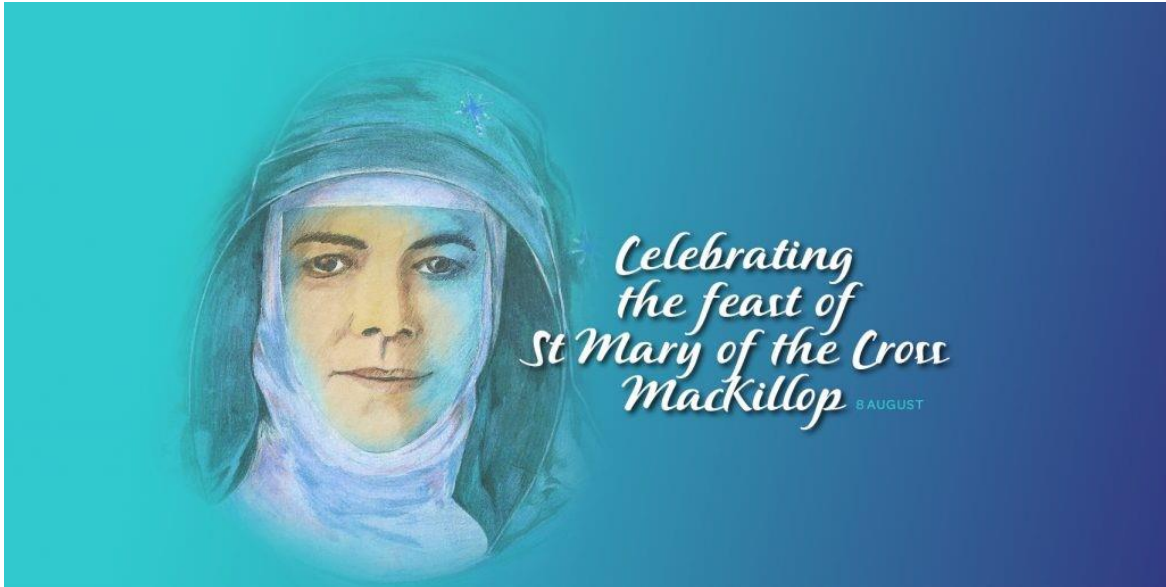


**8 August 2024**

Dear Parents and Carers,



Today we celebrate Saint Mary MacKillop, one of our College patrons, and our first and only Australian saint. She wasn't always a saint, she was an ordinary human being who did extraordinary things, which makes her a great role model for us today.

In 2020, our Foundation Students, who were in Year 7, presented a persuasive speech proposing someone who a College House should be named after. Jackson Leach, suggested Saint Mary MacKillop, noting her for, "helping the poor, persistence, care, compassion, and respect". He went on to say, "*Mary MacKillop was someone who had compassion for others regardless of their situation or race. A wonderful woman who gave her life to God and was declared Australia's first Saint in October 2010 by Pope Benedict XVI. There were times in her life where Mary MacKillop met people who made it hard for her to perform her duties and they disapproved of her good work.*" Jackson, and other students who also advocated for her, struck gold by promoting this inspiring woman, Saint Mary MacKillop. While she fits all of our Iona pillars of Courage, Compassion and Excellence, we particularly commend her for her Leadership and are very proud to have a House, MacKillop, named after her.

Saint Mary co-founded the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart in 1866, and she led their mission to provide free education to poor children in rural and remote areas. When she saw families living on the margins without access to education, she set up a school to teach the children herself, regardless of their gender, race, faith or wealth. This one school extended into the creation of many more, in fact, 117, plus 12 children's homes and numerous other charitable institutions across Australia and New Zealand. She had a very clear vision that quality education was essential if children were to reach their full potential and flourish. St Mary and her Sisters are a fine example to us of resilience and determination as they often found themselves up against enormous challenges, yet, they continued to walk with people every step of the way. When they saw injustice, they were quick to act to relieve suffering and to challenge unjust individuals, institutions and societal structures.

Mary's faith and determination inspired the hearts of those around resulting in many other young women joining her ministry as Sisters of St Joseph. Throughout time, her legacy has engaged others from all walks of life as people continue to work and volunteer in education, health and social justice. We wish all our families well on this feast day of Saint Mary of the Cross.

Ever faithful God,  
You inspired Saint Mary MacKillop with a deep devotion to Your Cross and resolute faith in You Will. Open our eyes to see the needs of others and to respond with generosity, compassion and love so all those around us see You in our actions.

