

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 | W stawellsc.vic.edu.au

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Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program class of 2025



Sienna Santuccione has been accepted into the University of Melbourne's Young Scholars Program.

Sienna will study Year 11 VCE next year as well as be part of a supportive university community and peer network through a tailored program of events and activities.

Congratulations Sienna – all your hard work is paying off.



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.

RESPECT
INCLUSION
ASPIRATION
RESILIENCE
PARTICIPATION

Year 7 Food Technology

Year 7B & Year 7C have been cooking up a storm this Semester in Food Technology. Both classes have worked very hard and with great diligence in the kitchen to produce dishes such as fried rice, pizza, stir fry, spaghetti Bolognese, cookies and more. Their skills were put to the test recently, during their final assessment task, which involved baking cupcakes individually from scratch and then decorating them using their own designs. The results were fantastic and they all did an excellent job. The cupcakes looked great and by all accounts, tasted delicious.

A big thank you needs to go to our Food Technology Assistant, Tanya Dean, as organising all of the individual ingredients that the students needed to construct their designs successfully is a mammoth task. Tanya always goes above and beyond to help the staff and students to do their best at SSC.

Well done Year 7's and we hope to see you back in the kitchen in Year 9!



Working hard or hardly working?

These Year 10 students would like to remind everyone that even though it is getting toward the end of the year – that we still need to be working hard.

Gariwerd Rock Art Tour with Murtoa Secondary College and Jake Goodes

Thursday 21 November Murtoa Secondary College joined Stawell Secondary College to tour the Grampians with Parks Victoria Rock Art Cultural Heritage Protection Specialist Jake Goodes to look at indigenous rock art in the area.

The Grampians National Park (Gariwerd) is the richest site for Aboriginal rock art in Victoria. The region has the largest number of rock art sites in Southern Australia and over 80% of Victoria's rock art sites, some shelters dating back more than 45,000 years.

Jake took us along various tracks that led us to several different shelters, and we learnt about the area and its amazing rock art.

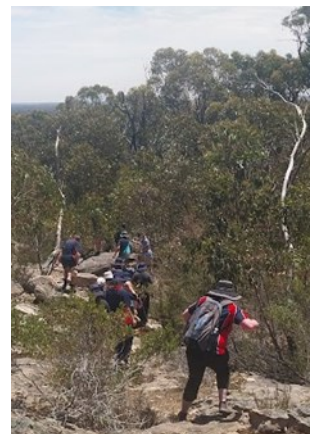
It was a very hot day, and with flies as our new friends, we all managed to climb, walk through scrub and cool off when we could under the shelter rocks, which was surprisingly cool in the hot sun.

We visited Ngamadjidj shelter known as the ghost cave due to the rock art being in white. Gulgurn Manja Shelter, meaning small hands and Hollow Mountain Shelter, bars- line art (Wubjub Guyun). Students enjoyed exploring these sites.

Jake told us how old the rock art is in these shelters and how if you look close enough you can see places where the rock has been chipped at to make tools. He also explained how elders used different techniques with the ochre to complete the art in and around the shelters that tell stories for generations to see and learn from.

Some of the rock art sites are now protected with cages placed around them to prevent graffiti, vandalism and to preserve these sacred sites.

Below is a drawing completed by one of our Year 7 students showing her interpretation of the Ngamadjidj Shelter, ghost cave.



Principal Communications

This week I have been away on the Great Victorian Bike Ride with eleven of our students. The weather has tested our resilience, but our students have continued to live our school values and are having a great time. By the time we ride into Healesville on Sunday, December 1, we will have ridden around 500 kilometres. In my absence, Dean Greenhalgh has been Acting Principal and has done a splendid job, along with the Leadership Team, dealing with the everyday events as well as flooding of the B block during the storms and issues around our building program. I am looking forward to being back on deck next week and the end of the year is fast approaching.

School structure for 2025

Our school structure has been finalised for 2025.

