



## A Personalised Approach to Learning

*As your child navigates their learning journey they will be accepted, encouraged and supported to step outside their comfort zone and extend their boundaries.*

*Our learning environment is underpinned by a sense of warmth, support and a feeling of community - elements which all help to develop your child as they learn and grow.*



## Proud of Who We Are

*The essence of our College lies in its people - our Staff, students and their families*

We are a proud, open entry, co-educational, non-denominational school. It is our strong belief that we have a unique responsibility, and we strive to create an environment that will challenge and encourage your child.

At Billanook, we know that every student is important. Our students gain a quiet confidence to flourish and achieve their own personal best - whatever that may be - within a nurturing and committed learning environment.

### Committed & Caring Staff

The relationship between Staff, student and family is essential for successful learning. We foster this relationship to ensure the individual needs of each child are understood.

Staff members bring ideas, passion and diverse experiences to their teaching. Your child will benefit from the ability that all our Staff members have for understanding the learning styles of each of their students.

We aim to broaden your child's thinking by encouraging them to respectfully voice their thoughts and opinions, and to find their own learning pathway.





## Our International Student Program

The College has a long-established and reputable International Student Program, providing a wonderful educational experience for students from a diverse range of nations. International students are warmly welcomed and supported as members of our College community.

Available courses include: 040679K - Primary Years (Prep- Year 6) and 011407G - Secondary Years (Year 7 - 12). Our program includes (at no additional cost):

- > In-class one-on-one support with a learning assistant
- > Prompt communication between the school and parents
- > Translation of school correspondence, including school reports, when required
- > Close monitoring of academic progress to ensure students stay on track
- > Additional homework tasks to consolidate in class learning and build on English skills.
- > Comprehensive welfare support for student wellbeing
- > Guidance in developing effective study habits
- > Support with cultural adjustment and promotion of inclusivity
- > Assistance in building community connections
- > Safety guidance to help students navigate their new environment confidently
- > Chinese translation for parent teacher interviews if appointments made within school time





## Creating a Community that Belongs

*The School Community is paramount at Billanook, but we also work hard to create a sense of wider community.*

Your child will be encouraged to think of themselves in terms of the world around them. This enables them to access their full potential as they can see the broader picture.

We work hard to create a feeling of belonging, but also celebrate individuality. Your child will be known and appreciated for their unique talents and personality, right from the very start.

We value different knowledge and skills, and all students are assisted to embrace their own learning and growth, including new challenges. They are supported and encouraged to follow their interests and passions and to create their preferred future.

Our community is built on acceptance, support and care, and provides a wonderful environment for students to learn, grow and explore.

“*Billanook has a very inviting, down to earth community feel that I really love.*”

CURRENT BILLANOOK PARENT





## A Round Square School

*Billanook College is a member of Round Square, a worldwide association of schools that share unique and ambitious goals.*

A Billanook education is not entirely about academic success, and therefore we encourage students to build on their knowledge, learning and skill set, alongside their academic pursuits.

Billanook is dedicated to the IDEALS of Round Square:

- > International Understanding
- > Democracy
- > Environmental Sustainability
- > Adventure
- > Leadership
- > Service to others

### Never Stop Learning Philosophy

Instead of just talking about the IDEALS, your child will have the opportunity to live them out.

Our Journey Program, underpinned by the philosophy of Round Square, provides the stepping-stones for students to develop a variety of skills. They will build their International Understanding, learn about social justice and Democracy, and increase their awareness of Environmental Sustainability.

They may choose to extend their personal boundaries through Adventure and challenge, develop Leadership skills outside the classroom and give back to their community through Service to others.

Students are encouraged to grow in areas outside academics. Some opportunities include:

- > career based work experience
- > service to the community
- > sustainability projects (e.g. developing recycling programs, water and energy saving projects)
- > National and International Tours: language based, service based, culture or sustainability focussed (e.g. Thai Service Project, Top End Tour or the Reef 'n Rain Tour.)





## Life Skills, Leadership and Wellbeing

*Our children will lead not only themselves, but the future.  
That's why life skills, personal development and leadership are all  
integral aspects of our programs - from Early Learning to Year 12.*

Students from Primary to Year 12 are supported to explore their sense of self and purpose, and are encouraged to become involved in and initiate projects so that they can learn life skills, build leadership skills and gain confidence to achieve their goals.

