

CONNECTIONS

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17/10/2025

Recognition Assembly

Last week we held our whole school assembly in the new auditorium. Many staff and students commented positively on the auditorium and are looking forward to the new Library once the relocation is complete.

The assembly was held to reflect on the many highlights during Term 3 and, most importantly, recognize students who have achieved significant recognition in areas such as attendance and our school values in Term 3. The school captains guided us through the Welcome to Country, National Anthem, an item from our band, the principal's presentation, and then introduced the many achievement items from Term 3.



This is a summary of those achievements:

Public speaking achievements 2025: On Monday, 17th November Shalya Madin will be participating in the National final of the Legacy Public Speaking competition after qualifying in the Victorian State final in September.

Chinese Program: Recognition of the students for competing in the 16th Global Village Youth Bilingual Speech Conference.

1. First Prize: Lacey Bertram and Aika Ramos
2. Second Prize: Earl Pestijo and Isaiah Taylor
3. Third Prize: Jason Arreza, Kendal Clarke, Noah Harvey, Tyler Rowe, Millie McColl, Haylei Mitchell, and Adalita Soule

Year 7 Chinese Reading Competition - Haylei Mitchell represented our school at the State-wide Competition on 5th September and did a fantastic job.

Chinese language students participated in a wide range of extra-curricular activities including: the **Year 8 Chinatown Excursion**, the **Year 9 and 10 Chinese Melbourne Camp** and Shayla Madin attended the **Shanghai Summer Camp** on behalf of Victoria.

China Trip: From 12 September to 27 September, 25 students and 4 staff participated in our 2025 China Trip.

NAPLAN Student recognition: recognising the outstanding achievements of the following Year 9 students who have achieved the highest proficiency of exceeding in NAPLAN.

Ruby Nicholson (Reading & Numeracy), Tikaani Nelson-Chittock (Reading), Alex Simpkin (Reading & Numeracy), Oliver Hunter (Reading & Numeracy), and Will Evans (Numeracy).

- Students recognized for achieving high growth and an increase in proficiency level in NAPLAN: Shayla Madin (Numeracy) and Scarlett Rimon (Reading)

Recognizing student attendance: Year 7 who achieved 95% or better attendance -

BYRON Bradley
COOK Phoenix
CRAWFORD Asha
CRAWFORD Cordelia
CROFT Eden
EAGLES Calais
FIRTH Isabelle
FRIEND Oakley
HARRY Iso
HUNTER Chloe
MARTIN Reuben
MCKERRON Quinn
PARKER Ethan
SANTUCCIONE Kade
SIMPKIN James
SMITH Summer (\$20 canteen voucher winner)



Recognizing student attendance: Year 8 who achieved 95% or better attendance -

DAVIDSON Piper
DE LEON Lhanz Almari
GRAGASIN Xyrus
HARRISON Milla
HODDER William
MCKAY Kaiden
MILLER-MCKITTERICK Maiken
NOTTING Laura (\$20 canteen voucher winner)
RAEBURN Wilbur
RICHARDS Ellyarna
SLORACH Lylah

Recognizing student attendance: Year 9 who achieved 95% or better attendance -

COLLINS Tom
EVANS William
FIELD Tyson (\$20 canteen voucher winner)
NICHOLSON Liam
RIMON Scarlett
ROSS Archie
SIMPSON Kody



Recognizing student attendance: Year 10 who achieved 95% or better attendance -

CRAWFORD Tora
CROFT Max
JOHNSON Brody
Logan AJ
MARROW Ashlee
NELSON Jai
PESTIJO Earl (\$20 canteen voucher winner)
SEAMAN Declan
SHEEN Blair
THOMAS Kade

Recognizing student attendance: Year 11 who achieved 95% or better attendance -

DUCKETT Charlotte
FIELD Cooper
FRASER Cole
HARRISON Lana
HUTCHINS Addison
LYONS Nate (\$20 canteen voucher winner)
PAVEY Brenton
RAEBURN Hannah
REDFORD Ava
RIVERA Olivia
SANTUCCIONE Sienna
SIRRE Jack
SIRRE Justin
THOMPSON Clara
WALKER Riley

Recognizing student attendance: Year 12 students who achieved 95% or better attendance are:

BOOTHROYD Angel
CAMPBELL-HURUGLICA Tanisha
DE LEON Joseph Albert
DEAN Sarah
FRIEND Harleigh
HARRISON Zali
LOGAN Cid
MURPHY Xanon
O'NEILL Jack
PARKER Bella
WILLIAMS Billy (\$20 canteen voucher winner)



