

ACTING CO-PRINCIPALS' COMMENT

Final Message from the Principal's Office 2018

Dear Parents and Members of the Ashwood High School Community,

It is with great pride that we bring you the final newsletter article of 2018 as the Acting Co-Principals. Mr Moore has been on leave for the past 5 weeks, he is working on his PhD. We have had the great privilege of being appointed into the Acting Principal position in his absence and hope that we have done Mr Moore and the school community proud. We have felt well supported by both Mr Moore and the staff at the school in the role and it has been a wonderful learning experience for us both.

In this final newsletter of the year you will find some reasons to celebrate, some administrative information and best wishes to you from our school community.

VCE Results 2018 – Growing Pride and Achievement

Our engaging and rigorous academic program at Ashwood High School continues to deliver excellent VCE results, enabling our students to embark on a variety of tertiary courses and access sought after employment opportunities, including traineeships and apprenticeships.

Congratulations to our 2018 Dux, Ron Babaei, who achieved an ATAR of 98.50. Ron achieved study scores over 40 in all subjects and should be very pleased with these results. Thank you and well done to the staff who have supported all of our Year 12 students over the course of the year, and to all staff who in some way have contributed to these fine young adults' education in a positive way over their six years of formal schooling.

There were many outstanding results including:

- A number of 40+ scores in English, Chemistry, Mathematical Methods, EAL, Physics, Chinese first language, Further Maths
- 11% of students with ATARs over 90
- 28% of students with ATARs of 80 or above
- 95% of students applying for tertiary places
- 4 students were awarded the VCE Baccalaureate.

We are continuing to provide careers advice and counselling for the students of the Class of 2018 in anticipation of change of preferences. Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Julie Huggins (Senior School Coordinator/ Careers Coordinator) for advice regarding the transition to further study, employment with ongoing training.

Presentation and Awards Ceremony 2018 Growing Pride and Achievement

The Presentation and Awards Ceremony on Thursday

29 November 2018 was a wonderful way for us to share in our students' achievements. There was not a spare seat in the house for the event and we have had extremely positive feedback from the wider community including our VIPs who presented awards on the evening. Please refer to the many positive images within this final Newsletter for 2018.

Enrolments, Staffing and Allotments – Valuing Staff and Building Capacity

The projected enrolment for 2019 is 470. Our Year 7 enrolment has increased from 33 to 122 over the past couple of years. This is a wonderful endorsement of our school and the staff, students and families in our school community.

Staff Movements, Acknowledgements and Farewells - Valuing Staff and Building Capacity

Due to an unprecedented period of growth and prosperity, we have been in the fortunate position of recruiting many new quality teachers to our school. Newly employed staff for 2019 will be introduced to the community at the first Whole School Assembly and Newsletter. We say goodbye to the following staff members and thank them for their contribution. We wish our staff well in their journey, knowing that they have benefited from the experience of having worked in a GREAT school.

Molly Wakeham: Molly has been a part of our front office staff this year working in the accounts payable area of the administration team. She has supported the Business Manager and Administration team in a number of different ways. Thank you Molly.

Nelson Puvanendiran: Nelson joined our school teaching staff in Term 2 of 2018. Since then he has taught across many different subjects contributing to the Science, Humanities and Health and PE teams.

Nelson has an innate ability to get to know students and the way that they learn and how best to work with their learning styles. Thank you Nelson.

UPCOMING EVENTS

23 January	Collection of School Books and Laptops
31 January	First Day of Term 1
4 February	Year 11 Camp
4 February	Year 12 Study Retreat
5 February	Year 7 Family Barbecue and Compass Session
12 February	Swimming Carnival

(Continued on page 2)



Newsletter Section Titles and Colours

Principal Class Address (Leaders of a Learning Community)	Yellow
School Connectedness (Engagement & Wellbeing)	Light Blue
Student Learning (Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities)	Red
Transitions and Pathways	Dark Blue
Parent / Community Partnerships	Green
General Notices	Orange

Inside this issue	
Assistant Principals' Report	International Student Program
Engagement, Wellbeing & Transition	Debating
Pedagogy, Partnerships & Professional Learning	Curriculum
School Captains' Report	English/Humanities/LOTE
House Corner	Science & Maths

Principal's Comment

(Continued from page 1)

Katharine Grounds: Katharine joined our teaching staff in 2017 and was the Flynn house coordinator for a large amount of that time. She also taught students in the subjects of Health and Physical Education. She was a positive contributor to our school community and we thank her for her service.

Dolores Briffa: On family leave in 2018, Dolores has been appointed into a new position at Westall Secondary College. She has worked here at Ashwood High School for 6 years and taught students across Business subjects, Humanities and EAL. Thank you for your contribution to our teaching and learning program.

Voula Jakubicki: This year Voula was supported by Ashwood High School to take up a position at Wheelers Hill Secondary College. She has now accepted an ongoing position at that school. Voula held the ES position of VET and MIPS coordinator from May 2006. Her contributions to finding successful pathways for our students have been numerous. Voula helped students identify and access the most suitable pathway for each individual.

Natalie Same: Natalie has been on Family leave this year. She has worked at Ashwood High School from January 2007 since being a graduate teacher and taken on most positions of responsibilities that are available. She has been a teacher of students in English and Drama, but also taught in the Year 7 Transition program, worked on the development of the STAR program, and led the school musical for many years. Natalie has held Leading Teacher positions at the school as the curriculum leader in Art and Technology, as well as student management and the whole school curriculum leader. We wish Natalie all the best for her future endeavours and thank her for all of the positive contributions that she has made to our school.

