

CHRISTMAS HILLS

Primary School



Newsletter

20th September, 2024 - Term 3 - Week 10



Pre-Prep Program

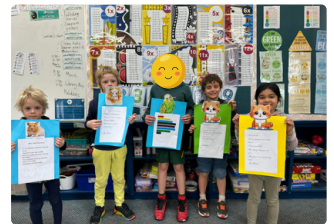
We will be commencing our Pre-Prep Program at the start of term 4. This will run every Friday from 9.30am-11.00am and will be offered to children who are 3-4 years of age. Children do not need to be enrolled at CHPS to attend as we are wanting to provide a program to support all children with their transition to school. Please spread the word in the community – we did put it out to the community, and we received a great response with many families taking up the offer to attend.

Principal's Message

What an amazing term it has been, and I cannot believe that after the holidays we head into the last term for the year. The children have worked so well and have really enjoyed all the extra curricula activities and experiences we have been able to offer.

Last Wednesday we took part in Kaboom sport at Kangaroo Ground PS which was a wonderful day where they all got to take part in some fun games and activities. Following that we visited the Learning Co-Operative in Cottles Bridge to listen to their music concert and view a performance of Romeo and Juliet. We were made to feel very welcome, and the students were enthralled by the performances. Afterwards they had the opportunity to explore and investigate the playground.

Term 4 is going to be another busy term with a range of experiences planned for the children including three more sessions of swimming and some sailing sessions at the sailing club. We have also organised as part of the Victorian Sporting School Grants for the students to partake in "ultimate frisbee" which I am sure they are going to love.



Important Dates Term 3

- [Swimming Session Dates](#)
- [11th October](#)
- [18th October](#)
- [1st November](#)
- [Christmas Concert](#)
- [11th December](#)
- [End of year fun day](#)
- [17th December](#)
- [Sugarloaf Reservoir - Sailing](#)
- [13th November](#)
- [20th November](#)
- [27th November](#)

Term Dates

Term 4 - October 7th - 20th December

Curriculum Days - 7th October, 4th November, 20th December

CHRISTMAS HILLS

Primary School



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Raffle Ticket Announcement

Today, raffle tickets are being sent home! We are excited to share that we have received generous donations from local businesses. Some of the fantastic prizes include a family pass to Luna Park, offerings from Kellybrook Winery, Dark Horse Café, Verso Books, Pickwood & Sprout, Ruby Tuesdays Jewellery, Warren Glen Nursery, and many more. Tickets are available for \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Please remember to return all tickets, whether sold or unsold, to the school by October 23, 2024. Thank you for your support!

150th Anniversary Celebration Fete Saturday, 26th October

We had a meeting last week to finalise arrangements and bookings for our anniversary celebration. We appear to be on track and have now confirmed our entertainment on the day. We will have Joe Robassa performing who is not only our cleaner but a very talented musician and local performer. Also, Aaron Violi MP – Federal Minister for Casey will be joining us and saying a few words on the day as well as helping with drawing the raffle. Aaron's mother attended Christmas Hills PS so there is a real connection to the school, and I believe his mother will also be attending.

We are still confirming the sausage sizzle but there will be a variety of food vans here on the day and stalls including Kangaroo Ground Pre-School who will be selling drinks and scones.

Donations for the raffle keep coming with Donna our amazing ES painting and donating some incredible framed paintings for the raffle. She is a very talented artist with many "strings to her bow"!!! Thank you, Donna, for your generous contribution. Our raffle prizes are going to be incredible, and we will be selling tickets on the day and drawing the raffle around 3pm.

I wish everyone a relaxing and safe holiday and look forward to seeing you and the children on **TUESDAY 8TH October**.

Maria Parks
Principal

CURRICULUM DAY Monday 7TH OCTOBER (FIRST DAY OF TERM 4)

Please remember that Monday 7TH OCTOBER is a CURRICULUM DAY. There will be NO teaching staff onsite. We will be participating in professional learning at St Andrews Primary School. This will be our last session on the Berry Street Model. Please organise care for your child/children on this day and we will see you all on Tuesday 8th October.

