



The Marian



Newsletter No. 19
Term 4 | 1st December 2023

www.smseymour.catholic.edu.au | facebook.com/stmarysseymour | <https://pam.smseymour.catholic.edu.au>

St Mary's College Seymour is a Child Safe School. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Lift Off

The journey has begun. The return to Year 12 for St Mary's College consolidates the future of Catholic secondary education at St Mary's and in the local region. Our St Mary's mission is not to be the biggest but more importantly to be the best. Our College has outstanding students who will go on to be a success in their lives beyond Year 12.



*The first senior College Year 12 Graduation in 36 years will be celebrated in 2025.
Long live the spirit of St. Mary's!*

Lord God

Bless St Mary's College.

Let your life be our example to follow.

Through the gifts we receive from you, we will love and serve one another with gentleness and compassion.

Mary Our Mother, pray for us Catherine McAuley and St Anthony of Padua, pray for us. Amen

Kindness

The Uniform Free day raised **\$539.35** for our local **St Vincent de Paul Society Conference**. Year 7-9 students will make care packages for Vinnies. Thank you to our wonderful students for giving. Kindness has an instant positive impact and can change a life.

The Mercy Values of
Hospitality – Justice – Respect – Excellence – Stewardship – Service
are very much apart of our College's daily conversations.

Staff Induction

On Thursday 14th December new staff will visit the College to meet to be inducted in College policies, operational processes and the future planning for St Mary's. They will meet College staff and Fr Eugene at morning tea. We are excited for the educational experience they will bring to their teaching areas. Our students will benefit!

The Old School Yard

St Mary's has 1,500 followers on Facebook, and I would suggest many are past students. With the College returning to Year 12, next year we will begin the research to gradually develop an Alumni for past students of St Mary's and Sacred Heart College.

An Alumni will rekindle old long- lost school friends and provide past students with what the strategic future holds for the College.



Awards Presentation

Friday 8th December is the Annual Awards presentation beginning at 11.30am. In Term 1 2022 the College Executive discussed the current format and timing of the Awards Presentation, deciding to keep the current format in place, which will be reviewed next year in readiness for 2025.

Student Leaders 2024

Student and staff have voted for the students who are standing for election. The new team will be officially announced at the Awards Presentation. They will be an excellent team next year and will receive wise and excellent guidance from the Director Wellbeing: **Allison Moore**; House Leaders McAuley: **Naomi Hanlon** and Padua: **Joanne Kamp** and Deputy Principal Operations: **Genevieve Gordon**.

Like most years, society and workplaces move so rapidly to the end of Term 4 and Christmas. It can be frightening to think how quickly November and December fly by.

Year 10 have concluded the term after their Head Start program. Years 7-9 finish on the **8th December**, F-6 the **15th December** and staff conclude the College year on the **20th December**.

If you are aware of a family considering an enrolment application to St Mary's, please let them know that I would recommend they do so as a soon as possible before it's too late for 2024.



Best wishes

Wayne Smith

Principal, St Mary's College Seymour

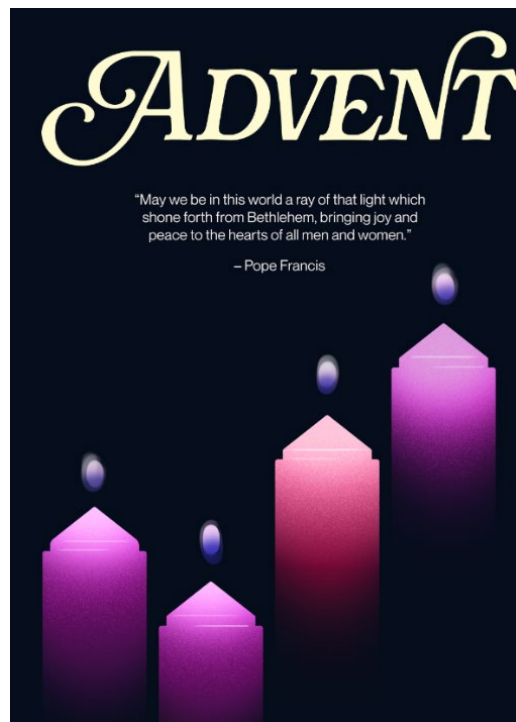
DipEd (ACU) DipRED (ACU) BEd (ACU) GradCertEdAdmin (Edith Cowan) GradDipRED (ACU) MEdAdmin (Charles Sturt) MTheoSudies (BBITAITE)



WEEK 1 ADVENT

Embracing the Spirit of ADVENT: A Season of Reflection and Anticipation

As the year gradually draws to a close, we find ourselves entering the cherished and meaningful Season of Advent. Beyond the hustle and bustle of daily routines, the four weeks invites us to pause, reflect, and prepare our hearts and minds for the Christmas celebration ahead.



