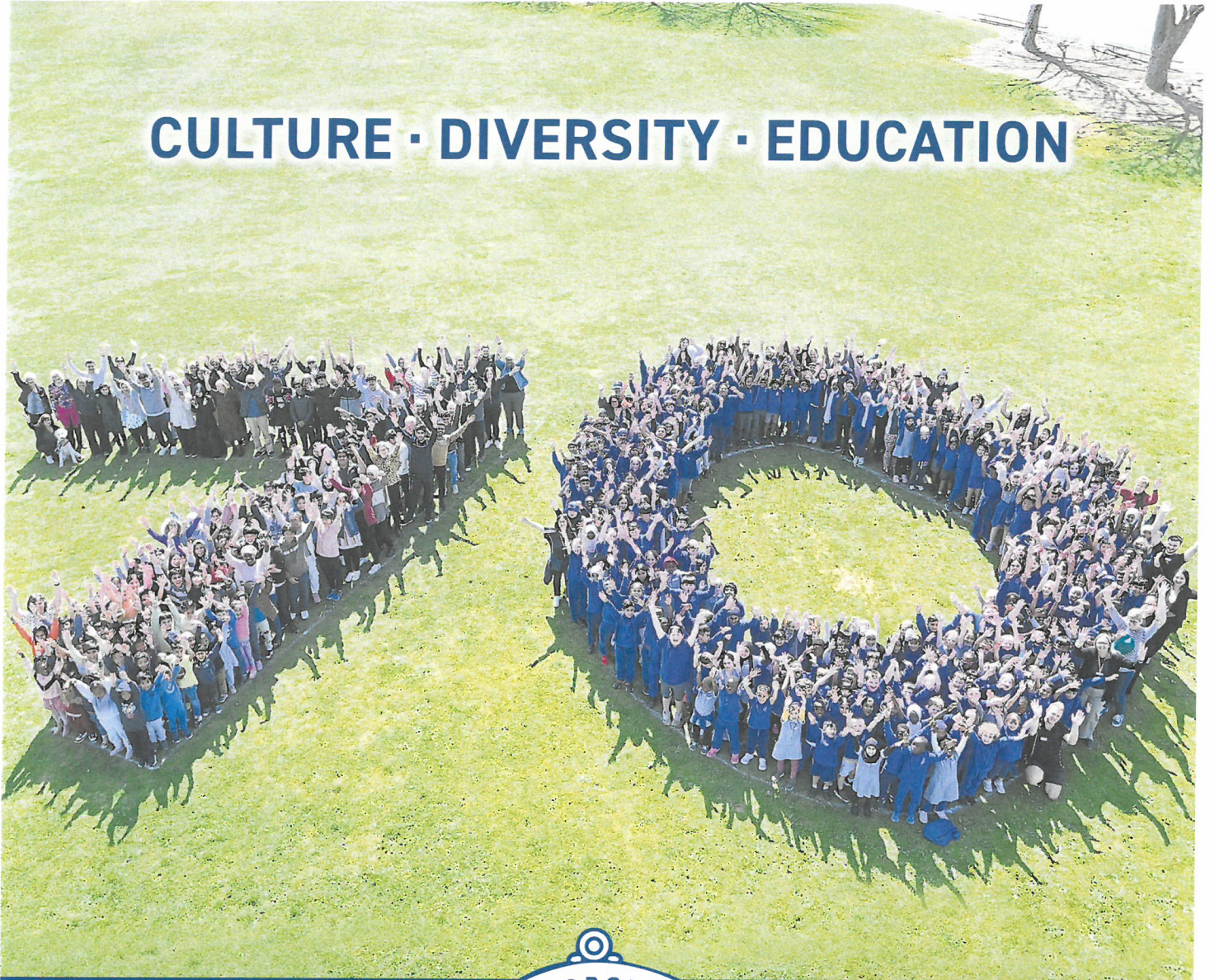


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## OPEN DAYS

Thursday, October 19 from  
9am to 11am.

Friday, October 20 from  
9am to 11am.

## SCHOOL CONCERT

'The Big 70' Wednesday matinee on  
October 25.

Thursday evening performance on  
October 26.



