

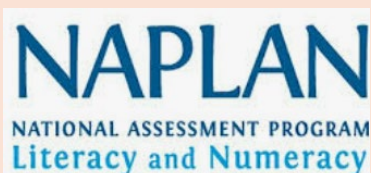
## Principal's Report

### Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025



**It has been a busy week of camps this week**, with the Year 9's taking part in outdoor education activities at the Rubicon Outdoor School in Gippsland, the Year 10's navigating their way around public transport while on the Melbourne Metro Camp, and our Year 11's spending the week in work placements while on the Melbourne work experience camp. We are fortunate to have an active and engaging camps program at our school, and staff who are willing to attend overnight camps to provide care and supervision for our students – a big thanks to staff who have been involved in camps this week. Camps are an important life experience for our students, building confidence, independence and resilience in a setting that is very different to their usual home and school lives.

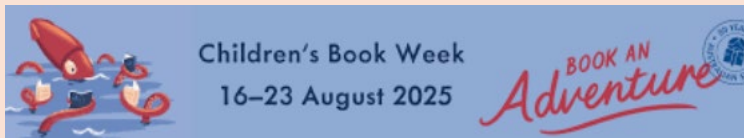
**Federal parliament resumed this month, and Dan Tehan MP featured a letter written by Aden in Year 9 as part of his first speech to the House of Representatives** as Shadow Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction. Aden wrote to Dan to express his concerns about the effects of the drought on SW Victorian farmers and communities, and his letter was read out to parliamentarians from across the country this week – a significant achievement for Aden, and one which illustrates that the consequences of the drought continue, despite the rainfall that has occurred over the past few weeks. It is not every day that the writing of a school student reaches Parliament House - well done Aden!



**NAPLAN results were released to Victorian schools last week**, and there were some pleasing individual literacy and numeracy results for our students across Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. These results provide valuable data for future learning improvement, and teaching and classroom support staff will be examining these results in coming weeks to inform their planning and support for individual students and year levels. **NAPLAN results for individual students should be arriving in family mailboxes this week via Australia Post – please let the Office know you have not received your results by early next week.** I would encourage parents to have a chat with students about the proficiency levels that they displayed during the March testing window. Student results are reflected in terms of being Exceeding, Strong, Developing or Needing Additional Support against the areas of reading, writing, spelling, grammar, and numeracy. As always, primary teaching and secondary Coordination staff are happy to have a chat with families about 2025 results; please contact staff via the school if you would like to discuss NAPLAN results further.



**National Science Week** will be celebrated across universities, schools, research institutions, libraries, museums, and science centres in the week beginning Monday August 11, and as always is a great opportunity to highlight the relevance and mystery of science in our everyday lives. **A Family Science Evening will be held during National Science Week on Thursday August 14** and will be conducted by secondary science teachers in Room 01, from 6:30 to 8:30pm. This event will be lots of fun, will feature student science assistants, and will involve lots of experiments and interactive science activities. Keep an eye out for flyers advertising our Family Science Evening in future newsletter and social media posts, and please take the opportunity to come along – this event is open to primary and secondary students, parents, grandparents, and extended family members.



**Please note also that a Book Week dress up day and Special Person celebration will be happening at school on Wednesday August 20, and that more details about this event will be advertised shortly.** As always, parents, grandparents and other special people are warmly invited to attend this event. Book Week is a national celebration of literature and reading, and every year The Children's Book Council of Australia presents the annual Children's Book of the Year Awards during this week; it is interesting to note that in 2025 the Book Council celebrates its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of these awards.

**Being ready to learn is an important theme running across Prep to Year 12 classes in this semester**, and to assist with this we are asking that students line up quietly outside each of their classrooms prior to a lesson starting, and wait for their teacher to invite them inside once everyone is settled and has all of their required learning materials with them. This is a simple strategy, but one that will assist students enormously to be ready to learn when they enter their classrooms.



