

IMPORTANT DATES TERM 4 2008

28 th Nov - 1 st Dec	Year 10 Exams
5 th December	Correction Day [No School] VCE/VCAL 2 nd hand books sales 12.30-4.30pm
9 th December	Orientation Day Year 7's 2009 GPI Uniform sales 12pm-4pm
11 th December	ALL YEAR LEVELS 2 nd hand books Sales 12.30pm-4.30pm
12 th December	ALL YEAR LEVELS 2 nd hand books Sales 8.30am-12.30pm
15 th December	Last day years 7-9/[1.09 dismissal] Reports distributed
17 th December	Awards Evening – The Centre Ivanhoe

23 rd January	Campion Book collection 9.30am-2pm Uniform shop 9am-3pm
30 th January	Year 7's 2009 Information day & Barbeque 9am-1pm
2 nd February	First day of school years 7 - 12

REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES:

Please notify the relevant coordinator as soon as possible if your child is absent:

Year 12	<i>Christine Farmakis</i>	9458 6141
Year 11	<i>Mary Anagnostopoulos</i>	9458 6138
Year 10	<i>Lyndal Roper</i>	9458 6113
Year 9	<i>Caroline McLachlan</i>	9458 6167
Year 8	<i>Robert Basso</i>	9458 6170
Year 7	<i>Anne Herschell</i>	9458 6168

SUSTAINABLE NEWS—THORNBURY HIGH SCHOOL ON THE WAY TO BEING FIVE STAR RESOURCE SMART

Lorna from CERES [pictured right] visited us on Tuesday 25th November to meet and greet the sustainability team and talk about the plan for next year. The notion of us becoming a sustainable school will be closer to a reality with the school undergoing core training modules in the areas of water, waste, biodiversity and energy. The staff will receive PD training in early 2009 so as to be better equipped to include sustainability across the curriculum throughout the whole school.

We will attempt to be credited as a 'five star' sustainable school by passing all four modules and by also including the plan in our curriculum. Students from the sustainable futures group will work with Mr Lee, Jo. A, Mr Bason and Mr Parker to ensure that we are on track. With exciting new developments in the Straw Bale Building and also the new Year 7 building, we will see some real differences in the school and its approach to sustainability. The areas that we have already made progress in will be enhanced by getting everyone on board doing audits of our water and energy use, having waste free days and celebrating the hard work we have already done in the past.

Aspects such as tree planting we have been doing for years at Broadford with Mr Bason will be added to our biodiversity audit. Our huge water tank to flush the 9/10 toilets will be included in the water audit and a new federal grant to install solar panels which will be used to offset our energy bill. Our big plan for the grant will be to install new water tanks to flush the staff toilets and to water the garden.



The VCAL students have worked hard to build new garden beds for our year 7 students to grow their own vegetables and also to propagate Australian native plants to sell to the local community. All these activities and initiatives have been planned to enable the school to lead the way in sustainable education.

Peter Lee & Sustainability Team

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - REFLECTIONS ON THE YEAR FROM SAN MARCO, ITALY

It is 8 in the morning and I am waiting for Ms D'Amore to pick me up on the way to the local Secondary School. It is day five of the study tour and many of the students are becoming homesick and it has rained non-stop since we arrived in this very picturesque town. Most of us have seen the postcards of Italian towns and this is very typical with narrow cobblestone streets (with cars darting around) and two or three storey houses with balconies. The people are very friendly although the language barrier at times can be difficult.

My fifth full year at Thornbury High is almost complete and again it has been a challenging but rewarding year. Although San Marco is a long distance from Melbourne (25 hours of travel - let alone delays!), it allows one to view the year's achievements in a different light.

The major achievement is the development of an agreement with the Education Department to provide funds for new facilities in the light of the school's growth in numbers. The school portable is about to go with a new double sustainable classroom already in its place. The school has started a conversation with its community (and the Department) about the best school size and the need to plan for this in the near future. A figure in the 800s seems a reasonable size if the school is going to maintain its current results in terms of engagement, retention, attendance, parent and student opinion as well as year 12 results.

The school, for the first time in over 10 years, is 'in theory' operating in a surplus. This allows the school to take firm control over all future staffing and finances. The school has interviewed over one hundred candidates and has appointed new teachers in English, Mathematics, Music, Drama, Mandarin and Physical Education with graduates and expert teachers.

There has been a strong focus on staff professional development and workload this year. A new local agreement on staffing conditions has resulted in the Thornbury High teachers having the best conditions in the State. This agreement was reached as a result of the considerable contribution that all staff have made to the tremendous growth in the school's number and reputation over the past four years. The school has also conducted up to four early dismissals (of

students) each term which allows staff to work on improving their teaching content and methods. One particular focus has been on improving literacy across all subject areas using strategies developed by Professor John Munro.

