

Volume 34 Number 6

3/5/2024

### ***Principal's Communication 3 May 2024***

The school has settled in well following the Easter break. Our new staff have quickly acclimatised and made positive progress towards getting to know the students and staff and the operations of the school. We welcome Logan Dean, our new IT Trainee who has come to us through the Skill Invest program. Logan has made an early impact on the school with his support for the students and initiatives in the IT services.

At last month's meeting, the School Council approved the change in student free days to provide the opportunity for all teaching staff and education support staff, with a student engagement responsibility, to attend a Professional Development in Horsham on Tuesday 7th May. Parents should note that the school shall be closed on this day. The Professional Development Day will focus on "Improving Outcomes through student engagement" with Adam Voight the key presenter. Adam is world renown and has a history of transforming student lives and teacher practice by fostering school cultures that are strong, relational, and hallmarked by stakeholder trust. Adam is a fearless advocate for educators, an expert on Restorative Practices implementation, and highly respected as a school and education commentator in the Australian media. But more than any of this, Adam believes unconditionally in unleashing the potential of every student, parent, teacher, and school leader to create a better future through education. This is a great opportunity for our school staff to continue to build on their abilities to engage students in their education.

Our School Council also discussed the new building program, which is still currently in the tender process, and the preparation requirements of the school. It was determined that we would need several working bees to prepare storage areas for both our reusable and unwanted furniture and items. Families will be advised of these working bee dates soon and any support would be greatly appreciated.

The annual "Student Attitude to School Survey" will be provided for all students over the coming weeks. This survey, which is completed online, and it is totally anonymous, provides vital feedback for our school improvement journey. In recent days I have been seeking feedback from the students on their preferred format of completing the survey. The feedback suggests that most would prefer to complete the survey collectively as a year level group within a familiar classroom setting. Parents will receive survey information along with other important information in a mail out in the coming weeks.

Our school captains were busy last Thursday during the ANZAC Day holiday. Lewis, Kayla, and I attended the 6.00am and the 11.00am community ANZAC Day services. Together, they laid the wreath and shared the acknowledgement of those who lost their lives in all wars protecting Australia and New Zealand.



Lewis and Kayla then conducted our own ANZAC Day service at school on Friday. Our service was held at the front of the Administration building with all staff and students in attendance. Lewis and Kayla provided the narrative around the ANZAC tradition and Ms Prior, Gwen Elliot & Cheyenne Digney laid the wreath and raised the flags during the ode, last post, rouse, and national anthem.

The House Cross Country on Tuesday was a great afternoon with fun, socialisation, and hard running. With a high participation rate, the competition was keen, but it was Lonsdale who captured the win. This makes it a clean sweep for Lonsdale, winning all three Carnivals. Well done to Lonsdale House, meaning Mckenzie and Black Range Houses will need to step up in 2025 to avenge Lonsdale's dominance.

On Wednesday 1st May, we held our Open Evening for our Year 5 & 6 students and families. The night, professionally organised by Cindy Bibby, provided families with a welcome from our School Captains, a video depicting a typical day for a Year 7 student, a tour of the school facilities and curriculum areas and a complementary coffee/tea/hot chocolate and a show bag. We look forward to welcoming our Year 5 & 6 students in the coming years.

Murray Hart  
Principal

**PUPIL FREE DAY—7/5/24**  
**Staff Professional Development**

Stawell Secondary College's child safety and wellbeing policies and practices can be found on our school website: [www.stawellsc.vic.edu.au](http://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.



### Year 10 Work Experience

All Year 10 students will be on work experience the last week of Term 2: 24th -28th June - this is compulsory for all students

Students need to organise a placement and notify Cindy of this by 6th May, 2024.

### Earning while Learning

Congratulations Riley Bowen - Year 11

Riley is currently undertaking a School Based Apprenticeship in Joinery at Aspland Carpentry & Joinery in Stawell. Riley is progressing well with his on the job training and is loving his two days per week employment. Congratulations Riley – you should be very proud of yourself!

### Defying the Drift

Year 10 students interested in Agriculture Defying the Drift (is back again for 2024. This year's intensive program will be held 23-25 September at Longerenong College, near Horsham. This program is a 2 part Agricultural careers program for Year 10 and 11 students, providing them with up to date industry information, opportunities to broaden their horizons and develop networks in Ag and related fields. Each attending student is sponsored by their local Rotary Club. After the sessions at Longerenong, participants complete the program with a presentation to their sponsoring club.

