

Newsletter

TP
12

Strength Through Understanding

Date: 18th March

Edition: 26: 02

KEY SCHOOL DATES

31st March Interview Day
2nd April P-12 House Cross Country
2nd April Last Day of Term - 2:30pm finish
20th April Start Term 2
23rd April State Swimming
8th June Public Holiday
12th June Student Free Day

7-12 DATES

26th March Yr 7 & 10 Immunisations
1st April 7-12 Assembly
28th April HSSSD Boys Netball Girls Football
6th April HSSSD Cross Country
20th May Regional Boy Netball

P-6 DATES

1st May Primary Division Athletics Warrnambool
5th May 3-6 Cross Country Noorat
15th May Division Cross Country Warrnambool
17th May Smile Dental Van



TIMBOON P12 SCHOOL HSSSD SWIM TEAM

P.O Box 82 Timboon 3268
Telephone: (03) 5598 3381
Email: timboon.p12@education.vic.gov.au
Website: www.timboonp12.vic.gov.au
School Council President: Jeremy Doolan
School Captain: Holly Delaney
Vice Captains: Evie Gordon & Noah Clark

Timboon P-12 staff and students acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are gathered today, the Kirrae Whurrong people, and pay our respects to their elders both past and present.



Timboon
P-12
School



*Timboon P-12 School
warmly invites you!*

Timboon P-12 Open Day

Monday, 23rd March 2026

P-6 Open Classrooms – 9:30-11:00am

P-6 Presentation and Q&A at 10:30 am

Welcomes families with kindergarten children or those interested in finding out more about our primary school

7-12 Open Classrooms – 11:40-1:40

7-12 Presentation and Q&A at 1pm

Welcomes families with students interested in secondary school



Bailey Street, Timboon VIC 3268
T +61 3 5598 3381 E timboon.p12@education.vic.gov.au

www.timboonp12.vic.edu.au

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

As we head towards the end of Term 1, it has been a busy yet productive start to the year. It has been wonderful to see students settling into their learning and engaging in the wide range of opportunities available across the school.

A highlight coming up next week is our **Timboon P-12 Open Day on Monday 23 March**, and we warmly invite families and community members to come along and see the school in action.

Our classrooms will be open for visitors throughout the day so families can experience teaching and learning across the school:

P-6 Open Classrooms: 9:30am to 11:00am

P-6 Presentation: 10:30am (for families interested in Prep enrolments for 2027)

7-12 Open Classrooms: 11:40am to 1:40pm

7-12 Presentation: 1:00pm (for families interested in Year 7 in 2027)

Throughout the day, our current Year 6 students and visiting Grade 5/6 students from neighbouring schools will be participating in our *Year 7 in '27* program, giving them the opportunity to experience learning in the secondary school and become familiar with the environment. Parents are welcome to observe this program as well as visit classrooms and speak with staff. We will also be hosting a **BBQ lunch and live music from one of our school bands from 1:40pm to 2:20pm**, showcasing our music program and providing a chance for families to connect informally with staff and students.

We encourage parents, grandparents and prospective families to come along and support the day. It is a great opportunity to see the breadth of learning and opportunities available at Timboon P-12 School.

School Council News

This week we held our first School Council meeting for the year and welcomed several new members.

We congratulate and welcome our new council members:

Parent member: Enoch Peterson

Student members: Toby Rantall and Mayana Beveridge

At the meeting, School Council also conducted the election of office bearers. Congratulations to:

Jeremy Doolan – School Council President

Mat Whitehead – School Council Vice President

Other School Council members for 2026 include: Trent Champion, Lisa Pechotsch, Toby Rantall, Mayana Beveridge, Shelley Mutton, Jayde Smith and Michelle Norton.

School Council plays an important role in representing our school community and supporting the strategic direction of the school, including oversight of policy, finance and long-term planning. We thank all members for their ongoing contribution.

School Council has also endorsed the 2025 Annual Report, which will be published on the school website shortly.

A proposal was also discussed to introduce an additional navy skirt option within the school uniform. This would be without a logo, in line with Department policy, and is intended primarily as an additional option for secondary students who may prefer a more traditional skirt style than the current skirt. Families are welcome to provide feedback on this proposal before our next School Council meeting in Week 4 of Term 2.

A Recent Highlight

One of the highlights for me this past week was sitting in on the final session of a two-day music workshop with our Year 9/10 Music elective and VET Music students, organised by teacher Drew Deppler.

Across the two days, the students worked with *Music Makers* to write, develop and record their own original music. In just two days they created and recorded four original songs.

Not only were the final pieces impressive examples of creativity, but what stood out most was the process the students went through together. There was a strong sense of purpose, collaboration and persistence as students developed their ideas and supported one another through the creative process. Experiences like this help students build confidence, strengthen their self-belief and deepen their understanding of themselves as learners and musicians.

