



PRINCIPALS REPORT

You may have seen recent media reports in which the Victorian Premier, Mr Ben Carroll, congratulated Victorian students on this year's outstanding NAPLAN results. He highlighted that Victorian students have once again achieved the strongest results in the nation, with significant improvements over the past three years. More Victorian students are now achieving the highest proficiency levels in Numeracy, Writing, and Grammar and Punctuation than ever before.

Stawell Secondary College's NAPLAN results reflect these statewide achievements. Our students recorded strong results in Year 7 Reading, Spelling and Numeracy, and Year 9 Spelling and Numeracy. These results are a testament to the hard work of our students and staff and demonstrate that the College's ongoing focus on literacy and numeracy is delivering consistent improvements in student learning outcomes.

Our College Celebration on Sunday, 2 August was a wonderful success, attracting many former students, staff, families and community members. We were delighted to welcome six former principals, along with representatives from almost every era of our school's history.

Guests enjoyed a series of reflections that celebrated the college's rich heritage. Khal Lawton and Jeff Cameron shared memories of the former High and Technical Schools, while Peter Martin reflected on the amalgamation of the two schools in 1987. Alexa Duke spoke about the significant milestone of consolidating the college onto one site in 2000, and our School Captains, Sienna and Chloe, concluded the formal presentations by reflecting on the past six years, which have seen the transformation of our college through an extensive rebuild and restoration.

Perhaps the most moving presentation came from Pat Pickering, whose remarkable 45 years of service began at the Technical School and concluded at Stawell Secondary College in 2015. Her reflections highlighted the enduring spirit of the school and the many generations of students and staff who have been part of its journey.

Following the presentations, guests explored the college, revisiting familiar spaces, sharing memories and admiring the outstanding facilities that will serve our students for many years to come. Afternoon tea provided the perfect opportunity for conversations and reminiscing to continue well into the afternoon.

It was a fitting celebration of our proud history and an exciting reminder of the bright future that lies ahead for Stawell Secondary College.

Recently, we held our VCE Unit 3 & 4 Parent-Teacher-Student Interviews. These meetings provided an important opportunity for students, families and teachers to reflect on students' progress and develop a plan for the remaining nine weeks before the final examinations.

Helping students achieve their best has always been a shared responsibility between the teacher, the student and their family. It was pleasing to receive such positive feedback about the value of these interviews, and we look forward to encouraging even more students and families to take advantage of this opportunity in the future.

Continuing with interviews, our Year 7–11 Parent-Teacher-Student Interviews will be held on Thursday, 13 August, from 12.00 pm to 7.00 pm in the College Auditorium. I encourage all families to attend and use this opportunity to celebrate student achievements, discuss progress, and plan the next steps to ensure every student makes the most of the opportunities available at Stawell Secondary College.

Finally, it is wonderful to share some exciting news from our college community. Our staff families have recently grown, with the safe arrival of two new babies. On 17 July, the Koop family welcomed Arthur Bryn Koop, followed soon after by the arrival of Eleanor Rose Barrie to the Barrie family on the 3 August.

On behalf of the entire Stawell Secondary College community, congratulations to both families. We wish them every happiness as they begin this exciting new chapter together.

Murray Hart, Principal

College Celebration



Year eight

english

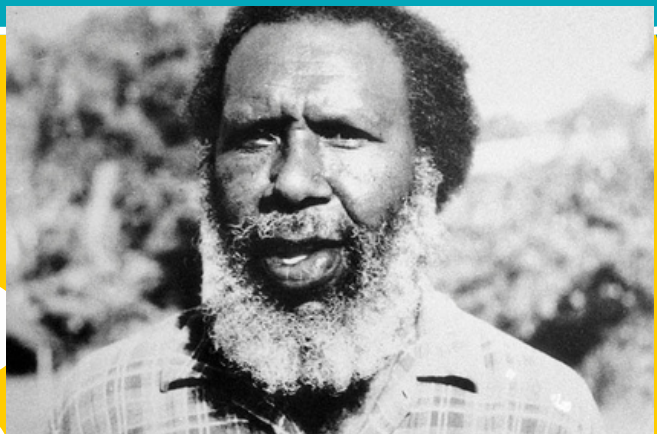
YEAR 8 ENGLISH - FIRST NATIONS BIOGRAPHIES



The year 8s are learning about a series of first nations people through biographies and interviews. So far, they have learnt a little about Budjerah, Cathy Freeman and Baker Boy.

Over the next few weeks, students will be creating their own biography about a first nations celebrity of their choosing.