BERRY STREET 
EDUCATION MODEL
Curriculum and Classroom Strategies



CHRISTMAS HILLS

Primary School

Newsletter

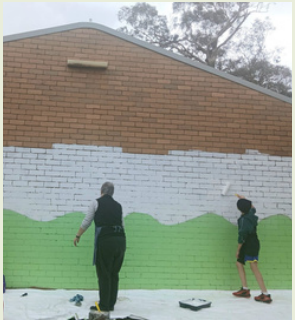


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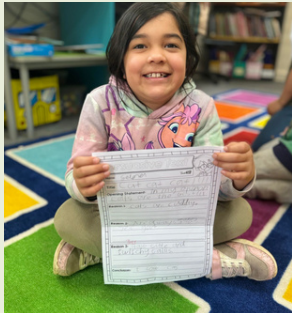
Kaboom Sports



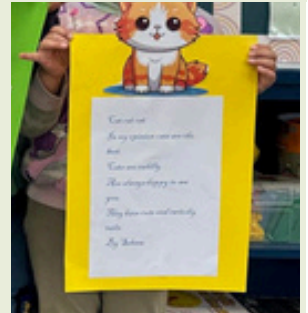
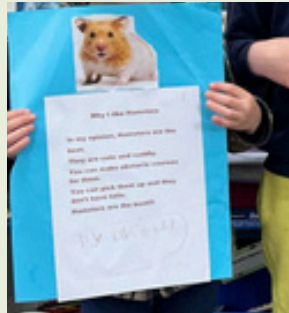
Community Art Work - Art Room



Inquiry



Literacy



P.E



Maths





Fridays 9:30 - 11:00
beginning 11th of October
Designed for 3-5 yr olds



CHRISTMAS HILLS PS SCHOOL READY PROGRAM



Get your little one ready for school with our fun-filled school readiness program.

Friday mornings 9:30 till 11:00 at Christmas Hills Primary School

- ### OUR ACTIVITIES
- Story time
 - Art and craft
 - Cooking
 - Sensory play
 - Class room skills
 - Fine moter activities
 - Outdoor fun
 - Social skills

- ### OUR FEATURES
- Run by experienced primary teacher
 - Child lead learning
 - Hands on learning and fun
 - Beautiful bush setting incorporated into learning
 - Confidence building



9730 1238



www.christmashillps.vic.edu.au



1409 Eltham-Yarra Glen rd
Christmas Hills



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



DOES MY CHILD HAVE TO BE ENROLLED AT CHRISTMAS HILLS PS TO ATTEND?

No, all children aged 3-5 years are welcome to attend our Pre-Prep Program at Christmas Hills PS. We provide a nurturing and very personalised program for our students here at Christmas Hills PS however, we appreciate that families need to find the best "fit" for their child and their family. So even if your child is enrolled elsewhere, we would still love them to come along.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST AND DO I NEED TO BOOK?

Our program is FREE! At Christmas Hills PS our goal is to support our families in the community and we believe all children should be able to access a rich and engaging program in a beautiful unique rural setting. Therefore, no need to book just come along and join us for some fun.

CAN PARENTS AND YOUNGER SIBLINGS COME ALONG?

Parent/carer supervision is required throughout the sessions but if your child feels confident in their new setting you are more than welcome to make a cuppa and just watch. Younger siblings are welcome too however, this program is specifically designed for 3-5-year-olds.

WHAT DOES A SCHOOL READY SESSION LOOK LIKE?

Each week we will vary the sessions to include both inside and outside hands-on activities. When children first arrive, they will have the opportunity to explore and participate in some developmental playtime. Then, our teachers (Maria or Svetlana) will introduce mat time where they will listen to a story, sing some songs and play a couple of games as well as participate in a craft activity. Before leaving and saying goodbye we will reflect on the morning and have a share time together.

