



inside out

ALEXANDRA SECONDARY COLLEGE

July 29th 2024

T3 WEEK 3

Planet Ark Schools Tree Planting Day



On Friday we executed a massive task of planting over 650 native seedlings in the riparian zone between Briggs oval and the UT Creek. This has been a major collaboration driven by our very passionate and dedicated teacher Penny Steuart.

Please see Page 3 for more articles

Dates to Remember

- Today - Lake Mountain Ski Squad
- Tuesday 30th July - Bands Day at Euroa
- Wednesday 31st - Open night & Holocaust Excursion
- Friday 2nd August - Mt Buller Ski Day
- Tuesday 6th August - Maths Comp

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Principal's Report

Keeping you up to date with college news

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Mystery Unearthed

Our Riparian Zone unearths lead in local mystery.

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University News

Check out upcoming open days.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land. I pay my respects to the Elders past, present and emerging. For they hold the memories, the traditions and the culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the nation.

OF COUNTRY

Principal's Report

Last Friday, the passage of land between Briggs Oval and UT Creek was a hive of activity with students and members of the community planting trees and shrubs native to the area. This has been an extensive rejuvenation project, lead impressively by Penny Stuart, over the last sixth months where we have had numerous school and community groups collaborating. This is a great news story that we have featured in "Inside Out" today.

It is that exciting time of year when students start to plan what subjects they will study next year, with our help and with the help of their families.

Last Wednesday, thanks to the organisation of Cath Collett, we ran a "Speed Rotation Course Information Session" with our Year 8, 9 and 10 students to help them

with their subject selections for next year. Students were able to get specific information from teachers representing each subject area.

If students or parents have specific questions about subjects, our teachers are very happy to be contacted; remember all teacher emails are on the College Website. For career pathway advice, appointments can be made with Phil Stevenson. Cath Collett is also a great resource for advice on subject selection.

Our "Open Night" is on this Wednesday the 31st of July. It is an essential night for families to gain knowledge around senior course selections.

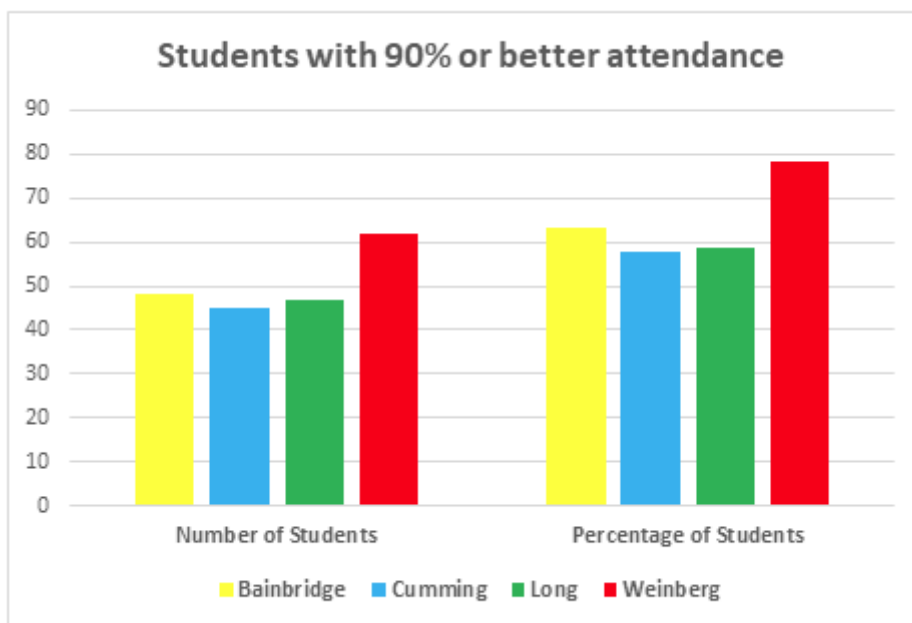
Nigel Lyttle

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Emma Kidd

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Percentage of students with 90% attendance and above		
	Week 1	Week 2
Year 7	70%	74%
Year 8	76%	78%
Year 9	67%	57%
Year 10	59%	57%
Year 11	80%	78%
Year 12	64%	67%



