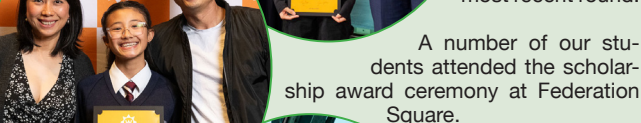


WESTERN CHANCES SCHOLARSHIPS



Western Chances gives talented students the chance to achieve their potential by providing scholarships, networking opportunities and ongoing support.

Many Braybrook College students have been supported by Western Chances over the years and we are very pleased that another 21 students were awarded scholarships in the most recent round.



A number of our students attended the scholarship award ceremony at Federation Square.



Students who received a Western Chances scholarship:

Year 12 2024 Graduates - Katie Vo, Tu-Khuyen Kayleen Nguyen, Jecka Angela Gloria, Lien Ho, Neo Ho, Hear Hear Eh Hood, Anthony Truong, Queenie Sheng and Toni Halwi



Current students - Elvis Bawi Tha Lian Tlumang, Hai Minh Pha, Daniel Suakhunthot, Tina Nguyen, Sarah Nguyen, Hillary Phung, Ganiyu Nuy, Destine Nguyen, Chloe Kwok, Beckham Dinh, Alexander Martinac and Jasmine Huynh

Alison Ryan - Year 11 Co-coordinator

CURRICULUM DAY

On Curriculum Day, on 15th May, staff participated in valuable professional learning sessions. One session was on the Tomorrow Man and Tomorrow Woman programs, which provided insight into the goals and activities the programs offer our students in breaking down gender stereotypes, fostering emotional literacy and developing resilience. The remaining sessions were dedicated to faculty-based work. Teachers appreciated the opportunity to collaborate in updating Curriculum Timelines and developing resources to align with the Victorian Curriculum 2.0 and current VCE Study Designs/Guidelines and Education Standards and Responding and Reporting Obligations. The School Council's support and approval of the day is greatly appreciated.

Sandra Marich - Curriculum Coordinator

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Term 2 started seamlessly and students and staff quickly settled into their weekly teaching and learning routines with the school moving productively forward. Furthermore, and as highlighted in this newsletter, the school has engaged students in a variety of additional programs and activities such as the Year 7 Fright Night, Year 8 Respect and Connect Program, Athletics Day, SRC-run competitions and the Year 12 Action Planning week just to name a few. Now, as we move towards the mid-point of the term, I would encourage all students to really put in the work during the upcoming weeks in order to complete their work requirements and prepare for end of semester examinations.

STAFFING UPDATE

- At the end of Term 1, we farewelled Mr Con Lekakis and wished him all the best at his new school, Port Melbourne SC. Mr Matthew Glico (Health and PE) has picked up Mr Lekakis' classes and Mr Con Karvelas and Ms Christina Pseudos will work together to replace Mr Lekakis in the Year 7 Coordination role
- Ms Sanjana George, CRT, has replaced Mr William Dellas who has taken leave for the remainder of 2025
- Ms Erin Brown and Mr Steve Markwick have returned (part time) after their Term 1 leave
- Ms Tara Naylor has commenced leave for the remainder of Term 2 and
- Ms Natasha Latin has commenced as the Student Pathways Administration Officer.

ATTITUDES TO SCHOOL SURVEY

Over the course of the next few weeks, all students will be providing feedback on their experiences at school via the Department of Education's Attitudes to School Survey. This survey is conducted annually across all government schools and invites students' thoughts and feelings about their school, their learning, relationships with other students, resilience, bullying, health and wellbeing, physical activity, and life in general. ORIMA Research Pty Ltd has been contracted by the department to manage the collection of the online survey. At Braybrook College, we value student voice as a powerful means to improve student engagement, wellbeing and quality instruction. The data from this survey will support us to gain an understanding of our students' perceptions and experiences and will be used to improve your child's schooling experience.

EVERY DAY COUNTS

Regular school attendance is crucial for young people to excel in education and avoid falling behind socially and developmentally. School participation maximises life opportunities by providing education and support networks and helps students develop essential skills, knowledge and values for further learning and engagement.

