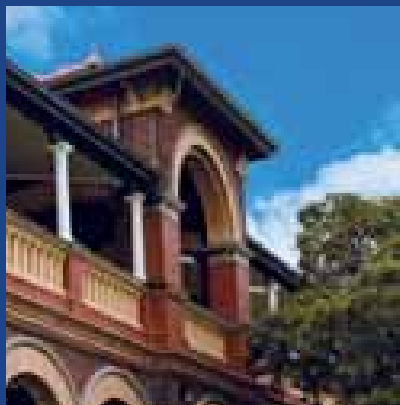
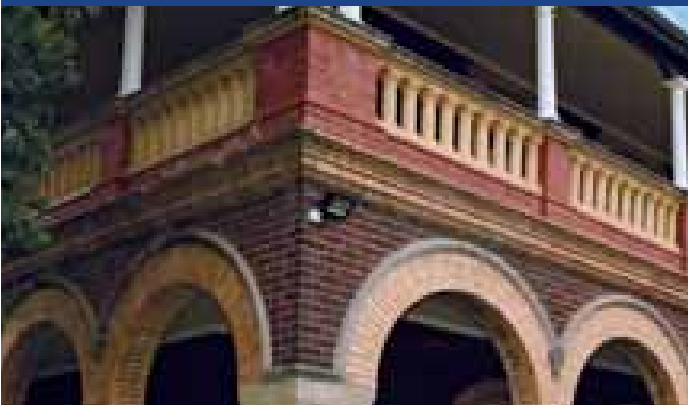


PEBBLE

2023

Thrive on Diversity



rossbourne
school

PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION



"If we teach today's students as we taught yesterday's, we rob them of tomorrow."

John Dewey, 1916

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Education Policy Outlook analysis of the current Australian education system 2023 report, highlights the following three areas as significant issues in schools: ongoing teacher shortages, equity issues, and a significant problem with bullying in Australian schools – reportedly three times the global average. However, one challenge that was not highlighted in this report was education programs staying relevant and connecting with the world that students live in and experience.

Our world is facing many challenges; environmental, economic, health and geo-political. Climate change and the depletion of resources require us to question our consumption habits. The development of artificial intelligence and new technologies challenge our traditional concepts of work. If children in school keep on learning what was taught to their parents, they will not be appropriately prepared for a more uncertain future characterised by an ever-changing environment (OECD, 2018[1]).

Our fast-changing world requires a shift in traditional notions of curriculum and a move towards cultivating in students' certain competencies that draw on multidisciplinary knowledge and skills. This is opposed to focusing only on the mastery and memorisation of knowledge structured by different subjects regardless of its "usefulness" and direct connection to the student's ability in problem-solving. This global shift towards a competence-centered curriculum implies an emphasis on "the integration of knowledge, skills, and attitudes that enable people to perform a certain task in ill-defined and unique environments" (Wesselink et al., 2010[28]). In other words, a competence-centered curriculum better provides students with a capacity that allows them to navigate through a world that is constantly changing and full of uncertainty.

Engagement is the key to motivating students to learn; delivering programs that are current, relevant, and meaningful is necessary to foster engagement. In 2023, much work has gone on behind the scenes at Rossbourne as we started the process of reviewing our education programs to determine the most relevant curricular, teaching and learning model and pedagogies

that will best prepare our students for their future. You may remember that in 2022, the Rossbourne School Board and the School's Executive team worked together to explore how we might better prepare our students for their future and realise Rossbourne's vision: *To be a world leading school known for its unique and innovative neuro-diverse educational programs where students' potential is unlocked so they can achieve their best as global citizens.* I am very pleased to report on the progress that we have made in 2023.

This year all teaching staff have been engaged in this review, with a strong focus on assessing curricular and our education framework. Program evaluation aims to examine the impact of implemented curriculum on student learning and achievement. Identifying aspects of curricular that are outdated and/or do not serve to prepare our students well for life beyond Rossbourne, needs to be modified or replaced with programs that are current and nuanced in preparation for the range of post-secondary pathway options presented to Rossbourne students.

Much thought has gone into identifying the components of Rossbourne's education framework, which we see as our Commitment to Families. Our framework is structured in four parts; *The Why – made up of four guiding pillars that drive our learning culture; Growth Independence, Community Connection, Social Skill Development and Future Readiness; The How – the ways we support our students to learn, grow and develop; The What – meaningful and relevant curricular and programs that prepare our students for life as global citizens. These layers are all underpinned by Rossbourne's Values – Respect, Honesty, Resilience, Inclusion and Sharing.*

As we continue our journey and focus on the next phase of our curricular review in 2024 by critiquing each subject and program for currency and efficacy, I invite parents to provide their thoughts and ideas about what subjects and programs you believe will benefit Rossbourne students and should be included as curricular offerings. Our Curriculum Leader, Jennifer Murray, will send all parents information about how to communicate their thoughts at the beginning of next year.

Staff Announcements

In 2024, we will welcome three new staff members to Rossbourne, Katie- Rose Smith, Jenna Mason, and Yulia McGibbon. Katie-Rose has been appointed as our new Senior School Leader. She brings with her a wealth of experience in supporting neurodiverse students at Loreto Mandeville Hall as Assistant Head of Learning Diversity and is currently completing

her Master of Inclusive Education. Jenna has been appointed as our new Year 7/8 Homeroom teacher. She has been a valued contract teacher at Rossbourne this semester and has made a positive impact on student learning. Congratulations to Jenna for her appointment as an ongoing staff member at Rossbourne School. Yulia McGibbon is an experienced and accomplished Performing Arts, Music, and English teacher. She has been appointed as Rossbourne's Performing Arts teacher and will develop a unique music program for our students over time.

Next year a number of teachers will take on new roles within the school as we adapt to provide better outcomes for staff and students. For personal reasons, Hamish Dalton is stepping down from his role as Senior School Leader. Many thanks to Hamish for the guidance and support he has provided to our Senior School students and the teachers in this school section. Hamish will continue in his role next year as a Senior School Homeroom teacher and his leadership experience will be invaluable in supporting our new Senior School Leader. Jennifer Murray has been appointed to the role of Curriculum Leader. This new role has been created to support the ongoing review, design, and implementation of curricular and our education framework, as we strive to refine learning opportunities that will best support our students in navigating their world and achieving their life goals. Jennifer will remain as Year 7/8 School Section Leader but will not have a Homeroom class.

Student Wellbeing

Learning, social interactions, making difficult decisions, and managing emotions such as feeling depressed, anxious, worried, or isolated are all issues that students experience from time to time.

Our Wellbeing framework supports Rossbourne students in understanding and resolving long-term and short-term problems they may encounter. Our Wellbeing team (Clare Tighe - Psychologist, Kathryn Harker - Speech Pathologist and Bella Saunders - Psychologist) have utilised their considerable experience and expertise to assess, teach, guide and counsel a growing number of students who find their challenges overwhelming. They also deliver social skills and consent programs to classes across the school and provide valuable advice and support to Rossbourne families. In addition, the team plays an active role in collaborating with the teachers as part of a multidiscipline approach to supporting students academically and emotionally.

Our Wellbeing team is an invaluable component of our holistic approach to student learning and personal

development. They are also an important resource for families, as is access to the range of materials provided by SchoolTV. A special report on Gambling and young people can be accessed via the link below.

The digital era has made gambling more accessible, and certain factors are elevating the risk of problematic gambling among young people. A new grey area is emerging, with smartphones at their fingertips blurring the boundaries between gambling and entertainment, especially within the realms of video games and social media. The current generation of young people is growing up in an unprecedented time and research highlights that a significant percentage of adolescents are involved in gambling activities.

Reports of young people gambling are frequent with many experiencing adverse consequences such as diminished academic performance and strained relationships. Today's youth are growing up in a digital age characterised by constant connectivity, and the gambling industry has evolved significantly during students' formative years. Simulated gambling, such as in video games, can further increase the likelihood of teenagers transitioning to real-money gambling and developing future gambling-related problems.

It is crucial to foster open discussions about positive media choices to help children navigate through responsible online gaming and gambling. Encouraging a balanced approach to screen time and promoting alternative activities, will help set some clear boundaries to avoid potential gambling-related issues.

This Special Report provides guidance on how to empower young people to make responsible choices in this digital age. I hope you take a moment to reflect on the information offered.

https://rossbourne.vic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-gambling-young-people-au

My gratitude goes to all members of staff for always putting our students first and providing them with great care, guidance, and support as they learn, as they develop and as they understand what they are capable of achieving. Thank you to those who have guided, collaborated, and supported me as we venture into new territory and embrace an ever-changing world. I would like to thank Rowena Stocks (Chair of our School Board), the Rossbourne Parents Association, our School Leadership Team and the Rossbourne School Board for their vision and stewardship.

I wish all of you a safe, restful, and happy festive season as we farewell 2023 and embrace 2024.

Shane Kamsner
Principal

CHAIR OF COUNCIL REPORT

As we look back on 2023, I am filled with a sense of pride in all that we at Rossbourne have achieved together over the last twelve months. This year saw significant progress across many facets of the school, with the Board staying true to its course in providing governance and support to our Principal and the school leadership team, all of whom demonstrated a clear and unwavering focus on enhancing the learning environment for the students.

Whether in the classroom, on the sporting field or in performance and artistic endeavours, Rossbourne students never fail to inspire us all. The school motto of Courage and Honour is evident in so much of our school life and beyond.

The accomplishments of our students across academic and non-academic programmes are evidenced by the commitment, not only of the students but also their families, our Principal, teachers, and all non-teaching staff. Their achievements continue to enhance the reputation of Rossbourne as a place that actively prepares its students to take their place in the broader community.

A school is not a school without the right leadership and staff and this year we have welcomed new members & farewelled members of staff who have all made outstanding contributions over their years of service to our school.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank Lee Wills who as previous past President from 2020 – 2023 deserves our thanks for her exemplary leadership of the School Board through a significant period of disruption and transformation.

This year saw Rossbourne Connect (our Alumni) coming in under the governance of the School. The Alumni hosted a Back to Rossbourne BBQ and later in the year a Disco. Both events saw a great turn out from past Rossbourne students from 1980 to 2022. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of Kerri Youngcaruso, Juliette Eardley and Rosemary Burton who have grown and nurtured Rossbourne Connect over the past 10 years.

I would also like to thank the Rossbourne Parents Association for all their hard work in creating opportunities for the school community to participate in a range of activities from fundraising, to sports and culture activities for our families outside of the school environment.

To our 2023 graduates and their families, congratulations! I wish you every success for your future beyond Rossbourne, and look forward to following all that you achieve as you take the next step in your journey.

My best wishes to all Rossbourne families for the festive season and the year ahead.

Rowena Stocks

President

Rossbourne School Board

ROSSBOURNE STAFF 2023



Top Row L-R

Alastair Witts, James O'Sullivan, Ryan Teasel, Hamish Dalton, Tim Francis, James Gardner, Andrew Lusted, Vicki Bradley

Third Row L-R

Marina Slifirski, Martha Noone, Paul Brown, Clare Tighe, Kathryn Harker, Sarah Flanigan, Alex Preuss, Jennifer Kilner

Second Row L-R

Jennifer Murray, Rhonda Sword, Jessica Mulquiney, Marion Branchflower, Chloe Woods, Catherine Turner, Helen Holdsworth, Laura Aragona, Greta Weissmann, Tania Hume

Front Row L-R

Philippa McInerney, Philip Dunmill, Peter Hynninen, Eluned McFarlane, Shane Kamsner, James Box, Nici Bonning, Angela Papapoulia, Monita Chui, Carol Drossos

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL



Dear Students, Parents and the Rossbourne community, As 2023 draws to an end, it is with great pleasure that I reflect on my first year at Rossbourne School. The overwhelming feeling as we traversed the school year has been one of pride and gratitude for the

collective efforts of the students and dedicated staff who continue to make Rossbourne School a focal point of growth, care and excellence.

