

CONNECTIONS

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Victorian Public Schools deserve a better outcome.

As parents and carers may be aware, staff at our school who are Australian Education Union (AEU) members have been negotiating, alongside teachers, education support staff, assistant principals, and principals from public schools around Victoria, with the state government and Department of Education for improvements to pay and employment conditions. Currently, Victorian public schools are the lowest funded in Australia and there are significant staffing shortages across Victoria. Victorian public-school teachers are also the lowest paid teachers in Australia, with many education support employees and school leaders paid less than their colleagues in other state and territories who do the same role.

AEU members are seeking pay increases and reductions to excessive workloads, with the aim of ensuring the retention of existing employees and the attraction of the next generation to enable the ongoing provision of a high-quality education to students. Negotiations have been occurring over the last seven months, and the recent offer by the state government has fallen well short of reasonable expectation and has been rejected by the AEU. AEU members are undertaking a vote to endorse industrial action, with the union calling a statewide 24-hour stop work for Tuesday 24 March to highlight the lack of government support for state schools across Victoria.

The AEU has written to our school council outlining some of the issues that school staff need resolved, including school funding and staffing shortages, as well as pay and conditions. The union acknowledges that a decision to stop work is not one to be taken lightly and regrets the impact it has on students and their families, with the state government able to avoid such action if a fair and decent offer is made to employees. If the industrial action goes ahead, we will provide our school community with all the information needed to manage the situation.

It goes without saying that as a school community we support all of the staff in our school and expect them to be paid reasonably and have fair conditions of work.

[You can read the AEU's letter here.](#)

The Stawell Secondary College AEU Sub-branch

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's financial circumstances and their outcomes.

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school excursions, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or- support an out of home care student you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid directly to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is \$400 for all school students.

REMINDER: ALL APPLICANTS ARE ASKED TO PROVIDE THE SCHOOL WITH A COPY OF THEIR CURRENT HEALTH CARE CARD.

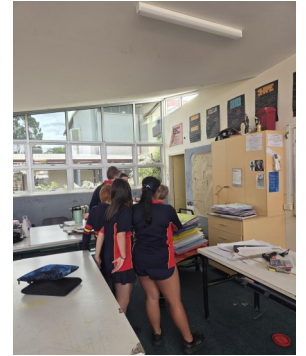
How to apply: Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef. A copy of your Centrelink Concession Card will be taken when you return the completed form to school. Applications need to be made by Friday 27 March 2026, however the sooner you apply the sooner you will receive the funds into your account.

If you have any questions please contact Marie McAloon, Business Manager on marie.mcaloon@education.vic.gov.au



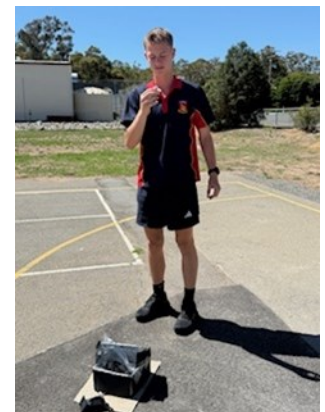
Junior School News

Year 7 Art Class Update: Embracing Creativity with Matisse Sticks! This week in Year 7 art class, students have been exploring the exciting world of observational and gesture drawing. Using the innovative Matisse stick technique, they learned to let go of perfectionism and focus on the joy of creating. The classroom was filled with laughter and creativity as students made bold, sweeping strokes with their sticks, capturing movement and form in a fun and expressive way. This hands-on experience not only enhanced their artistic skills but also fostered a positive and enjoyable approach to art.



Middle School News

Year 10 Science students are exploring the impact of Climate Change. They determined their carbon footprints and built homemade ovens to test temperatures. Students used their ovens to cook and certainly enjoyed sampling their 'smores' and sandwiches.



Displaying our Core Values

We congratulate the following Middle School students who have been recognised for their display of our school values in our year level assemblies over the last two weeks.

Year 9: Elise Osmond, Tyler Rowe, Brighty Etherton, Edward Redford.

