

# Melba Voice

June 2025



## Principal's Report

Mr Matthew Lee



Dear Melba families,

I pen this article at an auspicious time with many things happening at Melba College. We have received key information in relation to Stage 3 of the Melba College Rebuild – that we have \$12.7 million allocated to us as part of the Victorian State Budget. This means that we will be proceeding to the next stage with our rebuild with the money earmarked to provide a new space for our performing arts, a full-sized oval and updated parking areas. We are very pleased that this has been allocated to our school, and I am looking forward to sharing updates regarding dates and designs with the school community. We are expecting works to commence in 2026.

You will also be receiving your Term 2 GPA reports this week, with this enabling an excellent opportunity to reflect on and celebrate student progress before Semester reports. We believe this addition will support students in confirming their trajectory for the semester and allow for adjustments to get the best results before the end of semester reports arrive. We encourage families to review these reports and discuss your child's progress to create a shared narrative about their education.

Our shade sails were also erected this week and they look great! I am excited that we have another space for students to enjoy that has this cover, as it provides shade on sunnier days, but can also provide cover from light rain. We are consistently looking for ways to improve our school and this is one that I think will make a big difference to that area and the overall enjoyment of our spaces.

Whilst on upgrades – I would also like to quickly spruik our canteen lunch ordering system and express window. Over the holidays, we had our express window installed in the canteen area that allows for students that get lunch orders even more efficiently. If you haven't heard about or tried the lunch ordering system on Compass, I strongly encourage you to consider it when you next want to use the canteen. You simply log into Compass, go to the community tab, click Canteen and order away. Just make sure you have your order in by 9.00AM on the day of your order! Having your lunch order locked in means that you don't need to wait in line – that's more time back to you for your break and I'd call that a massive win!

There's much happening at Melba College and I'm excited that we have so many things that should improve student's experience. Being at school is an important part of growing up and we hope to provide the best learning experiences and a place that students genuinely enjoy coming to. I am hopeful that these upgrades will improve quality of life for students and we look forward to more upgrades in the years to come as we continue to move Melba forward!

Kind regards,

**Matthew Lee**  
Principal

**\$12.7 MILLION INVESTMENT  
TO UPGRADE AND  
MODERNISE MELBA COLLEGE**



**Sonja  
Terpstra.**

MIP North-Eastern Metro

**VICTORIAN  
STATE BUDGET 25/26**

### Principal

Mr Matthew Lee

### Assistant Principals

Miss Allirra Scott

Mrs Deb Stacey (Acting)

Brentnall Rd, Croydon Vic  
3136

Ph: 9870 4551

Fax: 9870 1784

[www.melba.vic.edu.au](http://www.melba.vic.edu.au)

[melba.sc@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:melba.sc@education.vic.gov.au)

### Absence line –

9539 2345

(24 hour number)

### Important dates

Year 8 Camp 11-13/6/25

GAT – 17/6/25

Pathway Performance

Evening 18/6

Y10 Work Experience 30/6-4/7

### Student Free dates

King's Birthday 9/6/25

Curriculum Day 10/6/25

### School Term dates 2025

Term 2 – 22/4-4/7

Term 3 – 21/7-19/9

Term 4 – 6/10-19/12

# Assistant Principals' Reports



**Allirra Scott**

**Assistant Principal – Years 11-12 Wellbeing & Engagement**

As we move through the Term 2, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the continued efforts of our Year 10–12 students. The senior years of schooling are a time of significant growth, increased responsibility, and important decision-making, and it's heartening to see so many of our students embracing these challenges with focus and determination.

## **Year 10 – Setting the Pace for Success**

Our Year 10 students are in a critical transitional stage, developing habits and mindsets that will support them into their final years of schooling. We encourage families to have ongoing conversations about subject selections, study routines, and future aspirations. This term, students have engaged in career exploration activities and are learning how to balance their academic commitments with personal interests and wellbeing.