WHEN AND WHERE DOES IT RUN?

Our Pre-Prep Program will commence on Friday 11th of October and will run each Friday throughout term 4. It will start at 9:30am and finish at 11.00am and will be held at Christmas Hills PS in our Quip Quip Room. If you have any questions, please contact Maria (Principal) on 97301238





Christmas Hills

Primary School

Schools in Category

0, 1 and 2 on the Bushfire At-Risk Register



School preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, we undertake a range of activities to ensure the safety of our school and to prepare for bushfires and grassfires.

An important part of this process is communicating to parents what will happen when certain fire danger ratings are issued to help ensure the safety of students and staff.

Our school has been identified as being in one of the highest fire risk categories - BARR 1. On elevated fire danger days, schools in the highest levels of risk take pre-emptive actions to minimise the risk of being caught in a fire in these conditions.

Our school will action its pre-emptive plan for relocation, on a day forecasted as Extreme fire danger rating in our local government area (LGA), Nillumbik.

Our school will also close on a day forecasted as Catastrophic fire danger rating in Central fire district.

We will let you know when we are enacting our pre-emptive action plan by Sentral. Please be aware that no one will be on site on days where the school has enacted this plan.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.

What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by - reading our newsletters and by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements if our school is relocated due to elevated fire danger or closed due to a Catastrophic fire danger rating. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#).
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are enacting your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.



- If your child is old enough, talk to [them about bushfires](#) and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can find more information on emergencies, and preparedness actions here:

- VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

Frequently Asked Questions

The Department of Education annually assesses the fire risk of all schools and early childhood services with the support of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 6). Schools and services that are categories 0-3 are published on the [Bushfire At-Risk Register \(BARR\)](#). Schools at some risk of bushfire and grassfire are published on the [Category 4 List](#).

The department's [Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy](#) requires schools at high risk of bushfire to enact pre-emptive action plans based on LGA-level fire danger forecasts. Conditions can vary significantly across the wider weather district, so using local forecasts helps us to respond appropriately to risks in our local area and maintain stability and educational continuity for our students and school community. This policy is consistent for all schools at high levels of risk and this approach is supported by emergency services.

The policy also requires that all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 list close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

Why do we use the LGA forecast?

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) provides public fire danger rating forecasts, they use fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which include numerous Local Government Areas.

As conditions can vary significantly across a wider weather district, the department uses BoM LGA forecasts for some pre-emptive actions to respond appropriately to risks in the local area and maintain safe educational continuity for students and the school community. LGA forecasts are a subset of the weather district ratings and while not issued publicly, are provided to emergency services and government departments to support planning and operational activities.

This policy is consistent for all schools at high levels of risk and this approach is supported by emergency services, including the Country Fire Authority (CFA).

What do we do when our LGA has a different fire danger rating to the wider fire weather district?

As we respond to local conditions, there may be days during the fire season when our fire weather district, Nillumbik is forecast as an Extreme fire danger rating, but our LGA is at a lower level of fire



danger. On these days our school operations will continue as normal; however, we will be taking action in line with fire services' advice by:

- checking our Emergency Management Plan and taking any necessary preparedness actions
- actively monitoring our local conditions and warnings
- having plans and procedures in place for if a fire starts to support us to take immediate action.

While our school will continue to operate, we encourage our school community to consider their own [bushfire survival plan](#) and reassess any travel through bushfire risk areas. We encourage you to follow your family bushfire survival plan and the advice of emergency services.

There may also be days where our LGA is forecast as Extreme fire danger, but Central is not. On these days we will enact our pre-emptive action plan.

When will our school be closed due to Catastrophic fire danger?

Our school will also close on a day forecasted as Catastrophic fire danger rating in Nillumbik fire district.

Closure of the school due to a Catastrophic fire danger rating will be enacted when the BOM forecast and related public safety messaging is confirmed. Due to uncertainties in the forecast, the timing of this confirmation may vary. Information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by Sentral and phone.