Year 10: Will Evans, Will Johnston, Shayla Madin, Kody Simpson



VCE NEWS

All VCE students have been provided with access to a range of FREE online lectures available during the Term 1 break. These lectures, offered through ATAR Notes, cover a variety of subjects and are a great opportunity for students to revise key concepts, consolidate their learning, and extend their knowledge. Students are encouraged to explore the available sessions and register using the link below: <https://atarnotes.com/lectures/vic>

For further information, please refer to the flyer and timetable on the next page.

<https://atarnotes.com/lectures/vic>



VCE Study Tips

Study Skills Spotlight: How to Use Our Private Study Session Effectively

Make the most of your private study time by studying with purpose, not just presence.

1. Set a Clear Goal

Before you start, decide exactly what you want to achieve (e.g. complete 20 revision questions, summarise a topic, revise key vocabulary).

2. Follow the A.P.E. Approach

- Attitude: Stay positive and focused
- Preparation: Bring all materials and know your task
- Effort: Stay on task and minimise distractions

3. Use Active Study Strategies

Avoid passive reading. Instead:

- Test yourself (practice questions, flashcards)
- Summarise in your own words
- Teach a concept to a peer

4. Manage Your Time

Break your session into focused blocks (e.g. 25–30 minutes) with short breaks (e.g. go to toilet or get water) to stay productive.

5. Minimise Distractions

Choose a quiet, focused space.

6. Ask for Help When Needed

If you're stuck, seek support from a teacher or note down questions to follow up.

7. Reflect on Your Progress

At the end, check: Did you achieve your goal? What will you improve next time?

SAC Dates for the next two weeks:

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Unit 1: PE SAC 2: 26/03

Unit 3 Chinese SAC 1B:30/03

Unit 1 Chinese SAC 1B:30/03

Unit 3: General Maths: 30/03 – 02/04 (whole week)

Unit 1: English: 30/03 – 02/04 (whole week)

Unit 1 Business Management 02/04



Subjects Suitable for Stawell Secondary Include;

Mon 13th Apr

10:00am - 12:00pm ● VCE Chemistry 1&2 Recording Only

10:00am - 12:00pm ● VCE Chemistry 3&4 Recording Only

12:00pm - 1:00pm ● Aspire Early Offer Program Live Chat
★ La Trobe

1:00pm - 3:00pm ● VCE Biology 3&4 Recording Only

1:00pm - 3:00pm ● VCE Biology 1&2 Recording Only

3:00pm - 4:00pm ● Special Live Session from Macquarie University Live Chat
★ Macquarie University

4:00pm - 5:00pm ● How to get Top Marks! Recording Only

4:00pm - 6:00pm ● VCE English 3&4 Recording Only

4:00pm - 6:00pm ● VCE English 1&2 Recording Only

Tue 14th Apr

10:00am - 12:00pm ● VCE Legal Studies 3&4 Recording Only

10:00am - 12:00pm ● VCE General Maths 3&4 Recording Only

10:00am - 12:00pm ● VCE General Maths 1&2 Recording Only

12:00pm - 1:00pm ● Wonderful Possibilities at Deakin Recording Only
★ Deakin University

1:00pm - 3:00pm ● VCE Maths Methods 3&4 Recording Only

1:00pm - 3:00pm ● VCE Maths Methods 1&2 Recording Only

1:00pm - 3:00pm ● VCE HHD 3&4 Recording Only

4:00pm - 6:00pm ● VCE Business Management 3&4 Recording Only

4:00pm - 6:00pm ● VCE Physics 3&4 Recording Only

4:00pm - 6:00pm ● VCE Physics 1&2 Recording Only

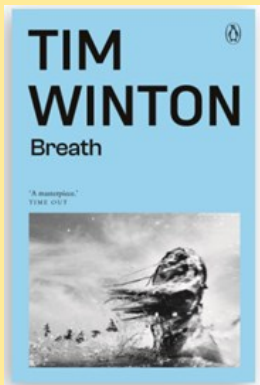
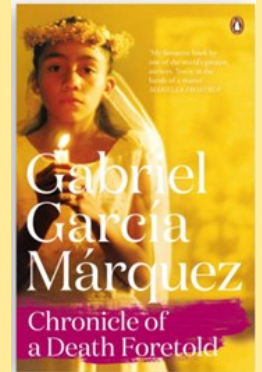
Wed 15th Apr

10:00am - 12:00pm ● VCE Psychology 1&2 Recording Only

4:00pm - 5:00pm ● VCE English Frameworks: Writing about protest Recording Only

5:00pm - 6:00pm ● ACE VCE Recording Only

VCE ENGLISH TEXTS AT STAWELL SECONDARY COLLEGE 2026



CONFLICT AND
ITS COST



BOOK CLUB AT STAWELL SECONDARY COLLEGE

Do you love reading? If your answer to this question is yes then you should come to book club.

