



PELICAN'S POST!



Issue No. 8 4th Sep 2025

- Gippsland Champ Athletics (9 Sep)
- RUOK? Day (11 Sep)
- \$20 Boss Market Day (12 Sep)
- Enviro Science Beach Walk (16 Sep)

- Parent Teacher Interviews (17 Sep)
- Activities Day (19 Sep)
- Term 4 commences (6 Oct)

Important Info!

Absence Hotline:
5182 5522 press 1



Vicspell Champions!

Can you spell C.A.P.P.U.C.C.I.N.O? Lily Lucas can. Lily is now the second best speller in the state! That's an incredible achievement and we're so proud of you, Lily. Very well done. Together with Lily, three other students participated in the Wellington Zone Final of Vicspell last week with Ruby Brett and Lyndon Gregson representing Yr 7, and Lily Lucas and Sofiana Stewart representing Yr 8. Huge congratulations to all involved.



Setting Records

This year, students from YSC and various other schools from the Wellington Shire joined forces and creativity to break the Australian record for 'the greatest number of bookmarks handmade by students' set last year. Each school had their students create bookmarks and altogether made 667 bookmarks, which means they beat the original 658-record from 2024.

All bookmarks will be distributed amongst the various libraries of Wellington shire. Congratulations to those who participated in setting an Australian record.

Principal's Report

HOW
ARE
YOU?

IT'S OKAY
TO
NOT BE
OKAY



Are you okay?

Three words, but they can change a person's whole day or week. The second Thursday of September is earmarked for RUOK Day and you'll see lots of posts on social media and in the news around this important day. You'll also be reminded that asking whether someone is okay shouldn't just be done once a year, and it's something that's become a part of who I am.

I'm genuinely interested in how people are feeling, what their wins are and what's getting them down. Strangely, I also find it a bit awkward when people ask me if I'm okay. It always stops me and makes me think. I know, sometimes we answer with a reflex "Yeah, all good, thanks." But sometimes I do stop and think. I give myself a quick run down on how I am feeling. And you know what? Sometimes things aren't "all good", and that's okay too.

The spirit of RUOK Day is about starting conversations.

If you can do that, you're doing great.

Ask the question and listen to the answer. If the person you ask hesitates and seems to be thinking through their answer, like me sometimes, then that's a great sign. They've heard you.

Everyone has good days where you can shoot back an answer of "All good, cheers!" But we also have flat days or even days when things seem to be actively against us. It's important for us to think about those times too, and tell ourselves it's normal to feel all of it.

I hope everyone is having a great day, and if you're not, I hope there's someone who is there for you to listen to what's going on, and maybe they'll offer up some advice or a different perspective. Maybe they'll just listen. Either way, I'd really like everyone to embrace this communication between people, especially next week.

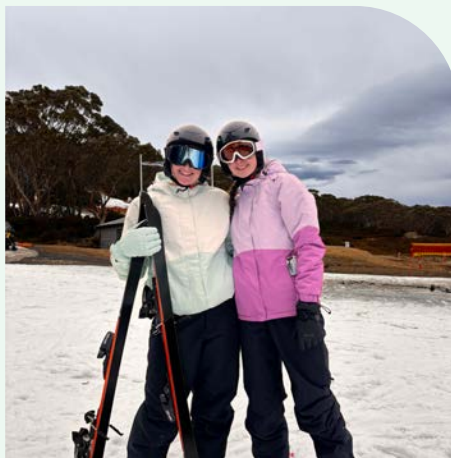
I'm also happy to talk with you or listen to you, any time. You can reach me on the phone, through email or even walking into my office.

All the best.

Ben Langdon

Assistant Principal

MT BAW BAW DOWNHILL SKI EXPERIENCE



INTEGRITY

We are honest with ourselves and others.
We own our actions.
We demonstrate trust, honesty & respect.



COMMITMENT

We commit to being kind.
We commit to doing our best.
We commit to looking after our environment.



EMPATHY

We put ourselves in other people's shoes.
We support others during tough times.
We communicate positively.



Health & Human Development Egg Babies

This week our students are taking on the role of caregivers in a hands-on project! For the next 10 days, they'll be caring for their very own egg-baby; tracking a budget, completing daily journals, responding to an evening "on call" activity, and finishing with a reflection on the experience.

