

# 2021



# WARRNAMBOOL COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Persistence, Resilience & Mutual Respect

/ EDITION 4



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## PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

As I write this, the music is playing over the PA to prompt students to get ready for period 3 classes. It might seem like a small thing, but it brings a huge smile to my face. Why? Because it's been three long weeks since I've last heard it as we've endured another prolonged period of lockdown. Our school has sprung back to a sense of liveliness and energy today with the return of year 12 students and teachers. It's certainly not everyone, but schools are meant to have people in them and so it's a point of celebration that some of our community can return to school today. We anticipate with hope that day in the near future when everyone can be back learning on-site.

In many ways, term 3 this year has had echoes of our experiences from 2020. This term we've bounced in and out of three separate lockdowns in regional Victoria; the feeling of disconnection that comes from extended periods of remote learning remains the same this year as it did last year. We've all had to practice again and again our values of persistence and resilience as we continue to engage in learning and teaching via screens. I want to thank, again and again, all the incredible support that families have provided for their child's ongoing learning while we've been in the series of lockdowns this term. We know that some students have thrived in this remote learning environment and many have struggled. We will work with students where they are at, emotionally, mentally and academically as we prepare to have the whole school return in term 4.

EVERY WARRNAMBOOL STUDENT THRIVES



I know that throughout this term, once again we've had to cancel a number of important events that are part of our school calendar. This is frustrating, disappointing and leaves us all with a sense of loss and what might have or should've been. We all share in these emotions. But we know that we can look forward with optimism to less frequent lockdowns and greater confidence in scheduling events that will run as our wider community continues to get vaccinated. This is obviously a good thing as we set up our calendar of events for Warrnambool College in 2022. It also means that when the opportunities come, we need to grasp them with both hands and participate fully.

Before I finish, I want to acknowledge and thank our school community for it's incredible emotional support over the past fortnight. With the recent tragedy involving one of our beloved students and another that had only recently left our school, we are reminded of the fragility of life and the importance of making every moment count, no matter the challenges we face. As we continue to come to terms with this tragedy, I encourage you all to continue to reach out to one another for support. RUOK day might have been yesterday, but as one of our school captains reminded year 12s this morning, it actually needs to be a question we genuinely ask one another each day of the year.

I hope you're able to enjoy some of the relative freedoms available to regional Victorians during the school holidays. We look forward to seeing (hopefully!) everyone back at school from the start of term 4.

Kind Regards,

**Dave Clift** - Principal



*Gault McCluggage  
Assistant Principal*

## OUR NEW NORMAL

Normal is a word that seems to no longer exist in our COVID world. We empathise deeply with our senior school students, particularly those who are completing their secondary education in 2021. In place of what was promised for 11 years as a normal finish to their education filled with social outings balanced alongside part time work and educational outcomes we have a 'new normal'.

Lockdowns instead of dress up days and 18th birthdays, Google Meets instead of smiling faces, screen time instead of lunchtime basketball. The resilience of our students has been tested over and over again, to their credit and their families they have sustained. Now the reality is they have less than three months until their educations at Warrnambool College will be complete.

We will (figuratively) wrap our arms around them and provide as much support from a wellbeing and learning perspective as we can. But we also wish them the very best with the last push to achieve their educational outcomes. May the final months of their lives be as 'normal' as we can achieve.

Our sincerest thanks go out to all families that have supported and nurtured our students through remote learning. Some of us have thrived more than others, success was wide and varying but one thing we can acknowledge is the effort that many of our staff, students and parents have put in is to be commended.

We have endured, often with funky hair, pajamas on and lots of coffee, but we have endured. As a school we will be working in the background to fill in the gaps in learning and ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn in a safe and supportive environment. If as a family you feel we need to be supporting you in a different way then please reach out to your house team or other staff members so we can help in the best way possible.

## LAST DAY TIMETABLE

Friday 17th  
September  
Last Day of Term  
2:30pm FINISH

- Year 7 -11  
Normal school bell times for periods 1-3. Period 4 is cancelled.
- Year 12 Onsite  
Recess finishes at 1:55pm and period 4 is from 2:00pm until 2:30pm.
- 7-11 Onsite  
All students up to the gym for Afternoon recess until 2:30pm.



