



MOUNT BARKER
WALDORF SCHOOL

Term 4
Week 5 – 2025
Newsletter

From the Principal

Dear Mount Barker Waldorf School,

The year is gearing up for a big finish, as always, and I want to use this opportunity to give a shout out to our Class 12 students who are in the process of the final sprint towards the finish line. This week they will be presenting their Year 12 Projects to the community and I urge everyone to come along to at least one talk. These are the graduates of our school and you will be able to see not only the journey they have been through, but the fine young adults they are becoming, through their speeches.

At the beginning of this term, they submitted their theses for their Project (between 3,500-5,000 words). Some were professionally printed and bound, others handcrafted with care – all of them worked on with diligence and effort. Through the last few weeks, they have been working on their project speeches – 25 minutes where they get to share their journey and what they have learnt over the year. The joy of this occasion for me is in hearing the personal growth each of our students have gone through as they have met and overcome the obstacles that have inevitably come across their paths. Some of these obstacles are external and some of them are internal, and it is the way the students grapple with and grow through these that is satisfying as an audience member – an opportunity to witness a destiny moment.

The Class 12s have also been going through some other existential moments at the beginning of this term as they participated in the 'Philosophy of Human Existence' Main Lesson. This has been a space where the students have met different philosophies and thinkers through the years, and they have been asked the question – what does it mean to live a good life? A wonderful question we all should have the opportunity of encountering, and one that we think is important for all our students to have grappled with before they leave our school. We don't give our students 'the answer', as not having a fixed way of thinking about this belies the whole purpose of our education. We want our students to leave us in freedom – to have met such an important question, but to be able to answer for themselves.

So, again, please come along and be a part of the community who are there to support our soon-to-be graduates, as they take us through their journey of self-discovery and learning.

Warm regards,
Liam Waterford
Principal

27 Sims Road (PO BOX 318)
Mount Barker SA 5251

08 8391 0411
office@mbws.sa.edu.au

mbws.sa.edu.au

Key dates this week

Monday 10 November

Class 6 Transition Day
MBWS Middle School

Tuesday 11 November

Class 6 Transition Day continues
MBWS Middle School

Class 8 & 9 Japanese Students Onigiri Action - World Food Day Incursion

Japanese Room
11.15am - 1.15pm

MBWS PTA Meeting

Beehive
7pm-8pm

Class 8 Parent/Teacher Meeting

Classroom
6.30pm-7.30pm

Thursday 13 November

Class 4 Parent / Teacher Meeting

Classroom
5.45pm - 6.45pm

Class 5 Parent / Teacher Meeting

Classroom
7pm - 8.30pm

Friday 14 November

Class 2 Excursion

Laratinga Wetlands
9.30am - 3pm

Class 5 Strings with Class 5 of WWS

MBWS School
10am - 2.30pm

Class 12 Special Project Presentations

LAC
Friday 14 November: 4.30pm - 7.45pm
Saturday 15 November: 10am - 4pm

Cover Image: *Climatology ML Cover, Class 10 student*

Class Twelve

Special Project Presentations

Friday 14 November 2025

4.30pm - 7:45pm

Saturday 15 November 2025

10am - 4pm

Mount Barker Waldorf School
Living Arts Centre



Photo credit: Hamish Robinson

Upcoming Events

Monday 17 November

Class 9 Kayak Camp

Murray River

17 November - 21 November 2025

Tuesday 18 November

Nightingale Kindy Parent / Teacher Meeting

Nightingale Kindergarten

7pm - 8pm

Wednesday 19 November

Class 12 Astronomy & Gratitude Camp

Punyelroo Caravan Park

19 November - 20 November

Classes 4 - 6 Primary School Concert

LAC

6pm - 7.30pm

Thursday 20 November

Class 11 Parent Information & Camp Celebration

IRC for parents and students

6pm - 7pm

Friday 21 November

Twilight Market

MBWS

3.30pm - 8pm



If you have any feedback for the MBWS Board, please contact them via email at: secretary@mbws.sa.edu.au



Eurythmy for adults

Mondays
9 am - 10 am



Friends of the Plant Nursery

Tuesdays:
9.15 - 10.45am

Meet at School
Plant Nursery



Beehive

Tuesdays
9am - 11am
Cafe and Shop

**PARENT CRAFT
ON
HOLD**



Yoga Thursdays

A slow pace yoga class
suited for everyone.

