

ISSUE 18 | 30 NOVEMBER



Charlie Balias
Margaret Obolenski
School Captains



Learning To Be



Deborah Harman Principal

PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

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Presentation Night 2023

After months of planning and rehearsals Presentation Night is just about here. On Tuesday night we will celebrate our year of 'Empathy, Belonging, Connections' together in a sell-out event at Hamer Hall.

Congratulations in advance to all award winners and to the Year 12 Leaders and Middle School Captains who will be announced on the evening.

All the very best to Bernadette Clayton, Teaghan Gibson, Paul Jones, our sublime music team and the many staff and students who will contribute to the success of the night. It promises to be a magnificent occasion again for our school community.

Principal Intern #7

As part of Balwyn High School's commitment to the Department of Education I have enjoyed participating as a Mentor in the Unlocking Potential Program for aspirant Principals over the past eight years. I have relished the opportunity to open up the school and the work of my Principal and Leadership Teams to wonderful colleagues from a variety of different contexts. Pleasingly, a number of these Interns have gone on to Principal roles themselves.

Over the past few weeks, I have been supporting Vani Manokaran from the Virtual School Victoria. Vani is the Assistant Principal responsible for the Victorian High Ability Learners program which involves several of our middle school students under Dr Nano Alonso's guidance. Vani has been in the school shadowing me, attending meetings, discussing our work and priorities with key members of the Leadership Team and my Principal's Advisory Group, as well as visiting classes. Already Vani has been struck by the 'culture of excellence' that permeates every level of our school community and has presented her initial impressions to my Leadership Development Group. Vani will attend Presentation Night next week alongside other invited guests, and will also present a formal report as part of the Program's commitments to School Council early next year when she returns for the final two weeks of her practicum.

Thank you to all community members who have welcomed Vani so warmly for her internship.

Celebrating our 2023 School Captains – again!

Last week I had the pleasure of accompanying our wonderful School Captains – Charlie and Margaret – to the inaugural Alison Harcourt Awards, sponsored by Dr Monique Ryan, Federal Member for Kooyong. Schools in the electorate were asked to nominate two students who had displayed exceptional leadership, commitment to others, community service and inclusivity.



PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE Cont.



Students from 17 primary, specialist, secondary, government, Catholic and independent schools were recognised at the ceremony. Monique Ryan read out the citations for all award winners and throughout I was struck by their successes, and walked away optimistic about the future impact of our young people in our local communities.

Charlie and Margaret are indeed very worthy recipients of this Award, not only for their remarkable influence this year but throughout their six years at Balwyn High School. Congratulations Charlie and Margaret and all the very best for your future endeavours.



Deepening our connections with our Alumni towards 2024

Over the course of the year we have reconnected with a range of wonderful alumni and showcased their careers each fortnight in the Lion. We are also aware that many alumni keep connected to Balwyn High School via our Instagram page and a range of Facebook groups.

From 2024, and given the opportunities possible from our Platinum Jubilee celebrations, we will engage with Our School, a not for profit alumni program for government schools. [Our School](#) is governed by a volunteer board of directors and supports schools to connect to alumni and engage them in a range of programs and opportunities with current students.

As part of this engagement we will employ an Alumni Program Coordinator on a part-time basis, establish a Balwyn High School Facebook page primarily targeted at alumni, continue to highlight graduates in the Lion newsletter, on Instagram and on my/BHS LinkedIn pages, and invite guest speakers into career awareness sessions and presentations. We are also hoping that this extends to mentoring possibilities and work experience placements.

We look forward to working with Nancy, our APC, and Caroline Milburn, CEO of Our School, and highlighting the amazing alumni who have graduated from our wonderful school community.

Alumni Spotlights – An 'Original' and 'Returning to the Nest'

This edition of the Lion features one of our original students from 1954, John Roker, who I have had the pleasure of meeting on a few occasions with a group of his peers from when they first reconnected with Balwyn High School in 2018. We also shine a spotlight on four alumni who have returned to Balwyn High School to teach. Joshua Tan (Class of 2015) was one of our Theatre Arts Captains and currently teaches across three Learning Areas – Science, Commerce and Drama and has been a fantastic addition to our staff. Charlotte Fu (Class of 2013), Kevin Le (Class of 2012) and Lily Fei (Class of 2016) are all highly respected VCE and Middle School Mathematics teachers who have had a significant impact in their Learning Area. All four of them have been mentored superbly when they were graduate teachers and now play a very strong support role with their colleagues in their teaching teams. Enjoy their stories!

Thank you to all of our alumni who have been featured over the course of the year. We have been thrilled to share their stories and applaud their career achievements. We look forward to sharing many more in 2024.

Deborah Harman | Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Learning To Be



Andrew Corr
Assistant Principal



Tegan Knuckey
Assistant Principal



Julien Escurat
Assistant Principal



Hamish Anderson
Assistant Principal

BHS Planner – Links to Learning and Wellbeing

There has been a lot of hype about the re-launch of the Balwyn High School Student Planner and the Principal Team is particularly excited about how the utilisation of the planner across curricular and cocurricular programs will continue to support the development of student agency, self-regulation and goal setting. A significant number of Year 11 students purchased the planner and took it to their Unit 3 Ignition classes last week and, similarly, Year 10 students have proudly taken the planner to their Unit 1 Ignition classes this week. Being organized and staying on top of both ongoing and 'on the fly' commitments does not come naturally to young people but rather it is a skill we will continue to support students to develop from Year 7. The BHS planner will be a key tool to support this endeavour.

Welcoming New Staff – Inducting for Culture

On 14 and 15 December, the Principal and Leadership Teams will welcome approximately 15 new teachers and one new Education Support Staff member to Balwyn High School. Our New Staff Induction will see us prioritise supporting our new colleagues to understand the BHS Learning and Wellbeing Culture. To maximise student learning outcomes, our annual professional learning program supports all teachers across the school to align their practice with our e5 Instructional Model and the professional conversations held across the school each day focus on small shifts in practice to impact student learning – the New Staff Induction will serve as an entrée to this. The Principal and Leadership teams pride themselves on ensuring new staff feel welcome and supported to be the best in the roles they have come to Balwyn to pursue.

Presentation Night – Rehearsals and Performance on Tuesday 5 December

We are looking forward to Presentation Night, celebrating Empathy, Belonging, Connections. All Year 7 students were involved in a week of rehearsals during Week 9 and 10, in preparation for the morning rehearsal on Tuesday 5 December.

On Tuesday 5 December students will take the bus from Balwyn High School to Hamer Hall and rehearse the finale on the main stage. All Year 7 students in attendance for the rehearsal should arrive at school no later than 8:35am, in their full PE Uniform, with a snack and water bottle. Students will be dismissed from school around 12:45pm and required to be back at Hamer Hall by 6:45pm, in their full summer uniform with pants or summer dress, unless they are performing in the orchestra or choir. Year 8 and 9 students not attending the morning rehearsal will complete learning online via Compass Lesson Plans. Communication to families around the day of rehearsals and online learning was communicated through Compass events and in previous issues of The Lion.

Non-Networking School Visit, High School Simulation Experience and Parent/Carer Information Evening

Over the past week we have met with a range of different families and young people transitioning into our wonderful community.

Our Non-Networking Visit saw students and families from school beyond our area: tour the school; meet with middle school leaders; speak with student leaders; participate in a Science lesson; speak to members of our wellbeing team and; connect with one another. Certainly, a range of reflections from families cemented the importance of the day in fostering connections with students in our wonderful school community.

The High School Simulation Experience at Balwyn North Primary School, saw members of the Middle School, Humanities and Maths Executive Teams facilitate learning activities seen in the secondary school setting. The purpose of the simulation was to support Primary School students to better understand some of the similarities and differences between Primary School and High School in familiar learning environments. Teachers from Balwyn High School engaged in learning activities, typical of the 'high school experience' including reading timetables, navigating independently to different classrooms, bringing learning materials to classrooms and academic and wellbeing tasks.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT Cont.

We look forward to welcoming our incoming Parent/carers at our Information Night on Thursday 30 November, to culturally induct them into our community. Through presentations around the school's vision and values from the Principal, Middle School Executive Team and students, parent/carers should understand the role of the school, student, and parent/carer in nurturing a positive transition into the community.

Key topics discussed include:

- Balwyn High School's Vision and Values
- Opportunities for student engagement
- Learning & Wellbeing framework
- The Developing Adolescent – Preparing for change
- Key stakeholders
- Orientation Day and Day 1

We look forward to welcoming the class of 2029 to Balwyn High School, through their Orientation Day on Tuesday 13 December. Families will receive more information about Orientation Day through the Information Night and upcoming Transition Packs.

2024 Student Resources now available

Please note that we have been advised by Campion that the 2024 Balwyn High School Resources are now available for ordering through the following link.

[Campion Education Online Ordering - Balwyn High School](#)

The code to access the Balwyn High School list is 8G36

After consultation with families digital resources, which are a significant component of student resources, are located under each subject. There is no digital 'bundle' and so digital resources will need to be ordered for each individual subject. Please also note that access to many of the digital resources are provided to students in the first days of school in 2024

Laptop Recycling Program

Balwyn High School are excited to announce a new initiative to help protect our environment and support families with the responsible disposal of old technology.

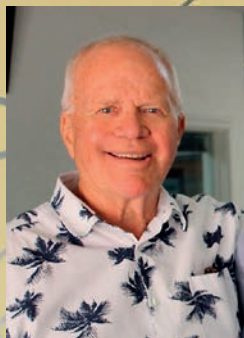
Items for recycling can be handed to Balwyn High School reception until **4PM, Friday December 15**. This initial pilot program is accepting laptop computers (only). Families must ensure all personal data has been removed from the device prior to donation and include the charger if possible.

This program is being conducted with the support of a major tech recycler with a primary goal of ensuring devices are kept out of landfill. In order to support this program, some donations are refurbished and resold to support their efforts.

