

# CONNECTIONS

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## State Track & Field!

On 21st October, the School Sport Victoria State Finals for Secondary Track & Field Championships showcased young athletes from across the state. Three students from Stawell Secondary College participated: Austin Tyres, Xyrus Gragasin, and Tanisha Campbell-Huruglica.

Austin Tyres competed in the Discus event and finished in 3rd place. Xyrus Gragasin took part in the Triple Jump event, despite facing challenges in previous competitions. He earned 2nd place in this event and also placed 3rd in the Long Jump. Xyrus's willingness to embrace new challenges demonstrates the resilience that Stawell Secondary College promotes. Tanisha Campbell-Huruglica participated in the Long Jump and finished in 6th place. Her involvement highlights that every athlete contributes to the competition's spirit. Tanisha's enthusiasm encourages others to engage in sports and pursue their goals.

The accomplishments of Austin, Xyrus, and Tanisha at the State Finals reflect positively on Stawell Secondary College. Their dedication and commitment to personal growth inspire their classmates and future athletes, embodying the values of participation and aspiration.



**PUPIL FREE DAY—MONDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2024**  
**PUBLIC HOLIDAY—TUESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2024**

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.

RESPECT  
INCLUSION  
ASPIRATION  
RESILIENCE  
PARTICIPATION

# Building Works Update

We are well on the way with Stage 1 of the building program. The site has been cleared of the old buildings. The site has been prepared and rolled ready to complete the boxing for the concrete slab. We are hoping to see the slab poured early November ready for the framing to start.

We have started the clean out of the hall ready for the builders to take this over at the start of 2025. We are hoping to see this renovated and completed by mid-2025.

It is an exciting time for the College.



## Bangarra 2024

Bangarra held a one-day workshop in Horsham for the dancers of 2023 to recap, regroup and rekindle friendships. Four of our Marrung students joined Dimboola, and Horsham College students for the day with the Bangarra dancers.

During the day they learnt a hip-hop dance that the whole group performed together, before splitting into groups to perform dances they had previously learnt, which are traditionally men's and women's dances.

The boys' group, together with the help of Sidney Saltner, performed a hunting dance. This dance portrays how men work together to go hunting for food and shows how they track, follow and capture the animal.

The girls performed a dance with the guidance of Amy, Holly and Sani, portraying an elder teaching the girls how to gather supplies to weave baskets. The dance then showed the elder teaching the girls how to weave a basket before using them to collect berries. The woman and girls came together to eat what they had gathered at the end of the dance.

All involved performed these dances for each other at the end of the day.





# Stawell Show Results!

We want to congratulate all our students who entered exhibits into the Stawell Show last weekend. It showcased the students' creativity and hard work! Your exhibits not only highlighted your incredible talents but also brought our community together. Each display was a testament to your dedication and passion, and we are proud of the effort you put into representing your school and your ideas. Thank you to the staff who supported these students in creating their individual items.

Special congratulations must go to Archie Rooke, Seb Quarrell and Addi Hutchins respectively who got first, second and third in the Secondary Unbaked Slice—4 pieces section. Billy Williams, Leon Martin, Jared Pedro and Claire Scott who placed first, second, third and honourable mention respectively in the Secondary Article of Woodwork—Large. Maiken McKitterick and William Hodder who placed first and third in the Secondary Article of Woodwork—Small. Lana Harrison won the Item of Hobbywork other than listed (Open) section and Lara Troeth got a highly commended with her Secondary Creative Art exhibit. Special mention to Mrs Lang who also won multiple awards with her roses and iris.



# Chinese Report

## Music and Culture Performance

We were very fortunate to have Benji visit our school last Friday, where he conducted an engaging, philosophical, and inspirational session on music and culture. The feedback from students and supervising staff was extremely positive. A huge thank-you goes to Mrs. Hemley for organizing this wonderful opportunity. Below is Scott's article about this incredible event.