Teachers: 8-8.30am
Students: 8.30-8.55am
Parents: 9.15-10am

2025 Class 12 Special Project Presentations This Friday and Saturday!

Friday 14 November

4.30pm to 7.45pm

Class 12 Project Presentations 2025



Isla Bastin

Confidence through Music

Exploring the psychology behind performance anxiety.



Hamish Robinson

Pushing through Discomfort

Discovering the power of the absence of breath, to stay present.



Jaismine Saini

Threads of Belonging

A story of identity, culture, contributions and belonging.

Saturday 15 November

10am start



Lilliah Thinane

Creating Hope

How do we know what we create is meaningful?



Ellis Miles

Minds in Motion

Turning personal struggles into community support and awareness.

Morning Tea 11.15am - 11.40am



Sienna Higashioka

The Art of Mindful Travel

Where travel meets presence and self-growth.



Jordan Cutts

Kicking Goals

Where passion meets mentorship on the soccer pitch.



Elwin Aylen

Navigating Growth

Building a boat, seeking wisdom through adventure.

Lunch 1.10pm - 1.50pm



Alanna Matthews

Stitching the Past

From learner to teacher: preserving leatherworking for the future.



Esther Van de Gaer

Challenge and Resilience

My journey through a hard project.



Grace Haynes

The Power of Storytelling

Connecting with people through telling stories onstage.

Class 12 Project Coordinators



Eleanor Waterford



Rose Duggan



MOUNT BARKER WALDORF SCHOOL

Join Our Early Childhood Journey – 4-year-old Kindergarten Teacher 2026 Mount Barker Waldorf School 0.6 FTE over 4 days

Are you ready to guide students and families into their first experience of Waldorf Education?

We are seeking a passionate and experienced Waldorf Early childhood Teacher to lead our Nightingale Kindergarten Class in 2026. This is a unique opportunity to welcome soon to be 4-year-olds into the rhythms and routines of our beautiful Early Childhood space, and to support their families at the beginning of their Waldorf journey. Our Nightingale Kindergarten offers an unhurried and gentle introduction to the early years of school.

We are looking for someone who brings:

- A deep love for children and a genuine commitment to their growth
- A strong understanding of Steiner pedagogy and philosophy
- Creativity, flexibility, and artistic inspiration in their teaching
- A willingness to work collaboratively and with initiative
- An openness to new ideas and a reflective approach to teaching and learning

We are committed to an education that cultivates imagination, creativity and the skills children need for a meaningful future. We are especially seeking teachers who value collegiality and are enthusiastic about working together to support the healthy development of our young people. You will be supported in your professional and personal growth, with opportunities for ongoing development in Steiner Education and on-site mentoring with dedicated and experienced staff.

Come and join us!

To apply please send a cover letter, CV, and three references to the Principal, Liam Waterford at lwaterford@mbws.sa.edu.au.

All positions require a valid WWCC and RRHAN-EC certificate as well as the right to work in Australia. We do not sponsor foreign applicants. Applications are welcome at any time, and the position will remain open until a suitable candidate is appointed.

For preliminary confidential enquiries or conversations about these positions, please contact Liam Waterford, Principal at the school on (08) 8391 0411.

The Mount Barker Waldorf School is an established coeducational, independent Waldorf school serving over 350 students from Early Childhood through to Year 12. The school is located in the Adelaide Hills on a picturesque 20 acres. We offer a full Waldorf Curriculum with extensive purpose-built facilities, experienced teachers and dedicated parents.

www.mbws.sa.edu.au

Wellbeing - Social Media Age Restrictions

If you are a parent of a teen or tween, you have no doubt had some conversations around the dinner table already about what the upcoming Social Media Ban or Delay for under 16s might mean for your student/s. The onus is on the social media companies to comply with the Federal Government's Social Media Minimum Age Obligation in taking steps to ensure Australians under the age of 16 are prevented from having social media accounts, or face heavy fines. This comes into effect from the 10th of December, and there has been much discussion about how this will be enforced.



