

Ballam Park PS Bulletin

Term 1 2026

• www.ballamparkps.com.au

• (03) 9789 5614

A message from Peita Cooper - Principal

Dear Families,

It gives me great pleasure to write to you in our Term 1 newsletter, where we share lots of exciting information. From special events, to showcasing great student work, to reminding families about upcoming activities, there is much to celebrate.

We have had a wonderful first term, with students settling into their classes, engaging in targeted, explicit learning, and developing new classroom routines. As staff, we have focused on several key areas, including:

- Targeted Literacy in Years 3–6
- Positive Classroom Management Strategies across the whole school
- Further learning about deescalation scales and strategies to support students
- Ongoing work on engagement norms, including strategies such as cold calling

All of these initiatives contribute to our ongoing work of creating classrooms that support student learning, are safe, predictable, and engaging for all.

As always, there are many people to thank for contributing to Ballam Park's success. Our staff, including both education support staff and teachers, work tirelessly to plan, analyse data, and engage our students. Regular parent meetings, individual learning plans where required, as well as time spent with allied health professionals, all contribute to our students' wellbeing and learning. Our parent community continues to be supportive, and it was wonderful to see so many new faces on School Council. You will see more information about this later in the newsletter. Thank you also to our Wellbeing Leader and DIP team, who work tirelessly to manage our funding applications.

We are very excited that in Term 2, all of our ramps will be upgraded to be fully compliant. We are also installing senior monkey bars and swing bars, which will be very exciting for our Year 3–6 students.

We hope everyone has a wonderful break, and we look forward to seeing you in Term 2!

Peita Cooper



Ballam Park
Primary School

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ATTENDANCE

Overall, our attendance data has remained positive with only a few student having significant absences. It is vital that students are at school every day. There are only five reasons approved for absences.

In general, it is expected that principals would approve absences for:

- medical and dental appointments, where out of hours appointments are not possible or not appropriate
- bereavement or attendance at the funeral of a relative or friend of the student, including a student required to attend Sorry Business
- school refusal, if a plan is in place with the parent to address causes
- cultural observance, if the parent notifies the school in advance
- family holidays, where the parent notifies the school in advance and the student completes any Student Absence Learning Plan agreed by the school, student and parent.

Please always call the school if you are unsure or require a meeting to discuss your child's attendance.

TERM 2 CURRICULUM DAY

TUESDAY 23rd JUNE

STUDENT-FREE DAY



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INTRODUCING our STUDENT LEADERS

School Captains – Immy and Lacey

House Captains

Bradman – Gold – Grace

McKay – Green – Patrick K

Marsh – Red – Junior

Elliot – Blue – Indigo

Wellbeing – Emily and Mia

SRC – Ismael, Solomone

Play Leaders – Ryleigh, Winter, Alexa, Julieanne



STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

1S Angelia

2H Emily H

2/3B Kaiden

3/4C Sebastian

5M Oonagh

6S Tait and Kobie

6C Solomone and Ismael



Ballam Park PS Bulletin

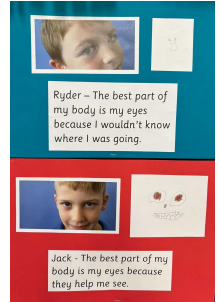
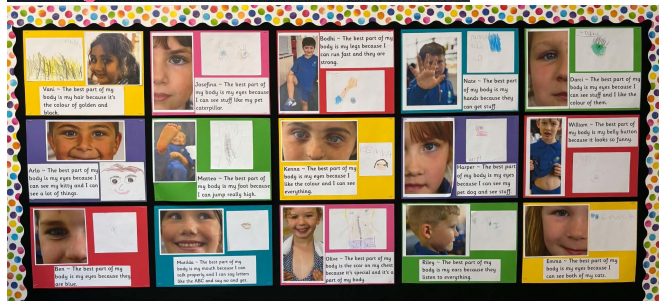
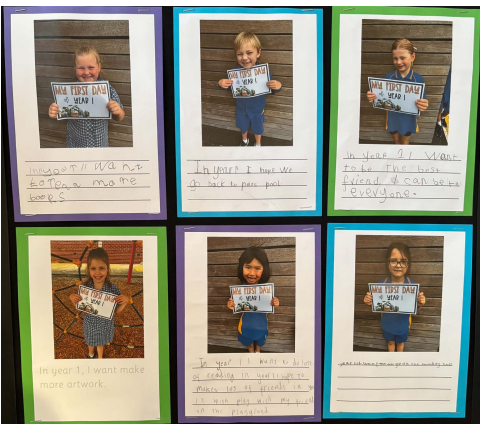
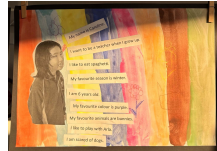
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JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

