

# 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 10

27/6/2025

## Year 8 Systems - CO<sub>2</sub> Cars

The Year 8 Systems class has researched, designed and constructed a CO<sub>2</sub> race car.

The cars are powered by a CO<sub>2</sub> canister and reach speeds over 35km/h. Our track was 20 meters long and the fastest time of the day was from Liam Johnston's F1 inspired design in 1.46 seconds.

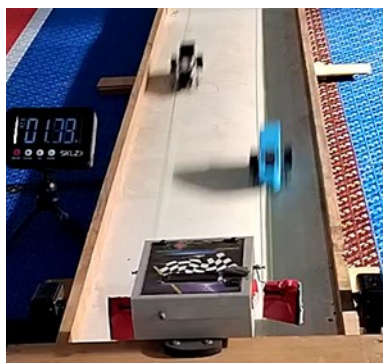
That is 13.8 m/s or 39 km/h.



Liam Johnston with the fastest car of the day.



Two of the race car designs



A close finish in the semi finals. You can see the electronic timer to the left.

**4/7/25—Last day of Term 2—2:30pm early dismissal**

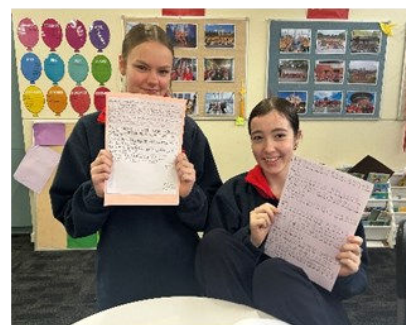
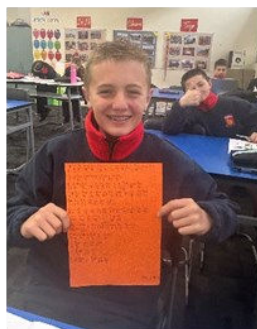
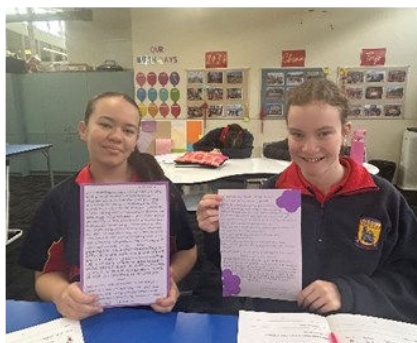
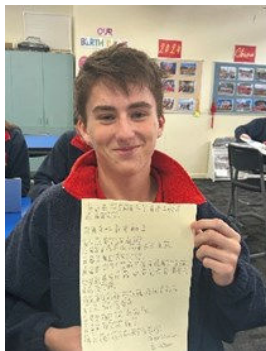
Stawell Secondary College's child safety and wellbeing policies and practices can be found on our school website: [www.stawellsc.vic.edu.au](http://www.stawellsc.vic.edu.au). We welcome comments and feedback on these from our school community at any time. Feedback can be made to Murray Hart on 5358 1700.

RESPECT  
INCLUSION  
ASPIRATION  
RESILIENCE  
PARTICIPATION

# Chinese Program Report

## Year 9 Pen-pal Program

Our Year 9 students recently received letters from their pen-pals in China, who shared fascinating details about famous landmarks in Shanghai. In response, our students wrote back, describing their daily routines and introducing some unique aspects of Australian customs.



## Chinese Dancing Club

Our Chinese Dancing Club once again delivered a beautiful performance during the Winter Concert. Well done to A.J., Ashely, Earl, Isaiah and Noah !



### Congratulations to Shayla Madin

A big congratulations to Shayla Madin, who has been nominated to participate in the **Shanghai Friendship Summer Camp** in China in July. Shayla is one of only five students selected across Victoria to attend this prestigious program. We wish her the best of luck and hope she enjoys this incredible learning journey.

### 2025 China Trip Updates

We are excited to share that 26 students are now fully committed to the 2025 China Trip. Our fourth China Trip Information Night was successfully held on 23rd June. Thank you to all the students and families for your enthusiasm and support of this life-changing opportunity.

