

# CONNECTIONS

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## **WE WANT OUR PARENTS / CAREGIVERS / GUARDIANS TO TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!**

Our school, with the Department of Education, is conducting our annual survey to find out what parents / caregivers / guardians think of our school. The Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of our school, student behaviour, and student engagement.

The survey is optional, but we urge all families to please participate. Our school will use the anonymous survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improve what we offer for your child/children.

The Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey will be open from Monday 18 August 2025 until Friday 19 September 2025.

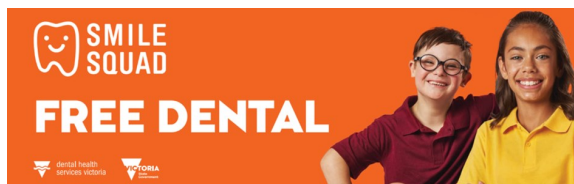
An email was sent to all families on Monday 18 August 2025. If you have not received the email, or would like another one sent, please email Marie McAloon on [Marie.Mcaloon@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Marie.Mcaloon@education.vic.gov.au) or call the office on 5358 1700. The email letter has the log in details.

The survey results will be communicated to parents / caregivers / guardians through our Connections newsletter.

Although we are unable to see which families have participated in this anonymous survey, we invite every family who submits the survey to email our Business Manager, Marie McAloon, on [Marie.Mcaloon@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Marie.Mcaloon@education.vic.gov.au) stating your Family Name, Student Name and 'Survey Completed'. All families participating will be entered into a free Raffle with a prize of a \$150 voucher to be spent at any business in Stawell.

If you have any questions about this survey or require assistance to access the survey, please do not hesitate to contact our Business Manager, Marie McAloon.

Thank you  
Murray Hart



Smile Squad will be coming on site in Week 2, Term 4 for their free dental program. If you are interested in signing your student/s up for free dental care, please follow the QR code provided. A link has been sent home via email with an attached document outlining the Smile Squad information and an explanation of their services.

**PUPIL FREE DAY—  
THURSDAY 11TH  
SEPTEMBER 2025.  
Staff Professional  
Development**

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

## Ordering Food in Chinese: McDonald's and KFC Experience

One of the most effective ways to foster students' **intrinsic motivation** is to make learning **relevant and purposeful**. To equip students with a deeper understanding of modern China and to help them become culturally prepared, we initiated a cultural project exploring what McDonald's and KFC are like in China. Students engaged with authentic menus, recreated restaurant settings, and practised ordering fast food in Chinese. Their feedback was very positive, highlighting both the cultural relevance and the practical application of the activity.



## VYLC – Victorian Young Leaders to China Program

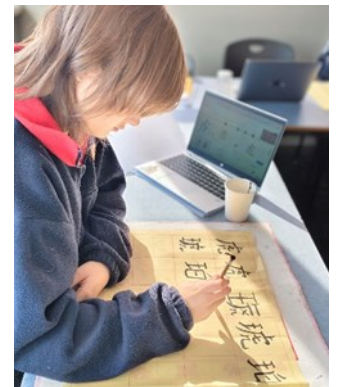
The **two-week VYLC online program** has helped students expand their language skills and deepen their cultural knowledge. All of the VYLC participants are students who will be travelling to China on 12 September. Please enjoy viewing some of the activity photos and reading the feedback they have shared below:



*The VYLC program changed my life. It was a great experience, and I don't have anything negative to say. Whatever problems that came up were immediately resolved. The part of the program that I enjoyed the most was learning about the different seasons and how to say all four seasons in Chinese. I enjoyed talking with the Chinese students and asking them questions. -Tikaani*



*My favourite part was the virtual excursion and I learnt new words like chuntian and xiatian. I also enjoyed the kung fu. - Caleb*



*The VYLC program was lots of fun and it was good to learn about the Chinese culture. My favourite thing was the Chinese calligraphy. It was fun to learn with my friend. - Harper*

*I really enjoyed the VYLC program because my vocabulary has been extended. I really enjoyed the kong fu and the zodiac chase. Everything was very interactive and very well put together. - Harry*



## **Would you like to pay the 2025 Voluntary Contribution for your student?**

### **It is not too late to choose to make this Contribution for 2025.**

Many thanks to our families who have already chosen to pay the 2025 Voluntary Contribution. By making this payment you are assisting Stawell Secondary College to provide students with the best possible access to an engaging curriculum

Victorian Government Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum, and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary.

