

Keeping U In the loop

URBAN COLLEGE
14th December 2025



As Term 4 comes to a close, let's take a moment to reflect on the year 2025 and celebrate all the achievements and proud moments of our Class of 2025 students—from our new Year 10s to our graduating Year 12s. This year has been one of growth, discovery, and many exciting firsts here at Urban College.



IMPORTANT DATES

Start of Term 1 Monday 2nd Feb
End of Term 1 Thursday 2nd April
Good Friday Friday 3rd April

2026 Orientation Day | Croydon & Boronia

Croydon proudly welcomed 35 new students at Orientation Day, supported by our newly formed teaching and wellbeing team who helped make the day a great success. It was wonderful to see so many new faces arrive with smiles and a sense of excitement for the year ahead. Students enjoyed a range of creative, hands-on activities and received their new Urban College jumpers, along with a welcome tote filled with everything they'll need to start the year feeling confident and prepared.

Over at Boronia, we were thrilled to welcome 21 new students and 2 new teachers to the campus. The day was warmly received, with many students sharing that they now feel more prepared and less anxious about their first day of school.

A highlight was the BBQ lunch, fresh popcorn, and plenty of time to connect — the perfect way to break the ice and create a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. A fantastic start to an exciting year ahead for our Urban College community!



Executive Principal Message

As we wrap up the year, I want to take a moment to celebrate everything you—our students—have achieved. 2025 has been full of big moments, real challenges, surprising wins, and plenty of growth. Whether you smashed your goals, tried something new, or simply kept showing up on the tough days, every effort has shaped the strong, positive culture we're so proud of at Urban College.

This year has also highlighted just how incredible our staff are. Behind every class, event, project, and success story is a team of teachers, mentors, and support staff who constantly go above and beyond. They've created safe spaces, pushed you to think big, and backed you when things got tricky. Their passion and dedication are at the heart of what makes our school such a great place to learn.

Looking ahead, one of the most exciting things on the horizon is the opening of our brand-new Croydon campus in 2026. It's going to bring fresh opportunities, modern spaces, and new ways for you to learn, connect, and be creative. Planning is well underway, and we can't wait to share more with you next year as the campus starts to take shape.

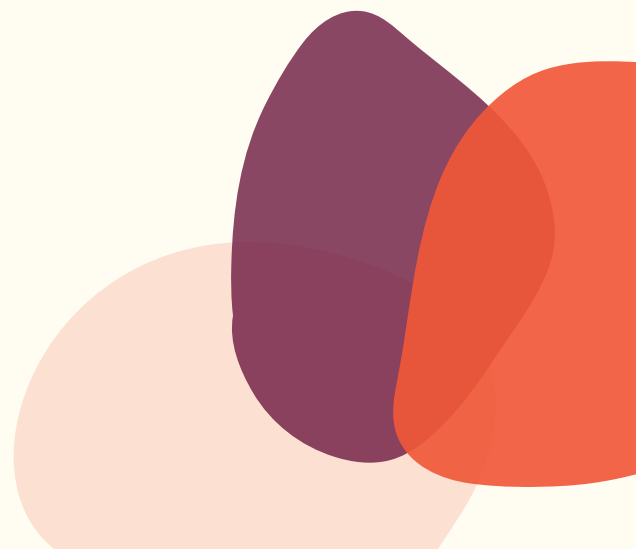
And speaking of next year—2026 is already buzzing with potential. We've been working behind the scenes to plan new programs, updated facilities, more student-led initiatives, and even more opportunities for you to explore your interests and shape your own path. There is so much to look forward to, and we're excited to walk into the new year with you.

Thank you for making 2025 memorable. Enjoy the break, recharge, and get ready for a huge year ahead.

Warmly,



Elise Hopkins
Executive Principal





A BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025 SRC MEMBERS!

Thank you for stepping up as leaders and for representing the voice of our students.

Year 10

Lachlan Sefton
Zoe Power-Golub
Levi Mcpherson

Year 11

Indiana Von Barany
Maisie Vincent
Paige Aitken
Keely Hodgkinson
Shanae Fuller

Year 12

Evie Connor
Melissa Warr
Charli Bush
Charlie Goldsworthy

SRC Year in Review

This year our SRC brought student voice to life with 12 dedicated members across all three year levels. Students were a part of making school decisions, ran whole-school assemblies, presented semester awards, and brought the community together with Footy Day, including a raffle of a Richmond jersey. Funds raised were put straight back into student wellbeing with a frozen yoghurt buffet party, the gift that keeps on giving!

