



Principals Report

Friday 31st July 2026

We welcome back Mrs Gow this week as she steps into VCE Biology classes while Mr Blackburn is on leave. Mrs Gow is a very experienced teacher of this subject area, and it is great to have her working back at our school. The Year 11 Biology group is on an excursion to Ecolinc at Bacchus Marsh today with Mrs Gow and will be taking part in experiments using scientific technology that is usually only found in research laboratories - a wonderful learning opportunity that is linked to subject outcomes back at school. Our College 22-seater bus is out and about again today and will be returning to school with our biology students at around 5:30 pm.

Our F-2 students and teachers had a busy day on Monday, with Regional educational improvement leaders working with our staff to observe, provide feedback and examine progress data around the Phonics Plus program that occurs in the daily morning literacy block. I really enjoyed watching our youngest learners building their reading fluency and comprehension and developing literacy skills that will be vital for their future learning. A big thanks to our primary teachers and ES staff for their untiring work in helping our students to become better readers, writers, speakers, and listeners.

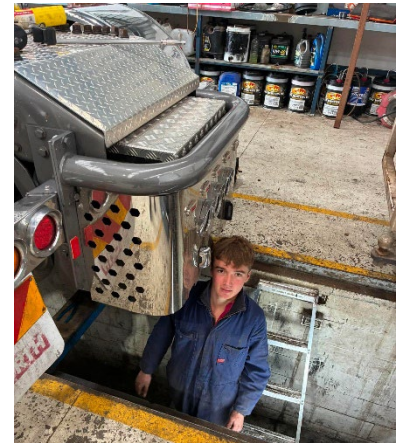
For Year 10 students and their families, please note that our annual Year 10 to VCE Information Evening will be happening on Wednesday 19th August in the Library from 6pm to 8pm. This evening will feature a brief presentation about how VCE works, study expectations, subject options for 2027, a subject expo with VCE teachers, supper at 7pm, and the chance to speak with individual teachers about the VCE subjects that they teach. We will also cover vocational options in VCE, including traineeships and school-based apprenticeships, studying at TAFE, how work placements work for VCE Vocational Major students and the subjects that form the VM curriculum. There is a lot to cover, and staff will be available to answer questions during the evening. While this evening is usually attended by Year 10 students and families, Year 9 students and families are also welcome and encouraged to attend, recognising that many of our Year 9 students may choose to take part in TAFE certificate courses or accelerated VCE subjects in 2027. This evening will begin the subject selection process for our 2027 VCE students, and the pathways that they will follow as senior students at our school.



Our Year 9 students have enjoyed their week at the Rubicon camp in west Gippsland, taking part in a range of outdoor adventures including bush walking, caving, ropes courses, cycling, orienteering and a chilly overnight camping experience in tents. There is always a high chance of snow in Nayook at this time of the year, and students have experienced heavy falls over the past few days. The group will be travelling home today on the afternoon Vline train service and will be at the

Warrnambool Station for collection at 4:45pm. Thank you to Mrs Lee and Mr Quinlan for your supervision and care of our Year 9's this week!

Year 10 students participated in a variety of local work experience placements between Hamilton and Warrnambool this week and have been learning firsthand about diverse industries including construction, healthcare, vehicle mechanics, and electrical contracting. Work experience is always a valuable opportunity to explore potential future pathways and to develop confidence in working in different settings away from the familiarity of school. A big thanks to Mr Gordon for organising these placements and visiting students in their workplaces.



Please note that due to **current AEU industrial action** written comments will once again not be appearing in upcoming VCE interim reports. There has also been some media reporting of further stop work action that a small subgroup of AEU members will undertake on Tuesday of next week; this unprotected action will not cause any interruption to school operations at our school.

