

# NEWSLETTER

# McDonald Park School



Principal – Kirsty Hill

Chairperson Governing Council – Talia Birks

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Government of South Australia  
Department for Education



## END OF 2025

The learning year for 2025 has concluded and it is time to celebrate and reflect on the year that has been.

We have been so proud of the learning focus throughout 2025. A change of day structure that is built on best practice and maximising learning and the introduction of PhOrMeS across the school were two changes implemented early in the year that have made a huge difference to focus and outcomes. Our data indicates pleasing achievement growth across the school. We continue to live our vision of **'working collaboratively to develop respectful, thriving and engaged problem solvers'**.

It is acknowledged that it is the individuals who collectively make a difference and support our students, be this teachers, support staff, volunteers, peers and parents. Thank you to everyone who has made a difference in the learning at McDonald Park School in 2025. It is very much appreciated.

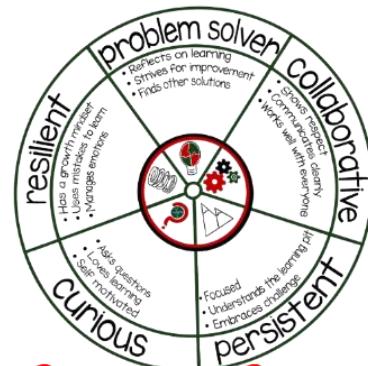
We would like to wish Linda Ward all the best in the next chapter of her life, as she steps into retirement. Linda has given 27 years of dedicated service to McDonald Park School and in that time has supported many students, teachers and families. She will be remembered for her commitment and care to others, her organisation within the LAP program and her creativity will be thought of whenever we lay the wreath, she cleverly crafted on Remembrance Day. Linda hopes to continue her connection to the school through the LAP program, so we will continue to see her in 2026. Best wishes from the McDonald Park School community.

We take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year with your families and loved ones. Best wishes to those who are graduating to high school or moving on to other locations.

See you in the new year of 2026. Please note that the school term will begin on Tuesday January 27<sup>th</sup> 2026. We also provide advanced notice of our first of four scheduled student free days which will be on Friday February 20<sup>th</sup> 2026.

**Kirsty Hill, Daniel Castle & Lia Jordan**

Issue No 21, 11/12/25 - Week 9, Term 4



## Coming Events

### WEEK 9

**Thursday 11 December**  
Year 5/6 Aquatics Day

**Friday 12 December**

Last day of term 4

Whole school assembly  
9:10am in gym

**Early dismissal 2:15 pm**



# VISION AWARDS



Award Winners from Week 7 Assembly



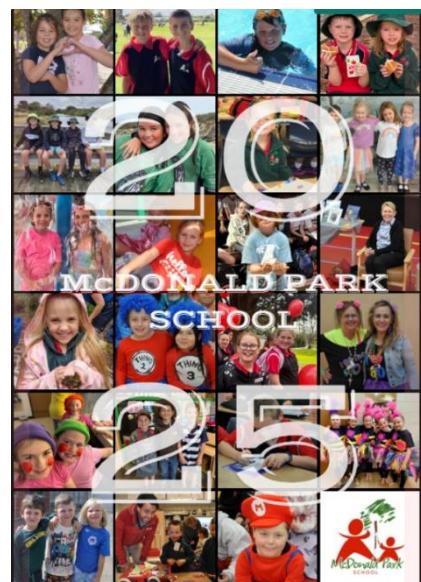
## SAPSASA CRICKET

I had a great time participating in SAPSASA cricket. I got one wicket for the whole competition and my highest score in batting was 9 runs. I had heaps of time with my friends and our team won 2 out of the 5 games that we played.

Judd C



## SCHOOL MAGAZINE 2025



## SCHOOL MAGAZINE

Once again we are offering a school magazine for the 2025 year.

This is a fantastic opportunity to capture your child's primary years in a magazine format. This year's magazine will be in full colour.

