

We acknowledge the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jardwadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk peoples as the traditional custodians of the Wimmera lands upon which Murtoa College is situated. We pay our respects to their elders - past, present, and emerging - and acknowledge their deep care of the lands we live on, their ongoing living culture, and the excellent teaching and learning practices they have engaged in for tens of thousands of years, including our present day. We express our gratitude that we share this land today, our sorrow for the costs of that sharing, and our hope and belief that we can move to a place of equity, justice, and partnership together both now and into the future.



# Important Dates

Week 3	29 <sup>th</sup> April	Boys Intermediate Netball, Central Park, Horsham
	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Black Ranges Athletics, North Park, Stawell
Week 4	7 <sup>th</sup> May	Student Free Day (Staff Professional Learning)
	8 <sup>th</sup> May	F-6 CEP Excursion - Shrek
	9th May	Black Ranges Cross Country
	10 <sup>th</sup> May	F-6 Dunmunkle Athletics, Rupanyup

# Principal - Dr Bec Carter

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

We welcome everyone back to school for Term 2. In doing so, we take this opportunity to remind everyone of the significant role **School Values** play in shaping the moral and academic landscape of our College. For us, our values of **Community - Inclusion - Respect - Integrity** articulate the moral and academic expectations that we as a College community hold for everyone; leaders, teachers and students alike. Pivotal to the day-to-day business of our everyday school life is ensuring that every child who attends our College is aware of what the school aims to achieve *for them* and *with them*. In doing so, we aim to help our families shape the character of their child/ren and equip all students with a moral compass they can choose to guide their current and future lives. This week it was indeed a privilege to witness first hand our staff and students working closely together, demonstrating their collective and individual commitments to living our school values both at school and in our local community.



## **Service Leadership**





By actively choosing to participate in Anzac Day commemorations, our formally recognised Senior School Leaders, Junior School Leaders, Year 8 and 9 students who put their hands up to deliver our very first whole school Anzac Day Commemoration service at the front of the school, and the many students who opted to attend local Anzac Day services with families and friends selflessly experienced the powerful force of service leadership; a form of leadership that occurs each and every time an individual discovers the heart to serve, answers the call to lead, and summons the courage to walk behind or alongside others as they engage with the community to benefit those around them, rather than themselves.

This notion of service leadership is foundational to much of the work we have introduced across the College this year. Our goal is to help our students realise that every person has leadership potential, and that leadership begins when an individual decides to step forward when the easier choice might be to stand still. Since the start of this year, the power for good generated by our students - particularly students from Year 9 to Year 12 - choosing to interact with others face-to-face, participating in voluntary coalitions to address community needs, has developed each student's capacity to build strong human connections through conversation.

Such qualities were demonstrated by students in our Year 9 Humanities and English class who delivered a heartfelt ANZAC Day commemoration. With Ms Chambers, the class has been learning about the importance of commemoration – to remember and show respect - and this was reflected in all elements of our school commemoration on Wednesday this week, including the handmade ANZAC biscuits, crafted wreaths, and beautiful poppies. A particular thank you to Zoe Tegelhuter for hosting the ceremony, Jaylen O'Callaghan for giving the Acknowledgement of Country, and Hugh Weidemann, for leading the flag bearers. Michelle and Kieran Butler's stunning rendition of "I Was Only 19" opened the commemoration, creating a truly memorable experience for all. As a school, we would also like to give a special thanks to Peter Byrne OAM, whose reflections on the Vietnam War reminded everyone of the worth of Australia's democracy and values, and his one of our guests, Peter Stainthorpe (returned Vietnam Vet), who said it stated on the day, then later at the Minyip commemoration service held on Anzac Day, that the Murtoa College service he attended the day before was the best ANZAC service he had ever attended. Lest we forget.



Our sincere appreciation goes to all staff and all families who continue to support all such efforts quietly yet resolutely behind the scenes. Such supportive partnerships make possible our determination for all students to experience the power of other-centred leadership; a form of leadership where one's individual role is not focused on oneself but on participating in quiet collective action, making collective contributions and assuming collective responsibility for enriching the lived experiences of others in our local community and beyond.



