

2 May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our College Leadership Team had a robust conversation this week about courage. Part of that discussion led to us speaking about the role that Jesus plays in shaping our school identity. We identified that Jesus showed courage in his daily life when he stood up for others and when he taught messages that went against the norms of his time. Life would not have been easy for Jesus as he didn't conform to societal expectations because his sense of justice was stronger than his sense of needing to fit in. Jesus is a timeless role model for our school community, just as he was for our House patrons, Caroline Chisholm, Saint Mary MacKillop, Sr Mary Glowrey and Pope Francis.

Our discussion continued into us speaking about our future graduates and our shared hope that they will have courage, like Jesus and our patrons. We hope that Iona graduates can lead change in the world by stepping outside of what is popular to be themselves, by doing their best and by being compassionate towards others. We discussed the need to give students a chance to show courage, despite sometimes being afraid, so they can be celebrated for stepping into a place of discomfort but strengthening themselves and others by doing so. We grow enormously when we are supported to face challenges.

As we aspire to build a courageous community and focus on our Term 2 theme of courage, we encourage Parents and Carers to model courageous behaviour for their young people, help their children identify courage in those around them and engage in reflective discussion around courageous actions and outcomes. Our message for students is that it is okay to be unsure about what is new, but that is not a reason to give up or not try at all; uncertainty requires us to have courage, to tread carefully with the support of others, to be prepared and to reflect on outcomes so that we are ready to try again.

[A message from Caritas Australia](#)

More than 1700 schools and 1200 parishes across the country took part in this year's Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraiser, Project Compassion.

We want to share a thank you message from the charity's Chief Executive, Kirsty Robertson:

"We are always amazed by the way schools and parishes come together to raise funds for Project Compassion... These activities are very in keeping with the spirit of Lent, as they allow us to reflect on the experiences of our brothers and sisters across the world, engage in almsgiving, and come together as a global community. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the community here in Australia, to all the schools and parishes that have held an event or fundraiser, and to all the individuals that have donated, or engaged with our stories this year."

College Advisory Council

Our College Advisory Council meets formally on five occasions throughout the school year and provides advice to the College Leadership on how best we can support our school community. The 2024 members of the College Council are:

A/Prof. Melissa O'Shea	Chair (Parent Representative)
Ms Marie Portaro	Deputy Chair (Parent Representative)
Fr James Clarke	Canonical Administrator
Fr Linh Tran	Canonical Administrator
Ms Jo Hart	(Community Representative)
Mr Paul Tobias	(Community Representative)
Ms Sarah Morgante	(Community Representative)
Ms Lucy Carroll	(Community Representative)
Mr Stephen Elder	(Community Representative)
Ms Brooke Hyland	(Parent Representative)
Ms Jacinta Sadler	(Parent Representative)
Mr Michael Wescott	(Parent Representative)
Ms Kylie Power	(School Representative)
Mrs Melissa Gould	(School Representative)
Mr Tom Harriott	(School Representative)
Mr Damian McKew	(School Representative)

School Advisory Councils are an essential component of governing and operating Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. They provide a forum for consultation and participation for parish and school communities. We thank the members of the Iona College Advisory Council for their willingness to serve our college community.

Parent Engagement Survey Results

As part of the process of continual improvement at Iona, we are mindful of ways that we can connect with our parent and carer community.

During the latter part of Term 1, parents and carers were given the opportunity to partake in a Parent Engagement Survey. This survey aimed to ascertain our community's areas of expertise and skill set, willingness to contribute through volunteering across different initiatives, preferences regarding newsletter content, and levels of satisfaction with communications circulated by the College. Ninety-seven responses were returned, and these results were discussed this week at the College Advisory Council Meeting. We would like to share the results of the survey with you below. We are focused on using this data to form a working group on how to best turn these into practical opportunities to engage with our community in more meaningful ways.

