CONNECTIONS

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Volume 36 Number 7 16/05/2026

RESPECT INCLUSION ASPIRATION RESILIENCE PARTICIPATION

Principal's Report

How quickly the year is passing. We are already into Week 4 of Term 2 and heading towards the conclusion of Semester 1. It has certainly been a busy and productive start to the term across our school.
One of the most exciting milestones has been the completion of our building project, with only minor grounds works and defect follow-up remaining. The renovated Heritage building, now known as the Senior Hub, has become the standout feature of the development.
The space now includes seven new teaching areas, dedicated Year 11 and 12 study spaces, a Wellbeing area, and impressive new lighting that beautifully highlights the character and uniqueness of the building at night.

Further improvements have also recently been completed, including the installation of the projector, screen, sound system and curtains in the new Auditorium, along with upgrades to heating and cooling systems in the Art wing. Planning is now underway for the official opening of the new facilities in early July. We look forward to welcoming members of our community, past families and former staff to celebrate this significant upgrade to our school.

There has also been some movement within our staffing profile this term. Mr Greenhalgh is currently on Long Service Leave for Term 2, with Ms McIlvride stepping into the role of Acting Assistant Principal during this period. We also welcomed back Mr Bao at the beginning of Week 4 after leave since the start of the year. We sincerely thank Ms McDonald for the excellent work she undertook while filling this role. We additionally welcome Ms Santuccione and Ms Radford to our staff as Education Support staff working within our student support area. Mr Illig remains on leave, with an anticipated return at the beginning of Semester 2.

Last Thursday, most of our staff attended a Regional Professional Development Day in Horsham focused on strengthening positive behaviour support practices in schools. The presenter, Dan Petro from Behavioural Resources Australia Pty Ltd, is highly respected across Australia for his work in behaviour analysis and positive behaviour intervention programs. Staff explored practical, evidence-based strategies focused on prevention, positive reinforcement, relationship-building and improving student engagement and wellbeing.
The day reinforced the importance of a consistent whole-school approach to behaviour support, with staff returning with practical strategies that will continue to strengthen learning environments and outcomes for all students.

Thank you to all staff for their ongoing dedication to continuous improvement and to our families for their continued support of our school.

Anzac day Commemoration service

On Tuesday the 5th May, five students from our school joined approximately 3000 others at the Shine of Remembrance for the annual State ANZAC day service for students. This moving ceremony involved student representatives from all Victorian schools. I was very proud to accompany Kody Simpson, Will Johnston, Noah Johnston who was proudly wearing his family members combat medals, and Xyrus Gragasin and Brighty Etherton who had the honour of laying a wreath on behalf of Stawell Secondary College.

94th Legacy ANZAC Commemoration Ceremony for Students at the Shrine.

Ararat Legacy hosted a full contingent of students, teachers and legatees to the Shrine in Melbourne for the 94th Annual Legacy ANZAC Commemoration Ceremony for Students yesterday, Tuesday 5th May.
Due to timing constraints, Melbourne Legacy had to conduct their annual commemoration service for the students of Victoria post ANZAC day, however, this did not deter the interest with a large attendance of over 4,000 attending from Melbourne, metropolitan and regional Victoria.
In all, 54 participated from the Ararat Legacy region including students from Year 7 to 12 together with supervising teachers from Ararat College, Marian College, Stawell Secondary College, Beaufort Secondary College, Lake Bolac Secondary College and Avoca Primary School attended to pay their respects, including five Ararat Legatees. For the first time, two special guests from the Ararat Laurel Club, Helen Molloy and Jenny Hurnall, joined the group as part of their 60th Anniversary year celebrations.

