

# CONNECTIONS

12 June 2026



## YEAR 11 CAMP

Year 11 VCE VM and VCE students attended Melbourne for our annual 'Futures Camp'. While in Melbourne the VCE students visited a range of universities to see what opportunities are available when they finish school and what is required of them to get there. We visited RMIT University, Deakin University and Melbourne University. We also saw different student accommodation and investigated scholarship opportunities as well as establishing clearer pathways and what students can do at school to ensure they reach their goals.

VCE and VM students had a different approach to their camp and undertook a number of different cultural activities. We visited the Road to Zero workshop, a collaborative learning experience from the TAC and Melbourne Museum. We then visited the Australian Centre for the Moving Image at Fed Square and then moved on to the Shrine of Remembrance. On both afternoons we would meet up and undertake further cultural activities including Laser Tag, Ten Pin Bowling and a cheeky little trip to Marvel Stadium where a few of the students made it on to the Channel 7 live broadcast. All in all a great time was had by both students and staff.



Please see page 16 for more photos.....

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# Principal Report

As I have mentioned many times, school is a busy place.

Over the last week, students have been completing the Attitudes to School Survey (AtoSS). This annual Department initiative provides important feedback that enables schools to develop and implement improvement strategies to enhance student learning outcomes.

Last Friday, a student-free day, was devoted to assessment and reporting as mandated by the Department. Teaching staff used the day to further develop their knowledge of Compass report writing, moderate assessment tasks, collaborate on unit plans, and complete individual student reporting comments. The day was highly productive and provided valuable time for professional collaboration and planning.

The finishing touches to our building program continue across the school. New signage for building identification, staff and community access, and grounds navigation has been installed by Zac Walker, a past graduate of the College. The signage provides clearer direction for students, staff and visitors as they access and move around the school. Our new landscaping also continues to flourish, with regular rainfall assisting the development of lawns and garden beds.

Our Breakfast Club, which operates four mornings per week, continues to be a popular attraction for students, particularly those who arrive early on buses or who may have left home without breakfast. The wellbeing team, led by Iestyn Opie, arrives early each morning to prepare toasties and hot drinks. We are also appreciative of the additional support provided by Andrew Cunningham.

On Tuesday, 16 June, all senior students studying a VCE Unit 3 and 4 subjects will sit the General Achievement Test (GAT). The GAT is a three-hour assessment that measures general knowledge and skills across a range of learning areas, including English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and the Arts. While the GAT does not directly contribute to a study score, it plays an important role in the VCE assessment process. It can be used to support the calculation of a Derived Examination Score (DES) if a student is unable to complete their final examinations due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances, and it also assists the VCAA in ensuring fairness and consistency across VCE assessments. Students are encouraged to approach the GAT seriously and do their best, as a strong performance can provide valuable support should it be required later in the year.

Families are advised of two important wellbeing supports that will be delivered by the school in the near future. During the first week back after the semester break, the Australian Smile Group Dental Van will be available for students. This initiative provides students with free access to a dental check-up. On Wednesday, 22 July, Year 7 and Year 10 students will participate in the immunisation program. More details regarding both initiatives will be provided closer to the dates.

I take this opportunity to alert families to an upcoming event, Our College Celebration. This special event will be held on Sunday, 2 August, commencing at 1:00 pm. This event will recognise the completion of our building program, and all past and present members of our school community are invited to attend. The event will provide guests with the opportunity to see firsthand the transformation of the College through a presentation on the school's history, guided tours of the facilities, and afternoon tea. We look forward to sharing this significant milestone with our community and celebrating the achievements of our college together.

Our traditional end-of-term whole-school assembly will be held on Friday, 26 June, commencing at approximately 2:15 pm. This assembly recognises student attendance and achievement throughout Term 2. Presented by our School Captains, Sienna and Chloe, families are warmly invited to attend. Further details will be communicated via SMS closer to the event.