### Life Skills & Wellbeing

Through our structured Wellbeing Programs (Thrive, Link and Aspire) and Discovery Learning, we guide and encourage students to learn about:

- > agency and sense of purpose
- > collaboration and co-operation
- > appreciation for relationships
- > respect
- > problem solving and investigating
- > decision making
- > creating initiative
- > managing different personalities
- > goal setting
- > working to a time-line
- > overcoming obstacles and blockers
- > reflection

### Leadership

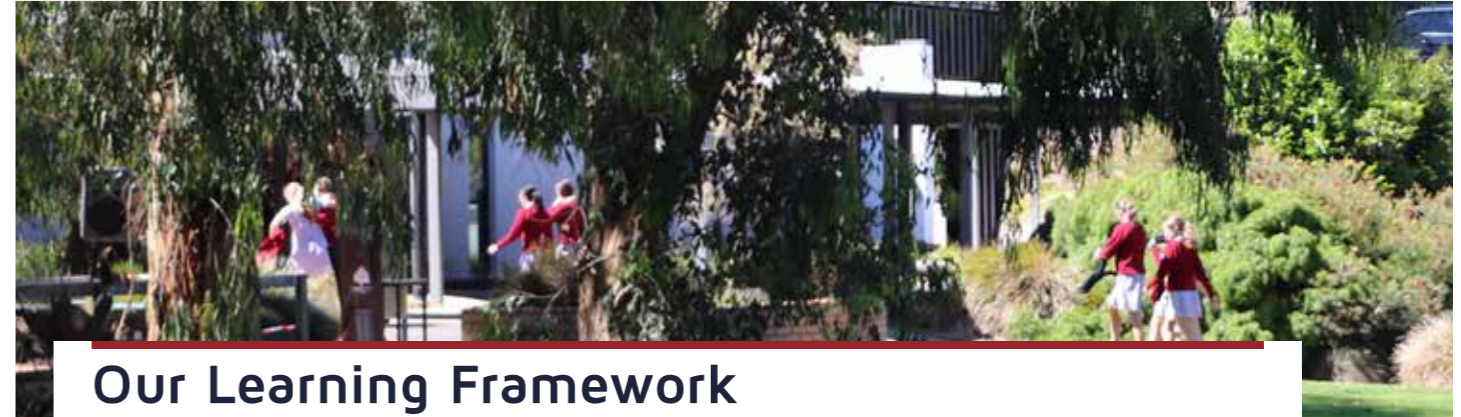
Billanook's student leadership framework provides an opportunity for students to manage a portfolio and exercise authentic leadership skills. Students in Senior Primary, Middle School and Senior School work in collaborative groups to achieve goals that make a difference.

With the support of a mentor, students are elected into portfolios including:

- > Service and Environment
- > Adventure
- > Internationalism
- > Democracy



# Mastery Discovery Journey



## Our Learning Framework

*What is learning if not the joy and excitement of discovery?*

The College Curriculum is underpinned by core learning areas, but also enriched by a wide range of exciting curriculum initiatives. Your child can choose subjects, topics and projects that cater to their own talents and personal interests - providing them with a passion for learning, and equipping them with the skills necessary to be inspired learners.

Our College Learning Framework is founded on three distinct types of learning experiences:

### MASTERY

Mastery experience involves the in depth conceptual learning that comes from key curriculum area studies.

### DISCOVERY

Discovery experience is where students have time and space to do extraordinary things. Discovery learning provides the opportunity to explore a passion, follow an interest or learn something new.

### JOURNEY

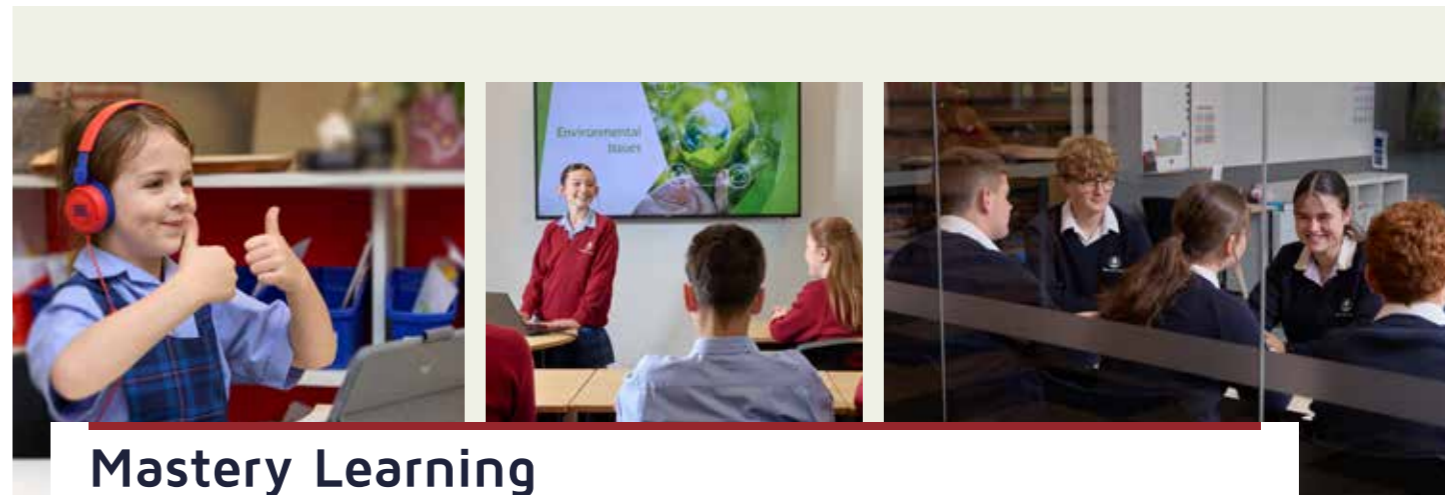
Journey experience is centered around personal growth, community, and authentic learning opportunities.