Year Level Co-ordinators

Year 7 -

Sharon Parbery

sharon.parbery@education.vic.gov.au



Year 9 -

Catherine Collett

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Year 11 -

Rebecca van Lierop

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Year 8 -

Melinda Evans

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Year 10 -

Penny Stuart

penny.stuart@education.vic.gov.au



Year 12 -

Kate Mullins

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Planet Ark Schools Tree Planting Day - UT Creek Repatriation Zone Project

Last Friday, our College Community in collaboration with the Shire of Murrindindi achieved something wonderful. We planted over 650 native seedlings as part of Planet Ark's National Schools Tree Planting Day. The event saw the enthusiastic participation of over 200 students, 16 College staff members and 20 community members. Spirits were high as we removed the non-native grass, dug holes and planted seedlings, transforming the degraded riparian zone along UT Creek at the back of Briggs Oval.

The project began in November 2023 when our College joined the Resource Smart Schools Program, an initiative by Sustainability Victoria. Ms. Steuart recognised the need to increase biodiversity at our College and sought assistance from the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network. With ambitious plans and no prior experience, she identified the UT Creek riparian zone adjacent to our school as a focal point for rehabilitation. During Semester One, the Year 9 Mission X class assessed the ecological health of the zone and found it to be at the lowest rank on the Rapid Riparian Health Survey scale. The area had been neglected for over 30 years as a dumping ground for hard rubbish and green waste. It was overrun with blackberries, Scotch thistle, prunus and ash trees.



We were awarded a generous \$3000 Planet Ark Seedling Bank Grant, which was paid directly to Euroa Arboretum. They sourced native seeds from our area and grew 850 trees, shrubs and grasses specifically for our Tree Planting Event. We are deeply grateful to Cathy Olive for her expertise in selecting the plant species, coordinating their distribution and instructing us on how to plant them on Friday.

The project gained momentum when Sue McNair, the Environmental Officer from the Shire of Murrindindi offered her expertise and arranged for the blackberries to be sprayed. "That's a huge area to rehabilitate. We'd normally start clearing 12 months in advance and maybe do a quarter of what you've planning," she noted. Undeterred by the challenge, our Mission X class began removing the rubbish and non-native plants, cutting down over 200 non-native trees whilst being stung multiple times by European Wasps. The clearing efforts were continued by Ms. Steuart and Darrell Hedger on weekends, during lunchtimes and after school.

Sue played a crucial role in securing permission from the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority to transform the waterway and from the Taungurung Land and Water Council to rehabilitate the banks under a Land Use Activity Agreement. We acknowledge the Taungurung's deep connection to our local land and water and were thrilled to receive their consent, allowing us to honour their perspectives in this project.



Izzy Weston from the Shire collaborated with our 'Guardians of the Earth' group to promote the event and organise school-wide activities, including the SRC's 'Wear Green Day' and tree-related quiz questions on the Daily Bulletin. The VET Hospitality class prepared a delicious morning tea for the planters, and our College rock band, 'Flowers in Antarctica,' treated the students to a fantastic lunchtime performance.

Our ultimate goal for the Tree Planting event is to establish three forest layers in the riparian zone, creating habitats for local fauna. In the years to come we hope it develops a connected canopy of trees, including River Red Gums, Yellow Box, Candlebark, Silver Wattle, and Blackwood Wattle, allowing yellow-bellied sugar gliders and possums to move between them. The mid-storey will consist of shrubs including the Common Cassinia and River Bottle Brush to support birdlife, whilst the understory will feature smaller plants including the Spiny Headed Mat Rush and Common Tussock to provide homes for reptiles. A highlight of Friday's event was planting unique, deep-rooted sedges in the base of UT Creek to slow water flow, reduce erosion, and provide habitat for the critically endangered Spotted Tree Frogs. In the coming

weeks, students will be invited to continue planting in the creek bed. In a few months, a further 250 native plants will be ready for us to plant. Students will be planting these during lunchtimes, so stay tuned.

Research indicates that spending time in nature benefits us in many ways, including physically, intellectually, emotionally, mentally and ethically. Allowing students to have green time can enhance their learning and concentration. It's a win for our students and a win for nature!





Mystery unearthed in Riparian zone

Respecting the instructions from our local police due to their ongoing investigation, we held off sharing our exciting news. We now have permission from the police to share our incredible story. Last Sunday, July 21st at 3:10 pm, Ms Steuart discovered the severed head of Princess Alexandra's statue in our rehabilitation zone!

