



## Principal's Message

As the year draws to a close, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your unwavering support of our school. Together, we have nurtured a culture of learning, respect, and care that enriches the lives of our young people.

- To our **parents, carers and extended family**, thank you for your trust and partnership in guiding your children's education.
- To our **staff**, your professionalism, dedication, and creativity continue to establish the initiatives and opportunities that allow our students to thrive in the most individual ways.
- To our **young people**, your individual strengths and unique qualities are at the heart of our school. You remind us daily of the joy and purpose of education, expressed in our Motto, 'Learning for Life', and the school Value 'Celebrating Achievement'.

**- To our community**, your encouragement and contributions strengthen the bonds that make our school a place of belonging.

May this holiday season bring peace, joy, and renewal to you and your families. To the young people who are graduating, stay close to your friends, find your own pathway and remember your school days. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year, ready to embrace fresh opportunities and challenges together.



## Important Dates

2025

**Friday 19th December:**

Last Day Of Term 4. **Students will be dismissed one hour earlier at 1:45**

2026

**Tuesday 27th January:**

Curriculum Day. **Students do not attend school on this day.**

**Wednesday 28th January:**

Curriculum Day. **Students do not attend school on this day.**

**Thursday 29th January:**

Start Of Term 1, 2026. **Students return to school.**

## Assistant Principal's Message

Braham Morris

As we reach the end of another successful school year, I want to acknowledge the hard work, growth, and achievements of all our students and staff throughout Term 4.



Our senior students have had an especially memorable and busy term. The Senior School Camp at Portsea provided a valuable opportunity for teamwork, fun, and shared experiences, and it was wonderful to see our Year 12s celebrating together at their formal. There was plenty of food and drink in addition to lively dancing. A good night was had by all. Graduation Night was a proud moment for families and staff alike, as we recognised the dedication, resilience, and accomplishments of our graduating students. We wish each of them the very best as they take their next steps beyond school.

Students across all other year levels have also enjoyed a variety of end-of-year excursions and activities, rounding out the term with energy, curiosity, and enthusiasm.

I would like to thank all of the staff for their tireless commitment and our families for their ongoing support throughout the year.

Wishing all students, staff, and families a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year.



## Year 12 Graduation Season Wrap-Up

Jo Larkin

Work Experience Co-ordinator

Over the past fortnight, our school community has come together to celebrate the achievements, growth and hard work of the Class of 2025 through three very special milestone events: the Year 12 Formal, Graduation Ceremony and the Final Assembly.

### Year 12 Formal Thursday 4 December

Held at Crave Restaurant, the Year 12 Formal was a wonderful evening of celebration, elegance and fun. Students arrived dressed to impress and enjoyed a night of great food, music and dancing. It was a fantastic opportunity for our graduating class to relax, connect with friends and make lasting memories as they marked the end of their schooling journey together.

### Graduation Ceremony Tuesday 9 December

Our official Graduation Ceremony, held at Forest Hill College, was a memorable and heartfelt occasion. Families, staff and students gathered to recognise the achievements of the Year 12 cohort. The evening featured outstanding speeches from both staff and students, along with the presentation of awards acknowledging academic excellence, leadership, personal growth and contribution to school life. It was a proud moment for everyone involved.

### Final Assembly Thursday 11 December

The school community came together for the final end-of-year assembly to farewell our graduating students. The assembly concluded with a touching Guard of Honour formed by the entire school. Students and staff lined the pathways to applaud our Year 12s as they made their way through, symbolising our collective support and best wishes for their next chapter. It was a wonderful way to close out the year and celebrate their success.



