

# 2022



# WARRNAMBOOL COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Persistence, Resilience & Mutual Respect

/ EDITION #1



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## PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

On the first day of school this year, I shared with students in our whole school assembly my favourite go-to word over the past 12 months – discombobulation. It means to confuse, disconcert; confound; bewilder. Indeed the fact that our whole school assembly was via WebEx, beamed into almost 50 classrooms across the school, made the whole feeling of being discombobulated all the more real. It's been an interesting start to the year that's for sure, with some apprehension of being at school with COVID circulating in our community and with increased COVID safety measures in place including the recommended Rapid Antigen testing at home. But, the overall vibe in the school has been one of enthusiasm to be around one another again.

As my almost daily updates in Compass have pointed out, there have been several cases of COVID in our school community already this year and, I can imagine this will continue for at least the remainder of this year. This has meant that various students and staff have had to isolate at home, to look after their own health and to care for others in ensuring they don't spread the virus any further. Isolation's not fun – being cooped up at home can be physically and mental draining. I want to thank all those that have been doing Rapid Antigen Testing at home and responding appropriately to the health advice to protect others when they have tested positive, regardless of their symptoms.

EVERY WARRNAMBOOL STUDENT THRIVES



In not having all our staff available at school, this has also placed increasing pressure on the staff that are well and able to be at school as they do their best to cover the duties and responsibilities of those that are needing to isolate. I want to thank everyone for the extreme flexibility and effort they are putting in to ensure that student learning is largely uncompromised at school. We have incredible staff who continue to go above and beyond each day.

On Friday this week we have our whole school swimming sports. Of all the things that have been cancelled, postponed, watered down or 'lost' in the past two years, our swimming sports have actually remained largely untouched. This is a good thing as they are a fantastic day to get around your house, jump in the pool to earn points and generally appreciate the efforts of peers and friends. Given the fact that numerous coloured shirts have sold out around Warrnambool over the past week (I'm hearing you can't find orange tops anyway at the moment!), I know our students are embracing the opportunity to once again cheer on their house to victory. To a large extent, our swimming sports aren't about winning or losing – they are about participation, fun and appreciating the last vestiges of summer. I was asked by a student this week to compete in the highly competitive staff vs year 12s relay. Given the bragging rights up for grabs and my non-existent swimming preparation over the past few months, I have politely declined at this stage, but I will be front and centre with the ground based novelty events this year and look forward to joining in with every student participating in a way that suits them on the day.

I hope the school year has started as smoothly as possible for you and your family. If you've had a false start, or are finding the energy reserves are waning a few weeks in, or you're just feeling discombobulated with what life and learning looks like in 2022, please remember that we are here to help in any way we can to support you and your child's learning. I look forward to seeing as many families as possible in the upcoming school events including year 7 induction night, swimming, athletics, and open night.

Kind Regards,

**Dave Clift** - Principal





Emma Vesey  
- Assistant Principal



Welcome back to the 2022 school year, with the Department of Education Operations Guide allowing us more freedoms in what we can do at school, now is the perfect opportunity to get involved in all that is happening at Warrnambool College. Academy sign up day is Thursday 24th Feb and sign up is also happening for this year's musical "The School of Rock". House Swimming sports this week and House Athletic sports on Tuesday 1st March. There is Year 7 camp and it's great to see our classes heading out into the community to support their learning.



This year we have launched our "Ready to Learn" posters which provide a visual reminder for students of the agreed expectations of our College. They support students to identify the key steps they need to take to maximise their learning opportunities in the classroom. By having conversations with your child about the ready to learn expectations we can work in partnership to ensure students clearly understand the expectations and help to avoid conflict with teachers when they enter the room, creating a positive and engaging learning environment for all.

Our staff have been using our School Wide Positive Behaviour support framework to understand the learning needs of all students in their classes. Over the first few weeks of the year, staff have analysed PAT test data, student reports and undertaken formative assessment in their classes to ensure they are supporting students with targeted and engaging interventions. Staff have worked with students to build agreed behaviour expectations in learning spaces and developed logical consequences in consultation with students to reteach and reinforce positive behaviour in line with our engagement and wellbeing policy.

