

## PRINCIPALS REPORT

...and so, the challenges linked to the Coronavirus continued in 2021 – who knows what 2022 will hold?



Whilst every person has in some way been affected by Covid-19, there have been none more so than our current Year 12's who have had the last two years of their formal schooling severely impacted by the "cloud" of Covid. Despite the interruptions to onsite learning, they have persevered and shown a strength of character to overcome adversity. I am very proud of every Year 12 student!

Congratulations and good luck to the Class of 2021 and on behalf of school staff, I wish you all the best with future endeavours and hope your dreams are fulfilled. After the last two years, you all deserve success.

Congratulations to the many students who received awards/recognition at the 2021 Presentation of Awards Ceremony. Their commitment and efforts reflect the school values of Respect, Accountability and Persistence.

Almost every student, Years 7-12, successfully navigated the challenges that confronted them throughout the year. They developed resilience, became confident learners, improved communication skills and importantly, found a way to overcome the trials of 2021. It is gratifying to be part of a school community that remains positive and optimistic.

I acknowledge Casterton Secondary College teachers for their commitment to students. Our teachers have gone above and beyond to provide quality instruction, encouragement, and support to achieve success despite the challenges remote learning presented. Thanks to our wonderful education support staff who have provided teachers, students, and parents with a high level of support.

Thanks to John Webb, Jo McKenzie, Renae Newell, Carina Barton and Renee Jukes for their outstanding leadership of staff, curriculum development, the management of the areas they are responsible for, and for the high level of support they have provided to the college community and to me personally.

2021 College Captains: Eloise Hippert and Lily Pilmore; and Vice-Captains: Josh Jeffrey, Chloe Kerr and Zac Nash have been outstanding student leaders and presented themselves as fine role models for our student population - it has been a pleasure to work with them. They have demonstrated the values, behaviours and responsibility required to lead the student body during very challenging times. The college thanks our departing student leaders for their support of and contribution to Casterton Secondary College and hope they pursue leadership opportunities in their chosen fields.

**On behalf of CSC staff, I welcome our 2022 College Captains: Maddy Robinson and Rhys Southern, and Vice Captains: Shaely Bromage-Charlton and Kais Parsons.**

I express my thanks to the Casterton Secondary College Council, sub-committees, and parent volunteers, for their work and commitment to the college during 2021. I particularly thank Council President, Michael Betinsky, for his leadership and work throughout the year.

The strength of the relationships between staff, students and parents/carers/guardians cannot be understated for it has helped us cope with the difficulties that have confronted us over the last two years. We have as individuals and a community adapted and grown stronger; we have discovered what we are capable of, and we have developed and tapped into our strengths.

On behalf of our school staff, I thank students for their resilience and determination throughout the year and thank parents/carers/guardians for the reassurance and guidance they have provided to their children. Although it hasn't been easy for any of us, through our collective efforts students made valuable progress in their learning.

***Remember even though the outside world might be raining, if you keep on smiling the sun will soon show its face and smile back at you. (Anna Lee)***

I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas as well as a prosperous and rewarding 2022.

Meridith



# CSC Presentation of Awards Ceremony

John Webb

Despite the easing of a number of COVID -19 restrictions, we again decided to hold our Presentation of Award Ceremony on Wednesday December 8 on the front lawn of the College. This ensured we continued to prioritise the health and wellbeing of our school community.

Unfortunately, parents / caregivers and friends were unable to be in attendance to celebrate the achievements of our students. A small number of guests were in attendance to present awards.

The awards ceremony provides an opportunity to reflect on the events of the year and to recognise and reward a large number of students who have achieved at a high level in a wide range of pursuits.

We want to thank the following organisations for their generosity and support of the college in making a number of awards available:

University of South Australia, Trotters Coaches, Westvic Staffing Solutions, South West TAFE, Casterton Sandford Football Netball Club, Australian Defence Force.

## Award winners for 2021

**College Council Award:** Chloe Kerr

**University of South Australia, Year 12 Diligence Award:** Kate Tomkins

**Australian Defence Force Leadership Award:** Lily Pilmore

**Year 9 Endeavour Award (Donated by the CSFNC)**

Zoe Betinsky, Phoebe Carlin

**Westvic Staffing Solutions Award for VET Excellence:** Cory Wombwell

**South West TAFE Award:** Ivy Stewart

**Academic Diligence Awards**

Year 7: Abby Black, Tamsyn Black, Airiz Dela Cruz, Alex Hill, Mylie Ireland, Olivia Nolte, Feba Thankam Shiju, Arjun Yadav

Year 8: Amy Crauford, Emily Eastman, Chelsea Hulm, Indi Longhurst, Matilda Thompson, Jack Wombwell

Year 9: Zoe Betinsky, Phoebe Carlin

Year 10: Selena Black, Makayla Hutchins, Marissa Jamieson, Ella Kerr, Ivy Lane, Madeline Patton, Amber Spratling