Have a great weekend everyone,

**Mr Ralph**  
**Principal**

# 2025 Science Night

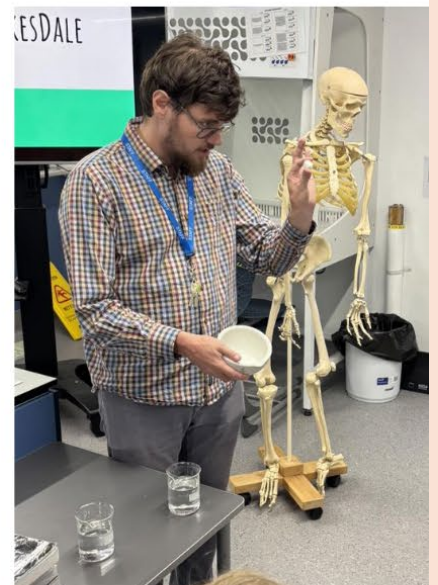
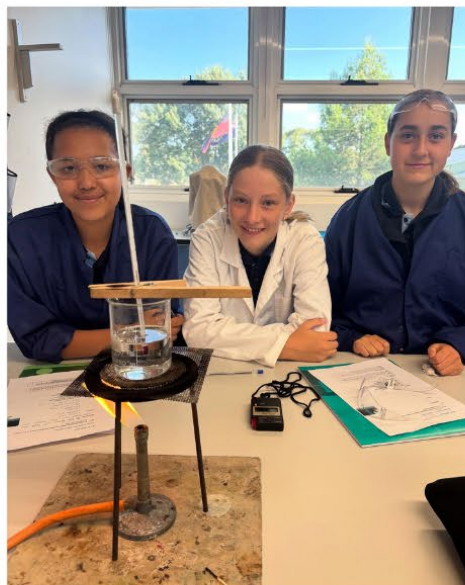
National Science Week will be celebrated across universities, schools, research institutions, libraries, museums and science centres in the week beginning Monday 11th August, and as always is a great opportunity to highlight the relevance and mystery of science in our everyday lives.

**Who:** All are welcome! Primary & secondary students and families

**When:** Thursday August 14, 6.30-8.30pm

**Where:** Room 1 just past the office

**What:** This event will be lots of fun, will feature student science assistants, and will involve lots of experiments and interactive science activities.





# Thank you!!

Friday 1 August was Principal's Appreciation Day - a chance to say thank you to Mr Ralph and Mr Webster for all of their hard work and dedication to our school. We want to say thank you for their work keeping our school running smoothly, for their teaching (in and out of the classroom), for the late nights at school council and other school events, the early mornings, for their leadership, guidance and support to all our students and staff. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated principal team!



# VCE Information Evening



WHO IS THIS EVENING FOR:

Current Year 10 students and their families who will be completing VCE in 2026.

We also welcome any interested Year 9 families.



WHEN AND WHERE:

Tuesday August 19th in the college library



WHAT WILL THE EVENING INCLUDE:

- Information Session & subject expo 6-7pm
- Supper 7pm























# Clay Art

Students in Grades Prep, 1 and 2 used their modelling and fine motor skills to create objects out of air dry clay.



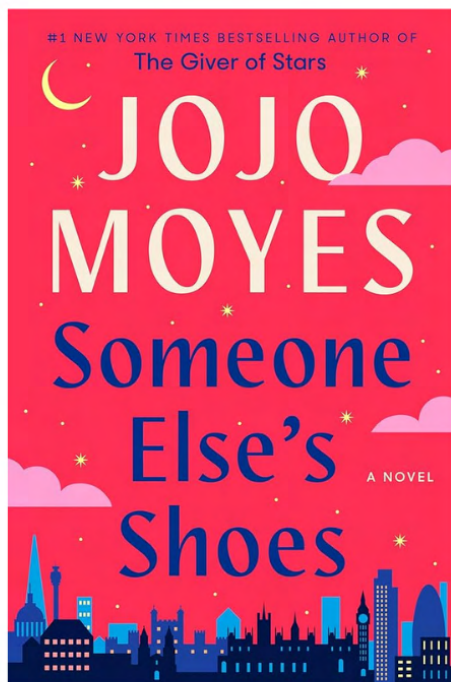


# Hawkesdale Community Book Club

We have chosen two books for our upcoming book club meeting on Monday Aug 25. Come along and join the fun! You don't need to have read both of the books - or even either of them! New members and children are welcome 🌟