Top attendance tips for parents/carers

There is no safe number of days for missing school - each day a student misses, puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes and their social connectedness

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day, make that the expectation
- Talk positively about school and the importance of attending every day
- Avoid making routine medical and dental appointments during the school day or planning family holidays during the term
- Reward appropriate behaviour and don't unintentionally reward unwanted behaviour by letting children who stay home have access to their devices and the internet.

Please do not hesitate to seek the support of your child's Sub-school Team or the Wellbeing Team if you require support around your child's attendance.

2025 QUALITY ASSURANCE - MINIMUM STANDARDS, PROTECT CHILD SAFETY STANDARDS AND POLICY REVIEW

We are currently working to finalise the Quality Assurance review process, with a Department of Education Senior Advisor visiting us on Friday 2nd May to assist with the Child Safety and Minimum Standards audit requirements which are necessary for registration. One of the requirements in this process is to invite school wide feedback to review all school policies, particularly those pertaining to the 11 Child Safety Standards such as the Child Safety Code of Conduct, Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy and the Child Safety Responding and Reporting Obligations. Thank you to parents, staff, the Student Representative Council and School Councillors for your feedback; it has been much appreciated. I am pleased to advise that at our last School Council Meeting, on Monday 12th May, councillors endorsed all the department-mandated policies and these have now been updated on our college website.

RECOGNITION OF 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

On 18th May, I was delighted to be joined by Ms Arlene Bailey and Ms Petti Hadzisavas, at a State-level ceremony as we were acknowledged by the Department of Education for our 40 years of dedicated



service to teaching. We received our certificates from the Victorian Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, the Hon. Ben Carroll MP. Also, a special mention to Ms Vasilka Mogilkoff who has also served 40 years in public education but did not attend the celebration. Congratulations and thank you to all!

BICYCLE SAFETY

A number of our students choose to ride their bikes to school, which we fully support. However, as our local area is very busy, both before and after school, we need to keep in mind the rules around road safety and would like to encourage parents and carers to have conversations with their child around being safe on their bikes and following the set of expectations below:

- Students must wear a helmet to and from school
- Know your safety signals when riding your bike
- Be careful when crossing the road on your bikes
- Always pay attention and listen to any warnings
- Ride bicycles carefully
- Students are not to ride their bikes through the College
- Students are to walk their bike through the College grounds

Kelly Panousieris

ATHLETICS SPORTS CARNIVAL 2025

The annual Braybrook College Athletics Carnival, held on Wednesday, April 30th, 2025, was a huge success, a true celebration of school spirit.

With clear blue skies and sunshine all day, the weather set the perfect stage for students to shine. Students from all year levels enthusiastically took part in a wide range of track and field events. The level of participation was outstanding, and it was fantastic to see students giving their best, supporting each other and celebrating the achievements of their peers.

Throughout the day, the school community was treated to displays of athletic skill, determination and most importantly, sportsmanship. Students showed great attitude and house pride - the cheering from the sidelines was just as spirited as the action on the track!

A massive thank you goes to all the staff and volunteers, whose energy and dedication made the day run smoothly. Special recognition to Mr. Baker for his tireless work behind the scenes ensuring everything was organised and executed smoothly, and to Ms. Petrides and the Year 12VM students for their fantastic effort running the popular pizza stall.

The Athletics Carnival showcased the best of Braybrook College: teamwork, enthusiasm, and a shared sense of fun. It was a day full of memorable moments and plenty of reasons to look forward to the next whole-school event.

Luke Predic and Tam Tran - Co-curricular Coordinators

HOUSE POINTS TALLY:

1st Phoenix	- 520
2nd Pegasus	- 489
3rd Gryphon	- 456
4th Centaur	- 447

INTERNATIONAL NO DIET DAY

On May 6th, 2025, Braybrook College proudly celebrated International No Diet Day with a powerful and uplifting event that brought the school community together. This global day is dedicated to promoting body neutrality, challenging unrealistic beauty standards and encouraging self-acceptance beyond appearance. At Braybrook, students from all year levels participated in creating a collaborative mural filled with heartfelt compliments and affirmations focusing on personal qualities, strengths, and achievements, rather than appearance. From "You're a great listener" to "I admire your determination", the mural became a vibrant and meaningful symbol of inner worth. The event was a great success, fostering a positive atmosphere and encouraging important conversations about self-esteem.