Year 11: No recipients

Year 12: Eloise Hippert, Chloe Humphries, Chloe Kerr, Kate Tomkins

**Academic Excellence Awards**

Year 7: Abby Black, Tamsyn Black, Airiz Dela Cruz, Alex Hill, Olivia Nolte, Feba Thankam Shiju

Year 8: Amy Crauford, Emily Eastman, Chelsea Hulm, Indi Longhurst, Matilda Thompson

Year 9: Zoe Betinsky

Year 10: Makayla Hutchins, Ella Kerr

**English and Mathematics Aggregate Awards (Donated by Trotters Coaches)**

Year 7: Olivia Nolte

Year 8: Amy Crauford, Emily Eastman

Year 9: Zoe Betinsky

Year 10: Makayla Hutchins

**Year 11 Subject Awards**

Sophie Hart: Outdoor and Environmental Studies

Ashley Hornibrook: Outstanding VCAL Work Placement

Madeline Patton: Biology

Maddy Robinson: Agriculture and Horticulture, English

Jessica Sambell: Foundation English, Health and Human Development, Industry & Enterprise

Rhys Southern: General Mathematics

Ivy Stewart: Foundation Numeracy, Personal Development, Studio Art

Cory Wombwell: Product Design and Technology

**Year 12 Subject Awards**

Eloise Hippert: Biology, Chemistry, Further Mathematics

Caeleigh Humphries: Agriculture and Horticulture

Chloe Humphries: Business Management, Intermediate Literacy, Intermediate Numeracy, Personal Development, Outstanding VCAL Work Placement

Georgia McPeake: Product Design and Technology

Kate Tomkins: English, Food Studies, Further Mathematics, Health and Human Development, Outdoor and Environmental Studies

### **TAFE Certificates**

Certificate II in Animal Studies: Chloe Humphries

Certificate II in Building and Construction: Zac Nash

Certificate II in Sport and Recreation: Caeleigh Humphries

Certificate III in Education Support: Chloe Kerr

Certificate III in Screen and Media: Titan Smeaton

Certificate III in Screen and Media: Jack Smith

**Champion House:** Muntham

**Olympic Change Maker Award:** Caeleigh Humphries, Kate Tomkins

**Junior Sportswoman:** Indi Longhurst

**Junior Sportsman:** Josh McPeake

**Senior Sportswoman:** Kate Tomkins

**Senior Sportsman:** Riley Munro

**2022 College Captains:** Maddy Robinson, Rhys Southern

**2022 College Vice-Captains:** Shaely Bromage-Charlton, Kais Parsons

**2022 House Captains**

**Glenelg:** Feba Thankam Shiju, Alex Hill, Ivy Lane, Josh McPeake

**Muntham:** Chelsea Hulm, Jedd Rhook, Marissa Jamieson, Kais Parsons

**Wannon:** Indi Longhurst, Eli Koscal, Amber Spratling, Makayla Hutchins, Oscar Davis



**ABOVE-** Kevin Winch presenting Muntham House Captains with the Kathryn Mitchell Shield



**RIGHT-**Regional Manager of Mt Gambier, University of South Australia, Mr Ian McKay presenting Kate Tomkins with her award

**LEFT-**Dylan Ayton, President of CSFNC presenting Zoe Betinsky with the Yr9 Endeavour award



## YR 10 ART

*Faith Roper & Selena Black*

Casterton Secondary College's Year 10 art students have been busy making and creating clocks this semester. The task was to create a design that would later be re-drawn or painted onto a clock base and covered with resin. Over the course of Remote Learning, the students had to come up with an abstract or creative drawing design, before coming back to school. Upon their return, they sketched their design on the clock base, then using either paint, watercolour, or pencils, transfer the design to the wooden base. After this was completed, the next task was to mix up clear resin to pour over, giving it the last seal of protection. Once dried, they stuck on the numbers and attached the rotation mechanism.