Anna Kukuruzovic: It is with great sadness that we announce the retirement of Anna. Anna started working at Ashwood High School in 1987 (we know she doesn't look old enough!) She began her work as an English teacher and has excelled in this area teaching across

every year level including many years at Year 12 English. Her influence on students as an English teacher has been insurmountable. To this day we have alumni returning to the school to talk with her and reminisce on the school years gone by. Anna had a knack for being able to manage a classroom of the strong willed students and turn them around through learning and engagement. Throughout Anna's career she has undertaken various positions of responsibilities, Leading Teacher roles and most recently the Assistant Principal and the Acting Principal on many occasions. In recent years she has been responsible for the portfolio of Student Engagement and Wellbeing and her firm but fair attitude has reigned true once again and the students are appreciative of this approach. Her ability to lead the Student Management and Services teams has been with compassion. When we ask staff about Anna they say she is a fantastic mentor and always provides the best advice. These are just some reasons that she has been in the education profession for so long and her knowledge and wisdom will be dearly missed. Above all of her professional attributes Ashwood High School staff and students will miss Anna's great dry sense of humour and her ability to never miss a beat with a funny comment to make everyone laugh. We wish her all the best for her retirement and hope she will come and visit us often.

Student Scholarships Year 7, 2019 – Increasing Positive Parental and Community Engagement

I am pleased to announce the names of the Scholarship award winners for 2019. The Grade 6 students came from the following four schools in the five respective scholarship categories:

- **Academic Excellence Scholarship:**
Emma Hew – Solway Primary School
- **Leaders and Community Spirit Scholarship:**
Amber Balmer - Ashburton Primary School
- **Sporting Excellence Scholarship:**
Matthew Ry'dell – Mount Waverley Primary School
- **Performing Arts Scholarship:**
Caedan Walker – Ashburton Primary School

Principal's Comment

- **Music Scholarship:**
Noah Koulaouzos-Chun – Oakleigh South Primary School

Grade 6 Orientation Evening and Day - *Enhancing the Student Culture*

Grade 6 Orientation Evening for parents and students was held on Monday 10 December at 6:30pm. Orientation Day was held on Tuesday 11 December, 2018. It was a pleasure to welcome the largest Year 7 cohort in many years to our School. The Performing Arts Centre's seating was at capacity, reaching maximum capacity. A huge thank you and well done to **Meg McLellan** for bringing a great team of people together to ensure the success of the evening and the day. The general office was open on the Information Evening to assist parents with some administrative details such as paying for their students' planners and locker. An overwhelming number of parents took up this opportunity to pay their parent contributions ahead of the 2019 school year. This is an excellent endorsement of the positive parental engagement that continues to grow at our great school.

Uniform Enforcement 2019 - Growing Pride and Achievement

The uptake of the new uniform across all year levels has been extremely positive. Important points to note for 2019:

- All students from the first day of school in 2019 must wear the new school uniform
- This includes the school bag (as advised, the purchase of this bag is optional for Years 11 & 12 in 2019) and the wearing of the blazer to and from school;
- when the tie is worn, the top button must be done up;
- the tie must be worn on all days - except when the weather forecast is in excess of 32 degrees Celsius.

Please note, warnings are not provided for non compliance with uniform expectations. In anticipation, I thank all families for growing pride and achievement at Ashwood High School. Our school uniform has been a symbolic part of our Renaissance and enrolment surge at Ashwood High School. Our community expects high

expectations and I assure you that we are meeting with your expectations as part of this aspirational community.

Organisational Matters - Increasing Positive Parental and Community Engagement

The following information will provide parents and carers with some key information about getting ready for the 2018 academic year at Ashwood High School:

General Office Hours during Christmas Holidays 2018 / 2019

The General Office will be closed on Friday 21 December 2018

The General Office will be open from:

9:00am – 3:00pm Tuesday 22 January to Thursday 24 January 2019.

The office will then re-open normal hours (8:30am to 4:30pm) from Tuesday 29 January 2019.

School Yearbook – 'The Ashwood CHOIR' 2018 – Enhancing the Student Culture

The The 2018 Ashwood High School Yearbook CHOIR is an outstanding showcase of student and staff excellence and parent/partner contributions. Congratulations to all members of the School community who made a positive contribution. In particular, thank you to Kath Robinson for coordinating this fine quality publication.

Season's Greetings – Increasing Positive Parental and Community Engagement

2018 has been an extremely rewarding and successful year – a year of significant improvement and growth. We would like to pass on our sincere appreciation to members of the School community for your enormous support. The spirit around our School is friendly, welcoming and purposeful.

