

Richmond  
High School

# In Focus



*Your Coeducational School - To Create, To Prepare, To Achieve. Make a Difference.*

## ■ From the Principal

We are rapidly approaching the end of Term 2, and it has been a very busy and productive term at Richmond High School. Yesterday, I drove down to Kangarooie Camp to visit our Year 8 students, who are spending four days at this camp. It was great to hear from the local camp staff how impressive our Year 8s have been this week; they respect the camp, and have engaged with activities with enthusiasm and energy. Camps like this one would not happen without the hard work and commitment of staff; I thank Ms Jess Hayes, Head of Year 7&8, and Mr Seamus Kavanagh, Year 8 Co-ordinator, as well as all the other RHS staff members attending this camp and supporting our students.

Last week's Ensemble Concert was probably the most impressive music concert I have experienced in my time as principal of this school. Among many highlights, I was particularly impressed by the Senior Choir and by the Jazz Band. Those performances showcased the creative achievements of some of our senior students, whose ongoing dedication to their learning in Music is now paying off handsomely. Our

junior Music students also performed very well and are gaining valuable experience of playing in front of a large audience.

The Senior Choir also performed very well in this week's Boroondara Eistedfodd, in which they were awarded a Highly Commended citation by the judges. Well done and thank you to Mr Thomas Williams, Head of Music, and the team of classroom music and instrumental music teachers at RHS, for all their work in preparing students for these performances.

The whole-school Athletics Day last week was another great success for RHS, with students participating in a range of events with passion and commitment, and showing both school spirit and house spirit over the course of a splendid day.

Earlier today, our Year 9 Music students played an informal gig at the Richmond Bowls Club in front of an appreciative audience of students, staff and some parents. Please see our socials for some video of these performances.

This evening, our VCE Theatre Studies students will be performing

Shakespeare's comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in our West Courtyard. Tickets may still be available to one of the two performances as you read this newsletter – click here to book:

<https://compasstix.com/e/j1c09p5sw n>

Thank you to Mr Zac Alaimo for directing this performance.

Lars Andersson

## ■ Reading Program at RHS

Richmond High School has recently introduced a *Reading for Leisure* (RFL) series at the junior level, involving students in Year 7 and 8. This series is designed to foster an appreciation for reading as an enjoyable pastime, whilst also furthering student learning outcomes.

Academia has long emphasised the benefits of reading for growing adolescents. Several well-supported studies have shown its amazing effect on creativity, critical thinking skills, language acquisition, and more (Sun et al, 2022; Russ, 2020).

By engaging with diverse narratives and complex new ideas, our students gain a broader perspective on the world, simultaneously developing their analytic and critical ability. Furthermore, exposure to a wide range of text types and media can build a strong foundation for both written and verbal language proficiency.

As part of the RFL series, students have built interest profiles using the school library portal, learned how to navigate the library, and started developing a vocabulary of reflection and critique. The program will be heavily focused on building a toolkit with which students can describe the elements of story-telling, verbal imagery, and personal engagement they enjoyed in their chosen texts.

Crucially, the program will introduce a series of healthy reading habits, providing a learning environment for their implementation and, gradually, independent practice both in and out of school.

Through this year-long series, we seek to honour the pivotal role that reading has in our students' intellectual and personal growth, providing them with the tools necessary to navigate the complexities of life and succeed academically.

Tiger Liu, Teacher-Librarian

### ■ City of Yarra – community feedback

The City of Yarra is proposing a new network of bike lanes, and improved safety for cyclists on the streets of Richmond. They are seeking feedback from the community on the proposal. To have a say, please have a look at the proposal here:

<https://yoursayyarra.com.au/cyclings afer>

### ■ Key dates coming up

Friday, June 16: Theatre Studies Performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Thursday, June 22: RHS Expo Night

Friday, June 23: Last Day of Term 2

Monday, July 10: First Day of Term 3



### ■ About us

Richmond High School is a bespoke, multi-level co-educational learning space created to serve the local community.

We are welcoming and inclusive, embracing difference and diversity in its many forms. We offer a strong academic focus that encourages creativity and original thinking.

We have high expectations of our students, balanced by care and support whenever it is needed. We hope to equip the students in our care for an ever-changing world, encouraging them to embrace learning for life and the desire to make a difference.

### ■ Contact

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### ■ Respectful acknowledgment

Our school is located on the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, we pay our respects to them. They are the Traditional Custodians of our Land.

We would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present of the Kulin Nation and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians.

As a school, we aim to embrace difference in its many forms. In culture, gender and religion. We ask you to respect everyone, yourself included.

