



## Principal News

### Dear Families,

Welcome to Term 2 and another exciting ten weeks of learning, friendship and fun! I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable school holiday break and that you were able to celebrate the holy season of Easter with family and friends.

Our last day of Term 1 saw **Adeline** (Foundation Opal) and **David O** (3/4 Onyx) as our Principals for a Day. Both students were very popular choices and undertook their responsibilities with enthusiasm. They granted the students a casual clothes day with a touch of Easter, gave everyone an Easter egg on behalf of the school and expertly drew the Easter raffle winners. This term, continue to look out for **'Principal for the Day'** certificates coming home with your child/ren as they display safe, respectful and responsible behaviour.

**ANZAC day is this Saturday.** This Friday, we will hold a commemoration service here at school with the students, to acknowledge the service given by those that allow us to enjoy the freedoms we have.

On Monday, leadership and staff enjoyed a deeply enriching day of learning and faith formation at **Ta' Pinu Shrine** in Bacchus Marsh. Set in a peaceful and reflective environment, the day provided an opportunity for staff to pause, connect and deepen their understanding of faith within our school context. Through a combination of prayer, reflection and collaborative discussion, particularly around the Stations of the Cross and the Rosary, staff explored ways to strengthen the integration of Catholic identity into everyday teaching and learning. The day fostered a strong sense of community, encouraging meaningful conversations and shared experiences. The day was facilitated by **Mr Chris Hansen** and participants valued the time away from the busyness of school life to focus on personal and collective spiritual growth. The experience has inspired renewed energy and commitment to nurturing the faith development of our students. It was a truly successful and uplifting day for all involved.

Yesterday, staff engaged in a highly valuable day of professional learning led by **Bron Ryrrie-Jones**, focusing on "Opportunities to Respond" as a key strategy to enhance student engagement and learning outcomes. Throughout the day, staff explored practical, evidence-based approaches to increasing student participation, ensuring that every learner has frequent opportunities to think, respond, and demonstrate understanding. Through modelling, discussion, and collaborative activities, teachers gained a deeper understanding of how intentional questioning and structured response techniques can significantly impact student achievement. The day was both practical and empowering, providing staff with strategies that can be readily implemented in the classroom. Staff left the day feeling energised and inspired, equipped with new tools to support

active learning and improve outcomes for all students. It was a highly successful and impactful professional learning experience.

A reminder that we will be trialling a lunch order service for our students provided by **Mano Deli** on Tuesday, 28 April and Tuesday 5 May. After the trial, we will survey families and decide if this is to be an ongoing service for our school. Further information is on page 8.

**From now until May 4, correct Summer or Winter Uniform may be worn.** Please read our [Uniform Policy](#) carefully and support your child by ensuring they leave home each morning, in their full, correct uniform, which is clean and in good repair. Students must present a note, written by a parent/guardian in the event that they are not wearing the correct school uniform, on a particular day. A reminder that 'completely black' shoes are part of the Summer and Winter uniform. These shoes **can be of a polishable material such as leather or vinyl or completely black runners/sneakers. For safety reasons, boots are not permitted.** Uniform items are available at our supplier, **Noone Uniforms**, 162 Moorabool Street (5221 9199). The school also provides some second hand uniforms at the school, for purchase via the Parents & Friends' Association, see page 7. All uniform items must be clearly marked with the student's name.

On Sunday, May 10, **Mother's Day** is celebrated. St Mary's School acknowledges the important role mothers and significant females have in the lives of the children here at school. We thank them for their many valuable contributions and invite families to our **Mother's Day Breakfast on Tuesday 5 May at St Mary's School.** Staff will serve complimentary egg and bacon rolls from 8:15am and a coffee van will be onsite for adult attendees to purchase and enjoy drinks. A short liturgy, celebrating our mums will be held on the atrium from 8:50am. It will also be a great opportunity to socialise with other families and continue to build and strengthen the positive relationships within our learning community. We hope to see you there. A nForma notification will be sent home soon for attendees to confirm attendance for catering purposes.

I look forward to a productive term, filled with learning, fun and many engaging, school community activities. Classroom teachers will send home learning overviews this week and a student progress report will be available for families to access on nForma at the end of the Term. Please discuss your child's learning with them and encourage them to achieve their best.

