

14 November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we are excited to launch our Christmas Appeal. This Appeal invites our families to donate a gift card from any retail store, including supermarkets, that we will pass on to service agencies for distribution to people who are in great need. Traditionally, Iona families have been enormously generous, and we ask for your generosity again this year to donate a gift card to the value of \$20, \$30 or \$50. If your family is in a position to donate one card, we would be most grateful.

Given the growth in the number of families that we have at Iona and the well-documented cost of living crisis, this year we will support two services agencies, MacKillop Family Services and Vinnies.

MacKillop Family Services supports families with complex needs which often leads to unsafe and unstable home environments. Some children and young people may be removed from such homes and placed in 'Out Of Home Care' where volunteer carers take on temporary care of these vulnerable youngsters. Carers receive a small amount of financial support to assist with daily essentials, but not enough to provide gifts or anything not deemed essential. Vouchers that we gather at Iona will be distributed through MacKillop Family Services to give tweens and teens in 'Out of out-of-home Care' an opportunity to be like others of their own age, as they can shop for a Christmas gift of their own choosing.

After speaking with Brian O'Kane, President of the local Vinnies Conference, we will also provide gift cards to Vinnies this year. Vinnies has a long history of caring for those in need and they reliably direct resources to vulnerable individuals and families. Vinnies maintains a list of local families who experience daily struggles which are exacerbated at Christmas time. This list includes many families living close to Iona in the Nazareth Parish, Armstrong Creek and Torquay areas. Vinnies will visit these families in the weeks leading to Christmas to deliver a Christmas hamper containing food and some vouchers. Brian spoke of Vinnies Christmas hampers hopefully containing at least one voucher for each family member. Grocery vouchers would be perfect for these families but so too would vouchers that enable children, young people and adults to select a Christmas gift, such as a book, game or item of clothing, from a retail store.

Iona students can bring their gift card donation to school and drop it into the box at Main Reception by Thursday 5th December. If families have a particular preference to give to MacKillop Family Services or Vinnies, please put the card into an envelope that is marked with the preferred agency. We will ensure that gift cards are donated as per family wishes. It is fine not to nominate a recipient; we will share such cards between the agencies.

As an alternative to the donation of a gift card, families may prefer to donate directly:

[MacKillop Family Services](#) and [Vinnies](#).



IONA
COLLEGE
GEE LONG

Iona's 2024
CHRISTMAS
APPEAL

DONATE A GIFT CARD TO SUPPORT
MACKILLOP FAMILY SERVICES & VINNIES

 TO MAIN RECEPTION BY THURS 5TH DEC

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Nazareth Mass

The monthly Nazareth Parish Mass will be held this Sunday in the Resource Centre at 9 am. All are welcome!

Uganda Immersion 2025

We are currently exploring the viability of a Year 12 student immersion to Uganda in late November/early December of 2025. On Wednesday, our Year 11 students were presented with information and further communication will be emailed directly to Parents and Carers later this week. It is essential that students express their interest by the due date so that decisions can be made regarding this trip.

Summit Leadership Camp



Earlier this term a group of our Years 9 and 10 students spent three amazing three days at The Summit Camp in Gippsland, filled with unforgettable experiences, challenges and new friendships.

When we arrived on day one, we got settled into our cabins, then headed to the Lodge where we met our inspiring coaches who introduced us to the camp's Five Keys Values: Have Fun, Play All In, Make Mistakes, Get Comfortable Being Uncomfortable, and Don't Go Home Wondering What If. This set the tone perfectly for what was to come. We kicked things off with a fun group game, learned about the different activity areas, and then got into some team-building initiatives like J-bomb, Spiders, Keypunch and Tiles. After going over the safety rules for helmets and harnesses and learning some goal-setting techniques we were ready to start our first activity rotation.



To start we broke into four groups and made our way to the Bag Blitz, Giant Swing, Abseiling, and the Snowy River Challenge. After our first two activities, we all came back together to hear from the coaches about what was coming up, then enjoyed a delicious chicken schnitzel dinner and a leadership workshop before heading to bed to rest up for a big day two.