*These will be available to order via the Qkr! App*

*The cost is \$31.50*

*If you require postage, it will be an extra \$7.50*

# 2026 CLASSROOMS

| ROOM  | YEAR LEVEL       | TEACHER(S)                            |
|-------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| A1    | Reception        | Deanne Spencer & Suzanne Harding      |
| A2    | Reception        | Amy Pitkin & Suzanne Harding          |
| A3    | Reception        | Sue Wilson & Laura Day                |
| Rm 3  | Year 1/2         | Rose Cooper & Ashleigh Hutchinson     |
| Rm 4  | Year 1/2         | Lydia Huitema                         |
| Rm 5  | Year 1/2         | Michelle Schulz & Ashleigh Hutchinson |
| Rm 6  | Year 1/2         | Amber Depeler & Ashleigh Hutchinson   |
| Rm 7  | Year 3/4         | Trudi Dew                             |
| Rm 8  | Year 3/4         | Melissa McCracken                     |
| Rm 11 | Year 3/4         | Paul Bigg                             |
| Rm 12 | Year 3/4         | Kate Eldridge                         |
| N3    | Year 5/6         | Helen Widdison & Stacey Tilley        |
| N4    | Year 5/6         | Katherine Bundy & Laura Dempsey       |
| N5    | Year 5/6         | Vanessa McLean                        |
| N6    | Year 5/6         | Karen Mitchell & Lia Jordan           |
| T1    | NIT Japanese F-4 | Adina Hill                            |
| T5    | Rec/Yr1 Science  | Sally Strachan                        |
| T6    | NIT/Health/PE    | Sonya Jolly & Daniel Castle           |
| Rm 13 | Science          | Carrie Bisnov                         |
| N1    | Design/Tech      | Erin Munday                           |

## YEAR 6 GRADUATION AWARD WINNERS

*congratulations*

| AWARD                        | STUDENT NAME       | SPONSOR                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Best all Round Year 6 Girl   | <b>Lara B</b>      | Lions Club Mount Gambier   |
| Best all Round Year 6 Boy    | <b>Benji R</b>     | Lions Club Mount Gambier   |
| Continuous Improvement Award | <b>Destiney B</b>  | Bendigo Bank               |
| Continuous Improvement Award | <b>Djakobe L-J</b> | Bendigo Bank               |
| Continuous Improvement Award | <b>Ember B</b>     | Bendigo Bank               |
| Continuous Improvement Award | <b>Madalyn M-C</b> | Bendigo Bank               |
| Academic Award               | <b>Alexis R</b>    | Collins Bookstore          |
| Academic Award               | <b>Aisling D</b>   | Collins Bookstore          |
| Humanity Award               | <b>Stella C</b>    | Nickson Farms              |
| Humanity Award               | <b>Charlotte B</b> | Nickson Farms              |
| Community Award              | <b>Sophia P</b>    | Governing Council          |
| Community Award              | <b>Hudson F</b>    | Governing Council          |
| School Pride Award           | <b>Kade J</b>      | Green Triangle Electronics |
| School Pride Award           | <b>Meah Mc</b>     | Green Triangle Electronics |
| School Pride Award           | <b>Paiton P</b>    | Green Triangle Electronics |
| School Pride Award           | <b>Baden D</b>     | Green Triangle Electronics |
| Sports Award                 | <b>Benji R</b>     | Hughes & Loveday           |



# Mount Gambier New Years Eve Festival 2025



<https://www.trybooking.com/DGQXA>

Chunky Custard - REX

Alison Newman - Any Other Sunday

Sing Along With Jimmy - The Snow Queen (Tamara Seeley)

LIVE MUSIC - HORSE CARRIAGE RIDES - SNOW QUEEN INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE

LASER TAG - PRO WRESTLING SOUTH AUSTRALIA - VARIETY OF FOOD & BEVERAGE VANS

PETTING ZOO - MARKET STALLS - KIDS PLAY ZONE - PLUS MORE!