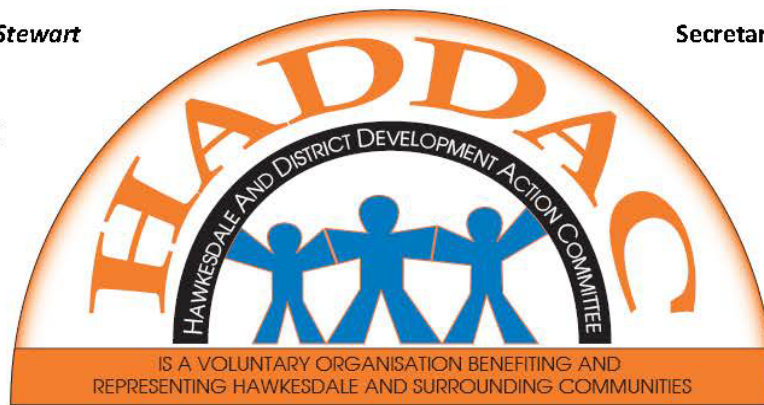
Victorian government schools were advised last week of an issue with Compass emails not being received by some families since the beginning of Term 3, and particularly where Outlook, Live and Hotmail email accounts are in use at home. If you believe you are not receiving school communications via Compass, please contact the school office. Compass is working to resolve the issue, although schools have not been told yet if a solution has been found. Thank you for your patience and understanding while this issue is being resolved - I will provide connectivity updates as more information becomes available.

Have a great weekend everyone ...

Mr Ralph
Principal

President: Mr Steve Stewart
Kings Rd
HAWKESDALE 3287
Ph: 55607248 (Home)
0427607248

Secretary: Mr Frank Huglin
266 Minjah Road
HAWKESDALE 3287
Ph: 55607232 (Home)
0429607232



Inc no 003837T ABN 66 305 070551

Hawkesdale & District Community are invited to the

Annual General Meeting

For

Hawkesdale & District Development Action Committee Inc (HADDAC)

Tuesday 4th August 2026

7:30pm CFA Meeting Rooms LCF (old shire offices)

Austin St Hawkesdale

What did HADDAC do 2025 - 2026?

- Committee of Management Hawkesdale Common -Maintenance. Installed new Solar pathway lights along walking track, funded by Hawkesdale Windfarm Community grant.
- Conducts Hawkesdale's ANZAC Day Dawn service
- Hawkesdale's Christmas Tree and lights Project, lights previously funded by Hawkesdale Windfarm Community Grant
- Maintaining the Hawkesdale Farmer & Dog statue, funded by Macarthur Windfarm Community grant
- Update and Renewal of Hawkesdale Community Organizations Town Entrance signs funded by Macarthur Windfarm Community Grant
- Update and renewal of Hawkesdale's Historical Trail signage funded by Hawkesdale Windfarm Community Grant
- Representative on Hawkesdale Windfarm Community Engagement Committee
- Representative on Hawkesdale Community Benefit Fund Committee (GPG)
- Community feedback to Macarthur Windfarm Community Fund
- Community representation with Moyne Shire on local issues – advocate re upgrades at Apex Park Hawkesdale; advocated for more new streetlights around Hawkesdale township
- Sends service requests to Moyne Shire
- Hears reports from local organizations eg Pool, Hall, Racecourse Reserve
- Manages community projects including grant applications
- With Moyne Shire developed the town's Hawkesdale Community Plan
- Manages the use and hire of Hawkesdale's Community Tractor
- Collected and recycled bottles and cans to raise \$1300 for operating funds

Who can attend and why?