### More events coming up:

Stay tuned for stories and highlights from our **Year 10 and Year 9 Chinese camps!**

### 2025 Presentation Ball

If you have any linen or décor still at home from the 2025 Presentation Ball, could you please return this to the school before the end of Term 2.

# VCE News

As we head into the Term 2 break and beyond, here are some important updates and reminders for all senior students and families:

## ★ Mid-Year Exams Matter

Mid-year exams are a key checkpoint to reflect on your learning in Unit 1 or Unit 3 and apply effective exam strategies. Start revising early to position yourself for success in Unit 2 or Unit 4.

## ★ Year 12 Exam Timetable & Practice Papers

The VCAA exam timetable is now available. Students are encouraged to visit the VCAA website to check their exam schedule and download past exam papers and examiners' reports to support their preparation.

## ★ Holiday Revision Classes

Onsite Term 2 holiday revision classes will run for Chinese, PE, General Maths, and Maths Methods. Attendance is expected. Please check your timetable and come prepared. These sessions are valuable preparation opportunities.

## ★ Online Workshops and Webinars

Students and families are encouraged to check XUNO messages for links to upcoming workshops and webinars regarding study skills and Unit 3 revisions.

## ★ Youthrive University Scholarships – Now Open

Youthrive Victoria offers scholarships to support rural students pursuing further education.

- University Scholarships: Valued at \$40,000, including \$30,000 over three years and access to mentoring and leadership development.
- Rural Chances Scholarships: \$5,000 to support TAFE or apprenticeship training.
- Applications Open:

University Scholarships: June 16 – August 15

Rural Chances Scholarships: Until October 20

Apply at: [www.youthrivevictoria.org.au/scholarships](http://www.youthrivevictoria.org.au/scholarships)

## ★ More Scholarship & Career Support

Our Careers Practitioner, Ms Cindy Bibby, will be speaking to Year 12 VCE students about early university entry programs, VTAC applications, Open Day events, and upcoming scholarship deadlines. Please stay tuned for more details.

## ★ Upcoming Events

- Tuesday 2nd July: Western Victorian Careers Expo – Wimmera Events Centre, Longerenong.



## 2025 Year 8 -10 School Camp

November 10, 11 & 12

The 2025 school camp for Year 8 -10 students is a Coastal Camp based at Southcombe Lodge, a school camp in Port Fairy. This camp will be a 3-day/2-night coastal experience. Students will have the opportunity to experience a variety of coastal activities that include swimming, surfing, snorkeling, paddle boarding, canoeing beach activities and historical and local town visits. The total cost of the camp is \$375.



Students can apply to be part of this great experience by completing the “Expression of Interest” form that has gone home with students this week or via the link provided to students via Xuno. If you have not received this form, please contact the General Office.

**Expressions of Interest close on Friday 4th July**

### **Semester 1 Reports available Friday 4 July via XUNO portal**



Students and families will be able to view Semester 1 reports via their XUNO portal. The semester reports are collated written feedback provided to students throughout the semester. Reports for students in Years 7 -10 will also include student achievement standards (progression points) which indicate at what level the student has demonstrated throughout the semester.

Families who would like a hard copy of the semester reports are encouraged to contact the Front Office.

# Community Events

**Stawell Library**

**July holiday program**

Call 03 5358 1274 to book in!

**LIBRARIES**

**Badge Making with Shirley!**  
WEDNESDAY 9, 2.30PM

**Storytime**  
THURSDAY 10, 10.30AM

**Movie at the Library!**  
WEDNESDAY 16, 2.30PM

**Storytime**  
THURSDAY 17, 10.30AM

**Astro Kid**

**Lego**  
Scrapping toys  
Crafting table  
throughout the holidays  
All welcome!

**Grampians Multicultural Hub Inc.,**  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
NG LIBRARIES,  
INVITES YOU TO A

**MULTICULTURAL WOMEN'S  
GET-TOGETHER**

**SATURDAY, JULY 5**  
2pm to 4pm  
at Stawell Library

Come along for a chat and casual  
socialising in a safe environment

- child-friendly event
- warm, comfortable place
- share your ideas for this group

**ALL WELCOME!**

**Grampians Multicultural HUB**  
**LIBRARIES**

## School Assembly to recognise achievement

Our whole school came together last Tuesday to recognise and celebrate student achievement. On a cold winter day, in a freezing gymnasium, our School Captains welcomed all and presented the wonderful achievements of our students over Semester 1.