Recognizing student achievement: Our school values are the core of our school culture and the means to acknowledging student achievement. Those students in each Year level who have achieved the highest number of achievements for each school value and the student who has received the most achievements across all values for Term 3 are: (each student received a \$20 canteen voucher)

Our Year 7 values winners are:

Participation - Chloe Hunter
Resilience - Summer Smith
Respect- Adalita Soule
Inclusion - Flynn Corless
Aspiration - Haylei Mitchell
Our overall Year 7 winner - Adalita Soule

Our Year 8 values winners are:

Participation - Lhanz De Leon
Resilience - Aika Romas
Respect - Ellyanna Richards
Inclusion - Xyruss Gragasin
Aspiration - Jason Arreza
Our overall Year 8 winner - Aika Romas

Our Year 9 values winners are:

Participation - William Evans
Resilience - Tom Jess
Respect - Claire Christian
Inclusion - Charlie Dunn
Aspiration Scarlett Rimon
Our overall Year 9 winner - Soraya Eckert Christian



Our Year 10 values winners are:

Participation - Lacey Bertram
Resilience - Scott Tulloch
Respect - Rhenz Laurente
Inclusion - Kayan Barnes
Aspiration - Earl Pestijo
Our overall Year 10 winner - Lacey Bertram

Our Year 11 values winners are:

Participation - is Clara Thompson
Resilience - Jordan Eckert
Respect - Harrison Pavey
Inclusion - Sienna Santuccion
Aspiration - Lana Harrison
Our overall Year 11 winner - Jordan Eckert

Our Year 12 values winners are:

Participation - Billy Williams
Resilience - Jack O'Neil
Respect - Caleb Cassar
Inclusion - Dylan Jansen Van Vuuren
Aspiration - Cid Logan
Our overall Year 12 winner - Caleb Cassar



Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Opinion Survey

Thank you to all the parents who completed the Annual Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Opinion Survey. The survey, offered by the Department of Education, is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour, and student engagement. Your opinions are important to us and will contribute to identifying areas for improvement and professional development needs in the school, to target school planning and improve outcomes for students.

The response rate from Parent/Caregiver/Guardian was outstanding this year with almost 100 Parent/Caregiver/Guardian completing the survey. As an incentive, the school offered 2 x \$150 vouchers to Parent/Caregiver/Guardian who complete the survey and registered with our Business Manager.

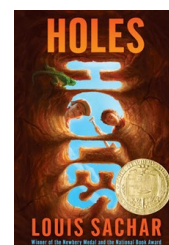
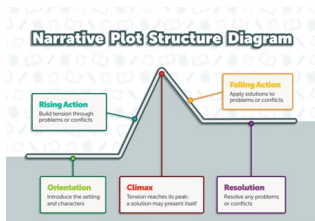
The winners of the vouchers were draw at our recent Assembly and we congratulate Mrs Gabrielle La Forgia and Mrs Robyn Williams.

Regional Track and Field Athletics

Last Thursday, six students headed to Ballarat to represent Stawell Secondary College at the Regional Track and Field Athletics. All students were successful in their specialty areas. Billy Williams achieved a third-place position for the 1500m run, and Austin Tyres second place for Shot put. Jordan Lockwood, Rhenz Enriquez, Dusty Wethers, and Xyrus Gragasin ran third-place in the relay. In addition to the boys' relay race, Xyrus Gragasin also went on to qualify third in both the 100m and 200m races, and first-place for both the Tripple-jump and Long-jump events, qualifying him for the State Athletics in both those events. Xyrus' Tripple-jump recorded an impressive 11.2 meters and the Long jump, 5.9 meters smashing a Regional Athletic record held since 1982. Congratulations to all out successful athletes and best of luck to Xyrus in the next round in Melbourne.



Year 7 English



In Year 7 the students study a variety of different forms of literature allowing them to explore themes and ideas that they will encounter at school, home and in the wider community. Our aim is to build students' confidence in becoming effective and skilled communicators, both written and verbally. The topics covered include: autobiographies, biographies, the narrative plot structure, speeches, advertising (purpose, history, analysing and creating), persuasive writing, letter writing, creative writing, short stories and text study. The two main texts used are Boy by Roald Dahl and Holes by Louis Sachar. Silent reading of a text of students' own choice is a main focus too. A weekly grammar, punctuation and vocabulary program called English Rules is utilised as well.

Year 7 English

Have a look at the wonderfully creative 100-word stories created by some of our Year 7 students!