#### **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

### School Closure - Student Free Day - Tuesday May 7th

A reminder to all students and families that the College will be closed on Tuesday May 7th. This is a School Council approved day where all staff members from Murtoa College will be joining with more than 300 Leaders, Teachers and Support Staff from schools across the West Grampians region to attend a full day of professional development. The day will focus on 'Improving Outcomes through School Engagement', opening with a keynote address by Adam Voigt (Agile Schools), followed by a series of Workshops led by Principals and other school Leaders from Horsham Special School, Stawell West Primary School and Stawell Primary School.

### **Before school Supervision**

Recently we have noticed an increasing number of primary students arriving at school as early as 8.00 am. Please be reminded that Staff Supervision commences from 8.30 am for all students, with Student Connect (Homeroom) for secondary students commencing at 8.45 am sharp. To ensure the safety of all primary students, we ask families to ensure child/ren do not arrive at school prior to 8.30 am, or - if this cannot be arranged - make enquiries at the Front Office for their child/ren to attend before school OHSC (Out-of-Hours School Care) service that we offer for all primary school families.

# VALE JOHN FRAZER Murtoa High School Principal 1971-1977

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the recent passing of a much respected and loved past Principal Mr John Frazer.

John and his family contributed greatly to the school and community.

We pay our condolences to John's wife Betty and their family.

We were very honoured to have John, Betty, daughter Kathy and son-in-law Bruce Bowles visit late last year and hear of the memories they had of their time at school.







Thanks so much everyone Dr Bec Carter - Principal

# Assistant Principal's Report (Chad Frost)

Welcome back to the Murtoa College school community from a timely and reflective Term 1 break. Term 2 is a long term with eleven weeks, and it is important we continue to work together in the best interest of our young people. It is a busy term with a range of athletic and sporting events taking place as well as camps and excursions. Our Student Voice and Participation team, led by Mikaela Wright, are working towards embedding School Wide Positive Behaviours, currently working with all students to co-create a system that recognises positive behaviours. We continue to review our processes to support all students in and out of the classroom and bedding down on restorative practices to both challenge and support behaviour.

### Safe Social Media Use

Social media has become a huge part of life for teenagers and adults today. Apps like Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok and more are how you connect with friends, share experiences, and express ourselves. While social media can be fun and useful, it's important to be aware of the risks and know how to protect your privacy and safety online.

### Think Before You Share

One of the biggest dangers of social media is oversharing and posting things you may regret later. Once something is posted online, it can be very difficult to remove it completely. Photos, videos, comments and personal information can be copied and shared by others without your consent. Before posting, young people should ask themselves if it's something they would want parents/carers, grandparents or eve future employers to see.

### Manage Privacy Settings

Take some time to review and adjust the privacy settings on your social accounts. Set your profiles to private so only approved friends/followers can see your posts and information. Be cautious about geotagging that reveals your location. Avoid mentioning your birthdate, school name, or other details that could expose your identity.

### Watch Out for Predators

Unfortunately, there are people who misuse social media to exploit or take advantage of young people. Young people should be very wary of strangers trying to connect with them online and should never agree to meet up with someone only known from social media. Inappropriate or suspicious messages should be reported to the social media network, parents and potentially the police.

#### Limit Time Online

This is a big one and at schools, and we all too often see the negative side effects of its overuse. While fun, social media can also become an unhealthy addiction that affects sleep, productivity, and mental health. Aim for balance by taking breaks and spending time away from your devices. Disable notifications so you aren't constantly distracted. At night, charge devices outside of the bedroom to avoid lost sleep from being online late.

Social media is a big part of teenage life, but we need to use it wisely and teach our kids the same.

### **Experiential Learning & Blaze Aid**

Each week our FLIP Hands on Learning students undertake an experiential learning program whereby students learn by doing. Experiential learning offers numerous benefits for students by actively engaging them in the learning process through hands-on experiences and reflection, strengthening neural connections in the brain which leads to better retention and understanding of concepts. Students are more likely to remember what they learned through active participation compared to passive learning methods like lectures.