Well done to all students involved and thank you to Drew for organising this opportunity. We look forward to sharing the students' music with the community soon.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our school. In this newsletter you will also find updates on a range of sporting events, student activities and programs, updates on our progress with School Wide Positive Behaviour Supports as well as an article about respectful communication between families and school staff, which outlines how we work together to support positive outcomes for all students.

MATT DODSON
PRINCIPAL

ASSISSTANT PRINCIPAL REPORTS

At Timboon P-12 School, we believe that "educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all," a philosophy that anchors our motto of Strength Through Understanding. This belief is woven into the daily dedication of our staff and teachers, who do far more than deliver a curriculum, they model the Respect, Commitment, and Empathy that define our community. With an exceptional teaching staff guiding and supporting every student's individual pathway towards academic excellence, the ability to think ethically, under pressure, and with understanding is uniquely cultivated, ensuring our students graduate not just with knowledge, but with the character to lead and the compassion to care.

Our Year 7 and 9 students are currently participating in the 2026 NAPLAN testing window, which began on Wednesday 11 March and continues through to Monday 23 March. It has been wonderful to see our students approaching these sessions with such a focused and positive attitude. These assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language, and numeracy provide a valuable "snapshot" of student progress, helping us tailor our teaching to better support every learner at Timboon. If your child has been absent during a scheduled session, please don't worry, we are running catch-up sessions throughout the testing window until it concludes on 23 March. We thank our families for their support in ensuring students arrive well rested and ready to do their best.

We also celebrate the recent success of our Secondary Athletics Sports. It was a fantastic day filled with school spirit, personal bests, and great sportsmanship across all houses. A huge thank you goes out to our dedicated HAPE staff for their hard work behind the scenes. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the outstanding leadership of Dean Whitehead, whose organisation ensured the day ran smoothly for all our competitors and spectators. Following our school event, a large contingent of students represented Timboon at the HSSSD (Hampden Schools Secondary Sports Division) Athletics. It was great to see our athletes competing so strongly against other schools in the region. Well-done to everyone who took part in the day.

We are incredibly grateful to Simon Harkness for the work he has done with our Student Leadership and SRC teams. His mentorship

has empowered our students to find their spark, whether they are stepping up to the microphone to lead our school assemblies or representing our school as ambassadors in the local community. Thank you, Simon, for your support and for being such an inspiring guide for our next generation of leaders.

On March 23rd, we will welcome families to attend our open day, we invite you to visit our school community and have a look at our learning spaces, with an opportunity to meet our dedicated teachers, and learn about the programs and opportunities we offer.

Key Open Day Features:

- **Guided Tours, conducted by our school leaders:** Explore classrooms, library, and specialised facilities.
- **Meet the Staff/Students:** conversations with teachers, leadership, and students to understand our school culture and philosophy.
- **Interactive Activities:** Engaging learning experiences.
- **Information Sessions:** Learn about curriculum, extracurricular activities, and enrolment processes.
- **Transition Support:** Information on how to prepare children for starting school or moving between stages.

Our students thrive when they see a strong connection between home and school, and we are so lucky to have such a supportive community behind us. Thank you for helping us make our school a vibrant place to learn and grow.

SOFIA ALEEM
7-12 ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

The term is flying by, even though it's a full 10-week term which is rare for Term 1.

The Years 3-6 swimming program was very successful, and we could not have asked for better weather. The swimming carnival was also a very successful day thanks to the excellent organisation of Mr Cook and the support of staff. Students have been provided with their certificates of achievement for swimming. Nine students have qualified for the Regional Swimming Titles in Horsham on March 25th and we wish them all a successful event. The House Athletics Carnival is always a huge event, and it was also a great success. Students participated to the best of their ability and enjoyed cheering on friends and their Houses. This event requires an enormous amount of preparation, and we applaud Mr Cook and the PE Team for all their work to ensure the success of the day.

Thank you to families and friends who attended either carnival; it is always rewarding to welcome you to school activities, and the students love having you there.

The new bus routines are continuing to become more efficient. I was impressed with how well the students handled a wet weather bus time last week. They moved to the hall and waited calmly in their bus lines before heading out to board buses. The efforts of staff to support their classes with bus routines must also be commended.

NAPLAN testing for 2026 is almost complete. The disruption for the Year 5 Writing test was challenging. I was very impressed with the patience and persistence of our students while we waited to see if the tests would work. They were able to complete their Writing last Friday and, once again, how they tackled this after the initial disruption was a credit to them all. Year 3 students have managed their first NAPLAN tests admirably, doing their best with a minimum of fuss. All the tests will be complete by Wednesday and several catch up sessions will be scheduled for students who were absent.

