

# NEWSLETTER

## McDonald Park School



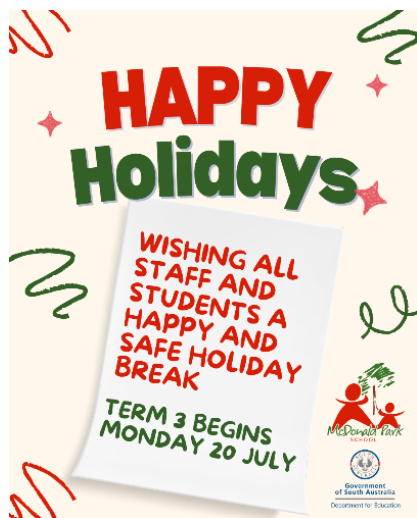
Principal – Kirsty Hill  
Chairperson Governing Council – Talia Birks  
57 North Terrace, Mount Gambier SA 5290  
Telephone 08 8724 9811 Fax 08 8725 0254 Email dl.1021.info@schools.sa.edu.au  
Website [www.mcpark7.sa.edu.au](http://www.mcpark7.sa.edu.au)



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

Issue No 8, 25/06/26 - Week 9, Term 2

## END OF TERM 2



As Term 2 draws to a close, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all students, staff, and families for your hard work, dedication, and support throughout the term. Our school continues to thrive because of your efforts and commitment.

One of the highlights this term was our Art Show, which showcased the creative talents of our students. The event was a huge success, with strong support and attendance from families, friends, and neighbouring kindergartens. We are grateful for

your involvement and contributions, and we look forward to building on this community spirit in the future. To help us improve, please take a moment to complete the Art Show Survey.

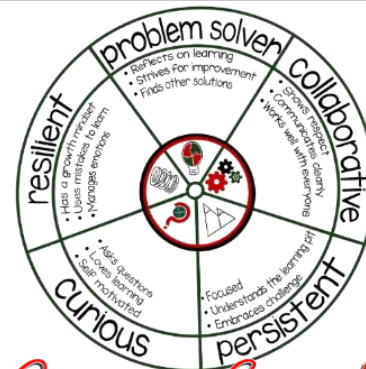
<https://forms.office.com/r/NP2uXpmyeq>

Your feedback is important and will assist us in the planning of future events.

School reports will be delivered online for the first time. Parents and caregivers will receive reports via email on Monday afternoon, June 29th. Paper copies will not be available, unless requested and negotiated with the school. We have aimed to keep the reporting format consistent. Next term we will be seeking feedback on the process and format to ensure reports meets the needs of all families.

Looking ahead to Term 3, Amber Deppeler will be on leave. We warmly welcome Fran Simpson, who will be stepping in as her replacement. We are also excited to welcome new SSOs, our new Reception students and their families, as well as their teachers: Brydie Merrett, Nick Agnew and Laura Day. Additionally, Hannah Waters will be returning to A3 on Thursdays and Fridays. Later in the term Daniel Castle will be on leave and he will be replaced by Cameron Ortlepp. We look forward to welcoming these people to our team and the new energy they will bring to our school.

Thank you again for your ongoing support and partnership. We wish everyone a safe and restful break and look forward to welcoming you back for Term 3.



