Casterton Secondary College

School Newsletter

MARCH 2026

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Fuel prices and shortages, particularly in regional towns such as Casterton with no public transport system, are beginning to impact locals who have to commute long distances to work, seek specialist medical help, family business etc; and farmers through disruptions to harvesting, planting, and transporting stock and produce.

The effects on our community and other regional communities include those mentioned above and include increasing fuel costs, supply chain issues, supermarket price increases and the impact on people's health and wellbeing, especially the vulnerable.

Staff of Casterton Secondary College acknowledges the difficulties faced by residents of Casterton, neighbouring towns, and our farmers. Our thoughts are with you.

The school has a doctor who visits the school weekly (Thursday) and a Mental Health Practitioner (Monday and Wednesday). If you are experiencing difficulties with transport, uniform, recess/lunch for your children or any other issue, please call Carina Barton (Year 7-9 leader) or Chelsea Carter (Year 10-12 leader).

Term one has been extremely busy for staff and students who have been involved in many different activities including House and GD swimming and athletics, Live4Life, study skills sessions, NAPLAN testing, student forums, year 9 Morrisby profiling (careers) etc. You will find articles on these and more throughout the newsletter.

Staff have worked hard to ensure all students receive the best possible start to the school year and acquire the knowledge and develop the skills needed to be successful in 2026.

Teachers have provided students with opportunities to take responsibility for their learning (student agency), creating independent and self-regulating learners. Teachers support students to understand and recognise what they are learning, why they are learning it and how they know they have achieved it. This is strengthened by Learning Intentions and Success Criteria, and rubrics.

I'm extremely proud of the way students at Casterton Secondary College supported, participated, and behaved at our House Athletics day. Thank you to the students, staff, parents, and other volunteers for their support in setting up for the day, adjudicating events and cleaning up. Without your support these events would not be the success they are. Thanks to the Casterton Golf Club for providing food and refreshments throughout the day.

Thanks to Mrs Barton for organising the day.

Students who went through to the next round participated in GD Athletics in Portland against a number of other schools. Our students were competitive, with some achieving success in their event/s. A report is included in the newsletter.

College Council members

Our College Council is a highly respected team that works proactively and collaboratively to improve student outcomes at Casterton Secondary College.

On behalf of the college community, I thank our 2025 Council for their commitment to the school and am happy to announce that they will continue in 2026.

Jeff Black (parent representative – Council President)
Loren Hulm (parent representative – Vice President)
Susan Joyce (parent representative)
Prue Adey (parent representative)
John Webb (staff representative)
Jo McKenzie (staff representative)
Lucinda Jenkins (co-opted member)
Dr. Tony Farnbach (co-opted member)
Meridith Walker (Principal)

2025 Annual Report
Casterton Secondary College's 2025 Annual Report will be presented to the school community at a College Council meeting, commencing at 6:00pm on Monday 30th March. Members of the school community are welcome to attend.

Casterton Secondary College Expanded Values

The level of commitment by all members of our school community to uphold our values of ***respect***, ***accountability*** and ***persistence*** is encouraging.

We "live" our values daily, and the Casterton Secondary College Expanded Values, which is attached, supports them.

The CSC Values acknowledges that parents and school staff are strongly motivated to do their best for every child. Everyone has the right to differing opinions and views and to raise concerns, as long as this is done respectfully, as a community working together.

Cybersmart Citizens

As parents we strive to keep our children safe and support them to develop strategies that will ensure they make considered decisions. In a world of ever-increasing access to technology today's society is global and a "chat" is just the press of a button away.

With this in mind, and the approaching holiday period, I've included information from the Australian Government's eSafety Commissioner Website. The menu includes sites for Parents, Kids, Diverse Groups, Women, Young People and Issues that you may like to direct your children to.

The website is about keeping safe and smart online. It provides cybersafety education and awareness for children, young people and parents, features news, resources and information about current cybersafety issues and provides practical advice about how to deal with them.

In addition to information, videos, animations and activities about how to remain safe online, the site links to comprehensive training and cybersafety resources.