The decapitated head was discovered face-down in a two-metre high blackberry thicket, beneath a pile of logs behind the College's Briggs Oval. Students will be surprised to learn that the head was only metres from our long-jump pit - just over the fence! Ms. Steuart had been brush-cutting the

area in preparation for the College's Tree Planting Day.

Initially, she thought the partially buried object was yet another drum of dumped engine oil. However, she was surprised to find that it was hard and made of marble. Upon turning it over and dragging it into the open, she realised it was the long-lost head of the town's vandalised royal statue. She sent the photo shown here to the Shire of Murrindindi with a promise to "drop it off on Monday morning" – clearly unaware of the significance of the find.



Trailer-loads of dumped items have been removed from the UT Creek riparian zone behind Briggs Oval. Each time we work in this rehabilitation zone, removing invasive plant species, cutting the weedy grass and chipping out the blackberries, more rubbish is revealed.

It's clearly a dumping hot spot, which is disappointing because it should be a place rich in biodiversity and a healthy, safe habitat for our wildlife and students.

Sunday's haul from the final thicket of blackberries included three car seats, multiple golf balls, a bucket-load of plastic bags and the missing head from Princess Alexandra's statue. Tracy Parker our beloved Café Manager was walking by at the end of the day as Ms Steuart and her husband were negotiating how to squeeze the head and three brush cutters into the car boot. Her reaction was a hint of the importance of the

discovery! She made Ms Steuart pose for a photograph holding the head.

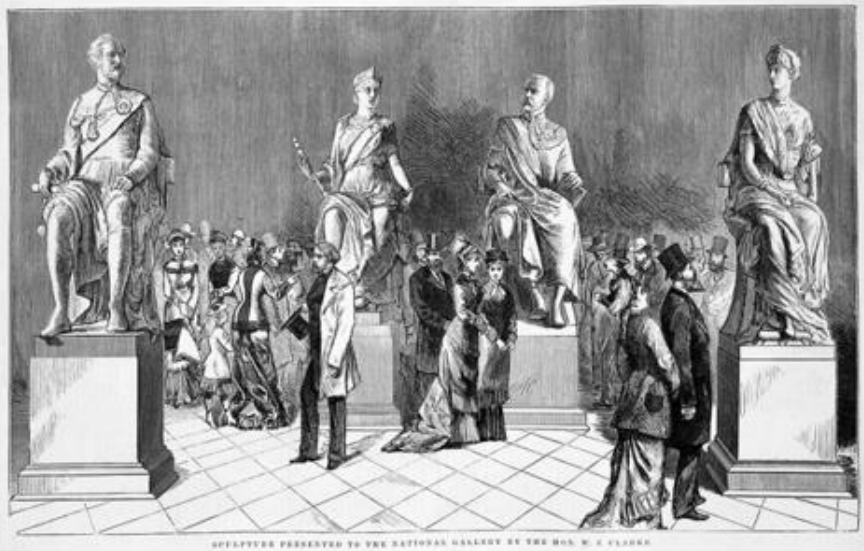
The 6.5 kg head was collected by police constables on Monday morning after they took photos of it wrapped in a towel, sitting under Ms Steuart's school desk! A visit to the discovery site was made to search for evidence and to locate the missing piece of her marble hair bun.

The mystery of who decapitated Princess Alexandra's statue remains unsolved and is still being investigated. The porous nature of the white Carrara marble from which she was carved in 1876 is perfect for preserving fingerprints; however, her value is so high ("priceless", "A National Treasure" and "of great historical importance" is how she's been described to Ms Steuart by authorities) that Conservators advised against staining the surface with the fingerprinting process. Her bun will be repaired by an expert Sculptor in the near future, as will her damaged finger. These will then be reattached by a Conservator.

It was remarkable to discover an artefact of immense value in our rehabilitation zone. Although the irony of finding a symbol of early colonialism in a landscape that was degraded by colonial actions did not escape us.



Interested in a little bit of history about the Princess Alexandra Statue?



Considered to be “The most important royal portraits in Colonial Australia”, four marble statues depicting Queen Victoria, her husband Albert and son, Edward VII and his wife Alexandra, were donated to the National Gallery of Victoria by a very rich man named William Clarke. He had commissioned the four royal statues to be carved by famous artist, Charles Summers.

