

## Principals Report



Please note that The Woden School is a nut-free zone. We appreciate parents not providing peanut butter, Nutella or similar sandwiches as we have some students and staff with severe allergies to these products. Please check that any cakes, chocolates and any food products brought to school are nut free.



**NUT FREE ZONE**



TWS Future of Education



TWS Student Handbook

Looking back on term three the only word that I can honestly say reflects it best is 'rollercoaster'. We had some big highs and some really challenging times as well.

Starting on the positives, Book Week was the best one we have had so far with some outstanding costumes on display. My personal choice of a winner has to go to Prithvee, who nailed the Donald Trump persona. Science week was also an absolute blast - literally - with the bottle rocket experiments being an all time crowd favourite.

We have also had big school wide events such as the soccer world cup and the planetarium visit to our school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff who have gone above and beyond to make these special calendar events happen for our students. Your work makes a world of difference.

I am also excited to introduce Jaimie Horrobin who joins the TWS team as the new team leader of the Middle School. Jaimie is a highly experienced special educator and passionate school leader. Her skills will be tremendously valuable for The Woden School Community. I am sure you will get to know her well and support me in welcoming her to our community.

With all the good days we shared, we have also had some really tricky days this term. Last month we said goodbye to our friend and our classmate, the gentle trailblazer, Finn Benjamin Lowe. This was tough. It was tough because our heart breaks for the Lowe family, and because we will miss having Finn in our lives tremendously. Finn was a remarkably calm and friendly soul. He turned up each and every day smiling. With more pain than any of us could comprehend, and every excuse not to - Finn turned up. He laughed, he smiled and he showed us what strength really is. He was an inspiration to me and anyone who knew him.

The words "sunlight was Finn's kryptonite" were spoken at Finn's farewell, and they continue to stay with me. The image of Finn melting in a spring sunbeam coming through the window in room 18 is how I will remember him. Truly at peace, Hairy McClary sprawled in his lap - happiness incarnate. I have always said that the Woden School is a great place to have a bad day. Never has this been truer than it is now. The response from our community has been nothing short of heartwarming. I want to sincerely thank every parent, student and staff member for their kindness through this period. For all the small and big acts of kindness - thank you.

Finn, we will miss you, but we were lucky to have had you in our lives. Thank you for all the wonderful memories, for your strength and for your smile.

Rest in Peace my friend.

James Malone

### Principal

James Malone

### Deputy Principal

Laura Simsen

Moira Beverley

### Business Manager

Keshap Moktan

### Executive Teachers

Nicole Terry

Jaimie Horrobin

Matt Marasco

### Support Assistant's 4

Juniors: Emma Schirmer

Middles: Nat Burke

Seniors: Cameron Sant

### School Psychologist

Jon Schwartz

### Occupational Therapist

Annalise Korsch

### Speech Pathologist

Kate Sanderson

### Front Office

Narelle Leonard

Bethany Turner

Chencho Om



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Term 3 Ends	26 September
Term 4 Starts	14 October
Pupil Free Day	13 October
Woden Stock	14 November
Last day Year 10, 11 and 12's	5 December
Hospitality Kitchen Open	Wednesdays
Disco	Wednesdays

## Are you feeling stressed, worried, sad, lonely or anxious?

You are not alone. This pandemic has been a very troubling and worrying time for everyone. We'd like to show you some online resources you can access if you are feeling any of these emotions.

Please access these, with the support of a parent or carer if needed, if you need some information, tips, and tricks to help you ease some of the discomfort caused by experiencing these (very normal) difficult emotions.

## Reach Out resources for young people 14 - 25 (via Beyond Blue website portal)

<https://coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au/managing-my-daily-life/young-people-aged-14-25.html>

## Head to Health

<https://www.headtohealth.gov.au/>



### Our Priorities 2022—2026

1. Engaging Curriculum and pedagogies
2. Student voice and agency
3. Student centred learning communities

# Important Contacts

Front Office

6142 0200

[TWS@thewodens.act.edu.au](mailto:TWS@thewodens.act.edu.au)

Special Needs Transport

6205 3555

[transit.act.gov.au](http://transit.act.gov.au)

Q City

6128 9313

[qcitytransit.com.au](http://qcitytransit.com.au)

Communities @ Work After School Contact

0417 043 761

[www.commsatwork.org](http://www.commsatwork.org)

## The Woden School social media

Facebook

The Woden School

<https://www.facebook.com/TheWodenSchool/>

# IMPORTANT NOTICES

## **Pupil Free Day**

Monday 13th of October

## **Last Day For Year 10, 11 and 12 Student's 2025**

Friday 5th of December

## **Parent Car Pick ups:**

**Are to occur AFTER 3pm please**, unless otherwise organised with the front office. This is so buses have time to be loaded and cleared to allow for a safe transition home. Please **do not leave your car**. Pull up along the front apron and your young person will be called.