\*KIDS ACTIVITIES RUN FROM 6PM TILL 11PM & ANIMAL ACTIVITIES TILL 8:30PM\*

**Adults: \$15    Kids/Concession: \$10    Family: \$35**

Event runs from 6pm to 12am - Fireworks at 9:15pm and 12am!

Gates open at 5pm - Mount Gambier Show Grounds 1 Pick Ave 31/12/25

**\*FREE BUS SHUTTLE SERVICE AVAILABLE ADJACENT FROM RSL\***

NO BYO ALCOHOL, BIKES, SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS & PETS

BYO PICNIC BLANKET - GOLD COIN PARKING



PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:



**STEPLEN** Homes

trident tyre centre

K&S FREIGHTERS

Community Bank  
Mount Gambier & District

The Border Watch

**Elders**  
Insurance  
Mount Gambier

Government  
of South Australia  
Department of the  
Premier and Cabinet

**GTE**  
JAPAN STOCKS & BUSES | TRAVEL & TOURS

**SANDY RIDGE**  
SANDY RIDGE  
RENTALS  
RENTALS  
RENTALS

**CONVENT**  
CONVENT  
CONVENT



City of  
Mount Gambier

**WIN**  
NETWORK

**Mount Gambier**  
Central

INTERSPORTS - BUCKY TYREPOWER - TONY PASIN - HENRI POST JEWELLERS

# COMMUNITY NEWS

City of Mount Gambier

# SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAM

15 December 2025 to 25 January 2026



City of  
Mount Gambier



## Rainbow Jellyfish

Monday 5 to Sunday 11 January | During opening hours

Mount Gambier Library

Create a colourful jellyfish hanging decoration using a paper bowl and streamers! Drop-in DIY activity for the whole family to enjoy.

FREE | All ages | Bookings not required



## Colourful String Charms

Monday 5 January | 10:00am | Mount Gambier Library

Make your own dazzling charm! Using bright threads, crisscross them through a wooden shape, and finish with a tassel for a charm that's ready to hang, gift, or show off!

FREE | Ages 7+ | Bookings essential



## Big Summer Read Launch Party

Tuesday 6 January | 10:00am to 12:00pm | Cave Garden/Thugi

Get ready for a morning of family fun! Whacky Mac live performance, Little Animal Encounters petting zoo, face painting and more! Pack your morning tea and meet us in the Cave Garden/Thugi. Drop-in event, perfect for families.

FREE | All ages | Bookings not required



## Weaving with Aunty Val

Wednesday 7 January | 11:00am | The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre

Boandik Elder Aunty Val Brennan will start you on raffia starters and teach you the basics of weaving. All abilities welcome.

FREE | Ages 8+ | Bookings essential



## Early Literacy Programs

Thursday 8 January | 10:00am | Mount Gambier Library

Connect and Play

Connect with your child and other families through interactive play. Enjoy a range of play-based activities, followed by group songs and parachute fun!

FREE | Ages 0 to 5 | Bookings not required



## Come and Try Spheros

Thursday 8 January | 2:00pm | Mount Gambier Library

Pop in and play with a Sphero robot! Steer your robot through twists, turns, and surprises in our obstacle course. BYO device with Sphero Edu app installed.

FREE | Ages 7+ | Bookings not required



## Barnbul

Monday 15 December to Sunday 25 January | During opening hours

The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre

A family-friendly place to draw, weave, learn and yarn. Come and illustrate or weave or sit in the yarning circle, surrounded by local native flora.

FREE | All ages | Bookings not required



## Weaving with Rachel in Barnbul

Friday 19 December | 11:00am | The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre

Join Rachel Burke for a weaving session in our yarning circle. All abilities welcome.