## **Year 11 – Deepening Learning Commitment**

Students in Year 11 are beginning to understand the demands of senior subjects. It's important they continue to refine their time management and seek help early when needed. Many have now experienced their first round of assessments under VCE, VM, VET, or other pathways, and we're proud of their resilience and adaptability. Mentoring sessions and study skills workshops will continue to be available this term to support them on this journey.

## **Year 12 – Conquering Year 12**

To our Year 12 families: we are in this together. This final year brings pressure, yes—but also opportunity. Our teachers and support staff are working closely with students to help them stay on track academically while also managing stress and maintaining perspective. Whether your child is heading toward university, a trade, or direct entry into the workforce, now is a key time for forward planning. We encourage students to take advantage of upcoming career expos, scholarship information sessions, and one-on-one guidance appointments.

## **Looking Ahead**

As a school, we are deeply committed to preparing our students not just for exams, but for life beyond school. Thank you for being partners in that journey. Your involvement, encouragement, and open communication with staff contributes significantly to student outcomes.

If you ever have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We're here to support every student to succeed, both academically and personally.

**Deb Stacey**

**Acting Assistant Principal – Years 7-9**

Another busy time in the Junior School!

- So many positive experiences and opportunities, coupled with exciting developments around the school, including the Canteen ordering system and the new shade sails when walking into B building.
- Many of our students are working hard, preparing for upcoming CAT tasks.
- We have had a lot of sport going out, beginning the term with our Athletics carnival. We then had the Cross Country which allowed our distance runners to prepare for the next level. Girls Football and Boys Netball were also a highlight for many of our students.
- We were able to celebrate our Mother's Day Afternoon tea with some of our families which was delightful.
- Rehearsals for Legally Blonde have begun, with many of Year 7-9 students shining. Rehearsals, for singing and dancing are well underway. This is looking to be a fabulous show, with so many positives for our students.
- Year 7 students have just participated in their Japanese Showcase of a famous person. This was a great opportunity to connect families with our Japanese program.
- Year 9 have been working on their careers pathway after their Morrisby Interviews during STRIVE time. I know this process has been enlightening for many of them.

## **LOOKING FORWARD**

CAT tasks will be happening over the next few weeks. Please keep an eye out on Subschool bulletins for this information.

Year 8 have their Phillip Island Camp experience, and the Year 7 and Year 8 have their sport round robin days.

A reminder to all students that they need to be in full school uniform, especially as the weather is starting to get very cold. We are tracking student movement in and out of class, so please ensure you encourage your child to go to the toilet at break time, and bring a water bottle to class.

## Administration



Our college staff may need to contact families during the school day for various reasons. At times, voicemail options are not available. After receiving a missed call from the college, **please wait for a message to come through, or wait to see if the person calls back a little later in the day.** All calls from the school will show up as originating from the main office number. Without knowing who's tried to call it is often impossible for us to forward your call to the right person.

### Student Mobile Phones

***In accordance with the Ministerial policy formally issued by the Minister for Education under section 5.2.1(2)(b) of the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic) - students who bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours.***

***We seek parental support of this policy and ask that if you need to contact your child urgently during the school day to ring the school administration office.***

Students who own mobile phones are not to use them for any reason during the school day. Should a student make use of their phone, be it during class, at recess or during lunch, they run the risk of it being confiscated and handed in at the front office. At no time should a student be contacting home during school hours. Should students need to contact home they are asked to see the staff at their year level administration office who will make the call on their behalf.

If a student feels unwell, they must visit sick bay who will then contact a parent or guardian directly if need be.

### Early Departures

If you require your child to leave school during the day for any reason, please ensure that you have entered a note in Compass giving the time the student will be leaving and returning (if applicable) and a reason for the absence. Please also ensure that your child is aware that you will be picking them up, letting them know exactly what time and where you intend to meet them.

Entering a note in Compass is not only a department requirement, but it also enables the classroom teacher to remind the student that they are leaving class early. The student must sign out of school via the kiosk near the General Office, taking their departure slip with them to show to any staff questioning them on their way out of school.