Andrew Corr, Tegan Knuckey, Julien Escurat and Hamish Anderson | Assistant Principals

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Learning To Be



John Roker
BHS Alumni 1957

John Roker (Class of 1957)

IT Specialist

I was an original student at the school when it commenced in 1954 and graduated with a Leaving Certificate in 1957. My memories of those early days were of constant excitement at being involved in a great learning environment as well as the camaraderie found with my fellow students. Friendships I made in those early days have continued to this very day, as a group of us "Original" students still meet at least twice a year for a lunch to share memories.

When I left school, my study did not cease as I went on the Swinburne College to study accounting in night school. I had commenced employment at Vacuum Oil Company (now Mobil Oil) and worked with them in their punch card department (before computers) where I got the bug for Information Technology as it is now known. After a short time I was offered a job at IBM working in their Datacentre and this was the start of a lifelong career in computing.

With IBM I very quickly moved through the ranks and spent time in Sydney and Brisbane in management positions within their Datacentre division. I progressed from being a computer operator to programmer/systems analyst to management very quickly and was constantly on the move around Australia taking up new positions with IBM. In 1971 I was offered a job with Computer Resources Company which operated large data centres in Australia and was one of the first local IT Companies to list on the Australian stock exchange. It was with them that I started my overseas travel, firstly to the USA to setup partnerships with USA companies and then to Asia to do similar work.

In the mid-'70s, I formed my own consultancy and spent the next 20 years working throughout Australia as well the United States, New Zealand, Singapore, China and other Asian countries helping Australian startups get established. This was a very busy time and I was constantly travelling.

In the 1990s I was approached by a US multi-national Company (Sun Microsystems Inc.) to join them and setup a new Partner Program. Sun were a leading Company in the newly established internet market at the time and their business was expanding rapidly. This position was in Sydney so I was on the move again. After successfully establishing their new partner program I was sent back to Melbourne to become Victorian State Manager, and to manage the Telstra account which was the Company's largest customer. Again this was a really exciting time.

In the early 2000s I semi retired and moved to Torquay on the Surfcoast where I now still live. I continued doing some consultancy work and this has continued to this very day. I now do community work assisting seniors with their IT problems with a business I established (IT for Seniors -IT4S). My 60+ years in IT has been fun, mixed with lots of travel and adventure.

A passion I have is collecting classic sports cars and have owned seven British MGs.

My other passion is sports. I played football (AFL) and cricket at school and this continued, playing over 100 games of football at Blackburn FC (+3 premierships) and cricket with sub-district club Balwyn. I was lucky enough to play with an Australian cricket team at the world's first Masters Games (for over 40s) at Toronto, Canada in 1985. I am a crazy passionate supporter of the Richmond Football Club and have followed them for 77 years. Currently I am the President of the Surfcoast Richmond Tigers Supporters Group. I still play golf at the Torquay Golf Club where I won 2 x Club Championships (yes they were only D Grade)

My wife Jan and I have 5 children between us and 7 grand children, all of which we are very proud.

My life motto is "Work Hard and Have Fun" and this has served me well.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Joshua Tan
BHS Alumni 2015

Joshua Tan (Class of 2015) Secondary Teacher (Balwyn High School)

Growing up, Joshua had interests in a large variety of subject domains. He loved his mathematics and sciences, had interest in the commerce and humanities worlds, and even discovered his passion for drama through the opportunities and programs on offer for him at Balwyn High School. Because of these many competing interests, Joshua (without a real career plan in mind) decided to enrol in a Bachelor of Commerce / Science double degree at Monash University to keep his options open.

While at university, Joshua quickly took a liking to chemistry and accounting, and chose to major in these subjects. Opportunities afforded to him here included the inaugural 'performing elements' unit at Monash University, which allowed him to combine his passion for the theatre arts with chemistry, and the 'science in schools project' that saw him develop and teach a unit of science at a nearby primary school. These experiences led him to decide, in his third year of study, that he wanted to become a secondary teacher and pursue a career that gave him chances to have significant and meaningful impacts on the lives of those he would work with.

In his search for pathways into a teaching career, Joshua came across the Teach for Australia program. After successfully applying to the program which partnered with schools in regional areas around Australia and gave him a scholarship to study his Master of Teaching full-time while simultaneously teaching, Joshua moved to Horsham at the beginning of 2020. For the next two years, Joshua grew to love teaching. Even through the challenges of remote learning, balancing crazy amounts of work and study, and living far away from family and friends, Joshua found that he really valued every moment in the classroom and that teaching was truly his calling.

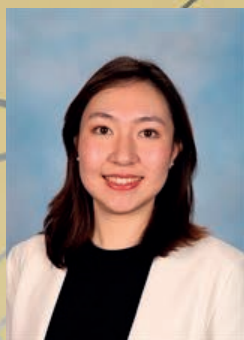
After wrapping up his time in Horsham, Joshua moved back to Melbourne at the beginning of 2022, where he completed a full circle and started teaching chemistry and accounting at Balwyn High School. During these past two years, Joshua has continued to develop his skillset with the wonderful professional and leadership development on offer at Balwyn High School and was even given the opportunity to teach drama, a subject he was very passionate about and had a lot of wonderful and memorable experiences with as a student in the very same spaces and facilities. Joshua continues to learn and grow as a professional and attributes his optimism and resilience to his superb secondary education – one that he works hard to replicate for his students in the very same institution today.

To me, Balwyn High School was where I grew from a child into an adult. From the fantastic student culture and my brilliant educators, I learned how to become a global citizen here. Something that I really treasure now from my time at BHS as a student is the practicality of the pillars of learning that founded our educational experience. Learning to live together, to think, know and understand, to do, and to be, are fundamental to how I choose to live and contribute to the society around me, and I am grateful to the people and environment that modelled this so well for me.

Learning To Be



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Lily Fei
BHS Alumni 2016

Lily Fei (Class of 2016) Secondary Teacher (Balwyn High School)

As an alumna of Balwyn High School, Lily graduated in December 2016. Having been an international student, BHS' dedication to high-quality education, supportive teaching staff, and a strong sense of community not only enabled Lily to adapt to the new environment, but also allowed her to excel academically in VCE. The dedicated teaching staff, collaborative departments, and nurturing leadership team left an indelible mark, instilling in Lily a strong sense of collaboration and commitment to excellence.

This strong connection to Balwyn High School never left Lily, leading her to return as a Mathematics teacher in January 2021. This year marks her third year at Balwyn as a full-time teacher, and it has been an incredibly fulfilling journey.

The exceptional leadership team nurtured young staff members, just as they had nurtured me during my time as a student. The professional learning opportunities and the opportunity to work with like-minded colleagues who are motivated to deliver high-quality education to their students inspire me to continually strive for high standard of teaching excellence.

My involvement in the Leadership Development Program (LDG) for three years has been a significant aspect of my journey. It has empowered me to expand my leadership experience and engage with people of different levels of experience. Currently serving as the Unit 1 & 2 Mathematical Methods team leader, I have had the privilege to collaborate with fellow educators, both new and seasoned, to create an environment that fosters the best learning outcomes for our students. This role has been a remarkable opportunity to contribute to the school's continuous improvement and maintain the high standards of education that Balwyn High School is renowned for.

Learning To Be



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Learning To Be



Charlotte Fu
BHS Alumni 2013

Charlotte Fu (Class of 2013)
Secondary Teacher (Balwyn High School)

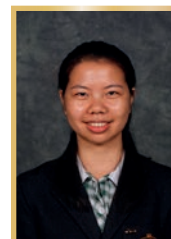
Charlotte embarked on her journey at Balwyn High School following her participation in the comprehensive International Student program during Year 10. This program not only allowed students to familiarise themselves with the school environment but also provided an opportunity to build connections with teachers and peers. Throughout Charlotte's time at Balwyn, she always felt valued and heard as a student.

The professionalism and patience of Balwyn High School's teachers in supporting both Charlotte's learning and wellbeing left a lasting impression. It was at Balwyn that her love for learning was instilled at a young age.

After completing my Bachelor of Mathematics and Teaching at university, Charlotte took the first steps in her teaching career by working at a girls' school in the inner east suburb. It is sometimes easy to under estimate the profound impact that a school can have on one's life. As an adult, Charlotte often find herself reflecting on her experiences and realised that she had subconsciously integrated Balwyn's Pillar's of Learning into her own decision-making process: Learning to Live Together, Learning to Think, Know and Understand, Learning to Do, and Learning to Be. She believes that these concepts are incredibly powerful when we truly embrace and apply them to our lives.

Fast forward to the present, Charlotte had the privilege of rejoining the Balwyn family for the past four years. In retrospect, since her return, she been presented with incredible opportunities for personal and professional growth. She has taken on leadership roles as a VCE and junior school mathematics teacher, as well as serving as a Year 11 Student Learning and Wellbeing Manager. Charlotte is deeply appreciative of the trust and encouragement she has received from Balwyn's leadership team, as well as the unwavering support from her colleagues, students, and their families.

Now, as a teacher, I can fully comprehend why my time as a student at Balwyn was so exceptional. The dedication and hard work that Balwyn's teachers invest in their classes and students set this institution apart. I believe that our students and teachers share a unique and healthy relationship, where our love for teaching inspires our students to excel, and in turn, our students inspire us to explore innovative teaching methods. I am truly grateful for the career growth that Balwyn has offered me, and I eagerly anticipate many more years of partnership with our esteemed school.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Learning To Be



Kevin Le
BHS Alumni 2012

Kevin Le (Class of 2012)
Secondary Teacher (Balwyn High School)

Since Kevin's time in primary school, he had often heard about the exceptional academic achievements of Balwyn High School. In the early years of primary school, his parents made the decision to relocate the family into the Balwyn High School zone to ensure that Kevin and his sister would be able to attend Balwyn High when they reached high school. During their time at Balwyn High School, they were fortunate to have exceptional teachers who not only possessed expertise in their respective subjects but were also compassionate individuals deeply invested in the siblings' well-being. Throughout their high school journey, these selfless educators went to great lengths to support their individual learning needs. They were always available to provide guidance and played a pivotal role in helping them realize their future aspirations.