WHEN: Every second Monday at lunchtime
(only students who attend book club can eat their lunch in the library).

WHERE: Resource Centre (Library).

WHO: Everyone can come and talk about whatever book you have been reading.

WHY: To share your love of books. We don't just read one book altogether, we read whatever we want and then share our books with everyone.

Book club is a safe, caring, friendly and comfortable place for students to come to and hang out every second Monday.

We are a very welcoming group of people.

Mrs Prior



Year 10 Work Experience

Second last week of Term 2 – 15-19 June

A work experience class will be held for all Year 10 students on Friday 20th March.



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 will be loaded onto COMPASS for both students and parents to refer to in the future.

Employment Opportunity

Powercor Australia - 3 Year Traineeship whereby the Trainee will undertake an Advanced Diploma in ESI (Electricity Supply Industry) – Design stream.

Horsham based

The role does have a prerequisite of Year 11 Math Methods units 1/2 or Physics 1/2 so looking for any students either completing Year 11 or currently enrolled in VCE (or other applicants that meet the criteria.)

SPORTS NEWS

On the 25th February, a group of students headed down the highway to Horsham to compete at the Black Ranges/Little Desert Swimming Competition. We had students from nearly all grades competing. We had a great day with lots of swimmers placing in the top three of their respective races. The highlights of the day was Tom Ross winning his Individual 200 metre Medley Freestyle, and our 'recruitment manager' Lana Harrison putting together a team of Year 7/8 girls to compete in a Year 10 freestyle relay after a glitch in the program, to which they came second overall! Good job to all our swimmers.'



On the 16th March, a group of Intermediate Girls and Senior Boys travelled down the highway to compete in the Black Range Volleyball Competition. The girls competed against Horsham College and Wimmera Lutheran College while the boys faced off against Murtoa and Horsham College. The girls showed determination in their first game but were unable to win. However, they got themselves back up for a great win in their second game. The boys showed grit in both their games, but fell agonisingly short of both games. All students performed well and put on a great show of Volleyball!'

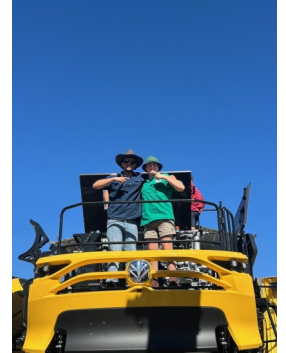
A couple of weeks back, we recognised the age group champions for our swimming carnival. The medal presentation will be at the end of term assembly. We want to take this moment to recognise an error when the champions was announced and that Reuben Martin was our 14-Year-Old Boys champion! Congratulations Reuben, well deserved!'



Whats new in Ag View!

It has been a busy couple of weeks in the Ag Hub!

Back in Week 6, students travelled to the Wimmera Machinery Field Days, where they had the opportunity to explore the latest machinery and new technologies that support modern farming practices. It was a great chance for students to see firsthand how innovation continues to shape the agricultural industry.



In Week 8, the class travelled to Donald to visit the BB Harvesting operation. This local company travels up and down the east coast providing contract harvesting services, operating an impressive fleet of 24 headers.



We were welcomed by their manager, Glenn, who explained the strict biosecurity procedures required between farms and when crossing state borders into Queensland and New South Wales. If these procedures are not followed correctly, fines of up to \$10,000 per piece of machinery can apply.

Students were able to get a close-up look at areas on the headers where fires can potentially start if proper clean-downs are not completed. This highlighted the importance of thorough maintenance to prevent machinery damage, crop loss, and potential fire risks during harvest.

The students also enjoyed exploring the yard and workshop, where they met mechanics who were working on a range of off-season maintenance tasks to ensure all machines are fully operational and ready for the next harvest season.



Chinese Program Report

2025 Fundraising Efforts

We are proud to share that our 2025 fundraising efforts have contributed to the purchase of a portable multi-gas detector for Stawell CFA.