What a wonderful term it has been in our junior school! It has been a joy to see how much the children have grown in confidence and enthusiasm for learning.



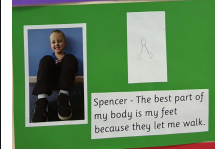
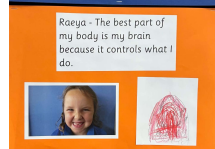
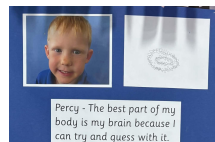
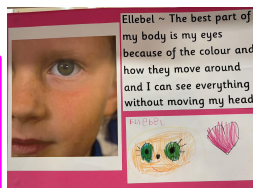
In Mathematics, the children have been learning about counting, working with data and developing their understanding of addition and subtraction through fun, hands-on activities.



In Literacy, we have been using the Little Learners Love Literacy program to build strong reading and writing skills. The students have loved exploring new sounds, practising their reading and beginning to share their own ideas through writing.

It has been wonderful to see so many students reading at home.

Congratulations to those who have read 50 nights!



The Junior school students have also enjoyed expressing their creativity through a variety of artwork, creating bright and imaginative pieces that we have loved sharing in the classroom. We are so proud of all the effort the children have put in this term and look forward to seeing their continued growth in term 2!

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MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

It has been a busy and positive start to the year in the Middle School. As this was the first term, students have been focusing on learning and practising our school expectations. It has been wonderful to see the effort they are making to demonstrate these each day. Their commitment has helped create a calm, respectful classroom environment where students feel supported and ready to learn.

Literacy

This term in Literacy, students explored a range of celebrations from around the world. They applied the knowledge they gained throughout the term by creating a poster about a celebration of their choice. Students thoroughly enjoyed working on their projects and confidently presenting their work to the class. Students also spent time listening to and reading *James and the Giant Peach*. They enjoyed completing a variety of activities inspired by the story and were very excited to watch the film at the end of the term.



Numeracy

This term in Numeracy, students have been learning about the place value of numbers and exploring a range of strategies to help them solve addition and subtraction problems. They also spent time learning about time, including reading clocks and understanding elapsed time. To finish the term, students worked on developing multiplication and division strategies while continuing to strengthen their skip counting skills.

This term also included a number of special events and activities. Our Year 3 students participated in NAPLAN, where they applied their knowledge and skills across a range of assessments. During this time, our Year 2 and Year 4 students enjoyed researching and creating posters about countries of their choice. Throughout the term, students also took part in several cooking experiences, including celebrating Pancake Day. Of course, we can't forget the Teddy Bear Picnic, which was a wonderful opportunity for students and their families to spend time together at school.



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SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

A big shout out to our Senior Year 5 and 6 students for their fabulous, settled start to 2026!

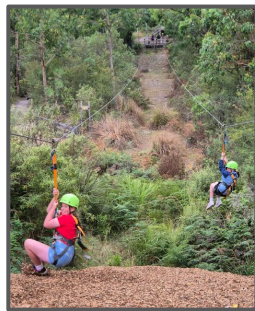
We have certainly hit the ground running and have been working hard on developing our classroom routines whilst demonstrating our school values.