# 70 years CULTURE · DIVERSITY · EDUCATION



## Principal's message

**ST GEORGES RD PRIMARY SCHOOL HAS A RICH HISTORY OF PROVIDING EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION TO THE SHEPPARTON COMMUNITY FOR THE LAST 70 YEARS.**

Since its inception in 1952, our school has been a cornerstone of education in Shepparton, fostering generations of students who have gone on to make significant contributions to various fields.

Over the years, our institution has evolved into a vibrant multicultural hub that embraces modern teaching methodologies while preserving the values that have been integral to our community.

We are proud of our history and continue to build upon it year after year.

Our curriculum is designed to inspire curiosity, critical thinking, and a lifelong passion for learning.

We believe in offering a holistic education that goes beyond textbooks, encompassing real-world experiences and hands-on learning.

With a strong emphasis on the core learning areas of reading, writing, and numeracy, we aim to prepare our students for the challenges of the future.

At the heart of our school's success lies the importance of strong relationships.

We recognise that education is not solely

about academics; it is about fostering a sense of belonging, empathy, and collaboration among students, teachers, parents, and the wider community.

We believe that a supportive and inclusive environment is essential for optimal learning outcomes.

Our school's emphasis on social-emotional learning ensures that our students not only excel academically, but also develop into well-rounded individuals who exhibit kindness, resilience, and a strong sense of ethics.

One of the pillars of our school's success is our team of dedicated and talented teachers.

They bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the classroom, ensuring that each student receives personalised attention and support.

Our teachers are committed to creating a nurturing and inclusive environment where every child can thrive and reach their full potential.

At St Georges Rd Primary School, we recognise the importance of the science of reading in early literacy development.

Our reading program is grounded in evidence-based practices that focus on phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

By building strong foundational reading skills, we empower our students to become confident readers and communicators.

Our commitment to education extends

**“We believe in offering a holistic education that goes beyond textbooks, encompassing real-world experiences and hands-on learning.”**

beyond academics. We take immense pride in our physical education, arts, and music programs.

These programs not only promote physical wellbeing and creativity but also provide avenues for self-expression and teamwork.

Our students explore their interests and talents in a supportive and encouraging environment.

One of the highlights of our school is our newly developed, vibrant house system.

This system fosters connection, healthy competition, and teamwork among students.

Through various inter-house events and activities, students develop leadership skills, sportsmanship, and a strong sense of belonging.

Our house system, the names and logos for which were chosen by the students, is an integral part of our school culture, and it promotes positive values that extend far beyond the classroom.

St Georges Rd Primary School is a thriving, vibrant, and culturally diverse community.

Our proud Indigenous students, students from various ethnic backgrounds and our staff and wider community work together to foster an enriching environment that celebrates traditions, cultures, and perspectives.

By embracing this diversity, St Georges Rd Primary School cultivates global awareness, empathy, and a sense of unity among its students, preparing them to navigate an interconnected world with open minds and hearts.

As we enter our 71st year, I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead.

St Georges Rd Primary School will continue to evolve, adapt, and innovate to provide an exceptional education that equips our students with the skills, knowledge, and values they need to thrive in an ever-changing world.

I invite you all to join us on this journey, as we work hand-in-hand to shape the future of our students and our community.

Thank you for entrusting us with the education and growth of your children. Together, let us continue to build upon the strong foundation that St Georges Rd Primary School represents.

Warm regards;

Adam Burbidge

St Georges Rd Primary School principal



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# Celebrating excellence with 'The Big 7-0'



**EXCITEMENT FILLS THE AIR AT ST GEORGES RD PRIMARY SCHOOL AS THEY GEAR UP TO CELEBRATE A MONUMENTAL MILESTONE—THE SCHOOL'S 70TH BIRTHDAY.**

Get ready for a nostalgic journey down memory lane with a fantastic "Back to School" exhibit, allowing everyone to relive cherished moments through memorabilia.

However, the pièce de résistance is undeniably the school's concert, aptly titled 'The Big 7-0'.

This multimedia extravaganza promises a dazzling display of singing, dancing and captivating performances.

Brace yourselves for a journey through the decades, both within the school's history and the world at large.

Amazingly, this is the school's 18th musical in a sequence beginning in 1990.

The school's very own Margaret Stothart, who has a 60-year association with the school, embodies the spirit of this celebration.

From a student in the 1950s to a dedicated parent in the '70s and '80s, and now a valued employee in various roles, Margaret's enduring connection symbolises the heart of the school's legacy.