# Mastery Learning

*In-depth and Conceptual Learning*



## Mastery Learning

### Primary

In their Primary years the core foundations of reading, writing, speaking, listening and numeracy are explicitly taught and developed to create a solid foundation for future learning.

Primary students' minds are extended through the exploration of STEM, Language, Library, Physical Education and Performing Arts specialist subjects.

Your child is encouraged to build their confidence in these areas, all essential tools for developing a love of learning and exploring future opportunities.

### Middle

During their Middle years students are guided to refine the core skills developed previously, in preparation for the challenges of their VCE years.

A range of subjects such as English, Mathematics, Science, Languages, Humanities, Human Movement, Technology, and Performing and Visual Arts form the basis of each child's Mastery Learning.

### Senior

Throughout their Senior years mastery of the core skills is sought to enable students to thrive during their VCE years and beyond.



# Discovery Learning

*Big Ideas and Memorable Moments*



## Discovery Learning

### Primary

Key components of the Discovery learning skill set are introduced and explored at this early stage, including:

- > Critical Thinking
- > Collaboration
- > Investigation
- > Creative Thinking
- > Reflection
- > Digital Literacy

Inquiry-based learning units, woven throughout the Primary curriculum, offer students the opportunity to apply these skills and explore and investigate themes from Round Square as part of integrated humanity studies.

### Middle

Discovery Learning features strongly throughout our Years 7, 8 and 9 curriculum. Students explore the concepts and are provided the opportunity to acquire and develop key skills through projects aligned with their own interests.

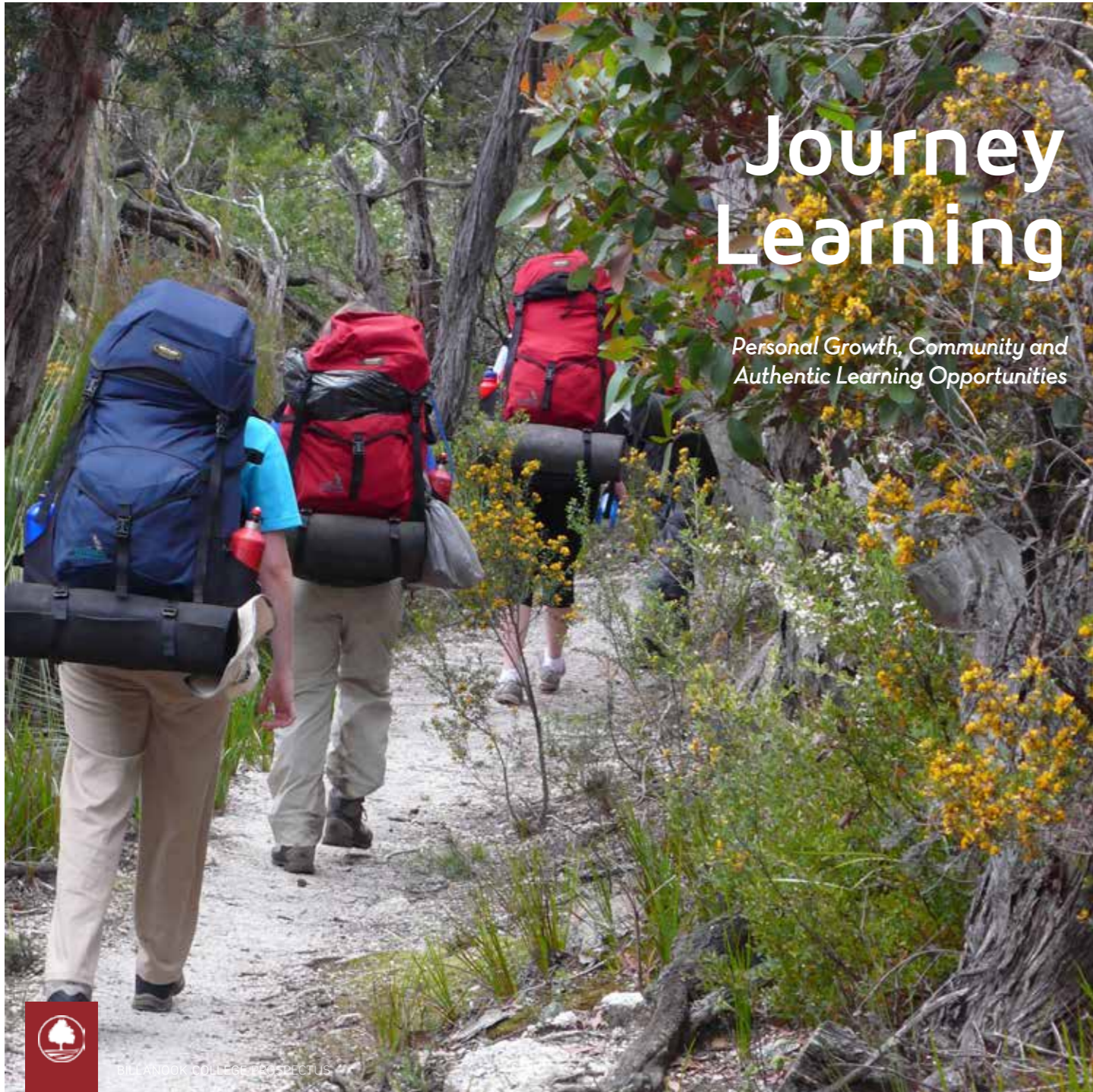
Key skills can include creative and critical thinking, communication, collaboration, problem solving and reflection.

