



**PORTLAND  
SECONDARY  
COLLEGE**

# Parent Newsletter

NO 11 MONDAY 22 JULY 2019

*Creating the Opportunities*



## Principal's Report

Welcome back for another term.

First, Congratulations to the Traditional Owners of the Land, the Gunditjmarra people, who were successful in receiving World Heritage listing for the Budj Bim. This has come as the result of incredible work and research tracing back links for thousands of years. The Tyrendarra eel traps and stone houses are part of this scheme and are well worth a visit. It is exciting that we have close access to such a rich tradition on our door step.

Term 3 is a planning term with course selection beginning in Week 7. Staffing and timetable for 2020 will follow based on the student choice. Years 9-11 in particular will need to be thinking now about what subjects that they would like to do next year. Students should consider where their interests and abilities lie and which senior curriculum- VCE, VET or VCAL- best suits their future pathway and preferred learning style.

We are preparing for the new legislation stipulating No MOBILES PHONES in 2020. The Andrew's government has introduced the policy to decrease distractions away from student learning in the classroom and to reduce cyber-bullying. I had a student phone on my desk for a day as per arranged with the parents and student and it pinged consistently with updates from friends, AFL etc. Another teacher reported a phone as a parent contacted her student about a dentist appointment. These incidents are not isolated and occurred during class time which should be learning time. As professionals we are asked to turn off our phones during meetings as research is now finding that even glancing at incoming messages can be enough to distract us from the business in hand. Recent research indicates that our memory capacity has altered since mobile phones became widely used and we can now only retain 3-5 items when in the past it was 5-9 items. This has significant implications for the reading process, for example, when we actually need to be able to remember the beginning of a sentence until the end of the sentence if we are to gain meaning.

*.....continued next page*

## Coming Events

Regularly check Newsletters and PSC website for updates at [www.portlandsc.vic.edu.au](http://www.portlandsc.vic.edu.au) Facebook/ portlandsecondarycollege

**Tuesday 23 July**  
Year 7/8 Football

**Wednesday 24th July**  
Senior Netball

**Wed 24 until Fri 26 July**  
Year 9/10 Camps

**Monday 29 July**  
Yr 7/8/9 Girls Football

**Wed 31 July**  
Yr 10/11/12 Girls Football

**Thurs 1 until Fri 2 August**  
Year 9 Career Interviews

**Monday 5 August**  
- Junior GWR Soccer—  
Ballarat  
- Sheepvention Careers  
Expo Yr 10 & VCAL

**Thursday 15 August**  
Year 12 Parent/Teacher/  
Student Interviews  
4.30—6.30pm

**Monday 19 August**  
PSC Information Night

**Wednesday 21 August**  
Course Selection Day for  
Years 8,9,10 & 11.  
Student Free Day.

*Principal's Report continued.....*

We ask parents to start the conversation with their student about how this can be best managed within the family.

For example: 1. Leave messages through the College office.

2. Display printed timetables on the kitchen fridge, in bedrooms, on locker doors or check timetables on the Compass at the main office.

As a College Community we will also need to address how we can improve communication between home and school.

The current wet weather is creating a challenge for the Physical Education staff as the only undercover area is the gym. Local venues have been incorporated into the Year 9 PE focus on Community Sports in their curriculum which has helped relieve some of the congestion. The community units encourage students to learn about and participate in their local community while enjoying high exposure to a variety of sports that they may not have considered. Research shows that connection to community has a positive impact on mental health, sense of belonging and hence contributes to resilience building. We are investigating ways that we can create more covered outdoor space eg a roof over the tennis courts.

An Advisory Panel to examine the Rural Gap in student education outcomes has been set up by the Andrew's government. Country Education Partnership research paper (2018) identified the challenges for rural schools which include recruitment and retention of quality teachers and educational leaders, lower levels of youth student aspiration, flagging education outcomes, lower levels of youth participation with higher education and limited curriculum opportunities. Although Portland Secondary College fares much better than some areas we are also conscious that we need to deal with aspects to some degree. For example it is easier for a city based student to live at home and attend university then it is for a rural student to find accommodation and leave the community that they have grown up in when they go away to higher education. The panel plan to visit Warrnambool in August.

School Council meeting will be held on Wednesday night. As a principal I welcome the School Council feedback and input into the decision making processes around the best way to resource the College. The School Council is also very active in relaying a parental/carers perspective on issues that may affect students' education.

During Term 3 there have been several staff changes as teachers take long service leave. Ms Hollis is replaced for 3 weeks by Ms Helen Simpson and Mr Harris will be replaced during term by Ms Jasper. Mr Jones will replace Mr Harris in his leadership role. I would like to welcome back Mal Fleming as Numeracy coach for one day per week. Ms Fleming will be working with Year 10 students.