Please notify school office of any absences before 9.30am.

**No student will be transitioned across the car park.**

# IMPORTANT NOTICES

## Insurance and Ambulance Transport

The ACT Education Directorate does not provide any insurance cover for injury, disease or illness to students resulting from school activities or school-organised excursions. Claims for compensation are met where there is a legal liability to do so. Liability is not automaticity and depends on the circumstances in which any injury, disease or illness was sustained.

As there is no automatic insurance cover for personal injury if your child is injured at school or during a school-organised activity/excursion you should therefore consider whether taking out personal insurance cover for your child is warranted.

This insurance might cover constancies including medical/hospital expenses, ambulance transport outside the ACT, and cancellation of transport/accommodation or loss of/damage to luggage.

The ACT Ambulance Service provides free ambulance transport for students who are injured or suddenly become ill at school or during an approved school organised activity within the ACT.

## Attention Parents/Carers of Students with Medical Conditions.

**It is essential that we maintain accurate and up to date information on all medical conditions. If at anytime the health care needs of your young adult changes, please notify the front office.**

**It is your Responsibility to update general Medical Information and Consent forms and other medical condition treatment plans yearly. Thank you**

## Privacy Notice—School Accidents/ Incidents

The Woden School collects information about Injuries and incidents which occur at the school or on school-organised activities, on behalf on the ACT Education Directorate. Some of the Information may be personal information as defined in the Information Privacy Act 2014 and the Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997. The information is usually included in a Student Accident/Incident Report or Notification of a Critical Incident together with any Accompanying witness statements.

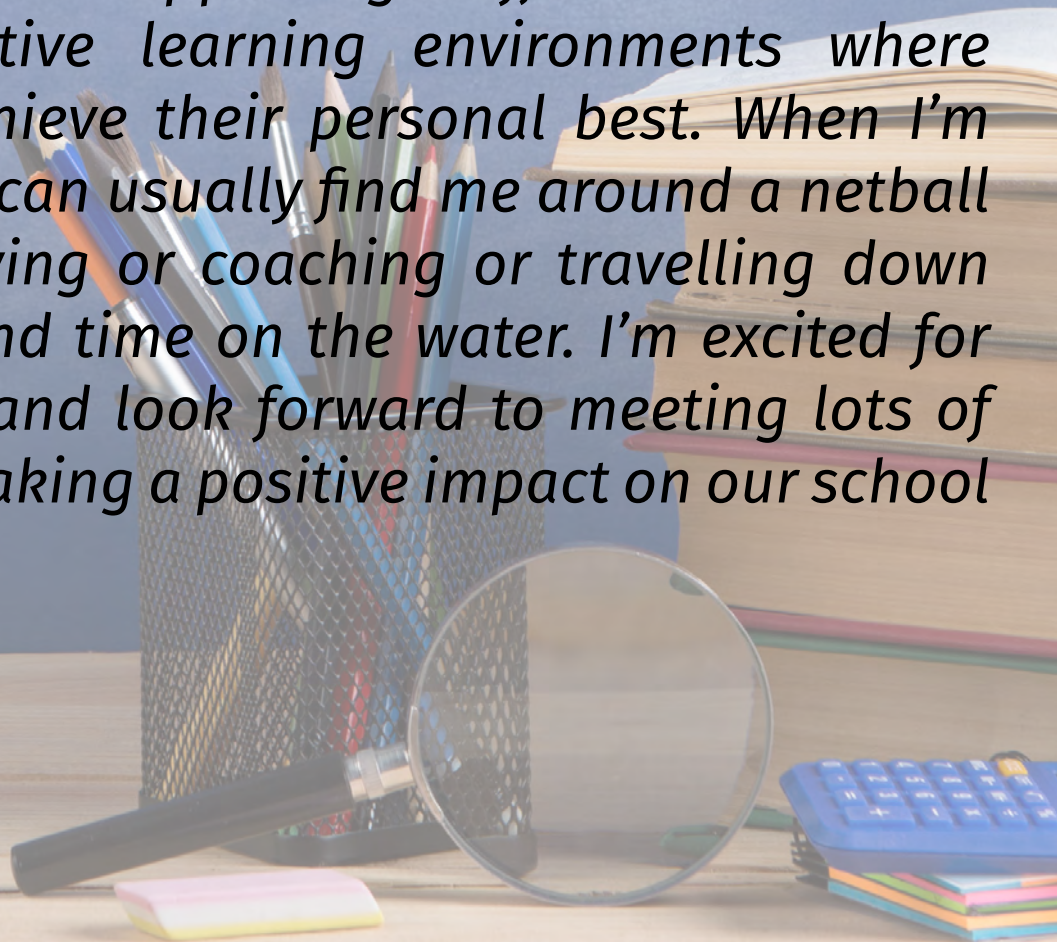
The purpose for which the information is collected include notifying the Territory's insurances and legal advisers of injuries and incidents and ensuring that the school itself has accurate and complete records. The Directorate unusually provides the form and any other information relevant to the accident/incident to the ACT Insurance Authority and the ACT Government Solicitor. Information may also be provided to WorkSafe ACT in accordance with ACT Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Schools have a duty of care to keep students safe. Where an injury or incident occurs schools have an obligation to determine what has happened and therefore question students. Schools may also ask students to make statements in writing and sign these statements.