## 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.



## WETLAND WEEK:

### BREAKING GROUND ON THE STAWELL SECONDARY SANCTUARY HUB

This week marks a major milestone for Stawell Secondary College as we celebrate “Wetland Week”, the official hard launch and construction phase of our Sanctuary Hub. After weeks of rigorous student planning, mapping, and scientific research, the transition from paper to pavement (and mud!) has begun.

The Sanctuary Hub is more than just a garden; it is a Climate-Resilient Biodiversity and Wellbeing Learning Precinct. Our mission is focused on creating “A Living Landscape for Learning,” providing a nature based space where students can regulate their wellbeing while learning practical skills to adapt to a changing climate, alongside in engaging in community citizen science.



This precinct is designed as a closed-loop system where rainwater from the school oval is captured and filtered to create a thriving habitat for local wildlife.

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### **Basin 1: A Home for the Eastern Banjo Frog**

The centrepiece of this week’s activity is the excavation and planting of **Basin 1**. This specially engineered wetland is an asymmetric oval, roughly **10–12 metres long**, designed with graduated “shallow shelves” to allow frogs to enter and exit safely.

We are specifically building this habitat to support target species like the **Eastern Banjo Frog** (known for its iconic “bonk” call) and the **Common Eastern Froglet**.

This will also involve the planting of 741 native plants, which would not have been possible without the support of our first official Stawell Secondary Sanctuary Hub partner – **GreenFingers Nursery!**



## WETLAND WEEK: BREAKING GROUND ON THE STAWELL SECONDARY SANCTUARY HUB CONTINUED:

### Students in Professional Roles:

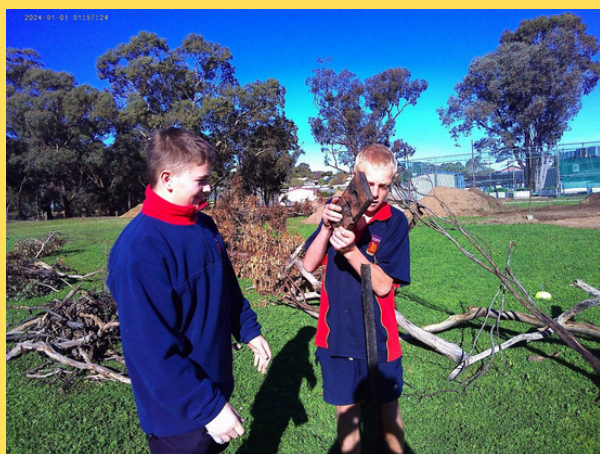
The construction of the Hub is entirely student led. Driven by our **Vocational Major (VM) students** who are not just "helping", but are operating in professional roles, for example:

- **Site Surveyors:** Using 30m tapes to ensure the basin and swales match the official design, A-frame contour readings (constructed by our **Construction Managers**), Lazer level contour mapping.
- **Budget Keepers:** Sourcing and creating order forms for managing a **\$5,000 Victorian Junior Landcare & Biodiversity Grant** which is being used to train our Year 7 cohort in Wetland Restoration Ecology.
- **Cultural Coordinators:** Developing community partnerships to provide expert cultural knowledge on important native plant species, and integrating a connection to land.



STAWELL  
SECONDARY

Sanctuary  
Hub



### A Growing Partnership

This project thrives on community connection. We are establishing connections to work closely with the **Marrung Program** to ensure the Hub respects and celebrates **Djab Wurrung and Jardwadjali Country**. Our local official partner **GreenFingers Nursery**. And the brilliant team at **Project Platypus** who will be delivering a Wetland Restoration and Ecology excursion to our Year 7 Science students, and have been pivotal in providing the expert guidance and indigenous plant knowledge needed to create a wetland with this patch of our school. **What's Next?**



Once the earthworks are complete and our **741 indigenous plants** are in the ground, we will begin the "Citizen Science" phase, using **FrogID and iNaturalist** to document the return of biodiversity to our school grounds. Year 7 Science students have already conducted their first Sanctuary Hub **Preliminary Surveys** applying their new knowledge of classification, ecosystems, alongside animal and invertebrate surveys.