The school once again has received awards in a range of areas

- Winner of the State Under 100m sprint
- Best Youth Program on Channel 31
- \$200,000 grant to develop video packages on healthy food and eating
- Acknowledgement for its work with student teachers and retention
- Science, Mathematics, Music and Reading awards

While all these achievements are remarkable, it is not remarkable how they were achieved and that is through the development and maintenance of strong relationships between the teachers, students, parents and the local community.

As staff changes have not been finalized for 2009, I will give a full report in the first newsletter back.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your family a great holiday and look forward to working with you in 2009.

Peter Egeberg Principal

INTRODUCTION OF "T" BAR SHOES FOR GIRLS IN 2009

All girls will have the option of either wearing black lace up leather school shoes or HARRISON (*or Harrison style*) black "T" bars in 2009.

We have selected the Harrison brand due to their sturdiness and that they were the most popular choice amongst the girls.

There are two different finishes on the Harrison shoe. They come in either shiny or a dull finish with each having a considerable price difference. Either finish is acceptable. The shoes are available at many shoe outlets and also through the school uniform shop.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ring the school.

Meredith Stephenson Assistant Principal

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

END-OF-YEAR RESULTS

Unit 3/4 results will be available to students from VCAA on Monday 15th December. Students have the opportunity to discuss their options and pathways, after their results, with school staff.

Year 12 Co-ordinator, Miss Farmakis 94586141

Mr Smith, MIPS Co-ordinator 94586103

Careers Coordinator, Mr Barlow 94586136.

AWARDS NIGHT

Will be held on Wednesday December 17th at the

Ivanhoe Centre. The starting time is 7pm. This is a compulsory event for all the year 11 and 12 students. Students must come in full school uniform.

YEAR 11 BOOKLIST AMENDMENT

Year 11 students 2009 please note an error in the 2009 booklist. The **Senior English Workbook VCE** should read **Units 1 & 2 Units not 3 & 4.**

ATTENTION YEAR 12 LEGAL STUDIES STUDENTS 2009

Do not buy the textbook as listed on the booklist. Instead purchase: *Making & Breaking the Law*, VCE Units 3 & 4, 7th Edition, Jules Aldous

Note: this book will be available at the secondhand book sale.

Senior School Team (Ms Mary Anagnostopoulos, Ms Christine Farmakis and James Stoicov)

SPORT'S REPORT

The Indoor Cricket and Futsal were the final competitions on the sports calendar for 2008. Thornbury High was represented by a number of great teams across years 7-10 for both of these sports.

The sports department would like to give a big thank you to the following students who helped out coaching junior teams; without their support Thornbury High would not be able to enter such a large number and variety of sports teams.

Shelby Cree	Letisha Watson	Morgan Christie
Kyle Schache	Mark Wilson	Biljana Celeski
Emila Pertama	Beau Dorian	Angus Hackett
Josh Taylor	Allan Norris	Jack Dalla-Via
Felix Punua	Dylan Dalla-Via	Oliver Matthews
Lucas Johns	Chris Mitrevski	Simeon Christou
Katie Holmes	Chris Smith	Seraphim Kyprianou

Thanks again to these students, their help is much appreciated. Hopefully we will see just as many 'student coaches' get involved next year!!

Carla Ruhe - Sports Coordinator



Year 7 Information Night: Music performance

A VISIT TO THE ALPINE SCHOOL

On Sunday 23rd November Ms. Vassos and Ms. McLachlan headed out of Melbourne to Marlo to visit our year 9 students at the Alpine School... Snowy River Campus. The drive was long, but the trip was worth it. It was a great pleasure to see our students looking so well (clear-skinned and clear-eyed), and full of energy. They seemed happy and were full of stories of their term. They had been on 'expo'...expedition, were working on their Community Learning Project (CLP) and their main passport activity. They were also very good at table tennis and seemed to be coping with no telly, mobile, hairdryer, straightener or i-pod.

Chantelle Hiah, Sarah Miles, Anthony Murphy and Barnaby Reilly-Williams have excelled! They were working well together and with students from other schools. They were surviving sharing a room with a new person from another school and well tuned to the organisation and processes associated with living with 44 other students; sharing a common space and doing regular rostered jobs. They knew the drill and happily shared it with us as we went through the meal routine and getting organised for classes.



They shared their passport work with us and we learned a lot about them in the process. We discussed their project and helped plan the next stage. We were impressed! What a fabulous opportunity to spend a term in a wonderful environment and really extend themselves as learners and members of a community. They were building relationships with their 'Alpine friends'.