During our year 7-11 interviews on the first day of the year, students set a learning goal for term 1. With cycle #1 of reports due to be released on Friday 11th March, students can be reflecting on these goals which are visible to students and parents on Compass. After the reports are released we will hold parent/teacher interviews and students will review their reports and progress with their mentor before writing a new goal for term 2. Families can be discussing these goals with their child/ren to help support them to achieve success.



### COVID-19 VACCINE BOOSTERS

COVID-19 third-dose vaccinations are now available to 16-17 year olds who had their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine three or more months ago. Supporting as many eligible students as we can to be vaccinated will help make our school as safe as possible.

Getting vaccinated is one of the most important steps we can all take to get direct protection against COVID-19.

#### How to book an appointment

There are many convenient and accessible options to access vaccinations. These include state-wide vaccination clinics, your local GP or pharmacy.

You can book your appointment in a few different ways, including:

- **Online:** [coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine)
- **By phone:** 1800 675 398 (Coronavirus Hotline)
- **Using the COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Finder:** COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Finder | Australian Government Department of Health
- **In person:** talk to your local pharmacy, doctor, or attend one of the State Vaccination Centres - [www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-children-and-teenagers](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-children-and-teenagers)

### QUALITY TEACHING ROUNDS

Our school will be participating in an exciting new research project into teacher professional development. The research is being undertaken by the University of Newcastle and is focused on Quality Teaching Rounds. Four teachers from our school, as well as some of their students, will be invited to participate.

Invitations will be sent out to the relevant classes in due course. Student participation is entirely voluntary.

For further information, please contact the research manager, Tim Dean, at: [qtr-vic@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:qtr-vic@newcastle.edu.au)





## HOUSE CONTACTS

Our House system offers great support for our students and families, below are the direct phone numbers for each House office. Parents may call these numbers directly for any student or attendance queries.

● Belfast	5564 4425	● Hopkins	5564 4428
● Childers	5564 4426	● Logans	5564 4429
● Flagstaff	5564 4427	● Merri	5564 4430

## PRIVACY COLLECTION NOTICE

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy.

Please take time to remind yourself of our school's collection notice, found on our website <https://bit.ly/3uFQY16>. For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents. This information is also available in ten community languages:

- Amharic
- Arabic
- Dari
- Vietnamese.
- Gujarati
- Mandarin
- Somali
- Sudanese
- Turkish
- Urdu



## ACADEMY SIGN UP

Our Academy sign up day is next week on February 24th during first break in the Hall. The cost of each Academy is \$85 per student. Academies are a great way for students to engage in fun and enjoyable activities, whilst also meeting students of various ages and from different houses.

The Academies on offer at this stage include: *Food, Art, Science, Rock band, Chess/board games, Table tennis, Basketball, Fishing, Soccer, Hockey, Netball, Football, Cricket, Tennis, Music and Media.*

## SCHOOL COUNCIL VACANCIES

There are currently several vacancies for the parent category of the Warrnambool College School Council. Parents are invited to nominate by completing the form on our website <https://bit.ly/352CayG> and returning it to the main office by the 24th February 2022. Any queries may be directed to Karina Said on 5564 4444

## INSURANCE COVER

This year the College has taken out a Group Personal Accident Policy with VMIA insurance which covers your student whilst at school or on school activities/camps. The cost of this insurance is covered in your school fees. If your child is injured, please check with Chris Dickson or Karina Said as you may be eligible to claim. Larger cover is provided for situations of loss of sight/hearing/more physical damage, a summary of cover for more minor injuries is below:

**Class of insurance:** Group Personal Accident

**Scope of cover:** Coverage only applies while an insured person is engaged in activities organised or authorised by the school. The coverage extends to include direct uninterrupted travel to and from such activities. An example of cover is :