Thanks to their guidance and teaching, Kevin and his sister gained a profound understanding of the relevant subject matter and acquired the foundational knowledge necessary for our continued studies. Additionally, they had the privilege of encountering several inspirational teachers during their time at the school, many of whom have become lifelong role models. As a result, by the end of Kevin's final year, he aspired to become a teacher just like them.

After four years of university education, Kevin learned that Balwyn High School was seeking a mathematics teacher. Without hesitation, he prepared his application, recalling the school's supportive atmosphere and hoping to contribute to the same nurturing learning environment. While working at Balwyn High School, Kevin has had the opportunity to reconnect with many of my former teachers and learn from their masterful teaching methods.

Teaching at Balwyn High School provided me with the chance to continue learning from highly skilled teachers, enabling me to further refine my own teaching techniques. These educators were not only supportive and knowledgeable but also consistently available to offer guidance, much like they were during my own schooling. This experience aligned with the vision I had as a student, allowing me to work alongside truly expert educators who are dedicated to supporting their students.





Justin Hong
Director of Senior School



Amee Duncan
Assistant Director of Senior School

Learning To Be

University of Melbourne Kwong Lee Dow Scholars

Congratulations to Thomas Zhao and Matthew Yan in Year 11 who, following a rigorous nomination and application process, have been selected into The University of Melbourne Kwong Lee Dow Scholars Program. This is a significant achievement as over 1,600 applications were received from students all over Victoria and border regions. Congratulations Thomas and Matthew!



As Kwong Lee Dow Scholars, Thomas and Matthew will benefit from a tailored program of events and activities that will support and enhance their secondary studies. They will also have the opportunity to interact with other Young Scholars and members of the University community ahead of their own tertiary studies beginning.

VCE Ignition Programs

Last week saw students undertake their Unit 3 Ignition Program which concluded on Friday 24 November. While this week sees students begin their Unit 1 Ignition Program from Monday 27 November through to Friday 1 December.

Our students should be congratulated for the way in which they have completed their Unit 2 and Year 10 examinations prior to the Ignition programs. From this, we look forward to a smooth transition to a full load of VCE studies in 2024.

Students have been set their subject and class expectations by teachers which will include important holiday homework that students need to complete ahead of returning in 2024 to ensure that they set themselves for a positive start to their learning. All subject requirements are outlined in the Ignition Packages for each subject. To also support this, students should also ensure that their email inboxes are clear and that they check their emails and Compass Newsfeed regularly for important updates and information all throughout the year.

Farewelling our Year 11 Students

On Friday 24 November, we had the final Year 11 assembly for this year. Led superbly all year by our Year 11 Student Learning and Wellbeing Managers – Chloe Erskine and Chris Triantafilopoulos, the assembly was all about reflecting on this year, acknowledging the growth in the cohort, and celebrating the many successes and memories of 2023.

In the assembly we saw some insightful reflections from our Year 11 Captains – Vanessa Tran and Dion Bishard, our SRC representatives – Grace Shaw and Ranisha Devadason, two of our House captains – Maddie Rees and Jake Lancaster, as well as some advice from Max Leonidis and Angelina Tang who are EEVCE students that were sharing their advice to their peers ahead of Year 12.



SENIOR SCHOOL REPORT Cont.

With a year of significant growth, it was also fitting that a number of students were recognised for their successes in various academic and co-curricular competitions, scholarship applications, alongside some teacher-voted, student-voted and SLWM-voted awards as well. It was a fitting conclusion to their Year 11 journey as these students now step into their role as the senior leaders of our school community next year.

On behalf of our community, I would also like to thank Chris Triantafilopoulos and Chloe Erskine for their care and dedication to supporting this cohort through their first year as VCE students.



Unit 3&4 Results

Year 12 students and Year 11 students who completed a VCE Unit 3/4 subject will receive their results through the VCE Results and ATAR Service from 7:00am on Monday 11 December. VCAA and VTAC offer students a range of options for accessing results including internet, mail, mobile app and email. All details for obtaining VCAA and VTAC results can be found on the [VCAA website](#) and the [VTAC website](#).

Once these results have been obtained, students may be in a position to consider changing their VTAC preferences. There are different periods when students may change their preferences in January and February 2024 before the different rounds of offer. All key dates can be found [here](#). The Year 12 Student Learning and Wellbeing Managers – Viet Bui and Bianca Prendergast, and the VCE Careers Counsellor – Erin Shale, can be contacted to support students in making these important decisions.

Lion of the Week Awards

Term 4, Weeks 7 & 8



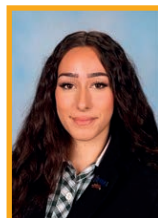
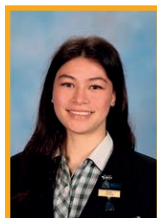
Xavier | Year 10

For his growth and improvement in classes this semester. Xavier also produced a very insightful and thoughtful presentation for his Migration Case Study task for History.



Max and Angelina | Year 11

For presenting at their final Year 11 assembly on their experience with Unit 3/4 subjects in 2023. Both students spoke well, shared some insightful advice and their peers were thoroughly engaged.



Sharna, Pamela, Tania and Mackenzie | Year 12

For taking the time from their Year 12 studies to continue to coach the Year 8 Girls softball team through to a State final.

Justin Hong | Director of Senior School

Amea Duncan | Assistant Director of Senior School

SENIOR SCHOOL REPORT Cont.

Senior Study Skills Section

This edition's Study Skills was written by Year 10 Student Marianna Freesz. Marianna is the proud owner of the new Balwyn High School Planner and has been using some of planner's features to assist her with her studies for her classes and exams. Below, she writes about the benefits of being organised and using a planner.

The Perks of Planners

A lot of the time we think that doing well on exams and SACS are all dependent on the number of hours we study and the myth of 'natural talent'. Despite this common belief, effective studying is what truly makes an impact in exam seasons and it can be the difference between excelling and 'burning out'. One of the methods that I apply to my studying is simply using a planner.

By planning for future SACs, study sessions and extracurriculars, we avoid that all too familiar procrastination to make sure we feel confident with our school lives. Planning helps minimise stress by maximising the control we have over our actions, acting as a great reflective tool to achieve goals.

Goal setting: Setting achievable study goals can be the best way to maximise our study efficiency. When using a planner to set goals, remember to keep them achievable and reflective of the thing we want to improve. The learning continuum is a great resource to make changes to study habits, allowing us to prioritise what we think is the most important to us.

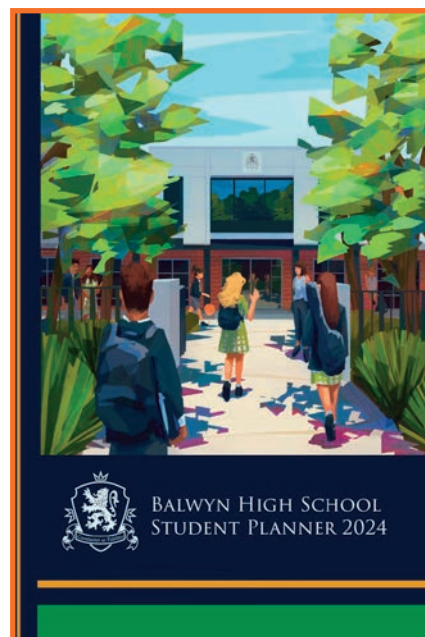
Allocating time: Adding rough time limits around tasks helps keep motivated and on task, but remember that our brains can't handle concentrating on something for long periods of time, so try and break up tasks into maximum 30-minute periods.

Balance: Planners can be used for study, but they can also be vital reminders that the outside world still exists. When scheduling in study times, make sure there are breaks and times reserved for mental health. Balwyn recommends a specific number hours of per week to do homework in accordance to the workload of each year, and having a planner is a great way to visualise if we are over or under-working and to make sure we are taking care of our mental and physical health.

I highly recommend purchasing one of the new Balwyn High School Planners if you haven't already done so. As a tool specifically catered for our workspace and our school, it features school details, space for planning, weekly wellbeing check-ins and many other useful resources. However, planners aren't the only way to stay organised, there are a range of resources both digital and manual that can help us stay on track with school.

By organising our time, we reduce stress, recognise important learning patterns and priorities effective study methods, making reaching our goals a lot easier.

Marianna Freesz | Year 10 Student





Chris Land
Director of Middle School



Sylvie Tang
Assistant Director of Middle School

Learning To Be

Non-Networking Primary School Visit

On the afternoon of Friday 24 November the Middle School Team welcomed 86 Year 6 students and their families to Balwyn High School for the Non-Networking Primary School Visit. The purpose of the afternoon was to welcome new students and families to the school community, to support students to begin to make connections ahead of commencing at Balwyn in 2024, to introduce key Middle School personnel and to give students a small taste of a Balwyn classroom.

The afternoon began with Year 7 Student Leaders and Year 11 STEP leaders welcoming students and their families to the school, before attendees were shown to the David McGrail Theatre for short speeches by Principal Deborah Harman, Assistant Principal for Middle School Learning and Wellbeing Hamish Anderson, Director of Middle School Chris Land, Assistant Director of Middle School Sylvie Tang and Director of Music Teaghan Gibson. Students were also treated to a brass ensemble performance, in addition to hearing speeches from Year 7 students Ava Plant, Damien Lee and Rumaisa Brohi. You can see Ava's reflection below.



Following the initial assembly, students and families were divided into three groups before being treated to science lessons delivered by Dr Hernan Alonso and Rikara Ahmat, participating in a 'key locations' scavenger hunt and meeting with key members of the Student Services Team. We are very much looking forward to meeting all new Year 7 students again on Orientation Day on Tuesday 12 December!