**Rotary**  
District 9780

**DEFYING THE DRIFT!**

**A Rotary District 9780 program for young Australians**

**WHAT?**  
DiD is a program designed to empower young people to:  

- Identify and explore agriculture and agribusiness career opportunities
- Build communication skills
- Develop career networks

**WHO?**  
DiD is for year 10 and year 11 students

**WHY?**  
Because there are great, high paying professional, entrepreneurial and trade careers in agriculture that young people need to know about!

**WHEN?**  
Monday September 23, 2024 to  
Wednesday September 25, 2024

**WHERE?**  
Longerenong Ag College, Horsham

**HOW MUCH?**  
\$250 Early bird price - pay by July 31  
\$350 per student, sponsorship available.  
More information at [www.defyingthedrift.org](http://www.defyingthedrift.org)

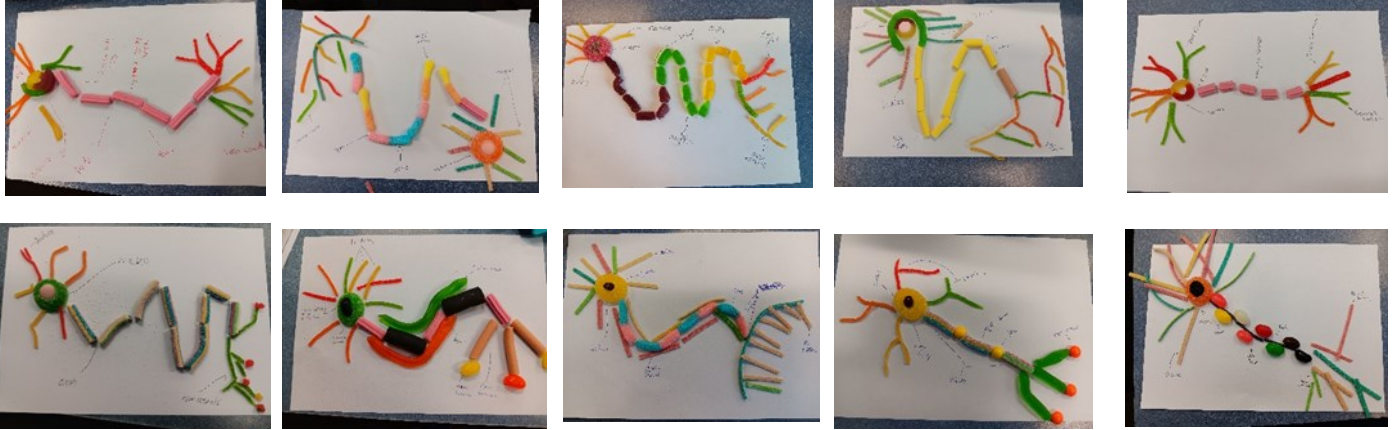
DiD starts with a 3 Day residential program at Longerenong Ag College. There will be lots of new friends to make, inspiring agriculture role models to meet, places to visit and lots of fun.  
The second part is a presentation by each participant at their sponsoring Rotary Club - a great chance to meet community leaders.



# YEAR 11 PSYCHOLOGY

Students have been learning about how our mental processes (thoughts) and behaviour (actions) are influenced by the brain. They look at the nervous system and neurons as a part of this unit. For this task students were to create an anatomically correct neuron using lollies to represent the different parts and then label it.

Mrs Prior



## Student Leadership Team

We are excited to introduce the sports trolley. This has been a long time coming as we started this project last year. All students were able to vote for the equipment that they wanted in a survey in Xuno. In the first ten minutes of lunchtime students can borrow a piece of equipment from two students from the team (we have a roster) and it is to be returned during the last ten minutes of lunchtime. There is a sign out sheet and guidelines. We hope students enjoy using the equipment and take care of it.