Enter the site – Go to **https://www.esafety.gov.au/**

The "Young People" section provides adolescents/young adults with support and strategies to keep them safe online. There are many topics including online gaming; online hate, online dating, trolling; keeping online account secure; catfishing and protecting your identity.

You can also access information on the school's website through School TV, including an introduction from Dr Michael Carr-Gregg.

Reflection

During the holiday break, it is beneficial for all students to reflect on their efforts in all subjects and ask themselves:

- Am I planning well?
- Am I giving learning my best effort?
- Am I completing all set work on time?
- Am I focussed and engaged in my learning?
- How can I improve my efforts?

Parents can support their children by talking to them about their responses to the questions above.

On behalf of school staff, I wish you all a happy Easter and hope you enjoy a safe and relaxing holiday.

Meridith

GD ATHLETICS, Portland

John Webb

BACK: *Renee, Kirby, Ruby, Bailey, Ruby, Evie, Georgia, Holly, April, Ylana, Sylvie, Brooklyn, Marlee*
MIDDLE: *Annabell, Chiyoka, Cleo, Imogen*
FRONT*: Jake, Riley, Jett, Myles, Darcy, Mitchell, Jackson, Darcy, George*
ABSENT: *Theo, Toby, Adele, Harry*

On Friday March 20, our athletics team of 30 finely tuned athletes travelled to Nelson Park Portland for the annual Glenelg District Athletics Carnival.
It was great to see many parents, carers, grandparents and friends in attendance to support and encourage our team members.
We were greeted with ideal weather for athletics, not too hot or cool with very little wind. The track was in good condition, and we were set for a good day of competition with the other seven schools in the Glenelg District.
The competition was of a very high standard throughout the day and each of our team members acquitted themselves very well. Our students were a credit to themselves, their families and the school, not only for their endeavour while competing, but also for their encouragement of fellow team members and for their behaviour throughout the day.
Among many notable achievements were:
Georgia Bailey: 3rd Triple Jump
Myles Black: 2nd Javelin
Bailey Green: 2nd High Jump
Cleo Longurst: 2nd Long Jump
Sylvie Richardson: 2nd Shot Putt
Brooklyn Mutch: 3rd Javelin
Marlee Robbins: 3rd Long Jump
Theo Naylor: 3rd 100m
Toby Naylor: 3rd Javelin
Kirby Vise: 3rd 400m, 3rd 800m

I would like to thank the following:
Ms. Hirst for her outstanding marshalling of our competitors throughout a very busy program,
Mr. Zippel, Ronnie Campbell and Ethan Mark who ran the Boys Javelin event throughout the day – a job well done,
Mrs. Barton for her role in selecting our team and forwarding our entries to the organisers.

Start of Term 2 Arrangements

- Monday April 20: School resumes for all students.
- 5:30 Wednesday April 23: Year 11, 2027 Course information meeting. Present Year 10 students, parents, carers to attend please.

Term 1 CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

The students listed below received Citizenship Awards this term in recognition of their assistance at:
Island Park line marking for the House Athletics Sports, House Athletics Sports officials, GD Athletics Sports, Casterton Primary School Athletics Sports, District Primary Schools Athletics Sports. They will receive their certificates early next term.
Darcy Brown, Maxx Huret, Ethan Mark, Henry Robins, George Robbins, Esther Bryan, Natasha Charlton, Harlemm Hitchcock, Anna Holloway, Brooke Humphries, Josh Hutchins-Copeland, Ayden Nolte, Jack McCalman-Robertson, Sway Hitchcock, Mitchell Hulm, Coopa Kerr, Brooklyn Mutch, Jakob Rochecouste, Charli Williams, Ronnie Campbell, Zeb Beaton, Halle Baker, Bailey Carlin, Mia Carter, Hannah Davis, Darcy Gorman, Kate Henry, Alby Lane

House Points: End of Term 1

Glenelg: 2029.33 points
Wannon: 1872.67 points

GLENELG DISTRICT SWIMMING

Chelsea Carter

Back- *Ruby, Holly, Sylvie, Mia, Ruby, Zoe* *Missing from photo Maxx*
Front- *Alby, Riley, Zeb, George, Theo, Ayden.*

On Thursday 19th February, 13 enthusiastic students travelled to Hamilton to compete in the Glenelg Division Swimming Carnival. The day began with the longer distance events, where our girls made an impressive start in the pool. Holly James secured third place in the 400m Freestyle, Ruby James finished second in the 200m Freestyle, and another strong effort saw Ruby James claim third in the 100m Freestyle.