Influenza outbreaks are impacting on staff and students alike. We thank you for your support when staff are away ill. The student absences also have increased. For example on just one day last week we had 100 absent because of illness. Please ensure that the explanation is updated.

Year 9 and Year 10 camps are also on the go this week. We wish students and staff a wonderful experience.

**Patricia Nunan** - Acting Principal.





Tania Beard, Welfare Coordinator, delivered a presentation regarding her recent Professional Development to Education Support Staff, Student Services.

## Sharing the Knowledge

It is important to upskill and keep in touch with community training and skills to support students and staff in the PSC community.

**Christine Hart** | PSD & Student Support Coordinator | Portland Secondary College





**PSC Jackets in 2XL & 3XL just arrived.**

**All other sizes also available.**

**\$85.00 each.**

## 60 Seconds with.....



**Name and Role:** Frankie Jasper -  
Humanities Teacher.

***What do you enjoy most about working for the Education Department?***

The other teachers.

***What would be a highlight to date of your time at PSC?***

Heaters in the classrooms.

***If Hollywood made a movie about your life, who would play the lead?***

Dame Judy Dench.

***What would the movie be called?***

High School Musical.

***Do you have pets?***

Yes, I have a cat called AB and a puppy called Vitani.

***What was the last book you read?***

The Barefoot Investor.

***If you had to be shipwrecked on a deserted island, but all your human needs—such as food and water were taken care of, what two items would you want to have with you?***

Netflix and a massage chair.

***You've travelled and seen lots of places, which would you most like to return to?***

Warrnambool.

***If you invited your Mentor Group to your house for dinner, what would you cook?***

Tacos.

***What makes you smile?***

People falling over.

## Doctors in Secondary Schools at Portland Secondary College

Wednesdays at the  
Doctors Pod.

Appointments can be  
made via Welfare  
Office, Student  
Services,  
[DISS@portlandsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:DISS@portlandsc.vic.gov.au) any time of the  
week, or visit the  
Doctors Pod on  
Wednesdays to make  
an appointment. Talk  
to Michelle Cables,  
Tania Beard or Mrs  
Hart if you have any  
questions about the  
service.

Portland Secondary  
College has been  
supporting the  
successful Doctors in  
Secondary Schools  
(DISS) program since  
2017. Previously PSC  
have conducted  
feedback and surveys  
and this will occur  
soon. There will be an  
opportunity for  
parents, staff and  
students to be  
involved in this  
process, and a flyer  
will be in later  
newsletters to inform  
of the dates and  
logins.

**Christine Hart -  
PSD & Student Support  
Coordinator PSC.**

# Warrnambool Eisteddfod (Music) 2019

In the last week of Term 3, students in the Music Department travelled to compete in the Warrnambool Eisteddfod. The eisteddfod adjudicator, Dr. Kevin Cameron was highly encouraging and was pleased to see us travelling over to compete in this event.

Overall, Portland Secondary College was extremely successful and competed in solo, duet, and band sections over two days against many of the Warrnambool schools.

Kristyn Cram – Instrumental Instructor.

## Tuesday – duets and solos at Mozart Hall

- Lainie Middleton received an Honorable Mention in the Intermediate Brass Solo.
- Lainie Middleton and Alyssa Dunstan came second in the Intermediate Duet



## Wednesday – Bands at Emmanuel College

- PSC Stage Band came third in the Stage/Jazz Band section.
- Congratulations: **Lainie Middleton, Alyssa Dunstan, Ella Sandow, Charlotte Von Tunk, Jed Denham and Josh Holman.**
- PSC Rock Band (AKA Mint) received first place in the Contemporary Band section (pictured right).
- Congratulations: **Kade Noonan, Kynan Arden, Sam Whitehead and Lainie Middleton.**





# VOICE TREATY TRUTH

07 - 14  
JULY 2019

Let's work together for a shared future.

## NAIDOC Theme 2019

### Voice. Treaty. Truth.

Were three key elements to the reforms set out in the Uluru Statement from the Heart. These reforms represent the unified position of First Nations Australians. National NAIDOC Co-Chair Patricia Thompson says that for generations, Indigenous Australians have sought recognition of their unique place in Australian history and society today.

“For generations, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have looked for significant and lasting change. We need our fellow Australians to join us on this journey – to finish the unfinished business of this country.”

“The 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart built on generations of consultation and discussions among Indigenous people - we need to be the architects of our lives and futures,” she concluded.

