

# COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

## Term 3 2025



Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff,

I'd like to once again take this opportunity to reflect on the many experiences, events, opportunities and celebrations that have taken place during this very busy third term.

Our Senior Students and families had the opportunity to join our Senior School Information night earlier in the term, where staff from all Key Learning Areas were able to provide information and guidance to help students make their important subject selections as they entered their senior years of schooling. This was followed soon after by individual Course Counselling sessions for all students.



Yarra Hills Day was a huge success in its second year and not only builds from the early foundations, but grows in size and stature. It was wonderful to have our students from both campuses onsite in the carnival-like atmosphere which included some inspiring and engaging presentation from Alumni (ex-students) from recent and previous years. Our Legacy Wall was also launched at the Mooroolbark Campus, where plaques inscribed with the names of all members of the graduating classes since 2011 (inaugural year as 'Yarra Hills') were affixed to the front wall of the school. This will continue in coming years to recognise and celebrate those who've been part of the Yarra Hills community.

This year's College Production – Legally Blonde: The Musical, was another outstanding success and a great opportunity for our many gifted students to showcase their respective talents in the performing arts domain. It was a wonderful event and successfully led by our Performing Arts team, a huge commitment but well worth it!

Our Music program again held the annual Music Marathon, where all band members stayed for two days, and overnight, to rehearse, practice and support each other to develop their musical talents. This, as well as the many afternoons and other times of rehearsals, led to the recent College Concert, held at the Karralyka Centre in Ringwood. This event, always a highlight in the school calendar, showcased the music program, with instrumental bands, ensembles, vocal groups and also a group of alumni, performed to a packed auditorium. This was also the 25<sup>th</sup> year at Yarra Hills for our acclaimed Director of Instrumental Music – Richard O'Toole. Richard's efforts over many years are the cornerstone of our wonderful program. Thank you, Richard!

Additional to these larger events were the many themed days, such as 'Wear it Purple', RUOK', Disney themed dress up (Yr 12s) and the Year 9 Wellbeing Day. Phew!

Our sports program continued to run through a large selection of round robins and carnivals at District, Region and State level. Well done to all students and to those staff who supported them, including in particular our Sports Coordinator David Audesho.

Finally, as we approached the end of term our Term Three Progress Reports were released and Parent, Student, Teacher Conferences were held. This is a great opportunity for parents and students to seek feedback and advice as to how best to support continued or improved positive learning outcomes at school.

### Attitudes to School Survey 2025

As you may be aware, each year all students across the state are surveyed to gain feedback about a number of significant aspects around their schooling, learning and wellbeing. The results that become available, which show percentage 'positive', 'neutral' and 'not positive' are then compared against the following categories:

**'Similar Schools':** these are the schools in the state that have the most similar demographic profiles, ie similar parent background, socio-economic status and cultural background. This can (and does) include schools from geographically distant areas, who are very similar in students/families. It may not include other local schools.

