



BURKE & BEYOND



Term 3 - 2025

# SPRING

Newsletter

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# Term Holiday Dates

Friday 3 October

Quarter 3 Ends

Monday 6 October

Quarter 4 Starts

Monday 3 & Tuesday 4 November  
(Service Closure & Public Holiday)

Melbourne Cup

Thursday 18 December

Last day of Quarter 4

Friday 19 December 2025 to Friday 9  
January 2026

Summer Break

Service reopens on  
Monday 12 January 2025



# Message from the CEO

Lisa Sawatzky

It has been an exciting term at Burke and Beyond, with so much happening at each of the services. At our Dandenong site, participants have been engaging in a photography program and have experimented with a range of techniques. This will culminate in an Art exhibition later in the year. Our Podcasting and Gaming/Coding programs continue to be well received by participants with some great content being developed.

The Box Hill Trade program have also been busy and proudly presented a wheelbarrow that they made to the Kew Cemetery. This is a great example of how Burke and Beyond participants contribute to their community. Likewise, the Ringwood participants are continuing to contribute to community through their volunteer work at Pinchapoo.

Our Friday night social program has provided a range of social activities including attending the theatre, painting, dinning out and on-site cooking activities. This program provides a great opportunity for participants to connect, socialise and develop lifelong friendships and connections.

During this term, we have recruited some wonderful new casual staff who are such an important part of our staffing team. This has been particularly important during the time where there has been significant illness over the winter period. We are pleased to only use Burke and Beyond casuals and not agency staff to cover staff illness. This assists in our participants getting to know a number of casual staff who regularly fill shifts at their site. We would like to warmly welcome our new casual, part time and full-time staff members to Burke and Beyond.

At an organisational level we are continuing to work within the lean NDIS pricing. This has required careful budget control and adjustments as the increased costs impact our services.

The Board have continued to support the exec through good governance and a clear strategic framework.

Thank you for your continued support of Burke and Beyond.

Lisa Sawatzky



# DANDENONG

## Multimedia

This term, participants have been immersed in the world of photography.

Participants have been encouraged to develop their own photographic eye and explore what personally inspires them. Through hands-on activities and guided photo prompts, participants have captured their unique perspectives and stories.

We explored a variety of styles and techniques, including:

- Landscape photography – capturing the beauty of natural and urban environments.
- Black and white photography – focusing on contrast, texture, and emotion. Lighting techniques – experimenting with natural and artificial light.
- Portrait photography – highlighting personality and connection through images.

Each participant has used photography as a tool to explore their world, express themselves, and build creative confidence. Their work will be proudly exhibited in the upcoming Art Access Exhibition, celebrating their achievements and artistic growth.

## Podcasting

Our Monday mornings have been buzzing with creativity in the Podcasting Program! Participants have been learning how to use the equipment, plan their topics, and record their own shows. It's been a great way to build confidence, practice communication skills, and work together as a team.

In the afternoons, the focus shifts to the Art Program, where participants enjoy painting and drawing in a relaxing and expressive space where everyone can explore their imagination, build skills, and share their artwork with friends.

Together, these programs give participants a fun balance of self-expression, learning, and teamwork, making each day both creative and rewarding.



## Gaming and Coding

The Next Step Dandenong participants have started a new program for Term 3 which is called Gaming and Coding at the Doveton Learning and Living Centre. Participants have been learning about how a computer works and how it connects everything together. The facilitator has been educating the participants about the new and old games from all the consoles to PC. Some of the skills that they have been working on are: How to send an email and using CC and BCC, how to protect the computer using anti-virus and how to create folders and shortcuts etc.

# BOX HILL

## Trade

After 3 months of hard work was put into building the wheelbarrow from scratch, the team were proud to present it at the Kew Cemetery. It's now going to be used to keep flowers inside for sale. The CEO of the cemetery & a local journalist came down in celebration to write up an article for their monthly catalog.



## Independent Living

Independent Living have been using their money budgeting skills to add up the bottle collection money, which they use to form a budget. Items were then purchased from the supermarket to make their own wraps and through budgeting and saving the group were able to purchase a kettle and other site necessities.



## Box Hill Institute Work Ed

Next Step Box Hill participants have completed their work placement at NQR. This is for their Certificate I in Work Education at Box Hill Institute. The participants worked on their facing, sorting, recycling and restocking skills throughout the placement. The manager complimented them on their skills and thanked them for their help.



## Box Hill Insitute Transition Education

The Transition Education program has continued to build upon their skills and has been working on their grammar for a recent unit. The group also completed roleplays for troubleshooting possible scenarios when in the community.



## Regis

Regis work experience has continued for this semester with participants working on their social skills by volunteering their time with the elderly and getting the opportunity to interact with residents in their local community. Participants help serve coffees and support them to complete their exercise activities.



# RINGWOOD

## Overview

Across this quarter, Ringwood participants have continued to work hard and develop their skills through a range of programs and activities.

After a restful mid-year break, participants have had the opportunity to engage in new programs such as Cyber Awareness, Performing Arts, Employable Me and Tennis.