This type of learning sets the students on a pathway for success beyond the classroom.

### Senior

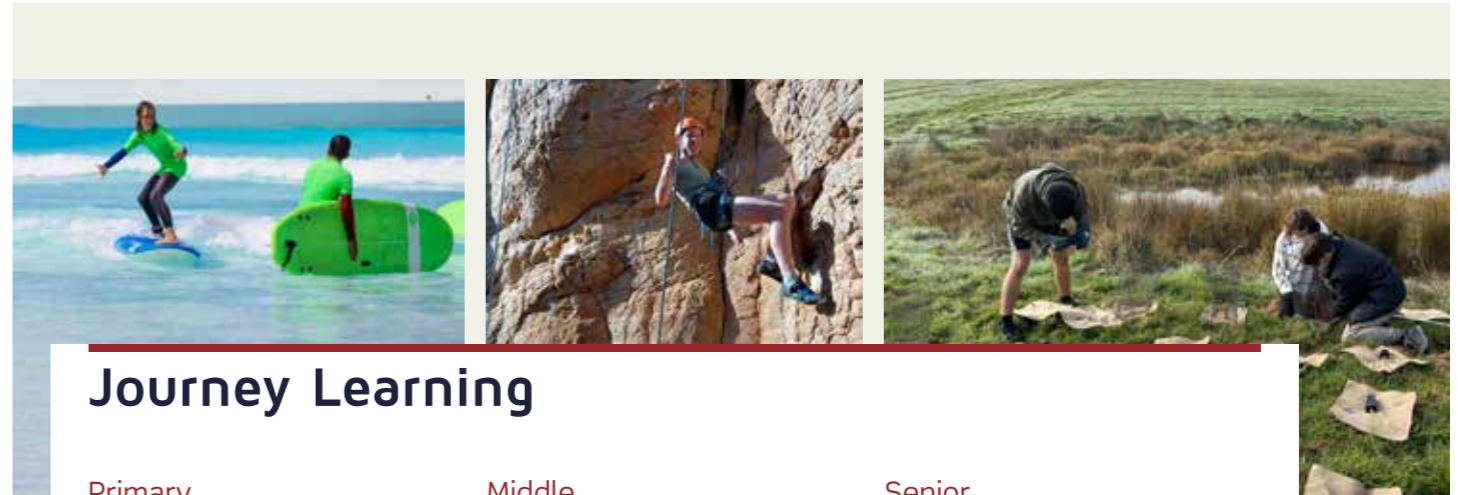
At a Senior level, Discovery Learning skills developed in previous years are refined and applied to Mastery and Journey learning experiences, as our students complete their VCE studies and contemplate their future pathways.





# Journey Learning

*Personal Growth, Community and Authentic Learning Opportunities*



## Journey Learning

### Primary

Journey Learning commences in Primary as students are introduced to Round Square inspired learning experiences outside the classroom, including:

- > Leadership Program
- > Camps and Excursions
- > Appreciation of our Landscape
- > Community Service Opportunities

The Outdoor Learning Program, which leads into our Outdoor Education Program, begins in Primary, forging a strong relationship between students, their natural environment and connection to Country.

**Thrive**, our Primary Wellbeing Framework, supports our young students to develop an understanding of their identity and the relationships they form.

### Middle

The Middle School years provide further opportunities to learn outside the classroom, particularly in the areas of social justice, community service and adventure.

Students are engaged in excursions, camps and collaborations with other organisations and schools, which drive an authentic sense of both community and learning experience.

The College's Middle School Wellbeing Program, known as **Link**, engages students to develop a deeper understanding of self while learning important inter-personal and life skills.

