SWAN HILL COLLEGE
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Newswan

Achieving Excellence Together

Friday September 18, 2026

Issue: 15

Principal's Report

As we come to the end of Term 3, these final two weeks continue to be busy ones, filled with opportunities to connect with students, finalise end-of-term assessments and support our Year 12 students as they prepare for their upcoming exams.

Our recent Parent Teacher Interviews provided families with a valuable opportunity to come into the College, meet with staff and discuss how their child is progressing. Thank you to everyone who took the time to attend. If you missed speaking with a teacher, or you would benefit from a little more time to discuss your child's learning, please do not hesitate to reach out. Our staff are always happy to continue these conversations.

We have also wrapped up our term of House Basketball, with Longhurst taking out the win for 2026! It has been a fantastic lunchtime event throughout the term, with both staff and students getting involved and plenty of House pride on display. Stu McGregor led his team with great enthusiasm and worked alongside House Captains Jett, Lainey, Sam, Elijah and Jackson to bring home the win. Congratulations, Longhurst!

As we finish the term, we are also finalising who will take on our student leadership positions for 2027. It has been a source of great pride to watch students put themselves forward throughout this process. Whether delivering a speech in front of their peers, walking into an interview, or simply seeking out a member of the leadership team to explain why they would like the opportunity to lead, our students have shown courage, enthusiasm and a genuine desire to contribute to their College. The willingness of so many students to step forward and have a go says a great deal about the young people within our school. We will continue to introduce our 2027 student leaders through our social media channels, with the formal announcement and recognition of our new leadership team taking place at a whole-school assembly next term.

This week, our Year 7 students also headed out to Nyah Recreation Reserve for a day of activities, connection and team building. The day was organised following the cancellation of their camp and was such a success that we plan to run a similar day next term, at a different location with a new range of activities. By all reports, the students had an excellent day. A big thank you to the Nyah Nyah West United Football Club for welcoming us and providing food for our students. Community partnerships like these make such a difference.

Our VCE students have also completed their practice exams this week. A great deal of work goes into making these exams happen, from the organisation undertaken by our Senior School team through to the preparation and marking completed by teachers. Practice exams give students an important opportunity to experience exam conditions and, most importantly, receive valuable feedback before the real exams begin next term.

To our VCE families, I encourage you to help your child find a healthy balance over the holidays between study, rest and socialising. There is still work to be done, but looking after themselves is equally important. Our Senior School and Wellbeing teams will continue to be there for students throughout Term 4, so please reach out if you feel your child needs some additional support.

Our final day of term will bring a bit of fun, with our Ice Bucket Challenge and Staff vs Student Soccer match. Both will kick off from around 1.00pm near the basketball courts, and families are very welcome to come along and watch!

Finally, I want to finish this term's newsletter with something that has been on my mind over the past few weeks – the saying that it takes a village to raise a child.

While educating students is our core business at Swan Hill College, I believe our responsibility goes beyond academic results. We are also helping prepare our young people for life beyond our College gates. For some students, there are plenty of people, resources and opportunities around them to help make that transition. For others, unfortunately, life can present circumstances that make the path much more difficult. Across both our FLO and Pye Street campuses, we are regularly reminded of this reality.

Recently, I reached out to two wonderful women in our community, Jenalle Pye and Tamika Tonkin, seeking some assistance for a student. Both stepped forward immediately, without hesitation and simply wanting to know how they could help.

I cannot thank Swan Hill Optical and Shop3@79C, enough for their generosity, support and contribution. Their response was a timely reminder of what makes our community so special. We are fortunate to live in a place where people genuinely care about our young people and are willing to step forward when someone needs a hand.

Sometimes we simply need to be prepared to ask.

As a school, we cannot do everything alone, nor should we have to. Families, schools, businesses, sporting clubs, community organisations and individuals all play a part in raising and supporting our young people. When we trust one another enough to reach out, it is amazing what our community can achieve together.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to another busy and rewarding term at Swan Hill College. I hope all of our students, staff and families enjoy a safe and refreshing term break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back for Term 4.

Achieving Excellence Together.

De Rosewarne - Principal

Student Voice

High Expectations

This week brings the end of Term 3 and Year 12 students finishing their final full term of school. Unit 3 and 4 students practice exams and final SACs are completed and students are now studying hard for their final exams. Practice exams will give students a taste of what their final exams will be like, and all are encouraged to give their best. After the break year 12 students will only have 2 weeks before they leave school and will then have their first exam (English) in 11 days.