Organised by Melbourne Legacy, this day is an opportunity for the younger generation to remember and give thanks to the men and women whose love of their country and sacrifice in wartime enabling Australians to live in peace and freedom today.
The Commemoration Ceremony was attended by the Lieutenant Governor of Victoria, Professor James Angus OA and Legatee Michael Annett, the President of Melbourne Legacy along with other dignitaries. As part of the ceremony, wreaths were laid by two student representatives from all the Colleges/Schools in attendance, including from the Ararat Legacy Club region. Following the service students, teachers and Legatees spent time checking out the Shrine of Remembrance.
Ararat Legacy President and Shrine Trip Coordinator, Legatee Kevin Bowles said: “It is so pleasing that we can continue to offer this annual trip to our students from Ararat, Marian Stawell, Lake Bolac, Beaufort and Avoca colleges/schools with the support of the Victoria Government Remembrance Funding for our ‘Legacy in Schools’ Program. We had a wonderful day, the weather was kind and we thank all involved in making this happen. We have been doing this annual trip now for approximately 15 years, and the interest from our schools have never waned as we work together to keep the ANZAC spirit alive for our younger generations.”

Food Technology

Year 9 Food Technology: A Taste of the World

Our Year 9 Food Technology students recently completed their International Food topic, researching a chosen country and working collaboratively with a partner to prepare a traditional dish that reflected its culture and cuisine.
After exploring the history, ingredients and cooking methods unique to their country, students planned and cooked their meals with great enthusiasm and creativity. The practical lesson culminated in a wonderful International Food buffet where students had the opportunity to share their dishes and sample foods from around the world.

The classroom was filled with delicious aromas, vibrant colours and plenty of excitement as students proudly showcased their meals. From savoury favourites to sweet treats, every dish highlighted the effort, teamwork and skills developed throughout the unit.
Mrs Reynolds

Year 10A Food Technology

Year 10 Food Technology students recently researched a diet-related disease and investigated how nutrition can support better health outcomes. As part of their assessment, students designed and prepared their own nutritious dish, developed a shopping list and cooked their chosen meal. Each dish was carefully planned to address the dietary needs associated with their selected disease. The assessment combined research, creativity and hands-on learning, with students producing a range of delicious and healthy meals.
Mrs Reynolds

VCE Study Tips

Looking After Your Wellbeing

With Term 2 in full swing, it's vital for our VCE students to prioritise their wellbeing. Success isn't just about study, building healthy habits will improve your focus, motivation, and performance throughout the busy weeks ahead.

Maintain a Healthy Routine

Creating a regular routine helps students stay organised and reduce stress. Aim to:

- Keep consistent sleep and wake-up times
- Study in manageable blocks with regular breaks

Balance schoolwork with exercise, hobbies, and relaxation

Prioritise Sleep and Exercise

Getting enough sleep is essential for concentration, memory, and emotional wellbeing. Students should aim for around 8 – 9 hours of sleep each night. Regular physical activity, even a short walk or stretching break, can also improve mood, reduce stress, and help students refocus.

Study Smarter

Effective study is about consistency, not long hours. Helpful strategies include:

- Breaking tasks into smaller goals
- Revising regularly instead of cramming
- Using active study methods such as practice questions, flashcards, and note summaries

Asking teachers for support when needed

Stay Connected

VCE can feel challenging at times, but students are not expected to manage everything alone. Speaking with friends, family, teachers, VCE Coordinator, Senior School Leader or wellbeing staff can make a significant difference.

Be Kind to Yourself

Every student learns differently and progresses at their own pace. Celebrate small achievements, focus on improvement, and remember that wellbeing is just as important as academic success.

We encourage all students to support one another, maintain balance, and take small positive steps each day throughout their VCE journey. Please also remember that your VCE Coordinator, Ms Ling, Senior School Leader, Mr Reynolds, your teachers, and the wellbeing team are all here to support you.

