

Heywood Consolidated



School Newsletter

Edition #1, 2026



Meet HeyCons 2026 Leadership Team

Introducing HeyCons 2026 Leadership Team

School Captain - Archie

Archie is a compassionate, determined and resourceful student. Archie aims to be a good example for our younger students. Archie's wish for 2026 is to encourage deeper talks around cultures and work on eradicating racism at HeyCon. He hopes to improve attitudes and encourage students to treat each other as equals.

School Captain - Sophie

Sophie is a responsible, authoritative and kind student, always leading by example. She aims to help others and support students. She doesn't shy away from responsibility and is looking forward to working with students, teachers and staff. Sophie's wish for 2026 is to continue to create a friendly and inclusive school environment for others. She has plenty of ideas for activities to encourage teamwork and social kindness.



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Meet HeyCons 2026 Leadership Team

Student Leader - Amirah

Amirah is a kind, helpful and brave student. She aims to be a role model for the little kids and be someone they can look up to. Her wish for 2026 is for everyone to be kind to one another.

Student Leader - Annabelle

Annabelle is a respectful, brave and a “all in” mentality type of student. She aims to be a good example to students and show them all the positives of believing in yourself and looking for good opportunities. Annabelle’s wish for 2026 is to stop racism.

Student Leader - Emily

Emily is a brave, funny and strong student. She aims to use this experience to grow as a person. Emily’s wish for 2026 is to see students continuing to put a stop to bullying and show kindness toward one another.

Student Leader - Tiara

Tiara is respectful, grateful and resilient student. She aims to be the best leader she can be. Tiara’s wish for 2026 is to build on our sportsmanship and continue to help eradicate racism from our school.



From our Principal, Ann Hawker...

Ngata Everyone!

Ngata everyone. I hope you are excited to be at Heywood Consolidated School and we look forward to a fabulous year ahead.

Our staffing in 2026 are:

F1 with Miss Sallie Field, Rachelle DeHaas and Cass Harris

23 with Mrs Alison (Jane) Booth and Wendy Gallagher

45 with Mr Gary Kennedy and Jacqui Fox

56 with Mrs Melinda Watson, Mrs Laura Hodges and Carly Mizzi

Physical Education with Mrs Laura Hodges

Art, Science, Digital Technology with Senior wing, Music for F1 and Hands-on Learning with Ms Michelle Cope

School Wellbeing Dog is Heylee

Chaplain is Mrs Tania Cattell

Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader is Mrs Melinda Watson

Disability Inclusion Leader is Mrs Elyse Parry

Administration staff are Jacqui Fox and Cass Harris

Business Manager is Sharyn Burgin

Principal is Miss Ann Hawker.



We are all excited for new connections and successes throughout 2026. We are implementing a new Wellbeing program called Big Life Footsteps, and you will learn more about it in the newsletter each fortnight. This works alongside our Respectful Relationships program and allows the students across the school to learn about the same concepts to become the best school we can be. This term is focussing upon Connected. It also is supported by our Real Schools Partnership, Berry Street Education Model and Dogs Connect.

In Learning, we are continuing to monitor and embed exemplary teaching and learning in all areas to ensure that all students are thriving. We would love to thank all of our students and families that attended our Mathematics assessments last week. It provides the teachers with the opportunity to understand what the students really know and how they process mathematical problems that can be challenging.

Please mark your calendars now as March 25 is a CURRICULUM DAY – NO STUDENTS AT SCHOOL, as all teaching staff will be attending a numeracy conference in Warrnambool. Foundation students also have all Wednesdays in February as a rest day and will commence their first 5 day week on Monday 2nd March, before the whole school has a Public Holiday on Monday 9th March for Labour Day.

Please remember that our classroom teachers are your first point of contact with any questions, queries or concerns.

Numeracy

Building Positive Maths Mindsets +

At our school, we believe that **everyone can be a maths learner**. A positive maths mindset helps students feel confident, curious, and willing to have a go — even when things feel tricky.

Children are not “good” or “bad” at maths; they are **learning**. Sometimes maths feels easy, and sometimes it feels challenging — and that’s okay! In fact, when children work through challenges, their brains grow stronger. Mistakes aren’t something to fear; they’re a powerful part of learning.

You might hear your child say, “*I can’t do this.*” We encourage adding one small but powerful word: “**yet.**”

“I can’t do this **yet**” reminds children that learning takes time and effort.

At school, we celebrate:

- Trying different strategies
- Explaining thinking (even if the answer isn’t right)

Persevering when problems are challenging

Families can help build positive maths mindsets at home by:

- Praising **effort and thinking**, not just correct answers
- Sharing when you find maths tricky too — and how you work through it
- Using encouraging language like “*Let’s figure it out together*”

Playing games that involve numbers, patterns, or problem-solving

Most importantly, we want children to feel that maths is something they can **explore, enjoy, and grow in**. With encouragement, practice, and a positive mindset, every child can succeed in numeracy — one step at a time!

Sallie Field

Numeracy Leader

Meet Our Staff: Ann Hawker - Principal

What kind of pet do you have?

2 Dogs (Roxy & Tilly)

What was your favourite subject at school?

