



YEA HIGH SCHOOL

RESPECT : TRUST : ACCEPTANCE



PRINCIPAL REPORT

As we approach the end of Semester 1, I would like to acknowledge the many opportunities, achievements and experiences our students and staff have embraced throughout the term. It has been a busy and rewarding period, with a strong focus on student learning, wellbeing, community engagement and future pathways.

STUDENT LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT

Our students have continued to participate in a wide range of learning experiences beyond the classroom. A highlight this term was the Year 9 and 10 excursion to the Holocaust Museum, which provided a powerful and reflective opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of history, human rights and social responsibility.

Year 12 students recently attended the Careers Expo at the Melbourne Showgrounds, where they explored a variety of post-school pathways. The experience sparked many valuable conversations about future study, employment and career aspirations.

Students across Years 7–12 also participated in the Attitudes to School Survey, with an excellent response rate of 83%. Student voice is an important part of our school improvement process, and we thank students for taking the time to share their feedback.

STUDENT WELLBEING PROGRAMS

Supporting student wellbeing remains a key priority. We are pleased to continue partnering with community organisations to provide targeted wellbeing programs for our students.

Our Year 9 students recently completed the 8-week Blue Edge Program, delivered in partnership with Victoria Police and Blue Light Victoria. The program focuses on developing leadership, teamwork, resilience and positive relationships through a range of challenging and engaging activities. We thank our community partners for providing this valuable opportunity for our students to build confidence and strengthen their connection to the wider community. The school has also partnered with Omnia Community Health to provide The Horses Assisting You (HAY) Wellbeing Program to a small group of students. The program will continue in Term 3 with a new group of students.

We also recently welcomed the return of the Time & Space program, where Year 7 and 8 students participated in a valuable opportunity for discussion and reflection alongside their mother or female mentor. I would like to personally thank Amanda Hard, Jasper Bastion and Nina Callander for their contributions to the panel discussion during the evening. I also thank our student helpers Carly Martin, Elise Miller, Ella Harris, Max Geeson and Tyson Garlick for their support. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, and we are already looking ahead to Term 3, when the program will be delivered for students and their father or male mentor.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

A big thank you to our Student Leaders for their organisation of our FightMND Big Freeze Awareness Day. The event was a fantastic success, bringing our school community together in support of an important cause. We thank Murrindindi Shire Council for supporting the day through the provision of the dunk tank. It was wonderful to see Mr Treloar, Mr Hardinge and Mr Panazio take on the challenge, along with our Year 12 student nominee, Ebony Ockwell, who bravely took the plunge for MND. A special thank you to the Ockwell family for transporting the dunk tank and to the Yea CFA for providing the icy water that made the challenge possible. Together, our community raised awareness and support for a very worthy cause.



SPORT AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to all students who represented the school in sporting events throughout the term. Our Cross Country team performed exceptionally well, with 26 students progressing to the Hume Cross Country Championships. We were proud to host and convene the Hume event, with support from our Year 12 students. We look forward to confirming results, with several students expected to progress to the next level of competition.

Students also represented the school with pride during the Term 2 Round Robin competitions, demonstrating excellent sportsmanship, teamwork and commitment.

STAFFING UPDATE

As we approach the end of Semester 1, there are several staffing changes we would like to acknowledge.

Firstly, I would like to thank Jamie Lynch for her outstanding work as our Inclusive Learning Leader. Jamie has commenced a period of leave, and we wish her all the very best during this time. Her dedication to supporting students, staff and families has made a significant contribution to our school community.

We are pleased to welcome back Sam McLeod, who will be returning to Yea High School for Semester 2. Sam's return will be a valuable addition to our teaching team, and we look forward to welcoming her back to the classroom.

We also acknowledge Terri Isaac, who will be commencing a period of Long Service Leave. We thank Terri for her ongoing contribution to the school and wish her an enjoyable and well-deserved break.

Finally, we farewell Cheyenne Naegler, who will be leaving Yea High School and relocating to Wollongong. Cheyenne has been a valued member of our staff and school community, and we thank her for her contribution to our students and the broader school. On behalf of the entire Yea High School community, we wish Cheyenne every success and happiness as she begins this exciting new chapter.

CELEBRATING STAFF SUCCESS

Congratulations to Diane Miller on her nomination for a Central Ranges LLEN Award. This recognition acknowledges Diane's ongoing commitment to supporting student pathways and post-school success, and we are delighted to see her dedication celebrated.

