



Year 7 Get to Know You Day

Maddingley

Year 7 students returned to school a day earlier than everyone else to attend a Get To Know You event at Staughton Vale. This was a great opportunity for every student to get to know each other, to renew old friendships and make new ones. It was a glorious day and the students experienced some great activities. We would like to thank the Year 7 team for organizing such a wonderful start for the students in Year 7.

The Year 7's continued to have a week of firsts as they were the first students to take up permanent residence in the new building called 'The Hive'. And this week has been a hive of learning. Normally situated with the Year 8's, the Year 7's have quickly settled into their new surroundings. There is no doubt that the Year 8's are wondering where everyone has gone.

I have also been impressed with how quickly the very new Year 5 students have gotten down to work in their Year block. Our junior team prepared them well and we have an excellent Year 5 team to guide them on their new Middle School journey.

I passed the Year 6 students getting ready for their afternoon class today and I was so impressed with how well they prepared themselves for that lesson. I taught many of them last year and felt a lot of pride in seeing them grow so well. I could say this for the whole of middle school today; we have all been so impressed with how well they have got back into the swing of things and are demonstrating an excellent attitude towards their learning. It will be exciting to watch them grow into the great young people they will become.

Mr Scott Bayne: Head of Middle School Maddingley



Woodlea

On Friday 2 February, the Year 7 cohort ended their first week of the school year at Staughton Vale. The day began with students being split into their Tutor Groups to experience a rotation of activities. This included the History of BMG with a focus on the legacy Mr Neal has imparted to each campus. Students were given the opportunity to reflect on the legacy they hope to leave by the end of Year 12 by writing poems that encompassed the school values.

Students were also given a chance to write a letter to their Year 12 selves with the intention that these be given back to them in their final year at BMG. They focused on who they are in Year 7 including their interests, friendships and their aspirations for the future.

We were fortunate to have excellent weather to participate in outdoor activities, and both new students and staff were given a short tour before picking some delicious plums. The day saw some very happy and tired students and teachers on the trip home. I would like to thank all staff involved, especially Kimone Stacey-Missen, for their support and enthusiasm as it ensured a successful day.

Mrs Melissa Dunat, Head of Year 7 Woodlea

"I am new to BMG and Friday the 2nd of February was my first time visiting Staughton Vale. For me, the best part was when we went on a tour of the property. We only explored a small amount of the large area but we saw the main points on a map. We saw the orchards, the gardens, the classrooms, the bus turnaround and saw the hill the observatory was on. It was a really fun day and I can't wait to visit Staughton Vale again!" – Aadrika Choudhary (7WA)

"Staughton Vale was very enjoyable and fun. We did so many interesting things but one thing that stood out to me was that we wrote a letter for our Year 12 selves sharing what is currently happening in our lives and writing motivational tips. In Year 12 the letter will get sent back to us." - Karas Zakhary (7WB)



To view more photos of this event, please visit the [Schoolbox post here](#).

Administration News

School Letters/Edsmart Notifications

Parents are encouraged to contact the school if they believe that they are not receiving school letters relating to their child's excursions, class activities or school events.

There have been instances recently where communications via Edsmart notifications have been blocked from an inbox and considered 'spam' or a parent's mailbox is full and the information is not received.

You can view Edsmart communication for your child via Schoolbox under the Quick Links / Edsmart, or via [School Letters](#).

Please contact Administration staff via email administration@bmg.vic.edu.au or call 03 53664800 to discuss any issues with receiving communication.

Mrs Casey Ryder: Executive Assistant - Maddingley

Year 6 and 8 Woodlea Leadership Challenge Highlights

In a recent session led by the inspirational Darren Pereira, our Year 6 and 8 students embarked on a transformative leadership challenge. Darren shared invaluable insights into the essence of leadership, emphasising that it transcends mere badges. Instead, it's about action – a philosophy rooted in service leadership.

Darren encouraged students to embody their leadership roles by 'walking the walk' and adopting the principle of under promising and over-delivering. This profound message laid the foundation for engaging discussions about the qualities of leaders, responding to TED-Ed prompts and real-life stories shared by Darren.

