Casterton Secondary College

School Newsletter

AUGUST 2026

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome to term three and the cold, wet windy days of Winter!

The term began with a whole school Professional Practice Day (PPD).
The Department provides school staff with PPDs to focus on the improved delivery of high-quality teaching and learning. The work undertaken on these days is consistent with departmental and school priorities and include planning, preparation, assessment of student learning, collaboration, and curriculum development Education support staff undertake a variety of tasks consistent with their roles.
The consensus from staff was that the day was productive in terms of planning and individual professional learning.

The last couple of weeks have flown by and I hope every student is prepared for a challenging term. Congratulations to the students who received awards at last week's Awards Assembly. All students have the capacity to receive an award and staff encourages them to focus on completing set work to the best of their ability and by due dates, attend school every day, and participate in school events.

For year 12 students; this term is critical to setting yourself up for a strong finish to the school year. Organisation, hard work and dedication will prepare you for the challenges ahead.

The start of a new term, particularly term three can be quite stressful if you're not prepared. The following tips should help you:
Reflect on the previous term: Take a moment to look back at your notes and exams from the previous two terms to refresh your memory and think about how things went in general. Consider your successes, challenges, and any lessons learned. *Did you manage your time effectively? Were there any study techniques that worked particularly well for you?* Reflecting on your experience will help you identify areas for improvement and develop strategies for a stronger new term.
Set goals: they are vital to achieving success. Make sure your goals are specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time bound.
Prioritise tasks and commitments: by prioritising tasks and commitments, you can manage your time more effectively. Make a to-do list and rank items based on their importance and urgency. Focus on the high-priority tasks first, and if you're feeling overwhelmed, break them down into smaller, more manageable steps. By tackling tasks in a structured manner, you'll feel less stressed and more accomplished.
Create a term calendar: get a calendar and mark down all the important dates, such as assignment deadlines, exams, and social events. Seeing everything in one place will help you plan your time effectively and avoid any surprises. Plus, you'll feel a sense of satisfaction when you can confidently say, "*I've got everything under control.*"

Time blocking: Time blocking is a simple but effective technique. Allocate specific time slots for different activities in your schedule. For example, dedicate a few hours in the morning for studying, reserve the afternoon for attending classes, and set aside time for relaxation and socialising. By blocking off your time, you'll have a clear plan and be less likely to procrastinate.
Review the course outlines/study designs: Take the time to read course outlines/study designs, making sure you understand them for each of your courses. They outline important details like course objectives, assignments, and grading criteria. Knowing what to expect will help you plan your study calendar, stay on top of assignments and deadlines, and prepare for end-of-term assignments/exams.
Create a productive study environment: find a quiet, well-lit space where you can concentrate without distractions. Arrange your study area with everything you need within reach, like textbooks, notebooks, and stationery. Consider adding personal touches that inspire you, such as motivational quotes, pictures or plants. Remember, a clutter-free and inviting space will make studying a more enjoyable experience and help you achieve your goals.
If you don't understand something: ask your teacher.

School Uniform

Please ensure that your children are wearing the correct school uniform every day and adhering to other key aspects of the school's Uniform Policy, which can be found in the Student Planner.
If you are experiencing financial difficulties or other issues, please contact Mrs. Carina Barton (years 7-9) or Mrs. Chelsea Carter (years 10-12).

Casterton Secondary College does not regard the wearing of a uniform as ticking a box. Rather, it is important for the following reasons and has been ratified by the College Council.
Wearing the school unform:

- Encourages a sense of pride in the school where the uniform is central to building a sense of community among students, staff, parents/carers and the local community.
- Promotes a disciplined approach to learning and behaviour by placing students in a 'working environment' mindset and helps them separate their home and school life.
- Places students on a level playing field, reducing the pressure to wear the latest fashion. While non-uniform days may be exciting, research has found that pupils view them as 'non-work' days, and teachers report a drop in behaviour standards as a result.
- Plays a key role in promoting pride, self-confidence, and a feeling of belonging within the student body, which contributes to their wellbeing by removing additional pressures of deciding what to wear and the added stress of meeting the expectations of their peers.
- Unifies the student body by removing points of difference and providing a greater focus on academic work.
- Provides value for money. A school uniform is designed to stand the test of time as well as the daily trials of school activities and therefore provides better value for money.