They supported Wellbeing Days, delivered a self care essential roller activity, and led a cookie making session to stand against bullying and support the Do It For Dolly campaign. The team also proposed and trialled a new timetable for next year, gathering feedback to inform planning for 2026.

Thank you to every SRC member for your leadership, teamwork, and care for our school community.

• Nikki Harris – SRC Coordinator



Careers and Pathways

Throughout 2025, our Careers and Pathways program has focused on helping students build clarity and confidence about their futures through experiences, planning and personalised support. A major highlight was the Year 10 Work Experience block at the end of Term 2, with 21 students completing placements across a range of industries aligned to their interests, strengthening their employability skills and understanding of workplace expectations.

Students also engaged in a variety of real-world learning opportunities, including an industry immersion in civil construction with Laing O'Rourke at their South Dynon Train Maintenance Facility, the Year 12 tour of Swinburne Wantirna, and an onsite presentation from Apprenticeship Support Australia to all cohorts, broadening awareness of apprenticeship and traineeship pathways after school.

Students further explored options through two career expo visits: the Victorian Careers and Employment Expo and the OELLEN Career Expo, which had a strong trades focus and directly connected a couple of our students with apprenticeship opportunities. Across year levels, students worked on Career Action Plans to reflect on strengths, identify goals, and map out next steps for future study or employment.

In preparation for 2026, all incoming Year 11 and 12 students have been supported with VET course selections and application processes, ensuring they are informed and confident about their pathway choices. Many students also accessed individual 1:1 career counselling interviews for tailored guidance, resume building assistance and an onsite first aid course added to students' practical skills and work readiness.

- **Ewen Morris – Careers Counsellor/Year 12 Teacher**





2025 Valedictorian

Congratulations to our 2025 Year 12 Valedictorian, Melissa Warr.

Your consistent effort and commitment to excellence have truly paid off. It has been remarkable to see your growth and the confidence you've gained throughout your time with us.

We are incredibly proud of your achievements and excited for what comes next.

Year 12 Graduation

The Year 12 students celebrated a significant milestone at their graduation ceremony held at the picturesque Chateau Wyuna, surrounded by over 100 family members and friends.

Dressed proudly in their caps and gowns, the students gathered as the evening began with a warm Welcome to Country from Shae.

The formalities continued with heartfelt speeches from Principal Elise, student representative Evie Connor, and Year 12 teacher Suzi, each reflecting on the students' achievements, growth, and resilience throughout their senior years.

Following the speeches, each student was invited on stage to receive their Year 12 Graduation Certificate in front of the supportive crowd. They were officially presented as the Graduating Class of 2025, marking the moment by moving their tassels to symbolise the completion of their secondary education.

The celebration concluded with a joyful tradition as the students gathered outside, tossing their hats into the air with excitement and pride—an uplifting end to an unforgettable evening.



Special Thanks - What A Night!

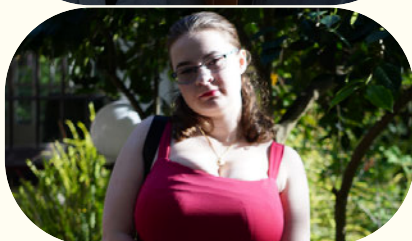
We celebrated with our Year 10, 11, and 12 students at this year's Formal, enjoying great food, drinks, a photo booth, and plenty of dancing.

Thank you to Suzi and Ewen for organising the event, and to Year 12 student Evie Connor for her support in helping make the night memorable.



Year 12 Graduation

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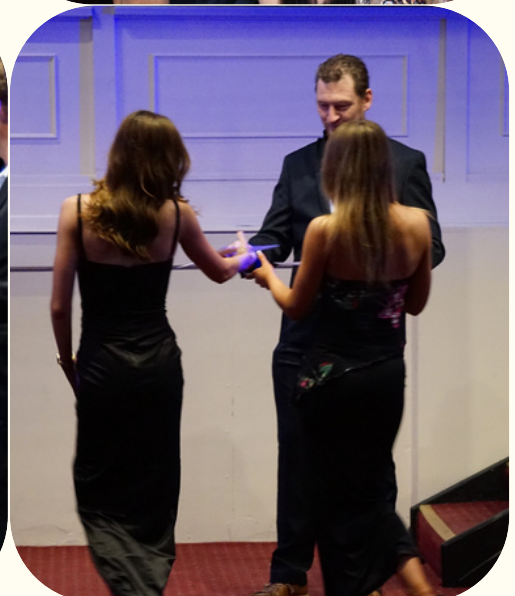
Formal Celebration & End-of-Year Achievements

We were thrilled to celebrate with our Year 10, 11, and 12 students at this year's Formal. The night was filled with great food, drinks, a photo booth, and plenty of dancing thanks to our fantastic DJ. A huge thank you to Suzi and Ewen for organising such a seamless event, and a special acknowledgment to Evie Connor (Year 12) for her valuable support in creating a truly memorable evening.

