

# CONNECTIONS

21 August 2026



## PRINCIPALS REPORT

Our College takes every opportunity to recognise and celebrate the many cultures that enrich our school and wider community. Recently, we sought the expertise of past student Tanisha Lovett to create a painting for our new Administration Conference Room that reflects the College's connection to Indigenous culture. We were delighted when Tanisha presented us with her beautiful artwork, "Connection to Gariwerd," which now hangs proudly in our Conference Room. Please see the full article in this week's Connections for more details about the artwork and its significance to our College.

Over the past few weeks, our staff, students, and families have shown wonderful generosity by donating food to The Cottage, a local charity supporting people in our community. Together, we donated more than 630 items, which will go directly towards helping local people and families in need—huge congratulations to everyone who contributed. Your generosity is a wonderful reflection of our College values and our commitment to supporting our local community. Please refer to the article in Connections for the results of the House competition, and a special thank you from The Cottage.

Recently I attended the North West Zone School Students Championship at the Horsham Clay Target Club. Despite the wintry conditions, it was a great day of competition, with schools represented from across the region including Mildura, Castlemaine, Kaniva, and St Arnaud. It was fantastic to see Claire Scott finish second in the Senior Girls competition, making her eligible to compete at the State Final at Echuca in September. Stawell Secondary College also finished second in the overall team competition. A big thank you to Callawadda Gun Club, led by Col Dunn, and the parents who supported our students before and on the day.

One of our key areas of focus this year has been the implementation of the Victorian Curriculum F–10 Version 2.0, which was released progressively from 2023, with the full curriculum released on 21 June 2024. With the full implementation of most learning areas in 2026, our current priority is to ensure that our curriculum documentation reflects the revised curriculum and provides clear, consistent, and well-sequenced learning programs for all students. School leadership is empowering our teaching staff to take ownership of this work and supporting them in collaboratively developing and finalising our Scope and Sequences and Unit Plans. This is an important piece of work for the College and will provide a strong foundation for consistent, high-quality teaching and learning into the future.

Recently, we were delighted to host 11 students and one staff member from Shijiazhuang No. 42 High School in China for a seven-day short-stay program. The students were partnered with local buddy students, stayed with host families, and attended classes alongside their buddies, providing a wonderful opportunity to experience life at Stawell Secondary College. Their program also included visits to Sovereign Hill, the Grampians and Halls Gap Zoo. The visit was extremely well organised by Ms Ling Zhao, our Chinese Program Coordinator, and it was wonderful to see all students thoroughly enjoy the experience and develop new friendships and cultural connections.

Our recent Year 7–11 Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews were very well attended, with a total of 844 interviews conducted. This was a very pleasing response, and it was particularly encouraging to see so many students attending alongside their parents or carers. These interviews provide an important opportunity for teachers, students and families to come together to discuss progress, celebrate achievements and identify areas for continued growth and support. Thank you to our staff, students and families for their commitment to these important conversations.

**Murray Hart**

# 'CONNECTIONS TO GARIWERD'

Our school is so proud to purchase 'Connections to Gariwerd' by our former student Tanisha Lovett. This painting now hangs proudly in our new Conference Room in our Administration building.

**Artwork Description:** In the middle of the canvas shows the mountains of Gariwerd (Grampians). The symbols that wrap around the mountains represent the connection between the Wotjobaluk Nations, Eastern Marr & Gunditjmara Mirring Traditional Owner groups that share this Country. These 3 different groups are represented by sitting around fireplaces all connected through lines that share a journey and our song lines.

Around this are animals that hold importance and meaning to the artist. Such as totems, endangered species or animals that are well known in the area. Each animal has their name in Wergaia language followed by their English name.

These animals are also in their environments such as grass lands, trees, the sky and waterways. Overall the artwork depicts Traditional Owners connection to Gariwerd, each other as shared custodians, the wildlife, our stories and our language. All these important things to be acknowledged and cared for.



## About the Artist:

Tanisha Lovett is a proud Gunditjmara and Wotjobaluk artist. Born in Stawell, she has lived between Stawell, Halls Gap and Horsham her whole life and holds a strong connection to this land.

