WIMMERA LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Dimboola Campus Newsletter - Friday 29th May 2026

We acknowledge the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk People as the traditional owners of this land. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and future.

6-26 Horsham Road
Dimboola 3414
Tel: 03 5389 1626

From The Head of Campus

Walk to School Day

On Friday 22nd May, we acknowledged Walk to School Day a little differently this year. Instead of walking to school, students headed out for a walk around the block near the school and took part in a scavenger hunt along the way. Students had a wonderful time being active, working together and exploring their local community.

After returning to school in time for recess, students enjoyed a healthy snack of yogurt, fruit and muesli bars kindly donated by the Hindmarsh Shire Council. We thank them for their generous support of our students and our school community.

Nursing Home Visit

On Monday, the senior students visited the Dimboola Nursing Home. During their visit, students interviewed residents about how life has changed over time, how technology has improved daily living and how their childhood experiences differ from those of students today. Students learnt about how medicine supports health, how refrigerators have evolved from ice boxes and how the town has changed and grown over the years.

Students then visited Pickering Gardens to draw maps of the equipment and facilities available. They explored existing accessibility features and considered ways the park could be improved to better accommodate people of different ages and abilities.

National Simultaneous Storytime

On Wednesday, students took part in National Simultaneous Storytime, an annual Australia-wide event that celebrates reading and literacy by encouraging children across the country to read the same book at the same time. This year's book was *Luna Roo the Kangaroo Baller by Adam Wallace and Christopher Nielsen.*

While the senior students listened to the story at school, they also completed a range of literacy activities relating to the book. The junior students visited one of our local kindergartens to enjoy the story together with the kindergarten children. Mrs. Munro read the story to all of the students before they enjoyed a range of activities. Students also stayed to enjoy recess with the kindergarten children, making it a wonderful opportunity to connect with members of our wider community. In class, the junior students used the visit to learn about recount writing, they had to consider who, when, where, why & put the events of the day back in order.

Reconciliation Week

This week, students have been recognising National Reconciliation Week. Throughout the week, students have been focusing on the questions: *Why do we* celebrate Reconciliation Week? and How can we show respect and kindness to our First Nations peoples, the animals, their culture and their land?

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Students have participated in a range of activities and discussions to help deepen their understanding of these important ideas. As part of the week, students also painted handprints which have been displayed together to represent this year's theme, *"All In".*

School Photos

School photos will take place on Tuesday 16th June 2026. Photo ordering envelopes have been sent home with students. Families can order photos using the envelope provided or online; however, every student is required to return their completed envelope to the school. If paying with cash, please ensure correct change is included, as no change can be given. Sibling photo envelopes are available to collect from the office.

Students are required to wear their full winter school uniform, including their school bomber jacket, on photo day.

Hot Food Friday

This week, students enjoyed spaghetti bolognese for Hot Food Friday. Thank you to everyone who has donated food or volunteered their time — we truly appreciate your support, and the students certainly look forward to enjoying a warm lunch each week.

There is still an opportunity to donate food items or volunteer your time to assist with the program. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Vicki in the office.

Reporting Writing Day & King's Birthday

A reminder to families that next Friday 5th June is a pupil free day for report writing. No students will be required at school on this day.

Additionally, Monday 8th June is a public holiday for the King's Birthday, therefore there will be no school on this day either.

Upcoming Events

There are also a number of exciting events coming up over the next few weeks. On Wednesday 10th June, police officers will be visiting the school to run a session with students about the role of a police officer and bike safety.

Students will also be attending Lightening Premierships in Nhill on Thursday 11th June. More information regarding both of these events will be provided closer to the time.

Have a nice weekend,

Millie Dent

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From The Executive Principal

Wimmera Lutheran College

Strategic Plan Update

Recently, members of the Wimmera Lutheran College Board and Executive Leadership Team came together for an important strategic planning workshop focused on shaping the future direction of our College. Throughout the workshop, participants reflected on the values, mission and vision of Wimmera Lutheran College. The discussions highlighted a strong commitment to community, grace, care, compassion, academic growth and faith, alongside a desire to prepare students to contribute positively to the world beyond school.

The day started with the leaders of each Sub School and Campus, sharing their reflections around three key questions:

1. What does your community stand for?
2. What are you most proud of?
3. What must not be lost in the amalgamation?

This exercise proved to be a real highlight of the day as all members of the group were privileged to hear about what makes each campus/sub-school special. It was fascinating to note the points that celebrated diversity and the many points that celebrated unity, an important theme of our amalgamation journey so far.

