

**5 May 2023**

Dear Parents and carers,

As we conclude another busy week at Iona, we are thankful for the many opportunities that we have been given. GISSA sport has been in full swing and there have been a number of excursions giving students the opportunity to learn about industry, to visit Melbourne to visit the NGV exhibition or to volunteer their time to make a difference in our local community. Our Year 10 students have been meeting to discuss subject pathways for 2024 and beyond. Our Outdoor Education camps continue, now with our Year 9 students and last night we hosted Belmont High School in a joint performance with our own Iona band. On Tuesday evening we held the first of our student progress meetings and look forward to meeting many more parents and carers this coming Monday when the interviews continue. Our students have been approaching these opportunities positively and we are very thankful for the College staff who have planned each of these experiences.

One highlight this week was our particular focus on our senior students' Wellbeing. On Wednesday, Richie Hardcore returned to Iona to present on important topics like gender roles, expectations of masculinity, social media, role models and more to our Year 10 boys. At the same time our Year 10 girls viewed 'Embrace' a powerful documentary which explores body image and positivity.



Meet the Team Series



Meet Lisa Couzens, our First Nations Liaison Officer. Lisa works with us at Iona on Tuesdays but she is always on call when we need advice on First Nations culture and wellbeing.

Lisa is a proud Gunditjamarra Kerray Woorroong woman from South West Victoria. Lisa has four children, a dog and a beautiful grandchild, Lilly. She has lived at Teesdale for 27 years where she enjoys a slower pace of life and the beautiful bushland. Lisa is a long-time Richmond supporter and a retired netballer and basketballer. She enjoys gardening and spending time with her family.

With a passion for education and cultural revival and preservation, Lisa has held a variety of positions working in both Catholic and government school settings around Geelong. She has had a long connection with our principal, Mr. McKew, working alongside him at Clonard many years ago. She continues her work in supporting young people and communities here at Iona. Lisa can be found in A12 on a Tuesday and she is always happy for a chat. We are very fortunate to have Lisa with us at Iona as her access to resources, relationships with community and all things First Nations, ensures that we are creating a safe, welcoming and informed next generation.

## Geelong Mums Excursion Student Report Back



On Thursday this week some Year 9 and 10 students involved in the leadership program had the opportunity to be volunteers at Geelong Mums. We were fortunate enough to learn about the work of Geelong Mums and how they help disadvantaged families. While we were there, we got a tour of the warehouse and the staff showed us how they made their baby clothes packs, and just how much effort they put into them. We learned that they are quite low on baby supplies such as formula, nappies, wipes and toiletries and much more due to current economic factors.

We had the chance to watch a moving video about someone's journey and how Geelong Mums helped them get back on their feet. At a later stage that same person was fortunate enough to be in a position to donate back to Geelong Mums and help another person in need. We helped clean a lot of shoes, from tiny runners to youth gumboots, sandals and more. We loved the cleaning product called "gumption" as it helped make the used shoes look as good as new.

We also repurposed unclaimed containers and jumpers from our lost property and students cleaned the containers before we donated them. This is something that we have been doing once a Term. We are so grateful for the experience at Geelong Mums and encourage others to donate and help support people in need.

By students Annie Reimann, Dylan Schofield, Alexandra McIntosh and Charlotte Carmichael



### Belmont High School Band Visit



Last night the Belmont High School Concert Band came to visit Iona. This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to collaborate within a larger ensemble and also learn from older students.

Belmont High School played with our students on three of their pieces and also performed two pieces that they are preparing for their upcoming tour. Our thanks go to Belmont High School students and staff.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to the Iona students who participated, the parents who provided their support, and my Iona 'helpers' who assisted me.


Jodie Townsend  
*Teacher / Music / Innovation Leader (Pedagogy & Instruction)*

### Climate Change

Climate Change is one of the three issues that the Nazareth Social Justice Group (NSJG) is focussed on. Climate Change is already affecting millions of the poorest people on Earth. As the major threat to life, as we humans know it, we are called by social justice teaching to take action against it, particularly as there is still time for its impacts to be restricted to a certain extent, if governments urgently take action. Pope Francis initiated a call to this action in his 2015 Laudato Si document and has very recently called for the world to "Abandon Fossil Fuels". This Nazareth Parish Petition is intended to be a unified action to raise our voice with our Government. It will be taken to our local, federal government MP's. For further information and to sign the petition see the [following website](#).

Reminder 'Adulthood 101' Workshop

All Year 9 and 10 parents and guardians are invited to an 'Adulthood 101' workshop presented by Batforce (Barwon Adolescent Task Force). This will be held in our new Resource Centre on Wednesday the 24th of May from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.



## Adulthood 101

Iona College  
Wednesday  
24th May  
6.00 - 7.30pm

**From birth we have 936 weeks before our Children turn 18, by the time they hit high school there are only around 260 weeks left!**

Year 9 and 10 come around very very quickly. This is a great time to sit and reflect on what skills we want our Children to have in their tool box as they continue to get ready to launch into Adulthood and begin to explore the steps from the school gate.


This 90 minute session is a chance to come together & consider what may lay ahead. It will be interactive and a bit of fun.

Presenter Leigh Bartlett has delivered 100's of workshops to school communities, with a background in education, wellbeing & sports coaching she always presents from a place of 'Great Expectations'. She has also practiced the content on a few kids of her own.

Leigh truly believes that this is a great time to 'check in' & ensure our young people are well equipped for the adventure ahead.

*'We cannot be expected as Families to be able to answer every question, however, we can agree to go on the journey with them & support them while they find their feet & solutions.'*

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Thanks for your support,

Damian and Kylie