



## Queensland Camp 2022



Our Year 8 and 9 Queensland camp took flight last week with students spending 4 fun filled days on the Gold Coast. Students had an amazing time and enjoyed the summer weather that has eluded us here in Victoria. A big thank you to our staff, Taylah Middlemiss, Ben Krol, Josh Barrie, Tahni Skewes, Maddie Albrecht, Nick Healey and Ellie McDougall for attending the camp and making this a memorable experience for our students.



# ***A Message from the Principal***

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## **Year 7 Transition Day**

This week we will welcome our incoming Year 7 students into our school and provide them with a taste of what to expect as they transition into secondary school. A big thank you to Mr. Kimber for his organisation and to all teachers who assist and support our new students. In 2023 our Year 7 students will again have a buddy from Year 10. Their buddy will support them as they get to know our school and assist them in making them feel more comfortable in what can be a very big change for some. Students will meet their buddies on Tuesday and complete some activities together. Thank you to Mr. Krol for his organisation of this initiative. I am very much looking forward to welcoming all new Year 7 students and their families into our school community at the beginning of next year.

## **End of Year Reports**

Students End of Year reports will go live on XUNO on Monday December 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. Students will also be provided with a printed copy of their report. These will be mailed on Tuesday December 20<sup>th</sup>. We are proud of the changes made to our reporting process this year that sees more detailed comments provided by teachers and overall more frequent feedback throughout the year.

## **Presentation Night**

Next Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> we will be holding our Annual Presentation Night. This event will be at the Ararat Town Hall commencing at 7:00pm sharp. Tickets are available from our front office and are free of charge. This is a great way to finish the year celebrating the success and accomplishments of our students. One of the rewarding parts of working in education is being able to see students achieve excellence and experience their own personal growth. These are both very individual things for each and every student and we aim to recognise this with a variety of awards and scholarships that are tightly linked to our values.

## **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**

Lastly, I would like to again thank all families and the wider school community for their continued support throughout what has been another challenging and dynamic year in education. I continue to be overwhelmed and grateful for the wonderful people we have within and around our school and couldn't be prouder.

Please ensure you take the time to have a break with your family to celebrate Christmas and the move into 2023! Remember to take some time to slow down and look after each other! Stress and anxiety can slowly accumulate so be aware to recharge those batteries, focus on the GEM principals (Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness) and get some much-needed love, laughter and fun into your lives.

I wish you all a safe and relaxing break and look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

**Emma Henry**  
**Assistant Principal**



# VCE VM Mock Interviews

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Last week students were put through mock interviews to show their prowess in what can be a stressful situation. The interviews were structured to closely resemble a formal interview, and students were given feedback on their answers to questions, delivery and communication. It was great to hear the students express themselves so well. They were able to clearly show they are committed to their pathway and able to communicate how they will get there. I enjoyed seeing the student growth of those who took part the year before. We enjoyed the support of Nerissa Gee (CGLLEN Partnerships & Pathways Coordinator). Nerissa gave good feedback and was able to suggest questions or additions that can be added to future interviews. I would like to thank staff members Toby Singleton and Alison Read who stepped in at short notice to support with the interviews.

“Josh, David, Bailey, Miranda and Jayden were all well prepared. They presented well and displayed positive body language. Each gave good eye contact and were friendly. These young people had honest answers about where they see themselves in five or ten years which indicated they are passionate about their career goals.”

– **Nerissa Gee**

Last week I was fortunate enough to sit on a panel for student interviews regarding future employment opportunities and pathways. I was pleasantly surprised at the way each of the students conducted themselves during this time. It was great to see that each of them had a clear vision for their future. They spoke about what they had gained from their schooling so far, as well as what they want from their schooling in the future.

The students reflected on their strengths and personal attributes, and also considered what questions they can ask an employer to gauge how the employer will suit their needs. The students happily took on feedback from staff about how to further prepare for these real-life scenarios. These students are in excellent stead for their fast-approaching careers.

– **Toby Singleton**

Students presented themselves quite well for interviews, though there were some nerves.

Some students had clear goals about what they want to do, and how they could make it achievable. Though it is important to access the help on offer to overcome barriers to get the experience which can lead them to where they want to go. There are so many opportunities on offer.

When undertaking the interviews, they were articulate and expressed themselves quite well.

Overall, all students gave these interviews their best and practice builds confidence.

– **Alison Read**





# Queensland 2022

After two years of no interstate travel, our eager Year 8 & 9 students travelled to QLD for four days of fun.

**Day one.** Students were in high spirits and departed early to head to Melbourne airport. We had a smooth flight to the Gold Coast with many first time flyers onboard.

Students hit the ground running heading straight to Wet n' Wild for a splashtacular day with lots of fun sliding in the sun.

**Day two.** Students slipped, slopped and slapped off to Dream World for a warm day. Students spent the day hanging on tight as they rode the newest 'Steel Taipan' rollercoaster, watching the live tiger show and meeting Shrek. At night we visited Surfers Paradise for shopping and ice cream by the beach.

