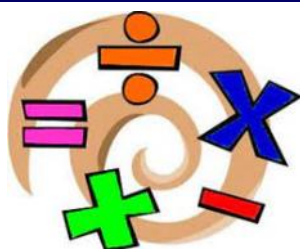


## NEWSLETTER ISSUE 1

Friday 16th February 2024

2024 Term 1 Key Dates	
Thursday 22nd February	Swimming Carnival
Monday 26th February	Class of 2023 Morning Tea 11:15am
Tuesday 5th March	Year 9 Life Changer Day Parent Forum - 6:30—7:30pm—PAC Bookings: <a href="https://compasstix.com/e/nv1uz8lcih">https://compasstix.com/e/nv1uz8lcih</a>
Friday 8th March	<b>Professional Learning Day—Student Free Day</b>
Wednesday 13th March	NAPLAN Testing begins years 7 and 9
Tuesday 26th March	Athletics Carnival
Wednesday 27th March	Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30pm—8:00pm
Thursday 28th March	<b>Parent Teacher Conferences 9:00am—2:30pm Final Day Term 1</b>
Monday 15th April	<b>First Day Term 2</b>
Tuesday 11th June	<b>Assessment &amp; Reporting Day—Student Free Day</b>
Friday 28th June	<b>Final Day Term 2</b>
Monday 15th July	<b>First Day Term 3</b>
Wednesday 7th August	<b>Professional Learning Day—Student Free Day</b>



### MATHS AFTER SCHOOL HELP

Maths Help Sessions are back in 2024. Maths Help will run every Tuesday afterschool from **3.30-4.30pm in A13**. Students are welcome to come along if they would like a scheduled, quiet space to complete their maths homework or unfinished class work. Maths teachers will be available with any questions they have. All year levels are welcome.

### OFFICE HOURS - Telephone: 8768 1000

**FINANCE OFFICE:** Monday to Friday: 9:00am – 4:00pm

**ADMINISTRATION OFFICE:**

Monday to Friday: 8:15am – 4:00pm

Address: 65-69 Manuka Road, Berwick 3806

Email: [berwick.sc@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:berwick.sc@education.vic.gov.au)

Web: [www.berwickcollege.vic.edu.au](http://www.berwickcollege.vic.edu.au)



### BERWICK COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Please keep up-to-date with all College news by reading the newsletter, following us on Facebook and contacting the appropriate Home Group Teacher if you have any concerns.

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## Principal's Report



*"Resilience means not giving up, even when things get tough. It means pushing through the challenges and obstacles that come our way, and continuing to*

I am privileged to be Berwick College's Acting Principal for Semester 1. I am really excited to be a part of the 2024 learning journey here at Berwick College.

At the first whole school assembly I spoke about the importance of resilience, one of our ICARE values, and the importance of determination. For our new year 7s it is the start of your six years here, for Year 12s, your time here is nearly at the end.

Year 12 can be a challenging time, with exams, assignments and the pressure to decide your future path. It can be easy to feel overwhelmed and discouraged. It is during these moments that it is crucial to remember the power of resilience. I want year 12 students to remember the excitement of the beginning of the year and that it is possible to achieve success here at Berwick College.

Resilience means not giving up, even when things get tough. It means pushing through the challenges and obstacles that come our way, and continuing to work towards our goals. This can apply to anything, from studies to personal life. It was great to be able to spend time with the year 7s and the year 8-11s listening to their hopes for the year ahead and about setting goals with their homegroup teacher. Homegroup teachers are an invaluable resource and I encourage students to continue to use their (and the rest of your teachers') support to achieve these goals over the course of 2024. The Year 12 cohort started the year at Federation Uni learning valuable lessons that will support them throughout the course of the year.

Please remember that our ability to persevere is a valuable life skill that will serve us well beyond our time at Berwick College. When we face difficult situations in the future, we will be able to draw on our experiences and our determination to overcome them.

My advice today is to never give up on your dreams and goals. Embrace the challenges that come your way, and use them as opportunities to grow and develop. And to paraphrase how an American Philosopher once put it, success is not determined by how many times you fall, but by how many times you get back up and keep moving forward. That's how winning is done.

I wish the year 12 class of 2024 all the best for the challenges ahead, to make the best of your last year here and to year 7-11 students, continue the awesome start to 2024 you have made over the past three weeks. If you continue in this manner, you are setting yourself up for your future success.

## 2024 College Captains



**Shaya Hennessy—** My name is Shaya Hennessy and I am one of your school captains for 2024. We are all so excited for the year to come, with fresh ideas and experiences to start the year. As Captains, we just wanted to let you know that we will always be around to answer questions or to hear suggestions you have about the school. Our job is to make your time at Berwick College the best it can be, whether that's improving outdoor areas, study sessions or uniform. As year 12s who have been at Berwick since year 7 we have experienced a lot of events and tests that you will this year, which is another thing we can help you with. Just remember that you're not alone this year and to enjoy it with your friends and create life long memories and bonds, hopefully, with the help from us. We are looking forward to the year ahead and wish everyone the best of luck for 2024.

## 2024 College Captains Continued...



**Matthew Nunn** —I'm going to put it quite plainly, the College has basic uniform requirements that must be met such as wearing your sport uniform on the right days. It doesn't take a genius to know that respect is necessary but the College is so much more than just following the rules. Although they are important, they are not what we create our core memories of high school from. There is so much we can look forward to this year. For example, the Swimming Carnival, Athletics Day, our favourite classes, recesses and lunches.

If you're sitting here and thinking that none of these things interest you, we make other days and events that you want happen! That is our role as Captain. We want this year to be one you enjoy so let's work together and make this year the best we possibly can through respecting others and the school.

**Regan Gay**—I used to arrive to school on the first day of term 1 and sit in these assemblies every year feeling annoyed that the holidays were over. Now, as I stand here on my last first day of school, I feel guilty that I haven't appreciated what school offers.

We often take the small things for granted and leave the beauty of life unrecognised.