## Heatherwood Graduation Night Celebrating Our Graduates

**Congratulations**



# Heatherwood News

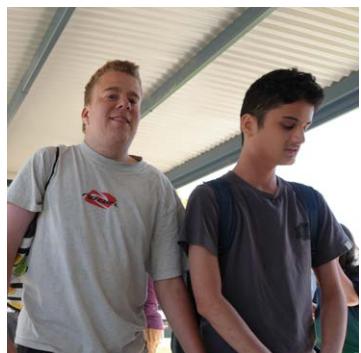
December 2025



## Year 12 Final Assembly And Awards



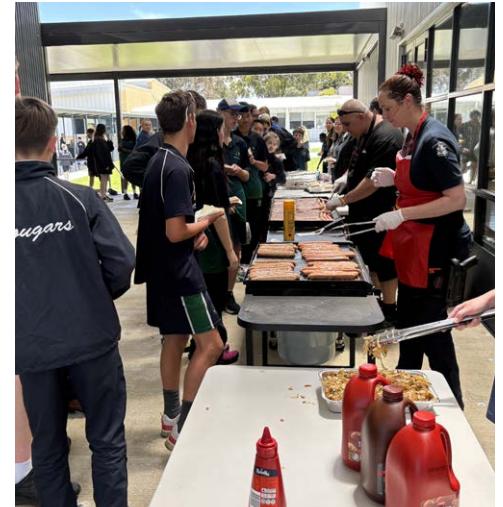
## Year 12 Final Assembly Guard of Honour



## Free BBQ Sausage Lunch

Braham Morris  
Assistant Principal

On Thursday 11 December, our Year 12 students celebrated their final day of school with a whole-school BBQ, bringing together students and staff in a relaxed and joyful atmosphere. We were pleased to be joined by representatives from our local police and ambulance services, reinforcing the strong community connections that support our school. The celebrations concluded with a special final Year 12 assembly including an address by the local Member of Parliament and the School President Michelle Payne, student acknowledgements and the presentation of awards.



## Bus Driver's Breakfast

Lynn Penrose  
Food Technology Teacher

Our Hospitality students eagerly look forward to this function every year, this year being no exception. The day before, they prepared some food in advance and set up the staff room. With an early start, they enthusiastically prepared and cooked, ready to serve by 9.00am

A hot and cold buffet breakfast was served with hot and cold beverages. Interaction with the drivers showed how much they enjoyed being served by the students. Another successful function.



## Trade Kitchen

Michelle Willoughby and Shaz deWacht

### We farewelled our year 12 Trade Kitchen students on

Thursday and thanked them for their hard work this year. It was exciting to celebrate Graduation with them all and their last day on Thursday at the whole school assembly. We wish them all the best with future endeavours.

**Thank you to all the year 10 students** who worked so well in Trade Kitchen throughout the year. We have been very impressed with your skills and willingness to work hard in supplying healthy meals and snacks for the school students, staff and Statewide Vision Resource Centre.

**Trade Kitchen will be closed** from Wednesday 17th December and will reopen in Term 1 on Monday 2nd February 2026.

With cost increases of some ingredients, and price increases with foods and packaging from our suppliers, there will be changes to the prices of some of our menu items for 2026. The 2026 menu with adjusted prices will be added to the school website and available from the office and the trade kitchen. You will be unable to use old copies of the 2025 menu next year.

Wishing you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer break and we will see you in 2026.



## Senior Elective, Physical Education

Lee O'Sullivan

Outdoor Education Teacher

This year in Senior Elective Physical Education, students have embraced every opportunity to learn new skills, challenge themselves, and work together as a supportive and enthusiastic team. Throughout the year, we have focused not only on physical skills but also on developing cognitive abilities, fine motor skills, communication, and problem-solving strategies.