Below are some of the key points worth highlighting:

Several respondents expressed interest in joining the school council if vacancies arise (we are thankful for this interest):

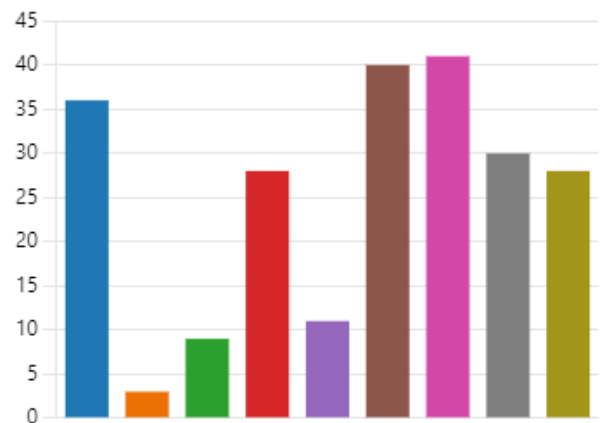
[More Details](#)

● Yes	25
● No	31
● Maybe	41

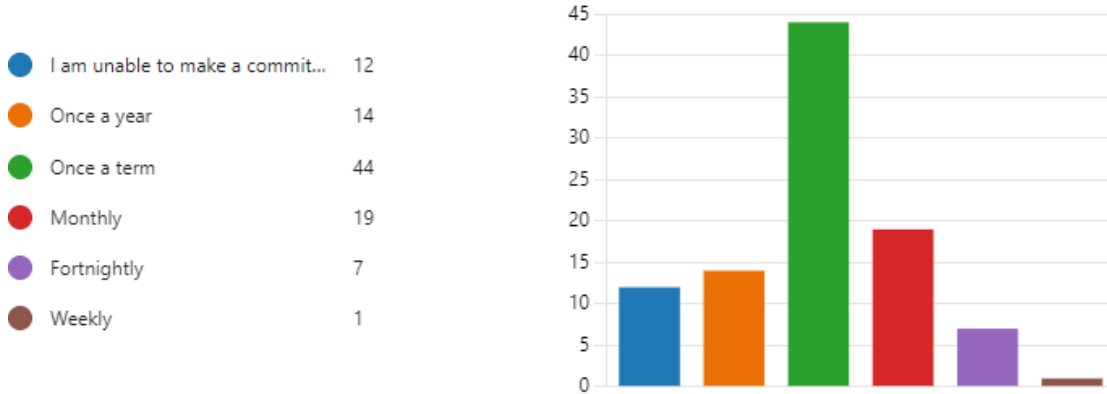


There was community interest in engaging in school activities, with the following areas highlighted:

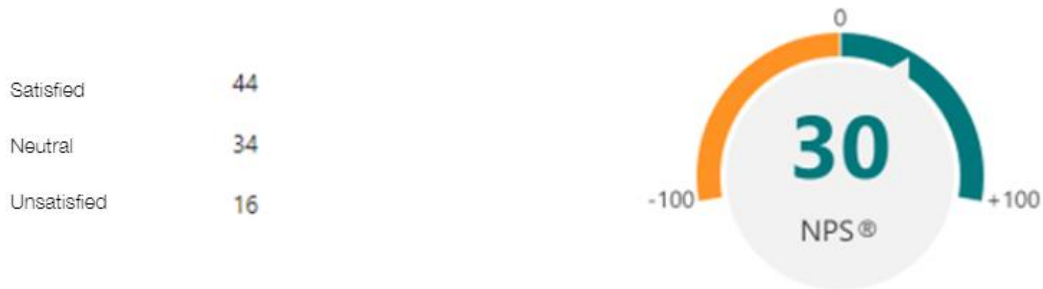
● Volunteering in the Canteen	36
● Host School-based Apprentices...	3
● Host work experience	9
● Presenting to students on your f...	28
● Involvement with a school prod...	11
● Assisting with Fundraising Initiat...	40
● Hospitality e.g. assisting with ev...	41
● Care group- supporting families...	30
● Assisting in the Resource Centre...	28



