Welcome to 2017.
Respect, Excellence, Community

Community
Ryan Kell – congratulations Ryan, recognized on Australia Day as Northern Grampians Shire youth of the year. Ryan is an excellent citizen of this school and is involved in the YAC (youth action council) of the shire. Well done Ryan!
The Australia Day ceremony at the Lake where Ryan was publicly acknowledged also celebrated Mr and Mrs Thornton for their broad range of community engagement and as many will know they have been outstanding mentors through the Stawell College Presentation Balls over many years. Congratulations, Neil and Sheila!

Excellence
A number of new staff have been appointed to the College and over the next few issues of Connections they will be introduced to our community. I am confident that students and parents will see the excellence in these new appointments to our school.
In 2017, the College has created a year 7 hub which will drive excellence in the introduction of year 7 students to secondary school. Lockers are based in the hub and as many classes as possible are also scheduled there making transition much easier without compromising access to specialist facilities or the wider school community.
The year 7 hub may be directly accessed from Hastings or Patrick streets and through the school ground. With year 7 students the problems of using the carpark as a drop off point have been discussed, as one student said “things could go boom” when cars are coming in and out of the same gate. For safety’s sake, please do not use the car park as a drive through drop off point.

Respect
How do we know that a community respects its school? The clearest possible indication is that the community sends its children to the school. Children and adolescents are the most precious resource of a community and it is just a matter of fact that 2017 enrolments at 449 are significantly increased over 2016 levels. Strong enrolments provide a strong base for the employment of new staff to deliver programs and the improvement of facilities.
This community can look forward to great things from the students and staff of Stawell Secondary College in 2017.

Nick Lynch.
**CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE 2017**

A conveyance allowance may be paid to parents who drive their children more than 4.8km to the nearest pick up point of a free country bus service or their nearest school, where no bus service is available.

**Families who currently claim a conveyance allowance with Stawell Secondary College** **DO need to** lodge a new application.

Students who are attending Stawell Secondary College for the first time must meet the following guidelines. To be eligible for the Conveyance Allowance students must be:

1. Attending their nearest Government school.
2. Living further than 4.8km from either the school or the nearest pick up point of a free country bus.

Please contact the school office for an application form.

All eligible families must complete and return the form to the school by 24 February 2017.

If you require further information in regards to this, or any bus service matter, please contact Mrs Marie McAloon at the college.

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**CSEF APPLICATIONS**

A CSEF flyer has been issued in today's newsletter for important Financial Assistance Information to parents. These forms need to be back by 24 February 2017.

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**ALL YEAR 12 Students and Parents.**

Please remember to return the yr. 12 Study Camp forms ASAP!!!

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**Stawell Leisure Complex is Seeking further enrolments for Term 1 Programs.**

**Basketball:**
Monday U/15 & U/18 Boys
Tuesday U/12 Mixed & U/16 Girls

**Soccer:**
Wednesday U/9, U/12 & U/16 Mixed
All Enquires to 53580550

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**Year 7 Uniform Pack...**

In 2017 every year 7 government school student who was a recipient of CSEF in 2016 automatically qualifies to receive a uniform pack that is provided through State Schools’ Relief. If your child was a CSEF recipient in 2016 you can apply for a CSEF year 7 Uniform Pack by contacting Stawell Secondary College and completing the order form.

You can call the General Office for more info on 53581700.

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The Book of the Week is:
"Lion : A Long Way Home" by Saroo Brierley.

Can you imagine being lost and not finding your home again?

Saroo Brierley became lost on a train in India at the age of five. Not knowing the name of his family or where he was from, he survived for weeks on the streets of Kolkata, before being taken into an orphanage and adopted by a family in Australia.

Despite being happy in his new home, Saroo always wondered about his origins. He spent hours staring at the map of India on his bedroom wall. He pored over satellite images on Google Earth seeking out landmarks he recognised. And one day, after years of searching, he miraculously found what he was looking for.

Then he set off on a journey back to India to see if he could find his mother.

This inspirational true story of survival and triumph against incredible odds is now a major picture starring Dev Patel, David Wenham and Nicole Kidman.
IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Thursday 2 Feb  
Yr. 8, 9 & 10 Students start school.

Wednesday 8 Feb  
Yr. 12 Camp—MFS (8—10 Feb)

Thursday 23 Feb  
Swimming Sports

Thursday 23 Feb  
Music Camp—Mrs Hemley

Tuesday 7 March  
VCE Physics Excursion—ABT

Monday 13 March  
LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY

Friday 31 March  
Last Day of Term 1 2017

Please Note:
Parents and students are reminded that students should not be dropped off/picked up inside the staff car park on Hastings Street. (See Map below)
Please drive safe and encourage your family to act safely around cars.

THANK YOU.

The College would like to thank all who contributed to our end of year presentation evening.
A special thankyou to our major sponsors for the evening were the Marnoo Masonic Lodge and Stawell Rotary Club.

We would also like to thank the following for their sponsorship:
The Majorie East & Morrie Robson Memorial Award for the Most Outstanding Music Student, donated by their family in memory of their parents.
The William Est Encouragement Award.
Swan Hill Bus Lines. Stawell Regional Health.
ADF Long Tan Leadership & Teamwork Award.
CFMEU Year 11 Encouragement Award.
Lions Club. Federation University.
Ballarat Books Crowe Horwath,
David O Jones, Stawell Auto Wreckers,
Northern Grampians Shire, Stawell Toyota & KIA,
J.R.’s Hire N Drive Bus Hire, Stawell Gold Mine,
Stawell Lotto & Books, Frewstal,
Wimmera Office Equipment, CGLLEN—Grampians & Pyrenees Cluster.
Sean Logan
(2016 graduate)

Has his Year 12 Studio Arts work in this exhibition.

Well Done!

Bright Lite is an independent magazine created for girls up to 14. Every issue strives to give young girls a place to express their experiences and reflections on a central theme. So far, themes have included Animals, Outer Space and Museums and the next issue is Sports! The magazine is made up of a collection of submissions from girls all over the world, including photos, interviews, articles, recipes, crafts, journals, music and advice curated just for them. The first three copies are available in the Library for you to borrow. If you would also like to contribute to Bright Lite magazine, go to www.brightlitemag.com and submit any and all creations you can think of contributing to the next and/or future magazine themes.

There is a gift for the first six SSC girls to submit work to the magazine, which includes stickers and badges. Bring your submission with you to see Miss Francis and collect your gift!

From Stawell Secondary College Staff we wish each and everyone of you a Happy and successful 2017!

The office staff require either a note or a phone call if you wish your child to leave the school grounds during school hours. They can not leave without one of these!