Principal	<i>Murray Hart</i>
Assistant Principal	<i>Dean Greenhalgh</i>
Student Wellbeing Junior School (7-9)	<i>Courtney McIlvride</i>
Student Wellbeing Senior School (10-12)	<i>Andrew Reynolds</i>
Student Teaching & Learning	<i>Robyn Williams</i>
Learning Specialists	<i>Ellen McDonald</i>
Learning Specialists	<i>Catherine Mackay</i>
Disability Inclusion Coordinator	<i>Christine Powell</i>
Year Level Coordinator 7	<i>Emma Dumaresq</i>
Year 7 Coordinator Assistant	<i>Marilou Bernardo</i>
Year Level Coordinator 8	<i>Shane Williams</i>
Year Level Coordinator 9	<i>Wes Illig</i>
Year Level Coordinator 10	<i>Roy West</i>
VCE Coordinator	<i>Ling Zhao</i>
VM Coordinator	<i>Helen Giles</i>
Faculty Leader Maths	<i>Robyn Williams</i>
Faculty Leader English	<i>Chrissy Prior</i>
Faculty Leader Arts	<i>Dale Harris</i>
Faculty Leader Humanities	<i>Roy West</i>
Faculty Leader Technology	<i>Anne Sudholz</i>
Faculty Leader HAPE	<i>Wes Illig</i>
Faculty Leader Science	<i>Heidi Rees</i>
Faculty Leader LOTE	<i>Ling Zhao</i>
Student Voice Black Range	<i>Caitlyn Tangey</i>
Student Voice Lonsdale	<i>Vanessa Joy</i>
Student Voice Mackenzie	<i>Sean Wheeler</i>
Sports Coordinator	<i>Jarrold Illig</i>
Marrung Coordinator	<i>Catherine Monument</i>
Policy Coordinator	<i>Heidi Lang</i>

Note: In the first 7 weeks of Term 1, 2025, Murray Hart will be taking Long Service Leave. Dean Greenhalgh will be Acting principal, Courtney McIlvride will be Acting Assistant Principal and Dale Harris will be Acting Student Wellbeing Junior School (7-9)

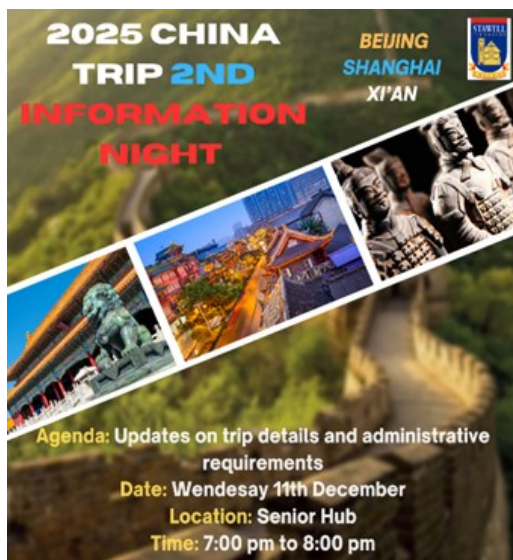
Chinese Report

In Chinese classes, students made a good use of whiteboard activities to reinforce their Chinese language skills and understanding as part of the retrieval practice.



A reminder to all committed students and parents:
you are invited to the 2025 China Trip
Information Night!
Please refer to the details on the poster

Year 10 Chinese Language students celebrated
their final Chinese class of the year. Xie xie
Emmett, for bringing the cake!



Year 9

Throughout the past fortnight, the following students have received public recognition in front of their peers during Year Level assemblies. Tora Crawford, Leonie Williams, Isaiah Taylor, Blake Davidson, Blair Sheen, and Brody Johnston for community service and aspiration within class time. As the year is quickly drawing to a close, students are looking forward to the activities during Week 11. For the Year Level Celebration Day on the 17 December, Year 9 students will be participating in activities at the Stawell Leisure Centre.

