

2025



WARRNAMBOOL COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Respect, Resilience & Responsibility

/ EDITION #5



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PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

This term it has been great to settle into a positive rhythm of teaching and learning, with fewer interruptions each week as all our classes work through curriculum units carefully planned by our teaching staff. I've certainly enjoyed seeing many of the classes working diligently and collaboratively through the new learning expected each school day.

Despite this relative sense of settledness in classes, there has been a number of changes in our school leadership this term to support some of our staff in taking extended leave. This semester our Assistant Principal, Jen Penn, has stepped into the role of Acting Principal at Ararat Secondary College. We congratulate Jen on this exciting opportunity and warmly welcome John Thomson, an experienced Assistant Principal from Mildura Senior Secondary College, who has joined us in her place. Our Assistant Principal Dan Lee is currently on extended leave until the end of term three and in his absence Gault McCluggage, one of our Leading Teachers, has stepped into Dan's role. This refreshed Principal Team is already working in strong collaboration to ensure the smooth and effective leadership of our school and I thank them for it.

Over the past fortnight, we have also embarked on a significant strategic journey to shape our new Leadership Profile which will guide Warrnambool College over the next three years. This will align our school leadership team with our change to school structure in 2026 in moving to a year level based student support system.



Dave Clift
Principal



Sitting on the selection panels for all leadership panels, I was inspired and incredibly excited to listen in to the passion that our applicants brought to their desire to be part of our leadership team moving forward. Each of these leaders exemplify the integrity, dedication and caliber we value at Warrnambool College. Many of these staff have already made a remarkable impact as part of our Leadership team as is evidenced by their commitment to our school community. Warrnambool College is indeed in very good hands as we transition into our new support system in 2026.

As we reach the half-way point of the school term this week, I encourage you to have conversations with your child at home regarding how their learning is tracking at school and the positive efforts and mindset they are bringing to the classroom. Are they working diligently on their homework tasks at home (there's always something to go on with outside of the classroom!)? Are they accessing the support of Homework Club at school on Wednesday afternoons? Are they aiming to increase their results in the first set of reports for semester 2 and if so, how are they leaning into the supports the school provides to make this happen? I hope the 'Pulse' email you received from the school last week has provided you with insights as to the learning your child has been involved in and what is coming up in terms of learning tasks and extra-curricular events. As always though, if you have any queries about this, please reach out to the school or classroom teacher to discuss.

Just before I finish, I'd like to give a quick plug to our school musical, coming up on 29th and 30th August in the Lighthouse Theatre. *'Little Shop of Horrors'* is a fun and whimsical production which is suitable for the whole family. Tickets are available at the Lighthouse Theatre – it's going to be amazing so get a ticket for Friday or Saturday before they sell out!

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dave Clift'.

Dave Clift - Principal



JOHN THOMSON
Assistant Principal



JOINING THE WARRNAMBOOL COLLEGE COMMUNITY

I would like to begin by thanking the Warrnambool College community for the warm welcome I have received since joining this term. Leaving Mildura after a decade serving their community—including roles such as Assistant Principal at Mildura Senior College and Learning Specialist at Red Cliffs Secondary College—was a significant shift. Returning to the hills and windy weather of Warrnambool has meant being closer to family, high school friends, and the community I am proud to call my own.

From my first day, staff have been kind and supportive, and I have already seen excellent teaching across classrooms. Our students have also made a strong impression—many have introduced themselves, showing the kind of respect and consideration that speaks volumes about the culture at Warrnambool College. I am particularly impressed by the work and leadership of our School Captains, who model the College values with energy and pride.

We have also recently reviewed our NAPLAN data. Pleasingly, by Year 9, Warrnambool College students performing at strong or exceeding levels were well above the state average. This is not a one-off but a sustained trend over the last three years, reflecting the hard work of our staff and students, supported by families.

PROCESS REMINDERS

As we continue to build on our culture of high expectations, I'd like to remind families of some key processes that support consistency across the school:

Lanyard System – Students leaving class to access lockers, bathrooms, or resources must wear the out-of-class lanyard. Alongside Compass tracking, this ensures safety, accountability, and responsibility. Thank you to all students for embracing this change.