We look forward to inviting the community to a formal **Open Day in the future**, where our student leaders will lead tours of the new habitat and present the data they have collected.

**-The Sanctuary Hub Team**

# SCIENCE



How many Year 7 student's does it take to measure the same length of a Colossal Squid?



**7C engaging in their squid dissections during a laboratory for Science!**

**During our focus of Biological Sciences students are learning that:**

- there are similarities and differences within and between groups of organisms living on Earth; the development and use of classification tools, including dichotomous keys, help order and organise human understanding of the diversity of life.
- the structure of cells, tissues and organs in a plant and an animal organ system are related to their function; plant and animal organ systems enable survival of the organism.

# SCIENCE

continued.....

## Biological Sciences

Students of 7C are learning in the unit of Biological Sciences;

Matter and energy flow through ecosystems and can be represented using models, including food webs and food pyramids; populations will be affected by changing biotic and abiotic factors in an ecosystem including habitat loss, climate change, seasonal migration and introduction or removal of species VC2S8U04



Students of 7C were involved in an up close and personal "Keeper Talk" of some Australian Native Animals including: Lizards, Lace Monitor, Long Neck Turtle, Frog, and Sugar Gliders. Allowing opportunity for students to get to know these animals and discuss their ecological niche, and roles in ecosystems and food webs.



# VCE NEWS

## VCE Year 12 Subjects Term 2 Break Sessions

### 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.

### Week 9 and 10 SACS

- Unit 1 Physics SAC 3
- Unit 2 Chinese SAC 1
- Unit 1 Physics SAC 3

### Important Dates

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

## Youthrive Branch-Out-Mentoring Session

Our Year 12 VCE students participated in a valuable Youthrive Branch-Out Mentoring Session facilitated by Lacie Pridan, a former Stawell Secondary College student and Youthrive Scholarship recipient.

During the session, students gained practical advice about scholarship opportunities and developed a deeper understanding of the application process, particularly for Youthrive Scholarships.

Drawing on her own experiences, Lacie shared a range of helpful tips on how to effectively showcase achievements, write strong applications, and prepare supporting documentation. The session provided students with greater confidence and insight into the opportunities available to them beyond secondary school.



With the upcoming Year 12 Practice Exams fast approaching, students are encouraged to establish effective study routines and make the most of the time available. Some recommended strategies include:

- Create a study timetable to ensure all subjects receive regular attention.
- Use active revision techniques, such as practice questions, flashcards, and retrieval exercises rather than simply rereading notes.
- Complete practice exams under timed conditions to build confidence and familiarity with exam expectations.
- Break study sessions into manageable chunks and take regular short breaks to maintain focus.
- Seek feedback and clarification from teachers when concepts are unclear.
- Prioritise wellbeing by maintaining a healthy balance of study, sleep, exercise, and relaxation.

Practice exams are an excellent opportunity for students to identify strengths, address areas for improvement, and refine their exam techniques before the end-of-year assessments. Consistent preparation and effective study habits will help students approach their exams with confidence and achieve their personal best.

## Exam Preparation and Study Tips



WHAT'S NEW IN

# Ag View?



## DURING WEEK 7

The VET Agriculture students travelled to Mrs Lang's farm to take part in lamb marking. It was fantastic to see all students getting involved and having a real go at lifting lambs into the cradle, administering vaccines, drafting ewes from lambs, and moving sheep safely through the yards.