Most recently our team worked with Blaze Aid, which is volunteer-based organisation that works with families and individuals in rural Australia after natural disasters such as fires, cyclones, droughts and floods. It was our second time working alongside the volunteers and this time we restored a damaged fence next to Barney's Bar in Pomonal. Our students worked in two teams to learn the basics of fencing and then applying the knowledge to put the fence up. We will continue to work with Blaze Aid when we can to support our neighbours to come back from disaster.













### **Boys Netball**

Our VET Sport and Recreation students are and have been engaged in a range of school and community sporting pursuits. This year the boys in Sport and Recreation are being coached by our three female students Lili Wilson, Marli Arnold and Issy Hemley as a part of our coaching and participating in conditioning for sport units. Last week we had the support of Sophie Delahunty to help identify the rules and nuances of the game and to offer advice to help our boys. Over the course of several weeks the girls have the team primed and ready for Monday.

The Sport and Recreation students have also been supporting Rupanyup and Minyip Murtoa FNC with the running of their Auskick and Net-Set-Go programs. I haven't been able to visit our Rupanyup based students, but the feedback from their coach has been fantastic and I know hoe helpful it has been at the Burras. It is great for the students to have reallife experiences as well as supporting the next generation of young people in our communities.





# Learning & Teaching Executive Team

# Director of Student Futures & Pathways (7-12)- Shaun Bray

<u>Work Experience</u>: Thank you to all businesses and organisations that took a Year 10 or 11 student for work experience in the last week of Term 1. Work Experience is a valuable experience for our students as they develop employability skills and begin to map out their potential career paths. For students who were unable to complete work experience or would like to organise another placement, they can talk to Mr Bray at any time.



### 2024 Ken Daggett Memorial Award:

The Ken Daggett Memorial Award was established in 2012, in annual recognition of a senior student at Murtoa College who embodies the qualities displayed by Ken Daggett and other returned services personnel. The 2024 Ken Daggett award was presented to Amelie Faulkner at the ANZAC Day ceremony in Rupanyup. Amelie gave a speech that described Ken and his service to the war and his involvement in the Rupanyup Community. Amelie also touched on her own families services to the war. Well done Amelie on being selected as this year's recipient and thank you to the Rupanyup RSL and Gayle Emmett for their continued support with this award.

# F-6 Curriculum Coordinator & Literacy Leader – Grace Coustley

It has been fantastic to see students back in the classroom learning in term 2. This will be a busy term with a CEP show and our F-6 Athletics. These events will be very exciting and look into different areas of the curriculum.

The Foundation/One students have continued to learn their letters and sounds. Students are working on writing words using our known sounds and I have been so pleased how much they have grown with their knowledge in this area. We have been looking at our number knowledge and as of next week we will be looking at addition in maths.

In the One/two room, students are working on their independence with their class routines. Students have been continuing to build their sound knowledge and applying this to their reading and writing. Furthermore, they have been learning about addition and building up their quick facts to ten. These are called friends of ten.

The Three/Four students have been learning about information reports and writing these. In reading they have been looking at comparing and contrasting where they need to look at the similarities and differences in different texts. In maths, students have been looking at their multiplication, especially their 3 times tables. Which is always a handy skill for students to practise at home.

In the five/six room, students have been busy participating in their cross country, where they all did a fantastic job running 2 or 3 KM. The grade 6s also attended a grade 6 Leadership day where they heard all about how to be a strong leader. They have been looking at making their writing engaging through and starting to look at paragraphing to ensure their writing is structured.

# Director of Responsive Teaching - Dr Cindy Thompson

Watching ANZAC Day football and netball matches are a great reminder of how much our students gain from challenging themselves and working on skill development. Not everyone's passion lies on the sporting field, so I would like to draw your attention to some upcoming competitions that students may like to participate in to stretch themselves academically. The competitions are outlined below but we need expressions of interest from parents by 9am Wednesday 1 May using the Google Form link below: https://forms.gle/Khn3mHKr9f26Yx2P8

#### Rio Tinto Big Science Competition (Years 7 to 10)

The Big Science Competition is open to students in Years 7 to 10 globally. It's a 50-minute, multiple choice online competition testing science knowledge, critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. Questions are set in real-life, contemporary contexts, making them relatable... and interesting!