We also congratulate Biron Hardinge on his appointment as the Inclusive Learning Leader. This role will further strengthen our commitment to inclusive practices and ensuring every student is supported to achieve success.



SEMESTER REPORTS

Semester 1 Reports will be released to families on Friday 26 June. We would like to advise families that, due to current industrial action by the Australian Education Union (AEU), union members will not be providing written report comments as part of this reporting cycle. As a result, reports may look different from those issued in previous semesters. While student achievement, progress and assessment information will continue to be provided, some families may notice the absence of the personalised written comments that have traditionally accompanied reports.

We appreciate the understanding and support of our school community as we navigate this period. Our staff remain committed to supporting student learning and growth, and we encourage parents and carers to contact the school if they would like to discuss their child's progress in more detail. Parents and carers can also track student progress through Compass. Through this platform, families can access Common Assessment Task (CAT) and School Assessed Coursework (SAC) results, monitor attendance, review student timetables, and view positive and negative behaviour records.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we move into Term 3, we are looking forward to a number of exciting opportunities for students and families. Our Information Evening for prospective and current students will be held on Monday 20 July and will provide an opportunity to showcase the many learning pathways and opportunities available at Yea High School. The Junior School information session will commence at 4:30pm and the Middle & Senior School information session will commence at 5:30pm.



2027
Prospective & Current | Students & Families
INFORMATION EVENING

 **20 July 2026**

Yea High School | Racecourse Road, Yea

- JUNIOR SCHOOL @ 4.30PM
- MIDDLE & SENIOR SCHOOL @ 5.30PM



Students will also participate in a range of wellbeing and leadership programs, including the Big Sister Experience, The Man Cave Program and health education sessions. Staff will participate in a Curriculum Day on Friday 14 August to undertake Department of Education training and continue strengthening our teaching and learning practices.

THE
Big Sister
EXPERIENCE



UPCOMING EVENTS – TERM 3

- Year 9 and 11, St John Ambulance 'Party Safe' Program – Monday 13 July
- Menstrual Health Sessions
 - Years 7 & 8 – Tuesday 15 July
 - Years 9 & 10 – Monday 28 July



YHS OPEN NIGHT & SENIOR SCHOOL INFORMATION EVENING – MONDAY 20 JULY

- Year 7 & 8 Girls, Big Sister Experience – Wednesday 22 July
- Year 7 & 8 Boys, Man Cave Program – Wednesday 22 July
- Year 9 Boys, Man Cave Program – Thursday 23 July
- Year 10 Boys, Man Cave Program – Friday 24 July
- Year 9, Taking Care of Me Health Program – Tuesday 28 July
- Unit 1-4 Business Management Excursion – Yarra Valley Chocolateries – Friday 7 August
- Curriculum Day – Friday 14 August (Week 5) for staff to complete Department of Education training
- Year 12, Elevate Session 'Finishing Line' – Tuesday 18 August
- Unit 1/2 Legal Studies Excursion – Melbourne Magistrates Court – Thursday 22 October



Jacinta Byers

YHS Principal



YEAR 7 SCIENCE...



Our new Year 7 students have had a wonderful start to their Science classes this term. It has been a pleasure to see how quickly they have settled into the laboratory environment and embraced the wonders of the natural world.

Exploring Our Ecosystems

This term, our focus has been on **Ecosystems**. To bring our learning to life, students have ventured out into the school grounds to explore the diverse range of insects and living organisms in our very own backyard. Our budding scientists have been busy with several hands-on projects, including:

- **Terrarium Building:** Creating self-sustaining miniature environments to understand the balance of life.
- **Microscopy:** Examining various plant cells and structures under high-powered microscopes.
- **Chlorophyll Extraction:** In our most recent lab, students used scientific equipment and advanced techniques to extract chlorophyll. They successfully compared the levels of pigment found in different plant species, demonstrating great precision and care.

A Message from Ms. Chao

"I am incredibly impressed with the level of effort, participation, and genuine enthusiasm shown by every student in our Science classes so far. It is inspiring to see such curiosity and dedication to scientific inquiry. Well done, everyone!" — **Ms. Chao**



HUME REGION...