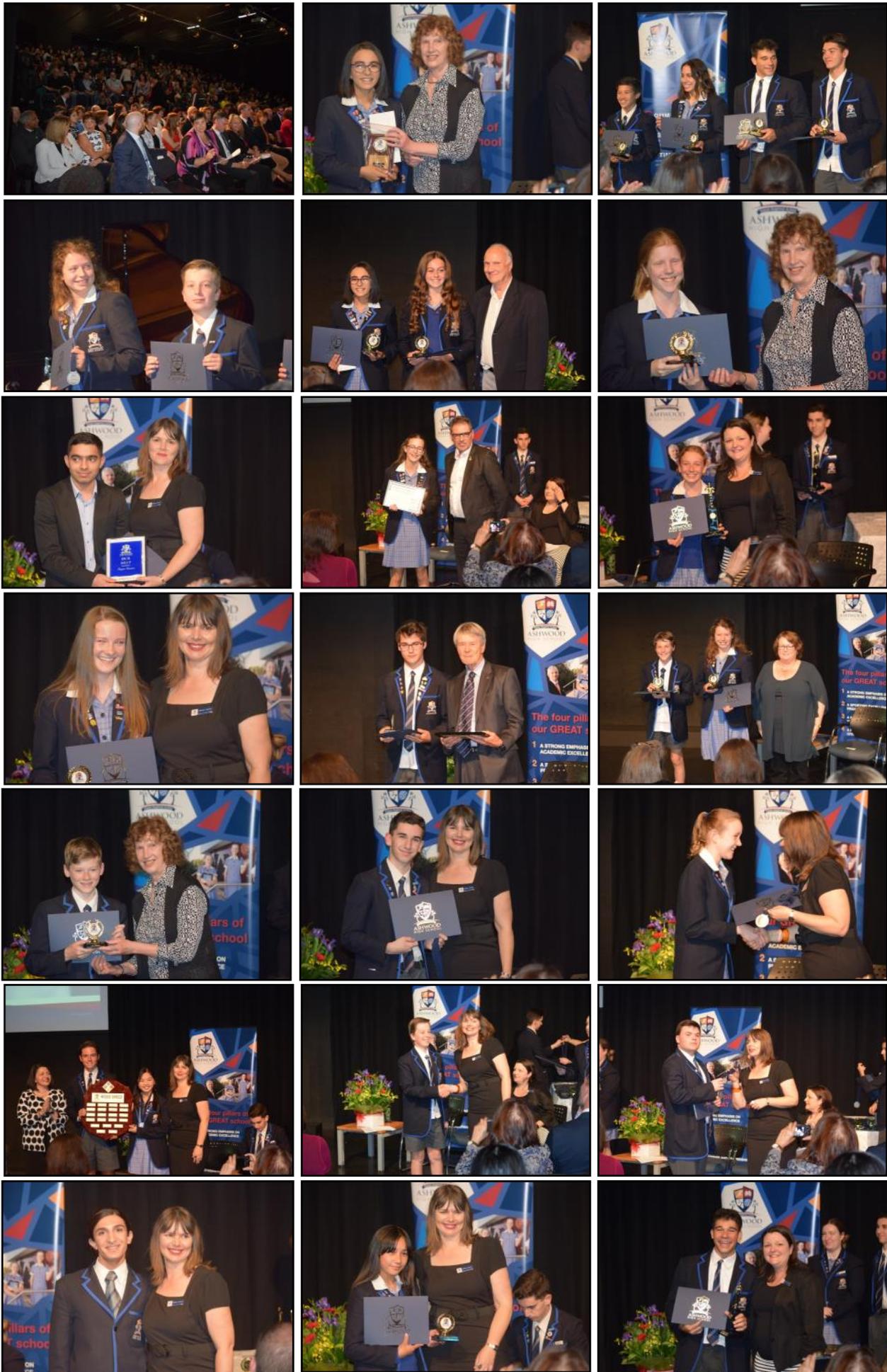
We wish all members of our School community a safe, enjoyable and prosperous holiday period. We look forward to building on our successes with you in 2019 and beyond. We look forward to welcoming you back to Ashwood High School in 2019. Best wishes and Christmas cheers!

**Ms Allison Jenner and Ms Shelley Haughey |
Acting Co-Principals**

Friday 21 December 2018



PRESENTATION EVENING



SCHOOL CAPTAINS' REPORT

Congratulations to the SRC Representatives of 2019



Christine Brammer
Year 8



Emily Wilcock-Stuart
Year 8



Jake Larking
Year 9



Elizabeth Tzifas
Year 9



Zachery Aitken
Year 10



Chloe Kuoch
Year 10



Elena Doulgerakis
Year 11



Nicole Dreyer
Year 11

SENIOR SCHOOL REPORT

As the year draws to a close I would like to congratulate our Year 12 students on achieving some strong results. In the week since the release of ATARs I have worked with a number of the VCE students refining their VTAC applications and discussing their future plans. It is wonderful to share in the joy for those students who have achieved their goals. It is also satisfying to assist those students who may have been a little disappointed, to find a way to continue moving forward in pursuit of their dreams.

I would also like to congratulate our Year 12 VCAL cohort on their 100% pass rate. Many of these students have already entered the work force, while others are planning future study. Wherever their path may lead them I wish all of our Year 12 students the best for the future and look forward to their visits in the years to come.

Our Year 10 and 11 students completed two weeks of preparation for Year 11 and Year 12 VCE and VCAL prior to finishing on the December 7. These two weeks were vital to prepare the incoming Year 11s for the processes and work ethic required as they enter their senior schooling. For the Year 11s going into Year 12 in 2019 these two weeks laid the foundation for their Unit 3/4 VCE studies and Senior VCAL. While it is important that the students have some down time so that they may return relaxed and rejuvenated, ready to work in 2019, students are also reminded that they must complete all set tasks from the preparation program prior to their return in late January. All of the information is available on Compass under the School Documentation tab.

A final reminder that the Year 11 students will be going on camp to Queenscliff and the Year 12s to Deakin University on Monday February 4. These camps are a very important part of the preparation for our senior students for the year ahead, both pastorally and academically. Please ensure that you have completed all necessary documentation, and provided consent and payment, for these camps.

I wish all of the Ashwood High School community a safe and happy Christmas and holiday season and look forward to working with senior students in 2019.

Mrs Julie Huggins | Senior School Coordinator



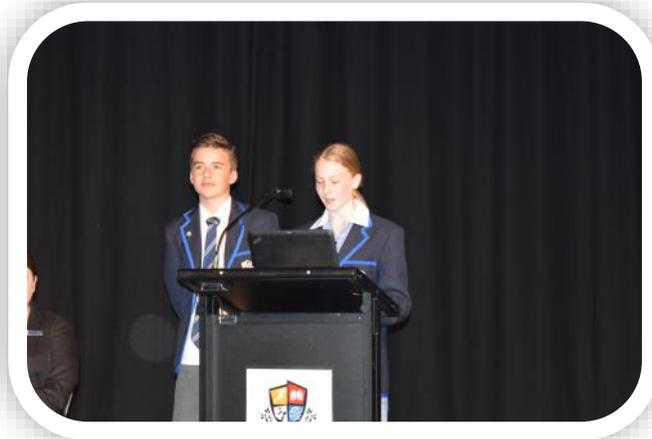
ENGAGEMENT, WELLBEING & TRANSITIONS

The Year 6 Orientation Program took place in early December. It was an all around huge success as we welcomed 122 Year 7 students to Ashwood High School in 2019. It is a true testament to our strong sense of community through the many people, staff and students, who assisted on the day. We look forward to welcoming our new students formally next year.