As the holidays have ended, we just feel as though we are missing out on our sleep ins, however thanks to waking up in time for school, we can see our friends, participate in school activities, learning things that excite us and things that make us ready for the future.

The way this year goes for you can be whatever you make it. Whether you apply yourself to your studies or simply spend it making memories with your friends.

As we enter this year, let's take a moment to appreciate all that we have around us and make the most out of every moment we have. School will be over before you know it, might as well as live in it while you can.

**Tarran Frost**—Hi to the new teachers, students, anyone that hasn't met me before, my name is Tarran Frost and like the four other Captains, I am one of your 2024 College Captains. Talking to you is all about encouraging you on a student to student level to start the year well. As you will hear from everyone, a key to that is attendance and I'm here every day, but last year was the first year I found myself really struggling to be here and my reasons might be different to yours, but if you are struggling while you are here we have wellbeing and some awesome teachers that will help you out and all five of us here know a lot of information that can help you get help if you need anything. I play and coach netball and I play guitar and I'm a student just like you, so talking to someone with a common interest might just be nice rather than a teacher, so I'm here. We all are.

Really utilise this school and get help if you need it, make this school where you want to be, because student voice is so important and you should have a say in the place you spend five days a week for six years. You need to be here and in the long run, it does benefit you. Teachers, the same goes for you, it is okay to be lost if you are new or have a bad day but we want you to be here. Being here is important for everyone. Let's achieve a good 2024.

**Kaiden Roewer**—I am Kaiden, one of your 2024 College Captains. On behalf of all of us I'd like to give a warm welcome to the new year 7s and staff to the school. If you see any of us in the yard, don't be shy, feel free to come up and say hi.

As I look at the other talented Captains, for example, Tarran and Matt who were high achievers, Regan, a principal dancer in the State Schools Spectacular and Shaya, lead of our school musical. Here's the thing about me. I wasn't a high achiever, a principal dancer, or the lead in a musical. But here is what I have come to realise. I am living proof that you don't need to stand out to succeed. It's okay to just be okay. So if you find yourself in a position where things don't quite go your way, like you didn't get the grade you wanted, or you miss out on an opportunity, please don't be too hard on yourself, I promise it is fine and you will be ok.

# Sports Update

## Welcome back to 2024 everyone.

I am excited about what this year will bring in terms of sporting achievements and participation.

Term 1 Sports are well on the way with students having already signed up, or starting try outs and training. If this has not happened for your child yet, do not worry, staff are in the process of organising these. Your child just needs to read the student bulletin everyday to ensure they know when try outs and trainings are occurring. Students that did not sign up in 2023 can still attend try outs if they are interested.

## Term 1 sports include:

- Senior and Intermediate Boys' Cricket – Tuesday, February 13th.
- Year 7 Girls' Softball – Monday, February 19th
- All years Boys' Baseball – Monday, February 19th
- **Berwick College Swimming Sports – Thursday, February 22nd**
- Senior and Intermediate Boys' and Girls' Tennis – Monday, February 26th
- Year 7 and 8 Boys' Cricket – Wednesday, February 28th
- Year 7 and 8 Boys' and Girls' Volleyball – Friday, March 1st
- Year 7 Boys' and Girls' Tennis – Monday, March 4th
- Division Swimming Carnival – Tuesday, March 5th
- Year 7 Girls' Cricket – Tuesday, March 12th
- Year 8 Boys' and Girls' Tennis – Thursday, March 14th
- Regional Swimming Carnival – Monday, March 25th
- Berwick College Athletics Day Carnival – Tuesday, March 26th



All students have been notified of who the coaches for each team are – so if they have any questions they can see their specific coach – or come and see me in the Stadium office. If you have any questions feel free to contact me any time.

**Ms Claise Janssen**—Sport Coordinator  
Claise.janssen@education.vic.gov.au



## School Sport Victoria

### ARE YOU KEEN TO TRY OUT FOR A "TEAM VIC" TEAM IN 2024?

School Sport Victoria offers a range of sports that students can register to trial.

If successful, students get the opportunity to train as a State team, compete in the School Sport Australia National Championships and meet players from other states. The Championships can either be held in Victoria or students get the opportunity to travel interstate. Berwick College has had both staff and students involved in the Team Vic program. So does this sound like you?

### Here's what you need to do:

Visit the School Sport Victoria website – <https://www.ssv.vic.edu.au>

Click on the Team Vic tab: here you will find lots of information

- *Team Vic Information Sheet* : provides a good overview of what Team Vic is all about and what is involved
- *Registration Key Dates* : click on this to see what sports are coming up that you need to register for
- *Sports played at Team Vic* : each sport has its own information page; check out the sport you like.

If you need any extra information or help, see Mrs Janssen or Ms Graham in the PE Office in the Stadium.

Good luck if you decide you would like to take up an opportunity such as Team Vic.





## Swimming Carnival Information



On Thursday February 22nd, Berwick College will be holding its annual Swimming Carnival. Students will be representing their Learning Team in a range of swimming and novelty activities on the day. There are activities available to ALL swimming abilities, so all students should come prepared to participate on the day.

The day is an important part in the development of the Learning Team culture within the College. It will enable students and teachers to work and have fun together, and to further develop positive relationships which we believe are central to a student having success at school. With this in mind it is compulsory for all students to attend.

### Details:

When: **Thursday 22nd February 2024**

Where: **Doveton Swimming Pool (Cnr Tristania St and Kidds Road, DOVETON, VIC, 3177)**

Carnival Time: **9:30am – 2:30 pm**

- Students will arrive at school as normal – 9am
- Students should endeavour to wear their Learning Team colours to show their support for their team
- Students will return to school from the pool on buses, before returning home as normal – 3.15pm

### Further Information:

- Students are to attend Home Group at 9:00am, followed by a short Learning Team assembly before travelling with their Home Group to Doveton Pool by bus.
- Students who are licensed drivers are NOT permitted to drive to the pool.
- Students are permitted to wear thongs whilst at the pool, but must have appropriate closed in shoes to wear to and from the pool.
- Make sure your child brings: bathers, towel, sunscreen, a hat, something to eat and drink, and most importantly, a positive attitude!
- Students are to dress, as much as possible, in Learning Team colours.
- Canteen will be in operation.
- Dismissal from the pool requires written parent permission.
- Asthma sufferers must bring their appropriate reliever medication.
- Parents are most welcome to attend.

