



# Portland Secondary College

## Newsletter

**TERM 4 WEEK 11**

17th December 2025

## Highlights

- Principal's report
- Attendance
- Library News
- End of Year Celebrations
- Sport
- Art
- Live4Life
- Careers
- Community News

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER



**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

- End of year program - Science/LOTE



**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

- End of year program - English
- Final day for PSC students

**2026**



**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January**

- All staff return



**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January**

- Mentor Interviews
- General office open to public



**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January**

- Year 7, 11 & 12 students start Term 1 2026



**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January**

- Year 7 - 12 students all attend



**Portland Secondary College is a Child Safe School**



## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

This newsletter is the last for 2025 and I would like to take the opportunity to wish all Portland Secondary College Students and their families a wonderful Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing you in 2026 ready for the new school year.

We have had a very busy end to the School Year. Students finalised exams and assessments and enjoyed a week of Head Start and celebratory activities. Faculty groups are currently leading activity days based around their subject areas and students are enjoying a wide range of hands-on activities.

The annual Bridgewater Day for students in Years 7 to 10 was held on Friday, December 5th and the sunshine stayed true for the entire day. Students enjoyed a variety of activities out at the beach including swimming, surfing, cricket, soccer, volleyball and other games. Thank you to the staff and our Surf Patrol leaders.

Student reports are now available for download on Compass. Any parents with any questions should contact your child's mentor.

On Wednesday the 28th of January, all students will be required to attend a 15 minute parent/student interview with your child's mentor. More information on this day will come out shortly. Staff return on Tuesday the 27th of January, Years 7 and VCE and any Year 10 students doing a VCE subject return on Thursday the 29th of January and Years 8, 9 and 10 on Friday the 30th of January.

Last week we hosted our Presentation Night in the College gym. Congratulations to all students who received awards and scholarships on the night.

The operation of the school has been well supported again by an excellent College Council led by Ms Rebecca Fraser. The College Council meets monthly to review policies, contribute to the direction of the school and address the range of issues that inevitably arise. It is a challenging but rewarding job and I thank all members of Council for their continuing support.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge the large number of dedicated and committed teachers across the school who work tirelessly to enrich the lives of young people and engage them in their learning. This includes those teachers who work at the College's Re-engagement Program. This program is delivered off site and is designed to reconnect disengaged young people with their education. I also want to thank the agencies and businesses who provide support for us to run this program.

I also want to acknowledge Mr David Burgoyne who runs the (RE)Connect Program. This program is designed to engage young people in education when previously they were not undertaking any schooling. This program has assisted over 30 students this year to re-engage with their schooling.



Thanks and recognition must also be given to the large number of non-teaching staff who play a vital role in the efficient running of the school. This includes Student Support Service Officers, Disability Inclusion Aides, Office staff, Library Staff, Laboratory Technicians, Information Technology Support staff, the Wellbeing Team and the Canteen staff.

I would also personally like to thank the Leadership team – our Assistant Principals – Ms Kirsten Mitchell, and Mr Colin Payne for all their hard work and acknowledge our School Leadership Team of Mrs Christine Dixon, Mr Braden Dawson, Ms Elizabeth Paulet, Ms Deandra Tanner, Ms Mollie Reed and Mr Simon Jones for their tireless efforts. Together with Finance Manager, Alana Nesbit, Operations Manager, Cheryl Van Echteld and Daily Organiser, Jemma Aitchison, this team ensures Portland Secondary College continues to develop as a centre of high-quality teaching and learning, wellbeing and engagement.

I would also like to acknowledge all of our student leaders, particularly our School Captains, Tiarna Sandeman and Esther Thompson, who have continued to inspire students and completed their year of office with dedication, commitment and enthusiasm.

Each year we have some staff who move on: Mr Liam Doyle, and Ms Jill Perkins are retiring and we wish them well as they pursue other interests; Mr Jamie Olsen, Mr Dale Radcliffe, Ms Dana Lourie, Ms Aoife Blake and Ms Lauren Logan are leaving to begin teaching elsewhere, trainees Montannah Perrett, Siti Nurlaela Sari and Tarni Mesley are also leaving to pursue other training opportunities, Caryn Lyszczarz is returning to study, and Mr Simon Jones, Ms Isabella Trott, Ms Joanne Logan, Ms Lydia Mackie, Mr Dylan Barr, and Ms Nicole Van Veen are all taking an extended leave break. I am very excited to announce that we will welcome some new staff on board who bring with them a mix of teaching experience and youthful enthusiasm and I look forward to introducing them to the school community early next year.

I wish our Year 12 students who are leaving us, every success in their future endeavours. I hope you will look back at your time at Portland Secondary College fondly and that you come back and visit us.

Finally, congratulations to all students on your amazing achievements; and thank you to parents, sponsors and supporters for your continued support of this great College.

To the students returning and their families, I hope you have a restful and happy holiday but come back next year focused and ready to begin the next stage of your learning journey.



Some of our Year 12 High Achievers attending a morning tea to celebrate their successes!

**Respect**

**Success**

**Resilience**

**Creativity**

# SCHOOL COUNCIL 2026

## Interested in being on School Council in 2026?

From 2026, parents, carers and community members who would like to join the school council need a working with children (WWC) clearance to nominate. If you are considering nominating for school council, and don't already have a WWCC, I encourage you to apply for a volunteer WWC check as soon as possible. This will allow for processing times, which are estimated to be from 3 to 12 weeks.

Please note that if you do not hold a WWC clearance, you will not be able to nominate for school council, so it is vital that you prepare in advance. Obtaining a WWC clearance is free for volunteers, and you can apply online at Service Victoria.

When applying for your volunteer WWC check, please nominate the Department of Education as the organisation you are working for.

If you already hold an employee WWC clearance, you do not need to obtain a volunteer WWC clearance to nominate for school council.

Victorian Institute of Teaching-registered teachers and school students who are interested in joining school council are not required to obtain a WWC clearance.

Current parents and community members of school council do not need to apply for a WWC check immediately. Current members only need a WWC clearance if their term ends and they wish to nominate or be co-opted again.



## SEMESTER 2 STUDENT REPORTS

Semester 2 student reports are now available to view and download on the Compass app.

Any questions or issues accessing these documents, please contact our General Office for support 5523 1344

**Respect**

**Success**

**Resilience**

**Creativity**



# 2025 PRESENTATION NIGHT

We recently celebrated our PSC 2025 Presentation Night.

Well done and congratulations to all students who were recognised for their hard work and dedication to their studies this year.

Thank you to our sponsors who support our students.

**DWECH** – DWECH PSC Values Award – Ruby O'Brien

**SOCIAL SCIENCE AWARD** – Highest Score in Highest Level of Social Science – Will McIntyre

**Rotary Club of Portland** – Academic Improvement Award – Oscar Elford & Will Black

**Portland Memorial Bowling Club** – Middle School Excellence Award – Callum Richardson

**Portland Memorial Bowling Club** – Junior School Excellence Award – Ethan Matley

**Portland RSL Sub-Branch** – Reg Saunders Memorial Scholarship – Jakiah Bamblett

**Port of Portland** – Junior School Values Scholarship – Kadence McQualter

**Lions Club of Portland Inc** – Len Mibus Scholarship – Matilda Andrews, Jax Pettingill & Ava Killmister

**History Excellence Award** – Harvey Stratton

**Modern Edge Contracting** – Junior School Resilience Award – Toby King

**Deakin University Warrnambool Campus** – Deakin VCE Award – Karrie Sharam

**UniSA Mt Gambier Campus** – UniSA Excellence Award – Millie Wilkie

**Westvic Staffing Solutions** – 2025 VET Excellence Award – Melanie Knight

**Portland Masonic Community Scholarship** – Bella Roberts, Ophelia Kort, Ace O'Brien, Mia O'Brien, Rachel De Lange, Leroy Egan