'Raise your hand on a scale of one to five how nervous you are, for anyone who is feeling like a 2 or 3 I felt the same way on orientation day. Knowing one or two people coming from primary school I was scared to come out of my comfort zone and talk to new people but as the day went on thanks to the many opportunities and trust building exercise with the class, I started to feel more and more confident. My biggest regret would be that I hadn't said hello to the people in my tutorial group sooner. On the first day, everyone will be in the same boat as you, they will be swimming in their new uniform and quietly waiting to make new friends and start a new experience. High school can seem scary, but it is full of experiences that can shape you as a person you might join a club or committee that interests you or on welcome night were all the clubs are displayed, join a totally new club and give it a go, I joined public speaking club not knowing anything and it helped me grow my confidence and as a person. I have 3 things for you to do, first say hello to somebody today you don't know whether that be a student, teacher or parent, two try something new, it could be leading the group in an activity or playing a new game and third have fun the connections that you make in school last you a lifetime. Thank you and have a great day.'

Ava Plant | Year 7

Year 9 Examination Experience – Final Reflections for 2023

Congratulations to all Year 9 students on the successful completion of your very first examination experience. The Middle School Team has been receiving positive feedback about your levels of preparedness and the impressive way in which you have conducted yourselves throughout the process.

What have we learned from the experience? Here are some examples of learning behaviours that are (and were!) enablers of success:

1. Preparation. Accessing revision guidelines to support structured revision; asking clarifying questions of teachers; accessing assessment rubrics to gain an understanding of the skills and knowledge being assessed; accessing revision materials on Student SharePoint.
2. Punctuality. Checking the location of the examination in advance and arriving in good time for the examination to ensure that the experience is as stress-free as it can be.

MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT Cont.

3. Equipment. Setting out the necessary examination materials the night before the exam and ensuring you've brought the correct materials into the examination room (e.g. calculators).

As you transition into the Senior School, the following are some examples of learning behaviours that may need more attention:

1. Mobile phone and smart watches. Nearly all Year 9 students did an outstanding job of ensuring that mobile phones and smart watches were stored in lockers before the examination. Students must also ensure that mobile phones are stored away and out of sight at all other times when on the school grounds. The school's Mobile Phone Policy applies whenever students are on site, even during examinations.

2. Examination breaches. There were a small number of examination breaches, including students communicating with one another in the examination room, failing to surrender a mobile phone to the supervisor, writing during Reading Time, continuing to write after the instruction to stop writing, or bringing prohibited equipment into the examination room (such as calculators, where they weren't permitted). At VCE level, the consequences for some of these breaches can be severe.

Overall, Year 9 Examination Experience has been a fantastic success; this success is in large part due to the outstanding attitudes and behaviour of the Year 9 students. However, the Middle School Team would also like to thank all Heads of Learning and staff for the creation of examinations, all staff who supervised examinations, and all parents and carers for their support with consistent messaging around high expectations.

Year 6-7 Parent Information Night – Thursday 30 November

The Middle School Team is looking forward to welcoming the parents and carers of our incoming Year 7 students to our annual Year 6-7 Information Evening, which will be held this evening (Thursday 30 November) from 6:30pm-7:30pm at Balwyn High School in the David McGrail Theatre.

Families wishing to attend were required to have registered over the past month via TryBooking. Ticketing is now closed.

Through presentations around the school's vision and values from the Principal, Middle School Executive Team and students, parent/carers should understand the role of the school, student, and parent/carer in nurturing a positive transition into the community.

- Balwyn High School's Vision and Values
- Opportunities for student engagement
- Learning & Wellbeing framework
- The Developing Adolescent – Preparing for change
- Key stakeholders
- Orientation Day and Day 1

Year 7 Update

Things don't stop here in the Year 7 team as we continue to finish the year off with a bang! This term we have been preparing for Presentation Night, filming our class lip syncs and wrapping up what has been an incredible first year at Balwyn High for our amazing Year 7s.

This week we are highlighting some of the fantastic recent achievements of several members of our cohort. These achievements include our Year 7 Table Tennis team, who went on to win the State Title, and a member of our Beginner Concert Band, who recently performed at the Victorian State Music Festival and won the Yamaha Award!

Student reflections:

At the start of state table tennis, I felt like I would let the team down and that we wouldn't be able to win the state championships because of me.

But as Mr. Wang, my teammates, and the Year 10 coaches supported me through the tournaments, I felt that it was okay to make mistakes and that being in state finals was already a big successful achievement.

MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT Cont.

The best moment in state was during our finals, when our whole team felt very pressured because we had a 2-2 point draw in our singles. This showed that we had to win two of our doubles.

During our doubles session, everyone on the team including Mr. Wang, the Year 10 coaches, Mr. Mirabella, and even the Year 8 team cheered us on. This helped my team to feel more confident in ourselves as we eventually won both of our doubles and won the state championships.

Being in the year 7 girls' table tennis team this year, and going through division, regionals, and state with my friends was a lot of fun because it showed me the use of patience and teamwork, especially in doubles.

My advice to other people who want to join table tennis next year is to try your best and just have fun!

Hayley Kwong | Year 7

I was feeling nervous on the way to the stadium, but once the matches started, the tension faded. Most of the matches were easily handled, but some of the matches were very tight, the one I remember very clearly is the last double match of the day that I had (which was in the Final). The sets were deadlocked at 2-2 and the score at 11-12, each point felt like a make-or-break moment. One more point would mean victory for us, but if the opponents gained that point, the probability would turn into a fifty-fifty for both teams. But luckily we won that crucial point, which was a relief for us. Because if we won more double matches, would mean we are qualified for the state championship. Our team won the final double, and when I realised that we were the state champions, I was surprised, unbelievable and also excited about the medal.

Being on the team and progressing through competitions improved my skills which was a big success this year for me. Because in Term 3, I had limited skills, but going to regionals and finals, the coaches taught me new techniques, which helped a lot in the finals. If you're someone who is hesitant to join an interschool sport, I will say go for it. You won't know how good you are until you try. Even if you don't win the final, the experience of competing is still valuable.

Barbie Li | Year 7

On the 16th of November we did VSMF, it was a pleasurable experience. We were one of the larger groups, every group playing three pieces of music. Being on the stage as a band was elevating. After we played, we sat in the audience, it was enjoyable and interesting seeing other schools and the songs and level they played at. I chose to be part of training band because of the social experience and practise with other people who are also starting instruments. This experience has made me realize the importance of a band and enjoy my time much more. Inspiring me for band next year!

Mona Khosravi | Year 7

Mercedes Marsh and Shannon Blewitt | Year 7 Student Learning and Wellbeing Managers



MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT Cont.

Middle School Student of the Week

The Middle School Student of the week is an award given to students for their positive contributions to the Balwyn High School community. This award is decided by the relevant Student Learning and Wellbeing Managers (SLWMs). The students are celebrated by an email to their families, outlining the specific contribution they have made. Well done to all of the students who have received this award. The winners for Week 7 and 8 of Term 4 are below:



Johnathan | Year 7

Johnathan received Middle School Student of the Week after being nominated by the Year 7 SLWMs. Johnathan provided understanding and support to a peer in crisis. He is also committed to role modelling kindness and strong learning behaviours.



Edha and Mia | Year 7

Edha and Mia received Middle School Student of the Week after being nominated by the Year 7 SLWMs. Edha and Mia were upstanders and supported a peer who was having a difficult day.



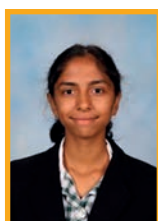
Dylan | Year 8

Dylan received Middle School Student of the Week after being nominated by the Year 8 SLWMs. Dylan made a conscious effort to support his peers and teachers in ensuring the learning environment is inclusive and positive.



Stephanie | Year 8

Stephanie received Middle School Student of the Week after being nominated by her teacher. Stephanie wrote an excellent and passionate piece in English that demonstrated hard work and a great commitment to learning.



Neha | Year 9

Neha received Middle School Student of the Week after being nominated by the Director of Middle School. Neha offered her insightful reflections on the My Middle School Experience Presentations for the latest edition of The Lion.



Joseph | Year 9

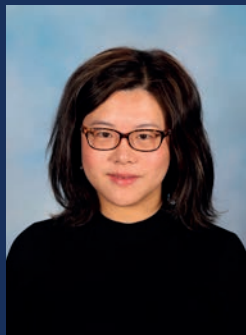
Joseph received Middle School Student of the Week after being nominated by the Year 9 SLWMs. Joseph was an upstander and supported his friend in de-escalating a difficult situation.



Gavin | Year 9

Gavin received Middle School Student of the Week after being nominated by the Year 9 SLWMs. Gavin has been volunteered his time to support the transition of a new student.

Chris Land | Director of Middle School
Sylvie Tang | Assistant Director of Middle School



Susan Qu
International Program
Director



Ally Green
Language Centre Liaison

Learning To Be

Language Centre Graduation

On Monday 13 November a Graduation Ceremony was held with our 26 Language Centre students to celebrate their achievements in 2023. These students have spent a semester learning together, adjusting to life in Australia and preparing to enter mainstream Year 10 and 11 classes in 2024. As part of the ceremony, they each prepared a short speech to deliver to their teachers and peers reflecting on their time in Australia, how they have grown, and who or what they are grateful for. Please enjoy some extracts from their reflections below.



"I know that improving English is not something that can be done in a day, so I try hard to communicate with others every day in English. I think this is a good way to improve my English. Maybe I can't speak well the first time, but I think it is a process of growing up."

Linlin Deng | Year 10

"At first, I didn't know if I would study well or adapt well when I moved here to a place that was completely different from my home country. But now, I know I have become more independent and confident."

Nami Nguyen | Year 10

"I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to my parents for their unwavering support. They have always been there for me, no matter where I am or what I do. I also want to extend my thanks to every teacher and classmate I have met at Balwyn High School."

Emily Shi | Year 9

"I think the biggest change is the improvement of my English ability. I live with local people so that I speak English all the time at home, and my classes are in English. Next term, we will officially enter the school and study with local students, which is one of the things I am most looking forward to next year."

