



# YEA HIGH SCHOOL

RESPECT : TRUST : ACCEPTANCE



MND ICE  
BUCKET  
*Challenge*

## PRINCIPAL REPORT

### Welcome New Staff

Yea High School is thrilled to welcome two new educators to our school community:



- **Eleanor Mark** joins our **Technology Team** with a rich background in Art, and is embarking on her very first permanent teaching position with us.



- **Thomas Panazio** becomes part of our **Humanities Team**. Having completed his final university placement at Yea High School in Semester 1, Thomas has now chosen to launch his teaching career here.

We're excited to support Eleanor and Thomas as they begin their teaching journeys, and look forward to the energy, creativity, and passion they'll bring to inspire our students and enrich our learning community.

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# PRINCIPAL REPORT cont/d

## Farewell and Thank You, Brian D'Arcy

Yea High School recently had the privilege of celebrating the outstanding career of Brian D'Arcy, who officially retired at the end of Term 2, 2025, after nine years of dedicated service, six as Assistant Principal and three as Principal.

Mr D'Arcy's contribution to our school goes far beyond his leadership title. He built strong, lasting relationships with students, grounded in trust, encouragement, and a genuine belief in their potential. His calm presence and steady support made a lasting impact on our school community.

He also played a key role in delivering VCE Outdoor Education and was instrumental in improving school facilities, including the redesign of the oval and upgrades to learning spaces. His work has helped shape a more engaging and supportive environment for students and staff alike.



We thank Mr D'Arcy for his dedication, leadership and care. We wish him all the very best in his well-earned retirement.

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## Positive Growth Reflected in the 2025 Attitudes to School Survey

Yea High School is pleased to share encouraging results from this year's *Attitudes to School Survey*, which show improvement across several key areas of student wellbeing and engagement. Importantly, student participation in the survey increased, with 222 responses recorded, giving us a more accurate picture of student experiences.

\**Proficiency* refers to the percentage of students achieving at the *Exceeding* or *Strong* levels.

\**Network* refers to schools in the Murrindindi and Mitchell Shires.

# PRINCIPAL REPORT cont/d

Notable improvements include:

- **Teacher Concern:** Up from 31% to 41%
- **Effective Classroom Behaviour:** Up from 48% to 53%
- **Resilience:** Up from 62% to 66%

We've also seen positive gains in areas such as student voice and agency, attitudes toward attendance, and how students manage and respond to bullying. Significantly, the percentage of students who reported experiencing bullying in the past 12 months dropped from 28% to 17%.

These results reflect the collective effort of staff, students, and families to build a more positive and inclusive school culture. We thank our school community for their ongoing support and look forward to continuing this progress.

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## NAPLAN Success at Yea High School

Yea High School is proud to be recognised across the Goulburn area for outstanding NAPLAN results, in both Numeracy and Literacy, where our focused and consistent approaches are delivering real results.

Through targeted teaching, data-driven support, and a strong emphasis on foundational skills, our Numeracy program continues to go from strength to strength.

Key Numeracy Highlights:

- Year 7 Numeracy: 70% of students achieved *Exceeding* or *Strong* proficiency—well above the state average of 66%.
- Year 9 Numeracy: 63% proficiency, also outperforming the state and demonstrating strong learning growth across the middle years.

These results reflect the success of our whole-school approach to Numeracy, which prioritises both high expectations and personalised support to ensure every student can thrive.

Key Literacy Highlights:

- Year 7 Reading: 66% proficiency, equal to the state and above the network average of 51%.
- Year 9 Reading: 56% proficiency, placing Yea High in the top 10 non-metro schools and exceeding the network average of 46%.
- Year 9 Spelling: 61% proficiency, surpassing the network's 53%.
- Year 9 Writing: 64% proficiency—above the state (61%), similar schools (50%), and the network (45%).

# PRINCIPAL REPORT cont/d



## NAPLAN - Students by Proficiency Levels

School name  
Yea High School

### Exceeding or Strong students in 2025 (%)

For students in Year 9, Writing

Year Level  
 Year 7  
 Year 9

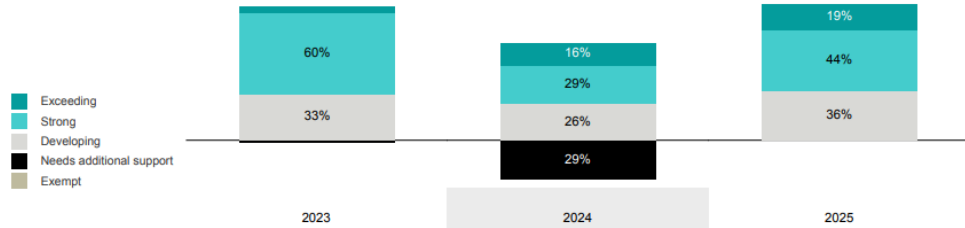
Domain  
 Reading  
 Writing  
 Spelling  
 Numeracy  
 Grammar and Punctuation