Compass Updates – Families are encouraged to check Compass regularly. Posts relating to student movement (House, Wellbeing, Careers, sick bay, or self-regulation spaces) are visible to parents and help keep communication transparent.

Consistent Routines – Staff continue to reinforce clear routines and Tier 1 strategies in every classroom. These support students to be ready to learn and to understand expectations both at school and as they prepare for adult life.

We know building consistency takes time and persistence, but already we are seeing positive change. Together—staff, students, and families—we are creating an environment that is orderly, supportive, and focused on learning. Thank you for your ongoing partnership in supporting your child's education.



KEY DATES



For updated events & dates
please see the College
calendar via Compass or the
College website:
www.wbllcoll.vic.edu.au

TERM 3

WEDNESDAY 20 AUGUST

- SEAL testing (2026 students)

FRIDAY 22 AUGUST

- House Assemblies
- Year 11 Formal

MONDAY 25 AUGUST

- Musical Week

FRIDAY 29 AUGUST

- Childers Celebration Day
- Report Cycle #4

MONDAY 1 SEPTEMBER

- Year 9 camps
- School Assembly

TUESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

- Parent/Student/Teacher
Conferences (4-6pm)

FRIDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

- House Assemblies

MONDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

- Year 10 Work Experience

WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

- School Band Open Mic

FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

- Year 10 Formal

THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

- Pupil Free Day

FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

- House Assemblies
- Term 3 ends - 2:30pm finish

MONDAY 6 OCTOBER

- Term 4 commences

PARENT-STUDENT COMMUNICATIONS DURING THE DAY

- To ensure students receive the maximum benefit from their lessons, we ask that any appointments are scheduled outside of class times. Where this is not possible, attendance notes need to be entered into Compass prior to the appointment and students will need to inform their class teacher of such and exit classes at these times. Phone calls will not be made to classes to notify students of such appointments.
- If it is unavoidable and parents need to contact students during school hours, a message can be taken at the House Office or our Front Office. As it is important to keep class interruptions down to a minimum, such messages will be passed on during break times.
- Classes will only be interrupted for an emergency.



TRAFFIC THROUGH COLLEGE

We kindly remind parents to help keep traffic flowing smoothly during student drop-off and pick-up, both in the morning and afternoon. If your child is not ready and waiting, please either delay entering the drive-through or continue around for another lap. Your cooperation helps reduce congestion and ensures the safety of all students — our number one priority.

PARENT/GUARDIAN OPINION SURVEY

Our school is participating in the Department of Education's annual Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Opinion Survey and we would appreciate your feedback. This survey helps us understand your views on school climate, student behaviour, and engagement. While participation is optional, your input is highly valued and will guide our planning, improvement strategies, and professional development priorities.

Survey details:

- **Open:** Monday 18 August – Friday 19 September 2025
- **Who:** A random sample of parents/caregivers/guardians have been invited to take part.
- **Format:** Online, approx. 20 minutes, accessible anytime on desktop, laptop, tablet, or smartphone
- **Languages:** Available in English and 10 other languages (Arabic, Greek, Hakha Chin, Hindi, Japanese, Punjabi, Simplified Chinese, Somali, Turkish, Vietnamese)
- **Support:** Additional translated resources are available—contact the school for guides in your language.

Thank you for helping us make our school an even better place for our students and community.



MERRI

CELEBRATION DAY

PYJAMA & CURRIES

Last Friday we held our Merri Philanthropic Day to raise funds for Loved & Shared, our biggest day on the calendar.

The students leaders were busy selling all of the curries and baked goods donated by our Merri community and creating a fun and relaxed environment with games for students to get involved in. We were agonising close to our target of \$3000 but **we still got to bleach Mr Howlett's hair** due to the positive attitude displayed by all and the generosity of families, staff and students who donated extra on the day.