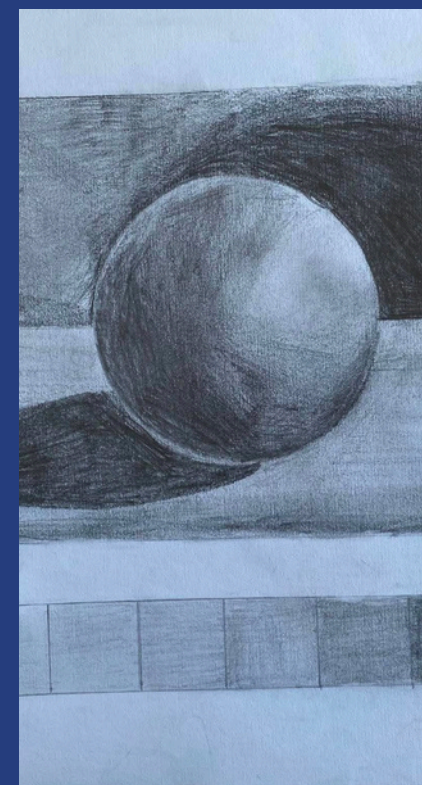
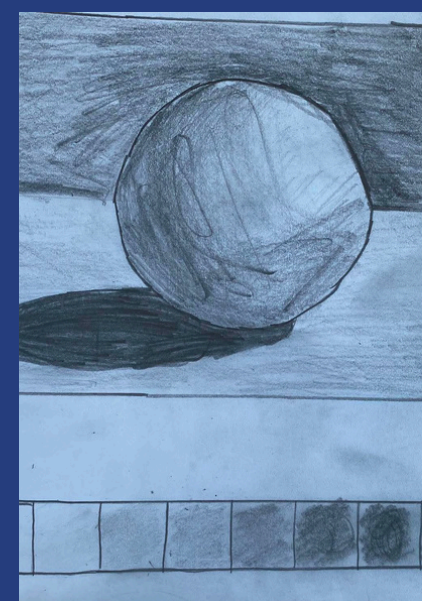
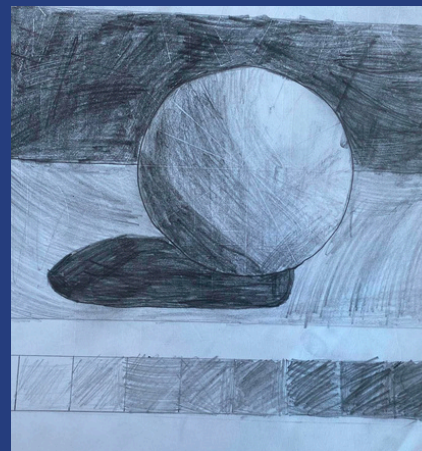
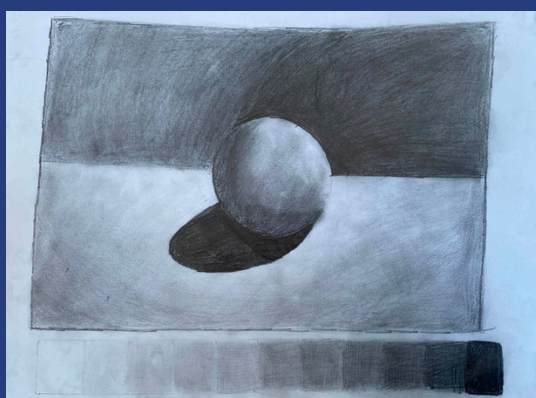
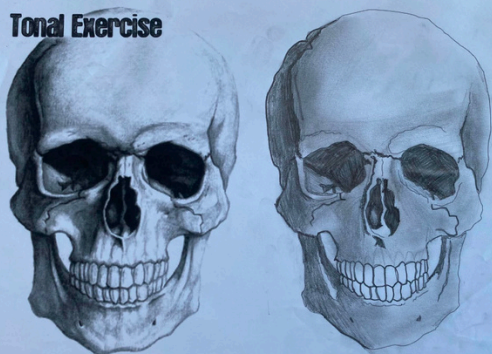
As part of this unit, students were challenged to figure out who these first nations icons were - see if you can do the same!



Year 7 Art

Our year 7 students are off to a flying start this semester! They have been deep diving into the world of tone and practicing their skills across many different mark making activities.

Tonal Exercise



middle SCHOOL NEWS

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSES?

