



AUGUST NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPALS REPORT

Our Principal Team has recently participated in professional development and networking opportunities, including the VASSP Conference. These events provide valuable insights and new strategies that we are able to share with staff, supporting stronger learning outcomes for our students.

Celebrating Student Achievement

The Beat was held on Tuesday 26 and Wednesday 27 August at the Mildura Arts Centre. This event was a wonderful celebration of student talent. Congratulations to Bianca Deckert and her team for coordinating such an outstanding showcase.

Staffing Celebrations

We congratulate three long-serving staff members, Tania Edgar, Joanna Panagiotarios and Anne Symes, who were recognised by the Department of Education for 35 years of service at a ceremony on 27 August.

Student Engagement

On Friday 4 September, our EAL students will join us for a lunch to share their experiences at MSC and provide feedback on their learning journey.

On Monday 8 September, the SRC will meet with our team to discuss classroom voice, assessments, study habits and how we can improve experiences for our students.

We have also received our Attitudes to School Survey results. Participation has increased and there has been a positive lift across all target areas, giving us strong direction for continued improvement.

On Thursday 28 August, we celebrated Wear It Purple Day to show support for LGBTQIA+ youth and promote safe and inclusive school environments. One of our students was invited to ABC Radio to share their perspective on the day, highlighting the importance of being able to feel safe and authentic at school.

Our Wellbeing Team has also been working with psychologist Madeline Wishart on strategies to build student resilience and support positive mental health. They will share these learnings with staff later this year.

Students have also engaged in the Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships program during Pathways, with a focus on gender-based violence and consent. Dylan Smith, our youth worker, delivered an age-appropriate assembly presentation on affirmative consent, helping students understand both the legal and personal importance of respectful relationships.

This is a busy time for students and parents/carers can provide valuable support. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can help.

Kind regards,

Belinda Hudak
Principal

We would like to respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Lands on which we meet, the Latje Latje, Ngintait and Nyeri Nyeri, the First Peoples of the Millewa Mallee. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We also pay our respects to neighbouring Traditional Owners the Barkinji Tribe, across the river in NSW.

PO Box 1436, Mildura 3502 (P) 03 5021 2911 (F) 03 5023 2440 Email: mildura.senior.co@education.vic.gov.au

Principal Belinda Hudak

Assistant Principal John Thomson **Assistant Principal** Lewis Gunn **Acting Assistant Principal** Melissa Davies

Business Manager Jade Jackson



MILLEWA MALLEE COLLEGE
a pathway to the future

Key Dates

Week 8 Tuesday 2nd September - Wear It Pink Day

VPC classes are raising awareness for Breast Cancer and selling beanies for the Pink Ball at \$25each. They will also be selling pink ribbons at \$2 each.

Tuesday 2nd September - Employment Connect (during Pathways for all Year 12)

Students will attend their normal pathways class and have the roll marked before heading to the Gymnasium with their teacher.
This session is designed to connect students with employment opportunities or opportunities to upskills them ready for employment.

This is suitable for all year 12 students as there will be platforms for traineeships, apprenticeships, short courses and training opportunities.

Organisations available to talk to on the day:

- MADEC
- Are-Able
- Sunraysia Regional Consulting
- SMGT
- Prestige Staffing
- SuniTAFE
- Axis Employment
- Apprenticeship Support Aust
- Our careers team will also be available on the day.

Wednesday 10 September, 9am - 10.30am - Out of the Shadows Walk

Location: MSC Ovals
Staff and students only
VM Personal Development Classes are organising the “Out of the Shadows’ Walk for Lifeline.
Any money we raise will stay here in our local community to help support the Loddon Mallee Lifeline and train specialists. Don’t forget to claim your t-shirt when you donate. If you would like to donate click the link below. Or just join us on the day and walk to remember or support those lost to suicide.