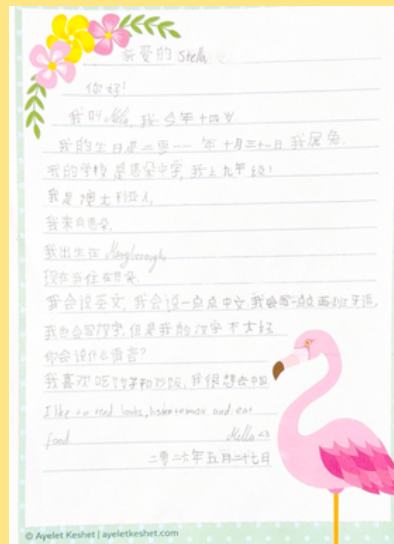
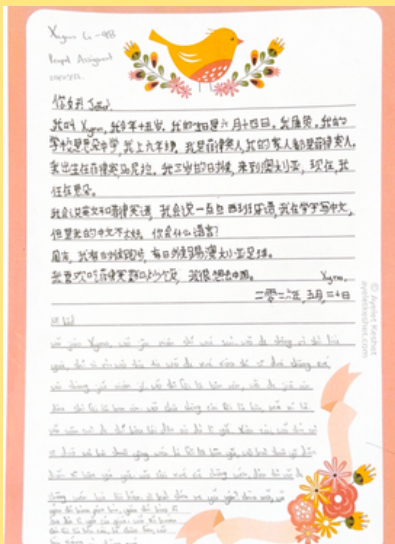
This practical experience forms part of their studies towards the Certificate II in Agriculture and provided an excellent opportunity to develop skills aligned with the unit AHCLSK224 - Handle Livestock Using Basic Techniques. Students demonstrated growing confidence and competence while working with livestock in a real farm setting.

## DURING WEEK 8

Students travelled to their farm crop plot to monitor and map the progress of crop growth. There was great excitement as students observed the strong growth rates across all crop varieties. Despite the cooler weather conditions, students still enjoyed a positive and memorable experience, with plenty of laughs along the way—including Thomas Jess regularly drinking the rainwater collected in the rain gauge.

As we approach the end of the term, students are continuing to work towards completing their units of competency by finalising practical tasks and knowledge-based assessments. Their dedication and effort are ensuring they remain on track with their studies and learning outcomes.





## Chinese Pen-Pal Letter Exchange Program

Students in the Chinese program recently participated in a pen-pal letter exchange activity, providing them with an authentic opportunity to use their language skills and connect with students from another culture.

Year 9 students focused on introducing themselves by sharing their nationality and language abilities, while Year 8 students described their pets or favourite animals.

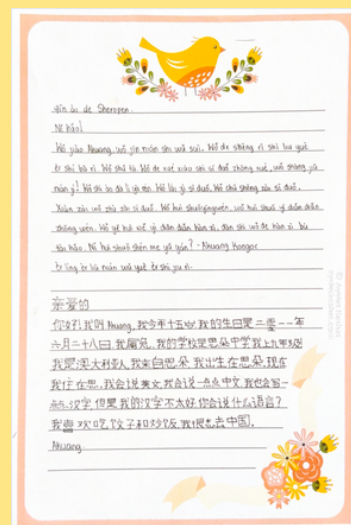
Through these tasks, students practised using relevant vocabulary and sentence structures in a meaningful and engaging way.

The activity encouraged students to apply their Chinese language skills in context and develop greater confidence in written communication. It also supported the development of cultural understanding, curiosity, and global awareness.

Students thoroughly enjoyed receiving and responding to letters, gaining valuable insight into the lives and perspectives of their pen pals.

The exchange has been a wonderful way to bring language learning to life and highlight the importance of communication and intercultural understanding.

We look forward to continuing to strengthen these international friendships through future correspondence.