# Jaimie Horrobin

Hi everyone, my name is Jaimie Horrobin, and I am very excited to be joining The Woden School's leadership team. I have over ten years of inclusive education experience and have had the pleasure of joining this wonderful school community in late Term 3. I am dedicated to supporting staff and students in creating supportive learning environments where students can achieve their personal best. When I'm not working you can usually find me around a netball court either playing or coaching or travelling down the coast to spend time on the water. I'm excited for the term ahead and look forward to meeting lots of new faces and making a positive impact on our school community!



# Science week

Dr Brad Tucker, an astrophysicist from Mt Stromlo/ANU presented to The Woden School in the areas of astrophysics and astronomy, which totally blew us away. He inspired questions from the audience which he answered with great knowledge and experience. It was amazing to see students totally emersed in particular with Brad's own photographs of outer space, planets and the outer universe. Some of us initially thought they were photoshopped!

Every day there were scientific demonstrations on the playground or in classrooms for anyone in the school invited to attend if they were interested. Definitely Crazy Doctor David Murray's air rockets on the basketball court saw rockets being shot up at least 20m into the air as a result of air pressure vs water pressure.

Certainly a great week of extreme learning combined with abundant fun! Great work everyone!

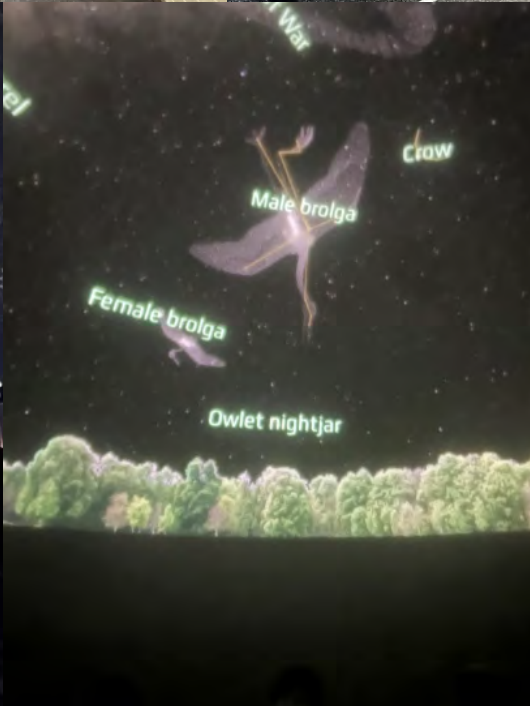


Students were treated to an out-of-this-world experience on Wednesday when astrophysicist and cosmologist Dr. Brad Tucker visited our school for Science Week. Dr. Tucker, who studies the universe's biggest mysteries from exploding stars to the expansion of space itself, shared information about our Solar System, looked at the science behind Earth's seasons, and shared some fun facts. Did you know that Pluto's volcanoes shoot ice? Neither did we! The visit sparked curiosity about the cosmos and our students had lots of great questions - from life on other planets to when the next lunar eclipse is!



