

# CONNECTIONS

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## VET Ag - Wimmera Field Days Excursion



On Wednesday 5th March the Vet Ag students headed off to Longerenong to attend the Wimmera Machinery Field Days.

Students were given the opportunity to see some of the latest technologies in the Agriculture sector and experience the views from some very high-end pieces of machinery.

Overall, the staff and students had a great day out and enjoyed many of the free hats and bits and pieces they came home with.

10/3/25—Labour Day Public Holiday

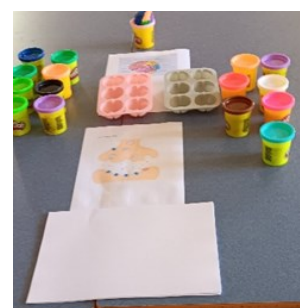
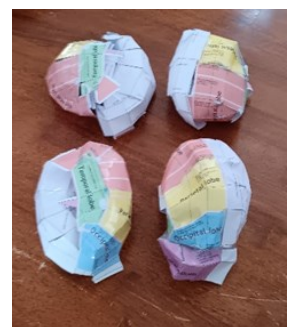
Stawell Secondary College's child safety and wellbeing policies and practices can be found on our school website: [www.stawellsc.vic.edu.au](http://www.stawellsc.vic.edu.au). We welcome comments and feedback on these from our school community at any time. Feedback can be made to Murray Hart on 5358 1700.

RESPECT  
INCLUSION  
ASPIRATION  
RESILIENCE  
PARTICIPATION

# YEAR 12 PSYCHOLOGY

To help the students understand the content that had been covered in class and to consolidate their learning on the nervous system, students completed hands activities consisting of:  
Labelling neuron biscuits with food colouring, making a brain model out of paper, making a brain out of playdough, creating a model of the neural transmission between neurons with playdough and eating mini brain cakes.

Mrs Prior



# VCE Students Stories

VCE is not just about studying—it's also about students pursuing their passions and excelling in the fields they love. These experiences can shape future career paths or become lifelong hobbies.

We're excited to share more stories about our students who are developing well-rounded skills and talents. Stay tuned!

## Jade Smith



I grew up in horse racing, as both of my parents are former jockeys and now train horses.

The apprentice jockey training program is extremely competitive and difficult to get into. To even be considered, applicants must complete a year-long pre-program. Out of the entire state, only 12 people were accepted. The selection process involved numerous physical and mental tests, along with extensive paperwork.

As part of the program, I attend monthly training sessions at Flemington Racecourse to develop my skills and continue learning. I am working towards progressing to race riding in the next few months.

## Ava Mitchell

Playing in the Under-16 Cricket Australia National Championships for Vic Country was an incredible experience. Coming from playing Premier Cricket in Geelong and Melbourne each week, stepping up to face the best Under-16 girls in the country from January 6-13 in Ballarat was both exciting and challenging.

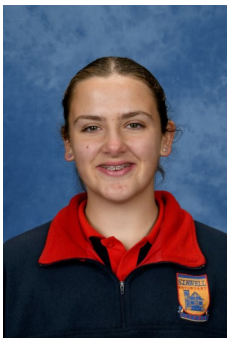
Our team finished second in the group stage, winning five out of seven games, before falling to Vic Metro in the third-place play-off. I opened the bowling and took three wickets, with my best figures being 1/18 from six overs against NSW Metro. The T20 matches were particularly tough, as batters attacked from the start, whereas the one-dayers allowed for a more strategic approach. By the final day, we were feeling the fatigue, which affected our performance.

The journey to Nationals began back in July 2024, with the Emerging Players Program selecting the Top 30 Under-16 girls in Victoria. After months of training and trial games, I was thrilled to make the final squad. Now, my focus shifts back to club cricket with Geelong, where we are pushing for finals in the Victorian Premier Cricket Women's Second Grade. There's still plenty of cricket ahead!