### 1.2. Fractured Bones Benefits

THE EVENTS Injury resulting directly in the following Event (Fractured Bones) which occur within twelve (12) months of the date of Injury:	THE BENEFITS (\$) EACH INSURED PERSON
22. Neck, skull, spine, pelvis or hip	3,000
23. Arm, elbow, wrist, leg, ankle or knee	500
24. Finger, toe, hand, foot, rib	200
25. All other breaks	500

### 1.3. Dislocations

THE EVENTS Injury resulting directly in the following Event which occur within twelve (12) months of the date of Injury :	THE BENEFITS (\$) EACH INSURED PERSON
26. Dislocations:-	
a. Hip	500
b. Knee, shoulder blade, collarbone or jaw	250
c. All other dislocations	150

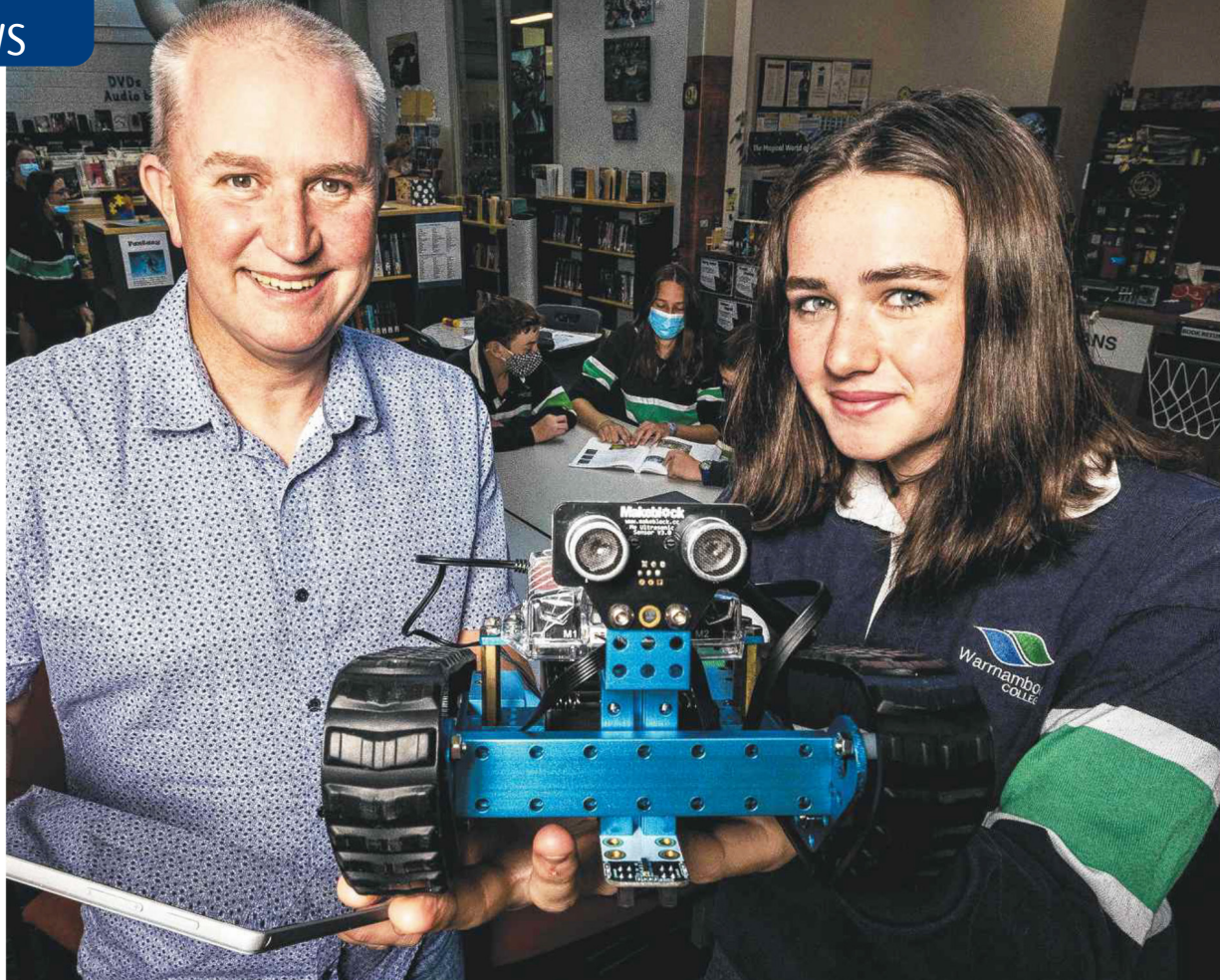
### 1.4. Dental Procedures Benefits

THE EVENTS Injury resulting directly in the following loss or procedure(s) which occurs within five (5) years of the date of Injury.	THE BENEFIT(S) EACH INSURED PERSON Lump sum benefit payable, regardless of actual costs involved.
27. Loss of teeth	
a. Second (not being dentures or fillings)	300 (per tooth)
b. First (milk)	100 (per tooth)
28. Crowning of damaged teeth (with case metal or porcelain or similar restorations)	300 (per tooth)
29. Other damage	50 (per tooth)

The maximum benefit payable for any one Injury resulting in loss of teeth or dental procedures against Event 27 shall be \$5,000.



Warnambool College  
teacher Duane Collinson  
with Yr 11 student  
Elanora Williams.



## FUNDS FOR STEM LEARNING

Warnambool College will benefit enormously from a huge donation from Richard White, CEO of WiseTech Global. The money will underwrite a new interactive digital curriculum for science, technology, engineering and maths - developed in partnership with education authorities.

The generous donation, will enable Warnambool College through the Grok platform, to offer STEM learning at every year level and across a broad range of subjects. Grok is a learning and teaching platform that provides students with a deep, immersive and rich experience of STEM. Further, it provides students with an introduction into information technology pathways and future careers that they may not have otherwise been afforded.