If you have NOT put this information into Compass prior to the school day, it can create lengthy delays in collecting your student. Also, please note it is not possible to collect children at recess and lunch if the permission has not been organised on Compass in advance, as it may be more difficult to locate individual students during these times.

### Sick Students

If your child is unwell at school, they are not to contact parents/guardians themselves and cannot sign themselves out. They must attend Sick Bay who will contact parents/guardians and care for the student while they are waiting to be collected.

In most cases parents/guardians are required to collect their sick child in person from the sick bay.

### School Savings Bonus

Reminder to all parents and carers that before sending an email asking for SSB to be used, please ensure you have allocated the appropriate amount to activities in the SSB Portal using your unique code.

Link to the Portal:

<https://www.schoolssavingsbonus.vic.gov.au/s/>

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

#### Eligibility for the CSEF

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply for the Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund. A special consideration category also exists. Schools can receive applications from families before 28 June 2025.

Families can list more than one student on the application form, if they are attending the same school. Click here for more information and the application form.

<https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>

# College Captains



*Please meet the remainder of the Student Leadership team.*

## **Time you have been at Melba College:**

I have been at Melba College since Year 7, and I am currently studying English, Psychology, Media, Health and Human Development, and Business.

## **Aspirations**

My greatest aspiration is to one day travel the world, as I have always dreamed of exploring foreign countries, with a particular desire to return to my home country.

## **Highlight a positive/memorable moment you've had at Melba:**

The most memorable year for me was Year 8, a time when my peers were incredibly fun and supportive, and the teachers I had were equally positive. It was a year full of laughter, friendships, and a great sense of belonging. I felt encouraged and motivated, both in school and in my personal growth. It was a time when I really connected with both my classmates and the school community.



**Rose Khenglawt**

## **Interests/hobbies (sport, music, extra curricular activities)**

Outside of school, I enjoy listening to music, especially R&B, though I also like to mix it up with some classical music. I don't have specific favourite artists, as my taste in music tends to change over time. Another hobby I like is volleyball. It is my favourite sport, and I often spend my free time playing it outside of school.

## **What made you want to be a leader in 2025 and what are your leadership goals?:**

I decided to apply for a leadership position because I want to contribute to making a positive change within the school. There's often talk about how we can improve the school experience, but too often, these discussions remain just talk, with little to no action. I wanted to be someone who could bring about real change, ensuring that students feel represented and heard. My goal is to create a school environment where students will not only have a positive and memorable experience but will leave with lasting memories of the opportunities and growth they encountered.

## **Message to the college community**

School is not just about books and exams; it's about making meaningful memories and growing together as a community.

## **Time you have been at Melba College:**

I have been a student at Melba College for six years.

## **The subjects you will be completing in 2025:**

In 2025 I will be completing Psychology, Business Management, Legal Studies, English, and VET Visual Art.

## **Aspiration for 2025:**

In 2025 I aspire to finish year 12 and have a moment to breathe at the end.

## **Highlight a positive/memorable moment you've had at Melba:**

A memorable moment I've had at Melba would be the year 12 camp to Anglesea.

## **Interests/hobbies (sport, music, extra curricular activities)**

Outside of school I enjoy playing and watching netball, watching the footy, and painting.



**Olivia Rees**

## **What made you want to be a leader in 2025 and what are your leadership goals?:**

I wanted to be a leader in 2025 to be a role model for the younger years and this is still my goal as a leader.

## **Message to the college community:**

How do you eat an elephant? - One bite at a time.



## Senior School



### Year 11 & 12 Business Management Yarra Valley Chocolaterie & Ice Creamery –

The Year 11 and Year 12 Business Management students also got to have a taste of an excursion (pun intended) by visiting the Yarra Valley Chocolaterie.

This sweet experience offered more than just delicious treats — students gained a real-life understanding of how a business operates in a competitive environment. From learning about supply chains, marketing strategies, and customer service to observing how the Chocolaterie balances quality with efficiency, the excursion brought textbook theory to life.