She was also a past student of Stawell Secondary College between the years of 2011-2016.

If you would like learn more about Tanisha and her artwork you can follow her Instagram or Facebook page called 'Merindah Koori Art'.



# NORTHWEST ZONE SCHOOL STUDENTS CHAMPIONSHIP

On Thursday 13 August, students from across the Northwest Zone came together at the Horsham Clay Target Club for the Northwest Zone School Students Championship. Despite the cold and wintry conditions, it was a fantastic day of competition, with schools represented from Mildura, Kerang, Donald, Kaniva, Stawell, Castlemaine, Horsham and St Arnaud.

It was a particularly successful day for Stawell Secondary College, with Claire Scott finishing second in the Senior Girls competition. Claire's result has earned her a place in the State Final, to be held at the Victorian State venue in Echuca in September. Kaniva took out the winning school team competition, with Stawell Secondary College finishing an excellent second.

All individual and team winners have now qualified for the State Final, where they will compete against qualifiers from the other three zones.

As the College Coordinator of Clay Target Shooting, it has been fantastic working with the Callawadda Gun Club to establish regular practice shoots and coaching for our students. A big thank you to Col Dunn and the team at the Gun Club for their ongoing support and for giving our students the opportunity to develop their skills.

I would also like to thank our parents for their support leading up to the competition and on the day. The enthusiasm, commitment and sportsmanship shown by our students is a real testament to the support they receive from our families, the Gun Club and the College.

The Clay Target team will continue to attend practice shoots at Callawadda throughout the remainder of the year. The season will culminate in late November with a BBQ dinner, final shoot and the announcement of the 2026 College Clay Target Champion



# community event

## STAWELL SECONDARY COLLEGE SHOWED UP FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Over the last few weeks, staff and students have been eager to support their community by donating food to The Cottage, a local charity. Across the college we donated over 630 items, with every single one going towards people in our community who need them.

A huge thank you to you, whether you are a staff member, student or parent, your efforts have gone to a wonderful cause and will have a direct positive impact on the people of our community.

Now, this was a competition between our houses, so we do have a ranking to discuss alongside all this good will. Congratulations to Black Range for donating the most, with 370 items, Lonsdale for donating 150 items and Mackenzie with 110 items.



### A Message from "The Cottage"

"The Stawell Inter Church Council Welfare Cottage would like to thank the whole Stawell Secondary College school community for their recent food donations to help those in need in our community. You have really helped us to help those "doing it tough" in Stawell and region. Our aim is to ensure that no one is hungry, and your kind food donations are really appreciated.

Perhaps you, or someone you know, needs some help with groceries or shopping vouchers? Come to the Cottage, 20 Sloane St Stawell. We are open Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays between 10:30am and 12:30pm. For out of hours emergencies ring -0408 038 949.

If you need help with fresh fruit or vegetables, go to Stawell Neighborhood House, 42 Sloane St Stawell. Open Mondays to Fridays 9am – 5pm.

If you need help other than food, contact Stawell St Vincent de Paul -0437 344 324 and leave a message. They will contact you within 24 hours."

My thanks,

Mary Rita Thomas  
Sec. Stawell Inter Church Council



# Year nine

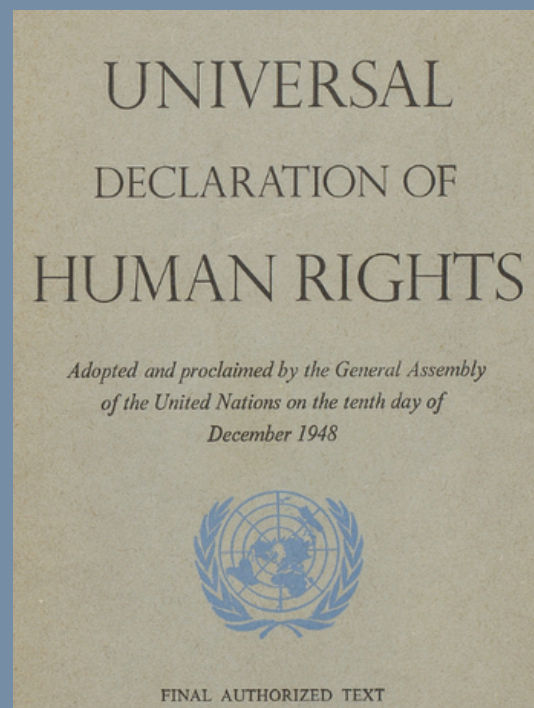
## english

In year 9 English both classes have initially learnt what human rights are and were introduced to the UDHR

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This document has 30 articles that address human rights that we all have. 9A then chose a film from a list of possibilities that all looked at human rights. "The Butler" was then watched and a booklet of activities is currently being completed.