Education is a journey. This journey is not always an easy one and our students come from a wide variety of backgrounds and challenges when they start at Rossbourne. What is very clear is the strong sense of community and importantly the belonging the students at Rossbourne feel as they make their journey through school. I have also felt a sense of belonging and community in the short time I have been at the school. I can't recall being in a school where the students make you feel so welcome and that you have worked here for many years.

Each day the students embark on a quest for knowledge, personal development and understanding. They feel nurtured and supported academically, while being challenged on a daily basis to be the best they can be and to give everything a go. This has been evident in several ways throughout the year with the amazing success stories and the dedication the students have shown.

Our values are the cornerstone of all we do and who we are at Rossbourne and they are not only words on our website but are lived out throughout each day.

HONESTY

"Honesty is more than not lying. It is truth telling, truth speaking, truth living, and truth loving."

James E. Faust

Honesty is the moral compass that guides us through the web of life, helping us navigate the complexities of relationships, work, and personal growth. Honesty is not just about telling the truth when it's convenient; it's about being true to oneself even when faced with adversity.

Adversity is not new to a number of students at Rossbourne, not that you would know. Our students display honesty in a myriad of ways when they speak up for themselves, show their emotions, share feedback and 'have a go'.

Another way of showing honesty and integrity is to take advantage of the many opportunities that our students are presented with throughout the year. There are far too many opportunities to list here, however one experience that I was lucky enough to be part of this year was the Years 7/8 camp to Philip Island. School camps have not always been well attended or a positive

experience for some students, so to see the effort, enthusiasm and honesty with which they attempted and achieved success throughout the camp was truly amazing. Students were encouraged to attempt all activities, and they did so knowing that they were supported, safe and comfortable while moving out of their comfort zone.

When we embrace honesty, we contribute to the creation of a culture built on trust. Trust is the glue that binds individuals and communities.

RESPECT

Respect is the basis of strong relationships and in a community with diversity and differences, respect becomes the bridge that connects us all.

One of the key aspects of respect is acknowledging the uniqueness of each person. We are all shaped by our backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. Respecting others means embracing this diversity and understanding that our differences contribute to our collective existence.

Our Student Representative Council (SRC) to me exemplifies respect. I am so proud of what this group of leaders has been able to achieve in 2023. Respect is reflected in our actions, both big and small, whether it's in the workplace, at home, or within our broader communities.

SRC members have been involved in many different areas of the school, some of these include:

- International Women's Day
- NAIDOC week
- ANZAC and Remembrance Day ceremonies
- IDAHOBIT Day
- Raising money for various charities and
- Being a voice for their peer group in discussing their journey at Rossbourne School.

The respect they have shown their peers and the wider community has been wonderful to experience.

SHARING

There's something really powerful about groups and shared experiences. People might be sceptical about their ability to change if they are by themselves, but a group will convince them to suspend disbelief. A community creates belief.

Charles Duhigg

One of the most beautiful aspects of sharing is its ability to foster a sense of unity and empathy. When we share, we extend a hand of understanding and compassion to others. Moreover, sharing is a cornerstone of building relationships. It is through sharing that we create a sense of belonging and interconnectedness.



It has been a privilege to witness the building of relationships and the sense of connectedness between the students throughout the year. They really do feel that they belong here at Rossbourne and go out of their way to make sure that they share that connection with their peers.

Again, this was never more evident than at the sporting carnivals (athletics and swimming) throughout the year. The students were not only amazing by having a go in events that they may never have attempted in a different school, but the level of sharing, caring and support they gave each other throughout the carnivals was truly remarkable and quite moving.

Small acts of sharing, when multiplied, can create a ripple effect of positivity that reaches far beyond our immediate circles.

INCLUSION

Inclusion is a commitment to embracing diversity in all its forms and ensuring that everyone, regardless of their background, abilities, or differences, feels valued and respected.

One experience comes to mind this year when I think of Inclusivity was Wakakirri. I didn't know what to expect walking into watch the performance. I had seen the students practising from time to time and had seen some images from previous years, but nothing prepared me for their performance on the night.

It was a truly moving experience to see our students include each other, work together and feel supported enough to perform in front of a large crowd and a delight to see the look on their faces when they walked out at the end to meet their parents.

In our school, inclusion is the key to nurturing a generation that understands and appreciates differences. It prepares our youth for a world where global collaboration and understanding are essential. It teaches them the invaluable lesson that diversity is not a challenge to overcome but a strength to harness.

RESILIENCE

Resilience is the ability to bounce back from adversity, to face challenges head-on, and to emerge stronger and wiser on the other side. These are

traits our students display day in and day out. It gives me confidence to know that when the students graduate at the end of their time at Rossbourne, they will have the tools they need, including resilience, to be global and life ready citizens who will make a difference to the world they will enter.

Resilience is not the absence of adversity but rather the ability to confront and overcome it.

While I referred to the work of the Student Representative Council earlier, I would like to pay them a special thanks for their work throughout 2023.

This group of students really led me this year. They organised meetings, kept reminding me of important dates and came up with some of the most generous and inspiring ideas throughout the year. They certainly showed excellent leadership styles and resilience. It was really pleasing for me to see students who were very shy and reserved at the start of the year, addressing our school community at our assemblies with confidence and elegance. Well done to the SRC of 2023!

I also want to thank the staff for their effort, care and tireless work throughout the year. They are an amazing group of people who care very deeply for the students in their care.

Personally, I would also like to thank Shane, the Executive and the Board for all of their support throughout the year and their vision for Rossbourne School moving forward.

Finally, I would like to finish with a short story that I discussed in my first assembly this year. To me it sums up my feelings towards the students at Rossbourne and the vision of what we are trying to achieve as a school, when preparing students as life-ready citizens.

James Box
Deputy Principal

One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking up and gently throwing things into the ocean. Approaching the boy he asked,

"Young man, what are you doing?"

"Throwing starfish back into the ocean.

The surf is up, and the tide is going out.

If I don't throw them back, they'll die,"

the boy replied.

The man laughed to himself and said, "Do you realize there are miles of miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make any difference."

After listening politely, the boy bent down to pick up another starfish and threw it into the surf. Then, he smiled at the man and said, "I made a difference to that one."

***Everyone can make a difference
— even if that difference affects one person.***





PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

2023 has been another great year for the Rossbourne Parents Association (RPA) and we welcomed several new parents to the committee. There was a great deal of activity happening and lots of work behind the scenes. We had a full schedule of activities and concentrated on having multiple options for people to engage. We have worked closely and continued to meet regularly with the School's Principal, Shane Kamsner and Vice Principal James Box to support the school's objectives.

We spent quite a bit of time in 2023 understanding the new Child Safety Standards and ensuring they are embedded into the RPA alongside the school.

The whole committee put in a lot of effort to get the planning in place for all our activities and to get the ball rolling for our 2024 major fundraising event, the Trivia Night which will be arranged for earlier in the year. Keep an eye out for the communication around this that will come up early in 2024.

This year we held several successful parent social evenings. The first one in 2023 was very well attended and everyone had a great night. We also enjoyed a great night at The Glenferrie Hotel while the students had a ball at the disco. It was great to have so many parents come along.

Our Culture Club events this year included the movies and ArtVo. These were very successful events that allowed us to come together as a community. The Culture Club events are a great way for the students, parents and carers and siblings to all come together. We continue to plan these activities for 2024 and are very open to ideas and suggestions from our community on areas that would be of interest.

The RPA organised a Teacher Appreciation morning tea for World Teacher Appreciation Day on Thursday 26th October. We provided a coffee van to make coffees, on what turned out to be a rainy and cold morning, with lots of yummy cakes and donuts. The teachers and other staff members were very grateful for this recognition and appreciated the gesture.

We have continued with the basketball program Rossbourne Riders, and we had some great success supporting our Rossbourne Snowsports Team. All

five students in that team had a podium finish. We received medals for second and third place as well as the Gold Medal for the results of the team overall. They all qualified for Nationals which was unfortunately cancelled due to a lack of snow. Our thanks to Tracey Tremewen for supporting this activity as part of her role as Sports Inclusion Coordinator.

We had a few second-hand uniform sales throughout the year, and this was coordinated by Gabby Scolyer and Sue Murray. On behalf of the RPA and the parents of Rossbourne, I would like to thank them both for assisting with providing this service to our Rossbourne community.

Our thanks to Arlen Duke for coordinating the two Bunnings BBQ Fundraisers this year as well as all the parents who came along to help.

A huge thank you to all RPA Committee members. They give their time on a voluntary basis, and we would not be able to support the school in the way we do without their hard work and dedication. I would like to thank Vice President, Ange Zegir for her ongoing support and coordination of events and Treasurer, Arlen Duke, who stepped in and took over from Sally Thompson when she left in May. Our thanks to Sally for her hard work and contribution in the two years prior. I would also like to thank our Secretary Bel Thiele, Sports Inclusion Coordinator, Tracey Tremewen, Culture Club Coordinator Sue Murray, 9/10 Year Level Coordinator and Graphics design whiz Nancy Manders, 7/8 Year Level Coordinator Felicity Wallace, and Rossbourne Connect (Alumni) Liaison Bronwyn Hall.

On behalf of the Parents Association, we would like to wish the graduating students and their families every success for the future and encourage them to continue their engagement with Rossbourne through our alumni association Rossbourne Connect.

We wish all our Rossbourne students and families a safe and happy end for 2023 and look forward to seeing all the changes that are coming in 2024 including the exciting completion of the Performing Arts Building.

Kylie Payne
President
Rossbourne Parents' Association

ROSSBOURNE CONNECT

Rossbourne Connect was reignited on a hot Saturday in March this year, when our past students and their families were invited back to school to enjoy a BBQ lunch while reconnecting with each other.

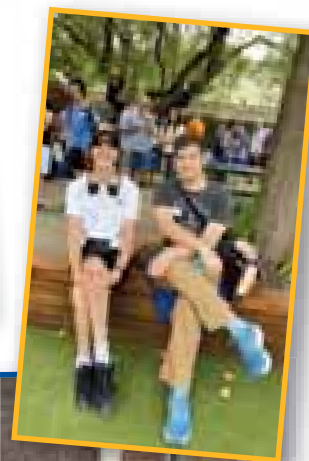
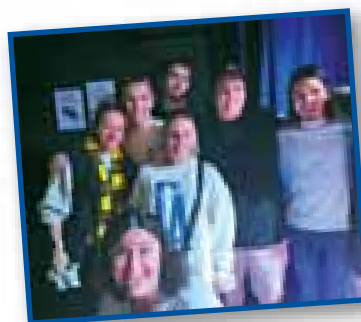
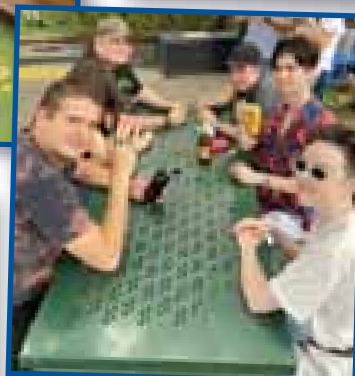
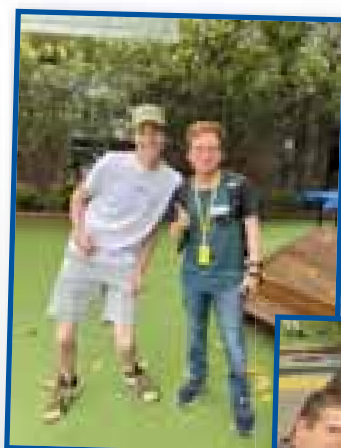
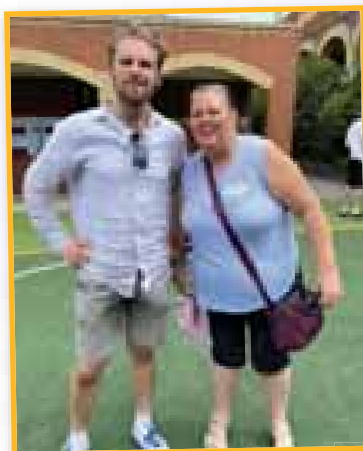
It was amazing to see so many past graduates, with the earliest from 1987 through to our latest in 2022. While there have been changes to our school buildings and grounds over the years, what has remained is the joy of connection and belonging. Seeing and hearing the delight when old classmates saw each other, the years of separation just slipped away.