The General Manager discussed how they implement corporate and social responsibility and make products efficiently and effectively to meet business objectives.

Students asked thoughtful questions, explored behind-the-scenes operations, and left with both knowledge and chocolate in hand.



### Year 11 Legal Studies and Year 10 Law, Security and Freedoms Excursion Ringwood Magistrates' Court.

Our Year 11 & 10 Legal Studies students attended the Ringwood Law Courts and observed a number of interesting and varied cases involving criminal law.

Students were able to observe firsthand, the duties of the prosecution, defense counsel, and the role of the magistrate in the court room (a significant part of the students' learning outcome for this subject).

The range of sanctions provided by the Magistrate for the crimes was thought provoking for the students. The students gained a great deal of insight in relation to sentencing, including factors considered by the Judge when sentencing. These included: aggravating; mitigating factors; signs of remorse; the background of the accused including any prior criminal history.



I was extremely impressed and proud of our students on the day and the way they represented Melba College. The students displayed a high level of maturity as their behaviour in the courts was exemplary; the way they conducted themselves in a formal court of law; including the court etiquette was outstanding.

In addition, upon review in class, students were able to discuss many of the legal concepts learnt to date and relate these concepts to the cases observed.

Thanks to Mr Wallace who accompanied us on the day.

Well done Year 11 and 10; keep up the great work!!

**Ms Sandra Raudino – Legal Studies teacher**

## Year 11 Personal Development Skills

Students had an absolute blast on the recent kickboxing excursion, stepping out of their comfort zones and into the ring with energy and enthusiasm.

Guided by experienced instructors, they learned new techniques, built confidence, and had plenty of laughs along the way. It was a high-energy session that not only challenged their fitness but also boosted their teamwork and resilience



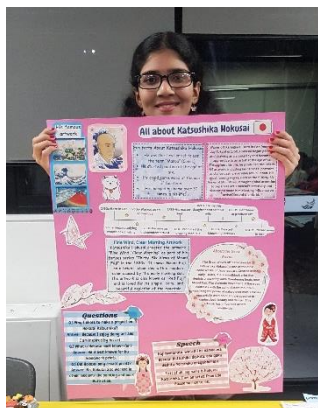
## Junior School

We've reached the midpoint of Term 2, and it's been fantastic to see our students re-engaging with their learning in such a positive and focused way. Year 7 and 8 students are now beginning to complete a number of their Common Assessment Tasks (CATs), and regular attendance remains essential to support their understanding and academic growth.

The term began with two exciting sporting events — the Athletics Carnival and Cross Country — where students gave their best effort, demonstrated great sportsmanship, and showed strong support for one another. It was wonderful to see so many students getting involved and proudly representing their house teams.

This term, students have or will participate in the Digital Thumbprint incursion, where they explored topics like online safety, digital reputation, and making smart decisions in the digital world. The session offered valuable insights and encouraged students to reflect on their digital behaviours.

Last week, our Year 7 Japanese Showcase Evening was a great success. Students presented their projects on famous Japanese figures, and it was a wonderful celebration of their learning, creativity, and cultural exploration — proudly shared with their families.







Meanwhile, our Year 8 students are eagerly counting down to camp, which promises to be a highlight of the year. With opportunities for adventure, personal development, and building friendships, we look forward to sharing all the stories and memories once they return.

**Kasey Browne**  
Year 7 & 8 Sub School Leader

## Arts & Technology



"Echoes of Gaza", was a thought provoking and moving piece of theatre devised and performed by our talented VCE Drama students during Week 3 of this term.

Students researched, improvised, scripted and refined their ideas to create this short but powerful piece of theatre. Audiences were impressed with the collaborative efforts of our students and their ability to use expressive and performance skills to establish and manipulate relationships with their audiences.

After the final performance we also farewelled Sumeyye Celik who was returning to Germany after 8 months working with our Melba College VCE Drama class.

Guess what her favourite subject was?"