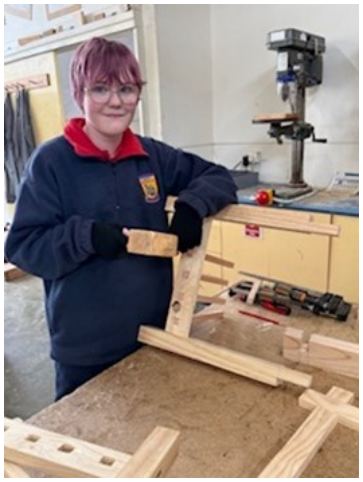
Upcoming SACs:

U3 Chinese SAC 3 / U1 Chinese SAC 3
U3 English SAC 2B / U1 English SAC 2
U3 Chemistry
U3 HHD SAC 2B
U3 Chemistry SAC 2
U1 Business Management SAC 3
U3 Methods SAC1 Application Tasks
U1 Methods SAC 2
U3 Biology SAC 2
U3 Legal Studies SAC 2
U3 Systems Engineering Portfolio Section 1-3 Final Submission
U3 Art Making and Exhibiting Portfolio Section 1-3 Final Submission

Other Key Dates:

Year 12 English Practice Exam: 12 June, Friday
GAT: 16 June, Tuesday
Year 12 Practice Exam Week: Week 10

Middle School News



Our Year 9 students are certainly working hard in their elective subjects. We have international cuisine in Food Technology, welding in Metalwork and the Woodworkers are constructing stools that include sustainable items.

(Geo & Wil with their stools)

Year 10 Crime & Punishment students are applying their understanding of law and precedents to create arguments for a case involving a kidnapping. Students selected if they would argue from Défense or Prosecutor perspective and created victim impact statements. A very engaging learning opportunity to these budding lawyers.

Displaying our Core Values

We congratulate the following Middle School students who have been recognised for displaying our school values over the last two weeks.

Year 9: Xyrus Gragasin, Lylah Slorach, Callum Reading and Caitlyn Bell

Year 10: Jasmine Dickson, Aspiration in Science; Liam Nicholson, Participation in Science; Will Johnston, Kody Simpson and Noah Johnston who all showed respect and represented our school at the Legacy ANZAC service for School Students.

Attendance Goal: improve by 1% by week 5. Our average attendance for the year stands at the start of term 1 was Year 9: 86% and Year 10: 87%, week 4 (year to date) average attendance is **Year 9: 88% Year 10: 89%** (which means we have achieved our goal of improving our attendance by 1%)**.** Students are reminded to let the school know if they are going to be absent.

Year 10 Work Experience

Second last week of Term 2: 15th – 19th June

Plus add in open evening ad attached

Construction Induction Course - Free to interested students - 1 Day course

For students interested in gaining a certificate so they can work on a construction site - if interested in a future trade - eg - plumbing, carpentry, electrical etc
School will pay for your enrolment but students will be given priority if in Year 10-12 and require this certificate for work experience

See Cindy if interested or message me on Compass.

Tuesday 9th June 2026
9am-3.25pm
Stawell Secondary College - Auditorium

Whats new in Ag View!

Week 3 saw students completing repairs on fencing from last year that needed some attention. This provided a valuable opportunity for our first-year students to gain hands-on experience and practical fencing skills that will be built upon in the coming weeks. We also recorded 9mm of rain in our rain gauge over the past week, which has given our barley crop at SSC a promising start to the growing season. To finish off the week, students enjoyed a campfire and made cheesy bacon damper — despite being slightly burnt on the bottom, it was a huge hit with everyone! We were also very sad to farewell one of our founding VET Ag students, Jared, in his final class. Jared has been an absolute ripper in class and will be greatly missed by both staff and students.