Reminders for our younger students regarding the canteen: students are not permitted to buy food for others, to ask others for money or food from the canteen, or to bring money from

home without permission. I would appreciate it if you could reinforce these points with your children. It is preferable if Prep students have canteen food only as part of a lunch order rather than purchasing items over the counter as they are not always able to manage these challenges.

VALUES AWARDS RECIPIENTS 2026

Term 1 Week 2	
CLASS	NAMES
00A	Violet Kordupel & Elena Van Ginkel
00B	Digby Harrison & Hamish Mahony
1A	Nash Thompson and Blair Neal
12B	Aleister Caltino and Stella Doolan
2C	Georgia Bailey and Aaron Pechotsch
3A	Saane Francis and Zoe Cooknell
34B	Marne Brown & Charlotte Smith
4C	Lou Andrew and Katie Collins
5A	Addi Whitehead and Lucas Anderson
56B	
6C	Hudson Bell and Arkayah Greer

Term 1 Week 5	
CLASS	NAMES
00A	Johnny McKenzie & Henry Hickey
00B	Alexander Jordan and Myla Kordupel
1A	Eve Roney and Ava Askew
12B	Dylan Hrebenyuk and Liam Cotton
2C	Mason Wood and Ivy Banks
3A	Tyce Mitchell and Regan Merrett
34B	Hermania Zalun / Laura Douglas
4C	Maddi Salmon and Ale Perrett
5A	Eva Watson and Oscar McLeod
56B	
6C	Harry Salmon and Emerson Warren

Term 1 Week 7	
CLASS	NAMES
00A	Senuth & Matthew Llubit
00B	Alby Deol and Stella Watson
1A	
12B	Pearl Loving and Edie Thompson
2C	Mae Tutungi and Harvey Anderson
3A	Jackson Whitehead and Lely McKenzie
34B	Nelson Cook/ Kirra Loving
4C	Callum Nicholls, Evelyn Dennis
5A	Abel Turner and Lilly Jarvis
56B	
6A	Malakye Benson and Alexa Tadianan



Award participants



MICHELLE NORTON
P-6 ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

School & Student Insurance Reminder

Parents are reminded that Timboon P-12 School and the Department of Education does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Parents and guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance/ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance and/or transport and any other transport costs incurred. Student accident insurance/ambulance cover policies are available from some commercial insurers and can be obtained by parents or guardians for individual students. Timboon P-12 School and the Department of Education cannot advise parents or guardians on whether to purchase a student accident policy or ambulance cover, or which policy to purchase. It is recommended that they seek assistance in this matter with their insurance broker or find a suitable personal accident insurer online. Personal Property Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This may include mobile phones, iPads, laptops, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. As Timboon P-12 School or the Department of Education and Training does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property; students, staff and visitors are discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school. It is highly recommended parents insure personal property.

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS)

This year we are continuing to implement **School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS)** across our school. SWPBS focuses on explicitly teaching students the behaviours that help create a safe, respectful and positive learning environment for everyone. Throughout **Term 1**, our focus has been on **teaching expected behaviours**. Staff have worked together to develop a **Behaviour Matrix** (see image) that outlines the behaviours we expect to see in different areas of the school. We are now working through the individual expectations on the matrix and teaching these directly to students during dedicated lessons.

Below are some of the expectations we have covered so far, along with ways families can help reinforce these at home.

Entry routine

Across the school, students are expected to **line up before entering the classroom**. This helps create a calm and organised start to lessons.

Be on time and ready to learn

Being ready to learn helps students start the day positively and ensures valuable learning time is not missed. Families can support this by helping children arrive at school on time and by talking with them about what equipment or materials they need for the day.

Follow staff instructions

Students are reminded that it is important to follow instructions from all staff members. This includes teachers, the principal, education support staff and volunteers who assist at school.

Move safely and sensibly

Students are taught how to move safely around the school while being mindful of others. In the secondary school this also includes using lockers appropriately, while primary students practise walking in lines when moving to specialist classes.

Bus safety

Students who travel on the bus are reminded about safe and respectful behaviour so that the journey to and from school is safe for everyone.

Next focus – Use manners, positive language and show respect

The week ahead we are focusing on how students speak to and about others. An important part of this expectation is how students address staff. Students are encouraged to use staff members' names, such as **Ms Podbury** or **Mr Dodson**, rather than shortened versions such as "Miss" or "Sir". Families can support this by role-modelling respectful language when speaking about school staff at home.

Over the coming weeks we will continue to introduce and teach more expectations from our Behaviour Matrix and will keep families informed so these can be reinforced at home.

Together, by teaching and modelling these behaviours, we can support all students to contribute to a **positive, respectful and safe school environment**.

We were lucky enough to awarded the Blue Award for SWPBS this week. This year we are aiming for the Bronze Award.