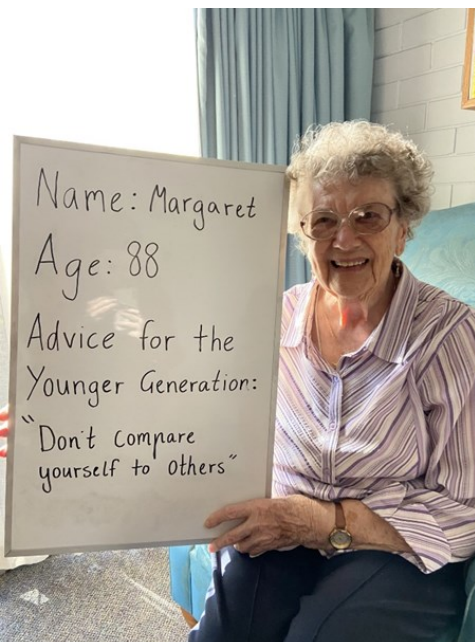
Mrs Prior and the team.



## Eventide Home Advice

Klancy Repper from our Year 12 VM class has decided for her project this year she would speak with residents at Stawell Eventide Home and ask them for

‘Advice for the younger generation’



# Lonsdale go three from three!

The School house cross-country event took place on a cold Tuesday afternoon (30<sup>th</sup> April), with students from all year levels participating. Despite the chilly weather, the atmosphere was lively and fun, with students dressed up in house colours for the event. The Year 12 students added excitement by dressing up in very amusing and creative outfits for their final school house event. Each race began with warm-up sessions getting everyone energized for the competition. Students ran the course with enthusiasm, cheered on by some parent spectators and teachers. Medals were awarded to the first-place finisher in each age group, recognizing their efforts in the race. Overall, the cross-country event was a fun and spirited day, showcasing students embodying our school values of participation and inclusion throughout. Well done to our winners of the day Lonsdale House, taking all three of our House events for the year.

## Our Age Group Winners of the Day:

- 12/13 Girls: Alyza Robinson
- 12/13 Boys: Rhenz Enriquez
- 14 Girls: Olivia Hunter
- 14 Boys: Tom Collins
- 15 Girls: Sienna Santucciono
- 15 Boys: Jack Reading
- 16 Girls: Freya Kellas
- 16 Boys: Jack Sirre
- 17 Girls: Tanesha Campbell-Huruglica
- 17 Boys: Leon Martin
- 18 Girls: Makala Basset
- 18 Boys: Billy Williams



The Top 5 for each age group have been invited to represent the school at Black Ranges Cross Country on the 9<sup>th</sup> May. Let's wish them all good luck for the day!



# Native Foods Demonstration

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April Year 9 Food Technology, Year 11 Food Studies students and the Marrung students has the pleasure of welcoming Cat Clarke into their class room, Cat Clarke is a Chef and Teacher, well known in the region for her indigenous cooking and catering. Cat bought in an array of indigenous ingredients to show the students to give them ideas on how to incorporate them in recipes and cooked several dishes for them to try. This gave the Marrung students ideas of what plants they can include in the school native garden.

During the demonstration the students helped Cat whip up some salt bush and wattle seed damper, Greek Yoghurt, strawberry gum and wattle seed gnocchi with wilted native greens and a chocolate mousse made with lemon myrtle and honey labneh, with muntries and bush mint. The students had a taste of other dishes during the lesson, lemon myrtle panna cotta and native ingredients dukkha with oil and rye bread.

Cat is a valuable resource for anyone looking to explore the world of bush foods. She spent several years in Cairns and developed a strong connection with Traditional Owners who taught her extensively about the use of bush foods in culinary practices.

The students enjoyed the few sessions with Cat especially tasting the food they helped prepare and cook. Thank you, Ms Sudholz and Tanya.



## STAWELLS BEST MULLET COMPETITION

Judging categories  
 0 - 5 years      6 - 12 years  
 13 - 17 years

Best Women      Best Man  
 Longest Mullet      Messiest Mullet  
 Most team members with a mullet  
 Sporting Team Challenge

**Great Prizes to be won!**

Judging to be held at the Stawell Show  
 26th October 2024

Enter on the day  
 \$2 - 17 & under year old  
 \$5 for Adults and \$10 for a group entry

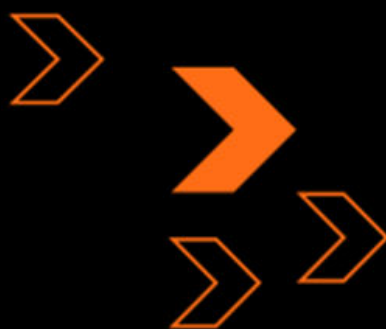
follow us on Facebook for more details



## Black Ranges Athletics

Keep an eye out in the next Connections for the results of the Black Ranges Athletics.