The next morning, we started with an Intentions session with our coaches, who talked about how some things are out of our control and how to stay positive despite that. In this set, some of us did Jump Free activity, explored the Cave, took in the amazing view at Summit Window, and faced off in Laser Skirmish. After a lunch of sweet chilli chicken wraps, we got ourselves ready for one of the biggest challenges: the Monster Course.

The Monster Course was intense. We raced in teams over, under, and through muddy obstacles. Just when we thought we were done, they told us we'd be doing the course again! It was a surprise, but it taught us about resilience and teamwork, as every group cheered each other on to complete it again. By the end, we were exhausted but proud that every team improved their time by over 7 minutes, a huge achievement.

After the Monster Course, we finally got to shower and eat dinner. After dinner, we completed a powerful session on belief and mindset. We learnt how the beliefs we hold can shape our performance, and we had a chance to let go of some limiting beliefs and set new, empowering ones. It was inspiring and gave us a lot to think about as we headed to bed.

On the last day, we had breakfast with everything already packed up and ready to go. Before the final activities, we gathered for a gratitude session, which explained how practicing gratitude can make a big difference in setting the tone for the day. After Jockeys (a high-energy game), we finished up the last two activities we hadn't done yet. The camp wrapped up with a final lunch, a few thank-yous, and four awards to students voted by their peers as having demonstrated the values set out at the beginning of camp.

Congratulations to:

Darby Webber
Lilli Mohr
Joseph Goodwin
Hudson O'Leary

The camp was an amazing experience, filled with challenges that pushed us outside our comfort zones and showed us what we were capable of. We're grateful to The Summit team for making it possible and our staff, Ms Collier, Mr Dixon, Mr James, Ms Sutton, Mr Wood and the College Leadership Team for giving us the opportunity.

Iona College Student Leadership Team

Nazareth Catholic Parish New Mass Times



NAZARETH CATHOLIC PARISH

WEEKEND PARISH MASS TIMES

Saturday 6pm ~ St Christopher's Church, Anglesea
Sunday 9am ~ St Therese Church, Torquay
Sunday 11am ~ Nazareth Church, Grovedale
Sunday 5pm ~ St Therese Church, Torquay

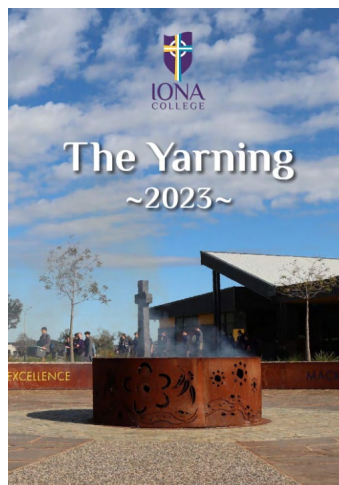
effective from 1st December

**A VIBRANT COMMUNITY
JOURNEYING WITH JESUS**

The 2023 College Magazine 'The Yarning' is Out

We're delighted to present the [2023 edition of *The Yarning*](#), our College Magazine! This annual publication beautifully captures the highlights and achievements of our school community throughout the year. Thank you to staff members Seonna Primus and Brigitte Read for their work in ensuring that another fine publication was produced.

2023 College Magazine



242 Horseshoe Bend Road
Charlemont VIC 3217

p: 03 5229 0004

e: reception@iona.vic.edu.au

iona.vic.edu.au

Passion Project Expo Reminder - All Year 7s and 8s

The Passion Project Expo for all Year 7s and 8s is fast approaching and below are a few reminders.

Where: New Year 7 Building – if parents are planning to visit, please park in the top gravel carpark and sign in at reception at 1:45 pm

When: Wednesday 27th November. Periods 5 and 6. There will be 15 min set up at the start of P5 1:30-1:45 then two sessions for students and parents to view each other's work – 1:45 – 2:15 and 2:15-2:45 – then clean up.

