



rossbourne
school

Thrive on Diversity



Pebble



Principals Reflections

Like all systems, education and school systems benefit from adaptation and evolution. This is not change for change sake, as evolution has an important purpose. The evolution of education is important because it reflects the development of society and helps ensure that students have the skills and knowledge to thrive in a changing world.

The evolving challenges our society faces, require new skills and innovations to problem solve and manage, creating a real need for educational settings to prepare young people with the human capital for sustainable solutions.

Education has always been a foundation of human progress, influencing cultural structures, economies, and individual growth. Over millennia, education has transformed from the elementary teachings of early civilizations to the complex, globally interconnected systems we have today.

Rossbourne has been focused on review and adaptation over the past few years, recognising our role is to actively respond to change in order to best serve and support our Rossbourne learners, enabling them to face future challenges. As part of this process, we have asked; what does the future of education look like in different contexts? What are the challenges we are facing? And how do we as a school for neurodiverse students, actively contribute to the evolution of education?

This phase of our evolution has led us to a range of new initiatives. This year we introduced the Year 10 work

experience program to better prepare our students for a career pathway focus when they become Senior School students next year. We also introduced the Step-Up Program as academic and pathways preparation for Years 10,11 and 12 students. A new Rossbourne Student Leadership Program was introduced with a focus on teaching students how to prepare and deliver a convincing presentation as well as develop a range of meaningful leadership skills.

With the help and drive of Catherine Turner, our Living Skills Teacher, a Rossbourne student "Green Team" was formed to initiate and implement sustainable practices across the school. This group is now part of the Resource Smart School Network, giving our students the opportunity to meet and learn from other students and other schools.

Next year we will continue to evolve by giving our senior students the opportunity to enrol in the VCE Vocational Major (VM). In addition, we will introduce three school-based VET options (Cooking, Sports and Recreation, and Community Service) to support students' VCE VM studies and we will give our students the option to complete a Year 13 so they can better prepare for life as young adults. The Year 10 careers program will be supported by a targeted careers curriculum delivered by SCOPE and all students will benefit from the new student laptop program.

Rossbourne is also enhancing student care and wellbeing as homeroom teachers will be responsible for six rather than twelve students, supported by a dedicated and structured wellbeing program and a

timetabled period each week to support the pastoral needs of students. We will also launch a House system in 2025 to encourage engagement by rewarding participation.

Staff Announcements

We say farewell to Katie-Rose Smith at the end of this year as she moves to a promotion position at De La Salle College in 2025. We are grateful to Katie-Rose for her care and support of Senior students and her innovative ideas that have helped shape our Senior School programs into the future.

Jennifer Murray will be stepping down as Year 7/8 School Section Leader after four years of dedication to this role, her students, and their families. She has done a remarkable job developing a strong Year 7/8 wellbeing and learning culture and leaves a legacy of refined structures and processes. Jennifer will continue at Rossbourne in her teaching role as she takes a well-earned break from the responsibilities of school section leadership.

A warm welcome to Penny Gordon who will be joining us in 2025 from Bass Coast College as our new Year 7/8 School Section Leader. We also warmly welcome Nathan Neilson from Oakleigh Grammar School, who will be joining us as a new Homeroom teacher. Both are extremely well-credentialed and bring a wealth of experience in supporting neurodiverse students.

We are grateful to Tania Hume for taking on the new role of VET/TAFE Co-ordinator. Tania has a deep knowledge of this sector of senior school education and is a member of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority's - Victorian Pathways Certificate Panel. We are also grateful to Hamish Dalton for taking on the role of Whole School Numeracy Co-ordinator, where he will devise and implement a sequenced program that focuses on targeted numeracy curricular.

Student Wellbeing

Learning, social interactions, making difficult decisions, and managing emotions such as feeling depressed, anxious, worried, or isolated are all issues that students experience from time to time.

Our Wellbeing Framework supports Rossbourne students in understanding and resolving long-term and short-term problems they may encounter. Rossbourne's Wellbeing Team (Clare Tighe - Psychologist, Kathryn Harker - Speech Pathologist and Bella Saunders - Psychologist) have utilised their considerable experience and expertise to assess, teach, guide and counsel a growing number of students who find their challenges overwhelming. They also deliver social skills and consent programs to classes across the school and provide valuable advice and support to Rossbourne families. In addition, the team plays an active role in collaborating with the teachers as part of a multidiscipline approach to supporting students academically and emotionally.

Our Wellbeing Team is an invaluable component of our holistic approach to student learning and personal development. They are also an important resource for families, as is access to the range of materials provided by School TV. A special report on Confidence and Motivation can be accessed via the link below.

Confidence & Motivation

Building confidence and motivation in young people is essential for their overall wellbeing and is a key aspect of their development. These qualities can have a lasting impact on their success and happiness. Confidence helps children believe in their abilities and face challenges with a positive attitude, while motivation drives their desire to learn, explore, and achieve their goals.

Fostering these traits involves creating an environment that encourages children to take risks, learn from their mistakes, and celebrate their achievements. Confidence is built when children feel capable and valued, while motivation is fuelled by the belief that their efforts will lead to growth and success. By actively supporting both, we can help young people thrive in the academic, social, and personal areas of their lives.

By offering positive reinforcement, setting realistic expectations, and celebrating their efforts, we can model a positive mindset that can go a long way in helping young people develop both confidence and motivation. Nurturing these qualities will help them grow with greater self-assurance, and believe in their ability to succeed, setting the foundation for a fulfilling future.

In this special edition of SchoolTV, discover how to provide opportunities for autonomy and support your child in persevering through challenges.

Please use the link to access this edition of SchoolTV. <https://rossbourne.vic.schooltv.me/newsletter/confidence-motivation-au>

As always, my thanks and gratitude go to all Rossbourne staff for their care and support of our students, for guiding them as they learn, as they develop and as they understand what they are capable of achieving. Thank you to those who have guided, collaborated, and supported me in our evolution as a school and our creation of new ways of being and doing in response to an ever-changing world. I want to thank Rowena Stocks (Chair of our School Board), Kylie Payne (President of the Rossbourne Parent's Group), all members of the Rossbourne Parent's Group, our School Leadership Team and the Rossbourne School Board for their vision and stewardship.

I wish all of you a safe, restful, and happy festive season as we farewell 2024 and embrace 2025.

SHANE KAMSNER
Principal

Chair of School Board Report

As we approach the end of another year, I am filled with both pride and gratitude for the incredible work that has taken place here at Rossbourne.

This year has been one of remarkable growth, collaboration, and achievement and it is my privilege to reflect on the progress we have made together as a community dedicated to supporting our students.

At the heart of our school is a commitment to creating a nurturing, inclusive environment where every student is valued, respected, and empowered to thrive.

This year, we have continued to build on the strengths of our neurodiverse learners, offering them a tailored approach to education that emphasises their individual needs, talents, and abilities.

Through personalised learning plans, specialized support, and a collaborative approach to teaching, we have seen remarkable progress in all aspects of our program and across the full breadth of the curriculum offered.

Our dedicated staff has worked tirelessly to ensure that each student receives the support they need to succeed and make a positive impact on the lives of our students.

Our staff have focused not only on delivering the programs for this year but also in contributing to planning for the future with a significant focus on curriculum development and vocational pathways. Allowing Rossbourne to continue to meet the needs of students today and into the future.

This year, we have also continued on fostering a sense of belonging within our school community. We know that when students feel safe, supported, and understood, they are better equipped to reach their full potential. There is no better example of this sense of community and belonging than the new Cook Centre for Performing Arts which has already cemented itself as a core part of Rossbourne life. This wonderful space already hosting a number of events and exhibitions and has been embraced by all members of the Rossbourne community.

As we look ahead, I am excited for the opportunities that the next year will bring. We remain committed to innovation in our educational practices, continuously adapting to best meet the needs of our students. We will continue to invest in professional development, ensuring that our staff are equipped with the latest strategies and insights to support neurodiverse learners. Additionally, we will continue to work closely with parents and carers to ensure that our students' needs are met both in and out of the classroom.

On behalf of the entire governing body, I would like to extend my deepest thanks to our dedicated staff, our students, and their families for their hard work, commitment, and support throughout this year. Your contributions have been invaluable, and together we have made significant strides in providing an enriching and empowering experience for our students. I would also like to extend my personal thanks to my fellow Board members for their dedication, commitment and support across 2024.

I look forward to continuing our journey of growth and excellence as we move into the next academic year. Here's to even more success, innovation, and community in the year to come.

ROWENA STOCKS
Chair, Rossbourne School Board



Deputy Principal

“We should all aspire to live a life of purpose and principle, guided by our values and what truly matters.” – Unknown

“The values we live by are worth more when we pass them on.” – Unknown

As the year draws to a close, it is the perfect time to reflect on what has been a very busy, exciting and inspirational year of growth, as well as a time to reflect on our core values of honesty, resilience, sharing, respect, and inclusion. These principles are more than words on a page; they are the foundation upon which we build a thriving, compassionate, and forward-thinking environment for our students.

2024, yet again highlighted the breadth of opportunities presented to our students and their amazing efforts when taking advantage of them.

The Leadership Team and staff developed several Areas of Focus together, to ensure that there was a culture of continuous learning while ensuring we were preparing students to be ‘life ready’.

Continuous learning is the process of acquiring new knowledge, skills, and experiences throughout one’s life. It is driven by curiosity, adaptability, and a commitment to personal and professional growth. Continuous learning involves independence, experiential learning, and staying informed about new developments in various fields.

As part of our Areas of Focus we looked at the following sections:

Child Safety

As Deputy Principal and Child Safety Officer for Rossbourne, this continued to be a key priority for me. Our Child Safety Committee met consistently throughout the year to ensure that our areas of focus ensured the safety of our students and included the following:

- Creating a child safe culture
- Empowering children and young people

We worked to ensure our students understood their rights so they could feel safe at school. We achieved this by placing posters around the buildings with information around the eleven standards. We also ensured students are aware of whom to seek out if they need support and how to go about this.