### Senior

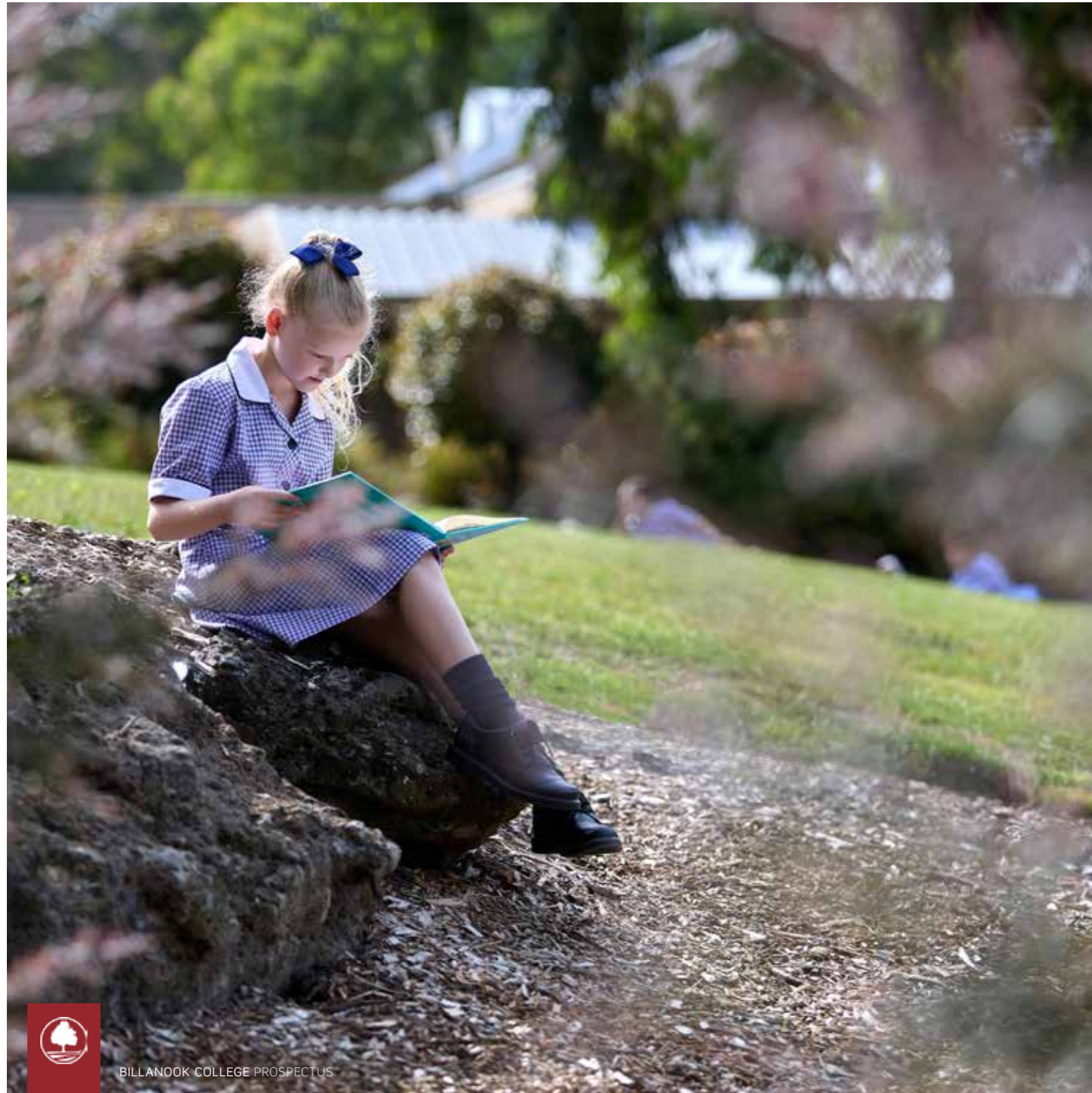
Billanook's Journey Program is committed to students having the opportunity to explore learning experiences outside the classroom, and allows students to find their place in the world through community service projects, international and domestic travel opportunities, and challenging outdoor adventure activities.

Our Senior School Wellbeing Program, **Aspire**, supports students to further develop skills critical for managing adult life after Billanook.

It focusses on fostering:

- > Co-operation
- > Appreciation for relationships
- > Respect
- > Problem solving
- > Decision making
- > Initiative
- > Aims and strategies for navigating their own life.





## Primary: Early Learning to Year 6

*Within our Primary learning environment we hold a steadfast belief in the inherent qualities of all children - kindness, curiosity, creativity, engagement and bravery.*

We work to create an environment that celebrates each student's unique individuality, their personal strengths and achievements.

Our student-centred teaching approach and learning philosophy, leveraged by evidence-based practice and data, incorporate a balance between explicit (clear direction) and inquiry (investigative) teaching methods.

These teaching practices, aided by our flexible classroom spaces, create an enriching teaching and learning environment that supports the diverse needs of our students, and fosters their growth - in both mind and body.

Our key focus on learning is underpinned by the concepts of:

- > **Kindness** - working in a three-way partnership with families, we can amplify the positive impact on each child's journey and nurture a communal atmosphere where kindness and mutual respect thrive.
- > **Curiosity** - the basis for all connected learning. We keep learning dynamic. We encourage students to spark their curiosity, ask questions, seek answers and develop a lifelong love for learning.