Last Friday 27th October an amazing person named Benji Miu who is an incredible talented musician who uses technology and his instrument to engage students into learning and participating. It was a great experience and pretty much all who attended would agree. He played some lovely music, we learnt sign language to play a game relating to Chinese Zodiac, we were taught a wonderful history fact about the five notes that existed in every culture. Near the end Benji got a handful of students and teachers to come up the front and place some lovely pink headphones on, these headphones had contacts inside them so whenever Benji would touch their head it would play a sound and we were given a little musical performance from this. – Scott Tulloch



## Short-Stay Program Homestay Request

We are expecting approximately 12 students from China to visit our school and feeder primary schools in the third week of 2025. If you are interested in hosting one of these students in your home for a 4-day cultural exchange experience, please complete the expression of interest form distributed to students in our Chinese language program. For any questions, please contact Ms. Ling.

## 2025 China Trip Final Offer

A few spots are still available for students interested in an exciting journey to China next year. To participate, please contact Ms. Ling for more information at your earliest convenience.



## 2024 China Trip Celebration Night

Thank you to everyone who helped organise and attend the China Trip Celebration Evening. Each student shared their stories and experiences with family and friends, speaking exceptionally well. We are incredibly proud of their courage in speaking publicly and the personal growth they've shown. It was also wonderful to see around 70 students and family members in attendance, making it a fantastic event for our school community!





# Year 12 Final Week

Last week saw our Year 12 cohort have their final days of their schooling. They enjoyed the week with dress up days, a slip and slide and their final assembly. During their final assembly our outgoing School Captains Kayla and Lewis announced the new School Captains for 2025 in Tanisha Campbell-Huruglica and Joseph De Leon and wished them all the best. The staff, students and parents of our Year 12 students were then treated to the Year 12's final dance and exit from the assembly hall. They all appeared to have a wonderful time and we wish all students all the best in whatever paths they choose. To those doing exams all the best throughout their exam period. We know they have studied hard and are prepared going into these last couple of weeks.



**Christmas** is coming and can be a real burden for those in need in our community. If you, or someone that you know, needs help this Christmas please come to the Cottage, 20 Sloane St Stawell during November to apply for a Christmas grocery shopping voucher. We are open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:30am – 12:30pm. For out of hours emergencies ring 0408 038 949.



## SCHOOL SAVING BONUS - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information regarding the \$400 School Saving Bonus for each student is coming through to us very slowly and with a lot of confusion.

The School Saving Bonus will be provided to schools and families in Term 4, 2024. The Bonus is available for parents and carers of all Victorian government school students from Prep to Year 12 in 2025.

### 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
- \*sporting programs
- \*school uniforms
- \*textbooks.

The bonus can be used at our approved textbook supplier Campion or Foster's Mensland for uniform either in-store or online. 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 camps, excursions and sporting events.

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).

Please note: The email regarding this Bonus will be coming through to families anytime from today until 15 November. Please check your junk emails in case it has gone into your junk folder.

There are no split payments across families. SSB money is allocated to Primary Family Parent A. If Parent A does not have an email listed in Cases, they won't have access to the portal, and the money will be transferred to their family account from the 2nd of July.

**PLEASE NOTE: If a family accidentally deletes the email, they must call the helpdesk (separate number will be provided) to have it resent.**



# School Band Performance

The School Band has returned to performing at the Stawell Show for the first time since 2019. The performance was a great success. Thanks to the Stawell Brass Band for the sharing of some equipment and two players who filled seats where our players were unable to attend.

## Walk Against Family Violence

Stawell Secondary College has been invited to take part in the Walk Against Family Violence on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

The walk will start at 10:30am at the Town Hall and move up through the Main Street before finishing at Stawell Neighbourhood House, where morning tea will be waiting for everyone. The walk will take approximately 30 minutes.

Walk Against Family Violence is being held to show support for those who have experienced or are experiencing family violence. Raising awareness of family violence helps to create a community where all people can feel safe, equal and respected.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the library for anyone who would like to take part.



**Thankyou** to all the students, staff and parents of Stawell Secondary College for your kind donations of groceries and \$421.70 raised from the pyjama funday and to the Year 12 students, who on their last day at school kidnapped all the staff coffee cups and holding them to ransom, raised \$145 for the Stawell Inter Church Council's welfare Cottage. All the groceries and money raised will go to those in need in our community. We really appreciate your thoughtfulness.

“Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.” Vincent van Gogh.