Wade Xu | Year 9

"One of the most delightful surprises has been the cultural diversity that thrives in Australia. Melbourne, in particular, is a multicultural hub where people from all over the world come together. This diversity has broadened my horizons and deepened my understanding of different cultures and traditions."

Alan Shao | Year 10

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM Cont.

"I am grateful to my parents, teachers, friends and myself. I came here because my parents always support me and affirm me. My teachers teach me new things and explain them when I can't understand them. Also, my friends are always patient with me when I can't understand some questions, and they hang out with me and support me."

Ning Tsai | Year 9

"Next year actually will be the first year, for it's the first time we study with other students. There might be more difficulties, but I think we are definitely going to beat them. In the next year, I will keep on working hard in clubs and committees and leadership. I will also be devoted to improving my habits and academic performance."

Bruce Huang | Year 9

"After 5 months here, I feel well-prepared to transition into VCE. This invaluable time has equipped me with the knowledge and confidence needed for the next chapter of my overseas studies. I sincerely thank the Language Centre for this enriching opportunity. I also want to express my gratitude to my family for their tremendous support."

Felix Wang | Year 10

Ally Green | Language Centre Liaison





Dani Cantor
Director of Senior
School Wellbeing



Sharon Gardner-Drummond
Director of Middle
School Wellbeing



Gough
House Wellbeing Dog

Learning To Be

Year 10 Parent and Carer Catch Up

As the year draws to a close, our mental Health Practitioner, Lincoln Kealy and Chaplain, Jeffrey Lampard, contain to build community and connections amongst our parent and carer community.

Director of Senior School, Justin Hong joined this coffee catch up and fielded questions on tutoring, the amazing new student planner, homework/study expectations, exam rescheduling and much more!



Gift Guide for Tech Gifts

We have reached the time of year when many families are buying gifts for their young people. And many may be bombarded with requests for tech-based gifts. We encourage parents and carers to visit the eSafety Commissioner's gift guide before purchasing to check age recommendations, key features to consider and tips to ensure your family stays safe.

Respectful Relationships

Teenagers and safe partying: Tips for parents.

With our Senior School program drawing to a close, it is likely that parties may become a point of focus for many of our young people. For parents, this can be a tightrope between giving them the chance to develop social relationships and engage in important experiential learning and keeping them safe.

Positive Choices, an online portal which provides accurate, up-to-date drug education resources and prevention programs has the following suggestions:

- Make time to talk with your teenager about the party.
- Speak to the parents who are hosting the party to confirm details with them.
- During the party, keep your mobile phone on you in case your child or the hosts need to contact you.

For more detail about any of these points, visit <https://positivechoices.org.au/parents/how-to-keep-your-teenager-safe-at-a-party>

Information is also available in Arabic, Hindi, Simplified Chinese and Simplified English at

<https://positivechoices.org.au/culturally-and-linguistically-diverse/>

Dani Cantor | Director of Senior School Wellbeing
Sharon Gardner-Drummond | Director of Middle School Wellbeing

MUSIC



Teaghan Gibson
Director of Music



Melanie White
Assistant Director of
Music



Emily Caracella
Assistant Director of
Music

Learning To Be

As this edition of The Lion is published our Symphony Orchestra, Choirs, Soloists, Year 7 students and other performing ensembles are in the midst of a highly productive and energetic week of intensive rehearsals. Excitement is building in the Music Department with so many wonderful surprises to share on stage at Hamer Hall on Tuesday 5th of December.

Significant at this time of year is the commitment of our Year 11 and 12 students, all of whom have finished classes for the year and continue to attend rehearsals. We are so grateful for their continued dedication to the program, and so excited for the school community to hear their contributions at Presentation Night next week!

Spotlight: Year 7 Music

Students in Year 7 Music have engaged in a practical unit of work over the past few weeks. Students have formed small ensembles, chosen a piece of music to learn, and worked to bring together a performance for their class. This type of learning provides a rich context for developing music skills and the Capabilities alike; students need to be able to navigate the complexities of working with others, support their team members through challenging tasks, while also focusing on skills of musicianship and making decisions about how the expressive elements will be treated to bring together an engaging performance.

As students work through each practice session, they complete a practice journal where they are able to identify, develop and set their own learning intentions and success criteria depending on the needs of the individual student or the needs of the small group to support progress and success. They also make commitments to strategies that will support them to achieve their success criteria and reflect on the impact of each strategy before the end of each session.

Below are some reflections from Year 7 students on the experience:

In music, we are making music with our groups out of a couple choices of songs. My group is learning the Kahoot theme song, and we are using a journal to write what we want to achieve by the end of the lesson and what strategies are going to help us to achieve that. At the end we write if we achieved or not if we did, we write down what strategies helped us and if we didn't we will write what we need to do to achieve it.

I think it's a great way to develop my teamwork and leadership skills cause if someone is off task, needs help with their instrument, or is on the wrong task I could give them constructive feedback to help them in the right way and not get off focus.



I love how we are all working together to make a song and having fun while we are doing it. That's what makes music fun: being together and making songs that we like, and this task is the definition of that.

Danial | Year 7

Recently, my class has been working on music-making. We did this by working in groups and using instruments to explore expressive elements and features in music.

In these past lessons, my group has been practising together and individually.

MUSIC Cont.

At one point, we noticed that we were off time in a specific bar. To prevent this from happening, we listened to each other play and found out that some of us played faster than everyone else in the group. When we noticed this problem, we decided to come up with a strategy. This strategy was to clap out the number of beats in a bar and to use an online metronome on our laptops. This helped us to improve our music, as this made our instruments play in sync.

In this activity, I really enjoyed working with my group as this helped us to improve on our problem-solving skills, time management skills, and more importantly our communication skills.

Next lesson, my group would discuss what we could adjust when playing our music as a group again.

Hayley | Year 7



Teaghan Gibson | Director of Music



Shaun Bowes
Director of Health,
Outdoor, Physical
Education and Sport



Paul Mirabella
Assistant Director of
Sport



Dusanka Devic
Assistant Director of
Health and Physical
Education



Tim Richardson
Assistant Director
Outdoor Programs

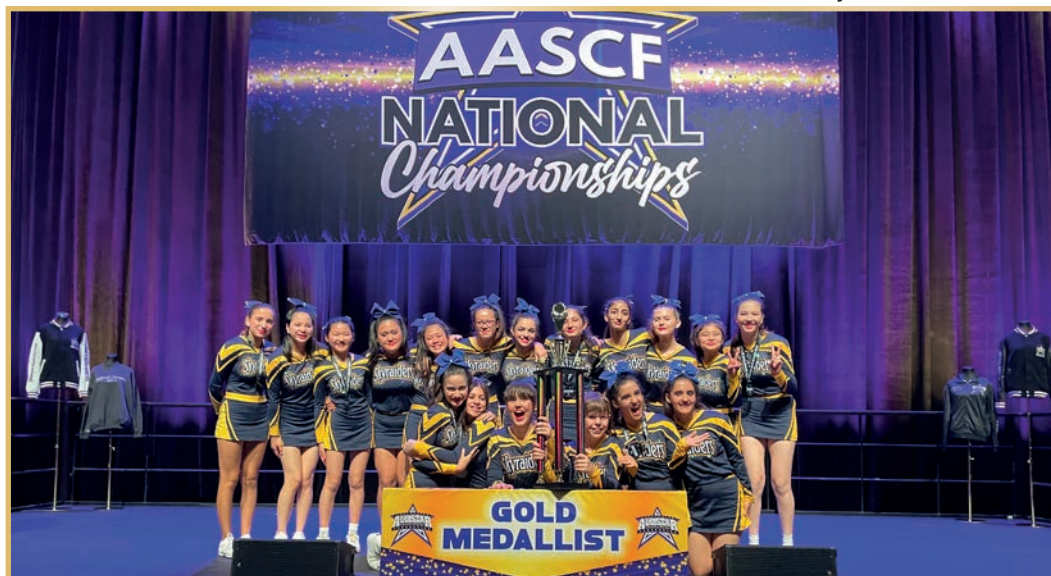
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Learning To Be

Skyriders Cheerleading – National Champions

On Friday the 24th of November, the Balwyn Skyriders Cheerleading team competed at the AASCF National Championships and finished in 1st place in the High School Level 1 non - tumble division! The cheerleading team has been training twice a week at school since the year begun and it is so rewarding to see all their hard work pay off. My goal as a teacher is to get students to be active and cheerleading is a great sport to do exactly that! It gave students the opportunity to build lifelong friendships across different year levels, become fitter, stronger and have fun. For anyone interested in joining the cheerleading team next year, please come an eye out on emails early in Term 1.

Paulina Makarova | Skyriders Coordinator



I joined the Skyriders team when I moved to Balwyn High School. The team has been so welcoming and I've made some really good friends. Competitions have been so much fun and Coach Kay and Ms Makarova are honestly the sweetest. Thanks for everything Skyriders!

Anna Copeland | Year 8

Doing cheer with Skyriders this year has been such an amazing experience as you make friends with teammates and compete at competitions. Our coach's this year, Coach Kay and Ms. Makarova, have been so supportive and work hard with the team in trainings. I'm so glad I did Skyriders this year and enjoyed the experiences.

Jana Abu Shaqra | Year 8

Joining Skyriders was one of the best decisions I've made all year. I've made so many amazing friends and memories through cheer and we have all grown and improved together as a team.

Alia Von Sturmer | Year 7

As my 2nd year on the Skyriders cheer team comes to an end, I wanted to say thank you to Ms Makarova and Coach Kay. As a team, we have learnt to bond through hardships and victories. We have spent so much time together and been there for each of our teammates. Winning nationals was brought many of us to tears - now with a gold medal and a trophy that is too large to fit in the school cabinet. People commonly have the misconception that we wave our arms and shake pom-poms.



HEALTH, OUTDOOR, PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT Cont.