Respectful communication: working together for our students

When schools, families and students work together, we achieve the best outcomes. These partnerships are essential to creating a school environment where all students feel supported to belong, learn and thrive.

At Timboon P-12 School, we value respectful, safe and engaged behaviour in all parts of our community. This includes the way we communicate with one another. Our staff work hard to support every student, and at times this includes contacting families about matters such as attendance, learning progress or behaviour.

We understand that these conversations can sometimes be difficult. We ask that all communication between families and staff remains respectful and constructive so that we can work together to support the best outcomes for students.

Parents and carers play a vital role in modelling positive communication and helping young people develop respectful ways of engaging with others.

You can read more about the department's [Respectful, safe, engaged: shared expectations to support student behaviour](#) on the Victorian Department of Education website. These expectations are also reflected in our school policies.

Thank you for continuing to work in partnership with us to support a positive school community.



HSSSD SWIMMING – CAMPERDOWN



Year 9-10 Art: Marble Metallic Bear Sculpture

Students explored colour, pattern, and surface design through a creative Marble Metallic Bear activity. Each student transformed a 22cm bear sculpture using fluid marbling techniques to create unique metallic colour combinations and expressive surface patterns. No two bears were the same, highlighting students' individuality and creative decision-making. Through this engaging process, students developed creative confidence, practical art-making skills, and an understanding of how materials and techniques can influence artistic outcomes. The finished bears are vibrant examples of experimentation, imagination, and contemporary surface design.

Mrs Gail Higgins

Secondary Arts Teacher

Timboon P-12



3 -6 DIVISION SWIMMING



DIVISION SWIMMING AGE CHAMPIONS



10 yr old Champion Nelson Cook
11 Yr old Champion Menzel Cook



P-6 ATHLETIC CARNIVAL



Callaway Captains accepting the winner's shield



Age group Champions

Athletics

Well done to everyone who participated in the Athletics last week. It was fantastic to see such great sportsmanship and effort from all students.

Congratulations to our Age Group Champions: **Elise Nesseler, Nixon Noar, Jett Newey, Gretel Hollick, Isla Dickinson, Nelson Cook, Emilio Haig, Esther Couch, Will Smith, Shylah Bellis and Daniel Tugade.**

Also well done to **Callaway** for taking out the overall house title.

Swimming

Congratulations to the following students who represented our school at the Primary Division Swimming Carnival in

Warrnambool: Anna Banks, Chase Bell, William Brown, Lenny Champion, Menzel Cook, Nelson Cook, Ethan Cotton, Esther Couch, Olly Dickinson, Isla Dickinson, Gretel Hollick, Milla Loughnan, Jack McKenzie, Lely McKenzie, Jett Newey, Callum Nicholls, Will Smith, Emily Stevens, Ivy Tutungi and Eva Watson.

A special congratulations to Nelson Cook for being named 9/10 year Old Champion and to Menzel Cook for being named 11 year Old Champion.

We would like to wish **Lenny Champion, Will Smith, Nelson Cook, Menzel Cook, Gretel Hollick, Anna Banks, Ivy Tutungi, Olly Dickinson and Jack McKenzie** the best of luck as they compete at the Regional Swimming Carnival in Horsham on Wednesday 25th March.

This is a fantastic achievement, and we are cheering you on!

Jarrad Cook
PE Specialist



Native Nurturing

Following recent bushfires in our region, our Year 9/10 AgHort class have decided to explore plant propagation and native species for plantations with a goal to grow seedlings to share with landowners impacted by the fires.

To contextualize this and learn about native plants, our group visited Kate Leslie and Clem Wetherall at the Heytesbury & District Landcare Network (HDLN) nursery. Students learnt about native and endemic plants, how seeds germinate, the conditions required for germination and the stratification involved in establishing plantations.

Over the next week, the class will be volunteering their time at the nursery, assisting with the planting and management of native trees to learn more about how they can contribute to recreate habitats and shelterbelts in our region.



Timboon Year 8's ROCK - Literally!!!

To compliment the geology being taught in the Year 8 Science classrooms, we invited ex Timboon P-12 student and local geotechnical engineer, Jeremy Doolan, into the classroom to provide his expertise to help us better understand rocks, minerals, geology and the range of careers in this field.

He explained that Australia contains all known rock types and the age of some rocks spans over 4.4 billion years. Since the gold rush in the 1850s, Australian mining has become much more industrialized and automated including the use of AI and it is one of the most important producers of raw mineral product in the world.

After obtaining a bachelor's degree in Geological Engineering, Jeremy worked in open pit and underground mines in Mount Isa in Queensland before becoming a Geotechnical Engineer at the Ballarat Gold Mine and later the Cadia Mine near Orange where he worked on Technology and Innovation. Returning to Port Campbell in 2017, he worked in a Fly-in, Fly-out (FIFO) capacity as a Geotechnical Superintendent and Underground Mine Manager. Currently he is working for a consulting/ contracting firm, Operational Geotechs, which allows him to work remotely from home with adhoc mine site visits when necessary.