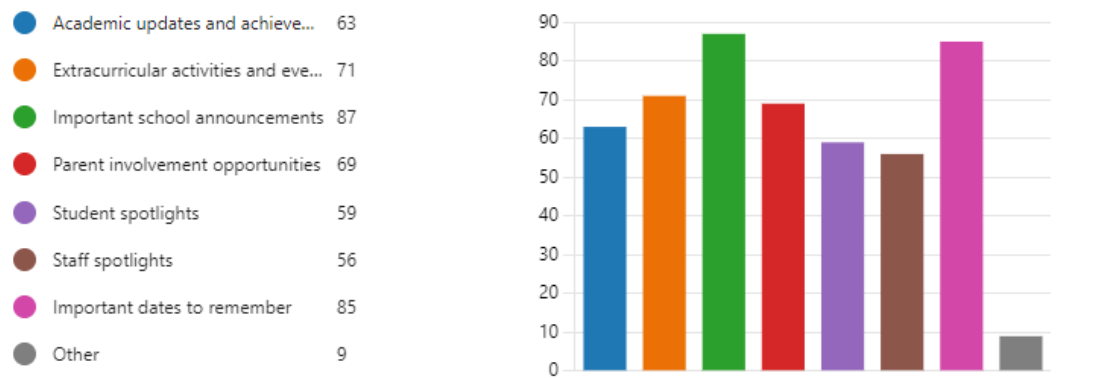
There was a varied level of time that parents/carers could contribute to community activities:



Overall satisfaction with school communications is acknowledged; ongoing discussions for improvement are underway:



Top-requested topics for inclusion in the Newsletter:



The most popular newsletter frequency remains once a week, however, this may be reviewed in the future.

● Once a Week	55
● Fortnightly	41



Again, we thank all the parents and carers who took the time to respond.

PSW Track Pants Special

Further to previous correspondence, PSW has acknowledged issues with the fabric used in the production of the original piped tracksuit pants. Thus, PSW has worked diligently on the problem(s) and a new fabric has been sourced, which will alleviate any shrinking, gathering and fading. However, the new batch of tracksuit pants will not be ready until mid-late Winter.

In the meantime, to ensure students are not adversely affected by the cold weather, PSW has agreed to sell the current tracksuit pants at the heavily discounted price of \$15.00ea. Given the significance of the discount, returns and refunds will not be accepted.

PSW acknowledges that the current version of these tracksuit pants may still under-perform and not be to their regular high standard but asks for some understanding and patience in this matter.



IONA COLLEGE GEE LONG

WINTER TRACKSUIT PANTS PROMOTION

\$15.00 EACH

AVAILABLE FROM:
WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL
TO SATURDAY 31ST AUGUST
IN-STORE AND ONLINE.

ABSOLUTELY NO REFUNDS OR RETURNS

NOW AVAILABLE AT PSW GEE LONG STORE

164 MALDP ST,
GEE LONGS, 3220
(03) 9768 0383

TRADING HOURS
MONDAY - FRIDAY: 9AM - 5PM
SATURDAY: 10AM - 1PM

OR VISIT PSW.COM.AU



Digital Tadoo Year 7 & 8 Parent/Carer Information Session



Just a quick reminder for Year 7 & 8 Parents/Carers about tonight's insightful session with Leigh Bartlett from Batforce, focusing on the digital world's impact on family life.