**Portland Masonic Community Scholarship** – Dr Geoff Hitchman Scholarship – Mason Vaughan

**Portland Masonic Community Scholarship** – Ella Hamada

**ADF – ADF Long Tan Leadership Award** – Henry Von Tunk & Tiarna Sandeman

**ADF – ADF Future Innovator Award** – Charlee Coates & Alex Twomey

**Tyrendarra Football Netball Club** – Physical Education Academic Excellence Award – Sienna Stone

**Tree Top Technicians – Scholarship** – Azarah-Lee Taylor, Indiana Keddie & Zarlee Hine

**Junior Public Speaking Award** – Ajay Sonti

**Hommelhoff Music Award** – Kiran Sonti

**Ampol – 2024 Ampol All Rounder** – Ben McDowell

**Glenelg Shire Council** – Lance Allen Memorial VCE VM Excellence Award – Melanie Knight

**T.M & L.M Doherty Plumbing** – Excellence in trade orientated subject – Tom Hegarty, Harvey Greskie & Aleah Durbidge

**South Coast Windows by Crams** – Scholarship – Imogen Black

**Menzel Electrical** – Scholarship – Skyla Ralph

**Portland Women's Services Club** – Scholarship – Jayla Ryan

Respect

Success

Resilience

Creativity

# 2025 PRESENTATION NIGHT

**Office of Jacinta Ermacora MP** – Scholarship – Bella Carlyon

**Live4Life Glenelg Shire** – Scholarship – Scarlett McGinnisken

**Student Artwork Award** – Art Making & Exhibiting – Charlotte Fraser

**Visual Art Award** – Patrick McGinnisken

**Creative Literature Award** – Millie Wilkie

**Junior LOTE Award** – Brody Trickey

**Senior LOTE Award** – Ava Killmister

**LOTE Encouragement Award** – Marcus Morgan

**MYLNS Award** – Tom Hegarty & Mia Malcom

**Literacy Extension Award** – Amber Fitzgerald

**Lexia Award** – Wade Bassett

**Quicksmart Award** – Kadence McQualter, Kahlia Stewart & Jeziel Venn

**Technology Excellence Award** – Kade Wilson & Annalyse Hein

**Performing Arts Excellence Award** – Harriette Eichler & Ellie Bott

**Future Leaders of Industry Participation Award** – Noah Liersch, Elias Taleb, Sy Sy Diep & Alyssa Carlson

**History Challenge Participation Award** – Henry Von Tunk

**2026 School Captains** – Sienna Stone & Gracie Walder

**2026 Vice Captains** – Henry Von Tunk & Imogen Black

**School for Student Leadership Participation Award** – Rose O'Flynn, Otis Porter & Clancy Stirling

**2026 School for Student Leadership** – Ace O'Brien & Eli Porter

**Portland Secondary College Grade 6 Scholarships** – Billie Cummins, Vaidehi Baniyal, Ruby Lancaster, Elena Tsimiklis, Jude Cumming, Maya Dyke, Milla Reitman, Lucy Colley, Arley Trickey, Francis Guingab, Crystal Hodges, Banjo Mewburn

**Chemistry Competition Awards** – Hugo Keenan, Flynn Belden, Heath Keiller, Archer Cumming, Gracie Watt, Will Shelton, Jan Mejrada, Veer Chauhan

**Powerhouse Production Media Award** – Charlee Coates & Chloe McKay

**Hands on Learning MVP** – Addi Newton

**Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program** – Claire Fahey & Charlee Coates

**Shrine Young Ambassador** – Ajay Sonti

**Outstanding Student of The Year in VDSS** – Melanie Knight

**Senior School Shield** – Year 12s

**South-West Tafe Student of The Year** – Angus Meade

**Victorian Premiers Reading Challenge** – Bella Roberts

**RE Freemasons Fund – Portland Masonic Lodge RE Student of The Year** – Mike Allen

**RE Freemasons Fund – Portland Masonic Lodge Leadership Award** – Joey Zehetner

**Respect**

**Success**

**Resilience**

**Creativity**



# PRESENTATION NIGHT 2025



Respect

Success

Resilience

Creativity



# 2025 YEAR 12 DUXES



**Portland Secondary College**  
*Creating the opportunities*

## 2025 VCE DUX AND VCE VM DUX



PSC proudly congratulates our **2025 VCE DUX, Kirby MacLeod** (ATAR 88.15) and **VCE VM DUX, Melanie Knight**. Your hard work has created opportunities that will shape an exceptional future.



**Portland Secondary College**  
*Creating the opportunities*

## 2025 High Achievers

PSC congratulates our 2025 High Achievers and all Year 12 students on their outstanding results this year, paving the way for exciting opportunities now and into the future.



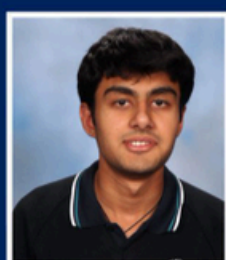
Kirby MacLeod



Melanie Knight



Evie Ayling



Veer Singh Chauhan



Ben McDowell



Janneus Mejorada



Jake Tunstall



# 2025 HIGH ACHIEVERS – Year 12



**Ben McDowell**



**Evie Ayling**



**Jake Tunstall**



**Jan Mejorada**



**Veer Chauhan**



**Patrick McGenniskien**



**Charlotte Fraser**



**Millie Wilkie**



**Spencer Middleton**



**Alex Twomey**



**Tiarna Sandeman**



**Karrie Sharma**



**Mia Pfeiffer**



**Chloe Reynolds**



**Ceejay Durbidge**



**Aleesha Whitehead**



**Annalyse Hein**



**Angus Meade**



**Ducati Vallance**



**Caity Taylor**



**Rylan McKay**



**Shannon Twomey**



**Esther Thompson**



**Emily Miller**



**Harry Looker**

# 2025 DUX AND HIGH ACHIEVERS

## Year 11



**Andrae McTackett (DUX)**



**Sienna Stone**



**Mykaylah Augoustakis**



**Anthony Price**



**Jessica Saliba**



**Kaetlin Dyke**



**Erin McPhee**



# 2025 DUX AND HIGH ACHIEVERS

## Year 10



**Charlee Coates (DUX)**



**Henry Von Tunk**



**Imogen Black**



**Chantel Rees**



**Charlotte Hein**



**Vincent Prentice**



**Paige Aitchison**



**Mia McDowell**



**Eloise Marsh**



**Judd Carter**

# 2025 DUXES AND HIGH ACHIEVERS

## Year 9



**Chole McKay**  
(DUX)



**Ivy Aitchison**  
(DUX)



**Harriette Eichler**  
(DUX)



**Akshara Singh**  
(DUX)



**Evie Dodson**



**Zac Thornton**



**Georgie Taylor**



**Madeline Sanelli**



**Jack Matley**



**Rachel De Lange**



**Emily Legg**



**Zahlee Currie**



**Libby Smith**



**Ajay Sonti**



**Oscar Elford**



**Ryan Dark**



# 2025 DUX AND HIGH ACHIEVERS

## Year 8



**Summer Stone (DUX)**



**Ryder Trickey**



**Quinn Fleming**



**Quinn Stewart**



**Zayne Medina**



**Ethan Matley**



**Archer Cumming**



**Amber Fitzgerald**



**Joelliane Mejorada**



**Molly Hinch**



**Oscar Quarrell**



# 2025 DUX AND HIGH ACHIEVERS

## Year 7



**Mia O'Brien (DUX)**



**Cameron Botica**



**Hugo Keenan**



**Brody Trickey**



**Mio Miyazaki**



**Summer Campbell**



**Kayden Pettingill**



**Isabelle Richarson**



**Jessica Wheldon**



**Melodi Fairweather**



**Daisy Bassett**

# 2026 PSC SCHOOL & VICE CAPTAINS

Portland Secondary College is pleased to announce the School Captains for 2026: Sienna Stone and Gracie Walder.



**Portland Secondary College**  
*Creating the opportunities*



2026  
SCHOOL  
CAPTAINS

SIENNA  
STONE  
&  
GRACIE  
WALDER



**Portland Secondary College**  
*Creating the opportunities*



2026  
VICE  
CAPTAINS  
HENRY  
VON TUNK  
&  
IMOGEN  
BLACK

We are also pleased to announce the Vice Captains for 2026: Henry Von Tunk and Imogen Black.



# 2025 RE-ENGAGEMENT GRADUATION

Our Re-Engagement staff and students recently held their 2025 Graduation celebration. Congratulations to the following students who we are proud to announce as this year's

Graduates:

**Mike Allen**

**Riley Kelly**

**Roydon (Roy) Foster**

**Joey Zehetner**

**Saxon Cables**

Award Recipients:

• **All Rounder:** Janika Allen

• **Most Improved Student:** Roy Foster

• **Endeavour Award:** Riley Kelly

• **2025 Re-Engagement Student of the Year:** Joey Zehetner

We would also like to sincerely thank and acknowledge the many Portland businesses and community members who support our staff and students at RE:

\* Port of Portland

\* RE Steering Committee: Ann Murphy, Tiana Richardson (LLEN), Tamika Amos (DWECH), Kate Mee (KESO), Lee-Anne Nelson (Portland Police) and Nicole Carr (United Way)

\* Freemasons Foundation Victoria and Portland Masonic Lodge No. 6

\* The Portland Uniting Church

\* Alcoa (Anna Impey)

\* Portland District Health (Maddi Cram)

\* Glenelg Shire Youth Officers (Meg and Mel)

\* Powerhouse Productions (Peter and Blake)

\* Glenelg & Southern Grampians Local Learning & Employment Network (Tiana and Ann)

\* Brophy

\* Koorie Education Support Officer (Kate Mee)

\* DWECH Youth Workers (Tonia Anderson, Billy Twomey and Patrick Pekin)

\* Local Artist (Vicki Reynolds)

\* Live4Life (Cathryn Walder)

\* Neighbourhood House (Cat and Stan)





24/11/2025

## What is happening, when and why?

From **10 December 2025**, social media platforms must take reasonable steps to deactivate social media accounts held by children under 16 and prevent new accounts. A “social media platform” is one that enables social connection and user interaction.

The Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024 introduced these restrictions to delay exposure to social media risks and to allow time for digital literacy and maturity.

## Which platforms are affected?

As of November 2025, the following platforms are included:

- Facebook • Instagram • Snapchat • TikTok • X (formerly Twitter)
- YouTube • Threads • Reddit • Kick • Twitch

This list is subject to review. Platforms may be added or removed over time. Children under 16 can still use **YouTube Kids** and view regular **YouTube** without logging in (with limited functionality).

## Will children under 16 break the law if they continue using social media?

No. Children, parents, carers, and teachers will not face penalties. Platforms are responsible for enforcement and may face fines if they fail to comply.

## What about existing content?

Platforms may deactivate accounts for users under 16 instead of deleting them, but this is not guaranteed. Encourage your child to download any data they want to keep (such as posts, chats, photos, and videos) before December 10.

## Can under-16s bypass the limit?

No system is perfect, and some children under 16 may try to bypass age restrictions, similar to other age restricted activities. Platforms must take steps to prevent this, including blocking fake IDs, AI tools, deepfakes, and VPNs that disguise location.

24/11/2025

## How will age be checked?

Each platform will choose its own methods for age checks, guided by eSafety's regulatory advice and international best practices.

Platforms must follow the Online Safety Act and Privacy Act when handling personal information, and they cannot force Australians to use government-issued IDs – reasonable alternatives must be offered.

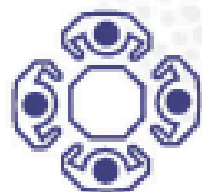
They should also have processes to fix mistakes, allow reporting of underage accounts, and provide reviews if someone is wrongly restricted.

## How can I support my child?

- Explain what is happening and reassure children they are not breaking the law.
- Help them reflect on what they enjoy online and find alternatives.
- Be aware some may turn to gaming, messaging apps, or AI chatbots – check ratings, privacy settings, and risks.
- Report any cyber bullying to the platform or [eSafety](#). For further support, consult a healthcare provider, [Kids Helpline](#), [Dolly's Dream Support Line](#), or a [parent helpline](#).

For more information visit: [www.esafety.gov.au](http://www.esafety.gov.au)





# Portland Secondary College

1<sup>st</sup> November 2025

Dear parent/guardian,

Portland Secondary College is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Portland Secondary College's voluntary financial contributions for 2026.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements, and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. Nevertheless, the ongoing support of our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education, resources and support for our students.

Within our school, family contribution support has allowed us to ensure a wider offering of subjects and curriculum experiences: enhanced digital learning opportunities; the upgrade of facilities and equipment and the engagement of presenters and presentations to enhance student learning.

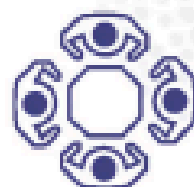
For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

Yours sincerely,

**JO KINDRED**  
Principal

**REBECCA FRASER**  
School Council President





# Portland Secondary College

Curriculum Contributions - Items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Subject consumables, 2026 student planner, classroom materials and activities	\$260.00
VET Program (if applicable to your student) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Contribution to support the provision of our VET program offerings</li></ul>	\$50.00
<b>Total Curriculum Contributions</b>	<b>\$310.00</b>

Other Contributions - For non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
First aid equipment and supplies (including bandaids, kits, icepacks)	\$10.00
School grounds maintenance and improvements	\$30.00
<b>Total Other Contributions</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>

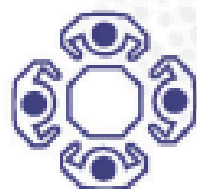
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities - provided on a user-pays basis Portland Secondary College offers a range of optional items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides to deliver the Curriculum.	Estimations Only (Amount for activity to be calculated at the time of planning and families notified via Compass)
Camps to be scheduled for Years 7 to 10	\$180 to \$400
GD / GWR Sports Events	\$10.00 to \$30.00
Tertiary Tour	\$180.00
Year 12 Graduation Ticket	\$60.00
<b>Total Extra-curricular Items and Activities</b>	<b>Notified as required</b>

## Financial Support for Families

Portland Secondary College understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
- State Schools Relief (SSR)
- Compass Payment plans

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact our Finance Manager, Alana Nesbit on 03 5523 1344.



# Portland Secondary College

Option 1 - Total for students enrolled Year 7 to 12:	Total
Curriculum Contributions	\$260.00
Other Contributions	\$40.00
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Paid as required
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>

Option 2 - Total for students enrolled in VET Program:	Total
Curriculum Contributions including VET Program	\$310.00
Other Contributions	\$40.00
Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Paid as required
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$350.00</b>

## Payment methods available at Portland Secondary College:

**Compass:** Provides a quick and convenient payment through the Compass parent login. Requests for a personalised family plan are available.

### Cash or EFTPOS

**Direct Deposit:**  
It is highly recommended to enter relevant information as the reference to identify student and purpose of payment.

**BPay:** offering families a unique reference

**Voluntary Curriculum Consumables:** Pay in full, 10 Week Payments Plans are offered Terms 1 to 4.  
**Extra-Curricular Activities:** Pay in full, Payment Plans available tailored to be finalised prior to event date.

Available at the General Office.

**NAME:** Portland Secondary College School Council  
**BSB:** 063 093  
**ACCOUNT:** 1000 2891  
**REFERENCE:** Student code eg: STU123

Available by requesting a Family statement.

## Refunds

Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and made on a case-by-case basis. Refunds will be provided where the school deems it is reasonable and fair to do so, taking into consideration whether a cost has been incurred, the Department's Parent Payments Policy and Guidance, Financial Help for Families Policy, and any other relevant information.



# PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY OVERVIEW



## FREE INSTRUCTION

- Schools provide students with free instruction and ensure students have free access to all items, activities and services that are used by the school to fulfil the requirements of the Curriculum. This includes the Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- Schools may invite parents to make a financial contribution to support the school.



## PARENT PAYMENT REQUESTS

Schools can request contributions from parents under three categories:

Curriculum Contributions	Other Contributions	Extra-Curricular Items and Activities
Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.	Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.	Items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides for free to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

- Schools may also invite parents to supply or purchase educational items to use and own (e.g. textbooks, stationery, digital devices).



## FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

- Schools put in place financial hardship arrangements to support families who cannot pay for items or activities so that their child doesn't miss out.
- Schools have a nominated parent payment contact person(s) that parents can have a confidential discussion with regarding financial hardship arrangements.



## SCHOOL PROCESSES

Schools must obtain school council approval for their parent payment arrangements and publish all requests and communications for each year level on their school website for transparency.

# Portland Secondary College

## Our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) Impact

At Portland Secondary College we strive to create an environment where high expectations, a wealth of opportunities, and dedicated professional growth enable students to embody our core values of Respect, Success, Resilience and Creativity.

The implementation of School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) has seen the College establish a solid framework in which to develop a positive, safe and supportive culture where student wellbeing and student learning are equally important.

SWPBS is a multi-tiered support system for behaviour management employed by our teachers which focuses on promoting expected behaviours through positive teaching and reinforcement. We are in the second year of implementation.