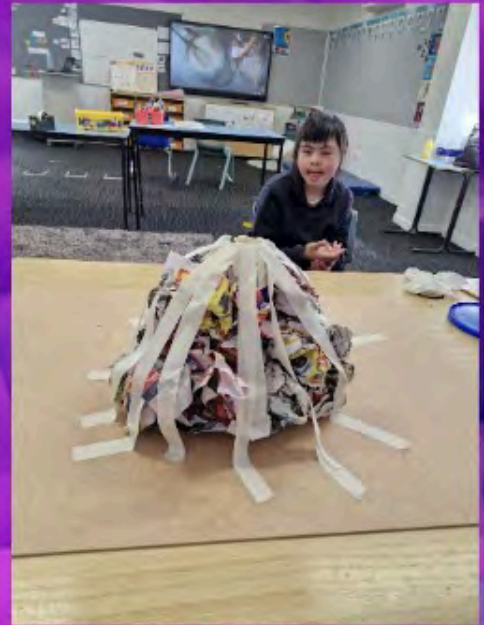
# PLANETARIUM

On Monday, Week 7, students across the school had the opportunity to experience the Academy of Future Skills mobile planetarium. Inside the dome, they observed the Canberra night sky, identified constellations, explored the Milky Way, and journeyed beyond Earth to visit planets within our solar system. The sessions were both engaging and educational, leaving students inspired by what they saw. We are very grateful to the Academy team for making this special experience possible.



# Room 5

## Building our Volcano



# Book Week

Book Week 2025 kicked off fast on Monday with visiting author and past Woden School student [2016 Year 10] Liam Adams, sharing his writer's journey. Liam has published 8 books [with the editing assistance of Mum Jenny]. Liam not only shared his lead up journey to becoming a 'writer' with us also outlined details of his disabilities and the obstacles he faced along the way.

He told us about the difficulty he faced getting a job after leaving, school and how Liam's mum Jenny reminded Liam of his talent for creating stories and his skills drawing cartoons. The suggestion was made, possibly initially filling in time or keeping his spirits up, to turn his hand to creating a book.

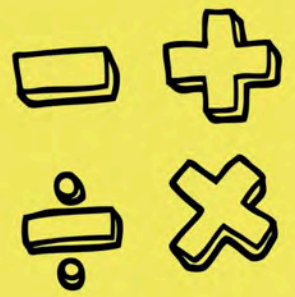
That was how it all started. Liam has now recently turned 24 and has never looked back! Along with a detailed description of what he learned about creating a 'business' along the way, Liam told our students that following his passions and ignoring negative rationalisations along the way, combined with putting in the hard work, has allowed him to find the success he never imagined possible.

Well done to you, Liam. You are leading the way for many of our students who also dare to believe, out there in the real world.





# Room 5



## Book week



## Door winner



We are making equal groups in maths and love reading in room 5





# MURAL

## PAINTED IN THE SCHOOLS ART COURTYARD

Kirsten, a year 10 student in the middle school has been creating beautiful designs for our school. The Wodenstock shirt, Viking's jersey, graduating jumper design and now the Art courtyard have all been heavily designed by Kirsten. The theme for semester one for the whole school was community and place. Kirsten and her Art teacher, Sarah drew animals in famous Canberra landmarks and buildings, using the school colours.

The design was projected onto the wall to make the drawings bigger, then students from different Art classes helped with outlining, painting and adding spray paint to add shadows and dimension at the end.





# ART CLASSES ACROSS THE SCHOOL

## COMMUNITY AND PLACE

Over semester one, themes of community and place have been learnt about and explored in all classes. In Art, we carried on these themes and looked at the communities we identify with, creating a visual representation. Together we made this beautiful display which is now hanging at the front of the school in the foyer.

# Feeding Calves at Alfred Deakin



The calves and chickens were amazing!

# Room 17's Bike Program is Rolling Along!

This term, the students in Room 17 have been enjoying their bike program twice a week on Wednesdays and Fridays, thanks to enthusiastic support from families and the students love of biking.

Biking offers so much more than just fun. It helps our students regulate, decompress, and build confidence in a way that feels natural and joyful. We are seeing wonderful progress: some students are now riding two-wheelers with growing confidence, some are still learning, and some students are happily exploring on three-wheelers.