Image source: <https://screenstrong.org/socialmediaaddiction/>

The conversations we've been having at school with a few young people have been illuminating. Some see it as necessary to support the mental health and relationships of their peers, and are looking forward to more face-to-face communications. They reluctantly admit it will probably be a good thing; others are already discussing ways around it, like convincing their parents to create accounts for them, or ways to circumvent the social media age restrictions, or break the parental controls set for them. Like excessive sugar, caffeine, and staying up late, they may know it's not good for them, but they also want to push the boundaries and seek where you as a parent/caregiver stand. They want to know what your view is, what your values are, and what your 'non-negotiables' are (If you co-parent, you might want to discuss this as adults first so you can present a united front).



Image source: <https://screenstrong.org/videogames/>

The E-Safety commission has a [current list](#), of the platforms likely to be affected. These include You Tube, Tik Tok, Snapchat and Instagram. There are several media platforms that will likely not be age restricted, including Roblox, WhatsApp and Discord- however that does not make these platforms 'safe' for young people (if you are interested in a very sobering account of one person's foray into Roblox, please [read this article](#) published in The Guardian last week)

It is important to continue to have conversations with young people about online safety and encourage them to speak to you if they see or hear something online that makes them feel uncomfortable, particularly if it involves contact with a stranger, sexual or violent content.

The push to delay access to social media platforms was primarily out of concern for the negative effects on the mental health of young people, particularly anxiety and depression. Big companies like Meta set up powerful algorithms which are programmed to keep young people engaged in social media 'content' for as long as possible through providing dopamine hits. Their interest is in making money, not the health and wellbeing of our children. What researchers and social commentators like [Jonathan Haidt](#) and [Melanie Hempe](#) continue to find are the damaging impacts of both social media and gaming on the developing brains of teenagers, as well as the damaging impacts on their social relationships.

Just like teens in the 90s found ways to access age restricted substances, some of our teens will likely find work-arounds to access age-restricted sites. But that is not really the point. The point is that as adults, as a society, and particularly as an intentional Waldorf community, we know now, as our parents knew about smoking, that these platforms are harmful to young people, and it's up to us to have the conversations, the boundaries, and to educate so that our teenagers have the best chance of growing up with healthy brains and healthy relationships.

continued next page

Be You Family Wellbeing Survey

A reminder that families are invited to complete the 'Be You Family Survey' by following [this link](#).

More information about the surveys and how our school will use them can be [found here](#)

HOST FAMILIES REQUIRED FOR INDIAN STUDENTS IN MAY 2026

For next year's Year 10 Surveying Camp we are excited to once again welcome several students and their teacher, Jayesh, to join us from India. Partnering with students from the Abhaya Waldorf School in India has been a great highlight of previous Surveying Camps for our students and their families, and we are pleased to continue the link between the two schools.

The Abhaya students will be arriving a few days before the commencement of the camp, and depart a couple of weeks later. The students will be working alongside our students for the 4 weeks that they are here, immersing themselves in Surveying and Trigonometry as well as Australian life and culture.

We are seeking host families from the school to accommodate the students while they are in Australia. This will be before and after their Surveying camp, which is currently scheduled for April 27th-8th May. The students will likely arrive on Saturday the 25th of April, and depart around the 24th of May.

This is an exciting opportunity to welcome a teenager from another country into your home to share cultural experiences- a mini-exchange for your family. Previous host families have found it to be a rewarding experience. Many past host families have had two students together in a room and this has also worked well.

Host families will need to be able to provide a room for their host student/s to sleep in during their stay, as well as food. All members of the household over the age of 18 will also need a Working With Children Check. This can be obtained through the school free of charge. There is an honorarium payment of \$25 per day per student to help cover the cost of hosting.

We are also very excited that after some of our students recently visiting Japan, the Kyotonabe Steiner School is also considering visiting us later next year, with possibilities for hosting their students. These are two wonderful opportunities for cultural exchange within our worldwide Waldorf community. Please consider the possibilities for your family to host and let me know as soon as possible.