From ‘The Cottage’ team.

# LAST WEEK - YEAR 12 PSYCHOLOGY

Students knew a guest speaker would be arriving to speak to them about Alzheimer's Disease. They just didn't know who. On their second last day of school, the class was treated to a visit from our very own Ms. Cameron, who engaged students with touching recollections of her mother and aunty's struggle with Alzheimer's Disease.

Kaylene was happy to chat to the students as she feels there needs to be more awareness and empathy of this topic. Her presentation began with detailing her mother's first signs (occurring around 20 years before diagnosis) through to when she passed away in 2016.

The class were able to hear first-hand what it is like for a sufferer of this insidious disease and its impact on family members. Thanks for sharing part of your life journey with us Kaylene! You have helped students better understand the effects and progression of this brain illness.



## Sweet or Sour?

Revision with a twist. Get the answer right and you get a Fruit Tingle. Get it wrong or can't answer and you get a Sour Patch lolly. Great motivation for getting the answer right, right? Wrong. Students equally enjoyed the sour lollies!







# SSC READATHON

2024

2024

READATHON

SSC

For the past two years we have run the SSC Readathon at our school. This is a reading competition where students read as many books/pages over a set period of time. This year the competition ran from August until October.

The following three students are to be congratulated for entering and coming first, second and third:

#### Pages:

1st— Sienna with 9077 pages read

2nd— Clara with 2838 pages read

3rd— Claire with 2315 pages read

#### Books:

1st— Sienna with 22 books read

2nd— Claire with 13 books read

3rd— Clara with 9 books read

Mrs Prior and Ms Rahley

## Year 7 & 8 Tennis

On Monday 21st October, I had the pleasure of accompanying a wonderful group of Year 7 and 8 students from Stawell Secondary College to Horsham to compete in the Black Ranges Tennis Competition.

After discussing the bus rules, as we were only the second group to use our new bus, we were on our way! I had Charlie and Ryder as navigators, so I was in good hands to get us there without any delays.

As we stepped off the bus, we all remarked that it was going to be a warm day. You could feel the difference between the comfort of the air conditioning we had just come from and the heat of the sun.

The day was filled with activity, and the students quickly settled into their respective games, identifying which court they were on and their starting times. The Year 7 students played valiantly, achieving a few wins. Some were participating for the first time, while others were experienced tennis players. Despite a mix of wins and losses, everyone played to the best of their ability, demonstrating great sportsmanship, making new friends, and showing respect to their opponents.

All the students upheld the school values throughout the day and made the school proud. Our Year 8 team played at a high standard, winning all their matches and advancing to the finals. Unfortunately, we did not make it to the grand final, and as it was getting late in the day, we packed up our things and made the trip home.

We all enjoyed the return trip, although we were very tired by the time we arrived back at school.  
Sean Wheeler

# School Backpack

We are excited to share with you that every Year 7 2025 student will receive a free Stawell Secondary College Bag as part of their uniform.

This bag has a warranty to last for the duration of your child's secondary education (6 years) and a secure compartment for their laptop – see below warranty details.

This bag is to be brought to school every day by your child and will be issued to each family upon collection of 2025 books on Monday 27 January from 12 until 4 pm.

We hope this helps with decreasing the uniform costs of transitioning from primary to secondary schools.

Stawell Mensland will stock this bag to be made available for other year levels as required at a cost of \$84.95.



Spartan is committed to providing quality products. All our products undergo rigorous independent testing for: Abrasion resistance, Tear Strength, and Colour Fastness to light and water. We use man made material that will not break down of its own accord.

In the unfortunate situation that a product does not stand up to our specified requirements, we are proud to stand by our product and replace or credit the bag as quickly and efficiently as possible. At all times our commitment is to you, our customer. We support you.