The session explored the profound impact of small actions, the privilege of giving, and the importance of keeping one's ego at bay. Students were challenged to reflect on how their actions could positively influence others and contribute to the greater good of the Bacchus Marsh Grammar community.

A highlight of the leadership challenge was the 'lollipop challenge,' where students set personal goals to brighten their peers' lives. Goals ranged from simple acts like smiling at five new people, to learning the names of three individuals and offering encouragement to one person.

Vision was a key theme of the day, with discussions centred around where it should originate and what inspires the students. The focus extended to the school community, exploring their visions for the future and their aspirations for the school and its students. The importance of aligning student leadership with the school's values was also explored in depth.

Darren Pereira shed light on the concept of critical mass, illustrating how the involvement of a few students can inspire others to join in. He stressed the significance of having the courage to stand out and the responsibility of nurturing those who take the initiative, thus creating a positive domino effect throughout the school.

As the session drew to a close, attention turned towards incorporating student values into the school in exciting and positive ways. The Year 6 and 8 student leaders emerged from the challenge equipped with applicable ideas that promise to shape the leadership landscape throughout 2024.

In essence, the Year 6 and 8 Leadership Challenge was a resounding success, leaving our students empowered with newfound insights and committed to positively impacting our school community.

Mr Nicholas Panczel: Head of Year 5 Woodlea

Junior School at Woodlea

We want to express our gratitude to the Bacchus Marsh Grammar community for a fantastic start to the school year.

It's been great to witness our students returning to school eager and prepared for learning. We are committed to continuing our support as they strive to do their best, embodying the qualities of a Bacchus Marsh Grammar student.

Congratulations to our new Prep students and their families. It's been wonderful to observe our youngest members embracing the school value of confidence. We eagerly anticipate watching you grow and learn during your time at BMG.

A big thank you to the parents for your ongoing support. We value our partnership and look forward to collaborating with you throughout 2024.

Mrs Sally Savic: Head of Junior School Woodlea

Teaching and Learning: Home Reading in the Junior School

Thank you to all the parents who attended our recent Prep Reading Information morning at the Woodlea Campus. Your presence and engagement were greatly appreciated, and it was wonderful to see your commitment to supporting your child's literacy development. Your active involvement in your child's education is truly invaluable, and events like these

strengthen the partnership between home and school, which is crucial for the success of our students. We look forward to continuing to work together to foster a love of reading and learning in our young learners.

Building a consistent home reading routine is essential for nurturing strong literacy skills in all students, especially those in the Junior School. Research consistently shows that regular reading at home significantly enhances vocabulary, comprehension and overall academic performance. To support your child's reading journey, here are some helpful hints and tips:

1. Set aside a dedicated time each day for reading. Establishing a routine will help make reading a natural and enjoyable part of your child's day.
2. Create a cozy and inviting reading environment at home with comfortable seating, good lighting and a variety of reading materials.
3. Encourage your child to choose books that interest them, alongside the texts that are chosen at school. Whether it is fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels or magazines, allowing them to select their own reading material promotes enthusiasm and engagement.
4. Make reading a shared activity by taking turns reading aloud or discussing books together. This not only enhances comprehension but also strengthens the parent-child bond.
5. Celebrate your child's progress and achievements in reading. Praise their efforts, offer encouragement and provide positive reinforcement to build their confidence and motivation.

The impact of reading on children in primary school is multifaceted. It influences their academic achievement, cognitive development, social-emotional skills, creativity and lifelong learning habits. Therefore, fostering a supportive reading environment and promoting literacy skills are essential components of primary education. By prioritising a home reading routine and actively participating in your child's reading journey, you are laying a strong foundation for their academic success and lifelong love of learning.

Ms Courtney Williams: Deputy Head of Junior School Woodlea

Year 2

The Year 2 students at Woodlea returned with great enthusiasm, eager to see their friends. They have settled back into the school routines and have already begun learning about some fascinating topics.