The plot, crafted exclusively for this occasion by beloved St Georges Rd Primary School teacher Steve Coats and guided by the musical brilliance of Anita Voumard, will take you on a nostalgic ride through the decades.

Expect to groove to some timeless classics that defined each era.

"Our enthusiastic children are pouring their energy into preparing a sensational show, and they're truly hitting their



stride in terms of performance and presentation," performing arts teacher Anita Voumard said.

"The children have embraced their roles with gusto, promising an evening filled with laughter and entertainment," scriptwriter Steve Coats said.

Get ready for a night of unforgettable memories and entertainment as St Georges Rd Primary School celebrates seven decades of excellence.

**School Concert dates:  
Wednesday matinee October 25 and  
Thursday evening performance October 26.**



## Congratulations ON YOUR 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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## Spreading cheer and memories



Librarian Margaret Stothart with Year 2 students Olivia Penwright, William Sharkey and Elnaz Amiri.



Students dancing around a maypole.

**IMAGINE A BOOK WITH A GILDED COVER FILLED WITH BOUNDLESS PAGES BRIMMING WITH HISTORY, MILESTONES, VIBRANT COLOURS AND GLORIOUS PICTURES.**

**By Kelly Carmody**

Now imagine a book that reflects about six decades of magical memories from St Georges Rd Primary School—a book that could only be authored by a single individual.

In this case, it's the book of Margaret Stothart, the devoted school librarian.

Margaret is a cherished member of the school's community who was a student in the 1950s, a devoted parent in the '70s and '80s, and currently takes on various invaluable roles around the school.

Margaret's unwavering ties embody the very soul of the school's rich legacy, and there isn't much she doesn't remember about the years that have passed.

"I started Prep in 1955, and my sister Shirley was already a student. We have many nostalgic memories of this wonderful school," Margaret said.

"It was a very positive place as a child; there were always fun activities, and everyone just got along, learned to read, and write—life was pretty good.

"I was one of those kids who was always ready to head to school every day—I loved it."



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Sports, music, and theatre were among Margaret's favourite school activities.

However, she said maypole dancing was something she will never forget.

"Oh, it was so much fun," she said.

"Every year, we would have a whole school celebration where school families, neighbours and people from the South Shepparton community would come together for an event.

"There would be a big barbecue, and us girls would all dance around the maypole with colourful ribbons.

"They were great times—how lucky I was."

Margaret's childhood memories still light her up with joy, and when it comes to memories, she said every memory she has of the school was as wonderful as the first.

Her 'give everything a go' attitude is admired by many, and today, there is still not one day that she doesn't love walking through the school gates.

"My role is so varied, and I am always doing a bit of everything, which I love," she said.

"From photography, helping arrange trades that come into the school and groundsmen to keep the yards tidy and, of course, the beautiful library.

"I love reading, I love when the kids borrow—reading is essential.

"I have also been the OHS officer and even done safety checks. I am a lady of many hats, which makes it all so interesting."

Margaret's passions are evident alongside other teachers and staff at the school.



St Georges Rd Primary School librarian and former student Margaret Stothart.  
Photo: Rechelle Zammit

They stand beside and for the students, hoping their growth is enjoyable.

"When I was at school, teachers were always trying to make our experiences great, and the same thing still happens within the school today," she said.

"There is a real sense of team environment here and everyone cares about the students so much.

"It's a fantastic school where everyone is willing to help others—I am so lucky to have been a part of it for so long.

"I am part of the furniture, fit as a fiddle, and there is no reason to stop yet.

"Part of my job is to help spread cheer, and I have plenty more cheer to spread."

THE NEWS, Fri., May SHEPPARTON PAGE 3

## Winning run



MARGARET FERGUSON, from St Georges Rd School, sets off to carry the ball home for her team to win the crossball event at yesterday's sports at Gowrie Street.

Margaret playing crossball in her younger years.



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# CONGRATULATIONS

## St Georges Road Primary School

### on achieving such a significant milestone.



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## What do you love the most about your school?



**Nicholas Whitehead, Year 1:** I like when we do writing.



**Lily Monoka, Year 1:** The school excursions.



**Neola Dykes, Year 3:** Lots of people you can make friends with. When you stay at home all the time, it can get really boring, but at school you have something to do.