Nevertheless, the ongoing financial support of our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education and assistance for our students.

This voluntary contribution makes a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer. Within our school, this commitment allows us to offer our students numerous advantages including a wider range of subjects, special curriculum experiences and involvement in exciting local events.

In 2025 our voluntary contributions are:

| <b><u>Year Level</u></b> | <b><u>Contribution</u></b> |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 7                        | \$ 365.00                  |
| 8                        | \$ 365.00                  |
| 9                        | \$ 388.00                  |
| 10                       | \$ 365.00                  |
| 11                       | \$ 205.00                  |
| 12                       | \$ 205.00                  |

If you would like to make a Voluntary Contribution for any or all of your students, you are most welcome to consider one of the following payment methods:

### **Payment methods**

There are a number of options available to parents to finance all costs associated with your student's education at Stawell Secondary College:

Payment in full. This payment can be by cash, cheque or EFTPOS for all debit and credit cards.

Parents can arrange regular direct deductions by contacting their bank or employer or using internet banking facilities. Parents choose the amount and the preferred regularity e.g. weekly, fortnightly or monthly. Parents may suspend or cancel these payments at any time. This process can commence any time after the enrolment form is submitted. To deposit directly to the school please use the following details and quote your family name or your student's name as a reference.

Account Name: STAWELL SECONDARY COLLEGE

Bank: COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA

BSB: 063-528

Account Number: 10009073

Details: Student's Name

BPAY facilities are available. Your relevant information will be available from the School Office.

If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact our Business Manager, Marie McAloon, on [marie.mcaloon@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:marie.mcaloon@education.vic.gov.au)

Thank you for considering this important matter.

# Year 11 Health & Human Development



We were delighted to welcome Bea Greenhalgh and her baby daughter, Freya, into the Year 11 Health and Human Development class. Students have recently been studying fertilisation, prenatal development, and infant development, making Bea's visit a valuable learning experience.

Bea spoke about the importance of maintaining both physical and mental health in preparation for having a child, as well as the need to openly discuss potential financial and logistical challenges with a partner. Freya, just shy of 8 weeks old, demonstrated her growing communication skills with plenty of cooing to her parents.

Bea also shared insights into the beautiful bond Freya has already formed with her older brothers. We are very grateful to Bea and Freya for visiting and bringing to life many of the concepts students have been exploring in class.

## Principals Request - Parents/Carers school survey

As at 5:33 pm, Wednesday 3 September 2025

| Number of families invited | Number of survey responses (count) | Response rate (%) |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 251                        | 45                                 | 18%               |

**We respectfully request that all parents and carers complete the survey.**

The feedback collected provides valuable insights for our School Council, staff, and students, and plays an important role in guiding ongoing improvement to ensure the highest quality of education for our students.

If you no longer have access to your survey link, please contact the school office for assistance.

Two teams of Year 8 boys headed to Ararat for the Black Ranges basketball competition on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. We played against surrounding schools and fought hard, with the highlight of the day being the victory over St Brigids (and the KFC we had after our games were all done).

Thank you to the Year 8 boys for their sportsmanship and attitude for the day, Charlie Dunn of Year 9 for coaching a team and refereeing the games and to Mr Chowdhury for supervising.

## Year 8 Basketball



# What's new in the AG VIEW

In Week 6, students visited David Lang's farm at Bolangum. Their tasks included drenching the rams orally while standing outside the race, applying backline treatments along the back, and administering injections. All students successfully demonstrated the required skills, stepping outside their comfort zones to complete the work.

While in the area, students also visited the crop plot to check on the progress of the crops they had previously planted.