We continued our partnership with Child Safe Strategies – an outside organisation who assists us with our understanding, policies and practices around the safety of the students and wider community.

Curriculum Planning

We continued to work on our review, documentation and the implementation of our curriculum. Staff have worked all year on the curriculum to ensure students are differentiated, challenged and prepared for whatever life has for them outside the gates of Rossbourne School. We finished the year with a focus on e-learning in preparation for the introduction of student notebooks in 2025.

Student Leadership

It has been incredible to work with the twelve passionate, dedicated, motivated and enthusiastic



young leaders who put in a great deal of time and effort, by attending and contributing to meetings and being a voice for what they thought were the important areas of focus for the year. Each student selected a portfolio to work on which included raising money for various charities, organising events and facilitating assemblies.

The students worked on a wide range of activities throughout the year and were amazing role models for their peers. They assisted with assemblies, International Women's Day, Mother's Day, and Father's Day and raised over \$1000 dollars throughout the year to donate to a wide range of charitable organisations.

All members of the student leadership team should be extremely proud of their collective achievements this year. I know that there are a number of the leaders who are very keen to continue in 2025.

These are but a few of the areas that have been worked on throughout the year. The 2024 school year has flown by, and it feels like only yesterday I was writing a report for 2023.

There are so many opportunities we could highlight and so many ways the students of Rossbourne make me proud to be part of the community every day.

Below is a selection:

- Swimming and sport carnivals where the support for each other is inspiring
- The student graduation speeches and the Creative Writing Competition which show their talents and unique skills
- Mother's and Father's Day, International Women's Day and ANZAC Day which reflect the students' pride, reverence and understanding of the importance of these events
- Wakakirri which highlights our students' talents and their love for performing.

This is not to mention the camps, social activities, excursions, city seekers and Art/Design Technology & ICT Exhibition which were all amazing highlights for the year.

All these events reflect my own pride and understanding of the importance of Rossbourne School

and our own opportunity as educators to provide these students with the best possible education.

To our students: You have all shown incredible determination in pursuing your goals which include excelling academically, honing your talents, or building meaningful friendships. Your efforts have been amazing.

To our staff: Your unwavering dedication has been the foundation of every success we celebrate. Thank you for inspiring our students to reach new heights and for fostering a nurturing environment where every child feels valued, supported and that they belong.

To our parents and caregivers: Your partnership and trust have been instrumental in the holistic development of our students. Thank you for your encouragement and for working alongside us to ensure every child thrives.

It is clear to see that our values of honesty, resilience, sharing, respect, and inclusion are part of everything we do and all we are as a community

Wishing you a joyful and restful holiday season, and I look forward to seeing you all refreshed and ready to embrace the journey ahead.

JAMES BOX
Deputy Principal





I *Rossbourne Parents Group*

2024 has been another great year for the Rossbourne Parents Group (RPG).

We changed from being an association to becoming a parents group under the governance of the school. We met regularly and worked closely with the School's Principal, Shane Kamsner and Deputy Principal James Box to support the school's objectives.

We introduced coffee mornings at the beginning of each term and they have been a great success. The students loved the hot chocolates, teachers enjoyed their coffee and a few parents came along for the opportunity to meet other parents. We will continue these in 2025 and hope to have more parents come along.

We had a fantastic Trivia Night this year. The theme was Christmas in July. It was well attended, and everyone had a good night. It was a great way to showcase our new Cook Centre for Performing Arts.

Other social events this year included the International Women's Day Dinner and Disco Dinner at the Glenferrie Hotel.

We started our inaugural Mother's and Father's Day Breakfasts. They were popular and the work that went into the messages from the students was appreciated by the parents who attended.

Our Culture Club events this year included the movies and theatre productions at CLOC. These were a great

success and gave us a further opportunity to come together as a community. The Culture Club events are a great way for students, parents and carers and siblings to come together. We will continue to plan these activities for 2025 and are very open to ideas and suggestions from our community on areas of interest.

The RPG organised a Teacher Appreciation Morning Tea for World Teacher Appreciation Day on Thursday 24th October. We provided a coffee van to make coffees on this cold and windy morning, and lots of yummy pastries and fruit platters. The teachers were very grateful and appreciated the gesture and recognition.

We have continued with Rossbourne Riders and the basketball program this year. We hope to continue with these and increase the participation in Rossbourne Riders. If you have ideas on other activities we could run as part of our sports coordination, please get in touch.

We held a few second-hand uniform sales throughout the year, and this was coordinated by Gabby Scolyer and Sue Murray. On behalf of the RPG and the parents of Rossbourne I would like to thank them both for providing this service to our Rossbourne community. We will be looking for a new coordinator for the second-hand uniform program, so please reach out if you can assist.

We held two Bunnings BBQ Fundraisers this year and our thanks goes to all the parents who came along to help.

A huge thank you to the RPG committee members who give their time on a voluntary basis, and for their dedication and hard work to support Rossbourne School.

Below is the list of the hard-working committee members that represent the parents of Rossbourne.

President/ 11/12 Class Rep Co-ordinator	Kylie Payne
Secretary	Bel Albiez
Treasurer	Penny Broadbent
Sports Inclusion Co-ordinator	David Raits
7/8 Class Rep Co-ordinator	Carmen Tallott
Culture Club / Second Hand Uniform Shop / 9/10 Class Rep Co-ordinator	Sue Murray
Rossbourne Connect (Alumni) Liaison/ Rossbourne Riders	Bronwyn Hall

On behalf of the Parents Group, I would like to wish the graduating students and their families success for the future and encourage them to continue to remain engaged with Rossbourne via our alumni association Rossbourne Connect.

We wish all our Rossbourne students and families a safe and happy end to the 2024 school year and we look forward to an exciting 2025.

KYLIE PAYNE

President – Rossbourne Parents Group



PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE ROSSBOURNE PARENT'S GROUP

Our community and our students thrive when Parents are involved in supporting and contributing to Rossbourne School. Diversity and renewal are important if we are to continue to provide the best possible ways for our families to connect and support the school for the benefit of their children.

The Rossbourne Parent's Group is a highly valued and respected committee of dedicated individuals. Our community, especially our students, continues to benefit from the important work that the RPG does in supporting diversity, connection and belonging by creating social, sporting and cultural opportunities, as well as significant fundraising initiatives, which have contributed to projects like the building of a new Food Technology industrial kitchen and a cooling system for the gym.

Purpose:

The RPG's overarching purpose is to support the wellbeing of the Rossbourne School community by assisting the school, its students and their parents, culturally, socially and via fundraising events.

The primary objectives of the RPG are to:

- contribute to the wellbeing of the school community
- encourage the participation of parents in the life of the school and the education of their children
- provide opportunities for parents to get to know each other and to be informed about school structures, offerings, events and processes
- contribute to proposals on school policy and other educational issues (as identified or discussed with the Principal or School Board)
- raise funds for the benefit of the school

Please contact the President of the Rossbourne Parent's Group if you would like to discuss joining this highly valued group:
 Kylie Payne (kylieepayne@gmail.com),
 or Shane Kamsner (kamsns@rossbourne.vic.edu.au)



Rosbourne Connect

Connect - bring together or into contact so that a real link is established.

This year we welcomed past students of Rosbourne who were able to connect with fellow students and make new friends in a safe and supported space.

Our annual BBQ was held on the first Saturday in May with past students from all different years, coming together to wander around the school, share a meal and a laugh. This event will now be a regular event on our calendar at the beginning of the year.

In September we held our "Graze n Groove" in the new Cook Centre. There was plenty of space for dancing and a calm chill-out zone, where people could have a drink, sit and chat. It was wonderful to see past students from all years mixing together and having a great time.

This year we welcomed past students Jamie Duell and Harry Mezger to our Committee. They have already provided a positive contribution in organising future events. Thank you to all those who have supported us this year and assisted at functions and behind the scenes. If you are interested in joining the Committee or Rosbourne Connect please do not hesitate to contact the school.





Art Report

TERM 4, 2024

As usual, the final term of the year has been action packed and included completing work and preparing for the annual Rossbourne Art, Design Technology and ICT Exhibition.

The new Performing Arts Centre was selected to hold the event which accommodated the many impressive and varied exhibits. Many visitors who attended were suitably impressed with the excellent calibre of the student works which included drawings, canvas paintings and an array of different themed ceramic sculptures. Year 7 and 8 students had a range of expressive and creative koalas in different shapes and colours. Year 9 and 10 students created figure sculptures of Chinese inspired warriors, mermaids and canopic vases inspired by the ancient Egyptian gods and goddesses.

Some students crafted an assortment of ceramic shoes and others made fabulous lizards and sensational seals. Inspired by the sea following the Year 9/10 camp to Queenscliff earlier this year, some students made stunning wall plaques on a nautical theme. There was also a selection of still life flower paintings by Year 9 /10 students. Senior students have painted a range of compositions, from portraits

to Surrealist themes. This was an exhibition not to be missed. Mrs Jennifer Kilner catered for the event and she was assisted by a very able team of student helpers. As it is an annual event, I encourage you to make time to come and see what your talented young person has achieved. Seeing is believing!

At the time of writing, the winners as voted by attendees had not been announced but I can assure you it was a highly contentious field of young artists.

This may sound repetitive, but I am always amazed by the many talented and creative students here at Rossbourne and I am so fortunate to teach and help facilitate their learning and inquiries in the visual arts. The forthcoming Yayoi Kusama exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV), will provide further inspiration for themes in 2025 and will no doubt result in art inspired by this remarkable artist. Be aware – next year will be very dotty and pumpkins may be lurking on canvases!

Yours in art,

PHILIPPA MCINERNEY
Art Teacher





Design Technology



The Years 7 and 8 students started this year by undertaking a group project in which they designed and constructed a wooden city featuring buildings, houses, trees and transport.

The students planned the structures they wanted to construct and drew their designs on blocks of wood and learnt to cut them out at different angles using coping and tenon saws. They learnt about sanding timber using different grades of sandpaper and drew and painted the final designs onto their structures. When all items were completed and placed together, a unique city was formed. The students drew roads, parks, paddocks, waterways, and other infrastructure, from a birds-eye view to surround their constructions.