Sport Ed Peer Coaching

The sport education class visited both Pomonal and Halls Gap Primary schools last week. Four groups took the junior and senior classes from each school.



Fingerprinting & Forensics

Year 10 Crime & Punishment

The year 10 crime & punishment students are currently completing a unit on forensics, crime scenes and the preservation of evidence. They got to explore the world of evidence collection when they analysed their own fingerprints and tried to identify each other's too!



🥚 Egg-cellent Science Takes Flight in Year 7! 💡



Year 7 students recently tackled the ultimate challenge: designing egg parachutes that could safely land their fragile cargo while exploring forces like gravity and air resistance. The first round? Total egg-splisions!

But failure turned into fun as students discovered the link between string length and drop time. Armed with this insight, they redesigned their parachutes with soaring success!



This hands-on activity had it all—crashes, laughs, and a whole lot of learning about physics in action. A cracking good time was had by all!

Brought to you by Hamish!



The end of the year is fast approaching. We will officially farewell our Year 11 students for 2024 at our school Presentation afternoon on Friday 6th December. They commenced their summer break with subject tasks in preparation for Year 12 in 2024. The current Year 10 students have moved down to the senior hub and experienced life as a Year 11. They too will commence their summer break on Friday 6th December. The remaining Year 7 to 9 students will continue their Learning journey with a mix of preparation for 2025 including relocating to new areas and lockers and undertaking classroom work to prepare them for next year. A reminder to all Year 7 to 9 students and parents that attendance at school is compulsory up to and including 18th December 2023. The 19th December is a day for Parent/Student/Staff meeting at the request of parents with the 20th December will be a staff preparation day for 2024, both these days are student free.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

2024 SUMMARY

Students were able to self-nominate for a position on the Student Leadership Team of 2024 at Stawell Secondary College at the end of 2023. Then at the beginning of 2024 we recruited the Year 7 students. The School Captains being Kayla Membrey and Lewis Reading were automatically members and they conducted votes for the Year 10's and Year 7's due to so many nominations. There were nine Year 10's and a total of 27 Year 7's who wanted to be on the team. This was fantastic to see! We like to have at least 2 students from each year level but we changed this for the Year 7's and 10's due to high demand, accepting 4 Year 10's and 5 Year 7's. Our 2024 team consisted of: Jai Anderson, Jason Arreza, Brighty Etherton, Riley Hope, Edward Bibby, William Evans, Shayla Madin, Declan Seaman, Kayan Barnes, Amahli Sheen, Addison Hutchins, Cheyenne Digney, Sienna Santuccione, Gwen Elliot, D'Art Walls, Hollie Walker, Kayla Membrey (School Captain), Lewis Reading (School Captain) and Imogen Lowe.

Imogen was a last minute addition because she was attending every meeting anyway, so I asked her if she wanted to join. The students all received a badge at our first school assembly for the year, saying they were a part of the Student Leadership Team. Our President was D'Art, Vice President Gwen and Secretary Hollie.

We held around two meetings per term, more if we had an upcoming event. The first thing that the team participated in was making the posters for Harmony Day. Every student in the school had written on a cut out hand their names and the names of friends and family onto the fingers and also written hello from a different country on the palm of the hand. A big thank you to D'Art and Lewis who used some of their spare periods to make the display and also the students from the Student Leadership Team who came out of classes to make the display. The two posters are on display in the library.

In 2023 we had conducted a vote of the student population to see what they wanted and they said they would like a sports trolley of equipment that they could use at recess and lunchtimes. All students were able to vote for the equipment that they wanted in a survey on Xuno. The team labelled all of the equipment and had a roster where they would wheel the trolley out for student use. At the last count we had not lost too much of the equipment apart from down balls (these have suddenly become very popular), we believe the roof and the construction site may have contributed to this.