**Jordel Trickey, Year 4:** The people and the teachers.



**Rosalind Pun, Year 4:** How people treat others how they want to be treated.



**Sayon Lama, Year 6:** I like the teachers, I like the camps, the excursions and my friends.



**Samira Nazari, Year 5:** The activities and the games that we play. And I really like the fact the teachers here were students here.



**Jawad Rezaee, Year 3:** When we play downhill, it's very competitive, and it's very fun when it gets competitive.



## Journey through time

### UPCOMING OPEN DAYS, DATES AND INFORMATION.

Ex-students and staff are invited to visit the school to view a gallery of artefacts and photographs from across the decades.

Come along and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a nibble while soaking up the school's history.

#### OPEN DAYS

Thursday, October 19 from 9 am to 11 am

Friday, October 20 from 9 am to 11 am

Please make your way to the front office and someone will direct you to the exhibit.





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# Science behind reading embraced

**ST GEORGES RD PRIMARY SCHOOL IS CHANGING THE WAY THEY TEACH THEIR STUDENTS HOW TO READ.**

By Georgia Tacey

Led by the lead teacher, Monika Pearce, teachers at the school are using the science of reading to teach students about the five key areas of reading.

"The science of reading is a body of evidence and research that discusses how the brain learns to read and what the best strategies are to teach reading," Monika said.

"It's not a specific program or approach or anything like that. It's just the science and the evidence."

Recently implemented at the school, the teaching method focuses on the five key areas of reading.

"We focus on phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension, and underpinning all of that is oral language," Monika said.

"So that's what we structure everything around when we're teaching literacy, making sure that we think of all those areas, for all year levels, foundation to six.

"Anyone that's fully mastered the code, as we call it, which is knowing all of the sounds and the letters in the English language, then they go onto other activities."

The school has only recently implemented this teaching method after trialling similar programs.

The science of reading also coincides with the reading pledge that principal Adam Burbidge signed back in May this year, promising that no child will leave the school without being able to read.

So far, the students love learning all this new information, making them read better.

"They love the knowledge they're gaining," Monika said.

"I've heard them say things like, I'm really learning something. They say that they know



Students are embracing the knowledge they gain through the science of reading program.

stuff that surprises adults, like they can tell you the different sounds that the letter 'A' makes in different ways and in different parts of a word."

Year 4 students Hasan Al Salem and Veronika Kashyap said they feel more confident this year when reading than last year.

"I feel like my reading has gotten way better this year," Hasan said.

"At the start of the day, we do sound cards, activities, and then fluency. I like this year more because it's more fun."

"Last year, at the start of the day, we used to do our stuff and then go to our tables to read for 20 minutes," Veronika said.

"Now, we have fluency in the mornings, and this year is just more fun."



Year 4 students Veronika Kashyap and Hasan Al Salem.

## Mural magic



Tank from Tank Art has been a huge part of the wonderful murals that are on show all year round at the school.



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## Future plans in place

### ST GEORGES RD PRIMARY SCHOOL HAS A NEWLY DEVELOPED MASTER PLAN.

The plan will further enhance and enrich the school experience for the students.

Currently the junior wing is being renovated and is receiving a long overdue upgrade.

A new roof, windows, internal doors, ceiling and walls will bring it up to modern standards providing students with a new building in which they can thrive.

It is hoped that the works will be completed in term four this year.

Other future projects include a school forest, a large permanent shade structure,

inclusive and accessible playgrounds, nature play, outdoor learning spaces, artificial play surface and more.

Principal Adam Burbidge said the school buildings and grounds would be places and spaces their community could be proud of and would inspire their students to be the best they can be.

"Our curriculum and pedagogy will continue to evolve to ensure we meet the unique needs of our wonderful and diverse student population," he said.

"We will continue to embed evidence-based best practices in literacy and numeracy to ensure that our students have the essential skills to become independent learners with a sense of self-confidence and belief that enables them to succeed."





# 70 years CULTURE · DIVERSITY · EDUCATION



Staff member Rhonda Tallnash with SELC student Rosa Chen-Neylon.



Shepparton English Language Centre is a safe place where individuals from diverse backgrounds and cultures unite.