We followed up in September with a sparkle disco, and more than a hundred of our Alumni gathered to “bust some moves” together and enjoy a delicious pizza supper.

A special thanks to our Connect Committee and the past parents who volunteer their time to assist us to make these functions a success.

If you know of any past student who would like to be included in Rossbourne Connect, or if any past student or parent would like to join the Committee, please email us at rossbourneconnect@rossbourne.vic.edu.au.

Rossbourne Connect Committee

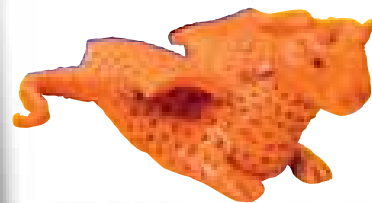


ART

What a busy term it has been in Art. Students have risen to the many challenges of creating and making, exploring different ideas and media. Art work including landscape paintings, portraits, animals and sculptures has been created by the talented young artists of Rossbourne.

The accomplished body of work was on display at the annual Art, Design Technology and ICT Exhibition which was a wonderful highlight to end the year. Following the tradition of the Archibald Exhibition, attendees were invited to vote for their favourite work - not an easy task! Under Mrs Kilner's expert direction and watchful eye, students produced an array of delicious treats to accompany the opening of the exhibition. Among the exhibits were examples from the Make and Do group which was a welcome addition. As always, the creativity on display was impressive and evidence of the wide range of talents our students have.

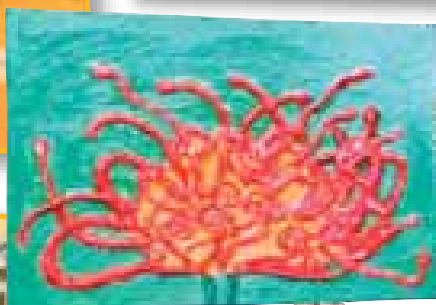
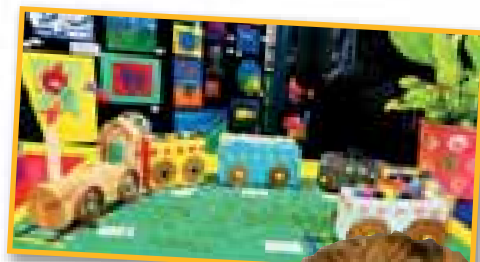
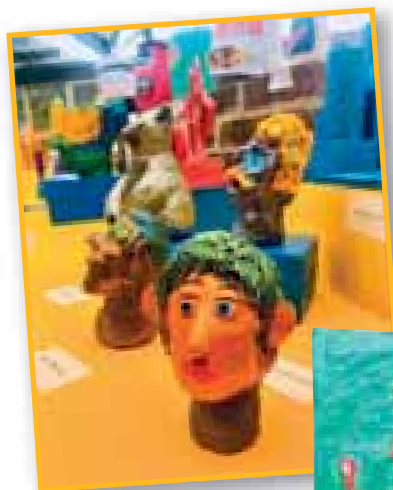
The Art work included ceramic sculptures of dragons, numerous birds, weird and wonderful pots and masks. There were Post Modern Steampunk inspired assemblage sculptures in addition to a variety of paintings and drawings. Year 9/10 students created portraits and torn paper collage compositions. Year 7/8 students referenced paintings by Vincent van Gogh



and Frida Kahlo to create their own interpretations of landscapes, still life and portrait compositions. There were beautiful oil pastel compositions of landscapes, trees and our feathered friends.

It is always such a privilege and pleasure to see the development of confidence, skills, and artistry in each student. Personally, I never cease to be impressed with how Rossbourne students give things a go and with the high standard of work the students achieve. The students at Rossbourne are to be congratulated on their amazing work in Art.

Philippa McInerney
Art Teacher



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

The focus in Design Technology is for students to experience working with a number of different materials. Students construct different products using these materials, allowing them to respond creatively to a variety of design challenges. The design process is followed, encouraging students to investigate and generate ideas and to refine and evaluate their creations. Students also learn how to safely use different tools and equipment in order to lay the foundation for working on a broad range of creative projects.

The Year 7 & 8 students started this year by exploring fabric design to create personalised surface graphics on calico aprons. They trialled gelatine printing, hand painting with fabric paint and dye, drawing with fabric markers, hand stitching and embroidery, and some students learned to sew on buttons.

The students then went on to cut wooden paddle bats out of plywood using coping saws and learned about cutting curved lines. They sanded their work so the edges were smooth. Some students learned to use the hand-held drill and drilled a hole in their bat, and then joined a ping pong ball with string. They planned images to be drawn or painted onto their bat with paint and markers.

The Year 7 & 8s then explored jewellery design. They created designs on wooden pieces, drawing inspiration from Romero Britto, a Brazilian designer who combines elements of cubism, pop art and graffiti in his work. Britto uses vibrant colours and bold patterns to express hope, dreams and happiness. The students were encouraged to think about the patterns they were going to show and how they could create a matching set using similar shapes, patterns and colours. The pieces, whether earrings, bracelets

or keyrings, show the vibrant happy colours and bold patterns which Britto uses in his own work. The designs on wood were completed using paint sticks, hand-made papers, markers, colour pencils and acrylic paint. The work was varnished and jump rings were used to connect the pieces together. Once connected, earring pieces, leather cord or keyrings were added to complete the functional pieces.

The students ended the year by constructing hexagon shaped bee shelters. These were made with lots of recycled timber, joined together, filled with hollow pieces of rubber pipe, bamboo sticks and bits and pieces found in nature, such as pinecones, to attract the tired bees and give them a safe, secure place to rest and recuperate. Some very bold and imaginative designs were painted and drawn onto the finished shelters.

The Year 9 & 10 students focussed a lot on design inspired by Australiana this year. They created soft sculptures based on mostly Australian icons, such as the Vegemite jar, Cottee's jam jar, Bega Cheese Spread and a Milo tin, and food jars from other countries, such as Nutella. The soft sculptures were constructed out of felt and textured fabrics and the students had to consider shape and form, before sewing or gluing the fabric together and stuffing it. Fabric paint and markers and cut out fabrics were then applied to create the surface graphics of the pieces. At the viewing of our fabulous Art, ICT and Design Technology exhibition in Term 4, a few people were quite disappointed that the contents of the jars were made of felt and not edible!

The Year 9 & 10s were then inspired by images from an exhibition at the Bendigo Art Gallery earlier this year, which featured one hundred different iconic Australian ice-creams... again, not edible and definitely not made from ice-cream! The students had to recreate





One of the highlights for the Senior students in 2023 was a group project in which students designed a printed object that could be used for a specific purpose. The students worked on creating a logo for a t-shirt to be worn to the International Women's Day assembly. It was wonderful to see the students work collaboratively to design and create the t-shirt graphics. These were printed boldly in swirling purple colours – a combination of red and blue - traditionally seen as female and male colours, together representing the idea of gender equality and the unity of all genders in the fight for women's rights.

their favourite ice-cream and then design a new ice-cream from wood, polymer clay, foam or felt and name the ice-cream and design the packaging.

The theme of Australiana and food continued and students tried their hands at creating a wooden version of the famous Women's Weekly Train Cake. Made from carved timber, balsa wood, and paper clay, this was also a popular piece at the exhibition, bringing up lots of nostalgic memories from past birthday parties.

The Senior Design Technology students have investigated a variety of techniques and equipment. One of the Senior classes followed a design brief to design a room inspired by a particular period chosen from the 1950s to the current time. This was motivated by a visit to ACMI and a viewing of TV50, a landmark exhibition which celebrated the past, present and future of television in Australia. During this process, students learnt hand-drawing and some digital architectural drawing and rendering techniques, as well as discovering interior design skills. They built a miniature 3D model including a landscaped garden area using a variety of lightweight and textured materials.

Another topic explored was jewellery design and making. Students constructed ranges of earrings, bracelets, brooches, keyrings, and bookmarks using a variety of materials such as 3D printing, polymer clay, wood, felt, and plastic.

As the year comes to a close, the students and teachers have been very excited to showcase the amazingly creative projects from 2023 to the wider school community in the annual Art, ICT and Design Technology exhibition. This was held over two nights, upstairs in the Art & Design atrium. It is a big job to set up the exhibition and we are lucky to have so many supportive teachers and hard working students who help to bring this show together, pinning up, displaying and labelling work, picking beautiful bunches of flowers for ceramic vases from the Living Skills garden, cooking up and serving a gourmet storm of hors d'oeuvres with Mrs K as part of the catering team and then packing it all up! It was wonderful to see so many students and families attend the exhibition, to catch up and say hello and to reflect on and appreciate the creative journeys our students have taken this year.

Rossbourne students should be very pleased with the innovative and imaginative work they have planned, created and shared in Design Technology this year.

Vicki Bradley
Design Technology Teacher

LIVING SKILLS

Sustainability has become a key component of the Living Skills programs, with a particular focus on waste reduction and biodiversity. Students in all programs are involved in creating compost from fruit scraps collected in the yard. Now that our compost systems are well established and working effectively, students can see the quick turnover from whole banana peels to rich, earthy soil that we use in our vegetable gardens to improve soil structure. The occasional piece of plastic found in our compost serves as an excellent reminder that it is a non-compostable material that worms cannot break down. Thank you to all students who remember to put their food scraps into the correct bins at break times and a big thank you to all the Year 7/8 students who are regularly involved in collecting and sorting the green waste, paper, and other recyclable items. You deserve to feel proud of the positive actions you are making for the environment by diverting waste away from landfill and thereby reducing greenhouse gases. Thank you and congratulations to Year 12 students Ethan and Harrison who have been working under the guidance of Alex Preuss to build new compost bays from recycled timber. This system will enable us to further reduce the school's waste as more green material will be composted.

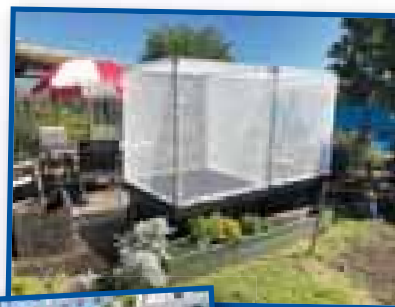
The gardens around the Vivian Grove property have benefitted from the regular addition of the home-made compost and are subsequently thriving. The native garden beds planted last year are now well established and we have enjoyed spotting native species of skinks and birds. Students have particularly enjoyed finding grubs to feed to our friendly magpie visitors.

Growing fruit, vegetables and herbs continues to be a key aspect of the Living Skills elective classes. Students take pride in harvesting produce to be used in Food Technology classes and the canteen. Students develop a closer connection to the food they eat, where it comes from, and in which season it grows. Our raised garden beds have recently been updated, and we are hoping for increased productivity as a result of the built-in wicking bed and netting. Thank you to the Year 9/10 elective group who put these Food cubes together. We are already enjoying seeing the corn and tomatoes grow and look forward to planting and harvesting more summer vegetables.

Thank you to all the Living Skills elective students who have worked enthusiastically throughout the year on various projects and in all sorts of weather. As a result of their mowing, weeding, mulching, digging, pruning, and watering, the lawns and gardens are healthy and looking terrific. A big thank you also to all the Year 7/8 students who throughout the year have washed, dried and ironed tea towels and aprons for the Food Tech classes. Each week they have completed a wide range of chores around the Living Skills house, developing their skills while also keeping the house nice and clean. The increased confidence and independence of the students doing these chores is very impressive.

Thank you to all Living Skills students for the enthusiasm and positive attitude you have brought to class each week. The contributions you have made in 2023 are fantastic and you deserve to be very proud of your efforts. I wish everyone a safe and happy summer break.

Catherine Turner
Living Skills Teacher



ICT & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

“Digital Technologies.... offer children the opportunity to become innovative creators of digital solutions, effective users of digital systems and critical consumers of information conveyed by digital systems.”