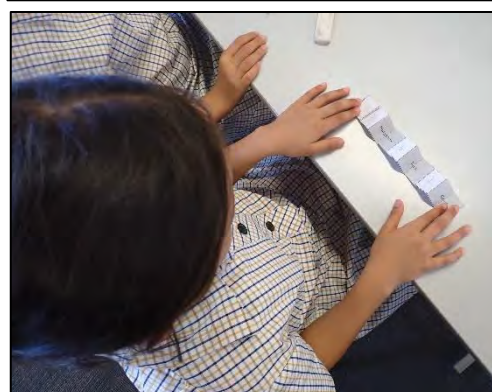
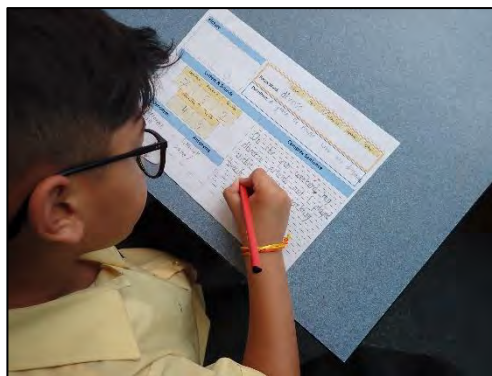
Writing recounts have been a highlight, as students reflect on and share memorable moments from their holiday experiences. In Mathematics, we've dived into the world of numbers with a focus on place value through hands-on activities.

The students enjoyed using their imaginations to create their own place value castles using MAB blocks. Language development is a key focus this year.

Through engaging activities and discussions, the students are discovering new vocabulary to include in their writing.

The Year 2 students are looking forward to an eventful year ahead.

Ms Ashlee Taylor: Head of Year 2 Woodlea



Year 4

The Year 4 students have revelled in the opportunity to discover and nurture their leadership skills during their first session as buddies to our Prep students. Students explored the qualities of good leaders and being positive role models. They wrote letters to their buddies and shared them while enjoying snack time. Then, the students put their knowledge into practice by being available to support their buddy as they ventured out into the playground for their first recess experience.

We are so proud of both the Year 4 and Prep students for a successful first play.



Leadership

In an inspiring display of leadership, our Year 4 students have truly embraced the chance to cultivate and showcase their leadership skills in their newfound roles as buddies to our Prep students. Delving into the qualities of exceptional leaders and the essence of positive role models, they wrote heartfelt letters to their younger counterparts. These expressions of friendship were shared during a delightful snack time that set a warm and supportive tone for the budding connections.

Putting their newfound insights into action, the Year 4 students stood by, ready to assist and encourage their buddies as they took their first steps into the playground for an unforgettable recess experience. The pride we feel extends to both the Year 4 and Prep students for orchestrating a successful inaugural playtime.

Ms Nicole Mill: Head of Year 4 Woodlea

Sport News

Maddingley

A reminder that both Middle and Senior School Swimming Carnivals are taking place this term. Please find the dates below:

Middle School – 21 February 2024

Senior School – 27 February 2024

EdSmart slips have been sent out with further information. Parents are required to respond before the closing date and please note that responses will be locked off 48 business hours before the event.



Mr Matt Harris – Sport Administration

Woodlea

In a big start to Physical Education in 2024, Grade 2 students will focus heavily on developing the fundamental motor skill of throwing. They will consolidate the steps learnt in Year One and put them towards improving in distance and accuracy for both underarm and overarm throws. These skills will be put to the test in various fun and engaging game formats that cater for various levels and abilities.

Mr George Delic - Teacher

Early Learning Centre

From the first day of kindergarten, there was a buzz of excitement in the air as the children, with bright eyes and big smiles, walked through the doors at the Bacchus Marsh Grammar Early Learning Centre. It was a mixture of nerves and curiosity as the children met their new peers, teachers and learning environments.

As the days passed, the children quickly adjusted to their kindergarten room's routine and the kindergarten programs' expectations. They are demonstrating that they are eager learners, soaking up new information and applying it to their daily activities and routines.



One of the most rewarding parts has been seeing the friendships that have blossomed among the children. They are starting to form friendships with each other, and supporting and encouraging one another in their learning and play. The children have embraced the challenges and opportunities that come with a new kindergarten year and are thriving in their learning environment.