Next 9A will write and present speeches. 9B have chosen events in history when human rights have been breached to write their speeches about. Next 9B will study a film relating to human rights, completing a booklet of activities.





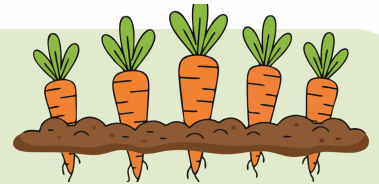
## JUNIOR SCHOOL FRIDGE FRIDAY

We had a super fun morning in the kitchen! Brandon made delicious pumpkin soup, this was made with a homegrown pumpkin from one of our teachers! Tilly whipped up some apple and cinnamon pancakes and Wilari grilled us some beef burgers! Thanks again to those who have contributed and the students who attend this amazing program!

# FRIDGE

## Friday

LEARNING SKILLS FOR LIFE





## 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  
Jordan Lockwood

Year 10: Random Acts of Kindness:  
Ryder Sullivan and Lexi Gooden

- Shiloh Walls. For always being attentive and willing in all her classes.
- Olivia Hunter. For displaying kindness towards her peers.
- Satria Tiley. For his aspiration in English.
- Zeke Jamison. For his eagerness to improve all the time in English.

# *middle* SCHOOL NEWS

## ATTENDANCE

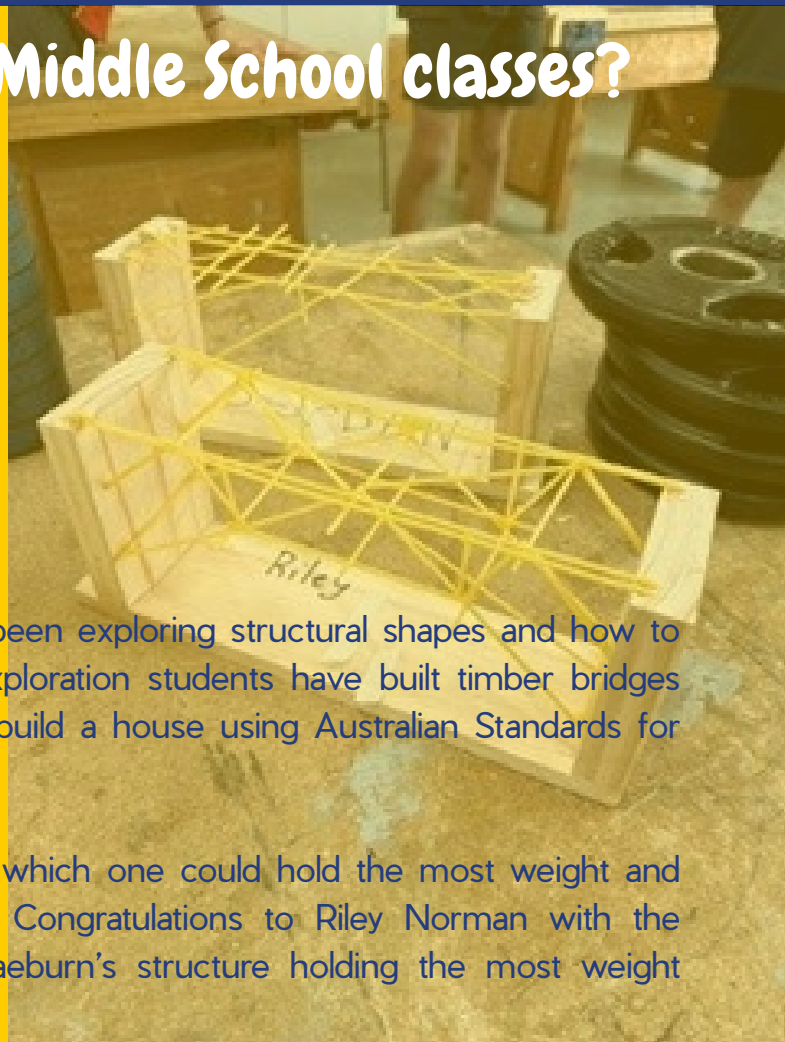
Our median attendance percentages for Year 9 & 10 's are 86% and 88% respectively. Our goal is to improve this by 1%. We will always let the office know if we are absent from school due to illness.