Maths

What is your favourite food?

Chocolate

What is your favourite board game?

Monopoly

What is your favourite TV show?

Highway Patrol

What is your favourite movie?

Wicked!

What is your favourite book?

Wizard of Oz

What is your favourite vacation?

Ireland

What is your favourite activity for you to do?

Gardening

What are you thankful for?

That I work with great staff, students, family & community

If you could wish for one thing, what would it be?

If you were an animal, what would it be?

A dog

If you had a superpower, what would it be?

Invisibility

If you were famous, what would it be for?

Doing something stupid probably!

What skill do you wish you had?

To help more!

What do you like about Heycon?

The "feel" and "vibe"

How would you describe yourself?

Caring!



A Big Life's Footsteps Program



Dear Families,

This year, our school is implementing *A Big Life's Footsteps Program*, aimed at strengthening students' resilience and mental health. The program helps students build strong emotional awareness, positive relationships, a healthy mindset, and positive coping tools to support them in navigating life's ups and downs.

Footsteps is aligned with the Victorian Curriculum (Personal and Social Capability 2.0) and complements the Resilience, Rights & Respectful Relationships (RRRR) curriculum. It is designed to build a common language and whole-school conversation that deepen students' wellbeing, self-awareness, and ability to cope with challenges.

Across the year, your child will explore four key steps:

Step 1 - Connected	Step 2 - Calm and Clear
<p>Students learn how to understand themselves and others, and what helps them feel safe, calm and ready to learn. They will explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expected and unexpected behaviours. • Recognise and celebrate their own character strengths. • The Leah Kyupers Zones of Regulation and how feelings show up in the body. • What causes them to feel different emotions/zones.. <p>These lessons support emotional literacy, self-awareness and positive interactions with peers.</p>	<p>Students begin to learn practical strategies for managing stress, worry and big feelings. They will explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to care for their zones/emotions. • What stress and anxiety feels like in the body. • Karen Young's thinking strategy - "scary safe" and "scary dangerous". • Breathing and calming techniques. • How to use their character strengths when faced with challenges. <p>This step builds confidence, coping skills and problem-solving.</p>
Step 3 - Grateful & Kind	Step 4 - Resilient
<p>Students explore how kindness and gratitude positively affect the brain, body and relationships. They will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The science behind kindness and gratitude. • Qualities of healthy friendships. • Perspective taking. • The difference between being an upstander and a bystander. <p>These lessons strengthen empathy, belonging and respectful relationships.</p>	<p>Students learn how to face challenges with courage and persistence. They will explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strength spotting in themselves and others. • The thinking strategy - Circle of Control (identifying what we can and can't change about a situation). • The science behind how the brain grows and learns (neuroplasticity). • Growth vs fixed mindset. • Personal "anchors" or supports to use when things go wrong or they face a challenge. <p>This step helps students build resilience and a positive mindset for learning, transition and life.</p>

We look forward to working together to support your child's wellbeing, confidence and sense of connection. If you have any questions about the Footsteps program, please contact us.

SMILE SQUAD

The Smile Squad free school dental program is coming to our school

Dear Heywood Consolidated School families,

The Smile Squad team from Oral Health Victoria are coming to our school on Monday the 1st - 5th June 2026.

Smile Squad is the Victorian Government free school dental program.

This means ALL students can get a free dental check-up, preventive services, and treatment at school.

How to access free dental care

We need your consent before we can provide services. Consent is usually provided by a parent or guardian.

Sign up to Smile Squad at: <https://bit.ly/smilesquadvic>



Please complete and submit the consent form by **Friday the 27th March 2026**.

Paper copies of the consent form are available. Please contact the school office if you would like to request one.

The electronic consent form can be translated into more than 100 languages, and the paper form is currently available in 13 languages.

Smile Squad oral health packs

All children deserve a healthy smile, and the Smile Squad free school dental program is working hard to help make sure this happens.

Your child(ren) will soon receive a free oral health pack to bring home. The pack contains a toothbrush, full sized toothpaste, and an oral health brochure. Please take the time to read the brochure. It's full of helpful hints and tips to help your whole family eat well, drink well and clean well – for life.

Standard strength toothpaste

Smile Squad provides standard strength fluoride toothpaste that is generally used by ages six and over, unless recommended by a dental or trained health professional.

If your child is under six, please talk to a dental or trained health professional to find out if your child might benefit from using this toothpaste. You can also choose to put the toothpaste away until they turn six or give it to someone else in your family to use.

Do I need to attend my child's appointment?

No, you do not need to attend your child's appointment. You can attend if you would like to, and you can take your child to the community dental clinic if you prefer.

The Oral Health Victoria Smile Squad look forward to seeing you soon.

Heylee - HeyCon's Wellbeing Dog



DOGS CONNECT
RESTORING BALANCE

3 Expectations

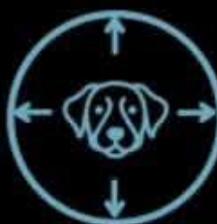
It's easy as 1,2,3 to help our Well-being Dog to learn to relax.

1



We say hello to
the person,
not the dog!

