

Melba Voice

July 2025



Principal's Report

Mr Matthew Lee



We've entered a new season as we conclude Term 2 and I'm not talking about the weather.

Subject selections are afoot for much of the college, and this is a season where we can look towards the future and plan for success. It has been excellent to visit some of our classes, talk to students and hear from staff around some of the commentary that has surrounded this time.

Discussions of hope and aspiration beyond school, thoughts of paths to achieve goals, ruminations on what students are good at and what that may translate to in their choices. There is strong correlative evidence between having a goal and achievement. It is, of course, hard to achieve a goal when you haven't defined what your goals are. I encourage all families from Year 8 to 11 to have good discussions about subject selections and, within that, talk about what students are good at, what their dreams are and how to set shared goals for their success. Subject selections are an important part of our journey at Melba College – our Pathways focus is based on the idea that when students have an element of choice and agency in their learning journey, they are more likely to be aligned with their studies, more engaged with the work and, ultimately, more successful. My hope is that throughout this subject selection season that students and families have robust discussions, focussed on growth and aspiration, that allow students to walk into the second half of the year with renewed vigour and determination to work towards making those goals manifest.

Though my opening referenced a new season and I didn't mention weather initially, there are a few things I would like to note in relation to winter and the upcoming months.

- **Getting to school safe and commuting in the cold.** Having made the decision to commute to work via bike to get some extra training in, I can attest that it is getting cold out there. There's frost on the grass and a chill in the air. With public transport disruptions and the cold, I encourage students that are commuting by bus, bike or legs to make sure you dress warmly for the weather and be cautious around the roads. A moment extra to double check a crossing or double check the PTV schedule can be a wise investment in making sure you get to school safe and sound. Getting to school safely is the first step to a good education!
- **Uniform.** Wearing extra layers is important to stay warm in winter and avoid the chill, but I would like to reinforce that a hoodie is not an extra layer on the menu for school. Having a hoodie confiscated is an inconvenience for both students and teachers, so I encourage students to ensure you avoid the temptation of hoodies and out of uniform items. Wear the College uniform proudly: You'll be doing yourself a service, as much as the school!
- **Being safe online.** With the cold upon us, there will likely be more occasions that students are online or accessing devices. You may have read about the recent changes to school jurisdiction regarding online presence and the ability to impose consequences for online misconduct. I encourage all students to think about your online presence and make the choice to be safe online this winter (and beyond). In my many years working with students, I cannot recall a single instance where students have felt regret for being kind to someone, particularly online – but I have, on many occasions, encountered students that have deeply regretted saying or doing things online that they never would have in person. Trolling, baiting and bullying online does not serve any purpose that will grow you as a person and I encourage students to conduct themselves online as responsible young adults and STRIVE to reflect an honourable character online, as we see in our classes at school.

As Term 2 reports are released in the coming weeks, I would also like to encourage families to review these with students. Consider the growth shown by students and celebrate their successes with them. Acknowledging student growth and work is a powerful way to encourage future success. Similarly, where there are areas for improvement – look at these with a growth mindset. There is always room for new growth and setting higher goals for the future. As you look towards Semester 2, I encourage all students to make a commitment to being their best selves and renew your dedication to achieving your goals. As a student, you spend about 600 hours at school each term – make the most of it and give your best – we want you to succeed and, given you're here, – why not give it your best? Know that the work being done at school is there to prepare for the hopes of the future.

For our Year 12 cohort – We are here with you, and I want you to know that you have the power within you to complete this last leg strong. Ask any endurance athlete about their experience in their races and they will tell you stories about the wall. That moment in the race where you are battling with your mind and it feels like you can't give anymore... that you're tempted to slow down or even stop... where you consider giving up on that goal or place you were aiming for. Year 12 can be like this. You've put in the hard yards

Principal

Mr Matthew Lee

Assistant Principals

Miss Allirra Scott

Mrs Deb Stacey (Acting)

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Absence line –

9539 2345

(24 hour number)

Important dates

26-28/8 "Musical Production
– Legally Blonde"
16/9 P/T/S Interviews 7-10

Student Free dates

21/7 Curriculum Day
10/9 Curriculum Day
16/9 No students 7-10 P/T/S
Interviews
VCE Classes run as
scheduled

School Term dates 2025

Term 2 – 22/4-4/7

Term 3 – 21/7-19/9

Term 4 – 6/10-19/12

in 7-11, you've been putting in hours of study and you can feel the wall looming large. Don't give in to that feeling. Dig deep to your inner strength, because you have the strength for this last leg. Your teachers and family are behind you. We have seen your growth and tenacity over the years and are poised with you to get you to the end – and get there strong. Year 12s – Draw on the resources around you, band together in mutual support and – I encourage you – if you are hitting the wall know that you can push through it and the experience will make you stronger. We believe in you and look forward to celebrating your collective success at the end of the year.