We look forward to the rest of the year and the continued growth and achievements that the ELC children attain on their learning journey here at BMG ELC.



Enrolments

Expressions of Interest for 2025 4-year-old and 3-year-old Long Day integrated funded Kindergarten program will close March 4 2024

If any current families are interested in registering their child for our 2025 Kindergarten program, please visit <https://www.bmg.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Registration-of-Interest-Form-Dec-22.pdf> to download and complete our Registration of Interest and email it to the Early Learning Centre.

Please note you must also complete a Prep Registration of Interest prior to submitting the ELC form. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting me on 5366 4999.

Mrs Kerry Osborn: Director of Early Learning Services

Student Wellbeing

C'YA! (Conquering Your Anxiety) Program

The Student Wellbeing Team is excited to inform parents and guardians that the C'YA! Program will be facilitated next term for Junior, Middle and Senior School students at both campuses after a successful launch in 2023 in the Middle School.

The C'YA! Program, which will be offered in Term Two, will focus on understanding feelings of anxiety, identifying body signals and exploring strategies to assist in managing these feelings. C'YA! is a six-session program which will be run in small groups during class time and be facilitated by a staff member from the Student Wellbeing Team.

Anxiety is a normal and natural emotion, however, anxiety can be a problem when it interferes with your child's everyday life. Anxiety can present at school in many different ways. If you have a child who you feel would benefit from participating in the C'YA! program in Term Two, please register your interest by contacting a member of our Student Wellbeing Team by Monday 26th February, 2024.

Maddingley Campus: Raigan Francis francisr@bmg.vic.edu.au

Woodlea Campus: Paige Zerafa zerafap@bmg.vic.edu.au

Student Support Team

Bus Update

HAWK ROUTE & KOALA ROUTE

All parent concerns **regarding the HAWK & KOALA** route were expressed at a management meeting last Friday along with suggestions from myself, Deputy principals of both campuses and Coach Australia Group. There are a few options which are being considered, with a preferred option. As you can appreciate, this type of transaction does take time in planning, as with any transport changes, there is a magnitude of costs involved with changes and all avenues are being considered for the best outcome for students and parents.

Parents will be informed as soon as an approval of any decisions with the Hawk & Koala bus have been confirmed. This will be through the normal channels of communication within Bacchus Marsh Grammar.

PARENT PARKING

Parents are reminded to pull off the road into a service road or designated car park (where possible) whilst dropping off or picking up their child/ren. Parents need to be mindful not to park their cars in the way of a bus and ensure that the bus has enough space to safely drive into and pull out of the stopping area. A reminder that there are bus stops in residential areas and therefore it is important parents are respectful of others properties and do not park in or across residential driveways or in other's personal properties.

ID Cards

All students have now been issued with their Student ID cards. Students **MUST** use their Student ID card to tap on/off their private bus. Student ID cards are compulsory when boarding a private bus or attending all school excursions/camps etc and they must be carried at all times. Students who board the bus repeatedly without their ID cards will receive a detention or further consequences.

Student Permission Cards

Students in Prep – Year 6 require a green permission tag on their bag if they are to disembark the bus to be picked up by someone other than their parent/guardian. Students in Grade 5 & 6 can disembark the bus on their own if they have a green permission tag on their bag for the driver to check. Student Afternoon Bus Arrangement & Permission Notices

are available on Schoolbox under School Letters. Please return Student Afternoon Bus Arrangement & Permission Notices to bus@bmg.vic.edu.au. 2023 Student Permission tags will be removed from the students' bags on Friday 16 February 2024. Any student requiring an updated tag for 2024 must have an updated Student Afternoon Bus Arrangement & Permission Notice completed by this date so a 2024 replacement tag can be attached to their bag.

Late Buses

The late bus timetables can be accessed via the [school's website](#). Students must attend Reception to sign up for the late bus before the end of lunchtime on the day which the service is required.

Maddingley Campus

This service is available Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday afternoons departing at 4.40pm, servicing Melton, Caroline Springs, Tarneit, Werribee and Manor Lakes. The late bus has been split into two routes for 2024. Late Bus 1 covers Melton, Caroline Springs and Tarneit. Late Bus 2 covers Manor Lakes, Werribee and Hoppers Crossing. This service is available for students in Year 5 to Year 12 who are involved in School Production or an after-school classes / activities. Services will commence from 6 February 2024.