Parent/Carer Survey

The 2026 Parent and Carer Opinion Survey will be available to complete online from Monday 17 August to Friday 18 September 2026.
As soon as they become available, Parents and Carers will soon receive the survey login detail.

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As an incentive for parents to complete the survey, Casterton Secondary College will provide students with a $5.00 canteen voucher for each completed survey.

Parents are asked to take a screen shot of the 'finished screen' when they have finished the survey and email that along with your children's names to casterton.sc@education.vic.gov.au and in the "subject" box of the email write: "Attention: Ann Hirst".

Your responses to the survey questions are not seen by the school.
The school will then give your child/children a $5.00 voucher for the Canteen.
We value your feedback so please take the time to complete the survey when it opens.

IMPORTANT REMINDER– Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Casterton Secondary College fronts onto a very busy Mt. Gambier Road used by B-Doubles, other trucks, farm machinery and cars which places children who have to cross the road at unnecessary risk.

Many of us never give a second thought as to which side of the road we should drop off or collect our children.

It is much safer for your children and other motorists if your children leave the car from the kerb side door on the school side of the road.
This prevents children getting out of the car into oncoming traffic or walking between buses and not having a clear view of oncoming traffic – thereby reducing their risk of being injured.
Some students have been observed taking unnecessary risks crossing the road and putting themselves and others at risk of injury.

Please do not drive your car onto school grounds via the White Street entrance to drop off your children unless invited to do so. This is an OHS issue.

Parents/carers are asked to encourage their children to practice safe behaviour.
Using the Stadium car park to drop-off and pick-up their children before and after school models safe practices.
It is a safe place to deliver and collect your children.

Warm regards
Meridith

SEMESTER 1 AWARDS

John Webb

On Wednesday July 29, we held our Semester 1 Awards assembly. This assembly provides an opportunity to recognise and reward students who have achieved at a high level throughout semester 1.
Mrs. Walker welcomed everyone to the assembly and our Student Leadership Team, Abby Black, Kirby Vise, Myles Black and Caitlyn Gorman, conducted the assembly and presented the award certificates.
Mrs. Barton announced the Yr 7-9 Diligence and Excellence Award recipients, Mrs. Carter the Yr 10-12 Diligence, Excellence and Yr 11 and 12 Subject Award recipients and Mr. Webb announced the Citizenship Award recipients.

Academic Diligence Awards

Year 8: Mia Carter
Year 9: Georgia Bailey, Mitchell Hulm, Chiyoka Kanetaka
Year 10: Zoe McDonald, Charlotte Rhook
Year 11: Kirby Hoe, Makayla Rees
Year 12: Abby Black

Academic Excellence Awards

Year 8: Mia Carter, Kate Henry
Year 9: Mitchell Hulm, Chiyoka Kanetaka
Year 10: Renee Gorman, April Henty-Anderson, Jett Lykke, Charlotte Rhook

Year 11 VCE Subject Awards

Kirby Hoe: Food Studies
Josh Hutchins-Copeland: Biology (Joint Winner), General Mathematics (Joint Winner)
Makayla Rees: Agriculture and Horticulture, Biology (Joint Winner), Health and Human Development
Ruby Williams: General Mathematics (Joint Winner)

Year 11 VM Awards

Maxx Huret: Personal Development
Ella McKinnon: Outstanding Work Placement

Year 12 VCE Subject Awards

Abby Black: Agriculture and Horticulture, General Mathematics

Year 12 VM Awards

Myles Black: Work Related Skills
Brydie Carlin: Outstanding Work Placement

Term 2 100% Attendance

Sylvie Richardson, Mia Carter, Darcy Gorman, Dana Murphy Fraser Richardson, Willow Rogers, Annabell Allkin, Josh Hutchins- Copeland, Brydie Carlin, Caitlyn Gorman

