

RESPECT
INCLUSION
ASPIRATION
RESILIENCE
PARTICIPATION

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Principal's Communication 22 April 2024

Welcome back to all students and families from our Easter break. Term 2 is a long term with eleven weeks. It will be a busy term with the House Athletic and Cross Country early in the term. The Year 12 VCE cohort will be particularly busy completing Unit 3 work, undertaking the GAT and completing Year 12 Practice Exams. Year 11 students will be looking forward to their Melbourne camp late in May and the junior school have several sporting events available for their participation.

The college was active during the Easter break in relation to the recruitment of staff. Mr Akhter Hosain resigned at the end of Term 1, creating a need for a Maths teacher. Fortunately, we were able to employ Mr Aftab Chowdhury, who had previously taught at the College during 2022. In addition, we welcome Mr Yannik Koop for three days a week to support our Physical Education and Humanities classes. Mr Paul Gower, a longtime employee in the ICT department, announced his retirement at the end of Term 1. We were fortunate to be able to work with Skill Invest who were able to provide Logan Dean with the opportunity to join the ICT Department as a Trainee IT Assistant. Logan commenced with us late in Term 1. We also welcome Natalie Byron, who has been appointed to the office position, replacing Catherine McDermott while she is on Long Service leave. Natalie will start with us on Tuesday 23rd April.

Unfortunately, the holiday period has provided time for some data analysis which has raised a concern that needs parent and student support. Our data is indicating an above average absence rate of many of our students. Parents are reminded that the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 - School Education states the following:

2.1.1 Attendance at school.

It is the duty of the parent of a child of not less than 6 nor more than 17 years of age—

- (a) to enroll the child at a registered school and to ensure the child attends the school at all times when the school is open for the child's instruction.

Thank you to parents and students who attended our Parent/Student/Teacher interviews during the last week of Term 1. It was great to see so many families booking appointments, in particular our new Year 7 cohort. The feedback to both teachers and students is extremely beneficial to our students' learning.

We will open our College to all Year 5 & 6 students and parents from our community on Wednesday 1st May. Our Open Evening commences at 7.00pm and will conclude around 8.30pm. Families are provided with a short address from the Principal, a video providing a snapshot of a day in the life of a Year 7 student and a guided tour including complimentary coffee/hot drink to cap off a great night. I encourage all families to come along and see firsthand what our College can offer.

We have been fortunate to be offered a whole staff Professional Development opportunity on Tuesday May 7 in Horsesham through the West Grampians Network. The PD is anchored by Adam Voight, who is highly respected worldwide around Student Engagement. With classroom student engagement a key focus in the immediate future, it will be important for our staff to attend this Professional Development opportunity. I will be seeking school council approval next week for this to be designated as one of our student free days. (Note - link to the Adam Voigt information. <https://adamvoigt.com.au/blog/>; Adam Voigt Real Schools program. <https://realschools.com.au/>)

The Stawell Secondary College Presentation Ball, held on Saturday 16th March, was a wonderful night of celebration for our young adults and families. A big congratulations to Lisa Mellor, Susan Harrison and their helpers for making the night possible. Our students completed their presentation with poise and grace, a result of their hard work and dedicated trainer, Linda Grigg. The highlight of the night was their final presentation dance, which was a stunning presentation, one of the best I have seen.

On Friday, April 19, I escorted a large group of company representatives who have indicated their interest in tendering for our long-awaited building project. Supported by representatives from the Victorian Schools Building Authority, the group inspected the site and plans to gain an understanding of the work involved. The VSBA is confident that an appropriate company will be identified in the coming weeks and our project will commence around July. We are not holding our breath based on previous experience.

Murray Hart
Principal

Stawell Secondary College's child safety and wellbeing policies and practices can be found on our school website: www.stawellsc.vic.edu.au. We welcome comments and feedback on these from our school community at any time. Feedback can be made to Murray Hart on 5358 1700.

STAWELL SECONDARY COLLEGE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Results:

1st Lonsdale
2nd Black Range
3rd Mckenzie



Lonsdale's huge levels of participation were key in their victory over the other houses. There was hardly an event that didn't have at least two or more of their participants throughout the day. Well done on an awesome win and in demonstrating our school value

A big round of applause to the students of Stawell Secondary College for their exceptional performance at the House Athletics Carnival! Despite the day starting off with a light drizzle, the weather quickly improved, providing a beautiful backdrop for the event at North Park. It was wonderful to witness our students enthusiastically participating in new events and enjoying themselves throughout the day. S.S.C. expresses gratitude to the parents who attended and cheered on our students. Special contributions of all the volunteers on the day, including parents, students, and teachers, were crucial in ensuring the smooth running of the event. Their dedication and assistance were instrumental in making the day a success. Thank you to everyone involved for making the House Athletics Carnival a memorable and enjoyable experience!

AGE GROUP CHAMPIONS

12-13 YEARS: Xyrus Gragasin & Lylah Slorach

14 YEARS: Rrez Campbell-Huruglica & Shayla Madin

15 YEARS: Jack Reading & Sienna Santuccione

16 YEARS: Nate Lyons & Alana Graveson

17 YEARS: Seth Manns & Tayla Field

OPEN: Cooper Mcdougal & Makala Basset



Swimming Age Group Champions

We would like to present the Aged Group Champions for our 2024 Swimming Carnival.