Kind regards, Annice



Annice Lappin  
Principal

### Please click below for School LINKS

[2026 Staff Email](#)

[Family Handbook](#)

[School Website](#)

[Parent Portal  
password:  
mary175](#)



**Facebook:**  
[@St.Mary'sPrimaryGeelong](#)



**Instagram:**  
[stmarys\\_ps\\_geelong](#)



St Mary's School acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.



### Dear Families,

Welcome back to Term 2 everyone! In our Week 7, Term 1 newsletter, we shared how proud we are of the rich learning opportunities our students enjoy each week, from choir and the Music Bus to Chess Club, as well as our strong focus on prioritising the essential foundations of reading, spelling, writing and mathematics. Just as we value the diverse interests and talents of our students, we also recognise that our staff bring a wonderful range of passions, skills and experiences to our school community. They are deeply committed professionals who work tirelessly to support student learning, yet they also understand the importance of nurturing their own interests outside the classroom.

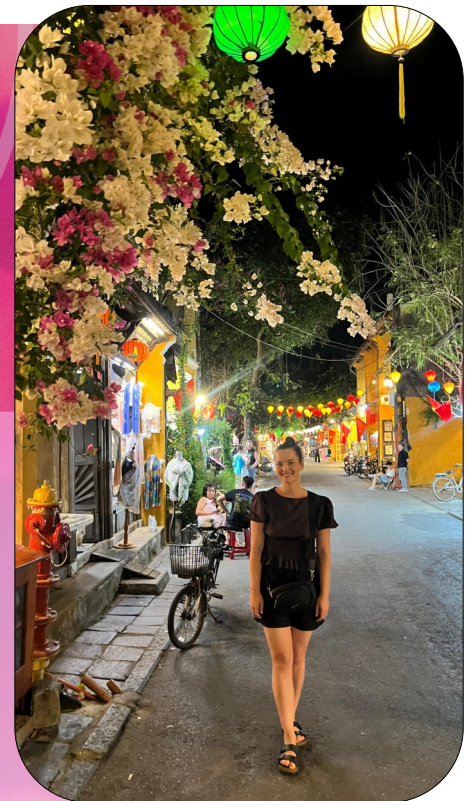
Over the coming newsletters, we look forward to shining a light on the amazing people who make our school such a vibrant place. Each spotlight will offer a glimpse into the hobbies, talents and pursuits that inspire our staff beyond the school gates, whether that's creative arts, sport, community service, music or something completely unexpected! We hope these stories not only celebrate our team but also remind our students that learning and curiosity continue throughout life.

Warm regards,

Deb Boland



## Staff Spotlight



### Nicole McNamara

Outside of my professional work at St Mary's School, I enjoy staying active by attending strength and conditioning classes at a local women's gym in Geelong. I have a strong interest in sport, particularly netball, and enjoy watching the Barwon Heads Netball Club and the Melbourne Vixens in the Suncorp Super Netball competition. During the AFL season, you'll also find me supporting the Bombers. Family is a big part of my life, and I absolutely love being an aunty to my four beautiful nephews and one niece—with another little boy on the way soon. We often spend time together at our family dairy farm, head out for coffee or breakfast, or enjoy walks along the Barwon River or the beach. Later this year, I am especially excited to travel, with plans to explore Spain, Portugal, and a further nine countries across 26 cities in Europe, as I look forward to learning more about the world we live in.

### Evie Herlihy

As I have recently moved from the Mallee to the Bellarine Peninsula, I enjoy making the most of living by the coast. When I'm not teaching Foundation at St Mary's School, you'll often find me at the beach, enjoying walks, swims, and picnics. I love welcoming friends and family to our new home and showing them around the beautiful towns in our region, especially when it involves a spot of shopping or a nice meal. I also enjoy travelling and experiencing new cultures, adventures, and, of course, delicious food. I cherish my role as an aunty and love spending time with my beautiful niece, Daisy. I've also recently joined the Portarlington Football Netball Club, so I'm looking forward to spending my winter weekends watching my husband coach and play footy.