Dr Souher Mohamad
Mental Health Practitioner

GRADE 6 TRANSITION DAY

On Thursday 8th May, Braybrook College hosted our annual Transition Day. This year, we were delighted to welcome around 200 enthusiastic Grade 5 and 6 students from Sunshine Harvester, Sunshine North and Dinjerra Primary Schools.

Throughout the day, our young visitors got a taste of high school life by participating in a wide range of fun and hands-on classes run by our dedicated staff. From creating colourful works in Art, playing word games in English, and experimenting like real scientists, to performing in Drama, solving tricky Maths puzzles, and getting active in PE - there was something for everyone to enjoy.

To wrap up the day, our senior band—led by Music Coordinator Pepe Gillies—put on an incredible performance that had the whole audience clapping and cheering. The band certainly left a lasting impression on our guests.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a success! Special mention goes to Miss Petrides' Rock and Water students, who demonstrated outstanding leadership by guiding our visitors with enthusiasm and care throughout the day.

Transition Day is always a highlight of our school calendar and this year was no exception. We look forward to welcoming many of these students back in the future as part of the Braybrook College community.

Ashley Holt - Transition Coordinator

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LUNCHEON

This is my last luncheon for international students and I have mixed feelings about this. Despite the good food and the chatter and laughs around me, memories from my first time at this event flashed through my mind. I realise how much I have grown, how many memories I have owned and how much Braybrook College has grown on me. This is my fourth time attending this event and the food hasn't changed much, banh mi and pizzas, representing the blending between Vietnamese culture and Western cultures. I have also met many new international students every year, which is a chance for me to make friends and for us to provide each other with a sense of belonging. I just want to express my gratitude towards Ms Bailey, Ms Diem, Ms Thanh and other dedicated teachers for arranging this event annually for our international students to all come together, to meet and greet, and to have wonderful memories at Braybrook College.

Nguyen Minh Tam - 12H

TRIPOD SMOOTHIE BAR PROGRAM

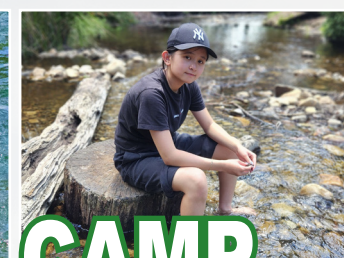
In an exciting display of innovation and teamwork, the Year 12 VCE Vocational Major students turned the VCE Centre into a vibrant Smoothie Bar Fair in Term 1. Working in small business teams, the students explored what it means to be a business owner. They experimented with different recipes, developing and taste-testing up to two smoothie ideas. Once they found their ultimate blend, teams designed logos, posters, and marketing materials using their digital and creative skills.

The first test came when they had to pitch their product to a panel of "sharks"—the Year 9 Rock and Water Girls class—who voted on the best product and brand. Then we invited a group of eager Year 7s to sample and judge their smoothie creations.

After a tough competition, the group with the Tropical Island theme created a delicious drink called 'Purely Paradise' and took out the top spot.

Congratulations to all the students for their energy, teamwork and creativity!

Maria Petrides - Applied Learning Coordinator



YEAR 12 VCE VM RUBICON CAMP

In Term 1, the Year 12 VCE Vocational Major students were fortunate to attend a three-day camp at the Rubicon Outdoor Centre in Thornton, as part of our Personal Development Skills subject.

The camp focused on exploring different leadership styles and strengthening teamwork. Through a range of challenging and rewarding activities, such as mountain biking, rock climbing, whitewater rafting, and team initiatives, students were encouraged to demonstrate both self-leadership and peer leadership. Despite the hot weather, the stunning natural surroundings made every moment worthwhile. Seeing students stepping outside their comfort zones and rising to new challenges was fantastic.

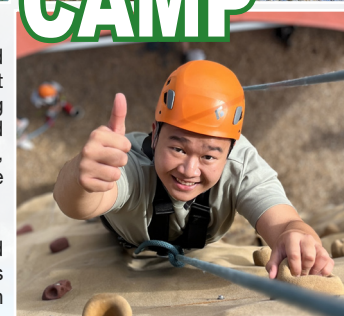
A highlight for many was whitewater rafting on the Goulburn River. Students worked together to pump the rafts, prepare the

safety equipment, gather personal gear, and load everything onto the trailers. Each student took on a specific role and responsibility during the rafting trip. Designated leaders provided paddling instructions, shared safety tips, and helped guide their teams safely to the destination.

