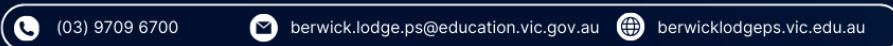




BERWICK LODGE NEWSLETTER

MORE INFO:



NEWSLETTER NO 11

24TH APRIL 2025

ALL CANTEEN ORDERS MUST BE DONE ONLINE VIA THE Qkr APP BY 9:00am
CANTEEN IS OPEN MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY

ACTING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Congratulations to Henry Grossek, the founding Principal of Berwick Lodge Primary School who retired this week. It was lovely to have Henry attend our ANZAC service this morning and say goodbye to our students, parents and staff. Henry has had many career highlights over his years as the Principal since being appointed in October 1989 with the school officially opening in 1990. He established many innovative and valuable initiatives including the establishment of a Sister School partnership with Tampines Primary School in Singapore, enabling our students for a few years before Covid to travel overseas to witness another culture. Henry initiated for our school to be recognised as the only government school in Australia, to successfully be ISO9001 series Quality Management endorsed. He has always been very proactive and worked with Casey radio to provide our children a great learning opportunity with a regular show. A more recent innovation was the development and publication of our Augmented Reality (AR) capable 3D book titled "Harry and Hettie's Forest Adventure". These are only a few of the highlights from a very prestigious career. Henry always had the best interests of the children in mind and focused on achieving great things. We wish Henry all the best for the next chapter of his life in retirement and I personally want to thank him for his leadership which I have had the privilege of being a part of for many years..

All the best Henry and I am sure we will see you from time to time!

Kind Regards,

Sandra McCrum



BERWICK LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

LEARNING FOR LIFE

MR GROSSEK'S FAREWELL MESSAGE

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL

Let me begin at the end – I was so honoured to be present at your school assembly this morning sharing in the annual Anzac Day Ceremony, one which since our school's opening in 1990 I have had the privilege of attending as principal.

I must say, today was an emotional time for me. After all, being the foundation principal of Berwick Lodge P.S. for over three decades has been the most important and life shaping professional experience for which I could have wished. There have been so many signature events and achievements at Berwick Lodge P.S., by the students, parents and staff over that time and to have been a member of the school community for that time, leaves me both humbled and very proud. It all began for me way back in mid-1989 when I was the principal of Eastern Road P.S. in South Melbourne and a dear friend and mentor of mine convinced me to apply for the principalship of Berwick Lodge P.S., a new school due to open in 1990. I knew nothing about leading a new school in its opening year and had self-doubts about my capability to take on such a role. In hindsight, I have been forever grateful to my friend who had greater confidence in my ability than I did. It has truly been the most wonderful of career opportunities of the many, that I have enjoyed for over 55 years of service with the Victorian public school system.

The school has come a long way since those early days in 1990, housed as we were as guests at Berwick P. S. Term 1, 1990 was challenging to say the least – 200 students, 18 teaching staff and one administration officer scattered here there and everywhere in an already over-crowded host school from which we were largely being hived off. The reason? In August of 1989, a massive storm had blown the roof off Berwick Lodge's main building, thereby pushing the date for completion of the building works out to the end of term 1, 1990.

We were so excited when we finally moved into our brand-new school on day 1 of term 2, 1990. Even more exciting was the day to commence term 4 when we celebrated the time, the first time that the children were able to venture out onto the grassed areas and play. I can still see so many of them rolling in the grass, over and over, enjoying themselves in the most carefree of ways.

Over the decades that followed, that sense of joy has been replicated in so many ways, and so often, by so many students and staff. Sure, we had our sad and traumatic occasions too. Let's never forget that tragedy touches all communities, this including schools within those communities. It is a measure of the health of a school's culture in how its members respond in dire times as well as those that bring us happiness. I marvel with pride at how our school community has banded together in all those difficult and wonderful times to both support each other as well as celebrate together.

Thank you, Berwick Lodge – you will remain in my heart for the rest of my life.

Henry Grossek

DIARY DATES

UPCOMING EVENTS

2026 Prep Enrolments-Now Open

ANZAC Day (Public Holiday)	Friday 25th April
Grade 6 Somers Camp	Monday 28th - Wednesday 30th April
Prep Ambulance Victoria Visit	Tuesday 29th April
St Margaret's Netball Competition	Thursday 1st May
District Cross Country	Tuesday 6th May
Mother's Day Stall	Thursday 8th May
Education Week: Open Afternoon 3:30pm-5:30pm	Monday 12th May
Curriculum Day (no students required at school)	Friday 6th June
Kings Birthday (Public Holiday)	Monday 12th June
SSS - Hub Rehearsal (Pakenham Springs P/S)	Tuesday 17th June

COMPASS CONSENT AND PAYMENTS DUE

Mother's Day Stall Payment Due	Monday 5th May
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HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER?

Please ensure you let the school office know if you have changed address or updated mobile phones with new numbers. This information alleviates stressful situations for students when they are ill and we cannot contact parents.