What to Bring: any props you are using for your presentation like posters, artefacts, and anything else to exhibit your display.

The top two projects from each class will then display their work at the Award evening the next day – Thursday 28th November from 5:30 pm.

Students should finalise all projects this weekend ready for next week's L2L or P2S class.

Kylie Power and Rebecca Barry
Passion Project Key Contacts

Iona Pathways Press

The November 15th edition of the Iona Pathways Press can be found [here](#).
In this edition you will find information about:

- **Casual Employment opportunities – Baker's Delight Torquay**
- **Accessing VCE Results 2024**
- **William Angliss Institute: Important Changes to Bachelor Degrees for 2025**
- **Pathways for Unscored Students at Deakin College**
- **2025 VCE Summer School Programs**
- **STEM Hub**
- **Snapshot of Marcus Oldham College in 2024**

 **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 \(ionacareers.com\)](https://ionacollegegeelong.com.au/ionacareers.com)

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

To contact the Pathways team please email pathways@iona.vic.edu.au

Support Our Year 10 Science for Living Students

Next week, Year 10 Science for Living students will be hosting a lunchtime stall selling beeswax wraps outside the Student Reception on Wednesday and Friday. Each wrap is only \$2, with all proceeds going toward our school Christmas appeal—a wonderful way to show care for our community.



Year 10 Science for Living Students

VCE Food Studies – Food in the Home



Last week the Unit 2 VCE Food Studies students explored the often-forgotten skill of preserving, by making Raspberry Jam and Tomato Chutney. The students are looking at many different areas of food in the home and developing food knowledge and skills. We looked at how the art of preserving is a sustainable and delicious way of using excess fruits and vegetables. It also served as a good talking point around preserving food to ensure food safety, as well as the chemical processes occurring between the ingredients to achieve the desired texture and consistency. We hope their families enjoy their finished product and maybe it may introduce some new traditions to the home.

Jacqui Huxtable
VCE Food Studies Teacher

Ensemble Showcase Performance



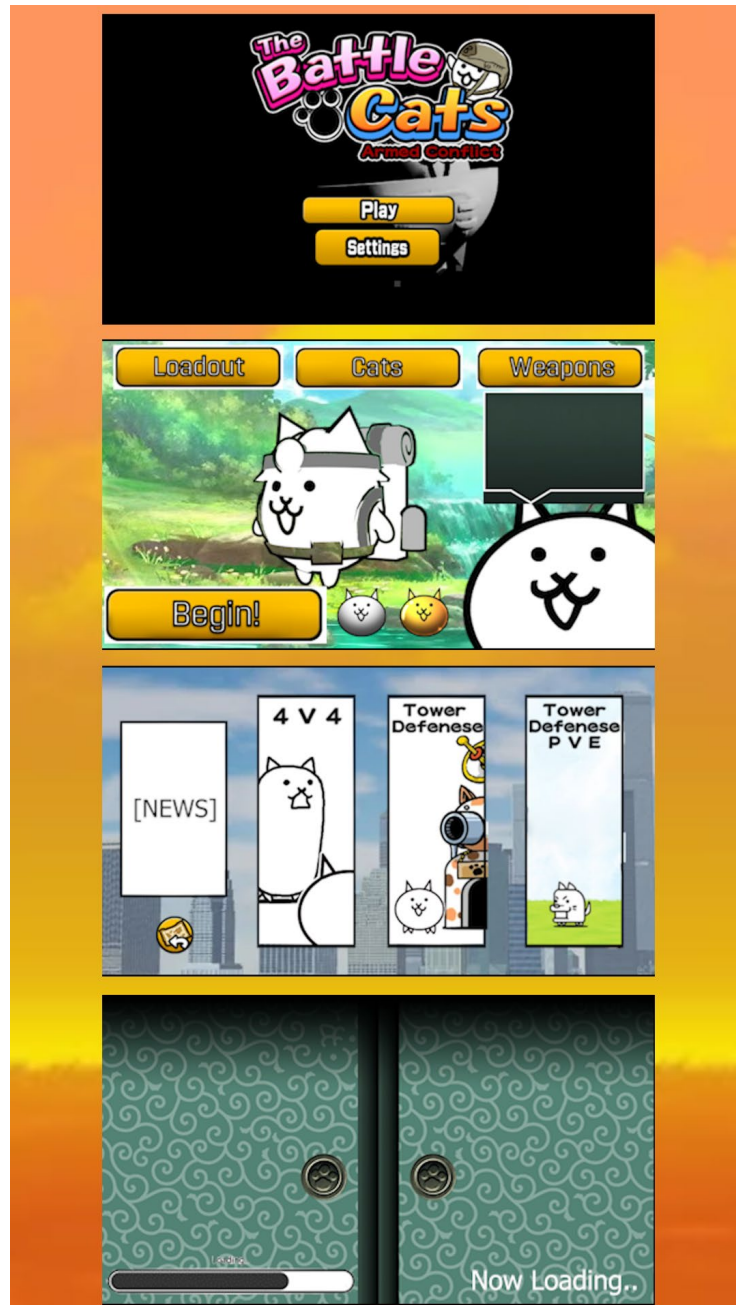
The Music Department is excited to perform our very first major concert in the new Stadium venue, and we'd love for you to join us! Enjoy performances by our talented school ensembles, including contemporary bands, Concert Band, Choir and String Ensemble. The evening will conclude with a special surprise performance!

