

CONNECTIONS

29/05/2026

Principals News

The day-to-day operation of a school is both busy and complex. With more than 350 students and staff working together each day, along with the many activities that occur beyond the classroom, our College is a vibrant and dynamic environment. Every day involves the coordination of teaching and learning programs, student wellbeing, camps and excursions, sporting events, community partnerships, and the many interactions that help create a positive school culture.

Schools are far more than places of academic learning; they are communities where young people grow socially, emotionally, and academically. The dedication and professionalism of our staff, together with the strong support of families and our wider community, ensure our students continue to thrive in a safe and supportive environment.

Camps, excursions, and enrichment activities continue to play an important role in supporting student learning and promoting our school values. This week, our Year 11 students attended their Melbourne Futures Camp, focusing on career pathways and future planning. In Term 3, around 40 students will attend two snow camps, while our 2027 China Camp is already attracting strong interest. This term, students have also participated in music and art activities, Marrung initiatives, ANZAC Day commemorations, Chinese and public speaking competitions, and numerous sporting events.

This term, all students in Years 4 to 12 at government schools will participate in the 2026 Attitudes to School Survey (ATOSS). The survey provides valuable feedback about students' experiences, well-being, and engagement at school. Parent information regarding the survey process and privacy arrangements will be distributed to families shortly.

This month, we have updated a number of school policies, including the Bullying Prevention Policy, Presentation Ball Policy, and Student Smoking and Vaping Policy. If you would like any further information regarding these policies, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly.



We have now officially completed our building project, with only minor groundworks 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 building's character and uniqueness in the evenings.

Additional improvements have recently been completed, including the installation of the projector, screen, sound system, and curtains in the new Auditorium, as well as upgrades to the heating and cooling systems in the Art wing. Planning is now underway for the Community Celebration of the new facilities in late July. We look forward to welcoming members of our community, past families, and former staff to celebrate this significant milestone for our school.

On Friday, 15 May, we celebrated Education Support Staff Day. Education Support Personnel (ESP) Day recognises the essential contribution of school support staff. Teachers and students rely on these professionals for everything from classroom support and student wellbeing to facility management and school operations. Our Education Support staff are highly valued and appreciated for the outstanding work they do each day in supporting our students and school community.

Murray Hart

Rostrum Youth of the Year

Public Speaking Competition - 2026



On Saturday 16 May Bradley Byron travelled to Oberon High School in Geelong to participate in the junior competition of Rostrum Youth of the Year. There was a list of potential topics for students to choose from for their prepared speech and Brad chose 'Digital detox'. He explained what a digital detox is, the symptoms and how to fix this including: how many hours we spend mindlessly and unconsciously streaming online, vertical and horizontal content and small changes that can be implemented to help people detox like putting on a blocker.

Brad also prepared for the impromptu speech component which involves the students being given the choice of two topics and then having 15 minutes to write a three minute speech.

There were 20 junior contestants in total and Brad was the only boy. Students were then split across three rooms, with two winners being announced from each room who then went onto speak again, this time including the impromptu speeches. The competition was tough. There were no rural/regional heats so anyone who wanted to participate had to go to either Geelong or Melbourne. Well done to Brad for putting in the time and effort to compete in this for the second year in a row. Even though he didn't place we are all still so proud of him for representing Stawell Secondary College, demonstrating all of our school values. **Congratulations!**

YEAR 10 crime & Punishment

Fingerprints & Forensics

The year 10 crime & punishment students finished up their unit on criminal law and forensics last week.

On Friday the students got to try their hand at fingerprinting, they each got to examine, record, compare and investigate their fingerprints. The students examined the fingerprints of themselves and their classmates, uncovering that many students had something cool and unique about their fingerprints from scarring to whorls.