Jeremy provided rock samples for the students to examine was able to help them understand the various types of raw materials, equipment, work practices, technology and career options available in today's mining industry in Australia.

He left students with a final thought, "If mining didn't exist to extract valuable minerals from the rocks beneath our feet, what would our world be like?"



Jeremy Doolan



The Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge commences from Term 1 Week 6 Monday 2nd March and Timboon P-12 School is excited to be participating. All Timboon P-12 students are offered participation in the Challenge and will receive a username and password from their teacher this week.

The Challenge is open to all Victorian children from birth to Year 10 in recognition of the importance of reading for literacy development. It is not a competition; but a personal challenge for children to read a set number of books by the end of the 4th September 2026.

Children from Prep to Year 2 are encouraged to read or 'experience' 30 books with their parents and teachers. Children from Year 3 to Year 6 are challenged to read 15 books. Children are encouraged to continue reading the entire PRC as there is no limit on the number of books you reach so go for it!! All children that meet the Challenge will receive a certificate of achievement signed by the Victorian Premier.

There is also your 'PRC How to Guide', which explains how to log in and get started and for more information about the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge,

visit: <https://www.vic.gov.au/premiers-reading-challenge>

Please contact me via the school email should you have any questions, and I will be happy to assist.

Andrea Clarke
Library Manager



P-6 Sports Day where Maggie joined in the activities. Maggie was placed 3rd in her race with Indiana Van Ginkel being her handler. Our Dogs Connect program continues to be positive for our school and the greater/wider school.



Student Leaders Congress

Mr Haugh and Mrs. Pechotsch had the pleasure of taking our House Captains to the Student Leaders Congress in Warrnambool on Friday 6th March. The students listened to some inspiring speakers who told us about their journeys in leadership.

The presenters for the day were Paul Campbell and Dale Sidebottom from The School of Play, Tom Richardson and Jacob Paton-Lee from the Find your Voice Collective, as well as Sharna Rogers from Fitzmedia. Each presenter had some great experiences to share with us about their lives and inspired us to become better leaders and to make a difference for those around us.

Our Captains are now going to use their own leadership skills to develop a project here at school that will benefit our school community. Our project is in the early planning phase and is focused on helping students develop friendships and build connections with others. We will let you know more about this project in a future newsletter.



Somers Camp

My favourite thing at Somers Camp was that at the end of each day we had either a bushwalk & a disco or a bush dance and a campfire (it changed each night).

I learnt how to put a harness on and make a friendship bracelet. I made a couple of friends whilst on camp and I have kept in touch with some of them, and my overall favourite activity was most definitely the giant swing and the giant zipline, it was a great thrill.

By Harriet Hancock, yr 6

At Somers Camp I enjoyed socialising in my hut, sharing secrets, playing games, the gossip and most of all making new friends.

I learned about animals and birds, where they live and how to keep safe. I also learned about the importance of friendship.

I made lots of friends on Somers Camp and have kept in touch with most of them.

My favourite activity was the beach night where we got to play in the sand and swim in the water. Somers Camp was a wonderful experience.

Pippa Dunne, Yr 6



Author Talk with Robyn Howarth
Faraday – A Community Rediscovered

Bookings essential
 5598 3394
 Scan QR Code

The true story of the Faraday State school, and the chilling kidnapping that rocked a small community.

Join Robyn Howarth one of the six children kidnapped from the school as she delves into her personal story of trauma, the search for justice and what it takes to heal a community.

For more information
www.cmlibraries.com

Thursday May 28th
Timboon Library
10-11am

Harmony Day Celebration

On **Friday 20 March**, our school will be celebrating **Harmony Day**, a day where we recognise and celebrate the many cultures that make up our school community.

From **2:00pm–3:00pm**, families who have volunteered will be sharing aspects of their culture with students. This may include **food, traditional dress, artefacts, music, and other cultural items**. Classes will have the opportunity to visit and learn about different countries and traditions.

All students are also invited to **come to school in traditional cultural dress OR wear a TOUCH of orange (the colour representing Harmony Day)** if they would like to celebrate their culture or share in the message that Everyone Belongs on the day.

We are very grateful to the families who have volunteered their time to help make this event possible and to share their culture with our students. Harmony Day is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to **learn from each other and celebrate the diversity that makes our community special.** 🌍 🤝



FAMILY STORY TIME

When and Where:
Thursdays 11:00am – 11:30am
 during school terms

Timboon Library
Ideal for Pre-school to Early
Primary aged children

Sharing a love of reading, rhyming, singing and talking with young children is one of the best things you can do to give children a head start in life.