Date: 21 November
Time: 6:00 PM

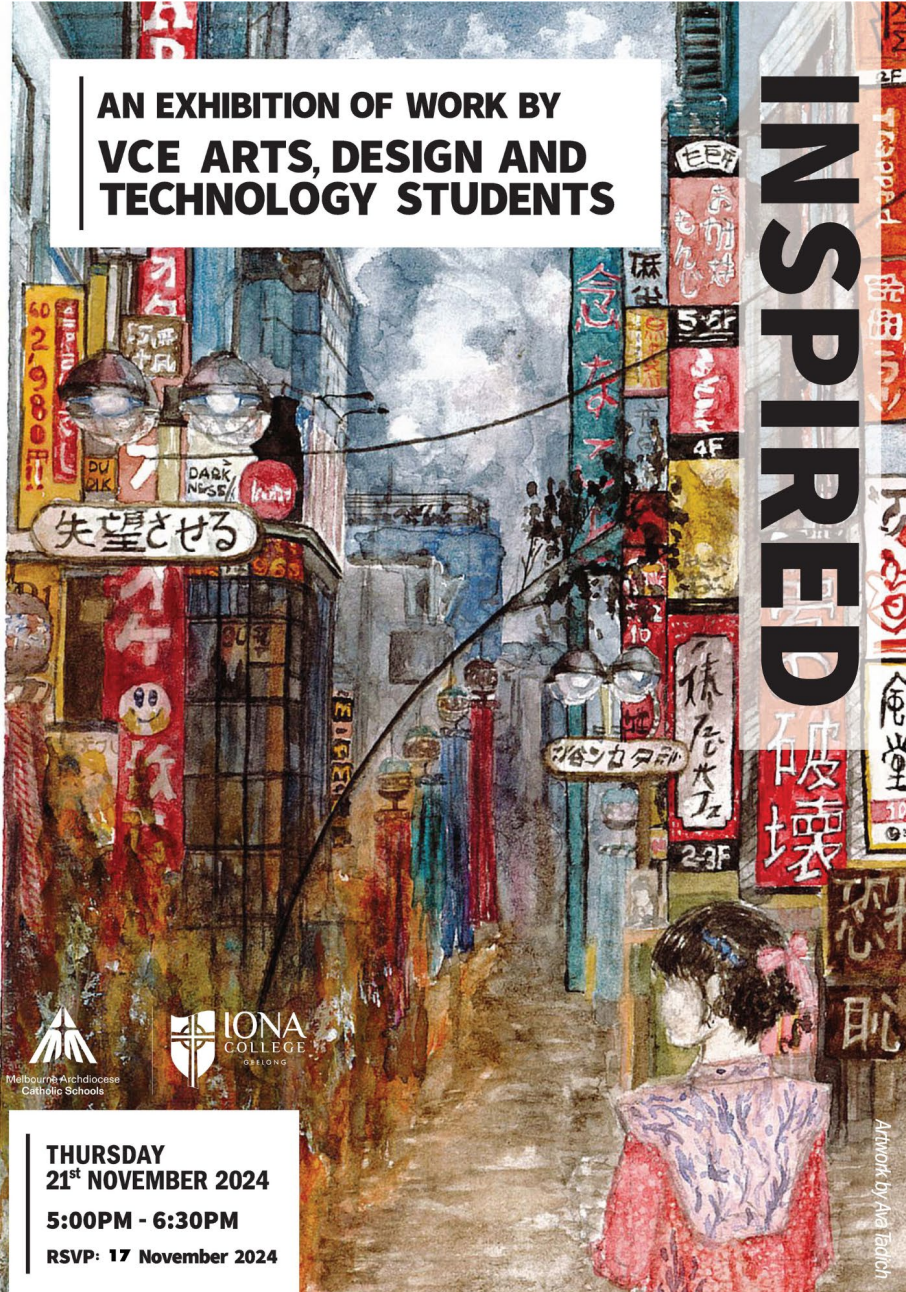
Tickets are available through TryBooking: [Book](#) here.