Sitting the Big Science Competition could lead to selection in science extension programs including the Junior Science Olympiad Training Squad and Curious Minds – girls in STEM.

#### Australian Mathematics Competition (Years 3 to 12)

First run in 1978, the Australian Mathematics Competition is Australia's longest running, largest and most well-known maths competition for school students. The AMC contains unique problems designed each year by leading educators and academics to challenge and extend your students' problem-solving skills

### Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge (Years 3 to 12)

Bebras is a fun and engaging computational thinking challenge for students in Years 3 to 12. It is an international challenge that involves over 2.9 million students from 60 countries.

Coding skills are not required to complete the Bebras Challenge.

# **Student Wellbeing, Inclusion & Engagement Team**

# Director of Student Wellbeing, Inclusion & Engagement – Allyssa Wilson



# Staying safe with strangers

It is always a good idea to have regular conversations with your child surrounding staying safe and what they should do if they ever get approached by a stranger:

- Strangers are people you don't know. Most strangers are good people. But you don't have to always trust or believe an adult.
- If a stranger wants to talk to you, always check with your parents first.
- Strangers may make up stories or offer treats to make you go with them.
- Never go with a stranger no matter what they say. Never, ever, get in a car with a stranger or follow into a stranger's home.
- If you are on your own, always stay somewhere busy and well-lit where other people can see you.
- Make sure your parents or carers always know where you are.
- Sometimes you might need to talk to a stranger for help, for example if you are lost. Look for a mum with children or go into a shop, police station, service station, library or school.
- If someone is following you or grabs you, scream for help as loud as you can. Shout 'Go away, I don't know you' so other people will understand.
- Have a family password that your child can remember. If someone tells your child they have come to pick them up, the child can test them with the password.
- Make sure your children know where to go for help

For more information see: https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/keeping-your-kids-safe

# Director of Student Voice, Empowerment & Participation – Tara Crowe

This week marked an exciting step forward in our journey towards fostering a positive and inclusive school environment. Mikaela, our Secondary Student Voice Captain, and I convened to deliberate on the formulation of a reinforcement system that celebrates behaviours aligning with our core values: community, respect, inclusion, and integrity.

In our collaborative session, we recognized the importance of amplifying student voices in shaping our school culture. We agreed that a survey should be conducted to glean insights from all secondary students. This survey aimed to discern preferences concerning the recognition of behaviours resonant with our values.

In the coming week students will get the opportunity to contribute to the design of a proposed system or contribute innovative ideas. Every response gathered will guide the direction we, as a school, will embark upon. Your voices matter greatly in sculpting the ethos of our institution.

We also discussed harnessing student input regarding observable behaviours that exemplify each value across diverse school contexts. While this endeavour commenced at the outset of the academic year, refinement is now necessary to create a workable document accessible and easily understood by the entire school community. During Peer Support sessions, students will be actively engaged in this process, and this information will contribute to the continued development of the School-Wide Positive Behaviour Program.

Mikaela has also expressed a keen interest in crafting a schedule of student activities available during lunchtime. This initiative seeks to provide enriching opportunities for recreation, socialization, and skill development, thereby enhancing our overall school experience.

As the year progresses there will be many more opportunities for students to contribute to the development of a vibrant and positive school culture where every member feels valued, respected, and empowered to thrive.

## **Agricultural and Horticultural Studies**

The VCE students have been immersed in the theoretical aspects of their studies, delving into the intricacies of the Agriculture industry by examining its Drivers of Change and Current Trends. They recently participated in the enriching "AgSTEM" workshop, hosted by the Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action. Here, they explored the innovative use of sensors for data collection and empowering farmers to make informed decisions. As a hands-on application, they ingeniously crafted their own soil moisture sensors using provided components.

