

## WELCOME TO THORNBURY, CLASS OF 2017

# Year 7

Welcome to Thornbury High School's YEAR 7 newsletter, the best way to keep up-to-date with what the Year 7s have been up to, and what is next up on the calendar for this exciting group of students.

The new students of Thornbury High have thrown themselves into their first year of high school with the energy and focus required in such a busy first term. With so many new and exciting challenges ahead, a huge amount of hard work is needed from each student. From how to get to the gym from the Year 7 centre to locker combinations, from which house am I in to how do I use my planner? As well as Year 7 Camp, Instrumental Music Concerts, Swimming carnival and Excursions to La Trobe University and Melbourne Recital Centre.

Year 7 students at THS start their first day before the rest of the school. The students came full of questions about new friends, teachers and subjects but hopefully left feeling a little more prepared for what lie ahead. With a huge amount of information presented to the students they responded very well to instructions and tackled the challenges presented with vigour. A student, Yana Barot, 7F, agreed the early start to the year was useful, saying: "I was nervous at the start of the day, but by the end I liked my class and couldn't wait to come back tomorrow."



## Strawbale Picnic Concert

On a balmy Tuesday evening in March, our talented music students from years 7 to 12 gave it their all in their very first music concert at the Strawbale Picnic Concert. This year's concert was especially noteworthy, however, as it was the first public performance of our Year 7 Music Program students.



Throughout Term 1, all Year 7 students –over 180 children – have been involved in our integrated music program. Students can learn an instrument of their choice from THS's dedicated team of music staff, and are able to perform in various instrument groups and bands.

The evening would not have been possible without the support of the Music Parents Association, the Performing Arts Team and support of the staff on the night.

Thank you to the wonderful Thornbury High Community who make events such as the Strawbale Concert an incredible success and an incredible opportunity and source of joy for our students.

## Fun in the sun at Lake Dewar Lodge

Term 1 saw one of the highlights of the year for our Year 7s – the annual Year 7 camp, which was this year held at the beautiful Lake Dewar Lodge near Bacchus Marsh.



Just shy of 140 Year 7s arrived at Thornbury High School bright and early on a crisp March morning, a pillow under one arm and a bag under the other. Excitement was in the air and the students hurried into the bus line with the precision and smiling faces we have come to expect from this group.

A relatively short bus ride later, we arrived at the lodge for lunch and the start of three busy days of activities and challenges. The students settled into their dorms and got through the strategic discussions of top versus bottom bunks with the help of our peer support leaders, some of our Year 10 students.

Students sped through 10 activities over the three days, including kayaking, geocaching, gorge walking, mountain biking, stand up paddle boarding and raft building. Students also got to test themselves on the 120m flying fox, with Lewis of 7A even taking on Mr Keenan in a race across the gorge!

Aoibh of 7C said, “I’m a bit scared of heights so even getting up on the platform was difficult, but once I got the harness on and jumped once I didn’t want to stop. I went four times!”



That evening students played host to the THS music staff, who had students perform the “cup song” with perfect synchronicity. Proof of the performance can be seen in the Year 7 Centre, as the performance was filmed using state-of-the-art 360 cameras.

Weary eyed the next morning, teachers and students emerged for a big breakfast to fuel up for a massive day two, with five fun and challenging activities and Mr Polwarth’s legendary trivia night.

Sarah said, “Stand-up paddle-boarding was definitely my favourite activity, and the food was fantastic. However the best part about camp was being grouped with students from other classes and having the chance to make new friends.”

Our final morning involved a quick camp clean-up, before one more final activity and goodbyes to the camp staff. Students and teachers were exceptionally well looked after by the camp, and the students were a credit to themselves throughout, embracing challenges in a fun, fair and determined manner that allowed them to take home some positive memories.