If you have any queries about the above information, please contact Sports Coordinator, Ms Claise Janssen or Assistant Principal, Mr Kevin McCall on 8768 1000.

## Introducing one of our Tutors for Literacy and Numeracy Support



### Ms Elena Ricciuti

Elena has been a tutor at Berwick College since March 2023. A qualified teacher in Chemistry and Science, Elena comes to us with a wealth of experience in working with young people.

For many years Elena worked with government funded projects, connecting students with industry. Her experience extended to case management and youth work where she supported at risk students.

For Elena, one of the highlights of tutoring at Berwick is witnessing the growth of students.

According to Elena, "Watching students persist in a skills related area and seeing the joy in their faces when they finally 'get it' is the real reward for targeted intervention."

We are delighted to have Elena with us for 2024 and are so fortunate to have a teacher of her calibre guiding our students through challenges!

# First Day Conferences Feedback/Review

This year, Berwick College ran the second 'First Day Conferences' initiative and built on the successes of the previous year. The premise of the event was an opportunity for parents, staff and students to meet, share college expectations and collaborate around learning support strategies. Many parents were able to advocate for their child, meet the homegroup teacher and understand how the college will work with parents to ensure high standards of education. Students had an opportunity to receive their lockers, connect their devices, receive school planners and for some, meet their new homegroup teachers.

Teachers appreciated the robust (albeit brief!) discussions with parents and have reported feeling more able to act in a timely manner to support students at their individual point of need and advocate for them more actively.

In the same tone as last year, there were well over 1000 appointments from Years 7 -11, well surpassing previous parent/teacher opportunities. Every year level was well represented. Parents noted a significant increase in their child's comfort and confidence in beginning the new school year.

On the day, the Year 7 cohort was extremely busy as students were required to meet their teacher, connect their device, unpack their lockers, collect their school planners and complete the scavenger hunt. Across the week students also engaged in an alternate timetable for ICARE week to drive connection and familiarity with the school, teachers, peers and learning teams. Using the Stadium and Leisure Centre to separate students appeared to create a more settled environment, and was one of the key parent suggestions from 2023 that we were pleased to refine for the day.

As a College, we are committed to ongoing improvement cycles. We published a survey to parents to reflect and refine First Day Conferences, with results improving significantly across each of the categories, majority sitting in the 80-90% positive endorsement category. While there are things that need refining, there was also much to celebrate. We thank staff, students and families for the engagement on the day and for taking the opportunity to advocate for their child/student. **Mr Vaughan Chaplin**—Assistant Principal—Engagement

Based on the feedback from parents, we would like address some of the common feedback from parents.

**Could we please see an agenda for the meeting to allow us as parents the opportunity to prepare?** Yes! This is a fantastic (and common) suggestion. Moving forward, we would look to publish a small agenda for parents so they are aware of what they need to know and which items may need clarifying.

**Planners and internet connection took such a long time, what can be done to streamline this?** This year was the first time that Berwick College has trialled planners and internet connection at First Day Conferences. We understand that this did take time and that people were patiently waiting (thankyou!). We are investigating ways to account for the volume of parents needing these items/support in 2025.

**Can this please be an online event?** Following COVID, the Department of Education have recommended that a focus for schools is to involve communities back into schools. The choice for this event being face to face was a deliberate one. This year (in reflection of parent suggestions), we acted early in the school year to inform parents who work and are required to notify a manager.

**The staffing on the day did not allow me to meet the homegroup teacher.** As a College, we acknowledge that this is unfortunate, and not how we would typically run this event. Given recent staff changes, teacher shortages and timetabling constraints from part time staff we needed to ensure that all students had an opportunity to meet with a teacher. Staff took detailed notes on each meeting which were then handed over to the teacher who would take the class full time.

**Longer appointments would be great please!** We would love to offer longer appointments for parents and teachers to meet. Unfortunately, there is a very limited amount of time where we can fit all students into the day. Typically, teachers would have a class of 25 students. To meet with every student with longer time periods may pose further time constraints for other parents also trying to book. Parents are encouraged to make additional appointments or phone conversations with teachers following this event, especially if they believe that they have more information to share.

**Can there please be more appointments set for outside work hours?** While we extended our bookings from 9am – 4:30pm, we can appreciate that many of our parents also work, need to pick other students up from primary school and have other time constraints across any given day. Berwick College teachers face similar constraints with their own families. Trying to strike a balance between accommodating outside work hours bookings, the new teaching agreement, and teaching hours allocated per day can be a tricky one. If required, we suggested parents try to make an appointment, then (if required) following up with a phone call at a later date to unpack any additional concerns/considerations.

# STEAM Club Returning—STEAM Artwork Competition

## STEAM Club, Monday lunchtimes A17 starting 4th March



Exciting news for all aspiring scientists, tech enthusiasts, engineers, artists, and mathematicians at Berwick College! The STEAM Club is back! The first club gathering will be on **Monday, 4th of March** at lunchtime in room **A17**, and every Monday lunchtime afterwards. It is open to all year levels from years 7-12. You don't need to sign up, just show up during lunch with enthusiasm and imagination.

**What is STEAM, you ask?** Well, it is not just about the hiss of bubbling beakers or the clickety-clack of computer keyboards. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Maths; a captivating amalgamation of five diverse domains that drive the world of innovation and discovery. This designated space will serve as our laboratory of imagination, where minds will collide, ideas will spark, and dreams will take flight.

**But what exactly will we be doing in the STEAM Club?** Our mission is to delve into the depths of students' interests, uncovering hidden passions and untapped potential. We will be exploring hands-on STEAM activities bound to be fun.