Attention then turned to the 50m events, where the boys demonstrated great determination and plenty of heart in their races. Our students continued to achieve strong results throughout the day, with Mia Carter finishing 1st in the 50m Butterfly, 3rd in the 50m Breaststroke, and 3rd in the 200m Individual Medley. Ruby James also placed 2nd in the 50m Freestyle, while Ayden Nolte earned 3rd place in the 50m Breaststroke.

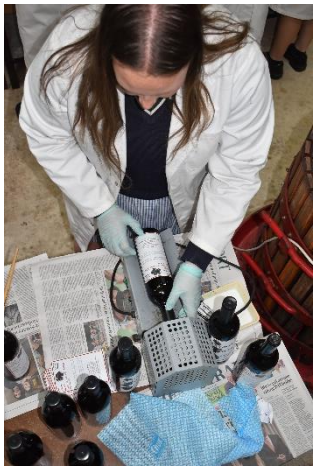
The day concluded with the relay events. The team of Zoe Mc Donald, Holly James, Ruby James and Mia Carter placed third in the Under 15 Medley Relay. We also achieved third place in the Under 15 Freestyle Relay with Zoe McDonald, Ruby Forbes, Mia Carter and Ruby James. Our young team of Zoe McDonald, Holly James, Ruby James and Mia Carter then competed in the Under 17 Girls Relay, finishing in an impressive second place.

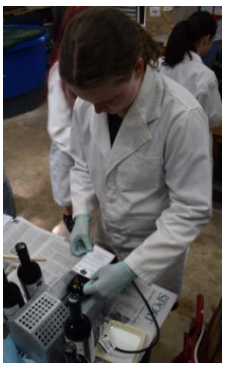
A special congratulations goes to Mia Carter, who has qualified to compete at the Greater Western Regional Swimming Sports. We wish Mia Carter the very best of luck at the next level of competition.

Finally, I would like to thank all the families who supported our students on the day and assisted with timing and Chief Place Judge duties. Congratulations to the 2026 Casterton Secondary College Swim Team for a fantastic day.

BOTTLING OUR AWARD-WINNING WINE

Damian McCarthy

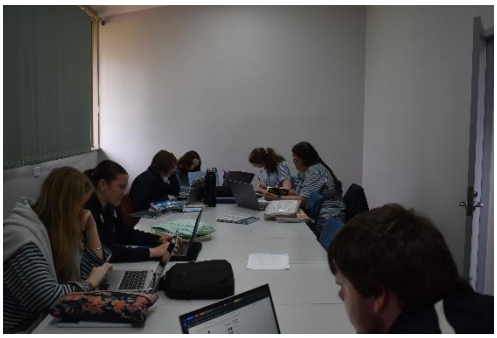




As part of science studies of Chemical reactions and understanding the fermentation process, the year 10 students completed the process of bottling the 2025 vintage of wine, which has undergone a comprehensive quality control process over the last eleven months. Each student was involved in every stage of the process, filling the bottles before safe storage.

The class is now focused on the imminent harvest of the 2026 Vintage from both our vineyard this term, and hopefully another harvest from Wynn's vineyard in Coonawarra at the start of next term to produce two different wines, while continuing to monitor sugar levels in the process. An update will come soon with the students engaged in this new vintage.

CAPTURING SOME OF OUR CLASSES



SENIOR FOOD STUDIES

Joanne McKenzie

Caitlyn, Ella, Staff member-Lauren, Brydie, Kirby & Kirby

Designing prebiotic and probiotic smoothies to boost gut, general health and mental health.

Our Senior Food Studies students have been busy blending up and designing their own nutritious smoothies to boost gut health, general health and mental wellbeing. It's been wonderful to see their creativity, teamwork and growing understanding of how simple food choices can make a big difference to healthy lifestyles.