The following week, the group focused on finishing the final jobs for the back fence on the top oval. It was rewarding to see the pride students took in their efforts, reflecting the time and dedication they had put into completing the project.



# VCE NEWS

## Dream Debut for Jade Smith

Jade Smith has made a flying start to her riding career, steering *Spylark* to victory in the Sheep Hills Cup at Warracknabeal on Saturday.

Jade produced a perfectly timed ride on the family-trained galloper. Settling midfield, *Spylark* loomed four-wide around the home turn before charging to the front with 100 metres to run and holding on strongly to secure the win.

For Jade, the moment capped years of dedication to the racing industry. “Both of my parents have been involved in racing all their lives,” she said. “When they moved to Stawell, I started getting more involved too, but riding had always been my dream.”

Her acceptance into the jockey program was another proud milestone. “When I found out I’d been accepted, it was such a relief to see all my hard work paying off. Just getting to the races on Saturday was a big achievement—but to win made it even more special.”



The road hasn’t always been smooth. Jade admits her biggest challenge was missing out on selection the first year she applied. “It was heartbreaking because it was always my dream, but it just made me work harder the next year and more determined than ever.”

## VCE Year 12 Headspace Brain Break Lunch Activities:

Students have enjoyed the activities. Many thanks to Iestyn and the Headspace staff for their support.



## Term 3 Exam Revision Sessions Reminder

Stawell Secondary College offers a range of online and onsite revision sessions during the Term 3 study break. Students are expected to attend, as these sessions provide valuable opportunities to consolidate and deepen learning. The timetables have been shared with both students and parents.



**BALLARAT  
TECH  
SCHOOL**

THE BALLARAT TECH SCHOOL  
**Western Region  
Girls in STEM Camp**

The Western Region Girls in STEM camp is all about "you can't be what you can't see" and gives students the chance to explore STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) with mentors, hands-on experiences, and skills that will open up more future possibilities for them.

Over three action-packed days, they will tackle creative challenges, connect with like-minded peers and mentors, and gain real-world insights into clean energy and use cases for robotics and automation.

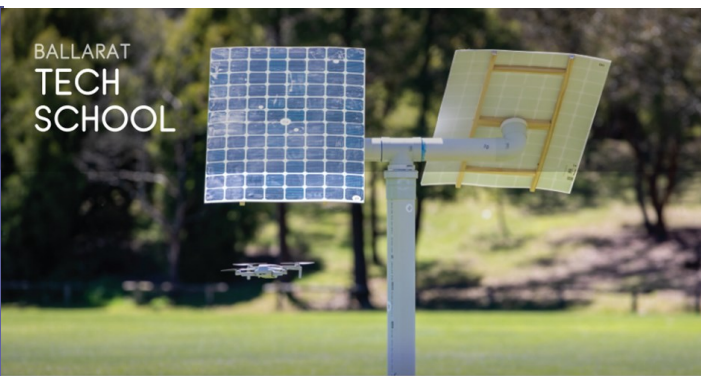
**Location:**  
Ballarat Tech School (activities) and Log Cabin Camp (accommodation).