Our curry day takes a lot of extra effort so a **huge congratulations to the Merri Student Leaders** who spent hours in the kitchen cooking and serving the curries and cleaning up after the day. Your maturity, strong work ethic and willingness to be inclusive created a really positive environment for all students who were involved.

We were very grateful for the support shown by families in our Merri community. We ask a lot of our families in Merri to bake and donate food for our day but are always blown away with the support we receive, this year in particular as we had more curries than we have ever had. Thank you to all of the families who donated food or money as it makes this day what it is. Also a big thank you to **Kermonds Hamburgers** who donated prizes for the games we were running. It was great to have the support of a local business from our community.

All proceeds will go to **Loved & Shared**, which is a local charity that has become established in our community who rehome children's items, saving them from going into land fill. If you would like to support Loved & Shared throughout the year you can do this by donating children's items you no longer need or volunteering. Head to their website lovedandshared.org.au for more information.

Once again a big thank you to all involved as the day wouldn't be the same without everyone's support.



Loved & Shared



CHILDERS

Childers House has an exciting Week 7 ahead, with two significant events taking place to support our philanthropic cause, Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Network.

Our celebration day will take place on **Friday 29th August**, with the theme; footy colours. It promises to be a fun day, with KFC chips, sausages, soft drinks, and a bake sale featuring delicious goods kindly donated by families.

This year, funds raised will go towards supporting the **Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Network**, an organisation committed to improving sustainability and protecting our local environment.



In addition to our fundraising efforts, Childers House and Warrnambool College's Sustainability Team will be taking part in a plantation project at Albert Park on Wednesday 27th August, where staff and students have volunteered to lend a hand.

This important initiative will help provide soil stability and create a wind block near the school, while also enhancing the surrounding gardens. We are proud to support Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare by actively engaging in conservation work and fundraising for future environmental projects across our region.

The Childers Team

Stars Foundation
LAUNDRY Service

FREE CLOTHING WASHING

SCHOOL ITEMS ONLY

- Registered Stars Only
- Washing & Fold
- Monday- Friday
- Items must be labelled

DISCRETE

Dominique De Bono | dominique.debono@education.vic.gov.au | 0429 005 875

Stars Foundation
Clothing Giveaway

Warrnambool College

We have a clothing giveaway available for all Stars girls! This is a great opportunity to grab some good-quality clothes that might be useful for school, outings, or everyday wear.

Please be mindful when selecting items—only take what you need so that everyone has the chance to benefit. Let's share with respect and consideration for each other. If you're in need of any specific clothing items, have a chat with Stars staff—we're here to help!

Donations Welcome
dominique.debono@education.vic.gov.au
tanya.knowles@education.vic.gov.au

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Recognising the talents and dedication of Warrnambool College students.



Congratulations to Year 12 student **Zemma Wright**, who recently represented Victoria in VETiS Makeup Services at the prestigious WorldSkills National Championships in Brisbane. Competing at this level is an honour reserved for young people who show exceptional skill and dedication. Zemma proudly represented Warrnambool College and Victoria, earning a Medallion of Excellence in her event — a remarkable milestone in her VET journey. Well done, Zemma!



Year 8 student **Leah Boote** has progressed to the 2025 Legacy Junior Public Speaking Competition State Final in September. At the recent Warrnambool Regional competition, she impressed with a five-minute speech on the detrimental impacts of conspiracy theories, exploring how society has drifted from the ideals of mateship and how they could be restored. Leah also shone in the impromptu section, speaking for two minutes on her favourite mode of transport. Well done, Leah — and best of luck for the State Final!



Fourteen-year-old **Freya Miller** is currently competing in Belgium and the Netherlands against some of the world's top junior cyclists — an incredible opportunity to test her skills on the international stage. Reaching this level required years of dedication, training, and persistence, and Freya has shown remarkable determination and resilience along the way. Congratulations, Freya, on this outstanding achievement and best wishes for the races ahead!