- > **Creativity** - In our classrooms we make learning visible, and celebrate the diverse ways in which students approach challenges, express ideas and contribute to the collective learning experience.
- > **Engagement** - By recognising that each child is a unique individual, we empower them to take ownership of their learning journey, fostering a sense of responsibility, autonomy and agency.
- > **Being Brave!** - Allows students to challenge themselves, push beyond their perceived limits, acquire new skills and learn and develop their true sense of self.





## Middle School: Years 7 to 9

*During these critical years of adolescence Billanook recognises the need for careful pastoral support that provides the basis for Middle Years' Schooling. We work closely in partnership with parents to ensure that every child develops their confidence and feels empowered to fulfil their potential.*

### A Learning Community Supporting Your Child

Each student in Middle School is supported by a connected network of Staff, parents, peers and specialist support.

Critical to this Community is the 'Head of Year' who walks the three-year learning journey alongside each child. This model ensures that every child is uniquely understood and accepted. Parents can be comfortable in the knowledge their child will be known as an individual, and that together we can make a difference in the growth of their child.

### An Integrated Learning Approach

The Middle Years are a time when strengthening the fundamentals of early education is paramount. Our Staff will encourage and build confidence in your child so they think critically and creatively, solve problems effectively, and seek sources of personal inspiration.

Our Learning Framework enhances the skills and knowledge of every learning experience - broadening the mind and encouraging lateral thinking.

Our commitment to serving others with compassion creates a safe but challenging environment for your child as they progress through their unique learning journey





## Senior School: Years 10 to 12

*As your child continues along their learning pathway, we encourage and support students to take an interest in, and responsibility for, their own learning program.*

The breadth of Senior School study options allows your child to follow their interests and talents, while making informed decisions to create their future.

We understand the important life decisions that Senior students need to make. To support them in these defining years we provide:

- > Wellbeing Support through the Aspire Program
- > A vast breadth of VCE Subjects
- > A focus on connection to their community
- > Individualised Pastoral Care
- > Counsel to build healthy study habits
- > Individualised Pathway Guidance
- > Support with study habits

### Year 10 Electives

Year 10 students can gain valuable insight into their preferred interests and talents by participating in a breadth of Semester based electives, such as Politics and Law, Forensic Science or Health of the World.

These electives provide a preview of VCE units, helping students choose their subject pathway before officially starting their VCE journey.

### Subject Choice in VCE

Billanook offers a large selection of VCE subjects, allowing your child to follow their true interests and talents.

Students will have a variety of subject choices, ranging from Politics and Philosophy through to Business Management, Theatre Studies and Economics.

As students enter our Senior School they may elect to undertake an accelerated VCE or VET subject in Year 10.





## Pathways and Guidance

*A breadth of educational pathway choice in VCE is crucial to providing meaningful learning experiences that enhance engagement, while preparing students for their future education or career.*

### VCE Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Billanook recognises the unique talents and individual learning pathway of each child, and therefore offers vocational programs (VET) in addition to a large range of VCE subjects and acceleration options. VET allows students to either follow a focussed vocational pathway, or enrich and diversify their existing VCE studies.

Students have access to a wide range of VET programs as part of Billanook's membership of the Yarra Valley VET Cluster Group. VET programs offered include:

- > Automotive
- > Building
- > Hospitality
- > Music Industry
- > Equine
- > Acting, Film and Television
- > Information Technology
- > Horticulture
- > Aviation
- > Engineering
- > Interactive Digital Media
- > Horticulture
- > Laboratory Skills

### VCE Vocational Major

Billanook's VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM), focuses on practical and hands-on learning to prepare students for the workforce. The VCE VM is fully integrated into the VCE, and students can combine their passion subjects, a VET Certificate, English, Mathematics, and the Vocational Major subject (Work Related Skills and Personal Development Skills) to form their own unique VCE VM course.

### Student Pathway Guidance

Navigating their VCE and potential future career pathways can sometimes feel daunting for Senior students.

Billanook's dedicated Student Pathways support role offers professional support, providing valuable guidance and direction during one of the most crucial points of their educational journey.

This role is dedicated to helping students in Years 9 to 12 discover and pursue meaningful career paths, should that be further education via a tertiary pathway, a TAFE program, or direct entry into the workforce.





## Maximising Potential

*At Billanook College we believe that minds of all kinds should be embraced, understood, and acknowledged.*

Our commitment to accepting students for who they are is at the core of our belief.

As a College we strive to incorporate inclusive practices across all areas of the School, and to prioritize the wellbeing of the whole child. We support our students in fostering strong connections with their teachers, peers, and the community, nurturing the potential of each child and embracing the diverse perspectives they bring.

Our focus on empathy ensures that every student feels they belong in an environment where they can flourish.

We provide personalized support based on individual needs and talents, employing an evidence-based approach to guide our practices. Our Multi-Tiered Support System is designed to be flexible and fluid, allowing us to adapt to the unique circumstances of each student.