Congratulations to Jasper Bastion, William Mullis and Kyla Dowling for their fantastic efforts at the 2026 Hume Region Swimming Championship in Wodonga on Friday 13th March. All three students represented the school with pride, demonstrating outstanding commitment, sportsmanship and resilience throughout the day. Their positive attitudes and willingness to challenge themselves in a competitive environment were commendable. They should be extremely proud of their achievements and the way they conducted themselves both in and out of the pool. Well done to all three students on a successful and rewarding day of competition.



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VCE BIOLOGY...

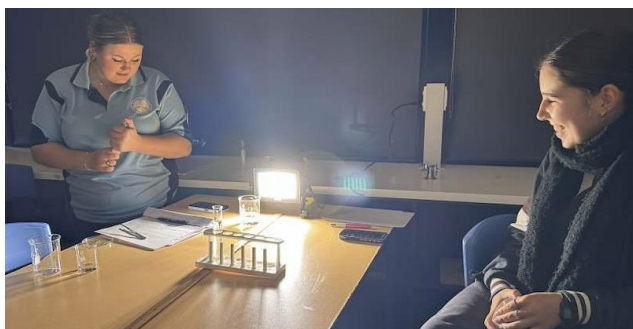


YEAR 12 BIOLOGY SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS

Over the past few weeks, our Year 12 Biology students have been conducting their independent scientific investigations as part of their Unit 4 studies. Students designed and carried out their own experiments investigating how substrate concentration, light intensity or light wavelength affects the rate of photosynthesis.

Working as scientists, students developed their own methods, collected and analysed data, and considered how to improve the validity, accuracy, precision, reproducibility and repeatability of their investigations. They then communicated their findings in the form of a scientific poster, showcasing both their understanding of photosynthesis and their scientific inquiry skills.

Well done to our Year 12 Biology students for their commitment and enthusiasm throughout this challenging and rewarding investigation.



Time & Space[®] Treasured Connections



Yea High School was delighted to host our Time & Space – Mothers & Children evening for our Year 7 and 8 students and their mothers and female mentors.

It was a genuine pleasure to welcome Bill Jennings back to Yea High School. Many in our community will remember Bill's work with our school following the Black Saturday Bushfires, when connection, reflection and conversation were more important than ever. We are grateful to once again benefit from his wisdom, experience and passion.

The evening provided a special opportunity for meaningful conversations, shared stories and strengthened connections. Feedback from students and parents highlighted the impact of the experience:

"It was good to get the time to talk and have conversations we may not have had."

"I feel like I have rarely connected with Mum like that."

"I thought this experience would be embarrassing, but I had some great conversations."

"It was really nice being able to have that conversation with my son. A really authentic moment."

"A lovely way to talk to your child about something you may not usually talk about."

Thank you to Bill Jennings, our students, and all the mothers and mentors who attended and made the evening such a memorable and meaningful experience.

Watch this space for the Time & Space - Fathers & Children event scheduled for later this year.

AGRICULTURE...



BUILDING BEE FRAMES is a precise art and this has been an extension of our visit from Charlie to build the external hives. The kids meticulously assembled and wired each frame to ensure our future honeybees have a sturdy foundation to build their wax comb. It wasn't just a lesson in basic woodworking; it was a hands-on deep dive into the engineering of apiculture. Seeing the students collaborate and take genuine pride in their craftsmanship was a real highlight.

This project is a massive piece of the puzzle for our agricultural precinct. These student-built frames will soon sit on our newly completed bee platform. From there, our future colony will get straight to work pollinating our vegetable tanks and native gardens.



