

## A message from our College Principal

### New Development

The development is beginning to take shape with the roof on both buildings almost complete. Plaster is now hung in the Administration area. There are a number of areas that we are currently working on with both Moira Shire and the Department of Education and Training, including;

The Department of Education and Training will only ever provide 80% permanent buildings to house student populations due to the changing nature of town demographics. We are currently working on gaining extra buildings to create further classroom and Library Spaces.



Gilmore Street drop off and pick up zone as well as a new bus interchange in front of the P-4 Campus to create a common sense and safety conscious approach to school drop off and pick up zones.

Irrigation infrastructure for the whole of the P-4 and 5-8 sites so that we can keep the grass alive in summer.

We are currently on track for an end of year finish hopefully allowing us to move resources before the last day of the school year.

### Leadership and Promoting our College

Our Leadership Team met off site for a forum on June 7<sup>th</sup> to work through the preferred future for Yarrowonga College P-12. We had some great discussions and you will begin to see things roll out to our community over the next twelve months as a result.

We have developed an expression of interest to attract qualified and experienced candidates to Yarrowonga in the position of P-8 Principal in an on-line package. To view this advertisement click on <http://yarrowonga.vic.edu.au/employment-positions/>



Developing great partnerships with parents and our community is vitally important for the future outcomes of our students. We have some fantastic partnerships with the Clubs in New South Wales and local businesses and agencies in Yarrowonga and Mulwala. Currently we are investigating ways to further engage our parents as our families are the most important asset we have as a college to encourage their children to value school life.

We have developed a brochure for families with students in Kindergarten/new to the area. To view this brochure simply click on <http://yarrawonga.vic.edu.au/2017-college-brochure/>

### **Projects Yarrawonga College P – 12 are working on with local community**

Our College is part of the Section 86 Committee of Management for the Showgrounds and currently we are working with the group to identify possible funding options including grants for improvements to the showgrounds.

Recently our college presented information about education in the area at the Yarrawonga Strategic Development group with an emphasis on the need to think creatively for the future. Life for students is significantly different to what it was when we as parents were at school. This will continue to be the case with incredibly fast growth and change being experienced in all areas due to technological advancement.

Yarrawonga College P-12 with the support of ClubMulwala hosted the Victorian Principal's Association seminar on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, we had 13 Principals attend the seminar to learn about Human Resourcing from Department of Education and Training staff from Melbourne.

The Basketball Association, Moira Shire & Yarrawonga College P-12 are in the process of conducting a feasibility study on a new dual court Basketball Stadium for Yarrawonga with the view of applying for funding in the 2018 funding round to build the stadium. We presented at a Moira Shire Meeting with the goal of gaining financial and in-kind support from Council to progress the Basketball Stadium feasibility study and site plan.

Damien Keel

# **What's happening across our College**

## **9 – 12 Campus**

The 9-12 campus continues to be a busy place with lots going on.

All Year Level Co-ordinators are working hard to support their students with a wide range of issues. The type of support the students need are many, varied and can quite often be challenging. Jeremy O'Brien year 9, Fleur Rhodes year 10, Donna Taylor year 11 and Chris O'Neill year 12 are doing a fantastic job supporting the students in their care. A real credit to their dedication and professionalism.

Exam time for years 10 and 11 has been held this week with students being challenged to do their best under the pressure of exam conditions. The General Assessment Task, which all students completing a 3 & 4 VCE sequence sat on Wednesday, is a state wide assessment task.

Transitioning students from summer to winter uniform is a challenge we are currently facing and the College is looking for parental support on this matter. The image our students convey to the public has a large impact on how we are perceived in the community and being in uniform is an important component of this.

There continues to be strong support from our students in the sporting field. The latest challenge was the boys and girl's football teams representing the college and the 40 strong group who represented the College at the OMDSSA cross country at Beechworth. Coming up is the winter sports days in the last weeks of term 2. Jim Gillies with the support of trainee Bailey Scott are doing a fantastic job organising and running these events. Always championing the theme of participation, Jim does a fantastic job promoting the benefits of being fit, active and inclusive to our students.

In the Art world Jess Daly and Fleur Rhodes have their students producing some wonderful creative works that are displayed around the College. Come in and check out the current photographic work of the year 9 students.

The Year 10 students are currently setting up their work experience adventure. If you can support this program in any way by encouraging local employers to become involved please do so.

The year 9 Future Makers camps were completed either side of the term 1-2 Easter break. This 14 day program is a huge challenge for year 9 students and for those who were involved it was a fantastic learning experience that will help them to meet the challenges they face in the coming years. They now begin working on their sustainability Community based project. The group heading to China are starting to get organised for what will be an experience of a life time. Tanner Nyholm and Billy Lindsay have returned from the Gnurad Gundidj Leadership School where they spent 9 weeks of term 1. They had the opportunity to work with ex YCP-12 science teacher Gus McLauren where they had a fantastic experience. They have returned focused on completing their CLP which is aimed at increasing community awareness of issues relating to Cancer. The boys are organising a team for Relay for Life.