## Coming Events

### WEEK 9

**Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 June**

Mid year reception intake transition days

**Thursday, 25 June**

Assembly 9:10 am in gym

**Friday, 26 June**

**PUPIL FREE DAY**

Staff PD – Literacy/Numeracy data analysis

### WEEK 10

**Monday 29 June**

Reports & Portfolios go home

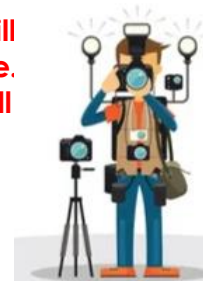
**Friday 3 July**

Last day of term 2

**EARLY DISMISSAL 2:15 pm**

## COMING - TERM 3

**In week one of next term school photo envelopes will be sent home. Photo day will Be Monday 3 August (WEEK 3)**



# VISION AWARDS

Term 2 week 9

PROBLEM SOLVING		
Presented to	By	For
Ollie W-J	Mrs Cooper & Ms Hutchinson	demonstrating genuine curiosity and enthusiasm for learning by actively solving problems and thoughtfully questioning processes.
ENGAGEMENT		
Presented to	By	For
Jasmine M	Mrs Spencer & Mrs Harding	consistently engaging with her learning, showing a positive attitude and applying herself to all tasks.
Bryn R	Mrs Spencer & Mrs Harding	consistently demonstrating focus, effort and active engagement in all learning positively.
Zara H	Mrs Wilson & Miss Day	confidence in all areas of her learning; presenting work beautifully and challenging herself.
Reeves S	Mrs Wilson & Miss Day	settling and engaging with morning routines, participation in PhOrMeS; writing 4 letter words.
Harry D	Mrs Cooper & Ms Hutchinson	outstanding dedication and determination, consistently remaining focused on his goals and demonstrating a commitment to excellence in every aspect of his work.
Kahlani M-J	Mrs Cooper & Mc Hutchinson	displaying exemplary focus and commitment to her learning, consistently applying her best effort to all tasks.
Lara F	Ms Huitema	engaging in all learning activities with 100% commitment.
Sadie T	Miss Schulz & Ms Hutchinson	always being ready to learn and putting her very best effort into all learning tasks.
Jak G	Miss Schulz & Ms Hutchinson	always being eager to share his ideas and opinions during class discussions and new learning opportunities.
Kayden T	Mrs Deppeler & Ms Hutchinson	showing significant improvements in focus, demonstrating a more positive and committed attitude towards his learning.
Harlow B	Mrs Deppeler & Ms Hutchinson	improved focus towards her learning each morning during reading and maths fluency.
Alazae P	Mrs Deppeler & Ms Hutchinson	always trying her best in PhOrMeS and quickly applying teacher feedback to improve.

RESPECT		
Presented to	By	For
Billie S	Mrs Deppeler & Ms Hutchinson	consistently showing respect towards peers and adults through kind words, active listening and thoughtful actions.
THRIVING		
Presented to	By	For
Addison L	Mrs Spencer & Mrs Harding	growing in confidence and showing persistence by trying challenging tasks.
Harper R	Mrs Pitkin & Mrs Harding	thriving as an independent writer using PhOrMeS codes confidently.
Mila W	Mrs Pitkin & Mrs Harding	thriving as an independent writer using PhOrMeS codes confidently.
Zoe C	Mrs Cooper & Ms Hutchinson	her wonderful progress in listening carefully, staying focused and keeping on task during class activities. She is also working well with others, showing a positive attitude and supporting her classmates.
Isabella W	Ms Huitema	consistently producing work of a high standard that she can be proud of.
Ashlyn L	Miss Schulz & Ms Hutchinson	being an enthusiastic and excited learner during our geography lessons.
COLLABORATION		
Presented to	By	For
Sienna R	Mrs Spencer & Mrs Harding	working well with others thoughtfully, considering the needs of her peers and demonstrating leadership skills.
Autumn T-S	Mrs Wilson & Miss Day	growing her confidence as our class 'lucky duck'; noticing and helping others kindly.

## STORY DOGS - Casual Day Fundraiser

Our casual day, held on Friday 12 June raised \$464.60 for the Story Dogs organisation in Mount Gambier. Thank you everyone for your donations. They've gone to such a worthy cause.



## YELP @ MCPARK

On Wednesday of Week 9, our YELP (Young Environmental Leaders Program) team, together with some special helpers from each Year 1/2 class, rolled up their sleeves and planted native plants in our school garden.

We carefully selected plants that provide food and habitat for native bees, with a special focus on attracting the amazing Blue-banded Bee.

Next term, the YELP team will continue their project by building bee hotels, giving native bees a safe place to rest while they help pollinate our garden. We can't wait to see our bee-friendly garden buzzing with life!



## Japanese News – Children's Day & Welcome to Mr Matsui



こんにちは (Konnichiwa) to our McDonald Park families and community, Earlier this term, students celebrated Children's Day by learning about *koinobori* (carp streamers), a traditional Japanese symbol of strength and perseverance. Students had great fun creating their own colourful *koinobori* while learning about the values of resilience and persistence through the Dragon Gate story, where a carp swims upstream to become a dragon. Some students also enjoyed making samurai helmet origami, adding to the hands-on cultural experience.

We are also excited to welcome Mr Kenta Matsui to our school in Term 3. Mr Matsui is a 21-year-old university student studying culture and education who will be travelling all the way from Shiga Prefecture, Japan. He will be working alongside us in Japanese lessons and observing across the school from Weeks 2–6. Mr Matsui is looking forward to supporting students in developing their interest in and understanding of Japanese culture.