**Ms Henley – Drama Teacher**





## DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY WEEK

As part of this week Ms Usher and her willing helpers prepared plant based shakes for student to taste test and give feedback.

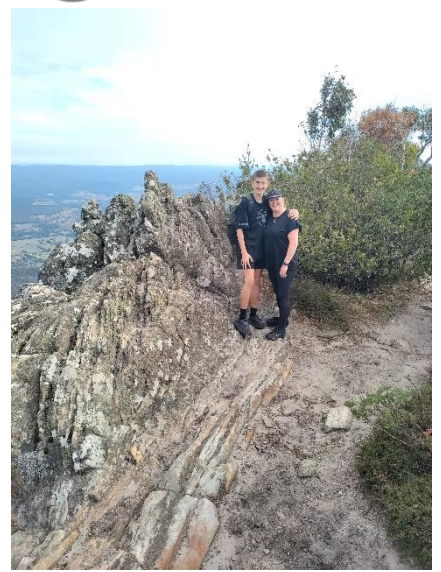




## Outdoor & Environmental Education



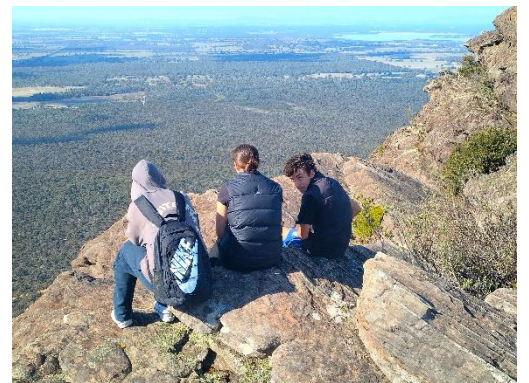
## Cathedral Ranges







# Grampians



## Sport



### Interschool AFL/AFLW/Soccer/Table Tennis

Our Year 7 & 8 girls played 3 games of AFLW on a beautiful sunny day recently. They played against Ringwood, Mooroolbark and Norwood.

We didn't win any games but the girls won a number of quarters and were amazing throughout the day with their attitude, determination and effort.

Well done girls.

**Mr Warburton**





Our Year 9 &10 boys displayed a great effort against Ringwood, Norwood and Mooroolbark.

The other schools had teams made up predominantly of year 10s, which made the efforts of all our boys more impressive. Our closest game was against Mooroolbark where we managed to hit the post 5 times!

All players conducted themselves with great pride and should be proud of how they represented the College.

They even were willing to try out some interesting tactics designed by Mr Andrews!

#### Mr Sandells





The senior boys table tennis team competed last Friday against Ringwood, Mooroolbark and Norwood.

We were competitive but didn't win a match.

We even came up against a state player which was a great experience for the boys.

Well done to Justin Hai Pi, Peng Peng Kompa and Thawngboy Cung for competing with great enthusiasm on the day.

**Mr. Warburton**



## Student Voice



### Harmony Day Fundraiser Brings Shade and Sun Safety to Melba College

Harmony Day is a celebration of Australia's cultural diversity and a reminder of the importance of inclusion, respect, and belonging. It encourages everyone to embrace differences, promote unity, and build a stronger, more connected community—both at school and beyond.

Thanks to the incredible support from our school community, this year's Harmony Day celebration raised funds to assist with the installation of the new shade sails across key outdoor areas.

These shade sails will provide essential sun protection for students and staff, helping to reduce UV exposure during outdoor activities and creating safer spaces for our students to enjoy their lunch.



The success of the fundraiser highlights what we can achieve when we come together. A huge thank you to everyone who participated and contributed—your support is making a real difference!

### ANZAC Day Service at Melba College

Melba College held a respectful and moving ANZAC Day service to honour the bravery and sacrifice of Australian and New Zealand service members, past and present.

The ceremony was well-attended by students and staff, who gathered to reflect on the ANZAC spirit of courage, mateship, and resilience. A special thank you goes to Corporal John Baade, whose presence and words added great meaning to the occasion.