We also celebrated our students' achievements, recognising academic excellence and acknowledging the dedication, growth, and effort shown throughout the year. It was a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and reflect on the many wins of 2025.



Formal Celebration



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025

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Khaileb enjoyed the Careers Expo because it helped him make connections in industries he hopes to work in.

Khaileb - Year 11

Charli highlighted spending time with friends and meeting new people.

Charli - Year 12

Reece valued meeting so many young people and helping guide their futures.

Reece - LA

Shae highlighted seeing the SRC come together as a team.

Shae - LA

Denver loved the day Arthur (Guest Speaker, Wellbeing Day) visited the school.

Denver - Year 12

Ewen enjoyed seeing students realise their ability to pass Year 12, set goals, and step confidently into their pathways.

Ewen - Teacher

Kate enjoyed watching students take charge and show leadership.

Kate - Admin

Meg cherished seeing everyone's lovely smiles each day.

Meg - Admin

Luke said going to Hijinx was his highlight.

Luke - Year 12

Zoe said Gumbaya World was a fun and relaxing day out.

Zoe - Year 10

Mileah loved mini golf, especially because everyone got involved.

Mileah - Year 10

Suzi loved when the Year 12s ran the Amazing Race.

Suzi - Teacher

Alisha thought Gumbaya World was so much fun.

Alisha - Wellbeing

Levi liked getting an award

Levi - Year 10

Lachie said Equine Therapy was "the best time ever."

Lachie - Year 10

Layla said her favourite part was experiencing new things throughout the year.

Layla - Year 12

TEACHER HIGHLIGHT

A big highlight for me this year has been seeing how much the students have grown, not just in their learning, but in their confidence and the way they support each other. It's been awesome watching them build such positive relationships and really come together as a group. This was especially clear during events like METEC and Ninja Parc, where their teamwork, encouragement, and excitement for each other really stood out. Seeing that genuine care and connection has definitely been one of the most rewarding parts of the year.

Emily Harley Year 10

Feedback Collected
from SRC Reps, Paige
and Indi, Year 11

Our 2025 UC Values Awards

This year, we celebrate the outstanding achievements of our students through a series of special awards that reflect the values of our Urban College community.

The Connection Award recognises a student who brings people together and helps create a welcoming, inclusive environment.

The Individuality Award celebrates a student who embraces who they are and inspires others to do the same.

The Courage Award honours a student who faces challenges with bravery and stands up for what's right.

The Growth Mindset Award acknowledges a student who shows persistence, embraces learning opportunities, and continually strives for improvement.

The Collaboration Award recognises a student who works well with others, values teamwork, and contributes to shared goals.

Finally, the Integrity Award celebrates a student who consistently acts with honesty, fairness, and respect, setting a positive example for all.

UC VALUES



36 awards were presented on the day, we were lucky to capture a few happy snaps with some of our amazing UC Values award winners.



Gumbuya World

Tuesday 21st October saw our students have an absolute blast at Gumbuya World for our Term 4 Wellbeing Day/Celebration Day — racing down the waterslides, screaming through the rides, and checking out some awesome animals.

Days like this are a great reminder of how important it is to take time out to celebrate achievements, build friendships, and support wellbeing in a fun and relaxed environment — and our students (and staff) certainly made the most of the it.

We also took the opportunity to recognise and congratulate our Urban College Values Award winners, who were recognised for consistently demonstrating our school values of Connection, Individuality, Courage, Growth Mindset, Collaboration and Integrity. A day full of laughter, connection, and Urban College community spirit!

Jen – College Counsellor



This term in Wellbeing, we've been all about CELEBRATING 'U'! Your wins. Your growth. Your courage. Your success.

What better way to celebrate than a theme park!



TEACHER HIGHLIGHT

Watching my class begin as strangers and finish as a true team-supporting one another, growing together, and most importantly, having fun and laughing together. Planning and executing the year 12 celebration day was a great highlight too.