The task will help students explore their understanding of development in infancy and early childhood, and healthy and respectful relationships.



Zeke Etherington's star shines bright

This year, Zeke Etherington has been undertaking an AFL Sports Ready traineeship at the school. This has allowed him to become an integral part of the sports and outdoor education team, and our students would have seen him on camps and excursions, sports events and even at lunch time during activities in the Gym.

Zeke was a student at Yarram Secondary College and returned this year with really good memories of his time here. It has been different for him though, as he is now one of the adults and a part of a team, which he has found incredibly interesting and intensely rewarding.

The traineeship involves active participation in education programs such as Physical Education classes; setting up school events such as athletics, swimming and cross country; planning for classes in the gym and active supervision of sports, camps and excursions.

The school has been really impressed with Zeke's positive can-do attitude and every time he goes on camp (and there has been many camps this year!) he helps make those "forever memories" for students. His sense of humour, responsibility and school spirit are infectious and Zeke has been a popular and magnetic personality this year.

Yvonne Hemphill has been helping Zeke with his traineeship through the AFL Sports Ready team, and Libby Nicol, Candy White and Tahlia Flake have been guiding him, levelling him up and cheering him on at the school level.

Our school is really lucky to have such empathetic, committed staff who come to work each day with integrity. All three of our school values are on display every single day.



From July 24th – August 5th YSC art students held an art exhibition at the Courthouse gallery. Drawings, painting, design and wood work featured in the show. Well done to all students who exhibited their art.



@yarramsc

STAY IN TOUCH ON THE SOCIALS

WEAR IT PURPLE!

Wear it Purple Day was marked at YSC on the 29th August with staff and students dressed in purple, the sale of berry muffins and milkshakes and a colouring competition. Wear it Purple Day is the annual LGBTQIA+ awareness day especially for young people, based in Australia. Supporters wear purple to celebrate diversity and young people from the LGBTQIA+ community.

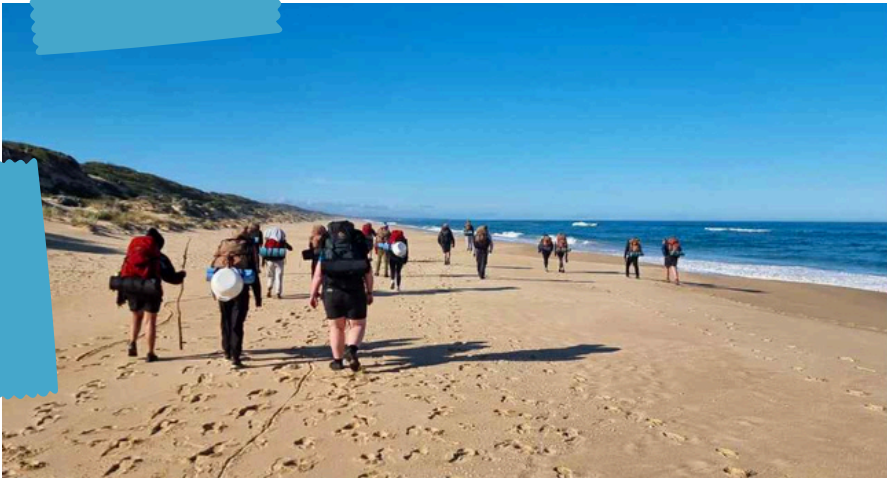


Art in the Wild

As part of the Year 7 art curriculum, students headed out of the classroom on an excursion to the Sale Botanical Gardens where they participated in a meaningful program run by the Gippsland Art Gallery called Art in the Wild. The students looked at local threatened species, and spent time painting their own wooden cut out of an endangered species with acrylic paint, at Nakunbalook Environmental and Cultural Education Centre. The students also experienced a presentation by Sharon Ray, Wellington Shire's Sustainability and Education Officer, about native wildlife. This included a tour around the Botanic Gardens. They were fortunate to have plenty of time to enjoy the playground and cherish time with their school friends.