### STEAM Artwork Competition!



As a kick-off to our STEAM journey, we invite all Berwick College students, from Year 7 to 12, to unleash their creativity and define STEAM through art. Let your artwork speak of all aspects of STEAM and be a representation of what STEAM means to you. Grab your paper, unleash your imagination, and let your hand-drawn creation that speaks the essence of STEAM speak volumes – let your imagination run wild! There are prizes to be won!

Once your masterpiece is complete, simply drop it off at the designated box in the library. Don't forget to add your name and your year level at the back of the artwork. Artworks are due by **Friday, 15th of March at 4:00 pm**. A winner will be chosen from each year level, so everyone has a chance to shine. Whether you are a seasoned artist or a first-time doodler, this is your opportunity to make your mark on the world of STEAM.

So, what are you waiting for? Mark your calendars, unleash your creativity, and join us on this exhilarating journey through the realms of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths. Together, let's paint a brighter future with the colours of innovation and imagination.

See you at the STEAM Club on the 4th of March, Monday at lunchtime in A17.

**Ms Pinya Senevirathne** (STEAM Learning Specialist)

**Ariel Levy** (Year 12—STEAM Captain)



# Chisholm Chargers Learning Team



Chisholm warmly welcomes all parents, carers, and students back to school, and hopefully everyone had a restful holiday ready to start the year fresh!

Daniel Bowen and Daniel Leane are back as Chisholm Leader and Assistant respectively. Added to the Chisholm Leadership are our student captains, **Bethany Foster** and **Charlee Lancaster** as Co-Captains, being assisted by **Nicholas Regan** as Vice-Captain. Each has already jumped straight into the role with Home Group visits and Learning Team Challenges, and they have also begun to strengthen our ties with our local community in visiting a proud local business, Johnny Boys Pizza in Parkhill Plaza.

Johnny Boys partnered with our Chisholm team last year and supported us with discounted Pizzas which helped our team raise some of the highest funds we have ever achieved for our learning team day. A HUGE thank you to the Johnny Boys team and thank you for your continued support!

If you'd like a menu come and see us in F9! (Pictured Right is **Charlee Lancaster** and **Bethany Foster**)



## Year 7 Camp

During Week 2, the Year 7 Chisholm 'Chislets' charged headfirst at our Orientation Camp in Arrabri Lodge, Warburton. They not only had the chance to meet other Year 7s commencing at Berwick College but were faced with a variety of exciting challenges focused on building their teamwork, empathy and resilience skills!

The three-day camp was a roaring success with our new Chislets attempting the ropes course, sensory trail walks, giant swing and flying fox. They demonstrated great skills in Archery, Basketball and mini golf, and further, they won Trivia Night and came within arm's reach of reptilian friends at the reptile exhibit.

We hope all our Year 7s are starting to settle into the rhythm of high school, and we will continue to support them over the year.



Not only this, our revamped orientation week saw our new Chisholm students participate in a range of different activities that allowed them to familiarise themselves with the school and all of the operations of the College.

We are pleased to say our year 7s fit straight in and also took away the victory with the Learning Team Challenge afternoon culminating in a tug-o-war competition where we outperformed all other Learning Teams. Hopefully this continues into the other house activities and 2024 Learning Team Cup could be ours!!





## Chisholm Chargers Learning Team



### Green Chronicle Awards

We are always on the look out to highlight Chisholm achievements – and green chronicles are no different! If you receive a green chronicle in class, we urge you to pay a visit to Mr Leane or Mr Bowen to cash them in for some prizes!!

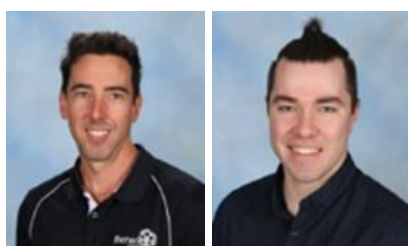
Just like some of our EPIC students who have been recognised as EPIC for perfect attendance last year or the highest green chronicle entries for Chisholm

#### EPIC Greens:

CHOPRA	Jai
HOWARD	Zac
MAGUIRE	Tiana
RAKIN	Hamed

#### EPIC Attendance:

Muzamil	AHMEDI
Zac	HOWARD
Thenuka	JAYASURIYA
Erin	LANGEVELD
Hamed	RAKIN
Ishan	RATHI
Aidan	TSCHOLL



Further, if you have achieved something outstanding like the names above or know someone who has, please let us know! Let's continue our year strong!  
**Mr Daniel Bowen and Mr Daniel Leane**—Chisholm Learning Team Leaders

## Frost Falcons Learning Team



A huge welcome to all of our new Year 7s, and a welcome back to all of our Frost Learning Team students and their families. I hope that you all had an enjoyable, restful break and are excited for what is shaping up to be a great 2024!

### Year 7 Camp

This past week the Year 7s headed down to Arrabri Lodge in Warburton for their camp. This was an amazing experience, and I was blown away by the level of enthusiasm, teamwork, and resilience demonstrated by all. All students represented the Frost Learning Team well, and we were extremely proud of all that they achieved.

Students had the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities, including panning for gold, archery, the flying fox, rock climbing, the giant swing, initiative activities, and swimming.

### Frost students at work

A huge congratulations to one of our students, **Victoria Seamark**! Victoria was recently nominated for the Alisa Pekel Memorial Scholarship, awarded by the Country Women's Association of Victoria. I am pleased to announce that Victoria was successful. Congratulations, Victoria! It is great to see you doing amazing things in the community and representing both the Frost Learning Team, and Berwick College so well.

### Attendance

Remember that attendance is such a key factor in ensuring that your child has the best high school experience. Please ensure that your child is attending every day, and when this is not possible, please inform the relevant attendance officer.



### Upcoming Events

- **Swimming Carnival:** Thursday, 22nd of February
- **Chisholm Day:** Thursday, 21st of March
- **Athletics Day:** Tuesday, 26th of March
- **Parent Teacher Conferences:** Wednesday, 27th (4:30 PM - 8:00 PM) and Thursday, 28th (9:00 AM - 2:30 PM) of March

**Mr Brandon Reeve**—Frost Student Learning Leader

# O'Donoghue Otellas Learning Team



And we are off! Welcome back to all our students and families for 2024. The start of the year has been action packed.