7A's 100-word stories

Grandma's Gift by Sophie Fletcher

I opened the lace trimmed box and unwrapped the brown wax paper. A dusty, golden handheld mirror was looking at me. It was fancy and looked expensive. What a peculiar gift from my grandma! I gently picked it up and stared at myself. It depicted a frail, skinny girl, with dark under eyes and shadowy expressions. It did not look like me at all, as I am very pretty and popular, as everyone says. "Who are you?" I murmured into the mirror. Then I realised, with tears streaming down my eyes. It's the me I try to hide under myself.



Granny Cliff Jumping by Lewis Nicholson

"Come on granny jump! You're the oldest one here. I'm sorry but its tradition!" I say as I stand next to her. "I don't want to die," said granny. "Its only water," I say. She looks at me before plunging of the cliff into the ice, cold water. She breaks the record of 58.8 meters almost hitting 67 meters. She hits the water with a bang and then disappeared under the splash. I look back when the splash settles but still can't see her. I almost forgot about the secret, small hole you can swim through to the other side.

The tradition by Poppie Dykes

For five generations our family has been doing the tradition that they call "the initiation" and I had to do mine on my 19th birthday. I had to start preparing 3 weeks before, I wasn't allowed food, only water. By the time it was my birthday I had to wear a jumper 3 sizes up to hide my protruding ribcage. I woke up the morning of my 19th birthday at 4am, my mother grabbed my hand, she made me grab my pillow and a blanket as I would be spending the next week in a dark cold basement only eating rats.



Tradition by Ava Parry

"But it's Traditional" Said grate Aunt Elizabeth my aunt was in an temper like always yelling at my father "you have to wear vibrant colours at a family gathering it's traditional" I was sitting in the corner eating a mince pie and turkey I was just sitting there minding my business but it was to much I just couldn't handle it so I stood up and shouted "STOP I have had enough we can wear what we want at an family gathering there is no rules so we can do what we want" after I went on with my day.

Fast by Henry Wadge

One day I got a present from my grandparents, I was super excited about what it could be. Later that day I got the chance to open it, it was a brand new motorbike. I thought jeez that is a big motorbike, it looked like it could boot me off the back or send me to the moon. I got the chance to ride it later that day and I looked like an ant on the motorbike. I rode it full pinned and holy it was fast. I felt like I was on a rocketship on wheels. It was very very fast.



The Ironbarks by Levey Lang

Me and Kody went to the ironbark's, and we made really big bike jumps after we built the take offs of the jumps. we tested the jumps we built to see if they were sturdy enough Kody tested one and I tested another but Kody didn't build the jump properly and I hit the jump at full speed and the jump just caved in and I do a front flip and break my wrist and my collar bone and got knocked out the next thing I know I was in a hospital with Kody and my parents by my side.

7A's 100-word stories

Chicken Burger by Iso Harry

Once upon a time there lived a chicken burger that liked to eat lettuce. His name is Kobe; he likes opening doors. Kobe eats red bull, red bull eats grass, grass eats mineral, mineral eats nothing. Kobe is famous because he is a chicken burger, he met Travis Scott. The FBI was looking for Kobe because he ate the Chinese government war ship. This was not the first time he ate something that belongs to the government, once he ate a rocket ship from NASA. Even though the FBI hates Kobe, Tavis Sott still thinks Kobe is a good boy.



Red by Summer Smith

Everybody likes different colours, you included. You may like orange or yellow, blue or green, purple or pink. You could like any colour of the rainbow but maybe you like red. You may crave to see it. You may crave it so badly you turn to craving yours or someone else's skin. You may love it so deeply that you do terrible things that condemn you in the eyes of society. You might say that you don't crave it. That you despise it more than anything else. You are lying to yourself. You're one of them and you know it.

Red Eyes by Sienna Waldron

It's windy, roughly at 2 AM. I can feel the wind go past me, I'm so cold I don't even notice, my body just feels numb. I stand outside. Waiting, I cannot see anyone, not a single car. I just lean on a rough brick wall, bricks dig into my back, I don't bother getting up. I'm too tired too. I feel myself drift off to sleep, my eyelids falling. I soon am lying on the cold cement in the wind; I feel warm hands pick me up. I jolt up, then stare into their glowing red eyes.

National Youth Parliament Program

The 2026 National Youth Parliament, hosted by the Australian House of Representatives and Y Australia, is a free program designed to empower young Australians aged 16-17 with a passion for leadership, policy, and civic engagement. They are recruiting one young person from every single federal electorate in the country to participate. The program takes place across five days (four nights) in Canberra.

The program gives young people the chance to:

- Develop leadership and policy skills
- Work with peers from across the country

Experience the real workings of Parliament

No prior civic education or experience is required.

Required flights, transport, accommodation, food, activities are all covered. Applications are now open and will close on the 21st of November.

To be eligible for the program in 2026, students should currently be aged between 15-16-years-old.