YR 8 & 9 CAMP COOLAMATONG



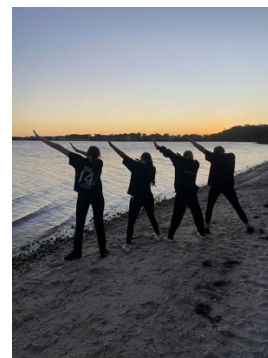
Our Yr 8 & 9 students recently headed down to Camp Coolamatong for an action-packed few days away. They began with a vibrant Indigenous Welcome from Auntie Cass, whose energy set the tone for an amazing experience. From brushing out mullets with bottlebrush, to crafting spears, tasting bush tucker (fire pepper leaves included), and even building huts in the bush — they embraced it all.

Day 2 kicked off with some fun team-building challenges. Then Yr 9s packed up and set off on their overnight hike, ready to put their endurance to the test. Meanwhile, the Yr 8s hit the water for some tubing and paddle boarding – cold water was no match for these champs. As the sun kept shining, one group headed out for mountain biking while the other took to the water for canoeing adventures.

Day 3 kicked off with some mindfulness in nature - tree climbing included. The Yr 8s then split into groups for combat archery (arrows flying left, right, and center!) and climbing challenges where they supported each other scaling ladders, stacking crates, and powering up ropes to the roof.

Meanwhile, the Yr 9s returned from their hike just in time to enjoy some epic burgers for lunch. In the afternoon, the Yr 9s hit the water for canoeing, while the Yr 8s took on mountain biking with a few added challenges, plus a survivor and bush cooking class.

Well done to all students and staff for an epic camp adventure.



End of Term Activities



Each term the school celebrates our successes through an activities day, and this term we have an amazing opportunity for students to get involved in.

The Gippsland Tech School, in Morwell, is a state of the art facility chock-full of technology and science and really showcases the different futures on offer to young people. On Friday 19 September, a bus will take students from Yarram to the Tech School for a day of surprises and new technology. They will experience two distinct activities:

- Garage Band – kick off your creativity with an introduction to digital music creation
- 3D Design and Printing – create a small model to print then delve into more complex 3D design

They will also be provided lunch at the Tech School and be able to bring home their 3D creations. It's a fun day to explore different technology and broaden their curiosity. Cost for the day is \$15.



Other activities available on the day, which will be held at Yarram Secondary College, include:

- computer games with Troy
- art and craft activities with Deb

These activities are free of charge and students are encouraged to bring their own ideas and games if needed, although the school will provide an abundant amount of games and art activities. Both of these activities encourage social interaction and support through different activities. Lunch will need to be brought from home.

The day will be between 8:50am and 2:20pm.

Yr 7 Girls Basketball Team



This week, our Yr 7 Girls basketball team headed to the Wellington Championships. The team showed incredible commitment in their first game, despite a tough 86-2 loss to Catholic College Sale.

In their second game, they fought hard for a thrilling 20-20 draw against Kurnai College.

The girls finished strong with a dominant 52-2 win over Sale College. Their integrity and empathy stood out as they backed off, shared the ball, and encouraged every teammate to score. True sportsmanship in action.



YSC is now a finalist in the Stephanie Alexander National Kitchen Garden Awards. Wow!

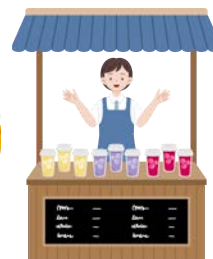
Winners will be revealed on Tuesday 16 September so keep your fingers and toes crossed. Congratulations to Nurse Bec and all students involved in this terrific program.



@yarramsc

STAY IN TOUCH ON THE SOCIALS

NEWS & UPDATES



\$20 Boss Market Day

Next Friday 12th September, Unit 2 Business Management students will be running their '\$20 Boss Market Day' project as part of their assessment task. They have been working in teams over the term to design and create their own businesses, and will be selling their products on that date from 12:45-1:30 (lunchtime). Students and staff should bring some gold coins to support the businesses. Any profit made will be donated to a local charity. Students need to make back \$20 per student to break even, as that is their strict budget!



Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher Interviews are coming up on Wed 17th Sept from 4.00pm - 6.30pm. Bookings will open on Wed 10th Sep, and progress reports will open on Tues 9th Sep. Please make your booking via Compass or call the school on 5182 5522 for assistance.

Scholarships

The Department of Education administers a number of scholarships that are available to eligible students who are enrolled in Grade 4 to Year 12 in 2025.

