



WESTLETTER

01/2025 Feb 6 2025

ARARAT WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL - 4720

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Ararat 3377

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(03) 5352 1909



Ms Knight Writes

Dear AWPS families,

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a lovely break. Some parents and carers embrace the holidays and love not having the school routine dominating the week. Others are counting the days until school is back! Either way, I hope the holidays went smoothly for everyone and that 2025 has started well. The fires over the holidays were a huge stress for many families, and it feels like the Grampians is really under siege at the moment. We are thinking of everyone who has been or is still being impacted by the fires. I have been to Willaura and the Blaze Aid camp at the Recreation Reserve is huge. This is an amazing charity that sets up in disaster areas, and volunteers help remove and replace burnt fencing. Our JSC will be up and running soon and I will suggest to them that a casual clothes day for Blaze Aid would be a great Term 1 fundraiser.

Start of the Year: Well done to all our families for booking in for testing days, and for starting the year on such a positive note. The students looked amazing coming back to school. There were lots of fresh new uniforms, new shoes, and smart haircuts. One of our goals as teachers for 2025 was to get started with learning straight away. Today is day four at school, and we are back into the swing of things already. Having consistent staff really helps – it has been a seamless start to the year!

New and Returning Staff: We welcome Miss Kim Crabtree back two days a week. Kim will be in Mrs Fithall's class on Wednesdays and Ms Hann's class on a Friday. We also welcome back Mrs Hope on Tuesdays this term, taking Foundation Auslan and Year 3/4 science. We also have lots of new Education Support staff. The Education Department in Victoria has a new funding model, and this has helped most schools secure some extra funding for students needing additional support. We also have slightly bigger classes than previous years in F/1/2 and having ES in those rooms is incredibly helpful. Welcome to Bec, Deb, Georgia, Leah (just here for two weeks before uni starts), Holly and Mia. Holly and Mia are training to be teachers and will also be doing their teaching rounds this year, along with their ES work. We had Jackie, Alvina, Kate, and Dani with us last year and they are back this year. And Tracie, Megan, Fiona and Kim you all know – they have been at West for a while! Lots of our ES support individual children, take small groups, support in the yard at recess and lunch, run Spelling Mastery groups, and hear children read. On the first day of the year all our ES completed a speech program, learning how to support children who aren't quite articulating sounds properly. That will be another way we will be using this expertise this year.

Communication: If there is anything you are unsure of, please just ask your child's classroom teacher for anything to do with teaching and learning or the classroom/camps/excursions. Anything to do with school charges, first aid, admin – all the general things, Tianee at the office is your best contact point. Being on XUNO is really important. We will increasingly use XUNO to communicate with our families, and our plan is to transition to being almost paperless and things like permission for camps and excursions can all be done via XUNO.

Swimming: Information will come home for Year 3 – 6 students about our swimming sports trials, and the actual swimming sports carnival. This is another new thing for me too. I haven't been at AWPS at the start of the year, so there are lots of things happening that I am learning about. Please read that information carefully and again, check in with your child's teacher if you have any questions. The permission application has now been uploaded to XUNO, so please log-in and approve the Swimming Sports Carnival.

Hot Days: The first two days this week were shockingly hot. We try to let students outside at recess each day, then keep them inside at lunchtime on hot days. If you are worried about your child on hot days (some children do feel the heat more than others) please just let your child's teacher know.

Reports and Parent/Carer-Teacher Interviews: A survey will come home about the ways we communicate with our school families regarding student learning. We know that many of our families want more information about their child's learning but getting this right for all families is tricky. Writing reports takes time and we are considering the best way to communicate with families. We are required to provide written end of semester reports twice a year and this will not change. Interim reports, parent/carerteacher interviews, and other forms of information (e.g. term overviews, curriculum documents) are all up for consideration. Further information to come, but when the survey comes out, we are very keen to hear from as many families as possible so that we get this right for you!

Kindness: We are having a focus at school on how we speak to and look after each other. We do want our children to be able to stand up for themselves, but at times children (and adults!) can react quickly to things and bite back, or not always speak to others in a way that is kind and respectful. The image included in the newsletter about kindness is important. It could be a good one to print and pop on the fridge at home.