(Source: Australian Curriculum)

The 2023 Digital Technology and ICT sessions provided frameworks and experiences for the development of transformative computing skills and dispositions. Developing the necessary tools for 21st Century learning, Cyber safety and Digital Citizenship unpinning all activities in the Mac lab.

The **Coding** electives this year were a great success. Students investigated how game mechanics and challenges are coded in games. They thoroughly enjoyed creating and remixing blocks and text using the Code.org and Scratch coding platforms. They completed challenges both as players and as game developers. Sessions allowed for individual and collaborative activities and were structured to foster creativity. Students reflected on the problem-solving and computational thinking strategies they used and how these can be applied in life.

Online libraries of 3D animations this year provided the backdrop where students created vibrant animated scenes. They enjoyed editing the size, speed and colour parameters of the Java script code. All who attended this year’s Art, Design Technology and ICT exhibition were engaged with the short videos. The creative way students combined screen capture, Green Screen technologies, voice overs and animation were evident.

This year, students also extended and developed expertise in creating and completing **digital scavenger hunts and presentations** about the school camps to Queenscliff and Philip Island. They integrated keynotes, audio and video files into iMovie for further editing. File compatibility issues as well as the management of digital media were addressed back in the Mac lab. The integration of tools and processes on the desktop was evident in the interactive, engaging and professional digital products and learning experiences that students created.

In the **3D Design and Print Studio** students reviewed the print cycle of the Makerbot 3D printers. They developed independence in applying design tools in Tinkercad and Thingiverse. They utilized hard-copy manuals, online tutorials, and peer expertise to produce key tags and investigate padlocks for the student lockers. Tasks presented as job requests were completed within the required time frames. The school’s catering team proudly wore their 3D printed name tags when serving visitors at the recent exhibition. These ‘learning studio’ sessions encouraged sharing and collaboration as well as planning and personal organisation. This provided the foundation for creative expression, the world of work and life-long learning.



In the **Gaming** Electives, students experimented with Artflow and Ideogram. They enjoyed creating characters and scenes for their coded games. They edited keyword combinations to achieve the desired results, recognizing that these AI systems were only as accurate as the sentence structures they inputted. Students also realized that the composite images generated were only as effective as the image datasets that the AI accessed!

The **Chat Bots** course provided a relevant and authentic experience of creating code that simulates human conversation. Students completed challenges and worked towards building skills and independence in entering commands and testing code in the Python programming environment. They enjoyed creating and experimenting with the data sets of responses for the chat bot. This provided insight into the benefits and dangers when communicating personally and professionally online.

The **Mac Club** at lunch time continued to be well attended this year. These less structured settings three times a week provided opportunities to explore and share areas of interest with others and the teacher. Respectful behaviours were encouraged in real and virtual worlds. Students also took the opportunity to complete homework tasks and check how their 3D prints were progressing.

Looking forward to the ever-evolving Digital Technologies landscape, the continuing aim is to provide rich and relevant digital experiences. This empowers and equips our students to address future challenges and opportunities.

Carol Drossos
ICT & Digital Technologies Teacher

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

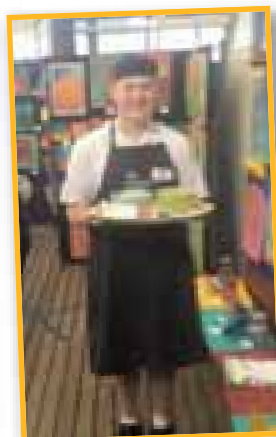
What a busy and productive year we have had again in Food Technology classes.

It is encouraging to have such enthusiastic and conscientious students always asking about tasks scheduled for the following week. A focus on healthy foods and balanced diet has been taught across all classes. An emphasis on safety and being aware of common hazards in the kitchen has encouraged our 'kitchen detectives' to hunt out any potential issues!

Year 7/8 students have completed the Herbs and Spices Unit in Term 4. We have had the privilege of being able to utilise fresh herbs and vegetables from the Living Skills garden in particular fresh parsley, thyme, silverbeet, cauliflowers and lemons. Students have prepared and cooked scones, pizza - making their own yeasted dough, sausage rolls and pasta.

Our Year 11/12 elective classes have allowed students to revise their food handling skills, explore new recipes and foods and to learn important nutritional information including deciphering food labels. Recipes prepared and cooked have included Spanish Cous Cous, Albondigas, three pea risotto, apple sponge, butter chicken and homemade pita bread.

Students from our elective Food Technology classes across the year levels made up our Hospitality team. They prepared, cooked, presented, and served canapes for the Art, Design & Technology and ICT exhibition in early November. Among the selection of canapes were Peking Duck rice paper rolls, Spanakopita Triangles, Isaac's famous vegetarian spring rolls, Corn Cakes, Tapenade Crostini, Salmon Bruschetta, Turkey Albondigas and Roast Pumpkin and Semi Dried Tomato Tartlets. To say the team did an amazing job was an understatement. They thoroughly enjoyed a 'taste of hospitality' and I'm sure some will be considering a career in hospitality post Rossbourne.



Year 9/10 elective classes continue to amaze me with almost 100% attendance across Semester 2. The students were so enthusiastic with many striving to improve their knife handling skills. Feast Around the World and the Farm to Fork units were very popular and it was so good to see the students attempting complex processes like making meringues, emulsion sauces and dissecting a whole chicken, with a great deal of success.

I hope all students and their families enjoy a safe and relaxing summer holiday and a chance to share some fun cooking experiences together.

Jennifer Kilner
Food Technology



LIBRARY

As the end of Term 4 and the year draw ever closer, the Library continues to be a hive of activity. As always there are a committed group of students who visit the Library in the mornings to watch the news on Sunrise. Students are playing games of Uno, chess, board games, building things, drawing, coloring, doing jigsaws, reading, or quietly chatting with each other. All these activities continue at lunchtime, but the biggest attraction is still the DVD being played on the television. Students continually make suggestions for new books and DVD purchases throughout the year and eagerly await their arrival.

Years 7 to 10 continue to have weekly Multimedia Resource sessions where they continue to develop their research skills around a variety of topics. There is always plenty of discussion and learning to share thoughts, ideas, and opinions, and learning to respect others who have different opinions and ideas. It is a valuable life lesson much practiced in this space.

Students also learn about how to research information by asking a few simple questions - What do I already know about the topic? What do I need to learn about this topic and How to ask a lead question that will enable me to find out this information?

Students' engagement and curiosity to find out more always inspires me.

The Library space is being utilized more each year, with individual classes and year groups coming up to work and meet and to use the different resources, when the Library is not being used for direct teaching.

I wish all our students a happy and joyful festive season and a wonderful holiday and look forward to their return in 2024, and to our school graduates much happiness and success in all their future endeavors.

Helen Holdsworth
Resource/Library Teacher



PERFORMING ARTS

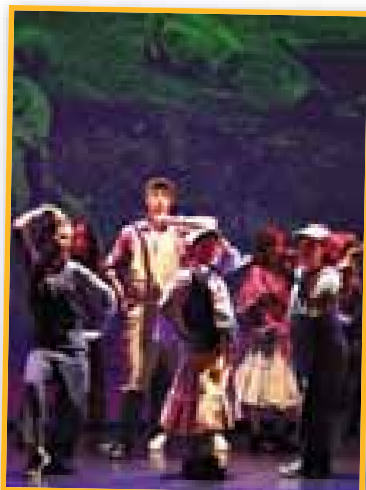
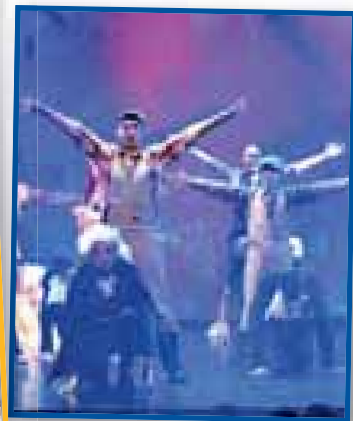
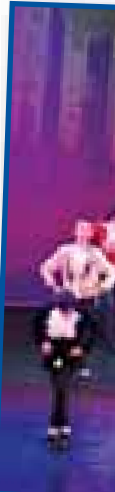
Wakakirri 2023

The Rossbourne Wakakirri crew, including performers, backstage support crew and some very supportive teachers, did a superb job and deserve to be extremely proud. The magical performance 'Rocking Revolutions' received special mention from the Wakakirri Festival for costumes, lighting & visuals and teamwork. Amy Walker, Michael Chan & Mimi Varasdi received recognition for their public speaking skills, particularly the authenticity and warmth with which they spoke when interviewed in front of the whole audience. Mr Kamsner noted that our students were wonderful ambassadors for our school.



The significance of storytelling and dance in nurturing creativity and self-expression certainly ignited a spark among our students and Rossbourne's 'Rocking Revolutions' won a Wakakirri State Award and was chosen as one of six finalists from Secondary Schools across Victoria to perform in the State Awards Night on Friday 1st September. This is a wonderful recognition of the commitment, perseverance and creativity from our Wakakirri team... Chookas to you all!

Catherine Turner and Vicki Bradley
Photos by Winki Pop Media



ROSSBOURNE CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION 2023



The 2023 Creative Writing Competition reached out to all students across all levels with interesting, eye-catching picture prompts which could be the beginning of a great story. Dominant themes this year were: mystery, spooky, suspense, global connectedness, drama and action, enchantment, adventure, thrill, humans and animals, friends, togetherness and shared experience. Students found much to write about. There was the wicked auntie who keeps her niece imprisoned in an attic, until the girl plots a crafty plan to take out the security systems and escape to a better future. There was the mysterious Vietnamese woman who was forced to flee from her village and go to a new life. And who could forget the strange case of the levitating meat pie that was made from, wait for it, the gizzards of several murder victims ...

A good story takes a good idea, effort, some drive, some love, a bit of fun, and sticking at it until it's as good as you can get it. Even then, you might get help by asking others to read it. Rossbourne students know how to put their heart into something and take pride in their work. Thank you to all students who took on the challenge and submitted wonderful work.

Prize winners each received a Readings Voucher or a Certificate of Merit.

Year 7/8

1 Kayla Smith.

Year 9/10

1 Matthew Power
2 Isaac Huang
3 Geordie Barnes and Zayd Ali

Special mentions

Josh Manders and Aaron Pesutto

Year 11/12

1 James Dorrington.
2 Kate Skinner and Amelia Burke
3 Mimi Varasdi



Paul Brown

Specialist Resource Teacher

FRIDAY SNOOKER

The Masters Billiards in St Kilda has played host to Rossbourne's Friday Snooker activity for many years, and 2023 has been no exception. We are fortunate that our host, Manager Aziz Ismail, is very supportive of our school and our students, and so he opens the premises exclusively for us at a time of day when the business is normally closed.

All players of any level of experience, or none at all are welcome. This year we welcomed new players from amongst the younger students, such as Liam Barry, Hina James, Tessa Hochauer, Grace Armour and Kayla Smith, along with regular participants (and mad keen players) such as Oliver McDonald, Elliot Hall and Daniel Hitchcock. One of the delights of running this activity has been the opportunity to coach new and inexperienced players, and this is now most ably assisted with the addition of Andrew Lusted to the team. Over the course of a school term the gains made are often quite striking, and it's a pleasure to see the smiles appear when a young person finds that they can learn a new game and new skills, and a sport or recreational activity that is so enjoyable and popular. The more experienced players are always champing at the bit to get in and play, and some friendly rivalries have been known to develop.

Snooker program teaches and practices the game of Pool along with Snooker itself. Pool, also known as 8-Ball, is played on a small table and is often a good way to learn for new and young players. It is a very popular game and, once learned, can be enjoyed anytime wherever there is a Pool table, and can indeed be played just about anywhere in the world. As the school term progresses and the students get the basics under control, they are then introduced to the game of Snooker, which adds another level to their experience of cue sports. Snooker is a scoring game which is played on a large, full-size table. It is a more difficult game, if only for the reason that on the big table, the pockets can seem to be a very long way away indeed! Both Pool and Snooker are played at the highest international levels, and each have their own world championships.