**21%**

**Fewer Major Behaviour Incidents**

**Major Behaviour referrals have dropped significantly, leading to calmer classrooms and more time for learning.**

**5:1**

**More positive classrooms**

**We're aiming for 5 positive comments to every one correction, helping students to succeed.**

**26%**

**Increase in Positive Green notes**

**Green notes are affirmations, given to students who exhibit positive behaviours.**

**We've also seen**

- increased respectful and positive behaviour
- increased time focused on learning
- increased academic performance
- improved social-emotional wellbeing
- positive and respectful relationships among students and staff
- a predictable learning environment
- improved perception of safety
- reduced bullying behaviours
- decreased suspensions
- increased positive school culture and climate

Our 2025 Attitude to School Survey completed by students showed a:

- **7%** growth in **Sense of Connectedness**
- **7%** growth in **Respect for Diversity**
- **7%** growth in **Effective Classroom Behaviour**
- **14%** growth in **Not Experiencing Bullying**
- **3%** growth in **Advocate at School**

### What Our Students Are Learning

**RESPECT**

**SUCCESS**

**RESILIENCE**

**CREATIVITY**

***Be Respectful*** and treat others as you would like to be treated yourself.

***Be Successful*** and strive to be the very best that you can be.

***Be Resilient*** and persevere through challenges.

***Be Creative*** and use your initiative to have a positive impact as a global citizen.

### Our School Motto is Creating the Opportunities

**Our School Mantra is High Expectations – No excuses! We have clear expectations for students in the Junior, Middle and Senior School and we use simple, clear routines to teach students about expected behaviours.**



# High Expectations

## *High Expectations in the JUNIOR SCHOOL*

### **We are SUCCESSFUL when we:**

- Arriving before the bell
- Line up quietly
- Bring correct equipment to every class
- Give everything our best go
- Complete all homework
- Take pride in our school community

### **We are RESPECTFUL when we:**

- Are kind to others
- Are kind to ourselves
- Care for property and our environment

## *High Expectations in the MIDDLE SCHOOL*

### **We are empowered to SUCCEED by:**

- Arriving to mentor and classes on time
- Brining correct equipment to every class
- Wearing full school uniform
- Completing & submitting all work
- Respecting ourselves, each other, facilities, and the environment
- Taking responsibility for all equipment (e.g. locks on lockers)
- Participating positively and actively in our school community
- Being prepared to seek opportunities for self improvement

## *High Expectations in the SENIOR SCHOOL*

### **In the Senior School Community we:**

- Respect each other, ourselves and spaces
- Are quiet and productive in our work and study time
- Encourage, support and celebrate each other's efforts and successes
- Are responsible for following VCE and PSC rules and regulations
- Are Active participants who take pride in our education
- Model positive behaviours
- Learn from mistakes and feedback



# Behaviour Expectations Matrix

	Be Respectful	Be Successful	Be Resilient	Be Creative
Classrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We arrive on time</li> <li>We listen to the teacher</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We bring correct equipment</li> <li>We stay on task</li> <li>We try our best</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We ask for help</li> <li>We challenge ourselves</li> <li>We learn from our mistakes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We share our knowledge</li> <li>We embrace new ideas</li> <li>We help others</li> </ul>
Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We use appropriate voice and tone</li> <li>We are considerate of others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We return books on time</li> <li>We use available resources appropriately</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We read outside our comfort zone</li> <li>We use study time productively</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We engage in library activities</li> <li>We experience a variety of resources</li> </ul>
Corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We walk calmly</li> <li>We speak softly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We line up quietly</li> <li>We keep areas clean</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are considerate of others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We look ahead and move safely</li> <li>We dispose of litter thoughtfully</li> </ul>
Locker Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We wait patiently</li> <li>We only access our own locker</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We collect all class materials in a timely manner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We lock our locker</li> <li>We keep our locker area clean</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We keep our own locker organised</li> <li>We are considerate of others</li> </ul>
Assemblies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We sit quietly in Mentor Groups</li> <li>We listen carefully</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We listen for opportunities</li> <li>We encourage, support and celebrate the achievement of others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We wait patiently</li> <li>We stay focused</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are inspired and consider our future goals</li> </ul>
Toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We use facilities appropriately</li> <li>We respect the privacy of others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We use the facilities during break times</li> <li>We practise good hygiene</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We report damage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We conserve water</li> </ul>
Canteen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We line up and wait patiently</li> <li>We use our manners</li> <li>We only enter the canteen if ordering</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We plan our order</li> <li>We use the correct line</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are patient</li> <li>We have alternate choices ready</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We make healthy choices</li> <li>We try something new</li> </ul>
Grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are kind to others and the environment</li> <li>We behave in a safe manner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We take pride in our school</li> <li>We put rubbish in the bin</li> <li>We keep our area clean</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We attempt to solve issues maturely</li> <li>We seek help from teachers when resolving issues in the yard.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We try new activities</li> <li>We choose not to follow the crowd</li> </ul>
General Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We use our manners</li> <li>We are considerate of parents and visitors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We remember our planners</li> <li>We arrive promptly if called</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We wait our turn to be served</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We observe notices on noticeboards</li> <li>We greet visitors politely</li> </ul>
ICT/Devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We follow online etiquette</li> <li>We close our device when it's not needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We use devices appropriately and productively</li> <li>We take our charged device to class</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We embrace mistakes as a step forward</li> <li>We seek support if needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We try different apps to present work</li> </ul>
In the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We wear correct school uniform</li> <li>We represent the school with pride</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We make the most of opportunities to represent PSC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are open to different ideas</li> <li>We embrace diversity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have a voice on community matters</li> <li>We volunteer to try different activities</li> </ul>

To provide all students with opportunities to become creative, successful, respectful and resilient members of their local and global communities.



# Six strategies to help prepare for the end of school

School is such a big part of your life. You might have mixed feelings as you approach the end of it. You may be excited or unsure about your post-school plans. You may feel a bit anxious or overwhelmed. Whether you're planning to study, work or play – think carefully about the transition from school to your life beyond it.

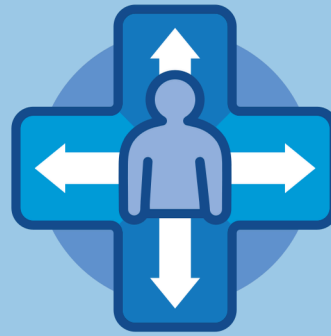
## 1 Reflect on what you've achieved.



Finishing school is a huge achievement. Reflect on your last few years of school and make sure any important achievements go on your resume.

f myfuture career article:  
[Write strong achievements](#)

## 2 Understand your pathways.



Whether you're going to TAFE, university or into work, the more you know about how the process works, the better. Browse myfuture's career articles. You can filter by VET or university articles.

f myfuture Career articles

## 3 Line up some work.

Whatever you do after school, having a job will help. It will put money in your pocket and skills on your resume. Check out myfuture's resume templates and guides to job-seeking.



f myfuture's Job seeker resources

## 4 Tidy up your digital footprint.

Social media and email are crucial for your career as well as your private life. Set up a professional address to use while job-hunting, consider setting up a LinkedIn account and review your personal social media accounts.



f myfuture Career article: [Clean up your digital footprint](#)

## 5 Take a break from study.



The end of school is a great time to take a break from study, often called a gap year. You might travel, volunteer or work during this time. A gap year can help you recharge and take a bit of time to figure out your next steps.

f myfuture Career article: [Making gap years work for you](#)

## 6 Look after your wellbeing.



The end of school can be a complex time emotionally. You might feel excited and anxious at the same time. Make sure to reflect on how you're feeling about things and talk to someone if you need help.

f myfuture Wellbeing and resilience hub



# ATTENDANCE

Does your student's attendance matter?

**Yes! It does matter!**



**Portland Secondary College**

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***It's not ok to be away***

When you are away...	That equals ...	Which is ...	And over 13 years of schooling, that's ...
1 day per fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly <b>1.5 years</b>
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over <b>2.5 years</b>
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over <b>5 years</b>
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly <b>8 years</b>

***Attendance matters! All day everyday!***

Respect

Success

Resilience

Creativity

**Respect**

**Success**

**Resilience**

**Creativity**

A portrait of Mrs. Jennifer Smith, a woman with long blonde hair, smiling. She is wearing a colorful patterned shirt with geometric shapes and floral motifs. The background is a blue sky with white clouds.

Charlotte has been shortlisted for TOP ARTS 2026!

Charlotte's work was shortlisted from approximately 1500 entries to 100. From there it will go into another selection process to be narrowed down to approximately 40 finalists.

We wish Charlotte good luck in the selection process.



*Pictured: Art Teachers Ms Sue Taylor and Mr David Burgoyne with Art Student Charlotte Fraser.*

# Respect

# Success

# Resilience

# Creativity



**Dana Lourie, Outdoor Ed Teacher**



## **Year 9 Outdoor Ed – Surfing**

Throughout Term 4, Year 9 Outdoor Education students visited Cape Bridgewater for a series of surfing sessions.

They demonstrated impressive development in balance, paddling, and wave-catching, with noticeable improvement each visit.

Students also enjoyed beach walks, taking full advantage of the area's beautiful coastal environment.



**Respect**

**Success**

**Resilience**

**Creativity**



**Dana Lourie, PE Teacher**



## **Year 11 PE – Tennis**

Our Year 11 PE students hit the tennis courts recently, sharpening their skills and having a blast in some friendly match play.

From drills to rallies, their confidence and technique took a big leap!



**Respect**

**Success**

**Resilience**

**Creativity**



# Dakota Robinson, Year 8 Level Leader



## Live4Life

Students in **Year 8** have spent various points throughout the year participating in the Glenelg Shire **Live4Life Program**, which is run by the Shire.