Overall, the camp was fun and adventurous and an invaluable learning experience. Students embraced the opportunity to connect with nature, develop leadership skills, and take a break from their devices.

A big thank you to the dedicated staff who attended and supported the students throughout the camp—Mr. Tsironis, Ms. Welsh, Mr. Kotsakostas and Mr. Tran. Your efforts helped make this a truly memorable experience.

Maria Petrides - Applied Learning Coordinator



YEAR 9 ROCK AND WATER STUDENTS TAKE ON FUTURE THINKERS CHALLENGE

The Year 9 Girls Rock and Water Class recently had the opportunity to participate in the ABCN (Australian Business and Community Network) **Future Thinkers Program**. Hosted by mentors from IAG (International Insurance Group), this program aims to build creative and innovative problem-solving skills in young people through the **Design thinking process**.

Throughout the day, students worked in small groups alongside their mentors to tackle real-world problems, applying the stages of design thinking, empathising, defining, ideating, prototyping, and testing, to create thoughtful, practical solutions. At the end of the session, each team had the chance to present their ideas, showcasing their creativity, teamwork, and critical thinking skills.

A highlight of the program was the mentors' willingness to share their personal career journeys and the challenges they faced along the way. Hearing these stories profoundly impacted the students, helping them reflect on their own career paths and



the possibilities that lie ahead. We are proud of the Year 9 Girls Rock and Water Class for embracing this challenge with enthusiasm and open minds!

Maria Petrides - Applied Learning Coordinator

Ride2School Day

On Thursday 3 April, Braybrook students and staff participated in Ride2School Day. Ride2School Day is about encouraging our school community to choose healthy and environmentally sustainable ways of getting to school. Thousands of schools around the country participate in Ride2School Day each year. This year, Braybrook students and staff who rode their bikes to school were rewarded with a pizza lunch with our Environment Committee and student-led Green Team. The day was a smashing success, with over 50 students participating in the challenge. Braybrook College is riding its way to better health and a healthier planet

Zachary Borzovoy - Environment and Sustainability Coordinator



YEAR 10 GUEST SPEAKER MIKE SPEARS

On Thursday 8th of May, the Year 10s had an incursion for two periods with basketball pro and public speaker, Mike Spears. He talked to us about the importance of following what you love and putting in the effort to master skills that will help you 'win' in life.

I think that we all found him very inspiring and a great reminder that success isn't tied to one specific path; so long as you work hard and stay focused, you can achieve your goals.

Mike kept everyone engaged with his stories from his basketball career and his message about working hard permeated through all of these — a valuable message looking forward to Year 11 and 12.

We all really enjoyed the talk; it was entertaining, inspiring and left a big impact on us all. I would definitely recommend it for the next cohort of Year 10s.

Marietta Girardi 10J



ROAD SAFETY SKILL SET COURSE

The Year 12 VCE Vocational Major (VM) students have successfully completed the **Road Safety Skill Set** course, facilitated by Cameron Gutterson from Intelligent Training Solutions. This comprehensive, nationally recognized program forms part of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) system and awards students a valuable accreditation that enhances employability across various industries.

Throughout the course, students explored critical aspects of road safety, including decision-making, risk awareness and responsible behaviour behind the wheel.

Importantly, the course also focused on vehicle inspections and car safety, equipping students with essential knowledge to assess a vehicle's condition. These skills are especially valuable as students begin to consider purchasing their first cars.

Maria Petrides - Applied Learning Coordinator



FRIGHT NIGHT 2025

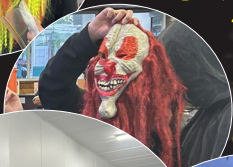
On the eerie evening of Thursday, April 24th, 100 brave Year 7 students — along with nearly 50 fearless LOLs — gathered in the dimly lit library, ready to face the terrors of Fright Night. The night began with a chilling introduction explaining the rules of the game. Each team was handed a mysterious black bag containing only a torch... and a single, cryptic clue leading to the first in a series of spine-tingling challenges.