Week 7 and 8 SACS

- Unit 1 Psychology
- Unit 1 Chemistry SAC 1
- Unit 1 English Sac 2 Final Submission
- Unit 3 English SAC 3 Final Submission
- Unit 3 Biology SAC 3
- Unit 1 Methods SAC 3

Important Dates

Year 12 English Practice Exam: 12 June, Friday

GAT: 16 June, Tuesday

Year 12 Practice Exam Week: Week 10

Year 11 Futures Camp

University Visit: Through the Year 11 Future Camp this week, Year 11 VCE students will have the opportunity to participate in university tours at institutions such as The University of Melbourne, Deakin University, and RMIT University.

This exposure will help students begin considering their future goals.



VCE Year 12 Subjects Term 2 Break Sessions

VCE NEWS

ACU Free Online Workshops

All workshops are:

Free of charge (a recording will be made available to all who register).

Facilitated by highly respected presenters.

WORKSHOP DETAILS		
SUBJECT	DATE	TIME
English	Monday 29 June	10am-12pm
Physical Education	Monday 29 June	1pm-3pm
General Mathematics	Tuesday 30 June	10am-12pm
Maths Methods	Tuesday 30 June	1pm-3pm
Biology	Thursday 9 July	10am-12pm
Business Management	Thursday 9 July	1pm-3pm
Health and Human Development	Friday 10 July	10am-12pm
English as Additional Language	Friday 10 July	1pm-3pm



[Registration link to workshops](#) or scan the QR Code

We highly recommend our Unit 3 students to register the revision sessions to consolidate what they have learned and further develop their understanding.

VCE NEWS

Continued.....

CHES Expo Excursion

On Friday 25 May, nine Year 10 students from Stawell Secondary College attended the 2026 CHES Expo at the Centre for Higher Education Studies (CHES) in Melbourne.

The event provided students with a unique opportunity to learn about the CHES 2027 program, including VCE and Higher Education Studies (HES) subjects. Throughout the day, students engaged with CHES staff, past CHES students, and representatives

from major Victorian universities such as Melbourne, Monash, RMIT, La Trobe, Deakin, Swinburne, and more.

This was an inspiring experience for students who are passionate about learning and are considering pursuing university studies. The subjects will provide us with opportunities to further extend, accelerate, and enrich our learning through select VCE subjects and university-level subjects.

To our current Year 10 and 11 VCE students, please keep the following key dates in mind and register for the online information session if you are interested.

There will be more information to be shared with students and parents regarding the details of the subjects CHES offer 2027. Please speak with the CHES Base Supervisor and VCE Coordinator, Ms Ling, if you have any questions.



[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

- VCE Open Evening (on-site and online): Tuesday 2 June, 5:00pm–7:00pm
- Higher Education Studies Information Evening (online only): Wednesday 10 June, 6:00pm–7:00pm



whats new in Ag view?

Week 5 – we are already halfway through the term! This week, students completed some fencing work, where they worked in teams to ensure the wire was spooling out correctly and that there was a clear path along the fence line.

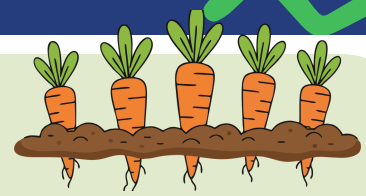
Students also applied previously learned skills by tying off the wire to the posts. It was great to see the students demonstrating inclusion across the class, ensuring that our first-year students were supported in applying their newly taught skills in a practical setting.

Week 6 – we only have four more classes left for the term! This week, students travelled to Mrs Lang's farm to complete their crop plot checks. Fortunately, the recent rainfall has resulted in excellent growth across all planted varieties.

When comparing the crop plot at Mrs Lang's farm to the plot at school, students were able to observe a significant difference in growth, highlighting the greater amount of rainfall received in the Stawell area.



FRIDGE Friday



LEARNING SKILLS FOR LIFE

We are excited to introduce **Fridge Friday** at Stawell Secondary College, a practical program designed to help students learn how to prepare simple, nutritious meals and snacks using everyday ingredients.

Each Friday, groups of select students from our junior, middle and senior sub schools will work together in the kitchen to develop valuable cooking, teamwork, budgeting, and food sustainability skills. The program encourages students to make the most of available ingredients by using pantry staples, donated goods, garden produce, and leftover items that might otherwise go to waste.