No matter where each child is in their biking journey, the consistent opportunity to move, engage, and enjoy the outdoors has become a real highlight in Room 17!





# Room 17 Term 3: As We Lived It



Jeremy in action



Nothing's impossible for Yarra



Niki at Kambah Park



The Royal Australian Mint



With the visiting author Liam



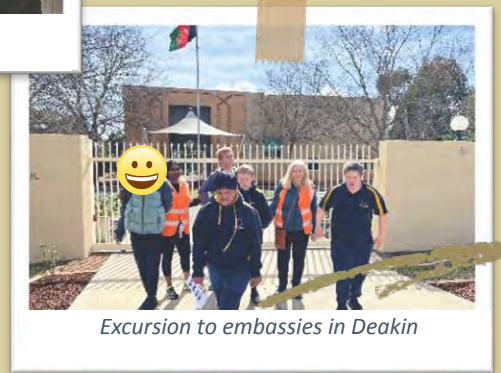
Niki learns to ride



Prithvee's infectious smile during excursion



With the visiting scientist Brad Tucker



Excursion to embassies in Deakin



Mahrosh tries Flying Fox



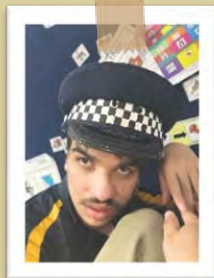
Jeremy loves getting immersed in colours



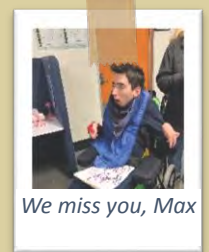
Prithvee's rendition of POTUS (Trump parody)



'Witch, witch, come to my party'



Jeremy goes 'vroom... vroom!'



We miss you, Max

# BOUNDLESS

## Room 5



Swings,  
round-  
abouts,  
seesaw,  
slide and  
lots of  
smiles



# The Woden School Hospitality Program Menu

Term 4, 2025 |

Food freshly prepared by the student Hospitality work team



**IMPORTANT:** Recess can be either pre-ordered or purchased over the counter.  
Lunch must be pre-ordered.

## HOW TO ORDER

Orders must be handed to the café on Wednesday mornings.

Clearly write on a paper bag: name, year, recess & lunch order with amount included.

**Please note that the café will be closed from week 7 for end of year cleaning.**

### Our café only runs on WEDNESDAYS

#### Drinks (available at recess and lunch)

Juice popper	\$2.00
Milkshake (chocolate/strawberry/caramel)	\$3.50
Smoothie	\$3.50
Water 250ml	\$1.00

#### Recess only

Mini pizzas	\$2.00
Biscuits	\$3.50
Jelly Cup	\$1.00
Sausage roll	\$3.50
Arancini balls	\$4.00
Hot chips	\$4.50

#### Lunch only

Sandwiches	\$5.50
Ham	
Ham & Cheese/ Ham, Tomato & Cheese	
Vegemite	
Vegemite and cheese	

## WEEKLY LUNCH SPECIALS

\$8.00

- Week 1: Caesar salad wonton cups
- Week 2: Moo Ping (Thai grilled pork skewers) with sticky rice.
- Week 3: Vietnamese rice paper rolls
- Week 4: Bahn Mi
- Week 5: Beef Burrito
- Week 6: BBQ Skewers
- Week 7: Chicken and salad roll
- Week 8: **Closed**
- Week 9: **Closed**
- Week 10: **Closed**

# Operation Formal Wear

**18 / 19 OCTOBER 2025**

Lake Tuggeranong Lions Club will be hosting Operation Formal Wear again this year. The "shopping days" will be held at Lions Youth Haven on Kambah Pool Road on 18th and 19th October starting at 10am.

A vast range of dresses, suits, shirts, shoes, jewellery, ties, bags and other items needed by graduating students to outfit themselves for their formals will be available to students absolutely free.

All information regarding Operation Formal Wear can be found on the Operation Formal Wear Facebook Page and we now also have pages on Instagram and Tik Tok.

If there is anyone in the school's community who would like to donate items to Operation Formal Wear a list of drop-off points is available on the Facebook Page as well.

Rebus Theatre are releasing 2 new Inclusive Drama (iDrama) classes for Term 4, 2025!

What is iDrama?

Held at various locations in Canberra (Woden, Braddon and Downer), iDrama is designed to encourage participants with disabilities to develop their creative expression, build confidence, make new friends, and learn a few performance skills along the way. No acting experience required!