Have a great week 😊 Ms Knight

Some kids will be **SMARTER** than you
Some kids will have **COOLER CLOTHES** than you
Some kids will be **BETTER AT SPORTS** than you

IT DOESN'T MATTER

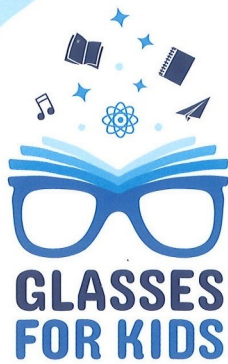
Be the kid who can **GET ALONG**

Be the kid who is **GENEROUS**

Be the kid who is **HAPPY** for others

Be the kid who *does the right thing*

BE THE NICE KID 😊



Information for Families

**FOR STUDENTS IN
FOUNDATION—
GRADE 3.**

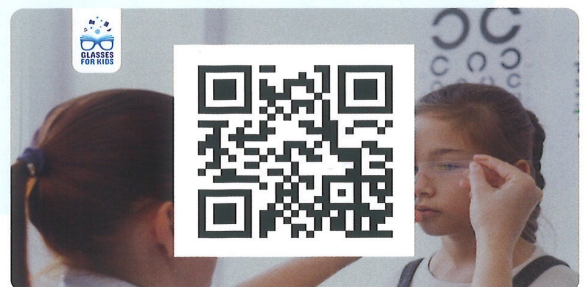
**INFORMATION
HAS BEEN SENT
HOME WITH
STUDENTS.**

**PLEASE GET YOUR
CONSENT FORM
BACK TO THE
SCHOOL ASAP.
THANKS!**



State Schools' Relief (SSR) is proud to announce that the Victorian State Government has partnered with SSR once again to deliver the Glasses for Kids (GFK) program between 2024 and 2027. GFK aims to remove vision impairment as a potential barrier to educational engagement by ensuring that eligible students are supported to fully participate in education from their early years. GFK aims to visit 770 primary and specialist schools and target up to 108,000 Prep - Year 3 students for initial vision screening during the program. If required, comprehensive eye testing and glasses will be provided to participating students at no cost.

Scan the QR code and watch the Glasses for Kids video here



Congratulations to the following students who received a Positive Behaviour Award at the End-of-Term Assembly ...



Tommy- A wonderful first year of school. Tommy, you are an enthusiastic member of the Foundation Learning Community. You are resilient, kind and always smiling. Well done on a fabulous year, Tommy!

Ava- Consistently showing kindness and being inclusive to her peers. Ava is always the first person to help out her friends and make them feel accepted. What a kind friend you are, Ava!

Clancy- Having such a fantastic year of learning. Clancy, you have embraced every part of Grade 1 and have displayed all of our school values in everything that you have done. I am so proud of your efforts this year. Well done, Clancy.

Jalen- An absolutely fantastic year in Grade 2. Jalen, we are so proud of the learning you have achieved this year. You have focused on being the best learner you can be and have achieved so much success. Keep up the amazing and positive attitude!

Jay- Aspiring to be the best learner and friend you can be. Your sunny personality has shone through all year in the Foundation Learning Community. You are polite and respectful. You always listen to instructions and complete tasks to a high standard. Well done on a fabulous year, Jay!

Oliver- For having a great final year of primary school. I have been proud of the growth you have made across multiple areas. Keep working tough when things become challenging. Good luck in Year 7 Oliver!

Kaiden- He has had a fantastic term in Grade 6, showcasing his leadership and kindness in many areas. As Gold House Captain, Kaiden modelled very good leadership qualities, representing his house with pride and dedication. His role as a supportive and caring buddy to his prep buddy, as well as his positive contributions on the senior side of the school have been fabulous to observe. It has been an absolute pleasure to teacher Kaiden this term. His hard work, positive attitude, and willingness to lead by example a lasting impression. Wishing Kaiden every success as he moves on to Secondary School and Beyond- the future is bright!

Alice- Exemplifies outstanding achievement, leadership and resilience in her academic, extracurricular and personal endeavours. She is a role model for her peers, demonstrating a commitment to excellence, community involvement, and the pursuit of meaningful goals. Alice uses initiative to make significant contributions to make our Learning Community a better place for all. An outstanding year of learning Alice.