Congratulations to Xyrus who broke some Black Ranges records!



**29TH**

**APRIL 2024**

## **BOYS NETBALL**

On Monday, 29th April, two teams comprising students from Years 8-10 participated in the Boys Black Range Netball Competition in Horsham. The day kicked off with great enthusiasm as our two netball squads went head-to-head. Our Year 9/8 team managed to secure a victory over our Year 10 team, which included two players from different age groups. The Year 9/8 team continued their winning streak by triumphing in another match later in the day.

Hamish Morrissey was recognized as the MVP of the day for his exceptional defensive skills while playing as Goal Keeper for the team. However, the collective effort of all players, along with their dedication to practice, contributed to their success. Emmett Perry was named the MVP for the Year 10 team and ringers, showcasing remarkable versatility and determination in every position he played.



Both teams exhibited impressive raw talent and teamwork as they competed against other schools. The matches were intense and exhilarating, with players demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship and perseverance. Despite facing formidable opponents, our teams displayed resilience and a high level of spirit throughout the competition. In conclusion, it was a memorable day of netball, characterized by camaraderie and remarkable performances from all involved.

As I was too busy cheering the boys for their efforts I forgot to take photos, but I was able to snap some team bonding over KFC at the end of the day. Big Well done to all our boys!

# Vocational Major (VM) News

Wow, blink and it's Term 2. It takes time to settle into a new routine, but I think we have found our mojo.

Our Year 11 VM staff are: Literacy - Mrs. Giles, Personal Development Skills (PDS) & Work Related Skills (WRS) - Mr. Reynolds, Numeracy - Mr Bao and Megan Wright in the IVET program.

Mr. Reynolds and students have been getting fit on Boot Camp, this is part of their health and wellbeing in PDS. The students have to conduct a fitness class, so far they have been mountain bike riding, a footy clinic, walks up Big Hill and surrounding areas. Sounds exhausting. Meanwhile in Literacy and Numeracy we work on issues that are everyday relatable and enhancing student's skills to prepare them for work. WRS & IVET are helping the students become "work ready." We are continuing our wonderful relationship with Stawell Eventide Homes with the students delivering the Meals on Wheels Program.

Our Year 12 staff are Literacy & PDS - Mrs. Giles, WRS - Mr. Reynolds, Numeracy - Mr. Greenhalgh, PDS/Media—Mr Bao, IVET-Megan Wright.

Our students are out and about in the community, helping out at St Patrick's Primary School-Reading Program, The Salvation Army's Op shop, Eventide Homes and the Stawell Community Garden. Lincoln and Sonny have become a hit with several photos on the garden's social media posts. Their skills have certainly been valued and appreciated. They have designed and built a privacy screen and are currently working with others to assemble a tunnel, it looks complicated. It would seem they are well fed by the gardeners with delicious home cooked goodies. A big shout out to Kevin from Wellbeing, he has made this possible by helping the boys and I know they enjoy their morning smoko at the bakery, after they are fed at the garden.

The students are helping out within the school with their coffees and hot choccies on Mondays, preparing the food for the Breakfast program and several other projects, I will talk about this in the coming weeks. What is a big ticket item is the Digital Storytelling Project. This is in conjunction with the Northern Grampians Shire Council (NGSC) and the Digital Storytellers. A long story short; 10 of our Year 12 VM students are working with seven older community members. It is an intergenerational program, funded by the NGSC. The students are making films ( doco's) about and/or inspired by the older community member they have been paired up with. It has been amazing to watch the positive impact this is having on both young and older participants. There is much to look forward to about this project and a big event is coming where the students films will be premiered.