As teams crept through the shadows to complete their tasks, they were suddenly ambushed by cloaked grim reapers, who emerged from the darkness to halt their progress. These sinister figures demanded puzzles be solved and eerie tasks be completed before teams could escape their clutches and continue their journey.

While the night was filled with suspense, screams, and surprises, it was also a fantastic chance to meet new people and step outside of our comfort zones. Each team was made up of students from different homegroups, many of whom hadn't met before — brought together by the thrills and chills of the night.

In the end, Fright Night was a hauntingly fun and unforgettable experience. A massive thank you to all the teachers and LOLs who helped create the perfect mix of fright and fun to make the night such a chilling success!

Year 7 Fright Night Participants



NATURAL COLLAGE COMPETITION

The Environment Portfolio invited students to partake in the Natural Collage Competition, to promote SRC and express our appreciation for our school's environment. The event involved around 30 students who used plants and natural resources that were collected throughout the school to create a wonderful art piece. This collage competition reflected the importance of having a clean community and also provided an opportunity for students to come together, connect with others, and enjoy a fun and creative social experience.

- 1st Place -** Dora To and Anh Do - 9C
2nd Place - Alexis Keomany 10J, Trang Thanh Khong 9E and Qui Tran 9F
3rd Place - Jennifer Vo and Yuna Dao 7J

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to everyone who took part in this exciting event to make an amazing collage to display inside the Wellbeing Office.

SRC Environment Portfolio



We have been named as a finalist in the ResourceSmart Schools Awards! The ResourceSmart Schools Awards celebrate the legendary efforts and impacts made by schools in sustainability. Our school has been chosen as a finalist in the Container Deposit Scheme category for our work on recycling using the Container Deposit Scheme. We have been invited to attend the awards ceremony at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on the 5th June along with the other finalists. The theme this year is 'Working Together'. Speaking of working together, since 2008, 1,600 ResourceSmart Schools (including us!) have worked together to:

- save more than \$63 million on bills
- plant more than 5.1 million trees
- save more than 110,000 tonnes CO2e greenhouse gas emissions
- divert 100,000 cubic metres of waste from landfill
- save 1.9 million kilolitres of water.

The ResourceSmart Schools Awards are a joyful and affirming celebration of schools and students and their sustainability triumphs. The awards are the state's largest sustainability celebration for primary and secondary school students, teachers and school volunteers taking remarkable sustainability action. We are proud to be recognised among the schools doing sustainability work that benefits students, the planet and the wider community alike.

Learn more about this year's finalists: <https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/2025-rssa-finalists>

JUNIOR SPELLING BEE COMPETITION

The SRC Education Portfolio recently hosted the much-anticipated **Junior Spelling Bee**, an exciting and intellectually charged event that brought together some of the brightest Year 7 and 8 students in a battle of words and wits.

From the very first round, it was clear that this wasn't just about spelling, it was about strategy, quick thinking, and staying cool under pressure. Contestants went head-to-head in a series of increasingly challenging rounds, spelling words that ranged from the everyday "category" to the exceptionally difficult "Hadzisavas." With each word announced, students furiously scribbled their answers on whiteboards, lifting them up with a mix of hope, nerves, and excitement.

After several nail-biting rounds, the final six emerged, ready to prove they had what it takes. The finale was intense, but in the end, three talented spellers stood out.

- 1st Place -** Kevin Nguyen - 7F
2nd Place - Helen Le - 7B
3rd Place - Eldin Palavric - 8A

All three finalists received medals in recognition of their impressive efforts.

A massive congratulations to all who participated! The Junior Spelling Bee was more than just a competition, it was a celebration



of literacy, learning, and student spirit of our school community.

We look forward to seeing even more students take on the challenge next year!

SRC Education Portfolio

Secondary school finalists

— **Braybrook College, Braybrook**

Tackling contamination through community engagement

CDS Vic has proven a cost-effective way to boost Braybrook College's recycling efforts.

A Green Team of student volunteers worked together to collect recycled containers in dedicated bright red recycling bins. Some initial issues with contamination were solved through education and raising awareness in the school community.

The school also worked together to implement one student's proposal to replace the end-of-year skip with detailed waste-stream drop points.