Harry Ferreira



Ella Kerr



Sophie Hart



Ivy Lane

*ART continued*



*Harry Ferreira & Lachlan Humphries  
adding the resin to their clocks*



Above- Mathew Mark



Right- Selena Black

## WOODWORK

*Steve Rathmell*

### Year 10- Coffee tables

*Sid Herbert*

*Selena Black*

*Ivy Lane*

### Year 8- Office Organisers

*Matilda Thompson*

*Amy Crauford*

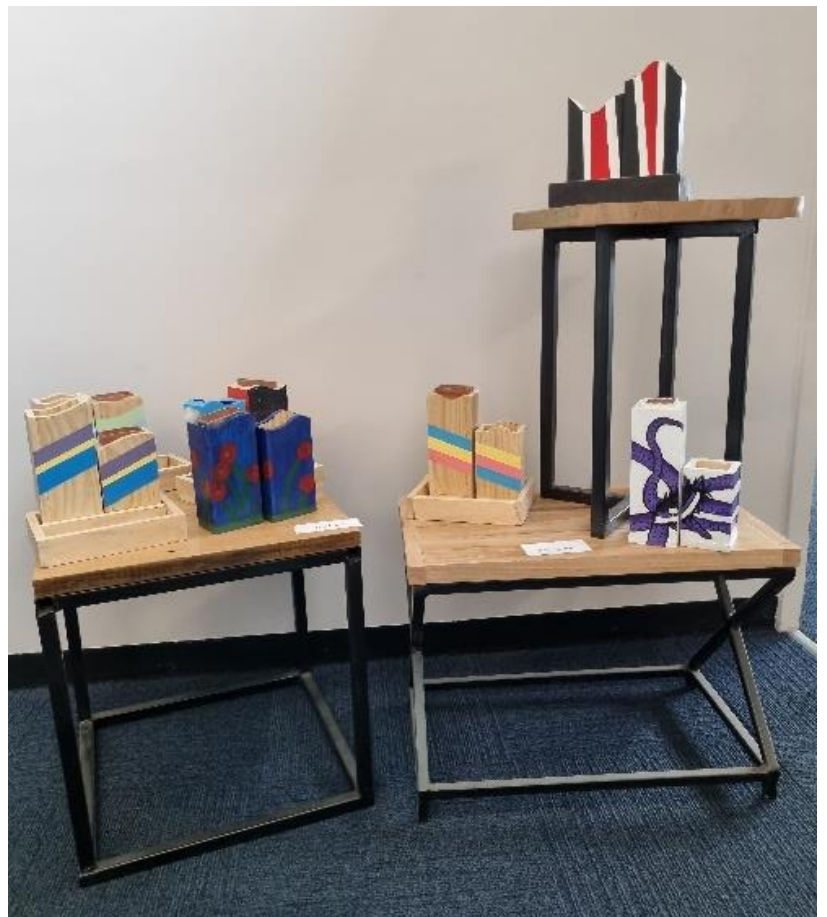
*Indi Longhurst*

*Emily Eastman*

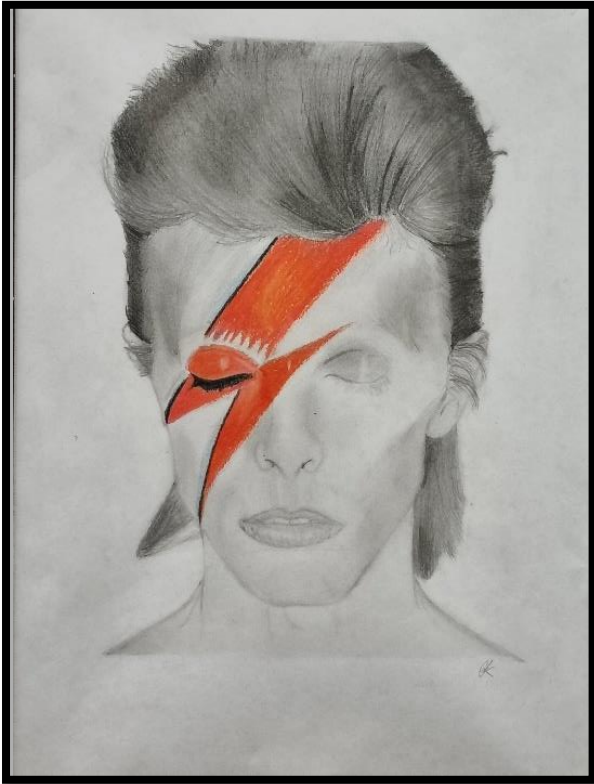
*Kira Charlton*

*Jedd Rhook*

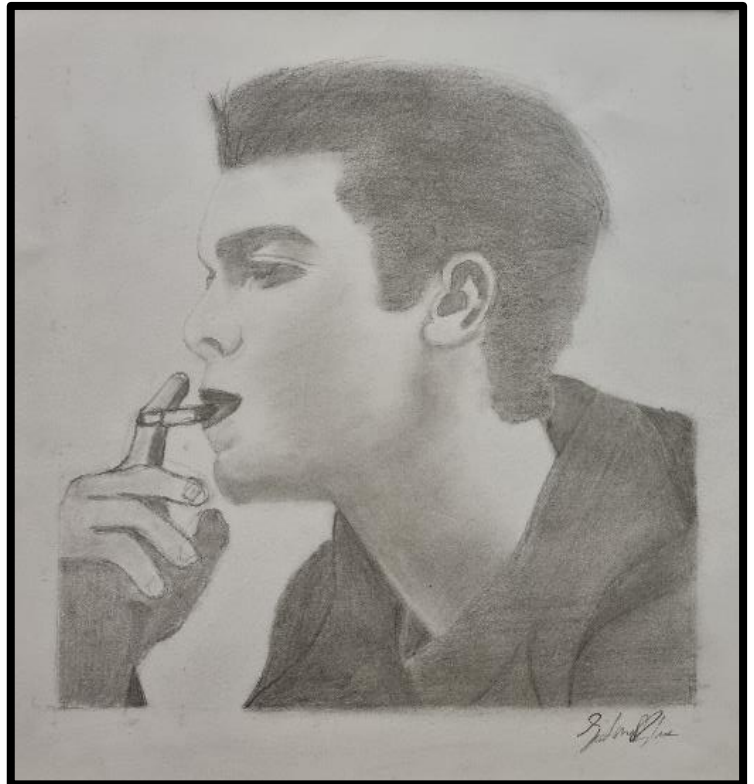
*Chelsea Hulm*



ART GALLERY, from various Year levels & art mediums



*Ella Kerr, YR10*



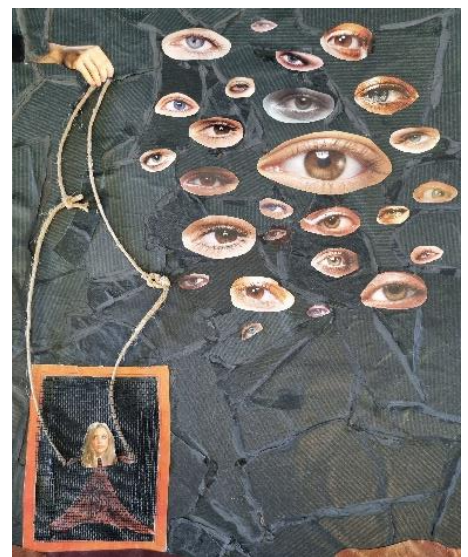
*Selena Black, YR10*



*Blake Kurzman, Yr8*



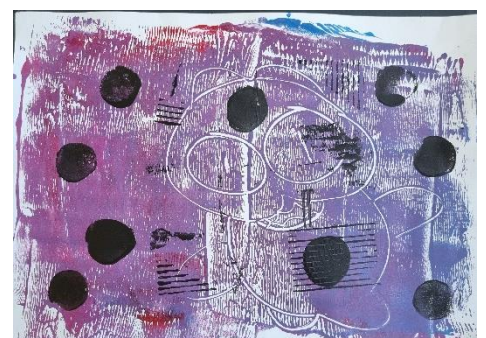
*Oscar Barden Yr,10*



*Ebany Jarrad, Yr. 10*



*Lachlan Humphries, Yr10*



*Tyson Hegarty, Yr7*





*Mylie Ireland, Yr7*



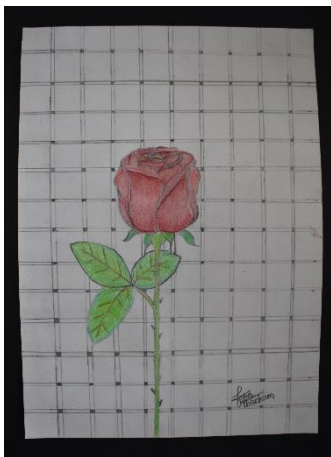
*Amelia Richardson, Yr7*



*Ebany Jarrad, Yr10*



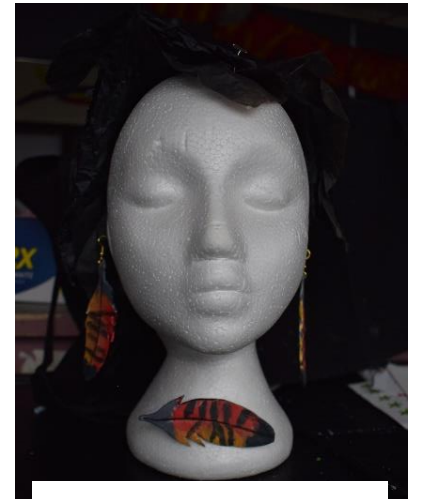
*Caitlyn Gorman, Yr7*



*Feba Thankam Shiju, Yr7*



*Sid Herbert, Yr. 10*



*Ivy Stewart, Yr11*



*Myles Black, Yr7*



*Ivy Lane, Yr10*

## Yr7 ENGLISH

*Sally French*

This term the students of 7P have studied Morris Gleitzman's classic play *Two Weeks with the Queen*. After reading through the text as a class, the students put their dramatic talents on show, assigning roles, rehearsing, and performing various scenes. Students had to look at the elements of staging, how characters use the performance space and interact with each other, including ensuring there were no backs to the audience. Everyone worked very hard to memorise their lines and use the punctuation of the text for effect. An array of theatrical costumes were donned to portray the different characters, including larrikin Aussie Colin Mudford, as he causes havoc across London on his quest to meet with the Queen and find a cure for his brother's terminal cancer.

All members of the class did a spectacular job putting their own spin on this Australian classic.



