

JUMBUNNA

"TALKING TOGETHER"

SOMERVILLE RISE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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Week 9 – Principal Update

2026 Smoking Ceremony

On Tuesday, our school community gathered in our indigenous garden to celebrate our 2026 Smoking Ceremony. We were privileged to be guided by Uncle Josh, a respected leader of the Bunurong Land Council, who led us through both the Smoking Ceremony and a heartfelt Welcome to Country.



Uncle Josh shared his knowledge, stories, and connection to Country, helping our students and staff develop a greater understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal culture and traditions.

The Smoking Ceremony is a powerful cultural practice used by Aboriginal peoples to cleanse and create a sense of belonging and wellbeing. As the smoke drifted across our gathering, students were invited to reflect, listen, and respectfully engage in this special moment. It was a beautiful opportunity to pause, connect, and acknowledge the rich cultural heritage of the land on which we learn and grow.

A special mention to Cambel, who excitedly led our Acknowledgement of Country. Cambel spoke with great pride and clarity, setting a thoughtful tone for the ceremony and demonstrating the deep respect our students have for First Nations cultures and traditions.

Uncle Josh's Welcome to Country reminded us of the ongoing connection of the Bunurong people to this land, and the importance of respect, care, and responsibility for Country. His words resonated strongly with our school values and our commitment to fostering kindness, inclusivity, and understanding.

We thank Uncle Josh for sharing his time, wisdom, and culture with us, and we commend Cambel for his leadership. Experiences like these are invaluable in helping our students grow as respectful, informed, and empathetic members of the community.

We look forward to continuing to build our understanding and strengthening our connection to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.



School Council Office Bearers

Last week, we held our Annual General Meeting and elected new office bearers for our school council. I would like to thank everyone for their interest in school council and officially announce our 2026 Office Bearers;

President – Kate Harding

Vice President – Meaghan Back

Treasurer – Erica Collins - Simpson

Secretary – Kym Kyberd

Somerville Rise Primary School

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Friday 27th March 2026, Edition 9

Staffing Updates

In some exciting personal news for my family – My wife, Jamie and I are expecting a little boy in the school holidays. I will be taking some time to support Jamie and our little guy, as such Ms Jelleff will be stepping into the principal role in my absence.

Ms Ferguson will be the Acting Assistant Principal to support Ms Jelleff during this time. It is a privilege to be able to step away from work and know that Somie Rise will be in great hands while I spend time with my family and our newest addition. I will make sure that I visit after he is born 😊

Miss Glaves will be taking some long service leave at the beginning of term 2. To ensure that everything continues along smoothly, Mr Blake Craven will be working with Foundation A for the duration. I know that we will all make Mr Craven feel welcome.

Keep living the dream!

Matt Jackson
Principal

Mental Health and Wellbeing - The Importance of Regular Attendance

Welcome to Week 9! It's hard to believe we are nearly at the end of our first term! Over the past few weeks, you may have noticed classroom teachers checking in when a student has been absent for two days. Megan and I have also been following up on unexplained absences and supporting families where students may be approaching 5 days absent or more for the term. These check-ins help us work together to keep students connected to their learning and school community.

Regular attendance supports children's learning, wellbeing, and sense of belonging. When students attend consistently, they build routines, maintain friendships, and stay engaged with their learning.

We also recognise that for some families, getting to school can be challenging. School refusal, often linked to anxiety, can make attending school difficult and may show up as worry about school, difficulty separating in the morning, or reluctance to attend.

Supporting children through these challenges works best when families and schools work together. To support families, we are sharing a **webinar for parents and carers** that explores:

- Understanding school refusal and anxiety
- Why children may struggle to attend school
- Practical strategies to support children at home
- Ways families and schools can support positive attendance

Access to Webinar: <https://raisingchildren.net.au/guides/podcasts-and-webinars/webinars/school-refusal-webinar>

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please reach out to your child's classroom teacher, Megan (Disability and Inclusion Leader), or myself so we can support your child together.

Amy Nettleton

Mental Health in Primary Schools Learning Specialist

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What's happening at Somerville Rise Primary School!

Term 1 – Week 10

Tuesday 31st March
Wednesday 1st April
Thursday 2nd April

Whole School Photo Day
iSea, iCare Moonraker Workshop
Last Day of Term 1 – 2:30pm finish
Easter Hat Parade – 9:15am
Good Friday Public Holiday

Term 2 – Week 1

Monday 20th April
Wednesday 22nd April

First Day of Term 2
District Summer Sports Lightning Premiership
2027 Foundation Open Morning – 9:30am
Whole School Cross Country

Term 2 – Week 2

Thursday 30th April
Friday 1st May

Smile Patrol Dental Van Visit
Smile Patrol Dental Van Visit
Whole School Assembly – 2:45pm

Term 2 – Week 3

Tuesday 5th May
Friday 8th May

Mother's Day Stall
Musical Enrichment Program Excursion
Second Chance Mother's Day Stall

Term 2 – Week 4

Tuesday 12th May
Wednesday 13th May
Friday 15th May

iSea, iCare workshop
School Council Meeting
Whole School Assembly – 2:45pm

Term 2 – Week 5

Tuesday 19th May

District Cross Country

Term 2 – Week 6

Monday 25th May
Tuesday 26th May
Wednesday 27th May
Thursday 28th May
Friday 29th May

Junior School Swimming
Junior School Swimming
Junior School Swimming
Junior School Swimming
Junior School Swimming
Whole School Assembly – 2:45pm

#KeepYourEyesonSomieRise #FromGoodtoGreat
At Somie Rise we value...



Kindness



Curiosity



Creativity

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