

St Ambrose Primary School



Centred by Faith - In Partnership with Community -We Provide Excellence in Learning











We give thanks to our elders past, present and emerging and truly appreciated the beautiful surrounds our school is built upon. With gratutude; The St Ambrose Community.



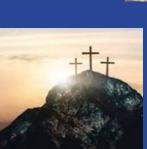


SCHOOL SPIRIT! THANK YOU LIBBY FOR THE FOOTAGE



Year 3-4 Passover Meal Portrayal See Holy Week mass times later in this Newsletter.

Dear Jesus, Help me to see the good around me, the good in others, and the good in myself. Fill me with gratitude and a kind heart. Guide me into living like you, with compassion and love. Bless us all this Easter and always. Amen



CONGRATULATIONS Marli!



Our next newsletter for the will be published on Friday 2nd May 2025.

Term 1 & 2 2025 Dates

Friday 28 March 2025	Grade 3/4 visit to Woodend Neighbourhood House	
Monday 31 March 2025	Good Friday Prayer Service (Gr 5/6) 2.45pm	
Tuesday 1 April 2025	Easter Sunday Prayer Service (Gr 2) 10.15am (time change)	
	Whole school cross country colour run 11.30-3.30pm	
Wednesday 2 April 2025	End of Term 1 Mass 9.30am (cancelled)	
Friday 4 April 2025	End of Term 1 – students dismissed 3.30pm	
Tuesday 22 April 2025	Term 2 commences	
Wednesday 23 April 2025	PFA meeting at the Victoria Hotel 7pm	
Friday 25 April 2025	ANZAC Day Public Holiday	
Monday 28 April 2025	School closure day - TIL	
Wednesday 30 April 2025	Grade 5 visit Sacred Heart College	
	Prep/1 Earth Crusaders incursion 10-1.30pm	
	Assembly 2.50pm	
Friday 2 May 2025	Caritas Longest Coin Line – 2.45pm	
Tuesday 6 May 2025	Hanging Rock Cross Country	
Wednesday 7 May 2025	Mother's Day Refreshments 2-2.45pm	
	Mother's Day Prayer Service 2.45-3.30pm	
Thursday 8 May 2025	Confirmation Meeting for Grade 6 students and parents 6.30pm	
Friday 9 May 2025	Cobaw Soccer Grade 6	
	PFA parent night out – St Ambrose Autumn Social 6pm (see PFA News pg 9)	
Sunday 11 May 2025	Mother's Day	
Tuesday 13 May 2025	Parent Teacher Interviews 3.45-5pm	
Wednesday 14 May 2025	Assembly 2.50pm	
Thursday 15 May 2025	Parent Teacher Interviews 3.45-5pm	
Friday 16 May 2025	National Walk Safely to School Day	
	Division Cross Country Castlemaine	
Saturday 17 May 2025	Confirmation Commitment Mass 5pm	
Sunday 18 May 2025	Confirmation Commitment Mass 11am	
Monday 19 May 2025	School Open Day 9.30-11am	
Tuesday 20 May 2025	Cobaw Winter Sports Gr 5/6	
	Parent Teacher Interviews 3.45-5pm	
Wednesday 21 May 2025	Middle Level Mass (Gr 3/4) 9.30am	
	Gr 5/6 100 story building incursion	
Wednesday 28 May 2025	Assembly 2.50pm	
Thursday 29 May 2025	Pupil free day	
Friday 30 May 2025	Pupil free day	
Wednesday 4 June 2025	Buddies Mass (Prep/1 & Gr 5/6) 9.30am	
Thursday 5 June 2025	Prep/1 Woodend Vet Clinic incursion	
Sunday 8 June 2025	Pentecost Sunday	
Monday 9 June 2025	King's Birthday Public Holiday	
Wednesday 11 June 2025	Reconciliation for Confirmation candidates 11.45am	
	Assembly 2.50pm	
Thursday 12 June 2025	Confirmation Practice 10am	
Sunday 15 June 2025	Sacrament of Confirmation 1pm	
Wednesday 25 June 2025	Assembly 2.50pm	
Wednesday 2 July 2025	End of Term Mass 9.30am	
Friday 4 July 2025	End of Term 2 – students dismissed at 3.30pm	
Saturday 5 July 2025 – Sunday 20 July 2025	Term 2 school holidays	