The statues were displayed in their own gallery room at the National Gallery of Victoria and then put into storage.

In 1941, they were separated and Princess Alexandra was donated to our town. The National Gallery of Victoria have expressed their despair that the marble statues, which were designed to be displayed indoors, all were placed outside, leading to vandalism.



We have it on great authority that our lunch time squash activities are going great, so much so that these four players have been snapped up by the Alexandra Squash Club.

Ethan Kliss, Locky Germon, Tyler Fallon and Lachy Thomson have all been signed up.

Great job gentleman!

Going to University in 2025?

VTAC applications are now open.

I am pleased to be able to assist in any way with the application process.

University early offers are also open for applications.

I have also included a schedule of university open days which I encourage both parents and students to attend as many as you can.

For any Career Pathway information, I am available to meet with parents, students or both together. Please request an appointment via email or phone.

Philip.stevenson@education.vic.gov.au 57702006

2024 Open Days

28.07.2024	Swinburne University
03.08.2024	Monash Uni Caulfield
04.08.2024	La Trobe University Melbourne
	RMIT University Bundoora
	Monash University Clayton
10.08.2024	William Angliss
11.08.2024	Charles Sturt - Albury
	RMIT Melbourne
18.08.2024	Vic Uni Footscray
	Monash Uni Parkville
	Deakin Geelong
	University of Melbourne
24.08.2024	La Trobe Shepparton
25.08.2024	La Trobe Bendigo
	Vic Uni City
	Deakin Melbourne

Dates

2024

JULY

29 July 9am

- Applications open
- SEAS and Scholarships applications open

AUGUST

Get started! Create your VTAC applicant profile, submit a course application and submit SEAS and Scholarships application

SEPTEMBER

20 September 5pm

- SEAS and Scholarships preliminary review guarantee closes

30 September 5pm

- Course application deadline (change of preference still open)

OCTOBER

11 October 5pm

- SEAS and Scholarships applications close

NOVEMBER

Make sure you've registered for the VCE Results and ATAR service at www.resultsandatar.vic.edu.au

DECEMBER

12 December 7am

- ATARs released

14 December 12pm

- Change of preference closes for Dec. round

17 December 8am

- IB results release

23 December 10am

- December course offers released

23 Dec 10am - 24 Dec 4pm

- Change of preference open for Jan. round

JOIN US!

Youth Spot

OPEN SPACE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
TO HANGOUT

CHILL AND HAVE FUN WITH
YOUR FRIENDS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2

3.30PM - 5PM

EMBASSY OF IDEAS

3, BAYLEY STREET, ALEXANDRA

GAMES | MUSIC | CRAFTS | FREE PIZZA

MURRIDINDI COMMUNITY
food
SHARE

First Thursday each month

9AM - 12PM

Rear - 88a Grant St, Alexandra
Enter from Bayley St

(look for the big grey shed & Food Share sign)



**FREE FOOD, PERSONAL CARE ITEMS,
PETFOOD, BREAD & FRESH PRODUCE**



BYO BAGS



**THIS MONTH ENJOY A FREE CUP OF
HOMEMADE SOUP FROM ALEXANDRA
ROTARY**

For more information visit our website
www.foundationmurrindindi.org.au
or contact Robyn Hill 0488 007 688

THURSDAY
**1ST
AUGUST**

Foundation
Murrindindi

TH3 FU7URE B3LONGS 2 PRO8LEM 50LV3RS

Australian
Mathematics
Competition
Tuesday 6th of
August.

This years competition will be fully online in the library, periods 3 and 4.

Please speak to Mrs Marchetti or your Maths teacher to get your name on the list! Cost is \$8. Enrolments cut off Friday August 2nd.



Alexandra Secondary College Open Night

Time	Session	Length	Room
6.00pm	Information session about YEAR 7	30 min	Library
6.30pm	A showcase of the opportunities that ASC students look forward to from Year 7 to Year 12	15 min	Library
6.45pm	Information session about LATER YEARS	30 min	M8
7.00pm	Information session about YEAR 7	30 min	Library
7.15pm	Students speaking about VCE and Vocational Major experience.	15 min	M8
7.30pm	Information session about Year 9	30 min	M8
7.30pm	A showcase of the opportunities that ASC students look forward to from Year 7 to Year 12	15 mins	Library