Students took part in a Launch Day, during which the Live4Life Crew—made up of Year 9 and 10 students from local schools (Bayview, Portland Secondary College, and Heywood and District Secondary College)—ran a variety of activities.

On Celebration Day, Year 8 students from all local secondary schools made their way to the Portland Soccer Oval to participate in a range of activities. Students had the opportunity to decorate cupcakes, play a variety of soccer games, and enjoy food provided by the Lions Club. Later in the afternoon, they could join in a slip-and-slide, water run, and several other water-based activities.

All of these activities focused on supporting and promoting positive mental health throughout the teen years. At the end of the day, each student went home with a goodie bag that included sunflowers and a range of other items.

Our Year 8 cohort was an excellent representation of our school values throughout the entire event and upon returning to school in the afternoon.



Respect

Success

Resilience

Creativity



## Interschool Bowls

On a beautiful Portland day, six PSC teams headed to the bowls club to compete in the Makos Shark Tank Secondary Interschool Triples Tournament under the watchful eyes of Mrs Gould and Ms Dixon.

Teams hit the greens for two games, playing eight ends in an hour and earning points for the closest three bowls. After their matches, students refuelled with a snag (or two!) and a fizzy drink before taking on the highlight of the day: Closest to the Kitty.

Three rinks entered the contest, and after a tense final round, Zac Thornton, Toby Anson, and a student from Bayview advanced to the ultimate showdown. In a dramatic one-bowl finish, Toby reigned supreme, claiming victory over all schools present.

In the overall standings, the Heywood team took first place, followed by Bayview, with the PSC duo Aiysha Pollock and Olive Watt securing a strong third.

Plenty of lucky-door prizes were also up for grabs, including a huge Ultimate Ears speaker donated by Betta Electrical and gift vouchers from Gunners, Harbour Lights, and Sports Power Portland.

A fantastic day all round — full of fun, friendly competition, and a great chance for students to try their hand at lawn bowls!



Respect

Success

Resilience

Creativity



# Bec Gould & Dale Radcliffe – PE Team Leaders/Teachers



## Bridgewater Day

Last Friday, around 80 students joined staff at Bridgewater for a day of fun in perfect Bridgie weather.

From beach cricket and sand sculpting to the seal walk—and even a brave few taking a dip in the crisp Bridgie water—it was a fantastic day out.



**Respect**

**Success**

**Resilience**

**Creativity**



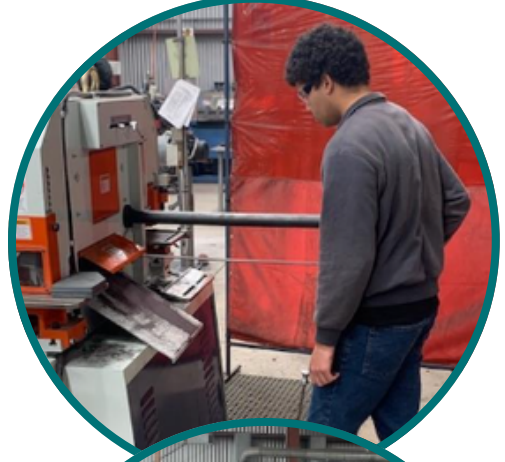
# Suzanne Patterson, Careers



## Year 10 VET Multi Taster – TAFE

A selected group of our Year 10 students have been attending Portland South-West TAFE each Friday for eight weeks to explore future career and training pathways.

This hands-on experience in Horticulture and Engineering helps students gain a clearer understanding of their options for VET certificates, VETDSS courses, and school-based apprenticeships and traineeships.



**Respect**

**Success**

**Resilience**

**Creativity**

"BOTH INDUSTRIES WERE GOOD BUT ENGINEERING IS MORE OF AN INTEREST. LEARNING NEW SKILLS ON NEW EQUIPMENT AND ALSO OHS"

"ENJOYED BOTH INDUSTRIES. ENGINEERING WAS A COMPLETELY NEW EXPERIENCE WITH NEW EQUIPMENT. WELDING WAS PRETTY COOL. REALLY ENJOYED THE WHOLE PROGRAM. SOMETHING DIFFERENT TO SCHOOL."

"LEARNING NEW THINGS AND USING NEW EQUIPMENT. THE ENVIRONMENT IS MORE ENGAGING THAN SCHOOL FOR ME."

"Engineering is in my family, so really enjoyed that industry. Familiar with tasks and equipment. Horticulture was alright. Teachers were great."

"Day out of school. Better environment than school for me. Learning new skills in both industries. Understanding an adult learning environment."

"Enjoyed the different environment. Different to school. Enjoyed the hands-on tasks and new equipment."

"Really enjoyed both industries but Engineering is my choice. Loved the hands-on tasks – theory a bit boring"

*"I enjoyed the solitude of the Horticulture sessions/work. I went and got a part time job in a nursery after completing the sessions."*

## YEAR 10 TAFE TASTER STUDENT COMMENTS



Our TAFE students proudly displaying their bag trolleys!





## Industry Tour – Year 9

On Monday, 1 December, our Year 9 students attended a variety of local industries as part of the Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN) program. Students visited Bruno's Smash Repairs, the Fire Station, Lovells Robotic Farm, Garvie Sheep Farm and DELWP. We finished the day with some delicious hot chips from Bondy's in Heywood.

Here are some of the students' thoughts from the day:

"I didn't know that cows could move around the farm on their own and know when it's time to be milked."

"I really enjoyed learning about sheep farming, the vaccines and parasite protection."

"Cows are pregnant for the same amount of time as humans."

"I learned how to use a fire hose."

"I liked seeing all the different jobs."

"I learnt how to sharpen chainsaws."

"It is very competitive to get into the Victorian Fire Brigade."

"Bruno's has an automatic paint mixer."

"Cows can be milked by machines."

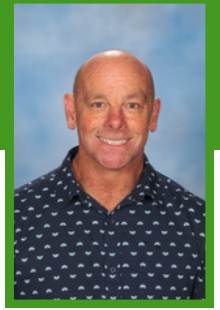








# Adrian Porter, Year 9 Level Leader



## 2025 Celebration Day

Thirty-five Year 9 students boarded the bus for Halls Gap on a slightly overcast and mild day. We were greeted on arrival by a reptile handler and an albino python named Ada.

Everyone had the chance to give her a pat—some more eagerly than others!

We then set off to explore the other animals at the zoo. Students were delighted to feed the deer, peacocks, goats, emus and kangaroos. All of the students thoroughly enjoyed the zoo experience.

Afterwards, we headed into the Halls Gap township for lunch, where the bakery and ice cream shop were very popular. We also met some very friendly birds along the way. Ms Patterson ran a poll on the way home to find out everyone's favourite animals. The results showed that the meerkats were the most popular, followed by the giraffes, otters and dingoes.



**Respect**

**Success**

**Resilience**

**Creativity**



# Emma Thompson, Music Teacher



## 2025 Music Celebration

PSC recently held its End-of-Year Music Celebration. This event provided an opportunity for our talented music students and dedicated staff to showcase their skills and celebrate their achievements throughout the year.

This year, we introduced weekly music lessons for our Year 7 students, and it was wonderful to see the remarkable progress they have made.

Thank you to all our music staff for their guidance, expertise, and commitment to our students.



**Respect**

**Success**

**Resilience**

**Creativity**



## Library News

Happy holidays! Don't forget that the PSC eBook and audiobook library will be available to you 24/7 over the break to keep you entertained – why not try listening to an audiobook if you're going for a long drive? As we are changing student logon credentials, if you are having trouble logging on to the Library web app, use the following:

Username – opac

Password – read

To help keep you reading over summer, why not register to be part of the BIG Summer Read?



The Biggest Public Library supported reading challenge in Australia

The BIG Summer Read is an annual reading challenge run by Public Libraries Victoria. The BSR encourages young readers 0-18 years to read and engage with their local public libraries over the Australian Summer holidays in December and January.

Now in its fifth year, the BIG Summer Read has grown to include all public library services in Victoria as well as public libraries in Tasmania, Queensland New South Wales and South Australia. Last year in 2024, more than 24,000 young readers participated in the challenge, and that was just in Victoria!

The program starts on the 1st December and finishes on the 31st January each year and registration is free. Participating library services typically offer incentive prizes for those who complete the challenge as well as a national prize draw to encourage and reward the efforts of young readers.

Join the challenge here <https://readbooks.com.au/bsr>


A number of students still have books and magazines on loan which should have been returned before the end of the year, maybe take some time over the break to look under beds and other places things hide and put those in school bags ready to be come back to school at the start of next year.

Happy reading 😊



**Portland Secondary College**  
*Creating the opportunities*



 Reminder: Year 7–12 booklists close on Friday, December 19.