Art Department News

In Unit 2 in the Visual Communication Design class, students were tasked with using the VCD design process to create an interface for a digital product, environment, or service. This week we're sharing Jessica Aisbett's final presentation poster.



“Inspired” Exhibition




**AN EXHIBITION OF WORK BY
VCE ARTS, DESIGN AND
TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS**

INSPIRED

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Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

 IONA
COLLEGE
GEE LONG

**THURSDAY
21st NOVEMBER 2024
5:00PM - 6:30PM
RSVP: 17 November 2024**

Artwork by Ana Tachiri

We are thrilled to display our VCE Arts, Design and Technology Student works at our “Inspired” Exhibition which will be held on **Thursday 21st November between 5:00 pm and 6:30 pm**. We invite all parents, carers and friends along to view the array of exceptional works and enjoy light refreshments.

Date: 21 November
Time: 5:00 – 6:30 PM

Please **RSVP** by Sunday, 17th November 2024 [via the following link](#).

Term 4 Dates to Remember

Date	Event
Monday 7 October	Staff Professional Learning Student Free Day
Tuesday 8 October	Term 4 Commences for Students
Tuesday 8 October	Whole College Assembly - Formal Uniform Not Required
Tuesday 15 October	Year 7 2025 Online Parent Information Night
Monday 28 October - Friday 1 November	Year 7 - 10 PAT Testing
Monday 4 November	Mid Term Break
Tuesday 5 November	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
Tuesday 19 November - Monday 25 November	Year 11 Exams
Tuesday 26 November	Student Free Day
Thursday 21 November	Ensemble Showcase
Thursday 21 November	VCE Arts, Design and Technology "Inspired" Exhibition
Wednesday 27 November	Year 11 Ignite Parent Evening
Wednesday 27 November	Year 7 & 8 Passion Project Expo (Columba Centre)
Thursday 28 November - Wednesday 4 December	VCE/VCE VM Ignite Program
Thursday 28 November	Awards Celebration Evening (Stadium)
Thursday 5 December	Last Day of Term 4 (3:05 pm)
Thursday 30 January	Year 7, Year 12 and New Iona Students (Year 8 - 11) First Day of 2025
Friday 31 January	Year 8,9,10 & 11 First Day 2025

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.

Thanks for your support.

Damian, Kylie and Melissa