The First Day Conferences were a great opportunity to meet families and set goals for the year. Thank you to all our families who took advantage of this day and to our Home Group teachers for their efforts on the day. If you need any support, your child's Home Group teacher is the first point of call. Our team for 2024 are below:

- OD1 – Mr Coe
- OD2 – TBA
- OD3 – Mr Davey
- OD4 – Mr Wynton
- OD5 – Ms Alba
- OD6 – Mr Matthews
- OD7 – Mr Ross
- OD8 – Mr McMahon
- OD9 – Ms Betteridge

We welcome our new Student Learning Team Captains, **Lilian Bissell and Riley Nason**. They are a great addition to the team and we look forward to working with them throughout the year.

It was a privilege to acknowledge our EPIC and Green Chronicle award winners from Term 4 for 2023. These students had the best attendance in the College and were awarded the most positive behaviour chronicles. This entitles the students to a special canteen pass for the remainder of the term.

Our Year 7s have been settling in nicely. After their amazing efforts during ICARE week, they ventured off to Warburton for their first high school camp.

They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and went outside their comfort zone on things like the giant swing, flying fox and ropes course.

Hopefully they have caught up on some sleep and enjoy the rest of the term.

**Mr Jesse Nugent and Ms Isabella Sawatzky—**  
O'Donoghue  
Student Learning  
Leader & Assistant





# Dunlop Diggers Learning Team



## WELCOME TO 2024

Welcome back to the College for the 2024 to those in DUNLOP Learning Team. As Student Learning Leaders, we are excited to welcome the new year 7 cohort to the College.

## YEAR 7 CAMP

This year our year 7 students had an amazing three days at the Arrabri Lodge in Warburton. There were many activities that students enjoyed including the giant swing, flying fox, archery, mini golf, river walks and gold panning to name a few. As leaders, we were impressed with how well our Dunlop students supported each other in team building activities and in their interactions with each other.



*"Camp was such a great experience. Activities like archery, flying fox, giant swing and SO much more!"*

*People LOVED the giant swing. It was my favourite too. The scariest part was the first drop, but after that it was such a great view while you were swinging."*

**Eamon Borutta – Yr 7**

## EPIC AWARDS

EPIC awards are given to those students who have shown a fantastic commitment to their attendance or achieved a high number of green chronicles during the school year.

Congratulations to **Alexis Amos, Nathaniel Hinton, Archer Hoarau, Tommy Karagentsidis, Beau King, Riley Ludlow, William McLean, Kayla Rhodes and Mackenzie Thomas** on your attendance from the 2023 academic year.

Also, congratulations to **Estelle Green, Evie Blunt, Isabelle Failla, Makayla Healy and Elizabeth Lawrence** on achieving a high number of green chronicles.



## THINGS TO LOOK FOR

- **Swimming Carnival** – Thursday February 22nd – We would like students to dress in Learning Team colours (yellow) to promote Dunlop. Students will be able to sign up to swimming events shortly.
- **Uniform** – A reminder that students are required to wear full school uniform while at the College. Year 7 and 8 can wear sport uniform for the full day that they have sport. Other year levels will need to change for sport class.



**Ms Rebecca Kosach and Mr Ross Crowley—Dunlop Learning Team Leaders**



## Hollows Hawks Learning Team



Welcome back, Hollows families, and a special greeting to our newcomers! The first term is already in full swing, with the initial weeks zooming by. Our newest cohort of Year 7 students has seamlessly integrated into the College, making an impressive start to their journey.

The Hollows Student Learning Leader is Ms Annabel Bond and new to the role of Assistant Student Learning Leader, Mr Dylan Harris. As your leaders, we're eager to connect with each and every one of you. Should you require assistance, you can find us in F09. We trust that everyone has settled into the rhythm of the term and is eagerly anticipating the activities ahead.

It was a pleasure to meet so many families during our First Day Conferences. Establishing connections with Home Group teachers and familiarising ourselves with each other was invaluable. Should you require further information or have any inquiries, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's home group teacher.

- Hollows 1 - Year 8 - Ms Nelum Liyanage - [nelum.liyanage@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:nelum.liyanage@education.vic.gov.au)
- Hollows 2 - Year 9 - Mr Alex Cullinan - [alex.cullinan@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:alex.cullinan@education.vic.gov.au)
- Hollows 3 - Year 10 - Ms Caitlin Martin - [caitlin.martin@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:caitlin.martin@education.vic.gov.au)
- Hollows 4 - Year 7 - Mr Riley Boland - [riley.boland@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:riley.boland@education.vic.gov.au)
- Hollows 5 - Year 11 - Ms Geni Nikolopoulos - [geni.nikolopoulos@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:geni.nikolopoulos@education.vic.gov.au)
- Hollows 6 - Year 9 - Ms Linda Bourke - [linda.bourke@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:linda.bourke@education.vic.gov.au)
- Hollows 7 - Year 11 - Ms Janelle Graham - [janelle.graham@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:janelle.graham@education.vic.gov.au)
- Hollows 8 - Year 7 - Mr Peter Slate - [peter.slate@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:peter.slate@education.vic.gov.au)

On Monday, 5th of February, through to Wednesday the 7th of February, year 7 students participated in the Year 7 Camp at Arrabri Lodge in Warburton. Students participated in a range of activities including low ropes, giant swing, flying fox, gold panning, rock climbing and team building activities, and built lifelong friendships and memories.



On Friday, 16th February, Acting Principal, Mr Hamish Moffett presented **Cody Fernandez** (pictured right) with his 2023 year 8 Dux Award. We congratulate Cody on his hard work in achieving this special academic excellence award.