We will be walking 9km (to signify the 9 people lost to suicide each day in Australia). <https://www.outoftheshadowswalk.org.au/fundraisers/milduraseniorcollege>

Thursday 11 September - RUOK Day, Lunch Time Activities

Staff and students only
Wear Yellow, watch or play Volley Ball and enjoy the lunch time activities over some conversation! Available to purchase:

- Bracelet making
- BBQ
- Kit Kats
- Mural
- Lucky dip

Week 9 Tuesday 16 September - NAIDOC Day

Welcome to Country, Smoking Ceremony, Artifacts on display, BBQ Lunch, Johnny Cakes, Basketball Netball Game, Expo.
“In 2025, we celebrate 50 years of NAIDOC Week, celebrating our cultures and teaching about our people’s histories and cultures. Each year, we select a theme to further develop greater understanding of our issues, in line with our Elders’ initial concepts for NAIDOC Week. The theme for 2025, ‘The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy,’ focuses on our youth – future leaders in Culture, and all the social and political parameters we need their ongoing help with as we continue to fight for justice and equity in Australia. We want to highlight the amazing role our youth play in our futures. They are our strength, they provide our vision through their ongoing work with Elders in their own communities and they are responsible for future legacies.
-Co-Chair National NAIDOC Committee Aunty (Prof) Lynette Riley AO (Wiradjuri and Gamilaroi)”

The Beat

The Beat 2025 was once again a fantastic celebration of music, dance and drama, showcasing the incredible talent of young people across the Sunraysia district. This year’s theme, “Great Southern Land,” paid tribute to Australian music across the decades and highlighted the creativity and energy of our students.

More than 350 students from 14 local schools took part, presenting their own performances in a variety show format. Participating schools included Mildura Senior College, Red Cliffs Secondary College, Chaffey Secondary College, Irymple Secondary College, Merbein P-10, Robinvale College, Mildura South Primary, Koorlong Primary, Nichols Point Primary, Red Cliffs East Primary, Irymple Primary, Red Cliffs Primary, Mildura Specialist School and the Mildura English Language Centre.

Performers were not the only stars of the event. Many students were also involved behind the scenes as audio technicians, curtain handlers and stage crew—gaining valuable experience in the technical and production side of theatre. For some, this was their first taste of performing or working in a professional theatre environment, while for others it was the continuation of years of involvement in The Beat.

The showcase was held at the Mildura Arts Centre on Tuesday 26 and Wednesday 27 August, with evening and matinee performances drawing enthusiastic crowds. Audiences were treated to high-quality entertainment, complete with professional staging, lighting, and sound.

This year’s event would not have been possible without the generous support of Mildura Rural City Council, FReeZA and Youth Services Mildura. A special thank you also goes to Bianca Deckert, District Instrumental Music Coordinator and Beat Coordinator, for her outstanding leadership in bringing the event together.

The Beat continues to be a highlight on the Sunraysia schools’ calendar, providing students with a supportive and inspiring opportunity to shine.



Assistant Principals Update

Student Pathways, Transitions and Wellbeing Update

As we continue supporting students through key stages of their secondary education, here are a few updates from the Transitions, Pathways, and Wellbeing teams:

Transitions

- Year 10 transition sessions are underway, with a focus on student interests and future goals.
- Key transition events are scheduled for Term 3 to support a smooth start to 2026.
- Individualised support continues for students joining us mid-year or from alternative settings.

Pathways

- Weekly Pathways sessions are supporting students in exploring career options, building employability skills, and tracking progress.
- Subject selection planning for 2026 has commenced and students will receive guidance on available study options and how they align with future goals.
- We are collecting student data to assist various teams in providing tailored support for students’ next steps, whether that be in further education, training, or employment.

Wellbeing

- Our Wellbeing Team continues to offer support for students with emotional, social, or mental health needs.
- Students and families are reminded that support is always available.

Teacher Assistance - Wednesday Morning Study Sessions

Many staff have been scheduled into classrooms to give students individual help on Wednesday mornings. Please encourage your student to attend school from 9am every Wednesday to gain this extra support. Students can also catch up on missed work, and deepen or extend their learning.

Student Services Centre

Students are reminded that the Student Services Centre is where they will find the Student Support Leaders and Attendance Officer. If students have questions about their program or completing their certificate, attendance queries or just need general help, they should go to the Student Services Centre for advice.

To speak with a Student Support Leader, please call the College and follow the prompts or email them:

Nicole Hynes	nicole.hynes@education.vic.gov.au
Casey Allan	casey.allan@education.vic.gov.au
Nick Oliver	nicholas.oliver@education.vic.gov.au
Brooke Summers	brooke.summers@education.vic.gov.au
Rob Sinclair	robert.sinclair@education.vic.gov.au

Homework Club

Homework Club is held in the Library after school until 4.30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday each week. Students will benefit by attending and forming small study groups or completing individual homework and study.

