

# CONNECTIONS

[ PO Box 202 ] 79-97 Patrick Street, Stawell, Victoria 3380

T (03) 5358 1700 | F (03) 5358 3096

E [stawell.sc@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:stawell.sc@education.vic.gov.au) | W [stawellsc.vic.edu.au](http://stawellsc.vic.edu.au)

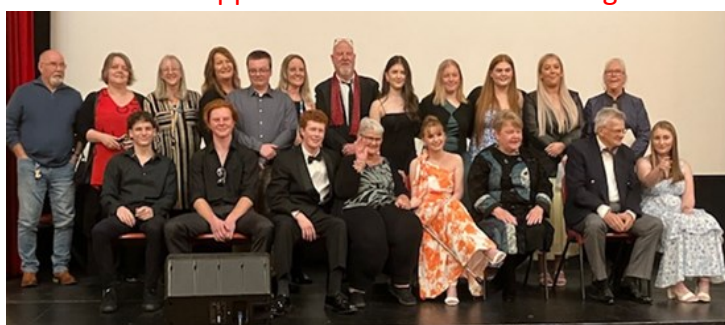
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## Parent/Carer/Family Invite to "Talking About Your Generation"

On Monday 14 October, at 1.30pm in the Stawell Secondary College Assembly Hall, there will be a screening of "Talking About Your Generation"- a collection of intergenerational documentaries created by students from St Arnaud and Stawell Secondary College, in partnership with local community members and the Northern Grampians Shire Council Thrive 50+ Healthy Ageing Hubs. This work explores a variety of themes in our communities and supports connection across the generations.

Any parent/carers/family member wishing to attend are requested to RSVP to 5358 1700 by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024.



## SCHOOL SAVING BONUS

In Term 4, 2024, families with a child enrolled in a government school from Prep to Year 12 in 2025 will receive the one-off \$400 School Saving Bonus.

The \$400 School Saving Bonus provides families with support for education-related costs, such as school activities and/or school uniforms and textbooks.

The School Saving Bonus is not available for full-fee international students, home schooled students, TAFE students and students attending kindergarten in 2025.

### URGENT Actions for parents and carers

Before 18 October 2024, the Department of Education is asking parents and carers to:

- **Complete enrolment:** If your child, or children are changing government school for Term 1 2025, or starting Prep or Year 7 in 2025. For more information.
- **Check your contact information:** Ensure your email address and phone number is up to date with us. You can check this information by contacting us directly.

We need to ensure your contact information is up to date as the Department of Education will email you twice:

- in October, to verify your email address
- in November, with your \$400 School Saving Bonus and access to an online system.

Please check your junk mail regularly to make sure you do not miss an important email.

To learn more about the School Saving Bonus, please see the flyer at the end of Connections.

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.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM WRAP UP AROUND THE SCHOOL

In Year 7 Science, we've learned about the phases of the moon and the solar system, and recently completed an assessment on these topics. In Food Tech, we earned our oven licenses and made a salad roll as our first meal, with plans to make a homemade burger next week. In Chinese class, we're studying days of the week and other dates. Some Year 9 Chinese students recently participated in a two-week online class called VYLC, which enhanced Chinese language skills and deepened our understanding of Chinese culture. In Year 11 English, we've been studying *Breath* by Tim Winton, a novel about boys growing into men, surfing, and risk-taking, and we just finished our SAC, where we wrote a TEEL (Topic, Evidence, Explain, Link) essay on the text.

In Year 8 Chinese, students are learning how to order food and say "please" in Mandarin. In Year 8 Metalwork, students are in the final stages of making dog tags. In Year 8 English, the class is reading *Holes* by Louis Sachar and comparing it with its 2003 film adaptation. In Year 10 Sport Education, students are practicing their coaching skills and lesson planning by working with Year 7 students. Year 12 Vocational Major students are designing leaver jumpers for their peers. Year 12 Psychology students are conducting a recall experiment with participants ranging from Year 7 to Year 12 to study memory and recall.

### Lewis' Lunchies:

From the canteen, I recommend the pizza pie, I rate it 8/10.

### Kayla's Riddles:

I have cities, but no houses. I have mountains, but no trees. I have water, but no fish. What am I?

Answer: A map

I am an odd number. Take away a letter and I become even. What number am I?

## Multicultural Workshop and music Event

Saturday  
14 September  
From 2.30pm-7pm  
Stawell Town Hall

A Melbourne-based famous Multicultural Band

**Yusupha Ngum and The Affia Band**

My Mentor National Tour

a collective that celebrates the fusion of **Afro, Australian, Asian and European musical traditions**

### An immersive experience of:

culture and sounds of world jazz fusion, folk music, ska, mbalax, rap and Afro-fusion music all in one place

**Don't miss this opportunity to connect with music, culture and creativity!**



### WHAT TO EXPECT

#### Workshop starts at 3pm

The band will assist in facilitating a hands-on workshop, providing participants with a rich, immersive musical experience.