Order by the deadline to make sure your student/s are ready for Day 1, 2026.

Please note: Orders placed after this date may be delivered after school has resumed.

## **EDROLO UPDATE**

**Edrolo access and ordering of Edrolo texts:**

**Please check Compass for a post containing instructions on both accessing Compass and how to order 2026 Edrolo text books.**



## Homework Program

The Homework Club has been running weekly on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons in the J Wing kitchen.

Students who have attended have been able to complete their homework, revise for their CATS, or read quietly.

These students have shown great initiative in their learning and are to be congratulated.

We hope they enjoyed the Milo and Tim Tams on arrival, and Mrs Elley Foster and Mrs Donna Chapman would like to personally thank all the students who made the most of this opportunity.



# Every day counts

## HOW CAN I GET MY CHILD/TEEN TO SCHOOL

No matter how hard parents try, some students may be reluctant to go to school.

Here are some ideas which may assist you to support a child or teen who is reluctant to go to school and may even be school refusing.

Addressing attendance issues promptly and setting up good attendance patterns can lead to future success and can help students feel more engaged and connected at school.

### Did you know?

- Patterns of late arrival at school or missing classes are early warning signs of disengagement from school
- Missing one day of school each week adds up to 2 months missed over a year
- Each day of absence has an impact on skill development and social connections
- Poor attendance may be associated with future unemployment, criminal activity, substance abuse, and poorer health and life expectancy.

### Some causes of school problems

Some of the more common causes of school problems are underlying learning difficulties or learning disabilities or behavioural or emotional issues.

But there are many other reasons why a child or teen might not be engaging fully in their education.

#### **School factors might include:**

- bullying or cyberbullying
- feeling isolated at school
- disliking, or not feeling connected to, the school culture or environment
- falling behind on school work or feeling overwhelmed about keeping up
- disliking school subjects, not liking the choice of subjects, or not feeling challenged by the work
- poor school or academic support, especially in relation to heavy workloads
- not getting along with teachers or other students at school
- competing demands on time, such as extracurricular activities
- not feeling understood and fully accepted by peers or teachers
- cultural acknowledgement and understanding

#### **Personal factors might include:**

- chronic illness
- intellectual or cognitive disability
- behavioural or developmental difficulties or disorders
- mental health issues such as depression or anxiety
- history of abuse and neglect
- poor self-concept or self-esteem
- poor communication skills
- poor social skills
- poor sleep habits
- difficulty with listening, concentrating or sitting still
- generational trauma



### **Family factors might include:**

- parents who aren't involved in their child's education
- a home environment that doesn't or can't adequately support a young person's learning
- family problems such as relationship breakdowns
- competing family or social responsibilities, such as caring for family members, or working outside school hours
- cultural differences with the school culture and environment

## **What you can do**

### **Generally:**

- Act early if you are concerned
- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day, make that the expectation.
- Regular attendance at school sets up good behaviours for regular attendance at future workplaces and other life commitments
- Don't let your child stay home unless genuinely sick. Complaints of headaches or stomach aches may be signs of anxiety
- Reward appropriate behaviour and don't unintentionally reward unwanted behaviour by letting children who stay home have access to their devices and the internet
- Be sure to set a good example – how you meet your commitments impacts on how they will meet theirs

### **Daily Routines & sleep**

- Help your child maintain daily routines such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Primary school aged children need about 10 to 11 hours sleep. Teenagers need an average of 8-9 hours of sleep to be healthy and alert.
- You may also need to monitor your child's use of the Internet, mobile phone and TV at night to ensure they are not staying up too late or being disturbed while sleeping
- Consider how your child is sleeping – is their room cool and dark and have all devices, including TVs and mobile phones, been removed?

### **Talk about school**

- Talk to your child. What are their feelings about school? What interests them at school? Are there any difficult situations?
- For teens, it helps if you open these discussions in a relaxed way so that your teenager knows you are demonstrating concern, not authority. It's often a good idea to have these conversations while doing something else together such as driving, preparing dinner or going for a walk. If your teen doesn't want to talk right then, let them know you're ready to listen whenever they're ready to talk
- For younger children, talking about the school day shows your interest. Ask simple, positive and specific questions about parts of the day e.g. What was fun? Who did you play with today? Did you help anyone today?

## **Extracurricular activities, social connections & part-time work**

- Encourage meaningful extracurricular activities that your child enjoys, such as sports and clubs, to develop positive relationships and experience success outside of a classroom setting. These activities can help your child feel part of the group, important to the school, and more motivated
- For teens, try to be aware of your child's social contacts. Peer influence can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated
- Set clear parameters around part-time work. Make sure that the hours your teenager is working do not impact on their ability to go to school the next day, or interfere with school assessment expectations or exam preparation. Most schools recommend no more than 10 hours per week.

## **Family holidays & appointments**

- Try not to schedule hair, dental or medical appointments during school hours. Arrange family holidays during scheduled school holidays so that students don't miss out on classes and feel left behind.
- If it is necessary to be absent from school for an extended period, arrange with your school for a Student Absence Learning Plan.

## **School policies & monitoring attendance**

- Familiarise yourself with the school's attendance policy. This can help when trying to reason with a child or teenager who is resisting going to school
- Monitor your child's attendance and school performance. Periodically check with their teachers to find out how things are going. If you find it difficult to contact several different teachers by phone, try email. Alternatively, the year level coordinator may be a helpful point of contact in relation to specific issues.

## **Homework & assignments**

- If your child wants to stay home to finish an assignment, rather than letting them stay home, expect them to go to school – make attendance the number one priority. Later, you can discuss with them how they can improve their study habits or adjust their schedule
- If your school has an assessment calendar on its website, use this to help your child plan their study so that they avoid working late the night before an assignment is due

## **School Refusal**

School refusing children experience significant emotional distress not only when going to school but also at the thought of going to school; they may be absent from school for weeks or even months at a time. School refusal differs from truancy as children generally stay home with the knowledge of the parents and despite their best efforts to encourage their child to go to school.

School refusal can be very distressing for parents who can find it very difficult to manage and address; it can cause conflict in the home and disrupt routines

Identifying the cause of school refusal can be difficult; there may be a number of complex causes. Early intervention is essential as prolonged absences from school can greatly affect a child's social and emotional development, academic achievement and vocational opportunities.



## Further assistance

Sometimes you may need assistance from professionals who can help anxious children. Discuss your concerns with relevant teachers or wellbeing staff at your child's school. They can help address any school-based issues, refer your child to school counselling services and make recommendations about professional support.

Alternatively, you could seek support from your GP who can assist with a referral to mental health professional such as a psychologist, psychiatrist or therapist. They can help your child overcome their anxiety using mindfulness, improving self-confidence and self-esteem and helping children change the way they think about difficult situations.

Remember

You can talk with school staff (such as a teacher, year level coordinator, wellbeing staff, careers staff, assistant principal or principal) to find out what support they can provide to keep your child/teen attending and engaged.

## Top attendance tips for parents

- Schools want to work in partnership with parents – act early if you have any concerns by contacting your child's school and asking for advice and support
  - Remember that every day counts
  - There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes and their social connectedness
  - Talk positively about school and the importance of attending every day
  - Open and prompt communication with your child's school about all absences is a good idea
  - Avoid making routine medical and dental appointments during the school day or planning family holidays during the term
  - Seek help from your school if you are concerned about your child's attendance and wellbeing.
- Schools want to work in partnership with parents to support student attendance and wellbeing

## Useful websites/contacts

**Department of Education and Training –**

**<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/studentmanagement/attendance/Pages/default.aspx>**

**Kids Matter – [www.kidsmatter.edu.au](http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au)**

**Youth Beyond Blue – [www.youthbeyondblue.com.au](http://www.youthbeyondblue.com.au)**

**Headspace – [www.headspace.org.au](http://www.headspace.org.au)**

**Reach Out – [www.reachout.com](http://www.reachout.com)**

**Raising Children Network – [www.raisingchildren.net.au](http://www.raisingchildren.net.au)**

**Kids helpline – 1800 55 1800 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or web counselling**

**Parentline – 1300 30 1300 (8am to 10pm seven days a week) & web counselling Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11am and 2pm**

# Community News

We love hearing from our community, please contact us if you have an event or story to share.


newsletter@portlandsc.vic.edu.au | 03 5523 1344

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*Inventions & Competition* *Rural Expo*

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*Sheepvention Rural Expo 2026*

**JUNIOR SUMMER  
TWILIGHT SOCCER  
COMP**

DATES **4/2/2026-18/3/2026**  
**EACH WEDNESDAY**  
**5:00PM-6:00PM**

Cost: \$5 Boys & Girls  
per week Ages 8-13 Years  
7 vs 7 comp

at Friendly  
Society Reserve

Scan the  
QR code  
to register



SCAN ME

All enquiries welcome to  
[portlandsoccerclub@hotmail.com](mailto:portlandsoccerclub@hotmail.com)



**FRESH FOOD SWAP**  
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10am - 12pm  
Portland Library



PORTLAND  
DISTRICT HEALTH



GLENN LIBRARIES

## Fresh Food Swap

Do you have excess homegrown produce,  
or are you interested in supporting a local  
community food swap?