Congratulations to Year 11 students **Alkira Couzens** and **Kobi Chatfield**, honoured as 2025 Gunditjmara NAIDOC Award winners. Alkira balances school, work and a traineeship while sharing Indigenous culture with young children, and Kobi leads through sport, ceremony and creative contributions, including designing uniforms and delivering Welcome to Country ceremonies. Alkira and Kobi were celebrated at the College



assembly to mark the 50th anniversary of NAIDOC Week and this year's theme, *The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy*. Alkira also spoke on the importance of Acknowledgement of Country in showing respect, recognising connection to Country, and honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples past, present and emerging.



Congratulations to our talented students who represented Warrnambool College at the State Cross Country Championships at the end of July. Competing among the best runners in Victoria is an outstanding achievement, and we are proud of their effort, sportsmanship, and perseverance. Your dedication and commitment to training truly paid off — well done!



Results:

Louis Beaton – 21st (17-20 Boys)

Edie Clift – 62nd (17-20 Girls)

Seth Crispe – 31st (15 Boys)

Hugo Beaton – 42nd (15 Boys)

Jack Griffiths – 50th (15 Boys)

Asher Dawe – 53rd (14 Boys)

Henry Dart – 55th (12-13 Boys)

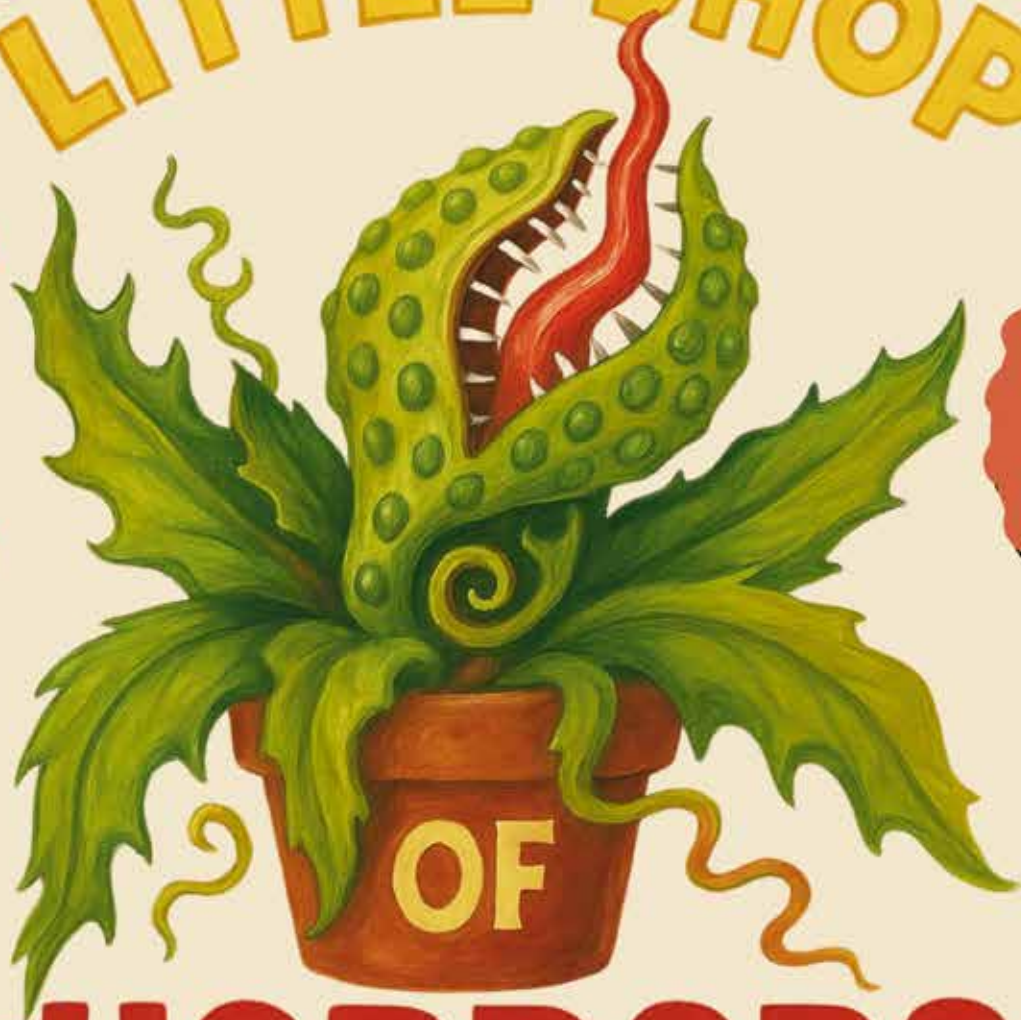


L-R:
Stella Burgess-Metal,
Adam Burgess-Metal,
Peyton O'Connor,
Logan Bray (being
held), Liam Gravalin,
Levi Longey, Leesha
Keegan, Elsie Bird
and Bridie Grundy.

We are pleased to acknowledge our students who are extending their musical pursuits beyond the school environment. This month, eight of our musicians participated in the **SongMakers** program at Emmanuel College, a complimentary initiative provided by APRA AMCOS.

During the program, students collaborated with industry professionals to compose and develop original songs under structured deadlines, challenging themselves creatively and stepping beyond their usual experiences. Their compositions were subsequently professionally recorded and performed live. We extend our gratitude to the Emmanuel College VET teachers for facilitating this valuable opportunity, and to Adam Burgess-Metal, our drum teacher, for his guidance and encouragement in nurturing our students' creativity throughout the program.

WARRNAMBOOL COLLEGE PRESENTS