Elise Duffield
Assistant Principal

Around Our School

Class 10 Climatology Main Lesson

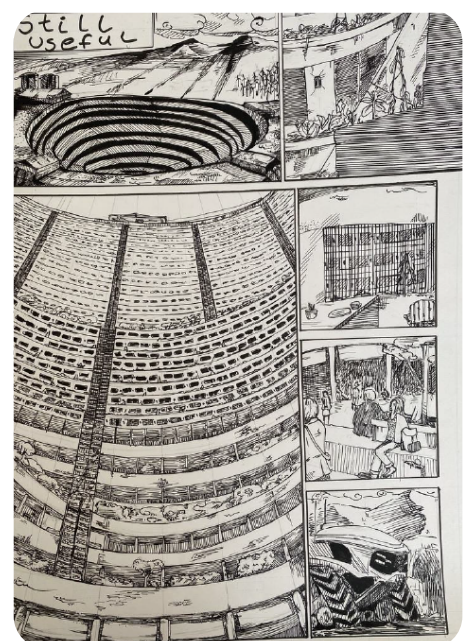
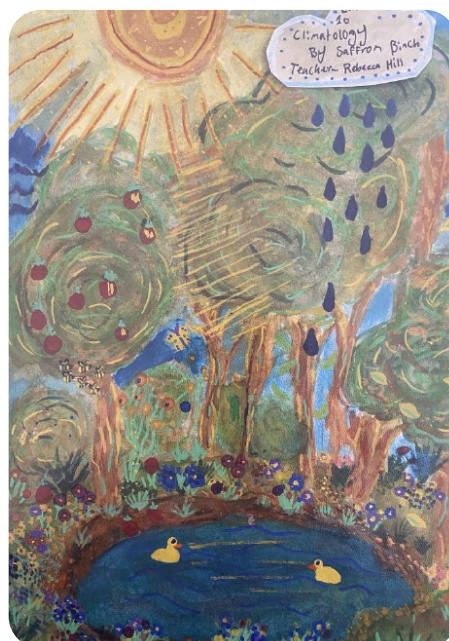
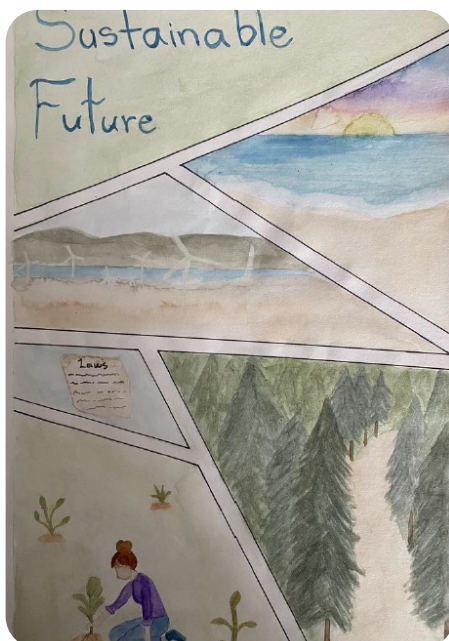
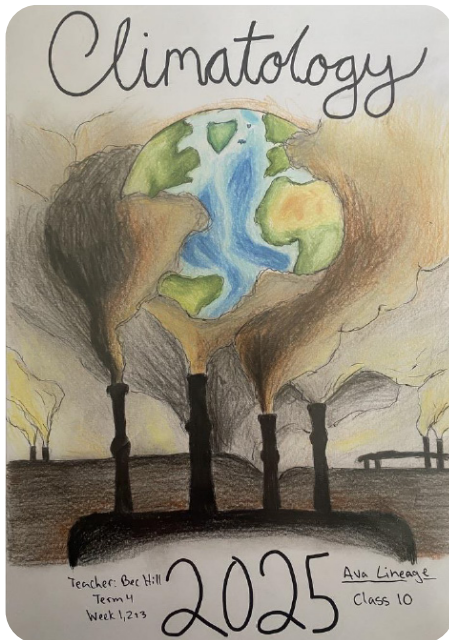
Class 10 have recently completed their Climatology Main Lesson, an exploration of the Earth as a living, dynamic, and vital organism. Throughout the unit, students worked collaboratively and creatively. These qualities are essential for nurturing the kind of future in which Earth's systems can continue to flourish for generations to come. They created some truly inspired and beautiful artwork, reflecting both their scientific understanding and their deepening connection to the natural world.

Rebecca Hill

History & Geography Teacher

To listen to a podcast titled "Water You Talking About", click [HERE](#).