Kayan Barnes, Shayla Madin and Bradley Byron were recognised for their achievements in the public speaking competition and Shayla, Poppie Dykes and Kaitlyn Hodder were wished the best of luck in the Legacy Public Speaking competition coming up on Friday 27th June.

Our age group champions in the House Cross Country were presented with their medallions. They were: 12 to 13 Age Group Champions - Violet Baum and Jack Sullivan; 14 Age Group Champions - Zahli Mellor and Dusty Wethers; 15 Age Group Champions - Eva Hurley and Tom Collins; 16 Age Group Champions - Sienna Santuccione and Jack Reading; 17 Age Group Champions - Charmaine Lockwood and Cooper Field; 18 to 20 Age Group Champions - Sarah Dean and Billy Williams.

Our Chinese Language students had the opportunity to participate in the Education Perfect Languages Championship with the following results: **Bronze Awards:** Olivia Hunter, Blake Davidson, Jett Virgin, Aika Ramos, Miles Membrey, Lexi Gooden, Isaiah Taylor, James Simpkin and Shayla Madin; **Silver Awards:** Earl Pestijo, Blake Hyslop and Leonie Williams; **Gold Award:** Kendal Clarke and Noah Harvey; **Emerald Award** went to: Sarah Dean.

The School Captains also congratulated **Sienna Santuccione** and **Chloe Formosa** for their remarkable success in the **'Hanyuqiao' Chinese Speech and Cultural Performance Competition**. Sienna was awarded **2nd place**, and Chloe achieved **3rd place**. Both students progressed to compete at the **National Level**, where they received an **Excellence Award**.

Recognising student attendance was also a major focus of the assembly. Students who achieved a 95% or better attendance rate during semester 1 were presented with a certificate. These students were:

**Year 7:** Blake Dryburgh, Calais Eagles, Millie McColl, Charlotte Quaife, Charlie Sullivan, Flynn Corless, Dane Berry, Kaitlyn Hodder, Summer Smith, Tomine Malpas, Jack Sullivan, Asha Crawford, Kelsey Hurley, Kade Santuccione, Taylah Charty, Xander Bowen, Eden Croft, Reuben Martin, Ethan Parker, Myshka Forbes, Iso Harry, Harley Prydderch, Colten Kenny, Sophie Fletcher, James Simpkin, Ava Brilliant, Maddison Reynolds, Haylei Mitchell, Chloe Pearce, Andrew Papadopoulos, Edward Nelson, Bolton Fox, Cordelia Crawford who achieved 100% attendance. The winner of the Year 7 attendance lucky draw for a \$20 canteen voucher was Myshka Forbes

**Year 8:** Edward Redford, Milla Harrison, Angus Johnston, Lylah Slorach, Leon Lhanz De Leon, Kaiden McKay, Maiken Miller-McKitterick, William Hodder, Archer Reading, Callum Reading, Jordan Lockwood, Jhon Constantino, Jason Arreza, Piper Davidson, Raine Pedro & Xyrus Gragasin who achieved 100% attendance. The winner of the Year 8 attendance lucky draw for a \$20 canteen voucher was Angus Johnston.

**Year 9:** Scarlett Rimon, Liam Nicholson, Claire Christian, Zeke Jamieson, Ryder Sullivan, Satria Tiley, Shiloh Walls, Lexi Gooden, Tyson Field, Rrez Campbell-Huruglica, Jalen Lockwood, Ruby Nicholson and our highest attendee in Year 9 who was William Evans. The winner of the Year 9 attendance lucky draw for a \$20 canteen voucher was Rrez Campbell-Huruglica.

**Year 10:** Tora Crawford, Brody Johnson, Isaiah Taylor, Declan Seaman, Isabell Read, Leonie Williams, Archie Hoffmann, Ashlee Marrow, Scott Tulloch, Ador Kongor, Earl Pestijo, Hamish Morrissey, Jack Reading, Rhenz Laurente and Ella Burgers who achieved 100% attendance. The winner of the Year 10 attendance lucky draw for a \$20 canteen voucher was Leonie Williams.

