



GLADSTONE PARK

14-36 TAYLOR DRIVE GLADSTONE PARK VICTORIA
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NEWSLETTER

14th of February 2025



Upcoming Events

School Photo Day

Monday 17th February

Swimming Trials (competitors only)

Tuesday 18th February

Year 7 Sport

Wednesday 19th February

Year 8 Sport

Thursday 20th February

Year 8 Canberra Camp

Monday 24th February to
Friday 28th February

Important Reminder...

Medical Action Plans



Students with the following medical conditions are required to provide an up-to-date Action Plan to the school:

**Allergies, Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes
Epilepsy**

If you haven't already done so, please ensure that you obtain a new plan from your doctor immediately.



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Facebook & Instagram



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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to a new school year.

I hope that your summer has been restful and that you have had time to see family and friends. We have had our usual busy start, and I am always so pleased that on our students' first day, they have their timetable, locker, and are straight into the learning for their lessons.

We have held assemblies for all year levels where School Captains and Sub-school staff spoke about our school's high expectations for students and the way the school supports them to be the best possible learners and community members.

The student free day at the start of the term allowed teachers to prepare for both individual classes and whole-school approaches to learning. Thank you to students, parents and staff for this smooth start to the year, it has been very calm and productive with students in uniform and with the equipment they need for their classes. All our new students seem to have settled in well.



2025 School Captains

Sports Captain

Vocational Major Captain

Academic Captain

Civics & Citizenship Captain

Performing Arts Captain

Xavier Curtolo

Costas Meitanis

Kyeisha Candasamy

Maanya Menon

Taran Punchihewa

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

New Staff

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome new staff to our Gladstone Park community. We are so pleased to have these committed professionals join us.

Teachers:

Lauren Borg	Humanities
Tierney Carew	English
Giuseppe (Joe) Catalano	Mathematics & Science
Anushka Devineni	English & Mathematics
Sushil Kumari	Mathematics & Science
Mahmoud (Michael) Moukaddem	Science & Physics
Charlie Nash	English
Adam Rogers	Art, VCD & Drama

Educational Support:

Ashlea Boyce
Lisa Everitt
Betty Harper
Louisa Tanner

Important Events

Please always check our Upcoming Events section in the Newsletter. There are many important events for students that require consent & payment. As usual, Term 1 is very full, with many whole school events such as the Swimming and Athletics Carnivals and school photo day. There are also important events for parents and carers such as the Year 7 BBQ.

Compass is our main way of communicating with parents. Please make sure you check regularly or have set automatic notifications for Compass on your phone.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

BYOD – Laptops required for Year 7, 8, 10, 11 & 12 Students

Students in Years 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 need to bring a laptop computer to school. We encourage you to look through the information and rationale for our BYOD program, and the purchasing portal on the [school website](#). There is also information there about options for bringing a laptop - whether it is one already owned or one you wish to purchase new. You will find information on minimum specifications for a laptop/device so that it can function with the school's Wi-Fi and the software programs used in classes.

School Council – call for nominations

As Returning Officer I have declared our school council election for Monday 24th February 2025 and am calling for nominations. Nomination forms are available at the general office.

If you are nominating yourself or someone else for a position on the School Council you must ensure that they accept the nomination, and that the nomination form is properly completed then returned to the office no later than 12 pm on Friday, 21st of February.

There are 3 parent/carer positions to be filled this year.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Camps Sports and Excursions

As you can imagine, many of our Camps Sports and excursions are becoming more expensive as costs have increased for our suppliers. We continue to absorb as much of the cost as we can, however, there are some inevitable increases - for example, interschool sport now costs \$20.

We understand that cost of living is stressful for many of our families. Please make sure to take advantage of all the assistance available from the government as explained below and contact the general office if you need to arrange a payment plan.

The School Saving Bonus (\$400) from the State Government and the Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund (CSEF) are available to assist families with the costs of school excursions, camps and sporting activities.

Parents are welcome to fill out this form at the school office and we are happy to help.

The School Saving Bonus is available to all families – you will have received an email from the government about this.