Cyber Awareness so far has focused heavily on keeping online accounts safe and information secure as well as safely communicating with and meeting people online. Participants have used resources such as the eSafety Commission Guide to find step by step instructions on how to keep their accounts private on popular apps that they use.

Performing Arts and Employable Me mark the Ringwood site's return to Box Hill Institute TAFE courses. The Performing Arts program has focused on planning and practicing a song and dance routine while also building communication and self confidence. The Employable Me course has focused on building and refining resumes as well as improving typing and computer skills.

Participants have also continued their volunteering opportunities with Pinchapoo as well as their courses with Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre and Orana Neighbourhood House, which involve Cooking, Customer Service, Hospitality and Work Skills.

Everyone at Ringwood is focused on keeping up the hard work for the remainder of the year and is looking forward to a well deserved break over the Christmas Holidays.





# BALWYN

## Living and Learning



The Living and Learning cohort continue to develop their independent life skills, undertaking a wide range of tasks while on site and in the wider community. These everyday life skills include researching recipes, shopping, cooking, laundry, kitchen, gardening duties, recycling cans and how to be safe in the community.

Enhancing your physical and mental wellbeing is another Living and Learning focus.

There are many opportunities to promote your health and wellbeing. Being out in the fresh air amongst nature, participating in sporting activities or embracing your artistic side with your peers are a few. Visiting Edendale Farm, utilising local sports parks, discos and participating in Neighbourhood Learning Centre classes are popular choices

The staffing team have been busy taking lots of photos of Living and Learning participants engaging in activities at the various venues we attend. These have been added to individualised timetables and look great.

The images will also provide opportunities to empower everyone to enhance communicating daily choices, changes and reflect on the activities they have participated in.



# OUTREACH SUPPORT

## Lucas Phillips

Lucas is supported by the outreach program 1 day per week to work at Rose Chong's costume shop.

Lucas performs a range of tasks including vacuuming, dusting, sorting the costumes and jewellery on display, sorting returned costumes and accessories for cleaning and cataloging costumes for storage. Lucas has learned a broad range of skills during his support at work including time management, staying on task and a good attention to detail whilst honing his fine motor skills.

This has given Lucas the opportunity to further develop his communication skills and understanding of what is appropriate in different settings whilst developing a strong work ethic.

During the holidays Lucas has been supported both at home and in the community where he has completed independent cooking at home, searching recipes, making a shopping list, completing the grocery shopping and cooking dinner for his family. During his outreach supports Lucas has also had the opportunity to travel to points of interest in the community, further developing his confidence to travel via public transport and how to problem solve in different situations, further building his independent living skills.

Lucas said he enjoys all of the tasks he completes at work but sorting the jewellery is his favourite task. Lucas said it makes him feel happy to go to work and that he hopes to work independently in the future.

Lucas said he has enjoyed cooking for his family and for them to be able to enjoy the food that he has cooked. Lucas said that during his community access supports his favourite activity has been going to the cinema to see new movies.

## Becky Chan

I first experienced water carrying a week prior at Dandenong West FNC during the Women's AFL game, and I absolutely loved it. Running onto the field to offer water to the players and cheering from the sidelines was such a thrill.

Soon after, I had the opportunity to do water carrying for Upper Ferntree Gully—my number one Eastern team. It was my second time supporting the Women's team and my first time assisting the Reserves Men. I'm incredibly grateful to Upper Ferntree Gully FNC for allowing me to test myself in the faster-paced Reserves Men's game. Although Keysborough FNC (my Southern team) had recommended I start with the Open Grade instead, concerned the pace might be too intense, I was confident I could handle it.

After observing the Reserves Men play, I felt comfortable with the pace and knew I could manage. The team went on to reach the Grand Final, and although they didn't secure the win, it was still an amazing season. I built strong connections with the club, and their warmth and support gave me opportunities I wouldn't have found elsewhere.

I'm excited to re-commit to Upper Ferntree Gully next year and continue being part of such a fantastic community!



# FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL

Friday night social continues to offer attending participants a range of activities to support and build their capacity and confidence in community connections, social interactions, decision making, community access, conflict resolution and relationship building.

Participants are supported to attend the cinema, restaurants, stage shows, music performances, cooking, painting, and much more, and feedback received is that these activities are meaningful and support them to grow in an independent space.

## 2025 Satisfaction Survey

At Burke and Beyond, we see all feedback as an opportunity to learn, grow, and improve the services we provide. We'd love to hear about your experience with Burke and Beyond.

You'll soon receive an email with a link to our feedback survey. If you miss it, you can also access the survey using the link below or by scanning the QR code. If you'd prefer to share your feedback over the phone, please contact Danielle Coulson, Manager of Quality and Risk: 9886 1111.

<https://forms.office.com/r/KH7TADDKGD>



Click the link  
or scan the  
code to  
complete our  
2025 Survey!



Edited by: Becky Chan

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*Inclusion that counts*

SUPPORTIVE | PROGRESSIVE | ACCOUNTABLE