2025 Daily Start and Finish Times

Day	Classes Start	Classes Finish
Monday	9:00am	2:20pm/3:05pm
Tuesday	9:00am	2:20pm/3:05pm
Wednesday	11:00am	3:10pm
Thursday	9:00am	3:10pm
Friday	9:00am	3:10pm

Students may occasionally be required to undertake a SAC (School Assessed Coursework) Monday or Tuesday at 2.30pm - 3.30pm or Wednesday mornings at 9.00am.

Student Progress Reports

Parents will receive regular updates (every 4 weeks) on student progress either by mail or through our Compass Parent Portal, as well as contact details for class teachers, Pathways Teachers and Student Support Leaders.

Tips for Success

Students can ensure continued success throughout the year by following these tips:

- Check your school emails.
- Enter all due dates/important dates on a calendar.
- Familiarise yourself with our expectations, policies and MSC values as quickly as possible.
- Arrive punctually to class with the correct materials.
- Settle into a routine of homework, revision and study as soon as possible.
- Keep up to date with all classwork.
- Submit work on time.
- Ask for help.
- Use Homework Club and Wednesday mornings to seek teacher help.

Students Driving Cars to School

As a number of our student body are at the stage of life that enables them to be licenced drivers, it is important to point out the Mildura Senior College Student Code of Conduct stipulates the following in accordance with Department of Education guidelines:

- Students are not permitted to transport other students while in daily attendance at the college, or to and from any College function or event.
- This means that students can NOT transport other students to and from school or during the school day. Parent permission does NOT exclude students from this rule. This rule is DE policy which the College is mandated to follow. There are no exceptions to this rule.
- Students can park in the gymnasium carpark or on Fourteenth Street. There are designated areas where students can and cannot park their car.
- No parking is permitted near Gate 5 on Fourteenth Street

- next to the yellow line. Council Parking fines may be issued.
- Students are not permitted to park in Havilah Crescent or on the private land between Havilah Crescent and Deakin Avenue.
- Students wishing to drive a vehicle to school must register their details with the Front Office to assist us to identify student cars in the event of an accident or concern.
- Failure to observe rules and to drive with adequate care in the vicinity of the College may lead to suspension and Police involvement.

The area in and around the College is particularly busy between 8.30am - 9.00am, 1:00pm – 2:00pm, and 3.00pm - 4.15pm and all drivers should proceed with care. At all times, please observe the speed restriction zones (40km/h) in Deakin Avenue and Fourteenth Street and 5km in school grounds to help keep everyone safe.

Parent Portal

Parents have received information regarding access and use of our Parent Portal. This portal will provide parents with access to a range of information, including student attendance, timetables and reports. If there are any issues accessing the portal, please contact the College on 5021 2911 or ictsupport@milsen.vic.edu.au

Student Injury Personal Accident Protection

Parents should be aware that the College does not provide comprehensive insurance cover for students. Parents requiring information about student insurance regarding accidents or personal items bought to school are advised to contact an insurance retailer.

2025 School Fees

Fee Payment can be made by one of the following options:

- BPay - using your unique biller code & reference number on your statement
- In person
- Credit Card by calling the College on 5021 2911 and providing your students name.
- Flexible Payment schedules are available to all.

Please see our Business Manager, Jade Jackson to discuss support for school fees. Email Jade.Jackson@education.vic.gov.au.

Annual Privacy Reminder for our School Community

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools’ Privacy Policy and the Schools’ Privacy Collection Notice.

- Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy www.milsen.vic.edu.au/policies, describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn. We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use

Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child’s information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education, please contact the school. For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools’ privacy policy: information for parents. This information is also available in ten community languages:

- Amharic
- Arabic
- Chinese
- Dari
- Gujarati
- Mandarin
- Somali
- Sudanese
- Turkish
- Urdu
- Vietnamese

Lewis Gunn & Melissa Davies

Assistant Principal Team

Assistant Principal, John Thomson is on leave for Term 3. Please see Lewis or Melissa for your enquiries.



Careers Centre

Our Year 12 students have had a busy Term 3 engaging in a wide range of careers and tertiary information sessions. These included the VTAC Tertiary Information Session with representatives from Victorian and South Australian universities, the "Where to After Year 12" presentation by Principal Belinda Hudak, university trips to Adelaide and Melbourne, and guest speakers throughout the year. These experiences have helped students explore their post-school options.

If students are still unsure about what courses to apply for, they are encouraged to book a careers appointment with Amanda Smith, Tertiary and Careers Advisor. Parents and carers are welcome to attend. Amanda will also be available during the second week of the school holidays (29 September – 3 October 2025).