For some novices, the Friday Snooker program can be their introduction to a game they will continue to play throughout their lives. For others, it is the challenge of striving to improve and be very competitive in what is, at its core, a demanding game. For all, it can be the perfect way to relax and have fun in a friendly, social atmosphere.

Paul Brown
Specialist Resource Teacher

Masters Billiards is at 150 Barkly Street St Kilda and is open from 5pm 7 days a week. It is licensed premises: persons under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.





THE GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM 2023

In 2023, Rossbourne took a big leap forward in the development and support of our students towards thinking and acting globally. Following the 2022 success of the 7-strong Global Youth Forum, we were invited this year to select suitable students to represent Rossbourne School in The Global Citizenship Student Ambassador Program. This Going Global program is a partnership between the Department of Education and Meg Languages, with the latter seeking 'to create global citizens through language and intercultural experiences.'

The program runs over the whole school year and requires a high level of commitment. Year 11 student Amy Walker and Year 10's Nick Hasslinger came forward to take these roles, and they have both proved outstanding in their dedication and commitment to being Rossbourne's two Student Ambassadors in 2023.

Meetings took place three times each term via a conference call, hosted by Lottie Downer, Convener, and attended by a range of other schools including Wheelers Hill, Yeronga, Mount Evelyn, Werribee, Edithvale, Hamilton and Alexandra College. Participants regularly formed smaller 'breakout rooms' to discuss the local issues which they had identified, and the progress of their specific projects. Amy and Nick always sought to understand more about the perspectives and ideas of others, communicated respectfully with other students from diverse cultural backgrounds, and learned how to take action and become 'change-makers.'

Neurodiversity – the virtually infinite variation in humans and their unique combination of abilities and needs – became the focus of Nick and Amy's work. They identified that their project should focus on promoting a better understanding and acceptance of neurodiversity within our school, and they linked this to several of the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities.

Crucial work was done. Our Ambassadors prepared a talk and delivered a classroom poster of the SDGs to all the home rooms, to encourage conversations within those classes. They also displayed full size posters in several prominent areas of the school. Amy and Nick then embarked on outstanding work by creating a high-quality original website on their topic, which is planned to be linked to the school website, social media account, and to Meg Languages. The work culminated in a final presentation to schools. As well as the website, they prepared and used a Power Point presentation to effectively explain their topic, their action plan, and the importance of it. It was very well received at the conference, and all were most impressed by their professionalism.

The Global Citizenship Student Ambassador Program is student-led, encourages inclusive leadership and mature problem-solving, fosters a strong sense of purpose and commitment, and recognises that today's students are tomorrow's leaders. As Nick himself has said, 'Taking a step is the first thing towards making the world a better place.'

Paul Brown
Specialist Resource Teacher

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Interschool Sport

Cross Country

This year's cross-country team showed great determination and commitment to train early on Wednesday mornings regardless of the weather conditions. Grace Armour, Matt Anticaglia, Cameron Weber, Noah Gibney, Alex Kokoris and Laurie Tod entered the Interschool Cross Country event, and they performed admirably on the day with Laurie Tod, Matt Anticaglia and Ryder Tremewen advancing to the State Cross Country.

The three boys did their very best once again out at the Yarra Valley Racecourse location which resulted in Laurie Tod advancing through to the National Cross-Country Championship in Canberra. Here Laurie pitted himself against a strong field of runners from across Australia and came away with an admirable 7th place in his group of athletes.

Athletics

A strong team of athletes were selected from their performances at the school carnival to compete at the Interschool Athletics event at Ringwood Athletics. Each student entered several track and field events for the day. It was clear from the very beginning that the group were excited to perform their best and demonstrate some outstanding performances.

Interschool Basketball

In Term 1 Rossbourne was able to form some strong teams to compete in the Interschool Basketball competition at Dandenong Basketball Centre. Our A-Grade team had a great season with commanding wins through the season which resulted in them being the runners-up on Carnival Day only just being beaten by Emerson. Jake Brown, Jett Bennett and Oli Carlin were the standout players for the season. Rossbourne also had some strong performances from the Girls team throughout the season with great displays of sportsmanship from Amy Walker, Ariel Liu and Lexi Vitalos. B-Grade and C-Grade were able to develop some great teamwork skills through the season and only just missed out on making their respective finals games on carnival day. With another impressive basketball season, we are lining up for a successful 2024.

Interschool Soccer

Soccer has been another popular sport on the Rossbourne Interschool radar and this year has proved to be another successful season. With our A-Grade team proving top favourites through the weekly rounds the Carnival Day victory was without a doubt within our grasp for a second year running. The team played admirably through the day and faced the strong



Emerson team. With superb goal keeping by Matthew Cook, spectacular goals from Chris Kastoras and Zayd and a stella performance from Jake Brown, Rossbourne A Grade brought home the trophy for a second year running.

Our Teams in B-Grade, C-Grade and the Girls competitions played some great games through the weekly rounds but unfortunately were unable to overcome the tough competition on Carnival Day.

Netball and Football

Our Netball teams this year again proved to be extremely strong and throughout the season demonstrated great teamwork. Both teams were guided by the strong leadership of Tania Hume, Jenna Mason and Hamish Dalton. On Carnival Day the students were excited to pit themselves against the other schools and aim high for the Grand Final. The games were hard fought and saw our A Grade team make it through to the big game. With some outstanding performances from Geordie Barnes, Tilly Zegir, Laura Sutherland and Laurie Tod the side were able to out muscle the opposition for a win to become premiers. Our B Grade team were also fantastic and continued to build on their skill development and sportsmanship with ambitions set for a 2024 Grand Final.



Cricket and Softball

This year the Rossbourne Cricket and Softball teams found themselves facing some tough competition. As the carnival round came around both teams put up valiant fights and they were able to make their way into the top two positions and came Runners Up in their respective competitions. With plenty to learn from I have a feeling that our Cricket and Softball teams will be ready and raring to seek the top spot in 2024.



Rossbourne Athletics Carnival

With the weather threatening to put a dampener on the day, the outstanding students in attendance at this year's Athletics Carnival were ready to create a fantastic day of top-level participation and competition. With Tim Francis stepping up to the mic and starting the day's proceedings, it was straight into 100m sprints which proved to be a popular event. Throughout the day it was great to see the support from the Rossbourne staff contributing to the smooth organisation and running of the events. It was also inspiring to see many students stepping up to participate in events they had not originally signed up for and show support for the peers trying their best. It was a jam-packed day which saw high levels of participation and effort by students and staff alike.

Rossbourne Swimming Carnival

The Swimming Carnival was again blessed with gorgeous weather along with amazing performances from both students and staff. It was wonderful to see so many Years 7 & 8 students demonstrating a high level of participation across the swimming events and supporting one-another. There was also a strong standard of swimming from the Year 9, 10 and Senior students. Commentary from Tim Francis and James Gardner kept onlookers entertained. After returning to school for the ribbon ceremony, students were treated to a well-earned ice block gifted by the Rossbourne Parents Association. Thank you again to everyone for making the Swimming Carnival a huge success and valued event on the Rossbourne calendar.

Sporting Achievements

Snow sports

This year a select group of students travelled up to the Annual Interschool Snow Sports Competitions to pit themselves against the elements and competitors from across Victoria. Ed Fry, Angelina Lim, Ryder Tremewen, Sophia Brough and Alex McGovern all gave outstanding performances:





Division 3

Sophia - 2nd place

Angelina - 3rd place

The girls also won a gold medal as they were entered as a team.

Division 3

Ryder - 2nd place

Division 1

Alexandra - 3rd place

Division 1

Edward - 1st place

Ryan Teasel

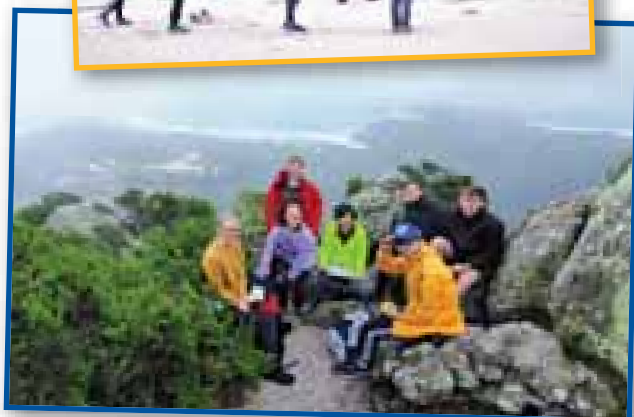
Physical Education/Outdoor Education Teacher



OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Year 9/10 Mornington Peninsula

This semester saw the Year 9/10 Outdoor Education student group head down to the Mornington Peninsula to camp at Shoreham Foreshore Reserve and participate in some adventure activities. The students had prepared throughout the semester learning to set up tents, safely use cooking equipment and work as a team. Facing some blustery weather conditions, the students proved that they were well prepared and ready to step out of their comfort zone and embrace the challenge of camping with winter on the doorstep. We were treated with campfires at night, sunny yet windy days and delicious food throughout the three days. Everyone enjoyed the surfing session on the first day, with the swell developing into some fun waves as the session went on. The Tree-top surfing was another huge success with the students enjoying the high-elevation challenges and tubing afterwards.



Senior Wilsons Prom Hiking

With another late Autumn camping trip scheduled for the Prom it was destined to be a wet and windy affair, the weather did not disappoint. Driving into the iconic Victorian location the students were amazed at the raw beauty of the coastline meeting the mountains and bush. It was clear from the start that this trip was going to be one to challenge the students' comfort zones and create some lifelong memories. The wind was relentless, and the birds were pestering but we stayed positive. The rain was just a sporadic spray and the clouds whizzed past us while we climbed Mount Bishop but we persisted and caught some amazing views once at the peak. The BBQ dinner was magnificent to taste after a hard day's hiking and Uno was a staple game back at the campsite before tucking up in our warm sleeping bags for a night of slumber, but not before we had a wombat visitor waddle through amongst the tents. On our way home we stopped off to view the Big Drift, a collection of sand dunes with stunning views across the South Gippsland coastline.





Senior Glenelg River Canoe Camp

With some serious planning and preparation throughout the semester all the students were excited on the morning of the Senior Outdoor Education Canoe camp to get on the long road trip down to the Glenelg National Park. The drive down saw the group pass through gorgeous bush and farmland across western Victoria and eventually arrive at Pritchards Campground on the banks of the Glenelg River. A sense of peace and calm immediately enveloped the group with the peace and quiet only interrupted by bird song. The group quickly got to work setting up the first of three campsites and then moved onto helping with dinner preparations. Cooking on an open fire is a unique and wonderful experience, one that embodies the true essence of camping and similar to that of a family kitchen when people are drawn together for conversation and connection. The next few days saw more of this feeling and much more.