Term 2 Citizenship Awards

Riley Gorman, Skye Kurzman, Cleo Longhurst, Dana Murphy, Curtis Richardson, Fraser Richardson, Willow Rogers, Lola Sawyer, Mia Carter, Kate Henry, Aston Hoe, Ruby James, Evelyn Rhook, Hannah Davis, Zeb Beaton, Harry Simson,
Georgia Bailey, Isabella Luers, Darcy Brown, Brooklyn Mutch, Holly James,
Scarlett Xanthopolous, Ruby Forbes, Ylana Grigg, George Robbins, Bailey Carlin, April Henty-Anderson, Caitlyn Gorman, Jack McCalman-Robertson,
Sway Hitchcock, Anna Holloway, Charli Williams, Jake McCombe, Abby Black, Chenelle Cutter, Natalie Charlton

ACADEMIC DILIGENCE:

Charlotte Rhook, Mia Carter, Makayla Rees, Chiyoka Kanetaka, Kirby Hoe, Abby Black

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE:

Mia Carter, Kate Henry, Charlotte Rhook, Chiyoka Kanetaka, Renee Gorman, April Henty-Anderson, Jett Lykke

VCE/ VM AWARDS:

Ella McKinnon, Josh Hutchins-Copeland, Kirby Hoe, Myles Black, Ruby Williams, Makayla Rees, Abby Black, Brydie Carlin

100% ATTENDANCE

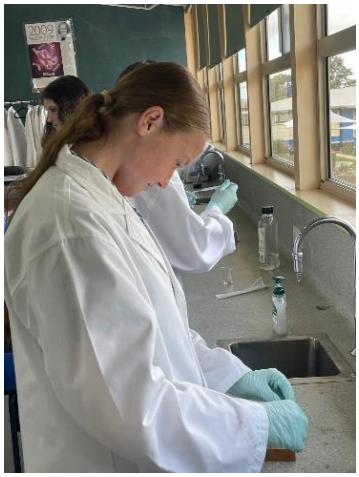
Josh Hutchins-Copeland, Willow Rogers, Dana Murphy, Fraser Richardson, Darcy Gorman, Sylvie Richardson, Caitlyn Gorman, Mia Carter, Brydie Carlin, Annabelle Allkin

CITIZENSHIP AWARDS:

L to R: *Curtis Richardson, Scarlette Xanthopoulos, Chanelle Cutter, Holly James, Skye Kurzman, Ruby James, Sway Hitchcock, Cleo Longhurst, Isabella Luers, Dana Murphy, Hannah Davis, Riley Gorman, April Henty-Anderson, Charli Williams, Harry Simson, Bailey Carlin, Ruby Forbes, Willow Rogers, Zeb Beaton, Natalie Charlton, Darcy Brown, Jake McCombe, Ylana Grigg, Caitlyn Gorman, Fraser Richardson, Aston Hoe, Evelyn Rhook, Jack McCalman-Robertson, Kate Henry, Mia Carter*

Year 9 SCIENCE

Damian McCarthy

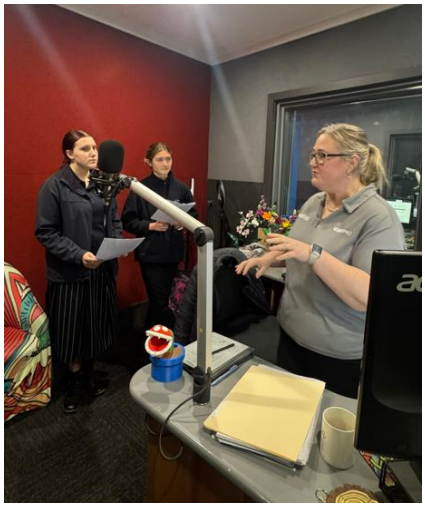


MUSIC HAS RETURNED

We were fortunate enough to have our Music teacher Steph Hines return to staff this semester. It gives our students a chance to build on their musical skills and this subject has become a favourite with the students who are showing strong interest in joining in the program.