# Staff Spotlight



## Bernie Hellard

Whilst life is busy during my working days at St Mary's School, I do love many activities away from school. Living down along the beautiful Surf coast, I spend as much time as I can with family and friends. I am often seen down the street chatting, having coffee, bike riding or at the beach. Whilst I don't go into the freezing cold water, despite my husband telling me how warm it is, I especially enjoy walking along the beach with our dog Daisy. Having a caravan means that I also get many opportunities to get away and go camping. Having done this over many years now, our family caravan holidays happen to be my daughter Meg's favourite memories. I look forward to my yearly getaways to Port Fairy, Bali and I still treasure the holiday to Europe that I went on with my sister last year in memory of my mum and dad. I am so appreciative of where I live, my family and friends and the opportunity to have now worked at St Mary's School for many years.

## Jack Flynn-French

When I am not spending my time here at St Mary's School, I love being outdoors with friends and family. My weekend highlights usually include grabbing a coffee and walking my groodle, Eevee. Sport has been a huge part of my life, and over the years I have tried my hand at basketball, cricket, American football, football and netball, although not always very successfully! Throughout summer, you will often find me spending much of my time at the South Barwon Cricket Club, where I play and serve as Vice President on the committee. In winter, I enjoy getting my steps in on the golf course.

Another passion of mine is travel. I have been fortunate enough to visit Europe and Asia several times, and one place I cannot recommend highly enough for its natural beauty is Austria. I love seeing how other people live and experiencing the incredible sights the world has to offer. That said, whenever I return home, I am always so grateful to call Geelong home.



## Term 2 School Calendar, 2026

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	APR 20 SCHOOL CLOSED Staff PD Day	APR 21 SCHOOL CLOSED Staff PD Day	APR 22 Students Commence Term 2 Newsletter	APR 23 Music Bus	APR 24
2	APR 27 3:00pm School Assembly (1/2 Topaz)	APR 28 CASEA Group Session 1 MANO Deli Lunch Order Day	APR 29	APR 30 Music Bus	MAY 1 CHESS CLUB Commences
3	MAY 4 District Cross Country	MAY 5 Mothers' Day Breakfast (8:15am) & Liturgy (8:50am). Coffee Van onsite. CASEA Group Session 2 MANO Deli Lunch Order Day	MAY 6 Newsletter AFL/Soccer Interschool Sport	MAY 7 PSG Meetings # 1 Music Bus	MAY 8 School Athletics Day Landy Field (Bean Cravin' coffee Van onsite)
4	MAY 11 3:00pm School Assembly (5/6 Turquoise)	MAY 12 CASEA Group Session 3 CASEA Community Session St Mary's Student Leaders' Conference	MAY 13 Netball Interschool Sport	MAY 14 Music Bus	MAY 15 CHESS CLUB
5	MAY 18 PSG Meetings # 2	MAY 19 CASEA Group Session 4 CASEA Co-parent Session 1, 5:00-6:00pm	MAY 20 PFA Meeting 7:00pm Newsletter	MAY 21 PFA Rolling Pin Pie Drive Delivery Music Bus	MAY 22 CHESS CLUB
6	MAY 25 3:00pm School Assembly (3/4 Garnet)	MAY 26 CASEA Group Session 5	MAY 27 NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK (27/5-3/6)	MAY 28 Music Bus	MAY 29 CHESS CLUB Fresh Fruit Friday
7	JUNE 1	JUNE 2 CASEA Group Session 6	JUNE 3 Newsletter	JUNE 4 Music Bus	JUNE 5 STUDENT FREE DAY
8	JUNE 8 SCHOOL CLOSED King's Birthday PUBLIC HOLIDAY	JUNE 9 CASEA Group Session 7 CASEA Community Learning	JUNE 10 PSG Meetings # 3 SAC Meeting 7:00pm	JUNE 11 PSG Meetings # 4 Music Bus	JUNE 12 CHESS CLUB Lunch Order Day—PIZZA Cello's Pizzeria
9	JUNE 15	JUNE 16 P&T Conversations; 3:30- 6:00pm CASEA Group Session 8	JUNE 17 Newsletter P&T Conversations; 3:30- 6:00pm	JUNE 18 Music Bus	JUNE 19 CHESS CLUB Final
10	JUNE 22 3:00pm School Assembly (Foundation Coral)	JUNE 23 MILO'S BIRTHDAY— Foundation CASEA Group Session 9 SCHOOL REPORTS available to families on nForma Portal	JUNE 24 OPEN Classrooms; 3:15- 4:15pm	JUNE 25 Music Bus Final	JUNE 26 End of Term 2 Students Dismissed at 1:00pm