We warmly welcome Mr Matsui to our school community!

# OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

## Vacation Care | 6 July–17 July

In-House / Incursion / Excursion	FULL FEE	\$70.60	CCS REDUCED FEE*	\$9.75 - \$35.75
	FULL FEE	\$92.40	CCS REDUCED FEE*	\$12.75 - \$46.75

\*Estimation of fees after subsidy is applied

### WEEK 1

**Monday**  
6 July

Incursion  
**Whacky Mac**



Start your day with amazing balloon creations with Helen before Whacky Mac and his marvellous magic show comes to visit.

Start: 10:00am  
Finish: 11:30am

Outcomes: 2, 3, 4, 5

**Tuesday**  
7 July

In-House  
**Game On**



Rotate through a variety of fun group games and activities, from classic Bingo and trivia to interactive Wii tournaments. There's something for everyone to enjoy.

Outcomes: 4, 5

**Wednesday**  
8 July

Excursion  
**Beat Box Workshop**



A unique opportunity to experience mind-blowing beat boxing and musical exploration in a supportive environment.

Depart: 9:45am  
Return: 11:30pm  
Transport: Private Bus

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

**Thursday**  
9 July

In-House  
**Junk Yard Creations**



Let's head to the maker shed for a day of problem solving, experimenting and creating with loose parts.

Outcomes: 4, 5

**Friday**  
10 July

Excursion  
**Bowling Bonanza**



Compete for strikes, spares and bragging rights in a fun morning of bowling and friendly competition.

Depart: 9:45am  
Return: 11:30am  
Transport: Private Bus

Outcomes: 4, 5

### WEEK 2

**Monday**  
13 July

In-House  
**LEGO Masters**



Put your creativity to the test and aim to become the LEGO Master of the day! Take on fun building challenges and explore the school's special LEGO room.

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

**Tuesday**  
14 July

Excursion  
**Minions and Monsters**



Celebrate the new Minions movie today by dressing in yellow. Minion inspired activities and food to follow back at OSHC.

Depart: 9:30am  
Return: 12:00pm  
Transport: Private Bus

Outcomes: 1, 4, 5

**Wednesday**  
15 July

Excursion  
**Garden Adventures**



Bring your coats and boots for a nature walk around the school, create a fairy garden and meet the school guinea pigs.

Depart: 11:00am  
Return: 12:00pm  
Walking (approx. 20 mins)

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

**Thursday**  
16 July

In-House  
**Pokémon Challenge**



Can you catch them all? Hit the Pokémon targets to level up, design your own Pokémon trading cards, and enjoy a fun-filled Pokémon board game challenge!

Outcomes: 3, 4, 5

**Friday**  
17 July

In-House  
**Nailed It**



Inspired by the TV series Nailed It, sketch and colour your cake designs before heading to the kitchen to recreate your design on a sponge cake. Who will rise to the challenge and be crowned the winner?

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5



Book your session via the Xplor Home App

Visit [sa.ymca.org.au/OSHC](http://sa.ymca.org.au/OSHC) for more information

McDonald Park OSHC  
50-55 North Terrace, Mt Gambier, SA, 5290  
Kelly Griffin  
0428 401 962

OSHC Support Team  
P 08 8200 2516  
E [oshc@ymcasa.org.au](mailto:oshc@ymcasa.org.au)  
f /YMCA SA OSHC



# Community News

## EWENS PONDS ENCOUNTERS JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM 2026

**Tues 7 July**  
2pm  
Ranger Talk  
Colouring in  
Competition



**Mon to Tues**  
6 - 7 July  
Twisty  
Turtle



**Wed to Thurs**  
8 - 9 July  
Slippery  
Eels



**Wed 8 July**  
10:30am  
Underwater  
Mini Worlds  
BOOKINGS REQUIRED



**Fri to Sun**  
10 - 12 July  
Woven Pond  
Creatures



**Mon to Tues**  
13 - 14 July  
Recycled  
Reptiles



**Wed to Thurs**  
15 - 16 July  
Rockin' Pond  
Pets



**Wed 15 July**  
10:30am  
Play with  
Clay  
BOOKING REQUIRED



**Fri 17 July**  
10:30am  
Watercolour  
Wonders  
BOOKING REQUIRED



**Fri to Sun**  
17 - 19 July  
Crayfish  
Creating



Port MacDonnell Community Complex  
For more information, please call 8738 3000  
Or email [pmcc@dcgrant.sa.gov.au](mailto:pmcc@dcgrant.sa.gov.au)