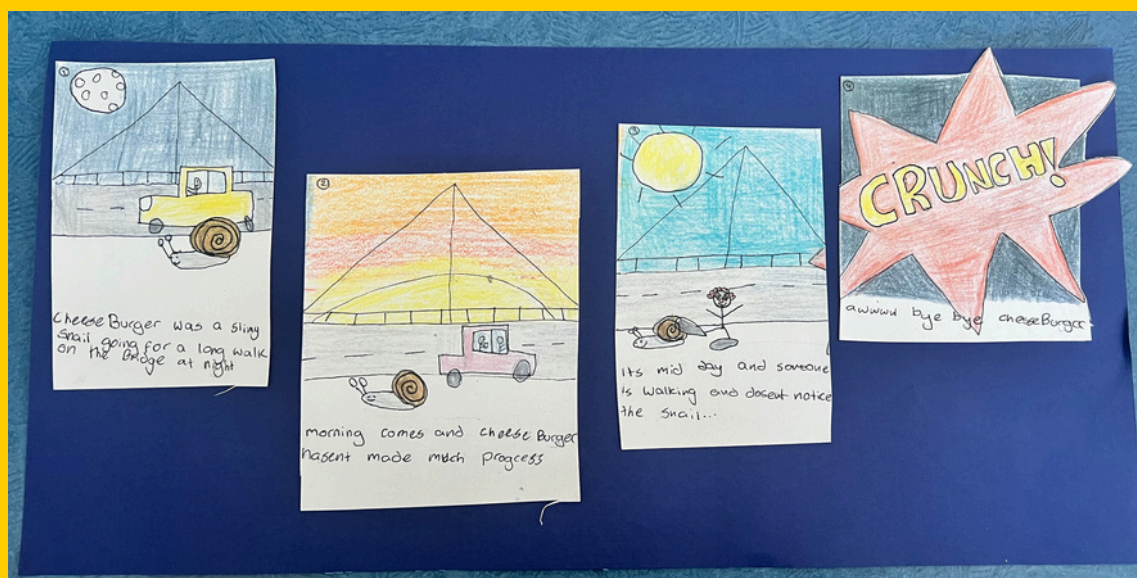


# Chinese Program

# Art

Year **7B** and **7C** Art students recently took part in a fun and creative comic competition. Students were challenged to design their own comic strip, incorporating an onomatopoeia word such as "BANG!", "POP!" or "CRASH!" while also applying their knowledge of colour theory.

The competition showcased the students' creativity, artistic skills and understanding of how colour can create mood and impact within artwork. Congratulations to all students for their fantastic efforts and imaginative designs!



# Food Tech

## Year 10 Food Technology

Year 10 Food Technology A students recently completed their final CAT for the semester. After exploring contemporary food trends, students designed and prepared their own Poke Bowl recipes.

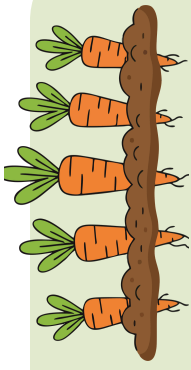
The assessment showcased their creativity, practical cooking skills, and understanding of current food trends, with students producing a range of colourful and nutritious dishes.



## Year 9 Food Technology

Year 9 Food Technology students recently completed their final CAT for the semester. As part of the assessment, students designed and prepared their own Noodle Box. Applying their knowledge of flavour, nutrition, and food preparation skills. Students produced a variety of delicious and creative noodle dishes, showcasing their confidence and skills in the kitchen.





Friday

LEARNING SKILLS FOR LIFE

FRIDGE



## Middle School Fridge Friday

Our Middle School Fridge Friday group has been busy in the kitchen making the most of donated and leftover ingredients. During their session students cooked delicious homemade pizzas, crispy spring rolls, yummy pasta and a tasty apple crumble for dessert. The program continues to build students' confidence in the kitchen while promoting teamwork, creativity and reducing food waste.

**Thankyou to all who have donated towards Fridge Friday! Programs like this can only run with the support of our community**

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

# MIDDLE SCHOOL

NEWS



Our Year 9 Science students are engaging in scientific research – exploring the effects of different substances and determining their acidity.

## Year 9 Science

## DISPLAYING OUR CORE VALUES

We celebrate 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:** Xyrus Gragasin  
Caitlyn Bell  
Milla Harrison  
Jade Otuszewski

**Year 10:** Will Evans aspiration in English.  
Dusty Wethers respect in 10 Study.  
Jasmine Dickson for her participation in English & VCE Psychology.  
Madilyn Deane for outstanding community awareness (in particular for protecting wildlife).

ATTENDANCE GOAL:

Our attendance goal is to achieve an average of 89% attendance by the end of this term. Our week 8 average attendance is 89% for both Year 9 & 10 students.

Congratulations to everyone for contributing towards our goal – Attendance Matters. Students are reminded to have their parents let the school know if they are going to be absent.