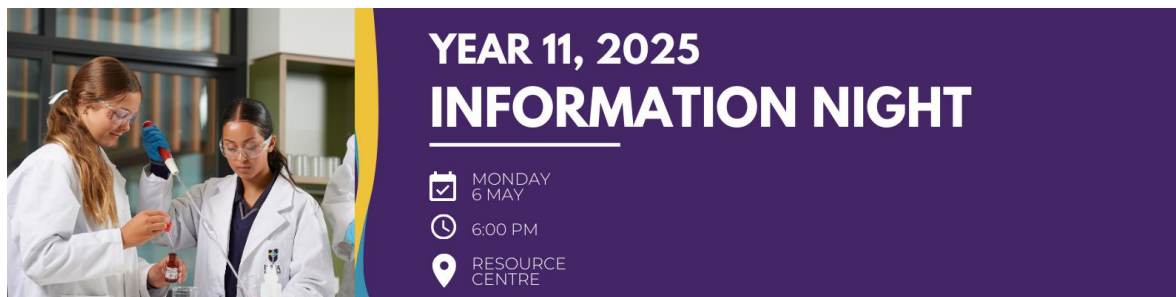
Date: Tonight, May 2nd

Time: 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Resource Centre, Iona College

If you haven't RSVP, please still come long.

Year 11, 2025 Information Night



Attention all parents and carers of Year 11 students for 2025:

You and your young people are invited to a 'Year 11, 2025 Information Night'. This event is a valuable opportunity for our future Year 11s to learn about subject selection and pathway opportunities. Attendance is highly encouraged by you and your young person. Please note that this event will not be livestreamed or recorded, but the PowerPoint presentation will be shared with parents/carers who are unable to attend the evening.

Details:

Date: Monday 6 May

Time: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

242 Horseshoe Bend Road
Charlemont VIC 3217

p: 03 5229 0004

e: reception@iona.vic.edu.au

iona.vic.edu.au

Venue: Iona College Resource Centre

To register your interest in attending, [please complete the following online form](#) before Friday 3 May. We look forward to seeing you there!

Mrs Melissa Gould
Deputy Principal, Learning

Central Australia Experience 2025

The Central Australia Experience of 2025 will take place from Monday, June 30 until Tuesday, July 8. Parents and Carers of current Year 9 students may like to mark the dates in their diaries and begin discussing with their young person about possible attendance. This trip will run at the same time as the Indonesian Trip so students cannot do both.

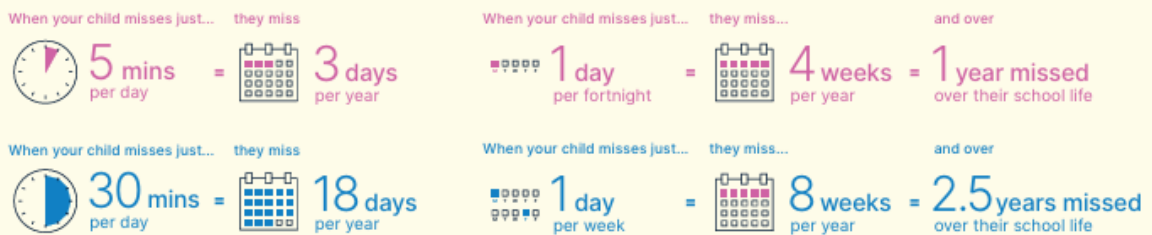
40 students in Year 10 (2025) will be able to attend the trip which will run over 9 days. An online information night will be held in the coming weeks so that further details about the trip and the application process can be shared. Please keep your eye on future editions of the Weekly News and your emails for important updates.

School is Better When Your Child is Here!

Increasingly student attendance is becoming a problem for some students. At Iona, we work closely with our parents and carers to ensure students get to school. Below are some interesting statistics and tips and tricks if your young person starts to struggle with regular attendance.

Going to school every day is the most important part of your child's education. There are no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind and can affect their educational outcomes and their social connectedness. The best thing you can do is support your child to get to school every day.

A positive attitude towards school, healthy habits and routines, and parental involvement can support your child's regular school attendance and prevent chronic absence patterns.



Adapted from material © State of New South Wales (Department of Education), 2023

Establish Positive Habits to Promote Attendance:

- Set good bedtime and morning routines to make the process of getting to school smoother for everyone. Try to prepare as much as possible the night before, e.g. school uniform, and school bag packed.
- Ensure your young person gets enough sleep and exercise to support their physical and mental health.
- Talk positively about the importance of school attendance with your young person. Explain that it is an important part of growing up, a legal obligation and that you expect them to attend every day.
- Show an interest in Iona and become involved where possible. Keep notes, visit PAM regularly, check the weekly newsletter, etc. Use visible reminders for the whole family. Talk about Iona's activities positively.
- Discuss any changes to usual routines in advance with your child, such as alternative drop-off and pick-up arrangements, to ensure clarity and minimise anxiety.