Nikki Harris Year 11

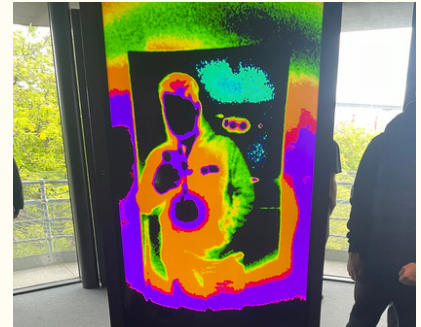


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Science Works

Our Year 10s recently visited Scienceworks and the Melbourne Planetarium to support their Earth and Space Sciences learning. Students explored a range of interactive exhibits, testing ideas and seeing science in action before attending the Ticket to the Universe presentation.

In the planetarium, they journeyed from the Melbourne night sky through our solar system and into the broader Milky Way, gaining a deeper understanding of celestial relationships and astronomical phenomena. It was an engaging and informative day, with every student walking away having learned something new about our universe.



End of Term Fun Week

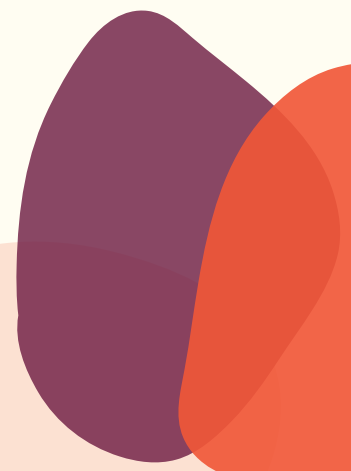
Our Year 10s finished the year on a high with an exciting Fun Week—taking on the thrills of Luna Park, the speed of Le Mans Go Karting, and the teamwork challenge of Saboteurs in Docklands.

A well-earned celebration and a great way to end the year with fun, connection, and lasting memories!

TEACHER HIGHLIGHT

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Emily Harley Year 10

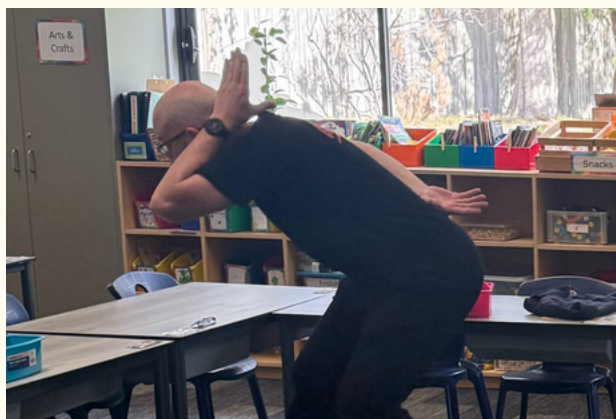




This year, our Year 11s strengthened their voice, confidence and independence across Literacy, Maths, PDS and WRS. In Literacy, students explored Literacy for Personal Use and Issues and Voices. They learned to analyse texts, identify persuasive devices, annotate with purpose, debate respectfully and communicate a clear point of view. They showcased these skills through structured debates and persuasive podcasts, posters and brochures.



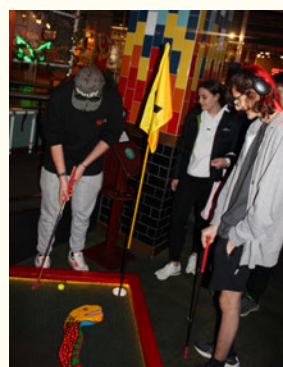
In Foundation Maths, students successfully completed Units 1 and 2. They applied number, algebra and data skills to real-world situations—heading out for bowling and mini-golf to collect authentic data before organising, analysing and presenting their findings.



In PDS, the focus was on community. Students planned and delivered activities for Dillbadin Primary School, leading arts and crafts, running sports sessions and reading with younger learners—experiences that built empathy, leadership and teamwork. They also organised a vibrant Celebration Day for our Year 12 graduates, decorating the student hub and creating a joyful send-off with balloons, streamers, party poppers, silly string and glitter hairspray.

In WRS, students attended career expos, investigated industries and roles, set practical goals and mapped future pathways. They developed stronger self-knowledge, career awareness and a clearer sense of direction beyond Urban College.

Across the year, our Year 11s showed tremendous growth in critical thinking, collaboration and initiative. We're incredibly proud of their achievements and the way they consistently supported one another—with energy, kindness and a genuine willingness to learn.