Prep-One Palm Sunday Re-enactment

Term 1 & 2 Dates

Message from the Principal

Dear parents, families and friends, This lovely autumnal weather has offered the perfect backdrop for our school sports and other outdoor events. It is always inspiring to see how what we call the St. Ambrose Way of Being is integrated into every aspect of our school community. By fostering our faith and values through our relationships, religious education, resilience project, and positive behavior for learning programs, we create an environment where students, staff and families can thrive. This holistic approach not only enhances academic success but also nurtures character development and emotional well-being. It's heartening to witness the students and staff embodying these principles in their interactions with one another and in their daily lives. Together, we are building a strong, supportive community who can work together to bring our vision; "Centred by Faith, in Partnership with Community, Providing Excellence in Learning' to life. We are guided by Jesus' example and our principles of Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, and Kindness. These not only serve as foundational values for students but also reflect a deep commitment to nurturing a positive and inclusive environment. Our staff and students strive to emulate our way of being together in our interactions and relationships with each other. Your emphasis on these values aligning with Gospel teachings adds a meaningful dimension that can inspire both students and staff. The challenges of living out these principles, especially in tough times, are a crucial part of personal growth. Encouraging students to embrace these values amid difficulties will equip them with essential life skills that extend beyond the classroom. The focus on kindness and empathy is particularly important, as these traits foster a supportive community where everyone feels heard and valued. It's great to see practical demonstrations of the St Ambrose Way during events like the school sports day. Such occasions not only showcase teamwork and sportsmanship but also reflect the underlying values that shape our school culture. We encourage you to engage in conversations with your children about what the St Ambrose Way means to them. This can deepen their understanding and application of these principles at home as well. It may provide valuable insights into how your children perceive and embody these values in their daily lives.

Parent Code of Conduct

Early each year we ask our community members to refamiliarise with our parent code of conduct which you all sign as part of the MACS enrolment process. You can access the code of conduct via the following link:

Parent Guardian Code of Conduct

Beginning of Term Two Dates

Classes conclude for first-term holidays on Friday 4 April at 3.30pm. Please note that second term commences for students on Tuesday 22nd April as Monday 21st April is Easter Monday which is a public holiday. ANZAC Day on Friday 25th April is also a public holiday. As per our school calendar, MACS has granted our school a TIL day on April 28th. This means you can enjoy an extra long weekend! We will see our students back at school on Tuesday 29th April.

Communication Platforms

For those of you who use Whatsapp groups to communicate, we recommend that you read the article you can access via the following link:

Why Schools and Parent Groups Should Stop Using WhatsApp for Communication

We understand that these groups support many of you to stay connected. Reading our newsletter supports you to keep informed about school matters along with class Seesaw, emails to teachers, operoo notifications and you can make an appointment to see a staff member when you feel the need.

Auslan Term Two Onwards

We are happy to announce that we will be resuming our Auslan program from term two. Clare Shannon who has been working alongside an Auslan teacher over the past two years in another school and who is undertaking study in Auslan will teach this subject for the remainder of this year. Our students will continue their Resilience Project lessons with their class teachers. Year P-2 will have their Auslan lesson on Tuesdays and years 3-6 on Wednesdays.

STEM at St Ambrose





To effectively teach STEM it is recommended that our approach should be integrated within the curriculum. Therefore we follow a hands-on, inquiry-based learning approach to integrate STEM concepts across all subject areas as appropriate. Classroom as well as specialist teachers often use STEM based activities throughout lessons. This means that our students engage in STEM based projects throughout the year. Our 2024 5-6 classes were very proud of their Bushfire Preparedness Pilot Program research which involved much STEM work. This project has been filmed and will be published in the coming month. Class expos also showcase some of the STEM work our students do. You may have noticed some of the Seesaw & FB posts showing STEM work. Our prep one classes are currently constructing their favourite buildings in Woodend following their recent excursion around the town and our 5-6 classes engaged in Robo gals STEM work a few weeks ago.