Woodlea Campus

This service is available only on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons departing at 4.40pm, servicing Caroline Springs, Williams Landing and Werribee. This service is available for students in Year 5 to Year 10 who are involved in School Production or an after-school classes / activities. The late bus for Woodlea campus will commence 12 February 2024.

Mrs Leanne Robertson - School Bus Services Administrator

Conveyance Allowance

If you would like to apply for the Conveyance Allowance in 2024, please see below information.

The Conveyance Allowance is a contribution towards transport costs and is not intended to cover the full cost of transporting children to and from school.

The Conveyance Allowance may be available to students attending government or non-government schools:

- travelling by public transport or by private car, motorbike, bicycle, or bus, and
- whose nearest school is not serviced by a free school bus provided under the School Bus Program

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Students must reside 4.8km or more from their nearest school/campus they attend.
2. Students must be of school age and reside in Victoria
3. Students must be enrolled in a school for 3 or more days per week.

A student who meets the above requirements may be eligible if they:

- attend their nearest or designated neighbourhood government school/campus appropriate to their year level, at which admission is permissible, or
- attend their nearest appropriate non-government school/campus appropriate to their year level, at which admission is permissible, and
- reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from the campus attended.

Note: Eligibility is assessed when the school completes your child's application on the Student Conveyance Allowance System (SCAS). If approved, the allowance payable is based on the one-way distance to make the journey to and from school.

If your decision to send your children to Bacchus Marsh Grammar was because you felt that it was the nearest appropriate school that both respected ecumenical values but did not require your child to participate in religious instruction or religious celebration, then you may (subject to other Conveyance Allowance rules) be eligible for the Conveyance Allowance.

If this statement applies to you and you would like to submit a Conveyance Allowance application, please complete the appropriate Conveyance Allowance Application Form (available from the school's website under the Community tab in Transport & Bus Network). Your application must include a signed supporting letter outlining the reasons above for your decision to send your child to Bacchus Marsh Grammar.

Please be aware that no allowance is payable if the journey to and from school could be made using a free bus service.

If you already have a Conveyance Allowance application in place, and your circumstances have not changed (method of transport to and from school or address), you will not be required to submit a new application and your previously approved applications will automatically roll over.

Please direct any queries you may have to Nicole Tandy at conveyance@bmg.vic.edu.au

Mrs Nicole Tandy - Accounts

V/Line Disruptions on the Ballarat Line



A reminder that due to industrial action, V/Line trains will not run from first service until approximately 8am this this Friday 16 February as well as next week on Monday 19 and Friday 23 February.

Temporary timetables for Friday 16 and Monday 19 February are now available so staff and students who need to travel before 8am can plan their journey.

Timetables can be downloaded [here](#).

A very limited coach replacement service will be available with significant delays expected and coaches will not stop at Sunshine and Footscray – except for a special bus that will run from Sunshine to Deer Park so students can connect with V/Line services to Bacchus Marsh.

A shuttle bus will depart Sunshine at 7.30am, 8.00am and 8.30am.

Staff and students travelling home on days of industrial action are encouraged to check the V/Line website at vline.com.au as there may be ongoing delays and cancellations.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could once again share this information with your school community and if you have any questions or feedback, please email comms@vline.com.au

Thank you for your understanding during this time.