Applicants for these scholarships will be evaluated on their:

- participation in school activities
- community involvement
- academic achievement.



Scholarships are either one-off payments or cover the duration of the student's course or annual study.

Many of these scholarships have specific eligibility criteria, so please refer to individual applications for more information.

Applications open on Wednesday 1 October 2025 and close on Monday 2 February 2026.

For more information, see the front office for a Scholarships Fact Sheet or visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/student-scholarships>

Security Update from the Principal



As you will be aware we hired Albatross Security to ensure that young people, not affiliated with our school community, cannot access our school grounds. We have also put additional staff at both at the Growse Street exit and the bus loop. I am happy to report that this has been working well, and students are farewelled by even more staff at the end of each day. Students have liked having a larger staff presence at both ends of the school, and staff have reported that it is a nice way to end the day with small positive interactions with our students.

We also conducted a lockdown last week, which went very well. I would like to thank all of our parents, carers, and guardians for their support, and I will continue to provide communication updates. If you have any concerns, please contact the school on 51825522.



Uniform Policy

A big thank you for everyone who is coming to school in their full school uniform. Staff have definitely noticed the difference, and it certainly makes our school feel more united. I would ask any family who is having trouble obtaining correct uniform to please contact the school.

NEWS & UPDATES

What is Phishing? - Part 1



Phishing is a type of cybercrime where scammers try to trick you into giving them your personal information like passwords, or bank card details by pretending to be a legitimate company or person. They often do this through emails that look incredibly real. Here are some ways to tell if an email is a phishing e-mail.

Check the sender's email address

This is one of the most important things to check. A phishing email might say it's from "PayPal" or "Netflix," but the actual email address will look strange. Look for long, random strings of letters and numbers, or domains that are slightly misspelled. For example, support@p4ypal.com or netflix-updates@mail.ru are red flags. Legitimate companies use their official domain names, like support@paypal.com or no-reply@netflix.com.

Look for spelling and grammar mistakes

Professional companies have teams of editors to make sure their communications are perfect. If an email is full of typos, strange capitalization, or awkward phrasing, it's a huge warning sign. Scammers often don't speak the native language of their targets, and they use automated translation tools that can mess up the text.

The message creates a sense of urgency

Phishing emails often try to scare you into acting quickly without thinking. They might say your account will be suspended, you've won a prize but need to claim it now, or there's a security breach that requires your immediate attention. They want you to panic and click a link before you have time to consider if the email is real.

The links are suspicious

Hover your mouse over any link in the email (don't click!). In most email clients, this will show you the real URL in the bottom corner of your screen. If the link destination doesn't match the company's official website, don't click it. For instance, a link that says "click here to update your password" but goes to <http://unsecure-login.ru> is definitely a scam.

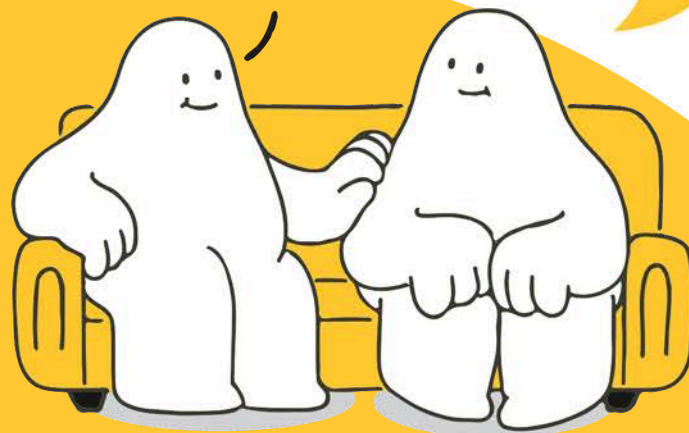
The e-mail asks for personal information

Legitimate companies will almost never ask you to provide sensitive information like your password, personal information, or bank card details via email. If an email asks you to "verify" or "update" your information by clicking a link and filling out a form, be very suspicious. It's much safer to go directly to the company's official website in your browser and log in there, or contact the company directly via their contact details on their official website to verify.