Monitoring Changes in Your Child's Attitude Towards School:

We all have those days when it is just too hard to get up and feel motivated to go to work or school, but if this occurs regularly, it may be a sign that your young person needs support. **Early intervention is vital** to address physical, emotional or social reasons for school avoidance before it progresses to chronic absence problems and school refusal.

Signs of school avoidance to look out for:

- Feeling sick before school, e.g. waking up with a headache, stomach ache or sore throat.
- Tearfulness, clinginess and dawdling before school – struggling to get out of bed, leave the house or get out of the car.
- Complaints about attending school and reluctance to talk about school.
- Missing classes and being late for class.

What is happening at school? Be in regular contact with your young person's CG teacher and Year Level Wellbeing Leader (YLWL).

Early signs of school avoidance may be identified at school through observations and insights by your young person's teachers. Work in partnership with Iona to support your young person's attendance and wellbeing.

What can you do when you see the signs?

- Work with your young person to understand what is happening so that they feel supported and empowered. Listen with compassion but be consistent in expectations.
- Speak with your young person's CG teacher(s) about your concerns.
- Consider taking your child to the GP to rule out or address any physical or emotional health problems.
- Request and attend school meetings with your young person and their YLWL to develop strategies to support increased attendance.

Some Good Resources:

[School refusal - Be You](#)

[School Refusal and your teen | School Refusal and Teenagers \(reachout.com\)](#)

[Understanding school refusal | headspace](#)

[School refusal: children & teenagers | Raising Children Network](#)

[Attendance and missing school | vic.gov.au \(www.vic.gov.au\)](#)

Please don't hesitate to contact your young person's CG teacher or YLWL if you have any questions.

Consent Labs! Student Workshops Week 7



Education in human sexuality is primarily the responsibility of the parents, however, this responsibility is best shared to ensure a targeted and age-appropriate consistent message is given to our students. Schools, the Church and the wider community all play a significant role in assisting parents to fulfil their educational responsibilities. In working with our parents, we have found that parents welcome support in this important area of their young person's development.

Our young people need respectful relationships and sex education so that they have the necessary information to make responsible informed decisions. Through the workshops we have planned, our young people will explore the catholic vocation to love responsibly and live life wholeheartedly.

Consent Labs is a Sydney based quality assured program that specialises in these important discussions. Each year level will participate in a 90-minute workshop that looks at important topics like consent foundations, practicing consent language, boundary setting, developing healthy respectful relationships, consent with alcohol and other drugs, consent in a world of technology, positive masculinity and importantly recognising and responding to sexual harassment and assault.

We recognise that different families have different experiences and knowledge in this space and as a result, all parents will be sent a permission form with the option for parents to opt out of their young person participating. Your young person would then be supervised and receive alternative activities during this time.

For further information please contact Kylie Power – Deputy Principal., Wellbeing or follow [Consent Labs](#) on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Kylie Power
Deputy Principal, Wellbeing

Music News

Matthew Flinders Visit

Our Music staff and students have got off to a very busy beginning in Term 2. Last week we had Matthew Flinders Year 9 Music students visit and work with our Year 10 and 11s. It is always great to collaborate with others, for both staff and students. Our students worked with Matthew Flinders students to perform ensemble pieces and were treated to some wonderful solos at the end of the session. A big thank you to John Kingma and his students for committing to visit us.



Assembly Performance

At a Year 8 assembly on Tuesday Vincent rocked it out on the drum kit. So wonderful to see our students being courageous and sharing their talents with others.