In addition to their theoretical endeavors, our students have been actively engaged in practical tasks. They've nurtured seeds into thriving vegetable seedlings, ready for our primary students to cultivate in their winter gardening unit. Furthermore, they've successfully harvested pumpkins, now available for purchase at the school reception.

Meanwhile, our Primary students have concluded their Healthy Soil unit. Now, they eagerly embark on selecting winter-appropriate vegetables for our region, meticulously researching their care requirements. Soon, these chosen vegetables will find their home in our expanding collection of wicking beds, thanks to the diligent efforts of Ross Sudholz, who has been instrumental in preparing suitable IBCs. We extend our gratitude to all students involved in this ongoing project.

With our market garden area on the verge of flourishing, we anticipate a bountiful array of fresh vegetables enriching our school community in the near future.

# Director of Transitions and Community Engagement – Nicole Noonan

F-6 Reading Awards:

The following students received 25 nights reading award:

Back row: Ruby, Ella, Ellie, Ethan, Jagger, Cooper, Immi

Front row: Mia, Porsha, Chloe, Levi, Angus, Posie, George



The following students have received their 50 nights reading award: Back row: Poppy, Caden, Jaxson, Ethan, Jagger, Porsha, Immi Front row: Leon, Levi, Jimmy



Well done to Addi who has received her 75 nights reading award:



F-6 Values Awards were presented to Archer (F/1), Ethan (F/1), Henry (1/2), Max (1/2) and Julia (5/6).









## **Out and About:**

**Dunmunkle Cross Country** 

Last Friday students in Year 4-6 participated in the Dunmunkle cross country at Rabl Park/Marma Lake. Students either ran 2km or 3km depending on their age group. Well done to everyone that participated.

Special mention to the following Ethan (12yrs boy), Indyanha (12yrs girl) and Ellie (11yrs girl) that won their age group:

Good luck to those that have qualified for the next level in St. Arnaud.





Year 6 Leadership Day



Last Monday, our year 6 students participated in a Leadership day in Horsham. Lorin Nicholson delivered a leadership building session and told his own story in leadership. He also shared how he overcame growing up with only 6% of his vision. Students thoroughly enjoyed the day and have taken on board many of the values learnt.

# Murtoa and District Neighbourhood House

Students in Year 9/10 who are completing their Certificate II in Community Service and Certificate II in Health Services ventured to the local Neighbourhood House to assist with the local Playgroup. Our students joined in a variety of activities with the younger children. In the future sessions our students have been asked to lead some of these activities. It was great to see them talking, laughing and playing with the younger children. Our students then assisted with the weekly Meals On Wheels.











The House Cross Country was run on Tuesday around the picturesque Lake Marma. Students from Years 7 to 12 ran together around the 3km course, the senior boys in the 16–20 year age group ran 5km which included part of the racecourse.

All students received allocated points depending on their placings; 20 points for winning their age group, 19 for second, 18 for third, and subsequent points as the placings came in. This was their incentive for achieving the best possible time.



Congratulations to all the students who participated in the cross-country event! It's pleasing to observe that a significant number of students at school either ran or walked the course. A big thank you to the staff members who diligently monitored checkpoints and handled data entry. Your efforts contributed to the success of the event!

# Winning house

- 1<sup>st</sup> place Waterson with 449 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place Meier with 390 points
- **3rd place Degenhardt with 291 points**

# **<u>Cross Country Age Champions</u>**

	12-13 Boys	12-13 Girls	14 Boys	14 Girls	15 Boys	15 Girls
1 <sup>st</sup>	Lewis Gellatly	Maeve Delahunty	Ryder Hudson	Molly Gawith	Hugh Weidemann	Zoe Tegelhuter
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Navraj Dhillon	Sienna Finnigan	James Hemley	Amba Zolj	Jaxon Coote	Shanyka Penny- Roberts
3rd	Charlie Coote	Lyra Hurley	Jono Polo	Marlie Arnold	Jake McKenzie	Lillian Hovey