*Tyson, Alex & Blake*



*Mylie, Nicole & Myles*



*Caitlyn & Amelia R*



*Kaitlan & Phoenix*

## Welcome to our newest staff member- Dane Vise

*Ann Hirst*

It is with pleasure we welcome Dane Vise to our school as an IT technician. As many of you know, Dane did his schooling at CSC and completed his work placement in IT during that time at Grangeburn Office Supplies in Hamilton. He finished Yr12 VCAL in 2017 before going on to a one-year course at the Southern Grampians Shire in IT, then returning to work part-time in the family Post Office and part-time at Grangeburn Office Supplies. He has slotted into the position comfortably at CSC and We look forward to working with Dane in the years to come.



## Year 9 Health, PE Tennis

*Joey McArlein*

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of November the Year 9 HPE Class made their way down to the Island Park Tennis Courts to undertake a PE practical lesson focussed on tennis skills. The students learnt specific movement skills such as forehand, backhand, and volley as they embraced the sport with positivity and enthusiasm. Safe to say that all students had a ball, pardon the pun.

Although a thunderous and stormy day, the only lightning seemed to stem from fast feet on the tennis courts!



## Hannah Munro takes over SA Junior Shooting Championship

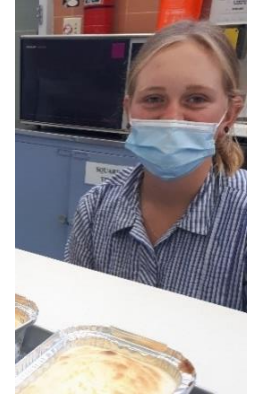
*Renaë Newell*

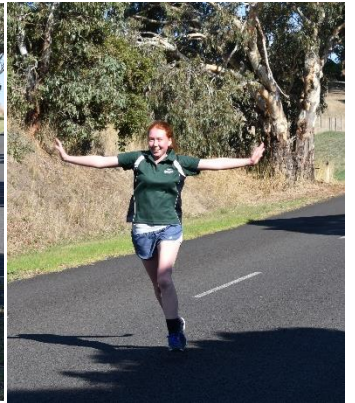
On Saturday December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021, after almost a year of being unable to compete due to covid restrictions, Hannah resumed competition in the best possible way, by placing first in her division at the South Australian Shooting Associations Junior Championship in Skeet in Adelaide.

Congratulations Hannah on your efforts.



# 2021 Our School year, a quick review





# GRADE 5 PARTNERSHIP DAY

*Carina Barton*

After many attempts, stops and starts due to Covid restrictions, we finally managed to get the Year 5 students from our local Primary Schools to Casterton Secondary College for a partnership day. We only managed to achieve this due to the support and patience of all the schools involved, for which we are very grateful.

The students were involved in a variety of classes including Science, Food Studies, Agriculture, Humanities, Maths, Indonesian, English and Physical Education. Throughout the day the students were extremely well behaved and showed enthusiasm and a positive commitment to the tasks in hand.

Thanks are due to the Year nine helpers Phoebe Carlin, Zoe Betinsky, Alex, and Riley Hornibrook, and to the staff who volunteered to take the various classes and provide an enjoyable learning opportunity for the students.

Last, but by no means least, a big thank you to Tori for providing lunch. We look forward to seeing all the students back next year for our grade 6 partnership day (usually held in May).



## Year 7 2022: Orientation Day

Carina Barton



Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of December was the state-wide schools' orientation day in Victoria, which is always an exciting time for everyone involved, the students plus teachers and support staff alike. This was no-where better illustrated than here at Casterton Secondary College where we welcomed our new cohort of 19 students from Merino Consolidated School, Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's Schools, Coleraine Primary School and Casterton Primary School. The students were involved in a variety of classes throughout the day, with perhaps none more popular than making the delicious chocolate Christmas Balls during the Food Studies lesson. Once again, via our fundraising program, we were able to present each of our new students with a Casterton Secondary College schoolbag. Thanks are due for all the support we receive from the primary schools, our staff for volunteering to run classes, and the student 'peer helpers' who gave up their day to welcome our new students. Enjoy the summer break, keep safe, and best wishes for the Festive Season.

# This year in SCIENCE

Brett VanAs

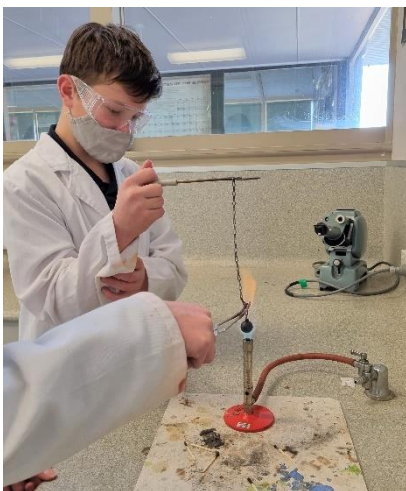
*Equipped with his five senses, man explores the universe around him and calls the adventure Science. - Edwin Powell Hubble*

In 2021, Biology and Chemistry were undertaken at VCE level, and our junior students studied a broad range of science topics in a variety of engaging and hands-on ways.