**Year 11:** Riley Walker, Nate Lyons, Hannah Raeburn, Cooper Field, Sienna Santuccione, Levi Raeburn, Lilly Reading, Steven Finlay, Ayva Mitchell, Chloe Formosa, Emmett Perry, Charmaine Lockwood, Jack Sirre, Ava Redford, Tyrone Jamieson, Addison Hutchins, Clara Thompson, and Jared Pedro who achieved 100% attendance. The winner of the Year 11 attendance lucky draw for a \$20 canteen voucher was Addidson Hutchins.

**Year 12:** Harleigh Friend, Leon Joseph Albert De, Jack O'Neill, Billy Williams, Joshua Harvey, Sarah Dean, Leon Martin, Bella Parker, Caleb Cassar, Zali Harrison, Tanisha Campbell-Huruglica, Ella Cassidy and Darcy Meyer who achieved 100% attendance. The winner of the Year 12 attendance lucky draw for a \$20 canteen voucher was Zali Harrison.

The final part of our assembly was **recognising student achievement:** Our school values are the core of our school culture. The assembly recognised those students in each year level who have achieved the highest number of achievements for each individual school value and the student who has received the most achievement across all values for the semester. Each student received a certificate, with a \$20 canteen voucher for the student with the most achievements across all values. Winners were:

**Year 7:** Participation - Haylei Mitchell, Resilience - Tomine Malpas, Respect - Mackenzie Perry, Inclusion - James Simpkin, Aspiration - Evie Morrissey. Our overall Year 7 winner and a \$20 canteen voucher - Evie Morrissey.

**Year 8:** Participation - Zahli Mellor, Resilience - Lhanz De Leon, Respect - Caitlin Seaman, Inclusion - Lylah Slorach, Aspiration - Milla Harrison. Our overall Year 8 winner and a \$20 canteen voucher - Lhanz De Leon.

**Year 9:** Participation - Shiloh Walls, Resilience - Tikaani Nelson-Chittock, Respect - Claire Christian, Inclusion - Eva William Evans, Aspiration - Eva Hurley. Our overall Year 9 winner and a \$20 canteen voucher - Claire Christian.

**Year 10:** Participation - Claire Scott, Resilience - Kayan Barnes, Respect - Leonie Williams, Inclusion - Scott Tulloch, Aspiration - Isaiah Taylor. Our overall Year 10 winner and a \$20 canteen voucher - Scott Tulloch.

**Year 11:** Participation - Clara Thompson, Resilience - Chloe Formosa, Respect - Cooper Field, Inclusion - Emmett Perry, Aspiration - Sienna Santuccione. Our overall Year 11 winner and a \$20 canteen voucher - Sienna Santuccione

**Year 12:** Participation - Caleb Cassar, Resilience - Sarah Dean, Respect - Dylan Jansen Van Vuuren, Inclusion - Kayden Jackson, Aspiration - Bella Parker. Our overall Year 12 winner and a \$20 canteen voucher - Dylan Jansen Van Vuuren

Our School Captains closed the school assembly by congratulating all students on their efforts in Semester 1 and wishing the students and staff a safe and enjoyable break before commencing Semester 2.





# GREAT VIC BIKE RIDE

## Exciting Student Opportunity

**Dates:** Monday 24 November – Friday 28 November 2025 - 5 days

**Route:** Mortlake to Camperdown via Koroit, & Port Campbell - 364km

**Meals:** Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided

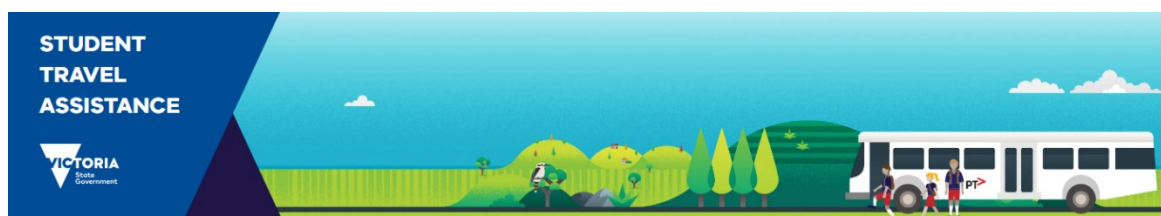
**Cost:** \$250 per student (remaining costs to be raised through team fund raising)

All new, experienced, and enthusiastic riders welcome.