CSEF applications need to be submitted each school year together with a copy of a valid Centrelink Health Care Card or a Pensioner Concession Card.

To be eligible:

- Parents have a Veterans Affairs Gold Card, a Centrelink Health Care Card or a Pensioner Concession Card.
- Parents are a temporary foster parent.
- Student is aged 16 years or older and holds a valid concession card (such as a Youth Allowance Health Care Card).

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Traffic Safety

We have a lot of traffic, especially at the end of the day, and it is simply unsafe to cross Taylor Drive other than at the pedestrian crossing. Students must only cross the road at the designated crossings between the school and the shopping centre and must not cross Taylor drive if heading south – they can cross at Wolverton Drive.

We encourage students to walk to school for their health and for the health of the environment. To avoid congestion outside the school in the afternoon, your child could meet you in the shopping centre carpark. Also, the Taylor Drive Preschool cannot be used as it has very limited places and needs them all for their families.

If you do drive and pick up your child from the front of the school, please take care and be patient with before and after school traffic. Make sure you meet your child on the school side of the street. The other side is a no standing zone - a fine of \$111 applies for waiting there.

Please remember students are not permitted to enter the primary school grounds until their 3.20 bell.

Regards,

Veronica Hoy

END OF YEAR JUNIOR SCHOOL AWARDS 2024

On 12th December we celebrated the success of our year 7 and 8 students. A big congratulations to all award winners for all their hard work, determination and persistence over Semester 2!

We wish all students have a wonderful start to 2025. We hope they continue their efforts and keep demonstrating our school values of being *respectful, safe learners*.

Ms Casamento *Junior School Agency and Events Coordinator*

Academic Excellence Year 7

Amatullah Badar Ul Hassan
Kerem Bulut
Annabella Dawson
Samuelle Manuel
Charlotte Massmann
Degantha Obesekara Herathge
Victoria Oey
Dattan Tran
Bella Walsh
Melina Zepcan

Academic Excellence Year 8

Lance Angeles
Cedar Breen-Sciulli
Joshua Cliff
Savio Georges
Chacha Jin
Evan Mannath
Nethuki Prematilaka
Harshitha Rengarajan
Angelina Santhosh
Aashika Yella



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END OF YEAR JUNIOR SCHOOL AWARDS 2024

Learning Area Awards

English

Joshua Augustus (year 7)
Catherine Wilson (year 7)
Shriyadita Khan (year 7 SEAL)
Anut Rattanakhiao (year 8)
Levi Mana (year 8)
Chacha Jin (year 8 SEAL)
Nour Alsatmah (year 7 EAL)
Justin Chantamat (year 8 EAL)
Rahf Behnam (year 8 EAL)

Debating

Leesha Ratnayake Mudiyansele (year 7)
Keith Jayasinghe (year 7)
Nethuki Prematilaka (year 8)
Methuli Fernando (year 8)

Humanities

Talia Safak (year 7)
Jayden Nguyen (year 7)
Victoria Oey (year 7 SEAL)
Hamody Al-Dawood (year 8)
Sandra-Tooa Faalili (year 8)
Harshitha Rengarajan (year 8 SEAL)

Health & Physical Education

Brandon Hamilton (year 7)
Bella Walsh (year 7)
Daniel Tampakas (year 8)
Suhana Ahmad (year 8)

Mathematics

Jayden Nguyen (year 7)
Charlotte Massmann (year 7)
Victoria Oey (year 7 SEAL)
Sara Ali (year 8)
Sandra Grancharova (year 8)
Karam Mahdi (year 8 SEAL)

Science

Charlotte Massmann (year 7)
Kerem Bulut (year 7)
Victoria Oey (year 7 SEAL)
Cedar Breen-Sciulli (year 8)
Ela Deliktas (year 8)
Isabella Vo (year 8 SEAL)

Performing Arts

William Griffiths (year 7)
Keith Jayasinghe (year 7)

Instrumental Music

Dattan Tran (year 7)
Thomas Breen (year 7)
Elif Eskin (year 8)
Ava Brady (year 8)