As a snapshot, students are pictured making their own acid-base indicators, exploring transport across cell membranes, constructing electrical circuits, modelling the states of matter and cell reproduction, measuring the energy contained in snack foods, investigating forces, examining expansion and contraction and researching simple machines.

In the Applied Science Centre our Y10 students continued the wine-making program that is taught in conjunction with Year 10 Chemistry. Y9 students were responsible for the feeding and water testing of the silver perch in our aquaculture program and a variety of year levels were involved in hydroponics.

I feel Hubble would agree that in 2021 we have helped students explore and understand the universe around them.





# SENIOR SCHOOL PROGRAMS

*Renae Newell,*

## **Defying the Drift Program**

Defying the Drift is a program design for students to experience careers in agriculture and related industries. The students chose to stay at the residential college Longerenong, where they learn new skills, discover many rural futures, and visit a range of rural enterprises. Congratulations to Amber Spratling who will be attending on December 13<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **Live 4 Life Crew**

Congratulations to the Live 4 Life Crew who led the junior students through the program. The students were successful in assisting the delivery of events and drive the key Live4Life messages at their school and in their community. They were engaging, active and invested in the mental health education and literacy of their peers and the wider community. It is excellent to see these students have become mental health advocates in an empowering way.

## **Primary Industries Excursion- Australia Blue gum Plantations**

The VCE Outdoor and Environmental Studies and the Agriculture/Horticulture students visited a forestry harvest site outside Digby, run by the Australian Blue gums Plantations. Students learnt about a range of career options and the general production of the timber industry. Students gained insight into conservation and management methods used to ensure best practice. This links in with the Year 11 and 12 curriculum in the mentioned subjects.



*LIVE 4 life Crew*



*Primary Industry-Blue gum Plantation inspection*



Learning about career options & production in the Blue gum Industry

# MATHS AWARD WINNERS

Chelsea Carter



*FRONT- Alex Hill, Arjun Yadav, Olivia Nolte, Amy Crauford, Ebany Jarrad, Makayla Hutchins, Madeline Patton, Marissa Jamieson, Indi Longhurst, Georgia Taylor, Felicity Hall, Riley Munro  
BACK ROW- Abby Black, Chelsea Hulm, Tamsyn Black*

At the end of term 3 all year 7-10 and our Further Mathematics and General Mathematics students sat the Australian Mathematics Competition. It was pleasing to see so many top awards achieved by our students. A big acknowledgment goes to Chelsea Hulm who achieved the best result within the school. Our award winners were, **Year 7 Distinction** Abby Black, **Credit** Olivia Nolte, Airiz Dela-Cruz, Arjun Yadav, Tamsyn Black, Alex Hill. **Year 8 Distinction** Chelsea Hulm, Indi Longhurst, Amy Crauford, **Credit** Georgia Taylor, Kaidee Sambell. **Year 9 Distinction** Felicity Hall. **Year 10 Distinction** Madeline Patton, **Credit** Riley Munro, Marissa Jamieson, Makayla Hutchins, Ebany Jarrod. **Year 11 Credit** Rhys Southern.



# MUSICIANS SHOW THEIR TALENT WITH LUNCHTIME PERFORMANCE

Laura Nicholl

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> the music students finally had an opportunity to show their talent to their peers and teachers. The music students have enjoyed coming together throughout the year, forming small groups, and mastering their musical repertoire.

Performing, especially in front of peers, can be very daunting, and I was so proud to see the music students rise to the challenge. For most, this was a first-time experience and I look forward to seeing the music students return in 2022 to further their skills and develop as young musicians and performers.

Well done to all the performers on the day.



Nicole, Kirby, Amelia, Tamsyn, Feba, Mylie,  
Jorja



Felicity Hall, Milly Campbell



Alex Hill



Abbey Munro



Emily Eastman and Teacher Mrs Nicholl



Savannah Schurr



Eli Koscal



Feba, Nicole, Amelia, Mylie, Myles & Eli

## FOUNDATION MATHS: Modular Housing

*Joey McArlein*

During the rollover period the 2022 Foundation Maths class put their best engineer hats on in order to tackle a housing project.

They were asked to come up with a house design using only 4 modular blocks, calculate the cost, and finally critically analyse the design.

Upon conclusion of their houses, the students were given an extension STEM inquiry task. They were to use all the blocks to create a tower that stands freely at 45 cubic blocks tall. As you can see, thumbs up all around means a proud bunch of students supporting their epic tower!