As a Student Services Team, we have had another busy, fun and productive year. Many thanks to the numerous volunteers who make it all happen. We will be back with new and exciting ventures at the start of 2019 and will look forward to your ongoing input.

All the best for a restful and safe holiday season.

Ms Meg McLellan | Acting Student Engagement, Wellbeing & Transitions Leader



HOUSE CORNER

Once again it has been another fun, productive and rewarding year in Ashwood High School's extremely rich House and STAR programs.

House Leadership Positions

Firstly, we would like to congratulate all students who nominated for student leadership positions for 2019. The Coordinators, accompanied by student leaders, conducted formal interviews for all positions and the consensus was that the quality of the applicants and their interview skills were very high. All students who applied should feel very proud of their applications and interviews. Congratulations to the following students who were successful in obtaining the positions of House Captain and Vice Captain for 2019:

COWAN HOUSE



Amy Peters
Captain



Courtney Tulia
Vice Captain

FLYNN HOUSE



Declan Johnson
Captain



Sienna Spencer
Vice Captain

MELBA HOUSE



Fiona Tadesse
Captain



Lula Tadesse
Vice Captain

PATERSON HOUSE



George Tziafas
Captain



Andy Kuok
Vice Captain

House Shield and Individual Point Leaders

Congratulations to Flynn House for winning the House Shield for 2018. This was a great team effort and it is now three of the last four years that Flynn have held the crown. On an individual level we would also like to acknowledge the following students who achieved over 150 House points for the year. These students demonstrated tremendous commitment to their House through participation in a wide range of activities during.

- Sienna Spencer (Flynn) 246 points
- Mayra Kelly (Melba) 187 points
- Jas Arden (Flynn) 186 points
- Danah Casanova (Cowan) 180 points
- Maxi Stathakopoulos (Flynn) 178 points
- Declan Johnson (Flynn) 177 points
- Sarah Webster (Cowan) 175 points
- Yiannis Doulgerakis (Paterson) 168 points
- Nyapal Giek (Flynn) 159 points
- Mikhella Casanova (Cowan) 157 points
- Mahine Tapper (Cowan) 154 points



We would like to take this opportunity to thank STAR teachers for their hard work and dedication to the students;

Cowan House: Mr John Sheehan, Ms Shelley Haughey, Ms Bernie Jowett, Mr Nelson Puvanendiran,

Flynn House: Ms Vicky Dernikos, Mr Tom Grbac, Mr Alistair Rayner, Ms Katie Grounds

Melba House: Ms Lucy Rimmer, Ms Catherine Preston, Ms Karen Bares, Ms Allison Phillips,

Paterson House: Ms Sachael Miller, Ms Megan Mclellan, Mr Chris Tipping, Ms Felica Mundell

Finally, we would like to wish students and their families a happy holiday season. We look forward to seeing you all back next year, refreshed and ready for a big 2019.

House Coordinators:

Mr John Sheehan (Cowan House), **Mrs Vicky Dernikos** (Flynn House),

Ms Lucy Rimmer (Melba House), **Ms Sachael Miller** (Paterson House)

Alpine School 2019

We are pleased to announce the following participants attending the Alpine School in Term 1, 2019:



Jasmine Ardern



Sam Harvison



James Lee



Jack Marshman



Nina Walsh

Ashwood High School was proud to host the information session for Melbourne region schools attending and it was a successful and enjoyable evening with a successful live video chat with the current students at Dinner Plain.

Keep your eyes peeled in early 2019 when the 2018 Alpine alumni will be revealing their Student agency Community Learning Project.

Ms Catherine Preston | [Alpine School Liaison Teacher](#)



Alpine Information Evening

STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICKUP POINTS AT ASHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

A reminder to all parents that the drop off and pickup points for students are the rear main carpark at the corner of Vannam Drive and Poplar Avenue, the Farmer Street Carpark (the netball courts) at the east end of the School or along Vannam Drive towards the High Street Road end.

The visitor carpark near the main office is **not** a drop off or pickup point and note that there are parking restrictions in Vannam Drive near to the pedestrian crossing, during School Hours 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

This has been a very busy year for the International students at Ashwood High School. The International students have been very involved in the various school activities this year. International students' participation in extra curriculum programs and events are very much encouraged to give them new experiences, knowledge and skills. At the start of Term 1, the Year 11 international students went to Queenscliff for their 3 day Camp and developed a strong bond and friendship with the local students. The Year 12 International students had a great time with the local students at the Year 12 Study Retreat at Deakin University. The Year 7 students had their camp at Gilwell Park in Gembrook. The Year 9 students enjoyed themselves around the Bay staying one night at the Barwon River Holiday Park and 2 nights at the Portsea Camp. In Term 2, the Year 8 International students along with the local students spent four days at Roses Gap in the Grampians while the Year 10 International students shared their experiences in the 4 day camp in Canberra with their school mates.

The International students have also been participating actively in various sporting activities.

At the End of the Year Award Presentation, we are very proud to see the following students receiving their awards:

Academic Excellence:

Andy Kuok Chi Lap - Year 9

Jennifer Lu Jinghui - Year 10



Academic Endeavour:

Depan Lin – Year 10

Matthew Yu – Year 12



Subject Awards:

Glenys Wang Mengling – Units 1 & 2 English as an Additional Language

Ben Chen Canbin – Units 1 & 2 Accounting

Rita Liu Tao – Units 1 & 2 Chinese First Language

George Leung Cheuk Wang – Units 1&2 Physics

Adam Duan Degao – Units 1 & 2 Specialist Mathematics

Silvia Du Mengan – Units 1 & 2 Art

Nicole Hou Sijia – Units 3 & 4 English as an Additional Language

Kelly Xiao Keyi – Units 3 & 4 Chinese First Language



Distinction in the Australian Maths Competition 2018:

Tyrone Ni Jiahao – Year 7

Glenys Wang Mengling – Year 11



We are also proud of:

Nicole Hou Sijia – **The International Student of the Year Award 2018**

Matthew Yu Taeho – **Vicki Howard Award 2018**

Ryan Cai Yao – **Nominee Spirit of Ashwood Year 10**

Andy Kuok Chi Lap – **Paterson Vice Captain**



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

We have a large group of international students taking part in the various school musical performances throughout the year. The following students have shown their musical talents:



Ryan Cai – Saxophone



Jason Hou – Cello



Glenys Wang – Flute & Voice



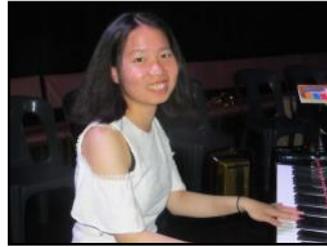
Carol Yuan – Cello



Tyrone Ni – Violin



Leanna Yan – Accordion



Rita Liu – Piano



Zheng Yi – Piano



Jack Zhu – Piano



John Qian – Piano



Wendy Pan – Voice



Anni Li – Voice

Ms Kim Elliston | [International Student Program Coordinator](#)

ERC

2018 has been a productive year in the ERC. The most significant achievements have been made in building the catalogue and updating the fiction collection. And while the plodding work of cataloguing the nonfiction print collection will continue into the new year, we are really excited about the next stage of the collection's development which will focus on accessing online resources.

At the start of 2019 we will be trialling some very promising resources including:

- An encyclopaedic research database from Britannica
- A Weblinks database containing thousands of teacher-reviewed, approved and annotated web sites
- A searchable, full-text database of local, regional, and national newspapers from Newsbank.

These online resources will complement our print resources and help create a first-rate information base to support reading, research, teaching and learning at Ashwood High School. And for the ERC, having the next stage of the library's collection development clearly mapped out, means that in 2019 the focus can shift to the promotion of our resources to the school community and to fostering the diverse reading culture that exist at Ashwood High School. Details of all programs and activities will be posted on the renovated, 2019 library website.

Mr Matthew Feeney | [Learning Support/ERC Coordinator](#)



Halloween in the ERC

English/Humanities/LOTE

We studied the symbolism in the film: 'The Giver.' Students in 8A English drew symbols to represent knowledge, freedom, or creativity.



"I chose the symbol 'the window' to represent seeing things." Mile Trifunovic

"I choose a symbol of a bike because it represents a chance for independence in The Giver. Being able to go places you want gives a person a lot of freedom." Daisy Jones

"I chose the symbol of a red love heart to represent fun times and happiness. Love makes me laugh and smile. It is also a bit risky and dangerous, but beautiful at the same time." Matilda Staton

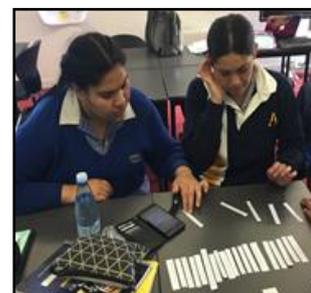
"I chose KFC as my 'happy place' because it is where I go to meet up with friends." Jasper Moeller

"I chose the symbol of an apple tree to represent life and unity because red apples represent life." Jason Yan

Year 12 English VCE Preparatory Program

The VCE Preparatory two week program introduces Year 10 and 11 students to the content and expectations of their new VCE classes. In Year 12 English, the students study four texts and to prepare them for their holiday reading, we ran a range of introductory activities around some of the themes that are going to be covered in order to inspire them. A brand new text, *Station Eleven*, raises questions about what our legacy will be to future generations if something catastrophic happens to humanity. In this class we are exploring the ideas of legacies and what we carry from our past into our futures through the re-composition of a poem which addresses these ideas. If you're looking for a great read over the summer break, give *Station Eleven* a go. The Ashwood High School Staff Bookclub highly recommends it too!

Ms Karen Bares & Mr Dom Holloway



SCIENCE & MATHS

Egg Drop Challenge

We all know that dropping an egg on concrete would break it, however what if there was a way that the egg wouldn't, couldn't break? Is this possible? We were about to find out.

This experiment began when **Ms Jowett** and **Ms Teeuwsen** gave us a show bag containing a dish cloth, string, paddle pop sticks, toothpicks, and cardboard. We were provided with tape and an egg in a zip-lock bag. Ms Jowett told us that some had been well loved which only suggested not to get too attached to the eggs as the experiment may cause them to break. Our mission was to design a container that supported the egg as we dropped it from great height on to a concrete floor, begging it wouldn't break. And so the designing began.

In partners or groups of three, we made the best possible containers for our eggs. Sadly, too many of us began to love our eggs, name them even, and didn't want to even think about the great drop ahead. My partner and I named ours **Grace Abigail Anne Sterle** and we were very fond of it. We had the idea of a parachute so our egg would gently hit the ground, and luckily when time was up, we'd succeeded in making a perfect container for **Grace**.

One by one students were dropping their eggs, watching them break on the ground, when suddenly a string came off our parachute. Desperately trying to fix it but it was too late, **Ms Jowett** called me up. I took **Grace** in my hands, and walked up the stone stairs, ready to say good bye. I let go of the egg and heard a terrible cracking noise and gasps and laughter from the other Year 7s. As my partner and I unravelled our egg, we saw that she sacrificed herself for one of the most enjoyable and fun science experiments I've ever done at Ashwood High School. Rest in peace **Grace Abigail Anne Sterle** and thank you to all other eggs who made this day possible.



The ducklings have grown up! **Jack Christie** and family adopted three of our ducklings. They returned to class for a reunion. It was very exciting. They were the size of geese! When we first saw our ducklings fitted into the palm of our hands. Now they are HUGE and laying eggs.

Ms Bernie Jowette | Maths/Science Teacher



SCIENCE & MATHS

Melbourne Zoo

The day started with great excitement. We met at Jordanville Station and went on two trains until we arrived at our destination Royal Melbourne Zoo. Shortly after we all headed to the seals to learn about our mission for the day. Our mission was *'Who will you lend your voice to?'* For the remainder of the day we went to various talks and activities about the different animals we had to select from to lend our voice.

