

"ACHIEVING TOGETHER"



Woody Yaloak Primary School

Website: [www.woodyyaloak.vic.edu.au](http://www.woodyyaloak.vic.edu.au)  
 Email: [woody.yaloak.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:woody.yaloak.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

Principal: Corey Pohlner  
 Phone: 5342 8565

## 2025 Term Dates

- 28th Jan - 4th April
- 22nd Apr - 4th July
- 21st July - 19th Sept
- 4th Oct - 19th Dec

**Smythesdale Campus** 5342 8565  
**Scarsdale Campus** 5342 8514

**Snake Valley Campus** 5344 9274  
**Ross Creek Campus** 5342 0478

## FOR YOUR DIARY 2025

## DECEMBER

- Wednesday 17th**  
 • Senior Bike Ride

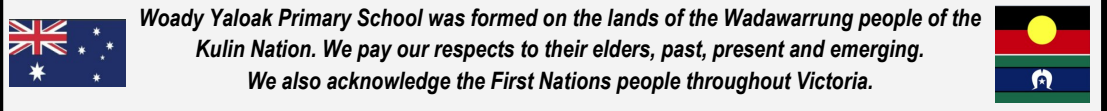
- Thursday 18th**  
 • Reports go home

- Friday 19th**  
 • **Term 4 Finishes -**  
**1.30pm PICK UP**

## JANUARY 2026

- Wednesday 28th**  
 • Grades 1-6 Start

- Thursday 29th**  
 • Foundation Students Start



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Students, Parents, and Staff,

As we come to the close of another successful school year, I want to pause and acknowledge the many accomplishments we have shared as a community, and to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed along the way.



Throughout the year, our students have shown outstanding growth—both academically and socially. This was especially evident during our recent campus awards assemblies, where their confidence and maturity shone through. The way they carried themselves while presenting and speaking at various events reflects not only their hard work, but also the dedication of their teachers and the support of their families.

In addition to their classroom achievements, our students have embraced the wide range of extracurricular opportunities available to them. Whether participating in sporting programs, creative arts activities, campus celebrations, or excursions, they demonstrated enthusiasm, curiosity, and a strong sense of connection with their peers. These experiences showcase their diverse strengths and highlight the positive, encouraging culture that exists within our school community.

We often say that Woody has the best of both worlds—our students enjoy the benefits of a smaller campus environment while also having the opportunity to come together as part of a larger school community. These connections strengthen relationships and, we hope, form friendships that continue into secondary schooling.

This year, we have also made significant strides in community engagement. From Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Grandparents Day to our Athletics Day, we have certainly had it all. Your involvement and support at each event play a crucial role in enhancing student engagement at school.

I would like to once again thank all of our parent volunteers across our four Parents and Friends groups, as well as our School Council members. A special thank you goes to our School Council President, Stacey Bunn, who has led our school with dedication throughout the year. Your collective input and support do not go unnoticed by our leadership team.

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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSGAE Cont...

To our new families joining us in 2026, we look forward to getting to know you and welcoming your children into the Woody family.

To our graduating students—congratulations! Your primary school journey at Woody Yaloak has certainly been unique. From the challenges of COVID and remote learning to relocating to a new campus during our capital works program, you faced it all head-on. You may not realise it now, but the resilience and adaptability you have demonstrated will serve you exceptionally well as you move into secondary school.

We are fortunate to have incredible teachers and staff at Woody Yaloak—the true backbone of our school. Your commitment to providing a nurturing, stimulating, and supportive environment for our students is deeply appreciated. Thank you for your unwavering dedication and hard work. This gratitude also extends to our Education Support Classroom team, who help students build engagement and achieve their best, as well as our Education Support Office Staff—Sharon, Rhonda, Pete, and Robyn—who are truly the glue that holds everything together. I would like to make special mention of Clare Ryan (Ross Creek grade 1/2), who will not be teaching at Woody in 2026. I want to sincerely thank her for her work out our school and wish her all the best for the future. A heartfelt thank you also goes to our brilliant Campus Heads: Jacqui Tung, Jamie Dwyer, Steph Sanders, and Chris Jerram. Your daily energy, professionalism, and empathy make our school a better place for all.