## What's happening in Middle School classes?



**Year 9 Materials Metal** – students have been exploring structural shapes and how to construct strong objects – for our first exploration students have built timber bridges with spaghetti struts and others chose to build a house using Australian Standards for their design.

The Spaghetti Bridges were tested to see which one could hold the most weight and which one was the most cost effective. Congratulations to Riley Norman with the most cost-effective bridge and Wilbur Raeburn's structure holding the most weight (8kg).



# VCE NEWS

## HELPFUL TIPS

### VCE STUDY TIPS: BREAK THE LATENESS AND PROCRASTINATION CYCLE!

Late to school again? Didn't hand in homework on time? It's easy to think, "I'm unmotivated" or "I lack self-discipline." However, our brains naturally respond more strongly to immediate rewards and pressures than to distant consequences. A SAC may not feel urgent - until you have to sit it tomorrow!

Try these practical, science-based strategies:

- Work backwards from the deadline: Divide the task into smaller stages and give each stage its own deadline.
- Use the five-minute rule: Commit to working for just five minutes. Starting is often the hardest part, and you may naturally continue.
- Remove distractions: Put your phone in another room and close unnecessary tabs while studying.
- Decide exactly when and where: Write, "At 7:30 pm, I will complete Question 1 at my desk."
- Create a departure deadline: Decide when you must leave—not just when you should wake up - and set an alarm for that time.
- Build in a time buffer: Aim to arrive ten minutes early so small delays do not make you late.
- Ask someone to check in: Tell a teacher, friend or family member what you plan to complete and by when.

Don't wait for your brain to shout, "Emergency!" Create clear deadlines, reduce distractions and make it easier to begin. Small actions taken early can prevent unnecessary stress - and keep you ahead of everything!



## STAWELL SECONDARY COLLEGE BEANIES

Available at the front office  
\$15



# Chinese Program



## Year 7 Students Take on Statewide Reading Challenge

On 10 August, Year 7 students Scott and Zeke represented Stawell Secondary College in an online statewide Chinese Reading Competition. More than 70 students from across Victoria participated, giving Scott and Zeke the opportunity to test their reading skills alongside learners from other schools. Preparing for the competition required concentration, accurate pronunciation and confidence. Their participation reflected the persistence and enthusiasm students are developing through the Chinese Program. Well done Scott and Zeke!

## A Week of Friendship and Cultural Exchange

From 2 to 8 August, Stawell Secondary College welcomed 11 students and one teacher from Hebei, China, for a short-stay program. Eleven SSC students served as buddies and Cultural Ambassadors, guiding the visitors through classes, activities and daily school life.

The program combined classroom learning, practical activities and visits to some of western Victoria's best-known attractions. Highlights included Sovereign Hill, Halls Gap and Halls Gap Zoo, along with cooking, woodwork, football and cultural activities at school.

Local homestay families warmly welcomed the students into their homes, shared meals and included them in family activities, providing an authentic experience of Australian life.

Our school buddies did a fantastic job supporting the visiting students throughout the week and helping them feel welcome at SSC.

At the whole-school farewell assembly, representatives from both countries reflected on their experiences before certificates and gifts were presented. A farewell barbecue with homestay families brought the community together to celebrate a memorable week.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this wonderful intercultural experience!







**Week 5** we had a full day at school, which allowed the Ag team to complete almost all of their final bookwork for the year.