### ATTENDANCE



## YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE:



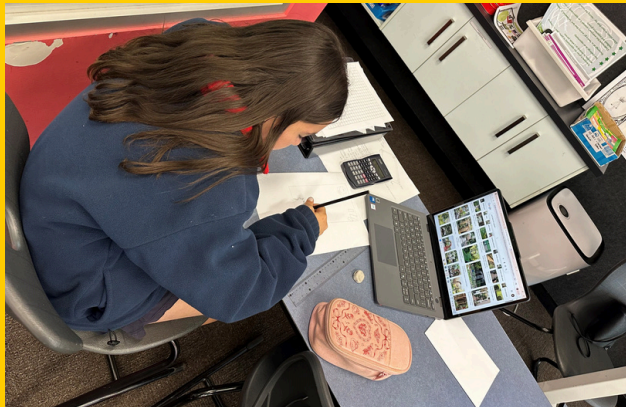
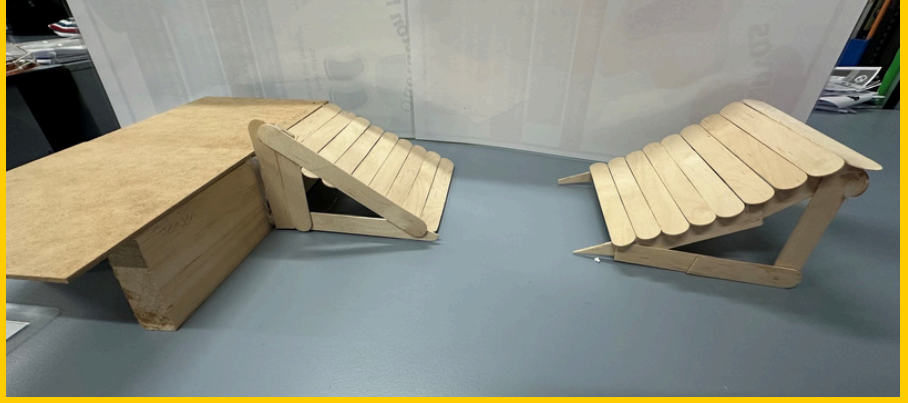
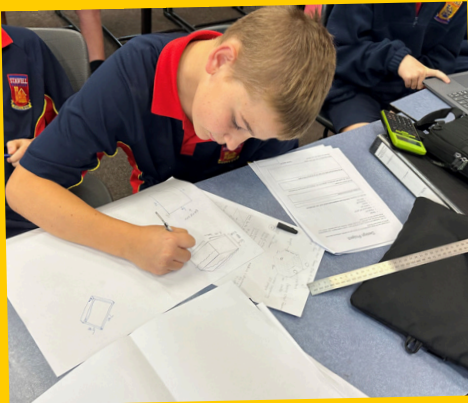
All the best to our Year 10 students who will be on work experience next week. We hope that this will provide you with a great learning experience and help you in deciding your career pathways.

# WASH

In 7-10 maths, students worked collaboratively to design and perform calculations for something they think would improve our school space.

There were lots of fantastic designs created, including a bike track, rock-climbing wall, sandpit, indoor pool, sensory garden, rotunda seating area, and clay target shooting range.

A sample of some of the students' creations are shown below





# music



On Wednesday evening, 10 June our Music Program presented the annual Winter Concert. Featuring students from beginners through to our most experienced players and covering a wide range of musical styles, the program had something for everyone.

# Year 10 english

Students have been learning about different types of oral presentations including speeches, podcasts and interviews. They have looked at what makes these interesting and engaging for the audience; gestures, change of voice, emphasis, language used and tone. Now students are to choose either a speech, podcast or job interview to write a script for and to record and present to the class for their assessment task.