On Tuesday they were preparing for a three day expedition involving canoeing, bushwalking and a bit of climbing. They were in capable hands and clearly knew their stuff. They had been looking forward to this for some time.

These students had grown, perhaps not physically, though they all looked robust, but definitely in spirit. Well done to Chantelle, Sarah, Anthony and Barnaby. We look forward to your return.

Caroline McLachlan & Ann Vassos

P.S. They survived the rain!

ALPINE SCHOOL – MY JOURNEY

Before I came I was worried about everything I just wanted to see,

I was mainly scared that people would not like me.

*It was getting closer and closer to the day of my depart,
I couldn't even think about the time my family and I would be apart.*

It was the night before the journey and I was having trouble getting to sleep,

In the car I was so excited and my little sister gave me her toy to keep.

*As my car pulled up on the grass I got welcomed by name,
I was wondering why, I figured out I was the last student that came.*

*I was really nervous as I walked through the door,
I was amazed and shocked with the amount of people that I saw.*

*It was time to say good-bye to my family it was pretty sad,
Though when I met all the new people I was really glad.*

After a few days I was really comfortable and it felt like home,

*I got to know my roommate and she was really awesome.
We started having classes thinking and learning and peer skills,
We had outdoor classes like surfing; it was full of thrills.*

All the classes were great and information we needed to know,

The days were passing fast, but the time seemed passing slow,

*It was nearly parent visiting weekend my heart was so alive,
I was running toward the car when I saw my family pull in the drive.*

*It was the best weekend of my life and I had so much fun,
My parents were thrilled with all the work that I had done.*

I got back to SRC so glad to see my friends but to leave my family was so sad,

I just thought I better make the most of the time here I still had.

*Getting back on track was a hard task at hand,
It wasn't long before I was well into my work, but its getting too much to stand.*

*It's all wrapping up now and running out of time it seems,
I still don't believe I'm here, it all feels like a bunch of dreams.*

*I don't want to leave the people I have got to know,
I hope the time doesn't go fast, I hope it goes real slow,
We've had our ups and downs but we all made amends,
Because now I know that for sure we will be life-long friends.*

Chantelle Hiah 9D

STUDENT WELLBEING REPORT

Year 9 Party Safe Day was a resounding success as students had an interesting day following a program that THS has implemented for over five years. Students attended presentations and workshops on how to stay safe when partying, especially since the

party season is about to begin for many. Students had a hands-on experience at the alcohol workshop where they had to measure a standard drink and how different alcoholic drinks have different alcohol levels. Ambulance Victoria was also represented and students were encouraged to ring the ambulance, as it is better to be treated immediately rather than wait. Ambulance subscription is also encouraged, as often ambulance trips can be quite costly.

The police were represented, as we have a very strong partnership with the local police. Speakers, Sophie and Cathy from Victoria Police, have often spoken to our students at different year levels this year about various topics such as your rights, graffiti laws, cyber bullying and how to ensure you hold a party safely.



Year 9 Party Safe Day: measuring alcohol levels in drinks

Year 10 students have also been presented with two very different speakers; one from Paraquod who talked about spinal injury and another about HIV and safe sex. Students appreciated the honesty that these two speakers brought to their talk. Some students have decidedly reconsidered how they sit on the hind legs of their chairs after the talks of spinal injury whilst other students have taken heed the importance of safe sex.

There have been quite a few programs that have been implemented by the student wellbeing team but we are always evaluating and reflecting on programs that have our students' best interest at heart. Stay tuned for a bigger and better student wellbeing program next year. As usual we look forward to parent feedback, especially after parents have asked their child about these programs.

Part of the student wellbeing program is the counselling service that the school provides. Karen Hutchinson, the social worker allocated to our school, is only here one and half days a week. If you have a child that requires counselling I would also

recommend you access your general practitioner as she/he can suggest ongoing counsellors at a minimal cost, if any. We have the school nurse, Emily Graham, who is here two days a week and Jo Apostolopoulos, the youth worker, who is also here four days a week. They are both available for some counselling.

Have a wonderful break and enjoy the festive season.

Barbara Carydis SWC

MUSIC NEWS

INSTRUMENT RETURNS

The last official instrumental lessons for 2008 will be held next Tuesday 2nd December. Any instruments hired through the school must be returned by then to be checked over by the instrumental staff. Once they have been checked, students may pick them up with a signed holiday hire agreement and take them home to practice over the summer.