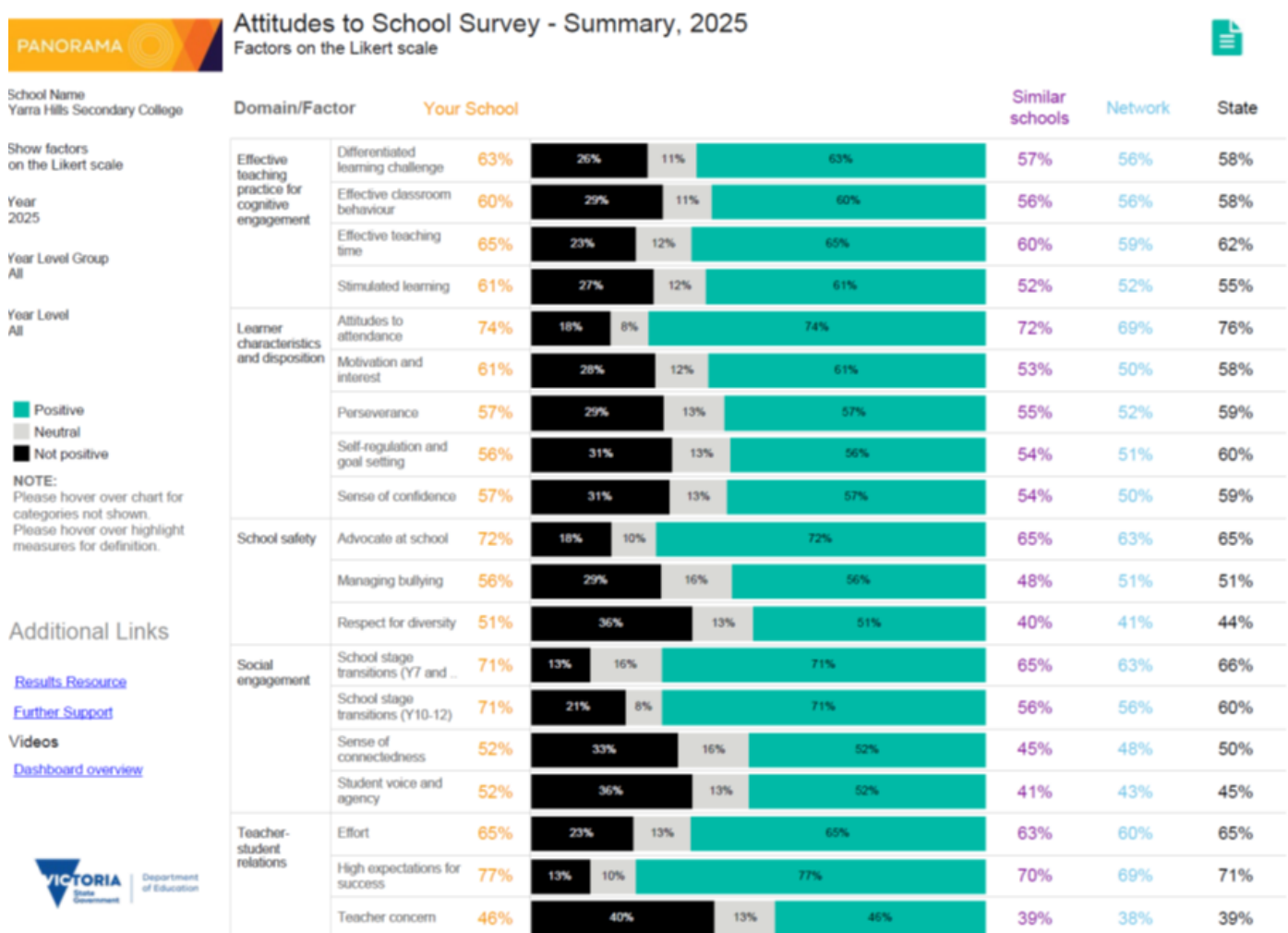
**'Network Schools':** these are the secondary schools in our local network. There are six in all, including YHSC: these are Lilydale HS, Lilydale Heights, Mooroolbark College, Healesville HS and Upper Yarra SC

**'State':** This is obviously the data for all secondary schools across the state and is usually the benchmark for high performance.

So, how did we go?

If you have a look at the summary below, you'll see that **Yarra Hills has OUTPERFORMED ALL 'Like' and 'Network' schools in ALL MEASURES**, and **OUTPERFORMED STATE** in all but four categories, in which we were only marginally behind.

This is a huge achievement and definitely celebration-worthy and news-worthy. Congratulations to all members of the school community, staff and students, who have created this wonderful environment. Well done!



Kind regards,

Darren Trippett  
College Principal



## Year 9 City Experience

In the last week of term 2, our Year 9 students were out and about on an incredible City Experience adventure — five full days of exploring, learning, and bonding in the heart of Melbourne!

Students have immersed themselves in a mix of history, culture, and fun:

Day 1: Kicked off with a visit to the historic Old Melbourne Gaol, followed by thought-provoking experiences at either Road to Zero (Melbourne Museum) or the Shrine of Remembrance.

Day 2: A behind-the-scenes tour of the iconic MCG gave students a glimpse into sporting greatness, before they navigated the lively laneways and shops at Melbourne Central (a quick switch-up from the planned Botanical Gardens due to Melbourne's classic winter weather!).

Day 3: Students took in breathtaking views from the Eureka Skydeck (well, what they could see between the rain!) and dived into rich cultural history at the Chinese Museum in Chinatown.

Day 4: Students took part in a City Mission activity, learning more about homelessness, before visiting either the Shrine or Road to Zero (depending on their earlier group).

Day 5: We wrapped up the week with a high-energy Urban Quest — an Amazing Race-style team challenge through the city — followed by a well-earned break and explore through the vibrant Queen Victoria Market.

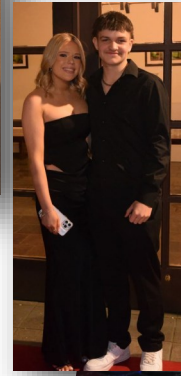
We're so proud of the way our students have represented our school and embraced every opportunity.