Matthew Lee
Principal

Assistant Principals' Reports



As we wrap up another dynamic and rewarding term, I want to take a moment to reflect on all that has been achieved this semester and express my sincere thanks to our students, staff, and families.

This semester has been filled with growth, creativity, and resilience. From outstanding classroom learning to vibrant co-curricular events, performances, sporting achievements, and community initiatives – our college continues to thrive through the energy and dedication of our community.

To our students: thank you for your commitment, curiosity, and courage in taking on new challenges. Your efforts inside and outside the classroom have not gone unnoticed, and we are proud of the way you continue to represent the values of our college.

To our Year 10–12 students: thank you for the effort you have invested in your learning. Whether this was the beginning of your first formal exam period or one of your final ones, each step is a vital part of your academic journey. I encourage you to take time to reflect not only on your results, but on what you've learned about your own strengths, study habits, and growth.

To our staff: your professionalism, care, and tireless work behind the scenes make all of this possible. The support you provide our students – academically, emotionally, and in their broader development – is deeply appreciated.

To our families and wider community: thank you for your partnership. Your involvement and encouragement help create the connected, supportive environment we are so fortunate to be part of.

As we head into the break, I encourage everyone to take time to rest, recharge, and spend time with loved ones. We look forward to welcoming you back next term, refreshed and ready for the opportunities ahead.

Wishing you a safe and restful holiday.

Allirra Scott
Assistant Principal – Wellbeing & Engagement – Years 10-12

As we close Semester 1 of 2025, I am reflecting on my time this year as Acting Assistant Principal of Melba College. I have been thrilled, inspired, delighted and proud of so many achievements and moments, shown by both staff and students. Whether it was seeing improvement, engagement, endeavour or excellence, these positive moments make the fabric of who we are at Melba.

The Year 7 students are all very entrenched as 'teenagers' and learning and navigating secondary school. We have seen their development from the wide eye moments from day 1 to proudly accepting certificates in STRIVE assemblies. They were completely engaged in the Year 7 camp, excited for their first interschool sport competitions, learning what CAT tasks and GPA reports were and all the while being great humans.

The Year 8 students felt the maturity of moving up the stairs in B building. They graciously took on the challenge of new classes, making new friends. They showed their development in the round robin sport days, with some of our students coaching the Year 7 students or being assistants for the senior students. The Year 8 students were outstanding at their camp at Phillip Island recently, with many positive reports from staff.

The Year 9 students moved out of the B building, into their own E building space. To see their development and maturity is fantastic. I am so proud of their development as a cohort, and their ability to adapt and continually improve. Using the Morrisby interviews and STRIVE time engagement, it is so engaging to speak with them about what they want to do after Melba College. Outside of the classroom, we have had many opportunities for engagement with our wider community. We have had Clean up Australia Day, Mother's Day afternoon tea, 'This is Me' family breakfast, FONO, Pathways and vocal showcases, Japanese evening and of course our College Open Night, where the students were the best example of who we are.

All of these events just demonstrate that Melba is the place to be!

Deb Stacey
Acting Assistant Principal – Connections & Engagement – Years 7-9

Administration Matters



Student Collection/Parent & Guardian meetings

To ensure student safety, parents and guardians are required to go to the **Main Administration office in the C Block** when attending the College.

No access to other buildings during school hours is permissible.

If students need to be collected unexpectedly, **please notify the school prior to your arrival** to enable administrative staff to locate your child. Students cannot be paged during class time to ensure interruptions to learning are kept to a minimum.

School Saving Bonus

The School Saving Bonus closed on Monday 30 June 2025 for access to buy textbooks or uniforms, or to allocate funds to school activities using the parent/carer online system.

Any unused online supplier vouchers have expired, and all unspent SSB funds will revert to a school activities credit held against the family account for each student.

School Council



Message from the School Council President

The first half of the year has been quite eventful for Melba College.