## RETURN TO ONSITE LEARNING

Preparing for a return to onsite learning is something we can all make as seamless as possible. So as we had back to the school and slowly open up our community (hopefully) we want to give you some talking points as a family.

- **Face to face relationships** are very different to online relationships. We encourage you to talk about how we relate to people, how we read emotions and respond in an acceptable way. We are no longer behind screens so tone, and verbal and non-verbal communication are important. Kindness and smiles go a long way!
- **Masks** – We are mandated by government to wear our masks at school, we will be modelling this as staff and reminding students about this regularly.
- **Uniform** – Away go the PJ's and hoodies and out comes the school uniform. With summer approaching and the weather getting better we would love to see a strong effort in representing the college with pride by wearing the correct uniform. If you need support with this please reach out to your house team.
- **Sleep patterns and routine** – a strong routine and healthy sleep will allow for better learning and more sustained energy when back at school. Work on a consistent and reasonable time to go to bed and avoid screens prior to bed to maximise quality sleep.

**Stay strong and safe and we can't wait to see you back at school!**

**Gault McCluggage** - Assistant Principal

## PRESENTATION BALL CANCELLATION

It is with sincere regret that we have had to cancel our 2021 Presentation Ball, due to ongoing COVID restrictions. The school has tried to maintain the chance for students to participate in this special night but we have now had to make the difficult call due to cut-off-dates and limited timeframes for multiple arrangements. We would like to thank all involved in trying to make this event happen and understand our year 11 students will be incredibly disappointed.



## JOEL MOON – A SHINING STAR

It has been an incredibly sad and difficult week for the Warrnambool College community with the tragic death of Joel Moon. Displaying great strength and generosity the Moon family requested that instead of flowers and other gestures of love and support, that families could donate to Carmen's Road Safety Program. This program was set up by John Maher in memory of his own daughter, lost to a road accident. The program educates young people on safe road use with John travelling across Victoria delivering this message to more than 400,000 students at approximately 70 schools per year.

For anyone wishing to donate the gofundme link is: [bit.ly/2XYvjCY](https://bit.ly/2XYvjCY)



Joel's sister, Hannah is a year 12 student at Warrnambool College and chose to share some of her memories of her beloved brother...

*Joel was a very unique and quirky brother, weird and wonderful in his own way... but I'm not going to forget to acknowledge too that he also drove me bloody insane and annoyed me on a daily basis... that's what makes him real. Joel wasn't perfect... he had his own unique way of doing everything, he never let his peas and corn touch each other on his dinner plate, he believed that the only suitable filling for a sandwich was peanut butter and he had a habit of grabbing whatever toothbrush was in front of him regardless of whether it was his own. Joel was extremely and unapologetically 'Joel' and we loved him for it.*

**Our hearts, our thoughts and our love go out to the Moon family.**

*We would like to extend our extreme thanks to Warrnambool College staff, students & families as well as to the wider Warrnambool community – the kindness and support received over the past few weeks has been heartwarming and greatly appreciated.*  
— Hannah, Greg, Jo and Bonnie Moon

**RUOK? DAY™**  
9 September 2021

### DE-STRESSING TIPS

For RUOK Day this year, our Year 12 captains thought it would be helpful to focus on some of the things that we can do to support our mental health. Our Year 12 cohort outlined some of their personal strategies on a short video to be shared with the school community. To video is available to view at: [youtu.be/DHjp0y3HG6w](https://youtu.be/DHjp0y3HG6w)



#### Some great de-stress ideas included:

- Walk the dog
- Journaling my thoughts down on paper
- Exercise
- Listen to music
- Read a book
- Binge watch Netflix
- Hang out with my peeps
- Have a shot of basketball
- Find something awesome to watch on tv
- Spend time with family and friends
- Be yourself and live your best life

If you or someone you know needs extra support right now, reach out or encourage them to reach out to their support networks/services – friends, family, a trusted colleague, local GP, lifeline 131114, Kids Helpline (anytime or any reason for ages 5-25 year) or QLife.