It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

Families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.



NEWSLETTER



CHPS LUNCH ORDER MENU


- Nuggets & Chips \$7
- Burger & Chips \$7
- Napolitana Pasta \$7
- Chips \$4
- Party Sausage Roll \$2
- Party Pie \$2
- Chocolate Milk \$3
- Strawberry Milk \$3
- Orange Juice \$2.5
- Apple Juice \$2.5
- Zooper Dooper \$2

SCHOOL VALUES

Every child at Christmas Hills Primary School is supported in their social and emotional development in a caring way. We help students build skills in empathy and positive relationships, in a framework centred around our school values of CHIRPS – Caring, Honesty, Inquisitiveness, Respect, Persistence, Sharing.

These school values are built around our emblem, the blue wren, and they were jointly decided by students, staff and parents.

SCHOOL UNIFORM





UNIFORM PRICES	• Polo shirt size 6,8,12,14 - \$15	• Communication satchel - \$15
	• Polo shirt - Adult S,M, L - \$25.00	• Child vest - \$20 Adult 25.00
	• Wide brim hat - \$15	• Blue gingham dress- \$20
		• Grade six top - \$50

LUNCH ORDERS

We're excited to inform you that we will be continuing to take lunch orders every Wednesday through Dark Horse Café.


Please ensure all lunch orders are placed in the designated box by 3:30 PM on Tuesday, please include the student's name, lunch order details, and exact change.



CHRISTMAS HILLS

Primary School

CHIRPS



	Yard	Transitions	Classes	Toilets	Excursions
	Hear calm, polite and friendly voices	Calm, organised	Be mindful of personal space	Good hygiene	Be good role models
	See inclusive play with a variety of activities	Enter learning spaces in an orderly manner	Take responsibility for your own learning	Respect others' privacy	Hear calm, polite and friendly voices
	See people caring for each other	Respectful of other students	Respectful listening		Be mindful of the general public
	Respect nature				Move in an orderly, calm manner

SCHOOL UNIFORM

School uniforms are available for purchase at any time from the school office. It is important to ensure your child has their school uniform for school excursions.

Additionally, we are now selling book satchels that help keep home readers secure and easily accessible.



CHRISTMAS HILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL



CELEBRATING

150
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26th October, 2024
10:00am - 2:00pm

Come along and help us celebrate 150 years of
Christmas Hills Primary School

Colouring Competition, Jumping Castle, Petting Zoo, Face Painting,
Free Kids Activities, Live Entertainment, Food Stalls, Historical
Artefacts and Lots More



9730 1238
0499 205 083

1409 Eltham-Yarra Glen Rd,
Christmas Hills, Vic 3775
Christmas.hills.ps@education.vic.gov.au



CHRISTMAS HILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Wednesday's
9:30 till
11:00am

Messy Play
Painting
Arts & Crafts
Sensory Activities
Games
Toys
Pretend Play
Songs
Outdoor play

BRING YOUR LITTLE ONE ALONG TO
SOCIALISE, EXPLORE, EXPERIMENT &
PLAY AT OUR RELAXED COMMUNITY
PLAYGROUP. SPEND SOME QUALITY
TIME WITH YOUR MINI WHILE YOU FILL
YOUR CUP CHATTING WITH OTHER
GROWN UPS.
ALL WELCOME!

Christmas Hills Primary School
1409 Eltham-Yarra Glen Rd Christmas Hills

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For more info contact Megan 0413 174 415