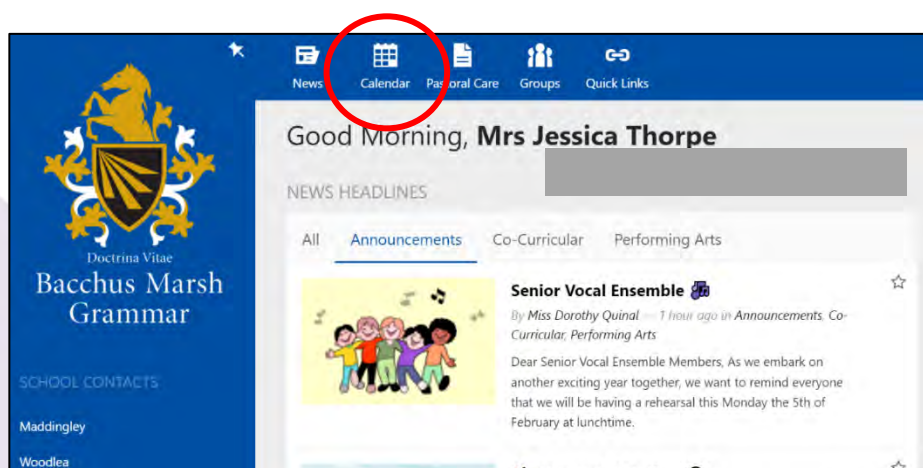
For more information, please [click here](#). If you have any questions about this rail disruption, please contact comms@vline.com.au

2024 Term Dates

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

Events Calendar


We wish to inform our School Community that previous listing of upcoming events on the **Events Calendar via the school's website will gradually** cease, with all upcoming events featuring on the Schoolbox Calendar for both students and parents/guardians to view.



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: chrissie.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

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

Community News

Native plants giveaway for Moorabool residents

Are you a resident of the Moorabool Shire? Do you love native plants? If you answered yes to both questions, then we have some great news for you!

Council is giving away free native plants throughout autumn. Residents can get up to ten plants per household, while stocks last.

Residents can choose from a variety of plant species that are adapted to Moorabool Shire's climate and soil conditions and require less water and maintenance than exotic plants.

Mayor Cr Ally Munari said this fantastic initiative would help local gardens attract local wildlife and improve garden aesthetics.

"Planting native flora can provide food and shelter for birds, insects and other animals, improve garden structure and aesthetic value, and add a burst of colour to your outdoor space," Cr Munari said.

"If you are interested in creating a habitat for birds, bees or butterflies, or just enjoy the beauty of nature, native plants are the way to go, so I fully encourage residents to take advantage of this amazing initiative put together by our environment team."

To get your free plants, you can visit us at one of the following locations and dates:

Sunday March 3 – Egans Reserve, Greendale

Sunday March 17 - the environment team stall at the Ballan Autumn Festival

Sunday March 24 -Lal Lal Soldiers Memorial Hall

Saturday April 13 - Gordon Recreation Reserve (aligns with Gordon v Dunnstown football match – there is a \$10 admittance fee to the recreation reserve)

Sunday May 5 – Lerderderg Library, Bacchus Marsh

Each event will run from 10am – 12pm.

Residents will require ID as proof of Moorabool residency and a bag or box to carry their new plants.

"Don't miss this opportunity to beautify your garden and support our local environment. We hope to see you at one of the locations," Cr Munari said.

RAISING KIDS IN A DIGITAL WORLD

FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Social Media

Impacts of Screen Time

Online Gaming

Cyber Bullying

Child & Tween Online Trends

Managing Devices in the Home

Explicit/Adult Content

Strengthening Family Communication



Bacchus Marsh Grammar School (John Leaver Gymnasium)
37 Sth Maddingley Rd, Maddingley

Wed 20 March 7.00 pm



Martin McGauran
Primary School Teacher & Cyber Safety Educator

INFORM & EMPOWER

- 90 minute presentation
- Parents/carers only
- Exclusive access to resources



Register to come along:
bit.ly/bacchus2024



Carley McGauran
Psychologist & Mum to 3 school-aged kids



Proudly supported by
Community Bank Bacchus Marsh
Bendigo Bank



Join our BMG hospitality students at The Longest Lunch



Join us for the Kids Helpline
Longest Lunch

Friday, 1st March 2024
12 - 4pm

St. Anne's Winery
64 Garrards Lane, Myrning

3 Course Meal | Beer & Wine Included
\$125 per person

RSVP 19th February, 2024



To book scan the code.
For general enquiries please
contact Ebony 0421 165 804
or ebony@raynerfn.com.au



**Every 69 seconds a young person
contacts Kids Helpline**

By attending this event you are helping to support the important work of
Kids Helpline, sponsored by the First National Foundation.