Southern Limestone Coast Council from 1 July 2026

Opening Hours:  
Monday - Friday 9am-5pm  
Saturday, Sunday: 11am-3pm



### Growing Resilient Kids

Helping children build confidence, coping skills, and emotional wellbeing

This workshop focuses on:

- The brain science behind emotions and behaviour.
- Understanding emotions and how to work with them effectively.
- Exploring the purpose of anxiety and stress (they're not all bad!).
- Increasing understanding of how feelings such as anxiety and stress influence our thoughts, behaviour, and physical responses.
- Learning ways to recognise, accept, and manage difficult emotions.
- Practical tips and strategies to support children and young people to cope with and persist through challenging situations and feelings, such as anxiety, overwhelm, frustration, and disappointment, at home and in educational settings.

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026  
6.00pm-7.30pm

Cost: \$50

Wulanda Recreation & Convention Centre  
7 Margaret Street, Mount Gambier

Register via:  
<https://www.sticktickets.com.au/RD0057>

Presenter:

**Gez Walter**  
Educator & Counsellor



Smiles  
ALL ROUND

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

MOUNT GAMBIER LIBRARY

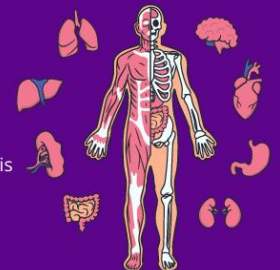
## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Term 3: 21 July to 24 September 2026

### STEM CLUB BODY EXPLORERS: THE SCIENCE OF YOU

Tuesdays 4:00pm to 5:00pm

Ever wondered what makes your body move, think, and grow? It's time to find out! In STEM this term, become real-life scientists as we dive into the fascinating world of the human body. Suitable for ages 8 to 12. Bookings essential.



### MINECRAFT CLUB A WORLD OF BLOCKS!

Wednesdays 4:00pm to 5:00pm

Join our Minecraft Club and dive into a world of creativity, adventure, and teamwork! Whether you choose to design structures, explore new biomes, or take on the Ender Dragon, it's up to you. Suitable for ages 7+. Bookings essential.



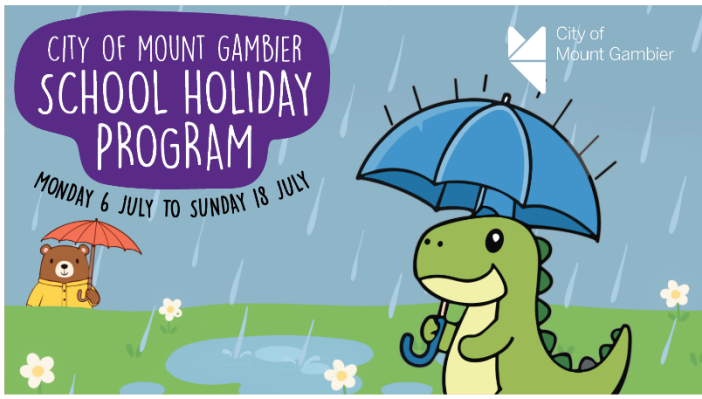
### LEGO FAN CLUB LEGO TECHNIC

Thursdays 4:00pm to 5:00pm

LEGO builders will take on exciting hands-on challenges using LEGO® Technic boxes, designed to develop problem-solving and engineering skills. All LEGO provided, just bring your imagination! Suitable for ages 6+. Bookings not required.



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



**MONDAY 6 JULY TO SUNDAY 19 JULY: GIANT GAMES** FREE – ALL AGES

**During opening hours @ Mount Gambier Library**  
Drop by the Library for school holiday excitement and challenge family and friends to some super-sized games! Bookings not required.

**MONDAY 6 JULY TO SUNDAY 19 JULY: POSTER CREATION STATION** FREE – AGES 7+

**During opening hours @ The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre**  
Be inspired by 50 years of NAIDOC posters and create your own for a cause close to your heart. Using a mixture of collage and illustration and design, the Poster Creation Station has everything you need to make a great poster. Take it home or leave it on display at the Riddoch. A free DIY activity for the school holidays.