Everyone had so much fun and by the end of the day we were all hot and tired, but we pushed through and completed our mission. We then hopped back on the train and returned to Jordanville Station.

At school we followed up with a Social Media Campaign about the animal we lent our voice to.

We all aspire to help these endangered animals and spread the word to save the species.

Micky Van Dalen and Emily Wilcock-Stuart — Year 7



As soon as you are aware of any changes of address, phone numbers, medical details, living arrangements or any long term absences, please notify the school at 9807 1333 to ensure all our records are accurate.





Visual Communication Design Report

Year 8 Design Technologies had an action pack semester, with Dragster races, 3D printing and pewter casting jewellery production.

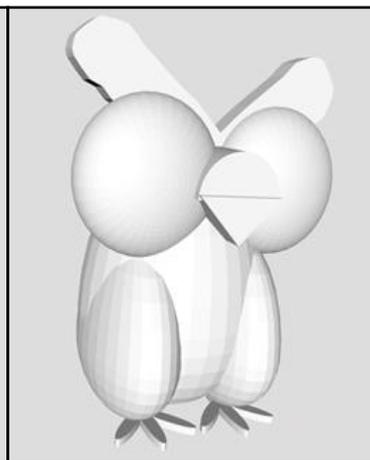
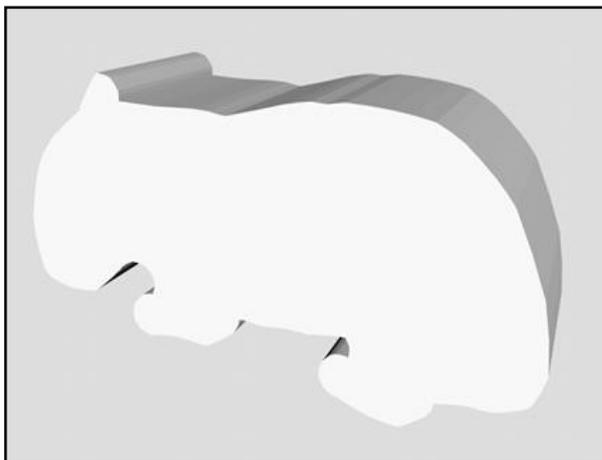
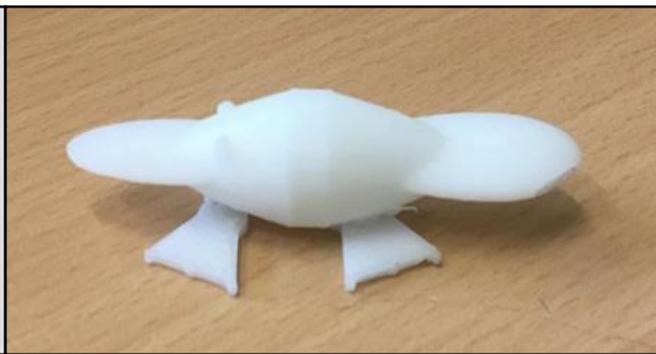
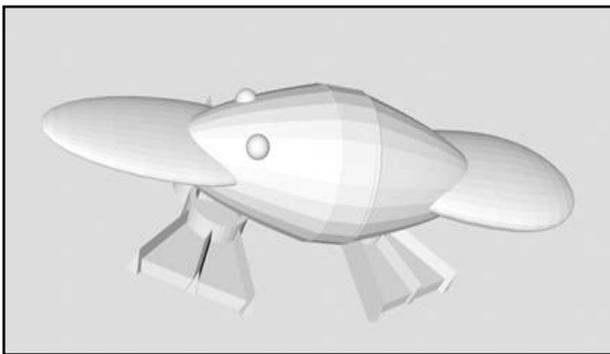
Ms Catherine Preston | Visual Communication, Design & Technology

This term, in metal work, we (the Year 8 students) used our recently learnt skills of soldering and circuitry to create our very own dragsters. These dragsters were made with a plastic base we had designed and cut out ourselves. We then had to glue on a battery, motor, switch and gear system for the axles and wheels. In our spare time we were allowed to customize our design with whatever crazy things we wanted, I choose to add a cuttlefish piece to make my design more aero-dynamic which ended up winning me the races at the end.

Jack Marshman, Year 8



Year 8 Dragster Racing In Action



3D Printing digital and final projects for the Healesville Sanctuary Souvenir Task



INTERSCHOOL SPORT

We concluded a huge year of sport at Ashwood High School in 2018, with the Year 7 & 8 Interschool Sport day on Wednesday 21 November. Despite this date falling right in the middle of Exam Week, we still had huge numbers of participation. Roughly about 140 students across the 4 sports of European Handball, Tag Rugby, Futsal and Ultimate Frisbee participated.

We had a hugely successful day with great participation and sportsmanship reported back to me on the day. Whilst it is not all about winning, we were able to come away with 4 victorious teams on the day. The Year 7 Boys Ultimate Frisbee team, the Year 7 Girls Ultimate Frisbee team and the Year 7 Girls European Handball team were all victorious. But a special mention and congratulations has to go to the Year 8 Girls Futsal team who did what the Richmond Tigers could not and went back-to-back, following up their successful “flag” in 2017. Congratulations to those girls and Coach Holloway! Let’s all hope for a three peat in 2019.



Well done to everyone that was a part of the Interschool Sporting Program in 2018. We had record numbers of participation and also a record number of “flags” won. In 2019, I will work with Mr Forbes to display these winning “flags” in our gym, so that can be used to motivate other students to reach for sporting excellence. I wish our Ashwood High School families a safe and relaxing break. I will be down the beach in my Budgie Smugglers working on my tan! I look forward to seeing everyone again in 2019.