Cohort  
No Breakdown

Cohort Filter  
All

### Students by proficiency level (%)

For students in Year 9, Writing



Yea High School celebrates our students' achievements with pride. Through research-driven teaching strategies and targeted literacy programs, we've significantly supported student learning and growth. These outcomes are a credit to the dedication and hard work of both our staff and students, and they affirm our ongoing commitment to delivering high-quality teaching and learning across all domains.

## Rotary International Youth Exchange

Yea High School is excited to welcome Julie from Taiwan, who is joining us for a short-term visit, and Josepha from Chile, who will be part of our school community for a 12-month exchange.

Student exchange programs offer a wonderful opportunity to build global connections, foster cultural understanding, and enrich the learning experience for both visiting and local students. We're thrilled to have Julie and Josepha with us and look forward to the perspectives and experiences they'll share during their time at Yea High School.

## Past Events

- **GAT examination:** The General Achievement Test (GAT) is a pen-and-paper assessment of general knowledge and skills, completed by all senior secondary students, including those undertaking the VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM). It plays a key role in ensuring the quality of VCE assessments and allows students to demonstrate their literacy and numeracy standards. For VCE VM students, GAT results will appear on their Student Achievement Profile, a document that provides a holistic summary of their accomplishments, complementing the standard Statement of Results. It was terrific to see such high attendance and engagement from our students during the GAT.

# PRINCIPAL REPORT cont/d

- **MND Fundraiser:** Student leaders did a fantastic job organising a fundraiser to raise awareness and vital funds for *Fight MND*, an organisation dedicated to research and support for those living with Motor Neurone Disease. The fundraiser included an out-of-uniform day and a sausage sizzle. In the week leading up, staff and students voted on which brave staff member would face the Ice Bucket Challenge. The nominees were Kath Isaac, Jude O'Connor, Jess Hill, Sam McLeod, William Schwab, and myself, with 137 votes cast in total. Mr Schwab led by just eight votes and took on the challenge with great spirit, sliding into an ice-filled pool! It was also wonderful to see some of our graduating Year 12 student, Rebeca Flynn, Jacob Heyen, Rosemary Burt, and Finn Hargreaves, step up and join in the challenge. Their participation added to the energy and impact of the event. A huge thank you to Cindy Newcomen for her leadership and coordination of such a successful event. Well done to everyone involved in supporting this important cause and helping raise awareness for Fight MND.



- **Senior Information Evening:** Yea High School held its annual Senior Information Evening last Monday, giving Year 9 and 10 students a valuable opportunity to explore their future learning pathways. The evening began with an overview of the VCE and VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM) programs, followed by a highly engaging Q&A panel featuring current senior students pursuing a range of pathways. Their insights and experiences provided our Middle Years students with a practical and relatable perspective on what lies ahead. Students then explored subject and course stalls, where staff and external TAFE providers were available to answer questions and offer guidance. For those who were unable to attend, copies of the updated *Senior Pathways Handbook* are available from the General Office.



*Jacinta Byers*

Acting Principal

# CULTIVATING GROWTH: Thriving Agriculture Program



Yea High School's Agriculture program is beginning to flourish, marked by exciting hands-on learning. Curriculum provides students with practical skills and an understanding of Agricultural principles by immersive, real-world application. Under the guidance of Mr. Ricci, enthusiastic Year 7 and 8 Agriculture students are at the forefront of these projects. The ambitious projects—a beehive platform, a large potato growing stack, flowering gardens, and a nearly complete chicken coop—are taking shape. These projects are not isolated activities but integral to Food Technology; What the students grow is what we eat.

VET Building and Construction students under the guidance of Rod Grotaers have built a beehive platform. Students are designing vibrant flowering gardens specifically chosen to provide essential forage for future bee colonies, ensuring a sustainable food source for these vital pollinators.

Another innovative project underway is the construction of a large potato growing stack. This method, often referred to as a "spud box" or vertical gardening, is a highly efficient way to produce a substantial quantity of potatoes in a limited space.

The construction of the chicken coop is nearing completion, with only the protective fencing remaining to ensure the safety and well-being of future residents. Once finished, this enterprise will house chickens, providing students with direct, daily experience in animal care and management.