University Applications

Applications are now open through VTAC (Victoria), SATAC (South Australia), UAC (NSW) and QTAC (Queensland). Students applying for Performing or Fine Arts courses should be mindful of audition and portfolio deadlines in September. Those applying for Education degrees must also complete either the CASPER test or La Trobe's free online Aptitude for Teaching Assessment.

SEAS and Scholarships

The VTAC SEAS (Special Entry Access Scheme) closes Monday 29 September at 5.00pm. It is strongly recommended applications are submitted early to allow time for review. A wide range of scholarships are also available, particularly for students from regional areas. Information can be found on the MSC Careers website.

Accommodation

Accommodation applications for Victorian universities open on Monday 1 September and offers are usually released in December. Many Adelaide accommodation colleges and Flinders University on-campus housing are also available, with applications open now.

Employment and Gap Years

Students planning a gap year are encouraged to prepare resumes and cover letters, and consider industry-related jobs that provide valuable experience. Many local retailers are now advertising for Christmas casual roles, which are a great way to build skills and confidence. Careers staff can assist with applications.

Financial Assistance

Students relocating for study may be eligible for Services Australia support, including:

- Tertiary Access Payment (\$5,000 relocation grant)
- Youth Allowance for full-time students or apprentices
- Abstudy and Abstudy Living Allowance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
- Rent Assistance for those in student accommodation

Parents are encouraged to discuss these options with their child and contact the Careers Centre if further support is needed.

Work Experience

Recently our Work-Related Skills students went out on a week of work placement in their chosen industry, gaining practical experience, building confidence, and making valuable connections for their future careers. We were delighted to receive positive feedback about their efforts and would like to thank the local businesses for their ongoing support in providing these valuable opportunities.



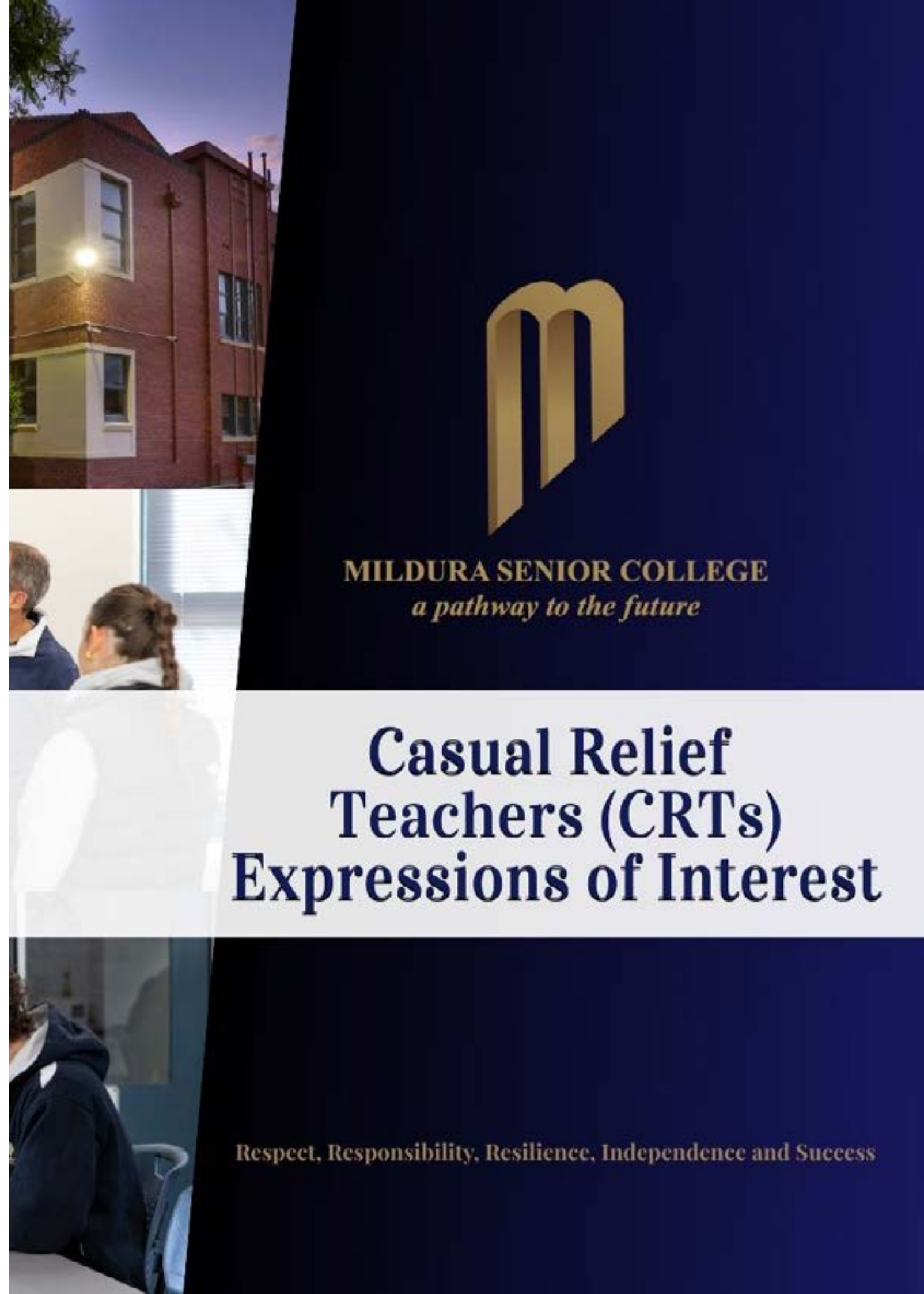
Amanda Smith
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Amanda.Smith9@education.vic.gov.au