Monty- Being a respectful, positive and kind member of our classroom community. Monty you always try your best and join in all activities with enthusiasm. You encourage others and show compassion and empathy. We have loved teaching you this year. Well done Monty!

Zara- Showing amazing dedication to her learning. Zara is a shining example of persistence, respect, and hard work, consistently going above and beyond in all tasks. Her commitment to learning and her unwavering determination to excel, inspires her peers and teachers alike. This award recognizes her exceptional hard work and the positive impact she has made within our school community.

Rayne- For an amazing semester of learning. Congratulations Rayne on the fantastic growth you have shown this year! In particular, in Literacy. It has been so pleasing to see your confidence with both your reading and writing grow. A real credit to the effort you've been putting in both in class and at home. Well done, Rayne. Wonderful effort all round!

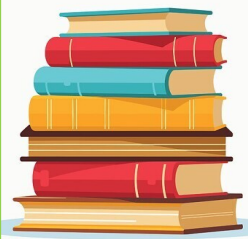
Zaniel- Showing outstanding commitment to personal growth by taking ownership of his behaviour and making meaningful changes. Through hard work, dedication, and willingness to listen to feedback, Zaniel has demonstrated maturity, perseverance, and the ability to make positive choices. Keep up the great effort, Zaniel!



WELL DONE



Aspiring Respectful Resilient



Book Awards



School Captains Award



Gem of the Term



Science Awards



Visual Arts



Performing Arts Awards



Language Awards



Physical Education Awards



Literacy Awards



Numeracy Awards



General Academic Awards

Ararat West Pantry

Pantry has been restocked!



Please come in and help yourself.



Lunch Order App



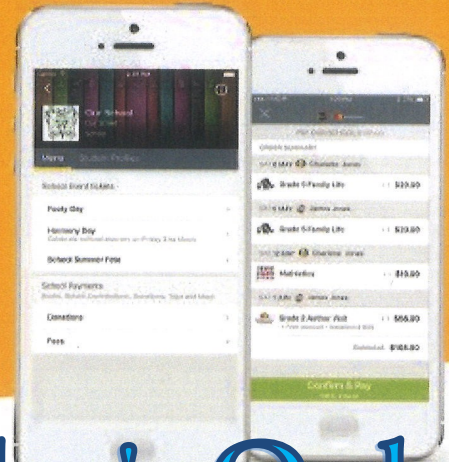
masterpass

For quicker, hassle-free school payments, try Qkr! today

Introducing Qkr! (pronounced 'quicker') by Mastercard, the secure and easy way to order and pay for school items from your phone at a time and place that suits you.

With Qkr you can:

- Order and pay for your child's lunches, reducing the need to bring cash to school;
- See your receipts on the app and get them sent by email if required.



Thursday's & Friday's Only

Getting started is easy - try it yourself today

Step 1 Download Qkr!

on your Android phone or iPhone. iPad users can download iPhone app



Step 2 Register

Select your Country of Residence as 'Australia' and follow the steps to register

Step 3 Find our school

The school will appear in 'Nearby Locations' if you're within 10kms of the school or search for the school by name.

