

# 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)

Volume 35 Number 6

2/5/2025

RESPECT  
INCLUSION  
ASPIRATION  
RESILIENCE  
PARTICIPATION



## Black Range win Cross Country

Cross Country was Monday 28th April and it was great to see everyone out in their house colours. Black Range managed to stop the Lonsdale winning streak taking out the shield.

Overall results of the day saw Mackenzie third with 200 points, Lonsdale not far ahead on 205 points and Black Range taking out the day well ahead with 248 points.

The age group champions are as follows:

12-13s- Violet Baum and Jack Sullivan

14s- Zahli Mellor and Dusty Wethers

15s- Eva Hurley and Tom Collins

16s- Sienna Santucciono and Jack Reading

17s- Charmaine Lockwood and Cooper Field

18-20s- Sarah Dean and Billy Williams



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](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.

# VCE Student Progress

VCE student Charlotte Duckett participated in Cross Country for the first time and pushed herself to the limit, demonstrating our school value of resilience. She placed second in the 17 Girls category. Charlotte was invited to write an article about resilience, which is shared below:

## Resilience

What is resilience? Resilience is the capacity to withstand or recover quickly from difficulties. It is a quiet strength that helps us navigate life's challenges. It's not about avoiding hardship but facing it head-on and refusing to be defeated. Whether dealing with personal loss, professional setbacks, or unexpected difficulties, resilient people find ways to adapt, learn, and grow.

Being resilient doesn't mean being emotionless. It means acknowledging pain and stress but not letting them define you. It's about developing a mindset that says, "This is hard, but I can get through it." Key traits of resilient individuals include optimism, perseverance, emotional awareness, and a strong sense of purpose.

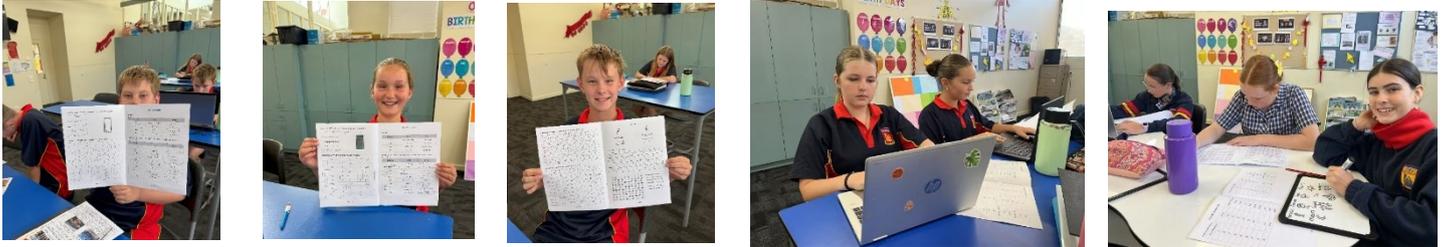
Resilience can be developed. Simple practices such as maintaining a strong support system, taking care of your physical and mental health, and setting realistic goals—can strengthen your ability to bounce back. Life will always bring challenges, but with resilience, those challenges become stepping stones rather than stumbling blocks.

In the end, resilience is not just about survival, it's about emerging from hardship with greater strength, wisdom, and determination.

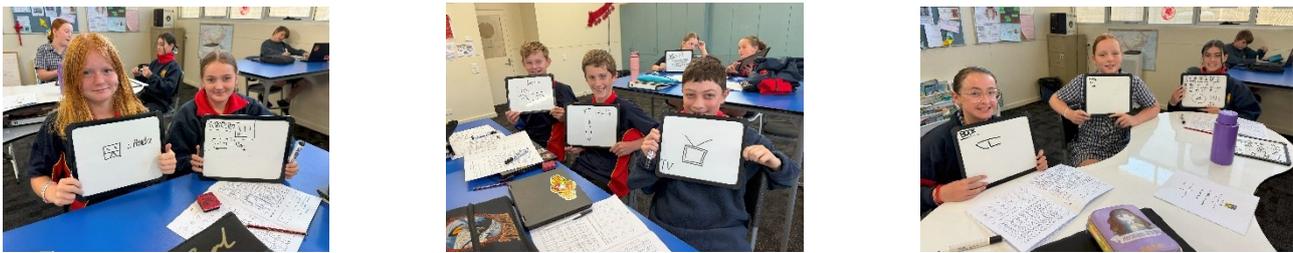


# Chinese Program Report

**Year 7 Chinese:** Year 7 students have made great progress in their Chinese language learning so far! They began by exploring Chinese culture, gaining valuable insights that laid a strong foundation for their learning. This cultural understanding has helped them develop a deeper appreciation for the language and its significance. Following this, students focused on learning numbers in Chinese, establishing a solid base for practical use in everyday situations. Through interactive activities such as number games, quizzes, and online exercises, they not only learned to recognize and pronounce large numbers but also applied them in real-world contexts, such as counting various items

