Newsletter Date: Summer 2026-27

Glen Park Primary School
Phone: 53345360
Web: http://glenparkps.vic.edu.au/ Also refer to our FACEBOOK page. https://www.facebook.com/learningwithliterature
By T. Shaw principal (1997-2026)
30 years as Principal at Glen Park in 2027

Glen Park Primary School
Providing quality state education since 1871
(155 years serving our community)

Glen Park Gazette

A big thank you to the staff of Glen Park Primary: Pauline Moody, Linda Duke, Chilanka Siriwardana , Kirrily Urquhart, Katie White, Kari O'Gorman and our supportive school community

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WORKS AT GLEN PARK 2026

We've been very busy at Glen Park PS again this year completing upgrades and improvements to our school grounds and facilities.

We started this year with another addition to our playground with the removal of some old playground equipment and its replacement with a playground **'worm'** courtesy of ***Ballarat Groundworks.***

This year work commenced to make our main classroom our 'shelter in place' on Code Red days. Our main building was painted with fire resistant paint and we received new window screens and doors. Repairs were also completed on our covered walkways.

We replaced our old sports shed with a new shed including a sport/garden/cleaning storage space.

This year we added to our existing flag pole which fly's the Victorian flag with 3 new flags which fly all 3 official Australian flags.

During this summer we will construct a 'yarning circle' and we will repair our oval after all the trucks and vehicles that 'chewed it up' during the year.



We are considering replacing or modernising our toilets in 2027 and either resurfacing our asphalt or replacing it with concrete.

ABOVE Our playground 'worm'.

GLEN PARK IN 2026

BELOW Morning tea on our deck.



2026 has been another big year here at Glen Park Primary School.

This year we continued our focus on science by inviting a real scientist (Heather) from Swinburne to visit for 4 special science days focusing on energy, space, light and robots.

We went on an excursion to The Melbourne Zoo. We also had three riding lessons at Ajay Equestrian Riding School. Grade 4 and 5 went on the two day Sovereign Hill experience and we organised a group day excursion for senior students with Mt Egerton to Escape Smash and Play. We are going to see Elf this Christmas at Crown and we had a Bulldogs footy clinic and Indigenous Art excursion to the Art Gallery.

Next year we will again be running a tutoring program as well as LOTE, Marc Van visits and Music/Arts therapy as well as our swimming/gym program.

Our library is even bigger than before—the best in Ballarat (Have you checked out our Street Library?) and our grounds are looking great (still more to do outside in 2027.) More fun excursions and engaging learning activities are planned for next year.

SLATY CREEK

Slaty Creek (In the Creswick Regional Park between Cabbage Tree and Chapel Flat) is about 6 km from Glen Park through the Glen Park State Forest. It was full of campers and fresh, clear creek water last spring holidays . Apparently there's still a lot of gold to be found (certainly lots of quartz) and platypuses have been spotted in the creek. Well worth a drive or hike.



SMALL SCHOOLS THE FACTS

Small rural schools offer stronger community connections, personalized attention, and higher student engagement compared to large schools.



- **Personalized Attention:** Teachers know each student well, allowing them to respond quickly to academic or emotional needs.
- **Stronger Community Feel:** Smaller settings create a safe, close-knit environment where students feel valued and less anonymous. Rural schools are often the glue that holds small communities together.
- **Better Early Outcomes:** Research highlights that smaller environments and lower student-to-teacher ratios in early years significantly boost student engagement and long-term achievement.
- **Higher engagement:** Students participate more frequently in hands-on learning and in-depth discussions.
- **Long-term success:** Research shows students in small early -grade classes achieve higher test scores, graduate at higher rates, and are more likely to attend higher education
- **Better discipline:** Fewer distractions and improved behaviour reduce the time teachers spend managing the room.

Data from *Save Our Schools* https://saveourschools.com.au/national-issiues/studies-show-that-smaller-schools-do-better-than-large-schools/

Small schools give students personal attention because teachers know every child well. This safe environment helps kids feel supported and lets them engage in learning with ease . **We are lucky in Victoria (since 1999) to have an education system that values the role of small rural schools**

IMPROVEMENTS TO STATE EDUCATION 2026

In 2026 the Department of Education committed $1.6 billion for school infrastructure, opening a record 19 new schools in 2026 alone with an additional 8,650 additional modular spaces for students in growing areas. Extra money for much needed works have been allocated to our schools. (refer the work being done at Woodman's Hill)

The Education Reform Bill of 2026 Strengthened child safety, updated the Victorian Student Register, placed restrictions on student personal electronic devices, and introduced formal recognition of First Nations people in education.

The Disability Inclusion Model is now fully rolled out state-wide across all Victorian government schools, The Victorian Government invests more than $2.2 billion in the 2026–27 budget to support students with disabilities through state-wide reforms and expanded inclusion programs

The Mental Health in Primary Schools program has been rolled out to all schools now. Glen Park has a 0.5 MHiPS co-ordinator who started in 2026.

In Victoria, 667,440 students are educated in state (government) schools. State schools Educate the vast majority of students with additional needs in Victoria, absorbing roughly three-quarters of all students who receive educational adjustments.

A small school on the edge of the city













PHOTOS

* Experimenting with light and colour
* swimming
* Music with Linda
* New flagpoles
* Gym at the Aquatic centre
* New shed taking shape
* Birthday girls (Katie—MARC Van and Kari MHiPS)
* Riding lessons at Ajays.





ENROLMENTS FOR 2027-28

Over the next few years we are losing senior students to secondary school and are looking to enroll some new local students to maintain our existing numbers.

If you are concerned that your child is not learning in a crowded disruptive classroom or they are 'learning' via one size fits all slide shows or you are worried that they aren't safe in the playground then alternatives are available.

Glen Park is an ideal learning environment for children who want to learn. We offer individualized learning programs for all students in an engaging, safe school environment.
Look at our Facebook page to see what we do here very day (or our website for a broader view of what we offer)

If you are interested in a small school education and you're in our zone in 2027-28 then contact us for an inspection and enrolment pack.







COMMUNITY NEWS

The **Wattle Flat - Pootilla Landcare Group** is a committed community group aiming to enhance and protect biodiversity throughout the local area. The group formed in 2002. Contact Andrew 0419 091 601 or Stephanie 5334 8035 Refer to their web page: *leighcatchment-group.org/wattle-flat-pootilla*

The Brown Hill Bulls

Come Join Us Junior players required Brown Hill Cricket Club Junior training - U11's, U13's, U15's & U17's

Brown Hill Reserve enquire Further Information: Contact: Phillip Knowles 0407399971

White Swan Res. Current capacity of the White Swan water supply is 6661 ML (about (about 47.6% capacity) Similar to this time last year.

Brown Hill News

For all the news about what's going on in Brown Hill (Such as the Brown Hill Market re-starting up this year in the Brown Hill Hall)
Email: bhpa@brownhill.vic.au
Phone: 5334 8014 (evenings only)
Post: PO Box 1863, Bakery Hill 3354

The Brown Hill Splash Park opened last summer and should be a hit again this year.



Dean Hall and Mechanics Institute Inc.



Hall hire contact : Ngaire Mckay 0417111485 or email gmckay3@bigpond.com

Mt Prospect District Tennis Association Inc. is well renowned for its well groomed sixteen grass tennis courts. It's located in the picturesque town of Creswick and is surrounded by the old Creswick Botanical Gardens. Bridge Street, Park Lake Creswick Victoria 3363 contact them on 0422607224