Really, we are a team that throw people in the air and compete for gold. But as the Skyriders team, what matters most is having fun and competing with confidence. The moment under the spotlight makes all of us thankful for the trainings we have done. That short time you shine on the floor, all eyes on you, it makes it worth it. When you think you're losing the spark, the cheer team brings it back

Harmony Le | Year 8

State Champions

On Wednesday 15 November, we had three teams head out to the State Finals, with two teams hoping to win the State Championship for the second year in a row.

The Year 8 Boys Hockey team faced some challenges with one key player injured early in the day. The team managed to win their three pool games, 1-0, 3-0 and 7-1. The team then made it to the final against Hume Anglican GS. The boys trailed 0-1 for a large portion of the match but continued to fight in the contest and put in maximum effort. After resting an injury, James subbed on with ten minutes to go in the game and he scored two consecutive goals to put us in front, 2-1. The team then managed to score another two quick goals before conceding a goal right at the end of the match. The 4-2 victory to our team crowned us as State Champions and they successfully made it back-to-back State Titles! A big congratulations to Eddie Roscoe who has coached all hockey teams and has achieved plenty of success with every single team.



At the same time, but at a different venue, our Year 7 Boys & Girls Table Tennis teams were competing. The Year 8 Girls team won their rubbers 6-0, 6-0, and 5-1, to finish first in their pool after registering 606 points for and just 244 points against. In the Semi Final the team then won 4 rubbers before advancing to the State Final where they once again won 4 rubbers, conceding just the 2 to Yarrawonga C P-12. This now gives the team back-to-back State Titles after winning the Year 7 competition in 2022. Well done to Paul Mirabella for his coaching of this team throughout the year!



The Year 7 Girls team also managed to win their rubbers 6-0, 6-0, 4-2 to finish first in their pool. They then won 4-2 in the Semi Final and then 4-2 to Gilson College in the State Final. It is exciting to see Year 7 students achieve this success in their first year of schooling at Balwyn High School. Congratulations to the girls and Fan Wang for his dedicated coaching of the team!



This was an extremely successful day for Balwyn High School with our teams claiming three State Championships on the one day! We'd like to acknowledge all student coaches that also supported our teams at the State level and were recognised with their own medallion.

State Finalists

The Year 8 Boys Baseball team advanced to the State Finals and knowing the strength of the team, we knew they had a chance to win the State Title. During the pool stage, the team had a 13-5 victory and a 12-0 victory that advanced them through to the final.

HEALTH, OUTDOOR, PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT Cont.

Unfortunately, despite having chances, the team went down 2-10, but finished as State Runners Up. This is a fantastic achievement for the team and hopefully this gives them some motivation to return to the State Finals next year in the hope that they can go one better. Congratulations to Jed Miller and Shannon Blewitt for their coaching on the day, and Eddie Roscoe who coached this team throughout the year but was unable to attend due to a clash with another State final.

The Year 7 Boys Hockey team competed at the State Finals, and despite an injury to a player prior to the competition, the team was ready to give it their best shot at coming home with the State Championships. The team won their pool games 4-0, 3-0 and 1-0 to advance to the State Final. Unfortunately, the team lost 0-1 in the final to finish as State Runners up. The team should be commended for their efforts at the State level and to finish as Runners Up in their first year is a fantastic achievement that should be celebrated.

The Year 7 Boys Table Tennis team were our last team to represent Balwyn High School in Sport for 2023. On Friday 24 November, the team travelled out to MSAC to compete for the State Title. The team won their pool rubbers 5-1, 5-1 and 6-0 to qualify for the Semi Finals. After finishing in first place in their pool, they versed second place of the other pool and comfortably won 6-0 to make it to the final. Unfortunately, the team faced an extremely strong McKinnon SC team, and went down 0-6. Our team finished as State Runners Up and they should be very proud of their efforts. Well done to Fan Wang for his support of this team, in addition to the work he did with the Year 7 Girls team.

Our Year 7 Girls Cricket team travelled all the way to Wangaratta to compete in the State Quarter Finals and were able to win that game convincingly. The team then had to head out again the following week to compete in the State Semi Finals, with a potential final game following it. Unfortunately, the team were narrowly beaten in the Semi Final, however, they should be proud of themselves for finishing as a Top 4 team in the State. The team batted second, chasing a score of 143, and with two overs to go they needed one run per ball. Unfortunately, the team lost some wickets which deducted runs from their total (Stage 1 format), and they finished 9 for 129 runs, 15 runs away from a victory.

The Year 7 Girls Hockey team won two games in the pool stage, winning 4-1 and 2-1, but conceded 2 goals in a game against Hume Anglican GS to finish second in their pool. The team should be commended for their efforts throughout the Division, Region and State competitions which placed them as a Top 4 team in the State. We're excited to see the growth and development of this team through the years to come, with the coaching and guidance of Eddie Roscoe.



Victorian Schools Spikeball Championships

Balwyn High School in collaboration with Spikeball Australia hosted a Victorian Schools Spikeball Challenge for Eastern Metropolitan schools. 120 students from Balwyn High School, Vermont Secondary College and Kew High School competed in the challenge and it was fantastic to see so many students engaging in a non-traditional sport. The day featured 34 teams playing in over 180 games throughout the day, including a group stage and bracket play for both divisions. A big thank you to James Docking from Spikeball Australia for supporting my vision for this event.

James provided 16 pro nets for the games, coached the students, set up his Spikeball marquees and flags, organised the online scoring platform, and provided free spikeball kits and bags as prizes for the winning teams! First place in each division won a pro kit, second place won an original kit, and third place won some backpacks!

Advanced Winners:

1st - VSC 10

2nd - KHS 11

3rd - BHS 9

Beginners/Intermediate Winners:

1st - VSC 8

2nd - VSC 4

3rd - VSC 2



2024 Key Dates

Please take note of the following key dates for 2024 for Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country. We hope that families can consider these dates when planning holidays/appointments/any other absences to ensure that all students are available for selection for these sports, especially if students are expected to achieve success in either of the three sports.

- Friday 1 March – House Swimming Carnival
- Tuesday 12 March – Division Swimming Meet
- Tuesday 26 March – Region Swimming Championships
- Friday 19 April – State Swimming Championships
- Wednesday 24 April – House Track & Field / Athletics Carnival
- Wednesday 8 May - House Cross Country
- Friday 17 May – Division Cross Country
- Tuesday 11 June – Region Cross Country
- Thursday 18 July – State Cross Country Championships
- Wednesday 7 August – Division Track & Field / Athletics
- Monday 14 October - Region Track & Field / Athletics
- Monday 21 October – State Track & Field Championships

Shaun Bowes | Director of Health, Outdoor, Physical Education, and Sport



Simon Maher
Director of Mathematics



Rikara Ahmat
Director of Science



Amanda Clarke
Assistant Director
of Mathematics and
Science

Learning To Be

Unit 3 Ignition

Week 8 marked ignition week for our students entering Unit 3 science subjects. We are very proud of the way that our students embraced our ignition programs. There was a definite buzz in the science classrooms this week as students look forward to their final year studies in their favourite science subjects.

For the first time we now have Unit 3 Environmental Science subject in our science learning area. In these classes students investigated the key terminology of Environmental science and conducted a field study of organisms in an area of the school.

In Biology students investigated enzymes and reaction rates, using datalogging technology to investigate factors that effect amylase activity.

In Chemistry, students investigated reduction and oxidation reactions, the type of chemical reactions that power all of our batteries and most of the biological reactions in our bodies.

In Psychology, students reviewed research methodologies and investigated whether gender influences auditory and visual reaction times.

Lastly, in Physics, students used logger pro software and video analysis to analyse the motion of projectiles released from a horizontal and an angled launch.

Build a cell- Year 9 Language Centre Students

After a wonderful semester studying chemistry and electricity, and having come off a successful examination experience, Year 9 language centre science students are learning Biology.

The cell is the fundamental unit of life, all living things are made up of cells. This means in order to be alive you must be made up of at least one cell!

In class, the language centre students compared Prokaryotic and Eukaryotic Cells, unicellular and multicellular organisms and the requirements for life.



In order to review the differences between plant and animal cells including the miniature nanosized structures that control the internal activities of cells, the organelles, students constructed 3 dimensional models of cells in class.

There were many creative interpretations of the design brief. Some students chose to construct plant cells, others animal cells. Students worked hard to construct artistic representations that were able to show the relative scale of the internal components of cells. Below are some of their models.

Simon Maher | Director of Mathematics

Rikara Ahmat | Director of Science

Amanda Clarke | Assistant Director of Mathematics and Science

VISUAL ARTS



Nicole Houlihan
Acting Director of Visual Arts

Learning To Be

Visual Arts: Year 11 excellence awards

The Visual Arts faculty would like to acknowledge students who not only excel academically but also embody Balwyn High school values and learning norms through collaboration and creativity.

These awards recognise students in visual art, media and visual communication design who go beyond the classroom sharing ideas and enhancing the learning environment. Congratulations to the following students for their valuable contribution to our shared learning experience.

Year 11 Art Creative Practice - Seraphina Tass, Kathryn Cher

Year 11 VCD Annabelle Yong, Anne Truong

Year 11 Media Megan Campbell, Monique Swaine



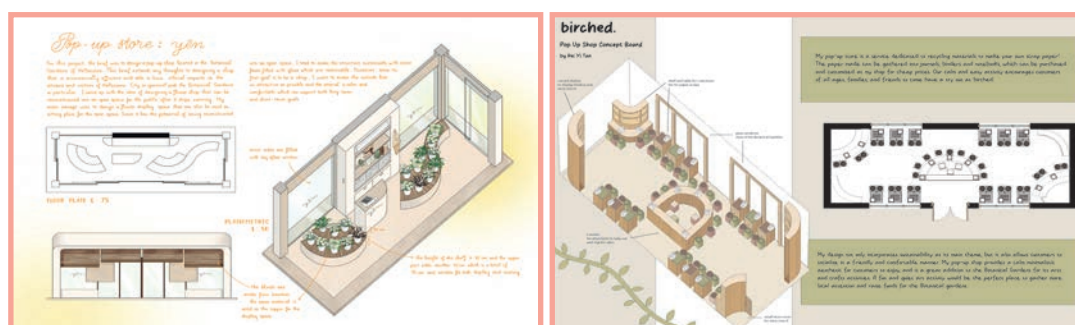
Classroom focus: Year 10 VCD

In Year 10 Visual Communication Design, students round up their body of work with a showcase of the design skills they have been honing throughout the semester. Their task; to design a 10m x 4m pop-up store to be situated in the Botanical Gardens. Students researched sustainable building practices and analysed notions of 'Good Design' to create environmentally sound and innovative pop-up stores.