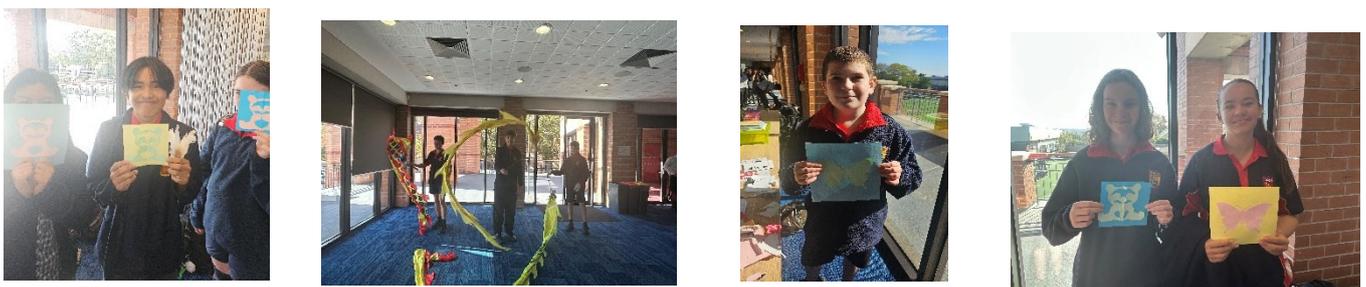
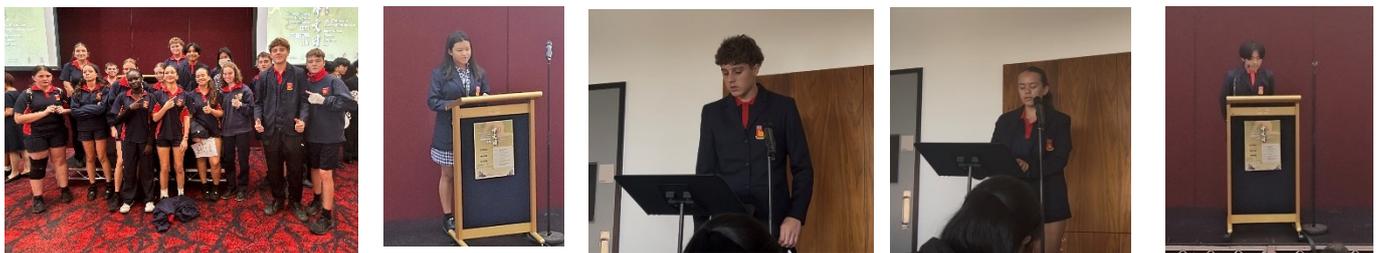


Our current focus is on helping students build confidence in learning Chinese characters (Hanzi). While learning Hanzi can be challenging, our structured approach keeps students engaged and motivated. We incorporate a variety of strategies, including visual aids, stroke order animations, and hands-on activities such as tracing, writing, and even creating their own characters.



**State-wide Year 8–9 Chinese Reading Competition:** Congratulations to our Year 8–9 contestants—Jason Arreza, Aika Ramos, Rez Campbell-Huruglica, and Shiloh Walls—for their outstanding performances at the State-wide Chinese Reading Competition! It takes great courage to speak in another language on stage and compete against around 80 students from 23 schools. Our students dedicated significant time to practice behind the scenes, and their commitment is truly inspiring.

We also commend the students in Year 8 and Year 9 who attended and participated in the cultural activities—your enthusiasm for Chinese language and culture is highly encouraging. Well done!



## Year 7 End of Term 1 Activity: Scavenger Hunt Extravaganza!

To celebrate the end of Term 1, our Year 7 students participated in an exciting **Scavenger Hunt** that was filled with laughter, teamwork, and a spirit of friendly competition. This engaging activity was designed to build confidence in our students as they learned to interact with staff members in a fun and supportive environment.