An introduction to stories, songs and rhymes to help develop early literacy skills and a fun space for young children and carers to socialise and interact with peers.

MORE INFORMATION
Online www.cmlibraries.com.au
In person at your local branch



Corangamite
 Moyn
 Library Service

Timboon Library

Phone 03 5598 3394 Address Wark Street Timboon

Opening Hours (school term)		Opening Hours (school holidays)	
Monday	1.30 - 5 pm	Monday	2 - 5 pm
Tuesday	1.30 - 5 pm	Wednesday	2 - 5 pm
Wednesday	1.30 - 5 pm	Friday	10 am - 2.30 pm
Thursday	10 am - 2.30 pm	Saturday	10 am - 12 noon
Friday	10 am - 2.30 pm		
Saturday	10 am - 12 noon		

Public Libraries Victoria www.cmlibraries.com.au



TIMBOON P-12 SCHOOL

Presentation Ball

FRIDAY 27TH MARCH 2026
8PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE @ SCHOOL OFFICE

SUPPER PROVIDED
 ALCOHOL FREE EVENT

TIMBOON & DISTRICT HALL

We would like to share a bit about our wonderful teachers at Timboon P12 School. We truly are fortunate to have such experienced and effective teachers.

Introducing our 7-12 Teaching and learning Leaders for 2026.



Gail Higgins - Arts

Gail is a highly accomplished Visual Arts educator whose distinguished career spans arts education, creative studio practice, and cultural leadership. With a wealth of experience, Gail has contributed extensively to the development of high-quality arts programs in schools, universities, and international institutions.

As a dedicated Senior Visual Arts Teacher, Gail has played a pivotal role in shaping innovative curriculum approaches that nurture creativity, critical thinking, and artistic confidence in young people. Her leadership roles as KLA Leader, Head of Arts and Domain Leader reflects her expertise across drawing, painting, textiles, photography, mixed media, and design. Gail's commitment to arts education is further demonstrated through her international experience as a guest lecturer in China and her previous role as Lecturer in Art and Design at La Trobe University, where she taught graphic design, typography, and photography.

Beyond the classroom, Gail maintains a vibrant creative practice as co-owner of Nirranda Arts Studio, where she produces original artworks and textile-based couture. Her work has been exhibited internationally, and she has presented workshops and lectures for arts organisations including SPIN – Silk Painters International in the United States.

Earlier in her career, Gail served in senior public relations roles within the Victorian Government as Publicity Manager for two state Premiers of Victoria, where her design expertise supported major cultural and educational initiatives, including exhibition design for the World Trade Fair Expo in Japan and publicity design for Royal visits the Australia by (the then) Queen Elizabeth II, Lady Diana and Prince Charles.

Gail's longstanding contributions to the arts, both as an educator and practicing artist have enriched the artistic lives of students and communities. Her passion, experience, and leadership exemplify the high calibre of teaching excellence within our school.



Pennie Maxwell – Science

Pennie is a VCE Biology and Science teacher with 20 years of experience. After finishing school, she spent 12 months travelling through Europe before returning to Australia to complete a Bachelor of Applied Science (Biology/Biotechnology) at RMIT University, Melbourne. In her third year, she specialised in aquatic toxicology and microbiology and was accepted into the Honours program. She completed a 12-month research project and thesis examining the effects of organophosphates on invertebrate species, specifically focusing on the impact of pesticides on nerve impulse transmission. Although she found laboratory work fascinating, Pennie realised she wanted a career with more connection to people. This led her to pursue a Graduate Diploma of Education (Secondary), where she discovered the joy of helping young people develop a passion for science.

Pennie began her teaching career in Melbourne, working in the eastern suburbs and the Mornington Peninsula, before later moving to Echuca and finally settling in Timboon in 2011. Having grown up in Western Victoria, she always knew she would return to a regional community to work and raise her family.

Across her career, Pennie has held a range of leadership roles, including Student Leadership Coordinator, Year 8 Coordinator, and Science Domain Leader. In her current role as Science Domain Leader, she particularly enjoys curriculum development, implementing initiatives for the TAP and planning the annual Family Science Night.

Outside of school, Pennie continues to enjoy travelling and spending time in nature with her family. She also loves growing flowers to share with others.



Ben Dennis – Maths

Ben is an experienced educator who began teaching in 2011 after transitioning from an Engineering degree to a degree in Mathematics and Physics. He has taught across the sciences from Years 7–10 and senior Physics (Years 11–12), along with the full suite of mathematics: Years 7–10, VCE Foundation Mathematics, General Mathematics, Mathematical Methods, and Specialist

Mathematics. Ben has held a range of leadership roles—including Domain Leader, Leading Teacher, and Numeracy Learning Specialist—where he has driven curriculum development, instructional improvement, and data-informed practice. As a self-professed nerd, Ben strives to bring a joy and love of learning to Mathematics and Science and has shared his skills and expertise by presenting at Mathematics conferences on numerous occasions.