A Time for Reflection: Advent, derived from the Latin word "adventus," meaning arrival or coming, heralds a period of introspection and contemplation. It offers us a chance to look within, to ponder the moments that shaped us throughout the year, and to recognize the lessons we've learned. Within our school, this season serves as an opportunity for students and staff alike to reflect on their personal journeys, acknowledging achievements, and embracing growth.

Anticipation and Preparation: With each passing week of Advent, we light candles symbolizing hope, peace, joy, and love. These candles represent not only the forthcoming festivities but also the values we cherish deeply. Advent encourages us to prepare not just for the joyous celebrations of the Christmas season but also for the arrival of something new and meaningful – the Birth of Jesus. In our school community, it's a time to prepare hearts and minds for, fostering an atmosphere of family and prayer.

FIRST SUNDAY

The first candle on the Advent wreath represents Hope – the first Sunday of Advent not only leads us to anticipate the birth of Christ but celebrate the beginning of a new liturgical season as well. It is purple, the primary color of Advent and a color symbolizing royalty. Sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle," the first candle harkens us back to Isaiah's foretelling of the birth of Christ and all of the promises God gave us in the Old Testament that would be fulfilled by the birth of Jesus.

📅 Sunday, December 3

SECOND SUNDAY

The second candle on the Advent wreath represents Peace and is also purple. Often called the "Bethlehem Candle," this candle reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Mary gave birth to Jesus. It also builds on the meaning of the Prophecy Candle, recalling that after the division, destruction, and dispersion of the kingdom in the Old Testament, there might finally be peace on Earth.

📅 Sunday, December 10

THIRD SUNDAY

The third candle of Advent symbolizes Joy. As we continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows more and more. It takes us back to the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem, even before the wise men. On this third Sunday of Advent, which the Church calls "Gaudete Sunday," meaning rejoice or praise, we light the third candle and rejoice like the shepherds. For this reason, it is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and its color is pink, the liturgical color for joy.

📅 Sunday, December 17

FOURTH SUNDAY

The fourth candle of Advent represents Love, the ultimate love of God that He might send His only Son for us. Called the "Angel's Candle," the fourth candle of Advent is lit the Sunday before Christmas, and it is the color purple, leading us to eagerly await the new Kingdom of God on earth.

📅 Sunday, December 24

Unity and Compassion: Advent unites us in a shared anticipation. It's a season that transcends individual beliefs, bringing us together in a spirit of solidarity and compassion.

Our school embraces this unity, emphasizing kindness, understanding, and support for one another. We encourage acts of generosity and empathy, spreading warmth and light within our community.

This is why the **St Vinnies Christmas Appeal**, is so special to our college. *See flyer next page →*

As we immerse ourselves in the Season of Advent, let us carry its essence with us, both within our school and beyond.

May the spirit of reflection, anticipation, unity, and compassion permeate our actions, guiding us towards a holy Christmas, filled with love and family.

Rochelle Gough

rochelle.gough@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



St Vinnies

Christmas Appeal

Poster created by
Sienna and Thomas

St Vinnie's Christmas Appeal is a frontline support advocacy and friendship for the most vulnerable members of our community



Aussie families are struggling to survive the increasing cost of living pressures this Christmas. Your generosity can provide urgent relief for a family whose doing it tough this Christmas.

What should I bring?

You can bring anything Christmas related,
but here are some ideas



Toys /presents

(presents for children and teenagers, boys and girls)



Christmas Tree



Christmas decorations



BonBons

The basket will be collected on the
8 December
so get your gifts in soon!
Merry Christmas!