In March, the 2025 School Review took place. This formal review was conducted by the Department of Education, external reviewers, and leaders from Melba College.

This review provided an opportunity to assess the current performance of Melba College, finding that it is doing great, while also laying out strategies to further enhance its achievements over the next four years.

Additionally, it was good to hear the announcement by the state government that the planned improvements to the college which have been on hold, are included in the state budget. Although the exact timeline and details of this final stage are still unknown, the School Council is eager to ensure that the best possible improvements are made for the school.

Next term I am looking forward to the Melba Production of Legally Blonde: The Musical in August. Given our school namesake (Dame Nellie Melba), it's always exciting to see the effort of students, staff and other volunteers, come together in what are sure to be wonderful performances. Make sure you keep an eye out for tickets going on sale and come along.

David Loci

New School Councillor

We are very pleased to welcome new members of our community to the School Council and are delighted to introduce Dr Sante Delle-Vergini.

Dr Delle-Vergini was born and raised in Melbourne.

He is a Senior Project Manager with Infosys, a global IT consulting firm.

He enjoys watching movies, listening to classical music, and conducting research.

Sante's family moved to Croydon in 2023 and both his children attend Melba and are in Years 7 & 9 respectively.

A firm believer in lifelong learning, Sante has a PhD with a research focus on teaching project management in childhood education, and a multiple Master's degrees in Business, Leadership and Project Management.

He is looking forward to contributing to the Melba College School Council in a meaningful way.

Student Voice



Student Voice members are essential and respected contributors to the school community. They are recognized for their unique perspectives and their commitment to representing the interests of their peers. By actively participating in discussions and decision-making processes, they help create a more inclusive, responsive, and vibrant school culture. We thank Year 8 student Sienna Molloy for her service to the school in this capacity, please read below a few words from her.

I applied to be a member of Student Voice for many reasons.

I wanted to improve the schooling of my peers and how they feel at school and help with ideas and improvements for the school itself.

The thing I enjoy most about Student Voice is the community within the team and the supportive environment for everyone to share ideas.

This year I think as a personal goal and a team goal is for Student Voice to overall improve the school grounds, such as more places where people can sit at snack and lunch and somewhere to play outdoor sports, as was done with the table tennis table and what we're working towards.

I would encourage other students to apply for Student Voice because it is a great way to help the school community and really get involved with things like stalls, meetings for things to be done and an opportunity for you and other people you know to be heard.

Sienna Molloy



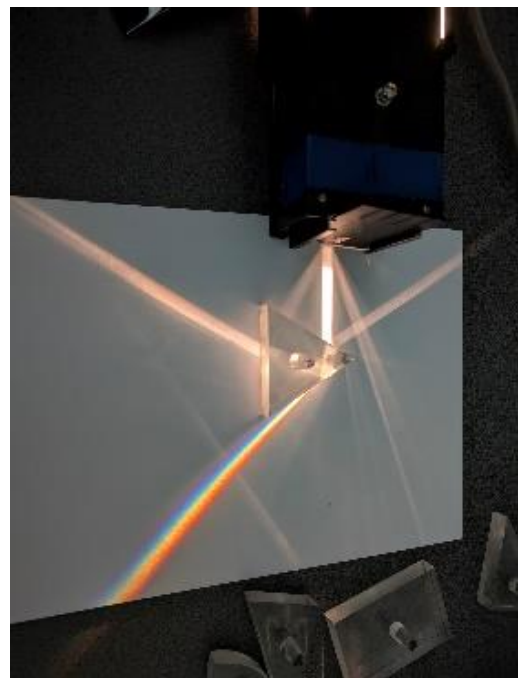
Domains @ Melba



Science – Greg Mellow – Domain Leader

The Year 7 science class has been a really fun and friendly group to work with. They bring great energy to lessons, especially during hands-on activities like making slime, which they absolutely love! It's great to see them asking interesting questions and linking what we're learning to things they've seen or experienced in real life.

8 Science: Students have focused on understanding energy this term and have achieved some impressive test results. During our Energy Topic students have had the opportunity to investigate a range of different types of energy. Through our practical activities we had explored how light bends and splits to produce colour and made the classic cup telephone to investigate how sound can be transmitted through different mediums.



Year 9 Forensics

Students investigated the relationship between the nature of different kinds of cut and blunt wounds to patterns and sizes of blood spatters by simulating splats of fake blood with hammers and pipettes.