Year 10 Food Technology B – What's on the menu?
Carrot cake with cream cheese frosting!
Apprentice cooks : Ryder S and Tom C proudly displaying their cakes.



Year 9 Mathematics: SSC Commonwealth Games. Students will be working in teams and assigned a Commonwealth country they will represent. Each lesson they have the chance to achieve: Gold, Silver and Bronze medals for their completion of tasks, displaying our expected classroom behaviours and winning 'fun' activities. The country with the most Gold medals and overall medals will receive special prizes. Let the Games begin!

Term 3 Attendance Goal: we are in the midst of some nasty viruses and colds. A reminder if you are away due to illness, please let us know.

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: Lylah Slorach
Maiken Miller–
McKitterick

Jade Otuszwiecki
William Hodder

Year 10: Random Acts of Kindness:
Will Johnston who
helped a

farmer with his ute.
Kody Simpson for

helping a
friend who was injured

Olivia Hunter and Henry McLean for
being aspirational in English.

New addition to our Middle School Space:

Our students are enjoying the addition of lovely comfy couches in the Middle School space. Thank you to Mrs McAloon for sourcing these and purchasing colourful and soft cushions, Ms Natalie Byron who mastered the art of flat packs and assembled these, and the staff who helped unload the many boxes from the truck (Mr Greenhalgh, Mr Williams and Ms Hemley). We really appreciate everyone who made sitting more enjoyable!



Our Senior Fridge Friday group cook up some special treats. We had Banana Blondies, Mini Quiches, Pancakes and Fruit Salad. The students are enjoying the challenges of coming up with a plan from the produce and leftovers that we have in our fridges. This week we were lucky enough to be gifted some fresh farm eggs and greens, which we utilised in the mini quiches.



SENIOR FRIDGE FRIDAY



JUNIOR FRIDGE FRIDAY

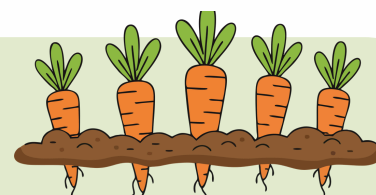


When it was our Junior School groups turn to cook in our Fridge Friday program. With a few absences and disruptions, it was a titchy tiny group! We still managed to make some scrummy, yummy food - Frog in the Pond (which neither of the students had heard of or eaten before), Pizzas (seems like these are almost a weekly staple) and vanilla cupcakes. Tanya and I are super proud of their efforts and the food they have cooked.

FRIDGE

Friday

LEARNING SKILLS FOR LIFE



VCE NEWS

On the 20 July, our Year 12 students dressed up as 'oldies' to celebrate their 100th day! We wish them all of the best for the remainder of the year and hope they continue to enjoy their friendships and school life.



Many thanks to all the Unit 3 and 4 students and parents who attended the Parent - Student - Teacher Interviews last Wednesday!

A kind reminder that our Year 7- 11 Parent - Student - Teacher Interviews will be held next Thursday. We would love to see many of our VCE Year 11 students and their parents attend.

This Friday, we will have our online Unit 3/4 Methods Masterclass during our Study Tuition Session.

With SACs piling up this semester, remember to:

- plan ahead and prioritise upcoming deadlines;
- break revision into smaller, manageable tasks;
- seek help from your teachers early;
- maintain healthy sleep and study routines; and
- take regular breaks to support your wellbeing.

Stay organised, look after yourselves and keep working steadily - you have got this!



Chinese Program

Global Village Chinese Speaking Competition

On 31 July, ten nervous students travelled to Melbourne for the Global Village Chinese Speaking Competition Camp. The whole weekend was action-packed! We continued practising our scripts on the train to Melbourne and later that night at the campsite. On Saturday morning, we travelled to Deakin University and met our Chinese partners. All the Chinese teachers were very friendly, and some spoke excellent English!

We practised our combined speeches with our partners throughout the afternoon until we were exhausted. Dinner was simple - we had McDonald's and then returned to the campsite to practise again!

The following day was competition day. We were all anxious that morning, but we worked even harder with our partners to refine our speeches. We presented our speeches in the afternoon, and every one of us won a medal!



When we boarded the Route 75 tram at Deakin University, the tram driver, Bruce, asked us what we had won. We proudly told him that we had competed in a Chinese speaking competition. He congratulated us on our success and made an announcement at nearly every stop: "Welcome aboard the Stawell Secondary College Chinese Speaking Competition Victory Tram!" The other passengers also congratulated and encouraged us. What a positive and exciting way to finish the competition camp! 😊

It was such a valuable experience, and we would like to encourage every Chinese language student to embrace opportunities like this whenever they arise!