Come along to the Portland Library every  
Thursday (excluding public holidays) to  
swap, share and meet like-minded  
community members!

Vegetables, fruit, seeds, seedlings,  
homemade jams/relishes, recipes, eggs,  
honey, worm castings and flowers are all  
welcome.

No money exchanged. Give what you can  
and take what you need.

If you have any questions, please contact  
the Health Promotion Team at Portland  
District Health:

[healthpromotion.pdh@swarh.vic.gov.au](mailto:healthpromotion.pdh@swarh.vic.gov.au)  
or 5522 1197

Respect

Success

Resilience

Creativity



# Oceanside Pride




**The Portland Arts Centre is excited to announce Oceanside Pride – a Pride event to celebrate the diversity and creativity of LGBTQIA+ people in our community, and their allies.**

Delivered in partnership with **BEAT Entertainment**, Oceanside Pride will feature a large range of workshops and performance opportunities, culminating in a sunset variety show spectacular on the Portland Foreshore on Saturday 13 December.

Oceanside Pride has been supported through Victoria's Pride, a partnership between the Victorian Government and Midsumma.

Visit: <https://www.portlandartscentre.com.au/Oceanside-Pride> for more information

 **Portland Women's Service Club**  
November 11 · 🌐

**SCHOLARSHIPS NOW OPEN**

Are you, or do you know a local girl who has just completed her VCE?  
If so please let her know about the following scholarship opportunity.  
The Portland Womens Service Club Scholarships for 2026 are now open and close on MONDAY 5 JANUARY 2026.

**WHO CAN APPLY?**  
All Portland and district young women who have completed VCE this year 2025 or last year in 2024 and intend to undertake tertiary or further studies in 2026.  
Students who live in postcodes 3305, 3304 and 3285 but attend school in Heywood or Hamilton are also eligible to apply.

**WHAT IF I'M TAKING A GAP YEAR?**  
Those taking a Gap Year are asked to apply at the end of 2026. Girls who took a Gap Year in 2025 are encouraged to apply this round.

**IS IT PURELY ON MY ACADEMIC RESULTS?**  
No, the scholarship is awarded more broadly on the merit of the applicant. Selection is based on a written application and attendance at an IN-PERSON interview.

**I THINK I'LL HAVE A GO. HOW DO I APPLY?**  
Application forms are available at schools, Intimate Apparel in Percy St Portland or by contacting the club on [scholarshipspwsc@gmail.com](mailto:scholarshipspwsc@gmail.com)

**WHEN DO THE APPLICATIONS CLOSE?**  
Applications are now open and close on MONDAY 5 JANUARY 2026.

**WHEN WILL THE INTERVIEWS BE HELD?**  
Interviews will be held IN PERSON ONLY in Portland on MONDAY 12 JANUARY 2026

**IF I CAN'T MAKE THE INTERVIEW DATE CAN I DO IT OVER THE PHONE OR ONLINE?**  
No, the interviews are only in person.

Good luck.

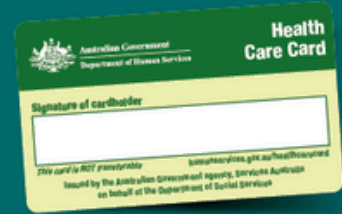


# Volunteer Opportunities

The Southern Grampians L2P Program is currently seeking mentors to provide opportunities for young people to practise driving and work towards gaining their probationary license.

1-2 hours a fortnight can help make a difference.

Express your interest by calling **5573 0444 | 0427 915 424** or emailing **l2p@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au**.



## Do you have a health care card? You could be eligible for Saver Plus.

For every dollar you save, you'll get a dollar from ANZ to spend on educational costs, up to \$500.

To join, you need to meet all of these requirements:

- ✓ Be 18 years or older
- ✓ Have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card
- ✓ Have a child in school, starting school next year, or be studying yourself
- ✓ Get a regular income (can be you or your partner)
- ✓ Agree to join in free online financial education workshops



1300 610 355 [saverplus.org.au](http://saverplus.org.au)





**PORTLAND SUFM**

# Free KIDS Program

**Kinder – Year 6**

**29 & 30 Dec 2025  
1 & 2 Jan 2026  
5 & 6 Jan 2026**

**3PM – 4.45PM**

**Civic Hall, 30 Bentinck St, Portland**



### HEYWOOD MEN'S SHED PRESENTS

**WOOD, WINE & ROSES PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW 2026**

**CHILDREN'S PHOTOGRAPHY**

Are you a young photographer with an eye for something special?

Enter your best shots and be part of the

*Wood, Wine & Roses Festival!*

*No photo's in glass frames*

**Secondary Students: 14 to 18**

**Theme:** Your choice — nature, pets, people, or creativity!

**Entries close:** Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**Event:** Wood, Wine & Roses Festival, Heywood

✦ Show your talent, have fun, and see your photos on display!

For details or entry forms, contact:  
Heywood Men's Shed

[mensshedheywood2011@gmail.com](mailto:mensshedheywood2011@gmail.com)

Or contact Sandra Crone on 0438 336 589



King's College, in conjunction with the Warrnambool Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA), are inviting your school to participate in the Warrnambool Region Sporting Clay Target Competition. It will be held on **Tuesday 31st March 2026**. The competition will be at the Laang Sporting Clays grounds, located at Coulahans Rd, Laang.

Safety briefing at **9:15 AM sharp** and Shooting will commence at **9:30 AM** with a finish time of **2:30 PM** approximately.

**Guns:** All competitor's guns **MUST** be kept in the armoury when not in use. On arrival students need to register for the competition. Once registered, students are required to take their guns directly to the armoury for check-in. Students may share a gun when in the same squad and every attempt will be made to separate the squads to ensure that guns can be shared between different squad members.

**Categories:** Best School - Min of 5 students required averaged over all shooters

Overall Winner - High Gun

Senior Boys - 1st, 2nd & 3rd

Senior Girls - 1st, 2nd & 3rd

Junior Boys - 1st, 2nd & 3rd

Junior Girls - 1st, 2nd & 3rd

In the event of a tie, a shoot-off will determine the winner.

Age categories are;

Senior (15 years and over as of 31st March),

Junior (15 years and under as of 31st March)

Students will have the opportunity to shoot at the first target as practice then two rounds of competition with 12 targets per round. The cost will be **\$25** per person. This will be payable to the Warrnambool SSAA Sporting Clays Club on the day.

As this is a School Championship, it is suggested that either sports or school uniforms be worn. Please ask students to bring their own lunch and morning tea, but there will be drinks, hot food and snacks sold on the day if they would like to bring money.

As per SSAA guidelines Schools or Students will need to supply their own hearing and eye protection.

If you can attend, please register your school's interest and number of competitors by

clicking on this [link](#) and filling out the google form. Please make sure you get your

nominations in by **Monday 23th March 2025**. There is no need to reply if you can't make it.

Please organise payment to the club on the day of competition so that we do not leave them out of pocket, this can be with cash or card. If you wish to pay electronically use the following: BSB 633 000 and Account 209 936 491

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Marko Wakim


[mwakim@kings.vic.edu.au](mailto:mwakim@kings.vic.edu.au)

03 5562 1047

FREE

## School Holiday Program

### JANUARY 2026



Glenelg Shire Youth

**BATTLE OF THE JAMS AND SHOWCASE**

Hooked on Portland Friday night stage will be a night of live music, complete with a big-screen art display on stage. Young musicians and artists are invited to be part of the event and showcase their talent! It's the perfect school-holiday night out for creatives, performers, and anyone ready to be inspired. **Fri 16 January** | 5:00pm - 9:00pm **To enter, contact [youthservices@glenelgvic.gov.au](mailto:youthservices@glenelgvic.gov.au)**

Glenelg Shire Youth

**3 x 3 BASKETBALL COMPETITION**

3x3 Australia returns for a one-day Summer Series event to the Hooked on Portland Festival. Grab some friends and enjoy a day of fast-paced basketball fun. **Portland Foreshore** | Sat 17 January 10:00 - 8:00pm | **Ages 10-25 years\*** | To register: [clb3x3.com/events](http://clb3x3.com/events) (search "Portland") or Scan QR code.