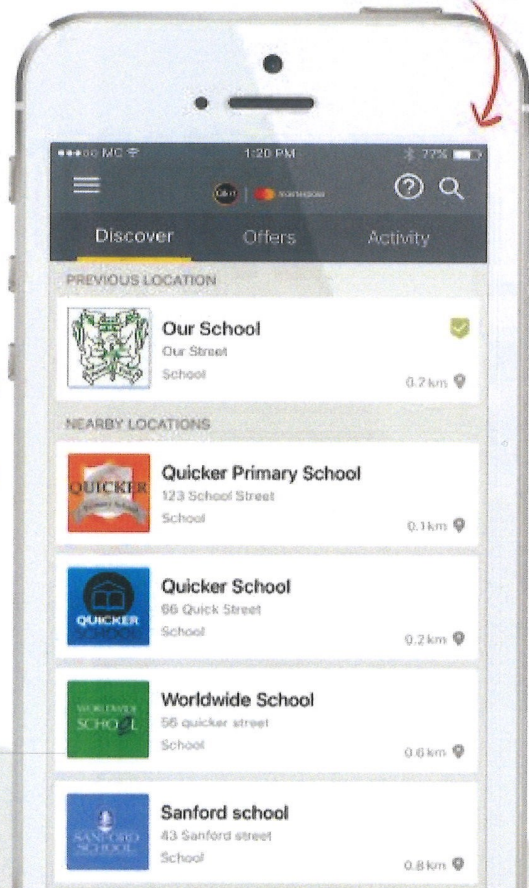
Step 4 Register your children

When first accessing the school you will be prompted to add a student profile for your child. This allows you to make lunch orders and payments for them.

If you have made a purchase you can select our school from 'Previous Location'

If you're within 10 kms of the school, you can select our school from 'Nearby Locations'

Search for our school name

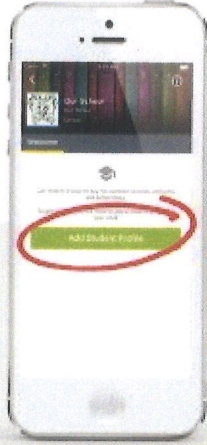




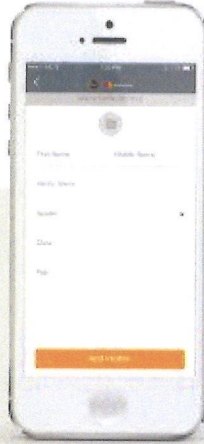
masterpass

Add your children's details in Student Profiles

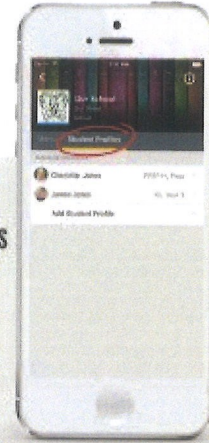
Select 'Add student profile'



Add each child's details

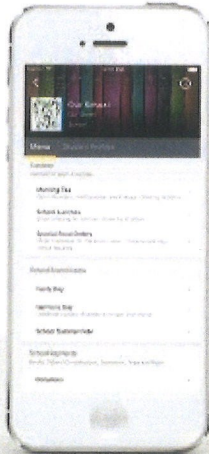


Manage each child's details in Student Profiles



Order meals

Select a menu from our canteen

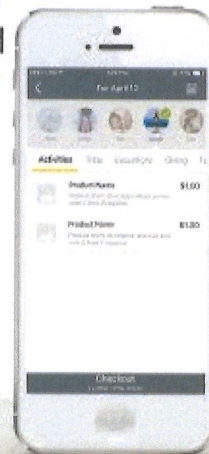


Tap the green box to view your receipt or to cancel an order



Select a date for a child and order a meal

Tap 'Repeat order' to copy all paid orders from one week to the next



Tap to change the date you are ordering for

Tap to change the child you are ordering for

Tap 'Checkout' then confirm and pay

Making payments

Add up to 5 cards to your wallet



At checkout select which card to pay with.

Pay with any cards accepted by the school.

Once your payment is approved you can continue to the home page, or view your receipt.

Be sure to get your order in before 8am!



ATTENDANCE

Children should not arrive at school prior to **8.40am** as there is no supervision prior to this time. Please ensure your child arrives at school before **8.50am** so they are ready to start class on time. An absence note is required each time your child is away, these are recorded and filed. Please ensure you include the date of, and reason for each absence in the note as this is a Department requirement. If your child is late to school, they need to go via the office for a pink slip before going to their classroom. As it is extremely important that we know the whereabouts of all students, especially during an emergency, please fill in the Sign In/Sign Out iPad at the front office if you need to collect your child during school hours.

SCHOOL CROSSING – BANFIELD STREET

We encourage all students to use the manned school crossing in Banfield Street when going to and from school.



School Hours

School hours for all grades - 9.00 a.m. until 3.20 p.m.