## St Mary's School 2026 Sacramental Dates



### Sacrament of First Eucharist (Yr 4)

**Sunday 9 August**  
2:30pm, St Mary's Basilica



### Sacrament of Penance (Yr 3)

**Friday 27 November**  
12:00pm, St Mary's School

## 2026 SCHOOL DATES

**Term 2**  
20 April to 26 June

**Term 3**  
13 July to 18 September

**Term 4**  
5 October to 18 December

*Last day for students 15/12*

## 2026 STUDENT FREE Days

### TERM 2

Monday 20 April  
Tuesday 21 April  
Friday 5 June

### TERM 3

Friday 14 August  
Monday 17 August

### TERM 4

Monday 16 November  
Wednesday 16 December  
Thursday 17 December

## 2026 SCHOOL CLOSURE Days

### TERM 1

Monday 9 March; Labour Day  
Friday 3 April; Good Friday

### TERM 2

Monday 8 June; Monarch's Birthday

### TERM 4

Monday 2 November  
Tuesday 3 November; Melbourne Cup  
Friday 18 December

## Term 3 and 4: Upcoming School Events

Thursday 13 August  
Wednesday 19 August  
Tuesday 1 September  
Wednesday 9 September  
Thursday 10 September  
November 9-11  
November 12

ART SHOW  
BOOKWEEK PARADE  
Father's Day Breakfast & Liturgy  
Year 3/4 Day Camp  
Year 3/4 Staff & Student Free Day  
Year 5/6 Camp  
Year 5/6 Staff & Student Free Day



**Project Compassion Boxes** are due to the school office  
by **Friday 24 April**.  
Thank you for your support.

## Physical Education Participation

### Student Injury Updates

If your child has an injury that will affect participation in Physical Education lessons, **please confirm and provide details in writing, by emailing, Mr Nic Coots: [ncoots@smgeelong.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ncoots@smgeelong.catholic.edu.au)** and your child's classroom teacher.

## Wellbeing



**Bernie Hellard**  
Learning Diversity  
Mental Health &  
Wellbeing Leader



**Nicholas Coots**  
Wellbeing  
Leader, Physical  
Education  
Teacher



**Alice Szeto**  
Provisional  
Psychologist

### Every Day at School Matters

As we head into a new term, it is a timely reminder of why attendance at school matters. Regular school attendance plays an important role in a child's learning, wellbeing and sense of belonging. Each school day builds on the one before — from developing literacy and numeracy skills to forming friendships and settling into classroom routines. When children miss school, even occasionally, it can be challenging for them to keep up and feel confident in their learning.

Attending school every day also supports children's emotional wellbeing. Being present helps children feel connected to their peers and comfortable in their classroom environment. Consistent attendance builds positive habits such as responsibility, resilience and persistence, which are important skills for lifelong learning.

We understand that there are times when children are unwell and need to stay home. Whenever possible, regular attendance gives children the best opportunity to fully engage in learning, build strong relationships and feel a sense of belonging at school. Thank you for the continued support families provide in helping children attend school each day and start their learning journey feeling settled and ready to learn.

### This week's GEM chat focus is **GRATITUDE:**



What is **the best thing** that happened  
this week/over the weekend?



THE **RESILIENCE PROJECT.**

THE

**RESILIENCE  
PROJECT™**

### 2 Minutes of Mindfulness

Looking after our wellbeing has *such* a positive impact on how we think, feel and relate to those around us. And yet, it often falls into the too hard basket when life gets busy.

If this sounds like you, Sam has an incredibly easy and effective 2-minute practise, called "Deep Listening", that you can do anywhere, anytime.

[Link](#)



ST MARY'S SCHOOL  
GEELONG

St Mary's School is committed to  
Child Safety.

We promote the safety, wellbeing and  
inclusion of all children.



## Rolling Pin Pie Drive

The St Mary's School Rolling Pin Drive will be running again in 2026, **keep an eye out for your order form via nForma**. **Pies will be delivered to the school on Thursday 21 May**. This was a great fundraiser for the P&FA in 2025, and we had some really positive feedback that the pies were delicious and a great way to fill the freezer for an easy dinner.

# ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

## Volunteers Needed



### 👤 Volunteers Needed – Please Register Below

Our events simply cannot run without parent and caregiver support. Whether you can spare one hour or several, we would truly appreciate your help.