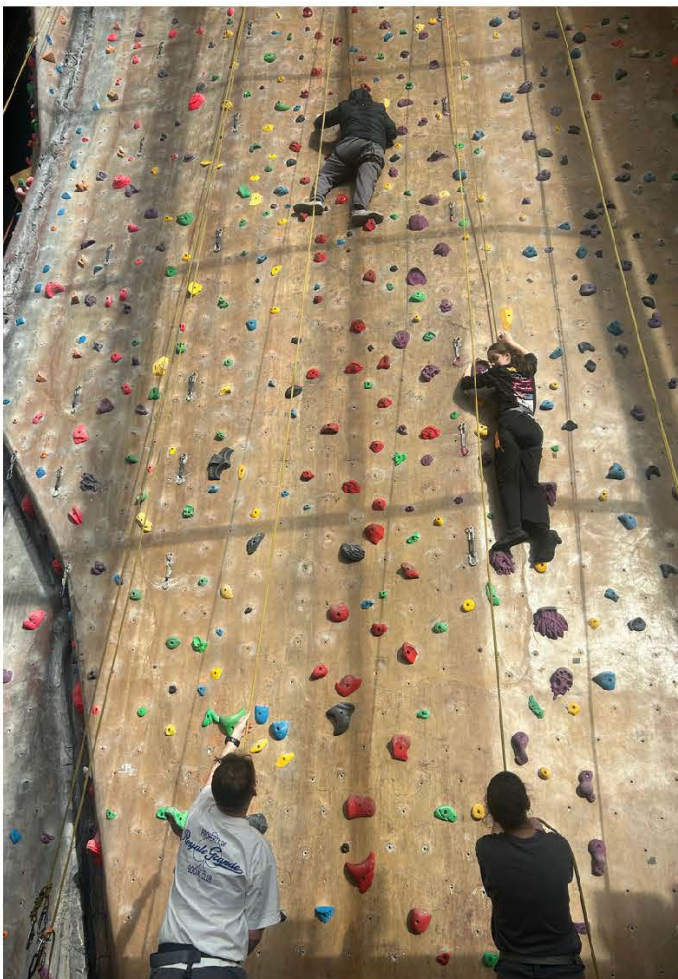
Anyone in the Hawkesdale & District communities is always welcome to attend any HADDAC meeting or activity. Meetings are generally held on the first Tuesday of the month @ 7:30pm in the CFA Meeting LCF Rooms Austin St Hawkesdale. **Anyone with ideas** for projects or programs to improve our Hawkesdale community is encouraged to come along. We need new members.

Any queries or apologies contact Secretary Frank Huglin huglinf@gmail.com or 0429607232



Year 10 urban camp

Last week the year 10s went to Melbourne for an urban experience. During our time in Melbourne, we did a variety of activities like, going out for dinner, going to the football, exploring the city and more. It was a very fun camp, full of activities and good memories.







Responsible Pet Program

We learnt how to be safe
around dogs we don't know
and responsible for our pet
dogs and cats at home.



Thank you to Barb and
Tucker for visiting us!





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**CRAZY
IDEAS
COLLEGE**

**SOCIAL
INNOVATORS**





On Tuesday St Pat's Port Fairy grade 5/6 students joined us once again for the final day of the Social Innovators Day.

Students engaged in team work activities that were driven by curiosity and discovery.

They were supported by Will and Zali from the Crazy Ideas College, & representatives from Moyne Shire & Glenelg Hopkins CMA, to help them move their ideas forward as well as guiding them with resources and strategies when feeling a bit lost and unsure of how to proceed.

We look forward to working on these goals, and sharing the journey with our school community later in the year.



2026 CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

SYMPHONY OF
STORIES



22–28 August 2026



BOOK WEEK

**dress up day &
special person celebration day**
Wednesday 26th August

Students are invited to come to school dressed as one of their
favourite book characters

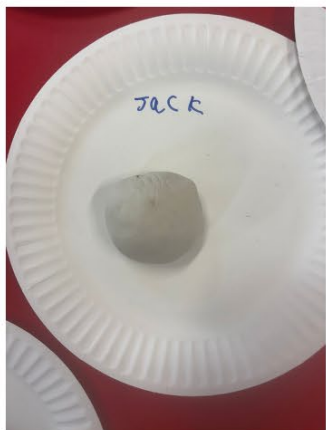
AND

Parents, carers, grandparents, family members and friends are
invited to visit classrooms between 10am and 10:50am, followed
by a book week parade on the tennis courts at 10:50am

AND

Visitors, students and staff are invited to a shared morning tea
in the library during Break 1 (11:10–11:40am)