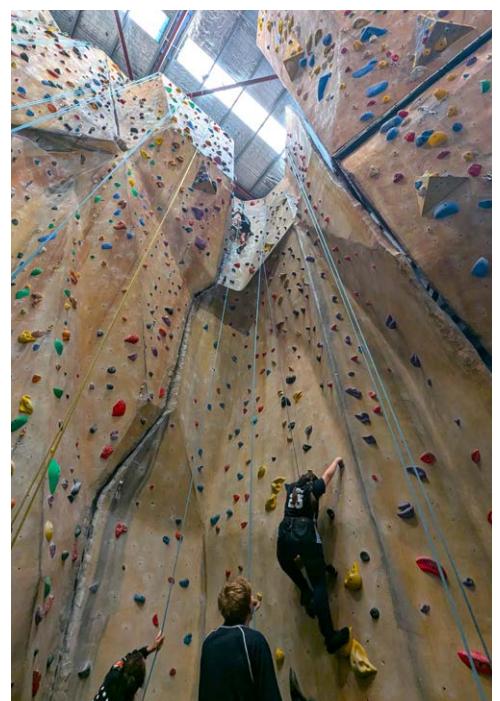
Students have shown a terrific willingness to have a go and to push themselves just that little bit further each week. Whether we were practising new activities in class or heading out on excursions, the group continued to grow in confidence, resilience, and independence.

A highlight of the elective has been taking our learning beyond the school grounds. Students experienced indoor rock climbing and abseiling, bounced and flipped their way through sessions at Bounce, and even tested their swing at Morack Golf Course's driving range. Each activity offered a unique challenge and a chance to develop teamwork and trust—and of course, there were plenty of laughs along the way.

What has truly stood out this year is the way students supported each other. They consistently followed instructions, encouraged their peers, demonstrated teamwork, and built strong and positive relationships throughout the program. Watching their progress and seeing their excitement during each activity has been a true pleasure.

A huge congratulations to the Senior Elective PE students of 2025. Your effort, attitude, and achievements this year have been outstanding.

Thank you all for your involvement and interest this year!



## Year 9 Outdoor Ed

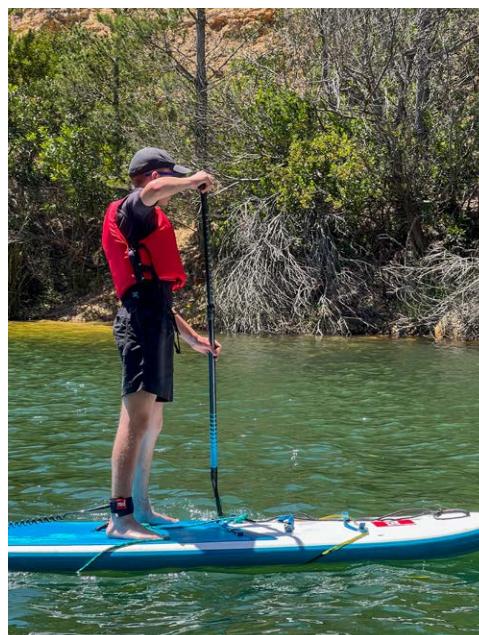
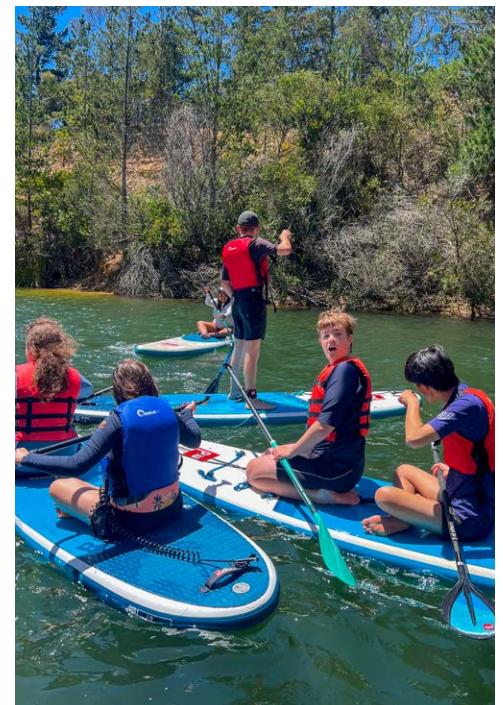
Lee O'Sullivan  
Outdoor Education Teacher

As part of our Outdoor Education program, Year 9 students travelled to Devilbend Reservoir in Tuerong to try Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUP) for the very first time. With clear skies and plenty of sunshine, it was a perfect day to be out on the water, even if the wind added a little extra challenge!