Fridge Friday provides students with hands-on learning experiences while building confidence, independence, and important life skills that they can use at home and in the future.

So far, we have had the Senior & Middle sub school groups cooking in the kitchen with Mrs Reynolds and Tanya. We have cooked a variety of dishes from Stir Fry, Butter Chicken, Scones, Apple Crumble, Pasta plus a few more. Students then joined together and shared a banquet style lunch, sharing and trying each other's dishes.



We Need Your Support!

To help get this program up and running, we would greatly appreciate donations from our school community.

Every donation, big or small, will help us provide meaningful learning opportunities for our students.

If you would like to contribute or would like more information about Fridge Friday, please contact the school. Thank you for supporting our students as they develop skills for life.

Donations can include:

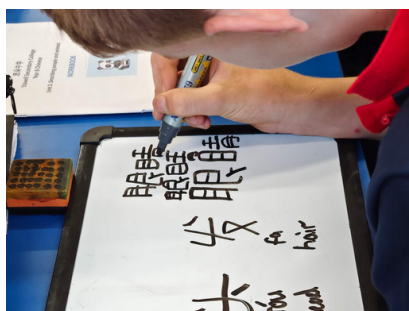
- Pantry staples (pasta, rice, flour, sugar, canned goods, sauces, herbs and spices)
- Long-life milk
- Cooking oils
- Baking ingredients
- Fresh fruit and vegetables
- Garden produce
- Freezer items
- Supermarket gift cards
- Monetary donations to assist with purchasing ingredients and kitchen supplies

HANYUQIAO COMPETITION

Two senior Chinese language students, Earl Pestijo and Lacey Bertram, represented our school exceptionally well at the Chinese Hanyuqiao Competition held at The University of Melbourne on Friday, 22 May. The state-wide competition consisted of three components: a written test, a three-minute Chinese speech, and a Chinese cultural performance.

Earl and Lacey demonstrated excellent Chinese language skills, strong cultural understanding, and great confidence throughout the competition. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their passion for learning another language while engaging with students from across Victoria.

Congratulations to Earl and Lacey on their outstanding efforts and for representing our school with pride and enthusiasm!



HANZI PRACTICE

One of the barriers Chinese language students face is the challenge of Hanzi memorisation! To overcome these difficulties, we apply a wide range of strategies to reduce cognitive load and make learning more effective and engaging.

Number 1: Mini Whiteboards

Students use mini whiteboards to practise and repeatedly reinforce their memory, or to complete dictation activities to check their understanding. Sometimes students use mini whiteboards to write single Hanzi characters, while at other times they use them to write whole paragraphs! More strategies will be introduced in future Connections, so stay tuned!

Chinese Program

CROSS COUNTRY

On Tuesday a group of students headed down to Warrnambool to compete in the GWR Cross Country. While the rain held off, the wind made conditions very cold for the students. They all fought through the weather and all ran very well. Congratulations to Olivia Hunter who finished in the Top 10 and will now compete in the State Level of Cross Country'

We have now recognised those students who were crowned Age Group Champions for our Athletics day. Congratulations to our winners!

- 12-13: Harper Bibby and Blayze Kenny
- 14: Cordelia Crawford and Jack Sullivan
- 15: Lylah Storch and Dusty Wethers
- 16: Olivia Hunter and Ryder Sullivan
- 17: Sienna Santucciono and Tyson Field
- 18-20: Alana Graveson and Cooper Field



MIDDLE SCHOOL

NEWS

DISPLAYING OUR CORE VALUES

We congratulate all our Middle School Students who were formally recognised for their high attendance percentage and displaying our core values during our whole school assembly.

In addition to these students, we acknowledge the following Middle School students who have been recognised by their class teachers for displaying our school values over the last two weeks.

Year 9: Coco Chorny and Riley Norman.

Year 10: Jalen Lockwood for his aspiration in English, Kody Simpson for his aspiration in both Science and English.