#### Open session starts at 4pm

Practice session with the band

#### Live performance starts at 6pm

A unique opportunity to perform or dance alongside the band.

**Please, RSVP**

by 12/09/24 to:

grampianmulticulturalhub@gmail.com

Advertised by:

Grampians  
Multicultural  
**HUB**

## Homelessness Day Fundraiser



**When:** Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**What:** Wear pyjama's and/or funky socks  
(Gold coin donation)

**BBQ Lunch:** Sausages \$3.00 each

**Donations:** We are asking all families to donate either a non-perishable food item (Not Out of Date) or personal hygiene products in homegroup that day.

The donations and money are all going to "The Cottage" in Stawell. The cottage provides emergency relief assistance to those in need in Stawell and the region, including immediate basic needs in times of financial crisis whilst maintaining the dignity of those who seek help.

**Note:** The sport house that donates the most non-perishable foods and personal hygiene products will get gold in our values Olympics.

Brought to you by the Student Leadership Team 2024.





## Build your own Business Local Excursion Year 10 Extension Commerce



The Year 10 students are currently designing their own businesses suited to the local area. Because these businesses would be established in Stawell, the students needed to know what they were up against.

That's why we ventured up the street to conduct in the field research on these competing local businesses. Looking at the businesses, students had to decide if they were competition for their ideas and square them up accordingly.

Along the way students got the opportunity to stop into Waacks bakery for lunch – the sausage rolls were an absolute hit!

## Stawell Secondary College School Bus



On Thursday afternoon Stawell Secondary College were delivered the keys to our new 25 seater school bus by the team at Wilson Bolton, Horsham. The bus was purchased with a grant that Cindy Bibby helped facilitate. The bus will be used for our VET Agriculture program that will commence in 2025. A big thank you to Marie McAloon for all her hard work behind the scenes. The bus will be an amazing asset for the school.

### Laptops for Students - 2025

Students who entered into the Year 7 Laptop program at the start of Year 7 in 2022 are reminded that parents and students may consider replacing this device for 2025.

Devices that are three years old can start to struggle to run the latest software required for many advanced senior classes.

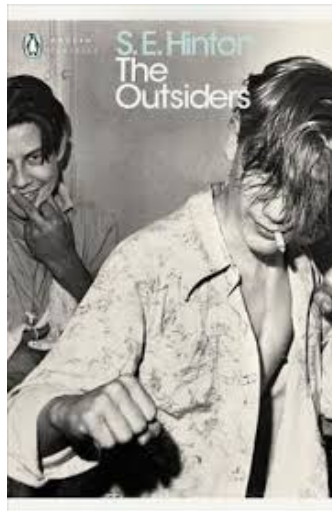
Parents may purchase a laptop from our preferred supplier 'Learning With Technologies'. The advantage of this is that the laptop has onsite repairs at Stawell Secondary College for all warranty and insurance issues.

Laptops purchased before December will have delivery for mid-January (stock pending) the following year ready for the commencement of Term 1, 2025. Families are welcome to commence the purchase of a new device whenever it is suitable.

Please check the Learning With Technologies to see what devices are recommended for our students.

Portal: <http://stawellsc.orderportal.com.au/>

# YEAR 10 ENGLISH



Students have just finished studying the film "Freedom Writers" and completing their assessment task, which was a creative text response. They had to demonstrate their knowledge of the original plot and add a creative aspect in their writing too. Now, the students are reading a classic "The Outsiders". The characters have interesting names: Ponyboy, Darry and Sodopop, just to name a few. It was set in the 1960's in America. Each of the 12 chapters do not have titles so the students are to create possible title names after reading. Also, they are to list the themes and important quotes in each chapter.

## **WE WANT OUR PARENTS / CAREGIVERS / GUARDIANS TO TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!**

Our school, along with the Department of Education, is conducting our annual survey to find out what parents / caregivers / guardians think of our school. The Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of our school, student behaviour, and student engagement. The survey is optional, but we encourage all families to participate. Our school will use the anonymous survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improve what we offer for your child/children.

We urge all of our families to participate in this important survey.

The Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey was opened from Monday 29 July 2024 until Friday 30 August 2024. **THIS CLOSING DATE HAS NOW BEEN EXTENDED UNTIL THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2024.**

A REMINDER email has been sent to every family on Tuesday 3 September with the log in details

Although we are unable to see which families have participated in this anonymous survey, we invite every family who submits the survey to email our Business Manager, Marie McAloon, on [Marie.Mcaloon@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Marie.Mcaloon@education.vic.gov.au) stating your Family Name and 'Survey Completed'. All families participating will be entered into a free Raffle with a prize of a \$100 voucher to be spent at any business in Stawell. The Raffle will be drawn on Friday 20 September.