The workshop also explored what makes Wimmera Lutheran College distinctive as a Lutheran school. Themes such as belonging, servant-hearted leadership, holistic education, resilience, innovation and lifelong learning emerged strongly throughout the day. These conversations will now help guide the development of a set of College values, a mission statement and a vision statement that reflect both our Lutheran identity and the unique nature of our three-campus community.

Importantly, this work is not simply about creating statements for a website or prospectus. Strong values, mission and vision statements help guide decision-making, teaching and learning, student wellbeing, leadership and the overall culture of a school. They provide clarity about what we stand for and ensure that we remain focused on providing a safe, engaging and Christ-centred environment where every learner can flourish.

Over the coming months, the Executive Team will continue refining this work as part of the College's broader strategic planning process. We look forward to sharing further updates with our community as these important foundations for the future of Wimmera Lutheran College continue to take shape.

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans."
Proverbs 16:3

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From The Executive Principal

AI in Schools Update

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing high-quality, future-focused Lutheran education, the Wimmera Lutheran College Executive leadership team continues to actively engage in conversations and professional learning around the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in schools. Wimmera Lutheran College is currently participating in the LEVNT AI: Ethical and Responsible Use project, which is supporting Lutheran schools to develop clear, safe and values-based approaches to AI implementation. Jacqui North, Matt Polack and myself will be attending the first workshop for this on Friday.

In addition to this, the Executive Team of WLC is undertaking a six-part workshop series focused on developing a shared understanding of AI and its implications for schools. Topics include: understanding what AI is, safety and privacy considerations, opportunities within teaching and learning, how we want students to use AI responsibly, student wellbeing in an AI-rich world, and the key skills and knowledge staff and students will require both now and into the future. This work will help guide the College as we seek to embrace innovation while ensuring our practices remain ethical, purposeful and centred on student learning and wellbeing.

Jason Przibilla

Devotional Thoughts

Rivers, not rations

by Jane Mueller

I will open rivers on the bare heights and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water and the dry land springs of water (Isaiah 41:18).

Water appears throughout Scripture.

It appears early, in creation, where God's Spirit hovers over the waters. It reappears in the wilderness when thirsty people discover that survival depends on God's provision. (Think: water from rocks, streams that appear, wells discovered just in time.) Water flows through the psalms, the prophets, the gospels and the final vision of Revelation, where a river of life runs clear and unending.

In Isaiah 41, water is urgent. The people Isaiah describes are poor and needy. They are parched. They are searching – not for abundance, but for just enough. Into that desperation, God speaks a promise that feels excessive: rivers on barren heights, fountains in valleys, pools in dry land.

These are not places where water should be.

Throughout Scripture, water is rarely just about hydration. It signals that God is near. It marks moments when life is sustained, boundaries are crossed, and futures are renewed. From the rock in the wilderness to the River Jordan, and from the well where Jesus meets a Samaritan woman to the living water he promises, water appears wherever God is creating life where it seemed unlikely.

Isaiah insists that this provision is not accidental. 'That they may see and know … that the hand of the Lord has done this' (verse 20). This water becomes a sign of who God is.

When people are stretched thin, God meets their needs out of his generosity. We are held by the God who provides, often in ways we don't expect.

The promise of water does not imply that life will never be dry again. But it does announce that dryness will not have the final word.

Gracious and abundant God, you know where I feel dry, stretched thin, or running on empty. Meet me with what I need today – not what I can manufacture, but what only you can give. Open streams of life where I see no way forward, and help me to trust that, even now, I am held by you. Amen.

Wellbeing

Nature is Fuel for the Soul

By Dr Justin Coulson

Children are spending up to 90% of their lives indoors. The Royal Children's Hospital National Child Health Poll of 2,036 parents found that most Australian preschoolers (55%) don't play outdoors every day. Data on adolescents is hard to come by, but international surveys all suggest the same thing: time outdoors for our kids is plummeting.

According to the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS), the main reasons children spend more time indoors are:

- a lack of suitable outdoor spaces
- parental concerns about safety, traffic and crime
- children spending more time on electronic devices
- study being prioritised over play (e.g. spending time learning spelling or maths rather than playing – whether at home or at preschool).

There are few things more valuable for your child's wellbeing, however, than getting them outside, touching grass. The research on kids and nature is substantial.