We are cultivating self-confidence, problem-solving skills, and a proactive approach to education, preparing students for real-world challenges. This also opens avenues for community partnerships, external funding, and aligns the school with national priorities in sustainable agriculture.



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**Yea High School offers a variety of supports to our students including school based services and the Department of Education (DET) services. The combination of these services strives to achieve**

- mental health prevention and promotion
- support for students including direct counselling
- coordinating supports services for students with complex needs.

#### **SCHOOL BASED SUPPORTS INCLUDE**

**Student Counsellor –**

Maryanne Carroll-Keays

**Mental Health Practitioner –**

Kerry Cooke

**Mental Health Nurse –**

Crissie Bryant

**DET provide Student Support Services (SSS) on an as needs basis.**

**SSS is a multidisciplinary team and may provide access to**

- Speech pathology
- psychology
- social work
- allied health professionals

#### **How to refer?**

Student wellbeing support services can be organised by students and/or their families. Parents/families please contact the Student Services Leader (Maryanne Carroll-Keays) via reception or any member of staff you have contact with.

Students may organise support by asking any member of staff to refer them to wellbeing.

**Breakfast Club is conducted  
8.15am Tuesday & Thursday**



August 2025

#### **Empowering Parents & Carers to support teen mental health**

We know that parenting a teenager can be both rewarding and challenging, especially when it comes to their mental health and wellbeing.

That's why we're inviting parents and carers to attend our **upcoming free mental health webinars**, designed to provide practical tools, strategies, and insights to help them support the young people in their lives.



**Co-delivered by a clinical psychologist and a youth lived experience advisor, these webinars will explore:**

- **Understanding mental health in adolescence**, including insights from the Future Proofing Study
- **What is mental health**, and when to be concerned
- **Key strategies** to support adolescents
- **Having the conversation** – what to say and how to create a supportive environment
- **Getting help** – health professionals, online and digital support for parents and adolescents
- **Promoting healthy habits** – including building connections, sleep, and screen use

#### **Upcoming dates:**

**Wednesday 27th August @ 7PM (AEST) [Register here](#)**

**Thursday 11th September @ 7PM (AEST) [Register here](#)**

**Thursday 9th October @ 7PM (AEDT) [Register here](#)**

**Monday 20th October @ 7PM (AEDT) [Register here](#)**

**Thursday 30th October @ 7PM (AEDT) [Register here](#)**

**Wednesday 12th November @ 7PM (AEDT) [Register here](#)**

**Thursday 27th November @ 7PM (AEDT) [Register here](#)**

**Wednesday 10th December @ 7PM (AEDT) [Register here](#)**



**Black Dog  
Institute**

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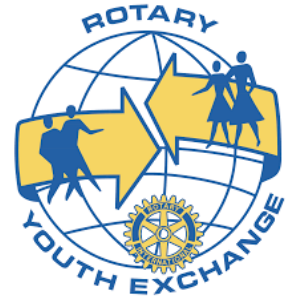
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# Rotary



# Youth Exchange



## Introduction

Hello to whoever you are reading this, this is my second quarterly report about my life in Germany, can't believe it's already half way done! This quarter has been a BIG quarter so I'll break it up into some categories and try not to write too much! Hopefully it's an interesting read!



## Travel!

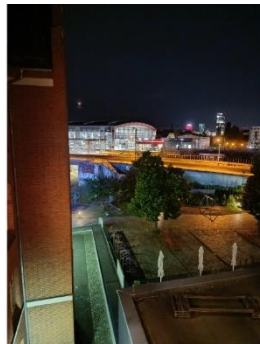
In this quarter I've done ALOT of travelling, I'll try to put some info in about each piece of travel.

## Föhr Trip 1+2

OK so als you can probably tell I've been to the island of föhr twice so far! Both times have been with my host family. Föhr is a small island on the north sea of Germany, it's very peaceful and is/was a nice retreat from the city for me and my host family. The first time I went to the island was just for a holiday with my host family... But the second time, I went with one of my host brothers my host dad and one of his friends to a metal Festival! Both times have been a lovely time and a great way to get even closer with my host family

## Berlin

The next big travel location I went to was Berlin with my class. Unfortunately it was only two days packed with activities so we didn't have all that much time to look around the city I still really enjoyed it. It was also good to be able to see my classmates outside of the classroom environment



## Italy

The trip I went on with my host family was by far the biggest thing I'd done with my host family travel wise. It was a 1500km car drive either way, and we stayed for around two weeks. The two places we stayed were with beautiful quiet places that had surprisingly warm weather. It was a great trip and I am very grateful my host family let me come along!