Glenelg Libraries

**PARTY, PUTTY AND PLAY**

Create your own party hat, design your own cake or get messy with some putty. **Heywood Library**, Thurs 15 January @ 10:30am - 11:30am  
**Casterton Town Hall**, Wed 21 January @ 10:45am - 2:30pm | **Ages 5-12 years\*** | Phone to book

Glenelg Libraries

**NGV on Tour - PARTY and PLAY**

Come make your own party hat or take part in a cake design challenge. **Portland Library**, Fri 16 January  
11:00am - 12:00pm | **Ages 5-12 years\*** | Phone to book


Glenelg Libraries

**PLAYFUL PUTTY**

Get ready to roll up your sleeves and join us to whip up your very own batch of putty! **Portland Library**, Fri 23 January @ 11:00am - 12:00pm | **Ages 5-12 years\*** | Phone to book

16 JAN

17 JAN

  
AGES 10-25

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

Bookings essential

\* Children 12 and under **MUST** be accompanied by an adult for all sessions.

MORE EVENTS OVER PAGE



# COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS MEAL

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17  
CIVIC HALL - 30 BENTINCK ST  
ALL WELCOME

DOORS OPEN AT 5PM  
ROAST DINNER SERVED FROM 5:30PM

CALL 5523 3749 TO REGISTER BY  
DECEMBER 12

THIS MEAL IS A GIFT TO YOU FROM US



## CLOTHING EXCHANGE

NO money  
needed!

20 FERN STREET, PORTLAND  
open wed | fri | sat

**SCHOOL  
UNIFORMS  
AVAILABLE!**



## STUDENT DISCOUNT FRIDAYS

Come into Harbour Lights  
between 3pm & 4:30pm  
on a Friday in your school  
uniform and receive a

**10% Discount**





WHO'S READY FOR

# 3X3

BASKETBALL

## SAVE THE DATE >>>

### 3X3 HOOKED ON PORTLAND

### JANUARY 17 2026

PRIZE MONEY! / PRIZES / MUSIC / FOOD / FIBA RANKING POINTS

AMPLIFY  
play.fiba3x3

COURTS  
N HOOPS

3X3 AUSTRALIA

EXE READY

3X3

PORTLAND SUFM PRESENTS

## FREE TEENS PROGRAM

29 & 30 DEC / 1-2 & 5-6 JAN

Year 7+  
3pm - 4:45pm

LOCATION  
CIVIC HALL,  
30 BENTINCK ST,  
PORTLAND

EST. 1987  
PORTLAND SUFM  
SUPPORTING YOUTH

PORTLAND SUFM  
YOUTH &  
YOUNG ADULT  
CAFE SPACE

3 PM – 9 PM

29, 30 DEC  
31 DEC (OPEN LATE)  
5 & 6 JAN

Portland  
Angling Club

FREE COFFEE!



# ART SHOWCASE

CALL FOR ARTISTS, SHORT FILM MAKERS,  
PHOTOGRAPHERS AND ANIMATORS AGED 12-25

Expressions of Interest now open to showcase your work. All art to be digitally displayed on the **Hooked On Portland stage backdrop**.

**When: Friday 16 and Saturday 17 January 2026**

**Apply now** and email [youthservices@glenelg.vic.gov.au](mailto:youthservices@glenelg.vic.gov.au) or call 035522 2250 to find out more

**PRIZES REVEALED FRIDAY 16TH**

Funded by Amplify, run by Glenelg Shire Youth

GLENELG SHIRE

AMPLIFY

**CALL FOR MUSICIANS AGED 12-25 TO ENTER**  
**BATTLE OF THE JAMS**  
**FRIDAY 16TH JANUARY 2026**



**\$500**  
 First prize includes a spot at Hooked on Portland Saturday 17th

**SECOND PRIZE \$300**  
**THIRD PRIZE \$200**

**BATTLE OF THE JAMS IS BACK!** This time taking over the Hooked On Portland Stage Friday 16 January. 12 spots are open for solo musicians, instrumentalists and bands aged 12-25 to compete for a chance to WIN!  
**Entries close:** Friday 19th December 2025  
**Spots available:** 12  
 Think you've got what it takes? Apply via email [youthservices@glenelg.vic.gov.au](mailto:youthservices@glenelg.vic.gov.au) with:

- 🎵 Your name(s) & age(s)
- 🎵 Act name & type (solo, band, instrumental, etc.)
- 🎵 Short bio or description of your act
- 🎵 Contact number

**Need a space to practice?**  
 Come along to Music Mondays! Scan the QR Code to find out more or call us on 035522 2250



FUNDED BY AMPLIFY, RUN BY GLENELG SHIRE YOUTH

GLENELG SHIRE AMPLIFY

headspace  
 Portland



**Not quite feeling like yourself lately?**  
**Have things in life or at school become overwhelming?**

**These feelings are common for a young person to experience...  
 YOU'RE NOT ALONE.**

**MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE**

**FREE LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES:**

- headspace
- wellways MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING HUB
- Uline
- Urgent Mental Health Service

**MENTAL HEALTH ONLINE + PHONE SUPPORTS:**

- Uline
- kids helpline
- ehheadspace
- Beyond Blue
- SAFE + STRONG
- 13 11 14



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**January school holidays are quickly approaching and we have a couple days of surfing coming to the south west of Victoria.**  
**Please find all details below,**

**Cape Bridgewater Community Surf Day**  
**Location: Cape Bridgewater**  
**Date: Tuesday 13th January 2025**  
**Times: 1pm - 3pm**

**To register contact Jordie on 0488 935 183 or**  
**[jordie@surfingvic.com](mailto:jordie@surfingvic.com)**



## STUDENT DISCOUNT FRIDAYS

Come into Harbour Lights  
between 3pm & 4:30pm  
on a Friday in your school  
uniform and receive a  
**10% Discount**

PORTLAND SUFM PRESENTS

# SUMMER FESTIVAL

BENTINCK ST LAWNS

FREE FOOD

6PM-8PM

28 DEC	MOVIE NIGHT (CIVIC HALL)
29 DEC	SHOW N SHINE
30 DEC	OLYMPICS
01 JAN	OPEN MIC NIGHT
02 JAN	FORTNITE
05 JAN	FARM NIGHT
06 JAN	WET N WILD



Join us  
in creating  
positive  
change this  
Christmas

This year Kmart is running their 38<sup>th</sup> year in the Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal.

In 1987 Kmart came together with founding partner The Salvation Army, to bring this idea to life, it is now Australia and New Zealand's largest and longest running Appeal.

Last year Kmart/K-hub Portland raised over \$2,400 in donations and over 1,000 gifts with the help of the community.

These gifts allowed The Portland Salvation Army to help many struggling families within our community.

This year with the cost of everyday living rising, it is more important than ever to help those who may be struggling. If we can give one child/teenager/ or older person a smile this Christmas it makes me feel like all the effort of promoting the Appeal worth it.

Thank you from all of us at K-hub Portland for any contributions previously made by you or your organisation, and for any donations which you make this year

If at any time you need to contact me I have included my contact details below for further

Kim Taylor

Portland K-Hub/Kmart

Assistant Manager

0458454857

## Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal Gift Ideas

### Adults & Seniors

- Gift Cards
- Novels & Diaries
- Puzzles & Board Games
- Sunglasses
- Wallet/Handbag
- Makeup/Skincare
- Jewellery
- Candles/Home Decor
- Car Accessories
- Headphones
- Hair Tools & Accessories
- Speaker
- Beach Towel
- Hats & Socks

### Teens

- Gift Cards
- Makeup/Skincare
- Hair Tools & Accessories
- Puzzles & Board Games
- Stationary
- Jewellery
- Candles/Home Decor
- Beach Towel
- Hats & Socks
- Headphones
- Speaker
- Backpack/Handbag

### Kids

- Story Books & Graphic Novels
- Puzzles & Board Games
- Stuffed Animals
- Colouring Books
- Arts & Crafts
- Hats & Socks
- Sports Equipment
- Stationary
- Headphones
- Accessories/Hats
- Educational Toys
- Dolls & Dressups
- Sensory Toys
- Remote Control Toys

### Babies

- Pram Toys
- Stuffed Animals
- Storybooks
- Bath Toys
- Dummies & Bottles
- Hats & Socks
- Nightlight
- Educational Toys
- Blanket & Swaddle
- Teethers
- Mobiles
- Keepsake Items

Every toy donated through the K Hub Wishing Tree helps bring hope and joy to a local child who might otherwise go without this Christmas. Last year, The Salvation Army Portland supported over 400 children and 240 families across the Glenelg Shire with food and toys. This happened because of the incredible generosity of our community. Each gift placed under the Wishing Tree helps us share the love, joy, and dignity of Christmas with local families doing it tough. Thank you for helping make the season brighter for those who need it most.