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Cara.Bradshaw@education.vic.gov.au



Marcus Warn
Industry Engagement
Coordinator
Marcus.Warn@education.vic.gov.au



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Casual Relief Teachers (CRTs) Expressions of Interest

Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Independence and Success

PCYC
Dareton

SAFER DRIVERS

COURSE

26th & 27th Sept

★ **IMPROVE WITH SAFE AND LOW-RISK DRIVING STRATEGIES**

★ **GET 20 HOURS OFF YOUR LOGBOOK**

THE SAFER DRIVERS COURSE INVOLVES TWO MODULES

MODULE 1

A three-hour facilitated group workshop discussing risks and behaviours.

MODULE 2

A two-hour, in vehicle coaching session developing low risk driving techniques.

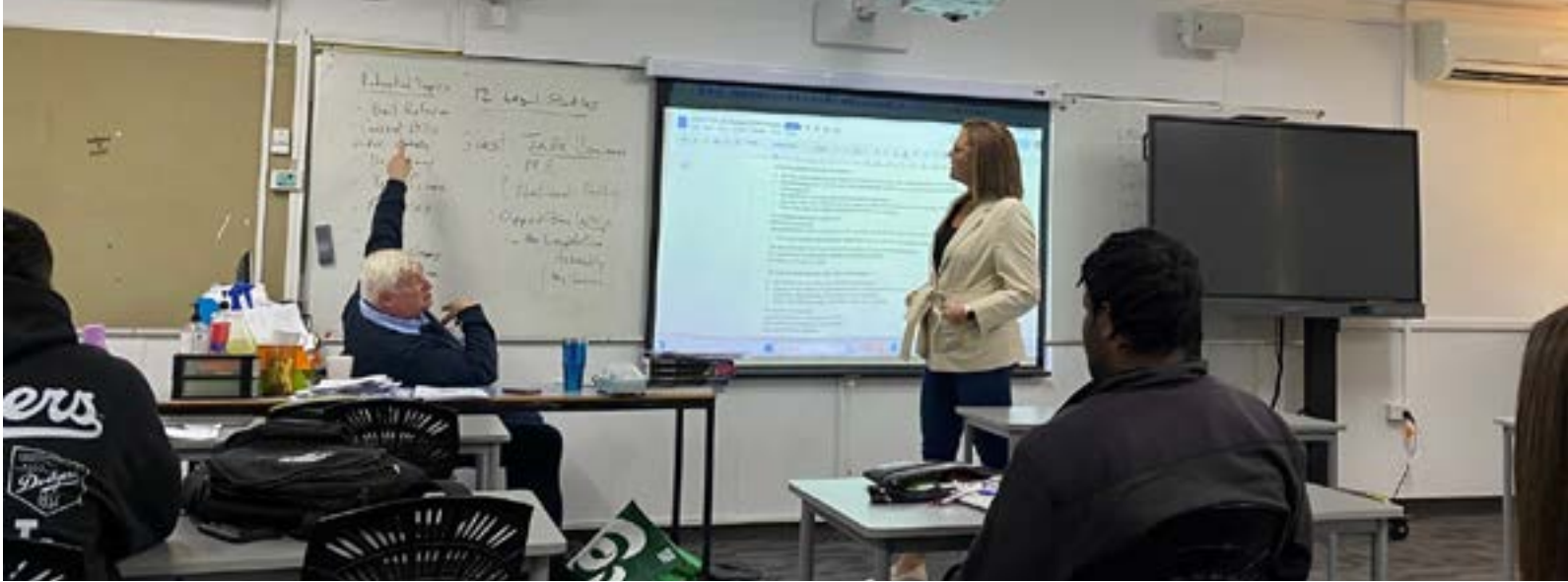
\$140

Concessions available
Conditions apply.