*L to R. Shaely Bromage-Charlton, Mr McArlein, Ivy Stewart, Ebony Mutch & Jess Sambell*



### Community Connections

The VCAL program could not run so successfully without the contributions made by both our local and neighbouring employers. The students are required to secure a placement to reinforce and compliment the skills and knowledge that they are learning whilst completing their course. Hosting a student allows them the opportunity to grow and learn in the work place. Industry experience is an invaluable tool in the development of career pathway choices. The students and staff would like to thank and acknowledge the following employers who have hosted a student throughout 2021:

*Arthur Young Veterinary clinic, Western District Tyres, Entwined Café, Casterton Primary School, Casterton Agriculture, Edgarley, Sacred Heart, Coleraine Primary School, Merino Consolidated School, Bensons Automotive, James Dean Pharmacy, National Hotel, Vickery Bros, Phil Pullen and Co, Casterton Farm Supplies, Platinum Products, Mother Goose, Jarrad Motors, Rick Killey Building, St Vinnies, Great Escape Nursey and RJ Steelworks*

We value your contribution to the development of our students and thank you for investing in their future.

Congratulations to those students who have secured an apprenticeship or employment as well as those who have received an early offer into their chosen tertiary courses in 2022.

Looking ahead into 2022.

All students have arranged a placement for 2022 and the paperwork has been signed by the relevant parties. Parents/ careers and employers will receive a copy along with the relevant information, once term 1 has commenced in 2022. Students will be asked to call employers and complete a checklist prior to starting at this stage the first day of placement will be Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> of February. HDSC will commence on Tuesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of February. A reminder that school events such as swimming sports et. take priority and students will be expected to attend.



***Casterton Secondary College Staff***

***WISH EVERYONE A WONDERFUL AND SAFE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR45***



# DOCTORS IN SCHOOLS, INFORMATION

## **Doctors in Secondary Schools**

The Victorian Government ensures young people get the health support, advice and treatment they need to reach their full potential. The \$43.8 million Doctors in Secondary Schools initiative provides school-based health services for 100 Victorian secondary schools most in need.

This initiative funds general practitioners (GPs) to attend up to 100 Victorian government secondary schools up to one day a week. The GPs provide medical advice and health care to those students most in need.

In 2016 Casterton Secondary College successfully applied to participate in the program. Despite the efforts of Western Victoria Primary Health, we were unable to find a GP interested in being part of the program – until the end of 2020. CSC was the last of the 100 Victorian schools to acquire the services of a GP. *We are appreciative of the Dr Try Medical Clinic and Riverview Family Health for offering to provide an onsite service to students one day per week from Term 1 2022.*

The objectives of the program are to:

- make primary health care more accessible to students
- provide assistance to young people to identify and address any health problems early
- reduce the pressure on working parents.

All secondary school students will be able to access an adolescent-health trained GP, subject to providing the required consent for the services. Schools, students and their parents/carers will not incur any out-of-pocket expenses for student consultations with the GP.

## **Consent and confidentiality policy**

The program's consent and confidentiality policy was developed in consultation with experts including: the Australian Medical Association, the Australian Education Union, Parents Victoria and the Victorian Association of Secondary School Principals.

Consistent with Australian common law, the program recognises that:

- any student who wants to see the GP will be permitted to book an appointment
- the GP will decide whether the young person is mature enough to consent to medical treatment or whether parent/carer consent is needed - as is the case with all GPs in the community
- the right for a young person's health information to be kept confidential will be respected unless the disclosure is with the consent of the young person or it is otherwise permitted by law – as is the case with all GP practice in the community

I have attached Information sheets for parents/carers and students. Students will also receive a hard copy of their information.

To provide students with an opportunity to find out more about the service the school and Clinic have organised information/Q&A sessions for all students.

We will be holding a Zoom meeting with students on 3 December and the format will be introductions, a brief outline of what the service is, examples of what you can see the doctor about and how to book an appointment, followed by a Q&A session.

This will be followed up by a face-to-face visit on 10 December.

It has been a long journey and we are excited to finally be able to offer this valuable service to our students.

At the start of 2022, I will provide more detail about how it will operate.

## CONSENT AND CONFIDENTIALITY

### HELPING VICTORIA'S YOUNG PEOPLE ACCESS HEALTH CARE

The Victorian Government is making sure young people are receiving the health support, advice and treatment they need to reach their full potential.

The \$43.8 million Doctors in Secondary Schools initiative is delivering on the Government's election commitment to fund general practitioners (GPs) to attend 100 Victorian schools to provide medical advice and health care to those students most in need. This initiative will also provide for modern, fit-for-purpose rooms where required.

This brochure provides answers to commonly asked questions about access to this program.

### WHAT IS THE CURRENT LAW ON CONSENT?

Victorian law is clear on consent for medical treatment by a GP:

- Young people who are mature minors can consent to their own medical treatment.
- Young people who are not mature minors cannot give consent to their own medical treatment.

As is the case in community GP practice, the GP participating in the Doctors in Secondary Schools program, will assess if a young person is a mature minor with respect to the issue for which they are seeking medical treatment.