A 2023 overview pulled together 36 systematic reviews on the topic. One review looked at six "schoolyard greening" projects – basically, making school outdoor spaces more natural – and found real improvements in students' physical activity and social and emotional health. Another systematic review focused specifically on nature exposure and emotional and behavioural outcomes. Every randomised controlled trial in the review – all five of them – pointed in the same direction. More nature, higher wellbeing, less stress.

If my brief overview with links to incredibly useful studies has convinced you that outdoor time matters, even as we approach the cold of winter, the question becomes "how do I get the kids outside"?

The critical element will be *relationships. Kids want to be where people they love are hanging out. If you're inside holding a hot cup of cocoa, they'll want to be there. But if you're brave enough to rug up and step outside (or if their friends are doing something outdoors), the battle is all but won.*

Here are nine ideas for getting our kids (and ourselves) outside. This will, of course, depend on what is accessible near you.

1. Go for a walk or hike. Simple, free, and underrated. For younger kids, turn it into a scavenger hunt — make a quick bingo card with things like birds, flowers, pinecones, or different coloured letterboxes. For older kids, just being side-by-side on a walk can open up conversations that would never happen face-to-face at the kitchen table. Some of my best chats with my kids have happened while we were both staring at the footpath ahead of us.

2. Get moving. Dig the bikes out of the garage. Dust off the scooters. If you're feeling brave, find the skateboard. Getting moving outdoors — even just around the block — often turns out to be more fun than anyone expected. Fair warning though: if you haven't been on a skateboard since 1987, take it steady. They disappear from underneath you faster than you remember. Ask me how I know.

Wellbeing

3. Find a park or open space. State parks, national parks, city parks, local reserves — parks are genuinely one of Australia's great underused resources. Hikes, waterfalls, skate parks, caves, green space, abseiling… yes, and also leeches, mozzies, and the occasional spiderweb to the face. That's what makes it memorable. The greener the space, the better — for the kids, obviously. Not for you. You're fine.

4. Water play. Beach, river, creek, backyard sprinkler, or just a bucket and a hose. Kids and water are a combination that never really fails. And yes, it might be getting cooler — but have you noticed that children are apparently immune to cold water? They'll be in it regardless. Let them.

5. Go rock pooling. With some of the most accessible coastline in the world, Australians are criminally underusing rock pools. All you need is low tide, a pair of old shoes, and a curious kid. The combination of water, wildlife, and the hunt — what's under that rock? what's in that crack? — keeps kids absorbed for far longer than you'd expect. It's also a surprisingly good workout for adults who spend the whole time crouched down going "ooh, look at this one."

6. Have an outdoor picnic. Grab a blanket and take a meal outside. It doesn't need to be fancy — a pizza from down the road counts. There's a headland near our home on the Sunshine Coast where families gather at sunset, eat whatever they've brought, and let the kids roam. It happens every single week and it never gets old. Something about eating outside just makes everything taste better and everyone feel calmer.

7. Get outside after dark. Camp in the backyard. Head to a campground for a couple of nights where you can light a real fire and actually see the stars. Go stargazing on the trampoline. Or simply take the kids and the dog for a walk after dinner. We call it the "digestion walk" at our place — and some of the best conversations happen on those quiet evening loops around the neighbourhood when everyone has eaten and nobody has anywhere to be.

8. Outdoor art. This one lands particularly well with kids up to around age 12. Chalk on the driveway or footpath is always a hit — you end up with an entire neighbourhood canvas. Paintbrushes and spray bottles work brilliantly too, either with water on concrete or paint on paper pinned to the fence. Get the shoes off, get the aprons on, and accept that something is going to get stained.

9. Grow something. A vegie patch, a pot of herbs on the balcony, or even just a seed in a cup on the windowsill. Gardening is one of the most well-researched nature-based wellbeing activities we have, and for Australian kids with any outdoor space at all, it's enormously accessible.

There's something quietly powerful about a child who plants something, tends to it, watches it grow, and then eats it. It teaches patience and care in a way that very little else does.10. Follow your child's lead. Ask your kids what they want to do — as long as it's outside. Sports, flying kites, building sandcastles, climbing trees, digging holes for absolutely no reason, throwing a frisbee, setting up a cake stall on the corner of the street. There are as many ways to be outside as there are kids who need to be there. Sometimes the best thing you can do is open the back door and see what unfolds.

AWARDS

Awards

Isla Pilmore – For 25 nights of reading.

Violet Emson - For 50 nights of reading.

Milla Bartlett - For 100 nights of reading

Jayla Milthorpe - For self-editing her work and applying feedback to improve her writing.