Committed to community and service, Ben has been actively involved with the Terang and District Progress Association, serving six years as President. He joined the Board of Directors at Terang and Mortlake Health Service in 2019 and has served as Board Chair since 2020, contributing strategic oversight and governance to a vital regional institution.

A practical maker at heart, Ben also loves building and woodworking and is qualified to teach technology.



Mr Thomas Marshallsea
Outdoor Education & Physical Education

Since beginning his teaching career in 2015, Thomas Marshallsea has brought passion, experience, and deep outdoor knowledge to every school he has worked with. Thomas completed a Bachelor of Education (Physical Education) and a Graduate Diploma of Outdoor and

Environmental Studies at the University of Ballarat, along with further studies in Physical Education at Leeds University.

Before entering full-time teaching, Thomas worked as an outdoor leader across the Grampians and Otway National Park, guiding school groups on multiday journeys and developing strong expertise in outdoor programs. He later moved into an Outdoor Education role at Bellarine Secondary College, where he led the Year 9 program and worked with up to 150 (Year 9-12) Outdoor Education students each year. During this time he also taught Health, Physical Education, Certificate II Outdoor Recreation, and several applied learning programs.

As an outdoor educator, Thomas brings extensive practical experience in mountain biking, cross-country skiing, bushwalking, sailing, rock climbing, canoeing, environmental science, surf lifesaving, surfing, fishing, and more.

Thomas joined Timboon P-12 School in 2022, where he has played a role in rebooting and expanding the Outdoor Education program. OED now runs from Years 9/10 through to VCE, with students participating in a broad and ever-growing range of experiences such as bushwalking, sailing, skiing, surf lifesaving (with PCSLSC), fishing, and cycling, with more opportunities continuing to develop.

Outside of school, Tom is a proud dad to three young children—two boys and one girl—and spends most of his “spare” time outdoors (no surprises there). He enjoys running, exploring, camping, and planting, often sharing these experiences with his family.

Originally from Geelong, Tom lived in Ballarat throughout his university years. Alongside his studies and outdoor work, he spent time working in the surf industry with Strapper Surf (ages 16–23) and held hospitality roles, including part-time venue management throughout his 20s. These experiences helped shape his strong work ethic, adaptability, and love for community-connected environments.

At the core of Tom’s teaching philosophy is the belief that quality outdoor learning builds connection to place, deepens environmental understanding, and develops resilient young people through real-world experiences in nature.

Thomas A Marshallsea
Outdoor Environmental Studies, Health and Physical Education Teacher



Claire Watson - Humanities

Claire Watson is an experienced classroom teacher who began her career in a Foundation classroom and has taught across a range of schools in Victoria and Tasmania. While working in Tasmania, she led a STEAM enrichment program, facilitating and implementing innovative Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) initiatives. This

work culminated in students winning the Tasmanian Science Discovery Talent Search, recognised for a musical instrument designed and produced using CAD software and 3D printing technologies.

Earlier in her teaching journey, Claire participated for two years in the Primary Mathematics and Science Specialists Initiative in Melbourne, developing deep expertise in mathematics and science pedagogy. Following this, she was appointed Primary Mathematics Learning Specialist at Hampton Park Primary School, where she worked closely with the Numeracy Coach to strengthen teaching practice and improve student outcomes.

Since commencing at Timboon P-12 School, Claire has demonstrated a strong commitment to lifting achievement standards for all students across the school. Within her role as a Learning Specialist beginning in the Primary School and then into the Secondary school, Claire provides curriculum leadership and drives whole-school improvement in teaching and learning.



Leonie Wallace – English

Leonie Wallace is a published true crime author who worked as a newspaper and television journalist before changing careers to become a secondary school teacher. With university majors in Physical Education and English, Leonie has taught within these learning areas across Years 7-12; she has also taught Years 7-10 History.

Leonie joined Timboon P-12 in 2019 when she became part of the English teaching and learning team. In addition to serving as the English teaching and learning leader, she has also contributed to Timboon’s leadership team as a literacy learning specialist in the secondary sector. As a former Timboon student, Leonie is extremely proud of the school – its history, as well as its ever-evolving programs and facilities, along with its ability to deliver a rich holistic education.

Beyond the classroom, Leonie is preparing her second true crime offering for publication. As the mother of Sullivan and Mitchell - qualified tradesmen now aged in their early 20s - she has always encouraged them to be immersed in their local community. Leonie feels privileged to be a long-term resident of the local area with its strong sense of belonging, opportunities for social and professional involvement, and nurturing natural environment. She is a member of the Port Campbell Surf Life Saving Club where she is a committee member, nipper leader and surf boat competitor; with her rowing team, she competes in surf boat carnivals over the summer season and recently participated in the Massive Murray Paddle. Her bucket list includes learning to surf her longboard under the tutelage of her sons and more world travel; horse riding in Montana is top of the wish list.

