

CONNECTIONS

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4/4/2025



Student
Achievement!
Achievement!
Student

Congratulations to Year 9 student Tom Collins who last week was awarded the 2024-2025 U15 1st XI Best & Fairest for the Ballarat Cricket Association league and this week was awarded the Grant Sharp—Best Clubman Award for his club.

Tom has been playing cricket this season with East Ballarat Cricket Club and has been travelling to Ballarat multiple times a week recently for training and games.

His hard work and determination have certainly paid off, congratulations again Tom!

At Stawell Secondary College we strongly believe that everyone deserves to be treated with kindness and respect, regardless of cultural background, religious beliefs, gender, etc. **That's why we have a zero tolerance for any form of racism.** This includes comments, slurs, attempted jokes or any other form of harassment. If students are found to be engaging in these behaviours there will be serious consequences including discussions with teachers, caregivers and disciplinary action. We want to ensure that our school remains a safe and welcoming environment for all.

Let's work together to celebrate the differences that make us unique and stand up for one another when we see, hear or witness anyone challenging these values.

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

Principals Communications

As we draw near to the end of Term 1, I take the opportunity to recognise the work of Mr Greenhalgh, Ms McIlvride and Mr Harris, who stepped up into unfamiliar roles during my long service leave in Term 1. I would also like to recognise the dedicated work of all staff and congratulate all students on their progress during the Term.

As with all schools, there is an unavoidable movement of staff from Term to Term. The school administration and leadership have worked hard to ensure all Term 2 classes have the best available teacher to support their progress. I draw your attention to the following changes for Term 2:

- Mrs Reynolds will replace Mrs Sudholz who will be on leave for Term 2
- Ms McIlvride will teach Yr 10 Maths (replacing Mr Chowdhury)
- Mr Gilroy will teach Yr 9C Science (replacing Ms Bernardo)
- Ms McIlvride will teach Yr 10 Food Tech Living Independently (replacing Ms Prior)
- Mr Reynolds will teach 8.C English with Ms McDonald moving across to teach Yr12 VM

It is important for families to note that our fortnightly "Connections" newsletter will now be distributed solely electronically via the School Website, Facebook page, XUNO News and emailed to each family. Families may request Connections to be posted if they cannot access the newsletter through these mediums. Please contact the office to arrange fortnightly postage.

I wish all students and families an enjoyable and safe Easter break and look forward to our return on Tuesday 22nd April for Term 2.

Kind Regards,
Murray Hart
Principal



Year 10 Independent Living

In Year 10 Food the students made homemade gnocchi. They started by boiling the potato, mashing it and then mixing it with flour to make the dough. Shapes were then made and cooked. The gnocchi was then briefly fried in butter before being added to the homemade carbonara sauce. None of the students had ever made gnocchi from scratch before and this was a great learning experience for them all.

Mrs Prior



House Athletics Carnival

This year's Athletics Carnival was highlighted by great sportsmanship, participation, and achievement. It was great to see everyone from the Year 7's in their first high school athletics all the way to the Year 12's in their final sports really getting into the spirit of the day and having plenty of fun and success.

A big thank you to all students for helping out on the day - be it on events, running marshalling sheets, photography or with the setting up and packing up there was no shortage of volunteers. Mrs Giles and the VM team ran another successful BBQ, thank you for ensuring our athletes had plenty of fuel for the day.

Thank you to Gaye for providing the staff with yummy rolls and slices again. Another **big** thank you to Elishia Swain and the Little Aths for help setting up and throughout the day it was greatly appreciated.

While all 3 houses showed great aspiration, there can only be one winner and this year it was Lonsdale on 1683 points. Black Range followed closely in second place on 1614 points and Mackenzie will look to get revenge next year, finishing on 1407 points.

Well done also to those students who performed well on the day and won the age group champions for their respective age groups:



12-13 Boys: Jack Sullivan
12-13 Girls: Cordelia Crawford
14 Boys: Dusty Wethers
14 Girls: Lylah Slorach
15 Boys: Ewan Kellas
15 Girls: Eva Hurley
16 Boys: Jack Reading
16 Girls: Sienna Santuccioni
17 Boys: Cooper Field
17 Girls: Alana Graveson
18-20 Boys: Kai Knight
18-20 Girls: Zali Harrison



Headspace Session 2#

Students tried out a few practical techniques such as breathing exercises and muscle tightening, also had fun blowing up balloons and throwing paper airplanes when Headspace came for their second session.

They also received some goodies, including coping strategy guides, stress balls, and stretching snakes. Overall, the feedback from students was very positive.