The equipment was formally introduced to the Stawell Secondary College school community by CFA members Joseph Stubberfield and Jai Smith two weeks ago, who explained the importance of the device in protecting both firefighters and the wider community.



A portable multi-gas detector is a critical piece of equipment used to detect hazardous gases such as carbon monoxide, monitor oxygen levels, and identify flammable or toxic atmospheres. The device provides real-time readings and audible alerts, allowing firefighters to assess whether an environment is safe to enter during emergencies.

This equipment is particularly important during structure fires, vehicle fires, hazardous material incidents, and confined space rescues.



In regional communities like ours, reliable and up-to-date safety equipment plays a vital role in ensuring effective emergency response.

We are incredibly proud that our Chinese language students' fundraising efforts have contributed to something so practical and potentially life-saving. Not only did we celebrate culture and community spirit, but we also demonstrated the meaningful impact our students can have when working together to support a local cause.

2027 China Trip

We are delighted to inform you that Year 9 – 11 Chinese language students will have the opportunity to travel to China in 2027. The 2027 China Study Tour will provide students with a fantastic opportunity to experience China firsthand, improve their Chinese language skills, and immerse themselves in the rich and dynamic culture of China.

An information night will be held on Monday 30 March.

At this stage, we are able to offer **19 places** to Year 9–11 Chinese language students. Please notify the general office if you are able to attend the session.

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Location: A1 (Junior Hub)





ASPIRATION



RESPECT



INCLUSION



RESILIENCE



PARTICIPATION

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES 2026



21/03/26 - Community Harmony Festival Chinese Performance

25/03/26 - NAPLAN testing complete

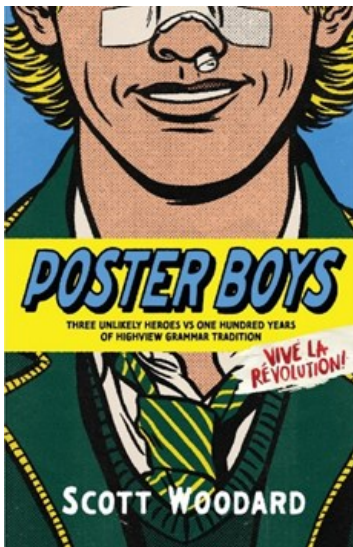
25/03/26 - School Council Annual General Meeting 7 pm

27/03/26 - Cross Country

30/03/26—Peter Durance Maths Olympics

30/03/26 - 2027 China Trip information night

2/4/26 - Final Day of Term— **EARLIER FINISH TIME 2:30PM**



Book of the Week

Poster Boys

Author: Scott Woodard

A jock, a try-hard and a space cadet.

Highview Grammar will rue the day it put 'History' on the curriculum – because this unlikely trip is starting a revolution.

Edward Heffernan wants one thing: to get away from Nolan Li.

If he cuts ties with the embarrassing Nolan, his reputation at Highview Grammar can only go up.

But when Nolan gets a note from the coolest kid in Year 9, Edward sees a chance to be popular.

James Crombie is everything that Edward and Nolan are not, but it turns out this trio have one thing in common: they're all sick of the culture, tradition and rules of their snobby 100-year-old high school. And they're ready to do something about it.

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

Moyston EASTER MARKET 2026

SATURDAY APRIL 4TH, 9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

A vibrant celebration with 80+ market stalls including local artisans, hand crafted items, produce, and bric n brac in a lively and festive atmosphere.

Location: Moyston Oval (Ararat-Halls Gap Rd)

Entry: gold coin donation (benefiting Moyston community improvement)

Featuring:

Market stalls

John Vanderwaal Long Kick Competition @ 11am

Free Live Music

Rosies Kitchen - Devonshire Teas

Grow Your Own Giant Pumpkin Competition

Car display

Entertainment - Fair Dinkum Fauna

Proudly

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ACE RADIO



*Stand in solidarity
with refugees and
asylum seekers
around the globe.*

*Reflect on the plight of
9,000 people who live
in limbo in our
country without hope
for their futures.*

palm sunday rally

**2pm Sunday
29 March 2026**

Memorial Park, Great Western



For further information ring Bonnie on 0427 762 582

**Please
byo chair**