Plum/Christmas pudding

4A's Prayers for The Middle East

Dear God,
Thank you for giving us a safe and protected place to live in and I pray for peace in the Middle East. Let peace make us happy throughout bad times. AMEN

Abbie Ranken

Dear Lord,

I pray for all the people in war and conflict. Please keep the people safe. Please watch over the children and let anyone with fear in their hearts know they're not alone. Let your light shine brightly and guide the way. AMEN

Yenuli Dissanayake



Dear God,
Please watch over all who are in pain or stress. Please help the people who do not have the money to live. Make them brave and strong. AMEN

Naomi Sellars 4A

Dear Lord,

Let us pray for the Middle East
Pray that peace, joy, and happiness will come between them as Christmas is around the corner. Take all the innocent families into the hands of your safety. AMEN

Jessica Woods 4A

Mrs Donna Osborne

Christmas/New Year timetable

DATE

TIME

WHAT

19 - 22 December
TUESDAY - FRIDAY

9:00am Seymour
9:30am Seymour

Mass
Rosary
Confessions

23 December
SATURDAY

9:00am Seymour
5:30pm Seymour
6:00pm Seymour

Mass
Confessions
Sunday Vigil Mass

24 December
SUNDAY
CHRISTMAS EVE

8:00am Tallarook
8:00am Tallarook
9:30am Seymour
10:00am Seymour

Confessions
Sunday Mass
Confessions
Sunday Mass

NOTE: Vigil is *ONLY* the
Christmas Vigil Mass and
NOT ALSO the Sunday Mass
obligation

5:00pm Seymour
5:30pm Seymour
6:00pm Seymour

Carols
Confessions
Christmas Vigil Mass

25 December
MONDAY
CHRISTMAS DAY

7:30am Tallarook
8:00am Tallarook
9:30am Seymour
10:00am Seymour

Confessions
Mass
Confessions
Mass

26 & 27 December
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

NO MASSES THESE TWO DAYS

28 & 29 December
THURSDAY & FRIDAY

9:00am Seymour

Mass

30 DECEMBER
SATURDAY

9:00am Seymour
5:30pm Seymour
6:00pm Seymour

Mass
Confessions
Mass

31 DECEMBER
SUNDAY

8:00am Tallarook
8:30am Tallarook
9:30am Seymour
10:00am Seymour

Confessions
Mass
Confessions
Mass

1 JANUARY 2024
MONDAY

8:00am Tallarook
8:30am Tallarook
9:30am Seymour
10:00am Seymour

Confessions
Mass
Confessions
Mass



May the peace and joy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you during this time,
and may His grace fill you and those whom you love.

May your enemies become your friends and be united in your prayers with all whom God has gifted life.
May almighty God bless you and keep you, may he shed his light upon and grant you his peace.

Fr Eugene, Parish Priest

Music Program – Date Reminders

There will be several performance opportunities for our Year 3-6 Choir, Band and instrumental and singing students over the next few weeks. These include:

- The Choir singing 2 specially prepared Australian carols at the **Seymour's Carols Sunday 10th December** (details tbc)
- Primary School Concert with Carols performed by the Band, Choir, and each year level on **Monday 11th December from 11:30am.**
- The Choir visiting Barrabill House to sing carols with the residents. (**Wednesday 13th December 1:00pm- 2:00pm**). Additional Years 3- 6 students are welcome to join by attending our rehearsal Tuesday December 12th.
- Instrumental & Singing students informal lunchtime performance in the music room **Thursday 14th December.**



Mrs Wendy Brentnall
Music Teacher

Mr Matthew Dudfield
Music Teacher



Defence Mentor

Defence Kids Club Foundation to Year 4 have been winding down the year with a few Christmas activities.

We have made Christmas lanterns out of plastic fruit jars and covered the outside with Christmas shapes, and a small battery lantern on the inside. Thank you to Rebecca Scollen who has been saving all the fruit jars for the activity. Some of the students also did some Christmas colouring sheets.

We now have just one Hot Chocolate morning left for the year. What wonderful memories and friendships have been formed throughout the year.

Wednesday November 29th was the last school day for Year 10 student Liesl Rayner. Good luck for Year 11 in 2024 Liesl!



Tutoring Support

As a reminder for those posting to our area and starting at St. Mary's College, and those that are posting out to new areas within Australia, DMFS offers tutoring support for students who may need.