Interschool Sport

Layla Gomez Sankari (year 7)
Logan Blewitt (year 7)
Sara Ali (year 8)
Michael Sayed (year 8)

END OF YEAR JUNIOR SCHOOL AWARDS 2024



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END OF YEAR JUNIOR SCHOOL AWARDS 2024

Learning Area Awards

Digital Technology

Bella Walsh (year 7)
Marygrace Gandolfo (year 7)
Cayden Candasamy (year 8)
Jaydin Keles-Huseyin (year 8)

Visual Arts

Victoria Oey (year 7)
Amanda Astudillo Rivas (year 7)
Michael Sayed (year 8 ART)
Chacha Jin (year 8 VCD)

Food Technology

Ebonie Carr (year 8)
Harshitha Rengarajan (year 8)

Student Representative Council

Hayley Miller (year 7)
Beril Su Ata (year 7)
Harshitha Rengarajan (year 8)
Nethuki Prematilaka (year 8)

Junior School Leadership

Charlotte Massmann (year 7)
Ruby Dafovski (year 7)
Nethuki Prematilaka (year 8)
Sara Ameti (year 8)

Italian

Charlotte Massmann (year 7)
Harriet Wallis (year 7)
Senoli Paranamanna (year 7 SEAL)
Kai Long (year 8)
Ruben Matos (year 8)
Savio Georges (year 8 SEAL)
Cedar Breen-Sciulli
(year 8 Immersion Maths)
Sara Ameti
(year 8 Immersion Humanities)

Musical Award

Bella Walsh (year 7)
Methuli Fernando (year 8)

Active Citizenship Medallion

Elif Eskin (year 8 gold medallion)
Thiago Sullivan (year 8 silver medallion)

END OF YEAR JUNIOR SCHOOL AWARDS 2024

Jake Herd Memorial Scholarship

During the evening we announced 2 winners of the Jake Herd Memorial Scholarship, presented by Jake Herd's family and work colleagues. The scholarship was created to honour the legacy of Jake Michael Herd, who attended Gladstone Park Secondary College from 2008-2013. The scholarship was awarded to students who exhibit some of the values and character strengths Jake demonstrated. Those include, but are not limited to: leadership, learning agility, passion, enthusiasm, integrity, curiosity, gratitude, humility, insightfulness, connection and empathy. Thanks to the generosity of the Herd family and friends, it was possible to award 2 recipients in it's inaugural year.

Congratulations to the 2024 Jake Herd Memorial Scholarship recipients:
Victoria Oey (year 7) and Nethuki Prematilaka (year 8).



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BLUE EDGE PROGRAM

On Wednesday 5th of February, a group of 20 Year 9 boys participated in our first Blue Edge session of the year. The program is delivered by specialist facilitators in conjunction with Victoria Police and runs for 2 periods a week for 8 weeks. Each session starts with fitness activities, followed by workshops and discussions and ending with a shared meal. The workshops focus on key topics such as mental health and wellbeing, safe decision making, emotional regulation, resilience, and connection. The program aims to build positive relationships between young people, their peers, community, and the police and is tailored to meet the needs of each school they engage with.

Our first sessions saw our students engage in various exercises in the gym involving some friendly competition, along with some strength and fitness components. The students then had a chance to learn a little bit more about their peers before heading to the classroom for the workshop portion of the session. Students broke off into small groups and were tasked to make the tallest free-standing structure out of spaghetti, tape and rope that was able to support a marshmallow on top. This gave the students the opportunity to work together as a team and brought forwards some very creative design approaches. The session ended with the students coming together to create a group agreement to which all students have agreed to stick by for the remainder of the term. We are very excited to see our students engage, learn and build strong friendships within this exceptional program and cannot wait to see what else Blue Edge brings to Gladstone Park Secondary College.



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SENIOR SCHOOL BBQ VCE & VM

MEET & GREET

On Wednesday, February 5th, the Senior School hosted a Meet & Greet BBQ for Year 11 & 12 VCE & VM students and their families. Held in the senior school study space, the event provided a fantastic opportunity for parents, students, and teachers to connect in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

The evening featured a mediterranean & middle eastern-inspired menu, with offerings such as kofta kebabs, za'atar, grilled peppers, marinated olives and halal sausages. This set the tone for an enjoyable night of conversation and celebration.