The students also created weed trial plots in the bush block, working in three different groups to test three DIY weed control methods: 1. boiling water, 2. vinegar and water, and 3. salt, vinegar and water. It will be interesting to see how each method performs, with the results to be displayed in this edition of the newsletter.

The students also worked hard in the vegetable garden, where we are collaborating with the VM team to create additional garden beds for 2027. This will allow us to grow a wider range of crops and vegetables and make the most of the available space.

It was fantastic to see all of the Ag students lending a helping hand and working together to ensure we are making the most of every available area to grow fresh produce.

**Week 6** saw the ag students travel to Marnoo for the Victorian Merino Field Day. Despite the cold and wet conditions, the event was largely held under the huge marquee, which hosted a fantastic range of stud breeders and livestock industry businesses.

Students had the opportunity to explore the different types of Merino rams, speak with breeders and check out the variety of industry stalls. And, as usual, no field would be complete without coming back to school with a few new hats.

It was also great to see many familiar faces, including past students, who everyone was very happy to catch up with.

Unfortunately, by the time we arrived back to school, the rain had set in, making it too wet to continue working on the vege garden beds or check the progress of our weed trial plots.

We are also very excited to show off our new Vet Ag jumpers! All Ag students will be wearing their new jumpers around the school on Ag Days, helping to showcase our Ag program with Pride!

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE

# Ag View!







# SPORT NEWS



## BLACK RANGE VOLLEYBALL

Friday 14 August, two Year 7 teams travelled down to Horsham to take on other schools in a volleyball competition. The girls were drawn into a group against Horsham College and the second Wimmera Lutheran College team. The girls came away with one win and one loss which means they finished second in their group. Great job girls!

The boys were drawn into a group against Horsham College, Murtoa, and the second Wimmera Lutheran College team. They came away with 2 wins and 1 loss which means they also finished second in their group. Great job lads!



# Sneak Peek

FROM ALPINE EXPERIENCE CAMP  
FULL STORY IN THE NEXT EDITION OF CONNECTIONS



## School Policy Review

As part of our regular policy review cycle, the following policies have been reviewed and are now available for our school community to view via our school website.

- Applying for Grants Procedure Policy
- Child Safety Code of Conduct
- Child Safety Responding and Reporting Obligations Policy
- Electronic Funds Management Policy
- Fundraising Policy
- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy



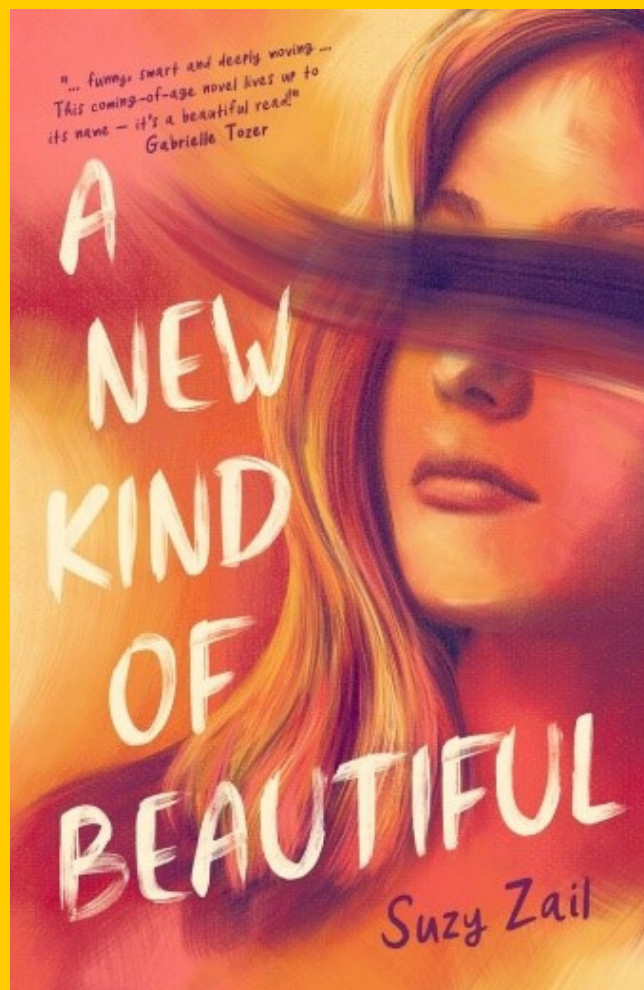
# book of the week

A NEW KIND OF BEAUTIFUL  
AUTHOR: SUZY ZAIL

Will losing her sight mean losing herself, or will Paige finally see what she's been missing?