∴



Year 9 brain dissection



10 Psychology

10 Psychology students investigated the probability of typical casino games and played simulated card games wagering with M&Ms as stakes.

The class M&Ms were measured after every game session and we discovered players lost 11% on average every eight minutes. The emotional highs and lows and changes in 'strategy' were discussed and students discovered how easy it was to lose everything in a short amount of time.



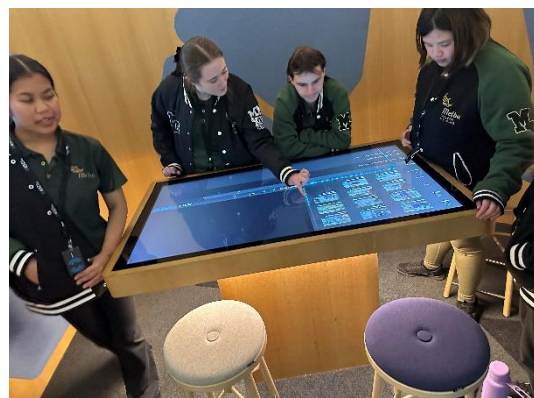
Year 10 Chemistry

During our Energy Topic students have had the opportunity to investigate a range of different types of energy. Through our practical activities we had explored how light bends and splits to produce colour and made the classic cup telephone to investigate how sound can be transmitted through different mediums.

Year 12 Road to Zero Excursion

As part of the course, students will engage with 13 interactive digital experiences that explore key elements of the Safe System approach to road safety.

This immersive excursion supports learning across multiple curriculum areas, including the Year 12 Literacy curriculum through the "Road to Zero Physics Challenge – Science in Motion"





Will Morrison – VM Teacher

Year 11 Chemistry students researched topics on a range of topics, including the sustainability of a commercial product and producing 'greener' polymers / plastics. They will each be giving a 5 minutes oral presentation on their findings and I am really looking forward to learning what they have discovered.

A highlight for Year 12 Physics was exploring magnetic and electric fields, experimenting with a Van De Graaff Generator and using iron fillings to visualise field lines between magnets.

Mathematics – Michael Palmer – Domain Leader

It's been a busy and rewarding semester in Mathematics.

Across Years 7 to 10, students have been building their skills in number, algebra, measurement, space, probability and statistics. We've placed a strong focus on solving real-world problems, and students have tackled rich tasks that ask them to apply their knowledge in meaningful contexts. This has included using spreadsheets to collect, organise and analyse data — an important skill for both maths and everyday life.

Daily review has become a regular part of our lessons. These short, focused sessions help students revisit key skills, identify gaps, and strengthen their understanding over time. It's been great to see students gaining confidence and making connections between different areas of maths.

Our VCE students have been working hard this term and are currently undertaking their school-based mid-semester exams. Well done to all of them for their efforts so far this year.

Finally, this semester marks our transition to the Victorian Curriculum 2.0. Semester reports will reflect this change, and we look forward to continuing to align our teaching and assessment with the updated curriculum.

Arts & Technology – Lauren Santalucia – Domain Leader

Drama

A group of enthusiastic Year 9–12 students recently attended the hit musical *Beetlejuice*, experiencing the magic of live theatre in a vibrant and unforgettable way.

VCE students attended as part of the VCE Unit 3/4 Drama studies.

The excursion offered students a chance to explore the world of musical theatre beyond the classroom, witnessing professional-level performance, choreography, design, and storytelling. Eddie Perfect, the writer and lead actor performed *Beetlejuice*

With its quirky humour, striking visual effects, and high-energy cast, *Beetlejuice* provided a valuable opportunity for students to reflect on the conventions of the genre while being thoroughly entertained.

The day also included a self-guided tour of the National Gallery of Victoria Ian Potter Gallery followed by lunch in the wintry sunshine at Southgate Food Court.

It was a memorable and inspiring experience for all involved!"

Thank you to staff who accompanied us on the day.

Marg Henley & Stephanie Pedersen – Drama Teachers



Unit 1: Food Origins, Outcome 2 SAC: Food in Australia

Melba's Yr 11 Food Studies class were busy producing and video recording their chosen cultural dish element. Students prepared either chicken korma, naan bread, eclairs or custard.