Our students swapped the classroom for a premier scientific facility recently, embarking on an eye-opening excursion to the **SNOBS CREEK FISH HATCHERY**. The visit provided a hands-on extension to our growing food and agriculture curriculum, giving students a rare, behind-the-scenes look at native fish production, complex breeding cycles, and vital conservation programs. The day started with a group photo in front of the iconic Victorian Fisheries Authority welcome wall, setting an enthusiastic tone for the day. Students quickly learned that Snobs Creek isn't just about stocking waterways for fishing; it is a critical hub for saving threatened aquatic species. Guided by expert hatchery staff, the students observed firsthand how cutting-edge technology supports endangered species breeding programs. They toured the advanced water filtration and monitoring systems that keep the facility's intensive aquaculture setups running flawlessly. One of the major highlights of the excursion was witnessing the nitty-gritty of fish breeding cycles. Students gathered around incubation jars filled to the brim with thousands of vibrant orange fish eggs. They listened intently as staff explained the delicate process of managing fertilization, water temperature, and egg health to ensure high survival rates. Students had the unique opportunity to get right up to the tanks, observing mature native fish at various stages of growth, including the massive, intricately patterned Murray Cod. They even assisted staff at the indoor circular rearing tanks, getting a literal feel for handling the fish safely under professional supervision. **The** large outdoor holding ponds where larger fish are conditioned and prepared for release. This excursion beautifully reinforces everything we are trying to achieve with our multi-layered food and agriculture curriculum at Yea High School. By understanding how native species breed, grow, and interact with our waterways, our students gain a much deeper appreciation for sustainable ecosystem management—skills they will undoubtedly bring back to our own school kitchen garden, fish, and agricultural projects.

CONGRATULATIONS

AGE CHAMPIONS

SWIMMING...



AGE GROUP	WINNER
12-13	Will Mullis & Isla Anstey
14	Blake Krickic & Lexi Harris
15	Flynn Roberts & Kyla Dowling
16	Lily Neilson
17	Jai Hay & Lily De Iulio
18-20	Jasper Bastion & Dayna Kelly



AGE GROUP	WINNER
12-13	Arlo Darcy & Sienna Duncan
14	Lexi Harris & Ethan Hargrave
15	Emmett O'loughlin & Lila Darcy
16	Lily Neilson
17-20	Lily De Iulio & Tayte Hoefchen

CROSS COUNTRY...



ATHLETICS...

AGE GROUP	WINNER
12-13	Arlo Darcy & Sienna Duncan
14	Blake Krickic & Lexi Harris
15	Flynn Roberts & Lila Darcy
16	Hamish Antrobus & Alice Hawke
17	Tayte Hoefchen & Lily De Iulio
18-20	Will Granter & Ebony Ockwell



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NAIDOC WEEK

50 YEARS DEADLY

5-12 JULY 2026

Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre

SUNDAY 5 JULY

10am: Welcome and Smoking Ceremony

with Aunty Angela ten Buuren

- Followed by an immersive sculptural walk in the wetlands
- Light lunch to complete the morning

A free event but bookings necessary for catering

FRIDAY 10 JULY

10am: Children's Craft Activity

Bush toy weaving for primary school aged children with artist Cassie Fisher Patterson from Wild Blak Arts/Yanggurdi \$10

1pm: Adult Art Activity

Plant ink painting with artist Cassie Fisher Patterson from Wild Blak Arts/Yanggurdi \$25 (\$20 concession)



BOOKINGS & EVENT DETAILS

Scan to book all NAIDOC Week activities or visit yeawetlands.com.au/NAIDOC2026
RSVP by 1 July – Welcome & Smoking Ceremony
RSVP by 6 July – Art Activities

Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre
Taungurung Country
2 Hood Street, Yea
03 5797 2663

YEA WETLANDS
DISCOVERY CENTRE

Murrindindi
Shire Council



Women's Health Mobile Clinic now in your community

Free and confidential, 45-minute women's health consultations with a Nurse Practitioner

This service is available to women of all ages and teenagers

- Cervical and bowel screening
- Contraception (IUDs & Implants)
- STI testing and treatment
- Pregnancy options
- Menopause and bladder health
- Pelvic pain and irregular bleeding
- Any other women's health concerns

Location and dates

From 1 - 24 July

Alexandra
Alexandra District Health



Yea
Yea & District Memorial Hospital



Outreach clinics will also be held in:

- Marysville • Flowerdale • Kinglake • Eildon • Yarck • Toolangi • Highlands



To book scan the QR code
or call **03 9675 0050**
or visit breastscreen.org.au/whmc