Following this, these students learned about the history and importance of kites in different cultures and how kites fly. They designed their own kites and created paper prototypes, which they tested by flying outside. They reflected on any changes they thought needed to be made to make their kite fly better. Each student created their final kite on cotton, decorating the fabric with fabric paint or markers. They helped to make the frame from bamboo sticks, the tail from recycled materials and attached the string to balance the kite.

Throughout the year, the Year 7 and 8 students researched ideas that they would like to illustrate on a small wooden jigsaw puzzle. They were looking for

ideas that would reflect who they are and would also look pleasing featured in a small wooden circle. They illustrated the jigsaw puzzles using grey-leads, posca markers, textas, coloured pencils, paint slicks and fine-liners. The jigsaws were glazed with mod-podge, so the pieces stuck together, and this also gave the wood a protective sheen. The illustrated jigsaws were colour photocopied and shrunk down slightly, to create tags. The students designed and created jewellery pieces from polymer clay to be displayed on their tags, as if they were going to sell them in a shop. Some of the tags were used in the Mother's Day stall earlier this year. Once the polymer clay jewellery pieces were cooked in the oven, earring pieces, brooch backs or keyrings were added to complete these functional pieces.

The Years 9 and 10 student Design Technology students focused on a variety of different design projects. They had an opportunity to practice using different tools to create wooden clocks which they designed, constructed, and screen-printed or painted. They used tenon saws to cut a circular shape from a piece of plywood. They filed and sanded back any rough edges and drilled a hole in the middle of the wood to insert the clock hands. The students decorated their clock and chose whether they wanted to screen-print, draw, or paint on their clock. Some combined all three illustration methods. Lastly, they attached numbers, hands, and a battery pack to create a functional clock.



The Years 9 and 10 students also developed and illustrated detailed pictures onto wooden skateboards, sewed their own pillowcase or cushion cover and used fabric paint and different fabrics to decorate, paint or embroider graphic illustrations. They also constructed a light stand, a jewellery stand and wooden book ends. The wood burning tool was used for decorative embellishment, and the wooden phone holders were made with layers of cut and sanded plywood and illustrated short graphic novels drawn. Embroidery proved very popular and small hanging frames made of either bamboo sticks sewn on to cotton or timber frames were created to display the students' finished pieces.

The Senior Design Technology students have investigated a variety of techniques and equipment throughout 2024. One class followed a design brief to design the interior and exterior retail space of their choosing. During this process, they learnt hand-drawing and some digital architectural drawing and rendering techniques, as well as discovering interior design skills. They built a miniature 3D model, including a landscaped garden area, using a variety of lightweight and textured materials, including balsa wood, foam core, textured papers and fabric, modelling wire and paper clay.

Another Senior class worked incredibly hard throughout the year to develop the storyline and

illustrations for a children's story book about protecting the environment with a focus on textile and fabric designs inspired by objects found in nature. The Climate Crusaders is in the final stages of completion and will be revealed to the whole school in a story telling session at one of the end of year assemblies.

In the latter part of the year, the students and teachers were very excited to showcase many creative projects to the wider school community in the brand-new Multi-Purpose Building at the annual Art, ICT and Design Technology Exhibition. This was held over two afternoons and was strongly supported by students, families, and teachers. It is a huge job to set up the exhibition and we are lucky to have so many helpful teachers and hardworking students who help to bring this show together, pinning up, displaying and labelling work, picking beautiful bunches of flowers from the Living Skills garden, cooking and serving a gourmet storm of hors d'oeuvres with Mrs K as part of the catering team and then packing it up, all within a week! It was amazing to see so many students, families and friends attend the exhibition in our beautiful new space, to view the students work, catch up with one another and to reflect on and enjoy the creative journeys taken this year.

VICKI BRADLEY
Design Technology Teacher



Living Skills

Visitors to Rossbourne frequently comment on how fortunate the school is to have the Living Skills house in Vivian Grove. It is a unique setting that allows students across all year levels to develop a range of practical skills as they engage in authentic activities in the house and garden.

In Term 4 it is particularly pleasing to reflect on the progress the Year 7 students have made over the year. They started in Term 1 hesitant about doing jobs around the house and were unfamiliar with how to use a broom, dustpan, or iron. But by the end of the year, they can confidently and independently use these items to complete tasks. The weekly practice allowed them to confidently complete many common household jobs such as washing dishes, cleaning the floors, and completing loads of laundry. The Year 8 students have been encouraging mentors, patiently helping the Year 7 students while also extending their own skills and completing more complex tasks and with greater independence.

Year 9-12 Living Skills elective groups have done a fabulous job throughout the year, working on the garden. Maintaining the garden is an ongoing task and this provides great opportunities for students to have a go at planting, pruning, mulching, watering, and weeding. Each of these tasks involves learning about the appropriate

tools to use, different techniques as well as how they benefit the health of the soil and plants. Students have continued to grow herbs, vegetables, fruit, and flowers. It is an invaluable experience to nurture and observe plants growing from seed through to harvest and students enjoy sharing the produce with the Food Technology kitchen and the canteen.

In addition to general garden maintenance, elective groups have worked on a range of different projects. Year 9 & 10 students have established a new native garden bed at the front of the school, and they have also been working on revamping the patio area at the Living Skills house. This has required them to work as a team, plan and problem solve, as they replace old gravel with new crushed rock and find ways to level and compact it. They deserve to be very proud of the finished product.

A couple of elective groups have contributed to the completion of our three-bay compost system, constructed out of recycled materials. Thank you to Alex Preuss for overseeing this project and for guiding and mentoring Year 11 students in the construction process. The hands-on experience of planning, measuring, using tools, and mixing concrete has been worthwhile. It is an impressive achievement that we are now able to compost all the school's food and green waste through our various compost systems. This has significantly reduced the



amount of waste we are sending to landfill and therefore our greenhouse gas emissions.

Sustainability continues to be a key component of all Living Skills programs. Not only are students at every year level involved in recycling and composting, but through the simple act of being in the garden, they are involved in observing and interacting with nature. We are in the process of creating a visual record of all the insects we see in the garden. It is a pleasure to see students noticing and paying attention to the variety of living things. They have observed diverse types of butterflies, fed grubs to the magpies, and rescued marble geckos from the compost bin. We have had many discussions about the interconnectedness of all these creatures and the importance of not using poisons to remove snails, ants, or other bugs, as we want our resident lizards and birds to have food.

The productive garden, thriving compost system and the clean house are evidence of the hard work of our students and their contribution throughout the year. I wish everyone a happy and safe summer break.



CATHERINE TURNER
Living Skills Teacher

ICT & Digital Technologies

The 2024 Digital Technologies and ICT program at Rossbourne aims to develop essential digital skills and dispositions. Strengths are celebrated and learning gaps addressed. Through hands-on projects, collaboration, and problem-solving, students gain practical experience with digital tools and technologies. This approach ensures that every student is equipped with the competencies and dispositions needed to navigate both virtual and physical environments successfully, preparing them for future learning and beyond.

In **ICT Skills sessions in Years 7 and 8**, students reviewed resources within the school's digital ecosystem. They worked on developing efficient file and folder management, both on desktops and in the cloud. They engaged in various drills, simulations, and coding challenges, all designed to strengthen their computational thinking and problem-solving abilities. Keyboard efficiency and desktop Office apps were also emphasised where relevant.

Integrated sessions provided additional opportunities to apply digital tools across the broader curriculum, complementing iPad use. This year, students produced multimedia projects linked to topics such as Animal Adaptations, Athletics Sports, and year-level excursions. Keynote and iMovie apps were reviewed. Students produced and showcased their interactive and engaging presentations which were of a professional standard.

In parallel, **Machine Learning (ML)** was introduced, with students exploring the **Teachable Machine** platform—a user-friendly interface related to Artificial Intelligence (AI). They learned how data sets are created and used to train machine learning models. Real-world applications of AI and data were explored, including: mapping technologies, ocean pollution awareness, and text and image recognition.

Zooniverse citizen science projects provided opportunities for students to categorize, compare, and analyse scientific data sets, contributing to ongoing research efforts. These hands-on experiences using real-world data fostered an understanding of how technology can be applied to scientific inquiry.

Digital Safety and Citizenship was a strong focus throughout the program. Students completed challenges that focused on information privacy, security, and the responsible use of technology.

Lunch time sessions in the Mac lab were highly popular and well-attended this year. Engaging discussions about gaming and the creation of virtual worlds were a common feature. Students actively asked

questions, shared ideas, and voiced their opinions on topics of interest. They also recommended apps and tech devices for potential acquisition by the school. These interactions provided valuable insights into how students engage with digital technologies. By encouraging students to participate in a more informal setting three times a week, these sessions helped to cultivate a sense of agency and empowerment in navigating the digital landscape.

The Year 9 and 10 **Digital Games** elective this year explored Roblox Studio and Game Star Mechanic. These platforms served as a springboard for studying key aspects of game development, including gameplay, graphics, storylines, and the purpose of digital games. Students then progressed through programming modules on Grok, an online learning platform developed by the **Australian Computing Academy**. They completed coding challenges and had the opportunity to research an area of interest related to game development.

The **Coding and Gaming** courses introduced senior students to the dynamic field of digital game development, blending theoretical knowledge, historical context, and hands-on coding experience. Students explored the evolution of gaming consoles. They examined the roles of programming languages such as **HTML, JavaScript (JS), and CSS** in the creation of interactive games and user interfaces. They edited code within a collection of 3D web-based games and investigated the increasing influence of artificial intelligence (AI) on the future of game development. A component of the course involved a first-hand study of the globally successful *Untitled*



Goose Game, a Melbourne-made game curated by the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI). Sessions allowed for individual interests and collaborative work, encouraging creativity and critical thinking. Students reflected on their problem-solving strategies, equipping them to address opportunities both as gamers and coders, while preparing them to tackle future challenges and innovations within the gaming industry.