Piano Bar

To end our busy week we had four of our students involved in a collaborative gig at The Piano Bar. This event was hosted by Andy Pobjoy and involved seven Geelong schools—another wonderful chance for staff and students to collaborate and learn from each other. Ashton, Cam, Thomas and Star represented our school with great aplomb rocking out three varied tunes. The highlight for me was seeing students from all schools excited about their music making and interacting with each other.

All of the audio and stage management was run by VET students from Christian College and Geelong Grammar. These audio production students made sure everything ran smoothly on the night. A big thank you to these students and staff as well as Christian College for providing the backup. Finally, a big thank you to The Piano Bar for hosting this event.



Autumn Soiree

We are looking forward to our Autumn Soiree on Thursday 9th May. Students have until this Friday to sign up and then information for performers and parents will come out early the week of the performance. Come along and support our students by booking tickets on this Try Booking QR code or via [the following link](#). There is no cost, but the booking of tickets helps us know how many people to expect and set up for. If your child is performing, there is no need to book a ticket for them.



Ms Jodie Townsend

Teacher / Head of Performing Arts

242 Horseshoe Bend Road
Charlemont VIC 3217

p: 03 5229 0004

e: reception@iona.vic.edu.au

iona.vic.edu.au

VCE Careers Expo 2024

Australia's biggest education and careers event is now in its 32nd year in a new, bigger venue! This is a wonderful opportunity for students and families to explore different educational and training pathways as well as seminars on VCE subjects. There is so much on offer with various seminars and exhibitors with apprenticeship information and various employment opportunities.

When: from the 2nd-4th May

Time: 9 am- 3 pm

Where: Doors 4 and 5, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, South Wharf

For further information and tickets, please go to: [VCE and Careers Expo](#)

Beck Barry

Teacher / Head of Careers Education

Golden Plains Career Expo



**GOLDEN PLAINS
CAREERS
EXPO**

SATURDAY 24 JUNE
10AM UNTIL 3PM

Connecting young people to their dream career, the Golden Plains Careers Expo aims to advance the learning and employment outcomes for young people in Golden Plains.

Young people will have the opportunity to chat with a diversity of education and work pathways and speak to industry professionals attached to universities, skills and trainings institutions and local industry and employers.

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE **VICTORIA**
Austrolia

EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES

Chess Club!



Chess Club is back and we are enjoying playing matches and spending time perfecting our strategies!

We are currently running Chess Club every Tuesday at lunchtime in the Resource Centre. Please come along! It's nice and warm and you can challenge your mind whilst in great company.

Well done to all our current members and hope to see some new members over the course of Term 2!

Mr Chalkley & Ms Keating

Maths @ Iona

Last term we had many students participate in the Kangourou sans Frontiers (KSF). The KSF is the world's largest online mathematics competition, with more than 6 million students participating each year! We would like to celebrate all students for showing such bravery, a love of learning and perseverance in accepting this challenge and participating.

Alongside everyone who participated we would like to acknowledge some outstanding achievements in this area, with several of our students receiving competition awards.

Awarded "Distinction" (top 15% of all participants worldwide)

Year 9

Jack Pentony

Year 10

Thomas Asbell

Edwin Kizhakkebhagam

Awarded "Credit" (top 50% of all participants worldwide)

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Finn Burrows Angus Newby	Jesse Dragicevic Imogen Heffer Kira Hollmer Flynn Pretlove Chelsea Sizeland	Harrison Aisbett James Barry Jasper Delaney Jed McKenzie Charlie Parker Saya Turnley	Xavier Kapp Paige Markovic Michael Slater

As well as receiving a Distinction, Edwin also was awarded the highest score for Iona College, at 84%, which is simply exceptional.

Well done to all students and we look forward to our next maths competition to be held in August.