Session 1	9.00	-	11.00
Morning Recess	11.00	-	11.30
Session 2	11.30	-	1.30
Lunch	1.30	-	2.20
Session 3	2.20	-	3.20
Bus bell	3.15		
Dismissal	3:20		



At the end of the school day there are two bells

Bus Bell – 3:15 (dismiss all bus travellers)

Dismissal – 3:20

CHANGES TO STUDENT DETAILS

Please notify the office and obtain a 'Changes to Student Details' form for any of the

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| • Change of address | • Change of emergency details/contacts |
| • Change of occupation | • Medical alert information |
| • Change of telephone numbers | • Change of email address |

These changes are vital to keep your child/ren's details up-to-date in case of an emergency.

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund Applications

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you have a valid means-tested concession card, such as a Veterans Affairs Gold Card, Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible. There is also a special consideration category for asylum seeker and refugee families.

Payment amounts this year are \$150 for eligible primary school students. Payments are made direct to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions and sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

If you would like to apply for the first time, please contact the school office on 5352 1909 or email ararat.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au and ask for an application form.

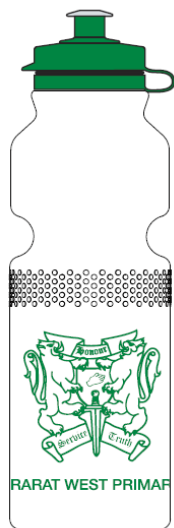


You can also download the form, and find out more about the program and eligibility, on the Department of Education's Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund web page.

Check with the school office if you are unsure, and please return completed forms to the school office as soon as possible.

AMBULANCE TRANSPORT

It is important for parents to be aware that any ambulance travel from school will be at the expense of the parents concerned if they are not covered by an ambulance subscription, or are holders of one of the following three cards:



Pensioner Concession/ Card Health Care Card/ Health Benefits Card

This applies to all schools in rural Victoria, therefore all students need to be covered by Ambulance Subscription or one of the above cards.

**AWPS Drink Bottles
available from the Front
Office for \$5.50 each.**

NO 
SMOKING

**Reminder that
smoking on
school grounds
is prohibited**



MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones are important modern day communication tools, essential in providing a safe and effective school environment. However, they can easily be improperly used, lost or damaged and must therefore be effectively managed. Many of our students now have their own mobile phones. We actively encourage parents to be aware of the content that is being sent and received by their child as well as ensuring that the phone is not being used for bullying or harassment of others.

In circumstances where it is necessary for students to bring their phone to school, students are to adhere to the mobile phone policy we have in place and bring to the Front Office first thing in the morning and collect at the end of the day. Contact with your child can be made through the office, or if necessary we will contact you if your child is ill. Please feel free to discuss any issues you may have with Ms Knight.



ATTENDANCE NOTIFICATION INFORMATION

Attendance Matters

Notify the school of your child's absence - Protecting the safety and well-being of children through the reporting and monitoring of absenteeism is the responsibility of both parents/carers and schools.



Please remember to call the school on 5352 1909 or email at ararat.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au early in the morning if your child is going to be away or late for school so your child's absence can be recorded correctly. If your child is late for school they must come via the Front Office for a Pink Slip to ensure their attendance is recorded.

Same-day notification of unexplained student absences - Our school will text/call you as soon as practicable on the day if a student is not at school and you haven't notified the school as to why. If you are notified by the school that your child is away without a reason, please contact us as soon as possible by to let us know where your child is. If we cannot reach you because we don't have your correct contact details, then we will make contact with any emergency contact/s nominated on your child's file held by the school, where possible, on the same day of the unexplained absence.

Please remember it is your responsibility to contact us to provide an explanation for your child's absence from school, and where possible, please inform us in advance of upcoming absences.

Save this number! Our school uses SMS/text to contact parents/carers as soon as practical on the day on an unexplained student absence. Save this number 5352 1909 into your phone so you know it is the school contacting you if you receive a text.

Attendance Requirements - If your child is sick or absent, you are required to notify the school as soon as possible on the day of absence, by the above methods.

Notifying the school of your child's absence either prior to, or on the day that they will be away, helps ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and will fulfil your legal responsibility.