The **AI and Chat Bots** courses provided students with a practical introduction to coding for simulated human conversation. Working in the Python programming environment, students tackled challenges that helped them develop skills in entering commands and testing code. They also explored data sets for chat bot responses, gaining valuable insights into the potential benefits and risks of online communication in both personal and professional contexts.

The **3D Design** and Print courses were tailored to shared interests. Students in these electives enjoyed remixing existing models in **Tinkercad** as well as designing new objects for real world applications. They studied the on-demand 3D design and print cycle and completed job requests. Targeted tasks also extended skills in maintaining the **MakerBot 3D printer**. The development of an accurate ICT vocabulary was a focus, as was the management of 3D design files. Again, this year, the student catering group at Art, ICT and Design Technology Exhibition proudly wore their redesigned 3D printed badges.

The **Digital Creation and Exploration** courses aimed to develop students' ICT capabilities and was tailored to individual needs. Sessions encouraged the pursuit of an area of interest as well as working in a team. Investigations this year included: **Coding, Digital Animation and 3D Modelling**. Pixar in a Box, a collaboration between Pixar and Khan Academy, explained the math and physics behind digital animation. Students developed basic techniques like timing and spacing, showing how concepts such as speed and movement are used to create smooth animated motion. The course also explored how physics, like gravity and bouncing, made animations feel real. These Studio sessions encouraged sharing and collaboration as well as planning and personal organisation. This provided the foundation for creative expression and the development of digital citizenship. Students had the opportunity to showcase their creative efforts at this year's Exhibition.

As we approach 2025, preparations are well underway for the next exciting phase in the digital and physical evolution of Rossbourne: the 1:1 school-owned laptop program; new initiatives as well as enhanced offerings in our Digital Technologies Curriculum. We look forward to this exciting new chapter. So...stay connected for more details!

CAROL DROSSOS

Digital Technologies and ICT Teacher





| Food Technology

The 2024 school year has been very busy and exciting for our Food Technology students.

All year levels have been able to take advantage of the fresh produce grown in the kitchen garden by the Living Skills students under the dedicated guidance of Catherine Turner. With the garden's unique micro climate, we have been able to harvest a variety of fresh herbs and vegetables all year. They included beetroot, snow peas, cauliflower, cherry tomatoes, chard, spinach, lemons, mint, coriander, spring onions, rocket, mesclun leaves and beans. Our Year 9/10 elective students even added a creative touch to our spanakopita and made them from the abundance of beetroot leaves that were harvested from the garden.

This semester our Year 7/8 cohort enjoyed a practical unit called 'The Vibrant World of Vegetables' where they considered the nutritional content of vegetables and the versatility of preparing and cooking the humble potato and carrot. An introduction to vegetable classifications was presented and the students were quite amazed at how many of our known vegetables had a fruit classification due to their internal seeds. They prepared broccoli and cheese tarts, cauliflower rice, wedges, carrot fritters and pasta with a fresh tomato and basil sauce. During the theory sessions the students focused on the essential skill of kitchen measurement. They learned how to measure, level and weigh using cups, jugs and scales, for both wet and dry ingredients.

Exploring different countries cultures and traditional cooking methods was a focus in the unit 'Feast around the World' for our Year 9/10 elective. An Asian Foods assignment and researching Mexican culinary terms was part of the workload. Recipes produced included pavlova, fajitas, albondigas, fried rice, Pad Thai, Butter Chicken and spring rolls. 'Farm to Fork' was our Friday morning elective. We researched local farms where possible including Koo Wee Rup Asparagus, Redhill Strawberries, Thorpdale Potatoes, Korumburra Sugar Snap Peas and Gippsland Eggs.

Our Year 11/12 students worked hard this year in the Methods and Techniques of Cookery unit. This involved a detailed hands-on look at the wet and dry methods of cookery, concentrating on a different method each week, including baking, grilling, braising, steaming, simmering and boiling. Recipes completed included a Spaghetti Bolognese, selection of grilled meats and vegetables, Minestrone Soup, a steamed pudding and Viennese Shortbread.

The highlight of the year was our catering team's efforts at the Art, Design Technology & ICT Exhibition. The team was made up of volunteers from across all year levels and they put in a magnificent effort over the week leading up to the event. Edie's work ethic and ability to efficiently follow a recipe through to completion and Isaac's expertise in hand rolling spring rolls to a uniform size was a solid start to the production over two afternoons. With Demi and Christos's eye for detail, adding the finishing touches to the canapes was very impressive. Nick and Oliver lead the front of house operations with the assistance of Ben, Millie, Amelie, Amy, Charlotte and Lincoln. Amelia's lemon crackle biscuits were prepared with care and precision and resulted in a sweet ending. Everyone was punctual and worked very well as a team. Congratulations to all students involved.

Thank you to all the students for their enthusiasm and hard work this year. I urge them to continue enjoying their food and cooking experiences over the summer holidays and to remember fresh is best.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all students and their families a safe and happy holiday and I look forward to seeing everyone next year.

JENNIFER KILNER
Food Technology Teacher



Multimedia Literacy Area

We have just hosted the new Year 7 students this week and it only seems like yesterday that I was doing the same thing last year!

The Library has continued to be a hive of activity before school and at lunchtimes. Students love to congregate around the television and watch the morning infotainment news and our lunchtime DVDs. Groups gather together and chat, play games, build, complete puzzles and there are always beautiful drawings taking shape. The Library is a quiet place for some and for others, a communal spot for friends to gather.

The Multimedia Resource sessions for Years 7-10 are always action packed. The students are making wonderful progress using a variety of resources, developing research skills, investigating a wide range



of topics, and this year the Year 7 and 8 cohort created their own mini wildlife film documentaries. Students continue to engage with the different print media available and suggest new materials to buy for the Library. Puzzles and games are always in use and ever growing. The highlight for many students is to see the new photo album for the current year, as well as albums from past years. They love to look at former students and teachers, as well as seeing the many changes the school has been through!

I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to the new thrills that 2025 will bring.

HELEN HOLDSWORTH
Resource / Library Teacher



Performing Arts

Wow, what an exciting and busy year it has been in Performing Arts here at Rossbourne!

Our Performing Arts Program provides many opportunities for the students to shine. From weekly lessons to Friday Karaoke/Just Dance Club, Wakakirri and special school assemblies and events, we love to see our students participate and grow in confidence as performers.

Throughout the year all the Year 7-8 students, and many of the Year 9-12 students attended weekly Performing Arts classes, where they learned about Drama, Film Making, Music and Dance, focusing on collaboration, giving constructive feedback, being a supportive audience member and stepping outside their comfort zone.

In Semester 1, all Year 7 and 8 Performing Arts students learned to sing "Hall of Fame" and some students volunteered to sing and dance this song at the Mother's Day Assembly. In Term 2 students learned about different instruments of the orchestra, completed a research assignment based on an instrument of their choice and designed and built their own instruments out of recyclable materials. In Semester 2 students learned about Music Theatre as a genre and watched "Grease" the musical, in preparation for next year's school production. All Year 7/8 students also learned the song "How we Change" for a special presentation for the graduating class of 2024 and will perform it at the final assembly of the school year.

Our Performing Arts Elective students in Years 9 to 12 have been busy creating, rehearsing, filming and editing their group projects. They have culminated in a very successful Performing Arts Showcase evening in Term 2, where their filmed stage plays and short films were screened to a very enthusiastic, lively and appreciative audience. In Semester 2 the Drama elective students created and presented their original stage plays to an audience, which illustrated how good or bad decisions you make can impact your life in the future. The Music students have been busy learning

new repertoire and composing songs, and these were presented to the class at the end of the semester. Film-Making students have been working hard on creating short films, where some students acted in front of the camera, while others were involved in storyboarding, scripting, directing and editing the final product.

Outside their weekly Performing Arts lessons, students also had an opportunity to join our School Choir (Term 4), participate in Karaoke/Just Dance as a Friday Activity (Term 1), Wakakirri Story-Dance Festival, or volunteer to perform on their chosen instrument at one of our school assemblies/events.

The Wakakirri story-dance event was a real highlight of the 2024 school year at Rossbourne, with over thirty students participating either as dancers, actors, backstage crew or AV design and management. First, our talented dancers had an opportunity to showcase all their dancing and acting talents at an assembly on 29th July in front of the whole school community. Then, our amazing evening show performance took place on 1st August at 7:15pm at the Clock Tower Theatre, Moonee Ponds and was a complete success. Our school won the Award for Best Public Speaking and Stage Manager's award for Teamwork, and we received commendations for: strong use of festival motif "Belonging", ensemble dance and acting, soundtrack and best use of minimalist production design. Our story-dance performance was based around the message that you do not need to change your personality to be accepted, should always just be yourself and be proud of who you are. Our performance showed that Rossbourne is a school where we accept and celebrate that every student is different, where everyone feels accepted and has a strong sense of belonging. A huge congratulations to everyone involved and a big thank you to all the teachers who helped with the costumes, during rehearsals and performances!

YULIA MCGIBBON
Performing Arts Teacher





The Cook Centre for Performing Arts

FORMAL OPENING CELEBRATION

Wednesday, November 27, 2024, will be remembered as a celebration of our much admired, newly completed Performing Arts building and the formal recognition of a dedicated man who has given this school over 41 years of continuous service, Des Cook. The Cook Centre for Performing Arts was formally opened by Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Margaret Gardner AC Governor of Victoria. The building is a significant addition and adds a new level of amenity for our students. It is also symbolic of the ongoing evolution of Rossbourne School as we continue our journey of continual improvement.

The importance of this building was best captured in a speech by the Chair of the School Board, Rowena Stocks, on the day of the formal opening ceremony.

"It is both an honour and a privilege to stand before you today as we open this remarkable new chapter in the life of our school—a chapter that is defined by creativity, opportunity, and a deep commitment to the future of our students."

Today marks the official opening of the Cook Centre for Performing Arts, a space that is not only a stunning

physical addition to our campus but also a symbol of the promise we hold for every single student here. This centre will serve as a hub for artistic expression, a place where talents are nurtured, voices are heard, and students can discover and develop their potential.