The team decided they wanted to hold a fundraiser to raise money for MS. We had orange wristbands made that said: "Navigating MS Together 2024" selling them for \$2.00 each. Students were able to wear coloured clothes (with a touch of either orange or red) on Tuesday 28th May and we had a BBQ lunch. The team set up, cooked and cleaned up for the BBQ. We raised a total of \$576.40 to go towards MS. A big thank you to the following team members for helping on the day: Hollie, Kayla, D'Art, Lewis, Jason, Brighty, Amahli, Addi, Gwen, Kayan and Sienna. We had extra students help us out too including: Riley Walker, Ashton Mellor, Deacon Bowen, Blair Sheen, Hamish Morrissey and Henry Rooke.

On the last day of Term 3 the team ran a Homelessness Fundraiser Day after a student suggested this. We asked students to wear pyjamas and/or funky socks (donation of a gold coin), cooked a BBQ for lunch and also asked students to donate non-perishable food items, personal hygiene products or new toys. We decided we would donate all of the money and items to "The Cottage" in Stawell. Jason and Riley were busy separating sausages and Shayla, Will and Jason cooked their first BBQ. We raised \$290 and donated 330 items. Lonsdale donated 138 items, Mackenzie 96 and Black Ranges 74. A big thanks to the following students from the team for doing jobs on the day: D'Art, Lewis, Kayla, Hollie, Shayla, Will, Addi, Edward, Jason and Amahli. We would also like to thank the following people for volunteering to help out too: Sean Wheeler, Lisa Blight, Lana Harrison, Cole Fraser and Jordan Eckert. A shout out to these people as well, as days like this would not be possible without their continuous assistance: Mrs McAloon, David Hunter, Ian Jordan, the team in the front office and Mr. Hart.

We had students from our team represent our school at ANZAC day and Remembrance Day ceremonies both at school and in town. The team also wrote a piece for the newsletter once a term, so four pieces in total for the year. This included a summary of what had been going on around our school in each year level and everyone on the team was asked to contribute. Kayla and Lewis then collated the information, wrote their own small pieces and then this was published in the newsletter.

Thank you to all of the team members who self-nominated, who were motivated, enthusiastic and who turned up. A lot goes on behind the scenes to run fundraiser days and the students were involved in every step. There were some team members who went above and beyond to help, doing extra sports trolley shifts and so forth, and this was really appreciated. In 2025 there will be a slightly different structure for the team, however the main aim will remain the same: to allow the students at Stawell Secondary College to have a voice. I feel privileged to have been able to work with some extraordinary students and to help the student voice be heard at our school over the past two years.

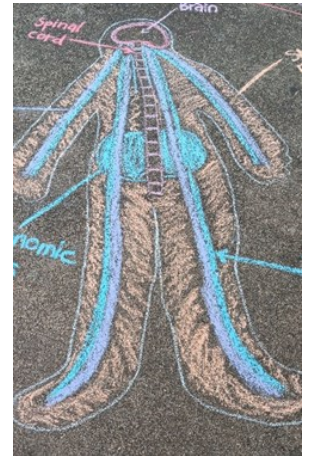
Mrs Prior



YEAR 12 PSYCHOLOGY HEAD START

Students began by revising what they already know about the brain, nervous system and neurons. Using chalk they then traced each other and labelled the figure with the parts of the nervous system including: the brain and spine which make up the Central Nervous System, Peripheral Nervous System, Autonomic Nervous System, Somatic Nervous System and the Enteric Nervous System. The class then attempted to make the following reflex actions happen: Knee jerk (strike the knee just below the kneecap sitting down legs hanging), Pilo-motor (tickle back of neck, hairs stand on end), Plantar (foot) and Pupil constricting (eyes). This was all for preparation for Unit 3 Psychology for their first topic on the nervous system and stress.

Mrs Prior



Library Competition

(For students in Years 7 to 9)

Guess the number of lollies in the drink bottle!!

First Prize: \$50 Gift Card and the Lollies

Second Prize: \$25 Gift Card

Plus a Mystery Prize

Competition begins on Monday 2nd December and closes on Monday 9th December.