## Language centre continues to flourish

**AS CULTURAL DIVERSITY GREW IN SHEPPARTON, SO DID THE DEMAND FOR SERVICES THAT PROVIDED A SUPPORTIVE INTRODUCTION TO LEARNING FOR NEW MIGRANTS.**

By Kelly Carmody

The Shepparton English Language Centre is a safe place where individuals from diverse backgrounds and cultures unite, grow, and learn together before transitioning to mainstream education.

However, this Prep to Year 12 school for new migrants in their initial year in Shepparton offers more than just language proficiency for mainstream education.

It also aspires to play a pivotal role within the community, extending its influence far beyond the confines of the English language.

SELC co-ordinator Laurie Hucker said the school was passionate about the community and was grateful for the ongoing support from St Georges Rd Primary School.

"Our schools link together so well," Laurie said.

"They allow our students to use their grounds for recess, and we often unite with programs that ultimately help form connections.

"Many of our students have had unique life experiences with their migration journeys, so we focus on making connections while being compassionate, caring, and supportive while endeavouring to help them how we can.

"Some speak no English when they arrive, and some speak a little. Some of their parents may not even know a word.

"Everyone's journey is different, and we strive to offer a program around gentle

learning while they settle into their new lives."

SELC's role in the community is invaluable.

While the schools celebrate their 16th year working closely together, Laurie had a message for the school.

"Happy 70th birthday to St Georges Rd Primary School," he said.

"The school has been a cornerstone for education and inclusivity in Shepparton for decades.

"We look forward to many more years working with you."

### Kim O'KEEFFE MP THE NATIONALS MEMBER FOR SHEPPARTON

## CONGRATULATIONS ON 70 YEARS

*St George's Road Primary School*



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## From student to teacher

**MONIQUE LOBÉ LOVED ST GEORGES RD PRIMARY SCHOOL SO MUCH THAT SHE RETURNED.**

By Georgia Tacey

After attending St Georges Rd Primary School as a student, she knew as soon as her degree was completed that this was the school she wanted to start her teaching career at.

"I did the usual round of graduate applications, so I applied for a few schools in the area that had open positions, and I was offered a couple of positions on the same day," Monique said.

"I just remember when I walked out after the interview here, I felt like all my hopes were set on this. I wanted to come back here; I had a really good feeling."

She started teaching at St Georges Rd Primary School in 2016 and, over the past eight years, has taught Years 3, 5 and 6.

This year, she has both fives and sixes and even has some of her Year 5s from last year in her class again.

"I like the first day of school when the students are so excited to see you, and tell you about everything they've been doing," she said.

"It's like they haven't seen you in years, but it's only been five weeks."

Monique strives to be a happy, positive influence for her students, always starting each day with a big smile.

"I love the relationships you can build with the students," she said.

"They can come to you with anything, and they know you're a safe person they can talk to, and you can make a difference in so many aspects of their lives."

Now, Monique is gearing up for a big break. She's pregnant, and the students couldn't be happier.

"They're excited, really excited," she said.

"They're mostly concerned about who will teach them and how they will get to see the baby if they're in high school."

She plans to stay until the end of the school year and will take a year off when the baby comes and is already planning her return to the school.

"I do plan to come back, definitely. To be honest, I don't even know how I'm going to have a year off," Monique said.

"I'm already looking forward to coming back, and honestly, there's not many jobs or professions in the world where you really enjoy what you do and where you work, and I'm really lucky in that regard."

"St Georges felt like home, like the place I really wanted to teach, so I could give students the same experiences I had coming here."



Monique Lobé in Prep.



Monique Lobé in Year 6.

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Congratulations to St Georges Road Primary School on 70 years of educating the children of Shepparton.