What to expect?

Running to the ACT school term, iDrama is run by two Rebus drama tutors/facilitators per class, many of whom have lived experience of disability themselves.

Rebus drama tutors/facilitators are practicing artists who use their skills to develop the strengths and interests of the group, supporting participants to develop characters and create and rehearse an original play, which friends and family are then invited to watch each term.

Through drama games and activities, participants learn skills in:

- movement and physical theatre
- voice
- improvisation
- play development
- music

Rebus is a company that exists to provide opportunities for artists who have lived experience of marginalisation. For many participants, iDrama has been a launchpad into further opportunities and paid theatre work offered by Rebus!

To enrol in our iDrama classes for term 4 please fill out: [Enrolment Form](#)



Priority will be first offered to existing participants. Completion of this enrolment form will then lead to an intake interview before confirmation of enrolment in any classes.

New iDrama class times in Woden

- Adults 18+ – Tuesdays, 3:30–5:30pm
- Young people aged 12–17 – Fridays, 3:30–5:00pm

Existing Adult classes:

- Gorman Arts centre – Monday 10am-12pm
- Downer Community Centre – Wednesday 3pm-5pm

Please share if you know anyone who might be interested in participating. Reach out [chipz@rebustheatre.com](mailto:chipz@rebustheatre.com) if you have any questions!

Rebus Theatre is on a hunt for Workshop Tutors for our Inclusive Drama (iDrama) program.

Rebus Theatre is seeking artists, facilitators, and movement practitioners to deliver inclusive drama workshops. We want to hear from people with backgrounds in drama, dance, music, circus, improvisation, clowning, or singing, as well as therapeutic movement and creative facilitation.

What matters most is a commitment to participant dignity, creative agency, and inclusive practice.

Apply here: [Workshop Tutor Expression of Interest](#)

Please share if you know anyone who might be interested. Reach out [info@rebustheatre.com](mailto:info@rebustheatre.com) if you have any questions!

# HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS™



The next Holiday Happenings edition is now available online.

To see the *Programs, Activities & Events* happening these holidays go to:

[www.holidayhappenings.com.au/online-booklet](http://www.holidayhappenings.com.au/online-booklet)

# CHECKPOINT

## COPING IN CLOUDS

*Guest Speaker:*  
**MARK WADIE**



## Dads of children with a disability

**WHEN:** 7pm Wednesday 24 September  
**WHERE:** St Marks 15 Blackall St Barton  
**WHAT:** Food & Convo  
**WALLET:** Free  
**RSVP:** Monday 22 September  
[info@embracingministries.org](mailto:info@embracingministries.org)



CHECKPOINT is a new extension of Embracing Ministries—a monthly event for Dads coming together to connect over good food, better understand our experiences, and find strength for the days we find ourselves in. Our guest speakers cover topics such as healthy living, endurance, relationships, and effective coping strategies.

Throughout the year, we also organise additional activities including a movie night, sporting events, and a family picnic.

For more information, please visit:  
[embracingministries.org/programs/men](http://embracingministries.org/programs/men)



# Spectres Softball Club

JOIN THE SPECTRES SOFTBALL FAMILY!

Now welcoming players aged 4+ for the 2025–26 Season!  
Looking for a fun, inclusive, and exciting sport for yourself, your children – or the whole family? Spectres Softball Club is now taking Expressions of Interest for players aged 4 years and up across all age groups and levels!

★ We offer teams in:

- 👉 8U Tee-Ball (Ages 4–8, Boys & Girls )
- 👉 10U Tee-Ball (Ages 8-10, Boys and Girls)
- 👉 ⚾️ 12U Softball (Ages 10-12, Boys & Girls)
- 🏫 High School Softball (13–18yrs, Boys & Girls)
- 💪 Senior Women's & Men's (13 +) – Social and Competitive grades

★ All 8U & 10U Tee-Ball registrations come with a FREE:

- ✓ Playing shirt
- ✓ Shorts
- ✓ Spectres cap
- ✓ Glove

(A perfect starter pack to dive right in!)

📍 All games are played at one convenient location:  
Softball ACT, Walhallow Street, Hawker

Whether you're new to the sport or returning after a break, Spectres Softball Club welcomes players of all skill levels and abilities. We're passionate about creating a supportive, team-first environment where everyone can grow, have fun, and feel part of something special.