## Year 11 Formal

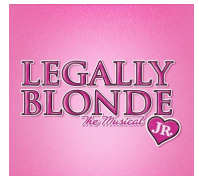
The Year 11 formal at Wyuna Chateau was an unforgettable night filled with laughter, music, and memories that will last a lifetime. The elegant venue, with its stunning architecture and picturesque surroundings, set the perfect stage for a night of celebration. Students arrived in their finest attire, looking every bit the part of a sophisticated evening. As the night unfolded, the dance floor came alive, and the event became a true reflection of the camaraderie and joy that defined their year. The night was a beautiful blend of friendship, fun, and the promise of many more milestones to come.





## Legally Blond JR

Our production of Legally Blonde JR. has officially taken its final bow after three fabulous performances to packed houses — with over 300 audience members joining us to bend and snap their way through the story of Elle Woods! And of course who could forget the cameo performance of Basil the chihuahua, playing Bruiser!



## RSPCA - PAWS Excursion

The RSPCA PAWS Program refers to RSPCA Victoria's educational program for secondary school students, Promoting Animal Welfare with Schools. It provides students in Years 7–10 with firsthand experiences at the RSPCA Burwood East facility to learn about animal welfare, meet rescued animals, and understand the RSPCA's mission to end animal cruelty. The program aims to promote ethical considerations for animals and inspire students to become advocates for animal welfare, with a curriculum-linked focus on empathy and social responsibility.

On August 15, 26 students from Years 9–12 travelled to the RSPCA for the program. They had a tour of the adoption centre, a visit to the education barn to meet rescued farm animals, and talked with RSPCA staff and volunteers to learn about their roles and career paths. The students learnt about the needs of different animal groups, compared animal welfare laws for farm and companion animals, and planned their own actions to help animals.

## Product Design

Our Year 9 Product Design Wood group has been hard at work this term with their first foray into the workshop. They started by learning about the design process we follow and how we manage safety in the workshop, before designing and building their own wooden phone stands. It's been fantastic to see students learning and using the different tools to bring their ideas to life. Up next is some practice joinery ahead of their major project next term – designing and building their own storage and organisational system.



## Year 10 to Year 11 Transition Program

Each year in term 3 our Year 10 students undertake our Year 11 transition program. This includes:

- The Year 10 Transition Day, which includes presentations on the senior programs, a motivational speaker, a session on interview skills, and participating in a Q&A panel with older students and adults about educational and vocational choices.
- The Senior School information evening, which involved a keynote presentation on senior programs and their requirements, booths from external services and courses (such as the ADF, Headstart, Ringwood Training, Swinburne University), displays from the key learning areas of the VCE, and access to expert teachers and leaders to discuss senior programs

A Course Counselling Day, where students and families meet with a course counsellor to select their senior program and courses.

Year 10 students from Mt Evelyn came to the Mooroolbark for a fantastic, upbeat day of Year 10 students getting excited about their Year 11 (and beyond) educational and vocational journey.

## OLLENS Careers Expo

Students had the opportunity to attend the OLLEN careers expo. Here they engaged in activities and engaged in deep discussions about the various pathway options available. From Swinburne, the Army, Cire, Headstart, Box Hill Tafe, Apprenticeship centres, Ringwood Training and so many more organisations were so generous with both their time and sharing their vast knowledge. A very productive and informative day for all!





# Yarra Hills Day

On Tuesday August 12, we celebrated Yarra Hills Day – and what an incredible day it was!

Our Year 7s hosted food market stalls, offering a delicious array of treats, while students from Years 8 to 12 brought the energy with their creative and fun-filled Carnival Games – including duck fishing, basketball shootouts, face painting, caricatures and more!

Throughout the day, there was something for everyone – an inflatable obstacle course, an ever-popular ice cream truck, a Cake Decorating Competition, and the creative showdown that is Arts Master. Huge congratulations to Tara and Rachel, who were the winners this year in cake decorating, and Sharnie in the Arts Master!

We also welcomed back two of our inspiring alumni, Van and Trea, during our College Assembly. Their stories of growth, resilience and the lasting impact of their time at Yarra Hills truly resonated with students and reminded us of the importance of our school community.



With a free BBQ lunch, extended canteen hours, and a raffle full of exciting prizes for students and staff – Yarra Hills Day was a perfect mix of fun, food, and school pride.

A massive thank you to all the students, staff, and families who brought the day to life – from hosting stalls, running activities, organising logistics, donating prizes, or simply showing up with enthusiasm.

Events like these don't happen without you.

Bring on Yarra Hills Day 2026!