## Chloe Formosa

On 23rd February, I had my first West Vic Fed Uni Golf Academy training session at Buninyong.



Only 10 people were accepted into the academy, and we learned a lot about our own golf styles as well as golf in general.

The Academy includes many high-performance sessions, in-depth swing analysis, multiple training sessions, strength and conditioning, nutrition, sports psychology, and much more.

During our first training session, we focused on understanding our individual swings and experimented with different swing styles. I received help with my putting and setup style. We wrapped up the session by playing 18 holes. The training lasted from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

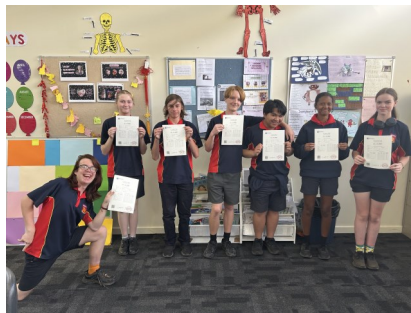


# Chinese Program Yearly Plan

The Chinese Program offers a wide range of activities for students throughout the year. In 2025, students can look forward to the following major extra-curricular activities:

## 1. HSK After-School Class

Twenty-four students achieved HSK 2 certificates after taking the test at Beijing Language and Culture University. HSK (Hànyǔ Shuǐpíng Kǎoshì) is a globally recognized Chinese language proficiency test, with HSK 2 considered an intermediate level.



This year, HSK classes will continue every Friday after school. Students will not only improve their Chinese language skills but also explore Chinese culture—especially Chinese food!

🌟 Spots are still available for students to join our fun learning sessions!

## 2. Chinese Dancing Club



Students who love dance can practice Chinese fan dancing every Thursday in E4 (Chinese Room). There will be numerous performance opportunities in the wider school community.

## 3. Yearly Events & Excursions

- Year 8 Food Excursion to Melbourne – July 25
- Year 9 Chinese Overnight Camp – July 3-4
- Year 10 Chinese Camp – June 26-27

🌟 *All excursions and camps are available for parent approval via XUNO, where detailed itineraries can also be found.*

## 4. Competitions Throughout the Year

- Education Perfect Championships
- Hanyu Qiao Chinese Language Proficiency Competition for senior students
- Year 7–9 Statewide Chinese Speaking Competition

## 5. Our September China Trip!

The third Parent Information Night will be held on **Wednesday, March 12, from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM** at the **Senior Hub**. **All China Trip participants and their parents are requested to attend** for important administrative updates. As always, **Chinese delicacies will be served!**

We highly encourage students to participate in these activities to enhance their language skills, cultural understanding, and overall learning experience!

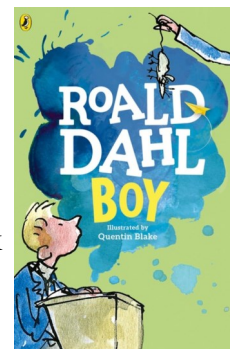


# Building Works

## YEAR 7 ENGLISH

Students have been reading excerpts from the text "Boy" by Roald Dahl in their study of autobiographies. They looked at how to write detailed character descriptions. Students then read different scenes to investigate the information included in them. They are now writing their own autobiographies for their first assessment task. Their writing should be in chronological order and include some significant events from their lives. Peer feedback will be utilised as well.

Mrs Prior



## Swimming Sports

We would like to congratulate all our age group champions from our House Swimming Carnival. The following students received this honour.

### 2025 Age Group Champions

- 12-13 Years—Milla Freeland F & Reuben Martin M
- 14 Years—Emmy Brunt F & Dusty Wethers M
- 15 Years—Leonie Williams F & Ewan Kellas M
- 16 Years—Ayva Mitchell F & Hamish Morrissey M
- 17 Years—Lana Harrison F & Cooper Field M
- 18-20 Years—Zali Harrison F & Kai Knight M



## **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES**

### **SCHOOL SAVING BONUS**

Have you accessed your \$400 School Saving Bonus for each child?