We work collaboratively with our students and their families, developing a team approach that recognises and celebrates the strengths and talents of all learners.

We want our students to understand that the challenges they face are not failures but opportunities for growth.

Our aim is to develop well-rounded individuals who can contribute positively to our world.

“*Billanook’s strength is in its ability to cater to an individual child’s strength and needs. You never feel like a number no matter what’s required*”

*Current Parent*  
PARENT SURVEY





## Exploring Creative Flair

*Billanook is an innovative leader in art and design education, preparing students for professional and personal success in a creatively competitive world. We celebrate creative endeavours with exhibitions of students' work from Early Learning to VCE.*

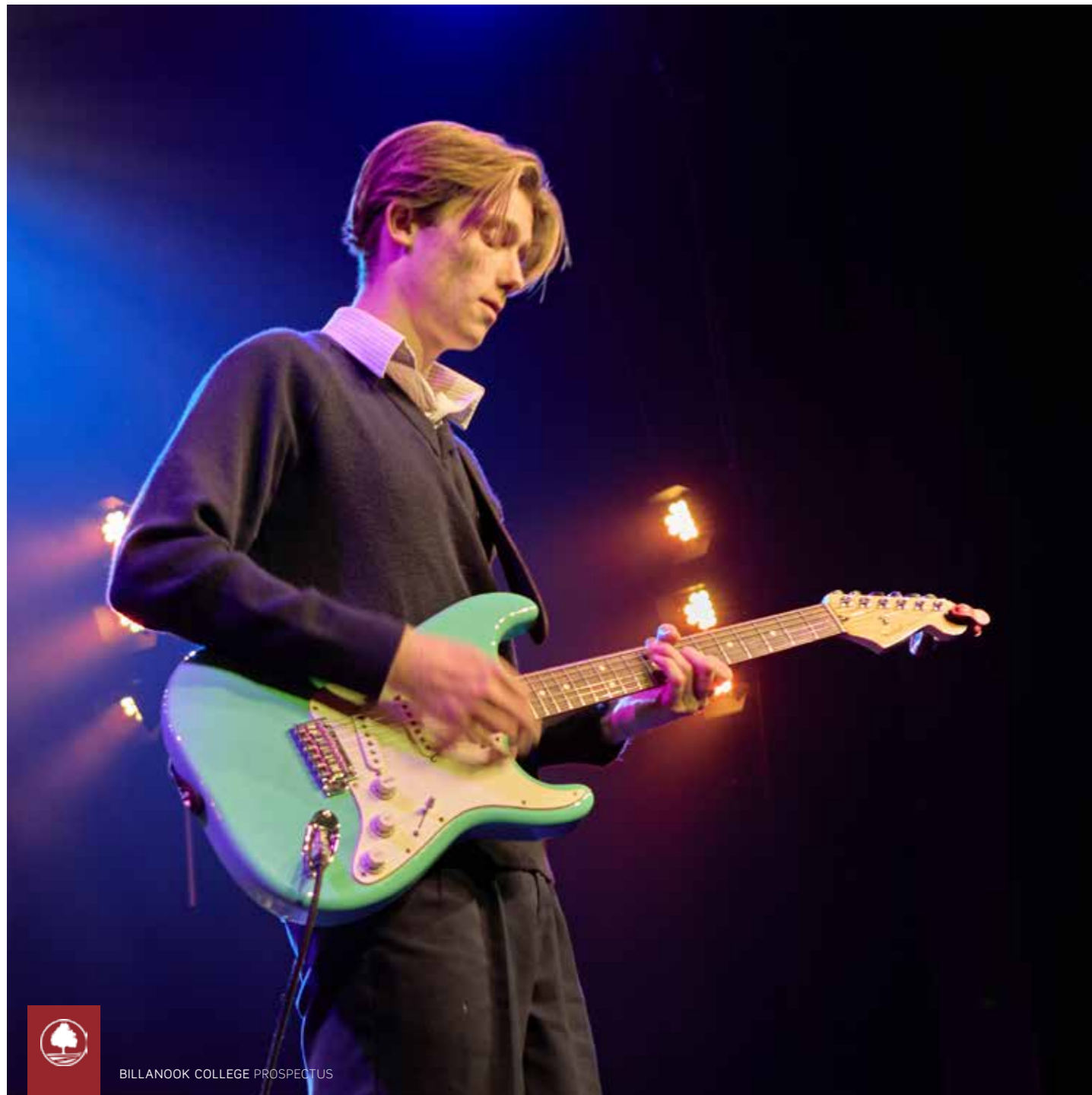
The multi-faceted Leigh Speedy Centre is a purpose-built facility for art and design. Students have the freedom, tools and guided expertise to experiment with the creative design process through a wide range of media - whether it be drawing, painting, metalwork and electronics.

Our specialist Technology Staff are trained material and food technicians who will broaden your child's knowledge in these tangible, creative and useful skill sets.