## College Concert

Congratulations to all music students for an outstanding College Concert on Monday at the Karralyka Theatre in Ringwood. Performances from the Senior, Intermediate and Junior Bands were the highlight, with the Saxophone and Woodwind Ensembles, Vocal Group and VCE soloists Ryder Gaunt, Hudson

Kidd, Trinity Robinson-Veness, Keira Scott and Lilyella Taylor all presenting memorable performances.



Thank you to our thirty-five Alumni musicians who returned to participate in this year's concert, and thanks also to our College Captains and Music Captains who introduced all performers during the concert. Well done everyone!



## Music Marathon



The 30-hour Music Marathon has been a mainstay of our music program for decades now. This year's iteration saw around 50 students undertake this wonderful, music-rich, sleep-deprived, and incredible team-building endeavour. They acquitted themselves wonderfully well, and maintained degrees of vim and vigour until the very (melodious, tuneful) end!

## Wear it Purple Day

On Wear It Purple day people all over Australia, workplaces, schools and individuals wear purple to proudly and visibly stand with LGBTQIA+ young people in the face of discrimination they still face. It's about being an ally to young LGBTQIA+ people. We celebrated Wear it Purple Day at Yarra Hills Secondary College this year on Tuesday 26 August. This year's theme is:



'Your Passion, Your Pride'. Students participated in homegroup activities to understand Wear it Purple Day, and there was a Recess Concert in support. Student from year 7, 10, and VCE all got up to perform songs from Nirvana, Coldplay, Jimi Hendrix and Keyshia Cole.

## RUOK Day and Year 9 Wellbeing Day

It was Year 9s turn for a Wellbeing Day this term, and it aligned nicely to fall on RUOK Day, on September 11.

RUOK Day is a day we mark every year at Yarra Hills. Students and staff wear a touch of yellow, or RUOK Day t-shirts, hats and scarves, and participate in RUOK Day-themed actions and awareness-raising throughout the day.

For Year 9 Wellbeing Day, the Mt Evelyn Year 9 students joined the Mooroolbark Year 9s at Mooroolbark campus for a day of activities for raising their personal wellbeing awareness and skills, through a House-based series of events and competitions. This involved a House Olympics, the Smoothie bike, a Scavenger Hunt, a session with Dana, our School Nurse, a BBQ, and best dressed awards for each House.

The day concluded with a 'Make Bullying History' session from Project Rokit.

Year 9 students had a great day! A huge congrats and thanks to our Wellbeing Team for this latest instalment in a fabulous initiative this year.

## Year 9 World of Work Excursion

As part of our partnership with Swinburne University, on August 14 our Year 9 students visited the university campus in Hawthorn for the Swinburne Mentor World of Work Program. On this was a day-long excursion, students got to meet and have conversations with professional and academic staff from Swinburne University, and participated in activities that informed and further refined their skills and knowledge in how to build a successful career.



## Sports Summary

It's been another huge term of inter-school sports! This term we've had teams competing in:

Eastern Zone Year 7 Boys & Girls soccer

Eastern Zone Years 9–10 Girls & Boys badminton

Interschool basketball Year 10 Boys

Year 7 Boys & Girls basketball

Year 8 Boys & Girls basketball

Yarra Ranges Athletics (with some individuals, and our boys relay team, making it to the next level of competition – Regions)



## Farm School

Each Semester we have ten students from Years 9 or 10 from each campus attend Woori Yallock Farm School one day per week. This semester, it is Mooroolbark students attending.

Woori Yallock Farm School is a non-traditional, outdoor education program offering hands-on learning in environmental management, personal development, and a variety of practical skills. Students engage in real-world projects such as ecosystem restoration, nursery work, and bushcraft, as part of a Certificate 1 in Conservation and Ecosystem Management. They are supported there by advisory teachers who personalise learning goals based on student and group interests.

At Farm School, students undertake environmental projects and participate in bushland restoration, indigenous plant nursery work, and wetland restoration. They engage in outdoor exploration: With the campus including bushland, bike and walking tracks, and outdoor workshop spaces, students do orienteering, bike maintenance, and fauna surveys. As well, students learn about local Indigenous culture, land history, and the significance of the site's historical buildings and surrounding landscape.