Please check out the resources shared after the session regarding stress coping mechanizing (Youtube: How to make stress my friend) and testing out your learning styles

Many thanks to Iestyn and the Headspace staff for organising and delivering these valuable sessions for our Year 12 VCE students.



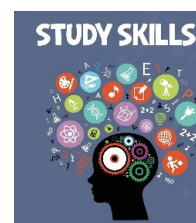
Term 2 Study Break Learning Sessions

1. **Online Lectures:** Well done to the students who have already signed up for the online lectures! These are valuable resources designed to help consolidate your content knowledge, extend your study skills and exam techniques. If you haven't yet, make sure to take advantage of these sessions.

2. **Onsite Learning Opportunities:** The following subjects will offer holiday sessions onsite. Attendance is highly recommended to sharpen your VCE study skills!

- ⇒ Year 12 General Maths
- ⇒ Year 12 PE
- ⇒ Year 12 Maths Methods
- ⇒ Year 12 Chinese

VCE News



Ongoing Study Techniques: Why Students Forget—and What You Can Do About It

(Article recommended by Mrs. Prior from Edutopia)

"Our brains are wired to forget, but there are research-backed strategies you can use to make your teaching stick."

1. **Spaced Repetition:** Instead of cramming, spreading out study sessions over time helps reinforce memory. This approach leverages the *spacing effect*, where information is more effectively encoded into long-term memory through repeated exposure at intervals.

2. **Retrieval Practice:** Actively testing oneself on the material—rather than passively reviewing notes—strengthens memory by forcing the brain to recall information, thereby enhancing retention.

3. **Elaborative Encoding:** Connecting new information to existing knowledge or personal experiences makes it more meaningful and easier to remember. Creating associations helps embed the information more deeply into memory.

Sisters Zali and Lana Harrison, along with relay team Ewan Kellas, Rrez Campbell-Huruglica, Charlie Dunn and Ryder Sullivan made their way again to the Horsham Aquatic Centre this time for the Greater Western Region swimming championships. Lana broke the surface of the water first- competing in the very first race of the day, the girls 200m freestyle. Ewan and Zali then competed in the 50m butterfly with Zali coming 3rd. Zali then claimed 2nd place in her 50m backstroke before the boys rounded the day off with a great 200m freestyle relay, only to be out-classed by some bigger boys. Well done to these students on making this level and representing the school proudly.



GWR Swimming



Greater Western Region Bowls

The GWR bowls had a 10:00am start in Ararat with two senior teams and two intermediate teams representing Stawell Secondary College.

Jack, Archie, Hamish and Max got the day off to poor start when their opponents for the first round ignored them and played someone else instead, sadly their day did not get better! Defeat in rounds 2, 3 and 4 led to an embarrassing 21 to 0 defeat in round 5.

The less flashy but far more sensible team of Nate, Charmaine, Ador and Cooper fared much better with 2 wins from their 5 rounds.

In the intermediate division the Ross boys, Dusty and Caleb started like a house on fire, winning the first two rounds easily. The wind left their sails when they got beaten by the all girls team from Trinity College.

The stars of the day were Will who led the team of intermediates with Ryder and Zeke. Despite winning four out of five rounds they did not finish in the top two of the six team division! (It is mathematically possible—but not highly likely).

Overall a great day was had by all and we look forward to next year!



Vet Ag has had a busy last 2 weeks of term!

Wednesday 26th March, the students ventured out to Ms Lang's farm to meet her husband; Stuart, who took the students through the process of moving the sheep through the yards to draft the rams out. All was going smoothly with extra people in the yards and of course, sheep doing their own thing; we had one ewe, and one ram jump out of the yards. It was great to see the students having a go at trying to move the sheep in the yards with their peers and having fun. Students were also given the opportunity to draft some sheep as they made their way through the race, a challenging job to do on the farm and as some of the students learnt; that drafting sheep isn't the best for knees. Students also had the opportunity whilst near Kanya to visiting three different woolsheds and able to see the differences in styles and set up of machines to support the shearers.



Wednesday 2nd April, the students had a visit to Grain Innovations Park Horsham where they were given the opportunity to explore the various areas within the park. Firstly, we looked at the plant pathology section and labs. Even though it sounds fancy, the labs were very similar to school like labs – no stainless-steel benches. Students then moved through to biology and chemistry section, where we all were able to watch a high-tech machine act as a digestive system (including chemicals and enzymes) to see how the different pulses react in the stomach. Part of this section also included a bakery, where staff would test the wheat in loaves of bread testing what varieties, and possible impact of diseases can have on the cooking wheat into bread. Students then made their way to the pulse breeding space, where we were given the opportunity to look in the new glasshouses (which shine pink light to ensure the plants can grow in the 'perfect' conditions). From this space, we moved to the soil area. Students were able to see the large ovens where the soil is dried out, grounded down and tested. Finally, we made our way to the Australian Grain Genebank. This space was very impressive, we made our way into a room which was climate controlled to 15 degrees and where the seeds were dried (all moisture removed allowing the seeds to be used in the future) and packed before going into a freezer that was -20degrees, which we all experienced. This process of drying and freezing the seeds allows them to be kept for 100+ years and also sent to other seed banks over the world.