**Day three.** Students met their favourite stars and superheroes at Movie World. Students experienced maximum thrill riding some of the biggest and fastest rides. At night, Ararat College Mini Golf Championships took place, a great effort by all, but the staff took home the trophy.

**Day four.** The last day. Students had a relaxing day at SeaWorld with many watching the famous dolphin show and it certainly didn't disappoint. There were also glowing jelly-fish, polar bears, and sting rays. In the afternoon we travelled home with a slight delay to our flight, but arrived home, safe and sound Thursday night.

Thank you to all the staff who attended and helped to organise a trip of a lifetime for our students!









# Mt Sturgeon Conservation visit

What a glorious day for Year 9 Animal studies to visit Mt Sturgeon conservation facility at the foot of the Grampians. This excursion was the culmination of our student led inquiry into threatened and endangered species in Victorian ecosystems.

Kai Daily, head of conservation, started the day by outlining the work that they do at Mt Sturgeon on preserving biodiversity and how it aligns with farming and agriculture. Dunkeld Pastoral covers approximately 27,000 hectares of Southwest Victoria over several properties, growing composite prime lambs, large frame merinos and angus beef. The business has the goal to have 20% of each farm replanted to native species including wildlife corridors, shelter belts, revegetation and protection of waterways.



Mt Sturgeon has a rare and endangered native animal breeding program which we had travelled to observe. We got to meet cheeky 'Bruce' the Rufous Bettong and his new girlfriend (she is the boss) and a very cute family of five squirrel gliders who are addicted to honey.



They captively breed Fat tailed Dunnarts who have a high metabolism, who daily consume their own body weight in food and only live 15 to 17 months. These amazing carnivorous marsupials are no bigger than a mouse, go through a winter torpor (like hibernation) and are threatened by feral cat populations. Fun

fact is that they are most closely related DNA wise to the Thylacine or Tasmanian Tiger and their DNA maybe used to bring the Thylacine back from extinction.

Breeding the rare Eastern Quoll is key to their re-habitation program. On display were two quolls whose genetics are not required; however they have others that they are actively breeding to increase numbers. The quolls will ultimately be released into the properties new 96 Ha protected 'ecosystem' to further increase numbers. Quolls give birth to 20-30 babies at a time with only the first 6 to latch onto the mother's teats surviving.



They also have an enclosure with an amazing Brush Tailed Rock Wallaby (also part of their breeding program to increase numbers) who climbs trees, Southern Brown Bandicoots and Red Necked Wallabies. Finally we were lucky enough to visit a heritage protected River Red Gum, which is estimated to be 500 to 600 years old.

Many Thanks to Mr Sawyer and Mr Pyke for accompanying us and to Kai, Brenna and Ben for hosting us and sharing their knowledge of native species of the Grampians (Geriward)



# Food Bank

In order to support families during these difficult times, small packs of groceries consisting of mainly dry goods and canned food, (fruit, casseroles, soups etc.) are now available to families 'on request' to the front office or the administrative team. Please do not hesitate to make contact if you require assistance, or if you know of a family who may benefit from a little extra help, especially at this time of year. Please be assured that all enquiries are treated with complete confidentiality.

We are deeply grateful to Foodbank Victoria for their support across our Government Schools during these 'unprecedented' times and encourage families to access resources if needed.



## HAVE YOU GOT ANY LIBRARY BOOKS AT HOME?

If you have borrowed any Library Books this year and they are no longer required, could these please be returned to the Library as soon as possible.

Please contact Ms Jacobs in the Library if you have any concerns.



## Term 4 2022

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>12</b>	Year 7 2023 Parent and Student Information Evening
	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>13</b>	Year 7 2023 State Wide Transition Day
	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>14</b>	
	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>15</b>	End of year activities
	<b>Friday</b>	<b>16</b>	End of year activities - Students last day of school
	<b>Monday</b>	<b>19</b>	Presentation Evening Student Counselling
	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>20</b>	Last Day of School Year Student counselling

## Term 1 2023

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>24</b>	
	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>25</b>	
	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>26</b>	Australia Day Public Holiday
	<b>Friday</b>	<b>27</b>	School Office open for general enquiries
	<b>Monday</b>	<b>30</b>	Curriculum Day - School Office closed
	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>31</b>	Year 7 and 12 students commence school
	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>1</b>	All students attend school
	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>2</b>	
	<b>Friday</b>	<b>3</b>	

## School Uniform Recycling.

### Donations Needed!

**Schools are always in need of second hand uniform.**

If you have items of uniform that your child no longer requires and you would like to donate, we would be most grateful to receive them. Any uniform that is still in good wearable condition will be happily accepted.

If you would like to make a donation please send them to school with your child to deliver to the college office. If you would like to donate items anonymously, please contact the college office 5352 4177 and we will make arrangements for their delivery.

Thank you to those families who have been donating their surplus uniform, your support is greatly appreciated.