Hearing or speech difficulties TTY 13 36 77
Interpreter support 13 14 50



2027

Prospective & Current | Students & Families

INFORMATION EVENING



20 July 2026

- JUNIOR SCHOOL @ 4.30PM
- MIDDLE & SENIOR SCHOOL @ 5.30PM

Yea High School | Racecourse Road, Yea



Book profile

Horror

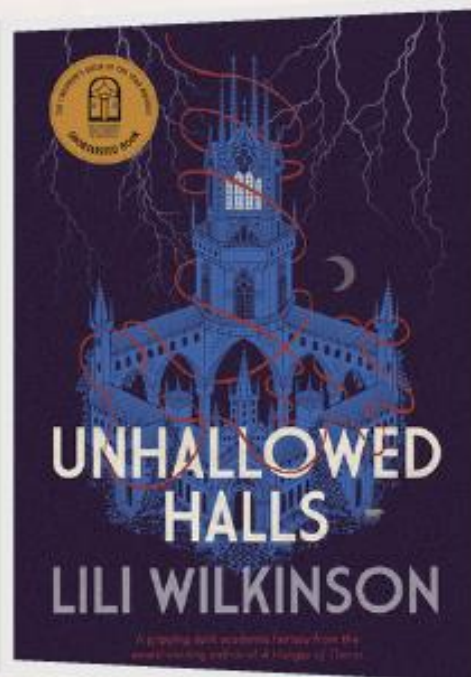
Unhallowed Halls by Lili Wilkinson

Page Whittaker has always been an outcast. She's too smart, too quiet, too weird. And after the deadly incident that destroyed her only friendship at her old school, she needs a fresh start.

Agathion College is everything Page has ever wanted: a safe haven of wood-panelled halls and dusty books, on a remote Scottish moor. And for the first time in her life, she has a close group of friends. Cyrus, Ren, Gideon, Lacey and Oak help her feel at home; the only problem is, they're all keeping secrets from her. Page doesn't know it yet, but her perfect new school has a crooked foundation, rooted in an ancient clandestine society with rumoured ties to demonic magic.

DARK ACADEMIA... WITH DEMONS - Perfect for fans of Lynette Noni and Leigh Bardugo, from the acclaimed author of *A Hunger for Thorns*.

SHORTLISTED BOOK: 2026 CBCA Book of the Year, Older Readers



Library News

NAIDOC Week - 50 Years of Deadly

For five decades, NAIDOC Week has celebrated the voices of our communities — steady, unapologetic, and proud. Each year, its themes have called for truth, celebrated culture, honoured resistance, and reminded the nation of who we are. Fifty Years of Deadly marks a milestone. It's a tribute to the people who built this movement. The Elders who stood firm, the organisers who made space, the artists who turned resistance into expression, and the communities who keep showing up, year after year. NAIDOC has always been more than a week — it's a platform, a protest, a celebration, and a statement of survival.

This moment is about looking back at the stories, the marches, the languages, the art, the leadership. At the strength it took to get here. It's about recognising how far we've come, not by chance, but because generations of people refused to be silenced. It's also about the here and now, who we are today. Grounded in culture. Strong in our identity. We're telling our own stories, in our own way, on our own terms.

And it's about the future. The next 50 years. The young ones growing up proud. The return of language. The return to Country. The fight for justice continuing with new tools, new voices, and the same fire.

Please scan the QR code, click this [link](https://au.accessit.online/YHG00), or visit <https://au.accessit.online/YHG00> to discover all of the helpful online content offered by YHS Library





YHS Student Wellbeing

At Yea High School, we are proud to offer counselling services onsite through our Student Wellbeing team. Students can access this support through self-referral, parent/carer referral via their Sub-school Leader, or direct staff referral. Our aim is to ensure every student has access to timely, compassionate support when they need it.

We also recognise that there may be times when students and families need support outside of school hours, or prefer to access services independently of the school. Whether support is needed for personal, family, or wellbeing concerns, there are many trusted external services available to help.

Below, you will find a list of recommended support services. We encourage families to explore these options and access the support that best suits their child and family's needs.

If you would like assistance connecting with any of these services, please don't hesitate to contact our Student Wellbeing team—we are here to help.



Kids' Helpline - Phone +
WebChat Counselling
Services



Headspace - Information
about mental health +
counselling services



ReachOut - Information
for young people and
parents/carers + Peer
Support services



SANE Australia - Support
for people experiencing
complex mental health
and their families



Qlife - Counselling and
referral service for LGBTQ+
people + WebChat/phone
counselling

MENTAL
Health
NATiERS



Beyond Blue - Information for
teens, youth and families,
online chat + 24-hour
counselling services



Raise - Online Mentoring
Program to support young
people build confidence,
resilience and develop help-
seeking skills



Raising Children Network -
Information and parenting
guides for all ages and
stages