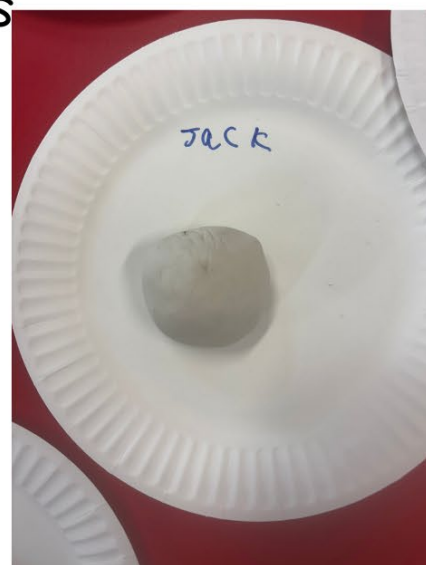
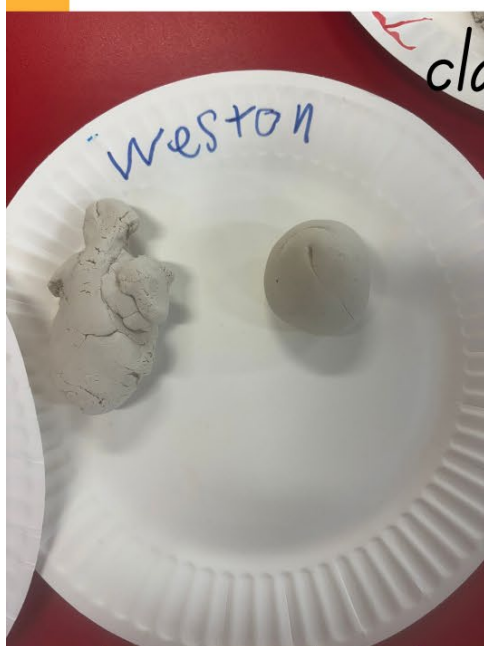
Students and staff are invited to bring along a packet or plate of
food to share, so we can all contribute to a community morning tea



Ceramics

Prep / Art

Students used air dry
clay to make various
objects.





School Wide Positive Behaviour Expectations



Next week our behaviour focus is:

RESILIENCE - Using positive strategies to deal with problems and being open minded.

This includes:

- Trying their best and asking for help when they need it
- Seeking and taking on feedback to improve their learning
- Trying to solve problems and making good choices on their own
- Waiting patiently for their own turn
- Responding to challenges calmly
- Being open minded



Congratulations to the following students for receiving nominations for demonstrating our school value, responsibility:

Destinee, Memphis, William, Phoebe, Amelia, Cooper, Jaira, Sam, Grace, Phoenix N, Blake, Isaac



RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY RESILIENCE



Hawkesdale College

Attendance matters! All day every day!

When you are away...	That equals...	Which is....	And over 13 years of schooling, that's...
1 day per fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

Please reach out to the Wellbeing team if you are having trouble getting your young person to school. Let's work together!



A SPECIAL REPORT: Wellbeing Barometer Survey - 2026

The Wellbeing Barometer survey is an important annual check-in that helps our school better understand the wellbeing of our students. Each year, the survey provides valuable insights into young people's experiences, highlighting areas of concern, recognising strengths and resilience and reinforcing the importance of early, preventative support.

This year, the survey has been reviewed and refreshed to further refine the information shared by parents and adult carers, helping provide a clearer and more meaningful overview of wellbeing across our school community. These updates support more accurate insights while maintaining the same commitment to privacy and confidentiality.

Your participation is strongly encouraged. We ask that you take a few moments to complete the survey for each of your children, based on your observations from the past 12 months. All responses remain anonymous and are reported only in aggregate.

By capturing a broad picture of students' emotional, social and mental wellbeing, the survey helps us respond more effectively to the evolving needs of our school community. The insights gathered assist in identifying emerging trends, areas of strength, and opportunities for early intervention, ensuring support can be targeted where it is needed most.