Join here



THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF CLEOPATRA AND FRANKENSTEIN  
**COCO MELLORS**



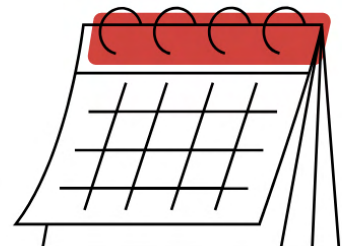
**Blue Sisters**

'Captivating'  
TESS GUNTY

'Richly textured'  
ISABEL KAPLAN

'Gorgeous'  
RAVEN LEILANI

**Save the date: Monday  
Aug 25, 5-6pm in the  
college library**





# Library News



Big thanks to Mrs Lee for gifting us these fun toys for the library. P-2 students had lots of fun playing in their library period!

With Book Week coming up soon there is a new display in the library foyer with the CBCA shortlisted titles. We have started reading some of these in primary library classes and will continue until Book Week which is Aug 16-23.





# Wellbeing Space



The wellbeing team are always here to support students in whatever way we can. We are here to help all students whether they are feeling upset or frustrated, just want to talk to someone or need some space. We can offer or organise short term counselling and support, either at school or using external support.

High school can be a stressful time for students.

Funded by the Victorian Department of Education, our school has partnered with headspace Regional Phone Counselling Service to offer free phone or video counselling sessions for our students during school hours.

Once referred to the program, your young person can step away from class at a set appointment time to speak to a headspace counsellor in a safe and confidential environment.

We encourage you to have an open discussion with your young person if they are having a tough time and help them access this free headspace service.

For more information, reach out to your young person's Year Level Coordinator or Carlee Dart our Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader.

## WELLBEING TEAM



**Carlee Dart**  
Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader  
**Available:**  
Monday - Friday



**Felicity Lowery**  
School Chaplan  
**Available:**  
Tuesday & Wednesday



**Tracy Crispe**  
Secondary School Nurse  
**Available:**  
Monday & Thursday



**Cindy Jenkinson-Clarke**  
Secondary Mental Health Practitioner  
**Referral from Wellbeing Team required**





# SchoolTV

## IN THIS ADDITION: SOCIAL MEDIA & DIGITAL REPUTATION

Social media has become such an integral part of a teenager's life. However, many miss out on some critical social skills with most communicating whilst looking at a screen instead of another person! **Statistics show that 60 per cent of 10-11 year olds are using at least one social media site**, with the majority using age-restricted platforms. **What kids do, post and say online is permanent and most are not mature enough to manage their own digital footprint.** Friendships, relationships and even future job prospects are all put at risk.

Parents need to be aware of what picture their children are painting of themselves online. Unfortunately, many parents do not see the dangers inherent of these sites, as they form opinions based on their own experience. But predators are usually not interested in grooming adults. Over the years there has been a dramatic increase in the number of primary schoolers owning mobile phones, highlighting the importance to teach kids about the dangers of social media and the implications it can have.

In this edition of SchoolTV, parents will learn how to talk to their children about the inherent dangers of social media and how to educate their kids to be responsible users in the online world we live in.

We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this edition of SchoolTV and we always welcome your feedback. If you have any concerns about your child, please contact the school Wellbeing Team for further information or seek medical or professional help.

