



TECOMA TIMES

Tecoma Primary School Newsletter



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Tecoma VIC 3160

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Acting Principal : **Brooke Cross**

9th October, 2025

FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

DATES TO REMEMBER:

OCTOBER

Monday 13th
PLAY Workshop
Prep - Grade 4

Tuesday 14th
PLAY Workshop
Grade 5



Wednesday 15th
Step Into Prep
Story Time

Thursday 16th
Grade 2 Sleepover
5:30pm



Friday 19th
Swimming
Grades 3 & 4

Region Volleyball
Select Grade 5 & 6
Students

Final Goodbye to Tecoma

As I prepare to leave Tecoma Primary School to take up a new role as Acting Senior Education Improvement Leader with the Department of Education, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to this incredible community. It has been an absolute privilege to serve as Acting Principal this year and to work alongside such dedicated staff, engaged students, and supportive families. Tecoma is a truly special place, defined by its warmth, collaboration, and commitment to nurturing every child's learning and wellbeing. I have learned so much from this community and will carry those lessons with me into my new role. I wish you all the best for the remainder of this year and know that you are in very capable hands with Mrs. Double and the incredible leadership team and staff. Thank you for making this year such a rewarding and memorable experience.

Brooke Cross
Acting Principal

Welcome to Term 4, 2025 from Mrs. Double

Welcome back, for the final term of 2025. I hope you had a great holiday with your children and were able to get away somewhere despite the less favourable weather in Melbourne. I had the most amazing time in Prague, Budapest, Amsterdam (and all the little towns along the river between those two cities) and in Singapore during my leave in Term 3. It seems like a distant memory now, but I do have hundreds of photos and some lovely memories of our time away.

As you are aware, from Brooke's message that was sent out on Monday afternoon, there have been a few changes in the holidays. This is the nature of a school, that when teachers are given opportunities to further their careers, that we allow them to do this. Unfortunately, not all teaching vacancies come out at the end of a school year, and even though we will miss those who are no longer here, we are extremely proud of and excited for Phil, Stuart and Brooke in their new roles. I know you will join me in wishing them all the best.

This week, we called for an internal Expression of Interest for a staff member to take over the Assistant Principal role, whilst I am Acting Principal. I will let you know the outcome, once the process is completed.

I would also like to share with you that Veronica Logan, one of our part time Year 3/4 teachers, has taken over the role of our school tutor. We thank Veronica for taking on this further position, for the rest of the term. It means the wonderful program, which was in place, is able to continue.

Looking at our term overview, there is a lot that we need to get done so please keep an eye out on COMPASS for notifications that come in. The process is so much easier now, so please make it a priority that if your child needs consent to attend an event, fill out the form as soon as you get it online so that we aren't having to chase it up.

STAFFING AND GRADE STRUCTURES FOR 2026:

I cannot believe we are at this time of year again, but we are now looking at structures for 2026.

Throughout November and early December, we will be working on our class structures and student combinations for next year.

Changes in student numbers and staffing combinations usually cause us to reshape our proposed class structures several times throughout this term.

We have several staff placements that may or may not be a part of our 2026 staff team, with various interview processes to occur, some which have already commenced.

At this stage, we hope to have **17 classes** next year, for what is expected to be **around 348 students**. However, we need definite numbers across all levels before we make that decision.

Due to this, it is vital that we are made aware of any circumstances that may impact on our enrolment numbers. **Please let us know urgently** if you intend to enrol a child at our school, if you are aware of people in our community who will be enrolling or if you intend to move house, therefore transfer to another school. We desperately require this information as soon as possible in order to establish grade structures for the start of the new school year.

If your child will not be at Tecoma in 2026, please notify the school office in writing as soon as possible.

What are the criteria that we use to make up class lists?

Factors influencing class structure are:

- the educational needs of the students
- the projected number of students in each year level
- the ratio of girls to boys
- the number of teachers employed at the school
- and resources and facilities.

Factors which are considered in the placement of students include:

- academic performance – judgments over time
- work habits, e.g. ability to work independently
- behaviour
- gender balance
- social network/friendships
- social maturity
- special needs, e.g. twins, siblings, etc.

What is the process for placing students into classes?

Based on the criteria listed above, teaching staff and administration meet mid-term 4 to establish classes for the following school year.

Teachers ensure each new class has:

- a balance of academic ability
- gender balance
- socially balanced groups

During this process, changes and adjustments are made over several weeks. Each change may trigger a chain reaction of other changes.