### WHAT IS A MATURE MINOR?

Mature minors are young people under the age of 18 years who are deemed capable of seeking and obtaining health care for their particular issue. To give informed consent, a young person must be able to understand what treatment involves, what it is for, why it is needed and why it applies to them as an individual. The young person must also appreciate the risks associated with the treatment and be aware of the other options available, as well as the consequences of not pursuing treatment.

### HOW DOES THE GP ASSESS WHETHER A YOUNG PERSON IS A MATURE MINOR?

When the GP decides whether to give the young person medical treatment, they will consider:

- Age
- Maturity in other areas of their life
- Independence – whether they live at home with a parent or carer, or support themselves
- The seriousness of the treatment
- The young person's understanding of why the treatment is needed, what it involves, treatment options, things that might go wrong (like side effects from drugs, or other complications), and consequences of non-treatment.

### WHAT IF MY CHILD IS NOT A MATURE MINOR?

In the case of the Doctors in Secondary School program, any young person who wants to make an appointment with the GP can do so. The GP will decide if the young person is a mature minor with respect to the issue for which they are seeking medical treatment. The assessment as to whether a young person is a mature minor may vary for different issues. For example, a GP may decide a young person is mature enough to be able to consent to treatment for a health condition such as asthma, but may not be mature enough to discuss the risks and benefits of anti-depressant medication.

If a GP determines that your child is not a mature minor, they will obtain your consent before medical treatment is provided.

### CAN I COME TO THE APPOINTMENT WITH MY CHILD?

Yes, parent or carer involvement is encouraged and the program recognises that as parents or carers you are an important source of information and support for your child in managing the issue for which they are seeing the GP.

### WHAT IF I DON'T WANT MY CHILD TO SEE A GP?

You are encouraged to discuss this with your child and with the school. Generally, all secondary school aged students will be considered mature enough to make a decision to see the GP and the GP will then decide whether the student is a mature minor for the purposes of seeking medical treatment for the presenting issue. This principle

applies just the same if your child was seeing the doctor in a local community general practice.

#### **WILL THE GP INVOLVE ME?**

There will be many circumstances where it is desirable or necessary for you to be involved.

If your child is not a mature minor, the GP will involve a parent or carer or another responsible adult.

If your child is assessed as a mature minor by the GP, the GP may see your child alone for the treatment of their issue, however the GP will often encourage your child to involve you in their care. This approach helps build confidence and responsibility in young people as they grow into young adults, while balancing the need to respect your child's emerging right to confidential health care with your reasonable expectation about being involved in your child's health care.

#### **UNDER WHAT OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES WILL I FIND OUT ABOUT MY CHILD'S GP VISIT?**

If the GP has determined that your child is considered a mature minor for the medical treatment being sought, their health information must be kept confidential and cannot be disclosed unless it is with your child's consent or the disclosure of the information is otherwise permitted or required by law.

The following are examples of when disclosure of health information is permitted or required by law:

- Your child consents to the disclosure.
- The disclosure is necessary to prevent a serious threat to public health, safety or welfare – e.g. the young person has a disease which must be notified to the Department of Health and Human Services.
- The disclosure is necessary to lessen or prevent a serious and imminent threat to any person's health, safety or welfare.

#### *Examples:*

- The young person is at imminent risk of harming themselves.
- The young person is at imminent risk of harming others.

In accordance with these privacy obligations, school staff will not disclose when your child has accessed the GP

unless it is with your child's consent, or there are some other legal reasons for the disclosure of this information.

#### **WHEN CAN MY CHILD GET THEIR OWN MEDICARE CARD?**

Young people can apply for their own Medicare card when they turn 15 years of age. They need to complete an application form and provide identification, such as a student card or birth certificate, as well as details about the card they are transferring from.

#### **WHERE WILL MY CHILD'S MEDICAL RECORD BE KEPT?**

The medical records will remain the property of the participating GP's base clinic.

#### **CAN THE GP REFER MY CHILD TO OTHER HEALTH SERVICES IF THEY NEED IT?**

Yes. It is anticipated that referrals will be an important part of this program. The school program lead and nurse will work with the GP and your child to help support them if any referrals are required. In certain cases, you may also be consulted and involved in these referrals.

#### **WHAT IF MY CHILD ALREADY HAS A GP?**

If your child has an existing GP but would prefer to see the GP at their school, your child's medical records can be transferred. This reflects what is currently undertaken in the broader community. This is important and encouraged, so that continuity of care is promoted across all the health providers a young person sees.

If your child is a mature minor, they can consent to the transfer of their medical records.

If your child is not a mature minor, you can consent to the transfer of your child's medical records.

#### **WHAT SERVICES WILL THE GP BE PROVIDING?**

The GPs participating in the Doctors in Secondary Schools program will provide young people with the same services as those GPs in the community, including management of physical health, mental health, and sexual and reproductive health issues.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/doctors-secondary-schools.aspx>

or email Doctors in Secondary Schools at: [doctors.in.schools@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:doctors.in.schools@edumail.vic.gov.au) with any questions.