Here is the link to the **Social Media & Digital Reputation** edition of SchoolTV

<https://hawkesdalecol.vic.schooltv.me/newsletter/social-media-and-digital-reputation>







# How to Teach Your Child About **Consent**



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## CHILDREN & CONSENT

Teaching children about consent starts long before they're old enough to understand romantic or sexual boundaries — it begins in everyday interactions. Parents can lay the groundwork by teaching kids that their bodies belong to them. For example, give children the freedom to choose whether they want hugs or kisses from family members, and model respect by asking permission before tickling or picking them up. Use simple language like, "Can I give you a hug?" or "It's okay to say no if you don't want to be touched." This helps children feel empowered to listen to their own comfort levels and to understand that others deserve the same respect.





As children grow, expand the conversation to include respecting other people's boundaries and personal space. Use real-life moments — like when siblings fight over toys or rough play gets too intense — to reinforce phrases like, "Stop means stop" or "We always ask first."

Remind your child that consent is not just about saying "no," but also about feeling safe to say "yes" or to change their mind. These early lessons teach kids that healthy relationships are built on mutual respect and clear communication, setting a strong foundation for their teenage years and beyond.





## AVOID THESE

-  Forcing children to hug or kiss others when they don't want to
-  Using **slang** for body parts
-  Asking your child to **keep secrets**
-  **Tickling** when they don't like it or say "stop"

## ASK YOUR CHILD

*"Can I share this photo with your aunty?"*

*"Can I tell your teacher about grandpa?"*

*"Do you want to give her a High 5, wave, hug or handshake?"*

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Talk about the difference between surprises and secrets:

*"Surprises are happy moments that someone shares. Secrets are meant to exclude others, have no end date, and can be harmful."*

Don't stop talking about bodies, sex, and consent when they become teens.

*"How will you know that you are ready to be kissed?"*

*"Teaching children consent is teaching them that their voice matters, their body is their own, and their 'no' is powerful."*

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## MODEL IT BACK

*"Suzy, lets ask Jae if he wants a hug or a high five today."*

*"Can I wash your chest?  
Under-arms? Neck?"*

*"Ben said 'NO' and when we hear no, it's always no."*

## TALK ABOUT IT

- ✓ **Be direct, concrete, and scientific**  
*Use the correct anatomical terms for body parts*
- ✓ **Teach boundaries**  
*"No means no. Stop means stop."*
- ✓ **Don't force your child to hug, kiss or sit on anyone's lap**
- ✓ **Create ongoing opportunities for kids to talk about their bodies**  
*"I'm so glad you asked me about that!"*
- ✓ **Teach kids how to ask for help**  
(Practice simple statements with them: *"I need help."*)

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FRIENDS OF YATMERONG & PENShurst VOLCANOES DISCOVERY CENTRE PRESENT



# Stones, Springs & WILD THINGS COMMUNITY SEMINAR

RSVP 2 August  
via Humanitix  
or  
Alison Farrar  
0436693463



10AM - 3.30 PM SATURDAY AUGUST 16 2025  
**PENSHURST MEMORIAL HALL** LUNCH PROVIDED  
NO COST TO ATTEND  
21 Martin St Peshurst



**Dr James Driscoll Monash Uni**  
Enlightening us on the explosive origins of the Victorian Volcanic Plains.



**Dr Birgita Hansen Federation Uni**  
Sharing the latest research on the intercontinental migration of Latham's Snipe



**Dr Greg Kerr Nature Glenelg Trust**  
Explains what makes a wetland healthy and their importance in a drying climate.



**Dr John Webb La Trobe University**  
Talks about hydrogeology; the relationship between basalt and water - both above and below ground.



**Dr Inka Veltheim TBC Arthur Rylah Institute**  
With insights on SW Victoria's Brolga population

**Penshurst Historical Society**  
Will share stories and historical maps and documents about local wetland and waterbirds






## Port Fairy Skate & Play

# DROPPING IN SOON

your park, your place - let's ride  
Friday 8 August 3.30-5pm

Skate demos  
Basketball  
Coffee Van  
Face painting  
Give aways






## Sheepvention Rural Expo 2025

Since 1979 **Sheepvention Rural Expo**, has been a highlight of Australia's agricultural calendar. Returning to the **Hamilton Showgrounds** on **Sunday 3 and Monday 4 August 2025**, this year's event promises two days packed with innovation, networking, and celebration for farmers across the country.