Our Inquiry topics for the year include digital technology and environmental science which provide a platform for rich STEM learning. We offer four specialist subjects. Our school has offset our Resilience Project and Auslan (from term 2) classes to be held on a separate day to our visual arts, health and physical education and music/performing arts lessons as the feedback from parents and staff was that having them all on the one day was overwhelming particularly for our junior students and by doing it that way we also weren't able to cover our literacy and mathematics curriculum each day. With the three classes on one day the teachers can plan together and teach literacy and numeracy every day. It also gives them a release session on an alternate day to catch up on classroom admin or whatever is needed.

This year our year three to six classes have their specialist classes on Thursday and years prep to two on Fridays.

School Improvement Plan 2024-2027

Following our school review in 2023 the following goals were determined for our next four year improvement cycle. It is timely to share them with you again.

Goal 1

To build an authentic and empowered Catholic Learning Community.

Goal 2

To build a rigorous Performance and Development culture underpinned by reflective practice.

Goal 3

To develop a whole-school approach to student voice, agency and participation for optimal wellbeing and learning.

Each year we develop an annual action plan which works towards these overarching goals.

Our AAP is based on our student performance data.

Annual Action Plan 2025

This year we will focus on the following goals across the school with an emphasis in the following levels.

Goal 1

To improve student achievement in maths particularly in place value in year 3-4.

Goal 2

To improve student achievement in reading comprehension in years 5-6.

Goal 3

To improve student achievement in writing in the early years P-2.

I will keep you updated via the newsletter of our work towards achieving our targets.

St Ambrose School Colour Run & Sliming Fundraiser

Thank you to those who have signed up for our colour run fundraiser so far. We are hoping to raise \$10,000. We are feeling hopeful we will reach our target. THANKYOU for your support. Those classes who raise the most money will be able to slime Fr. John or a teacher!



Asher's Initiative

Special thanks to Asher who initiated the sports day stickers which you may have noticed on drink bottles and books. Asher liased with sports captains to come up with the slogans!

They are catchy.



Fun with 1934 Saxaphone!

Brandon from Ranges Music Network with his Baritone Saxophone made in 1934.





PFA

Our enthusiastic PFA are keen to recruit new members and to catch up with you all at our autumn social on 9 May. Read information later in this newsletter and book via trybooking!

-Next meeting 23rd April at Vic Hotel 7pm -Autumn Social 9th May. ALL are WELCOME.

Naplan

Congratulations to our Yrs 3 & 5 students who have completed their NAPLAN tests. A great effort by all. NAPLAN is how government's, education authorities and schools determine whether young Australians are reaching important educational goals. Once our results are delivered we will send them home and as a staff we will unpack our results with rich educational discussions.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

We congratulate all of our students who made their sacrament of reconciliation this week. This sacrament supports us to learn more about God's unconditional forgiveness; as a result we are called to forgive others. It was great to celebrate with the children and their families on Thursday!



Junior School Puppet Show



On Thursday March 20, our Prep/1 students took part in an incursion run by Camp Quality.

This fun and interactive puppet show helps schools create supportive communities for any child impacted by cancer—whether they are dealing with their own

diagnosis or that of a sibling, parent, or carer.

The engaging performances helped dispel common misunderstandings about cancer, such as the misconception that cancer can be spread, and provide a shared language to facilitate meaningful conversations.

More information can be found here.

We pray for all of our families who are affected by cancer.

Hope is like the sun, which, as we journey toward it, casts the shadow of our burden behind us.

Next Newsletter

For more news and photos visit our <u>website</u> and look at latest news by clicking on our Facebook button.

Our next newsletter will be published on Friday, 2nd May 2025.



Bronwyn Phillips
Principal



2KR CLASSROOM FEATURE

Grade 2KR visited the Woodend Neighbourhood House this week



We contributed to the word 'COMMUNITY' on the fence by hammering in recycled lids of different









































We played games and enjoyed a delicious sausage sizzle. We look forward to visiting again and sharing this place with our families.