It was a lot of information that was shared with us at the Grain Innovations Park, but it was also great to hear from the staff their journey on how they made it to where they are now – some staff starting off as casual workers and now managers of particular areas within the park.



Chinese Program Report

Year 9 Online Exchange Session

The Year 9 Chinese class participated in an online exchange program with a school in Suzhou, China, focusing on the topic 'My School'. Both schools shared information about their curriculum, daily routines, extra-curricular activities, and exciting events. Students asked questions and exchanged ideas in an engaging and interactive session. Mr. Greenhalgh was also invited to share his experiences from the China Trip last September. A big thank you to our student representatives—Liv, Ruby, Soraya, Harper, Lexi, Scarlett, and Shayla—for their fantastic presentations, and to Mr. Greenhalgh for taking the time to speak with the Chinese students!



Stawell Library Harimony Week Celebration

On 20th March, our Year 10 students were invited to the Stawell Library for the second time this term to engage with the pre-learning group and the wider school community about Chinese culture and traditions. Earl, Clarie, and Noah performed a traditional fan dance to the themed song 'Spring March', symbolising the prosperity of the New Year, as March marks the beginning of spring in China. Following the graceful fan dance, Isaiah and Kayan delivered a powerful dragon dance performance. The group of students then engaged the audience with general knowledge about Chinese dragon culture. Their enthusiasm for celebrating multiculturalism is highly commendable!



Year 8

The Week 10 Year Level assembly was the first opportunity for a full gathering with their coordinator for Term 1. Lylah Slorach started the assembly with the acknowledgement to county. As well as the normal day to day items that are generally covered, students also congratulated Raine Pedro, Emmy Brunt, and Jason Arreza for their excellent ability to go over and beyond with our school values. In addition, the AFL footy tipping competition is ongoing, with Henry Albrecht rapidly hitting the front, students also had involvement into the way the Year 8 Term 2 Challenge will operate during weekly assemblies.

Stawell Secondary College Chess Club Excursion

On Tuesday 25th March, our Stawell Secondary College Chess Club departed the bus loop at 8am for a day out at Kryal Castle for the Northern Star Tournament, which has schools attend from all across the state!

After signing in upon arrival, we were given instructions on the day, and awaited the pairings for the first game, which would send the students across 4 rooms of the castle to play their games. This was chaos but very entertaining, and we had time between each of the rounds to venture around the castle grounds.

Everyone had a ton of fun, and we were all pretty tired physically and mentally by the day's end. Our top three students were only half a point (a draw) away from being invited to the next level of competition at Xavier College in Kew, which will be our aim for next year!

In total each student played 7 games, results as follows:

Credit: Sebastian Quarrell, Alex Simpkin & Kevin John

Participation: Addison Hutchins, Aryan Judge, Scott Tulloch, Declan Seaman, Isaiah Taylor, Steven Finlay, Jasper Agusan, Hunter McKenzie, Riley Walker, Jamie Simpkin, Kobe Power, Haylei Mitchell, Ashton Gibson, John Carr and Peyton Jones.

Thanks to the students for being great on the day and competing well throughout the tournament!
Mr Main



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.

Year 10 Work Experience

Last week of Term 2 – 30th June – 4th July

Placements have to be sought and due to Cindy by 23rd April.



Year 9 Careers Morrisby Program

All Year 9 students have now completed their Morrisby Online Careers Program and met with a Careers Practitioner in a 1:1 interview.

This program will determine the student's skills, interest, abilities in relation to possible future career paths and assist in subject selection.

All Morrisby reports have been loaded to XUNO under Reports 2025 for both students and parents to refer to in the future.