We are incredibly proud of the calm and respectful manner that the students display in the senior school each and every day.



Year 5 and 6 have explored Japanese culture in our Inquiry unit and have continued to strengthen our multiplication skills, including our knowledge of factors and multiples, in our maths lessons. In literacy we have focused on syntax and sentence structure and developing our fluency when reading.

We have also had a lot of fun and cooperated well when working on activities related to our class novel, Wonder, and its theme of inclusion and acceptance. The students have enjoyed listening to the storyline and have fully embraced its content.



In Week 6, the Year 5s and 6s had an incredible time at Woorabinda Camp. Each and every student represented themselves, and Ballam Park, extremely well. Some of the favourite activities included the zipline, high ropes, rock wall and camp out.

We hope everyone came home with a big smile and happy story to share. A

highlight for us was watching our students participate in all of the activities, work together, challenge themselves, at times pushing themselves beyond their limits, whilst also having a wonderful time and a lot of fun!



Well done Senior School!
You have had a sensational start to 2026!

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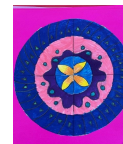
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SPECIALIST NEWS

This term, students across all year levels explored a variety of artistic techniques, focusing on the use of lines, shapes and patterns to create unique and engaging artworks. Junior students also experimented with paper folding and cutting techniques.

- **Foundation):** Created self-portraits using different lines and shapes.
- **Year 1:** Produced sheep artworks incorporating shapes, lines and patterns.
- **Year 2:** Designed artworks featuring repeated lines and patterns.
- **Year 2/3:** Explored the work of artist Piet Mondrian and created animal artworks using primary colours in a Mondrian style.
- **Year 3/4:** Investigated patterns used in Japanese vase design, creating their own watercolour vases with cherry blossoms, and experimented with a crayon resist technique to produce jellyfish artworks.
- **Year 5:** Developed mixed media hot air balloon collages, including patterned designs, paper weaving for baskets, and perspective drawing of landscapes.
- **Year 6:** Learned about mandalas and radial symmetry, creating detailed and intricate mandala designs.



It has been a wonderful term of creativity!



This term in Physical Education, students across all year levels have been actively developing their skills and enjoying a range of activities.

Junior students focused on learning rules, safety and fundamental movement skills. Through simple games, they practised following instructions, staying on task, and developing basic motor skills. Students were also introduced to ball skills, learning and practising the fundamentals of throwing and catching.

Senior students prepared for the House Athletics Carnival by focusing on a variety of track and field events. They developed skills in sprinting, hurdles, long jump, triple jump, shot put and discus, learning to combine movement sequences and refine their techniques.

The House Athletics Carnival was a fantastic day, with a positive atmosphere as students participated with enthusiasm, teamwork and sportsmanship. Congratulations to Elliott House for being named the 2026 House Champions.

Best wishes to all students progressing to the District Track and Field events in Term 2, where they will represent Ballam Park Primary School:

- Wednesday 22nd April - District Track Events 9:30-2:30pm
- Friday 1st May - District Field Events 9:30-12:30pm
- Venue- Ballam Park Athletics Track

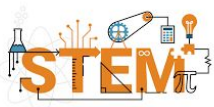
Early this term, students had the opportunity to participate in a **Hooked into Hockey Clinic**, where they learned fundamental hockey skills. It was fantastic to see strong participation in the **Come & Play AFL program**, with many girls enjoying learning the basic skills of football in a fun, supportive environment.

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SPECIALIST NEWS

This term in **STEM**, students across all year levels have explored a variety of Science Inquiries and Engineering techniques.