In the past we were able to offer access to Grok for around 300 students every year, now all 1250 students at the College can have access for their entire schooling pathway. As a College in regional Victoria, it can at times be difficult to give students a depth of experience in STEM and provide them with exposure to computer science and the career pathways available in this ever developing industry. This opportunity is simply a game changer in the investment of our students futures by building technological pathways that will change lives and potentially communities.





## NEW MURAL

### STUDENT COMMUNITY PROJECT

Six Warrnambool College students attended the School for Student Leadership (SSL) at the Snowy River Campus in term 3 last year. The students, Maisie Rentsch, Toby Dalton, Asha Guld, Jasmine Anderson, Harley Kelp, and Chelsea McCosh were required to develop a Community Learning Project that would benefit people in our local area. Their idea had the overall aim to spread awareness about mental health and cultural diversity.



The students expressed a connection to these ideas because they were all passionate about improving cultural awareness amongst themselves and the wider community. The group could also relate to struggles with mental health issues through personal experiences either their own or someone they are close to.

The students raised \$1,570 which was used to commission an artwork by local artist and past Warrnambool College student Trish McKean. The resulting mural is now installed at the College and has certainly added colour and enhanced the area.





## BIG LIFE FUNDRAISER

A fundraiser for a Big Life was held last Friday, with 84 cyclists from across the state riding from Warrnambool to Melbourne. The ride, in its third year, was a resounding fundraising success with \$130,000 raised by the cyclists. The Big Life principle, of helping students develop emotional intelligence so they can live a Big Life, free of mental health illness, resonated with all, with fantastic community support.

Cyclists had a great time riding the 288 kilometre course, with celebrations in Docklands at a reception hosted by Melbourne City Councillor Jamal Hakim.

Warrnambool College was represented by staff members Tom Wilson and Natasha Cross and student Cadel Howie. The whole Big Life team of Danielle Gladman, Megan Twycross and Nicole Cuzens joined in on the fun as members of the Support Crew.



