



# Gang Gang

## Warrandyte High School

Issue 14 | Term 4 | 2016

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## Diary Dates

DECEMBER

**Tuesday 13 December**

WHS Awards Night 7:30pm

**Tuesday 20 December**

Last Day of Term 4 – 2:30pm finish

FEBRUARY

**Wednesday 1 February 2017**

Year 7 students start the school year

VCE students attend for assembly at 1.40 pm

**Thursday 2 February 2017**

All year levels attend

Hope you all  
have a great holiday



**Principal:** Dr Stephen Parkin

**Assistant Principal:** Joseph Caruana

**School Captains:**

Vivien Todd and James Puls-Welsh



Welcome to the last edition of Gang Gang for 2016. We are now well into December and the end of the school year is almost upon us. Planning for next year is nearing completion and classroom activities are winding down. The Year 7 students for 2017 have been welcomed, at our end of year assemblies we have celebrated the achievements of our students at each year level, and our Year 12 students have been farewelled. The Warrandyte High School Awards Evening now is the last remaining formal occasion before the end of the year.

As is always the case, there will be a number of staff changes for next year as career paths lead in different directions. On behalf of the whole school community I would like

to thank the following staff for their contributions to Warrandyte High School and wish them all the best for the future: James Croker; Michelle Kennedy; Simon Andrews; Helene Butterworth; Joel Armour; Vanessa Crea; Grace Johnstone. I will welcome our new staff in the first edition of Gang Gang next year.

Finally, I would like to wish all our students and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy the break, stay safe, and I look forward to greeting you all on your return from the holiday break, refreshed for the year ahead.

**Stephen Parkin**  
Principal

From the Principal

### The Year 12 Valedictory Evening

Recently the gala Year 12 Valedictory Evening took place. It was a memorable night filled with happiness, celebration and nostalgia. The many achievements of the "class of 2016" were acknowledged – including numerous academic achievements across a vast range of subject areas including:

English; Maths Methods; Physics; Chemistry; Business Management; Studio Arts; Visual Communications; Psychology – and that is just to name a few of the categories! It was wonderful seeing so many of our Year 12 students, their teachers and their parents come together on this night. We wish the Class of 2016 every success in the future.



From the Assistant Principal

## Year Level Awards Assemblies

The end of the school year heralds the culmination of many student achievements. Recently we celebrated the many academic, sporting and community service achievements amassed by our Year 7 -11 students. It was wonderful seeing so many students winning academic excellence awards across a range of subjects. The academic culture and indeed the good citizenship philosophy which underpins our endeavours is flourishing here at Warrandyte High.

## Orientation Day

December 6 was a joyous and exiting day as we hosted our incoming 2017 Year 7 students who spent the day with us. Our newest Warrandyte High community members came from a host of primary schools including: Warrandyte PS, Andersons Creek PS, Wonga Park, Kalinda and Warranwood PS just to name a tiny few.

## Italy Experience 2017

It's official! The 2017 Italy Cultural Immersion School trip is happening! What a wonderful turn out we had at our recent Information Night! Vi devo dire, mai mi stanco di ritornare in italia! Pero' ancora non si sa chi andra in Italia con gli studenti, forse La Befana! – dobbiamo aspettare per questa notizia!

## Booklists, Subjects and Uniforms

All students completing elective subjects in 2017 indeed know what their electives are. The Middle and Senior School office indeed has made this exciting information available. We have posted on Compass the unique Warrandyte High code which is needed when purchasing your E Bundle/books online through Champion Books.

The uniform shop has extended hours now! Hurray! It is now open on Tuesdays: 2.30pm – 5pm and Thursdays 8am – 10.30am!

For January and February only, there are also these special opening times: Monday 30 January 8am-10.30pm; Wednesday 1 February 8am – 10.30am;

## Uniform for 2017

### Boys' shirts

The polo can no longer be worn in 2017. Indeed it was only able to still be worn until the end of 2016. From the beginning of 2017 boys will only be permitted to wear the white shirt.

### Facial piercings, hair and shoes

A gentle reminder that facial piercings are not part of the school uniform. Students are only permitted to wear up to three small studs or sleepers in each ear.