Grade 5 & 6 students and parents are invited to our
OPEN EVENING 2025
WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY - 7PM
Stawell Secondary College....your next step

JOIN US

Commencing in Gym
via Albion Rd

7.00pm: Welcome address

7.30pm: College Tour

8.15pm: Evening concludes

ENQUIRIES:
Cindy Bibby
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53581700
stawellsc.vic.edu.au

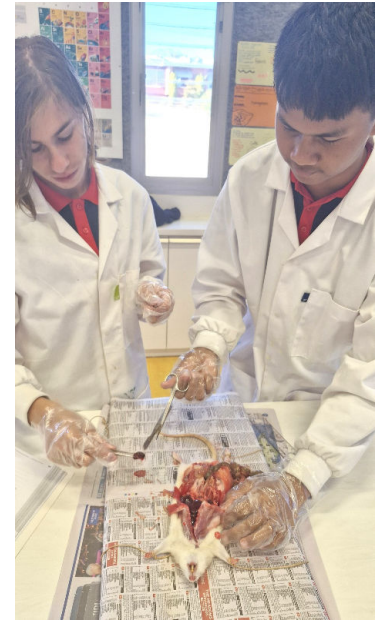
Year 9 English

In Year 9, students have been concentrating on consolidating their narrative and persuasive writing skills developed in Year 8. In narrative writing, they have focused on character development, crafting complex characters with distinct motivations and backgrounds. Emphasis has been placed on understanding plot structure, encouraging students to create engaging stories with well-defined elements such as exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. Additionally, students have refined their use of descriptive language, incorporating vivid imagery and sensory details to evoke emotion and atmosphere in their narratives.

In terms of persuasive writing, students have learned to construct clear, logical arguments supported by evidence, enhancing their ability to effectively persuade an audience. They have explored persuasive techniques, such as rhetorical questions, appeals to authorities and evidence, to increase the impact of their writing. Understanding the audience has also been a key focus, with students analysing and empathising with different perspectives to tailor their persuasive strategies accordingly. Integration of skills has been achieved through cross-genre writing tasks that incorporate elements of narrative into persuasive pieces, allowing for compelling storytelling that supports their arguments.

Year 11 Biology

Mrs. Bernardo's Year 11 Biology class dissected a rat, comparing its organ structure and body systems to those of humans. In addition to the dissection, they examined several rat embryos, complete with attached placentae, which had been carefully removed from the uterus of a pregnant rat. The students found the experience both fascinating and enjoyable, making it an unforgettable part of their learning.



Community Events

STAWELL LIBRARY
EASTER HOLIDAY PROGRAM
APRIL 2025

FREE EVENTS

TUESDAY 8 CRAFT AFTERNOON

STORYTIMES
10.30am
Thursday 10
Friday 11
Thursday 17

EASTER CLOSURE
Friday 18
Saturday 19
Sunday 20

TUESDAY 15 EASTER CRAFT

WED 16 WRIGGLE & READ

WED 3 WRIGGLE & READ

Bookings required on 03 5358 1274

Stawell Skate Park Mural Community Workshops

Northern Grampians Shire Council is excited to bring the Blender Studio team to Stawell to deliver a series of mural art workshops to help between the local Skate Park and local artists.

Workshop 1 - Pre-cut stencil workshop
11am - 12pm
Ages: Grade 3 and up

Workshop 2 - Artist talk, spray can and stencil workshop
2pm - 4.30pm
Ages: 10+

Workshop 3 - Community Workshop about Skate Park Mural Design
Artist talk, collage and spray can workshops
Sat: 2.15pm

Thursday April 10, 2025, North Park Classroom

Workshop 4 - Artist talk, spray can and stencil workshop
9.30am - 12pm
Ages: 10+

Workshop 5 - Pre-cut stencil workshop
12.15pm - 2pm
Ages: Grade 3 and up

Use the QR code or email: trishcavanagh@grampians.shire.vic.gov.au or call on 53588772

Circle of Security Parenting Program
8 WEEK WORKSHOP
STAWELL

Join us to discover the COSPP, a game changer for parents of all ages.

- Understand your child's emotional world by learning to read the emotional needs.
- Support your child's ability to successfully manage emotions.
- Enhance the development of your child's self-esteem.
- Honor your innate wisdom and desire for your child to be secure.

When: Tuesday 1st April - 20th May
Where: TBC
Time: 12.30pm - 2.30pm
Cost: FREE

COSPP

Uniting

REGISTER VIA QR CODE OR BY CONTACTING:
Contact: sonia.granville@uniting.org.au or uniting.org.au

AFL Superkick

Superkick is now available in Stawell!

This will provide kids from Grade 2 to Grade 6 the opportunity to play local football matches each Friday night, similar to the Stawell 13 & Under Football Competition.

- Weekly matches (Warmup, then into match play)
- Opportunity to learn through match play and have fun with friends!
- No commitment to early morning starts
- No set teams, teams decided on the night
- Continue to strengthen our communities future footballers
- Superkick Rules

Term 2 each Friday (starting 2 May) at 5.00pm to 6.00pm at Central Park

Session time may change to 5.30pm to 6.30pm depending on registration numbers. All registered players will be notified.