Proposed class lists are submitted to the myself and my Acting AP for final ratification.

With this in mind, parents are now invited to write to me about any additional information that will help us in determining a placement for your child.

2026 GRADE PLACEMENT REQUESTS

Parents are now invited to write to me about any concerns they may have for their child's educational needs for 2026.

Please note, requests for particular teachers **will not be** considered as the best interests of all of the children and the effective management of the school must be taken into account.

Letters will be considered up until 4pm, Friday 24th October, 2025.

Letters received after this date will not be accepted. These letters are to be addressed directly to myself with all details and information provided kept in confidence.

If you have submitted a letter in the past to Mr Thompson, you will need to resubmit one this year to Mrs Double please.

As you may understand, the allocating of children to classrooms is a very complex task and one that requires patience and a great deal of thought and manipulation. Please assist us to make this process as smooth as possible by taking note of the requests as outlined.

Please also be aware that requests are indeed requests and it does not mean it will automatically happen. We have decided, on balance, in previous years to not grant some requests. This is done with all the information that we have at our disposal and every decision will be made for the betterment of all children.

Should you wish to discuss any concerns with 2026 grade placements, please contact the school office to arrange a time for a chat.

EXTREME & CATASTROPHIC FIRE DANGER DAYS

Our school is one of many schools across Victoria that is a Bushfire at Risk school. Like all Bushfire at Risk Schools, we are closed on any declared Catastrophic Day.

Information about the current and expected Fire Danger Ratings can be found in weather forecasts on daily news programs, published on websites and in newspapers, broadcast on radio and on the CFA website.

With fire season fast approaching it is a good time to remind our families to ensure that all your details are up to date at the school. We require the most up to date records to ensure we can contact you.

If you have changed address, got a new phone number or have a new alternative contact, please contact the office to give us the details so that we are able to contact you if required.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS TERM

Even though you will receive the most up to date Parent Term Overview in the next few days, there are a couple of special dates which you will need to put in your diaries:

- ♦ **Orientation Day**, when the year 6 Students go and visit their 2026 Secondary Schools for the day, other Tecoma students spend some time in their 2026 class with their new teacher and also when our Prep students for 2026 spend the morning with us, will be on **Tuesday 9th December**. At the end of this day your child will bring home their class list for the following year.
- ♦ **Teacher's Professional Practice Day**, which will be a **Pupil Free Day** on Friday for all staff to plan in their 2026 teams for the upcoming year will be on **Friday 12th December**. This is the day that you will receive your child's Semester 2 reports.
- ♦ This is also the day after our **Carol's evening**, which is on **11th December**.
- ♦ For Year 6 parents, there is going to be a **BIG DAY OUT for the 6's** on **Tuesday 16th December**, and of course, they will have their **Graduation Evening** on **Wednesday 17th December**.
- ♦ One date that our community look forward to is the **final assembly** of the year due to the fact that we farewell our Grade 6 children for their final day of primary school after their 7 year journey and where we wish you all a happy holiday. The date and time for this is **Thursday December 18th from 2.45pm – 3.30pm**.
- ♦ **Friday 19th December**, as in previous years, is a **Pupil Free Day**.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all the children who represented our school yesterday in the summer district sports. We've had nothing but good reports about how the children participated and their sportsmanship. Well done to all. Our two Volleyball teams will be representing our school at Monbulk High next Friday. We wish you all the best.

Have a great term everyone.

Di Double
Assistant Principal

SPORTS NEWS!!

Sherbrooke District Athletics Carnival – Thursday 4th September

On Thursday the 4th of September, 68 Tecoma Primary School students proudly represented our school at the Sherbrooke District Athletics Carnival, held at the newly renovated Knox Athletics Track. They were supported on the day by TPS staff and a wonderful group of parents who came along to cheer and assist.

It was a fantastic day filled with outstanding performances, great sportsmanship and plenty of determination. Many of our students had been training hard throughout the term and their efforts certainly paid off. We are thrilled to announce that Tecoma PS came away as the **overall District Champions!**

Congratulations to every single student who competed on the day. Each of you earned valuable points that contributed to our team's overall success.

Students who placed first or second in their events will now progress to the School Sports Victoria (SSV) Divisional Athletics Carnival, which took place in the last week of Term 3.