For those of you who know our school, you know that we are about supporting the whole student. We are about empowering young people to pursue their passions, build independence and find confidence in expressing themselves. Whether it's through music, drama, dance, or arts and technology we aim to provide a platform for students to shine in new and unexpected ways.

But this centre isn't just about performance—it's about opportunity. It's about ensuring that every student, regardless of their background, challenges, or abilities, has the chance to explore their creativity, develop new skills, and build confidence.

For some, this might mean performing on stage for the first time. For others, it might mean exploring behind-the-scenes production work or learning the art of lighting, sound, and stage design. And for many, this space will be a place where they can find



their voice, build lasting friendships, and gain the self-assurance to face the world beyond school with a sense of purpose.

This Performing Arts Centre is also part of our vision for the future.

As we look to the future, there is an increasing demand for creativity and innovation in how we learn, how we educate and how we engage with the world.

These areas need individuals who can approach problems from different angles and contribute fresh ideas.

Our students often bring valuable perspectives to the table. Their unique ways of thinking and problem-solving can help uncover new solutions and improve processes, offering opportunities to create a more inclusive and innovative environment where everyone's strengths are recognized and utilized.

The arts teach us all of this.

They teach us to collaborate, to problem-solve, to express ourselves, and to persevere in the face of challenges.

By investing in our students' creative education, we are preparing them for a future that requires adaptability, creativity, and the courage to take risks.

In this centre, our students will not only engage in the arts but will also learn the invaluable skills of resilience, teamwork, and leadership—skills that will serve them well in every aspect of their lives.

We are excited for what lies ahead in this beautiful space—the performances, the rehearsals, the gatherings with friends and the countless moments of inspiration that will unfold within these walls. But most importantly, we are excited for the ways this centre will empower our students to dream big and to believe in themselves.

As we cut the ribbon today, let us remember that this is not just the opening of a building—it is the opening of countless doors for the young people in our care. It is the beginning of something extraordinary.”
— Rowena Stocks, November, 27, 2024

Literacy Day & Creative Writing Competition

Returning due to popular demand, our very special guest for Literacy Day in 2024 was acclaimed Melbourne author, dramatist and script writer Gabriel Bergmoser. Both entertaining and informative, Gabriel set out the secrets of great story writing, and just how to make readers keep wanting to turn the page. Further workshops at each level of school kept students engaged and entertained, and better equipped to build on and develop their own writing.

The Creative Writing Competition in 2024 reached out to all students across all levels with interesting, eye-catching picture prompts and a range of themes which they could develop on their own. Multi-media entries are encouraged, and it was particularly pleasing to see students finding new and creative ways of telling a story. Gus Kaye's entry of a fully developed comic strip, featuring dastardly mad scientists was particularly arresting.

A good story takes a good idea, effort, some drive, some love, a bit of fun, and sticking at it until it is as good as you can get it. Even then, you might get help by asking others to read it. Rossbourne students know how to put their heart into something and take pride in their work. Thank you to every student who took up the challenge and submitted wonderful work.

Prize winners each received a Readings Voucher or a Certificate of Merit.

Years 7/8

1. Gus Kaye.
2. Grace Healy

Years 9/10

1. Jamie Ray
2. Angus Trevaskis
3. Kayla Smith

Special mentions: Cara Twelfree, Rose Albeitz

Senior School

1. Zayd Aly
2. Tom Traficante
3. Noah Gibney

PAUL BROWN
Teacher



Physical Education

At Rossbourne School, we pride ourselves on providing an environment where every student, regardless of their neurodivergence or abilities, can shine and feel valued.

2024 has been full of exciting events and activities, and as we reflect on these experiences, our core values of resilience, inclusion, respect, sharing, and optimism have been evident throughout them all. From athletics and swimming to inter-school sports and outdoor education camps, our students have been pushing boundaries, trying new things, and supporting each other every step of the way.

INTERSCHOOL SPORT

Throughout the year, our students participated in a range of inter-school sports events. These competitions provided an opportunity for them to experience new sports and develop new skills while representing Rossbourne with pride. Whether it was basketball, hockey, netball, football, cricket, or softball, our students demonstrated remarkable resilience as they faced off against familiar schools.

Cross Country

Our school's involvement in the Interschool Cross Country running at Ruffey Lake Park, with distances ranging from 1.5km to 3km, was an excellent opportunity for students to push themselves physically and mentally. The event focused on personal achievement, not comparison, and it was encouraging to see students setting their own goals and striving to beat their previous records. The team consisted of students from across the school who participated with Christos Tsorlinis, Cameron Weber, Eloise Valentini, Ryder Tremewen, Laurie Tod, Matt Anticaglia, and Hugo Sierakowski successfully making it through to the State Cross Country event in the Yarra Valley. Again, all students involved in the State Cross Country event ran with pride and determination aiming to win a spot in the State team aiming to head to Tasmania for the National Cross-Country Championships. Eloise, Ryder, Christos, and Laurie were successful in achieving this amazing feat and were excited to be representing their State. Reaching a national level competition is not something many people can say they have achieved yet these four students not only reached it but also made podium finishes.

Cross-country running can be a daunting challenge, but our students participated with resilience, determination, and a willingness to try something new. As they crossed the finish line, whether first or last, they displayed respect for the event, the competition, and most importantly, for themselves.

ATHLETICS

Soccer & Hockey

In both hockey and soccer, students were eager to challenge themselves in new environments. Many of our athletes had not played these sports before, but they quickly adapted, learning the rules, developing new techniques, and, most importantly, having fun. By embracing the spirit of sharing and inclusion, our students not only improved their own skills but also built strong connections with their teammates.

Basketball

The basketball competition was an excellent chance for students to practice teamwork, communication, and sportsmanship. For many, it was their first time competing in a formal basketball match, but they approached it with optimism and a willingness to learn. Even when the games didn't go as planned, students displayed remarkable resilience, understanding that every match is an opportunity for growth.

Netball and Football

Rossbourne's inter-school football and netball teams showed great promise, with students learning to play in new positions and improving their coordination. As they faced off against familiar schools, they embodied our values of respect and optimism, ensuring that even in moments of defeat, they remained positive, lifted each other up, and focused on the progress they had made. Our A-Grade netball team were able to bring together some wonderful displays of teamwork and sportsmanship to reach the carnival day grand final and just missed out on winning to a competitive opposition.

Cricket and Softball

Softball was another sport that many students tried for the first time. The game requires a blend of strategy, coordination, and teamwork, and our students took to the field with enthusiasm. Though there were challenges, their perseverance and willingness to try something new stood out. The event reinforced the importance of inclusion, as every student, no matter their skill level, was encouraged to participate and contribute to the team's success. We made the grand final and came up against an undefeated Emerson School but unfortunately, we were unable to outperform this dominant team.

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Our annual Athletics Day in Term 2 was an incredible showcase of determination, teamwork, and personal growth. This event encourages all students to focus not on comparison, but on their own personal bests. It was inspiring to see students challenging themselves in various events such as sprints, long jump, high jump, and relays.

Athletics Day is more than just about competition; it is about fostering a growth mindset. Many students, especially those who had never participated in these types of events before, embraced the opportunity to try something new. Whether it was sprinting for the first time or attempting a long jump, students demonstrated tremendous resilience. They not only celebrated their own achievements and personal bests but cheered on their peers, reinforcing our values of inclusion and respect. Each effort was met with applause, creating an atmosphere of optimism and camaraderie.

With a focus to perform and achieve their 'personal best,' students were drawn to this year's Athletics Carnival aiming to challenge themselves and encourage their peers to do their best. Students and staff alike attended the day with great excitement and enthusiasm. The day may have started a bit chilly but soon enough the students began their field activity rotations, supported by the teachers and activity coordinators, warming up as they participated.

It was wonderful to see the high calibre of outstanding efforts across each school section, with the Year 7 & 8 student group demonstrating an eagerness to perform to their best and support everyone around them.





SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The Term 4 Swimming Carnival was another highlight of the school year. We were yet again blessed with amazing weather for this year's event. With a buzz in the school leading up to the day, it was clear that there was going to be an amazing level of participation, effort, fun, and enjoyment. The event offered a variety of races, from freestyle to breaststroke, allowing every student to showcase their abilities in the water. The beloved student teacher race was a hit, as always, with the teachers prevailing once again!

Students who were more experienced swimmers competed fiercely, while others, perhaps new to the sport, pushed through their comfort zones and had fun in the process. The event exemplified our values of resilience and inclusion, as students of all abilities were supported by their peers. Many students embraced the spirit of friendly competition, focusing not on winning, but on improving and doing their best—proving that the true measure of success is personal growth and effort.



OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Outdoor education plays a crucial role in helping our students build resilience and confidence while developing new skills. This year, the Year 9 and 10 students embarked on an exciting three-day camp to Wye River in the first semester, where they participated in a range of adventure activities, including hiking, orienteering, and team-building exercises. The camp gave students the chance to disconnect from technology and connect with nature, challenging themselves physically and mentally in an inspiring outdoor setting.

Semester 1

Senior Wilson's Prom Camp – A Change of Plans

The Year 11 and 12 camp was initially planned for Wilsons Prom NP, but due to wild weather and high winds, the location was changed to the equally inspiring Grampians NP. Despite this, the students embraced the challenge of adjusting to new surroundings and activities. Their flexibility and resilience were truly commendable, as they navigated the altered camp schedule with optimism and a positive attitude.

Out in the Grampians NP the students were treated to wondrous views, curious animal camp friends, and the calm setting of Gariwerd. The group enjoyed the exploring hike through Wonderland to the beautiful scenic views overlooking Halls Gap and the surrounding land.

Year 9 & 10 Great Ocean Road Camp

Year 9 & 10 students were treated to some gorgeous locations for the Semester 1 Outdoor Education camp as they headed down the Great Ocean Road to camp at Wye River. Along the journey we stopped at Lorne's

surfing beach to take part in a surfing lesson on calm waves. After this we headed down to the Wye River and established our campsite, which was complete with a small campfire pit. After a solid BBQ dinner, it was time to enjoy some time beside the fire before turning in to rest for the next day's big hiking challenge. This challenge was well received by the group the next morning and everyone in the group showed determination and resilience to undertake the fourteen-kilometer round trip to Jamieson Track Campground. After the long walk, we all agreed that some fish and chips were in order to replenish our energy stores. We then ventured down to Apollo Bay to the fishing co-op. After another restful night it was time to pack up camp and make our way back to Rossbourne via a quick play at Live Wire Park for some tree-top adventure.