**Miss Annabel Bond & Mr Dylan Harris**  
Hollows Learning Team Leaders



## Mobile Phone Reminder

As you may be aware, the **Mobile Phones – Student Use** policy for Victorian government schools came into effect in Term 1 2020. This policy requires students to switch their phones off and securely store them during the school day.

The policy is designed to support teaching and learning, promoting learning environments that are free from unnecessary distractions. The policy also aims to increase physical activity and socialisation at recess and lunch times.

A review of the policy found that it has reduced the use of mobile phones during school hours, with a range of benefits noted by principals and teachers. The Department of Education has also published a parent/carers support page on mobile phones in schools on its [website](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents). This website includes links to supports for parents/carers on safe and responsible technology use at home. Our school has its own local mobile phone policy, which implements the government's mobile policy in line with our local context. A copy of our policy is available on Compass and at: <https://www.berwickcollege.vic.edu.au/elementor-12818/>

I encourage new members of our school community to read our policy, as it outlines the school's expectations of staff, parents/carers, and students regarding the use of mobile phones by students at school.

If you have further questions about our local policy, please contact the administration office.

# Kenny Kangas Learning Team



Kenny would like to welcome the whole school community back to school. It has been great meeting all the new faces and seeing everyone ready for a fantastic year of learning at Berwick College!

We look forward to getting to know all the students of Kenny as the Term progresses and share their successes in this newsletter as we move through the year.

We are currently in the process of appointing a new Learning Team Assistant for Kenny in 2024 and hopefully we will be able to announce this shortly.

Just a reminder that we will be rewarding our students who have the best attendance at Berwick College with EPIC awards again in 2024. Making sure students are at school and on time every day is essential for them to develop the skills and knowledge to help them pursue the aspirations they have for the future. So remember, the more you attend the better chance you have of receiving those canteen privileges.

## Year 7 Camp

During Week 2, all Year 7 students attended the Orientation Camp in Arrabri Lodge, Warburton. Kenny Learning Team made the journey on Wednesday and were treated to magnificent weather. Students worked very well together throughout the camp and it was great to see new friendships developing and sharing memories that they will keep beyond the six years they spend together at Berwick College. Highlights for the students were of course the Giant Swing, but also the reptile show on the last day and it was fantastic to see so many fabulous bush dancing moves on the Wednesday night.

It has been very impressive to see how well our Year 7 students have settled in over the course of these three weeks. The thought of navigating new locker bays, moving from class to class and being organised in a big secondary school can be daunting and all of our Kenny Year 7 students should be proud of the transition they have made to Berwick College.

Below is a couple of pictures of our Year 7 team enjoying the activities at Arrabri Lodge.



## Green Chronicle Awards

It has been awesome to see so many Kenny Students receiving a huge amount of Green Chronicle entries in our first two weeks. Over the next week we will be announcing the reward system for these, so stay posted. Also, in 2024 we would like to start celebrating the fantastic achievements of Kenny students outside of the College. So if students have any achievements they have made in their interests outside of school please let us know and we can give you a shout out in the newsletter and in Home Group.

**C'mon Kenny Kangas!!!**



## Food Technology—Year 8

On Tuesday, 6th February, our enthusiastic Year 8s participated in their first Food Technology practical lesson since commencing at Berwick College in 2023.

Students worked with a partner to produce a delicious and nutritionally balanced wrap filled with marinated chicken and various salad items. Students created their own unique marinade and enjoyed the opportunity to get creative. Throughout the lesson students applied the key skills of time management, cooperation and negotiation of group roles in an equitable manner.

Furthermore, students applied both literacy and numeracy capabilities by interpreting the procedural steps of the recipe and amending ingredients to reflect group size.

Congratulations on your successful production of your food products today!

**Mrs Lentowicz**





# Library News

**WELCOME BACK** to both old and new students and staff. We are very happy to welcome Ms Devika Warnakulasuriya Peiris to our library team this year. We hope that in 2024 we can assist you with all your library requirements; you only have to ask and we will do our very best to attend to your needs.

The library is open from 8:30am before school, at lunchtimes and after school till 4pm which gives students time for researching, printing, photocopying, studying, preparing presentations/homework, borrowing, reading and playing games. Students are also welcome to just come in and relax on our comfortable furniture, chatting with friends and enjoying the air conditioning on a hot day.



At the end of last year, we were very fortunate to have been able to add some lovely new shelf ends and some more shelves for our fiction book collection. This was again possible thanks to the contributions of our families to the **Library Fund**.

We look forward to meeting all of our new year 7 classes in the coming weeks for their library orientation sessions. We've been so excited to see our new students embracing reading and we can't wait to see the results from the Year 7 English borrowing challenge '**Game of Loans**' we're running this semester! Stay tuned to see which class will be crowned the winners!

We still have a large number of books overdue from last year. We hope that you will keep a look out at home to see if you can find any library books and return them as soon as possible. We understand that your books may have been lost or damaged so if this is the case, please contact library staff to let us know.

We regularly find items which students have left behind in the library. If they have a name on them we can easily return them to their rightful owners, but many do not. If your child has lost a pencil case, exercise book, hat, drink bottle, iPad/phone charger, lunch box or any other item, and they have been in the library, please remind them to check with library staff to see if we have found the item.



We hope to start running some of our lunchtime activities soon with **Chess Club** starting soon.

We plan to hold a chess tournament later in the year with trophies and a shield for our chess champions! We will announce some more lunchtime activities as soon as we finalise which days they can be run.

Our very popular Dungeons and Dragons group continues to meet every Wednesday after school. This group has been meeting regularly for a while now and are as enthusiastic as ever!!

If you are interested in joining the group please come and talk to library staff or Mr Wynton.

We look forward to a wonderful year of enjoying all the library has to offer with all of our staff and students!



**The Library Team**

## Year 7 Camp Highlights

What a fantastic week it has been up at Arrabri Lodge in Warburton for our year 7 Transition camp! We are thrilled to share some highlights and memories from this unforgettable experience.