The Kokoda team is in full training, preparing for the 9 days of hills. They have the trivia evening at Club Mulwala coming up tonight, so make sure you've got your team together to support this fundraising event.

This is just a snapshot of what is currently happening across the 9 – 12 campus with many more positive learning activities happening both in and out of class rooms.

## 5– 8 Campus

Students had a great time at the Year 6 camp in Melbourne, experiencing a lot of new places and spaces that has provided them with the knowledge that the city isn't such a scary place. The idea of the camp is to firstly have a city experience, secondly to break down the assumption of the city being a scary place which a lot of country kids have. This assumption can then limit future life opportunities and experiences for young people from rural areas. We also had a number of students from P-6 who attended the Woorabinda Camp and had a great time. Thanks to Matthew Tregenza for supporting the camp as the teacher.

Students have been selected for the RACV Energy Breakthrough Challenge in Maryborough. We had a large number of students express an interest in the challenge this year and followed a process for selecting students. If your child missed out this year, please don't give up there will be more opportunities in the future. Mrs Donna Bigger is leading the challenge at the Campus.

To support Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing (the Education week theme) we held a 5/6 Health and Wellbeing day and a 7/8 Health and Wellbeing day. We had guest presenters such as our Youth Police Liaison Officer, Dietician and School nurses. We shared a healthy lunch together which included salad rolls and fruit. Students participated in the following sessions:

- Yoga / Mindfulness / Healthy eating / Physical activity / Cybersafety / Positive self-talk / Team games/Resilience and Initiative

Year 5/6 students and staff have taken on the challenge of creating a garden area on the campus with the assistance of Gereldine Leonard who is a Landcare volunteer and avid gardener. We have so far applied for three grants and have received all of them, a total of \$2300.00. Bunnings are also supporting this process with product and in-kind support, which is highly appreciated.

There are a number of opportunities/activities for students to get involved in at the campus, including;

- Chess club running on Mondays and getting good numbers
- Leadership Community Volunteer program happening this term.
- Robotics group running at 5/6
- Girls with Attitude program – running with a group of Year 7 students
- Yarrowonga/Mulwala NAIDOC celebration
- Waterweed wipeout event – facilitated by the Murray Darling Basin
- Youth First Aid for 5/6 students
- Mobile Dental Clinic – P-12, yet to be confirmed

# P – 4 Campus

The college obtained Respectful Relationships funding (\$20000.00) to implement the curriculum over the next twelve months. Teachers at P-4 are currently working on implementing the curriculum with the view of educating students about treating everyone equally and with respect. We are using our assemblies for students and classes to demonstrate work that has been done during the week. This forum is also to discuss being respectful to each other.

During Wellbeing week we had a fun filled afternoon for our P-4 Campus students when they had the chance to select what they wanted to do and then went off to different classrooms/areas of the school to take part in relaxation activities. Some of our teachers also went to a Body Balance session at Focus Gym and thoroughly enjoyed the relaxing session.

We held a fantastic P-8 Mother's Day High Tea on the Friday before Mother's Day. It was wonderful to see so many of our mums and caregivers come along to celebrate this fantastic day with their children. Mums were treated to cups of tea and lovely scones with jam. Our lovely grassy patch area was decorated beautifully and we just loved having our mums and caregivers with us on this special morning.

During the Mother's Day morning tea our fantastic Junior School Council decided to take part in the Love Your Sister Campaign. Our students created a large love heart that was then filled with 5 cent pieces. Our school raised over \$1000.00 that was then sent to the Love Your Sister team. This money will then go towards research for a cure for Breast cancer.

Early in May our Junior School Council held a second hand book sale. For many weeks we were inundated with a range of different books. Some books were picture story books, some were cookbooks and some were even comic books. These books were donated by our school community and this fantastic fundraiser raised a whopping \$500.00. The money raised will go towards our new P-4 Campus.

## **MESSAGE FROM COLLEGE PRINCIPAL, DAMIEN KEEL**

Greetings to our valued members of the community.

I am addressing this notice to parents currently interested in attending our 10am 2018 Prep Information Session.

Unfortunately I will be unable to attend this session, however, will be at our 7pm session on the same day.

The reason I can't be there is that I am presenting at a State Principals Conference in Melbourne. This is a great opportunity for me to promote both the township of Yarrawonga and the great work, programs and learning opportunities Yarrawonga College P – 12 is offering our community.

I would love to have the opportunity to speak with you about the current development, also the future aspirations of our college.

If you are able to attend the 7pm session it would be greatly appreciated. If not, we will still be offering the 10am session.

If you would like to speak about the new development I would be more than happy to arrange a small group session or meet with you independently at an alternative date.

Thanking you in anticipation

Damien Keel  
College Principal  
Yarrawonga College P – 12.

*Providing a unique and exciting future in education.*