We pray for educators everywhere – in our schools, universities and homes – that they may be inspired by Saint Mary MacKillop's example of selflessness and courage, and by her deep respect for education and opportunities for all.

We give thanks for Saint Mary MacKillop's life and legacy and ask for her intercession as we make our prayer through Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Saviour.  
Amen

#### Homelessness Week (5<sup>th</sup>- 11<sup>th</sup> August)

We are in the midst of Homelessness Week which is a time to raise awareness of the impact of homelessness and advocate for solutions to relieve homelessness. We are pleased that donations of beanies, gloves, socks and towels, from families of Year 9 and 11 students, have been generous and that your goods will be distributed by local service agencies to those who are in need.

Our efforts to support local agencies such as Samaritan House and Lazarus Community Centre, and organisations such as Give Where You Live, who in turn support initiatives including Feed Geelong and The Outpost, assist people experiencing homelessness and struggling with cost of living pressures. Facts provided by Vinnies in March 2023, show the current landscape and illustrate why we are so appreciative of your support for our social justice activities of fundraising and the donation of goods.

Vinnies informs that "on Census night 2021, the number of Victorians who counted as being without a home rose by a staggering 24 per cent than in 2016. More than 30,000 Victorians were considered without a home – nearly 6,000 more than five years ago."

According to the ABS data:

- The top reason for homelessness in Victoria is financial difficulties (46%, compared with 39% nationally).
- In Victoria, one in 64 people received homelessness assistance, higher than the national rate (one in 94) and 60% of people who seek help from homelessness services are women.
- Victoria had the highest proportion of people living in boarding houses (28.0%) and other temporary lodgings (5%) – unstable, unsafe and exploitative living is something Vinnies volunteers and support workers see every day.
- The rising number of women experiencing homelessness across the nation is alarming. Between 2016 and 2021 these numbers rose by over 10%, accounting for almost 90% of the overall increase since 2016.

### Iona Pathways Press

The August 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the Iona Pathways Press can be found [here](#).  
In this edition you will find information about:

- **Dates to Diarise in Term 3**
- **Best Universities Ranking - Financial Review**
- **News from Monash University**
  - **Upcoming Discover Monash Events**
  - **Monash Teaching Suitability Test (MTeST)**
- **News from La Trobe University**
  - **La Trobe University – Sydney Campus**
- **Swinburne University: Studying a Bachelor of Applied Innovation with another Degree**

 **Find & Subscribe to the Pathways Press Newsfeed.**

For Students: Visit the College Career website, click on 'for students' choose Newsfeed and subscribe: [Iona College Geelong \(ionacareers.com\)](#)

For Parents: Visit the College Career website, click on 'for parents' choose Newsfeed and subscribe: [Iona College Geelong \(ionacarers.com\)](#)

To contact the Pathways team please email [pathways@iona.vic.edu.au](mailto:pathways@iona.vic.edu.au)

### Our Students' Artwork is up at the Waurn Ponds Library!

We recently received a letter of thanks from a Waurn Ponds librarian who commented on how much the public has loved viewing our students' Inside Out artwork currently exhibited at their library. A big thanks to our students for sharing their passionate artwork with the community—the display looks absolutely fantastic!



### Iona's Official Umpires at a National AFL Competition

What an Opportunity to be an Official at a National Sporting Event!

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August, three of our valued students attended the opening ceremony for the SSA U12 National Football Championships. Anna Henderson, Alfie Koop and Campbell Brown are all volunteering their time for the week to be official umpires at the U12 National Football Championships. Teams are coming from all around Australia to compete in this National Event. Our three students are demonstrating Courage and Leadership, two of our core school values and we are super proud of them. We appreciate that Anna, Alfie and Campbell (and their families supporting them) are giving their time to help others. Well done and enjoy what this week of opportunity provides you.



Gina Oliver  
*Teacher*

### National Tree Day

On Friday, August 26, the Iona student environment team celebrated National Tree Day by planting trees next to our basketball courts. A big thanks to Abbie Clark and her family for sourcing the local native trees. Also, a big thanks to Craig Harry for helping with the tools and helping digging holes.

:



Josephine Leonard shared the following message to mark the occasion: "Today is National Tree Day for schools. Since 1996, people across Australia have been planting trees to promote nature care and sustainability. In recognition of this important event, a group of student leaders will be planting several plants today. Planting trees is an important action that not only holds symbolic significance but also helps increase biodiversity, absorb carbon, and improve air quality."

We encourage staff and students to take some time today to walk around the oval or wetlands and spend some time to appreciate the nature that surrounds us."