Hamish Bartlett - For showing enthusiasm towards his work, giving everything a go and making great connections between his learning and real life experiences.

Toby King- For 50 nights of reading.

Hunter Mibus - For stepping up and stepping in to help a classmate.

Layla Dent - For 25 nights of reading.

Clara Robson - For 75 nights of reading.

Darcy Robson - For 75 nights of reading.

Eric Rosenthal - For developing a positive attitude towards learning, and for showing greater focus and bravery in lesson and game times.

AWARDS

Awards

Hamish Bartlett- For working independently when planning and researching how to make fruit and vegetables exciting.

Harry Lindner- For his curiosity and willingness to ask questions in Christian Studies & quickly catch up on our new Auslan topic.

Amahlia Brincat - For returning to school with a positive attitude and settling back into routine with ease.

Jayla Milthorpe- For stepping out of her comfot zone when interviewing the residents of the Dimboola Hospital.

Parni Rigney-Read- For 25 nights of reading.

Evie Schneider- For her willingness to share her love and knowledge of God's love in the bible.

Grace Nuske– For 25 nights of reading.

Matheus Pervoe– For 50 nights of reading,

NOTICES

Important Dates

All the below dates are to the best of our knowledge and may change at short notice or be added to throughout the Term.

TERM 2 = 20th April - 26th June 2026

June 2026

5th - Report Writing Day (no school)

8th - Kings Birthday Public Holiday (no school)

11th - Lightning Premiership (Senior Class)

16th - School Photos

AUDIRI APP

Please note that we use the Audiri App for our main form of communication.

You can also use the app to log any student absences and to update any contact details.

If you haven't already downloaded this app, please contact the school office if you require any assistance.

Dimboola-Natimuk Lutheran Parish

31st May - 1st Sunday after Pentecost

10:00am LR Goroke

10:00am LR Natimuk

10:00am LR Vectis

10:00am LR Dimboola

7th June - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

10:00am **HC** Goroke

10:00am LR Natimuk

10:00am LR Vectis

10:00am LR Dimboola

Wimmera Lutheran College is committed to providing a child safe and child friendly environment, where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and are able to actively participate in decisions that affect their lives.

NOTICES

WIMMERA Lutheran College

DIMBOOLA CAMPUS OPEN NIGHT

Date: Monday 27th July
Time: 6:30pm

Come meet our dedicated teachers, explore our facilities, and get a glimpse of the exciting and engaging curriculum we offer.

Whether you're starting Prep in 2027 or considering a change, we invite you to come and see what makes our school community so special.

Our staff will host an information session and provide a brief tour for interested families.

Hear first hand about our commitment to creating an environment that is adventurous, purposeful, compassionate and relational - where every student is empowered to grow, contribute and thrive.

Children are welcome to attend! There will be activities and supervision set up in the junior room.

NOTICES

Could respite foster caring be for you?

Uniting

Respite foster carers provide care on weekends or during school holidays, offering children a safe, welcoming place to stay while giving foster and kinship families time to rest and recharge.
Whether it's once a month or during holiday periods, the benefits and connections are significant.

If you would like to learn more get in touch.

Call 1800 543 779 **OR** visit unitingvictas.org.au/foster-care/

NOTICES

SchoolTV

A FREE WEBINAR

Understanding Anxiety and Depression to Foster Resilience

PART 2

Supporting Primary & Secondary students

Join us for an exclusive webinar featuring international experts Dr Emma Woodward and Dr Joe Stammeijer, as they share valuable insights into recognising early signs of concern and practical approaches to supporting the wellbeing of young people.

This webinar is **Part II of a series.**

In this session, topics include:

- **Staying Calm and Connected**
- **Building Daily Routines**
- **Meeting the Needs of Neurodivergent Learners**

Suitable for: Parents, grandparents, carers, educators, school leaders. |

Duration: 45 minutes

Online, Wednesday
10 June, 2026
7.30 pm

Dr Emma Woodward

Emma is recognised for her work as a child psychologist and TEDx speaker, keynote presenter, trainer and facilitator. She is also a regular SchoolTV presenter.