Students are also reminded that the uniform policy states:

"Extremes in terms of hairstyles, hair colour and facial hair must be avoided at all times. The Principal/Assistant Principal will exercise final judgement on such matters"

Finally, a reminder that students are required to wear "**black, leather, polishable, lace up or T-bar school shoes**. Boots, slip ons, zipped, canvas, suede, ballet style and runner/sport shoes are **not acceptable**"

### One final gentle reminder

"Students out of uniform **MUST OBTAIN** the Uniform Pass from the Sub-School Office at the beginning of the day before going to class. Failure to do this will incur a penalty with repeated breaches of this school rule treated very seriously"

## When Does School Start In 2017?

### Wednesday 1 February:

- for Year 7 students, the meeting point will be the Amphitheatre (outside the canteen);
- period 5 and 6: VET and VCE students (not including Year 10 students studying a VET or VCE subject)

### Thursday 2 February

 all students in all year levels attend

- Year 7 and VCE students to go straight to their period 1 class
- Year 8 students – the Gym
- Year 9 students – the DLC
- Year 10 students – the Theatre

## Bushfire Alert Drill

Recently we had a successful bushfire alert and evacuation drill. We first entered into the alert phase, then we moved onto the evacuation phase – this involved evacuating students into A Block which is the building that includes the office area, gym and theatre. It was great to see our Emergency Management Plan working smoothly.

As we are in bushfire season, here is some useful information:

### School procedures for the bushfire season

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools and children's services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district.

**Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.**

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter and via the Compass Parent Portal. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00 pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day. This will be done via a notice on the



## Year 7 Water Safety Day

On Monday 21st November Year 7 students attended Sandridge Beach to participate in a water safety activities day run by Royal Lifesaving Victoria to apply their water safety knowledge learnt in health class and learn and some new practical skills. Throughout the day students participated in a range of activities including learning how to respond to emergency situations, how to rescue someone, using the nipper and body boards as well as the highly competitive beach flags. All students should be congratulated on their efforts on the day as they dealt with some very tough conditions (being over 30 degrees and very windy). The day was fully packed with little down time however the students challenged themselves and gave 100% in all rotations. The feedback from the staff at Royal Life Saving Victoria was that the students were exceptionally well behaved, listened to all instructions and tried their best at all times. Well done to all year 7 students. A special thank you to Warrandyte Community Bank who provided a grant to the school to enable this valuable educational experience to occur.

Compass Parent Newsfeed, an email to families and through the information message on our phone system.

**Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast.** This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.
- Depending on which Bureau of Meteorology district is impacted bus route cancellations may affect our school.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – **on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the CFA advise that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan.

### What can parents do?

- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters and by checking the Compass Parent Portal regularly. If you do not know your Compass log in please contact the General Office on 9844 2749 who will be able to assist you with this.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you're planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- Talk to your child about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can access more information about children's services closures on the Department of Education and Training website – see

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

For up-to-date information on this year's fire season, visit the CFA website at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.

**Joe Caruana**  
Assistant Principal





## The Great Victorian Bike Ride

For the fourteenth year in a row Warrandyte High School students and staff participated in the Great Victorian Bike Ride. This year cycling over 550 kms from Hall's Gap to Geelong via the Great Ocean Road. The weather was kind, though the mornings were very cold and Lavers Hill is not getting any smaller. The Shipwreck Coastline is also not getting any less spectacular and the views along the coast riding from Port Campbell to Anglesea were amazing. Pictured below is our intrepid band camped just near the Twelve Apostles. The WHS team was ably led by Simon Andrews supported by Stephen Parkin and ex-student Caitlin Khaw. The students were fantastic, as were the five parents who also took part.

I have included below an email I received from Graham Buckley who takes a group of Indigenous youth from Central Australia on the ride each year.

*Greetings Principal,*

*Staff & students from your school responded immediately to a call that I put out to the participants on the just completed GVBR.*

*Since 2003, my final time of teaching, I have been bringing Indigenous youth down from Central Australia so as to participate in the annual GVBR. As you would appreciate the total cost of being able to provide this opportunity for the young people is significant. All of the families are welfare recipients so money from them towards the venture is practically non-existent. Airfare & other associated costs, besides the ride fee, makes it a real challenge to foot the bill! However, one critical fundraiser that Bicycle Network permits me to do during the ride is the raffling off of a beautiful dot-painted bike helmet done by a very talented Central Australian. Arrernte woman. The kids I bring down are too shy to go around & sell the tickets. That is where WHS personnel jumped in & offered their help. If you*

*could please pass on my gratitude to your staff & students involved & of course it says something really positive about your school.*

*Kind regards, Graham Buckley.*



**Stephen Parkin**

## Library News



## Makerspace Magnificence!

Over the past 6 weeks a group of innovative students have been involved in a wonderful project to create an automated watering system for some of the garden beds in the school vegetable garden. This project was facilitated by guest presenter Rohan Latimer from High Country Web (<http://highcountryweb.com.au>) and funded through our Warrandyte Rotary Club grant for the Makerspace. Students spent Wednesday afternoons learning how to create and program an electronic circuit which would power a small pump to operate the system registered that the soil was dry. Students received a crash course in electronics, learnt to solder, code, problem solve and work collaboratively to build something from scratch.