If any of the content raises concerns for you or your child, please contact the school or seek professional medical advice.

We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this Special Report, and as always, we welcome your feedback.

If you do have any concerns about the wellbeing of your child, please contact the school for further information or seek medical or professional help.

Here is the link to your special report:

https://hawkesdalecol.vic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-wellbeing-barometer-survey-2026-au

SPECIAL REPORT



Wellbeing Barometer Survey 2026

A SchoolTV topic supporting
modern-day parenting





A SPECIAL REPORT: RESPONDING TO PEER PRESSURE

Peer pressure is a natural part of growing up. As children and adolescents place greater importance on friendships and belonging, the influence of peers can shape their choices, behaviour and sense of identity. While this influence can be positive, it can also create pressure to conform or take risks, particularly during adolescence.

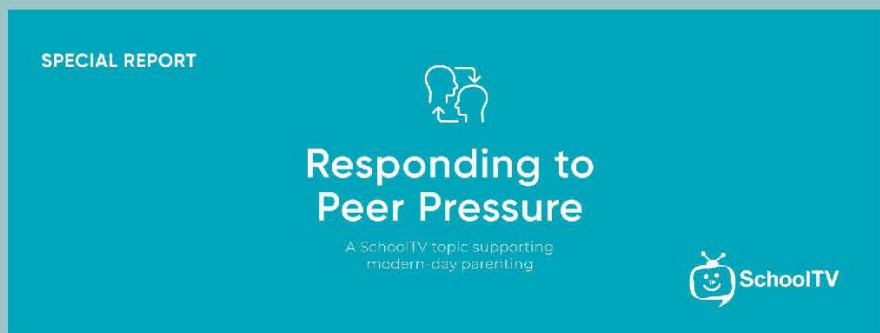
In today's digitally connected world, peer pressure extends beyond face-to-face interactions. Social media and online communication expose young people to constant comparison and unspoken expectations about how they should look, act and perform. Understanding how peer pressure works, both on and offline, helps families support young people to build confidence, make healthy decisions and stay connected to their own values.

We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this Special Report, and as always, we welcome your feedback.

If you do have any concerns about the wellbeing of your child, please contact the school for further information or seek medical or professional help.

Here is the link to your special report:

https://hawkesdalecol.vic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-responding-peer-pressure-au

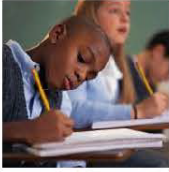


Travel Freeeeeeeeee

From 1 January 2026, all young people under 18 travel free on all Victorian public transport (trains, trams, and buses) across the state using a \$5 Youth myki card. For more information visit this link:

<https://transport.vic.gov.au/tickets-and-myki/>

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR YOUR CHILD TO ARRIVE AT SCHOOL ON TIME?



There are many benefits your child will gain from arriving on time to school and class.

Did you know?

- ✚ The likelihood of success in learning is strongly linked to strong participation in school programs which is linked to arriving on time.
- ✚ It is very important for children to develop habits of arriving on time at an early age, beginning from the time they start school.

Some Gains for Your Child

Arriving On Time for School and Class:

- ✚ Makes sure that your child doesn't miss out on the important learning activities that happen early in the day when they are most alert.
- ✚ Early morning learning activity is often reading or writing your child can lose so many opportunities to learn these critical life skills.
- ✚ Helps your child to learn about routines and commitment.
- ✚ Gives your child time to greet their friends before class and this can reduce the possibility of disruptions in the classroom.
- ✚ Class disruption can make your child feel uncomfortable and can upset other children.
- ✚ Arriving on time every day makes children feel good about themselves

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS COOL!

HAVING PROBLEMS GETTING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL ON TIME?



Are these some reasons why your child does not get to school on time?

- + Your child won't go to bed at night or get out of bed in the morning
- + Your child can't find their clothes, books, homework, school bag....
- + The school lunches are not ready
- + Homework's not done
- + Your child is slow to eat breakfast
- + Your child is watching TV late at night or when they should be getting ready for school
- + It's your child's or someone else's birthday
- + There is a test or presentation at school today
- + Your child is screaming or not letting go of you.