FREE | Ages 8+ | Bookings essential



## Christmas in the Cave

Saturday 20 to Wednesday 24 December | During opening hours

Mount Gambier Library

Get into the festive spirit and celebrate traditions from around the world with our DIY community craft and colouring activities. Drop-in activity.

FREE | All ages | Bookings not required



## Carols in the Cave

Sunday 21 December | 11:00am | Mount Gambier Library

Celebrate the festive season with a magical sing-along in our enchanting Children's Cave/Yulangku Kanapinan. LED candles and glow sticks available for a gold coin donation to the Mayor's Community Christmas Appeal.

FREE | All ages | Bookings not required



## Big Summer Read Activity Quest

Monday 29 December to Sunday 25 January | During opening hours

Mount Gambier Library

Take on the Big Summer Read activity quest and complete a range of reading and library activities to go into the draw to win exciting prizes!

Drop into the Library to collect your activity card.

FREE | All ages | Bookings not required



## Giant Games

Friday 9 to Sunday 11 January | During opening hours

Mount Gambier Library

Drop by the Library for school holiday excitement and challenge your friends and family to some super-sized, giant games!

FREE | All ages | Bookings not required



## D&D

Friday 9 January | 2:00pm | Mount Gambier Library

Immerse yourself in the world of Dungeons and Dragons as we undertake an epic quest. Players from all experience levels welcome.

FREE | Ages 12 to 25 | Bookings essential



## Emoji Hunt

Monday 12 January to Sunday 18 January | During opening hours

Mount Gambier Library

The emojis are playing hide-and-seek in the library! Can you spot them all? Go into the draw to win fun prizes! A DIY activity for the whole family to enjoy.

FREE | All ages | Bookings not required



## Pop Up Playgroup

Monday 12 January | 9:30am to 11:00am | Cave Garden/Thugi

Join the Library and Centacare Family Connections Program in Cave Garden/Thugi for a playgroup suitable for preschool children and their families.

FREE | All ages | Bookings not required



## Draw and Discover

Monday 12 January | 2:00pm | Mount Gambier Library

Learn some fun drawing tips, explore your imagination, and bring your characters to life in this creative drawing workshop run by local children's book illustrator Bianca Richardson.

FREE | Ages 10+ | Bookings essential



## Early Literacy Programs

Tuesday 13 January | Mount Gambier Library

Baby Bounce

11:00am

In this session we encourage face to face play between parents and babies, lots of laughing, giggling and singing. Suitable for ages 0 to 18 months.

CFS Storytime

11:30am

Join us for a special Storytime and activities with the Country Fire Service.

FREE | Ages 0 to 5 | Bookings not required



### 3D Printing

Tuesday 13 January | 2:00pm to 4:00pm | Mount Gambier Library

Using TinkerCad, choose a design or build a unique creation, to be printed for collection at a later date.

Note – parental supervision required throughout the session.

FREE | Ages 7+ | Bookings not required



### Bush tucker and Native Plants with Uncle Ken

Wednesday 14 January | 11:00am | The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre

Learn about our native local plants and their uses in bush tucker with Boandik Elder Uncle Ken.

FREE | Ages 8+ | Bookings essential



### Water Heroes Presented by OzFish

Wednesday 14 January | 1:00pm to 3:30pm | Mount Gambier Railway Lands

Join OzFish for a fun, free outdoor adventure where families can explore a local waterway, study and identify aquatic bugs, and learn how to fight litter to protect our waterways.

Two session times available.

FREE | Ages 5+ | Bookings essential via OzFish website



### Early Literacy Programs

Thursday 15 January | 10:00am | Mount Gambier Library

#### Connect and Play

Connect with your child and other families through interactive play. Enjoy a range of play-based activities, followed by group songs and parachute fun!

FREE | Ages 0 to 5 | Bookings not required



### Henna Designs

Thursday 15 January | 2:00pm | Mount Gambier Library

Local Henna artist Alma will guide you through the ancient art of Henna designs, with each participant receiving a special take-home pack.

