

# Menzies Matters

A quarterly publication (3rd edition)



**"I will give my all to be your representative"**

**KEITH WOLAHAN MP**  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR **MENZIES**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Member Update: Home Ownership Crisis .....	page 2
Warrandyte's Old Post Office Museum .....	page 3
ANZAC Day Services .....	page 4
Community News .....	page 6
Menzies Shield 2023 Recipients .....	page 8

# Member Update

**The disconnect between average wages and median house prices risks killing the Australian dream. In our part of Melbourne, it is almost impossible without some form of family support. Not everyone has that option. Why does this matter?**

People move heaven and earth to come to this country.

They do so because they cherish the idea that education, hard work, and courage will be rewarded.

That is why ours is a community where 70% of residents are first or second generation migrants.

I am one of them.

This federal seat is named after Australia's longest serving Prime Minister, Robert Menzies.

At the peak of World War 2, he made home ownership his top priority stating:

*“One of the best instincts in us is that which induces us to have one little piece of earth with a house and a garden which is ours; to which we can withdraw, in which we can be among our friends, into which no stranger may come against our will.”*

Robert Menzies did not just speak of home ownership, he delivered.

Between 1947 and 1966 the rate of home ownership surged from 53 per cent to 71 per cent.

What can we do today to give young Australians hope again?

The first is to recognise the basic laws of supply and demand.

We need to incentivise the construction of quality medium density housing – the type of home that young people will want to raise a family in.

We must also recognise that migration has to be proportionate.

By that, I mean the number must match our capacity to build homes, infrastructure, schools, hospitals, and preserve green space.

I commit to you that I will be a constructive voice on this problem.

That starts with recognising that we have one.

Finally, this is my first paper since Doncaster resident Dr Ash Gordon was killed in a violent home invasion.

He was a young man who had committed to serving others.

This should simply not happen in 2024.

May he Rest In Peace.



## Local News

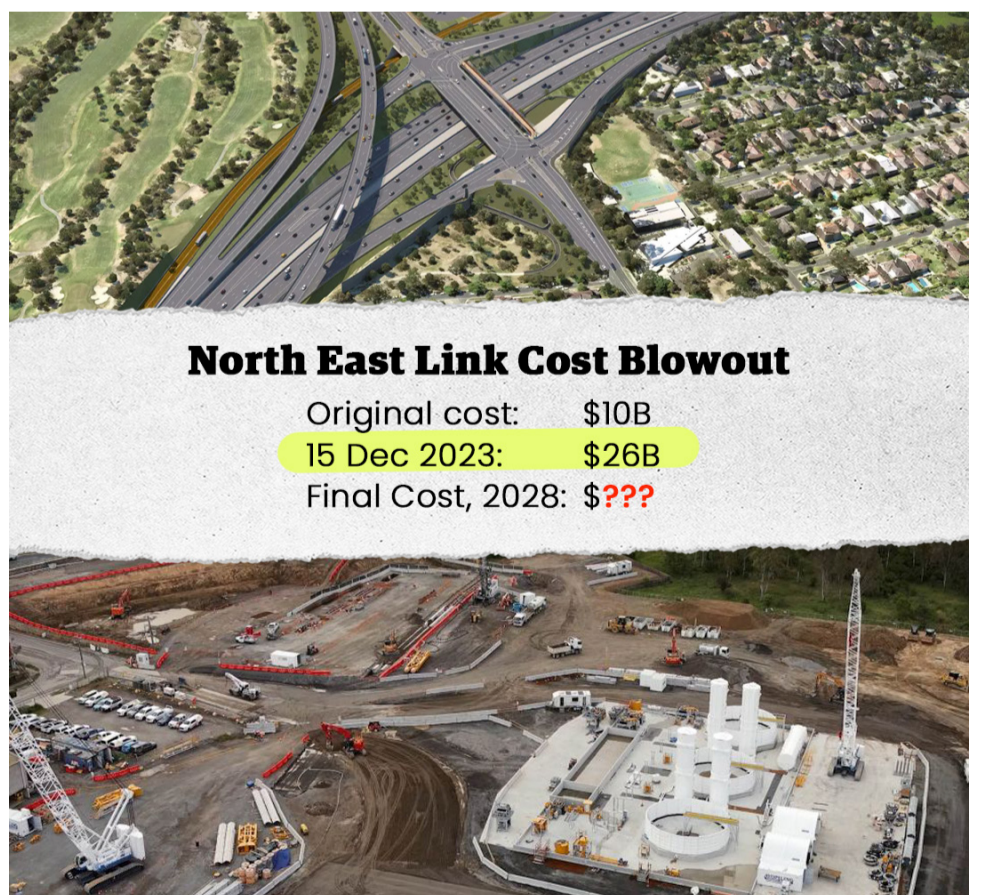
**AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS 2024**