For more information access the GVBR website.

If you're interested in the GVBR please return the form that was sent home with students this week or via the link sent to students via xuno. If you have not received this form and would like one, please contact the General Office.

**Expressions of interest will close: Wednesday 2nd July.**



### COUNTRY BUS TRAVELLERS:

Registering your child to take the country bus.

[https://studenttravelassistance.educationapps.vic.gov.au/s/?c\\_tab=register](https://studenttravelassistance.educationapps.vic.gov.au/s/?c_tab=register)

The new system has slightly changed in the way student applications are done. If your child is not an eligible traveller, payment must be made at the time of registering. Ineligible travellers are charged a fee of \$125 per child, per term. If you have any queries as to payment and eligibility, please contact the School Bus Management System on 1800 338 663.

If your child is an eligible traveller, the registration just rolls over from the previous year so no need to renew each term.

If you are having any trouble with registering or renewing applications, please contact Georgia Byron by emailing [georgia.byron2@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:georgia.byron2@education.vic.gov.au) or calling 5358 1700.



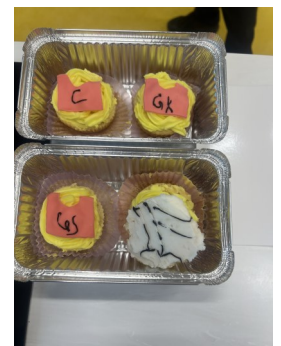
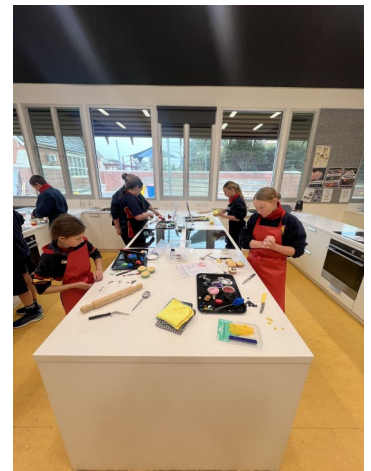
## Year 7A Cupcake Decorating Design Brief

As part of their Design Brief Assessment Task, the Year 7A Food Technology students recently took part in decorating their own cupcakes. After exploring the principles of design, students planned and executed their own unique cupcake concepts, focusing on themes such as cartoon characters, farm animals, sports, and garden designs.

Using a range of piping techniques, colours, and edible decorations, students brought their imaginative ideas to life with impressive results. From detailed animal faces and sporty symbols to colourful garden scenes and playful characters, each cupcake was a reflection of the student's creativity and attention to detail.

This hands-on task gave students the chance to showcase their design thinking while developing practical kitchen skills—and the end results were as delightful to look at as they were to eat!

Well done to all students on their fantastic efforts!





## Strong Mob excursion to Halls Gap June 2025

Our Year 7-12 First Nations students joined other secondary schools in the area for a connection to culture at the Gathering Place Budja Budja in Halls Gap.

The days were dedicated to fostering strong cultural connections with one another in our own backyard in the Grampians, showing school values and participating within small group activities, forming lasting connections and friendships with others.

Students learnt from Jess Chatfield, a Gunditjmara woman, who passed on her own stories, knowledge of local plants in the bush tucker garden and the significance of coming together, making new friendships and strong connections to the land around us.

Jess is passionate about connecting through art and passed on her knowledge of indigenous symbols their significance, enriching their understanding and expression through art.

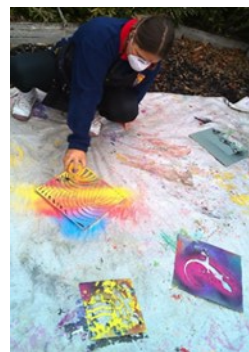
Throughout the experience students were able to explore the meaning of various indigenous symbols and their significance, expressing their own connections through art.

During the two days students had the opportunity to share their own journey taken so far, creating their own stories on totem poles that reflect who they are and what connects them to the land and culture. Making message stones to pass onto others, walking through the beautiful landscape and connecting to the land around us while enjoying the company of some local friendly wildlife, Kangaroos and Kookaburras.