Chinese Program

We warmly welcome our short-stay students, who have settled into our school community exceptionally well and enjoyed participating in classes and excursions to Sovereign Hill and Halls Gap. More memorable moments from our short-stay program will be shared with our community in the next edition of the school newsletter.



Year 11 PSYCHOLOGY

How would you build a tower using:

100 straws, 50 paper clips, 10 rubber bands, 1 pkt small sticky notes, 5 envelopes, 1 toilet roll, 5 pipe cleaners and 6 icy pole sticks?

It must be free standing, you must use at least one of each of the materials and the tallest wins a prize.



Year 11A Psychology attempted this to see how they behaved in groups.

Did people conform, obey, or experience group think, group polarisation or social loafing?

There was some imitating occurring which was to the detriment of the groups but we finally saw some tall towers assembled.



Welcome back to Term 3! It has been great to be back in the classroom and out on the bus for another exciting term of excursions and hands-on learning.

In Week 3, the VET Agriculture students travelled between Callawadda and Marnoo to visit Chad Frost's pig farm. Some students may recognise Chad, as he occasionally works at the school as a CRT teacher. We met Chad at his main site, where the staff facilities are located, and were immediately greeted by a smell that was quite unfamiliar to most of us! While it took a little getting used to, it certainly added to the authentic farm experience.

Before entering the pig sheds, everyone was provided with disposable boot covers to wear over their shoes. This important biosecurity measure helps prevent contaminants from being introduced or transferred between different farm sites, highlighting the importance of strict hygiene practices within the livestock industry.

Throughout the visit, students explored sheds housing pigs at various stages of growth and observed the different behaviours displayed by each age group. Chad demonstrated several techniques for moving pigs through yards and races, allowing students to compare these methods with the sheep-handling practices they are more familiar with.

As the day progressed, Chad explained the extensive data collection and planning involved in managing a commercial piggery. Students learnt how production data is used to schedule farrowing during weekdays, the role of artificial insemination (AI) within the breeding program, and how electronic ear tags assist with animal identification, health monitoring and performance recording.

Back at school, the students were excited to return to our crop plot after almost five weeks without taking measurements. We headed into the vegetable garden to check on the progress of each crop and were all amazed by the amount of growth over the school holidays. It was fantastic to see the students' enthusiasm as they resumed monitoring and recording the development of their plots.



WHAT'S NEW IN THE
Ag View!

WHAT'S NEW IN THE *Ag View!*

Continued.....

In **Week 4**, students returned to the school crop plot to monitor its progress and were excited to see the significant growth since their last visit at the end of Term 2. As they measured each variety, students observed that several patches showed signs of damage and defects. By comparing these areas with the neighbouring crop, they were able to discuss how the strategic use of herbicides and fungicides can help protect crops from weeds and diseases, ultimately reducing losses and improving crop health.

Before heading back to school, the students also took the opportunity to give the school bus a bit of TLC with a quick wash. It was fantastic to see everyone putting their pressure-washing skills into practice, with a noticeable improvement in their confidence and technique since the beginning of the year. They certainly did a great job leaving the bus looking clean and ready for its next excursion!



Us In The Bright Lights Author: Zanni L. Arnot

BOOK of the WEEK



Sometimes, you have to lose everything to find yourself.

Stevie Jones has always lived in the comfort of her best friend Bella's glorious shadow. But when Bella's suddenly gone, her absence casts a harsh light on everything Stevie's not. Who even is she without her best friend?

Unmoored, Stevie moves to Europe in a desperate attempt to fulfill Bella's bucket list. As she checks off Bella's list, she begins to figure out who she is: the things she doesn't like, and the things she does...which would all be terrific, if one of those things wasn't way-off-limits Theodore, Bella's long-time crush.

As her time overseas draws painfully to a close, Stevie must decide whether she wants to go back to her old life or stay in the big, bright light of the new world she's building.



We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today: the Wotjobaluk, Jardwadjali, Jaadwa, Wergaia and Jupagalk Peoples, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

It is a privilege to stand on Country and to recognise the enduring connection these Nations have to the land, waters and culture.

We also acknowledge the significant contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, alongside all Australians, to the education and wellbeing of all young people across this country we share - Australia.



IT'S BEEN A BUSY COUPLE OF WEEKS IN THE CAREER DEPARTMENT!

Careers Day

Another successful Careers day was held last Friday – all year levels listened to a number of guest speakers – ranging from Victoria Police, V/Line Train Driver, Engineer, carpenter.