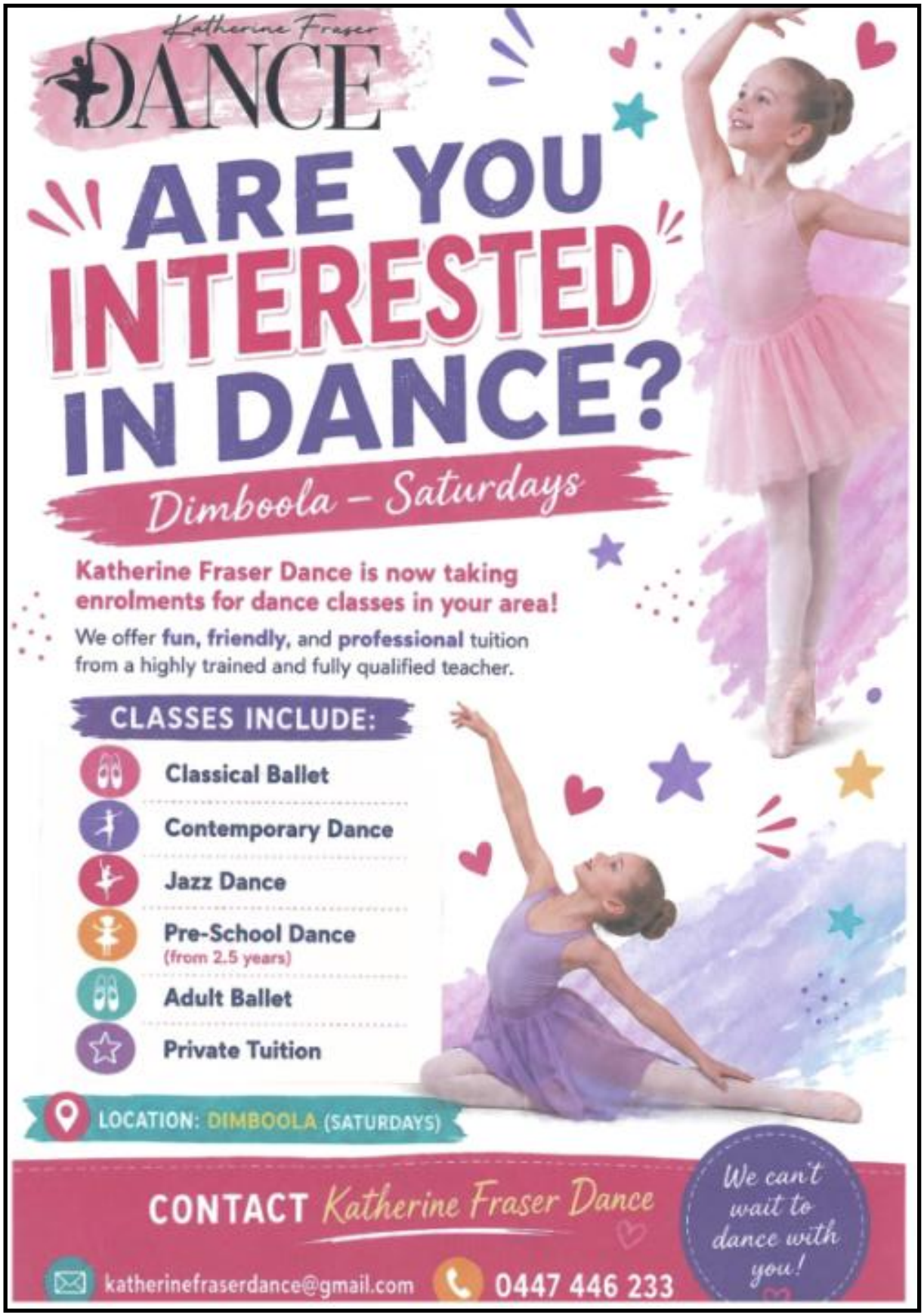
Dr Joe Stammeijer

A specialist in forensic psychiatry and a lecturer in medical education focusing on innovative practice and professional leadership. Joe is also a contributor to SchoolTV.

Don't miss out.
FREE event.
Scan or click the button to register.

Register here

NOTICES


Katherine Fraser
DANCE
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN DANCE?
Dimboola – Saturdays
Katherine Fraser Dance is now taking enrolments for dance classes in your area!
We offer fun, friendly, and professional tuition from a highly trained and fully qualified teacher.
CLASSES INCLUDE:
Classical Ballet
Contemporary Dance
Jazz Dance
Pre-School Dance
(from 2.5 years)
Adult Ballet
Private Tuition
LOCATION: DIMBOOLA (SATURDAYS)
CONTACT Katherine Fraser Dance
katherinefraserdance@gmail.com
0447 446 233
We can't wait to dance with you!

Around The School

Around The School

Around The School

Around Our Town

Around Our Town