FINAL WORD FROM NICK DEAN AS OUTGOING MUSIC COORDINATOR

I would like to thank all students, parents and staff for all their support over the past eight years that I have been Music Coordinator. I have found it a very rewarding experience with so many fond memories. I came into the job after Meredith Stephenson moved up to Middle School Coordination after building the Music Department up from nothing. Her shoes were certainly impossible to fill and I can't thank her enough for her continued support and advice throughout my time as Coordinator. She left soon after we achieved our first Gold Shield at the Melbourne Bands Festival in 1998 and a hugely successful Central Australia tour. I have always strived to get close to running tours as well as Meredith did and, after running three or four camps a year, I think I nearly made it! We have achieved two more Gold Shields in 2005 with our Senior Concert Band and in 2006 with the Senior Stage Band and I'm sure there are many more to come.

Thornbury has come through a well publicised tough time and the Music Department has had to work really hard as a team to keep our numbers up and our standards high. I'm really grateful to the wonderful team of instrumental staff at Thornbury that have made my job so much easier: Craig Harrison (woodwind) and Jane Farnan (Clarinet and Bass) who have been here since before I started at the school in 1995, Sean Nihill (Trumpet), Diana Norton (woodwind), Tim Blamey (Lower Brass) and his predecessor Kent Fisk. They are all exceptional musicians and outstanding teachers, totally committed to their job. They managed to produce incredible results with a wide range of students from very different backgrounds. Their experience has been invaluable to me whenever I have needed advice and I thank them all for their support and friendship

throughout my time as coordinator. I would also like to thank Lance Cross who was co-coordinator with me for the first few years after Meredith left the position. He is always willing to help and give advice and was a great mentor when I was first starting out in the position. Kent Macpherson took over from Lance in the Music Classroom in the last few years and working with him has been a pleasure. His expertise in sound recording and knowledge of contemporary music was a very valuable asset and I really appreciate his continued help in designing and setting up the audio equipment for the new recording studio. His work in the music classroom from the junior levels through to VET and VCE was a great support to the music programme and I thank him for all his efforts.

To all the students who have been and still are involved in Music at Thornbury, I would like to thank you for always having a go. There are lots who came in at year 7 who had never played an instrument in their lives but were able to take music all the way through to VCE level. Others dropped out after a short time but I hope they all have fond memories of Music. No matter what your experience I know Music is something that gives many people pleasure in many different ways and I know that the Thornbury Music Department will continue to provide great musical opportunities to all students willing to give it a go.

Our new coordinator, Kyle Schultz will be a full time Music classroom teacher which is what we've needed since Meredith left the position. He is a very enthusiastic young man with great experience on Classical Piano, Contemporary Guitar and Drums who will also be capable of operating our new recording studio. We are very excited as a department to have a new enthusiastic member joining us and we're looking forward to a bright future.

Finally I would like to thank Peter Egeberg for all his support. A supportive administration is essential for a successful music program.

Why am I leaving the position? It is a huge job and as a part time employee of the school, I have always found it challenging to dedicate the time that the job deserved. I am taking term 1 off next year as Long Service Leave and will be helping to look after my second child who is due to be born in February next year. I will be coming back in term 2, two days a week teaching percussion which I am very much looking forward to. Thank you again to everyone for all your support. Have a great Christmas and summer break and I'll see you all term 2 next year.

Nick Dean

PEER SUPPORT

On Tuesday 25th of November selected students from Year 9 attended the Peer Support Program Training Day to become a Peer Support Leader to Year 7

students. This role involves providing support, guidance, encouragement and friendship to Year 7 students.

In the morning we were introduced to the Program and to our roles and responsibilities as Peer Support Leaders. We participated in several activities including warm-up games and serious discussions about peer pressure, bullying and assertiveness. All of these activities had a fundamental goal to them, whether it was to improve our communication skills, leadership abilities or our teamwork. Towards the end of the day, we were allocated to a group of four students so we could begin planning and organising for the Grade 6 Orientation.

In conclusion, the program provided us with the necessary skills and resources we would need to run our own groups and also benefited our own social and developmental skills invaluable. It was a fun day and enjoyed by all.

Peer Support Team 2009



UNIFORM FOR SALE - CHEAP

We have limited number of discontinued stock of long school pants and shorts for both girls and boys at an absolute bargain price of **\$5.00 each.**

Sizes available are:

Boys long pants in very large sizes only 44, 46 & 48.

Boys shorts size 16 & 18. Girls long pants sizes 10, 12, 18 & 20. Girls shorts 8, 10, 12, 14 & 16

Enquiries at the school office.

EMA 2009 – DO YOU NEED TO APPLY?

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; **and**
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the

State Concessions Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (**28 January 2009** which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (**13 July 2009**).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by **27 February 2009** for the first instalment and **7 August 2009** for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of **\$221** for primary students and **\$443** for secondary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school.