LITTLE SHOP



Book and Lyrics by
Howard Ashman

Music by
Alan Menken

Based on the film by Roger Corman, Screenplay by Charles Griffith

Originally produced by the WPA Theatre (Kyle Renick, Producing Director)
Originally produced at the Orpheum Theatre, New York City by the WPA Theatre, David Geffen,
Cameron Mackintosh and the Shubert Organization

August 28th - 30th

Lighthouse Theatre, Warrnambool

Tickets at LighthouseTheatre.com.au

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).

Rail Trail for Research

4 TEENAGERS / 40 KILOMETRES



We are Lily Goodman, Remy Boote, Manan Agrawal, and Anastasia Waters, and we've recently taken part in the School for Student Leadership.

As part of this incredible experience, each group completes a community learning project. For ours, we've chosen to raise funds for cancer research by taking on the challenge of walking the entire 40km Warrnambool to Port Fairy Rail Trail — all in one day!

4th October 2025

(walk goes from dawn to dusk)

Location: Warrnambool to Port Fairy Rail Trail

HOW YOU CAN HELP...

Join the Walk: Take part in the full 40km or just a section to help raise awareness in our community.

Shop & Eat for a Cause: Purchase merchandise or enjoy some food on the day — every dollar goes directly to the Leila Rose Foundation and Cancer Council Victoria.

Make a Simple Donation: Donate using our QR code or contribute a gold coin in the lead-up to the event — every bit counts!



DID YOU KNOW?

1 in 2 people suffer from cancer within their life. That means that in the whole of Australia, 13 million people will (at some point in their life) have suffered from some type of cancer. In Warrnambool 300 people get skin cancer per year. That doesn't account for other types of cancer, like breast, prostate, brain, lung etc.





ARTOLESCENCE

——Warrnambool

——Art Students

Exhibiting at ——

The F-Project

—— YOU ARE INVITED —— OPENING NIGHT ——

WEDNESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER —— 6pm-8pm



AMPLIFY

HELP SEEKING

It's ok to ask for help - supporting our teens.



A Guide for Parents & Carers

Being able to ask for help when we need it is an essential skill and it takes practice to get right. Asking for help can be really hard to do, no matter how big or small the problem is. As a parent or carer, you play an important role in encouraging positive help-seeking.