Tom Chalkley  
*Teacher / Learning Area Leader (Science)*

## First Aid Update



During the flu season, it's important to stay informed about Influenza A, a common and potentially severe strain of the flu virus. Understanding its symptoms, prevention methods, and treatment options can help keep your family healthy. We have recently had some cases at Iona so we'd appreciate it if you took the time to read the information below:

### What is Influenza A?

Influenza A is a highly contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It spreads through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. It can also spread by touching surfaces contaminated with the virus and then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.

### Symptoms to Watch For

Influenza A symptoms can range from mild to severe and typically include:

- Fever or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Some people may experience vomiting and diarrhoea, though this is more common in children than adults.

### Prevention Tips

Here are some key steps to help protect your family from Influenza A:

- **Get Vaccinated:** The flu vaccine is the best defence against the flu. It is recommended for everyone 6 months and older.
- **Practice Good Hygiene:** Encourage regular hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitiser if soap and water are not available.
- **Avoid Close Contact:** Keep your distance from people who are sick and stay home if you or your child are feeling unwell.
- **Cover Coughs and Sneezes:** Use a tissue or your elbow to cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. Dispose of tissues properly and wash hands immediately.
- **Clean and Disinfect:** Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work, and school.

## Testing & Treatment

It's also important to be aware of combined COVID-19 and influenza tests available at local chemists. These tests can quickly identify whether symptoms are due to the flu or COVID-19, allowing for timely and appropriate treatment.

If you or your child develop flu symptoms, it's important to stay home and rest. Most people recover with rest, fluids, and over-the-counter medications to manage symptoms. However, if symptoms are severe or you are in a high-risk group (young children, elderly, pregnant women, or those with chronic health conditions), contact your healthcare provider. Antiviral medications may be prescribed to reduce the severity and duration of the illness.

## Missed School Immunisations

Missed school immunisations can be given for free via appointment at Barwon Health Immunisation Community Sessions. You can book via this link <https://portal.cirv.vic.gov.au> or phone 42154444 if you need assistance with a booking. Alternatively, contact your GP.

<i>Immunisation Centre</i>	<i>Immunisation Hours</i>
<i>Belmont Vaccination Centre 2 Colac Rd, Belmont, 3216 (enter off Reynolds Rd)- Carpark in between Bowling Lanes &amp; Barwon Health. FOLLOW SIGNS</i>	<b>APPOINTMENT ONLY FOR ALL SESSIONS see below</b> <i>Wednesday and Friday mornings - 09.00 am - 12.00 pm</i> <i>Wednesday and Friday afternoons - 1.30 pm - 4.45 pm</i> <i>Saturday morning - 08.30 am – 12.00 pm</i>
<i>Korayn Birralee Family Centre 146-152 Purnell road, Corio, 3214.</i>	<b>APPOINTMENT ONLY FOR ALL SESSIONS see below</b> <i>Every Wednesday 9.45am - 11.45am</i>
<i>Ocean Grove – Boorai Centre, 4-50 Shell Road, Ocean Grove, 3226.</i>	<b>APPOINTMENT ONLY FOR ALL SESSIONS see below</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month 9.30 am -11.45 am</i>

Kate Every  
College Nurse



**CLONARD**  
COLLEGE  
GEE LONG



# THE SLEEP CONNECTION

## Parent Workshop

Join Us for an Insightful Presentation by Renowned Sleep Expert Lisa Maltman. Discover the critical role quality sleep plays in your young person's overall health, learning and emotional wellbeing.

**What to Expect:**

Valuable Insights: Understand the science behind sleep and its impact on your young person's development.

Practical Strategies: Learn tips and techniques to improve your young person's sleep habits.

Interactive Discussion: Ask questions and discuss your concerns with an expert.

TUESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER

**6 PM - 7 PM**

Iona College Resource Centre  
242 Horseshoe Bend Road, Charlemont  
Parking in Staff Car Park

**JOIN US- RSVP TODAY**



**Key Contacts**

**Iona College:** Kylie Power, Deputy Principal Wellbeing

**Clonard College:** Tania Anticev, School Improvement  
Leader Wellbeing

**CLICK HERE TO RSVP**



## Resource Centre News



We have had a wonderfully busy start to Term 3 in the Resource Centre. We continue to have many students visit us during break times to read, study or complete work and have plenty of VCE students taking advantage of the new VCE study room which we love to see.

We have hosted various assemblies, meetings and incursions along with our regular timetabled VET Study classes, literacy groups and English classes coming in for reading and borrowing sessions.