Tee-ball and softball are sports the entire family can enjoy – so why not get involved and make memories together?

🔗 Fill out your Expression of Interest today:

📍 [Spectres softball Club](#)

✉️ Got questions? Contact us anytime at:  
spectressoftball@gmail.com

**Dive into softball – you'll have a ball!** 🎉



# Give kids a **brighter** future with **Barnardos**

- ✓ Extensive training
- ✓ 24/7 on-call support
- ✓ Dedicated carer support program
- ✓ Respite care
- ✓ Carer Connection events and monthly newsletter
- ✓ Carer consultation forums Expertise in
- ✓ EPR\* and Adoptions applications
- ✓ Specialised restoration services

**Barnardos Australia is here because every child needs a champion.**

Barnardos has been a trusted supporter of the Canberra community for over 60 years. Our mission to support children and young people in Canberra is only possible with the dedication of our foster and kinship carers.

Every day, we work hard to provide the resources and support that our foster and kinship carers need to thrive. We understand that when carers are well-supported, children and families can truly flourish.

## What Barnardos carers say

"I feel like I am part of a strong network of people who support all of us. Communication is honest and respectful and always has the girls best interest at heart."  
Barnardos foster carer

"We are just so grateful to Barnardos for the support we receive. Thank you for always being there when I have needed you."  
Barnardos kinship carer

### **Barnardos Canberra Out-of-Home Care**

Call (02) 6110 2200 or email [carerenquiryact@barnardos.org.au](mailto:carerenquiryact@barnardos.org.au) to find out more



# 2025 ACT ALL ABILITIES CUP TOUCH FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

**Canberra: Saturday 8th November and Sunday 9th November**  
from 10:00am  
**Venue: Vikings Erindale**

Come and play touch football in a safe, enjoyable and inclusive environment.

**Format: Enter Tier 1, 2 or 3 teams to play in a round robin format of 25-minute games.**

**Registrations Close: Friday 17th October (registration link will be forwarded to interested Clubs)**

## OUR JOURNEY

The ACT All Abilities Cup, began in 2023 with 7 teams.

We have witnessed incredible progress among all our teams in every aspect of their lives. From improved communication, resilience and confidence to thriving in team settings - whether they are leading by example or following directions from their coaches – these athletes have truly excelled.

We are in our 3rd year and are striving to become a permanent event on the Touch Football Australia calendar of events and become the pinnacle Touch Football Special needs tournament in Australia.

Register your interest by emailing or contacting Alex or Andrew.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Directors

Alex: 0407 258 492

Andrew: 0411 278 991

Email: [Jaatfooty@gmail.com](mailto:Jaatfooty@gmail.com)











NOT JUST A BALL SPORT  
**JAATF**

# What's on this holiday CORAL'S COTTAGE

School Holiday Program

## Sep-Oct 2025

MONDAY 29	TUESDAY 30	WEDNESDAY 1	THURSDAY 2	FRIDAY 3	
 <b>COMMUNITY ACCESS</b> Floriade	 <b>COMMUNITY ACCESS</b> *Horse encounter at Pegasus	 <b>COMMUNITY ACCESS</b> Yerrabi Pond	 <b>COMMUNITY ACCESS</b> *Lanyon Homestead	 <b>IN-HOUSE ACTIVITY</b> Music Therapy 1:30-2:30pm	
6	7	8	9	10	
 <b>COMMUNITY ACCESS</b> Bungendore Park	 <b>COMMUNITY ACCESS</b> Floriade	 <b>COMMUNITY ACCESS</b> *Gold Creek – Cockington Green / Dinosaur Museum	 <b>COMMUNITY ACCESS</b> *Workshop at Robyn Rowe Chocolate shop, Murrumbateman	 <b>IN-HOUSE ACTIVITY</b> Music Therapy 1:30-2:30pm	
Daily fun and engaging activities to choose from					
 <b>COLOURING</b>	 <b>OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES</b>	 <b>SENSORY PLAY</b>	 <b>GAMES</b>	 <b>COOKING</b>	 <b>ARTS AND CRAFTS</b>

\*Activities are subject to booking and venue availability. If these activities cannot proceed, an alternative activity will be arranged.

02 6162 6100 | [stabookings@mccg.org.au](mailto:stabookings@mccg.org.au)

Please note: All activities subject to change.