Sign up via the QR CODE or visit www.playing.com.au and search for Stawell Superkick

Stawell Auskick and Superkick

Enquiries: Ben.Martin@AFLVIC 0403 063 872
Lauren Hamilton 0434 417 890

Grampians Multicultural HUB

HARMONY FESTIVAL
SATURDAY 5 APRIL 12PM TO 4PM
STAWELL TOWN HALL
25 Nelson St, Stawell
FREE ENTRY

Grampians Multicultural Hub invites you to a vibrant festival celebrating the rich cultural diversity of our community!

Featuring:

- Traditional performances and local bands
- Local Artists
- Food Trucks and Stalls
- Arts & Crafts

Showing traditional food and performers from Vanuatu, Timor Leste, Philippines, Peru, Australia, Africa, Fiji, Solomon Islands, China, and more!

Join us!
grampiansmulticulturalhub@grampians.com.au
Facebook: Grampians Multicultural Hub

Special thanks to our partners and sponsors:



This dress was made for Women In History Month and features some pages with pictures of some remarkable Australian women, such as Cathy Freeman, Edith Cowen and Nancy Bird Walton.

It is now the feature of the Women Who Changed The World display in the library.

Women In History Month

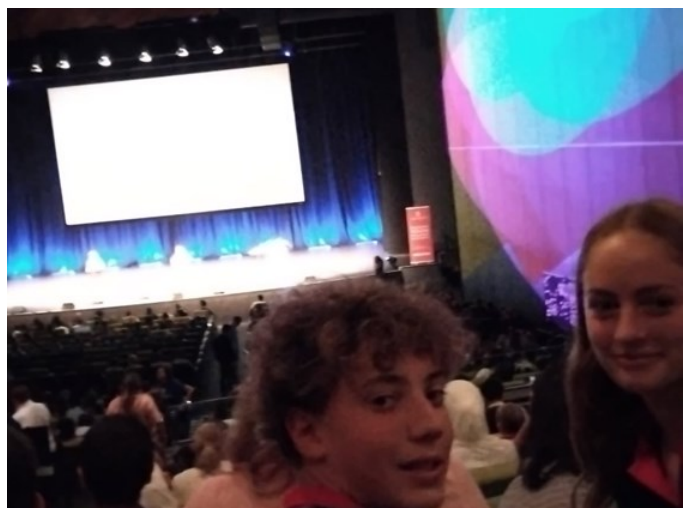
On Friday 27th March 8 Year 9 students had the honour of joining 2000 other young leaders at the Melbourne Convention Centre to witness a presentation by Youth Leadership Academy Australia.

It was an early start at 6:00 am but all of the students were early and eager to go. After a quick stop at Ballan Charlie, Satria, Ewan, Will, Ruby, Olivia, Shilo and Shayla joined young leaders from all over the state in the leadership seminar. The seminar itself was excellent and provided our students with a different look at how leadership works.

After the seminar we had a little time for shopping at the South Wharf DFO before heading off for a dinner meeting at Lazy Moe's in Ballarat. We were all a little weary by the time we rolled into Stawell after 10:00 pm.

Thanks to Mainy for his excellent bus driving!

Young Leaders Seminar





ASPIRATION



RESPECT



INCLUSION



RESILIENCE



PARTICIPATION

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES 2025

4/4/25—Last Day of Term 1

22/4/25—First Day of Term 2

25/4/25—ANZAC Day Public Holiday

28/4/25—House Cross Country

2/5/25—School Photos

7/5/25—Year 9 Earth Ed Trip

26/5/25—28/5/25—Year 11 Futures Camp

17/6/25—The GAT



Library Competition Winner: Congratulations



Ava Parry

121 eggs



Book of the Week

Sunrise On The Reaping

Author: Suzanne Collins

When you've been set up to lose everything you love, what is there left to fight for?

As the day dawns on the fiftieth annual Hunger Games, fear grips the districts of Panem. This year, in honor of the Quarter Quell, twice as many tributes will be taken from their homes.

Back in District 12, Haymitch Abernathy is trying not to think too hard about his chances. All he cares about is making it through the day and being with the girl he loves.

When Haymitch's name is called, he can feel all his dreams break. He's torn from his family and his love, shuttled to the Capitol with the three other District 12 tributes: a young friend who's nearly a sister to him, a compulsive oddsmaker, and the most stuck-up girl in town. As the Games begin, Haymitch understands he's been set up to fail. But there's something in him that wants to fight...and have that fight reverberate far beyond the deadly arena.