Students ranged from Year 7 through to Year 11 and this project provided them with an excellent opportunity to pursue an area of particular interest and to work beyond the classroom with students from other year levels. It was fabulous to see the peer coaching and mentoring the older students were able to offer our year 7 students.

It was great to witness the sheer joy and relief when the first prototype pump was installed, the solar battery connected, the dry soil registering with the circuit and voila! - water pumping into the garden bed. A few programming adjustments were required to get the timing of the water flow to an

optimum pace then off it went....

Thanks to Ms Bloom and Mr Davies for their participation in the project... giving up their time and offering their expertise to make it happen.

Thanks also to our Makers: Martin Tomich, Fynn Groves, Nic Dodds, Bardia Firoozi, Hope Watts, Dylan Mullin, Luke Myers, Josh Crawshaw-Comerly, Fletcher Konynenburg, Will Matthews and Kaelem Long.

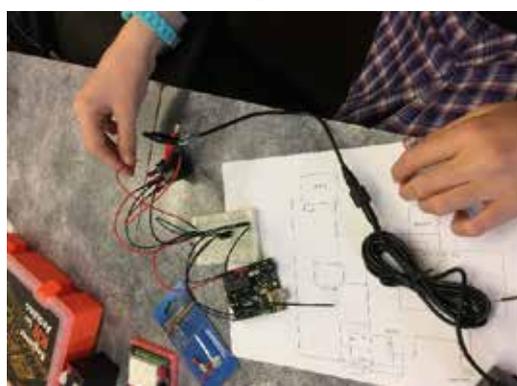
And finally thanks to the mastermind of the project Rohan...for his patience, innovation and working beyond the call of duty....

**Look out for new Makerspace projects in 2017...**

**Meanwhile back in the library....**

Students are reminded that any overdue library books should be returned before students finish up for the year. We are currently undertaking our annual stocktake and would like to make sure all resources are accounted for.

As a result of our stocktake many books have been withdrawn from circulation and we will be holding a **fabulous book sale**..... 50 cents per item or 5 for \$2.00. This will happen at lunchtimes from Thursday 1st December... until sold out! Maybe you could pick up a great Christmas bargain... everyone needs a pre-loved book in their life. All proceeds of the sale will go to supporting education in a third world country.





Sport for 2016 came to a conclusion with the final sports round robin day for the year 7 and 8 students where they played in a gala day consisting of competition in ultimate Frisbee, Tag Rugby, Futsal and for the first time an interschool dodgeball competition. All students trained hard during their sport education time to develop skills in the new sports and were rewarded with some fantastic results on competition day. The year 7 students entered teams in all 4 sports and had success in all areas. The Futsal competition was tightly contested with Warrandyte entering a boys team and a mixed team. Both teams had finished the day with some good wins but the highlight was seeing the improvement and perseverance throughout the day. For a lot of students Tag Rugby was a brand new sport however they challenged themselves to apply skills from their individual sports to come together to play some great games. In the end they came away 3rd overall which was a fantastic effort. Another new sport for many students was Ultimate Frisbee. The year 7's was lucky enough to have Ultimate Frisbee Victoria run the day for them enabling them to further gain some valuable skills in the morning before the commencement of the competition. The competition was tight with one of the games coming down to sudden death after the final siren. The Warrandyte team group together to produce some amazing passes and intercepts to come away victorious at the end of the day. Congratulations to the Ultimate Frisbee team.

The Year 7 students also entered a girls and boys team into the dodgeball competition. This was a fast passed game where some serious throwing and dodging was undertaken. Both teams had an amazing day winning their games and being the overall champions on the day. The Year 8 students ended up entering 3 teams into the dodgeball competition and 4 teams into the Futsal competition. Unfortunately on the day of competition for the Year 8 students the weather was not kind and the Futsal got rained out.

The dodgeball competition however was tightly contested with Warrandyte 1 team winning their pool and having to wait around to see the winner

of Warrandyte 3 team and Templestowe to see who they would verse. This game came down to sudden death after the siren and unfortunately for Warrandyte 3 they were beaten. This left the final to be played between Warrandyte 1 and Templestowe. The game was fast paced and the speed at which the ball was being thrown by some of the students was simply unbelievable. Warrandyte students played the game with great sportsmanship but unfortunately went down in a very tightly contested game. All students however should be proud of their efforts with Warrandyte 1 finishing 2nd, Warrandyte 3 finishing 3rd and Warrandyte 2 finishing 3rd overall.

I would also like to congratulate all students who represented the school at divisional, regional and state level competition in 2016. It has been a fantastic year for Warrandyte within the interschool sports program and I look forward to seeing some great results in 2017.

**Katie Cook**  
Sports Leader

Have a happy  
and safe Christmas  
everyone