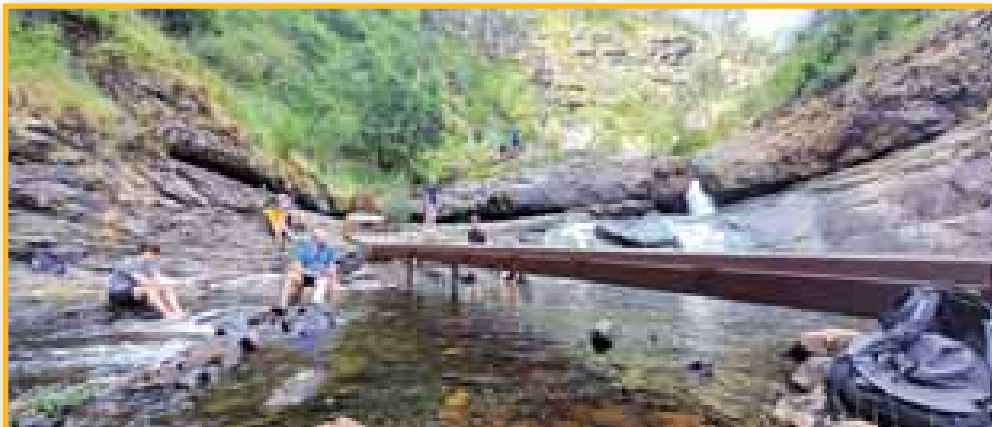
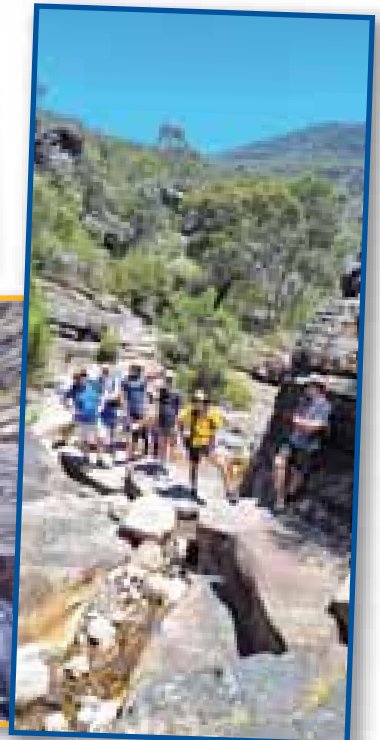
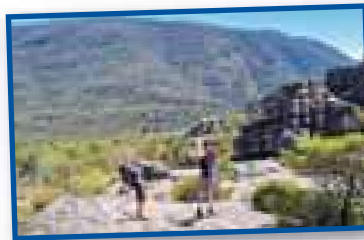
The group took to the water the next morning like a duck to water. Each canoe pair began their development of communication and teamwork that would see them learn to control and guide their canoe along the windy Glenelg River. We were blessed with calm winds and gentle temperatures over the next few days offering the group many opportunities to quietly watch the beautiful landscape as they passed by.

The students demonstrated a high level of cooperation and support towards each other along the journey with the likes of Ariel Liu, Callum Barrett, Amy Walker and Matt Anticaglia consistently offering their services around the campsite to complete group tasks. The camp was a complete success and could not have run without the support of Tim Francis and Jennifer Kilner. This trip will no doubt go ahead in years to come.

Year 9/10 Grampians National Park Camp

Another iconic outdoor location and what a wonderful place it was. With temperatures stable around the late teens the group were ready for exploring the wonders of Wonderland.

Ryan Teasel
Physical Education/Outdoor Education Teacher



YEAR 7/8 REPORT

First of all, we would like to take this opportunity to thank each 7/8 student and their family for their ongoing support of the 7/8 program but more importantly the willingness to have faith and trust in what we do here at Rossbourne. It is a partnership, and we value it.

Educating is like planting a beautiful and sustainable garden, and so this year we all sowed a diverse plant in the 7/8 community! We all nurtured the soil and provided the best growing conditions!

Rossbourne students come from diverse backgrounds, different life experiences, learning experiences and have different goals. Our job collectively is to understand each individuals' strengths, celebrate their uniqueness so that we can create an environment which will give them the range of skills to adapt and thrive, just like planting a community garden.

What contribution did you make to the 7/8 community garden this year?

Was it your job to water the plants each morning or night? Or how about feeding your plant? Was it your task to lightly prune the plant back for more growth to occur? Maybe you had to prune fortnightly? You were the one to sweep up after the gardening session? You bought the best fertiliser on a recommendation, and it worked? You ask a neighbour for help? Was it your idea to swap plants around, so that both had equal amounts of light? Did you plant a strong hedge or put in strong supports to keep the garden contained? What was your complementary crop? Tomatoes and basil I hear work well! What protection did you use to screen the garden to ensure that wild weather didn't adversely effect? Whatever you did, small or large it was worth it.



All members of our 7/8 community planted seeds throughout 2023. We now have the privilege of watching them continue to grow, develop and mature.

Our community garden began with establishing the protocols and procedures for how this garden was going to *become one of a kind*. We were laying the foundations.

When gardening, you might occasionally encounter a weed or prickle, but with the right support and care, these obstacles are removed so you can continue in your garden.

Some of those early obstacles might have been remembering a locker combination, adjusting to high school, getting to classes, presenting homework to peers, playing sport, taking public transport, adjusting to the ICT, and meeting new people. All these experiences have encouraged growth in our community garden.



Year 7/8A

Teacher James O'Sullivan

Back Row L-R

Jack Carmody, Xavier Duffy, Anna Thompson, Thomas Price, Angus Trevaskis

Front Row L-R

Toby Wallace, Grace Armour, Ella Broadbent, Ann Wissell, Tessa Hochauer, Guy Atkinson



Year 7/8B

Teacher Jennifer Murray

Back Row L-R

Yianni Dokolas, Samuel Smith, Tilly Zegir, Cormac Skinner, Justin Leong, Harvey Brown

Front Row L-R

Oliver Schachna, Zoi Capogreco, Anabel White, Emily Karpin, Grace Healy, Zachary Herft



Once the garden was established it was time to focus on growth. The continuous growth meant changing, improving, adapting, being flexible and having an open mind to new challenges.

Growth stretches and changes shape. We grow and we change.

We grew with courage and conviction.

Our community gardens and gardeners grew their self management, self discipline, self regulation, self confidence and grew to become the best version of themselves. This reminds us that the growth that has taken place over 2023 has created a strong and resilient garden and demonstrates that when a group of diverse plants grows together, it attracts other beneficial creatures who work in harmony for the betterment of all.



Year 7/8C

Teacher Tim Francis

Back Row L-R

Ansh Bahukhandi, Jack McManus, Jack Lucci, Ryder Tremewen, Atticus Elliott, William Quick

Front Row L-R

Cameron Weber, Kayla Smith, Angelina Lim, Cara Twelftree, Sophia Brough, Oscar Burnet



Year 7/8D

Teacher Jess Mulquiney

Back Row L-R

Paul Konstantinou, Nathan Yovannidis, Alexandra McGovern, James Ray, Dimitrios Haritos Ned Snelling

Front Row L-R

Leighton Williamson, Eloise Valentini, Grace Monfries, Sophie Warren, Nivi Werner, Andrew Vermiglio

As we come to the end of the 2023, we reflect upon the strong roots that have been created.

As a Rossbourne community, continue to share the bountiful harvest that is grown. Think about what seeds you can plant from your 2023 garden into your 2024 community garden.

We will leave you with this quote by Costa Georgiadis

"In gardens it's not just plants and insects and microbes that grow. People grow too, and the best bit is that they don't realise it's happening. It just happens."

Jennifer Murray – Year 7/8

Year 7/8 School Section Leader

James O'Sullivan, Tim Francis and Janice

Year 7/8 Team

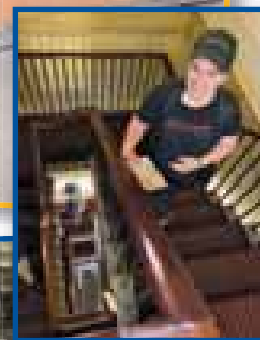


YEAR 9/10 REPORT

As the year draws to a close, I can confidently say that the students in our section have participated in an extraordinarily varied range of learning experiences both in and out of the classroom. Enabling our students to be active participants in their education by co-creating positive learning experiences is what we do best. The resultant improvements, not only in academic learning and functional language, but in socialisation, adaptive skills and communication are highly valued by both students and their families.

One of our key curriculum drivers is providing learning that optimises all students' capacity to be contributing citizens of society now and in the future. Do we equip our students with skills to allow them to participate meaningfully in the community? Are we effectively embedding and implementing strategies that improve socialisation, adaptive and communication skills in every aspect of the curriculum? Are we developing competencies to give our students the best chance of success in future study and careers? These are questions we return to at the completion of every unit we offer in the 9/10 Section. In supporting this vision, our focus includes critical and creative thinking and genuine intercultural understanding and skills. Clearly, students must be capable in numeracy, literacy and ICT but these capabilities are explicitly developed in tandem with future-ready skills and competencies.

Our City Seekers semester-long program is in full swing. Last week one lucky group chanced upon a



Year 9E

Teacher Andrew Lusted

Back Row L-R

Aaron Pesutto, Geordie Barnes, Jack Burggraaff, Joshua Manders, Matthew Power, Oliver Carlin

Front Row L-R

Millie Flegeltaub, Orlando Floyd, Cooper Fairbank, Charlie Scoleri, Charlotte Desmier, Hina James



Year 9H

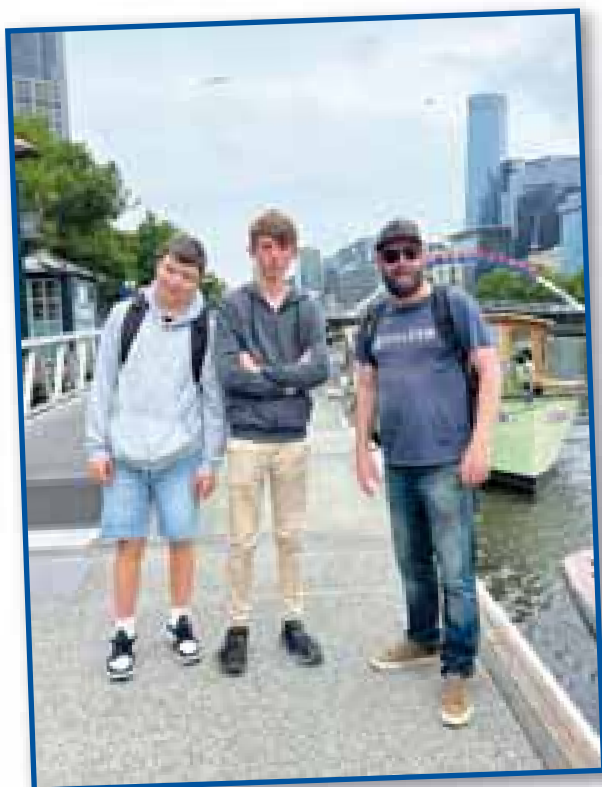
Teacher Marion Branchflower

Back Row L-R

Liam Barry, Asher Radcliffe, Laurence Tod, Jack Canning, Adrian Rivas, Rose Albietz

Front Row L-R

John Lorenz, Daniel Hitchcock, Edie Robinson-Hauge, Helen Lew, Sam Kenny, Lincoln Lim



member of the Belgian Royal family arriving at the Melbourne Town Hall for trade talks. This provided effective leverage to talk about The City of Melbourne, the Lord Mayor and her role in promoting not only Melbourne and Victoria as a business destination but advocating for residents generally. Students have enjoyed learning about the CBD, the Hoddle Grid, and how to navigate and problem-solve in the city generally. The program culminates with an overnight stay in the city, as well as two days visiting prominent Melbourne landmarks and institutions. Each year we alter aspects of this program, but we never move too far from our imperative to teach real-life problem-solving and navigation, and hope that by the end of the semester most students can comfortably find their way around the CBD and know how to access free social experiences.

The two-day City Seekers camp in late November was successful, and highlights included a behind-the-scenes tour of The Melbourne Town Hall, a tour of The Treasury Building and a ride on the only remaining steamboat operating on The Yarra River. Built in 1924, the Grower boat trip gave students an opportunity to see their home city from a different perspective and to relax after their two-hour long navigation competition in the morning.

We welcomed two new homeroom teachers to our section this year; James Gardner and Marion Branchflower. Both have been dedicated and inspiring teachers and provided exceptional pastoral care in their homerooms. James and Jessica welcomed Theo to their family earlier in the year and his students have relished weekly updates on Theo's growth and development.

Andrew Lusted has organised an excellent range of excursions for our Year 9 students, all linked to current academic units in Humanities and English. A unit on the Indigenous history of Melbourne included a local



Year 10F

Teachers Marina Slifirski / Sarah Flanigan

Back Row L-R

Nicholas Hasslinger, Archie Snelling, Rory Leys, Andre Lowe, Fletcher Payne

Front Row L-R

Ben Hewlett, Lani Kurc, Meg Matthews, Oliver McDonald, Laura Sutherland, Lexi Vitalos, Isaac Huang



Year 10G

Teacher James Gardner

Back Row L-R

Andre Anjoul, Hugo Sierakowski, David Hill, Brendan Wheeler, Zayd Aly, Elliot Hall

Front Row L-R

Zachary Belleli, Charlotte Cummins, Marcus Norman, Amelie Briglia, Vinuki Wijeratne, Amelia Lester-Bryant



walking tour along the Yarra River, led by an Aboriginal Elder. He spoke to our learners about how and where First Nations people lived in Hawthorn before white settlement, which led to a broader discussion about the impact of the Gold Rush. The Marvellous Melbourne Unit then examined how the discovery of gold led to the construction of many of our most significant Victorian landmarks and changed the landscape of Melbourne irrevocably. Our students were privileged to enjoy a guided tour of the Museum and the Exhibition Building, including the newly refurbished dome and basement at the Exhibition Building in Carlton. The dome is modelled on the Duomo in Florence and worth a visit.