- **Foundation Students** discussed the Five Senses and followed the life-cycle of our Monarch butterflies. They closely observed a wide variety of leaves and flowers, organising them into categories. They also spent time in our vegetable garden and experimented with growing beans in bags!
- **Year 1 & 2 Students** used their observational skills to closely examine worms and snails. They wrote and drew about the Monarch butterfly life-cycle and became Field Explorers; revisiting animal habitats to compare similarities and differences over time.
- **Middle and Senior Students** followed the Engineering Design Process of Define, Identify, Brainstorm, Design, Prototype, Evaluate, Iterate and Communicate for the Science Buddies Ball Run Challenge. The process had a second focus of teamwork, with the students showing some wonderful co-operative and empathic skills.

It has been a wonderful term of creation and discovery!



This term in **DIGITECH**, students have been developing Technology

skills through a range of activities..

Junior students focused on defining Technology and using iPads to track and record the growth of their plants in the STEM room - we also learned about the fallibility of experiments when a stowaway caterpillar ate several of the bean plants one weekend!

Senior students examined how Digital Technology can help people and animals, and assessed websites and apps that track animal numbers and health. They signed on to their accounts and navigated Google classroom and began research into an Endangered Animal of their choice.

All students also explored Augmented Reality through the use of Merge Cubes and the MAKR app, and Senior students accessed code.org to practice coding games.

This Term in **LIBRARY**, the Foundation students have been exploring the beautiful work of Author / Illustrator Freya Blackwood. They have responded to texts with thoughtful ideas and made connections between their own lives and those of the characters we have met.

Foundation students have also shown wonderful listening and sharing skills, and have grown a fabulous culture of regular borrowing - further supporting their Literacy Learning - well done!



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WELLBEING and MENTAL HEALTH

This year, I will continue in my roles as a Year 5 classroom teacher and Disability Inclusion Coordinator. I am also excited to undertake a new initiative through the Department of Education as Ballam Park's Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader. This opportunity will provide me with dedicated time and specialised training to further strengthen and expand my work in student wellbeing.

In this role, I will support the implementation of a whole-school approach to mental health and wellbeing, benefiting our students, families, and staff. My work will include coordinating targeted mental health support for students, with a focus on building positive mindsets, managing worries and conflicts, and strengthening social skills.

I will also support and guide teachers in effectively responding to students with mental health needs in the classroom. Additionally, I will work closely with families and warmly welcome any questions or conversations.

I look forward to continuing to develop my skills and making a meaningful contribution in this important area.

Suzanne Burrows – Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader

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SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Welcome to Your 2026 School Council!

There's something special about a school community that shows up, leans in, and builds something meaningful together. That's exactly what our 2026 School Council is all about!

We are so excited to introduce the passionate team of parents, educators, and community members who will be working behind the scenes (and sometimes right in the middle of the action!) to support, shape, and strengthen our school this year.

Meet our incredible Council Members for 2026:

Peita Cooper (DE), Kirsten Edbrooke (DE), Susan Procter (DE), Suzanne Burrows (DE), Michaela Keating (Parent), Samantha Breitkruz (Parent), Erin Cassidy (Parent), Jessica Dembinski (Parent), Keirra Powrie (Parent), Mclain Powrie (Parent), Stephanie Pigeot (Parent), and Stuart Bush (Community)

Our first School Council meeting, held on 17th March, saw the following members sworn in:

President: Michaela Keating

Vice President: Stephanie Pigeot

Treasurer: Sam Breitkruz

Secretary: Keirra Powrie

This group brings together a mix of ideas, experiences, and a shared commitment to creating a school environment where every child and every family feels seen, supported, and inspired.

But here's the thing: School Council isn't just about meetings and decisions. It's about community spirit.

And this is where you come in!

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SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

We're calling on our community to help bring the fun, energy, and a little bit of sparkle to our school by joining our **Fundraising Sub-Committee** — the team behind the moments kids remember and communities rally around. Whether you've got big ideas or just a spare hour here and there, we'd love to have you involved.

We invite you to:

- Get curious about what's happening in your school
- Say hello, share ideas, and ask questions
- Join in at events, initiatives, and conversations — even if you can't commit to regular meetings
- Help build a school culture that creates lifelong memories for our kids

Whether it's cheering from the sidelines, volunteering your time, or simply staying connected - you are a valued part of this community.