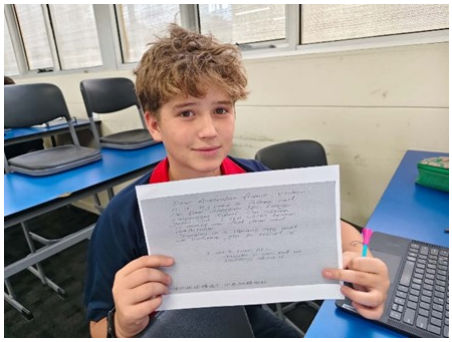
In Week 4, students travelled to Mrs Lang's farm to meet Chloe from "Central Stock Health", who runs her own business specialising in worm egg count testing in sheep. Students learnt how this process assists livestock producers in determining whether sheep require additional drenching. A highlight of the visit was viewing worm eggs through the microscope from collected samples. While at the farm, students also measured the progress of the crop plots planted back in Week 1. It was pleasing to see almost every variety had emerged above the ground, allowing students to compare growth between the farm plots and those sown at SSC. Students were able to identify differences in climate conditions, noting that the crops at SSC have progressed slightly

Chinese Program Report

Two busy weeks for our Chinese language students:

1. 2027 China Trip: Our second Information Night was a success! As a friendly reminder, the application cutoff date is **Friday, 15 May**. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Ms Ling.

2. Pen-pal Letters: Our Year 8 and 9 students have received their pen-pal letters from our Shanghai Sister School!



3. Chinese Dancing Club: The Chinese Dancing Club students once again performed beautiful traditional dances at our Open Evening, including the Long Fan Dance and the Umbrella Dance.

4. 2026 Education Perfect Languages Championships

From 5th May to 12th May, our Chinese language students answered **159,082 questions** and earned a total of **55,671 points**. Our students achieved an impressive **30 medals**!

- **16 Credit Awards:** Isaiah Taylor, Kendal Clarke, Hunter Mckenzie, Lacey Bertram, Jade Otuszewski, Chloe Formosa, Jack Duxson, Adalita Soule, Riley Hope, Tomine Malpas, Blake Hyslop, Brighty Etherton, Caitlyn Bell, Henry Albrecht, Noah Harvey, and Scott Stewart.

- **8 Bronze Awards:** Chloe Pearce, Cordelia Crawford, Jason Arreza, Savannah Turner, Summer Smith, Ava Brilliant, James Simpkin, and Sophie Fletcher.

- **4 Silver Awards:** Aika Ramos, Jacob Gibson, Nash Santuccione, and Blake Davidson.

2 Gold Awards: Piper Davidson and Claire Scott.

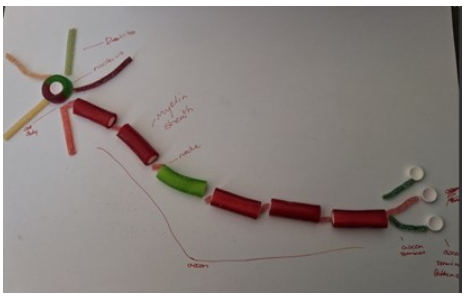
We ranked **3rd** for Chinese in Australia out of 537 schools, and **7th** globally out of 733 schools!! Well done to all the students who contributed to this wonderful result, and congratulations to our prize winners.

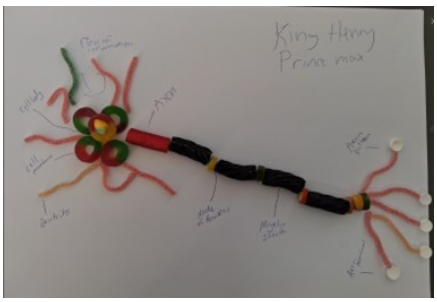
5. Host Families Needed: Short-Stay Program

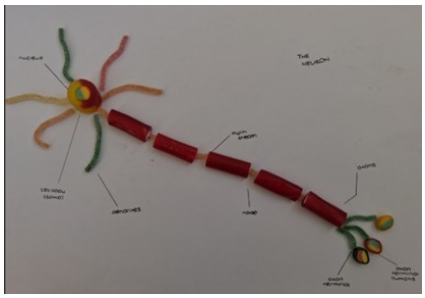
We are still looking for more host families to support our upcoming short-stay program. Please refer to the attached details and let Ms Ling know if you are interested in this rewarding cultural exchange experience!