We are continuing to grow our collection of new books all the time, so please encourage your young people to come in and check out our shelves. If there is something that they would like to read but we don't have, they can place a request with Ms. Sharon at the library desk.



In the lead-up to Book Week, we are excited to be hosting our first author visit on Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. Author Danielle Binks will be here to run some workshops with the Year 7's about her novel, ***The Year the Maps Changed***, which they are currently studying in English. During lunchtime, all students are invited to attend her "Building Blocks of Storytelling" workshop. If your young person would like to attend they can register [here](#).



The poster features a central photograph of author Danielle Binks, a woman with blonde curly hair wearing a blue and white patterned top. To the right of the photo, the text reads "Author visit" in a pink cursive font, followed by "DANIELLE BINKS" in large white block letters on a purple background. Below the photo are three book covers: "Rok, w którym zmieniły się mapy" (The Year the Maps Changed), "The Monster of Her Age", and "Six Summers of Tash and Leopold". To the right of the books, the event details are listed: "FRIDAY AUGUST 16TH 12.50PM" and "RESOURCE CENTRE". The entire poster is framed with a purple border and pink and white checkered patterns at the top and bottom.

Author visit

**DANIELLE BINKS**

Meet the author of *The Year the Maps Changed*, *Begin, End, Begin: A #LoveOzYA Anthology*, *Monster of Her Age* and the soon to be released *Six Summers of Tash and Leopold*. Join Danielle during Break 2 for her "Building Blocks of Storytelling" workshop.

**FRIDAY  
AUGUST  
16TH  
12.50PM**

RESOURCE CENTRE

Sharon Cuthbertson  
Resource Assistant

### Maths @ Iona

This week we had 170 students from Years 7-10 compete in the Australian Mathematics Competition. This is Australia's oldest running math competition, and parents may (excitedly) remember themselves competing in this as young people!

When your child gets home this evening you may take your AMC Distinction or Credit certificate out of your 1994 'brag book' and show them how you too participated in this fantastic challenge! I wonder if you can solve this question from the 2023 Intermediate paper (Years 9 and 10)?

I hear that dogs age 7 dog years every year. My dog Ruby was born on my ninth birthday. Four years from now, on our birthday, Ruby's age in dog years will be exactly four times my age in normal years. How old am I now?

- (A) 10                      (B) 12                      (C) 13                      (D) 15                      (E) 17

All students showed great tenacity and elite problem-solving skills in rising to this occasion. Certificates will be presented to all participants when results are released at a later date.



We love presenting external challenges to our students and are proud of those who face their nerves and fears and rise to the occasion! Well done mathematicians!

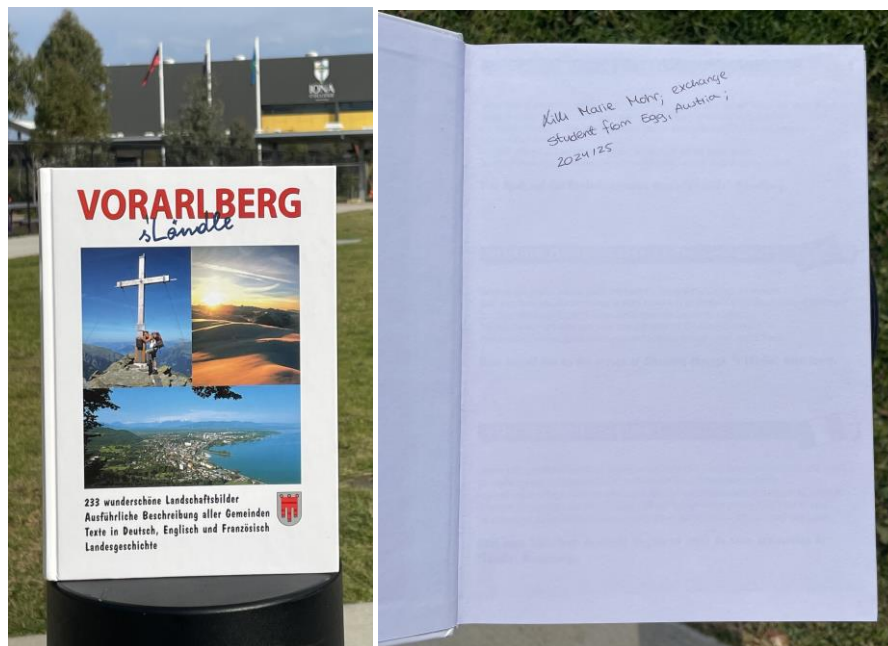
Lou Keating

*Teacher / Learning Area Leader (Maths & Numeracy)*

## Welcome To Our Austrian Exchange Student



This term, we welcomed Lilli Mohr to our Year 10 cohort, who is here on exchange from Austria. We are delighted to have Lilli on site to share her experiences of Europe with our staff and students. She generously brought a book about her part of the world for the Iona Resource Centre, which she signed as a memento. Welcome to Australia and Iona, Lilli! We hope you have many exciting adventures during your stay!



