

4 August 2023

Dear Parents and carers,

Yesterday we hosted the Geelong Region Respectful Relationships Forum at Iona. This involved over 100 educators from various schools (Catholic, Independent and Government) sharing their wisdom and work in the Respectful Relationships space. What an amazing day – the sun was out, and the predicted winds did not eventuate. We started the Forum in our Yarning Circle around our burning fire pit with Mia Morris leading us in a beautiful acknowledgement of country. The school was shining, the students were amazing and those in attendance were highly complementary about our wonderful College.



As a lead school in the Surf Coast cluster, we committed to this event many months ago not knowing that my life would be turned upside down with the sudden passing of my Dad, Tony on Sunday. The 'team' of Iona staff jumped into action and presented, helped with car parking, hot food, set up, leading sessions in our yarning circle and the classroom etc. An amazing effort!

Damian and the staff have been an incredible support for me and my family this week. I was to step in as Acting Principal this week as Damian starts his well-earned leave when Dad passed. The staff rallied around me, flipped roles and took on responsibilities that they would not normally do – all with such ease and compassion. It has really helped me during this difficult time.

Dads' funeral on Monday will be a celebration of his life. Please say a little prayer for my Dad on Monday and despite my sadness, yesterday's Respectful Relationships event has made me so proud to be part of our fabulous community.

Take care, check in on loved ones.

Kylie Power
Acting Principal

'Together We Walk'



Sometimes we are so busy moving through the 'everyday' that we don't find time to stop and consider the significance of the places that we move through. Today was a day when First Nations students and FIRE Carriers slowed down and focused on learning about Wadawurrung Country. We strengthened our understanding of First Nations stories and culture and deepened our relationship with our land and with those we walked alongside.

Our first stop was Duneed Aboriginal Land Reserve, a one-acre block of land set aside for the Wadawurrung when they were prohibited from staying in the Geelong township after sundown. In Armstrong Creek, we stood in the shadow of the Creator Spirit, Bunjil. On Barwon Heads Road, our group was impressed by the 'Bullrush', a very tall totem pole carved by local artists, and Lisa Couzens taught us about the traditional uses of local plants. 'Together We Walk' finished in the peaceful Dooliebeal Reserve; a place where nature hides the sound of roads and nearby developments. Watched over by brightly coloured birds, we sat together in a habitat that provided food, medicine, fresh water and shelter for the Wadawurrung people until 1861.

Hopefully this afternoon and into this evening, the stories heard on our walk are filtering into homes and through friendship groups. We are pleased to be able to share some of our newly acquired local knowledge with our community.

Central Australia Experience 2024 (Current Year 9 students – Year 10 2024)

Due to staff attending the funeral of Kylie Power's father, we are postponing the information session for the Central Australia Experience 2024 to **Tues 15th August, 6 pm (online)**. Today current Year 9 Parents and Carers have been emailed the details of upcoming information sessions and the application process. Please check your emails if this is something of interest to you or your young person.

Carmen Ahearn
Head of Culture and Identity

Art Department Mid Year Art Exhibition

MID YEAR ART EXHIBITION

Art - Making and Exhibiting Unit 1



We are thrilled to announce the release of Iona's inaugural Mid Year Art Exhibition Publication featuring the remarkable artworks from our Year 10 students in 'Art-Making and Exhibiting Unit 1'. The publication is available [online now](#).

The artwork showcased [in this publication](#) is a testament to our students' passion and hard work throughout the year. We invite all members of the Iona community to explore this collection and acknowledge the talents of our young artists. Each artwork is a labour of love, a reflection of the time and effort invested by these students.

Stay tuned for more updates and events from the Art Department.

Lab Coats

A reminder that all students should have a lab coat for use in science, art and wood/materials technology classes. Depending on the materials being used in these classes lab coats may not be required for every lesson, but it is an expectation that each student has their own lab coat and keep it at school. Lab coats are an OHS requirement for some practical activities in science and act to protect valuable uniforms in art and technology subjects. Students who do not have a lab coat may not be able to participate in some practical activities. Lab coats should be clearly labelled with student's names. Lab coats are available from the uniform shop and via the [following link](#).