## Learning

Over the last quarter, I have of course attended school which has been good, (even better I have a break now!) which has let me get closer with friends at school and further progress my German learning.

My German has been progressing quite well and has improved a lot since my last report, although I'm sure my grammar is not exactly perfect, I can understand decently and am able to engage in conversations with people. So far I am proud of my German and look forward to see how it progresses further as the year goes on.

## Rotary events

I'm the last quarter, I've had a few rotary things going on, I've had the three district weekends, one each month, and also the district conference. All have been really great to be involved in the Rotary community and be able to connect with other people in the exchange group and that area of rotary.

As sadly the previous summer inbounds have all flown out, we will soon welcome some more students into the district over the coming weeks which I am definitely looking forward to as I get to meet more people from across the world, and show them the ropes of exchange as I will soon be the more experienced student which is a strange thought!

## Hobbys

Over the last quarter I've also been doing a bit of stuff filling in my free time, I've walked around the city, I've ridden my bike, I've also gotten even further into photography. It's been something I think I always found interesting but never pursued it. I'm not sure if I included in my last quarterly report but I've been doing since I bought my camera in February this year, so not long after I arrived. I've been having a lot of fun with it even if it is an extremely expensive hobby. But I've been enjoying it and also enjoy seeing the results at the end of the day.



## Summary+ thanks

So that's what's been going on this quarter! ALOT has happened and I am forever more and more grateful to my parents, rotary club of Yea, rotary club of Hannover Kröpcke, district 9790, district 1800 and my wonderful host family.

Thanks for reading and thanks to all who have made it possible you've really made my world

*Andrew Foster*

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# UNIFORM UPDATE

A new uniform policy, approved by School Council, will take effect from **Day 1, Term 3**. The full policy is available on the Yea High School website under *School Policies*.

## Accepted Uniform – General

- Plain navy pants or shorts
- Light blue polo shirt with Yea High School logo
- Navy fleece or spray jacket with school logo
- School dress
- Closed-toe shoes (preferably black)
- Navy broad-brim hat
- Navy scarf
- Approved VCE uniform

## PE/Sport Uniform

- Plain navy pants or shorts
- Red polo shirt with Yea High School logo
- Non-marking sports shoes

**Please note:** *Grey pants are no longer permitted.*



## Expectations & Support

- Students must wear full and correct uniform daily.
- Parents should notify the Sub School Leader (via note/email) if a student is out of uniform and provide a timeline to rectify.
- The school offers a **uniform exchange** for students needing support.

## Consequences for Non-Compliance

- Students out of uniform may be asked to change into school-provided items.
- Repeated breaches are recorded on Compass and may lead to detention or a parent meeting.
- Ongoing non-compliance may result in further action with the Assistant Principal.

## Reminder: Mobile Phone Policy

Use of mobile phones during school hours is **not permitted** under government directive. Phones must be stored in bags, lockers, or the locked café unit. If used, students must surrender phones to staff. Refusal will be escalated and may result in removal from school.

We appreciate your support in reinforcing these policies with your child



# HIGH VOLTAGE



Scan to register



## CALLING ALL GUITARISTS – HIGH VOLTAGE IS COMING!

This is your chance to be part of something big, loud and community-powered. Join celebrated Australian performer Joseph O'Farrell (JOF) for an unforgettable mash-up of music, dance and performance featuring everyday guitarists like YOU.

**Main Event: High Voltage Concert – Sunday 7 September, 4.00pm at Yea Shire Hall and it's totally FREE to take part!**

**How to get involved: Register your spot and you're in! To prep for the show, we are running workshops in Yea, Alexandra and Kinglake.**

**High Voltage project is led by Yea Arts and proudly supported by Murrindindi Shire Council to make it a Shire-wide celebration — bringing local talent together for one HIGH-VOLTAGE concert to remember.**

If you have any questions, please email us: [eventsyeaarts@gmail.com](mailto:eventsyeaarts@gmail.com) or call on 0403 831 520  
Visit the website: [www.yeaartsinc.org/high-voltage](http://www.yeaartsinc.org/high-voltage)

Murrindindi Shire Council is pleased to advise that funding for these sessions is made possible by the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)