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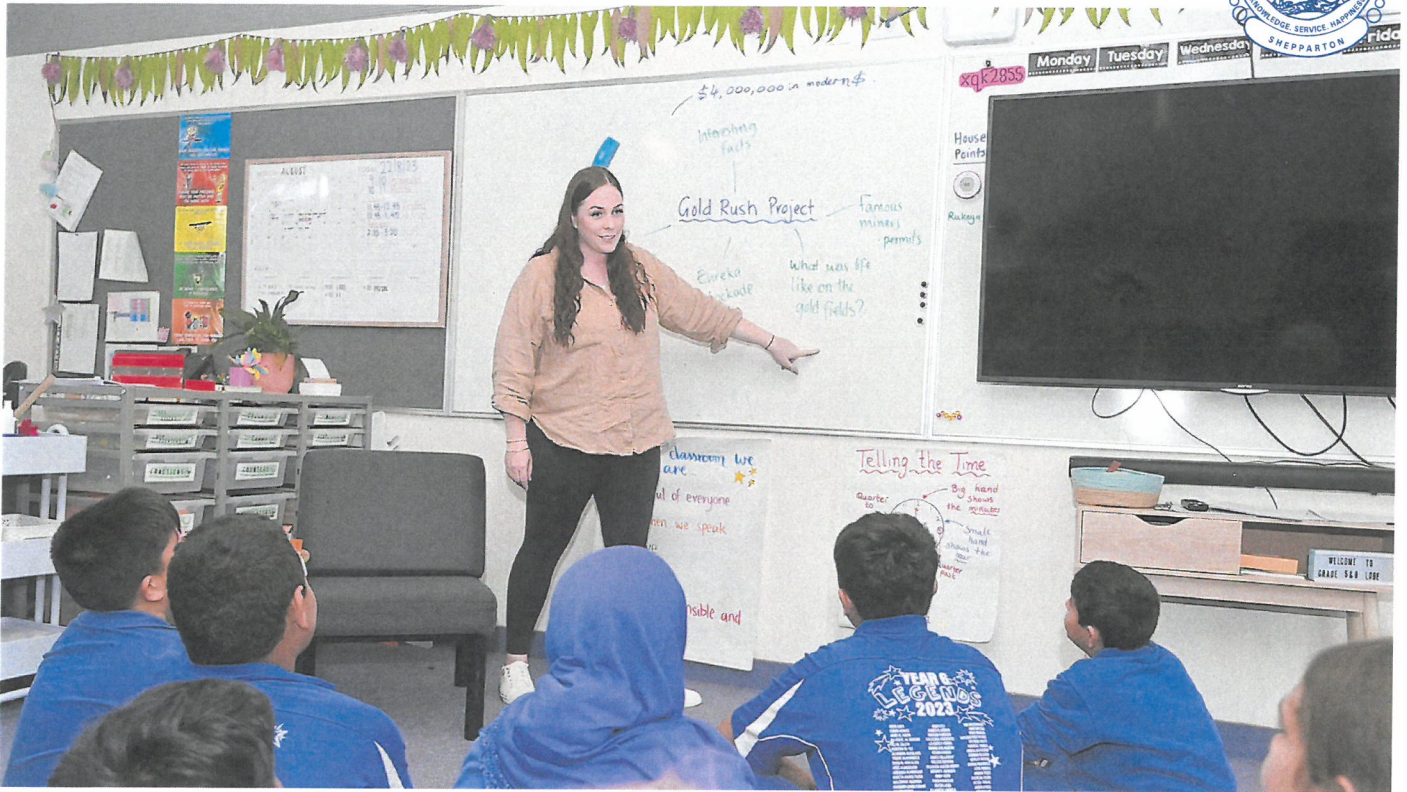
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Authorised by Wendy Lovell MP, 222 Wyndham Street, Shepparton VIC 3630



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Monique Lobé teaching her class at St Georges Rd Primary School.

## A hub for the whole community

**THE COMMUNITY HUB OF ST GEORGES RD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND SHEPPARTON ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTRE IS A SAFE AND WELCOMING SPACE.**

It provides young children and adults of the school and the broader community with the opportunity to join in regular and 'one off' programs, learn new skills, get personal support and make new friends. The Community Hub currently engages with 127 families of over 20 various cultural backgrounds.

It is the entry point to education for both early childhood and often the

first entry point for adults.

It's also a place to connect with community information and support services.

The Community Hub welcomes all families and community members to connect, share and grow.

Some programs include playgroup, English, gardening and nature play, wellbeing programs, crafts, children's music group, cooking, volunteering and school readiness programs.

All programs are free of charge. All programs are designed for children and adults.

For more information, please contact Community Hub leader Liz Arcus on 0407 861 303.



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**SHEPPARTON  
News**

*Congratulations*

The McPherson Media Group would like to congratulate St Georges Road Primary School on celebrating 70 years of culture, diversity and education and thank them for the opportunity to produce this publication.

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