- Ms Varvara Athanasiou-Ioannou AM
- Ms Geraldine Anderson OAM
- Dr Margaret O'Donnell OAM
- Mr Ian Robinson OAM
- Ms Adele Schonhardt OAM
- Mr Arthur Whitchell OAM



**North East Link Cost Blowout**

Original cost:	\$10B
15 Dec 2023:	\$26B
Final Cost, 2028:	\$???



# Warrandyte's Past Has A Home For the Future

**The Old Post Office Museum has re-opened!**

Major works spanning nine months were needed to bring the building back to life, with the scope of the work including addressing problems with the west wall, a re-stumping and, finally, the replacement of verandah timbers.

The site at 111 Yarra Street was first established back in 1876 when local man Alexander Speers purchased the plot from the Crown to build a store.

Having served the Warrandyte community for nearly 150 years, it was an understandable case of the building requiring a little TLC.

The Post Office re-located to Yarra Street sometime around 1900, where it operated

under the stewardship of a number of well-known Warrandyte families until 1972.

Since then, the local post office has traded out of 210 Yarra Street and, more recently, 100 Melbourne Hill Road.

Between 1972 and 1980 the site at 111 Yarra Street was leased to the Warrandyte Lions Club while its future was decided.

In 1980, a Post Office Preservation Group was formed to raise funds to restore the building.

The Old Post Office has proven to be quite resilient over time, surviving a 1934 flood - the water level is still marked inside the building to this day - and a pair of bushfires in 1939 and 1961.

During 1982 the building was almost

destroyed by a suspicious fire, only to be saved by the quick acting Warrandyte Fire Brigade, who just happened to be training nearby.

Once again the community rallied to restore the building so it could remain on its present site.

After a great deal of volunteer effort and community input, the restored building re-opened in May of 1987.

It is now the Warrandyte Museum, which operates under the name of the Warrandyte Historical Society.

Telling the story of the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung people of the area, the discovery of gold in 1851, artists and domestic life of years gone by, the Old Post Office Museum is open every weekend between 1:30-4:30pm.



*Exterior of Old Post Office Museum from Yarra Street  
Photos courtesy of Warrandyte Historical Society*

# Happy Lunar New Year Menzies

10 February 2024 marked the new Lunar Year, the year of the dragon.

The Lunar New Year is especially important to Chinese Australians, who make up nearly a third of our local community.

Symbolising strength, resilience, courage, and prosperity, the year of the dragon marks a year of good fortune.

These values are embodied by our local Chinese community, which is one of the reasons our community has some of the best schools and local businesses in the state.

The Lunar New Year itself is a time for family, friends and gratitude.

It is also a time for great celebration.

The most impressive of these celebrations was the 2024 ABAW Box Hill Lunar New Year Festival.

Attended by over 100,000 people, including leader of the opposition Peter Dutton, it was a sight to behold.

The festival was brimming with dancers, traditional costumes, delightful music and delicious cuisine.