Despite the breezy conditions, students showed terrific determination and a willingness to give something new a go. After a few wobbles (and a couple of early splashes), many quickly found their balance and began confidently paddling around the inlet of the reservoir which was slightly sheltered from the gusty winds. Laughter echoed across the water as students encouraged each other, raced their friends, and celebrated every successful stand.

It was fantastic to see the group embracing the challenge, building new skills, and enjoying the unique calm and beauty of Devilbend. Their positive attitude and resilience made the day a memorable highlight of the term.

A big well done to Year 9 for their effort and enthusiasm! We're proud of how you represented Heatherwood School on the water!



## Senior Fishing Day at Lilydale Lake

Jo Larkin

On Tuesday 2nd December, our Senior students enjoyed an exciting and educational day at Lilydale Lake for our annual **Senior Fishing Day**. The event was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Victorian Fishing Authority, Fishcare, and Life Saving Victoria.

Students took part in a range of hands-on activities, including casting practice, knot tying, and interactive water-safety sessions with Life Saving Victoria. A highlight of the day was helping to stock the lake with more than **250 trout**, ready for families to enjoy over the Christmas holidays.

Throughout the day, students reeled in an impressive 50+ fish, celebrating each catch with enthusiasm and plenty of smiles.

- *"I couldn't believe how many fish we caught – it was the best day ever!" Shaylee*
- *"I can't wait to go fishing with my family now." Joey*
- *"Helping put the trout in the lake was really cool. I've never seen that before" Jordan*

To top it off, every student was gifted their own fishing rod, giving them the opportunity to continue developing their skills with family and friends.

A big thank you to the Victorian Fishing Authority for organising such a fantastic day and to all partner organisations for creating a memorable and engaging experience for our students.



## Victorian State Basketball Championships

Jo Larkin

On Wednesday 3rd December, Heatherwood School proudly competed in the Victorian State Basketball Championships at the State Basketball Centre. Schools from across the state came together for a full day of high-level competition, all aiming to be crowned State Champions.

### Girls Team – Back-to-Back Champions!

The Heatherwood girls entered the grand final ranked second on the ladder and faced a strong Emerson School team. After a rocky start, the girls quickly found their rhythm, showing outstanding teamwork, determination, and focus. By listening to instructions and working together, they surged ahead to secure an impressive 19–8 victory.

This win marks the second consecutive year the girls have claimed the Victorian State Basketball Championship—a remarkable achievement and a credit to their hard work and commitment.

### Boys Team – A Fighting Comeback

The Heatherwood boys' team also had a fantastic day on the court. After finishing at the top of their pool through consistent, high-quality team basketball, they advanced to the semi-final against the second-placed team. Despite falling behind by 15 points, the boys showed incredible resilience and heart, mounting a huge comeback. In a nail-biting finish, they narrowly missed victory, falling just 2 points short.

### Proud Coaches, Proud School

The coaches of both the boys and girls teams expressed how proud they are of the players' sportsmanship, teamwork, and ability to compete at an elite level. Both teams represented Heatherwood with pride, determination, and true competitive spirit.

**Congratulations** to both teams on their outstanding performances!



# Heatherwood News

December 2025

Heatherwood Boys Team	Heatherwood Girls Team
Coaches – Dave Battistella & Sam Ditty	Coaches – Jo Larkin & Liza McCormack
Zaine Farrell	Mikayla Milligan
Lucas Ozergin	Taniesha Baulch
Kobe Nealy	Amelia Hladyz-Bailey
Rhy Cammiade	Shaylee Norris
Oscar Payne	Christine Prydderch
Yianni Gerantidis	Holly Johnson
Lachlan Sultana	Hannah Tesselaar
Nau Kim	Ruby Barlow
Bradley Williams-Kirk	
Team Manager – Sat Khint	Team Manager – Phoebe Edwards