YEAR 8 PICTURE STORYBOOK EXHIBITION



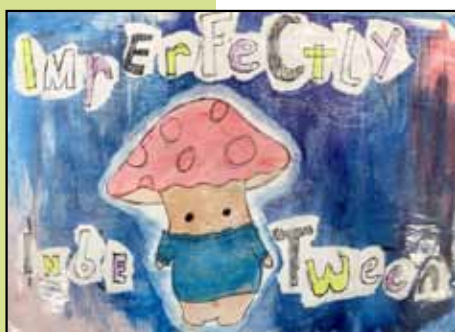
**Congratulations to ALL of our nominees and the entire Year 8 cohort of 2021 for an absolutely AMAZING effort in Term 3 - what an achievement for you all!**

**AUTHORS IN THE MAKING**

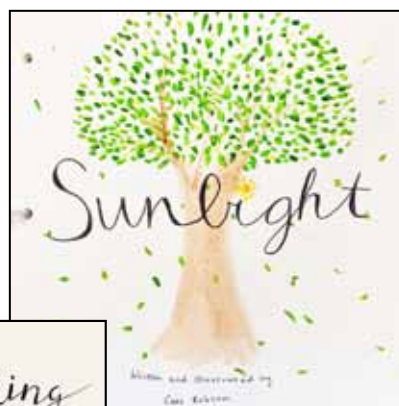
Last term our Year 8 English cohort worked on a Visual Literacy unit, studying how a picture can be worth a thousand words, and when combined with the power of language through the art of storytelling, they could make an impact on the world creating a Picture Storybook. Students were asked to choose a meaningful topic or issue to write about and use whatever medium they liked to create their illustrations. The results were absolutely breath-taking.

English teachers provided nominees for the categories of Best Picture Storybook (narrative & illustrations), Best Picture Storybook Narrative and Best Picture Storybook Illustrations. Warrnambool College staff then voted to narrow down the overall 'winner' in each category – a difficult task with the amazing quality of work! The People's Choice was voted on by attendees of our online exhibition and the Hulin Award is awarded for originality, creativity and persistence by Maryanne Hulin.

**Congratulations to our winners:**



**ALEX PRIMMER**  
Best Picture Storybook Illustrations  
*'Imperfectly Inbetween'*



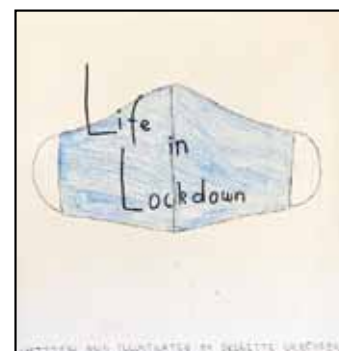
**CATE ROBSON**  
Best Picture Storybook Narrative  
*'Sunlight'*



**NYASHA IERVASI**  
People's Choice *'Drizzle'*



**ANGELINA VAN SOMEREN**  
Best Picture Storybook Illustrations & Narrative  
*'Breaking Free'*



**BRIGITTE GRAESSER**  
The Hulin Award  
*'Life in Lockdown'*

Maddison Drake



Brianna Kilpatrick

## AWESOME AEROBIC ATHLETES

In June, **Maddison Drake** and **Brianna Kilpatrick** competed at the School Aerobics State Finals. Maddison finished the finals with a 1st in the Aerobics Secondary Yellow Pairs (partnered with Brianna) and with a 2nd in the Aerobics Audition - Senior Secondary Yellow. With these awesome performances Maddison qualified for the National Championships, which were to be held in August. It doesn't end there for Maddison though as she placed 2nd and qualified for Nationals in the Hip Hop audition - Senior Secondary section. What a powerhouse performance from Maddison!

**Congratulations to Maddi and Bree** on their amazing achievements. These girls have worked extremely hard for many years to excel in their sporting pursuits.

## YEAR 8 FOOTBALL CHAMPS

Our Year 8 boys competed in the GWR round of AFL in August and came away winners, progressing to the State titles. Which unfortunately were then cancelled due to COVID. An all round fantastic team effort – Congratulations to all involved!