2



We give lots of
space when we
pass the dog!

3



We keep moving
(we don't stand
around
and stare).

Reminders

Road Safety Reminder For School Pick Up and Drop Off

At Heywood Consolidated School, we have many students coming and going from school in different ways. Some students may ride bikes/scooters, walk, or travel by bus or car. All of these ways require safety measures to make sure that all students get to school safely.

Please be aware that:

- ☐- cars should not be driving through the staff car park to drop off and pick up students.
- ☐- cars should not be parking on the north side of Kentbruck Road to collect or drop off students.
- ☐- cars should not be doing **U-Turns** along Kentbruck Road. We thank all the safe drivers within our community and hope that we don't need to notify the local police for daily drive throughs.



2026 CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

CSEF is an annual payment to a student's school of \$154.00 to assist with the expenses involved with camps, sports and excursions.

If you were eligible for CSEF in 2025 we will automatically apply for CSEF for you this year. If you continue to hold a Health Care Card you will receive CSEF in 2026.

For those Parents and Carers that are not familiar with CSEF, If you hold a Veteran Affairs Gold Card or a current Health Care Card your student will be eligible for this payment. Please contact the school if you would like us to send a form home or call in at the office to collect one.

If you are unsure if you are eligible or if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school.



Hats make their return in Term 1!

Please remember to send your child with a hat in term 1. Without a hat you child will be limited to play in the shaded areas. School hats are available for purchase at the office for \$15 each.

Annual privacy reminder for our school community

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' privacy policy](#) and the [Schools' privacy collection notice](#).

Our [Photographing, Filming and Recording Students policy](#), describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [Microsoft 365](#) safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using Microsoft 365, please contact the school.

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' privacy policy: information for parents](#). This information is also available in eleven community languages:

Amharic	Arabic
Chinese	Dari
Gujarati	Mandarin
Somali	Sudanese
Turkish	Urdu
Vietnamese	

2026 School Contributions

Heycon School Contributions:

School contributions (formerly known as school fees) can now be paid via bank transfer (BSB: 063 813, Acc# 10000518) or at the office.

Gr F-6 is \$220 per student.

Please see or contact Sharyn in the office to discuss payment plans or other support options.

A reminder that our Parent Payment Policy is available on our school website or from the school office: www.heywoodconsolidatedschool.com.au

PROTECT

Everyone has the right to be safe and be protected from abuse.

No one should behave in a way that makes you feel unsafe or afraid, including anyone in your family, anyone at school or anywhere else in the community.

Tell a teacher or any adult at your school if you feel unsafe.

For Students, please call:
1800 551 800 (Kids Helpline)
In an emergency, always contact 000 for emergency services



It's everyone's responsibility.

Adults at school must listen and respond to concerns about child abuse.

If you suspect abuse of any child or young person, you have a responsibility to report it, even if you are not sure.

Further information & resources
www.education.vic.gov.au/protect

For Parents
1800 991 099 (Child Wise Helpline)
131 278 (Child Protection Crisis Line)
1300 138 180 (Child First)

What's Coming Up?

Term1 W1	26th Jan *Public Hol	27th Jan *Teachers 1 st Day back	28th Jan *Assessment Day 1	29th Jan *Assessment Day 2	30th Jan *Assessment Day 3
W2	3rd Feb *Students 1 st Day back	3rd Feb	4th Feb * Brekky Club * No Foundations	5th Feb	6th Feb * Brekky Club
W3	9th Feb *District Swimming	10th Feb	11th Feb * Brekky Club * No Foundations	12th Feb	13th Feb *Assembly 56 * Brekky Club
W4	16th Feb	17th Feb * School Nurse Visit	18th Feb * Brekky Club * No Foundations	19th Feb	20th Feb * Brekky Club
W5	23rd Feb	24th Feb	25th Feb * Brekky Club * No Foundations *Summer Series —Tennis	26th Feb	27th Feb *Assembly 45 *Brekky Club

Contact Us

Our School Values are Kindness, Respect, Resilience and Gratitude.

When these values drive student actions, we have a positive student community working together to achieve higher educational outcomes.

At Heywood Consolidated School every child is encouraged to be the best person they can be. While we have a strong focus on academic curriculum, we also recognise that our students need to engage strong social emotional skills.

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RAISING GRATEFUL HEARTS FORUM

PRESENTED BY POSITIVE PARENTING EXPERT ROD SOPER

Discover practical rituals and simple language to help children notice the good, practise thankfulness and turn appreciation into meaningful acts of kindness.



Learn everyday strategies to embed gratitude into mealtimes, school runs, bedtime and family routines.

Explore age-appropriate (birth to 12 years) activities, conversation starters and quick games backed by research, child development principles and real-life practice.

Build empathy, resilience and joy as a family through positive connection and shared appreciation.

Take home a mini gratitude toolkit you can start using immediately to encourage kindness and connection at home and in your community.

THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY

7.00pm–9.00pm

VENUE

Norlane ARC
1/9 Cox Rd, Norlane

BOOKINGS

Scan the QR code
or visit



geelong.link/GratefulHearts

This is a FREE event but
bookings are essential.