LIVE4LIFE- Diving into Radio

Kynan Baker



Ruby Forbes & Holly James working on their professional recording session.

As part of Live4Life, our crew had the exciting opportunity to record a radio advertisement to help spread the organisation's message of mental health awareness. Together, we collaborated to write and refine the script before selecting two crew members, Holly James and Ruby Forbes, to travel to ACE Radio in Hamilton for a professional recording session.

Holly and Ruby represented our crew exceptionally well, conducting themselves with confidence and professionalism throughout the experience. It was a rewarding day for everyone involved, and we are incredibly proud of the final result. Keep an ear out for their voices on the radio as they help share Live4Life's important message with our community!

Year 10: FOOD STUDIES

Gillian Russell

Ethan

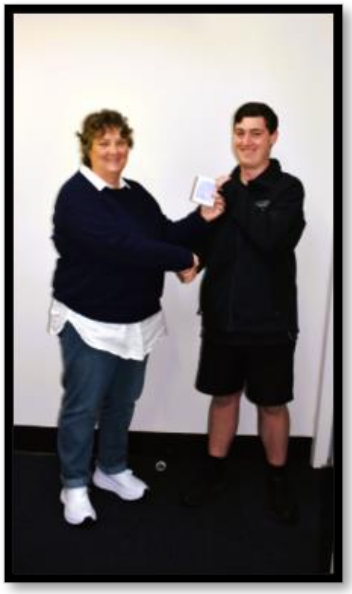
Adele & Marlee

April

Tash

Ylana

POSITIVE ACKNOWLEGDMENT AWARD



DARCY BROWN received the Positive Acknowledgment to school values prize for term 2. This is awarded to one student from the nominees that have gone above and beyond what our school values reflect, and this term has been a busy one for Darcy. He has been invaluable in jumping in to give assistance anywhere that is required.

Year 11 & 12 AGRICULTURE.

Gillian Russell

Clockwise from Top left:

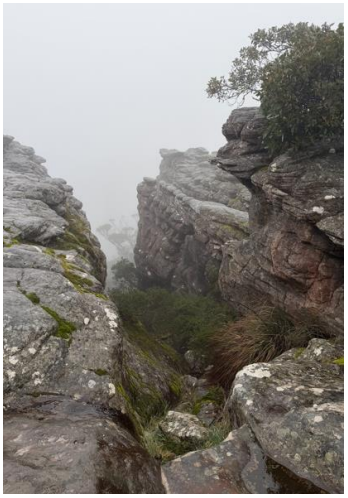
Makayla Rees, Elly Needham
Ella McKinnon &
Nicole Cornish

Our Agriculture students recently gained practical experience by conducting faecal egg count testing on sheep as part of their livestock health studies.

Using sheep faecal samples, students learnt how to prepare and examine the samples under a microscope to identify and count worm eggs. This important process helps determine the level of internal parasites present, allowing farmers to make informed decisions about animal health and whether worm treatments are needed.

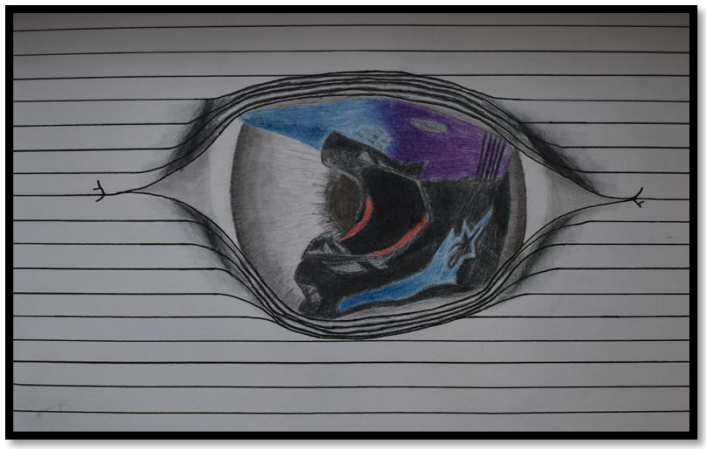
Outdoor Education: OVERNIGHT CAMP AT THE GRAMPIANS