Shekia Karunaratne

## TALENTED MUSICIANS

**Shekia Karunaratne** has recently joined Warrnambool College's Soul Band, THUNDERPOINT. She has joined us on percussion and vocals and has been an absolute superstar. In fact, she played her first gig after only two rehearsals! A committed and talented music student Shekia is a valued member of the ensemble and we are lucky to have her and can't wait to see where she goes with her music.

We'd also like to welcome our new trombone player, **Harry Malikoff** who has brought brass to our band! He is a tremendous player and is the missing ingredient to our sound and is a very appreciated addition. Welcome Harry!



Harry Malikoff



Duncan Ward

Izaak Agnew

Angus Ten Have

Melody Speed

We have also appointed Band Captains in our contemporary ensembles. Congratulations to **Duncan Ward** and **Izaak Agnew** in Soul Band, and **Angus Ten Have** and **Melody Speed** in Rock Band. They show tremendous leadership skills and are real assets to our music program. Well done all.





## RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

This term in the Warrnambool Clontarf Academy the focus has been on relationships. With myself and our newly appointed Operations Officer, Mark Ciurleo both new to Clontarf and Warrnambool College it has been great to get to know the boys through the range of activities on offer through the Clontarf Foundation.



These activities have included morning basketball and running programs, lunchtime activities in the Clontarf room and a cultural art workshop with Warrnambool College artist-in-residence, Emma Stenhouse.

While the multiple lockdowns this term has meant several activities have had to be postponed both Mark and I have taken great positives from the term and look forward to many more opportunities with the boys in the future. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Clontarf boys, parents and Warrnambool College staff for their efforts during this difficult term and for being so welcoming and supportive.

I would also like to take this opportunity to reach out to the Warrnambool community. At Clontarf we are always looking for opportunities and partnerships to enhance the education experience for our boys. If you have any projects or initiative you feel could benefit the boys and potentially your business or community organisation. Please reach out, we'd love to hear from you.

**Tim Moorehead**

Director, Warrnambool Clontarf Academy

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW CLONTARF ACADEMY TEAM



### TIM MOOREHEAD - Director

My name is Tim Moorehead and I'm from Dughutti Country, Kempsey, NSW. Previously I've been a PDHPE teacher for 15 years and my appointment as Director of Warrnambool Clontarf Academy is my first appointment with Clontarf. My family, wife Ash and two children Buddy aged 8 and Scout aged 6 and I moved to Warrnambool in June this year. I'm an avid sports fan and support the Penrith Panthers in the NRL. I've played rugby league and all its non-contact versions (touch football and oztag) all my life and have also been heavily involved in coaching each of these sports. On weekends my family and I travel around in our motorhome and we are very keen to explore as much of the great state of Victoria as possible.



### MARK CIURLEO - Operations Officer

Hi my name is Mark Ciurleo, I have recently relocated from St.Arnaud in North Central Victoria with my wife Hollie and two boys Levi 9 and Braxton 7. I'm a qualified carpenter by trade and recently sold our retail business of 16 years - St.Arnaud Home Timber & Hardware. We are excited to relocate and take on a whole new adventure and opportunities in Warrnambool. I'm looking forward to working with the community and developing and growing in this role. My interests are football (St.Kilda Saints), basketball, fishing and spending time with family and friends. Outside of work I have previously enjoyed being involved in the local community. A large part of that was with local footy club at St.Arnaud, playing and coaching at both senior and junior levels. I'm looking forward to actively being involved in the Warrnambool community. I have recently been appointed the U/18s coach at Russells Creek, where my kids are currently playing football. I'm looking forward to meeting new people, developing new friendships and making Warrnambool our new home.



**MARVELLOUS MERRI**

The school values of persistence, resilience and mutual respect have never been on display more in our school community than what they have over the last term. I said at the end of last year that I was incredibly proud of each and everyone of you; students, parents/guardians and teachers/staff alike, for getting through the turmoil of 2020.