# KEY DATES

| October   |    |  |         |
|-----------|----|--|---------|
| Monday    | 6  | First day Term 3   | ME & MB |
| Tuesday   | 7  | Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.20-4.30pm at MB              | ME & MB |
| Wednesday | 8  | Inter Boys Cricket   | ME & MB |
|           |    | Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.30-4.30pm at MB              | ME & MB |
| Thursday  | 9  | Intermediate Concert Band Rehearsal 3.30-4.30pm at MB        | ME & MB |
| Friday    | 10 | VCE Music students final rehearsals with accompanist 9am-2pm | MB      |
| Monday    | 13 | Yr 9 21st Century E-commerce Day 1                           | MB      |
|           |    | Yr 11 Chemistry Excursion to Yarra Ranges Tech               | MB      |
| Tuesday   | 14 | Yr 9 21st Century E-commerce Day 2                           | MB      |
|           |    | Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.20-4.30pm at MB              | ME & MB |
|           |    | BRAVO meeting 6pm MB Music Room                              | ME & MB |
| Wednesday | 15 | Yr 8 Boys Cricket  | ME & MB |
|           |    | Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.30-4.30pm at MB              | ME & MB |
| Thursday  | 16 | Yr 9 21st Century E-commerce Day 3                           | MB      |
|           |    | Intermediate Concert Band Rehearsal 3.30-4.30pm at MB        | ME & MB |
| Friday    | 17 | Yr 9 21st Century E-commerce Day 4                           | ME & MB |
| Sunday    | 19 | CAR SHOW   |         |
| Tuesday   | 21 | Yr 7 Music in the Round 7.00pm at MB PAC                     | ME & MB |
| Wednesday | 22 | Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.30-4.30pm at MB              | ME & MB |
| Thursday  | 23 | Intermediate Concert Band Rehearsal 3.30-4.30pm at MB        | ME & MB |
| Sunday    | 26 | MT EVELYN STREET PARTY                                       |         |
| Tuesday   | 28 | METEC Driver Education                                       | ME & MB |
|           |    | Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.20-4.30pm at MB              | ME & MB |
| Wednesday | 29 | Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.30-4.30pm at MB              | ME & MB |
| Thursday  | 30 | Intermediate Concert Band Rehearsal 3.30-4.30pm at MB        | ME & MB |
| November  |    |  |         |
| Monday    | 3  | Student Free Day   | ME & MB |
| Tuesday   | 4  | Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday                             | ME & MB |
| Wednesday | 5  | Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.30-4.30pm at MB              | ME & MB |
| Thursday  | 6  | Intermediate Concert Band Rehearsal 3.30-4.30pm at MB        | ME & MB |
| Tuesday   | 11 | METEC Driver Education                                       | ME & MB |
|           |    | Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.20-4.30pm at MB              | ME & MB |
| Wednesday | 12 | Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.30-4.30pm at MB              | ME & MB |
| Thursday  | 13 | Intermediate Concert Band Rehearsal 3.30-4.30pm at MB        | ME & MB |
| Friday    | 14 | Yr 11 & 12 'Students on Track' excursion                     | MB      |
| Tuesday   | 18 | Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.20-4.30pm at MB              | ME & MB |
|           |    | BRAVO meeting 6pm MB Music Room                              | ME & MB |
| Wednesday | 19 | Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.30-4.30pm at MB              | ME & MB |
| Thursday  | 20 | Intermediate Concert Band Rehearsal 3.30-4.30pm at MB        | ME & MB |




| KEY DATES       |       |   |         |
|-----------------|-------|---|---------|
| November (Cont) |       |   |         |
| Mon-Fri         | 24-28 | Essentials Week 1                               | ME & MB |
| Tuesday         | 25    | Senior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.20-4.30pm at MB | ME & MB |
| Wednesday       | 26    | Grade 6-7 Transition Information Night          | ME & MB |
|                 |       | Junior Concert Band Rehearsal 3.30-4.30pm at MB | ME & MB |
| Friday          | 28    | Corrections Day - PUPIL FREE                    | ME & MB |
| December        |       |   |         |
| Mon-Fri         | 8-12  | Promotions Week                                 | ME & MB |
| Tuesday         | 9     | Orientation Day                                 | ME & MB |
| Wednesday       | 10    | College Awards Night - Karralyka                | ME & MB |
| Thursday        | 11    | Yr 7 Ready to Learn Interviews                  | ME & MB |
| Mon-Wed         | 15-17 | Summer Program                                  | ME & MB |
| Thursday        | 18    | Civics Day                                      | ME & MB |
| Friday          | 19    | Last Day Term 4                                 | ME & MB |



# WE ARE MOVING

TO OUR NEW PURPOSE BUILT STORE IN

# CROYDON



OUR CROYDON STORE IS NOW CLOSED, AND NEW STORE OPENS **TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025**

**STORE ADDRESS:**  
122 MAIN ST,  
CROYDON VIC 3136  
(03) 9768 0346

**TRADING HOURS:**  
TUESDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 5PM  
SATURDAY 10AM - 1PM  
SUNDAY CLOSED