A day in the life of a Medical student

Two of our Year 11 students who are aspiring medical students attended this day in Ararat at East Grampians Health Service. They visited patients on the ward with doctors and participated in hands on activities.

Well done to Rhenz Laurente and Earl Pestijo

Subject Selections

Current Year 8 students are selecting their 2027 Year 9 subjects this week at home – after school hours.

All students and parents have been messaged the link and instructions via Compass.

These selections need to be submitted by 5pm Friday 7th August.

Current Year 9 students are selecting their 2027 Year 10 subjects next week – 10th-14th August.

These are interviews conducted over the phone with Cindy – after school hours.

All students attend classes during the day as per normal. Compass messages have been sent to students and families with instructions detailing dates and times.

SUBJECT EXPO

Year 8 to 10 students were involved in this event last Friday.

They listened to a number of presentations about selecting their subjects for 2027, the rules, information about school based apprenticeships and the difference between VCE and Vocational Major.

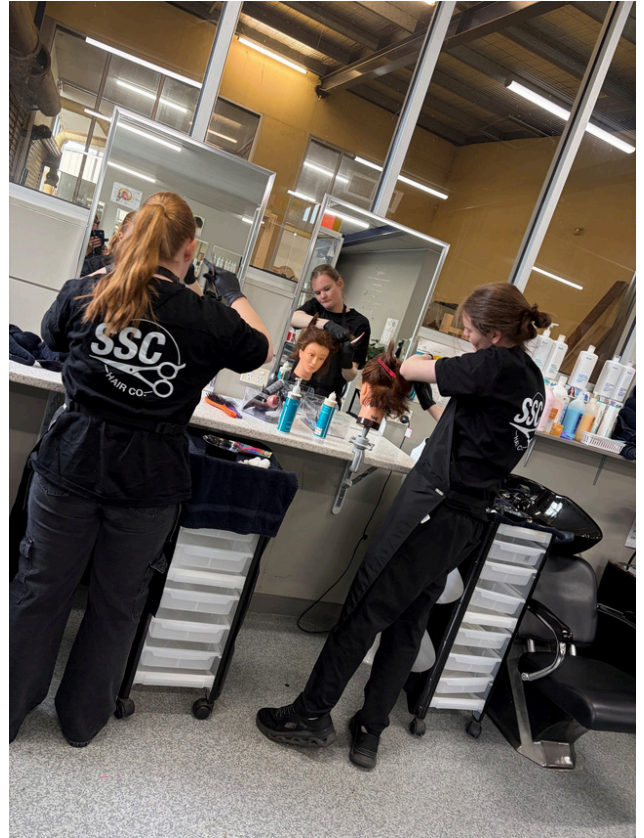
From this all students visited presentations around the school to gain further insights into what each of their electives will offer in 2027.

As part of this day all Year 7 students participated in a Virtual Reality Career/Mindflight incursion - this saw students wearing virtual reality headsets and experiencing what is like to be a doctor, chef, pilot etc.



VET HAIR

VET Hair students are excited to wear their new SSC Hair Co. T-shirts. The shirts symbolize pride and unity, fostering a sense of belonging and professional identity. This gesture by SSC Hair Co. helps motivate the students, reminding them of their promising futures as they develop their hairstyling skills.



SSC Hair Co.

Price List



SALON OPEN ON WEDNESDAYS

SHAMPOO/BLOW WAVE SERVICES

Shampoo and blow wave	\$2
Shampoo, blow wave and curl	\$3
Shampoo, blow wave and straighten	\$3

BRAIDING SERVICES

Braid without shampoo and blow wave	\$3
Braid with shampoo and blow wave	\$5

TREATMENT SERVICES

Relaxing scalp massage, luxurious hair mask with blow wave	\$5
Therapeutic scalp treatment with blow wave	\$5

COLOUR SERVICES

Demi-Permanent Colour (including blow wave) Short to medium length hair	\$15
Demi-Permanent Colour (including blow wave) Long hair	\$20

To book your appointment

Email

Megan.wright3@education.vic.gov.au

Or

Contact the General Office on 5358 - 1700

Visitors will need to check in at reception prior to entering the campus



The lads taking the lead with some acacia planting, mulching and hardscaping



Year 10 Life Science have taken the first water quality readings from the wetland basin. This data will be used for years to come!

Now they are becoming experts on local provenance species of plants, and the relationships they have with the rest of the ecosystem.