Why Young People Might Not Ask For Help

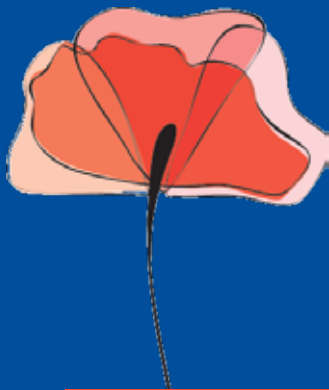
- ? They feel embarrassed or ashamed
- ? They don't think it's serious enough
- ? Worry about what others might think
- ? They don't know how to ask.
- ? They don't want to be a burden

How You Can Support Your Young Person

1. Start the Conversation - "Everyone needs help sometimes. I'm always here to listen."
2. Model Help-Seeking - Share times when you've asked for help
3. Listen without Judgement - Focus on listening calmly and openly before offering advice. "Would you like me to problem-solve or just listen?"
4. Praise Effort to Speak Up - Even a small step (like telling you they're stressed or sad) is a big deal. Acknowledge it. "That took courage - thank you for telling me."

Useful Resources

- Kids Helpline
 - kidshelpline.com.au/
- RCH - Teen Health
 - rch.org.au/teeninfo



SIR JOHN ECCLES

Tall Poppies

AWARDS 2026

CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS

**NOMINATIONS ARE NOW
OPEN FOR THE 2026
SIR JOHN ECCLES TALL
POPPIES AWARD!**

This award recognises outstanding former students of Warrnambool College, High School, or North Tech who have excelled in academia, research, business, sport, community service, or other significant fields. Nominees must have graduated at least five years ago.

Academic Context Criteria:

Outstanding scholarship measured by the award of a doctorate in any field and/or academic achievement of national and/or international standing.

Social Context Criteria:

An outstanding contribution in a largely voluntary capacity to a significant national or international program.

Business Context Criteria:

Significant managerial responsibility e.g. CEO, Board member of a national or international company.

Sporting Context Criteria:

A significant individual achievement in a nationally and/or internationally recognised sport or membership of a team which has had success at the acknowledged highest level for that sport e.g. World championship, Commonwealth Games, Olympic Games.

**If you know of someone who is achieving great success in their field,
please email: Mia.Mills3@education.vic.gov.au or phone: 5565 4444**



Because parenting doesn't come with instructions.

Warrnambool College has partnered with SchoolTV to deliver ongoing support to our families, community and staff.

What is SchoolTV?

It can sometimes feel challenging for parents to raise happy, healthy and resilient children and teens.



What can help families and schools is up-to-date resources aimed at providing information on key topics that relate to parenting and the wellbeing of our children.

SchoolTV is an online wellbeing resource that provides parents and carers with credible information to support the mental health and wellbeing of their children. It features interviews with leading specialists, practical strategies, and real-world insights to help families navigate the modern challenges faced by young people today.

You can access SchoolTV via our school website or directly at wblcoll.vic.schooltv.me/



Students may wear a plain white or navy-blue long sleeve top under their polo/jumper.

No skins/leggings or grey/black tracksuits or yoga pants are permitted.

- Green, blue & white checked pleated skirt
- Navy-blue & white check fabric dress

- Plain navy-blue skorts (no large logos)

- Striped rugby jumper w/ College logo
- Navy-blue soft-shell jacket w/ College logo (optional)
- Navy-blue puffer jacket w/ College logo (optional)

Black or non-school jackets/hooded jumpers are not permitted.

- Traditional black leather polishable shoes
- Appropriate runners may also be worn

- Warrnambool College bucket hat
- Warrnambool College beanie

Peaked caps are not permitted.

- Navy blue, white or green scarf

We strongly encourage you to purchase a minimum of the following items:

- 1 x SPP Dress polo (to be worn to school and to formal events)
- 2 x SPP Training tops

Students may wear a plain white or navy-blue long sleeve top under their polo/jumper.

- Plain navy-blue track pants (no large logos)
- Navy-blue track pants w/ College logo
- Navy-blue & green Sports shorts w/ inner compression & College logo

No skins/leggings or grey/black tracksuits or yoga pants are permitted.

- As per Warrnambool College uniform outlined above.

Black or non-school jackets/hooded jumpers are not permitted.