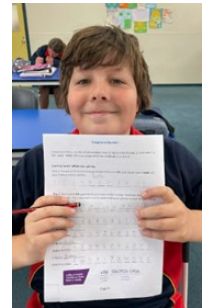
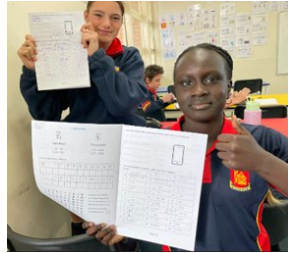
Finally, both the Year 11 & 12's continue to work on Wednesdays and now Thursdays at their VET programs and School Based Apprenticeship's. Cindy Bibby supports the students and is in charge of these programs.

Thanks,  
Helen Giles  
VM Co-ordinator



# Chinese Program Report

Year 7 students have thoroughly enjoyed learning numbers with Mr. Bao.



Year 9 & 10 Chinese classes have been engaging in a variety of activities to "connect to our previous learning." Two of the simple activities included a Blooket game and a memory card game, allowing students to revisit vocabulary from previous lessons to enhance their memory and deepen their understanding of the language.



Our Chinese Dancing Club students performed a beautiful dance titled "Jasmine Flower" during Harmony Week at the Stawell Library last term.

Lastly, the Education Perfect World Championships will commence on 7<sup>th</sup> May, next Tuesday. This is a worldwide event, and we would like to encourage all Chinese language students to participate! In 2023, our students achieved outstanding results. Stawell Secondary College ranked **SECOND** for Chinese language in the 101-250 students' category (by users) out of 188 schools, and **FOURTEENTH** overall in Chinese language out of 1,107 schools globally! This year, we aim to surpass our previous achievements!

**Learn. Compete. Experience. Win. Let the Championships begin!**





# Road to Zero Melbourne Excursion

We started the day off bright and early at 7:15 am at the school bus shelter. Quickly getting driven down to Wendouree by the main-ster himself to catch a 9:16 am train. After the 3.5 hour total journey we finally arrived at the blessed place: Melbourne centre. Where we spent a very quick hour 'killing time'. After everyone was fed with wallets empty we finally got some work done at the Melbourne Museum at the Road to Zero Exhibition with our friends from Ararat College and Miss Jewell! We were greeted and shown a presentation on road safety and the Ottawa charter which is what the Health and Human Development (HHD) class is focusing on in class at the moment. Before we left we were introduced to videos, questions and activities within 3 workshops to help better our understanding of the topic, road safety and how it all interrelates with the HHD study design. And just like that we were headed back via tram, feet (crutches), train and finally bus until we arrived back at Stawell. It was a good day out with friends in Melbourne.

Solid 9.9/10. Big thanks to Mr Jordan Main and Mrs Heidi Lang for taking us and bringing us home.

Year 12 HHD 2024.



You throw away my outside,  
eat my inside,  
then throw away the inside.

**What am I?**

**What has 13 hearts,  
but no lungs or stomach?**

## **IMPORTANT DIARY DATES 2024**

7/5/24—Pupil Free Day - Staff Professional Development

17/5/24—18/5/24—Hanyuqiao Competition

21/5/24—School Photos

28/5/24—Student Leadership MS Fundraiser Day

29/5/24—Year 7 & 10 Immunisations

7/6/24—Year 7 Humanities & Chinese joint excursion



## Senior School Study Tip

### **Pomodoro Technique**

Decide on the task to be done.

Set a timer to 25 minutes

Work on the task until timer finishes.

Take a 5 minute break.

Repeat 4 Times

Take a 15 – 30 minute break.

### **Why does this work:**

The average student's attention span only lasts 25 – 30 minutes  
Conditioning – reward yourself with a 5 minute break do something enjoyable in this time

After repeating this 4 times a longer break allows the mind and body to reset.

### **Book of the Week**

Wish Of The Wicked

Author: Danielle Paige

Everyone knows that a fairy godmother helped Cinderella get to the ball. But no one knows why. Until now.....

For centuries, the enchanted members of the Entente used their magic to keep the Thirteen Queendoms in harmony. Until the day when Queen Magrit outlawed magic, executed the Entente and plunged the Queendoms into war.

Only one Entente survives. Alone and magicless, Farrow dreams of nothing but revenge. And the best way to reach the queen is through her son, Prince Mather, who is nearing the age when he will need a bride. All it will take is a young woman named Cinderella, who dreams of true love.

Farrow has one chance to destroy the queen and reclaim her magic, and she will stop at nothing. But she will have to question what – and, more importantly, who – she is willing to sacrifice.