Upcoming Dates Term 4



- 7th October - **First day of Term 4**
- 7th October - **Curriculum Day**
- 11th October - First Pre Prep transition session
- 18th October - Pre Prep transition session
- 18th October - Swimming
- 25th October - Pre Prep transition session
- **26th October - 150 year School celebration**
- 1st November - Pre Prep transition session
- 1st November - Last swimming session
- 4th November - **Curriculum Day**
- 5th November - **Cup Day public holiday**
- 8th November - Pre Prep transition session
- 13th November - Sailing - Sugarloaf Reservoir
- 15th November - Pre Prep transition session
- 20th November - Sailing - Sugarloaf Reservoir
- 22nd November - Pre Prep transition session
- 27th November - Sailing - Sugarloaf Reservoir
- 6th December - Last Pre Prep transition session
- 11th December - Christmas Concert
- 17th December - End of year celebration - Bounce
- 19th December - - **Last day for students - 1:00pm finish**
- 20th December - **Curriculum Day**



Exciting Activities coming up

Swimming Session Dates

- 11th October
- 18th October
- 1st November

Sugarloaf Reservoir - Sailing

- 13th November
- 20th November
- 27th November
-

Christmas Concert

- 11th December

End of year fun day

- 17th December
-

Lunch Orders

Lunch orders from Dark Horse are continuing this term.

NEW!

Art and craft club for kids

Starting 8 October 2024

Tuesdays 3:45-4:45pm

7-12 yrs

Panton Hill Living & Learning Hub

This fun class will allow your child to be creative, express themselves and learn art and craft techniques. For more info see our website below.



livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au





Christmas Hills Primary School

Whooping cough

Whooping cough cases are [continuing to increase across Victoria](#), particularly among school-aged children.

[Whooping cough](#) is a very contagious infection, mostly spread through coughing or sneezing. Symptoms include:

- blocked or runny nose
- tiredness
- mild fever
- severe bouts of coughing, often followed by a 'whooping' sound on breathing.

Whooping cough can lead to life threatening infections in babies.

If your child is unwell, they should not attend school. Please see a doctor if you or your child develops whooping cough symptoms. Early diagnosis and treatment will help reduce the spread of the infection.

Students diagnosed with whooping cough must not attend school

If your child is diagnosed with whooping cough, they must not attend school for 21 days after the onset of the cough, or until they have received 5 days of antibiotic treatment. You must notify the school if your child is diagnosed with whooping cough.

To further reduce the spread of infection to your child and the school community, the [Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019](#) require that some students who were in the same classroom as a student diagnosed with whooping cough should not attend school.

Your child should not attend school for 14 days after they were last exposed to a person diagnosed with whooping cough, or until they have taken 5 days of a course of antibiotic treatment if they are:

- aged less than 7 years; and
- not fully vaccinated with 3 doses of whooping cough (pertussis) vaccine.

This exclusion is required by law – refer to the [School exclusion table for primary schools and children's services](#).

If your child is diagnosed with whooping cough, please contact the school to let us know.



More information

For more information about whooping cough, refer to [Whooping cough](#) on the Better Health Channel.

Vaccination is the best way to reduce the risk of whooping cough. The Department of Health recommends staying up to date with immunisations, including booster doses. A free booster dose of the pertussis vaccine is covered under the national immunisation program for students aged 12 to 13. If you are unsure about your child's vaccination status for whooping cough, please discuss with an immunisation provider, such as your doctor.

I really appreciate your support in keeping our students safe and well.

Maria Parks
Principal



Water safety tips from Life Saving Victoria

With many family activities happening close to waterways these school holidays now is a great time to refresh and remember what to look out for to keep the kids safe in and around water.

[Play it Safe by the Water](#): has a great range of bite-sized snippets to remind you of what to look for and what to think about before you go to the various environments.