Throughout the week, students embraced diverse activities, developing teamwork and creating lasting bonds. From low ropes to archery, each adventure was met with enthusiasm. The initiatives course tested problem-solving skills while mini-golf sparked competition. Night walks under the stars and marshmallow fire cooking added warmth to our evenings.

One of the highlights of the week was the reptile show, where students had the opportunity to get up close and personal with fascinating creatures from the animal kingdom.

Of course, no camp is complete without some good old-fashioned fun, and our students certainly made the most of it! Gaga ball tournaments filled the air with excitement, and the games room buzzed with activity throughout the week.

Thank you to all the staff and students who made this camp a resounding success. We must also extend a special thank you to Ms Hanley, who delighted us all with her unforgettable performance of *'Time of Your Life'*.

As we reflect on the past week, we are filled with gratitude for the opportunity to watch our year 7 students grow, learn and bond together. **Ms Lauren Varadi**—Junior School Leader





# Year 7 ICARE week

## Berwick College's ICARE week was a great success.

Students engaged in a variety of workshops aimed at facilitating their transition to secondary school. These workshops covered topics such as positive behaviours, navigating school systems like Compass and emails, fostering gratitude and kindness, developing social and emotional skills, practicing mindfulness, honing study techniques and participating in an exciting Amazing Race activity.

As a highlight, Eric delivered a powerful message to our students about the importance of words and cultivating a culture of respect and belonging. Additionally, a cleansing ceremony led by Lionel Lauch from Living Culture provided students with insight into the traditional custodians of the land.

The week concluded with a celebration featuring ice cream and a spirited Learning Team competition. Kenny Learning Team triumphed in the chant competition, Chisholm Learning Team emerged victorious in tug of war, and the Hollows Learning Team claimed victory in the tunnel ball event.

**Ms Lauren Varadi**—Junior School Leader





# Careers News



## OUR 2024 CAREERS TEAM

Welcome to 2024—a new year full of new possibilities! Our Careers Team is ready to help you navigate your options, set some goals and make sure you are on track to enter a career pathway. This year our team is located in the Careers Resource Centre, next to the Senior School Study Space E1. Our team is made up of:

- Karen Crawley – Careers & VET Leader
- Carly Lentowicz – Careers Counsellor & Teacher
- Madeleine McKeon – Careers Counsellor & Work Experience Coordinator
- Amanda Komen – VET & VASS Coordinator
- Amy Crawley – VET & VASS Administration & Arts Teacher

Should you have any enquiries or require some information and advice please feel free to stop by and see us, anytime throughout the year.

## BERWICK COLLEGE CAREERS WEBSITE

We would like to let you know of a fabulous resource that is available to our school community, the Berwick College Careers Website. Hosted on the Career Tools platform this resource is one you will want to check out for all things Careers and Study! In particular, we recommend checking out the Calendar for Open Days, Information Nights and Tertiary opportunities, also we recommend signing up to receive the digital Careers Tools Newsletter! You can sign up for the twice termly state-wide Careers Newsletter on our homepage at

<https://berwickcollegecareers.com/>

## VCE VM STRUCTURED WORKPLACE LEARNING 2024

All students aged 15 years and over undertaking the Year 11 and Year 12 Vocational Major Program are required to participate in Structured Workplace Learning as a part of their Vocational Studies. Students will complete their block of structured Work Experience from Monday 3rd June – Friday 14th June (excluding Wednesdays for VET and the King's Birthday Public Holiday). During classes students will be provided with the information they need to start seeking placement. We encourage students to start doing this early, and ensure the paperwork is completed and returned to the Careers Centre no later than Monday 20th May. If you have any questions please contact Mrs McKeon our Careers Counsellor and Work Experience Coordinator on 8768 1015.

## SAFE@WORK CERTIFICATES—WHAT ARE THEY?

Any student doing work experience or workplace learning is legally required to complete their Safe@Work General Certificate and Industry Specific Certificate. These certificates need to be completed/ renewed every year to ensure students are familiar with OHS Requirements of each industry, how to respond to workplace risks, how to be aware of their work surroundings and what their safety responsibilities are. Students must complete both these certificates online and must get a copy to their Work Experience Coordinator before placement commences. If students do not complete both assessments, they will be unable to attend work experience.

Students can complete these online at the link below:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/students/beyond/Pages/quiz.aspx>

## WHITE CARD TRAINING 2024

Berwick College is looking to run some White Card Training this year. A White Card is evidence that you have completed a General Construction Induction Course. It is a legal requirement that anyone entering, working on or assisting with work on a building and construction site must hold a White Card (this includes Work Experience students). To facilitate this course at our school we need 10 students to sign up for the training on-site. If you are interested in getting your White Card please see Mrs McKeon in the Careers Centre to sign up.

# NAPLAN TESTING 2024—YEARS 7 AND 9

## NAPLAN 2024 Information for parents and carers

### Why do students do NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students have the opportunity to undertake.

As students progress through their school years, it is important to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national proficiency standards.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with additional information about students' educational progress.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

### Your child will do the NAPLAN tests online

Online NAPLAN tests are designed to provide precise results and are engaging for students. The tests are tailored (or adaptive) which means that each test presents questions that may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses. This helps students remain engaged with the assessment.

Tailored testing allows a wider range of student abilities to be assessed and measures student achievement more precisely. A student's overall NAPLAN result is based on both the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions challenging; they may be taking a more complex test pathway.

All Year 3 students will continue to complete the writing assessment on paper.

### What does NAPLAN assess?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum.

Students sit assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.

All government and non-government education authorities contribute to the development of NAPLAN test materials.

To find out more about NAPLAN, visit [nap.edu.au](http://nap.edu.au).

### Participation in NAPLAN

NAPLAN is for all Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. ACARA supports inclusive testing, so all students have the opportunity to participate in the national assessment program.

Adjustments are available for students with disability who have diverse functional abilities and needs.

Schools should work with parents/carers and students to identify, on a case-by-case basis, reasonable adjustments required for individual students with disability to access NAPLAN. Adjustments should reflect the support normally provided for classroom assessments.