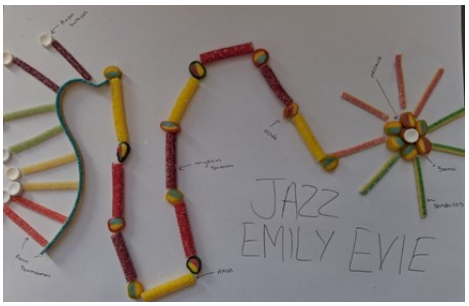
Year 11 Psychology

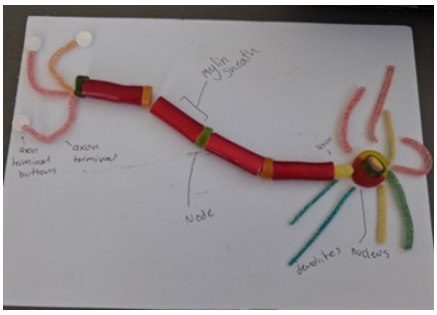
Students made neurons out of lollies. They had to label the eight parts including: axon, axon terminals, axon terminal buttons, myelin sheath, node, nucleus, soma (cell body) and dendrites.
Mrs Prior

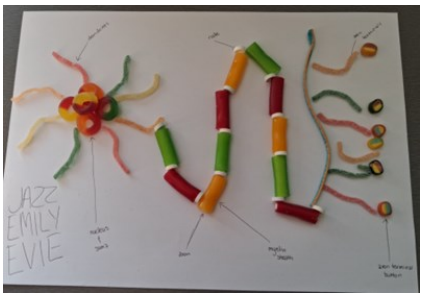


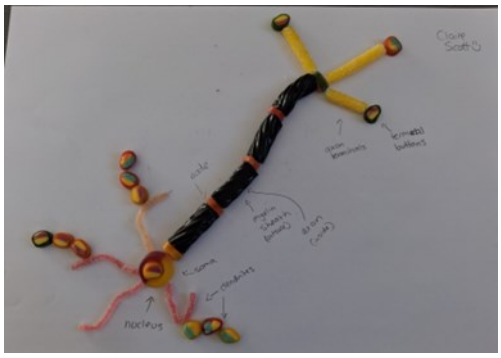


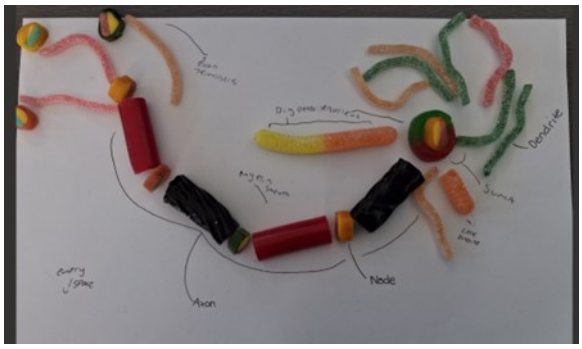












Year 8 English

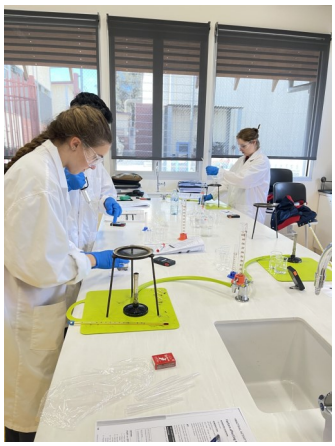
This term, the year 8s have started to analyse 'Spirited Away'. This animated feature film is about a young girl who finds herself in the spirit world and must grow as a person in order to save her parents. The film explores themes of growth, confidence, greed, and kindness. So far, students have watched the film and reviewed it.
In the future, they will be analysing these themes and the deeper meanings they can find.
Students have also been working on their vocabulary and grammar skills. As a challenge to you, try and match these words with their meanings!