HOUSE ATHLETICS

Carina Barton

Glenelg House Win Athletics
Friday 27th February dawned dry and sunny and provided a perfect day for our annual house athletics at Island Park. Our line-marking boys, Darcy Brown, Henry Robins, George Robbins, Maxx Huret, Ethan Mark, Mr Zippel and Mr Toma had the ovals looking splendid. Mr Goodwin performed his usual miracle with the sandpits turning weeds into perfect long jump and triple jump pits.
The house captains did a wonderful job of marshalling their respective houses and making sure there were competitors in events.
Students hopped, skipped, jumped, ran, threw, and competed well all day. It was great to hear so much support from the stands as competitors were cheered on.
Staff and parents timed and measured events and encouraged students throughout the day, it was fantastic to see so much parent support. The athletes were kept fuelled and watered with a great BBQ run by Casterton Golf club volunteers. Thanks to the Casterton little athletics club, the Glenelg Shire and the Casterton Sandford Football and Netball club for their continued support.
Mr Vise tallied the scores and added in trials results which saw Glenelg win by a considerable margin. Considering Wannon's win in the pool, the cross-country event in May will be quite significant in deciding the 2026 House champions.
Our age group champions were Imogen Watson, Theo Naylor, Annabell Allkin, Riley Gorman, Isabella Luers, Mitchell Hulm, Marlee Robbins, Darcy Brown, Makalya Rees, Henry Robins, Kirby Vise and Myles Black.
Thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a success.

03 55811 588

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AGE GROUP CHAMPIONS

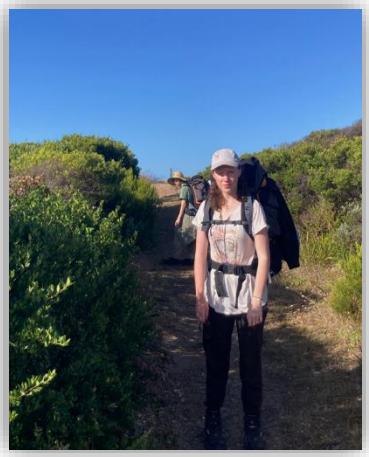
Isabella, Darcy, Annabell, Myles, Imogen, Theo, Marlee, Riley, Kirby, Mitchell, Henry, Makayla

GLENELG HOUSE CAPTAINS COLLECT THE SHEILD

Mia, Ylana, Jake, Bailey- Winning House Captains

YEAR 11 & 12 OUTDOOR ED EXCURSION-DISCOVERY BAY

Steve Rathmall



Year 11 and 12 outdoor Ed camp at discovery Bay

Our walk was a 20km hike spread across two days. We carried our equipment and food and set off early on Monday 2nd March.

The weather was fantastic, with a tail wind and low temperatures which was much appreciated as our packs were heavy.

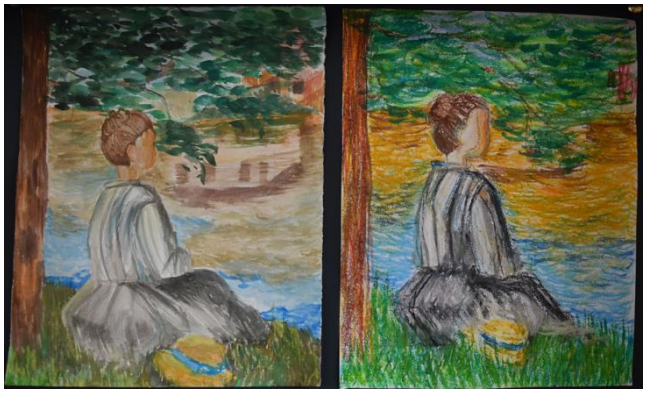
The Discovery Bay coastline from Cape Nelson Lighthouse to Cape Bridgewater Bay is mainly sea cliffs, rocks and small heath covered environment with lovely ocean views. We didn't spot any whales, however.

This was followed by a gruelling beach walk to our overnight stop at Trewalla camp site.

After a wonderful meal (dried culinary spectacular meal) and good night's sleep we headed to our destination of Cape Bridgewater. The morning was sunny and the ocean walk and dune were filled with many ocean environment items, birds and animals.