Get Your Tickets Now!

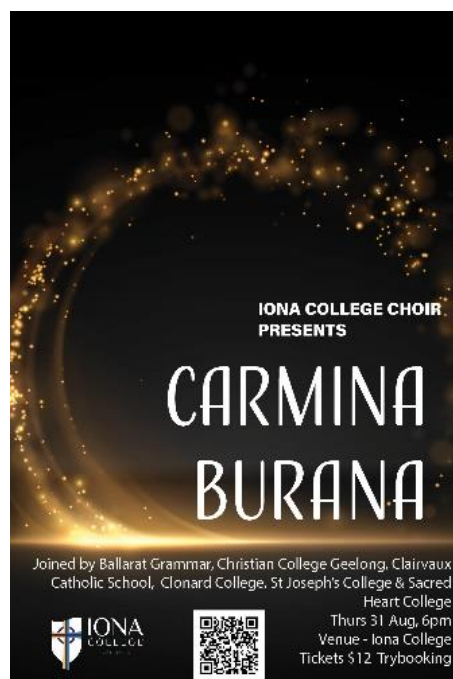
Winter Soiree



We have a large cohort of enthusiastic musicians ready to share their love of music with you all on the 10th of August. [Tickets can be booked online via the following link.](#) We only ask you to book so that we can see how many seats we need to set up.

Carmina Burana Tickets on Sale

On Thursday 31st August our choir will be joining six other schools to perform movements from the famous Carmina Burana. [Tickets can be booked online via the following link.](#) Please note that this concert will be allocated seating and there is a small charge for tickets.



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Iona Choir Prepares for Choral Concert

On Thursday 3rd August the Iona Choir travelled to Clairvaux Catholic School to continue the preparations for our Combined Choral Concert on the 31st August. We were pleased that Clonard College could join us in what was a very productive rehearsal. Lots of sharing, collaborating and meeting new people. Come along to the concert and see the very special “Ragazzi” role that the Clairvaux students have in the concert.



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

Interim Reports

Interim reports will be available for parents/carers via PAM on **Friday 11th August** in the late afternoon. The interim reports provide feedback about a student's learning behaviours and participation in classes and Community Groups. For more thorough feedback on progress in class tasks and assessment tasks, we encourage parents/carers to check PAM regularly throughout the term.

An email will be sent directly to parents to indicate when the interim reports have been made available.

Student progress meetings

There will be the opportunity for parents/carers to meet with staff for Student Progress Meetings on **Thursday 17th and Wednesday 23rd August, 3:30 pm – 8:00 pm**. On the interim report, staff members will indicate if a progress meeting is 'welcome' or 'required' in each subject studied by a student. The interviews will be held virtually, using Microsoft Teams, and can be booked via PAM from **Friday 11th August**.

Staff leave

There are a few staff who will not be available for student progress meetings as they are on parental or personal leave at this time.

Anthea Sholl

Learning and Innovation Leader - Feedback, Assessment & Reporting

Sports News



Last Thursday selected students across all year levels took part in the inaugural Trinity College V Iona College Games.

This yearly event celebrates a shared legacy of Mr. McKew who has been principal at both colleges and has built strong connections with each school community over the years.





The two games of both AFL and Netball on the day were played with awesome spirit, sportsmanship, and great competitiveness, with Iona taking the 'McKew' Cup by winning 3 out of the 4 matches. After the presentation of the trophy and best player medals by Mr. McKew, all players and staff involved enjoyed a social sausage sizzle! It was a brilliant day and one that will no doubt be a big highlight on the yearly calendar!

Reminder – Upcoming Student Free Day

Please note that Friday the 25th of August is a staff Professional Development Day and as such a student free day.

Condolences

The College was deeply saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Tony Power, Father of Kylie. We would ask you to keep Kylie, Mark and Kiara in your prayers as they mourn the loss of a dear Father, Father-in-law and Grandfather. May Tony Rest in Peace.

Thanks for your support,

Kylie and Ash