Attendance Goal: our next attendance goal is to improve our attendance by another 1% - we as of week 5 our average percentage is Year 9: 88% Year 10: 89% - by the end of this term we hope to either maintain our average or improve it by 1%. Students are reminded to let the school know if they are going to be absent.

Congratulations to the following students

Romario Dos Santos	Lexi Gooden
Will Hodder	Scarlett Rimon
Aika Ramos	Shayla Madin
Xyrus Gragasin	Jasmine Dickson
Milla Harrison	Liam Nicholson
Henry McLea	Will Evans
Ryder Davidson	Soraya Eckert
Charlie Dunn	Harper Miller,
Tyson Field	Sienna Winter
	Jason Arreza

Year 9 english

This week we are starting an exciting unit of work – a text study! 9A and 9B are studying 'The Wave' by Morton Rhue, and 9C are studying 'Night' by Eli Wiesel.

Students are currently learning the context behind the texts, specifically a brief history of The Holocaust. So far, students have found the content “interesting,” “shocking” and “sad” but are excited to read the book and connect the history to the true stories depicted in each text.

YEAR 11 PSYCHOLOGY

Students had a single lesson to make playdough brains with flag tags, decorate and label brain shaped biscuits with watered down food colouring and then draw the brain onto balloons. These hands on activities help the students to remember the parts of the brain. They also had to complete a brain cap at home.



Have You Ordered Your School Photos?

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



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: **J3YGKCGC**



Scan to order!



School Photos Monday 1 June

Orders can be placed right up to 4.30pm Sunday 31 May

Acknowledgement of Country

Stawell Secondary College is located in the lands of the Djab Wurrung and Jardwadjali people and we acknowledge the land which we learn, work and live.

We recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community and pay respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our College Community.



YEAR 7

NETBALL

Was held on Monday 25 May in Horsham.

The thirteen girls in the Year 7 team won their first game, and lost their second and third games for the day.

They should be very proud of their efforts as, even though they play netball on a Saturday with their respective clubs, they had minimal time to train together as a team.



Just a reminder

Female sanitary items are available free of charge in our school. These items are provided for the convenience of all who need them, so please feel free to take what you require. You'll find sanitary item dispensers located in the female toilets in the junior hub, the toilets near the auditorium, and the unisex toilet at the front office. We hope this initiative helps support our community and ensures everyone has access to essential products. Don't hesitate to make use of them as needed!



Missing just one lesson a week can greatly affect a student's attendance and performance. Over a school year, this adds up to approximately 36 missed lessons. Such absences can create learning gaps, making it hard for students to keep up. Regular attendance is linked to better academic results because students stay engaged and receive direct instruction. Consistent attendance also builds habits of responsibility and commitment.

music



Stawell has been very lucky to have had a visit from some of the wonderful musicians from the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra. A quintet concert was presented in the Town Hall on Thursday evening, and then on Friday morning 3 members of the group worked with our students in a 1 hour workshop. We were delighted to be able to include a group from Warracknabeal as well as two community violinists in this workshop. The group also played through a short piece composed by yr 11 student Scott Tulloch, taking the time to discuss elements of expression and string-specific technique with him. Extra thanks goes to their double bassist, Dr Emma Sullivan, who gave Scott a short lesson on double bass playing, so we may now see our double bass in use in the college band.

On Friday 15 May students of the College Band and our yr 8 Violin quartet travelled to Ballarat for the annual Regional Festival. Our band students combined with the Phoenix College Intermediate Band for the first performance of the day, and our yr 8 Violins caused a stir as the first strings group to ever perform at the festival. Our performances were well received, and our students were then able to enjoy performances from other schools around the region.





Year 10 Work Experience

Second last week of Term 2:
15 – 19 June

WASM CAREERS EXPO

Tuesday 23 June

All Year 9 and 12 students will be attending.