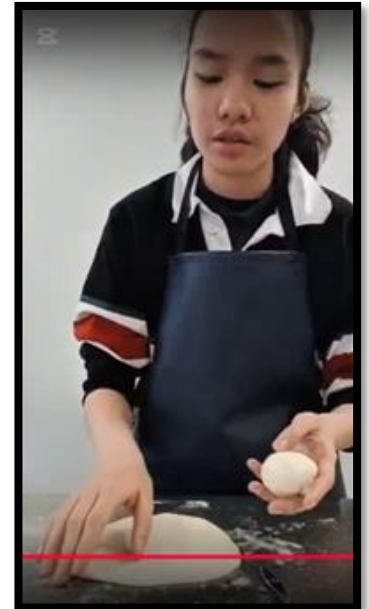
These students rose to the occasion and produced polished videos, complete with captions, applicable food science narrations and background music!

Some students were familiar with the CapCut program.

I do think that our students can give Nagi and Adam Liaw a run for their culinary money!

Ms Chris Usher – Foods Teacher





Product Design & Technology - Wood

Semester 1 marks the end of our first batch of elective classes and also the core rotation for the Year 8s.

Hopefully, you already have one or two new fine additions to your homes and are eagerly awaiting what the end of Term 2 will bring.

I can tell you it has been an exciting and busy time in the workshop over the last eight or so weeks, with a few new builds at Years 8 and 10, and of course many new skills developed by Year 9 as they take greater control of their builds.

With the PD&T Wood department transitioning to offer VCE VET Furnishing at Melba next year, the Year 10 course has been rejigged to align with its needs, with a greater focus on skill building, tools, and practical processes. The new main project, The Outdoor Chair, I am happy (relieved) to say, has been a winner! Completing the construction of the chairs came down to the wire in last Friday's class, with smiles, shouts, and sighs of relief as each student tightened the final bolts and tested out their new thrones.

Well done to all!



A couple of weeks before the end of term, we sadly had to say bon voyage to our international exchange student, Nathanael Dufour. He made quite an impression on us all and became a pivotal member of the class. Personally, I am very happy to say that his woodworking skills are greatly improved since he first arrived in the class six months ago.



The Year 9 class has made great strides with their skills and confidence in the workshop. They have made design choices and considered how they want their CAT 2 Footstools to look and are on the home stretch of construction. Often in class, peers will be huddled around a workbench in intense discussion about the best way to proceed with a next step. It is heartening to see how supportive they are and how invested they are in getting their builds perfect.

The Year 8s have been very busy with two new projects added to their curriculum. We still have our introductory 3D Sign and Handled Box for CAT 1 & 2. Additionally, two new projects have been introduced, focusing on honing students' numeracy and technical marking-out skills: a dowel jointed Bookend in Pine and Blackwood, and a Tic-Tac-Toe game, which offers numerous opportunities for problem-solving.



Lastly, I am very happy to say we have finally finished a very big project for our school community. With many willing hands, the Canteen Tables and seating are now done. To give you an idea of the longevity of this task, the tops were first put together in our old workshop by my Year 11 PD&T Wood students in 2019! Resilience is in our school motto.

Massive thank you to all who have chipped in and worked on the project, with a special shout-out to my current Year 10 class who sanded and polished the tops, and Asher, Owen, and Jacob in Year 8 who fitted the tables by attaching brackets and bases, then delivered them via a hand trolley, with no incidents that I'm aware of, to the canteen.

Well done, all, and I hope Melba enjoys the new furniture!



Lucinda Fechner - Product Design & Technology Teacher

Languages – Bianca Inoue Domain Leader

Konnichiwa everyone, we have had achieved many great things in the Japanese classes in Semester 1.

Our Year 7s finished off their famous Person projects and are now learning Japanese numbers from 1-100. They are learning to read, write and be able to listen to numbers in Japanese.