Semester 2

Senior Glenelg Canoe Camp

A unique component of this year's canoe camp saw some of the students build their own canoe paddle from scrap wood they collected from around their home. The effort throughout the semester to create the paddles was a labour of love. They were able to develop new woodwork crafting skills, use unfamiliar tools, and refine their paddle into a sleek piece of work. After completing the paddle with a few coats of linseed oil, it was time to head on our journey to the Glenelg River.

As we prepared for our upcoming canoe camp, most students worked together to decide how we were going to create a paddle. Around the local area each student found wood to create the paddles. We learnt how to use planers, sandpaper, and saws. Towards the end of the build, we used linseed oil to treat the paddles.



To prepare for the rest of the camp, Matt and Amy organised what equipment we would take and what delicious food we would eat each day. This year was different because all food had to be cooked over fire, and the students got to light these fires... it only took them seven matches.

Along with any other camp there were challenges! Weather played a big part, we quickly realised rain was not the issue. It was wind. However, we used the wind to our advantage, with our canoes we made a giant raft. The wind helped push us along to our destination. The giant raft was a huge highlight of camp because it gave everybody the opportunity to rest.

This camp focused a lot on teamwork, leadership skills and persistence. We were given leaderships roles every day, where we learnt how to communicate clearly and delegate tasks to our peers. Each morning, we had to be efficient to pack up camp.

There were many highlights on camp: seeing wildlife like koalas sleeping and kookaburras. Getting thrown up in the air and crashing down because of waves, having the opportunity to be in the back of the canoe was just a few.

Overall, the camp was fun, everyone had a go and faced challenges with courage, and we all got outside of our comfort zones.

Year 9 & 10 Wilsons Prom Hiking

Wilsons Promontory is a wonderland of outdoor adventure and unpredictable weather; this semester it did not disappoint and produced some wild conditions yet wonderful experiences. The group had been preparing for the adventurous hiking and were as

prepared as they could be heading down. With the changing weather for the few days, we were there, it was bound to be a challenging experience for all involved. With high temperatures fueling high humidity levels, there was little reprieve from the heat apart from some short bouts of rain and lights winds. We experienced gorgeous sunsets over Norman Bay from the Tidal River beach, a torrential downpour with some hail, arduous trail hiking and regular visits from the local crimson rosellas.

This camp had it all and the students withstood all the challenges as a supportive group with resilience, determination, and persistence.

Looking Ahead: A Year of Growth and Achievement

As we look ahead to 2025, we are excited about the opportunities for our students to continue developing their skills, exploring new sports, and taking on new challenges. Whether participating in track and field or simply cheering on their classmates, every student will have the chance to shine. 2024 had been a fantastic showcase of Rossbourne's values in action. From Athletics Day and Swimming Carnivals to inter-school sports and outdoor education camps, our students have demonstrated remarkable resilience, inclusion, respect, sharing, and optimism. They have embraced new challenges, supported one another, and grown in ways that will continue to serve them well in their academic and personal lives. As we continue through the year, we look forward to more opportunities for growth, learning, and community-building as we foster an environment where every student can thrive.

RYAN TEASEL

Physical Education / Outdoor Education Teacher



Alumni News



TARA DURKIN
Class of 2020

Congratulations to Tara Durkin (2020), for being a Finalist – Disability Achievement at the 2024 Apprentice Training Awards. Tara has been studying a Certificate III in Business.



REBECCA HOPE
Class of 2018

We salute Rebecca Hope (2018) who won the 2024 Inspirational TAFE Student Award at the Victorian Young Achiever Awards in August. This award recognizes a student who has overcome significant barriers to succeed in vocational training and their subsequent career.

“ As a proud Autistic woman, I hope that this can serve as a reminder to other neurodivergent people and their supporters that despite what they may think, there are opportunities out there, and many people and organisations who are willing to support them in achieving their goals ”



Annabelle Colman

PARALYMPIAN

Annabelle Colman (2022) was selected to be in the 2024 Australian Paralympic Athletics Team for the 1500m running race.

Annabelle ran on 6 September with a time of 4:31:54 – a personal best by nine seconds and a 1500m T20 Australian Record.

A day after her return to Melbourne, Annabelle came and shared her paralympic journey with students and staff at a school assembly.

When in Melbourne, she trains with current and former Rossbourne students at Inclusive Sports Training (IST) and Xavier Athletics Club.





Year 7/8 Report

Our excitement was palpable as we began the final term of 2024, reflecting on the incredible journey we had taken this year as a 7/8 community. This term and throughout the year, we embraced the spirit of growth, resilience, and adventure, especially during our unforgettable camp at CYC on Philip Island. This experience not only strengthened our bonds as a community but also pushed us to step outside our comfort zones.

The essence of a growth mindset—believing that we could improve through dedication and hard work—served as our guiding principle. Our camp was filled with challenges that turned into opportunities for learning, from wearing a harness for the flying fox to precision with archery, each activity encouraging us to support one another and build our confidence. The laughter, teamwork, and shared experiences created memories that would last a lifetime, reinforcing the idea that we could achieve more together.

Before camp, at the swimming carnival we demonstrated a growth mindset, embracing challenges and pushing through our fears. With courageous hearts diving in, it was a truly magical experience as we celebrated each other's achievements and achieved our personal best.

As we look back on the term, it's clear that our 7/8 community flourished through the diverse talents and unique qualities each student brought to the table. Inclusion became a key theme, highlighting how our differences made us stronger. Whether sporty, creative, a budding scientist, or a master chef in the kitchen (Thanks Ms K!), every individual in year 7 and 8 added to the vibrant tapestry of our school life.

Beyond academics, the qualities of being a caring friend and a supportive classmate shone through over the year. Many students stepped up to lend a hand or

offer encouragement, creating a sense of belonging that other year levels could see.

We realised that being a great friend or a thoughtful listener is just as important as excelling in subjects. It's the kindness and understanding we show to one another that truly defines our community.

Now for some learning highlights.....

Personal Recount Writing:

In Term 4, our focus on personal recount writing through Talk for Writing allowed students to reflect on their own experiences and share meaningful stories. They learned to structure their recounts effectively, utilising language features such as past tense and sequencing events to create clear, engaging recounts. By incorporating vivid details and emotions, students enhanced their writing skills and gained confidence in sharing their personal insights and lessons learned. Through this process, they recognised how their unique perspectives contribute to our community's collective understanding of each other's experiences.

Inventors and Inventions:

As we delved into the fascinating world of inventors and inventions throughout history, students explored the ground-breaking work of figures like Alexander Graham Bell, who revolutionised communication with the telephone. We also highlighted notable Australian contributions, such as the cochlear implant, which has transformed the lives of many by restoring hearing. Students put on their thinking hats to predict future inventions, pondering how technology might continue to evolve in ways that could change our daily lives. This exploration sparked discussions about creativity, innovation, and the impact of these inventions on society.

Design Tech, Art, and ICT Exhibition:

Our Design Tech, Art, and ICT exhibition was a vibrant

showcase of the incredible talent within our student community. Each student had the opportunity to display their work, demonstrating their creativity and skills across various mediums. From innovative design projects to captivating artwork and impressive technological creations, the exhibition highlighted the diverse talents of our students. This event not only celebrated their hard work and creativity but also fostered a sense of pride and community as students cheered each other on, reinforcing the importance of collaboration and support in our learning environment.

And now to finish with a collaborative poem.....

*Oh, gather 'round, dear friends of Year 7 and 8,
Let's share our adventures, it's time to celebrate!
With laughter and learning, our spirits were high,
In the lively rooms of Rossbourne, we reached for the sky!*

*Year 7s, you dazzled, in your first year here,
From nervous beginnings to finding your cheer.
You leaped into learning, embraced every challenge,
From math to the arts, you showed true talent!*

*And Year 8s, our leaders, you set quite the pace,
Guiding the way, with your gaining wisdom and grace.
With every new lesson, you would help those around,
Creating a community where friendship was found.*

*In our studies of inventors, we explored deep and wide,
Discovering their brilliance, and what changed our lives.
From the wheel to the fridge, and Vegemite spread,
We learned about innovations that sparked thoughts in our heads!*

*And let's not forget the power of media today,
Being critical thinkers helped us find our own way.
We scrutinised stories and examined each scene,
With a keen sense of truth, we became savvy and keen!*

*Halloween brought costumes, what a spooky delight,
With ghosts and ghouls, it was a mesmerising sight.
The Art, Design Tech, and ICT Show was truly inspiring,
Creativity shone, with talent igniting!*

*Now let's make a splash at the swimming carnival,
Where brave hearts dove in, it was truly magical!
Freestyle and backstroke, we raced with a grin,
With noodle races and laughter, we celebrated our wins!*

*Recount writing allowed us to share what we'd known,
From grand adventures to moments we'd grown.
With structure and style, we crafted every line,
Turning our memories into stories that shone!*

*Then off to CYC, by Philip Island's shore,
With activities galore, we couldn't ask for more.
From disc golf to flying, adventures abounded,
The memories we made were treasures profound!*

*Fridays were filled with activities galore,
Softball and cricket, who could ask for more?
With friends by our side, and smiles all around,
We made lasting memories, oh how they astounded!*

*So, here's to Year 7 and 8, what a crew!
With laughter, growth, and adventures so true.
Let's finish this term with a bang and a cheer,
For the journey ahead holds more fun, never fear!*



As we prepare to close the chapter on 2024, it is evident that the values of inclusion and the celebration of our unique qualities will continue to guide us into the next year. We look forward to carrying forward the lessons we learned about supporting one another, celebrating diversity, and embracing the strengths each person brings.

The friendships we built, the skills we honed, and the memories we created will pave the way for an even brighter future in our school community.