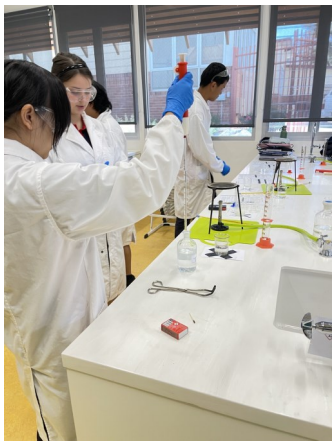
Vocabulary Challenge:

Sage	When someone is acting silly and unserious.
Vindictive	When someone is very wise and knowledgeable, they often provide advice.
Credible	When someone is honest or believable.
Giddy	When someone wants to seek revenge.

Year 10 Science

Year 10 Science students have been investigating motion, car safety and Newton's Laws through a range of hands-on activities. Students collected and analysed data by timing themselves over a set distance to calculate speed and explore how motion can be measured in real-world situations.
In Chemistry, students have been conducting experiments to investigate reaction rates and the factors that affect how quickly chemical reactions occur.





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

Sports News

School Athletics – On the first Friday of Term 2, the House Athletics competition took place at the Athletics complex in Stawell. It was a nice sunny day and the students competed strongly for their houses. In the end, it was a nail-biting result with only 19 points separating 1st and 2nd. The winning house on the day was Black Range, followed by Lonsdale in 2nd and Mackenzie in 3rd. Congratulations Black Range! The presentation of the age group champions will be done at assembly next Monday and will be recognised in the following Connections'

Boys Netball – On Monday 4 May, 3 teams of Boys Netballers were sent down to Horsham to compete against other schools. We had a Junior (7/8), an Intermediate (9/10) and a Senior (11/12) competing against the likes of Warrack, Marian and Horsham College. All three teams were able to come away with some wins but unfortunately fell short to top their groups. Congratulations to all boys who played, with a special thank you to Sienna and Emily for coaching the teams!'

Black Ranges Cross Country – We had a group of students head down to Murtoa on 1st May to compete in the Black Ranges level of Cross Country. On a very warm day, the students competed well, with a few students even making the top 3 of their age groups. Those students being Violet Baum, Kelsey Hurley, Olivia Hunter, and Cooper Field. Those four students, alongside the others listed below, all qualified for the next level held in Warrnambool on Wednesday 27th May.

Blayze Kenny
Ethan Parker
Millie McColl
Chloe Hunter
Dusty Wethers
Henry Albrecht
Tyson Field
Kade Thomas
Jack Reading
Charmaine Lockwood

Congratulations to all our runners and good luck for the next level!'

ASPIRATION RESPECT INCLUSION RESILIENCE PARTICIPATION

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES 2026

18/05/26 - Alpine Camp Information evening 6:30pm - 7:30pm
22/05/26 - Melbourne Chamber Orchestra visit
27/05/26 - Year 11 Futures Camp
01/06/26 - School Photos

Attendance Matters
Every student. Every day.

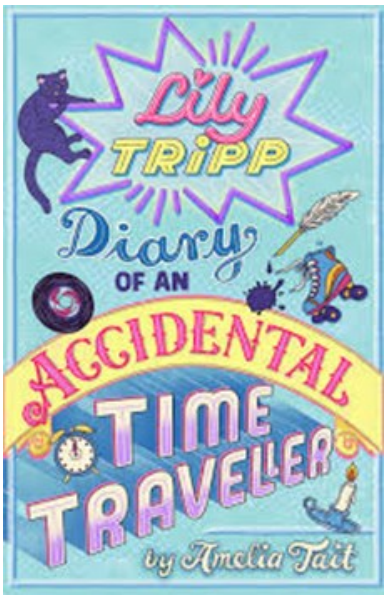
Music Program invitation

The **Melbourne Chamber Orchestra** would like to invite you to our performance the night before our Stawell Secondary College workshop. The concert is on Thursday, May 21 at 7:00pm at Stawell Entertainment Centre and will run for one hour.