Kind. Curious. Connected!

Let's make 2026 a year full of connection, collaboration, and school pride!

BALLAM PARK COMMUNITY GROUP

First Meeting – WEDNESDAY 22nd APRIL 2.30pm

All parent/carers welcome!

Discussion about school/community events and fundraisers.

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Primary School

SAVE THE DATE - TERM 2

DISTRICT ATHLETICS Selected students only Wednesday 22 nd April	ANZAC SERVICE Friday 24 th April Families invited for the 10.45am ceremony
YEARS 3-6 HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY Thursday 14 th May	Mothers & Special Friends Celebration 15 th May More details to follow
EDUCATION WEEK 11 th – 15 th May BOOK FAIR - Monday - Thursday	
OPEN AFTERNOON WEDNESDAY 13th MAY - Families invited to see our classrooms between 2pm and 3pm GRANDPARENT'S AFTERNOON TEA - Special afternoon tea for our grandparents during the open afternoon	
KINGS BIRTHDAY Monday 8 th June Student-Free Day	Milo's First Birthday celebration WEEK 8 FOUNDATION STUDENTS ONLY
CURRICULUM DAY Tuesday 23 rd June - Student-Free Day - Parent/Carer Interviews	YEARS 3-6 OTHER SPORTING EVENTS Interschool Sports Field Athletics Day District Cross Country (selected students only) Lightning Premiership

More details to follow...

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Ballam Park
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FOUNDATION 2027 INFORMATION SESSION

TERM 2 DATES

You are invited to attend our information sessions on:

Wednesday 29th April 9.30am

Monday 11th May 5.00pm

We will present to you how we teach in an evidence-based manner, how we support children and their families, how we support transition to school and other highlights. Afterwards, we will go for a tour of the school.

RSVP by contacting the SCHOOL OFFICE: 9789 5614

Ballam Park Primary School is nestled in beautiful parklands. We offer:

- Little Learners Love Literacy—Science of Reading approach to teaching reading
- Evidence-based practice in all classes
- Berry Street Education Model
- Our variety of Specialist Classes
- Our Wellbeing Hub which includes a Breakfast Club

WEBSITE: <https://ballamparkps.com.au>

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Ballam Park Primary School Enrolments Open Term 2

FOUNDATION TOUR DATES

Wednesday 6th May 9.30am

Thursday 7th May 9.30am

Thursday 14th May 2.00pm

Monday 18th May 9.30am

Wednesday 27th May 9.30am

Monday 15th June 9.30am

You can also contact our school office to make an appointment for an alternate date and time.

Please call the school to arrange a tour!

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SCHOOL DATES 2026

TERM 1	
Tuesday 27 th January	Curriculum Day
Wednesday 28 th January	Class Interviews – no formal classes
Thursday 29 th January	Year 1-6 Students Commence
Monday 2 nd February	Foundation Students Commence – alternate plan for first 6 weeks
Monday 9 th March	Labour Day
Tuesday 10 th March	Curriculum Day
Thursday 2 nd April	Last day of term (2.00pm dismissal)
TERM 2	
Monday 20 th April	Term 2 commences
Monday 8 th June	King's Birthday
Tuesday 23 rd June	Curriculum Day – no student required Parent/Carer Interviews
Friday 26 th June	Last day of term (2.00pm dismissal)
TERM 3	
Monday 13 th July	Term 3 commences
Friday 18 th September	Last day of term (2.00pm dismissal)
TERM 4	
Monday 5 th October	Students Commence
Tuesday 3 rd November	Melbourne Cup Day
Friday 18 th December	Last day of term (1.00pm dismissal)

1 Curriculum Day and PP day to be determined |

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Annual privacy reminder for our school community

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#) and the [Schools' Privacy Collection Notice](#).

Our [Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy](#) describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education](#) safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education, please contact the school.