Thank you for your unwavering support this year! We wish you all a very happy, safe and relaxing break! See you back in 2025!

JENNIFER MURRAY
Year 7/8 School Section Leader

**JAMES O'SULLIVAN, JENNA MASON,
TIM FRANCIS, JANICE**
Year 7/8 School Section Team

7/8 A



Teacher: James O'Sullivan

Top Row: Andrew Vermiglio, Harvey Brown, Jack McManus, Cameron Weber, William Quick,

Bottom Row: Gus Kaye, Grace Healy, Demi Rodda, Grace Stott, Nivi Werner, Christos Tsorlinis

7/8 B



Teacher: Jenna Mason

Top Row: Charlie Tallott, Angelina Lim, Cooper Harrington, Alexandra McGovern, Ruben Hansen

Bottom Row: Oscar Burnet, Daniel Montalto, Lauren Staddon, Sophia Brough, Dylan Simkin, Leighton Williamson

7/8 C



Teacher: Tim Francis
Top Row: Joseph Alves, Emily Knothe, Samuel Smith, Emily Karpin, Thomas Bradley
Bottom Row: Toby Wallace, Grace Armour, Eddie Vogt, Charli Soon, Daniel Lim

7/8 D



Teacher: Janice
Top Row: Michaela Wertheimer, Dev Kansal, Emma Love, Yianni Dokolas, Ansh Bahukhandi, Ernie Draper
Bottom Row: Emily Gross, Elise Hughes, Ella Broadbent, Tessa Hochauer, Zoi Capogreco, Nilou Naji



Year 9/10 Report

Earlier in my teaching career, some people would suggest I could “get a real job.” I was always perturbed and amused by this comment, for what could be more authentic, honest and rewarding than teaching and working in a school? Schools are a microcosm of the world. The work of educators is raw, it’s real, and it’s purposeful. Moreover, our currency is knowledge, not money. We work for the betterment of the individual learner and society itself. We draw strength and wisdom from our shared connections with each other, families and the experts we work with. We love what we do.

At Rossbourne we talk a lot about what underpins a quality education. Fundamentally education is about relationships. We know that emotional support and a holistic approach to teaching and learning leads to improved outcomes in all subject areas. Our teachers are experts in their subject areas, and their passion for teaching is infectious.

In Years 9 & 10 we celebrate diversity in the broadest definition of this concept; diversity of thought, of ability, and approach to curriculum. This is underpinned by an understanding of current educational pedagogy and world best practices in special needs education.

A Year of Growth and Term 4 Highlights

This year has been marked by numerous achievements, with Term 4 standing out as an especially eventful and

rewarding time. Our Year 9 & 10 students experienced a curriculum that balanced academic rigour with life-ready skills, preparing them for the next stages of their educational journey and beyond.

Term 4 has been particularly busy as we realigned our focus on work-ready skills. The Year 10 students attended City Seekers Camp in the CBD. This camp was a celebration and the culmination of all that the students had been taught. A visit to the Control Room at Flinders Street Station was a highlight, as was our Navigation Challenge which saw students navigating to twenty different landmarks and destinations. Gliding down the Yarra River on the last remaining steam-operated boat in Melbourne was a delight. Hamish, our skipper, taught students about the history of the CBD and how the river and docks are still used to transport cargo. Paul Salomon led a wonderful evening excursion to Docklands, and we all admired the dancing lights on the water. In preparation for the City Seekers unit in 2025, the Year 9 students have been investigating Marvellous Melbourne. Students examined the early history of Melbourne, the impacts of the separation of the state from New South Wales and the impact of the discovery of gold in Victoria. In addition to research tasks in class, students were able to walk through the city, viewing some of the Marvellous Melbourne era buildings. They enjoyed a tour of the Royal Exhibition



Building, including the Dome Walk, and viewing the Melbourne Story Exhibition at the Melbourne Museum.

The Year 10 students also relished the three-day Step-Up Program run by the Senior School, with one student saying, "I feel like I am in senior already." The focus on Enterprise Skills was rewarding with students making smoothies, writing their own recipes and marketing blurb.

Our new enterprise, a compulsory dedicated week of Work Experience for all Year 10 students, was a resounding success. In preparation, we ran a day-long Workplace Health and Safety Workshop. All students completed and passed this training and now have a Workplace Health & Safety Certificate to add to their resumes. In another new initiative, we partnered with the ANZ Bank, who generously hosted seven learners under the banner of their Spectrum Program. The ANZ are committed to shaping a workplace where autistic people thrive and strive to ensure their workforce reflects the diversity of their customers and markets. Our students were placed in different areas of the bank, relevant to their skills and interests. We extend our gratitude to Andrew Baird, Program Manager of ANZ's autism employment program (ANZ Spectrum Program) for making the partnership a reality. The remaining student placements included a nursery, veterinary surgery, a dog groomer, kindergarten and childcare

centres, a hairdresser, Office Works, a Golf Pro Shop, Triathlon Victoria, Revolution X and a collectables shop.

Reflection and Hope for the Future

As we look back on our achievements, it is clear that Term 4 has been more than just a period of academic learning—it has been a time of personal growth and community building. The successes of this year reaffirm the importance of holistic, relationship-based education. By fostering an environment where students feel supported and valued, we have seen them take ownership of their learning journeys and thrive in settings that challenge and inspire them.

In contemplating the year ahead, we are reminded that education is not just about imparting knowledge; it is about nurturing resilience, curiosity, and the ability to adapt. Our goal remains to equip each student with the skills and confidence they need to navigate an ever-changing "real" world. With the support of dedicated staff, engaged families, and a network of community partners, we are excited to continue this journey of growth and discovery in 2025.

MARINA SLIFIRSKI
Year 9/10 School Section Leader

**PAUL SALOMON, MARION BRANCHFLOWER,
ANDREW LUSTED**
Year 9/10 School Section Team

9 E



Teacher: Andrew Lusted
Top Row: Ned Snelling, Dimitrios Haritos, James Ray, Cormac Skinner, Ryder Tremewen
Bottom Row: Zachary Herft, Anabel White, Grace Monfries, Ann Wissell, Cara Twelftree, Atticus Elliott

9 H



Teachers: Paul Brown, Marion Branchflower
Top Row: Guy Atkinson, Jack Lucci, Ziggy Murdoch, Thomas Price, Angus Trevaskis
Bottom Row: Oliver Schachna, Eloise Valentini, Kayla Smith, Tilly Zegir, Sophie Warren, Lincoln Raits

10 F



Teacher: Marina Slifirski
Top Row: Jack Canning, Matthew Power, Laurence Tod, Oliver Carlin, Aaron Pesutto
Bottom Row: Orlando Floyd, Charlotte Desmier, Charlie Scoleri, Edie Hauge, Daniel Hitchcock

10 G



Teacher: James Gardner
Top Row: Adrian Rivas, Rose Albietz, Joshua Manders, Asher Radcliff, Geordie Barnes, Cooper Fairbank
Bottom Row: John Lorenz, Millie Flegeltaub, Liam Barry, Lincoln Lim, Hina James, Sam Kenny

Senior School Report

It has been an active and busy term for Senior Students who have embraced the many opportunities offered at Rossbourne. Two highlights of Term 4 were undoubtedly the HPV Program and the Outdoor Education Camp. Students across Years 11 and 12 embraced these opportunities, learning new skills and making lasting friendships along the way, and we commend them for their commitment and perseverance in these programs. We proudly saw a number of our students complete their VET studies, which is a great achievement for all involved. Students undertook a range of VET studies including Sport and Recreation, Automotive Studies, Childcare, Hospitality and Sound Production, amongst others. Studying externally is no small feat and these students have worked diligently to achieve their certificates. Many students enjoyed the Barista Training Day, with a future in Hospitality squarely in sight for many of them. This year was also the first year of our Step-Up Program, which was an opportunity for Senior Students and Year 10s to hear from Industry Professionals, participate in Mock Interviews and enjoy an entrepreneurial smoothie day, as well as many other engaging activities.

The end of the year also marks the completion of studies for a number of our Year 12 students. As their school days come to a close, they are no doubt reflecting on all the wonderful experiences they have had at Rossbourne, the friends they made and the teachers who made an impact. We look forward to welcoming some of our Year 12s back as they continue forging their pathways in our Year 13 Program.

I too am reflecting on my year at Rossbourne and what I have learnt. Each day, I am surrounded by remarkable students who are curious, kind, funny and intelligent. I am so grateful for my time as the Head of Year 11 and 12, to my excellent colleagues Tania Hume and Hamish Dalton, and the wider Rossbourne Community. As the year comes to a close, let's be grateful for what and who we have and reflect with gratitude on the year that was.

KATIE ROSE SMITH
Senior School Section Leader

TANIA HUME, HAMISH DALTON
Senior School Section Team



Archie Snelling in Top Gear at WorldSkills

Senior student Archie Snelling competed in a WorldSkills competition held at Box Hill Institute as part of his Cert II in Automotive Servicing Technology.

The competition is known as the "Olympics for Tradies" held every two years across Australia. Archie's skills and knowledge were on display with over 4000 other apprentices, trainees and students.

Archie embraced the challenge of WorldSkills to build his knowledge stating that:

"I want to be a mechanic and enjoy working on all types of cars. So far, I'm going well today and all the extra training we had heading up to the competition has really helped."

Well done Archie.

TANIA HUME
Senior Homeroom Teacher



Archie Snelling tests his know-how in the VDSS Automotive WorldSkills competition.
Photo credit: Chris Franklin, Box Hill Institute



Human Powered Vehicle - HPV

Once again, Rossbourne has been involved in the Human Powered Vehicle Program (HPV), and thirteen senior students participated in 2024.

The HPV Program involves students working as a team, racing two vehicles in a series of races against other public and independent mainstream schools. This program allows our students to re-enter the mainstream environment in a relaxed and non-competitive way. A HPV is a three wheeled, recumbent bike that is transformed into a racing machine, and participates in events run identically to a motor vehicle race. This year we competed in three races, with the main event being the Energy Breakthrough event with over five thousand other students from around Australia.