Paige Wilding has her future mapped out – the Year 10 Art prize. Graduation. A coveted spot in an elite art school in New York. But when she's diagnosed with an incurable eye disease, the perfect life she's planned starts to blur. She makes a choice to keep her condition secret and live louder, love wilder, and paint like her life depends on it. Only her best friend Jazz knows the truth, and is helping her cram a lifetime of colour into a single year.

But as her sight fades and she's forced to give up painting, it's Zac, her rival for the Art prize, who helps Paige find a way back to her art and a new kind of beautiful; messy and imperfect but also raw, unfiltered and fiercely alive.



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.



## **“A Day in the Life of a Medical Imaging Student”**

offers a unique opportunity for year 11 and 12 students to experience what it is like to study medical imaging at Deakin University.

Students will spend a day participating in hands-on activities in our world class medical imaging labs and interact with Deakin students and academics.

**DEAKIN UNIVERSITY**

### A day in the life of a...

- Medical student
- Medical Imaging student
- Optometry student

**Are you in year 11 or 12?** Spend a day in a clinical school or at Deakin's University's Geelong Waurin Ponds Campus to experience what it's like to be a medical imaging, optometry or medical student.

- Tour the learning spaces to see the equipment and facilities used by students first-hand.
- Attend tutorials and/or observe clinical simulations.
- Participate in hands-on activities such as clinical skills and using specialist equipment.
- Chat to current students and academics to learn about their pathways and what it's really like studying the course.

Don't miss out!  
For event dates and locations scan here:

For expressions of interest please contact:  
[rachael.cooper@deakin.edu.au](mailto:rachael.cooper@deakin.edu.au)  
[katie.mckean@deakin.edu.au](mailto:katie.mckean@deakin.edu.au)

Deakin University CRICOS Provider Code: 001138

### **When & Where:**

Wednesday 28 October 2026  
 Deakin University Waurin Ponds Campus  
 Applications due: Friday 2 October

### **Who is this for:**

Year 11 or 12 students who are:

- Interested in medical imaging (x- ray, CT scans, MRI and ultrasounds)
- or
- Interested in a health career but not sure which profession to pursue and/or
- Want to experience our Waurin Ponds campus

**The program is free and we will run a bus from Ararat with stops in Beaufort and Ballarat**  
**Let Cindy know if you are interested**



# Important dates

## TERM 3

### WEEK 7

### WEEK 8

### WEEK 9

| MON                                 | TUE    | WED                                             | THUR   | FRI    |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| 24 Aug                              | 25 Aug | 26 Aug                                          | 27 Aug | 28 Aug |
| 31 Aug                              | 01 Sep | 02 Sep                                          | 03 Sep | 04 Sep |
| 07 Sep<br>Black Range Athletics Day | 08 Sep | 09 Sep<br>VET Ag<br>Murtoa Stick Shed Excursion | 10 Sep | 11 Sep |



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)

# ----- Moving Outside the Lines -----



Do you have ideas for new recreation activities for young people?  
Do you want to join our group to make a positive impact  
in your community?  
Are you aged between 12 - 18?



If you answered yes to either of these questions,  
**Join us at the**



## Youth Recreation Info Session

to share your ideas, and learn how you can turn them  
into action.

**The best part? Food and drinks will be provided!**

### St Arnaud

Date: Tuesday,  
September 1, 2026  
Time: 4pm to 5pm

Location: St Arnaud Library



### Stawell

Date: Wednesday,  
September 2, 2026  
Time: 4pm to 5pm

Location: Stawell Library







**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](#)



**11TH - 16TH JANUARY  
2027**

**STUDENTS**



**NOMINATORS**



# Family-Friendly Karaoke!!

September 11th, 6-9PM

Stawell

Entertainment Centre

**BRING A  
FRIEND!!**



**Presented by GYE**