The Spartan warranty does not cover misuse or abuse of product, including natural wear and tear, or non-manufacturing faults. Products in the following condition will be void of warranty:

- School bags from which straps have been cut off or permanently removed
- Any backpack showing clear evidence of incorrect wear by the user
- Any bag with cuts in the fabric
- Any bag with holes and scuff marks due to dragging the bag



## COVERED by WARRANTY

~ Issue a credit ~



POPPED RIVET ON SPORTS BAG BASE



BAR TACK STITCHING ON SHOULDER STRAP MISSED IN PRODUCTION



BROKEN SEAM. SEAM ALLOWANCE UNDER SPECIFICATION



WEBBING NOT TAKEN INTO SEAM SUFFICIENTLY

## NOT COVERED by WARRANTY

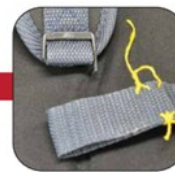
~ Direct customer to Spartan recommended repairer ~



CUT / TORN MESH - MISUSE



BROKEN BUCKLE - MISUSE



BROKEN BUCKLE - MISUSE



CORNER WORN. EVERYDAY WEAR AND TEAR



SEVERE DRAGGING / SCUFFING - MISUSE



SEVERE DRAGGING / SCUFFING - MISUSE



### LIMITED ONE YEAR MANUFACTURING WARRANTY

This warranty is limited to manufacturing defects in materials, workmanship and construction. The warranty does not cover damage or defects arising from normal fair wear and tear, negligence, malicious damage or abuse, misuse of the product (including where the recommended capacity of the product is exceeded).



### LIMITED THREE YEAR MANUFACTURING WARRANTY

This warranty is limited to manufacturing defects in materials, workmanship and construction. The warranty does not cover damage or defects arising from normal fair wear and tear, negligence, malicious damage or abuse, misuse of the product (including where the recommended capacity of the product is exceeded).



### LIMITED LIFETIME MANUFACTURING WARRANTY

This warranty is limited to manufacturing defects in materials, workmanship and construction. The warranty does not cover damage or defects arising from normal fair wear and tear, negligence, malicious damage or abuse, misuse of the product (including where the recommended capacity of the product is exceeded).



We Support You

# Year 8 Performing Arts Excursion

## *Practising a Plane Crash*

That's right, last Wednesday 14 of our Year 8 Performing Arts students got into a plane crash! Well... actually... they had the opportunity to fill the role of pretend plane crash victims and witnesses, but which one sounds more tantalising?

A small group of our students were asked by the Victorian Police to assist them in staging a plane crash, here at the local airport, to help all local emergency response departments to train and practice their responses to a real plane crash. The students were all fantastic in their roles as injured passengers or distraught witnesses, with their acting skills delighting many of the workers there.

The students got to witness and experience many of our local departments in action, with paramedics there to evaluate their injuries, SES there to rescue them from the crash site, police there to coordinate and assess the scene and the fire department there to put out an equally imaginary bushfire that had started because of the plane crash. While it was all for show, with no real injuries, fires, crashes or concerns – this didn't stop the students from enjoying the day one bit!





ASPIRATION



RESPECT



INCLUSION



RESILIENCE



PARTICIPATION

## **IMPORTANT DIARY DATES 2024**

4/11/24—Professional Practise Day—Pupil Free Day

5/11/24—Pupil Free Day - Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

6/11/24 - 8/11/24—Year 8-10 Hiking Camp

15/11/24—Canteen Closed

23/11/24 - 1/12/24—Great Victorian Bike Ride

4/12/24—Staff Professional Development— Pupil Free Day

17/12/24—Year 12 Graduation Dinner—Tickets on sale now at the General Office



## **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.**



A reminder to students that now that we are in Term 4 the weather will start getting warmer. We encourage students to wear hats while outside at recess, lunchtimes and during PE classes.

New hats can be purchased from the canteen for \$15.



## **Book of the Week**

Six Of Crows  
Author: Leigh Bardugo

Criminal prodigy, Kaz Brekker has been offered a chance at a deadly heist: break into the Ice Court – a military stronghold that has never been breached – and retrieve a hostage whose knowledge could change Grisha magic forever. To succeed would mean riches beyond Kaz's wildest dreams, but he can't pull it off alone...

A convict with a thirst for revenge.

A sharpshooter who can't walk away from a wager.

A runaway with a privileged past.

A spy known as the Wraith.

A Heartreder using her magic to survive the slums.

A thief with a gift for unlikely escapes.

Six dangerous outcasts. One impossible heist. Together they might just be unstoppable – if they don't kill each other first.