BOOK ONLINE TODAY

PCYC is an accredited provider of the Transport for NSW Safer Drivers Course

The Safer Drivers Course logo is a trade mark of Transport for NSW of 18 Lee St Chippendale NSW Australia.



Legal Studies Guest Speaker MP Jade Benham

Colin MacEachern and Brad McLaughlan’s legal studies classes have had recent visits from MP Jade Benham. She spoke to the students about law making and the challenges of her important role in the Victorian Legislative Assembly. The students had very good questions and all of the sessions were very interesting. Thanks to Marcus Warn for arranging the visits.



Wear It Purple Day

On Thursday 28 August, our school community came together by wearing purple to show support and empower lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQIA+) young people. By taking part, we demonstrated that our school is a place where rainbow youth are safe, respected, and celebrated. The day helped foster an inclusive environment, addressed discrimination, and promoted a strong sense of belonging for LGBTQIA+ students.

We are proud to share a photo of our staff dressed in purple, standing together to show our commitment to inclusivity and support.



Lifeline

Out of the Shadows Walk

World Suicide Prevention Day

Wednesday 10 September

9am - 10.30am

Organised by VPC classes

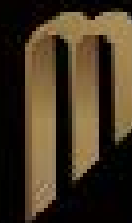
Join us to walk 9km around Bambill Oval to signify and raise awareness for the 9 people lost to suicide each day in Australia.

To donate visit:

<https://www.outoftheshadowswalk.org.au/fundraisers/milduraseniorcollege>



MILDURA SENIOR COLLEGE
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Design our Magazine Cover 2025!

We are looking for the next student to design the cover of our Mildurian Magazine 2025.

The Brief:

We would like the colours to be Navy and Gold.
It should be in line with our school values.

Upload your design to:

<https://forms.gle/CbqcnTBRd6FMc4uY9>



Enid

BORSCHMANN
\$30,000 SCHOLARSHIP

Exclusive to Mildura Senior College Year 12 Students
Applications Open Friday 1st August | Check Compass for details

Respect. Resilience. Responsibility. Independence. Success



I'm **here**
to **hear**

Thursday 11 September Lunch Time Activities

**Wear Yellow, watch or play Volley Ball
and enjoy the lunch time activities over
some conversation!**

Available to purchase:

- **Bracelet making**
- **BBQ**
- **Kit Kats**
- **Lucky dip**



MILDURA SENIOR COLLEGE
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**CELEBRATE ABORIGINAL CULTURE
AND HERITAGE**

NAIDOC DAY

THE NEXT GENERATION: STRENGTH, VISION & LEGACY

Face painting,
and merch at
recess @COLA

Stalls, BBQ, cultural
activities at lunch

Basketball and netball game at
lunch @basketball courts

16TH OF SEPTEMBER

MILDURA SENIOR COLLEGE



Wear It Pink Day

Congratulations to our students who participated in Wear It Pink Day and successfully fundraised over \$600 for Breast Cancer Research in Partnership with the Pink Ball.



Be A Teacher Day

Our students interested in teaching took part in our Be A Teacher Session this morning. Students had the opportunity to listen to our Panel and ask questions. The panel included Belinda Hudak Principal of Mildura Senior College, Assistant Principal of Irymple Primary School Ben Milsom, and Chantelle Lynch from La Trobe University, Mildura Campus and Cooper Aldridge who is studying to be a teacher while working as a Teachers Aide.



Special thanks to Officeworks Mildura for donating our mini whiteboards for our students so they could practice writing on a whiteboard before embarking on their teaching journey.

Thank you to La Trobe University for assisting us with putting this session together.

Celebrating 35 Years in Education

Congratulations to Joanna Panagiotarios, Tania Edgar and Anne Symes on being recognised for their 35 Years of service in Education. This is an amazing achievement and we are so proud to have these educators in our organisation.