We enjoyed a well-deserved rest after our lunch on the way back to school We look forward to more outdoor hikes later this year.

Year 9 ART



Casterton Secondary College Career Development Framework

Career education is a core activity at CSC. Our Career Education Framework supports students' engagement and motivation, empowers them to make informed decisions, and builds their confidence about the future. Career education is also embedded into the curriculum of all learning areas. The activities and experiences below are the proposed for implementation in 2026. Student cumulative participation in the activities and experiences will be reported with their end of semester two reports.

	Activities/experiences
Year 7 Understanding Yourself	1. Create a Digital Portfolio 2. World of Work poster: My abilities and Work Values 3. Career Family Tree: Interview parent/ guardian and a previous generation. Presentation of information: how skills and jobs have changed. 4. My Dream Job
Year 8 Know your World	1. Career Action Plan 2. Discover Me: Quiz and workbook 3. "One day I will…" activity (objectives, personal skills and qualities) 4. "On The Job": research a job from Discover Me • Skills Required • Pathways 5. Match profession with skills- Card Activity 6. Onsite visit/s: Hospital / Edgarley, Shire, DEECA
Year 9 Understanding the world of work	1. Career Action Plan 2. Morrisby: Preparation, Quiz & Unpacking Interviews 3. Future Me- Deakin 4. My Career Match 5. Career Expo- Hamilton 6. Recording past student's pathways/career experiences 7. Excursion: Port of Portland, Timber Mill, Alcoa 8. White Card and Safe @ Work modules
Year 10 Participating in the World of Work	1. Career Action Plans https://vtac.edu.au/guides/y10guide and https://delta.vtac.edu.au/coursesearch/#/search 2. Resumes/ Cover Letters, follow up first work experience 3. Work Experience x 2 blocks: Interviews (look at Morrisby) • Work Experience Logbook • Experience sharing session • Student Appraisals • Thank-you letters 4. Pre-Course Selection Interviews 5. VET Taster Day 6. Deakin Uni Immersion Day 7. Winn's Winery excursion 8. White card and Financial Literacy (EduClick)
Year 11 Manage Your Future	1. Career Action Plan & Morrisby Review 2. Updating Resumes 3. My Choices eWorkbook 4. Preparing for the workforce: • Speaker (LLEN, WestVic) • Testing/ screening processes • Employability skills • How to seek employment 5. Wimmera Field Days / Longerenong Tours 6. Deakin Immersion Day (2025 only) 7. First Aid/CPR, RSA and Barista certificates (EduClick). Maybe also Financial Literacy
Year 12 Launching into the world of work	1. Career Action Plans, resume update, cover letter etc. 2. Planning ahead for the end of year 12- VCE and VM https://vtac.edu.au/careers/resources-download (Applying for uni, VET, Apprenticeships, ATAR calculations etc). 3. Tertiary admissions process, SEAS, scholarships etc. 4. Job applications 5. Exit interviews 6. TIS tour Hamilton 7. RSA and Food Handlers courses (EduClick)

DOLLY'S DREAM WORKSHOP

Our Secondary College is proud to be hosting workshops from Dolly's Dream, supporting students in building self-worth and addressing the impacts of bullying. These engaging sessions aim to empower young people with practical strategies to foster kindness, resilience, and positive connections, helping to create a safe and supportive school environment for all.

MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER

Debbie Williams

Casterton SECONDARY COLLEGE

SCHOOL VALUES

	CLASSROOM	INSIDE SPACES Office area Toilets Corridors Lockers	OUTSIDE SPACES Oval, courts Playground Lockers Canteen	TO AND FROM SCHOOL Commuting Community facilities At local shops At home External providers	SCHOOL EVENTS Assemblies Excursions/incursions Sporting events Information evenings Parent/teacher nights Camps etc.	DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP All modern digital devices
RESPECT I respect myself and other people I actively listen to others with an open mind I respect other people's different perspectives/opinions I am inclusive I respect school property and the property of others I wear my school uniform with pride	-I listen attentively when others speak -I contribute positively -I am considerate of others and respect their ideas -I follow teacher instructions -I follow safety rules -I respect personal and school property -I use good manners with everyone -I use positive and appropriate language -I maintain appropriate noise levels -I treat everyone with respect and dignity	-I use an appropriate voice -I respect personal space -I move safely -I respect the privacy of others -I keep my hands to myself -I use good manners with everyone -I treat everyone with respect and dignity	-I stay within school boundaries -I respect the personal space of others -I use language that is appropriate -I keep our school clean -I look after school equipment -I treat everyone with respect and dignity	-I use language that is not offensive to others -I use good manners with everyone -I wear the correct school uniform -I represent Casterton Secondary College in a positive way -I respect private and community property and spaces -I observe safe and responsible behaviour when travelling on buses -I treat everyone with respect and dignity	-I arrive on time -I listen attentively -I follow seating plans -I wear my school uniform correctly -I use positive language -I exhibit good sportsmanship -I represent Casterton Secondary College in a positive way -I treat everyone with respect and dignity	-I am smart, safe and responsible when online -I use trusted websites and report cyberbullying -I keep my password and - personal information private -I take care of the school's computers -I am responsible for the security of my digital devices -I observe the school's ICT and Electronic Devices policies -When using IT, I treat everyone with respect and dignity
ACCOUNTABILITY I set personal goals and have high expectations of myself and others to continually improve I have a positive attitude and enthusiasm for learning I strive to achieve my personal best I take pride in the achievements of myself and others I actively promote a culture where everyone is treated with respect and dignity	-I come to class ready to learn -I let others learn -I participate in discussions and share responsibility for group tasks -I give and receive constructive feedback -I listen to instructions and pay attention to safety rules and procedures -I try my best to achieve my goals -I ask questions when I don't understand -I'm responsible for completing all set work, on time -I treat everyone with respect and dignity	-I maximise my learning time -I ask for permission to leave the classroom -I use equipment carefully -I am mindful of how my actions impact on the learning of others -I treat everyone with respect and dignity	-I accept consequences without arguing and complaining -I recognise the bell signals that I move to class promptly -I am responsible for my own belongings -I consider the safety of others and myself -I am responsible for the sporting equipment I use -I accept responsibility for my behaviour	-I arrive at school on time and I am punctual to class -I am responsible for completing homework and submitting work by the due date -I follow instructions -I sign in when late to school and sign out when I leave school early -I have an explanation for absences -I treat everyone with respect and dignity	-I support the learning of others -I take notes/use my planner -I remember what is said -I act on feedback as provided -I use my initiative to react positively to new and/or different experiences -I treat everyone with respect and dignity	-During my time at school my computer use is directly related to classroom learning -I reference and acknowledge information from the internet -I use ICT at the appropriate times during class, as directed by my teacher -When using IT and electronic devices, I treat everyone with respect and dignity
PERSISTENCE I keep trying even when it gets difficult I try different strategies to overcome a challenge I have a go and learn from my mistakes I follow through when I've made a commitment I challenge prejudice and biased behaviour and practices	-I never give up despite challenges -I ask for help if I encounter difficulties -I seek alternative ways to solve problems -I continually strive to improve -I attempt all tasks to the best of my ability -I use my time effectively in the classroom -I challenge, persevere and extend myself -I model inclusive behaviour	-I uphold the values of the school -I minimise the time spent out of class -I promote a safe space in all inside spaces -I maintain a tidy and organised locker -I model inclusive behaviour	-I resolve conflicts with my peers in a calm and peaceful manner -I encourage my peers to develop strategies to deal with conflict -I challenge prejudice and biased behaviours and practices	-I maintain a high attendance rate -I uphold the school values in the local community -I do regular home study and revision -I get to and from school safely -I model inclusive behaviour	-I attend all school events -I participate to the very best of my ability when representing my House, the College and the community -I show initiative and take on new challenges -I model inclusive behaviour	-I cooperate with others to create a safe online environment free from prejudice and bias -I don't always rely on digital devices to resource information -I resolve ICT issues in a calm constructive manner -I ensure I back up work on a regular basis -I regularly update my passwords and personal details -I challenge prejudice and biased behaviours and practices