Congratulations to our community for an amazing day of celebration, and a Happy Lunar New Year to all!

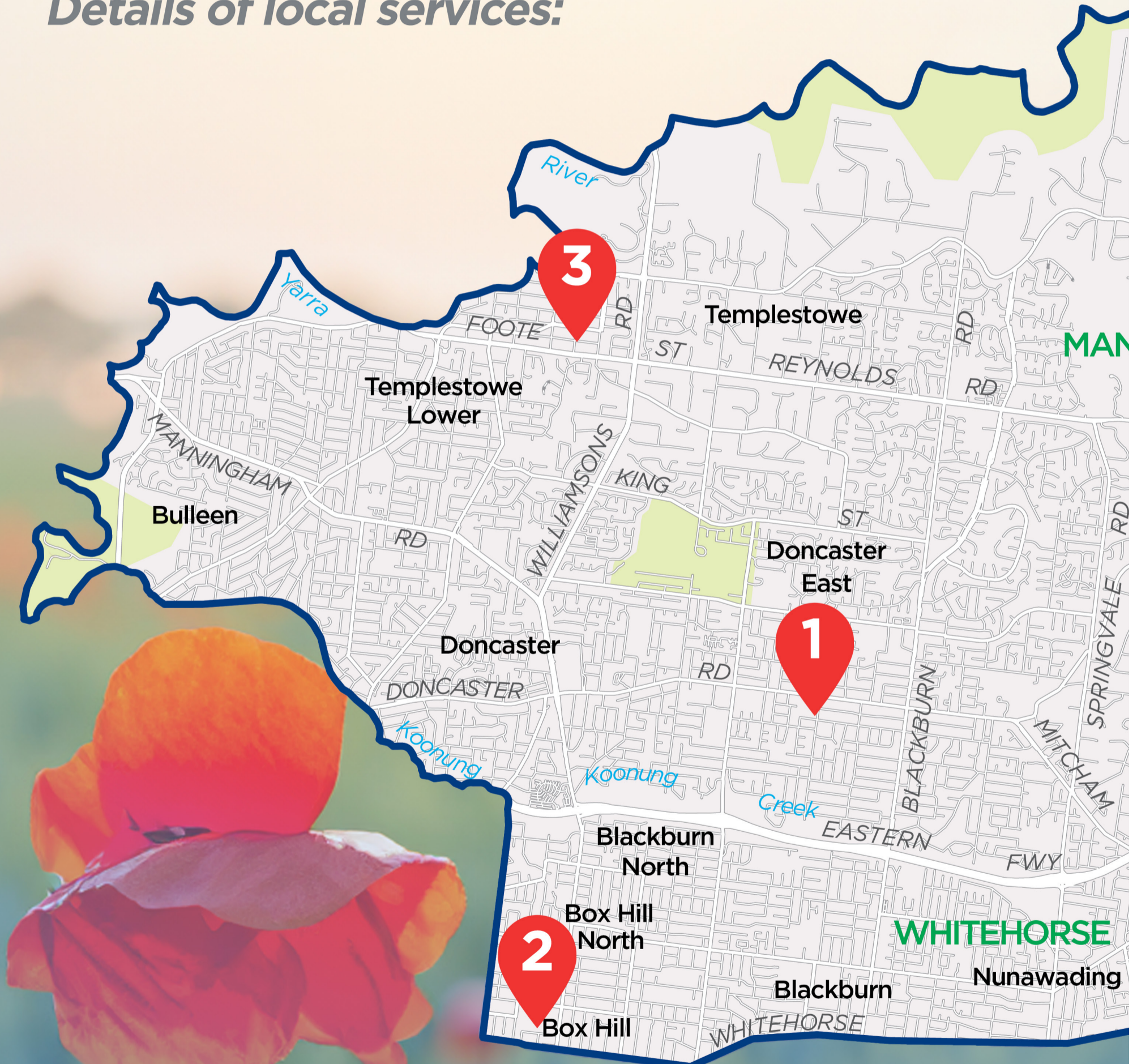


*Bihong Wang, ABAW president*

# ANZAC Day Services

Thank you to our local RSLs for continuing to honour those who gave all their tomorrows so that we may have today.