Our Year 12s wrapped up their schooling with a well-deserved day out at BOUNCE Blackburn! From backflips and slam dunks to shared laughs and friendly challenges, students made the most of their final celebration together. It was the perfect way to mark the end of their secondary journey and the beginning of exciting new chapters ahead.

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Last Day Celebration

The Year 12 students celebrated their final day of school with a fun-filled excursion to Rollerama, where those who attended fully embraced the chance to skate, laugh, and enjoy their time together. Their return to school was made even more memorable thanks to the Year 11 students, who had decorated the campus in their honour and greeted them with a shower of silly string and party poppers. The festivities continued with a shared lunch featuring delicious food from GYG, creating a joyful and heartfelt send-off for our graduating class.



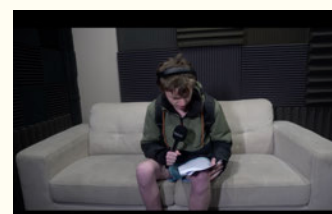
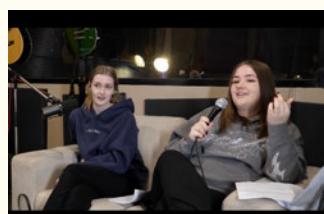
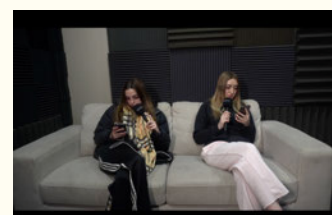
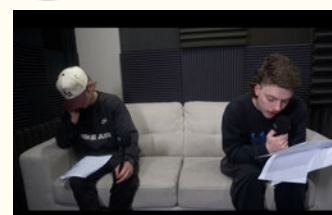
Podcast Recording at Donkeyman Records

Our Year 12 students had an exciting hands-on experience at Donkeyman Records in Rowville on Tuesday, 14 October, as part of their Speaking to Advise or Advocate assessment.

In small groups, they created and professionally recorded 15–20 minute podcasts, either offering practical advice or advocating for positive change on topics that matter most to young people.

From youth homelessness and mental health to climate action, workplace rights, and gender equality, students explored important issues while gaining real-world experience in communication, collaboration, and podcast production.

It was a fantastic opportunity to combine literacy skills with creativity—and have fun doing it!



TEACHER HIGHLIGHT

My highlight is the amazing growth of all the students at UC! They have all grown in confidence and resilience. Special mention to the year 12's for completing their last year of schooling!

Lydia - Learning Assistant



Expression of Interest and enrolments 2026

Our new Croydon campus will deliver the same flexibility and support that makes Boronia so special. We're staying true to our values: an inclusive, alternative space focused on holistic student growth. The new building on Main Street, Croydon—directly opposite the station—will be ready for Term 1, 2026.

Enrolments are open now.

Meet Michelle Head of Campus Croydon

Though I'm relatively new to Urban College, I've quickly come to admire the meaningful work we do and the positive pathways we create for students to complete their schooling.

For more than 20 years I have been involved in various aspects of education and have experience in both the Primary and Secondary setting.

I'm thrilled to be leading the new Croydon campus—the fit-out is progressing rapidly, and it's been a pleasure meeting families and connecting with everyone this term.





Keep an eye out for our newly transformed cars and buses — now proudly wrapped with the UC logo!

Boronia Campus – Growing Into the New Year

Boronia Campus is heading into the new year with a few new faces across our teaching team, Learning Assistants, and Year Level Supports.

We're excited to welcome a great group of new staff to work alongside our OGs—strengthening our community and supporting students every step of the way.



TEACHER HIGHLIGHT

Highlight – Primary School Visit

One of the real highlights this year was our class visit to Dillbadin Primary School. Watching our students engage so positively with the younger children was incredibly rewarding. They showed genuine care, patience, and enthusiasm, creating an experience that was both fun and meaningful for everyone involved.

It was wonderful to see how naturally our students stepped into leadership and mentoring roles, demonstrating the empathy, teamwork, and emotional intelligence we've been developing through PDS and WRS. The smiles and excitement from the primary students said it all. A simple reminder of how powerful connection and community can be in education.

James Gardener Year 11

VET Class Cert II & Cer III Community Service



This year, the Certificate II and III Community Services students have shown outstanding growth, teamwork, and commitment across all aspects of their learning. They actively participated in practical experiences, including volunteering at Billanook Primary School, where they made a positive contribution to the school community.

Their cooking activities further highlighted their collaboration, planning, and service skills. Through role plays and class-based assessments, students have strengthened their communication, empathy, and problem-solving abilities—essential qualities for success in the community services sector.