National NAIDOC Co Chair, John Paul Janke believes 2019 is also a unique opportunity to hear this nation’s Indigenous voice with the year being celebrated as the UN’s International Year of Indigenous Languages. “It’s time for our knowledge to be heard through our voice – an Indigenous voice of this country that is over 65,000 plus years old.” “They are the first words spoken on this continent. Languages that passed down lore, culture and knowledge for over millennia.” “They are precious to our nation and need to be celebrated but it’s our voice that needs to be listened to,” he said.

The 2019 theme acknowledges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have always wanted an enhanced role in decision making in Australia’s democracy. The theme also highlights our various First Nations’ desires for lasting and effective agreements such as Treaties which cannot be achieved unless we have a shared, truthful understanding of the nature of the dispute, of the history, of how we got to where we stand.

“The history of our First Peoples is the history of all of us, of all of Australia, and we need to own it - hearing this history is necessary before we can come to some true reconciliation, some genuine healing for both sides.” “Then we can move forward together.”

“So, Let’s work together for a shared future,” the Co-Chairs concluded.

<https://www.naidoc.org.au/news/naidoc-2019-voice-treaty-truth-let's-work-together-shared-future>

# The Vic SRC Congress

In the Mid-term holidays, three students from the Portland SRC (Student Representative Council) attended the VIC SRC Congress in Melbourne for 3 days.

Students from all across Victoria went to Congress, from both Government and Private schools. Over the three days, students worked in teams of twelve to tackle the biggest issues students face at school.

Thomas Roberts, Will Kirk and Jake Cowie attended the congress representing Portland Secondary College with the ambitions to have their say because we do not make change alone!



PSC students, Thomas, Will and Jake.

The top issues as voted by the students were:

- ⇒ Politics 101/Civics and Citizenship/How to vote
- ⇒ Climate Crisis
- ⇒ Sustainable education /more training for teachers
- ⇒ Real world skills
- ⇒ Funding for schools

The Vic SRC will work on these five top priorities for the next 12 months. The topic we chose to work on was **Primary to Secondary transition support AKA P.A.S.T.A.**

We worked hard over three days to push for this topic to become a priority. Unfortunately, we did not make the top five, however the Education department will still look at our topic closely. PSC has a strong transition program, which was admired by other schools.



Thank you Mr. Doyle for giving us this great experience and organising the event.

## **COUNTRY CUP WINNERS!!**

Portland Secondary College have defeated Warrnambool's Brauer College 20.12 (132) to 2.3 (19) in The Country Cup at Port Fairy's Gardens Oval.

PSC led at every break, with Josh Styles 5 goals, and Baxter Hollis on 3.

Jai Langenberg was awarded the Rick Barham medal — (pictured below).



**Congratulations**  
to *Tilly Shand*  
who came a  
fantastic 59th  
position in the  
State Cross  
Country.



The [Year 11 VCAL](#) class participated in two workplace tours in the last week of term 2. They visited Treloar Roses and the Port of Portland. Students learnt about the industry of each business, the types of jobs and careers available and Occupational Health & Safety. A big thank you to Treloar Roses, Port of Portland and Ms Patterson for your assistance.



**Treloar Roses:**

I enjoyed seeing everyone at work and to gain more understanding of what is involved in their occupation - [Jorja](#)

Was good to see how all the roses were trimmed up and boxed to be sent to businesses and families. It was interesting to see the process of growing and supplying roses. - [Teagan](#)

Treloar Roses was interesting as we learnt how they pack the roses and how they pick. We learnt how much they produce and that they are globally recognized. - [Kane](#)

**Port of Portland**

Port of Portland was good as it was different and because I have never been there before. - [Hudson](#)

I enjoyed the Port tour because it was engaging, I learnt about customs and the terrorist watch list. There are lots of different jobs that I didn't know they had. - [Josh](#)

The Port tour was good, I got to see inside the port as we had access. We got to see what goes on there and it was great to hear about all the different jobs they have available. - [James](#)



Zavier Durbridge building a stand-up desk for Miss Kelly as part of his Work Related Skills class.

**Portland Re-Engagement Program**

In the last few weeks of term two, the students organised some activities with a focus on teamwork, communication and OHS. Some of the activities included: Squash, Beach Exploring, Cooking and Building a stand up desk for Katie.



# **WE WANT OUR PARENTS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!**

Our school is conducting a survey to find out what parents think of our school. The Parent Opinion Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education and Training that is conducted amongst a sample of randomly selected parents. It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of parents' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour and student engagement. Our school will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies.

Approximately 30 per cent of parents will be invited to participate in this year's survey. All responses to the survey are anonymous. This year the Parent Opinion Survey will be conducted from **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July** to **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August**.