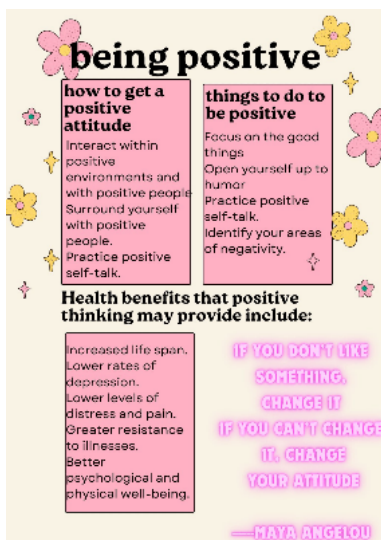
Defence Member and Family Support assists with the cost of tutoring to help overcome immediate educational difficulties experienced by Defence children who change schools due to posting. Defence may reimburse fees for tutoring to help your child meet the academic standards at their new school, following posting to a new location in Australia.

For more information, please contact me and I can email or post out the information flyer.

Mrs Janice Kerris
janice.kerris@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Creative Corner

Students across Years 7-10 competed in a PBL poster design competition during Pastoral Care on Friday 17 November. Their task was to design a digital poster that shows '*Socialising in a Positive and Safe Manner.*' Students entered in their designs under the categories of: **Inclusive, Respectful, Collaborative, Upstanders, and Positive.** Students were tasked with showing those values in action, and in a way that other students and the broader school community could connect with. All entries showed considerable thought towards connecting these values, often using bright colours to depict the positive values that all members of the St Mary's community live by. Congratulations to the following winners for their highly creative designs.



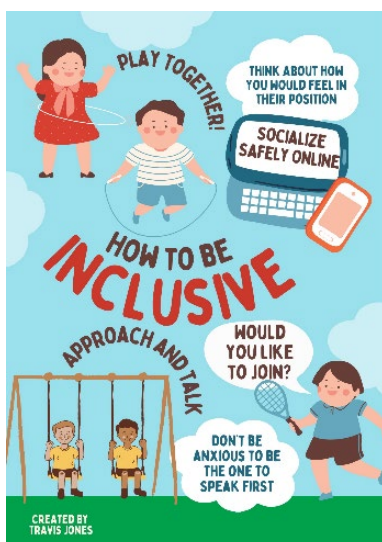
Positive
Piper Doyle



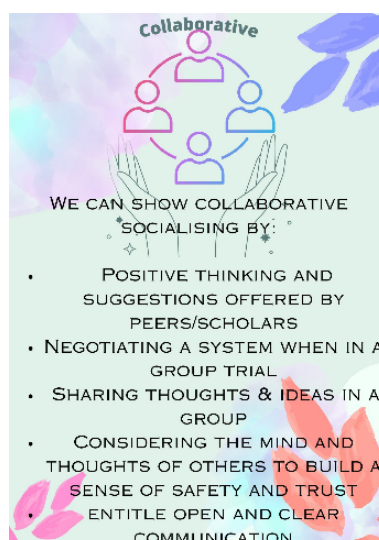
Respectful
Isaac Gibson



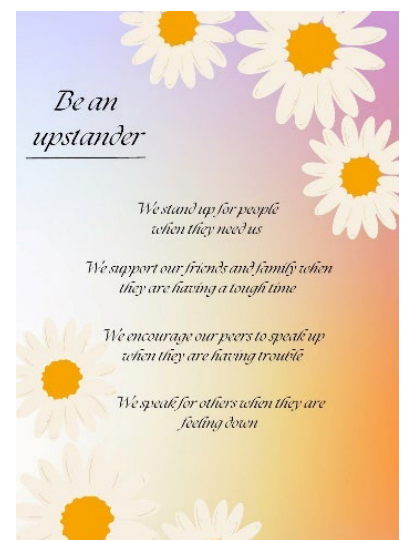
Collaborative
*Melrose Pambi, Melhoney Pambi
Mikayla Erikson*



Inclusive
Travis Jones



Collaborative
Ruth Reilly



Upstander
Cleo Chapman

Mr Xavier Goring

Small Sided Football Competition & St Scrosoppi Cup

This year's annual **Small Sided Football Competition**, followed by the **St Scrosoppi Cup**, was a resounding success. With 50 participants, and a crowd of 60 students watching the final, St. Mary's has shown that the world game has a place in Seymour.