### Event Highlights

Throughout the scavenger hunt, students embarked on a series of fun challenges that encouraged them to step out of their comfort zones. Here are some of the highlights:

- **Joke Telling:** Students approached various staff members to share a joke. This light-hearted activity not only sparked laughter but also helped students practise their communication skills.
- **Friendly Competitions:** Participants had the chance to challenge staff to various games, including table tennis and goal-kicking contests. These competitions fostered a sense of camaraderie and helped students build rapport with their teachers.
- **Range of other Creative Challenges:** In addition to games, students were tasked with creative challenges such as trying to catch Miss D off guard by sneaking up on her (few succeeded).

### Building Confidence Through Interaction

The scavenger hunt was more than just a fun event; it served as a valuable opportunity for Year 7 students to build confidence in their ability to engage with adults. By interacting with staff in a relaxed and enjoyable setting, students learned the importance of communication and teamwork.

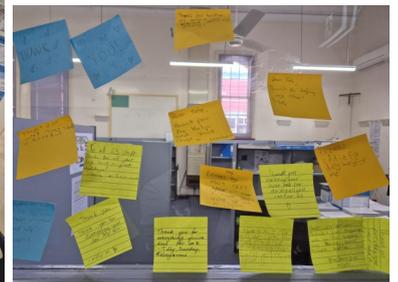
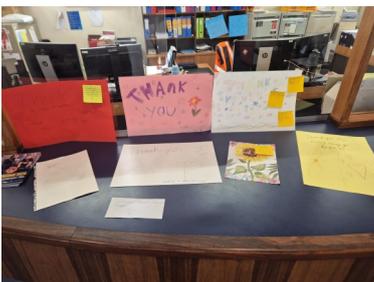
### Positive Feedback

Both students and staff shared positive feedback about the scavenger hunt. Many students reported feeling more comfortable approaching their teachers, while staff members appreciated the opportunity to connect with students in a different way. The event fostered a sense of community and made lasting memories for everyone involved.

### Looking Forward

As we move into the next term, we encourage our Year 7 students to continue seeking opportunities for interaction and collaboration. The scavenger hunt was just the beginning of a year filled with exciting learning experiences that promote growth, confidence, and connection.

Congratulations to the winners of the day Kade and Colten



### **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



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  
cindy.bibby@education.vic.gov.au  
53581700  
stawellsc.vic.edu.au

## Year 10 English – Modern Oral Presentations

For the first half of this term our Year 10 students are busily developing their public speaking skills. The Year 10 cohort get to investigate a range of different ways that people are able to share their thoughts and opinions through voice – this includes not just your run of the mill speeches but podcasts, interviews and even protests. This unit wraps up with the students getting to present their own voice to their classmates in the format that suits them best.



## Year 12 Psychology

Students have been learning about the topic of learning. Firstly, students looked at classical conditioning and Pavlov's dribbling dogs. Students had to try to make their pupils constrict when hearing a noise rather than seeing a light. Then students learnt about operant conditioning looking at Skinner's rats who were taught to press a lever and then they would be rewarded with a food pellet. Two students in the class volunteered to find an object in the classroom and they were rewarded or punished using clapping or booing. Finally, Bandura's Bobo dolls were studied, which is observational learning, demonstrating that people will learn a behaviour by copying another person performing that behaviour. The class had to make a snowflake like the one pictured. One group had a step by step video to guide them and the other group had only a picture.

Next the class will be learning about memory.

Mrs Prior



# 93rd Legacy ANZAC Commemoration

## Ceremony for Students

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April saw eight young leaders from Stawell Secondary College attend the Shrine of Remembrance with approximately 5000 other students from across Victoria. The event, sponsored by Legacy, is to remember all people who have served their country since World War One. Wil Evans and Shayla Madin laid a wreath on behalf on Stawell Secondary College, They were joined by Ewan Kellas, Charlie Dunn, Satria Tiley, Ruby Nicholson, Shilo Walls and Oliver Hunter.

Lest we forget.



# Community Events

 SchoolTV | Wellbeing for School Communities

## 2025 Youth Mental Health Roadshow

Featuring Dr. Michael Carr-Gregg



### Parent & Carer Information Evening

Wednesday 30 July, 2025

 7 pm - 8 pm

 Horsham Town Hall, Theatre  
71 Pynsent Street, Horsham

Suitable for: Parents, grandparents and caregivers supporting school aged young people.