Things to Try

Here are some suggestions based on setting regular routines:

- + Have a set time to go to bed
- + Have a set time to be out of bed
- + Have uniform and school bag ready the night before
- + Make lunches the night before
- + Have set time for starting and ending breakfast.
- + Set a time each day for homework. Try straight after school with the TV off so your child can relax for the rest of the night and have a reward when finished.
- + Turn the TV on for set times and only if appropriate.
- + Be firm that children must go to school.
- + Give your child lots of positive encouragement and acknowledge they are organised and get to school on time.
- + Be firm; a birthday does not equal a holiday.
- + On arrival look for some of your child's friends and encourage your child to go and play with their friends.
- + Once settled leave quickly.

REGULAR ROUTINES ARE IMPORTANT

Careers Newsletter



Hawkesdale P12 College
<https://hawkesdalep12careers.com.au/>



CAREERS - JACOB GORDON

Work Experience 2026

During the past two weeks, students have been out in the field of work! While Year 10s were on their Melbourne Camp, our Year 11 students were slaving away across various suburbs of Melbourne. All reports were positive and students demonstrated what it truly means to be a Hawkesdale student - showing respect, responsibility and resilience!

Our Year 10s were no exception this week. They completed their first week of local work experience. Please explore the photos and reach out to me if you would like to learn more! jacob.gordon@education.vic.gov.au

Jacob Gordon
Careers and Pathways



Canteen Menu – 2026

Mini Chicken Wrap -	\$2.50
Chicken Mini Muffin Pizza	\$2.00
Ham, Cheese Mini Muffin Pizza	\$2.00
Ham, Cheese, Pineapple Mini Muffin Pizza	\$2.00
Egg and Bacon Muffin	\$3.50
Hash Browns	\$1.00
Sweet Chilli Chicken Tender	\$2.00
Toastie	\$3.50
Party Pies / Sausage Rolls	\$2.00
Homemade Slices / Muffins / Banana Bread	\$2.00
Homemade Biscuits	\$1.50
Truffles	\$0.80
Banana bread - (gluten free) must be pre-ordered	\$2.00
Brunch Pies	\$3.50
Angel Bay Light Beef Burgers with Salad - must be pre ordered	\$6.50
85gm Canteen Approved Chicken Burger with Salad- must be pre ordered	\$6.50
Salad Roll or Sandwich with or without Meat	\$6.50
Salad Tubs with or without Meat	\$6.50
Sandwiches - selected fillings eg: egg & lettuce / ham & pickles (must be pre ordered)	\$3.50
Veggie Burger with lettuce, tomato, beetroot, cheese, mayo on a wholemeal roll	\$6.50
Sweet Chilli Chicken Wrap - with lettuce, tomato, mayo and cheese – must be pre ordered	\$6.50
Dino Nuggets & Wedges	\$4.50
Meat Pie	\$5.00
(gluten free) Party pies	\$3.50
(gluten free) Sausage rolls	\$4.00
(gluten free) Pie	\$8.00

While canteen staff will take all reasonable precautions to prevent the cross-contact of gluten free and gluten containing food products, it is important to be aware that we cannot guarantee that any item prepared and served from our canteen is going to be completely free of allergens.

Drinks

Water – 600 ml	\$2.00
Nippy's Milk – 250 ml – Strawberry, Honeycomb, Chocolate, Coffee	\$2.50
Fresha Juice – 250 ml - Apple or Apple & Blackcurrant or Orange	\$2.50
Nippy's Milk – 375 ml – Strawberry, Honeycomb, Chocolate, Coffee, Banana	\$3.70
Fresha Juice – 500 ml - Apple & Blackcurrant or Orange	\$3.70

Frozen Yoghurt or Icy Poles – break 2 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)	\$1.50
Snaps (28 g) (gluten free)	\$1.50