The league, split into Junior (Years 7-8) and Middle Secondary (Years 9-10), came down to the final matchday. The 1st place of the Juniors, the Year 7 Strikers, fell to 3rd and did not qualify for the cup, and the difference between 2nd and 3rd in the Middle Secondary League fell to goal difference. The Semi-Finals brought more surprises, with both Year 8 Junior Secondary teams beating their Year 10 counterparts.



Walking into the St Scrosoppi Cup Final with the UEFA Champions League music playing, the stage was set for a match between Cool Kids, the previous seasons Runners Up, and Gold Jewels FC, a team who barely reached qualification in the league, coming off an upset victory against the Middle Secondary league winners.

The match was a very even battle of personalities. Finn Melville, a Year 6, looked for 2 goals to reach the title of top scorer – and the first to ever do so as a primary student. William Schaefer-Steel, a new student at the school, had the willpower to lead his team to break Cool Kids' undefeated streak in the ultimate way.

In the final moments of

the match, a cross from William Schaefer-Steel lobbed over to Kody Dougherty, who launched it into the bottom corner of the net. Defending their precarious 1-0 lead for the final two minutes, Gold Jewels FC immortalised their team as victors of the 2023 St Scrosoppi Cup.

Congratulations to Andrew Bree for winning the Top Scorer award (received by Ethan Fisher due to absence) and Lucca Randello for winning the Sadio Mané award, given for sportsmanship throughout the league and cup.



Following the finals, the champion team had the chance to beat the teacher's team of Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Goring and Mr. Lubeck. Unfortunately, Gold Jewels FC were overpowered in a 2-0 defeat to the teachers, who remain undefeated.



Massive thank you to all involved behind the scenes – Daphne Warburton and Luca Kecskes as photographers, Ned Butler, Hamish Melville and Harry Homewood as referees, and all teachers, staff, and parents for their support.

Mr Andrew Lloyd

Parents & Friend Association

The Second-Hand Uniform Shop

We are very low on summer dresses in the uniform shop. If any families have students that have outgrown their uniform, could you please consider dropping it off to the school. It would be very much appreciated.

SECOND
HAND

Christmas Gift Wrapping Fundraiser



Location: St Mary's Parish Hall

Time: Drop off **Monday 11th December** from **8.30am**. Pick up same day from the Parish Hall *(if P&F are overwhelmed presents will be ready Tuesday or Wednesday for pick up)*.

Cost: Starting **from \$2**. Costs will vary depending on the number of gifts, and size. Includes labelling (ribbon extra \$1).

Drop off your gifts and pick them up wrapped and labelled

Steph (0407 514 249)
P & F Family Liaison



Science 'Headstart'

What a great Headstart week we have had in Science. Our year 7's have stepped up this week and put their knowledge of forces, energy and simple machines into practice designing catapults. Congratulations Edenrose and Evie for launching their projectile over 7m!



The new Year 9 cohort extended their knowledge of light and body systems through their study of the eye. The dissection of an eyeball was a highlight, especially seeing the pearlescent tapetum and seeing newspaper print through the lens.

The Year 10's are preparing for future studies in evolution and climate change by exploring plate tectonics and the Gondwana supercontinent.

Our new Year 11 scientists are honing their scientific investigation and report writing skills in preparation for their VCE studies next year. What a great end to a year of science!

Rebecca Scollen

St John's First Aid in Schools program

On 14th November, the Primary students had St. John Ambulance attend school to run their free First Aid in Schools program. The program provides age-appropriate delivery of the **DRSABCD** action plan.

Through a storybook & song, the **Foundation, Year one & Year two** first aiders learnt how Johnny Bear identifies an emergency, puts the DANGER, RESPONSE and SEND FOR HELP strategy into action and helps call 000.

Following on from the Foundation – Grade 2 modules, **year three & four** first aiders revised '**DRS**' - which involved assessing for DANGERS, obtaining a RESPONSE and SENDING FOR HELP by calling Triple Zero. Drawing on a real-life scenario, the students met 'Uncle Frank' (a mannequin) who had been cooking choc chip cookies in the kitchen before falling unconscious on the floor.



They learnt how to check & clear his AIRWAY, assess his BREATHING and how and when to place a patient into the recovery position. Students were able to apply the knowledge they had learnt through an interactive game based on the **DRSAB** action plan.

