

About Our School

School context

Wooragee Primary School (number 0653) is a small rural primary school located 10 kilometres north of Beechworth and approximately 300 kilometres from Melbourne. The school is situated between farming land and a native bush and creek block, which we have named 'Yirrikama', providing a serene rural setting for children to learn, be curious, take risks and collaborate through play.

Wooragee Primary School has been providing education since 1862 and has received numerous awards for its sustainability and environmental education programs. The school serves a community within a 30-kilometre radius, and the majority of students travel to school by bus or car. A total of 71 students were enrolled at this school in 2025, 38 female and 33 male. 1.5 percent of students had English as an additional language and 10.6 percent were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. This school's SFOE band value is: Low - Medium Ten students were funded under the disability inclusion program. The school continues to offer LOTE subject of Indigenous Languages, Physical Education, Drama, STEM, Mobile Art, and Mobile Library. The staffing structure included one Principal, four Classroom teachers (4x 1.0 FTE 1x0.3 1x0.2), one Business Manager (0.6), 1 Disability Inclusion/STEM/Tutor (0.1), 1 Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader (0.4) and seven Educational Support Staff.

Our School Vision

To provide quality education in a holistic learning environment, empowering students to be purposeful members of a global community.

Our School Mission

We see the mission and purpose of Wooragee Primary School to engage and encourage our students to:

- Develop a love of learning and value being a learner.
- Be literate, numerate and technologically skilled.
- Be environmentally and globally aware.
- Be culturally sensitive and understanding of others.
- Select and evaluate information and be intellectually curious.
- Be problem solvers who are able to think creatively and critically.
- Work in teams with skills in cooperation, communication and negotiation.
- Be flexible, adaptable and have persistence, so they are better able to adapt to change or when they experience discomfort.
- Be community builders, with strong social competencies, resilience and self-esteem.
- Know how to learn and want to continue to learn.
- Move from being supported learners to autonomous, independent learners.

Our Values

We value Respect (for self, for others, for the community and environment), Resilience (trying hard, bouncing back, persisting) and Responsibility (for our learning, for our thoughts, for our actions) and these values underpin everything we do, the decisions we make and our interactions with each other.

Wooragee Primary School has a strong connection and presence in the local community - participating in a range of local events and festivals, organising the Wooragee Easter Monday Market and working with local community groups such as Landcare, ResourceSmart and Social Enterprise.

Progress towards strategic goals, student outcomes and student engagement

Learning

At Wooragee Primary School, our approach to reading is carefully structured to support students at each stage of their learning journey. In F-2, we use the *Little Learners Love Literacy* program, which systematically teaches phonics to help students develop strong foundational reading skills. As students progress to Years 3-6, teachers implement the *Readers Workshop* model, which supports students in transitioning from 'learning to read' to 'reading to learn.' This balanced approach ensures that all students build the skills and confidence needed to become lifelong readers.

While our 2024 year 3 cohort recorded 50% in the Strong and Exceeding categories in NAPLAN Reading, it's important to recognise the impact of our small student numbers and the high percentage of students who do not engage with NAPLAN due to diagnosed disabilities. Looking at our two-year average, our school continues to demonstrate strong progress, with 62.3% of students achieving Strong or Exceeding, slightly above similar schools at 61.9%. This consistent performance reflects the dedication of our students, teachers, and school community in fostering a love for reading and learning.

Our Year 5 reading results for 2024 came in at 25%, which is lower than we had hoped and 22% below the average of similar schools. However, looking at our two-year average, our 2023 cohort's strong performance has contributed to a balanced result of 50%. With our small student numbers, year-to-year fluctuations can be significant, but our long-term trends show that we are making steady progress.

At Wooragee Primary School, our Year 3 numeracy results have consistently been within the average range of similar schools, with 62% of students achieving Strong or Exceeding in 2024 and 64% in 2023. However, we recognise that this achievement is not yet carrying through to Year 5, where our Strong and Exceeding students are currently at 37.5%, compared to the similar schools' average of 64.9%. This data has guided our decision to focus on strengthening numeracy instruction & intervention in 2025, ensuring we provide the best possible support for our students as they progress through their learning journey.

Wellbeing

In 2024, we strengthened our focus on mental health and wellbeing by employing a Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader for two days a week. Additionally, the CASEA team provided valuable support to teachers, parents, and students in accessing wellbeing services. As part of this

initiative, our F-2 classes participated in Sunshine Circles, a program designed to enhance school connectedness and support social-emotional development. These initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive school environment where every student feels valued and connected.

Our Year 5 NAPLAN results align with findings from the 2024 Student Attitudes to School Survey, where the Sense of Connectedness for Year 5/6 students was 58.3%, 16% below the state average. However, when speaking with students about the survey responses, they expressed pride in being Wooragee students, despite indicating a lower sense of connectedness on the survey itself. This highlights the importance of ongoing conversations with our students to better understand their experiences and ensure they feel supported and engaged in their learning environment. We are committed to strengthening connections within our school community to enhance both academic and social outcomes.

Engagement

In 2024, we were thrilled to welcome a drama teacher who not only engaged students in drama but also supported each class in confidently participating in our school production, *The Wooragee Way*. Through this experience, students demonstrated our core school values of Respect, Resilience, and Responsibility. This opportunity allowed them to build confidence, collaborate creatively, and develop important life skills, all while celebrating the unique spirit of our school community.

Attendance continues to be a focus for our school, and while our data remains a concern, it is important to recognise the individual circumstances impacting our students. We have a number of students on attendance plans, and for some, their disabilities present challenges such as medical appointments and school refusal. Our priority remains working closely with families to support student wellbeing and engagement, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to participate in learning in a way that meets their needs.

Other highlights from the school year

2024 Highlights:

1. **Social Enterprise Projects** – Students showcased their community mindedness and raised money for charity.
2. **Sports Events** – Swimming, Cross Country, and Athletics carnivals demonstrated student sportsmanship.
3. **Folk Festival** – Dr. Seuss stories brought to life in a vibrant parade.
4. **Karen Retra's Visits** – Engaging environmental learning experiences.
5. **School Sleepover** – Fun and bonding with classmates.
6. **Sovereign Hill Camp** – Learning about Australian History
7. **Fridays in the Garden** – Gardening sessions with Owen and Eric.

8. **Cooking with Lisa and Bec** – Preparing amazing meals in the kitchen.
9. **Bike Ride to Bright** – A memorable bike adventure.
10. **End-of-Year Water Park Trip** – A fun celebration of the year.

Financial performance

2024 was a positive year for Wooragee Primary School, marked by several key improvements and investments:

1. **Second Stage of Playground** – The Sugar Glider climbing frame was purchased and installed, enhancing outdoor play for our students.
2. **Library Upgrades** – New shelves were installed, modernising and improving our library space.
3. **Student Desk Revitalisation** – Student desks were upgraded to match the school's natural colour tones, creating a more cohesive and inviting classroom environment.
4. **Educational Support** – Thanks to our high inclusion funding, we were able to employ two educational support workers in each classroom, ensuring that all students received the support they needed to thrive.
5. **Upgraded Garden Beds** – The garden beds were revitalised, providing a more room to grow vegetables.
6. **Tree Maintenance** – Extensive work was carried out on the trees through the Safe Tree Grant, ensuring a safer and healthier environment for our school community.

These improvements reflect our ongoing commitment to creating a supportive and engaging learning environment for all students.

For more detailed information regarding our school please visit our website at <https://www.woorageeps.vic.edu.au/index.html>

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