Learn more and apply here:

<https://nyp.houseofrepresentatives.gov.au/>

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

Chinese Program Report

Following the success of last year's trip, **25 students and four staff from Stawell Secondary College recently completed a 15-day study tour across Shanghai, Beijing, and Xi'an.** The journey offered students a rich mix of language learning, cultural experiences, and global exploration.

In **Shanghai**, students visited the Yu Garden, the Oriental Pearl Tower, and enjoyed a night cruise along the Bund before spending an exciting day at Disneyland. They then travelled to **Beijing** by bullet train, where they attended classes at Beijing Language and Culture University, learning Chinese conversation, Kung Fu, and traditional dragon dancing. Highlights included climbing the Great Wall, visiting the Forbidden City and Summer Palace, and joining locals for morning exercises at the Temple of Heaven. The final stop was **Xi'an**, home to the Terracotta Warriors and the ancient city wall.

The College extends heartfelt thanks to staff — **Ms Ling, Miss Fox, Corinne, and Joe** — for their care and leadership, **and to all who supported and recognized the value of this wonderful opportunity.** This unforgettable experience strengthened students' understanding of Chinese culture and inspired their global outlook.

On a final note, this marks the College's 10th China Trip — a milestone that has inspired and benefited countless students over the years, empowering them to see the world beyond the classroom. A massive thank-you to Ms Ling and Mrs McAloon, who have organised and supported all of the China Trips.





VCE News

We would like to acknowledge the resilience and aspiration of our Unit 3 & 4 VCE students who attended the on-site revision classes and practice exams during the Term 3 break. Student feedback has been very positive, with many appreciating the opportunity to study at school in a supportive environment.

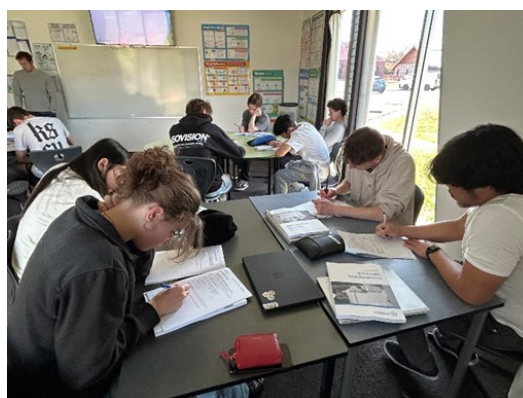
As the VCE exams approach, we wish all students the very best of luck. Your hard work, commitment, and determination will undoubtedly pay off.

Please remember to look after your wellbeing during the exam period. Students are strongly encouraged to study on-site during their exam preparation, as teachers will be available to provide support prior to each subject exam.

Study Tips

1. **Plan your time:** Create a realistic study schedule and stick to it.
2. **Prioritise weak areas:** Focus on topics you find most challenging first.
3. **Practise past exams:** Simulate real exam conditions to build confidence.
4. **Use active recall:** Test yourself regularly instead of just rereading notes.
5. **Take short breaks:** Study in 40–50 minute blocks with 5–10 minute breaks.
6. **Stay organised:** Keep notes, summaries, and materials neat and accessible.
7. **Stay healthy:** Get enough sleep, eat well, and stay hydrated.
8. **Ask for help:** Reach out to teachers if you're unsure about any topic.
9. **Stay positive:** Believe in yourself — you've got this!

Photos of our on-site revision classes



Year 11 Physics

EGG-CELLENT DESIGN: Protecting an Egg from a 6m Fall Using Physics

Explore the fascinating application of physics as Year 11 Physics students design structures to protect eggs from breaking when dropped from 6 meters.



The key physics concepts applied by the students to protect the eggs were:

Impulse and momentum: Increasing the time of impact to reduce the force on the egg.

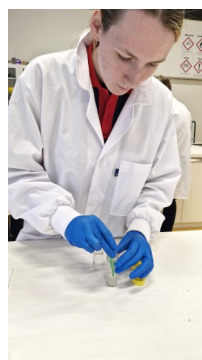
Energy absorption: Designing materials and structures to absorb and dissipate energy, reducing the impact on the egg.

In real-world applications, these principles help us understand safety features like seatbelts, airbags where structures slow down an object's descent and reduce impact force. This principle is also crucial for protecting fragile objects during transportation and developing safety features for consumer products.

The designs yielded impressive results, with eggs surviving the 6-meter drop without breaking.

Year 11 Biology

As part of their study on artificial reproductive cloning, Year 11 Biology students have performed cauliflower cloning using aseptic techniques. They have sterilised cauliflower florets in SDICN solution and transferred them onto Murashige and Skoog medium supplemented with kinetin under sterile conditions. The explants have been incubated in controlled environments to promote callus formation and potential plant regeneration. Students will be recording their observations over the next 2–3 weeks to monitor growth and developmental changes.



