frontier Avenue
Aintree VIC 3336
P +61 3 5366 4900
F +61 3 5366 4950

Woodlea Early Learning Centre

111 Frontier Avenue
Aintree VIC 3336
P +61 3 5366 4999
F +61 3 5366 4850

General School Email: school@bmg.vic.edu.au

School Website: www.bmg.vic.edu.au





Tell us what you feel about these issues:

- **West Gate Tunnel soil**
- **Transmission Towers**



Survey Link:

www.tinyurl.com/local-issues-survey

Project Title: Connections between local issues and wellbeing

Who this survey is by: Psychology researchers from Deakin University and the University of Melbourne

Who can do the survey: Anyone aged 18 years or older who: Lives in Moorabool Shire (including Bacchus Marsh) *OR* owns a property in Moorabool Shire *OR* works or studies in Bacchus Marsh *OR* has children or grandchildren attending school in Bacchus Marsh.

What is involved: Filling in an anonymous online survey, which will take around 18 to 25 minutes to complete. The survey will ask about your feelings and views on some local issues, including the former West Gate Tunnel soil issue and the proposed high-voltage transmission towers.

People who complete the survey can have the chance to win one of twenty \$50 Coles-Myer vouchers.

Ethics approval: This study has received Deakin University ethics approval (ref number: HEAG-H 142_2023).

Further information & survey: www.tinyurl.com/local-issues-survey

Please also **pass these details on to anyone else** you think may be interested in taking part.