If you have any questions about this survey or you require assistance to access the survey, please do not hesitate to contact our Business Manager, Marie McAloon.

Thank you

Murray Hart



## Year 9 Food Technology

Year 9 Food Technology have been focusing on foods originating from other countries. To date students have completed production sessions on making Sushi, Spring Rolls, and Chicken Korma and Naan Bread. In the next few weeks students will investigate a specific country of their choice, and cook a traditional meal that they can share with the class.



## Year 10 Independent Living

In the last few weeks students in the Year 10 Independent Living food classes have been making quick meals using readily available and economical foods. To date some of these include Sweet Potato Rosti, Shepherd's Pie, Carrot Cake and Gnocchi Carbonara. They have been working through budgeting tasks related to the cost of setting up a flat, and weekly food expenses. This week they look at completing a 'Mystery Box' where students are allocated specific ingredients and have to research and create a dish using what is in their box.



## Acknowledgement of Country

**Stawell Secondary College is located in the lands of the Djab Wurrung and Jardwadjali people and we acknowledge the land which we learn, work and live.**

**We recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community and pay respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our College Community.**



# Chinese Report

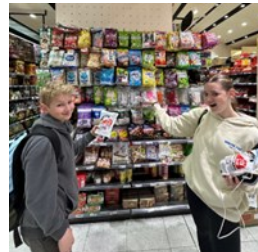
## Year 7-9 Statewide Reading Competition

On Friday 23 August, we went to Melbourne University to participate in a Chinese language competition. We had been practicing several speeches non-stop leading up to the event. On Friday morning, we left school, took the bus to Ararat, and then caught the train to Southern Cross Station. Upon arriving in Melbourne, we checked into the CYC campsite, and everyone got ready in their rooms for the competition. Once we were prepared, we took the train and tram to Melbourne University. We found our seats and waited for the competition to begin.

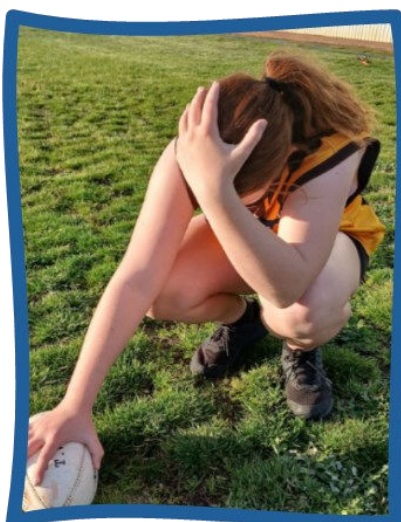
The Year 7's were the first group to go. Akuang received a Medallion Award, and Brighty received a High Distinction Award. They both did exceptionally well. Next were the Year 8's, Alex and Shayla, who also did amazing, earning High Distinction Awards for their speeches. Finally, the Year 9's took the stage. Earl, Noah, and I were very nervous beforehand, but we acted confidently. After our speeches, we received our awards: Noah earned a High Distinction Award, I received the Medallion Award, and Earl secured 2nd place!

After the competition, we got some food and headed back to the accomodation. The next day, we visited Chinatown for food and shopping. Competing was a little scary, but overall, it was a very fun experience! If you enjoy Chinese and want to challenge yourself, I highly recommend participating in the competition next year.

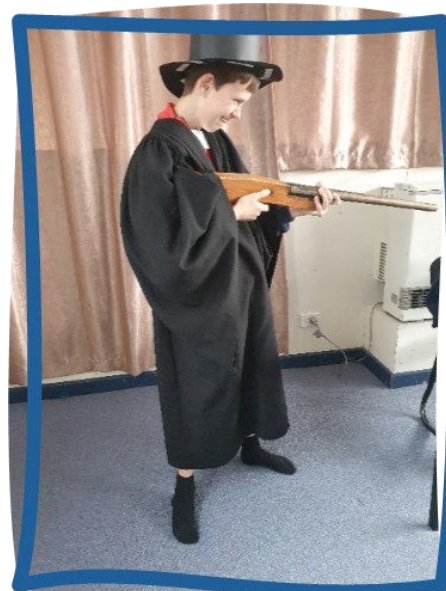
Heidi Kane







Creative  
Costumes  
Showcase  
Year 8  
Performing  
Arts







ASPIRATION



RESPECT



INCLUSION



RESILIENCE



PARTICIPATION

## **IMPORTANT DIARY DATES 2024**

3/9/24—23/9/24—2024 China Trip

12/9/24—13/9/24—Year 12 VM Melbourne Trip

20/9/23— Fundraiser for homelessness—Gold coin casual dress day

20/9/24—Last Day of Term 3—Early Dismissal

7/10/24—First Day of Term 4

10/10/24—GWR Track & Field

14/10/24—Talking About Your Generation school screening

23/10/24—VET classes end

23/10/24—Final day of scheduled classes for Year 12 students. Whole school assembly.