On the last day of the cultural experience, we had a special guest join us to show the students how to create some street art using stencils. Students had the opportunity to listen and learn from Adrian Doyle from Blender Studios in Melbourne and create their own piece.

At the end of each day students enjoyed sitting around the firepit and making damper and reflecting on the day's experiences, deepening the bonds formed.

Stawell Secondary College would like to thank the staff of Budja Budja Aboriginal Co-operative, especially the SEWB team for their hospitality and inviting our school to experience the two-day strong mob cultural connection.



# What's new in the AG VIEW

Week 9 – Students made a valuable contribution by completing the initial stages of fencing on the back oval near the bushland reserve. The session began with learning how to tie a figure-eight knot, followed by a site inspection to determine the most suitable approach using the available materials. We were fortunate to repurpose old, tangled wire, which students successfully untangled and used to complete three lines of fencing, with all the wire that we had. They demonstrated strong teamwork by feeding the single wire through the posts, rotating roles to ensure everyone understood each part of the process. Moving forward, we plan to use a wire spool to streamline the task and improve efficiency.



Week 10 - Students ventured out to Ms Lang's farm to check on the progress of the crops after the recent rains. It was great to see everything green, and the crops have progressed further again. Our crop plot had an extra 8mm overnight prior to us coming out to visit and we were able to see the changes from the last fortnight of checking the progress. Unfortunately, we did not sow the beans deep enough and the cockies had eaten most of them.

We were lucky to have more rain whilst we were out on the farm and see lots of wildlife out and about.

We washed the bus down and discussed the importance of biosecurity (will be a unit in 2026) and avoiding the movement of weeds etc.





## YEAR 12 PSYCHOLOGY

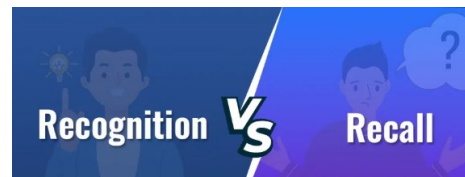
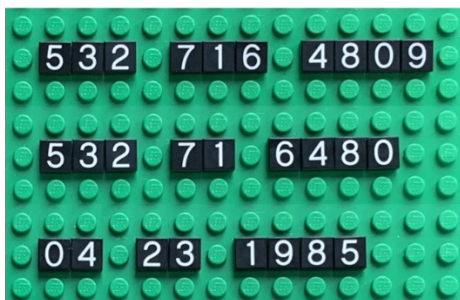
Have you ever wondered about the following:

- Is audio or visual better for recalling a list of words?
- Can chunking effect working memory and recall and improve memory?
- Does sugar and caffeine intake influence memory?
- Will positive reinforcement encourage behaviour more than punishment?
- Does having a full stomach effect memory?
- Do people remember more at the beginning and end of a list than in the middle?
- Will people be influenced by others through observational learning?
- Is recall or recognition a better way to remember?

For their SAC the Year 12 Psychology class were to create and conduct an experiment on a topic covered in unit 3 being: the nervous system, stress, learning and memory. In pairs students conducted their experiments with students in Years 10 – 12. They are now going to write up their results in a poster for assessment. Students had to be over the age of 16 to be able to give written permission.

A big thank you to the following classes and teachers for allowing the Year 12 Psychology class to come into their classes to conduct these experiments: Year 10 Maths (Ms Mac), Year 10 English (Mrs Giles), Year 11 VM (Wes), Year 12 VM (Mrs McDonald), Year 11 Legal Studies (Miss Tangey), Year 11 Physics (Mr Adetayo), Year 11 and 12 Chinese (Ms Ling) and students in study. Without the participation of these classes we would not have been able to collect the data needed for this SAC.

Mrs Prior



### **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 – 30<sup>th</sup> June – 4<sup>th</sup> July



## WASM CAREERS EXPO

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July

All Year 9 and 12 students will be attending

The Western Victorian Careers Expo is the largest careers expo in country Victoria, offering vocational information to students. Attendees have the opportunity to talk to a wide range of career, industry and course advisors on a one-to-one basis. Exhibitors and presenters consist of local, regional, metropolitan and interstate representatives, including more than 20 Victorian and South Australian universities that will be present.