The Centre provides the opportunity to explore:

- > painting, printmaking and drawing
- > textiles
- > ceramics
- > photography
- > visual communication and design
- > computer based design software
- > 3D printing
- > laser cutting
- > wood - lathes, dowelling, jig and an extensive range of power tools
- > metal - welding bay, Mig and Oxy, acetylene
- > electronics/robotics
- > coding
- > creating electronic circuits
- > computer modelling (using industry standard software)
- > Food Technology





## Performing and Creating

*Music, performance and media are interlinked in today's fast-moving world, and we explore creativity with technology as our aid. Students think and innovate, and enjoy developing their understanding of these fields of study.*

Billanook's vibrant Performing Arts program offers students an immersive and hands on experience in music, performance, dance, drama, and media from Early Learning to VCE.

Students have the opportunity to work, perform and create within our dance studio, music labs and our purpose-built, professional-level Alan Ross Centre theatre.

The program encourages creativity and discipline, from musical practice to film editing and performance. Students explore diverse aspects of the arts, including stage technologies, costume design, and live media events.

Opportunities available to students include:

- > Annual Primary School Production
- > Annual Senior School Production
- > Years 7 and 8 Pantomime
- > VCE theatre cabaret showcase
- > VCE Theatre Studies Productions
- > Recitals
- > Live music performances

The program aims to guide students to think critically, make aesthetic judgements, and appreciate the arts' role in shaping culture and society.

### Media

Our Media students, particularly those in VCE and our VCE VET Program, benefit from an industry-standard recording studio and the latest software for creating animations, short films, and publications, preparing them for future creative opportunities.

### Music

Music is not just explored through the curriculum. Opportunities are abundant to join choirs, bands, and improvisation sessions.

Our Primary students are introduced to world music genres, and provided with instruments to explore their interests.

Private music tuition is available, covering the breadth of musical experiences: from guitar, bass, drums and voice to piano, Brass, Woodwind and Strings.





## Sport and Outdoor Education

*With our focus on teamwork and co-operation, your child will learn the value of fair play and discipline as well as benefitting from physical challenges and fitness.*

### Sport

Respect for others, enjoyment and health are the cornerstones of our Physical Education program. Our students grow in confidence and skill - things that affect all aspects of their lives.

House and inter-school sporting competitions bring students and Staff together, with events being filled with friendly rivalry and fun. Students participate in a regular, structured Sport Program that may include competitive opportunities as part of EISM (Eastern Independent Schools Melbourne Association).

### No Saturday Sport

Billanook is a family school and believes that students should be with their family, friends, or within their local community on the weekend. Therefore we do not participate in a Saturday sport program.

### Outdoor Education

Our Outdoor Education Program is integral to achieving our goal of educating both the mind and body. Learning in the great outdoors provides opportunities that immerse students in their natural surrounds, while extending and complementing classroom education and daily life.

The core objectives that exist in every facet of the School are also reflected within the Outdoor Education Program; the opportunity for students to make new discoveries, care for each other and the environment, be supported to challenge themselves and ultimately grow as individuals.





## Living Sustainably

*Sustainable development is defined as 'meeting the needs' of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*

*(Department of Sustainability and Environment).*

Billanook students recognise that they are fortunate to have a beautiful campus set on 15 hectares of natural bushland, with the School nestled on either side of Brushy Creek (known as Yaluk).

Our community acknowledges the Wurundjeri land upon which the College sits, and is committed to caring for, protecting and maintaining this environment for future generations.

### Sustainability Projects

Often working with the local community, re-vegetating burnt out areas, clearing waterways and volunteering for local environmental projects, our students are able to improve their local natural environment through the act of service to our community.

### Students Driving Environmental Change

Students, in collaboration with Staff and Leadership, devise action plans in the Resource Modules of Energy, Waste, Water and Biodiversity. These action plans aim to decrease water and litter produced by the School, reduce energy and water consumption of the School, and increase biodiversity in the grounds.

The ongoing aim is to reduce the collective Billanook eco footprint, as well as the environmental impact of each student and Staff member. In this way, we can all play our part in sustaining our environment.





*The enduring value of a Billanook education is in the positive and lasting experiences which result from the broad range of courses and activities, and the interaction between students and committed Staff members.*

Our education is underpinned by strong values and practices. Students gain an understanding of the beliefs and values embodied in kindness, democracy, truth and service, and we proudly welcome and accept students from all different backgrounds, abilities, nationalities and religions.

It is our collective aim to work alongside students, to help instil in them a deep sense of self-belief and optimism and to help them to be caring and compassionate, and able to take initiative.

Our wish for our departing Collegians is that they will be individuals who endeavour to positively transform the communities in which they live and work, and that they will enliven and enrich our world in the great and the small things they do.

Choosing a school is an exciting and sometimes daunting prospect, and you will be looking at a number of schools. The more you know, the better your choice. It is important that there is a good match between your family and the school you choose.

I encourage you to visit us and see for yourself – to sense the character and experience the nature of Billanook.

You can be assured of a warm welcome.

Roger Oates  
**PRINCIPAL**