AROUND THE SCHOOL



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CREATIVE COLOUR IN VISUAL ARTS













Around the School

School News



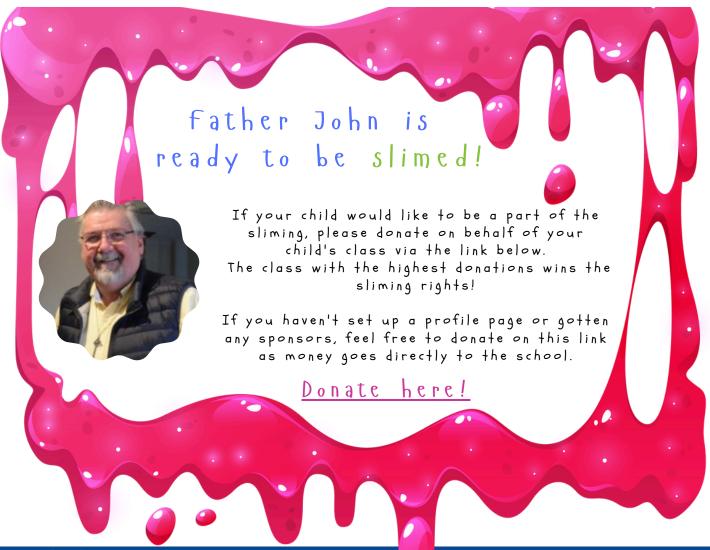
St Ambrose School Colour Run





Remember to create a profile page for your child at www.myprofilepage.au and share their profile with family & friends to receive online donations.

We can't wait to get colourful!



School News

PFA News





ST AMBROSE Autumn Social

FRIDAY 9 MAY 2025 6PM
THE VICTORIA HOTEL (UPSTAIRS),
67 HIGH STREET, WOODEND

Hello fellow parents of St Ambrose School.

The P&F has begun regular meetings for 2025 and this year, among other exciting plans, we are particularly focused on bringing the school parent community together in relaxed and social settings to maximize community, fun and connections amongst our wonderful parent body.



Our first initiative is the St Ambrose Parents & Friends
Autumn Social to be held upstairs at the Victoria Hotel
on Friday 9th of May - see the link above to book your tickets.
There will be plenty of finger food and terrific live music this is a night for old and new parents to come together and
relax at the end of the week with drinks available
at bar prices.

Please don't be shy, book your babysitter (no children, this one is just for us adults) and pop it in your calendar.

We'd really love your support as we work hard to create a memorable first event for 2025!

Please do reach out if you have any queries whatsoever, we can't wait to see you there.

Sophie Lynch for the St Ambrose P&F Committee. Phone/text 0478313191

PFA News

Student Awards



- P/10 Abi B for attempting every challenge and always giving 100%!
- P/10 Lachlan M for working so hard to form his letters correctly. Well done!
- P/10 Charlie C for working so hard to form his letters correctly. Amazing!
- P/IT Hellena M for settling into class routines and giving 100% to all tasks.
- P/IT Poppy P for being a kind and conscientious member of our class.
- P/1S Ava T for working hard to count the syllables in words. Well done!
- P/1S Willa M for always showing our school values and being a kind classmate! Well done!
- 2KR Flo H for being a fantastic collaborator when designing a town in Inquiry.
- 2KR Alfred O for working well in group tasks and always being willing to share his thinking and great ideas!
- 2KR Skylar C for completing an interesting report on leprechauns that had lots of interesting information.
- 3/4CW Deon S for his amazing effort and sportsmanship at Sports Day!
- 3/4CW Holly C for her resilience and efforts to complete her NAPLAN!
- 3/4M Felicity F for always trying her best at everything she does.
- 3/4M Jethro F for excellent organisation and respect every morning.
- 3/40 Mosako S for showing resilience and determination in his learning.
- 3/40 Bill R for amazing efforts and resilience during NAPLAN.
- 3/40 Annie D for her description and attention to detail she puts into her writing.
- 3/40 Alice L for always showing our Positive Behaviours for Learning.
- 5/6M Ellie B for his understanding of BODMAS including indices.
- 5/6M Tora C for a wonderful persuasive piece of writing.
- 5/6P Sophie V for being a responsible Sustainability Leader.
- 5/6P Hugh F for efforts in completing Maths tasks.
- 5/6W Varli F for your positive attitude towards learning and always willing to learn more, with enthusiasm and curiosity. Well done!
- 5/6W James B for always striving to complete learning tasks to the best of your ability and your positive growth mindset to learning more. Keep up the great work!

Sports Stars of the Week

Sofia X for amazing enthusiasm and participation in PE. Great job Sofia!

Jack J for great attitude and sportsmanship in PE lessons.

Max A for excellent participation in PE classes.