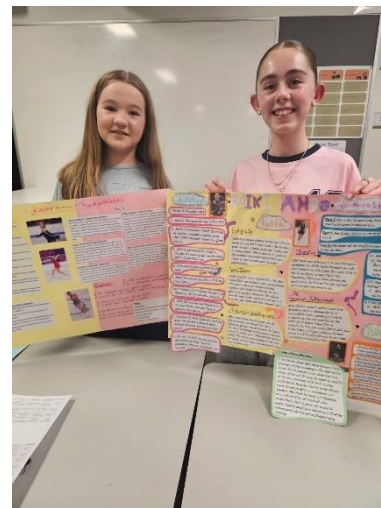
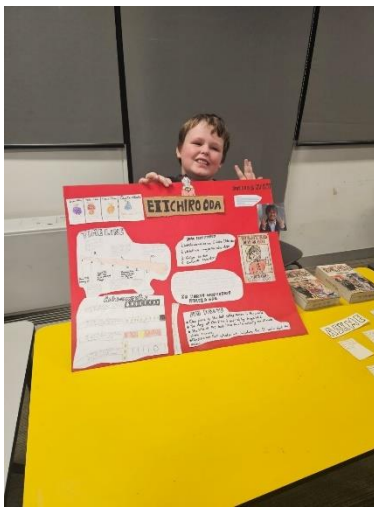
Year 8s completed their unit on Pets, performing their pet speeches to their sensei in Japanese. Being able to talk about your pet in Japanese is an incredible accomplishment. They are now working on their Hometown project, where they create a power point on the suburb in which they live. They will use both Japanese and English.

Year 9s have learnt about time in Japanese and being able to talk about their daily routine.

Our Year 10s created Haiku poems on the seasons and had an interview with their sensei about their daily lives.

Our Melba-Japan Trip is now all booked, and we are very excited to have 21 students onboard our Japan adventure in December

Our amazing year 7 Famous Person Projects



Sport Pathways



Our Year 8 Sport Pathways students had the fantastic opportunity to meet Alan Richardson who came in as a guest speaker to talk to them about his career in sport.

Alan played over 100 games for Collingwood, was the head coach of St Kilda for over 100 games and is currently the General Manager of Football at Melbourne Football Club.

He spoke with passion, detailing the level of commitment that is required to work in elite sport and also explained the potential pathways students could take to assist themselves in being able to work in sport.



Matt Sandells – Year 8 Leader & Sports Coordinator

Sport



It has been a busy term for some of Melba's sports teams this term – it was great to see so many students representing the school with such great sportsmanship & enthusiasm.

NETBALL



A TEAM



B TEAM

C TEAM



REGIONAL CROSS COUNTRY

Melba students recently competed at the District Cross Country against Ringwood, Norwood and Mooroolbark. The Course was 5km for 16 and 20 boys and 3km for the rest. Students needed to come in the top 15 to get through to Eastern zone which would be at Yarra Valley Race Course. Melba College had some amazing results:

Ruby P came 1st in the 15yr Female with her sister Charlotte P coming 2nd. Other top 3 results were Nathanael D who came 3rd in 16yr male and Zac P who also came 3rd in 20yr male age group.
Other top 15 results were; Elisha L 4th 13yr F, Emily W 9th 13yr F, Jet R 5th 13yr M, Cale Burrows 13th 13yr M, Elise H 4th 14yr F, Hayley G 9th 14yr F, Violet C 12th 14yr F, Ethan B 4th 14yr M, Casey G 6th 14yr M, Kane M 12th 14yr M, Aoife F 9th 15yr F, Madi M 11th 15yr F, Dakota M 12th 15yr F, Ryder 8th 15yr M, and Kate K 5th 20yr F.





YEAR 7 FOOTBALL



Outdoor & Environmental Studies

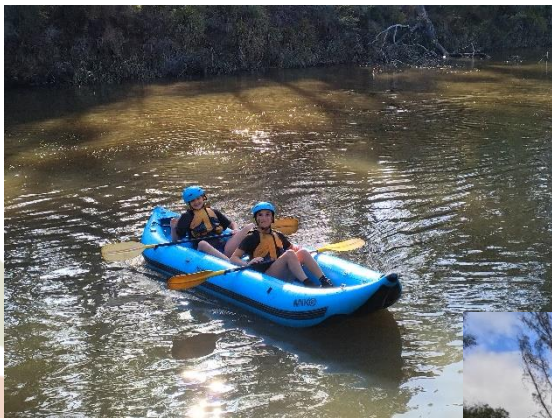


KAYAKING

The Year 9 Outdoor Education class had a great time kayaking down the Yarra near Wonga Park.

While the river level was not high, students still had to negotiate numerous rapids and learn how to dislodge themselves when they got stuck on rocks.

Special mention goes out to Ava, Lulu, Tyson and Robbie who all voluntarily jumped into the freezing water of the Yarra at the end of the trip!