**Who for:**  
Year 8 & 9 Girls.

**Supervision:**  
Students will be supervised by accompanying teachers.

**Dates:**  
Tuesday 28th  
Wednesday 29th  
Thursday 30th  
October, 2025

**Cost:**  
**FREE**  
(Fully funded by the Ballarat Tech School).



**BALLARAT  
TECH  
SCHOOL**

**ITINERARY:**

| Tuesday 28th October   |                                                                      |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                        | Depart Horsham College                                               |
|                        | Arrive Ballarat Tech School and Morning Tea                          |
| <b>AM Session</b>      | Program Launch and Setting the Scene Activities                      |
|                        | <b>LUNCH</b> (student supplied)                                      |
| <b>PM Session 1</b>    | Skill Building (laser cutting, robot building and coding)            |
|                        | <b>AFTERNOON TEA</b>                                                 |
| <b>PM Session 2</b>    | Skill Building (laser cutting, robot building and coding)            |
|                        | <b>DINNER</b>                                                        |
|                        | Sovereign Hill – Aura Experience                                     |
| Wednesday 29th October |                                                                      |
|                        | <b>BREAKFAST</b>                                                     |
|                        | Arrive Ballarat Tech School                                          |
| <b>AM Session</b>      | <b>Clean Energy Industry Challenge</b>                               |
|                        | <b>LUNCH</b>                                                         |
| <b>PM Session</b>      | <b>Clean Energy Industry Challenge Continued</b>                     |
|                        | <b>DINNER</b>                                                        |
|                        | Evening Camp Activities                                              |
| Thursday 30th October  |                                                                      |
|                        | <b>BREAKFAST</b>                                                     |
| <b>AM Session</b>      | Industry Experience/Tech School Workshop                             |
|                        | <b>MORNING TEA</b>                                                   |
|                        | Connection – Reflection – Challenge Winners – Feedback (Group Photo) |
|                        | <b>LUNCH</b>                                                         |
|                        | Depart Ballarat                                                      |
|                        | Arrive Horsham                                                       |

## Victorian School Students VCTA Clay Target Final

Last Monday, William Hodder, along with his family, journeyed to Echuca to compete in the Victorian School Students VCTA Clay Target Final. William qualified for this event by gaining a third placing in the School Students North/West Zone Clay Target Championships on Thursday 14th August at the Horsham Clay target Club. William and his family arrived in Echuca the day before and hit the Clay Target Club for some early practice. He set his goal to finish in the top ten in his age group in Victoria. On the day, William shot 9/15 & 7/15, which earned him a 9<sup>th</sup> placing. All up, there were 118 junior shooters that competed across the four zones in Victoria. William is pleased with 9<sup>th</sup> placing considering this was his first time shooting in this discipline. The school congratulates William on his efforts and looks forward to more exciting achievements as our clay target squad grow in experience.



# Year 11 English

The Year 11 VCE English students have just finished reading “Breath” by Tim Winton and they completed their SAC which was to write an analytical essay. They are now looking at argument analysis. Students will learn about language, tone, arguments, contentions, persuasive techniques and their intended effects, structuring their writing, paralinguistics and visual and audiovisual components. The SAC is in two parts where students analyse a piece of writing and then write a five minute speech on an issue. Mrs Prior



## Stawell Secondary School Reading Competition

Start Date: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

Finish Date: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Winners will be announced in the first Connections after the close of the competition.

Prizes awarded for:-

Most books read

Most pages read

1<sup>st</sup> prize and 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for each category.

Entry forms available from the library.

Mrs Prior and Ms Rahley



## **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**



ASPIRATION



RESPECT



INCLUSION



RESILIENCE



PARTICIPATION

## IMPORTANT DIARY DATES 2025

11/9/25—Staff Professional Development Day—**PUPIL FREE DAY**

12/9/25—27/9/25—2025 China Trip

19/9/25—Last Day of Term 3

6/10/25—First Day of Term 4



**Attendance  
Matters**

Every student. Every day.

STUDENT  
TRAVEL  
ASSISTANCE



## 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 your child is an ineligible traveller, please renew and make payment for the next term prior to the term commencing.

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.

## *Book of the Week*

Dragonborn

Author: Struan Murray



Life is no fun for Alex Evans. Ever since her dad's death, her overprotective mother has suffocated her with unbreakable rules and unspoken fears. When the frustration inside Alex finally becomes too much to bear, it rushes to the surface.

And fire spills from her mouth.

Because Alex is a dragon. One of the many who live hidden among us, unless something awakens their true nature. Led by the mighty Oliphos to the legendary island of Skralla, Alex must now train alongside fierce, frightening dragon children, if she is to unlock the power of her birthright.

But other dragons are rising too. Drak Midna, the greatest dragon of all, seeks to free himself from the curse that has trapped him for three thousand years. The curse that has kept the world safe.

And Alex has to be strong enough for this fight, or all of us will burn.