Adding to the lively atmosphere, senior music students took to the stage with engaging performances, showcasing their talents and entertaining the crowd.

The beautiful weather, with a sunny afternoon transitioning into a pleasant evening, made the event even more special.

Parents had the chance to speak with teachers, gain insights into the expectations of VCE & VM and receive valuable careers advice. The night was a resounding success, fostering a strong sense of community and support among students, families, and educators.

A big thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to making the Senior School Meet & Greet 2025 a memorable occasion! A special thank you to Mr Roger Centofanti and Mr Kevin Monteiro for their invaluable help with the cooking, Mr Andrew Whitmore for providing the music, and Ms Vivian Li and Ms Frances Harvey-Little for their assistance on the night.

We also extend our gratitude to the wellbeing & inclusion team, Mr Julian Anfuso and Ms Sophie Courtney Pratt, for their support, as well as the amazing Senior School and Careers team: Mr Klate McFarlane, Mr Kadir Karahan, Ms Soha Abdelaziz, Ms Mary Amiridis, Ms Georgia Stewart, Mr Matthew Cerra, Ms Louisa Tanner, Mr Anthony Greaney, Mrs Jenny Chaperon, Mr Andrew Jackson, and Ms Thea Carr.

Your efforts were instrumental in making this event a success!

Mrs Joanne Carvalho
Senior School Student Agency & Events Coordinator

SENIOR SCHOOL BBQ VCE & VM MEET & GREET



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YEAR 12 'URBAN UNLOCKED' 2025

On Monday, February 10th, the Year 12 VCE & VM students embarked on an exciting adventure through Melbourne's CBD as part of the 'Urban Unlocked' 2025 Challenge. This engaging scavenger hunt tested students' teamwork, problem-solving skills, and knowledge of the city while adding an element of friendly competition.

The day kicked off at Federation Square, where students gathered in teams before setting out to uncover Melbourne's iconic landmarks. Equipped with a booklet detailing their mission, participants were tasked with, navigating through the city to visit designated locations, taking group selfies at each site, answering location-based questions in the booklet and ultimately using their answers to crack the final code. The challenge wasn't just about reaching each landmark—it required the year 12's to decode clues, discover hidden facts, and engage with their surroundings to piece together the ultimate puzzle and UNLOCK MELBOURNE!

With prizes up for grabs, teams raced against the clock to complete the challenge. This experience not only strengthened collaboration but also provided a unique and fun way to explore Melbourne's rich history and culture. Congratulations to all the year 12's for participation, enthusiasm and determination in making Urban Unlocked 2025 a huge success!

Thank you to year 12 Coordinators Ms Stewart & Mr Cerra for organising the challenge.

YEAR 12 'URBAN UNLOCKED' 2025



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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Eden Comito Year 9

My name is Eden Comito and I am in 9J. I started singing since before I could walk so at the age of 5 my mum signed me up for Stage School Australia and the Australian girls choir for singing, then at 7 I auditioned for my first musical 'Annie' and I was lucky to get the role of molly! Now I do private singing and have done several stage musicals such as High School Musical, Hairspray, Suesical, Rock of Ages, Alice in wonderland, the school productions and various cabarets. I also have been in a few short films and recently I've been doing a lot of runways and online campaigns for modelling!

In 2023 I was the youngest principal vocalist in the Victorian state school's spectacular and during the summer holidays I was a part of star bound 2025. I've done 4 short films as the lead! In 2022 I was the face of a new line for pink lemon dance wear, I'm also a regular vocalist at various locations around Melbourne!

Up next I will be walking in "Melbourne fashion festival" early March!