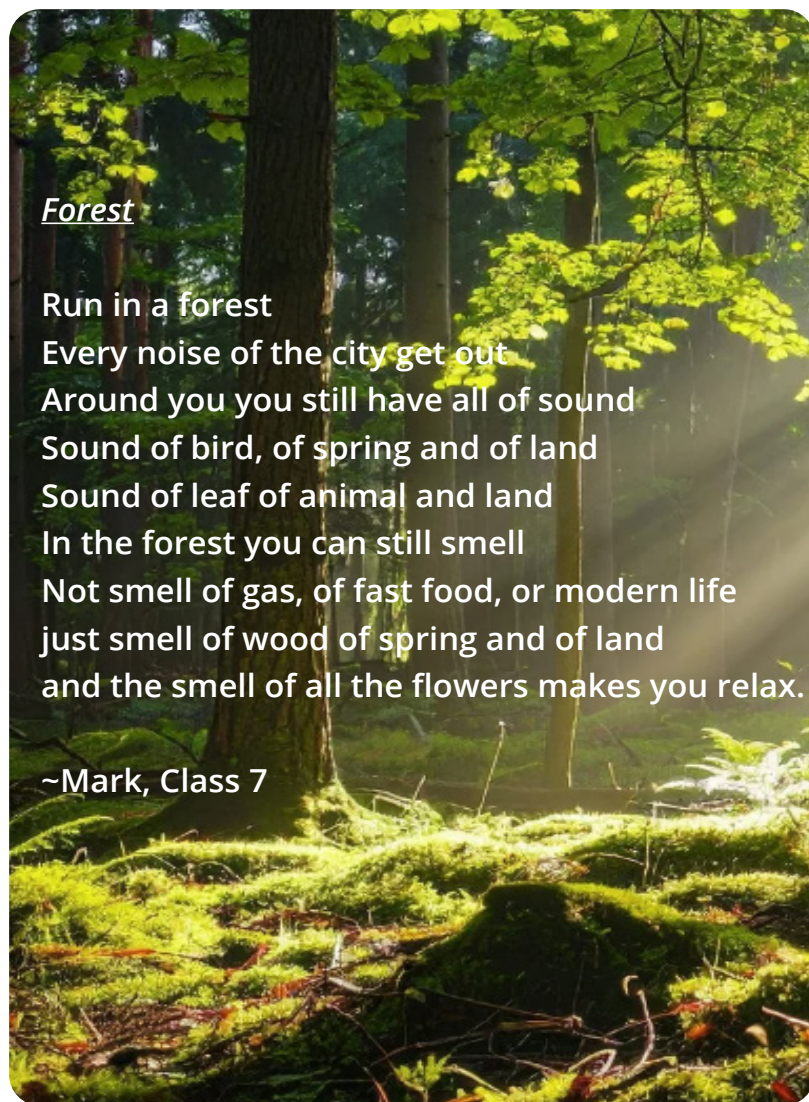
This podcast was produced by a group of Class 10 students (Ava, Joseph, Maeve and Zara) as part of their Main Lesson.



2025 Red Room Poem Forest Competition

I am thrilled to share that Mark Le in Class 7, who joined our school community from Vietnam earlier this year, has had his poem shortlisted for the Red Room Poem Forest poetry competition- an incredible achievement out of more than 4,000 entries nationwide! Mark's work will now be reviewed by a distinguished judging panel including Tyson Yunkaporta, Aurora Liddle Christie, Blake Nuto, and Jennine Primmer. **Congratulations, Mark!**

Rebecca Hill
Class 7 Guardian



Forest

Run in a forest
Every noise of the city get out
Around you you still have all of sound
Sound of bird, of spring and of land
Sound of leaf of animal and land
In the forest you can still smell
Not smell of gas, of fast food, or modern life
just smell of wood of spring and of land
and the smell of all the flowers makes you relax.

~Mark, Class 7

You can read the full range of shortlisted poems [via this link](#).