Together we are building a self-sustaining landscape, able to tolerate the harsh conditions of local climate. The freezing frosts we are experiencing now, and the scorching heat of our summer.

Getting stuck in and applying science right here, on school grounds!





STAWELL SECONDARY COLLEGE BEANIES

Available at the front office
\$15

Stawell Secondary College Sports T- Shirts

If anyone has borrowed a Sports top from the PE Department, can these please be returned or if you have any second hand ones you would like to donate to the school please bring them in and drop them Mr Illig in the Gym.



Important dates

TERM 3

WEEK 5

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
10 Aug Year 10 2027 Subject Selection	11 Aug	12 Aug Y10 Health Careers Excursion	13 Aug Y7 -11 Parent, Teacher, Student Interviews. Student Free	14 Aug First nations Marrung Incursion
17 Aug Year 12 2027 Subject Selection Interviews	18 Aug 2026 Alpine Experience Group 1	19 Aug	20 Aug	21 Aug
24 Aug Year 11 2027 Subject Selection Interviews	25 Aug	26 Aug	27 Aug	28 Aug

WEEK 6

WEEK 7



ASPIRATION



RESPECT



INCLUSION

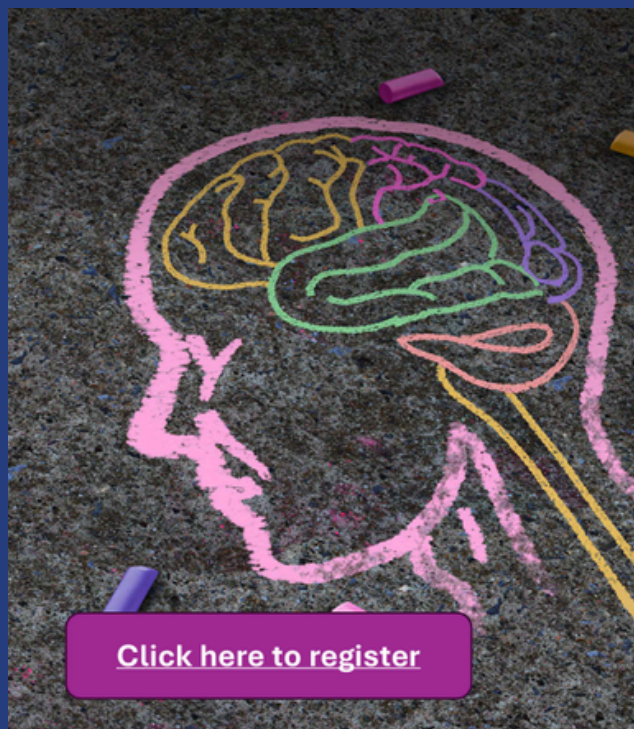


RESILIENCE



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



Health Discovery Day

10am – 2:15pm
Hamilton May 21 – at The Hamilton & Alexandra College
Horsham August 11 – Coughlin Park Community Centre
Ararat August 12 – East Grampians Health

Health Discovery Day – This program combines Nursing, Medical Imaging, Occupational Therapy & Medicine, Nutrition and Exercise science and tests your skills on taking medical observations, infection control and helping patient Rita back to independent living.

Students get the opportunity to investigate health career pathways and will have a better understanding of university systems and career literacy.

Facilitated by current Deakin Health students and Health Professionals

[Click here to register](#)




Year 10 Health Discovery Day

Scan to register your school
 For more information, please contact pathways2health@deakin.edu.au



Health Discovery Day – Registrations Now open – for Year 10 Students Only

This day is for any Year 10 student that is interested in learning more about Health careers – with hands on practical experiences in the areas of:

- Nursing
- Medical Imaging
- Occupational Therapy
- Medicine
- Nutrition
- Exercise science

Only for interested students – not compulsory – places are limited and registrations need to be received to Cindy by the end of this week.

Place attached flyer in connections.



APPLY NOW!

SPARK ENGINEERING CAMP

STUDENT APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!

Join us for a **FREE**, week-long residential camp and uncover the endless possibilities in STEM!

- Meet like-minded peers
- Explore university campuses
- Connect with mentors from all backgrounds and degrees
- Hear from industry experts

All while having an unforgettable time!

**OPEN TO CURRENT
YEAR 9-11 STUDENTS**

Spark Engineering Camp
A Youth Without Borders Initiative

Stay in the loop! Follow us:
[@spark_engineering_camp](https://www.instagram.com/spark_engineering_camp)



**11TH - 16TH JANUARY
2027**

STUDENTS



NOMINATORS