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

Expo format includes:

Career and Course Exhibitor displays

Manufacturer and Trade interactive activities – 'Try a Trade'

TIS – Tertiary Information Session for Year 12 VCE students

Itinerary

Depart - Stawell Secondary College at 9am

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

12.30pm – Depart Longerenong and return to Stawell Secondary College

1.45pm – Arrive back at Stawell Secondary College

Students then proceed to Period 5 as normal

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 9 June 2026

9am-3.25pm

Stawell Secondary College - Auditorium

Defying the Drift – Open to Year 10 & 11 students

Defying the Drift is an agricultural careers program held 21 - 23 Sept at Longerenong College, near Horsham.

<https://rotary9780.org/sitepage/defying-the-drift>

Applications are now open – if interested see
Cindy

Important dates

	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
WEEK 7	1 June School Photo's	2 June Black Range Junior Boys Footy/ Year 8 Girls Netball	3 June	4 June	5 June Report Writing Pupil Free
WEEK 8	8 June Kings B/Day Public Hoiliday	9 June	10 June Winter Music Concert	11 June	12 June Year 12 Ben Williamson Workshop
WEEK 9	15 June Year 10 Work Experience (all week)	16 June	17 June	18 June	19 June
WEEK 10	22 June	23 June WASM Careers Expo	24 June	25 June Year 9 Chinese Camp Mega Music Day	26 June Year 9 Chinese Camp Last Day Term 2



ASPIRATION



RESPECT



INCLUSION



RESILIENCE



PARTICIPATION

Stawell Secondary College
(PO Box 202) 79-97 Patrick St, Stawell, Vic,
3380

T (03) 53 58 1700

E stawell.sc@education.vic.gov.au

W stawellsc.vic.edu.au



SCAN TO DONATE



13TH ANNUAL MELBOURNE
FIREFIGHTER
STAIR CLIMB 2026



12TH SEPTEMBER 2026

CLIMBING 28 FLOORS IN 25KG OF GEAR

SONNY GELLIE

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HELP US REACH A GOAL OF \$1,000,000
TO FIGHT AGAINST CANCER, DEPRESSION, AND SUICIDE.

DONATE NOW AT FIREFIGHTERCLIMB.ORG.AU

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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

ARE YOU 14-17?

HAVE AN INTEREST IN SOCCER?



OUR U17'S (MIXED) WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN THEIR TEAM.

TRAINING:

- TUESDAYS 5PM NORTH PARK, STAWELL
- THURSDAYS 6PM GORDON ST, ARARAT

GAMES PLAYED ON SUNDAYS

WHETHER YOU'RE A STRIKER, MID, DEFENCE OR JUST FINDING YOUR FEET, WE HAVE MULTIPLE SPOTS AVAILABLE!

IF INTERESTED, COME ALONG TO OUR TRAINING SESSIONS OR CONTACT THE CLUB.

FACEBOOK: Grampians United FC | CLUB EMAIL: grampiansunitedfootballclub@protonmail.com | CLUB MOBILE: 0493 018 392



HOST AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

STAWELL SECONDARY COLLEGE CHINESE SHORT-STAY PROGRAM

Program Dates

- Group 1: 25 July – 1 August 2026
- Group 2: 1 August – 8 August 2026
- Students stay with host families for one week.

Homestay Payment
\$500 per week per student

What Homestay Families Provide

- A safe and welcoming home
- A separate bed for the student
- Three meals each day
- Friendly cultural interaction
- Transport to and from school if required

Contact
Ms Ling Zhao
Head of Chinese Faculty
Stawell Secondary College

Register by Friday 30 May 2026

Share your home, experience another culture, and help support international students visiting Stawell!

BOOK SALE

JOIN US FOR A FUNDRAISER AND A SAUSAGE SIZZLE. CRAFT ITEMS ALSO FOR SALE!



13TH JUNE 2026
10:00 - 2:00

Stawell Neighbourhood House
42 Sloane Street Stawell

Join us at the Careers Expo

- Find out about the exciting career options we have available, from science and engineering, to finance and communications.
- Enter our competition for a chance to win prizes!
- Subscribe to receive GWMWater job alerts straight to your inbox. To see a current list of jobs available, visit gwmwater.org.au/careers





More information: gwmwater.org.au/careers | General enquiries: 1300 659 961 (bh) | Email: info@gwmwater.org.au