What to do if you spot a phishing email:

- Don't click any links or download any attachments.
- Don't reply to the email.
- Mark it as spam, junk or phishing in your e-mail settings.
- Delete the email.
-





We all go through ups and downs in life. Your friends might be struggling with exam stress, a family breakdown, self-esteem, uncertainty about the future, mental health or any number of other things.

You might not be able to fix things, but one thing you can do is ask, 'are you OK?' and have regular, open conversations about what they're going through and how they're feeling.

If you think something's not quite right, that's the time to start a conversation – you don't have to wait for them to bring it up.

If you need some tips about what to say and do during these chats, flip this over and use the 4 steps of an R U OK? conversation as your guide.



For more tips and resources, scan the QR code or head to ruok.org.au/friendbetter



Confidential 24/7
crisis support
Call 13 11 14
Text 0477 13 11 14

If you are ever concerned for your safety or the safety of others, seek immediate assistance by calling Triple Zero (000).



#FriendBetter
with **R U OK?**

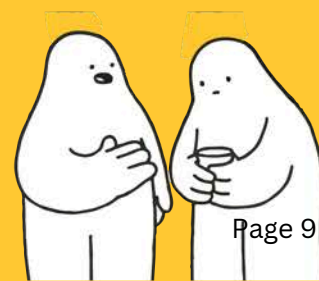
Tips to help you support your mates



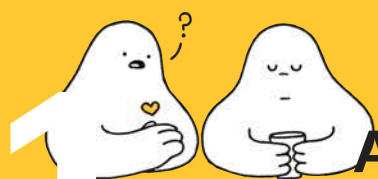
Confidential 24/7 counselling
for 5-25 year olds
Call 1800 55 1800
Chat kidshelpline.com.au



Find more support services at
ruok.org.au/findhelp

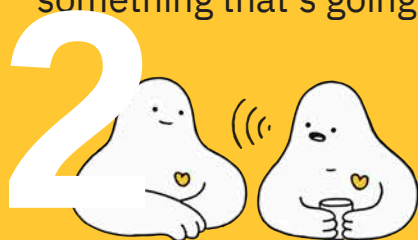


How to have an R U OK? conversation with a friend



1 Ask R U OK?

- Choose a time and place where they'll be comfortable opening up.
- Ask in a way that works for you. You don't have to use the exact words, 'are you OK?'.
- You could even gently point out what you've noticed or mention something that's going on for them.



2 Listen

- Take what they say seriously and don't interrupt or rush them.
- Don't judge their experiences or reactions but acknowledge their feelings.
- Encourage them to explain by asking open ended questions like: "How are you feeling about that?" or "How long have you felt that way?".



3 Encourage action

- Ask them what have they've done in the past to manage similar situations.
- Encourage them to think of something that could help them lighten the load.
- If they've been feeling really down for an extended period of time or they seem to be really struggling, encourage them to seek professional support.
- Offer to help them research appropriate services.



4 Check in

- Set yourself a reminder to check in with them again soon.
- You could say: "I've been thinking of you and wanted to know how you've been going since we last chatted."
- You might need to repeat the above steps.
- Your ongoing, genuine care will help them feel supported.





AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS

424 (Kurnai College) Squadron

Recruiting Now

Please email co.424sqn@aafc.org.au to register your interest.

C/- Bridle Road
Morwell
Victoria 3840

Tel: 0439 749 382
51650 676

Friday Afternoons
1.20pm till 4.30pm

DO YOU WANT TO:

- Go on an Adventure?
- Learn to Fly?
- Learn about the Air Force?
- Become a Leader?
- Make Great friends?

Leadership
confidence & mateship

AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS

AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS

Yarram Secondary College runs a bus on Friday from School, leaving at 11.30am to go to cadets and returns at 5.30pm (drop off at the Yarram Post Office) If you wish to join or come and have a look, please bring a letter from your parent /guardian to the office giving permission for you to attend.



**Want to make new friends,
have fun and play cricket?**

PELICANS
YARRAM & DISTRICT
CRICKET CLUB

**Yarram & District Cricket Club are
holding a junior open day for girls &
boys of all skill levels
10-16 wanting to give cricket a try.
Sunday 14th September
11am - 12.30pm
Yarram Rec Reserve**

**Unable to attend but would like to join?
Contact Junior Coordinator Peter Griffiths
on 0418984624**