FREE | Ages 12+ | Bookings essential



### Embroidering Your Memories

Friday 16 January | 11:00am | The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre

Based on the work by Heather Shearer in Saltbush Country, create pictures of something you remember from your childhood using coloured thread.

\$5 | Ages 8+ | Bookings essential



Big Summer Read is a nationwide reading campaign which aims to address the 'summer slide' by engaging young people in reading for pleasure and supporting literacy development.

#### Participation:

Log the number of days spent reading, number of books read, or complete both categories.

The portal can be found at the Big Summer Read website [readbooks.com.au/bsr](http://readbooks.com.au/bsr) or scan the QR code.

#### Qualify for prize draws:

To qualify for the national prize draw, participants must engage in reading for a minimum of five days, or read a minimum of five books.

For every additional five days logged or five books read, participants will receive one additional entry into the prize draw.

#### Sign up today!

Participants can register at any point throughout the challenge. Sign up by scanning the QR code.



### Important things to note

- Bookings essential for all sessions (unless stated otherwise).
- Bookings can be made by contacting the individual venue as below or scan the QR code.
- Our school holiday sessions are very popular and usually book out. If you have booked in and can no longer attend please call to cancel so another child can enjoy.
- Parents and guardians must remain with children under the age of 12 during sessions.



Mount Gambier Library

6 Watson Terrace, Mount Gambier | Phone 08 8721 2540  
[publiclibrary@mountgambier.sa.gov.au](mailto:publiclibrary@mountgambier.sa.gov.au) | [mountgambier.sa.gov.au/library](http://mountgambier.sa.gov.au/library)

The Riddoch Arts & Cultural Centre  
1 Bay Road, Mount Gambier | Phone 08 8721 2563  
[riddoch@mountgambier.sa.gov.au](mailto:riddoch@mountgambier.sa.gov.au) | [theriddoch.com.au](http://theriddoch.com.au)



### 3D Printing

Tuesday 20 January | 2:00pm to 4:00pm | Mount Gambier Library

Using TinkerCad, choose a design or build a unique creation, to be printed for collection at a later date.

Note – parental supervision required throughout the session.

FREE | Ages 7+ | Bookings not required



### Whimsical Windchimes

Wednesday 21 January | 10:00am | Mount Gambier Library

Design and decorate your own colourful windchime to hang and jingle in the breeze!

FREE | Ages 5+ | Bookings essential



### Water Heroes Presented by OzFish

Wednesday 21 January | 1:00pm to 3:30pm | Mount Gambier Railway Lands

Join OzFish for a fun, free outdoor adventure where families can explore a local waterway, study and identify aquatic bugs, and learn how to fight litter to protect our waterways.

Two session times available.

FREE | Ages 5+ | Bookings essential via OzFish website



### Sensory Play

Thursday 22 January | 10:00am | Mount Gambier Library

Engage your child's senses with exciting textures, colours, and activities in this hands-on sensory play session. Dress for mess!

FREE | Ages 0 to 5 | Bookings not required



### Game On

Friday 23 January | 2:00pm | Mount Gambier Library

Race to the finish in our Mario Kart gaming competition, with the chance to win a prize. Speed, skill, and plenty of fun await!

FREE | Ages 12+ | Bookings not required



FREE

Some events have limited places so be quick!

#### 1 Valley Lake Playground inc BBQ

5-8 year olds

Tuesday 20 January 2026

12pm-2pm



#### 2 Tantanoola Cave Tour (transport provided)

9-12 year olds

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025

1pm-4pm



#### 3 Tantanoola Cave Tour (transport provided)

13-17 year olds

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026

1pm-4pm



#### 4 Dinner at Nalou

18-25 year olds

Tuesday 23 December 2025

5pm



To RSVP or for further information please contact us on 0491 066 939 or email [youngcarerteam@carerssa.com.au](mailto:youngcarerteam@carerssa.com.au)