## School Wide Positive Behaviours Support

Sharon Koupparis

Learning Specialist - SWPBS | Disability Inclusion | Transition | Enrolments

During term 4, our SWPBS topic is Respect. This has been broken down into 4 sub-areas that include: 'Self-respect, Respect for our World and the Environment, the Rights and Feelings of Others and Diversity and Inclusion.' There are weekly targeted lessons to explicitly teach and reinforce these concepts in the classroom, out in the playground and in off-campus programs. We have a slide on TV displays around the school with examples of how students can show respect for one another, which is pictured below, to help remind students of school expectations.



### SWPBS - Term 4 - Be Respectful



Welcome to Term 4! Our focus for the rest of the year will be on Respect. How

can we be respectful?

Listen

Speak up  
for  
yourself  
and  
others

Apologise

Be kind

Be on  
time

Respect  
Boundaries

Be  
polite

Always  
be  
honest



## Free Public Transport



From 1 January 2026, people aged under 18 can travel free on all Victorian public transport services using a new youth myki card. This includes trams, trains, buses and coach services.

To access free travel, they must tap the myki card on and off each time they travel. For areas that do not use myki cards, they must show their myki card to travel free.

More information about the youth myki card will be available later in Term 4, 2025 – refer to the myki types webpage on the Transport Victoria website.

For more information about other travel options to school, and support for eligible students, refer to the Travelling to school webpage on the Victorian Government website.



By Liamdavies - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=30091812>

## Social Media Minimum Age Coming 10 December



### How to support your child under 16 with the new social media age restrictions

From **10 December 2025**, the Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024 will require social media platforms to:

- prevent children and young people under 16 from having a social media account
- deactivate or freeze existing accounts held by people under 16.

Delaying access to social media protects the health and wellbeing of young people and gives them extra time to build real world connections and digital literacy skills.

The responsibility will be on the social media platforms, not parents, carers, children or schools, to implement these new restrictions.

Most popular social media platforms will be age restricted. These include **Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, X (formerly Twitter), Reddit and YouTube**.

Messaging services and online games, as well as apps and platforms that support health and education, can still be used.

### How to help under 16s prepare for the change

Parents and carers play an important role in supporting their children to be safe online.

To help get under 16s ready for the social media minimum age requirements, you can go to the [eSafety website](#) to learn more about the social media age restrictions and find [tips on how to talk about social media age restrictions with young people](#).

## School Office

### Student Sign In And Out



Just a  
Friendly  
Reminder

Students who are picked up **before 2:45pm** must be signed out by an adult at the office.

Students picked up at **2:45pm onward** will be supervised at the back gate until they are collected.

**Students must be picked up no later than 3:00pm.**

Please remind students to check for cars when walking through the car park.

### Parents & Carers

- Please ensure your students' clothes are clearly labelled with their full name.
- Remind your young person **not** to share food with other students, due to health and safety reasons.

### 2025 Yearbook

The 2025 Yearbook will **only** be ordered for your student if the \$25.00 charge has been paid in full.

NB: Full payment is required **before** November. Reserve your copy now!

### Second Hand Uniform

The school is always seeking to source good quality **second hand** uniform items. If you have garments to donate, the school will graciously accept them. Thank you!

### Playground Supervision

Parents/Carers are reminded that **playground supervision** is provided from 8:45am on school days until the last contract bus departs after school and that no formal supervision of the playground occurs outside those hours.

### CROWN & QUINCES Buses

If at any time your young person is not travelling on the bus to school **or** home from school you must do each of the following:

1. Inform **the school** on 9842 8319 **OR** write a note in your young person's diary.

2. Inform the **bus company**

**CROWN 9845 1455**

**QUINCES 8506 2700**

BOTH THE SCHOOL AND THE BUS COMPANY NEED TO KNOW OF ANY CHANGES THAT OCCUR.