## Details of local services:



**Thursday, 25 April**

- 1** Doncaster RSL ANZAC Dawn Service, Doncaster East  
From 5:30am
- 2** Box Hill RSL ANZAC Dawn Service, Box Hill  
From 5:30am
- 3** Templestowe RSL ANZAC Day Service, Templestowe  
8:15am Parade, 8:30am Service
- 4** Warrandyte RSL ANZAC Day Service, Warrandyte  
10:30am Parade, 10:45am Service

# Diwali Festival Lights Up

In late 2023 the Australian Indian Cultural Society Incorporated (AICSI) staged their annual Eastern Diwali Festival at Templestowe's Ajani Centre.

Put together by AICSI President Gurpreet Miglani, Vice-President Barinder Kaur and a dedicated crew of committee members and volunteers, the event welcomed 300 community members, vendors, sponsors and performers under one roof to celebrate Diwali - the Hindu festival of lights.

The occasion featured a range of multicultural performances, including a didgeridoo recital by Yeng Gali Mullum Singers Group, as well as various traditional Indian singers and dancers.

The cultural society was the brainchild of Miglani, who recognised the lack of such a vibrant, community focused organisation in Melbourne's East as an opportunity.

*"Our vision is to make AICSI not just a platform for social interaction, but a place where talent, dreams and culture of our people is nurtured and celebrated," Miglani said.*

Beyond social gatherings, AICSI offers a range of workshops and youth programs, mentoring and leadership courses.

Congratulations to Gurpreet, Barinder and their entire committee, including Secretary Jeevika Mattoo, Treasurer Shiva Mann, Volunteer Lead Anurag Mattoo, Content Manager Shirin Mann and Event Manager Amy Dilawari for a wonderful night and all the work they do in our community.



*Dancers pose at the AICSI Eastern Diwali Festival*

# Haven for Pet Lovers

The Friends of Manningham Dogs and Cats (FOMDAC) are a community organisation which represents the interests of dog and cat owners throughout Manningham.

Based in Donvale, FOMDAC runs programmes, training courses and events all year round for dog lovers out of the well-known Dog Training Centre.

FOMDAC's mission since its founding in 2013 has been to promote responsible pet ownership, represent and advocate the needs of pet owners and provide a resource for council and representatives of the Manningham community on issues of dog and cat ownership.

Lead by Secretary Andrew McFarland, FOMDAC hosts regular seminars on critical pet issues, such as Pet First Aid, Separation Anxiety, Snake Awareness, Council regulatory changes and choosing the right pet.

If you would like to know more about FOMDAC you can follow them on Facebook.

Congratulations to Andrew and the FOMDAC team for all the work they do in our community.

# Play On. Girls Embrace Footy!

When it comes to participation growth in women's sport the rise of football is surely the most seismic. As a result, the game has never been more accessible.

In 2016, just over 380,000 women participated in organised matches throughout Australia, a number which has grown to well over 600,000 since the inception of AFLW.

To underline the growing appetite among the next generation, one in four AusKick sign ups are now young girls keen to play our great game.

Park Orchards-North Ringwood Parish Junior Football Club is one of many sporting organisations in our community fostering that growing passion for Australian rules football, all the while making the sport a safe and welcoming place for girls and boys of all ages.

In late-2023, the Club, in concert with the state-wide 'This Girl Can' campaign, staged a "Come 'n' Try Footy" day at Domeney Reserve.

Budding stars of tomorrow were joined by AFLW players Simone Nalder, Laura McClelland and Maddie Shevlin.