Ribbon Tally

Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Tecoma PS	23	16	14	53
Belgrave South PS	15	10	10	35
Upwey South PS	12	14	13	39
Ferntree Gully North PS	7	5	11	23
Upper Ferntree Gully PS	6	4	2	12
St John the Baptist (Ftg)	4	11	4	19
St Thomas More	2	4	3	9
St Joseph's PS (Boronia)	1	1	6	8
Upwey PS	0	2	5	7



A huge thank you to the teachers and parents who supported our athletes on the day, your encouragement made a big difference. What an incredible effort from Team Tecoma, we couldn't be prouder!

SPORTS NEWS!!

Divisional Athletics Success

On Tuesday, 17th September, in what was already a very busy final week of term, our Tecoma PS athletes competed at the School Sport Victoria (SSV) Divisional Athletics Carnival at Knox Track. All of our 28 students gave their personal best and just as importantly, showed wonderful sportsmanship throughout the day. It was heart warming to see our athletes not only celebrating their own achievements but also congratulating and high fiving students from other schools at the finish line.

We are proud to announce that 23 Tecoma PS students have now qualified for the Eastern Metropolitan Region (EMR) Athletics Carnival, which will take place on Thursday, 23rd October (Term 4) at the Tom Kelly Athletics Track in Doncaster. This is a fantastic achievement and we wish those students all the very best as they represent Tecoma at the next level.

Once again, congratulations to all of our athletes for a wonderful day, we are incredibly proud of you all!

Grade 5/6 Interschool Sports – Summer Round Robin



On Wednesday 8th October, all of our Grade 5/6 students participated in the Sherbrooke District Interschool Sports Summer Round Robin. It was a fantastic day, with students competing against schools from across our district in Volleystars, Volleyball, Basketball, Softball, Tennis and T20 Blast Cricket.

For many students, this event was a wonderful opportunity to try a sport they don't necessarily play after school or on the weekends and it was great to see so many giving it their best effort and discovering new skills and sporting interests.

The day was filled with teamwork, effort and enthusiasm, and once again our students made us incredibly proud with their great sportsmanship and positive attitude throughout the day.

Congratulations to our Girls #1 Volleyball team and our Boys Volleyball team, who are the Sherbrooke District Champions and will now progress through to the Divisional Volleyball Competition next Friday!

Thank you to the parents who came along to help with coaching, scoring and travelling on the bus. Your support is always greatly appreciated. Well done to everyone on a wonderful day of sport!

LIBRARY AND BOOK CLUB NEWS

This week, your children will have brought home a Book Club catalogue. The last day to order from this is **Monday 27th October.**

We do not take cash payments and all purchases should be paid for online.

I have also sent home overdue library book notices this week.

If your child has returned their book this week, please disregard the notice.

And one last thing, Book Fair is coming this term!

Kath Young - Library Coordinator



Building Better Behaviour

A 3-week program for parents of children aged 2 to 7 years

This 3-week program covers:

Week 1: Explore why young children behave as they do, and share ideas to manage challenging behaviour

Week 2: Learn communication strategies that encourage positive behaviour in young children

Week 3: Discover how to deal with children's feelings of fear, frustration and grief to become an emotionally intelligent parent

When: Thursday 16th, 23rd and 30th October 2025

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Where: Craig Family Centre,
7 Samarinda Ave, Ashburton 3147

Cost: Free to attend (bookings essential)

Enquiries: sharon.muir@anglicarevic.org.au

Bookings: [Click here](#) or QR code below

Please note: Better Behaviour is a parenting program, so children cannot attend. Unfortunately, childcare at Craig Family Centre is fully booked. If you wish to however if finding childcare is a problem for you, we can add you to a waiting list for a future program.



PARENTZONE



Emotion Focused Parenting in the Early Years

A free program for parents of pre-schoolers

Would you like to:

- Recognise the triggers that are causing your little person to struggle to cope?
- Understand that children who seem angry or anxious are just trying to get their needs met through their connection with you

Children with emotional intelligence:

- Have greater success with making and keeping friends
- Show improved concentration at school
- Have fewer illnesses

Date: 21st October - 2nd December 2025

(No session on 4th November)

Time: 12:30pm-2:30pm

Location: Online via Zoom

Bookings: [Click here to book](#)