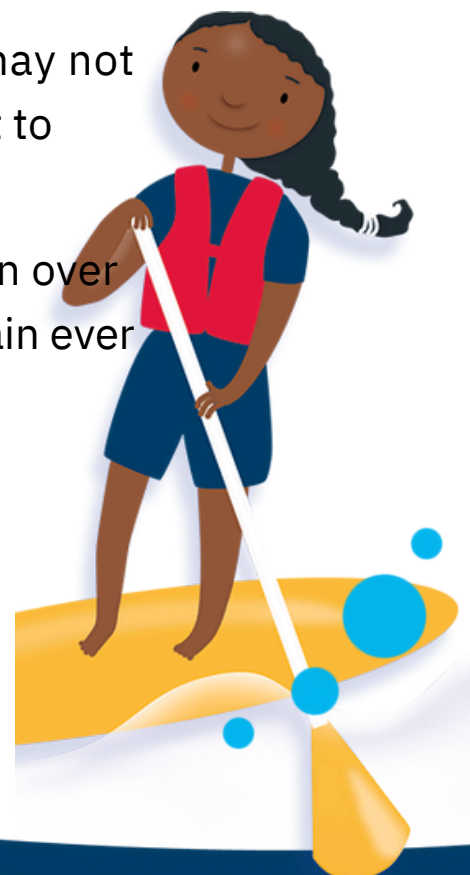
[The Beach](#): There are numerous things to consider when visiting the beach. Where are the patrolled beaches, what is the weather doing, what does a rip current look like and what do you do if you find yourself caught in one?

[Inland waterways](#): Rivers, creeks, lakes and dams are great fun but they also have hidden dangers such as currents and submerged objects. Do you know what to look for?

[Rural properties](#): Dams, wells and tanks may not be so familiar. Have you thought about what to consider?

[Home](#): Pools and spas at home are great fun over the summer but they are not risk free. Remain ever vigilant and always watching.

[More information](#)



Supervision around water

All children require active supervision around water regardless of their swimming ability.

Beaches, pools, ponds, lakes, rivers and bathtubs all present a drowning risk. Twenty seconds is all it takes for a child to drown in as little as a few centimetres of water.

The best way to keep children safe is to keep under-fives within arm's reach, and under 10s within eyesight around water at all times. It's a good idea to make and stick to a supervision plan so there is always an adult actively supervising children around waterways during gatherings or parties, even during the winter months!

Supervise: Actively supervise children around water

Restrict: Restrict children's access to water

Teach: Teach children water safety skills

Respond: Learn how to respond in the case of an emergency

[More information](#)



Water Safety @ Home

Home-based activities to experience with your child these school holidays.

Life Saving Victoria's Water Safety @ Home is a suite of online and printable water safety resources for you to explore in the comfort of your very own home!

Activities include:

- [Water Safety Watch and Learn videos and activity booklets](#)
- [Swimming @ Home videos](#)
- [First Aid for Kids @ Home videos](#) and more!



LSV's [CPR for Kids @ Home video](#) and resources are perfect for practising the lifesaving competency of the Victorian Water Safety Certificate (VWSC), whereby students need to demonstrate DRSABCD and the recovery position.

To access CPR for Kids @ Home, and all Water Safety @ Home resources, visit:

www.lsv.com.au/education/watersafetyathome



Swim City

Join Finn, Pod and Splash and their new friend Rocky on an adventure to learn about water safety with Swim City, a fun online game.

Aimed towards children in Years Prep–6, Swim City is a free 30-minute online game that supports students to work towards achieving the knowledge component of the Victorian Water Safety Certificate (VWSC), all while having loads of fun! Students will explore four different aquatic environments and solve challenges along the way like identifying dangers and making areas safe.

To play Swim City, dive into www.lsv.com.au/swimcity



YARRA GLEN CRICKET CLUB

PLAYERS



WANTED!

8-16 Year Old's

“Come join our family
friendly club!”

CALL JULIAN ON 0400 301 662 TO ENQUIRE.





yarrangesathletics.org.au

SEASON 2024 - 25

Round 1 commences
Saturday 5 October 2024

DISCOVER THE FUN OF ATHLETICS

Ever thought about trying athletics? Now's your chance!
Meet new friends, bond with family, and enjoy achieving
your personal best.



Join us for a thrilling
come-and-try
session

Saturday 28th September 2024
9am - 10am at Yarra Ranges Athletics Track
Morrison Reserve, Burdap Drive, Mount Evelyn
For more info visit yarrangesathletics.org.au

Register today at
lavic.com.au