Having just completed yet another Term disrupted with lockdown, to say that I am impressed is an understatement. I know we have all had our own challenges in getting through the lockdowns and periods of remote learning we have been thrown in and out of this year and all I can say is WOW! You are all superhumans! I can't wait to have all of our students back on site in Term 4 (fingers crossed).

**MERRI MERITS**

We have a number of students who have achieved the milestone of 100 merits and on behalf of the Merri community I would like to congratulate the following students. This is a phenomenal achievement.

Mairead Hewson	185 merits
Charlie Miller	184 merits
Lucy Dodson	180 merits
Noah Robertson	139 merits
Darcy Lynch	115 merits
Joshua Rodgers	111 merits
Jono McKenzie	105 merits
Josh McDonald	104 merits
Reece Neal	102 merits

**TAKSENKANGBLOUNG COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATE**

Cambodia and more specifically the Taksenkangbloung Community Centre have not been spared from the turmoil of COVID-19. Due to lockdowns the Taksenkangbloung Community Centre has had to pivot to provide the community with food and household essentials and also change educational support to fit within the restrictions. Unfortunately, since the end of July, strict stay at home orders have been implemented in Siem Reap (Taksenkangbloung village included). This means that educational programs have once again been suspended. This term, the Merri student leaders have been involved in a pen pal program, sending letters via email to students of a similar age from the Taksenkangbloung Village. This not only provided the Taksenkangbloung students an opportunity to practice their English, but also an opportunity for all students involved to share their similar experiences of lockdown as a teenager and realise that what we are going through is a global issue.



**GOOD LUCK YEAR 12s**

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to wish all of our Year 12 students, completing either VCE or VCAL, the very best for the home stretch of their secondary education journey. As of today, the year 12s have 20 days left at Warrnambool College. I want each of them to know that the school and your teachers are here to support you through these 20 days, through the exam period and even beyond. Good luck superstars!

**See you in Term 4 – The Merri Team**



## BELFAST TO BROOME

As Belfast students and staff continue our long, virtual walk across Australia in our quest of reaching Broome on the North West coast of Australia we have had some great media exposure. This week our wonderful House Leader, Adam Dowie and School Captain, Airlie O'Brien featured in an article in 'The Standard', and Adam was also interviewed on ABC Breakfast Radio in Kimberley, WA about our virtual trek!



At the moment we are about 1000kms from our destination with lockdown bogging us down in the Simpson Desert.

In our quest to keep moving, every Wednesday we ask all Belfast students from 9:00 till 9:15 am to walk or jog to add to our House total. To do this we asked each child to measure out a track in their house, driveway, backyard, etc. Count their laps and then multiply their laps by the distance per lap for an overall total. Students then submit their total distance in our 2021 Belfast Google Classroom.

We've encouraged all family members to join in and contribute if they wish. We look forward to compiling the results and adding to our journey!

We thank all our Belfast students and families for their contributions, maybe we can even get a Broome School involved when we finally reach Broome – Watch this space!

**Belfast Bulls on the move!**





## FLAGSTAFF FALCONS

Unfortunately, Term 3 didn't go according to plan and has been a hard time for many, with a lot of students and families struggling for a range of different reasons. However, despite these challenges, our students have demonstrated great resilience, kindness and understanding to all members of our school community. I'd like to congratulate all students on their efforts and for trying their best at all times. I'd also like to thank all families for adjusting so seamlessly and supporting their child and the teaching staff under these circumstances.

Term 3 saw the launch of 'Flagstaff Faceoff', an inter-homegroup competition with the successful home group winning a breakfast on the last day of term. Each round of competition was hotly contested but due to lockdown, announcing the winner and the celebratory breakfast will be rescheduled to Term 4. We look forward to continuing with our competition upon our return and crowning our Flagstaff Faceoff Champions.

Throughout the term, our Student Leaders have continued their work on improving our house profile. This has included creating a mascot and motto for Flagstaff with our student body voting on the Flagstaff Falcons. They ran a drawing competition seeking Flagstaff artists to provide their best representation of what a Flagstaff Falcon looks like. We received some great entries with the winning prize going to **Jasmine Prakash**. Congratulations Jasmine!