The **year five & six** first aiders also met 'Uncle Frank' and explored the action plan. After first assessing DANGER & RESPONSE, SENDING FOR HELP by calling 000, checking Frank's AIRWAY & BREATHING, the students incorporated a practical component learning how to perform CPR and when it is required in a First Aid situation competently completing the **DRABC** action plan.



Students also participated in group problem-solving scenarios based on a variety of first aid situations allowing them to apply their knowledge.

The students were super keen and great representatives of St. Mary's College. Nurse Lisa & I will have lots of helpers to call on when we need first aid support!

Special thanks to **St. John Ambulance** who provide the training free of charge to primary school students.



Katherine Treble, College Nurse

St Mary's College

90 High Street, Seymour
PO Box 269, Seymour Vic 3661
T (03) 5792 2611

Office Hours 8:15am-4:30pm

St Mary's Parish Seymour - St Joseph's Tallarook

Parish Priest: Father Eugene Ashkar
T (03) 9412 8406 / 0455 123 509

Mass Times: St Mary's - SAT 6pm, SUN 10am
St Joseph's - SUN 8.30am

Dates To Remember

TERM 4	
Fri 1 st Dec	Year 3 Incursion - Billy Cart making/orienteering
Mon 4 th Dec	Yr 5/6 Excursion – Old Melbourne Gaol Yr 4 Excursion – Puffing Billy -STEM Activity F-2 Incursion - The Chocolate Shop (All Day)
Thurs 7 th Dec	Yr 2 After School Sleepover – Andy's Antics
Fri 8 th Dec	College Liturgy (10:30am) End of Year Awards Ceremony (11.25am) Year 7-9 – End of School Year (3.15pm)
Mon 11 th Dec	F-6 Christmas Concert (11:30am) Whole School Concert
Tues 12 th Dec	Statewide Orientation Day F-6 & Year 7 (Whole Day)
Wed 13 th Dec	College Choir visit to Barrabill House (1:00pm- 2:00 pm)
Fri 15 th Dec	F-6 – End of School Year (3.15pm)
Wed 20 th Dec	Staff – End of School Year
Term 1, 2024	
Tues 23 rd Jan	Office Re-opens
Mon 29 th Jan	Staff Return
Tues 30 th Jan	Term 1 Commences for Foundation, Year 7 & Year 11
Wed 31 st Jan	Term 1 Commences for Year 1-6 & Year 8-10





FREE COMMUNITY FOOD SHARE SEYMOUR

Leave what you can, take what you need.

Come in for a cuppa and a chat, free takeaway non-perishable hampers will be available and some items for the furry family members. Look forward to seeing you soon.

Monthly Food Share is available on the first Thursday of the month.
10am to 3pm @
The Centre - 3 Wallis St Seymour
(next to Vinnies)

For more information call in and see us at The Centre - Seymour
1300 843 236

The Centre your Community College

AIR FORCE CADETS

The Air Force Cadets are now RECRUITING!

FROM 01 OCTOBER 2023
TO 31 MARCH 2024

APPLY ONLINE

airforcecadets.gov.au

@airforcecadets

The Australian Air Force Cadets No. 419 Squadron in Shepparton are now recruiting for their 2024 intake. There will be a recruit information evening in Shepparton on the 9th Feb 2024.

If you're between 12 - 15 (must be in high school and turning 13 in 2024) and have an interest in aviation, drones, STEM, leadership and personal development, fieldcraft, a career in the Australian Defence Force, or just want to make new friends, we're keen to have you join our ranks. You'll learn many new skills and have a lot of fun along the way.

We are sponsored by the Royal Australian Air Force and you will have the opportunity to fly and visit Defence Bases in Victoria, and so much more

To register to attend the information evening or for more information email:

co.419sqn@airforcecadets.gov.au

Expressions of interest to join can be completed at:

www.airforcecadets.gov.au/how-to-join



Free Santa Photos
Seymour Recovery Hub



The Community Recovery Committee invites you to visit Santa at the Seymour Recovery Hub on Tuesday 12 December.

Come along between 2pm and 5pm to have your free picture taken with Santa.

Each participant will receive a free 4" x 6" print on the day.

For more information please contact Mitchell Shire Council on 5734 6200.

Address: 2-4 Guild Street, Seymour

Contact us
t. (03) 5734 6200 e. mitchell@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au
www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