VISUAL ARTS Cont.

Throughout their 4-week design process, students developed their skills in technical architectural drawings and rendering, both digitally and manually. Their final presentation format was a digital concept board which showcased their finalised technical drawings and justified their design choices. Despite the looming stress of exams, the Year 10 VCD students did not fail to present immensely creative and detailed work to successfully punctuate their work in design this semester.

Celia Giorgilli | VCD Teacher



Nicole Houlihan | Acting Director of Visual Arts

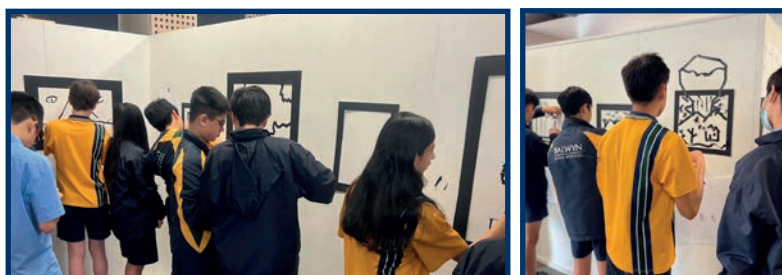
Y7 SEAL Art Masterclass

On Thursday 16th November, we welcomed 25 Year 7 GAPP students (Gifted Academic Potential Program) from Box Hill High School to engage with our Year 7 SEAL students in an Art Masterclass. This was our third and final cross-school masterclass for the year, aiming at developing stronger connections between our schools and students.

Hernan Alonso, Merinda Ries and Olivia Cooke | SEAL Class Teachers

"On Thursday the 16th the Year 7 GAPPs from Box Hill High School came for an Art Masterclass with the Year 7 SEAL class. We first paired up with the Box Hill students and we soon found how similar our classes and experiences were. After introducing ourselves we began our project of "A view in 100 years" where we used electrical tape to make what we thought Melbourne would like in 100 years from now. There were awards for best collaboration, best composition, most innovative use of materials and most conceptual idea. After a few minutes the compositions were already shaping themselves. There were Illuminati takeovers, utopias, dystopias and a whole lot of nuclear wastelands. In the end Paddy Zhai, Kei Jayputera, Alfred Han and Mia Seeto won. It was an amazing experience and we hope to see Boxhill's GAPPs again soon."

Connor Dunns | Year 7





Jane Gibson
Director of Humanities



Brooke Jacobs
Assistant Director of
Humanities

Learning To Be

VCE Ignition in Humanities

Over the past fortnight our 2024 Year 12 and Year 11 students have actively engaged in VCE Ignition classes before formally commencing the Unit 3 and Unit 1 learning sequence in 2024. Students participated in a range of activities to introduce key concepts and knowledge to VCE studies in Accounting, Business Management, Economics, History, Geography, Politics and Legal Studies. As VCE students embark on their summer holidays, they are supported by the 'Ignition Packages' which outline 2024 assessment dates and holiday homework (available via Student SharePoint). Many thanks to the VCE teachers for their unwavering commitment to curating a stimulating and supportive learning environment for our senior students during the Ignition period.

Year 9 Exams

Congratulations to all Year 9 Students who completed exams last week. Additionally, congratulations to our 9S students who have completed exams and their last ever class as a 9S form, before commencing their VCE journey. Year 9 is a pivotal year for young people and represents their first experience of exams, and we thank parents and guardians for their support during this period.

National History Challenge Award Ceremony

On Monday 20th November the National History Challenge held their annual awards ceremony to honour award recipients. Here, Erika Baygan, was awarded the state award for Victoria in the Year 9 category. This is significant as Erika represented the only non-select entry or private school student at the award ceremony. Congratulations again, Erika!



Jane Gibson | Director of Humanities



Amy Wood
Director of English and
Literacy



Orah Rothberg
Assistant Director of
English and Literacy

Learning To Be

Every year the Victorian Association for the Teaching of English (VATE) holds a two-day conference for English teachers across Victoria. There are a range of sessions on to support English teachers of all the English subjects and at all stages of their professions.

This year, I presented to 28 English Language teachers from newcomers to the subject, a former colleague, and highly experienced teachers. The last two categories were a little daunting! My presentation was on how we can teach English Language more efficiently in order to make the most of class time and ensure timely and valuable feedback is given out to students.

At Balwyn High School our teaching teams work collaboratively, and we plan units with an aim to make lessons engaging, whilst also allowing students to explore the subjects they are studying, and be able to explain new learning in their own words.

It was a privilege to be supported by our Director of English, Amy Wood, to present at the VATE conference and share the good work that teachers do at Balwyn High School. The attendees at my session were shocked by the size of our VCE English Language cohort but more so, impressed with the way we deliver the knowledge and skills to our students. Many left telling me they felt excited and stimulated about planning their lessons for 2024.



Louise Noonan | VCE English Language teacher

Amy Wood | Director of English and Literacy



Rosie Hilder
Director of Student
Leadership/Voice



**Charlie Bantias &
Margaret Obolenski**
School Captains

**Zachary Miritis &
Tania Batova**
School Vice Captains

**Fearghas Bennett &
Emma Ho**
SRC Presidents

Learning To Be

It takes courage to put your hand up for leadership, demonstrating confidence and a strong drive to represent their voice of your peers and to enhance the experience of all students at Balwyn High School. At the beginning of this term, an unprecedented number of students applied for a formal leadership position, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all students for taking up this opportunity. Even those who were not successful were able to develop invaluable skills in writing an application, making a speech in front of their peers, or participating in an interview, and students who were not successful this round, are encouraged to consider applying for a position as a Tutorial Captain or Student Ambassador in 2024.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many liaison teachers who support many of our student leaders to run various co-curricular opportunities for our students such as the many clubs and committees that we have available at Balwyn High School. Their passion and commitment to these programs is so inspiring, and they are able to support our student leaders to create such rich opportunities for our students outside of the classroom.

I asked a range of students what is the best thing about being in leadership, and these were their responses:

I have gained insight into my strengths and areas of improvement, as well as how I operate when collaborating with others, in such a supportive group that has allowed and encouraged growth.

Felix Tan | Year 9

For me, the Student Leadership Program has been an amazing opportunity to truly participate in the school community and feel like I'm making a positive difference at Balwyn High. I've always wanted to have a greater role in helping out at school festivals or just being present at wider events, and SRC has allowed me to find and work with like-minded students to pursue this!

Diano Bao | Year 11

One of the best things about the Student Leadership Program was the friendships founded in our collective efforts to represent our peers and project their voice. We also were united in giving back to the students at this school, by spearheading projects for the BHS community.

Neha Basu | Year 9

Being able to have such an effect on people has been a major highlight of SRC, something I would not have been able to do without the resources provided by SRC and the friendly community created by it!

Stuart Joshi | Year 7

As a new member of the school community, being in the SRC has been a great opportunity to interact with people across different year levels, as well as in my own.

Meera Iyer | Year 7

SRC Bike Rack Initiative

The SRC are delighted to announce that the new bike racks are now open for use. The Bike racks can be found behind the stadium (near the Robert Handreck Sports field).

Students are encouraged to use this space to store their bikes, particularly if coming from the front of the school. A reminder that bikes should not be locked up at the front of the school.

We would like to thank students and staff for their contributions to the fundraising for the bike rack over the last two years. We would also like to thank the maintenance team (Maggie and Alex Bozinis, and Kyle Rattray-Wood) for their support in the project and installing the bike racks. The bike rack will be extended next year to support the large demand for storage for those students who ride their bike to school.



Rosie Hilder | Director of Student Leadership and Voice

LANGUAGES - CHINESE AND FRENCH

Learning To Be



Tammy Li
Head of Chinese



Melinda Facey
Head of French

This week Year 7 French students have been reflecting on their learning. They described the sense of achievement in going from having no French at all in Term 1 to being able to give directions or buy things from the Christmas markets in French in Term 4. Some students reflected on how hard they have worked memorising new vocabulary and verbs and constructing their own sentences. Others really enjoyed activities that required them to be artistic and almost everyone loved watching Belle et Sebastien!

Below are some student reflections:

This year we have been learning about the basics of French, and as someone that's had little to no prior experience with the language, boy has it been a ride! From learning how to introduce ourselves in French, to being able to give directions accurately, we have worked very hard to achieve what we know today. And although there are many areas I have loved in French this year, a few of my favourites have had to have been when we watched "Belle et Sebastien", and when we had to draw our own little villages! I have thoroughly enjoyed this year of learning and can't wait for the future ahead!

Annika Ajit | Year 7

Bonjour, the French a way of saying 'Hello'. This beautiful language branches off into 29 countries, with over 220 million French speaking people, each country with special dialects. French is the language of love, art, fashion and iconic architecture. Speaking this language is like taking a blissful stroll in the warmth of the sun, the language so exhilarating to hear and speak.

We have learnt many things from conjugation of verbs to forming sentences and also speeches to present to our class. We learnt about the unique celebrations of France such as Bastille Day and Mardi Gras which gave us a new understanding of French culture and history.