Winners announced on Xuno news and in Connections



AVALON
AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW

ASTRONAUT AL WARDEN
ENDEAVOUR
SCHOLARSHIP
A VALERIAN FOUNDATION REGION

AMDA
FOUNDATION LIMITED

ENDEAVOUR SCHOLARSHIP

2025 CLASS NOW OPEN

**THIS
COULD
BE YOU**

STUDENT

**THIS
COULD
BE YOU**

EDUCATOR

SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY NOW



Sports Science take on Boogie Bounce

Friday 15th November, the students of Sports Science ventured down to the Leisure Centre to participate in a Boogie Bounce Class with Penny. As it was a new experience for all of us, we were all happy to have a go and have a laugh along the way. Penny, the instructor was fantastic, ensuring that we were able to complete the correct moves and 'bounce' with the beat. It was a great experience and would encourage anyone who may be interested in having a go at the class to enquire with Penny at the Leisure Centre.



Year 8 Tennis Excursion

Tuesday 19th November Ms Lang's PE class took the school bus to the tennis club where the students were given the opportunity to further their tennis skills. It was great to see that the students were all participating, enjoying themselves and inclusive to their peers. Students were learning how to score, the lines and importantly building their skills up.



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.



ASPIRATION



RESPECT



INCLUSION



RESILIENCE



PARTICIPATION

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES 2024

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

6/12/24—Presentation Afternoon

6/12/24—Year 10 Final Day

16/12/24—Year 7-9 Golf Day

17/12/24—Year 7-9 Year Level Celebration Day

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

18/12/24—Year 7-9 Halls Gap Pool Day

18/12/24—Last Day of Timetabled Classes

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES 2025

28/1/25—Pupil Free Day

28/1/25— School Office open from 8.30 – 4.00 pm for payment of voluntary Curriculum Contribution & CSEF applications

28/1/25— Collection of Champion Book Packs from Senior Hub—Patrick Street—12-4pm

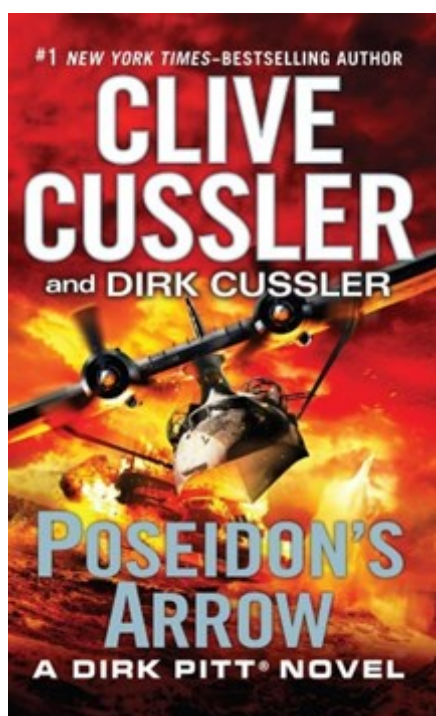
29/1/25—First Day of School for Year 7 & Year 12 (This includes Year 11 students doing a Year 12 subject) students

30/1/25—All students to attend school



**Attendance
Matters**

Every student. Every day.



Book of the Week

Poseidon's Arrow

Author: Clive Cussler

In 1943 a submarine returning from a secret mission is attacked, its vital cargo believed lost...

Three-quarters of a century later, NUMA director Dirk Pitt is asked to help locate a missing person: the scientist responsible for the design of the revolutionary Poseidon's Arrow submarine. This craft is so advanced and dangerous that any government would kill to possess it – and not only has its designer disappeared, but so too have the final plans.

But this is no simple search.

It leads Pitt from Washington to the Panama jungle, draws in the full resources of NUMA, and slowly unravels a deadly conspiracy that seeks to bring the world to its knees – and only Pitt can prevent it.