Reuben T for being a responsible and enthusiastic and fair class member in PE!

PBL Bronze Awards - congratulations to our many students who received a bronze award. Well done!





28 March Skylar C
29 March Reuben T
1 April Emily B
6 April Catalina B
8 April Audrey C
10 April Grace H
11 April Elle S

Student News





Congratulations Marli

Marli P represented our school on Saturday at the Girton Grammar dressage championships.

Marli and Harry her horse had a lot of fun competing with friends and the weather was glorious!

Marli came second in both her tests and was reserve champion overall. Lots of hard work in the weeks and months leading up to this competition paid off and they completed two lovely tests.

CONGRATULATIONS Marli and Harry!



Students' Initiative

Pictured are Ruby S and her friends, Elle, Evie and Amelia discussing their student initiative for next week at the assembly on Wednesday. They are going to hide a toy hare in the school grounds, and students are invited to find the hare which will have some suggestions of how to be kind to others.

Lost Property

Do you recognise this scooter and helmet or these cards and Smiggle wallet?

If either is yours, please contact the office.







Student News 1



Erin Brass



GEM Chats Gratitude

CREATING WELLBEING HABITS & CONNECTION

GEM Chats help families practice The Resilience Project's principles, offering a simple wellbeing check-in while building stronger connections through daily conversations.

HOW TO USE GEM CHATS

Make GEM Chats a part of your dinner routine to reflect, check in, and practice gratitude.

Try these prompts:

 $\langle \mathcal{I} \rangle$ What are you grateful for today?

Share a moment that made you smile.

How can you support someone tomorrow?

What was the best part of your day?

In 21 days of practising gratitude, you rewire your brain to start scanning the world for the positives. You become three times more likely to notice a positive.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RESILIENCE PROJECT, HEAD TO:

🔘 @theresilienceproject... 🧲 The Resilience Project 🚺 The Resilience Project 🜐 theresilienceproject.com.au







JOIN THE CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS

Faith & Family



Gospel Reflection: Luke 13:1-9

Friends, in today's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the fig tree that the owner cursed because it bore no fruit. On a deeper level, we may understand it to mean that the Lord expects us to bear spiritual fruit.

The fruit of the Spirit is the universal, all-embracing consequence of the Spirit's presence in us. All people who live in the Spirit should manifest these qualities. The word "fruit" is especially good in this context.

In Psalm 1 we find this comparison: "They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither."

The Spirit is this stream; when we are planted near it, we blossom.

Well, what are these fruits of the Holy Spirit? In the fifth chapter of Galatians, Paul enumerates them: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." When discerning whether the Spirit is living in you, in determining whether you are walking the right path, these are wonderful criteria.

By: Bishop Robert Barron (© Word on Fire 2025)

Heavenly Father, As I enter another week of my Lenten journey, guide me to the path that leads to you. Fill my heart with gratitude, patience, strength, and peace as I strive to become thebest-version-of-myself. Let me hear your voice in the deepest reaches of my heart. Give me rest in you. Help me to accept others, showing them your great love instead of casting judgment. Stay with me through the busy days this week and remind me that when I need comfort, solitude, wisdom, or guidance, I can always turn to you. Amen.

Pope's Prayer Intention for March:

For families in crisis. Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

Ponder:

Where in my life is Jesus calling me to repent and begin bearing good fruit?



PARISH NEWSLETTER

RELIGIOUS CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN TERM ONE, 2025:

Date	Details	Time
31st March	Good Friday Prayer Service (Gr 5/6)	2:45 pm
1st April	Easter Sunday Prayer Service (Gr 2)	10:15 am
**2nd April	End of Term 1 Mass (Cancelled)	9:30 am

RELIGIOUS CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN TERM TWO, 2025:

Date	Details	Time
7th May	Mothers' Day Prayer Service	2:45 pm
8th May	Confirmation Evening Meeting	6:30 pm
17th May	Confirmation Commitment Mass	5:00 pm
18th May	Confirmation Commitment Mass	11:00 am
21st May	Middle Years Mass (Yrs 2, 3 & 4)	9:30 am
4th June	Buddies Mass (Yrs Foundation & 5/6)	9:30 am
11th June	Reconciliation for Confirmation Candidates	11:45 am
12th June	Confirmation Practice	10.00 am
15th June	Confirmation	1:00 pm
2nd July	End of Term 2 Mass	9:30 am

Please note: All are welcome to our Masses. If you would like to join us in any of these celebrations, you are most welcome.