To help inform these decisions, you may consult the NAPLAN public demonstration site, the Guide for schools to assist students with disability to access NAPLAN, and our series of videos where parents/carers, teachers and students share their experiences in using NAPLAN adjustments.

In exceptional circumstances, a student with a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background, may be granted a formal exemption.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on adjustments for students with disability or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

### What can I do to support my child?

Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN. You can support your child by reassuring them that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and reminding them to simply do their best. Some explanation of NAPLAN is useful to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the tests; however, it is not necessary for parents/carers to do this. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of services by coaching providers.

See the types of questions and tools available in the online NAPLAN assessments at [nap.edu.au](http://nap.edu.au) - Public demonstration site.

### How is my child's performance reported?

From 2023, NAPLAN results are reported against proficiency standards. There is a standard for each assessment area at each year level. Proficiency standards provide clear information on student achievement. They are set at a challenging but reasonable level expected for the child at the time of NAPLAN testing, based mainly on what has been taught in previous years of schooling. Student achievement is shown against 4 levels of proficiency: Exceeding, Strong, Developing and Needs additional support.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be provided by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school.

### What if my child is absent from school on NAPLAN test days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule.

### How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students and parents/carers use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help identify students who need greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas of need to improve teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review the effectiveness of programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can use information about the performance of schools over time at [myschool.edu.au](http://myschool.edu.au).

### Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at [nap.edu.au/TAA](http://nap.edu.au/TAA)
- visit [nap.edu.au](http://nap.edu.au)

To learn how ACARA manages personal information for NAPLAN, visit [nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy](http://nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy).

### NAPLAN timetable

The NAPLAN test window is 9 days. This is to accommodate schools that may not have the capacity to complete the tests in a shorter time frame.

The NAPLAN test window starts on Wednesday 13 March 2024 and finishes on Monday 25 March 2024. Schools will schedule the tests as soon as possible within the testing window, prioritising the first week.

Test	Scheduling requirements	Duration	Test description
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 3 students do the writing test on paper and on day 1 only.</li> <li>Years 5, 7 and 9 writing result start on day 1 (schools must prioritise completion of writing across days 1 and 2, with day 2 only used where there are technical/logistical limitations).</li> </ul>	Year 3: 40 min Year 5: 42 min Year 7: 42 min Year 9: 42 min	Students are provided with an idea or topic called a "writing stimulus" or "prompt" and asked to write a response in a particular genre (narrative or persuasive writing).
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be completed after the writing test</li> </ul>	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts, and then answer related questions.
Conventions of language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be completed after the reading test</li> </ul>	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 45 min Year 7: 45 min Year 9: 45 min	Students are assessed on spelling, grammar and punctuation.
Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be completed after the conventions of language test</li> </ul>	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Students are assessed on number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability.

## Community News



### BERWICK SPRINGS JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

is a family-focussed Aussie Rules junior football club located at Berwick Springs Reserve in Narre Warren South. We are currently registering boys and girls from Under 8's right through to Under 17's. Any enquiries please contact [registrar@berwickspringsjfc.com.au](mailto:registrar@berwickspringsjfc.com.au)



[berwickspringsjfc.com.au](http://berwickspringsjfc.com.au)



**EOI FOR 2024**

**OPEN FOR AGES 12-25 YEARS**

**FreeZA - IGNITE Entertainment Youth Committee:**  
 Learn about planning, developing and managing events.  
 Deliver safe, drug, smoke, vape and alcohol free events for other young people in your community.  
 Support local musicians, artists and performers.

**When : Starts on Tuesday 5 March 2024**  
**Time : 5.30pm-7.30pm**  
**Place : Narre Warren Youth Information Centre**  
**52 Webb St, Narre Warren VIC 3805**  
**Registrations: <https://rb.gy/6wllk>**

For more information please contact:  
 Tessa McManus  
 Email: [tmcmamus@casey.vic.gov.au](mailto:tmcmamus@casey.vic.gov.au)  
 Phone: 0700 0764  
 Mobile: 0448 584 032

@caseyyouthservices caseyyouth City of Casey Youth Services



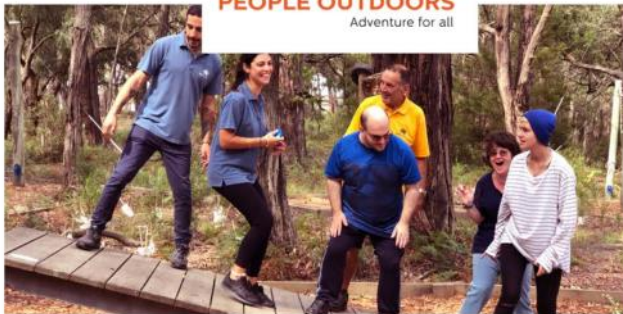
# Community News

## 'Adventure For All'

People Outdoors, a program of the Australian Camps Association, was established in 1989 to provide outdoor recreation for people of all ages living with disability. Our programs include two-night weekends through to four-day residential camps held during the school holidays. Our participants are looked after by our team of disability support workers for the duration of camp. So, if you'd like the opportunity to experience the social and developmental benefits of adventure outdoors, please contact our team on 03 9863 6824 or visit our website for more information – [www.peopleoutdoors.org.au](http://www.peopleoutdoors.org.au)



AUSTRALIAN  
CAMPS ASSOCIATION  
**PEOPLE OUTDOORS**  
Adventure for all



**PEOPLE OUTDOORS**

**CAMPS FOR  
PEOPLE LIVING  
WITH DISABILITY**

**Adventure for All!**



AUSTRALIAN  
CAMPS ASSOCIATION  
**PEOPLE OUTDOORS**  
Adventure for all

- Overnight Camps
- Weekend Camps
- School Holiday Camps

All meals, activities, transport and accommodation included. Central pick up point.

We are a Registered NDIS Service Provider.

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*Scan to complete  
Referral Form to  
join us on camp!*



[www.peopleoutdoors.org.au](http://www.peopleoutdoors.org.au)

 This flyer has been printed on recycled stock.