Club President Travis Rankin spoke



*AFLW stars Simone Nalder, Laura McClelland and Maddie Shevlin share their wisdom to participants*

glowingly of the event and was clearly excited about what it means for the future of the game.

*"It's a fantastic time to be involved in grassroots football," Rankin said.*

*"Days like the one we had recently are so inspiring."*

*"The enthusiasm and energy the girls have for the game is wonderful, as is their willingness to try something new, develop their skills and embrace everything great about football."*

*"I think the "Come 'n' Try" day really*

*showcased the thriving spirit of girls' footy and our club is fully committed to providing an environment which promotes inclusion, participation and fun."*

Junior sport remains a wonderful way for children to develop an important range of social, motor and life skills.

I congratulate all sporting clubs throughout Menzies and the tireless volunteers and officials who work to maintain them.

Should you wish to get involved with a local club, I encourage you to reach out.



# Community News

## Out & About



Australian Indian Cultural Society Incorporated celebrates Diwali



Beverley Hills Primary School (L) and St Gregory The Great (R) visit Parliament House



ACF volunteers gather at Wombat Bend in Templestowe



Doncaster Dragons Baseball Club celebrates 50 years



Remembrance Day ceremony in Warrandyte



3rd Doncaster East Scout Group celebrate their 60th anniversary



The hard working FOMDAC team



Menzies young artists' work



Warrandyte Pink Stumps Day with WCC



Australia Day ceremonies



WCB Run Warrandyte 2024



Menzies welcomes its newest Australian citizens



Festival of St Haralambos in Templestowe

This section is for you, for news and events you would like to highlight. Please do not hesitate to email me at [keith.wolahan.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:keith.wolahan.mp@aph.gov.au) for inclusion in future editions of "Menzies Matters"



# Menzies Shield

I am so proud of our 44 schools and their students for taking part in the Menzies Shield.

This award acknowledges “*Leadership or Community Spirit*”, and is presented in the spirit of its namesake Sir Robert Menzies.

Thank you to the schools who participated and each of the winners.



Andersons Creek Primary School:

Antonio Park Primary School:

Beverley Hills Primary School:

Birralee Primary School:

Blackburn Primary School:

Donburn Primary School:

Doncaster Gardens Primary School:

Doncaster Primary School:

Doncaster Secondary College:

Donvale Primary School:

East Doncaster Secondary College:

Heatherwood School:

Kerrimuir Primary School:

Marcellin College:

Mitcham Primary School:

Mullauna College:

Old Orchard Primary School:

Our Lady of Sion College:

Our Lady of the Pines Catholic Primary School:

Park Orchards Primary School:

St Charles Borromeo Primary School:

St Francis Xavier Primary School:

St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School:

St Kevin's Catholic Primary School

St Philip's Primary School:

Templestowe College:

Templestowe Heights Primary School:

Templestowe Park Primary School:

Templestowe Valley Primary School:

Warrandyte High School:

Warrandyte Primary School:

Whitefriars College:

Whitehorse Primary School:

Greta Fitzgibbon

Chloe Dakic, Liam Donahoo

Caleb Parker

Ishana Sethi

Isabel Egan

*Names withheld*

Charlotte Xiao, Yubi Fong

Elyza Leong

Ava Ronagh

Ella Andersson

Mietta Tebelopoulos, Sobhan Safavi

Siena Ehlert

Siena Sotiropoulos

Heidi Monssen

Jeremy Zhang

Anton Bulzomi

Gabriel Gomes, Aerin Bosman

Jack Cruse, Claire Gargett

Jenny Green

Mitchell Deacon

Hannah Dharmasena

Rithu Anoop

Olivia Stevenson

Alana Hassoun

Alina Chapman

Chloe Tan

Michael Cirianni

Josephine Le

Chloe Mayson

Angelena Santa

Zoe Gladman

Carla Parris, Maia Fattore

Nye-Ann Tuliakiono

Gabe Heath-Ross

Joshua Lyons

Christiaan Marx