# Year 9 News

In addition to the regular acknowledgements carried out during Year Level Assemblies, we recently celebrated the achievements made by Declan Seaman and Hamish Morrissey. Both boys received a certificate for excellence following their NAPLAN testing earlier in the year. Students who received school value focussed acknowledgements were Isabell Read & Jett Manns. Students who were nominated by their teachers were, Logan Gillmartin, Jai Nelson, Jasper Agusan, Blake Hyslop, Max Croft, and Jules Lockwood. We also celebrated the achievements made by Logan Gillmartin with his week of work experience at the Stawell Lawnmower Centre this week.



## **Book of the Week**

This Book Won't Burn

Author: Samira Ahmed

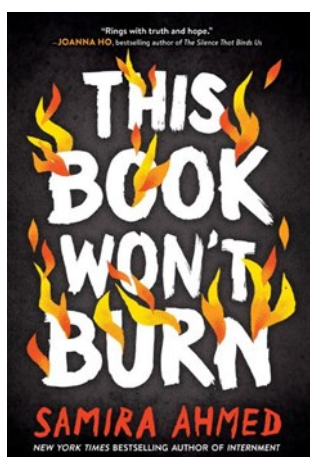
‘Reading is dangerous because it shows us the truth. Words give us power; that’s why some adults want to silence us’

Noor Khan is the new girl at school. Moving to the tiny town of Bayberry with her mother and sister after their family life is upended, she’s determined to keep her head down and make it through her final year, unnoticed.

While hiding out in her school library, Noor notices that hundreds of books are being removed from the shelves and boxed up: a new school policy banning books that parents object to.

Outraged, Noor and her new friends decide to read some of the banned books out loud to their classmates, to protest this new policy at school. But in Bayberry, trouble is never far behind.

Can Noor effect change by speaking up, while navigating the politics of small-town life? And can she trust the son of the school board president, who she finds herself falling for?





# School Saving Bonus

## Information for government school parents and carers

### About the School Saving Bonus

The Victorian Government is making life that little bit easier for families by providing a one-off \$400 School Saving Bonus.

This support will help cover the cost of school uniforms, textbooks, and school activities like camps, excursions and sports.

The School Saving Bonus is in addition to existing and continuing means-tested supports for Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) and the Affordable School Uniforms Program.

The School Saving Bonus will be provided to schools and families in Term 4, 2024.

### Who receives the School Saving Bonus

The School Saving Bonus is available for parents and carers of all Victorian government school students from Prep to Year 12 in 2025, except for full-fee international students, home schooled students, TAFE students and students attending kindergarten in 2025.

### Actions for parents and carers

Parents and carers of children who meet the School Saving Bonus eligibility above are required to do the following by **Friday 18 October 2024**:

- **Complete enrolment**  
If your child, or children are changing government school for Term 1 2025, or starting Prep or Year 7 in 2025, please complete enrolment. For more information, read about [Enrolling in School](#).
- **Check your contact information**  
Ensure your contact information is up to date with your school. You can check this information by contacting your school directly.

### Accessing the \$400 School Saving Bonus

You do not need to apply for the School Saving Bonus.

The Department of Education will email you in November 2024 with your \$400 School Saving Bonus. You will be able to access it via an online system.

You can decide how to best use the School Saving Bonus for your family's needs. You can choose how to allocate the \$400 in the online system.

The bonus can be used towards 2025 school costs, which may include:

- camps, trips, excursions and incursions
- swimming and sporting programs
- outdoor education programs
- graduations
- school uniforms
- textbooks.

The bonus can be used at your school's approved textbook or uniform suppliers either in-store or online, or through State Schools' Relief. The list of suppliers may include a school uniform or bookshop. Any amount that you choose to allocate to textbooks and uniforms will be valid until 30 June 2025. It will then transfer to your child's school account for future activities.

Funds will roll over for use in future years if it is not all spent in 2025.

### **Families with more than one eligible child**

Families who have more than one child at the same school can combine their School Saving Bonus payments to use on one child, or for a specific activity. So, for example, a family with 3 children who are all government school students would receive support to the value of \$1,200 and choose how they spend those funds. The School Saving Bonus cannot be combined across different schools.

### **More information**

To learn more about the School Saving Bonus visit [vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus](https://vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus). Translated information will also be available on the School Saving Bonus website in the next few weeks.