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## Book of the week **The Wild Unknown** By Emily Gale

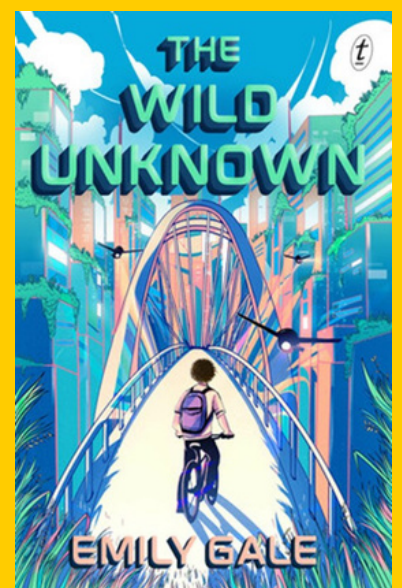
It's 2045 and the world is full of tech. Eddie has a bot in his ear giving him advice all day, and classroom bots keeping track of him at school. The streets are full of bird-drones, and gametech is amazing.

But tech can't help the police find a missing boy called Theo. When they abandon the search, Eddie and his friends sneak out to look for clues. What they find doesn't seem to make sense.

Then strange things start happening to Eddie. He's never been sporty but suddenly he's a brilliant runner. He has excellent night vision - and there are hair-like feathers growing out of his skin.

It's exciting. And it's terrifying.

But does the strangeness have anything to do with Theo's disappearance? And could it help Eddie find the missing boy?



# Year 11 Camp Photos



# Dental Van Visit

We are excited to be having the Australian Smile Group Dental Van coming to Stawell Secondary College next Term!

The van will be onsite for the first week of term to support students with their dental care.

Consent forms were sent home with students last week, if you have misplaced yours or didn't receive one, more will be kept at the front office. Forms are due back on Monday 22nd June. If you have any questions please ring the school on 5358 1700



Australian Smile Group logo at the top. The main headline reads 'DRIVING HEALTHY SMILES YOUR WAY!' with the sub-headline 'FREE MOBILE DENTAL VAN VISIT!'. Below this is an illustration of a dental van with a dentist and a patient. To the right, a circular graphic titled 'OUR SERVICES' lists: 'Checkup at Schools. No need for separate appointments', 'No out-of-pocket cost. Covered by Medicare (CDBS)', 'Learn oral hygiene & brushing techniques', 'Eligible kids get \$1095 in benefits every 2 years (For ages 2-17)', and 'Cleaning, sealants, fluoride, fillings & more'. At the bottom, it says 'SIGN UP NOW AT THE SCHOOL'S OFFICE TODAY!' and 'CALL NOW + (03) 9132 0121'. Contact information for digital forms is provided at the bottom left: 'info@australiansmilegroup.com.au' and 'www.australiansmilegroup.com.au'. A cartoon tooth character is at the bottom right.

## 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! **Please note supplies have just been replenished!**



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.