This once only support for families is very easy to use. This is your opportunity to purchase uniform items from Fosters Mensland or school books from Campion at no cost to you. Please do not hesitate to contact Marie McAloon, Business Manager, if you need any information or assistance.

Funds that have not been spent by 30 June will revert to your family account to be used for your child's camps or excursion. The opportunity to use the \$400 for uniform or book lists ends 30 June 2025. Funds will rollover for use in future years if not all spent in 2025.

### **CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)**

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund will ensure that no student will miss the opportunity to join their peers for important, educational and fun activities.

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursion encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. Cards must be valid with Centrelink as of 19 January 2024. Students can be aged from 6 – 18 years old. If a student is the holder of a Youth Allowance type card in their own name that is valid, the parents are eligible to apply for the CSEF.

The annual amount per student will be \$250 for every secondary school student of eligible families. Payments will be made into the applicant's school account to use towards a child's expenses relating to camps, excursion or sporting activities.

**REMINDER: ALL APPLICANTS ARE ASKED TO PROVIDE THE SCHOOL WITH A COPY OF THEIR CURRENT HEALTH CARE CARD.**

**How to apply:** Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef). A copy of your Centrelink Concession Card will be taken when you return the completed form to school. Applications need to be made by **Friday 21 March 2025**, however the sooner you apply the sooner you will receive the funds into your account.

If you have any questions please contact Marie McAloon, Business Manager.



## **CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE 2025**

A conveyance allowance may be paid to parents who drive their children more than 4.8km to the nearest pick up point of a free country bus service or their nearest school, where no bus service is available.

### **All Families need to lodge a new application.**

Students who are attending Stawell Secondary College for the first time must meet the following guidelines. To be eligible for the Conveyance Allowance students must be:

1. Attending their nearest Government school.
2. Living further than 4.8km from either the school or the nearest pick up point of a free country bus.

Please contact the school office for an application form.

All eligible families must complete and **return the form to the school by 28 February 2025.**

If you require further information, please contact Mrs Marie McAloon at the College. If you have any questions on all other Bus matters, please contact Georgia Byron on 5358 1700.

## **YEAR 7 UNIFORM PACK** **(If you haven't already applied)**

In 2025 every Year 7 government school student who was a recipient of CSEF in 2024 automatically qualifies to receive a uniform pack that is provided through State Schools' Relief. If your child is eligible and you are yet to apply for the package, you can apply for a CSEF Year 7 Uniform Pack by contacting Stawell Secondary College and completing the order form. We also ask that you arrange to have your child's foot measured at the school office.

You will receive a \$85 voucher for Foster's Mensland and a pair of school shoes.

You can call the General Office for more information on 5358 1700.

**The most important thing to remember that if you ever have any questions or concerns over any financial matters, related to our child's education, please do not hesitate to reach out to our Business Manager, Marie McAloon on email:**

**[Marie.Mcaloon@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Marie.Mcaloon@education.vic.gov.au) or Ph: 03 5358 1700 for assistance.**

### **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 2025

13/3/25—Parent Teacher Interviews 4-6pm

14/3/25—Parent Teacher Interviews. PUPIL FREE. Interviews 10am-12pm & 12:30pm-3pm

28/3/25—House Athletics Carnival

4/4/25—Last Day of Term 1

22/4/25—First Day of Term 2

24/4/25—House Cross Country

25/4/25—ANZAC Day Public Holiday



# Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.



Join Us at Stawell Amateur Athletic Club!

Looking for a fun and friendly atmosphere to get active? Whether you're a seasoned runner or just starting, we've got something for everyone!

### What We Offer:

- **Social Fun:** Enjoy morning teas and BBQs with fellow members!
- **Competitive Spirit:** We use a handicap system to make races fair and exciting for all levels!
- **All Abilities Welcome:** From beginners to experienced athletes, everyone can join in!