We are looking for more volunteers to join the canteen roster team.

If you have some time free to help us out, please call Cheryl in the Caf

CAF ROSTER TERM 1

WEEK 9 23 rd – 27 th March	12:30 pm – 2:30pm
Mon 23 rd	
Tues 24 th	Erin Gardner
Wed 25 th	Olga Caltino
Thurs 26 th	Olivia Tutungi
Fri 27 th	Selina McConnell

WEEK 10 29 th March – 2 nd April	
Mon 29 th	
Tues 30 th	Liz Loving
Wed 1 st	Camille Nicholls
Thurs 2 nd	Anna Cunnington
Fri 3 rd	GOOD FRIDAY

CAF ROSTER TERM 2

WEEK 1 20 th – 24 th April	
Mon 20 th	Anahlyn Zulan
Tues 21 st	Mary-Ann Pender
Wed 22 nd	Bree Jones
Thurs 23 rd	Sheryn Vogels
Fri 24 th	Bec Couch

WEEK 2 27 th April – 1 st May	
Mon 27 th	
Tues 28 th	Kelly Knight
Wed 29 th	Liz Loving
Thurs 30 th	Anna Cunnington
Fri 24 th	Selina Howeth

WEEK 3 4 th – 8 th May	
Mon 4 th	
Tues 5 th	Tony Bird
Wed 6 th	Camille Nicholls
Thurs 7 th	Fabiola Travi Ponce
Fri 8 th	Bonnie Doolan

AT COBDEN MINI GOLF **FREE**

Easter

EGG-STRAVAGANZA

EASTER EGG HUNTS -

11AM - KIDS UP TO GRADE 2.
12.30PM - KIDS GRADE 3 & ABOVE.

& VISIT FROM EASTER BUNNY




SUNDAY 5TH APRIL

PROUDLY SUPPORTING **goodFriday** appeal THE PORTAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

THE PORT CAMPBELL CFA GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL INVITES YOU TO

Hats and High Tea

Enjoy an elegant arvo to support our kids!
Hats welcome but not required

FRIDAY APRIL 3RD 2026

AT 12-3 PM

Where: Port Campbell Surf Life Saving Club


Tickets: \$65 per person donation to Good Friday Appeal - scan QR Code

Includes a hat parade, raffle tickets, delicious finger food and glass of bubbles on arrival.

Scan QR code to buy tickets



GUITAR LESSONS



Peter Sharp
0413 382 223

Guitar lessons available on Monday's
Cost \$30 for half an hour

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's financial circumstances and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS and EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school excursions, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or support an out of home care student you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid directly to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is \$400 for all school students.

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments:** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances:** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:
<https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>



Timboon P-12 School EXPECTATIONS MATRIX

Be respectful.

Be committed.

Be empathetic.

	Be respectful.	Be committed.	Be empathetic.
School wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look after equipment, belongings & environment • Listen to all staff and follow instructions • Move safely and sensibly • Use manners, positive language, and show respect • Engage in restorative conversations with staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take responsibility for our choices and actions • Try our best with all activities • Celebrate achievements and strive for excellence • Attend regularly and participate fully • Wear correct school uniform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an upstander – speak up and seek help • Show care, use kind words and include everyone • Take turns and share • Solve problems respectfully
Learning Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in learning • Be sensible, calm, and use indoor voices • Leave learning spaces clean and tidy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrive on time and be ready to learn • Ask for help and use feedback to improve • Take pride in your efforts • Make use of our learning time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support others' learning • Acknowledge we all have different learning needs • Actively listen to understand others' ideas
Outside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay in supervised areas • Use equipment and spaces appropriately • Put litter in the bin • Look after our green spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be safe and sun smart • Use break time for play, toilet, drink, and food • Ask for help and tell staff about problems or damage • Be safe around the road • Respond to music, bells and announcements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be patient, calm, and include everyone • Listen to and support others
ICT/Online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be kind and respectful online • Respect privacy and ask permission before sharing • Take care of ICT equipment • Give credit for others' work and be honest about our sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the internet and devices for learning • Protect personal information and passwords • Stay focused and follow our digital learning rules • Keep phones in locker/bag during school time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be kind and respectful online • Consider everyone's safety and wellbeing online • Stand up and report cyberbullying
Bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to the driver and supervisors • Stay seated and respect others' space and belongings • Get on and off the bus safely • Follow cybersafety school expectations on the bus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be ready and on time • Wear a seatbelt • Follow bus rules and stay safe • Tell an adult if someone is unsafe or unkind 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be patient and understanding of others. • Look out for younger and new students and help them feel safe