#### Example of Volunteer tasks include:

- Sorting and handing out fundraiser orders (Cookie Dough/Mangoes/Pies)
- Special lunch order day assistance at school.
- Running or assisting with art show BBQ, cake stall/other food stall.
- Event co-ordinator (Co-ordinating fundraisers online or major events, Trivia Night or Bunnings BBQ) Please contact us by email if you are interested.
- Designing fliers or posters for events.
- Communicating with fundraising providers, setting up trybooking events.

### Trivia Night – Term 4

Volunteers are needed to source and collect donations for the silent auction. Please contact the PGFA email if you can assist with collecting 2-3 donations of Wine/ Vouchers or Items for auction from local businesses. Many hands make light work!

Co-ordinators needed – We need a second person to assist with co-ordinating the night and a person to co-ordinate the wine wall donations. Please get in touch if you can help!

👉 Please register your availability here:

Or email  
[pfa@smgeelong.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pfa@smgeelong.catholic.edu.au)

Even small amounts of time make a big difference, and volunteering is a wonderful way to connect with other families in our school community.



## Second Hand Uniform

Please contact the PFA for second hand uniform orders via

[pfauniforms@smgeelong.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pfauniforms@smgeelong.catholic.edu.au)

### [Pricelist](#)

### ATTENTION FAMILIES

St Mary's School has a number of JUNIOR BYTE Tables to giveaway.

The tables are available for collection from the school, as soon as possible.

Size 58cmH x 100cmW

The tables are suitable for a play or rumpus room or could be used outside.



# MANO DELI



Spriggy Schools

WELCOME St MARY'S SCHOOL TO LUNCH ORDERS 2026!!!

**\*\*\*FIRST LUNCH ORDER DAY TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> APRIL\*\*\***

-GO TO [spriggyschools.com.au](http://spriggyschools.com.au)

\*FIND St MARY'S SCHOOL, LITTLE MYERS ST, GEELONG

\*FIND YOUR CHILD'S CLASS TO ADD YOUR CHILD

-St MARY'S LUNCH ORDERS ARE ON TUESDAY

\*CUT OFF IS 12PM THE NIGHT BEFORE...

-LUNCH ORDERS DELIVERED TO YOUR CHILD ON LUNCH ORDER DAY

**\*PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAILED ORDER CONFIRMATION, DAY/DATE ORDER IS PLACED FOR TO MAKE SURE YOU CHILD'S ORDER HAS GONE THROUGH + YOU HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS...**

-ANY QUESTIONS OR CANCELLATIONS PLEASE CONTACT US

@ **MANO DELI** BEFORE 9am ON SCHOOL LUNCH ORDER DAY (03) 5222 3567

**MANO DELI 137 SHANNON AVE, MANIFOLD HEIGHTS, 3218**

## School Lunch Order Service MANO Deli

**Trial in Term 2**

Tuesday 28/4

Tuesday 5/5

Order by 12 pm day before.  
Go to Spriggy Schools to order.

Spriggy Schools

The canteen has  
partnered with  
Spriggy Schools for  
online lunch orders!

### Creating your account

- Download the app
- Register your details
- Create a profile for each child

### Placing your first order

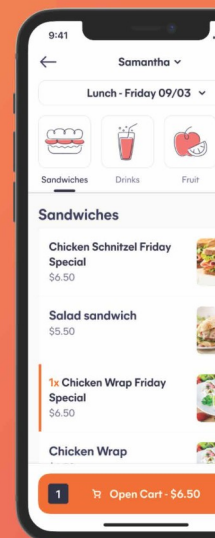
- View the canteen menu on the home screen
- Browse the menu and tap 'Add to Cart' on any item
- Go to cart and tap 'Place Order' to confirm
- You can edit or cancel your order before the cut-off time



Download the app now!



Spriggy Schools Pty Ltd (ABN 48 650 445 819) (Spriggy Schools), based in Sydney, Australia is the issuer of the Spriggy Schools product. Spriggy Schools does not hold an AFS licence but operates in accordance with ASIC Instrument 2016/211 (Non-cash payment facilities). Please consider the Terms and Conditions and the Target Market Determination to ensure the product is right for you. See full terms at [www.spriggyschools.com.au](http://www.spriggyschools.com.au).