I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the Flagstaff House Team – Sara Morrison, Zac Struth and Teagan Straw for all the support they have provided students and staff throughout what was, a very challenging Term 3. We are all so proud of what our students have achieved throughout this Term and we hope that you all enjoy a well deserved and relaxing break (hopefully free of screens and devices).

We look forward to welcoming all students back to school in Term 4.

**Lauren Waters** - Flagstaff House Leader



Kerry Cheeseman  
& Sarah McIlroy



Find us in the Careers  
& Pathway Office

## UNI APPLICATIONS

This is the busy time of the year for those looking to apply for university in 2022 or 2023 following a GAP year. Be mindful when applying interstate that each state has its own process and dates. See Kerry anytime for advice and assistance.

## VTAC KEY DATES:

- **September 17th** SEAS submission for guaranteed review by VTAC.
- **September 30th** last day to pay before fee increase.
- **October 8th** SEAS closes 5pm.
- **December 16th** ATAR Release
- **January 14th** First Round Offers.

## STRUCTURED WORK PLACEMENTS

Students undertaking VCAL in Year 11 & 12 in 2022 will need to start organising their Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) Placement for next year. All students are expected to do one day a week with a host employer as part of their VCAL Program. Planning ahead is key, so this is a great time to have conversations with potential employers and locking in your placement. For students unsure about this process, come to the Careers & Pathway office for assistance.

## VET COURSES

Adding VET course in a senior school program allows students to explore their passion, develop workplace skills and knowledge and create flexible pathways towards future education and employment. Applying for a VET Course is an involved process and selection is NOT guaranteed. The process involves completing forms, creating a USI #, completing a Literacy Learning & Numeracy Assessment, and attending an Interview with a SWTAFE. There are also additional fees associated with enrolling in a VET Course that must be paid by the due date.

- STEP 1:** Google Form and USI ALREADY DUE. Form was emailed to students. See me if you didn't receive it.
- STEP 2:** Complete online enrolment form (about to be released) for SWTAFE or a paper application for VET Music at Emmanuel.
- STEP 3:** \$150 service fee due to school.
- STEP 4:** Compulsory interviews to be held late October.
- STEP 5:** Enrolment confirmations distributed November.

**Contact Kerry with any queries, concerns, or withdrawals ASAP.**  
**A reminder that VET courses are a compulsory requirement of VCAL.**

## LIFE AFTER SCHOOL

Struggling with the 'What do I do now?' or need help answering the 'What do you want to do?' questions. The Skills and Job Centre is an amazing FREE community resource for students and families to help with job seeking, finding courses, and engaging with supports. Located on Timor Street next to TAFE, Michael Absolom and his team are happy to chat anytime. [www.swskillsandjobscentre.com.au/](http://www.swskillsandjobscentre.com.au/)

**Kerry Cheeseman** – Career Practitioner & VET Coordinator  
**Sarah McIlroy** – Pathways Coordinator



# Warrnambool COLLEGE ALUMNI



## XAVIER SZEGI

Recently we caught up with an incredible young man, Xavier Szegi to ask a few questions in regards to his career and to garner some words of advice to current students that may be looking at a similar pathway.

Xavier graduated from Warrnambool College in 2015 having participated in the SEAL Program. He is currently in the Australian Defence Force whilst also studying Engineering. Xavier chose the Defence Force because he wanted a diverse career helping people, working with people, and making a difference. In the final year of his engineering degree, Xavier will be posted to a RAAF unit somewhere within Australia at the end of this year.

Xavier said balance is extremely important in school and career life.

*“Do your schoolwork, hang out with your friends, play sport. Don’t lose any sleep worrying about what you want to do or where you want to end up, and say yes to as many opportunities that come your way.”*

We look forward to keeping in touch with Xavier to see where his career takes him.

# 2021 PORT FAIRY MARATHON

Community Running Festival



## 14 NOVEMBER 2021

[portfairymarathon.com.au](http://portfairymarathon.com.au)

**MARATHON**  
**10KM**

**HALF MARATHON**  
**3.5KM**



**BELIEVE**

**TRAIN**

**ACHIEVE**