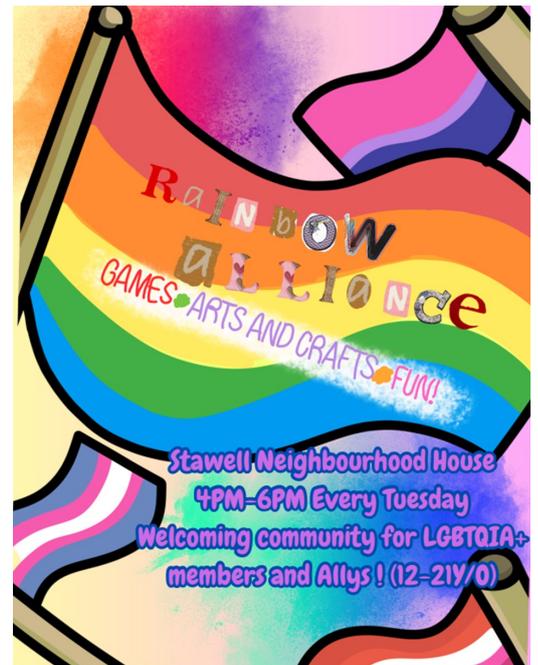
**FREE EVENT**  
Registration is essential.



Join Dr Michael Carr-Gregg, one of Australia's leading child and adolescent psychologists, for a presentation on youth mental health. His invaluable insights will equip parents and caregivers with practical strategies to support youth wellbeing build resilience, and navigate the challenges young people face today.

Topics will include:

- Nurturing growth and development
- The stages of adolescence
- Understanding key milestones
- Tips for effective communication
- Tips for thriving in school
- Strategies to help with anxiety
- Building resilience
- Trauma and recovery





ASPIRATION



RESPECT



INCLUSION



RESILIENCE



PARTICIPATION

## **IMPORTANT DIARY DATES 2025**

7/5/25—Open Evening for future Year 7 students and families

26/5/25—28/5/25—Year 11 Futures Camp—Melbourne

17/6/25—The GAT

19/6/25—Staff PD Day—Pupil Free

26/6/25—27/6/25—Year 10 Chinese Melbourne Camp

3/7/25—4/7/25—Year 9 Chinese Melbourne Camp

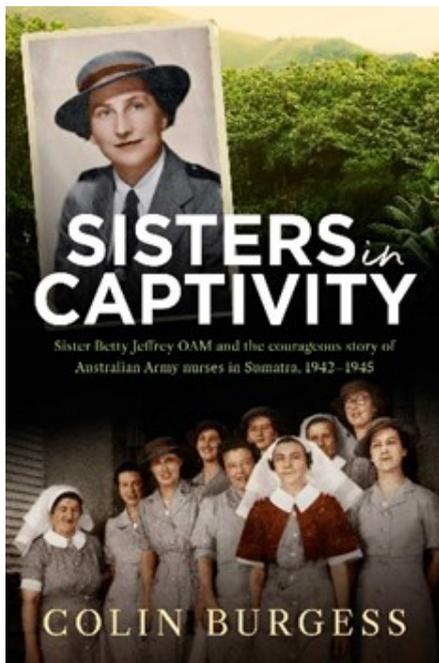
4/7/25—Last Day of Term 2

21/7/25—First Day of Term 3



## Final Call—Do you have a Health Care or Pension card?

We are in the final moments of families being able to apply for the Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF). All we need is a photo copy of your card and we have a form at the office to be filled out. Eligible families will receive \$256 per student to go onto their family account. This money can then be used for camps, sporting days or excursions.



### *Book of the Week*

Sisters In Captivity

Author: Colin Burgess

The incredible account of Sister Betty Jeffrey OAM and the Australian war nurses who survived the bombing of evacuation ship SS Vyner Brooke in February 1942, and subsequently spent three years in Japanese prison camps in Sumatra.

During those perilous years surviving in squalid conditions, Sister Jeffrey kept a secret diary of day-to-day events which, after the war, was turned into a hugely successful book and radio serial: White Coolies. She would often write of the powerful sisterhood that evolved as the prisoners of war took strength from each other, even forming a vocal orchestra. White Coolies was a major inspiration for the 1997 film Paradise Road.

Sisters in Captivity builds on those diaries to not only recall the years the nurses spent as POWs but also to recount the early life and influences that encouraged Betty Jeffrey into the field of nursing as a lifelong endeavour. A tireless advocate for returned nurses, she co-founded the Australian Nurses Memorial Centre with sole survivor of the Banka Island Massacre, fellow POW, and her longtime friend Vivian Bullwinkel.