Saanvi Prem Kumar | Year 7

Year 7 French has been a very fascinating and enjoyable experience so far. Throughout the year, we have covered a variety of different topics such as the weather, colours, musical instruments and many more. We have learnt how to have simple conversations in French and tell people things like our age, our likes and dislikes etc. Quite recently, we have studied the culture of France and the festivals they celebrate. All these topics have been taught through fun and engaging Education Perfect tasks along with Kahoot and Blooket games. Overall, learning French has been a captivating experience and I would highly recommend people to learn this beautiful language.

Yash Joshi | Year 7

Melinda Facey | Head of French





Erin Shale
VCE Careers Advisor



Melissa Co
Years 7-10 Careers
Advisor



Margaret Uren
Headstart Co-ordinator

ATAR Results and VTAC offers



Our Year 12 students receive their ATAR at 7am on the 11th December. This is an exciting time and should be a day of celebration regardless of a student's ATAR. After all, students have successfully completed the highest level of secondary education offered in Australia and this is a great achievement. We congratulate every student and look forward to seeing their successes in the years to come.

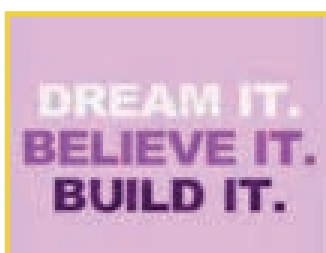
The most important thing to remember is that an ATAR score cannot capture the measure of a person. An ATAR score cannot predict future success and certainly cannot limit future success. Many students with ATAR scores far lower than others excel once they are at TAFE and soon transfer into great university degrees. Many students who just make it into university courses, work extremely hard, obtain glowing results and successfully transfer into double degrees in highly sought-after courses such as Law and Physiotherapy. More than anything else, students need the ongoing support of their families. The ATAR score must be put into perspective and the focus put squarely on moving ahead with determination and enthusiasm.

Should students need some final careers advice, I will be at Balwyn High School from Dec 11 to December 13, from 8am to 4pm. Students can come up in person or email (leaving a mobile number). Most students will not require additional support because they already have wonderful back-up courses selected after our many meetings. They also know not to delete courses that seem to be beyond reach. ATAR scores can go up or down and there is always a chance of being selected if courses remain listed.

Students will receive a First Round Offer on the 21st December and must follow the directions and accept this offer. It may be the only offer made. Students can, of course, also officially defer. Later offers may arrive during January and February. Students can accept a more attractive later offer and then withdraw from the first. All Year 12 students have been emailed a document with concise information on all steps they need to take over the Offer period.

I wish all students and their families a wonderful and well-deserved holiday and look forward to following the amazing career journeys our students will take as the years unfold. They have the world at their feet. Well done.

Erin Shale | VCE Careers Advisor



LIBRARY



Katrina Dawson
Head of Library



Kelly Nolan
Teacher Librarian

The Balwyn High Library is an integral part of our school and it is a place where we see students gather to study, read and research. As an English teacher, I take my Year 7 class to the library every 2-3 weeks in order for them to discover new books, learn new skills and have some time to just sit and read in a comfortable environment. Our school librarians play a vital role within the Balwyn library as they encourage students and guide them in their reading. They always astound me with their ability to find just the right book for a student or know which poetry anthologies are best suited to a year level. Some students from 7F English have shared their feelings about going to the library during English lessons.

Louise Noonan | English teacher

We love the library because it is filled with a bunch of untold stories waiting to be told and read. When our class goes to the library it sets everyone in a relaxed mood, which is also helpful on a Friday morning. The staff are always so polite and are interested in your type of genre and willing to help you find what you are looking for. We love how every book is categorised by genre so that it is easier to find the type of book we are looking for. The library's system for self-borrowing uses modern technology that is useful to everyone that desires reading.

Alexa and Silvy | Year 7

One can't deny that there is something so wonderfully exciting about the library. Although it is open to everyone, before, during and after school, going to the library with your classmates is whole different experience. Although some students like going to the library more than others, we all can agree that even just visiting the library means that there is potential for a new book to be read. As a Library Ambassador, I can't recommend going to the library enough!

Chloe Santosa | Year 7 SRC and Library Ambassador

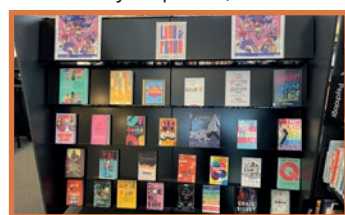
Trans Awareness Week

The library promoted Trans Awareness Week (13-19 November) with prominent displays of relevant resources – fiction and non-fiction. This was to celebrate and recognise the contributions of transgender communities and to raise awareness of issues faced by transgender people today. There is a reading list of books in the library collection on the Library SharePoint site and you can read more about the campaign on the Minus18 website.



Book Swap in the Library

The Library Captains, Gabrielle Lim and Seraphina Tass, conducted a book swap in the library.



Students were invited to bring any books they no longer needed and swap them for new ones. The students all picked up a new book, many trying a new genre. Everyone is looking forward to some relaxing reading over the holidays.

Katrina Dawson | Head of Library
Kelly Nolan | Teacher Librarian

GENERAL NEWS

Lord Somers Camp is a once in a lifetime experience for young people aged 16-18 years old. It is a weeklong camp that is equal parts challenging and fun. If you would like build resilience and make bonds for life then this is the camp for you!

Lord Somers Camp runs January 7th-13 and Lady Somers Camp 14th-20th. If you would like more information, reach out to Mr Morris (OMO), or check out the website: <https://www.lscph.org.au/bigcamp/> Applications are still open.



Here is
YOUR
chance to be...

ONE IN
100

LORD SOMERS CAMP

**BIG
CAMP**

LORD
SOMERS
camp

LADY
SOMERS
camp

Lord Somers Camp
and Power House

GENERAL NEWS

Movember at Balwyn High School

For the month of November, a small group of staff signed up to raise awareness and fundraise for the Movember Foundation. The Movember Foundation's focus is men's health, in particular: prostate cancer, testicular cancer and mental health and suicide prevention.

The Balwyn High School Movember Team consisted of the following staff:

Rikki Toet (captain), Shannon Blewitt, Shaun Bowes, Dylan den Hartog, Lincoln Kealy, Jeff Lampard, Simon Maher, Chris Triantafilopoulos, Jack Wells, Yunkai Wang and Luke Wilcockson.

Staff can grow a moustache, move (walk, run, ride, swim, etc.) or set their own challenge for Movember to help raise awareness and fundraise.

This year the team did an amazing job fundraising, growing moustaches (some good and some not so good) and completing challenges. Over the duration of the month, the team managed to raise approximately \$XXXX for Movember. Below are some of the outstanding performances:

- Lincoln Kealy - \$1,645.00
- Jeff Lampard - \$790.00
- Chris Triantafilopoulos – 302km running/walking

If you would like more information about the Movember Foundation or would like to donate to the Balwyn High School team, please follow the links below:

Movember Foundation:

<https://au.movember.com/?home>

Balwyn High School Team:

<https://movember.com/t/balwyn-high-school>

Thank you to all staff, family, friends and the school community for your support and generous donations to the Balwyn High School Movember Team.



Rikki Toet | BHS Movember Team Captain



GENERAL NEWS

Chaplaincy Second-Hand Uniform Shop News

THANK YOU – As 2023 comes to a close, we would like to thank everyone who has visited our store this year to buy and sell uniform items. A special thank you to all of our volunteers. We could not do what we do without you! We appreciate you giving up your valuable time to assist us and we look forward to seeing you all back in 2024.

We are also extremely grateful for the continuing support of school staff. We are constantly supported by staff who are never too busy to assist us and to make sure we have what we need to assist school families.

Chaplain Jeff Lampard continues his valued work as part of the BHS Wellbeing Team. Thankyou Jeff for all of your hard work and ongoing commitment to making a difference at BHS. We wish you a relaxing break with your family.

Lastly, a special thank you to all the families who have donated to chaplaincy this year. Your support and encouragement is what keeps us going.

IMPORTANT

REMAINING DAYS FOR 2023;

Tuesdays and Thursdays 3 - 5.00PM

Thursday 7 December (Final day) 3 - 5.00PM

WE OPEN BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS 2024;

Wednesday 24 January 12 - 2.00PM

Thursday 25 January 12 - 2.00PM

NORMAL THURSDAY TRADING RESUMES

Thursday 1 February 3 - 5.00PM

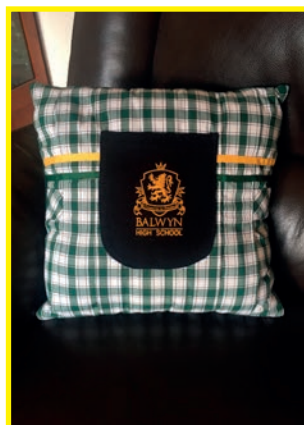
(Open every Thursday during school terms)

We are situated in the school canteen. Full details, including a map, are available on the school website. Click on the 'Our Community' tab and follow the links to Second-Hand uniforms.

Payment for items purchased from the Second-Hand Uniform Shop can be by cash, cheque or through Square we can process credit cards, EFTPOS and Apple Pay. All Square transactions attract a 2% fee. We do not exchange or refund. We recommend having your child check the fit of garments in our change rooms. Our friendly volunteers look forward to assisting you.

If you would like to volunteer in 2024 we would love to hear from you. Please send us an email with your details to secondhanduniforms@balwynhs.vic.edu.au

Help us recycle and support Chaplaincy at Balwyn High School



BOB STEWART

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Kew Store

📍 203 - 207 High Street,
Kew VIC 3101

Contact Details

Phone: 03 9853 8429

Email: online@bobstewart.com.au



TRADING HOURS

MONDAY	8am - 6pm
TUESDAY	8am - 6pm
WEDNESDAY	8am - 6pm
THURSDAY	8am - 6pm
FRIDAY	8am - 6pm
SATURDAY	8am - 5pm

If you do not require a fitting & know your size, you can order your uniform via the Bob Stewart website. Use our Click 'N' Collect service or have your order posted to home at a \$10.00 flat rate.

www.bobstewart.com.au