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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



William Chapple
Year 11

My name is William Chapple, I'm in year 11. I am a part of the Australian Army Cadets. I started the cadet program in 2023. I became interested in it because of my aspiration to pursue a career in the army. I have recently been promoted to a Lance Corporal where I will be responsible for overseeing the cadets and teaching them essential skills such as navigation, first aid, and radio operation, mirroring army training and beyond. In a few months we will be having a weekend camp at Magyar barracks Broadmeadows.



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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

GPSC Newsletter

Do you excel in sports, music, dance, or community service outside of school? We want to showcase your achievements in our 'Student Spotlight' section of the fortnightly newsletter! Whether it's athletics, taekwondo, volunteering, or performing on a big stage, let's celebrate your success! You can also nominate another student who you think should be celebrated.

Tell your Sub-School's Student Agency & Events team and your teachers so we can share your story and inspire others

Junior School – Ms Jessica Casamento

Middle School – Ms Vanessa McLennan

Senior School – Mrs Joanne Carvalho



Student Questions

1. What is your name ? What year level are you in?
2. What are you part of? Group, school, club? activity? fundraiser? charity
3. How did you get in to the activity? did you start/join the activity in primary school, high school, only recently?
4. Have you done anything amazing with that group/club?
5. Do you have anything upcoming with that you are excited about? or something that you were recently involved in i.e a tournament, competition, trip?

Send 5 photos of you in that event/club/sport

You can send this info to your classroom teacher via teams or to the student agency & events team above

Sample

NEWSLETTER 18th December 2024

Student Spotlight - Aiden Zarb

On November 17th, I cut off my hair and donated it to Kids With Cancer in order for them to make wigs for the kids. Leading up to the big cut, I raised money for the event which went to the Macedon Rangers Suicide Prevention Action Group (MRSPAG), which is a small organisation who helps support people who have lost people or been affected because of suicide. Both cancer and suicide have taken people close to me, and I have set out to try to improve the lives of people who are struggling with similar issues as me.

Aiden Zarb
Year 12 Student

MRSPAG and wigs for children with cancer

\$2,362 raised
\$10,000 goal
Share
Donate now
This fundraiser is located near you
Recognised 100% 0.0
100% 100%

Lunchtime Clubs & Activities

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

MUSIC CLUB

[M1]

Mr Whitmore

MINECRAFT CLUB

[E15]

Mr Patane

SOFTBALL CLUB

[GYM]

Ms Miles

BOARDGAMES CLUB

[E21]

Ms Ambepitiya

BADMINTON CLUB

[GYM]

Mr Freeman

READING CLUB

[E17]

Ms Langton

SCIENCE CLUB

[W4]

Ms Borrelli

STUDENT INCLUSION ALLIANCE CLUB

[M2]

Ms Beaumont

DEBATING CLUB

[C1]

Mr Suratman

THINK TANK CLUB

[C2]

Ms Nguyen

TABLE TENNIS CLUB

[GYM]

Ms Mihalakos

SRC CLUB

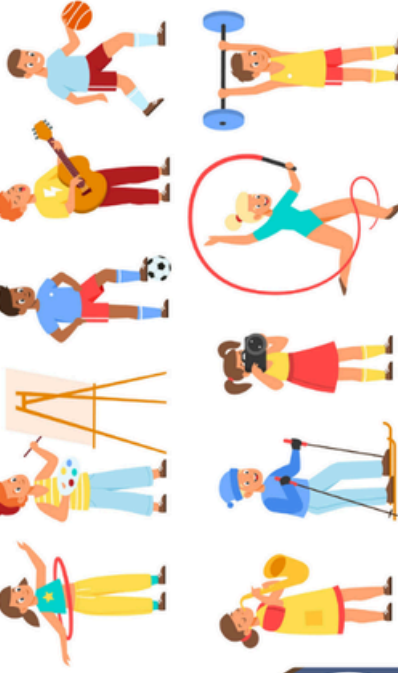
[P6]

Mr Taylor

ESPORTS CLUB

[PAC]

Mr Burrows



Interested in something else?
Talk to your teachers or subschool!

Sports equipment can also be borrowed from Mr Zanetidis at the Lunchtime Activity Store.
Located behind the PAC and opposite the oval.

