



ALUMNI newsletter

EDITION TWO • 2024

DRUMMER FEATURES IN NATIONAL INDUSTRY MAGAZINE

Congratulations to Warrnambool College alum David Parkes who has gained national acclaim, featuring in the latest edition of DRUMScene magazine.

The talented touring and session drummer, who graduated from Warrnambool College in 2016 and taught at the college in 2017, is building a name for himself in the music industry due to his strong work ethic, focus, creative puzzle-solving skills and cool confidence.

The article highlights his career to date including being a member in progressive metal bands Wallet Inspector and I Built The Sky, which toured the UK and Europe in 2023.

The article commended the fill-in drummer's ability to learn and perform unknown material "quickly and thoroughly" with very limited preparation time.

He's filled in for diverse acts including Japanese band Paledusk and Australian artists including post-hardcore band The Amity Affliction, metalcore band Alpha Wolf, singer/songwriter Dan Sultan and electronic artist Running Touch.

The article said David "confidently deliver(s) the goods" and was "blowing people away with his immense talent and abilities under pressure to deliver the highest quality performance, every time".

David said memorising songs at such short notice was "pretty wild" and he focused on keeping cool under pressure. "You've got to remind yourself: you can do it," he told DRUMScene.

"In a way it made me realise the human mind and body can do amazing things. When you really believe and work hard you can get it done."

Warrnambool College director of instrumental music Erin Toulmin described David as a high achiever, a committed and passionate musician and a brilliant teacher. Ms Toulmin said David had remained humble despite his fame, a key characteristic he'd displayed throughout his secondary schooling.



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HOMETOWN HERO GETS CALL UP FOR TRIPLE J'S ONE NIGHT STAND

Hometown hero Flynn Gurry wowed the crowd at triple J's One Night Stand, playing live to thousands of locals and visitors, while also being streamed nationally and internationally, when the coveted event visited Warrnambool on September 14.

Flynn was also named as triple j's Unearthed's competition winner and Unearthed feature artist in the lead-up to the event, which saw him make a flying trip home from Copenhagen to join top Australian artists including G Flip, Thelma Plum, Ruel, What So Not & friends, Sycco, DICE and others.

"Thank-you for making my dreams come true Warrnambool," Flynn told the crowd at the end of his set which included original songs including Changed My Life (Harve's Song), TopDog, Winter, Running, Don't Know Love, Sunrise to Sunset and others.

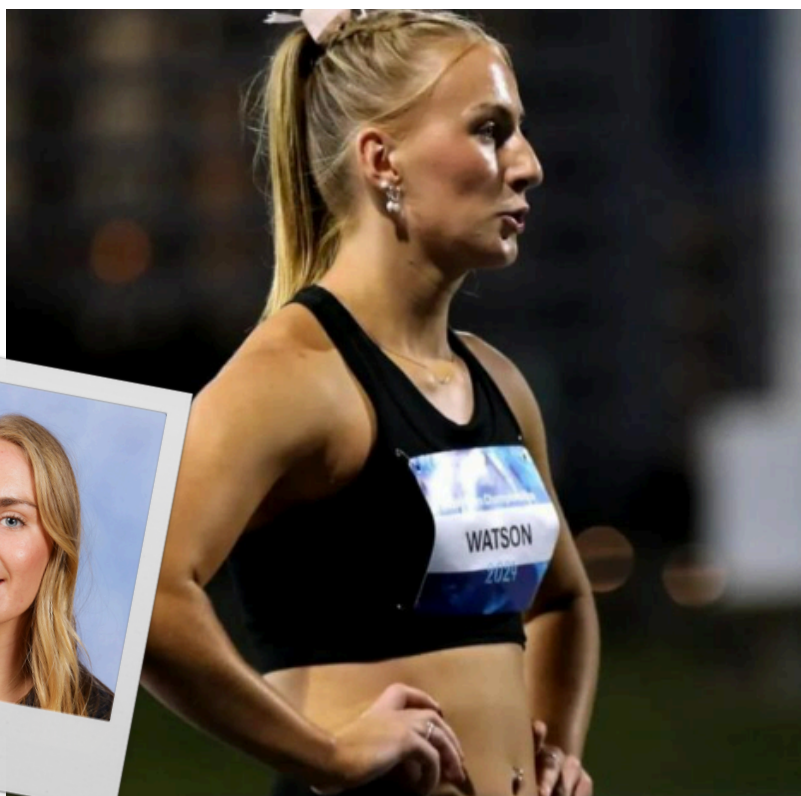
Just days later, Flynn returned to Sweden where he is recording new music. He joins folk duo The Dreggs on tour from October to December after touring with the Pierce Brothers in the first half of 2024, capping off a big year for the 23-year-old.



TALENTED SPRINTER US-BOUND FOR COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to alum and talented sprinter Layla Watson who jetted off to America on August 8 to begin a full four-year athletic scholarship at Southern Illinois University.

Layla, who graduated from Warrnambool College in 2023, is looking forward to beginning her NCAA division one running journey and will study psychology.





“ I’m the first in my family to finish high school. Now I can hopefully inspire my siblings to finish high school... ”

(The Standard 7/9/24)



ALUM TAKES OUT TRAINING AWARD

Congratulations to alum Trephy Grant who was named the Trainee of the Year people’s choice award winner at the Victorian Training Awards in Melbourne on August 30.

Trephy, 19, finished year 12 at Warrnambool College in 2023 and is proud to be the first in her family to complete secondary school and a formal qualification.

The proud Walpiri woman said winning the award “meant everything to her”. The skills Trephy learnt while completing a Certificate III in Business have enabled her to secure a full-time business traineeship at Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative, which she is loving.

Trephy hopes to inspire her siblings to finish high school and continue to be a role model to peers, community and Indigenous youth.



CLASS OF 1994'S 30-YEAR REUNION

Preparations are in full swing for the Class of 1994's 30-year reunion on Saturday, October 12. It includes a college tour during the day and a catch up at the Warrnambool Hotel from 5pm. To register go to the Facebook event page - Class of '94' – 20 year Reunion!, the Warrnambool College Alumni Facebook page or email alumni@wblcoll.vic.edu.au for more information.

CLASS OF 2014'S 10-YEAR REUNION

The Class of 2014 is also in the early planning stages of its 10-year reunion, to be held at the end of the year.

*If you have an upcoming reunion planned for 2024 or beyond, please contact alumni co-ordinator Madeleine McSwain to arrange a tour or for further information about the celebrations.



Students from 7G - pictured above in 2009 - will celebrate their 30-year reunion later this year.

ALUMNI PROGRAM CONTINUES TO BUILD - ARE YOU A WARRNAMBOOL COLLEGE ALUMNI?

In 2024, Warrnambool College continues to grow its alumni program to connect with past students of Warrnambool College, Warrnambool High School and Warrnambool North Technical School. We encourage existing parents who attended the college to register their details. Scan the QR code below or go to the College website's alumni page to join. To stay up to date with the latest alumni news and information join the Warrnambool College Alumni Facebook page.