Questions: Contact Julia on

0400 866 495 or

julia.russell@anglicarevic.org.au



PARENTZONE



BECOME A TIGER THIS SUMMER

REGISTRATION/LAUNCH DAY
UPWEY-TECOMA CRICKET CLUB, CHOSEN AVENUE, UPWEY
FRIDAY OCTOBER 3RD 5-6PM

PROGRAMS ON OFFER

WOOLIES BLASTERS
SUPER 7'S
FAST 9'S
UNDER 12'S

WANT MORE INFO? CONTACT BEC AT:
 JUNIORS@UPWEYCC.COM.AU





2026 Junior Summer Skills Academy (boys & girls)

Join our **FREE** Summer Skills Academy

- ✓ Skill acquisition
- ✓ Game Simulation
- ✓ Fitness
- ✓ Have fun



- ➔ Under 8, 9, 10 and 11 boys (as per 2026 teams)
- ➔ Under 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 girls (as per 2026 teams)

 Starting Tuesday 21 October, 4:30 to 5:30pm to 9th December (excl. Melb Cup)

[Register Here](#)

 Narre Warren East Reserve



Open to any player wishing to develop (don't have to be a South Belgrave player)

ROTARY

Rotary Club of Emerald & District

KIDS FUN RUN with PUFFING BILLY RAILWAY

30th November 2025 at Puffing Billy Station Gembrook
Children 3-12 years running to benefit other children.

Proudly supporting

Eastern Health Foundation

THANKS TO OUR FANTASTIC SPONSORS



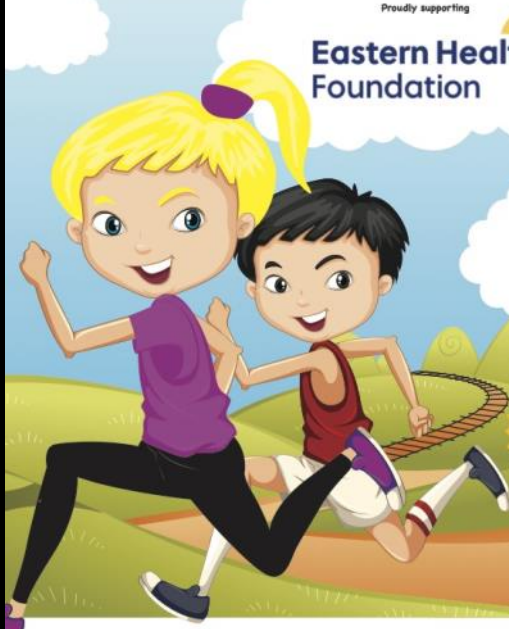
MITRE 10

BARRYPLANT

Trophies to 1st Girl & Boy, in each run!

Train rides on the day

Show bags & certificates for runners



Enter online:

<https://www.kidsfunrunwithpuffingbilly.org.au>



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DANDENONG RANGES Literary Festival

Oct 17/18

Tickets on sale now

Full program at

dandyrangeslitfest.net



Groove Foundations

Music School



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PLAY ON.

Children's Week in Yarra Ranges 2025

All events are free

Events are suitable for children aged 0-12 years unless otherwise stated.

Everyone should know about Children's Rights – United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 42

Yarra Ranges Council supports Children's Week in partnership with the Victorian State Government and community organisations across Yarra Ranges.



Stay and Play

- 9.30am – 12pm | Mt Evelyn
 - Age: 4 – 10 years
 - Booking required
- Ever wondered what the toy library is all about? Explore the toy collection and stay for a play.



Puppet Show

- 11am – 11.45am | Lilydale
 - Age: 2 – 8 years
 - Booking required
- Laugh, sing, and cheer with a colourful cast of interactive puppets!



Lights and Sirens

- 9.30am – 11am | Lilydale
 - Age: 4 – 12 years
 - No Booking required
- Meet the workers who protect our community, explore emergency vehicles, and enjoy fun hands-on activities for the whole family.



My Voice Matters – Collaborative Art

- 9:00 am - 12:00 pm | Kilsyth
 - Booking required
- Evolving artwork using a variety of paint, drawing tools and mixed media - celebrating individuality and building a sense of community.



Dress up Disco

- 9:30 am - 11:00 am | Kilsyth
 - Age: 0 - 6 years
 - Booking required
- Children can explore emotions through music, movement, and dress-up at this fun disco.



Explore Animal Habitats

- 10 am-12 pm | Upwey
 - Age: 2 – 6 years
 - Booking required
- Explore animal habitats and discover why shelter matters for all living things.