From the end of Term 2 2018, all Victorian government schools are required to contact parents/carers as soon as practicable on the same day of an unexplained student absence. If your child is absent on a particular day and you have not contacted the school to explain why, the absence will be marked as unexplained.

This system also promotes daily school attendance. Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education, they learn new things every day – missing school puts them behind.



The Ararat West Primary School Attendance Policy which outlines the school's processes and procedures for monitoring, recording and following-up of student absences is available on our schools web page at <https://www.araratwestps.vic.edu.au/giving>.

PRIVACY COLLECTION STATEMENT – Primary Schools

Information for parents and carers

During the ordinary course of your child's attendance at our school, school staff will collect your child's personal and health information when necessary to educate your child, or to support your child's social and emotional wellbeing or health in the school context. Such information will also be collected when required to fulfil a legal obligation, including duty of care, anti-discrimination law and occupational health and safety law. If that information is not collected, the school may be unable to provide optimal education or support to your child, or fulfil those legal obligations.

For example, health information may be collected through the school nurse, primary welfare officer or wellbeing staff member. If your child is referred to a specific health service at school, such as a Student Support Services officer, the required consent will be obtained. Our school also collects information provided by parents and carers through the School Entrance Health Questionnaire (SEHQ) and the Early Childhood Intervention Service (ECIS) Transition Form.

Our school may use online tools, such as apps and other software, to effectively collect and manage information about your child for teaching and learning purposes, parent communication and engagement; student administration; and school management purposes. When our school uses these online tools, we take steps to ensure that your child's information is secure. If you have any concerns about the use of these online tools, please contact us.

School staff will only share your child's personal or health information with other staff who need to know to enable the school to educate or support your child, or fulfil a legal obligation.

When our students transfer to another Victorian government school, personal and health information about that student will be transferred to that next school. Transferring this information is in the best interests of our students and assists that next school to provide optimal education and support to students.

In some limited circumstances, information may be disclosed outside of the school (and outside of the Department of Education.) The school will seek your consent for such disclosures unless the disclosure is allowed or mandated by law.

Our school values the privacy of every person. When collecting and managing personal and health information, all school staff must comply with Victorian privacy law. For more information about privacy including about how to access personal and health information held by the school about you or your child, see our school's privacy policy: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/schoolsprivacypolicy.aspx>

Throughout this notice, 'staff' includes principals, teachers, Student Support Service officers, youth workers, social workers, nurses and any other allied health practitioners and all other staff at our school. This includes employees, agents and service providers (contractors) of the Department, whether paid or unpaid.