Some of our Year 10 Award Winners (L-R: Edwin, Michael, Thomas and Xavier)



Some of our Year 8 Award Winners (L-R: Jesse, Kira, Chelsea and Imogen)



Angus Newby, one of our Year 7 Award Winners



Some of our Year 9 Award Winners (L-R: Jasper & Jack)

Family Maths Activity

Many of your children already know that my family and I like to watch the 1% Club! It is a great way to get involved in logic puzzles together (if you can put up with the cheezy and sometimes inappropriate host!) and is accessible to any level. I was so excited to get my first 1% question correct last week! I wonder if you can too? See below:

In preparation for next week's audition for 'Cats',
Britanay's singing teacher has her perform the
following sequence in order EACH DAY.
What are the next two vowels Britanay must sing?

OA, UEA, EEA, UA, IA, AUA, ??

Answer and reasoning in next week's newsletter! Stay tuned!

Lou Keating
Maths Domain and Numeracy Leader

242 Horseshoe Bend Road
Charlemont VIC 3217

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e: reception@iona.vic.edu.au
iona.vic.edu.au

Outdoor Education Camp Student Reflection



Throughout our three-day adventure to the Grampians for Year 11 Outdoor Environmental Studies, we had the opportunity to delve deep into our abilities and confront our fears head-on. This journey was filled with natural beauty and team-building activities that pushed our limits and brought us closer as a group.

Our adventure began with an adrenaline-filled rock climbing and abseiling experience at Delleys Bridge. Despite my overwhelming fear of heights, I was determined to overcome the challenge. With the unwavering support and encouragement from Ms Lane, I built up the courage to complete the climb. The rush of adrenaline was a shock to my system, but it was a crucial moment that boosted my self-confidence and reinforced my willingness to take on future opportunities.

The following day, we hiked to Mackenzie Falls from Zumstiens. The soothing sound of the waterfall and the sight of water cascading down the cliff was a magical experience that brought a sense of tranquillity. In addition to these physical challenges, we also had the privilege of participating in an Environmental History/Indigenous cultural walk. This engaging, hands-on experience allowed us to appreciate the rich history and traditions of the local Indigenous community, further deepening our connection with the land.

Our adventure concluded with a serene morning hike to the Pinnacle, a challenging trek that tested our endurance. Despite having completed this hike before, the breathtaking view from the top served as a reminder of our perseverance and determination.

Looking back, this three-day camp trip to the Grampians was more than just an adventure. It was a journey of self-discovery that taught us valuable lessons about resilience, courage, and the importance of stepping out of our comfort zone. It's an experience that I will carry with me, shaping my approach to future challenges and opportunities.

Molly Thomas,
Year 11 Outdoor Environmental Studies Student.

Tasty Treats for Timor Leste

We are currently embarking on a fundraising activity for Timor Leste. Routley Bakery has created a fundraising portal where 25% of orders placed through the [following website](#) will go directly to Geelong Viqueque Friendship School's Scholarship Program! Just order and pay through the online portal, when checking out select 'Iona College, Geelong' as your school. You or your young person can then collect your delicious goods at Iona on Thursday afternoon, June 6!

No cooking AND supporting an amazing cause = Win, Win!

First Aid Update



As we are all aware there are still some cases of covid popping up in our community. Iona follows the Department of Health recommendations that staff and students who test positive for COVID-19 isolate for a minimum of 5 days and do not attend school until their symptoms resolve.

Please see the [following link](#) for further information.

Year 7 Vaccinations

On Tuesday 18th June 2024, Barwon Health immunisation service will visit our Year 7 students to administer the free.HPV(Human Papillomavirus) vaccine and Boostrix(Diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough booster) = 2 injections.

An email will sent to parents on Friday to complete an online consent form. There is also a paper consent card attached, or there are consent cards in the office, that you can collect if you prefer.

[Better Health](#) provides information which explains why these vaccines are given to our Year 7 students.

It is important to complete a consent form, whether consent is YES or NO.

Barwon Health Immunisation needs to know that you have received the information and made an informed decision for your child, then no further contact will be required to chase up your response.

If you require more information or would rather this vaccine, be given outside of the school setting, please contact Barwon Health immunisation directly at 4215 4444 or your GP.