Expo format includes:

Career and Course Exhibitor displays

Manufacturer and Trade interactive activities – ‘Try a Trade’

TIS – Tertiary Information Session for Year 12 VCE students

### Itinerary

Depart - Stawell Secondary College at **9am**

**10 am** – approx.. - Arrive at WASM Careers Expo- Wimmera Machinery Field Days, Longerenong,

**12.30pm** – Depart Longerenong and return to Stawell Secondary College

**1.30pm** – Arrive back at Stawell Secondary College

Students then proceed to Periods 5 & 6 as normal

## CAREERS DAY

Term 3 – Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July

**CAREERS DAY 2026**



**Year 7-12 students**

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2026**

18 Guest speakers attend Stawell Secondary College to speak to students about 'a day in the life of their career'

**11.15am – 1pm**

## SUBJECT EXPO

Term 3 – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August

# **SUBJECT EXPO: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2025**

- staff present on their subject area for 2026– Parents/Carers welcome to attend
- This expo will be conducted onsite at Stawell Secondary College Periods 5 & 6 to allow students to make informed decisions regarding their subject selections for 2025
- Current Year 8 students will select their Year 9 2026 electives in week 4 after both students/parents have read the 2026 handbooks, and from student preferences elective blocks will be formed and students will be allocated to electives



ASPIRATION



RESPECT



INCLUSION



RESILIENCE



PARTICIPATION

## **IMPORTANT DIARY DATES 2025**

30/6/25—4/7/25—Year 10 Work Experience

1/7/25—WASM Career's Expo

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

4/7/25—Last Day of Term 2—2:20pm early dismissal

21/7/25—First Day of Term 3

25/7/25—Year 8 Chinese Food Topic Excursion



## **ADDITION TO OUR SCHOOL UNIFORM**

Following our School Council meeting this week, we are very pleased to inform families that Fosters Mensland will commence stocking navy blue tracksuit pants as part of our everyday school uniform. We have had students, all genders, ages & sizes, try the samples on over the past fortnight with a resounding response. Every student responded positively with many of the students commenting on the warmth and the comfort of the pants.

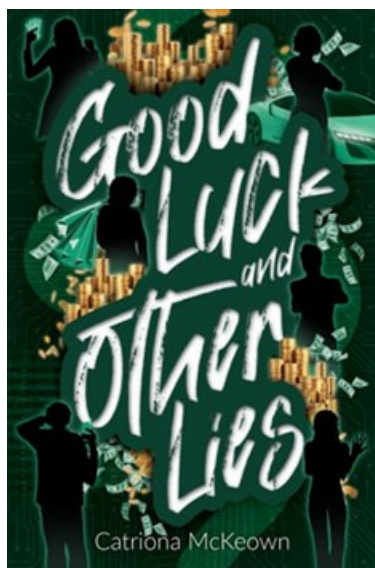
Fosters Mensland will have the pants available from the start of next term at approximately \$65.95.

We continue to search for a school short that suits all students.

## **Year 8 English**

The year 8 classes have just finished a unit of work on the films “Ponyo” and “Spirited Away” directed by Hayao Miyazaki. They produced a film review for one of the films, analysed the characters and wrote paragraphs exploring themes from the films. They are now working on language analysis for the rest of the term.

Mrs Prior



## **Book of the Week**

Good Luck and Other Lies

Author: Catriona McKeown

In an extraordinary stroke of luck, six high school students – Luke, Alex, Harriet, Meg, Kye, and outcast Cassie – find themselves thrust into unimaginable wealth after winning a staggering 50 million-dollar Megaball prize. Overnight, their ordinary lives transform into a world where anything is attainable, and shopping becomes difficult – not because you can't afford anything, but because you can afford everything.

The amidst the glitz and glamour, tragedy strikes ‘the millionaire’s club’, raising unsettling questions: was it an accident, or a deliberate act, fuelled by hidden secrets? As the group begin to discover the truth behind their extraordinary good fortune, they unwittingly unravel a complex web of lies concealing not only their improbable win but also other so-called luck happening around them.