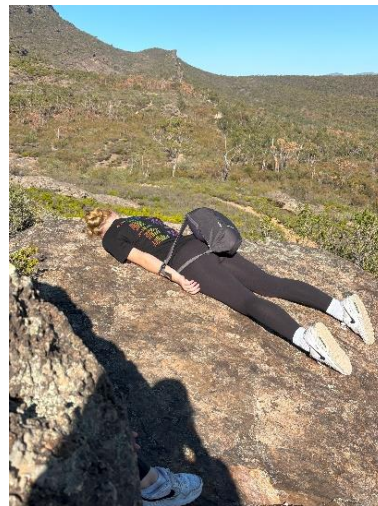
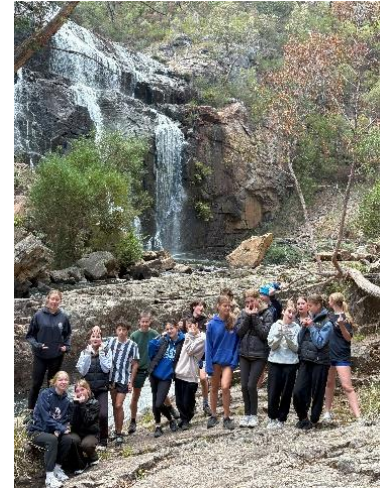
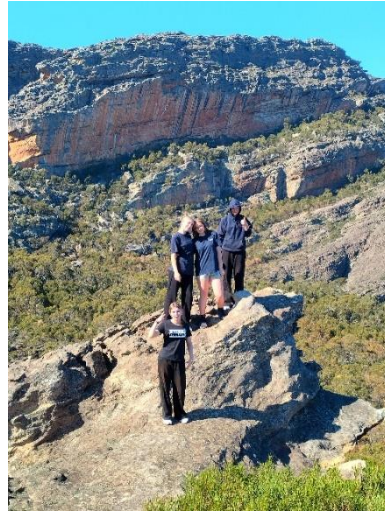
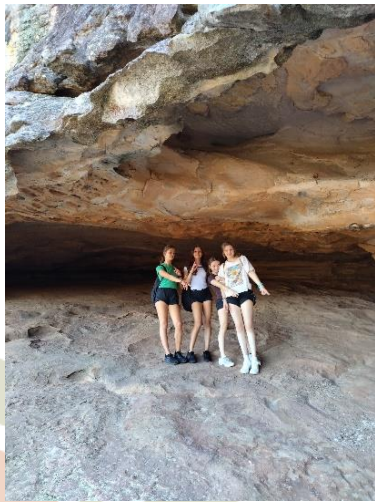
GRAMPIANS

In Week 4, the Year 9 Outdoor Education class went on a four-day camp in the Grampians National Park.

The weather for May was pleasantly warm and mostly sunny during the day (and rather cool at night according to Ms Rusch!) and the group got to see some awesome views from places including Mt Stapylton, Briggs Bluff and the Pinnacles.

We also visited McKenzie Falls and made the short trek up to, and inside Hollow Mountain.

Thanks heaps to Ms Rusch who not only trekked up numerous mountains but also endured three very cold nights, sleeping on the ground in a tent!





Brett Mifsud– Outdoor Education & Environmental Studies Leader

Doctors in Schools

Just a reminder of the Doctors in Secondary Schools program which provides a confidential and free healthcare service on the school premises.

The clinic runs on Tuesdays at the Melba Doctor's Clinic, located near the rear basketball court:

Dr Mahan Noorae: 10:00am to 2:00pm

Antonette (Nurse): 8:45am to 3:00pm

You can book an appointment via the QR code on the side or via the link below:

<https://calendly.com/diss-melba/30min>



Working Bees are coming to Melba in 2025

Melba College is happy to announce that we will be hosting a working bee this year. In conjunction with Student Voice we would like to provide further seating for students, as well as re-develop some of the garden space and create a *discussion circle*. The working bee is likely to early October.


Attending a working bee is a great way to contribute to the school, connect with other families and teaching staff, and to contribute to your kids' education.

If you are keen, that's great. If you have background knowledge or skills in landscaping, landscape design, construction, carpentry, gardening or an interest in native plants we would love to connect with you to make this a success.

An expression of interest form will follow shortly. Please discuss it with fellow Melba community members.



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