We would also like to sincerely thank everyone who helped organise and support the service. Your contributions ensured it was a fitting and memorable tribute.

Lest we forget.

**Miss Paraki & the Student Voice team**



## Educators of tomorrow



*At Melba we believe that the future deserves great teachers, and great teachers deserve strong support.*

*Our staff partner with pre-service teachers to foster growth through mentorship and collaboration.*

Holly Payne joined us recently for her placement.

Hi! My name is Holly, and I'm currently completing my Master of Applied Learning and Teaching at Deakin University.

I have a strong passion for education and spent nearly a year teaching English in Vietnam, where I helped students develop their language and writing skills.

Outside the classroom, I'm an avid runner and am currently training for a 28km trail race coming up in January.

I'm excited to be part of the school community and to continue learning from both students and staff during my placement.



## Wellbeing



### WELLBEING SUPPORTS

#### Headspace

1800 650 890

<https://headspace.org.au/>

Provides mental health support for young people aged 12-25 9am-1am



#### Kids Help Line

1800 55 1800

<https://kidshelpline.com.au/>

A place if you need to chat 24/7

#### Beyond Blue

1300 224 636

<https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

Support with depression and anxiety 24/7



#### Life Line

Call - 13 11 14

Text - 0477 13 11 14

<https://www.lifeline.org.au/>

Crisis support, mental health support services 24/7

#### YSAS

1800 458 685

<https://ysas.org.au/>

Support and information about drugs and alcohol 9-5pm



#### Reach Out

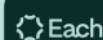
<https://au.reachout.com/>

Great information and group chats 24/7

#### Each

<https://www.each.com.au/>

Low cost/Free mental health support



# Understanding and supporting students who experience 'school can't'

**Wednesday  
4 June**

**7pm to 8.30pm  
Online event**

**For parents  
and carers**

Hear from School Can't Australia about:

- Identifying early signs of distress.
- Why we need to reframe School Refusal as School Can't
- How to support your child / teen when they are distressed about attending school
- Learn about common stressors and the autonomic nervous system
- The relationship between chronic stress and wellbeing
- Looking after yourself as a parent/carers

## How to book

Scan the QR code or visit [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/school-cant](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/school-cant)

For more information contact Cathie Wills, Children's Services Project Officer.  
Phone 9294 5740 or email [childrens.services.events@maroondah.vic.gov.au](mailto:childrens.services.events@maroondah.vic.gov.au)

This webinar is presented in partnership with Boroondara, Knox, Whitehorse and Yarra Ranges Councils.

**Free  
Bookings  
essential**



Maroondah City Council



CityofMaroondah



maroondahcitycouncil



Maroondah City Council

**1300 88 22 33 or 9298 4598**  
**[www.maroondah.vic.gov.au](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au)**

mc1303-Apr25





MELBA CHAPLAINCY SUPPORT GROUP  
INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL

## TRIVIA NIGHT

30<sup>th</sup> MAY 25

Adults \$25pp - Students \$15

\*Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start

Gifford Hall - 389 Maroondah Highway  
Road, Croydon North

prizes, raffle, games & silent auction

Supper, tea & coffee supplied

Bring along your own glass, nibbles, drinks (no alcohol)

To Book contact Carole Turner 0412 207 221 or  
Chris Atkinson 0432 546 591

WE ARE FUNDRAISING WITH  
**entertainment**

ACTIV PREPAID  
Up To \$40 Value  
VISA

### Save More On What Brings You Together

Unlock a **FREE Gift Card** with every Entertainment Membership\*

FREE \$40 GIFT CARD	FREE \$20 GIFT CARD
<b>Multi City</b> Unlock thousands of offers in 20 cities	<b>Single City</b> Discover the best offers in your city
<b>\$120</b> a year	<b>\$70</b> a year
<b>\$24</b> donated to us	<b>\$14</b> donated to us

Support Us & Start Saving

\*T&C's Apply