# MND DAY

Motor Neuron Disease

22<sup>nd</sup> June  
Gold Coin  
Donation

Raffle for bucket thrower,  
Selling Week 9 & day of

**Treat sale at  
first break!!**

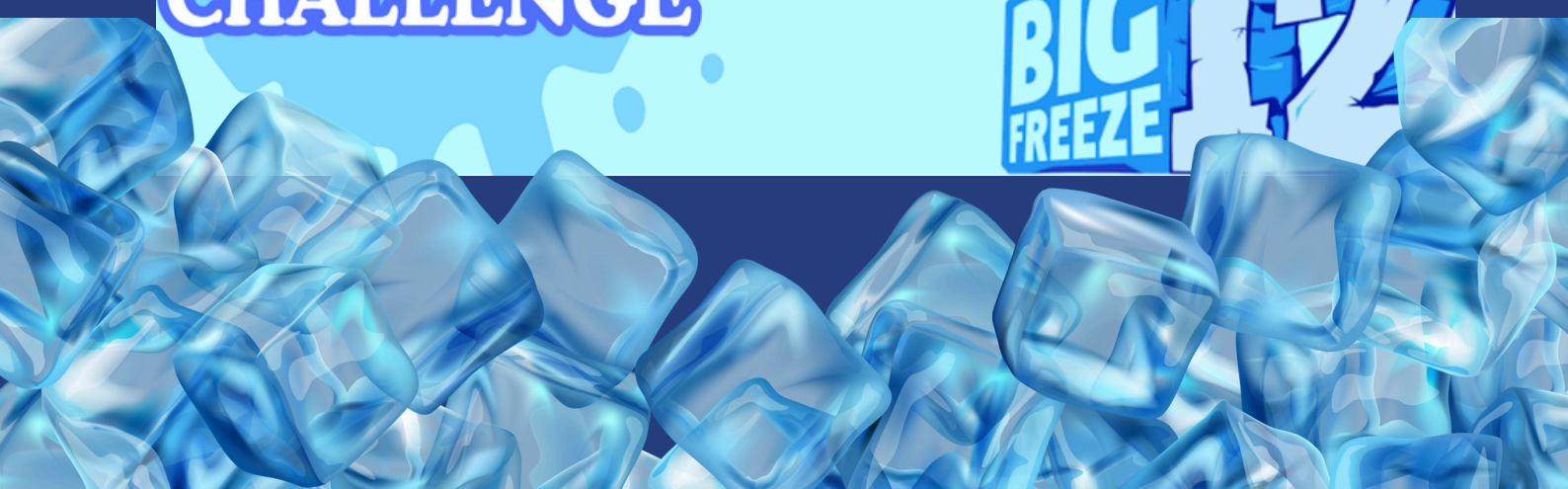
Casual Clothes  
**WEAR BLUE!!**

Ice Bucket  
Participants  
announced soon!

Vote for Pre-  
picked Staff &  
Students OR  
Raise \$300 for  
ALL to  
participate!!

**ICE BUCKET  
CHALLENGE**

**BIG FREEZE 12**



# Important dates

	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
<b>WEEK 9</b>	15 June Black Range Junior Boys Footy/ Year 8 Girls Netball	16 June Year 10 Work Experience (all week) GAT	17 June	18 June	19 June
<b>WEEK 10</b>	22 June MND Day	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
<b>TERM 3 WEEK 1</b>	13 July	14 July Smile Group Dental Van Visit	15 July Naidoc Celebration SWPS	16 July	17 July Year 8 Chinese Food Excursion



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](mailto:stawell.sc@education.vic.gov.au)

W [stawellsc.vic.edu.au](http://stawellsc.vic.edu.au)

Stawell Performing Arts Company  
Presents

# Sing Me A Story

A MINI-MUSICAL

COME SEE OUR YOUNG PERFORMERS BRING  
CLASSIC STORIES TO LIFE IN SONG AND RHYME

Three shows only  
11.30 AM - 1.30 PM - 7.00 PM  
Wednesday June 24 - Stawell Entertainment Centre



ARARAT TOWN HALL

7:30PM - 19<sup>TH</sup> 20<sup>TH</sup> 26<sup>TH</sup> 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

1:30PM - 21<sup>ST</sup> 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026

Tickets available via [ararattownhall.com.au](http://ararattownhall.com.au)  
Or contact the Ararat and Grampians Visitor Information Centre  
on 1800 657 158.

BOOK, MUSIC AND LYRICS BY  
JIM JACOBS AND WARREN CASEY  
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH ORIGIN™ THEATRICAL  
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## NATURE UNTAMED!!

TYRON'S WILDLIFE BRINGS YOU FACE TO FACE WITH  
THE RAW BEAUTY OF THE ANIMAL KINGDOM.

Wednesday, July 1,  
10.30am - 11.30am  
@ Stawell Library  
**BOOK NOW!!!**  
Ph: 5358 1274

Grampians LIBRARIES

# Arcad-1-Con

## RECHARGED

FREE Games  
Magic: The Gathering  
Board Games  
Much More!!

July 2nd  
10-4PM Games, 5-7PM Disco  
Stawell Entertainment Centre

LEVEL UP!

Disco After Gaming!!

Cosplay WELCOME

Please note that this is a drug, smoke, vape and alcohol free event.

AMPLIFY VICTORIA State Government Grampians Community Health SPAC Stawell Neighbourhood House Inc. LIBRARIES West Victoria Library Services Grampians