### CHESS CLASS DETAILS at St Mary's School

DAY: FRIDAY

TIME: 1:35-2:15pm

LOCATION: Upstairs 1/2 Space

COST: \$145 per child, per term

[Chessforschools](http://chessforschools.com)

### The Music Bus Enrolments

If your child wishes to join lessons in 2026, please complete the EOI link below:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ee4627a5204c46158e1ab17e7c8069c6>

Lessons are available at school in Keyboard, Guitar, Ukulele, Drums and vocals.

**Lessons will be held on a Thursday morning.**

Additional info and online bookings via [www.themusicbus.com.au](http://www.themusicbus.com.au)

# Community News



**GEELONG YOUTH CHOIR PRESENTS**

## WE SING

A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

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**FREE 2026 Program for Primary & Secondary Students**

**WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- No interruption to school program - weekends only
- Open to students aged 8-18 from Geelong region
- Fully supervised - no teacher needed
- Parent/Guardian to complete enrolment form
- Massed choir performance with orchestra
- Digital learning materials sent to student and nominated teacher with support available
- Great development or extension opportunity
- Individuals, small groups or full choirs welcome



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**Program Schedule**

Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Performance Day
Sunday 24 May 2-4pm Deakin Uni Waurin Ponds	Sunday 31 May 2-4pm Deakin Uni Waurin Ponds	Saturday 13 June 10am-4pm Katsumata Centre Bell Post Hill

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**Performance Day Audience Tickets**  
Adult: \$5  
Under 18: free

**ENROLL BY 2 APRIL**

**Sign Up Now!**



PARENT/GUARDIAN  
Scan the QR code to ENROLL YOUR CHILD

Support available. Recorded webinar Week 9, Term 1

**HOW SCHOOLS CAN BE INVOLVED**

- Promote the program to your school community using this flyer and in your school newsletter
- Talk to your students about getting involved
- Encourage parents to enrol one or more child
- Teach the two massed-choir songs at school using the digital learning materials provided
- Refer students to GYC's Wednesday rehearsals held after school during term 2 (no charge for program participants)

**Enquiries**  
Genevieve Newton  
GYC Project Manager  
geelongyouthchoir@gmail.com



Supported by a City of Greater Geelong Community Grant

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*Igniting an interest in the joy of community singing*

[geelongyouthchoir.com](http://geelongyouthchoir.com)
[geelongyouthchoir@gmail.com](mailto:geelongyouthchoir@gmail.com)
0408 770 376



## HUAXIA CHINESE SCHOOL



# OPEN 2026

**NOW OPEN FOR ENROLLMENT!**



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**Why Choose Us?**

- Small Classes, Real Progress
- More speaking time & individual support
- Qualified, Experienced Teachers
- VIT-registered • 10+ years experience • English support
- Customised Materials for English Speakers
- Self-made textbooks designed for non-Chinese background learners
- Fun Interactive Lessons
  - Games, role-plays, cultural workshops, and real-life practice in Geelong

- Class Time:** Every Sunday, 1:30 PM – 4:15 PM (excluding school holidays)
- Location:** 51 Mt Pleasant Road, Belmont VIC 3216

Established 2015

**Learn Mandarin & Embrace Chinese Culture**

Beginner → Advanced | Fun & Effective Classes

Perfect For:

- ✓ Beginners (start from zero!)
- ✓ Kids (4+), Teens & VCE Students
- ✓ Culture & language lovers

Note: The school offers VCE preparation support. Please contact Principal Xu for details.




Registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)  
Registered with Community Languages Victoria  
Scan QR to Enquire

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**For More Information :**

0423 093 593

Principal: Meifang Xu

Email: [huaxiachinese.2015@gmail.com](mailto:huaxiachinese.2015@gmail.com)

**REEL FILM** | March - April 2026 Festival

## Movie Trivia Night

**Thursday 23rd April**





**MC: Daniel Sultana**  
Murphys, Aberdeen Street, Geelong  
6.30pm - 9.30pm. Trivia Starts at 7pm  
\$10pp



**GEELONG WATERFRONT FILM**

This event forms part of the REEL Film Festival  
[www.geelongwaterfrontfilm.com.au](http://www.geelongwaterfrontfilm.com.au)



## ST. MARY'S TENNIS CLUB

Thomson Reserve, East Geelong

**Coaching Lessons Available**

- Private Coaching
- Group Sessions
- Cardio Tennis

All ages and skill levels welcome!

**Contact Mark** **0416 288 956**