As you are all aware, our care for our students informs all that we do at Rossbourne School. They are our reason for coming to work each day and while we are teachers, we all learn so much from them too. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a relaxing break this summer. A reminder that our annual 9/10 Section Surf Camp is a week earlier next year, please pop Tuesday 27th Feb - 1st March in your diaries.

Marina Slifirski
Year 9/10 School Section Leader

**Andrew Lusted, Marion Branchflower,
James Gardner**
Year 9/10 Team



SENIOR SCHOOL REPORT

As we reflect on the events that unfolded in the Senior School throughout the year 2023, it's evident that it was a year brimming with activity and progress. The commencement of Term 1 witnessed palpable energy among our students, with a notable majority enrolling in TAFE courses, recognising the pragmatic significance of acquiring practical skills essential for independent living. Unit 1 in Literacy, Numeracy, Work Related, and Personal Development Skills of the Victorian Pathways Certificate laid the groundwork for an academically enriching journey.

Our commitment to community engagement shone through in the 'Community Skills' and 'Living for the Future' Core Units, providing invaluable opportunities for students to explore local services and gain firsthand insights into community resources. This term served as a sturdy foundation for the focused learning that characterised the rest of the academic year.

Term 2 continued the momentum with students continuing their TAFE and VET programs, while many also ventured into work experiences, testing the waters for potential future job opportunities. The METEC's Drivers Education program notably equipped students with essential driving skills, fostering a sense of confidence and independence.

The initiation of our Early Morning Fitness Program underscored our holistic approach, emphasizing not just physical well-being but also the importance of professional standards such as punctuality. Our ties with the community remained robust, marked by visits to the Lido cinema for the film 'In My Blood It Runs' and whole school excursions to IKEA and Box Hill TAFE, expanding the students' perspectives beyond the classroom.

Term 3 placed a spotlight on educational exploration, offering students glimpses into diverse vocational paths through TAFE taster days and a visit to the Careers' Expo. Initiatives like "It's the Little Things Community" and our ongoing partnership with Jigsaw further solidified our ties with the community, fostering practical skill development and a sense of shared purpose.

Term 4 culminated in the much-anticipated biannual camp at Howmans Gap, where students immersed themselves in outdoor activities, fostering teamwork and resilience. Completion of TAFE courses marked a significant achievement, celebrated during the heartfelt farewell to graduating students at the graduation ceremony, evoking feelings of nostalgia and pride.

Each student and staff member contributed significantly to the fabric of 2023, and their efforts deserve acknowledgment and commendation. To our graduating students, we extend our heartfelt wishes for success in their future endeavors, eagerly



anticipating updates about their journeys. For our returning students, as the year ends, we hope you find rejuvenation during the holiday break, to prepare you for an exciting final year in 2024.

Hamish Dalton

Senior School Section Leader

Tania Hume and Jenna Mason

Senior School Team



Year 11/12 J

Teacher Tania Hume

Back Row L-R

Toby Langford, Jake Brown, Ben deBroughe, Gus Osborne, Harrison Handreck, William Masom

Front Row L-R

Ella Vincent, James Dorrington, Amy Walker, Alex Spencer, Amelia Burke, Ariel Liu



Year 11/12 I

Teacher Hamish Dalton

Students:

Back Row L-R

Noah Gibney, Jett Bennett, Tom Traficante, Ethan Fleming,
Matthew Anticaglia, Cassius Wilson

Front Row L-R

Eleni Murphy-Mousikidis, Antonio Hatziladas, Lyndall Peachman,
Lachlan Bailey, Kate Skinner, Harvey Dionisio, Tobi Sweetland

Year 11/12 K

Teacher Alastair Witts

Students:

Back Row L-R

Callum Long, Elliott Duncan, Callum Barrett, Matthew Cook,
Hamish Lett, Christian Angelopoulos, Ed Fry

Front Row L-R

Olivia Crossland, Michael Chan, Grace MacGregor, Hugo Lyall,
Lena Kromidellis, Alexander Kokoris, Mimi Varasdi

SENIOR PATHWAYS

Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC)

We are pleased that we have been able to offer the full complement of programs this year with no interruptions due to Covid. Students in Senior School have a variety of curriculum options to further extend their learning. These options complement the weekly curriculum and allow for individual programming, extension and learning to take place. All students in the Senior School are enrolled in the Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC) which was introduced for the first time this year. The VPC consists of four distinct curriculum areas namely Literacy, Numeracy, Work Related Skills, and Personal Development, and is taught in an applied learning approach.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses

These courses are optional and are skill specific programs, often taught in a TAFE or private setting, or in another school. It has been very pleasing that twenty-three students have taken up the challenge of a VET program in 2023. Six students studied VET in a supported setting for students with learning challenges, while seventeen have ventured back into the mainstream environment to challenge their learning. Subject choices included:

- Automotive
- Animal Studies
- Sport and Recreation
- Early Childhood Education
- Allied Health services
- Hospitality
- Horticulture
- Screen and Media
- Outdoor Education
- Carpentry
- Game Art
- Warehousing and Community Services.

Undertaking a VET program is an individual decision. The cost of these courses is quite high for parents and the move back into formal mainstream education can be a very difficult one to make. Decisions are always made in consultation with the school, student, and parents. As we do not use Teacher Aides at Rossbourne, students require the planning and social skills to navigate these courses on their own. A weekly class is available to support students with their class work.

Work Education

Work Education is becoming increasingly important in acquainting the students with the world of work. Weekly sessions are conducted to increase their knowledge of workforce expectations, appropriate workplace language,

and the options available. Within these classes, students set future goals, participate in mock interviews, and create a resume to equip them for the future.

Work Experience

These sessions also introduce students to Work Experience options and play an increasing role in familiarising students with the concepts and demands of the world of work. Partnerships develop between families, the school, and the workplace to ensure that work experiences are targeted, supported and valuable for the students involved. Work Experience is an optional component of the school program and enables those students requiring extension to be challenged. Students have participated in placements in a range of settings including:

- Automotive Workshops
- Childcare Centres
- Butchers
- Retail settings
- Horticultural Gardens
- IT Workshops
- Art Studios
- Vet clinics

While completing a placement, students are visited to ensure they are coping with the placement and are asked to complete a reflection journal to validate their experience.

Individual Pathways Plans

As students move through the school, their pathways from Rossbourne are crucial, and often one of the first questions that parents ask when they arrive at the school, is 'where do the students end up'? Students, teachers, and families create an Individual Pathway Plan which guides decisions about their education in their final two years. Students and parents are also supported in their transition from Rossbourne in numerous ways. Information sessions are held throughout the year advising families of future options. We are in the fortunate position of having developed excellent working relationships with a number of TAFE institutions, who regularly inform parents of their options. Additionally, both informal and formal meetings are held with families throughout the year. We are fortunate that the TAFE system provides further education and work readiness courses for students with learning challenges. It is very common for students to move into these, or alternatively mainstream TAFE courses after completing school.

It is an honour to work with students and families in creating a pathway from Rossbourne.

Paul Salomon
Pathways Coordinator

HUMAN POWERED VEHICLE (HPV)

Human Powered Vehicle Project

The Human Powered Vehicle (HPV) project is an optional senior school program, which involves riding a recumbent bike that is set up to race other schools. The HPV project involves much more than riding. It builds its way along many steps to reach the goal of racing against up to one hundred schools in the 4-day EB Breakthrough event in Maryborough. The HPV project involves students developing a team identity, team name and Logo while also learning the riding skills and fitness to undertake the eight-hour endurance race and an obstacle course. The EB breakthrough incorporates a 4-day camp where students compete against other mainstream schools to race as many kilometres as possible. To ensure the program runs smoothly, support from parents is always sought which further enhances the community and family feel around the event. Our building night is a highlight in which parents work side by side with their son/daughter to make the vehicles race ready.

Paul Salomon
Pathways Coordinator



ROSSBOURNE FOODBANK DRIVE

In 2022, Rossbourne embarked on its first Food Drive, to support Foodbank Victoria.

It was evident from its success, that it should become an annual event, so this year, we once again put out the call to support this vital community service. Not surprisingly, families and staff rallied to contribute another significant quantity of food and personal hygiene donations.

On any given day, in Australia, more than half a million households struggle to put food on the table. In Victoria alone, Foodbank provides 1.2 million meals a month.

By running our Foodbank Drive, we are not only assisting individuals and families in great need, but we are also providing our students with the opportunity to think of others and to give back to the community. An important part of the Food Drive, is to deliver the donations to the warehouse in Yarraville and to tour the facility and learn more about what they do and the scale of their operations. Their statistics and personal stories are a solemn reminder of how fortunate we are, and how dire the situation is, for families who experience ongoing food insecurity.

A huge thank you to all of the families who donated the much needed items and to the following Senior students who helped co-ordinate the Food Drive – Christian Angelopoulos, Jett Bennett, Jake Brown, Matthew Cook, Ethan Fleming, Antonio Hatziladas, Toby Langford, Ariel Liu, Callum Long and Ella Vincent.

Rhonda Sword

Teacher



2023 LEAVERS COMMENTS



Toby Langford

I was very excited and nervous to start at Rossbourne. I have enjoyed many aspects of my six years. In 2019 I was involved in SRC and got to organise some fun activities. I loved playing Friday afternoon tennis and interschool sport and I'm very proud I was awarded the Bob Crump trophy in 2022. A highlight was cooking with Mrs K and making different foods. I have made some great friends and thank my teachers for all their support. I have loved catching the train to school and being independent. My final year, I attended Box Hill TAFE and achieved my Certificate III in Hospitality. Next year, I'm looking forward to starting my Apprenticeship in Meat Processing at William Angliss.



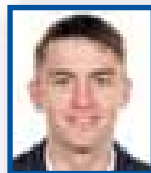
James Dorrington

When I started at Rossbourne back in 2018 I was very shy and nervous because I was worried that I wouldn't know where everything is and wouldn't know where to go for some of my classes. My main achievements during my time at Rossbourne years have been doing HPV twice, Duke of Ed bronze reward, Outdoor Ed twice, School productions, Drivers Ed and the traffic road safety which led towards me getting my Ls, Interschool athletics, cross country, and inter school soccer. This year I completed a Cert I in Automotive at Kangan Institute and did work experience at Volkswagen. In the future I would like to continue my work experience at Sheen Panel Service with the hope of getting an apprenticeship and if not then somewhere else in the automotive industry.



Olivia Crossland

I have been at Rossbourne School for 5 years now since starting in 2019. Before I started school I was really nervous because I didn't know anyone. For the first semester, I caught the school bus because the thought of getting the train to school was really scary. With help and encouragement from teachers and friends, I conquered my fears. I've been doing it for a long time now it's quite easy. On my journey through school, I have made some great friends that have always stuck with me with throughout the good times and the bad times. We have made lots of memories that we will always hold together. Some of my best experiences have been the discos and being part of the SRC and the Wakakirri program. How could I forget about all the camps that I have been on over the past years? Before you ask...my favourite camp was definitely the Sydney camp where we all had an awesome time. I would like say thank you all to the teachers who have been there and watched me grow into the confident and independent person I am today.