2025 CANTEEN MENU



DAILY SPECIALS

500ml container
\$7.50



GF Gluten Free
GFA Gluten free available (let our staff know)
DF Dairy Free
V Vegetarian *Vegan options on request.*

SANDWICHES

(GF available on request)

Cheese & Tomato (V)	\$4.50
Ham & Cheese	\$5.00
Ham, Cheese & Tomato	\$5.50
Chicken & Cheese	\$5.00
Egg & Lettuce (V)	\$5.00
Chicken Salad	\$7.00
Ham Salad	\$7.00
Salad (V)	\$6.00

Gluten free available – add 50c
sandwich extras – add 70c

DRINKS

Water	\$2.50
Flavoured water	\$4.50
Gatorade	\$5.50
Nippy flavoured milk	\$4.50
Juice	\$5.00
Soft Drink – bottle	\$5.50
– can	\$3.50
Up & Go	\$4.50
Iced tea/ Kombucha	\$5.50
Iced: Latte/Long Black/Chai	\$6.00

Alternative milk/ extra shot 70c

SALAD

Fruit Salad (GF, V, DF)	\$6.00
Caesar (add chicken + \$1)	\$7.00
Falafel Salad (GF, V)	\$8.00

WRAPS

Sweet Chilli Chicken	\$8.00
Ham Salad	\$8.00
Chicken Salad	\$8.00
Falafel (V)	\$8.00

ROLLS

Salad (V)	\$7.00
Ham & Salad	\$7.00
Chicken & Salad	\$7.00

BURGERS

Chicken Schnitzel	\$8.00
Chicken Parma	\$8.00
Beef Burger	\$8.00

HOT FOOD

Chicken Tender Sweet Chilli	\$2.00
Hot Dog (sauce extra)	\$5.50
Dim Sim	\$2.00
Potato Cake	\$2.00
Wedges (V) (sauces extra)	\$5.50
Bowl of Noodles (GFA, V)	\$4.50
Sausage Roll	\$5.00
Pie	\$6.00
Pizza	\$5.00

FOCCACIA (Toasted)

Chicken Parma	\$8.00
Roast Vegetable	\$8.00
Sweet Chilli Chicken	\$8.00
Italian Salami	\$8.00
Chicken Avocado	\$8.00

SNACKS

Popcorn	\$2.00
Assorted Slices	\$4.50
Muffin	\$4.00
Cookie/Rumballs	\$3.00
Mentos/Zappos	from \$2.50
Potato Chips	\$3.00
Frog in Pond	\$3.00



BREAKFAST BEFORE 9am

Fruit Salad (GF, V, DF)	\$6.00
Granola Cup (GF, V)	\$7.00
Muffin	\$4.00
Yogurt Pouch (GF)	\$4.00
Hash Brown (2) (GF, V, DF)	\$2.00
Bacon, Egg & Cheese Muffin	\$5.00
Jaffles	\$6.00
Bacon, Egg & Cheese Wrap	\$6.50
Crossiant – Ham & Cheese	\$5.00



ICE-CREAMS

Zooper Dooper	\$100
Snap Stix	\$1.50
TNT	\$1.50
Calipo Mini	\$2.50
Icy Twist	\$2.50
Paddle Pop	\$3.50
Twister	\$3.00
Frozen Yoghurt (Strawb'y/Mango)	\$3.50
SplICE	\$4.50

HOT DRINKS

Coffee		
Tea		
Hot Chocolate		
Chai		
	Small	Large
	\$4.50	\$5.00

Alternative milk/ extra shot 70c
Marshmallows extra 50c

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF *Country*



We, the staff and students of Warrnambool College, acknowledge that we are learning on the traditional lands of the Peek Whurrong people of the Maar Nation.

We pay our deepest respects to their Elders; past, present and emerging and to their continuing connection to the lands and waterways.

We also extend that respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who gather here.

We stand side by side with our First Nations people and commit to building a brighter future together.



Artwork by Hannah O'Brien. This artwork was created as part of the Indigenous Perspectives Project. Thanks to Mel Steffensen author of our new Acknowledgment to Country.