Last week the Year 9, Rec Ed went away to Lerderderg state park which all say they have enjoyed getting outside and venturing around the park.

In further news next year's Senior School Captains have been announced, and the College is excited to introduce, Lachie, Isla, Muddy and Ella as the 2027 School Captains. We wish them the best of luck in their new leadership roles and are sure they will be wonderful fit.

Thanks to Jade Hunter (Physical Activity Adviser – Active Schools) Kadek Irvin (Head of HPE) and our library team, we are now lucky to have two recumbent bikes for our "Read and Ride" initiative. Students and staff can now combine reading with physical activity in the comfort of the library. This is an amazing opportunity for our school.

The basketball court was a buzz with activity on Thursday with the R U Ok? Day activities, sausage sizzle and the house basketball competition grand final. Longhurst defeated Odgen 28 -21. This Friday we are hosting the Ice Bucket Challenge, raising funds for the MND foundation. 'Lucky' staff/students will get be dunked under the ice cold water. Following the Ice Bucket Challenge the Annual Staff Vs Year 12 Soccer match will take place on Gurnett Oval.

Wishing everyone a good break and looking forward to what Term 4 has to bring.

Jackson McNees - School Captain

2026 Important Dates

September 18	MND Ice Bucket Challenge & Sports Colours Day End of Term Assembly, Year 12 P4 (12.00pm) Last Day of Term 3 - *2.15pm finish*
October 5	Term 4 commences
October 13	MMLLEN Year 10 Mock Interviews
October 16	Whole School Assembly - Swan Hill Aquatic & Recreation Centre
October 19	School Council meeting
October 26	Unit 3+4 Written Exams commence (until November 18)
October 28-30	Year 9 Camp
November 2	Professional Practice Day - Student Free Day
November 3	Melbourne Cup Holiday
November 16	Clontarf Awards Evening
November 16-20	Year 10+11 Exams

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Beyond the School Gates

Our alumni continue to inspire us with the many different pathways they take after leaving Swan Hill College. In this edition, we catch up with another past dux recipient as they reflect on their journey since leaving school, the experiences that have shaped them, and the different opportunities and pathways they have pursued along the way

After graduating from high school in 2006, I moved to Melbourne to study a Bachelor of Arts and Science. Starting university was a huge challenge. Suddenly, I was living in a big city, navigating public transport, and finding my way in an environment that felt completely different from home. It wasn't always easy, but it taught me independence and confidence, and I'm glad I took the leap.

When I started university, I was convinced I wanted to become a zoologist. However, I soon discovered I was fascinated not just by animals, but by entire ecosystems and how environments change over time. This led me to study subjects in geography, history and ecology.

I completed a Master's degree in Geography, using mud from the bottom of lakes to reconstruct ancient environments. It's probably not what most people imagine researchers doing, but lake mud is like a natural archive, preserving clues about past climates, vegetation and fire history. My thesis explored fire in Tasmania's ancient rainforests over the last 12,000 years.

I then moved to Adelaide to undertake a PhD studying sediments from a site on North Stradbroke Island that recorded vegetation, fire, climate and megafauna changes spanning the past 80,000 years. This research even led to an appearance in the ABC documentary Megafauna: What Killed Australia's Giants?

Since then, I have worked at the University of New South Wales and now at the University of Wollongong, investigating past fire and climate interactions and how Indigenous Australians skilfully managed landscapes through the use of fire.

One of the most rewarding parts of my career is the travel. Fieldwork has taken me to remote deserts and mountain ranges to isolated islands across Australia, Europe, South America and Asia.

Some days, my job involves analysing microscopic grains of fossil pollen that are thousands of years old. Other days, I'm camping on the edge of Lake Eyre collecting samples that help tell the story of Australia's environmental history.

Looking back, I never imagined that a kid from Swan Hill would end up travelling the world and appearing on television because of research. University gave me the chance to follow my curiosity, and my advice to current students is simple: do whatever makes you happy. Dream big, embrace opportunities, and don't be afraid to take a path that wasn't part of the original plan. You never know where it might lead.

Haidee Cadd - Dux, 2006

If you would like to share your journey, or know of someone else who might, we would love to hear from you. Please reach out to us at:
swan.hill.c@education.vic.gov.au

Job Tenders

Stay in the know...