Our participants named the team the 'Cycloholics.' A team logo was chosen from a school wide competition, with the winning logo being designed by Amelia. It became clear from our races that the team members were highly motivated and had a great deal of fun.

Students chose individual nicknames that they would use when racing. Bozzo (Ben) was an excellent team motivator, and his enthusiasm was unprecedented. B1 and B2 (Zac and Amelie) stuck together like glue but rode separately. Zac proved to be an exceptional team member, always offering to assist and support other team members. Thing 1 and Thing 2 (Amy and Matt) were another team within a team, and their experience from the previous year proved invaluable for the team as a whole. Jay (Jaydern) was able to join our team for the obstacle race, and excelled in his riding, and the speed at which he negotiated the obstacles. Ranga (Archie) was a veteran of the HPV Program, having been involved with his primary school. His experience was apparent, and he was very well respected amongst his peers. The Speeding Ticket (Elliot) lived up to his name and rode brilliantly in all races. Benjamin Button (Ben DB) benefited from our relatively new vehicle, with his long legs being easily accommodated. Life Support (Nick) proved to be just that for our team. Our fastest and highly respected rider Nick was chosen as our starting rider. Ashin (Ariel) brought some experience

to our team having participated last year, and she rode with discipline and speed. Diddums (Ally) provided the design flair and entertainment for our group. Her single-minded determination for our vehicles to have shark fins, and her constant commentary provided great insights for our riders. Millsy (Amelia) designed our wonderful logo, and as a participant in 2023 decided to lend her variety of skills to the team. She was an invaluable contributor.

The Human Powered Vehicle Program encourages students to extend themselves physically and emotionally in a mainstream environment, and the students who accepted the challenge should be very proud. The team is required to commit to weekend events, and this commitment is matched by Catherine Turner who continually dedicates herself to the program. The school is extremely appreciative of her efforts.

The HPV Program provides a memorable experience for those involved, and we look forward to 2025.

PAUL SALOMON
Homeroom Teacher



11/12 I



Teacher: Hamish Dalton

Top Row: David Hill, Zayd Aly, Jake Brown, Jamie Pierides, Brendan Wheeler, Andre Anjoul

Bottom Row: Ariel Liu, Marcus Norman, Amy Walker, Elliot Hall, Jaydern Chi, Vinuki Wijeratne

11/12 2



Teacher: Tania Hume

Top Row: Fletcher Payne, Archie Snelling, Rory Leys, Tom Traficante, Oliver McDonald, Ben Hewlett, Noah Gibney

Bottom Row: Joshua Caplan, Ally Curcio, Mimi Varasdi, Nick Hasslinger, Laura Sutherland, Lexi Vitalos, Matthew Anticaglia



Teacher: Katie Rose Smith

Top Row: Zachary Belleli, Hugo Sierakowski, Ben deBroughe, Cassius Wilson, William Bracegirdle, Isaac Huang

Bottom Row: Eleni Murphy-Mousikidis, Meg Matthews, Amelia Burke, Amelia Lester-Bryant, Amelie Briglia, Charlotte Cummins

Rosbourne *Staff*



Fourth Row: James O'Sullivan, Tania Hume, James Gardner, Tim Francis, Hamish Dalton, Andrew Lusted, Ryan Teasel, Jenna Mason

Third Row: Philip Dunmill, Laura Aragona, Vicki Bradley, Greta Weissmann, Jennifer Murray, Paul Brown, Alex Preuss, Chloe Woods

Second Row: Yulia McGibbon, Eluned (Elle) McFarlane, Catherine Turner, Sarah Flanigan, Paul Salomon, Clare Tighe, Kathryn Harker, Philippa McInerney, Rhonda Sword, Jennifer Kilner

Front Row: Marion Branchflower, Marina Slifirski, Angela Papapoulia, Shane Kamsner (Principal), James Box, Nici Bonning, Helen Holdsworth, Carol Drossos

Year 12 Reflections



Matthew Anticaglia

My favourite thing about Rossbourne is doing a lot of Sports like Athletics, Cross Country, Swimming, Basketball and many more. My favourite memory is playing interschool Basketball because that's the sport I'm mostly best at playing.

I am thankful for all the teachers that I have had and that have supported me throughout my years at Rossbourne. I will always remember chatting with teachers and hanging out and having fun with my friends. I will miss all those memories.



Jake Brown

I have had a great 6 years at Rossbourne. I have enjoyed myself, kept and made friends that will hopefully last long after school and have a lot of fun memories.

My favourite subject was PE because I love sport and it is my passion. Thanks to all the teachers and staff, especially all my homeroom teachers. I am looking forward to the future and the next stage of my life but I am also grateful for my time here.



Amelia Burke

My time here at Rossbourne has been an amazing experience, and I've made so many friends over the years. I can't believe my school journey is coming to an end so soon.

During my time here, I've created countless cherished memories. For instance, making funny chants whenever someone made a mistake always brought us laughter.

I'm incredibly thankful for having the best journey, all because of the wonderful homeroom teachers and, of course, the specialist teachers who shaped me into who I am today and helped me along the way

I will always remember the simple yet meaningful moments of walking through the gates every morning at the start of the school day and walking out at the end, carrying with me all the lessons, laughter, and memories I've made.



Ben de Broughe

My favourite thing about Rossbourne is playing sports like basketball with my friends during lunch.

My favourite memory is going to Sydney for the Senior Camp and travelling to famous places like Bondi Beach, Taronga Zoo and Blue Mountains on the bus, ferry and train.

I am thankful for all my best friends who have guided me on this amazing school journey.

I will always remember the first ever day when I went to Rossbourne, I was so nervous but it was a great experience and I have made so many great memories.



Noah Gibney

When I think of Rossbourne I think of education, friends, teamwork and Fridays doing fun activities like Lego creation, and lots of opportunities for

volunteering and connecting with the community.

When I started 6 years ago at the start of year 7, I worried that people might not be friendly, I was scared when I entered Rossbourne and worried that I wouldn't make friends and wondered if the work at High School would be too hard.

I soon realised that I could do the work in maths and English and we also made homework presentations and got to enjoy gardening and house work in Living Skills, sculptures in Art, coding in ICT and making delicious food in cooking.

I wasn't worried and scared for long. Soon I felt calm and happy.

I still have so many memories of Phillip Island camp in year 7. We went to the beach, on the ferry, saw the penguins and played board games with friends.

Sydney camp is certainly one to remember. I had so much fun in Sydney. I took a photo of myself at the Sydney Opera House and walking across the harbour bridge at night. Taronga zoo definitely has the best views of any zoo.

For the art show this year my pottery magpie was on display. I spent so much time getting the beak and eyes right and painting it black and white.

I learnt so much going to Jigsaw for a work placement. We learnt to scan files and organise documents. I have developed other work skills writing my resume and doing a mock interview.

I really hope I will have a job in the future some of the things I might do are cooking or office admin. I will see what the future holds.



Ariel Liu

It feels like just yesterday that I walked through the school gates for the first time. Now, 1134 day later, it's all over, and what a journey it has been. From the

excitement of Year 7, diving into Richmond Pool and exploring new friendships, to the challenging but growth-filled COVID years of Year 9 and 10, my time at school has been anything but ordinary.

These years taught me the value of resilience, the importance of embracing change, and the bittersweet reality of goodbyes. Senior school brought adventures to Howman's Gap, Wilsons Prom, and Sydney, and the joy of finally finding a group of friends who felt like home.

Year 12, the grand finale, was a year of risktaking, conversations around tables, and invaluable life lessons from teachers that I'll carry forever. Looking back, I'm grateful for the moments that shaped me—becoming a swim teacher, biking around Victoria, and learning to persevere when things got tough.

I may not remember long division, but I'll always hold onto the memories, lessons, and people who made these years unforgettable. To anyone reading, remember: "Don't count the days, make the days count." What a ride it's been. And with that, I'm officially tapping out.



Eleri Murphy-Mousikidis

My time at Rossbourne has been filled with excitement and wonder. I remember being scared of being in a new school environment with people I have

never met before, but I have had a wonderful time and made great friends, especially Matt, Tom and Amy. I will miss hanging out with them at lunch, reading books in the library, Laura's special lunches, chatting with Sarah about the countries she has visited and giving presents at the end of every year to teachers. I have enjoyed many experiences such as being part of the interschool Netball team, Drivers Education, Cafe Culture and Work Experience. Thank you Rossbourne for giving me so many opportunities. I will never forget them.



Tom Traficante

When I first came to Rossbourne in 2019 I had butterflies in my stomach but it ended up being the best school ever. My favourite subjects were Art, Drama and Cooking

I love hospitality and eating. I'm planning on doing a hospitality course after I graduate and my goal is travel around the world and eat and do food reviews.

I loved the staff, they always help you out and they are not strict and have taught me a lot in the last five years at Rossbourne. I love Rossbourne, it has been like my second family.



Mimi Varasdi

Since I starting at Rossbourne I have grown so much and become more independent. I learnt to travel to and from school by train and yes I did miss my

stop a few times but I got the hang of it. I also learnt how to speak to an audience and sharing what I know My biggest achievement and I'm most proud of, is being a member of the Student Leadership Team. It really means a lot to me to achieve this in my final year a Rossbourne.



Amy Walker

My favourite thing about Rossbourne was meeting new people who were just like me. I felt welcomed by everyone and I enjoyed most of the subjects. I

will always remember my time at Rossbourne School. Although I am going to miss the fun memories I made at Rossbourne, it is time for me to end this chapter and open up a new chapter of my life.



Cassius Wilson

My favourite thing about Rossbourne is it's focus on performing arts. Before Rossbourne, the only option you had in terms of performing arts

was signing up for the school production and your graduation ceremony.

My favourite memory is the 2020 Queenscliff Camp. Not only did it get me into surfing, but my friends were also there, I have also never laughed so hard while surfing.

I am thankful for the friends this school has given me. Though most of them have graduated. For me, it's the memory that counts.



| Graduating Class





Year 12 Graduation







rossbourne
school

Thrive on Diversity

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