TUTOR PROGRAM

The college provides a **free** after-school tutor program to assist students who would like additional support with their schoolwork. Attendance may be the result of student choice, parent referral or coordinator referral.

The program provides students with an opportunity to:

- obtain assistance with homework or work they find difficult
- catch up on work missed
- revise work already covered in class

Subject	Monday Tutor Group 3:10-4:00	Tuesday No Tutor Group	Wednesday Tutor Group 3:10-4:00	Thursday Tutor Group 3:10-4:00
Mathematics / Science	Location: E7		Location: E7	Location: E7
English / Humanities			Location: E1	
Italian / Immersion	Location: E1			
English and English as an Additional Language (EAL)	Location: P3		Location: P3	
Visual Arts				Location: T5

Any queries should be directed to

Klate McFarlane Senior School Principal at klate.mcfarlane@education.vic.gov.au

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KEY DATES

School Photos

Monday 17th February

Swimming Trials (Competitors Only)

Tuesday 18th February

Year 7 Sport

Wednesday 19th February

Junior, Intermediate & Senior Tennis

Wednesday 19th February

Year 8 Sport

Thursday 20th February

Year 8 Canberra Camp

Monday 24th February to Friday 28th February

Photo Catch Up Day

Wednesday 26th February

Year 7 Mini Olympics

Wednesday 26th February

Junior Sport

Monday 3rd March

Divisional Swimming

Friday 7th March

Labour Day Public Holiday (Student Free Day)

Monday 10th March

NAPLAN

Wednesday 12th to Tuesday 18th March

School Athletics Carnival

Monday 17th March

PAC'd Music Performance

Tuesday 25th March

Year 9 Surf Camp

Wednesday 26th to Friday 28th March

NMR (Region) Swimming

Thursday 27th March

Year 7 Camp

Monday 31st March to Wednesday 2nd April

Information Evening (Year 6 to 7)

Tuesday 1st April

Parent/Teacher Interviews (Face to Face)

Thursday 3rd April

Parent/Teacher Interviews (Online)

Friday 4th April

Last Day of Term – Student Free Day

Friday 4th April

Easter Monday Public Holiday

Monday 21st April

Term 2 Commences

Tuesday 22nd April

Anzac Day Public Holiday – Student Free Day

Friday 25th April

REMINDERS

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00am to 4:00pm

Last day of each Term the office will close at 2:30pm

The office is CLOSED during all school holiday periods

Onsite Payments

To assist with our finance end of day processes, we will be closing our onsite accounts receivable systems at 3:15pm daily, from Monday 17th February.

Majority of payments can be paid on Compass and can be paid 24/7, which is the school preferred method. However, if you need to make a payment at the office, please do so before 3:15pm.

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR DETAILS ?

Please make any changes to emails and phone numbers on Compass.
All changes to address need to be updated by front office. Please send an email requesting this.

Notifying the school of student absences

Please notify the college as soon as possible of any absences via phone, Compass or email.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Parents are reminded that the school does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents/guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs.

Reasonably low cost accident insurance policies are available from commercial insurers should you require one.



GLADSTONE PARK SECONDARY COLLEGE

*Prospective parents and
students are invited to our...*

College Tours

Tuesday at 8:55am on the
following dates:

4th, 11th, 18th & 25th of March

Year 7 2026 Information Evening

Tuesday 1st of April at 6pm
Performing Arts Centre

Open Day

Wednesday 30th April
Performing Arts Centre
Tours from 9:15am to 10:30am

CONTACT US

(03) 9933 0500

gladstone.park.sc@education.vic.gov.au

No booking required for any events



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VACCA
Connected by culture

START YOUR FOSTER CARE JOURNEY TODAY

Have you been thinking about becoming a Foster Carer?

Are you able to provide Aboriginal children with a positive and nurturing family life?

Are you excited to support a child's cultural and emotional needs?

VACCA is seeking carers who are open to a journey that is both challenging and rewarding.

If you've ever considered becoming a foster carer, now is the time to start your foster care journey.



Visit our website to find out more: www.vacca.org

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