Harry Handreck

When I was in Year 7 I knew I would be a great fit for the school and for my homeroom. I was able to learn not just about Maths and English, also about how the world really works. Who's in power and why we still keep certain political and social systems even if they are not working. These are what I will keep on learning in the future. This year I did a Cert II in Carpentry and next year I will complete a Cert II in Plumbing and keep on working at Grill'd to get a Cert III in Hospitality. I don't know where I will be in 20 years but I know if I had the second chance to choose to go to Rossbourne I would choose it again. I would like to thank Rossbourne for letting me in, for respecting me during my time at Rossbourne, my parents for not giving up on me while in primary school, and my friends for being by my side at my time at Rossbourne.



William Masom

When I first came to Rossbourne, I wasn't really good at some things. I got used to not being able to use my iPad at lunch which was different at my old school. During my time here I have learnt safety skills in cooking and how to cook some meals. I completed Café Culture and then Kitchen Operations at TAFE. Other highlights were the senior camp in Sydney, Human Powered Vehicle and the outdoor ed canoe camp at Glenelg River. In the future I will be attending Victoria University in Footscray to complete Work Education and then I would like to join the rail industry and be a rail engineer.



Lachlan Bailey

I came to Rossbourne in 2017. I didn't really know the school, or what my future would be like. It was a bit difficult for me. But later in 2017, when I started to know the school better, I started making new friends and I felt more certain about my future. My teachers and friends have helped me when I've been struggling during difficult times. During the years I have made lots of memories. My favourite memory was Sydney Camp in 2022 because I got to explore different sites of the city. My time at Rossbourne has been great and I will never forget it. Thank you so much Rossbourne for everything.



Ella Vincent

I started at Rossbourne in 2022. There are so many opportunities and subjects that I have enjoyed, like performing arts, sports and English. It was a privilege to be selected as a Year 12 SRC leader and an honour to raise and take down the flag each day. Thanks to my homeroom teachers Sean, Sarah, Tania and all of the teachers that have helped me. Thank you to all of my friends. We have had heartfelt conversations and lots of jokes that we can laugh about later in life. Goodbye and well done to the class of 2023.



Kate Skinner

Over the years of my time at Rossbourne I've become a lot more confident with talking to my friends and also with my homework presentations. I've had an amazing time at Rossbourne. Thank you to the teachers, my peers and my friends.



Elliott Duncan

I started at Rossbourne in 2017. I felt shy when I started because it was a new school and I did not know anyone. I enjoyed the elective subjects - Cooking and Design Tech. The best part of Rossbourne has been the friends I have made and I am sure we will stay friends after we leave Rossbourne.



Harvey Dionisio

I started at Rossbourne in 2017 and I have made a lot of good friends at this school, including: Callum, Lachie, Alex, Michael, Amelia, Tom, and Matt. The things that I have enjoyed the most about my time at school was the Camp to Sydney and to Howman's Gap.



Christian Angelopoulos

Throughout the past 6 years, it's been challenging but also a crazy journey. As this year 7 coming into Rossbourne, I felt like this kid who had no idea how to begin his first day, and now I've made a great friendship group with awesome mates and hope to keep that friendship group for the future.

I want to thank myself personally for stepping outside of my comfort zone, for trying new things that I'm not familiar with and expressing myself with trusted people. I will never forget all the funny memorable moments I had with my mates at lunch, camp, inter school sports and other excursions too. To my family, thank you for always supporting me! I will miss this place!



Alex Spencer

Although I've only been at Rossbourne for a little while the experience will stick with me. At my time at Rossbourne, I've not only enjoyed meeting new people, but it's given me a chance to explore my passions, acting, public speaking and creative arts. During my time here I've had so much fun and have made so many memories and connections with people, I still remember the first time I stepped foot at Rossbourne and so many people were welcoming and supportive of me. I felt so happy. As I've moved throughout the school years, I've not only learnt but I've also experienced my interests and what I'm passionate about. I've loved every moment of Rossbourne and I couldn't be more grateful for the school.



Antonio Hatziladas

As I was reflecting on my high school journey, I couldn't help but feel a sense of nostalgia for some of the moments which would include meeting my first friend at Rossbourne, Christian, Sydney Camp of 2022 and that fateful camp back in good old 2019. Let's not forget the lessons we've picked up. Yeah, most of the maths might fade away (I know it will for me), but the resilience we've gained and the friendships are what counts.



Gus Osborne

When I first saw Rossbourne in 2020 my first impression was that I liked that the classes were small and students were working at their own pace. When I went to Rossbourne in Year 10 (2021) the subjects were interesting and I was motivated to do the work. The teachers have also been good and I made some great friends during my time here. One of my favourite activities I've done here was the Sydney camp in 2022, and I've also done sport and other inter-school activities. Going to Rossbourne was a great decision and I'm looking forward to the future.



Tobi Sweetland

I have been at Rossbourne for 5 years now and I have enjoyed all five of them. When I trialled at Rossbourne I was super nervous and shy because I didn't know who anyone was or what to do. Lyndall Peachman was the very first friend I made at this school.

On my first day at Rossbourne I met Grace MacGregor, she showed me around the school and helped me build up my confidence, and now look at us we're besties for life.

My favourite camp was Sydney camp last year, I had so much fun, I enjoyed every one of the Activities especially going to Taronga Zoo. My favourite teacher is Hamish because I started in his class and now I've finished with him, he's also very kind like all the other teachers here at Rossbourne.

Rossbourne is different to all the other schools that I've been to because everyone here is nice and easy to talk to, it is also a very small school. Being here has given me more confidence to do more things in life, like trying out new things that I never thought I would ever do, it has helped me gain more confidence to talk to more people and make more friends. Rossbourne taught me to be independent and how to catch public transport by myself to and from school.

My favourite subjects were Design Tech and Food Tech. I'll miss seeing my friends every day.

Some of the things I'm not going to miss about Rossbourne are getting up early and putting a school uniform on everyday, and I definitely won't miss wearing a tie every day of term 2 and 3. I won't miss doing sport because I do not like sport at all. I won't miss doing homework. I won't miss catching public transport to school every morning. Some of the things that I will miss are seeing my friends first thing in the morning and sharing news from the weekend and I'll miss joking around with the teachers.

I want to thank everyone who helped and supported me during these five amazing years at this amazing school.

Goodbye school and hello world, I'm finally free!!

**Ed Fry**

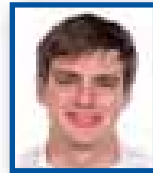
Hello, my time in Rossbourne was quite hard for me, it had its ups and downs. I definitely enjoyed doing the inter school sports, basketball, soccer, cricket and football were my favourite. I like the performing arts I love playing and working on music, currently now I can play Viva La Vida on piano and I did it in one lesson, it was pure nostalgia. Library is good, there are three books by my favourite author Matthew Riley about Jack West series. So far I like Rossbourne I recommend it to newcomers who are coming next year and great success.

**Michael Chan**

My five years at Rossbourne have really helped me to develop important life skills and build new friendships. I have participated in LOTS of activities like HPV, Outdoor Ed, TAFE, work experience, Discos, Wakakirri and other performances! I also got to help organise events when I was the 10G SRC representative in 2021. I really enjoyed the excursions and camps, especially to Sydney! My favourite subjects were Cooking, Living Skills and Performing Arts. Sadly, my amazing time at Rossbourne has come to an end, but I am excited and ready for the next chapter of my life! Thank you everyone!

**Lena Kromidellis**

When I first went to Rossbourne School in 2017, I was very excited to go there and make lots of friends. It was very uneasy at first but slowly I made so many friends and had a connection with teachers. They all cared for me and supported me. I miss many teachers growing up especially the last principal we used to have at that time, Mr Hearn. Through my past 6 years I became very creative, won many art awards and ribbons, being in productions and Wakakirri. I'm excited for my next chapter and to see what the future will bring.

**Jett Bennett**

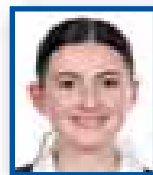
I've had a really fun time at Rossbourne, all thanks to my parents. If it wasn't for them I wouldn't be here, catching the train by myself or have the friends I have made. I'm very much looking forward to the next chapter. But Thankyou Rossbourne.

**Ethan Fleming**

My journey through Rossbourne has been crucial to me and my future, and I know it has been the most important decision I have ever made because if I hadn't, I wouldn't be here tonight, which means I would never have met my amazing friends.

**Hugo Lyall**

What I liked about Rossbourne was the teachers and technology and ICT. The events such as the athletics carnival and round robin were great. I also liked the Sydney camp because I like cities. The best part about school was my friends and I hope I can see them again after I graduate.

**Grace MacGregor**

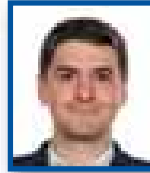
When I first started at Rossbourne in 2018 I felt overwhelmed because all my brothers friends were crowding around me. Having him and his friends here though helped me feel connected. I ended up making plenty of my own amazing friends who have helped make my time at Rossbourne special. I have grown in confidence throughout the last 6 years personally and socially. I am so proud of myself for getting this far. Being involved in Wakkakiri has been a great experience and also singing in front of people at assembly has made me build my confidence in singing. I will miss Rossbourne. Thank you Rossbourne for all the amazing memories I can't wait to start my job in childcare.



Callum Barrett

When I first started at Rossbourne in 2017 I was full of enthusiasm and positivity, my journey at Rossbourne has been fantastic! I have made

amazing friends along the way, grown in maturity, I've learnt that making mistakes is ok as it helps your brain develop and you to become a better person who makes good decisions. I am so grateful to be taught by the amazing teachers that motivated me from a young boy to a young man. I really enjoyed participating in the interschool sports. For my next chapter, I will be working as an apprentice at Citywide.



Alex Kokoris

I've changed heaps over 7 years of high school, I used to act silly when I started year 7, but in year 10 I started to be much more sensible. I'm proud

to be supportive to all my family, friends, teachers & others. And I am also so thankful for all the support they give me! I participated in the Spamalot which was a school production back in 2021. I was backstage where I helped with light controlling. The best elective I've done at Rossbourne is Performing Arts, by far!!! I have loved my time at Rossbourne and am so grateful for everything!



Christopher Kastoras

When I first started at Rossbourne in the beginning of Year 8 I was a bit nervous on my first day and wasn't sure if I would make any friends. But I

realised early on that the other students here were really easy to talk to and I had some good conversations with Cal L, Christian, Elliott and Toby and we had things in common and I began to feel much more comfortable. My favourite things at Rossbourne was doing mentoring in ICT, food tech and sport. This year I have been doing my Cert III in Information Technology. In the future I hope to get a job in a school working as a Technician.



Matthew Cook

My time here at Rossbourne can be broken down into plenty of topics.

First off, the fun I have had here will forever be part of my being. From the School Productions to the Human Powered Vehicles, to the inter school sports, and, my favourite, the School Camps and coupled with that were of course my friends. With the fun I've had, it's always been accompanied by the experience, personal growth, problem solving, and so much more. I have seen the importance of how activities are run and how they affect the people undertaking them. I hope to bring that philosophy into my future work and benefit from it as I and everyone else has.



Callum Long

My time at Rossbourne has been a mixed bag, I learned some key things, made some friends along the way and I got to experience many opportunities.

I've especially enjoyed playing interschool sport on a Friday afternoon. I've been able to do a number of things at school, such as Duke of Ed, work experience, a TAFE course on Wednesday afternoons, drivers ed and many more. I've enjoyed cooking as well, and I gained valuable skills from it and I now enjoy to cook every now and then. Next year I will be undertaking a Certificate IV in Business Admin at Holmesglen.



Lyndall Peachman

Saying goodbye is always hard, but is this really a goodbye? It's really just closing one chapter

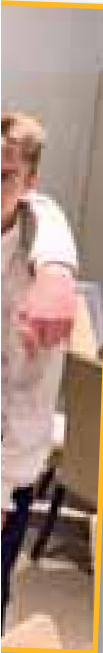
and moving onto the next. I came to Rossbourne in 2019 as a 13 year old.

I didn't realise at the time that this 5 year journey would become such a big part of my life. I

would like to thank everyone who has travelled with and supported me through the years.

GRADUATION NIGHT







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Thrive on Diversity

131 Power Street
Hawthorn Victoria 3122
Phone 03 9819 4611

info@rossbourne.vic.edu.au
www.rossbourne.vic.edu.au