I also want to acknowledge and thank our Principal, Mr Pohlner, and our Assistant Principal, Mr Cox. Although the tireless work they do may sometimes go unseen, its impact is felt deeply across our school. Our students are incredibly fortunate to have such strong leadership.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable break. May the coming year bring new opportunities and continued success.

Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday period!

I look forward to achieving together with you again in 2026.

Regards

*Eamon Johnson*

Acting Principal

Woody Yaloak Primary School



## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

### SCHOOL COUNCIL WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK (WCC)

From 2026, parents, carers and community members who would like to join the school council need a working with children (WWC) clearance to nominate. If you are considering nominating for school council, and don't already have a WWCC, I encourage you to apply for a volunteer WWC check as soon as possible. This will allow for processing times, which are estimated to be from 3 to 12 weeks.



Please note that if you do not hold a WWC clearance, you will not be able to nominate for school council, so it is vital that you prepare in advance. Obtaining a WWC clearance is free for volunteers, and you can apply online at <https://service.vic.gov.au/services/working-with-children>

When applying for your volunteer WWC check, please nominate the Department of Education as the organisation you are working for.

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## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

### SCHOOL COUNCIL WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK (WCC) CONT.....

If you already hold an employee WWC clearance, you do not need to obtain a volunteer WWC clearance to nominate for school council.

Victorian Institute of Teaching-registered teachers and school students who are interested in joining school council are not required to obtain a WWC clearance.

Current parents and community members of school council do not need to apply for a WWC check immediately. Current members only need a WWC clearance if their term ends and they wish to nominate or be co-opted again.

For more information, refer to **Ministerial Order 1280 (Constitution of Government School Councils) 2020**.

### 2026 STUDENT FREE DATES

Our student-free days have now been formally endorsed by School Council. Please take a moment to record the following dates in your diary. Students in year one to six resume on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January. Foundation students begin on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January and do not come to school on Wednesdays in February.

Tuesday 27th January

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Friday 5th June

Friday 14th August

Friday 20th November

### NEW WOADY WEBSITE

Our new school website is almost complete, with the final touches being added this week. This updated site will serve as a central hub for all things Woady, making information easier to find and access. The recent upgrades to our buildings and grounds will be showcased through new photography and videography, and I encourage everyone to take a look once it goes live. When the site is finalised, we will share the link with families via Compass.



### HOLIDAY BUILDING WORKS

Over the summer holiday period, a building program will commence on the original Snake Valley building. This stage of works will focus on replacing flooring and completing remedial repairs to address issues that have emerged following the 2024 Capital Works program. The project is expected to begin in January and run for approximately eight weeks. During this time, the entire original building will be fenced off. Once the works are finalised, Snake Valley students will again have full access to the space.



In addition, minor bushfire-prevention works will be undertaken at both Scarsdale and Snake Valley. These include installing protective screens over air-conditioning units, securing drains, and adding fly screens to selected windows. These improvements will not affect the day-to-day operation of the school.



*Merry  
Christmas*  
& **HAPPY NEW YEAR**





OpenPro  
Tennis Academy

# SUMMER

# HOLIDAY

# CLINIC

at

Buninyong & District Tennis Association



If you are looking for fun activities for kids during the school holidays, the Holiday Clinics are the perfect way to try out tennis for the first time or continue to play tennis during the holiday break.

## HOLIDAY CLINIC 1:

Monday - Thursday  
19 January - 22 January  
9am - 12pm

## HOLIDAY CLINIC 2:

Monday - Tuesday  
26 January - 27 January  
9am - 12pm



# BOOK NOW

[tomas@openprotennisacademy.com.au](mailto:tomas@openprotennisacademy.com.au)

[www.openprotennisacademy.com.au](http://www.openprotennisacademy.com.au)