SPL / SKATE
PARK
LEAGUES

the **Y**



AUSCYCLING

VYA
VICTORIAN
SKATEBOARD
AND ROLLERBOSSV

Liveheats



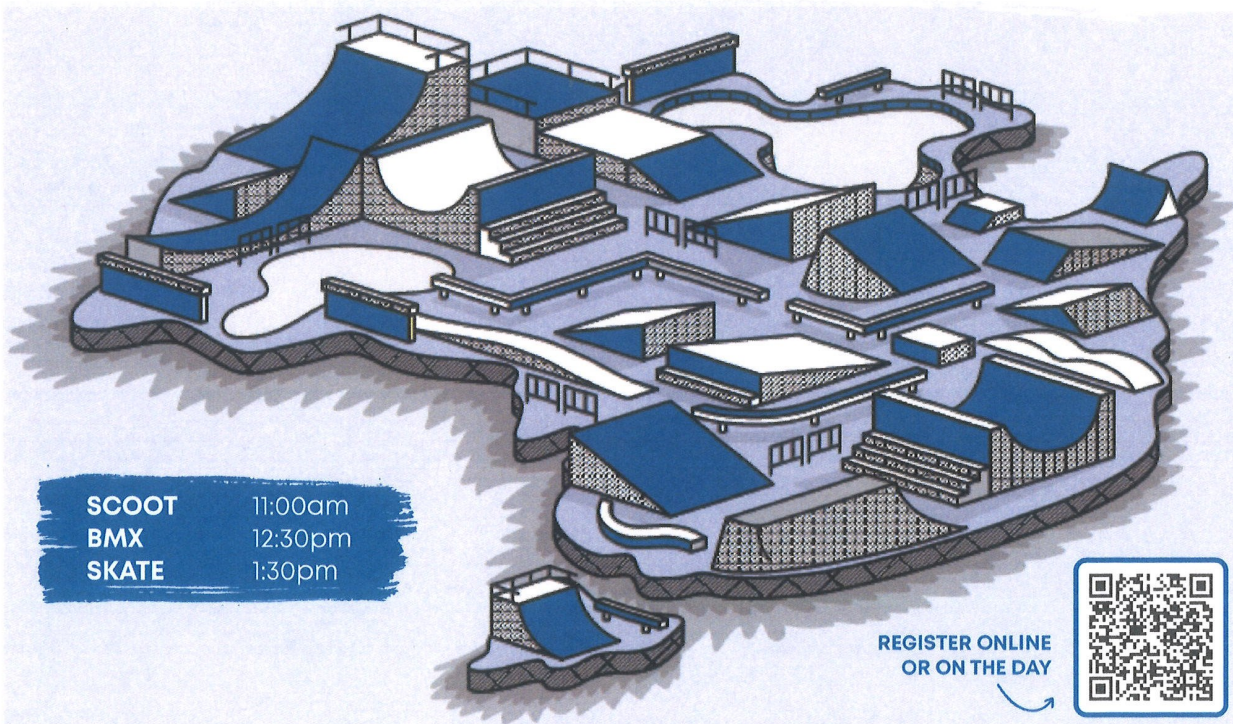
2025 VICTORIA

WESTERN REGIONAL SERIES

SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY

ARARAT

SKATE PARK COMPETITION



SCOOT 11:00am
BMX 12:30pm
SKATE 1:30pm

REGISTER ONLINE
OR ON THE DAY



4 Alexandra Ave, Ararat VIC

Free entry, all ages and abilities welcome.



WWW.SKATEPARK.YMCA.ORG.AU



SKATEPARKLEAGUES



WILLAURA HEALTH CARE OUTDOOR MARKET

Sunday March 2 2025, 10am-2pm

Willaura Recreation Reserve, Delacombe Way



The Willaura Market is a charity event run by the Willaura Health Care Auxiliary, with funds raised going towards improving the lives of residents and patients at Willaura Health Care, East Grampians Health Service.

This boutique country market offers goods from local and regional artisans and is set in Willaura, surrounded by fertile farmland, which lies 34 kilometres south of Ararat on the south-eastern edge of the Grampians in Victoria's Western District.

Local producers and local artisans:

- Homewares
- Cards
- Jewellery
- Giftware
- Clothing for babies, children and adults
- Plants
- Gourmet Foods

Variety of food vendors including:

- Gourmet food
- Lions barbecue
- Coffee
- Icecream

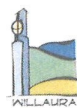
+ Childrens entertainment, musical entertainment and raffle.

For more information: willauramarket.com



Visit: <https://shorturl.at/KEanY>

We thank the following sponsors of the market:



Dates for the Diary

Tuesday Feb 18	Swimming Trials Grade 3 to 6
Friday Feb 21	Swimming Sports Grade 3 to 6 (Stawell)
Friday March 7	Pupil Free Day
March 17-19	Grade 4 Camp
Thursday April 3	Whole School Aths Sports Day

SUNSMART SCHOOL

Ararat West Primary School is a SunSmart School and our policy outlines that all students are required to wear a green bucket hat outside at all times during Terms 1 and 4. We expect all students to have their school hat on while outside from the beginning of Term 1.

It is compulsory for ALL students to wear a bucket hat at school every day.

If you need to purchase a hat they are available from Foster's Mensland



Developing in our children an interest in learning and a desire to be their best; utilising their skills and attitudes to enable them to reach their full potential in society.

Ararat West PS is committed to child safety (Ministerial Order No. 1359) and takes all reasonable steps to ensure that the safety of our students is paramount. <https://www.vic.gov.au/protect>



Note:- Please remember that when you come into the school for any reason you must come via the Front Office and sign in at the Ipad. Please also use the Ipad to sign your children out when collecting them early. This is for safety reasons and must be adhered to. Thank you