### AGL Presents: Shannon Noll Live at Sheepvention

A major highlight this year is the **Sheepvention After Dark – Drought Relief Concert**, headlined by Aussie icon **Shannon Noll**. Sponsored by **AGL**, the concert will be held on **Sunday night** and aims to raise awareness for mental health and suicide prevention in rural communities.



**AGL is giving away free concert tickets to local farmers.** To claim yours, simply call **Belinda Young** on **0429 597 535**. It's a great chance to enjoy a night of music and mateship while supporting a vital cause.

Proceeds from the concert will go toward **Mental Health First Aid Training** and **Community Mental Health Education**, helping rural Australians access the support they need.

## C. & L. BLAKE EXCAVATIONS AND CIVIL

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- Loader

All operated by  
experienced, qualified professionals.

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- Dam sinking
- Re-sheeting & formation of  
driveways and farm tracks



**CALL CRAIG ON 0417 312 253 FOR BOOKINGS AND QUOTES!**

## Canteen Menu – 2025 term 3

### Recess and Lunch

Mini Chicken Wrap -	\$2.20
Chicken Mini Muffin Pizza	\$1.80
Ham, Cheese Mini Muffin Pizza	\$1.80
Ham, Cheese, Pineapple Mini Muffin Pizza	\$1.80
Egg and Bacon Muffin	\$3.00
Hash Browns	\$1.00
Sweet Chilli Chicken Tender	\$1.80
Toastie	\$3.00
Party Pies / Sausage Rolls	\$1.80
Homemade Slices / Muffins / Banana Bread	\$1.80
Homemade Biscuits	\$1.20
Truffles	\$0.60
Banana bread - (gluten free) must be pre-ordered	\$1.80

### Lunch Only

Angel Bay Light Beef Burgers with Salad	\$6.00
85gm Canteen Approved Chicken Burger with Salad	\$6.00
Salad Roll or Sandwich with or without Meat	\$6.00
Salad Tubs with or without Meat	\$6.00
Sandwiches - selected fillings eg: egg & lettuce / ham & pickles (must be pre ordered)	\$3.00
Veggie Burger with lettuce, tomato, beetroot, cheese, mayo on a wholemeal roll	\$6.00
Sweet Chilli Chicken Wrap - with lettuce, tomato, mayo and cheese	\$6.00
Chicken Crackles and Wedges	\$4.00
Pastie slab - must be pre-ordered	\$4.50
Meat Pie	



## Drinks

Water – 600 ml	\$2.00
Nippy's Milk – 250 ml – Strawberry, Honeycomb, Chocolate, Coffee	\$2.40
Fresha Juice – 250 ml - Apple or Apple & Blackcurrant or Orange	\$2.40
Nippy's Milk – 375 ml – Strawberry, Honeycomb , Chocolate, Coffee, Banana	\$3.50
Fresha Juice – 500 ml - Apple & Blackcurrant or Orange	\$3.50

## Frozen Yoghurt or Icy Poles – lunchtime only

Lemonade Icy Poles (gluten free)	\$1.60
Zooper Dooper – Maximum of 2 – Temp must be over 25°C	\$0.50
Dixie Cups (gluten free)	\$2.50
Frozen Yoghurt	\$2.50

## Chips

Chips (28 g) - Honey Soy or Sea Salt or Salt & Vinegar (gluten free)	\$1.40
Snaps (28 g) (gluten free)	\$1.40



Monday	Hot Dogs Baked Potatoes	\$3.00 \$6.00
Tuesday	Butter Chicken & Rice	\$6.00
Wednesday	Beef pasta Bake	\$6.00
Thursday	Chicken Fried Rice	\$6.00
Friday	Chicken Enchilada	\$6.00

**Dim Sims available at recess on Monday, Wednesday & Friday \$1.00**