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents](#). This information is also available in ten community languages:

- Amharic
- Arabic
- Dari
- Gujarati
- Mandarin
- Somali
- Sudanese
- Turkish
- Urdu
- Vietnamese

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Looking for U11s

Baxter Netball Club are looking for more U11s to join our team this winter.

Ages between 8 and 11 years old, any and all skills welcome!

Come along to training
Wednesday 4:30-5:30PM at
Jubilee park stadium

 baxternetballclub.com

 baxternetballclub@outlook.com





Could an **extra \$500** help with school costs next year?

Join Saver Plus, Australia's longest running financial education and matched savings program. Saver Plus is a free program that has supported over 68,000 people to develop lifelong savings habits and receive up to \$500 to assist with education costs.

Saver Plus

is delivering Saver Plus

To support families at

Ballam Park Primary School

ENQUIRE NOW



Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St. Laurence and is delivered in partnership with The Smith Family and Berry Street. It is funded by ANZ and the Department of Social Services.

What is Saver Plus?

A free 10-month program that helps you save for your own or your children's education.

- Build lasting savings habits
- Be better prepared for unexpected expenses
- Stay in control
- Improve personal wellbeing

Who can join?

To be eligible for Saver Plus, you must meet all of the following criteria:

- Have a Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card
- Receive an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment*
- Be studying yourself or have a child in school (can be starting school next year)
- Have regular income from work (you or your partner)
- Be 18+ years old

*Many income types and Centrelink payments may qualify. Not sure if you qualify? Just fill out the enquiry form and a Savings Coach will reach out to you.

To confidentially find out more, call Saver Plus or fill out the enquiry form in the link.

1300 610 355 saverplus.org.au

In one fun-filled day, kids will learn and play footy in a safe, inclusive environment. They'll pick up new skills, play mini-games and get creative with designing a footy or uniform. Plus have a footy goodie bag to take home.



4-7 YEAR OLDS*

Our youngest players learn footy through fun, age-appropriate games that build skills, confidence and teamwork, led by NAB AFL Auskick coaches.



7-12 YEAR OLDS

Older kids level up their footy skills through modified game play and challenging activities that build teamwork, leadership and lasting memories in a fun, energetic day.

**Kids can join NAB AFL Auskick if they are turning 5 in the calendar year (before 30th June in WA).*

LANGWARRIN ALL GIRLS HOLIDAY PROGRAM

THURSDAY APRIL 9TH | 9AM-3PM
LLOYD PARK, OVAL 2

\$35 TO REGISTER
Apply discount code OFDAF316 for \$20 off

4-7 YEAR OLDS



7-12 YEAR OLDS





PLAY

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

SORTED

LOCATION	DATE
CASEY FIELDS (CRANBOURNE EAST)	WEDNESDAY 8TH APRIL
LANGWARRIN ALL GIRLS* (LLOYD PARK)	THURSDAY 9TH APRIL
CHELSEA ALL GIRLS* (CHELSEA REC RESERVE)	MONDAY 13TH APRIL
FRANKSTON (BAXTER PARK)	WEDNESDAY 15TH APRIL
PAKENHAM (TOOMUC RESERVE)	THURSDAY 16TH APRIL
ASPENDALE (GLENN STREET RESERVE)	FRIDAY 17TH APRIL

**ONLY
\$55!**

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO FIND
YOUR CLOSEST HOLIDAY
PROGRAM & REGISTER TODAY!**





Get up to \$500 for education costs

For every dollar you save, you'll get a dollar from ANZ to spend on educational costs, up to \$500.

To join, you need to meet all of these requirements:

- ✓ Be 18 years or older
- ✓ Have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card
- ✓ Be in receipt of an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment
- ✓ Have a child in school, starting school next year, or be studying yourself
- ✓ Get a regular income (can be you or your partner)
- ✓ Agree to join in free online financial education workshops



saverplus.org.au
1300 610 355