2024 SSC Swimming Champions are:

- 12 – 13 years Girls Champion is **Emmy Brunt**
- 12 – 13 years Boys Champion is **Maiken Miller-Mckitterick**
- 14 years Girls Champion is **Olivia Hunter**
- 14 years Boys Champion is **Rrez Campbell-Huruglica**
- 15 years Girls Champion is **Amelia Martin**
- 15 years Boys Champion is **Kade Thomas**
- 16 years Girls Champion is **Lana Harrison**
- 16 years Boys Champion is **Nate Lyons**
- 17 years Girls Champion is **Tanisha Campbell-Huruglica**
- 17 years Boys Champion is **Kai Knight**
- 18+ years Girls Champion is **Tanesha Knight**
- 18+ years Boys Champion is **Billy Williams**



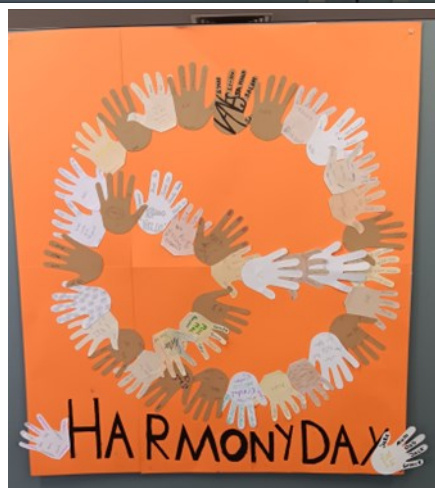
We would like to congratulate Stawell Secondary College's Swimming aged group champions.



Harmony Day 2024

On Thursday 21st March Stawell Secondary College recognised Harmony Day. Harmony Day is a celebration of our cultural diversity, a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home. Homegroups were asked to write on cut out hands. Students were asked to write their names and the names of friends and family onto the fingers and then write hello from a different country on the palm of the hand. The Student Leadership Team then made the hands into two displays. A big thank you to D'Art Walls and Lewis Reading who used some of their spare periods to make the display, the students from the Student Leadership Team who came out of classes to make the display, Catherine Monument for providing all of the materials and to Christine Powell for helping too. These posters will be put on display around the school. The pictures don't show how big the posters actually are. We are really proud of the staff and students for getting behind this.

Mrs Prior



IMPORTANT DIARY DATES 2024

25/4/24—ANZAC Day Public Holiday
30/4/24—House Cross Country Carnival
1/5/24—2025 Year 7 Open Evening
21/5/24—School Photos



WIN \$5,000 FOR YOUR NOMINATED CLUB, SCHOOL OR CHARITY

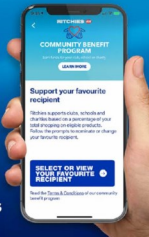
**REGISTERED MEMBERS WHO SHOP
AT RITCHIES GO INTO THE DRAW
TO WIN THEIR NOMINATED CLUB,
SCHOOL OR CHARITY \$5000!**

**PLUS! Any Ritchies Member who scans their
app or card will go into the draw to win
1 of 5 \$1,000 Ritchies Gift Cards!**

First drawn out wins their nominated organisation \$5,000.

Terms and conditions apply. Go to ritchies.com.au for full details. There is also \$5,000 Ritchies Gift Card for one lucky club, school or charity. Maximum 5 x \$1000 Ritchies Gift Cards to the winner. Registered Ritchies Card members who select a club, school or charity. Promotion starts 1/1/24 and ends 28/12/24. Maximum spend of \$10 on one transaction and excluding cigarettes & tobacco products, gift cards, electronic exchange and items marked reduced by clear.

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\$5.3 Million**
Given back to the community
since 1993

CELEBRATING 30 Years OF COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Senior Lawn Bowls

On the 26th March, we attended Ararat Bowls Club to complete in the Senior School Greater Western Region Lawn Bowls. Stawell Secondary College took 2 teams to compete against schools from the area. Larni, Tayla, Tegan, Lewis, Hollie and D'Artagnan took to the green to display their skills. They had spent some mornings leading up to the competition practicing and refining their skills. The students had a wonderful day and represented the College extremely well. They were able to win a number of ends and displayed some great bowling. It was a great day and our senior school students did us proud!

Furniture donations wanted

Stawell Secondary College have been lucky to have two new Chinese Language Assistants start with us this term and will be with us for 12 months. We are wondering if any of our families have a small dining table or couch that they could donate.

If you can help, please contact the General Office.

Book of the Week

The Wartime Book Club
Author: Kate Thompson

Jersey, 1943

Once a warm and neighbourly community, now German soldiers patrol the cobbled streets of the island, imposing a harsh rule. Grace La Mottée, the island's only librarian, is ordered to destroy books which threaten the new regime.

But instead, Grace hides the stories away in secret. Along with her headstrong best friend, postwoman Bea Rose, she wants to fight back. So she forms the wartime book club: a lifeline, offering fearful islanders the joy and escapism of reading.

But as the occupation drags on, the women's quiet acts of bravery become more perilous – and more important – than ever before. And, when tensions turn to violence, they are forced to face the true, terrible cost of resistance...