## Road Work Updates

### Marshalltown Road

The College has received confirmation that the Marshalltown Rd level crossing works have now been completed and is reopened to normal traffic.

### Surfcoast Highway

To safely complete upcoming rail (and overpass) works between South Geelong and Waurn Ponds stations, the Surf Coast Highway will be closed in both directions between the level crossing and Baanip Blvd **from WEDNESDAY, July 31 through to and including SATURDAY, August 17**, with works taking place 24/7 during this period.

Due to the scale of disruption to vehicle movements in the area, the increased congestion and potential delays to bus routes transporting students to and from school, local authorities recommend that school staff, parents and carers plan their journey ahead of time using the maps below as a reference.

A travel delay of up to 20-30 minutes in peak hours is anticipated. Please see the map below.



### Upcoming Works on Horseshoe Bend and Boundary Road

Whilst still dependent upon the completion of level crossing works and the re-opening of the Surf Coast Highway (Torquay Rd), we note that road signage has now been put in place by authorities warning motorists that the closure and reconstruction of the Horseshoe Bend & Boundary Road's intersection is to commence on Monday, August 19.

Detours will obviously be put in place and once again, due to the scale of disruption to vehicle movements in the area, school staff, parents and carers are advised to plan their journey ahead of time and expect travel delays of up to 20 minutes in peak hour.

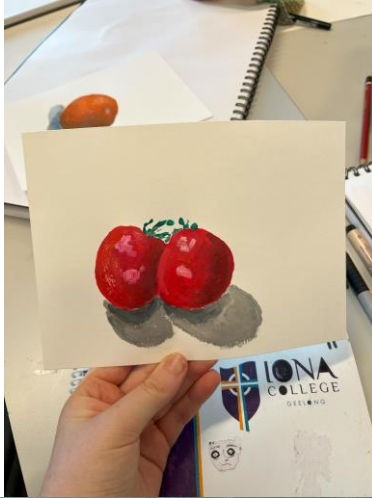
Discussions are also taking place with local authorities and McHarry's Buslines to accommodate required changes to bus routes and departure points over this reconstruction/detour period, which is expected to last until (at least) the end of this school year. Further communications will be issued once more information comes to hand.

Carl Jones  
*Accounts Receivable & Transport Coordinator*

### Art Department News

Our Year 10 students have been delving into the art of still life. Throughout their study, they have created impressive works, showcasing their progress and creativity. Here are some highlights from their in-class activities and final pieces from their exploration.





### Term 3 Dates to Remember

Date	Event
Monday 15 July	Staff Professional Learning Student Free Day
Tuesday 16 July	Term 3 Commences for Students
Thursday 25 July - Saturday 27 July	Combined Schools Musical
Thursday 1 August	Winter Soiree
Tuesday 6 August	Year 10 Immunisations
Friday 30 August	Staff Professional Development Student Free Day
Thursday 5 September	Student Progress Meetings
Tuesday 10 September	Parent/Carer Sleep Connection Workshop
Wednesday 11 September	Student Progress Meetings
Thursday 12 September	Combined Schools Choral Concert (Saint Ignatius College)
Friday 20 September	Columba Day
Friday 20 September	Term 3 Concludes - 2:05 pm
Tuesday 24 September	VCE Unit 4 Practice Exams
Monday 7 October	Staff Professional Learning Student Free Day
Tuesday 8 October	Term 4 Commences for Students

If you would like to download a printable version of the schedule above, [please access it here](#). This link will be updated each week in the newsletter as new events are added to the calendar.

### Welcome to Iona

We'd like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome the new staff members who have joined us this term:

- Ms. Kate Beekes has joined the Administration Team as our Student Receptionist.
- Mr. Lachlan Kelly has joined the Science Department as a Laboratory Technician Assistant.
- Mrs. Maria Pearson has joined us as our Human Resources Manager.
- Mr. Fletcher Long has joined us as a Maths Teacher.

Welcome to Iona!

Thanks for your support.

Damian, Kylie and Melissa