We have arranged a **10% discount on tickets for the wider school community**. To redeem this discount, you can use the code DANCING10 or use the below pre-loaded link:

https://my.mco.org.au/dancingshadows/?promo=DANCING10

Book of the Week



Diary of an Accidental Time Traveller
Author: Amelia Tait

Why is my life SO last century?
Lily is used to waking up to a different time period on new years day. In her thirteen years the first eight were normal and sequential, but in 2022 she woke up instead in 1842, then in roman times in the year 122, then she moved to 1922. Now, she is back in 2025 and hopes to stay there. Her family and friends all move with her, but she is the only one who knows that her timeline has changed!
This causes so many difficulties for Lily as she has to learn the fashions and customs of the day without seeming like a freak – something that her enemy, Georgia, seems to come to conclude no matter what year they are living in! Luckily, she always has her best friend, Poppy, and the dream of taking her friendship with Ollie up a level.
How does anyone survive in ancient times WITHOUT chicken nuggets?
And why on earth can't I stay in ONE CENTURY?!

Have You Ordered Your School Photos?

Your photo day is: ***01/06/2026***

LEADING IMAGE School Photos

leadingimage.com.au

Stawell Secondary College

DON'T MISS OUT!

To order your school photos:

1. Go to www.leadingimage.com.au
2. Click on Order Your School Photos
3. Enter your Access Key

! Individual & family photos can be ordered with the same access key. Family photographs must be ordered **before 4:30pm the night before photo day**. Please ensure your orders are placed before this time.

Access key: **J3YGKGCG**

STAWELL SECONDARY COLLEGE

Scan to order!

LEADING IMAGE School Photos

GARIWERD

LAECG Meeting

We invite parents, students, and the community to join us to yarn all things Koorie education in the Gariwerd / Grampians area.

LAECG Chair: Haylee Crispe & Clayton North

DINNER PROVIDED

Event details

Date: Tuesday, 26th May 2026

Time: 4:30pm – 6:00pm

Place: Goolum Goolum Hub Stawell

To register you and your family for catering purposes, please contact:

Jasmine-Monique McCaw
Southwest Marrung Facilitator
0439 802 945 | jasmine@vaeai.org.au

VAEAI

stawell railway station gallery

tell us what you think!

It's time to review the **Stawell Railway Station Gallery** experience.

Help shape the future of one of the Grampians' most loved art galleries by telling us what you think, and contributing your ideas via a survey.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Simply scan the QR code to complete the 2-minute survey, or grab a hard copy from the gallery.

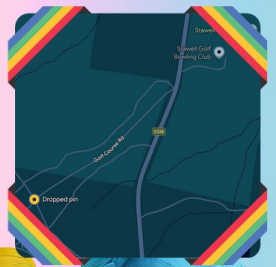
Survey closes:
Sunday 14 June, 5pm.

Learn more about us at:
www.stawellartgallery.com
Facebook: Stawell Railway Station Gallery

Stawell Amateur Athletic Club &
Grampians Youth Events present

COLOUR RUN
FOR IDAHOBIT DAY

Sunday, 17th of May
8:50am registration
for 9:15am start
Ironbarks - Corner of
Centre and Golf Course Roads



T-Shirts $5 cash only or BYO white shirt
This a free, family friendly, drug, alcohol, smoking and vaping free event

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Stawell Railway Station Gallery

extends a warm invitation to all, to celebrate

150 years

of the

Stawell Railway Station Building

on

24th May 2026

From 2pm – 5pm

Devonshire Tea available for $5 per person
The Stawell Brass Band will be in attendance
JC Coffee Van and Snack Shack Food Van
The Grampians Model Railway will have a working model railway, along with memorabilia in the Goods Shed opposite the Station