Their enthusiasm and willingness to engage in meaningful discussions have been a real highlight, making this a productive and rewarding year. Thank you for a fantastic year—I've truly enjoyed getting to know each of you and seeing the unique strengths you bring to UC!

• **Rachael Kennedy – VET Teacher**



Equine Therapy

Over Terms 3 and 4, eight students took part in a 6-week Equine Therapy program at Wedgetail Therapy in Launching Place. Equine Therapy is all about working with horses to build confidence, manage emotions and improve communication.

Horses respond to how we act and feel, so they help us learn things like patience, teamwork, problem-solving and staying calm.

Through activities such as grooming, leading and reflective learning conversations, students develop skills that transfer into classrooms and everyday life.

We are so proud of our students who have done an amazing job connecting with the horses and showing courage by trying new challenges.

We are excited to continue this awesome partnership with Wedgetail Therapy in 2026.

- **Jen – School Counsellor**



A Message From The Wellbeing Team

This term in Wellbeing, we've been all about CELEBRATING 'U'! Your wins. Your growth. Your courage. Your success.

YEAR 12s — YOU DID IT! 🌟 We're so proud of everything you've achieved this year. New adventures are just around the corner — go chase them!

YEAR 10s & 11s — YOU LEGENDS! 🌟

You've shown what it means to show up, support each other, and keep pushing forward. Special shoutout to our Year 10s for welcoming new faces and showing awesome kindness.

Wellbeing Day @ Gumbuya World — how good was that?! Rides, sunshine, laughs — the perfect way to celebrate the year and our awesome school community. Congratulations to all our College Values Award winners.

The Wellbeing Team LOVES seeing you! Pop in anytime: for a chat, some support, or just to say hi. Our door is always open. Let's keep the good vibes rolling — finish strong, celebrate every win, and enjoy every second of Term 4!

- **The Wellbeing Team: Alisha, Jen and Dana**



A Message to our Urban Families

A Message for Families: Ending the Year on a Positive Note

As we wrap up 2025 and head into the Christmas break, we want to take a moment to wish all our students and families a safe and joyful holiday season. This is a time to relax, recharge, and spend quality time with loved ones.

While the holidays are a wonderful time of celebration, we also know that they can sometimes bring added stress or challenges. Please remember:

- Take care of your mental health and wellbeing.
- Maintain routines where possible to help children feel secure.
- Encourage open conversations with your children about how they are feeling.
- Stay safe during holiday activities, travel, and social events.

Support is Available:

If you or your child need extra support during the break, please reach out to the services listed in our contacts page. Remember, it's okay to ask for help, and support is available 24/7.

From all of us at Urban College, thank you for being part of our learning community this year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2026!



Where **u** can be YOU.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND CONTACTS

Eastern Access Community Health (EACH) Child, Youth & Family Mental Health 1300 003 224	Lifeline: Anyone having a personal crisis 13 11 14 Suicide Line Victoria 1300 651 251	Child and Youth Mental Health Service (CYMHS) Child and Youth Mental Health Services 0-18 years 1300 342 225
Headspace – Knox Counselling and free GP services 2 Capital City Blvd, Westfield Knox Ozone (03) 9801 6088	Eastern Community Legal Centre Free Legal Advice 1300 32 52 00	Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault Ringwood East (03) 9870 7337
Knox Infolink Emergency Relief 136 Boronia Road Boronia (03) 9761 1325	Uniting Vic Tas Community Support & Family Services - Homelessness 291A Maroondah Hwy Ringwood (03) 8870 4020	Child Protection CP Box Hill 1300 360 452
Kids Helpline Counselling for young people aged 5 to 25 1800 55 1800	Youth Support & Advocacy Service (YSAS) Mental Health, AOD, Crime Prevention Ringwood – (03) 9890 7855 Dandenong – (03) 9701 3488	LGBTIQA+ Services Rainbow Door 1800 729 367
Sexual Health Vic Sexual Health Care and Education 901 Whitehorse Road Box Hill (03) 9257 0100	Family Violence The Orange Door Croydon - 1800 271 150 Box Hill - 1800 354 322	Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Crisis Support 13 YARN (13 92 76) VACCA – Chirnside Park (03) 8727 0200
Outer East Crisis Assessment Treatment Team (CATT) 1300 721 927		Is it an emergency? If you or someone you know is at immediate risk of harm, Call triple zero (000)

Where  can be YOU.