SHC has the following tenders open:

- Concreting
- Electrical
- Plumbing

For more information please visit www.shc.vic.edu.au/tenders/

Year 10 MMLLEN Year 10 Mock Interviews

A great opportunity for our Year 10 students, run by the Murray Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network (MMLLEN), where students get to experience what it's like to sit in a real job interview.

The mock interviews will take place next term, starting October 13.

Careers Update

VTAC Applications for 2027!

A reminder to our Year 12 students that timely applications close on Monday the 28th of September (during the school holidays), with an application fee of $83. Applications submitted after this date incur a higher fee ($166 then $208). Some courses have earlier closing dates, so be sure to check these when applying.

When submitting your preferences, list courses in your genuine order of preference and ensure you meet all course requirements, including any prerequisite subjects or additional selection tasks. You'll need your USI, VSN and VCAA student number (available on your Compass profile or from Careers). If you need assistance with your application, preferences or SEAS applications, the Careers team are more than happy to assist.

Timely applications close during the school holidays. If you need assistance, please email the careers team at careers@shc.vic.edu.au and they will get back to via email.

Careers staff are always here to help your student whether it be for subject choices, work experience, School Based Apprenticeships or Traineeships, further education as well as resumes and job applications!

Careers Team – Brooke, Grace, Kristen and Sharee

'Slow Down, Enjoy This Moment'

A new community seat carrying an important wellbeing message is set to find a home at Tower Hill Park in Swan Hill, thanks to a partnership involving students and headspace Swan Hill.

The timber seat was constructed during class time as part of a Swan Hill College Work Related Skills class, giving students the opportunity to put practical workplace skills into action while producing something that will have a lasting benefit for the local community.

The project has been developed for headspace Swan Hill around the theme "slow down, enjoy this moment." The message encourages people to take some time out of their busy lives, sit down, enjoy their surroundings and appreciate the moment.

Once installed at Tower Hill Park, the seat will feature a plaque identifying the 2026 class who made the project. It is hoped that people walking through the park will use the seat as a place to rest, talk with friends and family, or simply take a few quiet minutes for themselves.

The project also highlights the importance of positive mental health and wellbeing within the community. Headspace Swan Hill provides free and confidential services and support for young people aged 12–25, including assistance with mental health and wellbeing, work and study, and other areas affecting young people's lives.

The seat project formed part of an early-rounding exercise, providing a practical way for students to contribute to their community while developing skills through their Work Related Skills program.

Installation of the seat at Tower Hill Park is hoped to take place during September, with headspace planning a community event at the park to celebrate the project.

The event is expected to include a barbecue and a range of fun activities, with students, families and members of the wider Swan Hill community welcome to attend.

More information about the event, including the confirmed date and time, will be available through headspace Swan Hill's social media channels. Their official information lists Facebook and Instagram as @headspaceSwanHill.

For the students involved, the project is more than simply making a piece of outdoor furniture. It is an opportunity to see something created in the classroom become a permanent part of the Swan Hill community, while sharing a simple but valuable message: "Slow down, enjoy this moment."

Tarley Ewart - Student

Policy Consultation

Swan Hill College is currently reviewing a number of policies and would like to invite our school community to provide input and feedback. Please click the link below to view the draft policies:
www.shc.vic.edu.au/community-consultation/

If you would like to provide feedback, please email your comments to swan.hill.c@education.vic.gov.au by Monday, October 5, 2026.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR 2 WEEKS HOLIDAYS!

Simple ways to look after YOU so you return to school feeling rested and ready to take on Term 4!

1 PRIORITISE SLEEP

Get enough quality rest.

2 MOVE YOUR BODY

Walk, stretch, dance or play.

3 GET OUTSIDE

Fresh air and nature can help you reset.

4 STAY CONNECTED

Spend time with people who make you feel good.

5 UNPLUG

Take regular breaks from your phone.

6 GET CREATIVE

Draw, cook, write, garden or make music.

7 SLOW DOWN

Breathe, journal or simply take a quiet moment.

8 NOURISH YOURSELF

Eat regularly and drink plenty of water.

9 READ FOR FUN

Pick up something you actually enjoy.

10 NOTICE THE GOOD

Look for one small positive moment each day.

REST UP. RECHARGE. RESET. SEE YOU IN TERM 4!

from the Wellbeing team