	16 Boys	16 Girls	17 & 18 Boys	17 & 18 Girls
1 <sup>st</sup>	Jarvis Mitchell	Isabelle Hemley	Alex Dertilis	Adelle Weidemann
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Archie McQueen	Abby Oxbrow	Will Hemley	Charlotte Saligari
3rd	Logan Liao	NA	NA	Lilly Madex

# **Black Ranges Cross Country Qualifiers**

12-13	14 Years	15 Years	16 Years	17-18 Year
Years				
Maeve Delahunty	Molly Gawith	Zoe Tegelhuter	Isabelle Hemley	Adelle Weidemann
Lyla Hurly	Amba Zolj	Shanyka Penny- Roberts	Abby Oxbrow	NA
Lyra Reardon	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Lewis Gellatly	Ryder Hudson	Hugh Weidemann	Jarvis Mitchell	Alex Dertilis
Navraj Dhillon	James Hemley	Jaxon Coote	Archie McQueen	Will Hemley
Charlie Coote	Jono Polo	Jake McKenzie	Loan Liao	NA
Casey Franklin	Jaylen O'Callaghan	NA	Zac Oxbrow	NA
Bentley Pendlebury	Max Finnigan	NA	Coen Winch	NA
Kayne Satori-Billman NA		NA	NA	NA







# Information for **Black Ranges** Cross Country

# Thursday 9th May 2024

- Top 6 students in each age group from House Cross Country will qualify.
- Murtoa Football Oval
- Students will be walked from school after period 1 and return to school during lunchtime. Approximately 1:30pm.
- Students must bring appropriate footwear and clothing, drink bottle and snack.
- If your child's medical history has changed, please notify the school of this.
- If you are planning to spectate, please be aware there is limited shelter at the oval Rug up!
- There will be a canteen operating on the day. Tea and coffee will also be available. NO EFTPOS. Only cash!
- Top individuals will qualify for regionals. One team of 5 competitors plus the next best 7 individuals in each event will continue onwards to the Greater Western Division Cross Country.
- Non-running Year 9 and 10 students will assist with checkpoints and timing.

#### Timeline:

10.50am	12-13 Girls (3km)
11.00	12-13 Boys (3km)
11.10	14 Girls (3km)
11.20	14 Boys (3km)
11.30	15 Girls (3km)
11.40	15 Boys (3km)
11.50	16 Girls (3km)
12.00pm	16 Boys (5km)
12.10	17 – 20 Girls (3km)
12.20	17 – 20 Boys (5km)
1.00	Presentation
1.30pm	Clean up and depart.
	11.00 11.10 11.20 11.30 11.40 11.50 12.00pm 12.10 12.20 1.00

# **Athletic Champions**

Congratulations to Ryder Hudson for receiving the Newman award for best overall athlete on the day! 5/6 Boys – Noah Crawford-Foster 5/6 Girls – Pippa Wilson 13 Year Boys – Navraj Dhillon 13 Year Girls – Sienna Finnigan 14 Year Boys – Ryder Hudson 14 Year Girls – Clare McConnell 15 Year Boys – Hugh Weidemann 15 Year Girls – Zoe Tegelhuter 16 Year Boys – Archie McQueen

16 Year Girls – Paige Hemley

Open Year Boys – Wilson Mitchell Open Year Girls – Alex Bebero





# **OFFICE NEWS**

### Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)

Just a reminder to everyone if you are eligible for this funding to contact the office for a form. Most Health Care Card Holders will be eligible for this. It is used for camps and excursions. If you received CSEF in 2023 you will not have to re-apply.

### **School Uniform**

School uniform can be purchased from the Office during school hours and the current price list and Uniform policy are displayed on the College website.

We do have supplies of used uniform available at the office and we are very happy to receive any donations of good quality unform that is no longer needed. Please ensure uniform donations are washed prior to delivering to the school.

### **Bus Passes**



Just a reminder if you wish your child to go on a College bus, you must provided a note requesting a bus pass. If your child is already a bus traveller but going on a different bus, you must also supply a note.

Cost for the Horsham bus only is \$5 one way.