**MONDAY 6 JULY TO SUNDAY 12 JULY: TOASTY TEDDY BEARS CRAFT** FREE – ALL AGES

**During opening hours @ Mount Gambier Library**  
Get warm and cosy picking your colours and practising your weaving to make the perfect paper teddy bear jumpers. Drop-in DIY craft, bookings not required.

**MONDAY 6 JULY: CRAFT YOUR FIRST SCRAPBOOK PAGE** FREE – ALL AGES

**10:00am @ Mount Gambier Library**  
Bring along a favourite photo and design and decorate a special page to capture a favourite memory. A fun, creative session perfect for beginners - no experience needed! Bookings not required.

**MONDAY 6 JULY: GALAXY JARS** FREE – AGES 7+

**2:00pm @ Mount Gambier Library**  
Create your own magical galaxy to take home! This fun and creative craft uses cotton, paints, and glitter to design a swirling mini universe full of colour and sparkle. Bookings essential.

**FRIDAY 10 JULY: VIBE CHECK** FREE – AGES 12+

**3:00pm @ Mount Gambier Library**  
Escape the chilly July weather and enjoy a free drink and nibbles at Chapter Seventy Two Cafe. Sit down with a hot chocolate and a board game or challenge someone to a game of pool in the library youth area. Run in collaboration with headspace Mount Gambier. Drop-in session, bookings not required.

**SATURDAY 11 JULY: WIN YOUR FIRST TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT** FREE – AGES 7 TO 12

**10:00am @ Mount Gambier Library**  
From up-and-coming players to casual enthusiasts, this exciting tournament welcomes all skill levels. Hosted in partnership with Mount Gambier Table Tennis Club. Bookings essential.

**MONDAY 13 JULY TO SUNDAY 19 JULY: PAPER PLATE ANIMALS** FREE – ALL AGES

**During opening hours @ Mount Gambier Library**  
Collect a paper plate and transform it into a colourful animal using a variety of craft materials, and your imagination! Drop in DIY activity, bookings not required.

**MONDAY 13 JULY: KEYRING CRITTERS** FREE – AGES 5+

**10:00am @ Mount Gambier Library**  
Twist, bend and thread to create a critter using pipe cleaners and beads. Bookings not required.

**MONDAY 13 JULY: STRING PULL CREATIONS** FREE – AGES 8+

**2:00pm @ Mount Gambier Library**  
Get creative with this easy and fun string art session! Design and create your own unique flower artwork using colourful string and simple techniques. Bookings essential.

**TUESDAY 14 JULY: EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS** FREE – UNDER 7'S

**BABY BOUNCE**  
**11:00am @ Mount Gambier Library**  
In this session we encourage face-to-face play between parents and babies/toddlers, lots of laughing, giggling, and singing. Suitable for ages 0 to 18 months. Bookings not required.

**STORYTIME**  
**11:30am @ Mount Gambier Library**

Little Bee is on a search across Australia for new friends, will you recognise any of the places they visit? Join us for Storytime as we read Down the Bush Track, Little Bee by Sarah Jane Lightfoot. Bookings not required.

**TUESDAY 14 JULY: 3D PRINTING** FREE – AGES 7+

**Drop-in session between 2:00pm and 4:00pm @ Mount Gambier Library**  
Using TinkerCad, choose a design or build a unique creation. It will then be printed for collection at a later date. Note: parental supervision required throughout the session. Bookings not required.

**WEDNESDAY 15 JULY: LITTLE BITES OF BLISS** FREE – AGES 5+

**10:00am @ Mount Gambier Library**  
Mix, roll, and create delicious bite-sized snacks to eat now or take home and enjoy! Bookings essential.

**TUESDAY 7 JULY: EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS** FREE – UNDER 7'S

**BABY BOUNCE**  
**11:00am @ Mount Gambier Library**  
In this session we encourage face-to-face play between parents and babies/toddlers, lots of laughing, giggling, and singing. Suitable for ages 0 to 18 months. Bookings not required.

**STORYTIME**  
**11:30am @ Mount Gambier Library**

Mama Duck is asleep, but her little ducklings are wide awake. What adventures can they have before Mama Duck realises they are missing? Join us for Storytime as we read Quietly... Quietly... QUACK! by Jonty Howley. Bookings not required.

**TUESDAY 7 JULY: 3D PRINTING** FREE – AGES 7+

**Drop-in session between 2:00pm and 4:00pm @ Mount Gambier Library**  
Using TinkerCad, choose a design or build a unique creation, then print it for collection at a later date. Note: parental supervision required throughout the session. Bookings not required.