Wheelchair Basketball and Paralympian Visit to Iona

On Friday the 19th of April the Year 10 Active and Able students and the Year 9 Recreational Pursuits Students were fortunate enough to have a visit from 4-time Paralympian Sam McIntosh. During this visit the students were able to participate in a wheelchair basketball incursion.

This experience provided students with a better understanding of the challenges faced by people who rely on a wheelchair to get around but also gave insight into what opportunities are out there to help build an inclusive culture. You don't have to have a wheelchair to play in a 'wheelchair basketball' team. Anyone can join and help grow the sport of wheelchair basketball. If you are interested in joining a team please contact gina.oliver@iona.vic.edu.au



Student Reflection



I enjoyed my wheelchair basketball experience. It was fun to try new things and play a sport I love but at the same time be in a wheelchair. Sam McIntosh (Australian Paralympian) came to help us learn how to manoeuvre a wheelchair and shoot a basketball. I loved going up and down the court in wheelchairs and it was an amazing experience. I struggled with getting enough power into my shots after I had pushed myself down the court. All the students were glad to have Sam to help us and we even learnt about Sam and his disability. At the end of the day, all the kids loved the activity and hope to one day do it again for fun. We wish Sam all the best in being named for the 2024 Paralympic Team to compete in Paris later this year.

Thank you to Kaye Colman from Parallel Sport, Sam McIntosh our Paralympian Guest Teacher, Paul Baker our wheelchair assistant and Hamish Baker for joining our class and sharing his tips, tricks and tactics.

We were also fortunate enough to have Nimbus join us – Nimbus was training to be a guide dog but has an underbite and hence dribbles a lot and never made the cut to be an official Guide dog. Nimbus now hangs out with the physical disabilities crew and the Parallel Sports Team and promotes inclusion and opportunity for all.

Logan Smith
Year 9 Student

Term 2 Dates to Remember

Date	Event
Monday 15 April	Staff Professional Learning Student Free Day
Tuesday 16 April	Term 2 Commences for Students
Wednesday 17 April	Year 7 - 11 Cross Country
Thursday 18 April	ANZAC Day Commemoration Service - Formal Uniform
Thursday 25 April	ANZAC Day Public Holiday
Monday 29 April	Year 12 2025 Information Night - 6 pm Resource Centre
Thursday 2 May	Year 7 & 8 Digital Tattoo Information Parent Session
Monday 6 May	Year 11 2025 Information Night - 6 pm Resource Centre
Thursday 9 May	Music Soiree
Monday 13 May - Wednesday 15 May	Year 7 Camp 1 - Phillip Island
Wednesday 15 May - Friday 17 May	Year 7 Camp 2 - Phillip Island
Monday 20 May	Year 12 2025 Selections Due in
Friday 24 May	Year 11 2025 Selections Due in
Monday 27 May	Year 10 2025 Information Night - 6 pm Resource Centre
Monday 27 May - Wednesday 29 May	Year 8 Camp 1 - Lake Dewar
Wednesday 29 May - Friday 31 May	Year 8 Camp 2 - Lake Dewar
Monday 10 June	King's Birthday Public Holiday
Tuesday 11 June	Year 10 2025 Selections Due in
Wednesday 12 June	Year 9 2025 Information Night - 6 pm Resource Centre
Friday 14 June	VCE Unit 1 Ends
Saturday 15 June - Sunday 23 June	Year 10 Central Australia Experience
Monday 17 June	VCE Unit 2 Commences
Tuesday 18 June	General Achievement Test (GAT) VCE Unit 3 and 4 Students
Tuesday 18 June	Year 7 Immunisations
Friday 21 June - Wednesday 3 July	Year 10 Indonesian Language Study Tour
Friday 28 June	Year 9 2025 Selections Due in
Friday 28 June	Term 2 Concludes - 2:05 pm
Monday 15 July	Staff Professional Learning Student Free Day
Tuesday 16 July	Term 3 Commences for Students

Thanks for your support.

Damian, Kylie and Melissa