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST AMBROSE WOODEND AND

ST MARY'S LANCEFIELD AND ROMSEY

RECONCILIATION AND HOLY WEEK TIME TABLE

RECONCILIATION

Wednesday April 9th – 7pm – Lenten Reconciliation – Romsey Wednesday April 16th – 7.30pm – Lenten Reconciliation – Woodend

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY

Saturday April 12th

5pm Woodend, 6.30pm Lancefield

Sunday April 13th

9am Lancefield, 11am Woodend

HOLY THURSDAY

April 17th

6pm Lancefield, 7:30pm Woodend

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday April 18th

Stations of the Cross: 10am Woodend

Passion: 2pm Lancefield, 4pm Woodend

EASTER VIGIL

Saturday April 19th 5:30pm Romsey, 7:30pm Woodend Sunday April 20th 9am Romsey, 9am Woodend



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Faith & Family 13



COMMUNITY NEWS



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS FUN AT WNH **APRIL 2025**

STORY

IMAGINARY INSECTS

Make your own imaginary insects using found natural materials, in this fun Creative Me workshop.

Monday 7th April 10am - 11.30am

\$35

Prep to Grade 6



STORYBOARD DRAMA

Join the crew at Storyboard Drama for a fun and energetic performance workshop

Wednesday 9th April 9.30am - 12.30pm

\$35

Prep to Grade 6

STORYBOARD DRAMA

Join the crew at Storyboard Drama for a fun and energetic performance workshop

Wednesday 9th April 1pm - 4pm

\$35

Prep to Grade 6

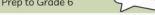


BENDY BUDDIES

Bendy Buddies Yoga is a joyful and playful yoga adventure designed for little yogis

Thursday 10th April 9.30am - 10am

\$10 Preschoolers Aged 2 - 5 years



CREATIVE YOGA FOR KIDS

Join Sarah for this unique blend of yoga, fun and relaxation perfect for primary school kids

Thursday 10th April 10.30am - 11.30am

\$15

Prep to Grade 6



YOGA FOR TEENS

Recharge, refocus, and release stress through mindful movement and breathwork



\$15

Years 7 - 12

SUN CATCHER WORKSHOP

Get creative with our volunteers and transform old

CDs into stunning sun catchers

Monday 14th April 10am - 11.30am

\$10

Prep to Grade 6



EASTER CRAFT WORKSHOP

Using pipe cleaners, a wooden log and your imagination, create an Easter decoration with Creative Me



For more information or to make a booking, visit our website: www.woodendnh.org.au or call 5427 1845

Under 11s Football - spots remaining

Places are still available for the Woodend Hawks Under 11 Football team.

Don't miss your chance to hit the field with the Hawks this season!

If you're born in 2014 or 2015 and want to give footy a go this season, get in touch with our football registrar Sally via email to register your interest. All players welcome

registrar@woodendhawks.com.au





Open Evening

Thursday 27 March, 4:00pm - 8:00pm Book Online: shckyneton.catholic.edu.au



Hands on activities, information sessions and displays - lots to see and do.

SACRED HEART COLLEGE KYNETON www.shckyneton.catholic.edu.au
try of Mercy Education Limited - ABN 69 154 531 870 T: 5421 1200 E: registrar@shckyneton.catholic.edu.au



Register your child for 3 or 4 year old kindergarten 2026

Give your child the best start to their learning journey at one of Council's eight kindergartens. Register online by 31 May 2025.

Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/kindergarten or call our Enrolment Officer on 5422 0239 to register.





Community News 14

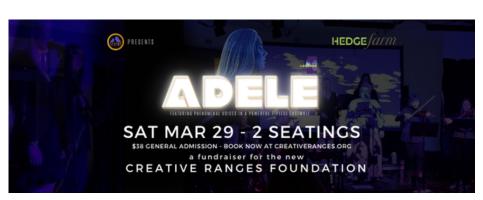


COMMUNITY NEWS









Featuring Ranges Music teachers, Amethyst and Hannah (a past St Ambrose student).