**TUESDAY 7 JULY: SHRINKIE TAGS FOR NAIDOC WEEK** \$5 – AGES 8+

**2:00pm to 3:00pm @ The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre**  
Colour and create shrinkie bag tags designed by First Nation's artist Kerri-Ann Taggart. Take it home as a keyring, a luggage tag or even a necklace pendant. Bookings essential.

**WEDNESDAY 8 JULY: MOUNT GAMBIER/BERRIN: NAIDOC WEEK 2026 COMMUNITY BREAKFAST AND CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES** FREE – ALL AGES

**9:00am to 12:00pm @ Harness Racing Club, Mount Gambier Showgrounds**  
With a host of fun activities to keep the whole family entertained, free food and drink available. Presented by Aboriginal Family Support Services with the support of local community organisations.

**WEDNESDAY 8 JULY: UNEARTH YOUR FIRST DINOSAUR** FREE – AGES 8+

**2:00pm @ Mount Gambier Library**  
Dig, dig, dig, search for the bones and piece your prehistoric discovery back together! Dress for mess. Bookings essential.

**THURSDAY 9 JULY: TEDDY BEAR PICNIC** FREE – UNDER 7'S

**10:00am @ Mount Gambier Library**  
Bring your favourite teddy along and join us in the Children's Cave for a Teddy Bear Picnic with craft, games, songs and stories. Bookings not required.

**THURSDAY 9 JULY: YOUTH CRAFTERNOON** FREE – AGES 12+

**Drop-in session between 3:00pm and 5:00pm @ Mount Gambier Library**  
Whether you're a pro with skills to share, or taking your first steps into the craft world, this is the perfect chance to get crafty in a fun and easy way. Bring your work-in-progress from home or take up something new on the day with a helping hand in session. Bookings not required.

**FRIDAY 10 JULY : CARD COLLAGE** \$10 – AGES 8+

**11:00am @ The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre**  
Design your own deck of cards. Make them unique and personal with mixed media. All materials supplied. Bookings essential.

**WEDNESDAY 15 JULY: FOAM PRINT MAKING** \$10 – AGES 8+

**2:00pm @ The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre**  
Designing imprints with foam we will layer and print your own designs onto art paper. Create a custom one-of-a-kind artwork as a gift or to hang on display. All materials supplied. Bookings essential.

**THURSDAY 16 JULY: EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS** FREE – UNDER 5'S

**CONNECT AND PLAY**  
**10:00am @ Mount Gambier Library**  
Connect with your child and other families through interactive play. Each week, we will provide a range of play based activities suitable to ages zero to five, followed by some group songs and parachute! Bookings not required. *This program supports the Words Grow Minds campaign.*

**THURSDAY 16 JULY: CAST IN BLUE'S BIRTHDAY** FREE – ALL AGES

**11:30am @ The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre**  
Join us for cake and song as we celebrate Cast In Blue's first birthday! Bookings not required.

**THURSDAY 16 JULY: HEIST NIGHT** FREE – AGES 15 TO 25

**6:00pm @ Mount Gambier Library**  
Grab your night vision goggles and your grappling hook! Because a double agent just offered you insider information! Decide your code name and scope out your exit strategy. If you've ever wondered if bypassing a laser grid or sneaking past security is as easy as it looks in the movies, this is your chance to find out. Competing in teams of three. Bookings essential.

**FRIDAY 17 JULY: PASS THE PICTURE** \$5 – AGES 8+

**11:00am @ The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre**  
A conversation in picture. Respond to each other's work to create a unique storyline. A fun and interactive way to create art. All materials supplied. Bookings essential.

**FRIDAY 17 JULY: LEGO AND SPHERO PLAY ZONE** FREE – ALL AGES

**2:00pm @ Mount Gambier Library**  
Build, create, and explore with LEGO in a relaxed, hands-on environment, or dive into robotics using Sphero to experiment, play, and discover what your bot can do. Please bring smart device with Sphero Edu App downloaded for use with Sphero. Bookings not required.

**IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE**

- Bookings open Monday 29 June 2026.
- 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 | mountgambier.sa.gov.au/library

The Riddoch Arts and Cultural Centre  
1 Bay Road, Mount Gambier | Phone 08 8721 2563  
riddoch@mountgambier.sa.gov.au | theriddoch.com.au