The survey will be conducted **online**, only takes **10-15 minutes** to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time within the fieldwork period on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones. The online survey will be available in a range of languages other than English. These include: Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Chin (hakha), Hindi, Japanese, Somali, Turkish, Punjabi and Greek.

The survey results will be reported back to the school at the end of September. <<School may inform that the survey results will be communicated to parents through annual reporting or by some other means>> Last year we used the survey results to plan <<school can insert initiatives that link back to main messages from the 2018 survey>>.

Please speak to your child's teacher if you would like more information.

# ENVISION

After Seeing some T.V shows about recycling plastic bottle tops I contacted Envision in the hope our Community will donate to such a great cause.



What is needed – Grade 2 & 4 plastic bottle tops.

They are mainly from Coke Cola (they are also supporters), Schweppes, Supermarket soft drinks, milk & water such as Mt Franklin, Coles brand water or any tops you see a 2 or 4 under the cap.

The tops are transformed into mobility aids for disadvantaged children & communities throughout India and other 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries.

Our local businesses have kindly accepted collection boxes for any donations –

- Heywood Bakery
- Goat & Tree
- Heywood Deli
- Heywood Consolidated School
- Portland Secondary College
- Heywood Hospital - Kitchen

If you want to get involved or learn more you can find out at [envision.org.au](http://envision.org.au) plus there are sheets with the boxes for further reading.

I hope we can all do something for the environment & assist in a great charity.

Thankyou,

**Karen** ....Food Tech at PSC ( Heywood Community Newsletter Editor).

**Jan** ...(Heywood Community Newsletter Treasurer).



**MICHAEL CARR-GREGG**

**MENTAL HEALTH  
THE 5 GREATEST  
CHALLENGES OF  
PARENTING  
ADOLESCENTS**

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**FREE  
PARENTING  
Forum**

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Dr Michael Carr-Gregg is one of Australia's highest profile psychologists, broadcasters and authors. He is a specialist in parenting children and adolescents and in the benefit of technology for mental health.

We invite you to attend this free presentation

**29 JULY 7PM-8:30PM  
SIMONS AUDITORIUM**

The Hamilton and Alexandra College, Kantor Family Music and Performing Arts Centre  
1 Chaucer St, Hamilton Vic | Enquiries: Ph. 4372 1335

**RSVP**  
<https://parentingadolescentsmichaelcarrgregg.eventbrite.com.au>

 **THE HAMILTON  
AND ALEXANDRA COLLEGE**  
CONFIDENT FUTURES

## Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund — payment arrangements for 2019

- The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) has changed to a Term one application process and payment cycle from 2019.
- The changed timing of the program provides a better alignment with school budgeting and administrative processes and will give families certainty at the beginning of the year regarding CSEF eligibility.
- Applications for the CSEF program will open from the commencement of Term one 2019 helping to ensure that all eligible students are able to participate in school trips and sporting activities.
- **Families holding a valid means-tested concession card are eligible to apply.** A special consideration category also exists.
- A payment of \$225 for eligible secondary school students will be paid directly to the school to be used towards camps, sports and excursion costs for the benefit of the student.
- The Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities.
- This initiative is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.
- **Application forms are available from the General Office.**

## Canteen Roster

Tue 23 July	10am - 1.30pm	Help Needed Please
Wed 24 July	10am - 1.30pm	Help Needed Please
Thurs 25 July	10am - 1.30pm	Help Needed Please
Fri 26 July	10am - 1.30pm	Help Needed Please
Mon 29 July	10am - 1.30pm	Help Needed Please
Tue 30 July	10am - 1.30pm	Help Needed Please
Wed 31 July	10am - 1.30pm	Help Needed Please
Thurs 1 August	10am - 1.30pm	Help Needed Please
Fri 2 August	10am - 1.30pm	Help Needed Please
Mon 5 August	10am - 1.30pm	Help Needed Please

### Attention Parents.....need to know more about Compass Student Manager?

Take the opportunity to learn more about Compass.

Lessons & enquiries for Parents are available from the General Office.



### New Facebook Page .....



The **Portland Secondary College Facebook** page is a popular way for parents and students to keep up to date with what's happening at PSC — upcoming events, news items and daily activities.

We have now created a new Facebook page called **PSC 2nd Hand School Items For Sale** where parents and students can buy and sell secondhand uniform items. You must request to join the page as a member pending approval.

Please contact the school if you require more information regarding this page.

### Wise and Witty Words.

*We either make ourselves miserable, or we make ourselves strong. The amount of work is the same.*

EFTPOS is available for your convenience at the General Office.



### Mission Statement

*To develop creative, articulate, respectful and resourceful young people able to contribute positively to the global community.*



**COMPASS**  
School Manager

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