Year 10 Students:

If there are any students in Year 10 that are interested in the following careers pathways, please look into the ACU Step-Up Program. This program is highly successful and can lead to automatic entry into ACU at the conclusion of Year 12.

Nursing/Midwifery/Paramedicine

Business

Exercise and Sports Science

[ACU Step up](#)

What's new in the AG VIEW

During Week One, students had one final look at their crop plots that were planted back in May. Many crops showed excellent growth, although large sections were unfortunately overtaken by capeweed. During this excursion, we also visited several woolsheds, including Glendemar's Ram Sale. Students observed the setup of the sale, viewing the pens and layout, and had the opportunity to see the rams up close in the side shed. We then visited three additional woolsheds in the area, with two actively shearing during our visit — a great chance for students to see the process in action. On our way back, we witnessed silage being made and watched hay bales being wrapped in plastic to preserve moisture for use over the next 12 months.

In Week Two, our class travelled to Rupanyup — to meet Tristan from Ag-Xtra. There, students observed the crop selection site for the upcoming school competition, scheduled for October 29th at the same location. Tristan explained the different growth stages of various wheat varieties and how rainfall and regional conditions impact their success. The girls' team's crop variety, for example, typically performs better in areas further south where rainfall is higher than in the Wimmera.



Later that day, students returned to Glendemar's woolshed in Kanya to witness Nikki Lyons' world record attempt — aiming to become the first female shearer to complete nine hours of shearing. Nikki worked in five runs, and students had the chance to watch her during her third. It was inspiring to see everyone cheer her on and admire her strength, determination, and endurance. ABC Country Hour's Warwick Long and Angus Verley were present, and our very own Emily Grant bravely spoke live on air with minimal notice — well done, Emily! Nikki went on to shear 502 sheep in nine hours, securing her place in the world record books. What an incredible achievement, and how fortunate we were to witness it firsthand!



The radio episode can be accessed via the Vic Country Hour website - podcast with the date of 15th October and from 16.30mins you can hear Emily on the radio.

<https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/vic-country-hour/victorian-country-hour/105881438>

With only two weeks of classes left, we have a jam-packed schedule ahead to wrap up 2025!



STAWELL SECONDARY COLLEGE 2025 PRESENTATION AFTERNOON

Stawell Secondary College's Annual Presentation Ceremony will be held on Friday 5 December at 2pm in the new Assembly Hall.

We would like to invite all families to come along and join us in celebrating the efforts and achievements of our Year 7-11 students in
2025

Our Year 12 students will be recognised for their achievements this year at their Graduation Ceremony on Tuesday 16 December.

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:

<u>Year Level</u>	<u>Contribution</u>
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

Thank you for considering this important matter.



ASPIRATION



RESPECT



INCLUSION



RESILIENCE



PARTICIPATION

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES 2025

17/10/2025 – Final day for Year 12 Students

22/10/2025 – 23/10/2025 VET Ag Longerenong overnight stay

3/11/2025- Staff Professional Practice Day, Pupil Free

4/11/2025- Melbourne Cup, Pupil Free

10/11/2025 – 12/11/2025 – Year 8 – 10 Coastal Camp

24/11/2025 – 28/11/2025 – Great Victorian Bike Ride

5/12/2025 – Year 7 – 11 Presentation afternoon

10/12/2025 – Staff Professional Development Day , Pupil free

16/12/2025 – Year 12 Graduation Dinner – **Tickets on sale now at the Office**



Stawell Gold Mine Excursion – 27th October

Open to all Year levels - however preference will be given to Years 10 - 12 as can only take 30 students

Monday 27th October - 9am - to the end of lunch - will be back for periods 5 & 6

Excursion will involve the following:

Mining Operations, jobs associated with maintenance, plant/fitters, electrical, metallurgy/processing, geology and tour of the large processing plant.

Interested students please see or message Cindy on Xuno



Book of the Week

Lessons In Power

Author: Jennifer Lynn Barnes

A well-kept secret.

For Tess Kendrick, a student at the elite Hardwicke School, making problems disappear runs in the family. However, Tess has another legacy, too – one that involves power and the making of political dynasties.

A high-stakes challenge.

When Tess is asked to run a classmate's campaign for student council, she agrees. But at a school like Hardwicke, even a class election can have life-shattering consequences.

A deadly twist.

When friendly competition turns into a deadly struggle for control, Tess discovers that no one can be trusted and power always comes at a price.