Mr Tom Grbac | Sports Coordinator/Learning Area Coordinator – Health/PE

STUDENT ABSENCE HOTLINE

The school absence hotline is available 24 hours a day. Please call 9809 6950 and leave a detailed message advising your name, student name, date of absence and reason for absence.

To finish off the year, the Year 7 students attended MSAC to participate in a day of fun and activities at the pool – a just reward for their participation in weekly swimming lessons during their scheduled PE lessons. A great day was had by all & it was a great way for the Year 7s to conclude their first year at Ashwood High School.

The Year 9 students participated in the Self Defence Program for four weeks during Term 4. There were lots of laughs and also a lot of important defensive tactics and actions learnt. The Year 9s learnt how to defend themselves if ever faced with the threat of physical violence through the teachings of the witty and colourful Sensei Paul Tomassini.

Finally, the year concluded for the Health/PE department with my involvement in the Presentation Awards Ceremony. I was honoured and excited to present a few of the Health/PE based awards on the night. Congratulations to the recipients of those awards! I look forward to another year in 2019 and wish all our families a happy and relaxing holiday period.

Mr Tom Grbac | Sports Coordinator/Learning Area Coordinator – Health/PE



Ginger Perri — Year 7
Peter Rice Memorial Award

Year 9/10 Food Studies

Master Chef Challenge – Mystery box

Students were given access to anything still in the kitchens fridges, freezer and cupboards to create individual recipes of their choice in a double lesson. In 100 minutes they had to check what was available in the pantry, decide on a recipe, cook their food, taste test or eat it and then clean up the kitchen after them. The kids did a great job under the excellent eye of regular Casual Relief Teacher **Ms Janet Wiggins**, retired Food technology teacher.

Ms Kath Robinson | Food Technology Teacher



Here's some pics for food studies class. For the student's last lesson in Food, they made ginger bread biscuits and then decorated them festively for the holiday season.

Ms Kath Robinson | Food Technology Teacher



ACCELERATED CURRICULUM AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (ACE)

Wednesday 12 December 2018 was a special day as the ACE classes prepared for presentations, films and plays for their parents that summarised what each ACE class had learnt. For the 8 ACE class, we made individual short films that represented our knowledge on the different topics that we covered throughout the entire year.

We had three weeks to plan, record and edit films to show our parents at the Celebr-ACE-tion. During those three weeks, it was quite challenging to complete this task; some 8 ACE students, like Stacy and myself, joined the ACE class in Semester Two. Even though we missed the first semester, our peers had kindly guided us through the process. Other difficulties we encountered were editing, filming and recording. Most ACE students agreed that editing was the hardest part of the whole film. Hours before the event began, most students were still editing their film.

On the day of the event, it went smoothly. All the parents laughed and enjoyed our films. It made all the students smile that their masterpiece that took time and effort was being appreciated by their role models.



How did you feel about this activity?

I felt that all the challenges we went through had brought the class closer together. Some of the groups were mixed with students that didn't usually hang out; this encouraged teamwork and friendship to bloom in the near future. Overall, everyone had a blast, even the teachers. The students had amazed their parents and teachers with how much they're capable of when they put their minds and ideas together to create a jovial Celebr-ACE-tion night for everyone.

Vanessa Chen and Stacy Chishaka — Year 7



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

With the End of Year Concert well and truly over, the Music Department focused their attention on Presentation Night. Congratulations to **James Talbot, Ryan Cai, Ruby Maclean-Swann** and **Mia Pisano** and the Ashwood High School Choir for being chosen to perform on this prestigious evening. It was a wonderful representation of the quality of musicians we have here at the school.

Several music students volunteered to assist the instrumental staff at the Music Recruitment evening with the new Year 7s having try outs of the instruments on offer for 2019. There was a lot of fun producing sounds out of trombones, trumpets, violins and saxophones. I would also like to thank the instrumental staff for their time, particularly **Nelson Wood**, our new Brass teacher for 2019. We welcome him into our dedicated team.

A special thank you also goes to the music students who assisted **Mrs Kaev, Mr Quested** and myself with the Orientation Day to give every new Year 7 students the opportunity to perform 'This is Me' as a class band song. We had some terrific versions throughout the day thanks to the help of our current Year 7 Musicians – **Charlotte Anderson-Weir, Jamieson Adler, Jack Christie, Rupesh Bankar, James Talbot** and several other individuals who jumped in to also help out.

The choir, along with several other musicians capped off a busy year with a performance for the residents and staff at Rosewood Gardens Aged Care with a slice of our concert program which included dancing, vocal items, saxophone solos, ukulele accompaniments and the finale led by **Tania Kaev** and her choir. Congratulations to all the students involved as it was a hot walk up and back, but very worthwhile and greatly appreciated by the audience who had a fabulous time. The icy cold Zooper Doopers made all the difference for the walk home. I could see it had been a successful day for the students as they were all singing at the top of their lungs whilst walking back to school.

Thank you to **Tania Kaev** and **Julie Huggins** for supervising and walking the students there and back. Without such support, these events would not take place.

Instrumental enrolment forms for 2019 are available at the office; flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, guitar, bass guitar, drums, singing, keyboard, violin, viola and cello.

Finally a big congratulations to all of the students who performed at the numerous events this year and took part in the Instrumental Program: Ashwood Open Night, the Winter concert, Bussy Malone The Musical, the Summer concert and those events mentioned above. What a wonderful year we have had. Well done everyone and thank you to the all our parents for their support.

We would like to wish you all a happy and safe holiday break and we look forward to more musical entertainment in 2019.

Ms Felica Mundell | Instrumental Music Coordinator



STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

Peer Support Leadership Training by Lea Marrison, Fiona Keech and Michelle Stancliffe

The Year 8 and 9 students were given the opportunity to apply for a leadership role for the 2019 Peer Support Program.

The Peer Support Leadership program is run at the start of each year for approximately 5 weeks, and is designed to ensure the new Year 7 students have a successful transition to Ashwood High School.