## BIG LIFE PARENT FORUM

Part of the Big Life focus this year for both our Secondary and Primary Schools is making sure that we support families with their current needs and challenges.

We are keen to hear your feedback on what topics or content you would be keen to attend and/or matches you/your child's current needs. Please access the link to the Parent Survey [here](#).





Kerry Cheeseman  
& Sarah McIlroy

Find us in the Careers  
& Pathway Office



## What a busy start to the year for the Careers & Pathways team!

- 120 students started their VET course last week;
- 240 Yr 9s commenced their My Career Insights program;
- 83 Senior and Intermediate VCAL students are sourcing and commencing Structure Work Placements;
- 73 one-on-one year 12 discussions have been conducted, and this makes:
- Two very busy but happy Careers & Pathways team members!

Early term one is the time of the year when we get to eagerly watch on as the Class Of 2021 venture into their first year out of school. We are proud to witness the majority of our year 12s intentionally transition into employment and vocational pathways, but we'd also like to acknowledge and congratulate the 75 students who received university offers. To all our school leavers; what feels like an end is often a beginning. GOOD LUCK!

## WORK EXPERIENCE – Experience the world of work

Year 10s have an opportunity to explore possible career pathways, increase self-awareness, maturity, and self-confidence through work experience working alongside an employer to observe and learn, on the job, at their place of work, on site, in a shop, on the farm etc. It has enormous benefits for students giving a chance to:

- Work as part of a team gaining an understanding of work.
- Develop and practice a range of new skills.
- Become more independent and confident.
- Increase motivation to continue their study and/or undertake further training, and;
- 90% employers say work experience is essential!!!

WHAT: 1 week

COST: \$95

WHEN: School holidays ONLY

Term 1: 9 – 25th April

Term 2: 25th June – 10th July

Term 3: 17th Sept – 2nd Oct

HOW: Collect, complete and return a Work Experience Preference Form to the Careers & Pathways Office in the Senior School.



## REMINDERS & UPDATES:

**School Careers Website**  
www.wblcollcareers.com

This is quite possibly one of the most useful resources available to students and parents. Take skills and personality quizzes, look at TAFE & Uni courses, build a resume and cover letter, find scholarships... and much more. GET CLICKING!

**My Career Insights**  
– Morrisby Profiling

Every Yr 9 and 10 SEAL has the opportunity to get involved in this fantastic program offered by the Department of Education to help them:

- Learn about the skills and abilities they bring to a job.
- Find out about what jobs match their abilities, interests and personality, and the subjects needed for those jobs.
- Gain confidence with subject selection to align with possible careers and interests.

In March students will receive a printed Morrisby Profile Report showing the results AND have a 30-minute ONLINE meeting with a Morrisby-trained Career Practitioner who will explain the report. Parents are welcome to attend this meeting too. These will be scheduled for March 28 – April 1.

**2022 Vet Courses**

Classes started February 10th February and the buzz on the buses as we left school Thursday afternoon was filled with excitement. Students are expected to model the same behaviour, mask and phone expectations from school whilst attending their course at each campus, and if students choose to wear neat casual to their course they MUST be in school uniform whilst at school before 12:30pm. Please be in touch anytime with course queries, and if at any stage your student wishes to withdraw they must consult with Kerry to ensure it won't impact their school certificate. There is a form that requires completion and an alternate subject might be to selected.

**Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) for 2022**

Are you a Yr 11 or 12 VCAL student this year? Then you should have already found your Wednesday Structured Work Placement host employer. If you need help sourcing this please see Sarah McIlroy ASAP and everyone needs to make sure she has ALL of your completed paperwork prior to starting your placement.

As always we both want to welcome all students to pop in throughout the year for a chat, some guidance and information on anything and everything. We LOVE getting to know everyone, and helping in any small way that we can.

**Kerry & Sarah**  
Careers & Pathways Team