Students turning 16 years in 2009 will be paid on a pro rata basis.

New EMA payment option for 2009

Commencing in 2009, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will introduce a new payment option for the payment of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) to parents.

Under the new system, eligible parents will have the option to receive the 50% 'parent portion' of the EMA payment directly into the parent's nominated bank account, or as a cheque payment.

The 2009 EMA application form includes a section for you to nominate whether you would like your EMA payment to be made to your own bank account or to receive your payment as a cheque (which is the current arrangement). The banking details required will include the BSB code and the account number.

EMA application forms are now available from the school office.

SCHOOL START BONUS

Parents/guardians of students commencing year 7 in 2009 should have received their School Start Bonus Voucher in the information pack that was distributed at Transition Night. The School Start Bonus (SSB) was introduced in 2006 to assist parents/guardians of Prep and Year 7 students to meet the start-up costs associated with commencing Primary and Secondary schooling.

Every student enrolled for the first time in Prep and Year 7 in Term 1 is eligible for the bonus. The School Start Bonus is separate from, and additional to, the Education Maintenance Allowance. SSB is not means tested and has no connection with Centrelink.

The \$300 vouchers will be redeemable at any Australia Post outlet displaying the Bank@Post sign

from the 12th January 2009 upon presentation of photo identification.

Please ensure your name on the voucher is identical with your photo identification. If your name is incorrect on the voucher, contact the school to reissue the voucher in your correct legal name.

STRAW BALE SOUND STUDIO



We have been fortunate enough to obtain the services of Ray Willcock for the year to complete the building on time. The decking is down and complete and the roof will be going on in the next two to three weeks. Thanks Ray for all your hard work.

SCIENCE NEWS

YEAR 11 PHYSICS EXCURSION TO JET ENGINE TEST CELL

Year 11 students recently visited the Test Cell at Melbourne Airport and observed various instruments used to measure vibration, frequency, pressure and forces associated with aircraft jet engines.

Michael Foster Science Coordinator

PROUD SPONSOR OF YEAR 7 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS [2008&2009] GROCON

TERM DATES 2009

TERM 1: Monday February 2nd - Friday April 3rd
TERM 2: Monday April 20th - Friday June 26th
TERM 3: Monday July 13th - Friday September 18th
TERM 4: Monday October 5th - Friday December 18th



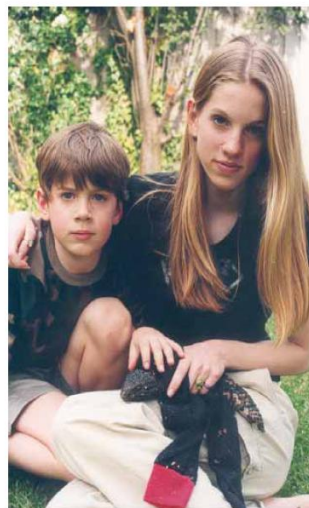
WATSONIA HEIGHTS SOCCER CLUB - SENIOR WOMEN'S TEAM 2009

Watsonia Heights Soccer Club is seeking expressions of interest from girls and women interested in playing in an open age women's team in season 2009.

New players without previous experience are most welcome to join. The club intends to enter a team in the Women's Metropolitan League (North West). Interest in women's soccer is booming, and the future is very bright at the Heights, with this new women's team also providing a future pathway for our 4 junior girls teams – Under 13s, Under 14s, Under 15s and Under 16s. Our home grounds are conveniently located at Gabonia Avenue and Elder Street Greensborough, just off the Greensborough Bypass from the Western Ring Road. For an Expression of Interest form please visit the news page of our website at www.whjsc.org.au For further information please contact John McKee on 0414 436 285.



Ever thought about Fostering?



On any one night in Victoria 2700 children and teenagers are safe and sound in the care of foster carers.

Kids in need of foster care far outnumber the foster carers available.

Can you give a child or young person a place to call home for a while?

Your local foster care program can provide you with training, support and a non-taxable allowance.

For more information on fostering and how to get involved, phone Kaye Bratetch at the North & West Publicity and Recruitment Unit for Foster Care Services - 9431 1799

Children and Adolescent Foster Care

Foster Care shares the care of children when their families are in a situation of crisis and they do not have family or friends who can help out. Anyone can apply to become a Foster Carer. You may be working full or part time, unemployed, retired, living alone or as a couple with or without children of your own. Foster Care can provide the support and encouragement children need until they are able to return home.

Members from the Koori community can help provide quality culturally appropriate care for Koori children through the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA).

Phone: Kaye Bratetch – 9431 1799 for further information