Peer Support training was held on Wednesday 5 December for those who applied. The training involved working through important topics such as effective communication, role modeling, what makes a good leader, respect and empathy, as well as playing many fun games – which the leaders will be able to play with their group of students next year. Successful leaders will be grouped with a small number of Year 7s next year and lead their group through a weekly program, finishing up with a celebration.

The Year 8 and 9 students have demonstrated strong leadership qualities, so we are looking forward to watching them strengthen their skills next year, along with getting to know our new Year 7s at Ashwood High School.

Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club has been a big success throughout 2018, with many students enjoying the fantastic food provided before school on Wednesdays and Fridays. The program will be run again in 2019

Mentoring Program

Ashwood High School has been fortunate to have the support of Mentors who have voluntarily given their time to come and assist students through a variety of activities and 1:1 support. The focus of the Mentoring Program is to allow students the opportunity to build rapport with the mentors, and build upon communication, social, emotional and educational skills. The Program has been highly successful and will continue into 2019.

Student Empire Network

The Student Empire Network is a group of dynamic young people who attend Ashwood High School on a weekly basis to run a term by term program for our students.

“The Integr8 Program is an individualised, personal development and group mentoring tool aimed to empower and equip students’ lives through instilling a foundational message of self-value and worth”.

Again, this program has proven to be very affective and valued by those who attend.

The Wellbeing have held a special morning tea on Friday 14 December to thank all the volunteers, programs and groups who regularly give their time to assist and support our school community.

SUMMER SURVIVAL KIT

School's out and summer holidays are upon us! This summer survival kit has some hints and suggestions for things to do, particularly if you get bored.

Most importantly remember to use the break as a time to re-charge your batteries, be kind to yourself and relax, have fun, stay safe and don't forget to talk to someone if you need advice or help.

Who could I talk to if I need help?

- A trusted friend
- A relative
- Parent/family member
- Sibling
- Neighbor
- Counsellor
- Kids Helpline -1800 55 1800
- Lifeline – 13 11 44

STUDENT SERVICES REPORT

Things to do over the holidays:

- Go to the movies
- Get your camera out and show your artistic side with some photography
- Try something you've never done before such as paint a picture, build something, or get crafty
- Read a new book
- Pull out your old board games out to play with some friends or your family
- Sleep in
- Learn something new that you've always wanted to do, or that you never thought you may do
- Cook something yummy
- Plan a surprise for someone
- Don't plan every moment
- Go exploring (safely)
- Start exercising
- Have a movie marathon day on the couch
- Be grateful.

Have a happy and safe holidays.

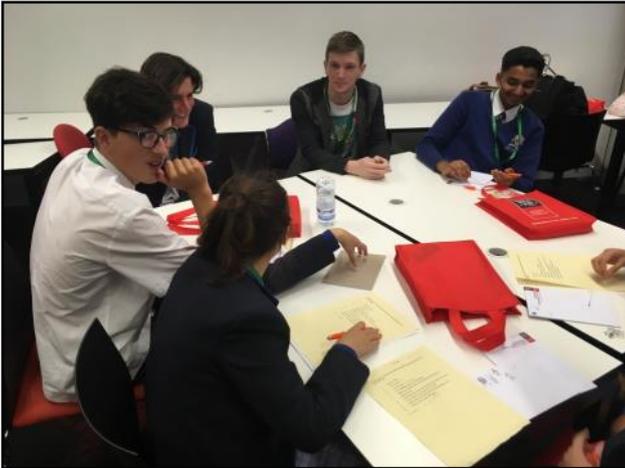
Ms Lea Marrison | Student Services Manager



CAREERS NEWS

All Year 10 students attended Swinburne University, Hawthorn campus on Tuesday 27 November 2018 to get some sense of university life. During the day they were shown various ways that course material was delivered, lectures, tutorials and seminars. They were rotated through discussion groups with university students who talked to them about their personal journeys at university as well as how they lived, on campus, share house or at home. They had conversations around how they could access courses, full and part time and there was a discussion related to how university students are far more independent but responsible for their own learning and thus their greater accountability.

Ms Jodie Hechengerger | Careers and Pathways Coordinator



The end of year has been busy in the Careers department with the organisation of work placements for the VCAL students and VTAC counselling for the Year 12 students following the release of results. A reminder to the Year 12s that they can continue to contact me via email Huggins.julie.j@edumail.vic.gov.au after the school year has finished should they have any queries regarding their applications, and also for assistance when the tertiary offers are made in January. Remember that the tertiary institutions will also have staff available during this Change of Preference time to talk to if you are unsure regarding your preferences.

All students should regularly check Compass for notifications of any holiday programs and also work placements/employment opportunities that we are made aware of.

Mrs Julie Huggins | Senior School Coordinator

SURPLUS FOUR COMPARTMENT LOCKERS for sale @ \$20 each

The school is replacing the existing lockers, which have been in use since 1995, and has available for sale, these lockers at \$20 each.

We need new lockers for 2 reasons: Increased enrolment numbers over the next 3 years and deeper lockers to accommodate the larger backpack bags which students now use.

The existing lockers are steel carcass with modwood doors and each compartment can be locked. They make excellent garage and garden shed storage units, especially where there is a requirement to lock away items like insecticides, mower fuel, paint etc. Most compartments have 2 shelves as well.

To assist in the disposal of these lockers, the Ashwood High School Community Garden will be coordinating the sale and collection from the area next to the Community Garden (driveway off Vannam Drive, closest to High Street Road). Money collected will be used towards the water reclamation project off Building G to the Community Garden.

The lockers are 1800mm high, 750mm wide and 450mm deep. Two units can fit in a trailer or SUV. There is no limit to the number of lockers available – first in best dressed.

The lockers will be available, starting Monday 10 December.

For specific arrangements please contact Lynda Telford on mobile **0404 083 272** or Peter Forbes, Facilities Manager on **9807 1333** (during school hours)

These lockers are being advertised elsewhere, so you may need to be quick.

Mr Peter Forbes | [Facilities Manager](#)