Classes 4 - 6 Concert

Wednesday

19 November 2025

Living Arts Centre

6pm - 7.30pm



No ticketing required



MOUNT BARKER
WALDORF SCHOOL



MOUNT BARKER
WALDORF SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS TWILIGHT MARKET

Friday 21 November 2025
3:30pm to 8:00pm

- ❖ handcrafted locally made products
- ❖ delicious food
- ❖ childrens' activities
- ❖ plants
- ❖ silent auction
- ❖ music and maypole dance
- ❖ eftpos available (no cash out)
- ❖ pet, alcohol and smoke free event

27 Sims Road Mount Barker | 8391 0411

Community News & Events

November & December WORKSHOPS

91A Old Princes Highway Littlehampton

Limited Numbers
Bookings Essential
Phone or Text Kelly
0411450654

Making Wet Felted Advent Rings or Christmas Table Mats
For 6 year olds and older
Saturday 29th November
10:30am ~ Cost \$20

Making Felted Christmas Angels
For 5 year olds and older
Saturday 6th December
10:30am ~ Cost \$18

Decorating Christmas Candles
For 4 year olds and older
Wednesday 17th December
10:30am ~ Cost \$20

Making Felted Nativity Animals
For 7 year olds and older
Saturday 13th December ~Sheep
Thursday 18th December ~Donkey
10:30am ~ Cost \$20

COMING UP IN JANUARY

Making Mermaids and Sea Creatures
For 5 Yo and older

Making a Felted Summer Sunflower doll
For 8 yo and older
At the Beach
Various craft activities for 4yo and older

Times and Dates in January to be advised follow us on FB and IG to see updates or extra sessions

Bookings Essential



AT THE MB WALDORF SCHOOL CHRISTMAS MARKET 21ST NOV 3-8PM LOTS OF SPECIALS THIS NIGHT!

**IMAGINATIVE PLAY
NOW OPEN**

NATURAL FIBRE TOYS, CRAFTS SUPPLIES, HOMEMADE GIFTS, BOOKS
CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS, HOMESCHOOLING SUPPLIES

WEDNESDAY 10 - 4PM
THURSDAY 12 - 5PM
FRIDAY 10 - 4PM
SATURDAY 10 - 4PM

Come and say hello at our new address

91A OLD PRINCES HIGHWAY
LITTLEHAMPTON
(In front of Petra Ross Motors)

0411450654
headhearhands@mail.com

Ashton Steiner Playgroup - What's On for November & December

Family Support - Parenting Support

1:1 consults are available in person, via phone or Zoom during the day or in the evenings by arrangement. Please reach out for prices and further information.

Celebrating Christmas and Summer Solstice in Australia: managing commercialism and stress - growing connection and wonder
Bringing reverence, connection and joy amidst the consumerism and busyness.

This Zoom workshop looks at ways to celebrate in Australia and build your own meaningful and relevant traditions to grow your family's values. [More information here.](#)

Living A Mindful Family Life: Week Seven

ONLY for people who have ALREADY attended one of my six week courses -connect, ask questions, go deeper, explore, keep thinking, be inspired... In person at the Playgroup space in Ashton - limited places available.

[More information here.](#)

Craft and Chat

[More information here](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/kate.mindfulfamilylife/>

Wirrina Music Camp 2025

All ages! Come along and challenge yourself.

3 full days intensive group lessons:

From earlier stage players to Skills for Bluegrass, Folk & more, plus evening sessions with leaders. Learn new tunes, techniques & ensemble skills.

Perform in short showcase (optional) at the Wirrina Bluegrass & Acoustic Roots Festival.

Tutors:

- Jeri Foreman (UK/AUS),
- Grace Honeywell (USA/UK),
- Josh Bennett,
- Sally Carter,
- Peter Somerville,
- Justin Vilchez
(any others TBA)

*All internationally experienced:
tutors' skills include Folk, Bluegrass,
Classical, Jazz, Americana, Blues,
Celtic styles.*



Any acoustic strings welcome for classes:

Mandolin & mandolin family, violin/fiddle, cello, viola, other bowed strings, guitar, 5 string banjo, ukulele, tenor banjo, dobro, bass (any kind – double bass, ukulele bass, electric bass with BYO portable amp). ETC!

If you don't see yours here – ask us

Date: Tues 18th - Thurs 20th November 2025
(arrive by Mon 17th)

Cost: \$295 (includes all tuition / activities).
Contact us for family groups.

Accommodation: Not included in price. Camp on site (book separately) or holiday rentals in area. Or come by the day.

Where: Wirrina Cove Holiday Park,
Fleurieu Peninsula, SA.

Enquiries: wirrinabluegrass@gmail.com /
www.wirrinabluegrass.com

Stay for Wirrina Bluegrass & Acoustic Roots Festival (Fri 21st - Sun 23rd).
www.wirrinabluegrass.com / find us on Facebook & Trybooking.