### Race Schedule:

- **Saturday Mornings:**
  - Registration from 9:00 AM
  - **Sub-Junior Races (5+) (1km):** 9:15 AM
  - **Junior (3km) & Senior Races:** 9:45 AM
- **Friday Nights:** Two races starting at 5:30 PM.

Stay up-to-date on all race info by following our Facebook Page: [Stawell Amateur Athletic Club](#).

The season starts Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>! Come for the race, stay for the community! See you on the course!

For more info, contact Drew Christian at 0448 015 688.



**COME & PLAY**  
at a FREE Junior Footy Event in Stawell

**AUSKICK 4-7 YEARS**  
**SUPERKICK 8-12 YEARS**  
**AFL NINES 13-17 YEARS**

**WHERE**  
North Park Oval  
Stawell

**WHEN**  
Sunday March 16  
10am-2:00pm

**SCAN TO REGISTER**





**STAWELL JUNIOR NETBALL**

**UNDER 12 TOURNAMENT**  
Clubs from around the region are invited to enter a team into the upcoming round robin tournament.  
10am-12.30pm

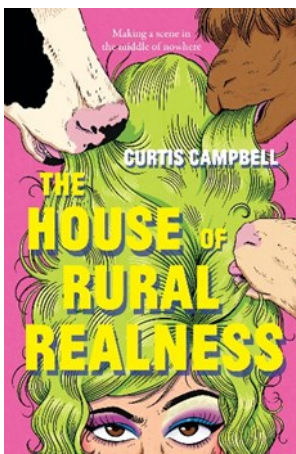
**NET SET GO/FUN CLINIC**  
Primary School Aged appropriate  
11.30am-12.30pm

**NORTH PARK, STAWELL**

Entries close March 13

**SUNDAY, MARCH 16**



### *Book of the Week*

The House Of Rural Realness

Author: Curtis Campbell

Peter Thompkin needs a public image overhaul after his vicious clapback against the most popular gay in school goes viral. When his best friend Alan, aka teen drag queen Aggie Culture, announces the first public drag performance by The House of Rural Realness, Peter steps forward as their producer. It might be the only way he can restore his reputation.

Peter leads the queens as they survive bigoted backlash – and one another. But will Mason County's Drag Extravaganza drop dead before they make their first death drop?

And will Peter and Alan's friendship survive past curtain call?





# Stawell Secondary College



7 March 2025

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers of the Stawell Secondary College community,

Our School Council is now calling for nominations to fill our Parent/Guardian/Carer vacancies on our Council.

Our School Council is responsible for a wide range of decisions including budgeting, policy development and approvals of the school's strategic plans. However, the most important role is establishing the direction and vision for our school.

School Council is the governing body for the school, a body that can develop a vibrant new outlook for improvements and create an environment conducive to bringing out positive student outcomes. In order to achieve this, we need **your** help. The College needs a team of parents to work together with staff and student representatives to ensure our school becomes one of the best schools in rural Victoria.

If you want to contribute to improving your child's opportunities through School Council, please consider nominating for one of the vacancies. Those parents who become active on a School Council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

A term of office is for two years. Meetings take place at 7 pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month, at the school, during school terms. No special skills are required. Each parent/guardian/carer brings their own valuable skills, knowledge, and experience to the table.

Please see the self-nomination form enclosed. Should you wish to nominate please complete the form and return it to the school office by Wednesday 12 March 2025.

If you have any questions or require any clarification of this information, please feel free to contact either Dean Greenhalgh or Marie McAloon on 5358 1700 or speak to one of our current parent representatives: Karen Hyslop, Alicia Gooden, Mark McLean or Megan Reading.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter,  
Yours faithfully,

Dean Greenhalgh  
Acting Principal

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*We acknowledge the Djab Warrung and Jardwadjall people as the traditional owners of this land.*

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