Australian Government



**JOF**

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## Book profile

Dystopia

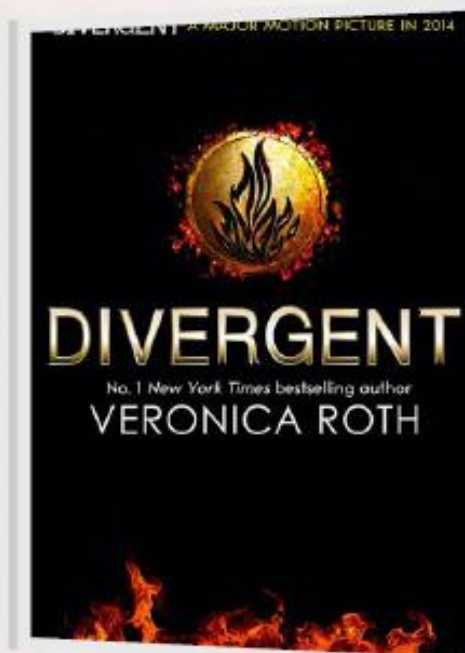
# Divergent by Veronica Roth

Year 9 English text

Beatrice Prior is on the brink of a decision that will change her life. In a society divided into factions all are forced to choose where they belong. And the choice Tris makes shocks everyone, including herself.

Once decisions are made, the new members are forced to undergo extreme initiation tests with devastating consequences.

As their experience transforms them, Tris must determine who her friends are - and if the man who both threatens and protects her is really on her side. Because Tris has a deadly secret. And as growing conflict threatens to unravel their seemingly perfect society, this secret might save those Tris loves... or it might destroy her.



Library News

# How will you science this National Science Week?



**9-17 AUGUST 2025**  
[scienceweek.net.au](http://scienceweek.net.au)

 **national science week 2025**

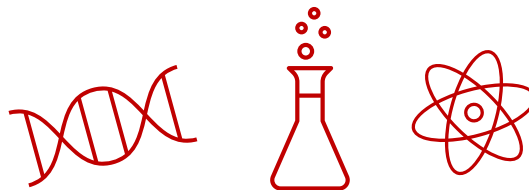
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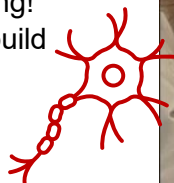
# SCIENCE IN ACTION



At the end of Term 2, our Year 7 and 8 students have been busy exploring science in action and engaging in enriching extracurricular experiences. From hands-on chemistry experiments to cultural workshops and environmental studies, learning has been exciting and deeply engaging.

## Y8 CHEMISTRY IN ACTION

Our Year 8 students recently participated in an engaging chemistry session focused on identifying physical and chemical changes. Through a series of interactive experiments, students were challenged to observe, investigate, and classify reactions based on their outcomes. One of the standout activities involved creating “shaving cream clouds”—a visually striking experiment that mimicked rain falling through clouds, using food colouring to simulate rainbow rain. It was not only educational but also visually captivating! These experiments helped students build foundational chemistry skills, such as observation, hypothesis testing, and scientific reasoning.



Through this hands-on activity, students gained a deeper understanding of sustainability, water quality, and the importance of protecting our natural environment. This investigation also reinforced scientific concepts such as mixtures, solutions, and filtration—linking directly with the chemistry foundations they will continue to build in future years. We’re proud to see our students actively engaged in learning, creativity, and exploration—developing the skills, curiosity, and confidence that will support their growth both in and beyond the classroom.



## STAR PROGRAM

As part of the STAR program, Year 8 students stepped out of the classroom and into dynamic experiences such as skateboarding and African drumming. These sessions provided a valuable opportunity for students to develop new skills, embrace teamwork, and explore creative expression in a fun and supportive environment.

## Y7 INVESTIGATING POLLUTION

Meanwhile, our Year 7 science classes have been diving into environmental education. In a recent session, students explored the impact of pollution on stormwater and experimented with ways to filter pollutants from water sources.

## TERM 3 PHYSICS



7A after exploring some retro kids’ toys as a hands-on engage activity and introduction to our new topic in Physics this term, where we’ll be learning about energy and forces.



## FOOD TECHNOLOGY



Our Food Technology program is thriving, with students demonstrating remarkable dedication and creativity in the kitchen. Beyond the cooking itself, a significant focus is placed on the art of food presentation. Students are learning how to plate up their dishes, ensuring they are visually appealing, and understanding the importance of presentation in enhancing the dining experience. Sharing their culinary creations with peers is also an integral part of the learning process, fostering collaboration and communication.

So far this term, our talented students have delighted us with a range of treats, from pancakes and biscuits to rich, chocolate brownies. They've also broadened their horizons by preparing an authentic Asian-inspired banquet, exploring diverse cultural cuisines and techniques. The variety continues as their next culinary adventure will delve into the world of root vegetables, pumpkins and potatoes, promising even more innovative and nutritious dishes. We are incredibly proud of their progress and the delicious outcomes of their hard work!

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