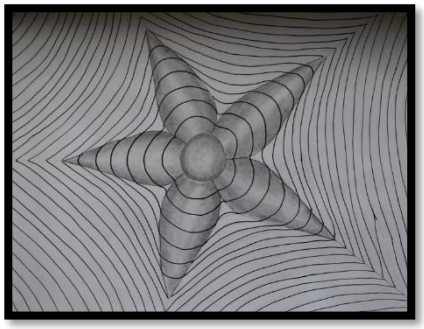
Steve Rathmell



Outdoor and Environmental studies VCE class visited Geriwerd (The Grampians National Park) for an overnight camp last week. Students braved some chilly temperatures to get a first-hand view of some of the Grampians Peak Trail walks. We set off on Monday to complete the return walk to 'The Dials', spotting some nice Gang Gangs and other wildlife. The area also is recovering from earlier bush fires, and the native flora is making a comeback! We camped overnight at the Borough Huts campground. On Tuesday we were given an insight into the ways Parks Victoria is managing feral species (deer, goats, foxes and pigs) within the park. Well done to all students on your efforts and interest in conservation and environmental studies.

ART





COLERAINE SHOOT

Chelsea Carter

SHOOTERS: L – R

Darcy Brown, Darcy Gorman, Renee Gorman, Riley Gorman, Ayden Nolte, Harry Simson

Place getters on the day

Ayden Nolte & Harry Simson

On Tuesday August 4th, six eager students took the journey to Tahara to compete in the Glenelg Division Field and Game Shoot. Students competed against Geelong College, Edenhope, Balmoral, Horsham College, THAC, Monivae, and Baimbridge College. The students shot at 10 different trap stands having 3 shots at each. It was a great day had by all, with Ayden Nolte receiving a first in the over 15 Boys and Harry Simson finishing second in the under 15 Boys. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mark Nolte, Dougal Simson and Tracie Layley for their assistance on the day.

SPRING HAS ARRIVED ON THE FARM

The babies are beginning to arrive on the school farm with fresh faces popping up around the paddocks everywhere.

PARENTING SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Geelong & Barwon Southwest

Term 3, 2026

Free parenting programs for families with children, babies to teens aged (0–18 years)

Programs delivered by:

Geelong Regional Parenting Service, MELI, Catholic Care Victoria, and Drummond St Services

- ✓ In person and online options
- ✓ Evidence based, supportive programs
- ✓ Delivered by trusted local services
- ✓ Bookings are essential for all programs

NEW for 2026

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST NOW OPEN

1-2-3 Emotion Coaching – Additional Needs

This is a gentle, supportive program for parents and carers of children who experience big or unpredictable emotions.

Designed for families supporting children who are neurodivergent, have a developmental delay or disability, or need extra help with emotional regulation.

Using a simple 1-2-3 approach, parents learn to notice and name emotions, support calming through connection and co-regulation, and guide behaviour once emotions settle.

Flexible, practical strategies.
No pressure, just support

FREE FAMILY FORUM:

RAISING GRATEFUL HEARTS FORUM

Presented by Positive Parenting Expert Rod Soper

What if small, everyday moments could help your child grow into a kind, resilient and grateful person?

Discover practical, research-informed strategies to help children develop thankfulness, empathy, resilience, and a greater appreciation of others.

Key Highlights:

- Simple gratitude practices for everyday family routines.
- Age-appropriate activities and conversation starters for children aged 0–12 years.
- Practical ways to build kindness, empathy, and resilience.
- Fun games and real-life strategies backed by child development principles.
- Take home a mini – Gratitude Toolkit to use straight away.

Event Details:

- Thursday 20 August
- 7.00pm – 9.00pm
- Norlane ARC, 1/9 Cox Rd, Norlane
- Free event
- Bookings essential

Scan QR Code to Register

Regional Parenting Service · Victoria State Government · City of Greater Geelong

COLOUR RUN

SUNDAY OCT 4th

10.30 AM START

ISLAND PARK