



Annabelle Lowe  
Year 7

# EHS Highlights 2023



Charlotte Wales  
Year 11

Pursuit Of Excellence

## Space Camp 2023

On Saturday 9 September, 14 Eltham High School students and two teachers (Ross Pringle and Naomi Edrees) left for 16 days on a trip to the USA

### Huntsville – Alabama

The first stop on our trip was at Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama, after three flights and 27 hours in transit!

At Space Camp, our days were filled with fun activities and history lessons where we learnt about some of NASA's missions. Some of the activities included simulated real-life missions on and off the ground and creating and launching our own rockets. We flew jet aircraft simulators and went scuba diving so that we could experience a neutral buoyancy environment, the same environment that real astronauts train in!

We had multiple group activities, like constructing a heat shield, building a rover, and building and launching our rockets.

Over the course of the six days, we got to complete three missions, two of which lasted for an hour and the last mission went for three. For each mission, everybody was assigned a role, some of where we were suspended in the air to do tasks on a simulated spacewalk.

After the six days we graduated, before we went on some outings around Huntsville! The first place we went to was Bob Jones High School. We were able to talk with and get to know some of the kids who attend Bob Jones High School. We then went to Walmart and got snacks for the football game that we were attending that night. At the game, we were able to see some of the friends we made during the day. We saw cheerleaders and a marching band. We then spent our last night in Alabama back at Space Camp, where we would have to wake up early for our morning flight to Atlanta, and then Orlando.



Our first day in was spent relaxing, getting to know the area. On our second we spent the first half the day at Volcano Bay and had an exciting time on all the water slides. The other half of the day, we spent at Islands of Adventure. We explored all the areas of the theme park and went on heaps of rides. The different sections of Islands of Adventure were themed, and they were all filled with extraordinary detail from the media that they were based off. We saw Hogsmeade from Harry Potter, Marvel Superhero Island, Jurassic Park and more.

On the third day, we visited Kennedy Space Centre and learned more about space and the people who went there. We even met John M. Fabian who is an astronaut and has been to space twice! He told us all about his life before and after NASA. We also spent an entire day at the main Universal Park. The themed areas here included Springfield from the Simpsons, Diagon Alley from Harry Potter, Production Central, multiple city-themed areas and more.

### San Francisco – California

San Francisco was our final destination, where we spent four days and three nights. On our first day, we were able to settle in and make the most of our free afternoon and grab a bite to eat. On the second day, we visited the Muir Woods. The Muir woods were a quiet and peaceful way to spend time with our friends and see the all the flora and fauna it had to offer. The animals that we spotted the most were deer and baby salmon. The gift shop at the Muir Woods was filled with items made from recycled and sustainable materials, such as posters and stuffed animals.

After the Muir Woods, we went on a City Tour. We drove past many amazing places, such as Union Square, Castro, the Palace of Fine Arts and of course the Golden Gate Bridge. We were able to get out of the bus and get a proper look around to take some photos. We even drove past the same house that the movie Mrs. Doubtfire was filmed in. On our third day, we went to the Exploratorium.

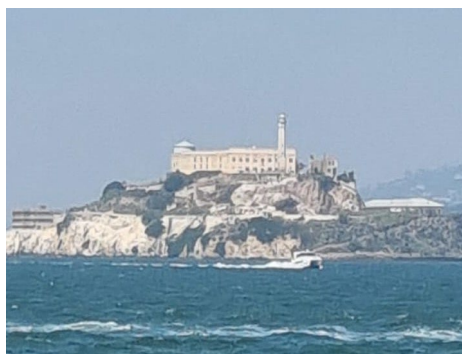
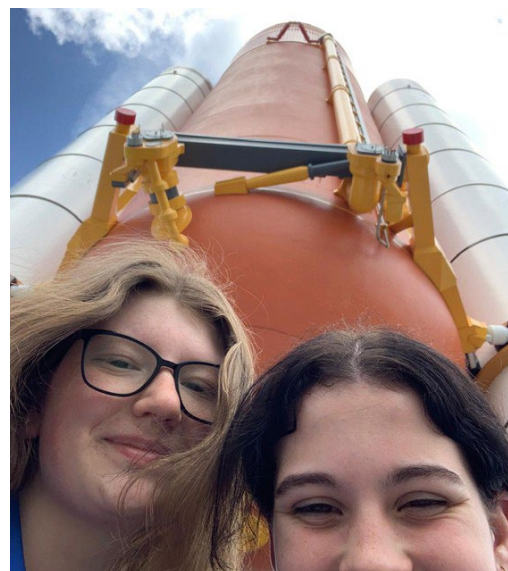


Later we took a ferry to Alcatraz and spent around two hours on the audio tour, which taught us about the most famous people who were prisoners on the island and the lives of the guards and their families who also lived there. On our last day we were given the opportunity to find things that we wanted to do and places we wanted to visit. People went shopping in Union Square, some played Mini-golf, and went to an arcade, museums, and a ferry. Our last day in San Francisco was also our last day in the US and on the trip, as later that night, we had a long-haul flight back home.

This trip allowed us to experience living as adults and all the responsibility and independence that it comes with. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity, that every one of us loved.

None of this would have been possible without the teachers who went on this trip and planned the whole thing for us Naomi and Ross.

Riley Webb, Year 11 and London Riddell, Year 10



# House Swimming Carnival

The whole school headed to Aquarena, Doncaster for the 2023 House Swimming Carnival. It was great to see all students embrace the carnival atmosphere with plenty of examples of fancy dress by the Year 12s. We had golfers, Magic Mikes, Men in Black and even some Mr Sicari's. The waterslides were in constant use all day and the House Leaders were inundated by students eager to join in the fantastically organised novelty events.

In the pool, the swimming was hotly contested, with records being broken in both individual and relay events. Conor Hayes (Year 11, Everard House) broke 5 records, Benjamin Van Dijk (Year 7, Andrew House) 2 records, Mitchell Bohan (Year 10, Everard House) 1 record, and the Everard 12-13 Boy's relay team conquered the record set by the 2022 Year 7s.

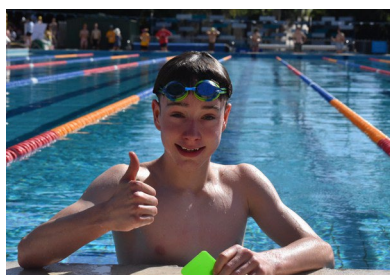
At the end of the day, after over 70 races, Everard House ended on top taking out this year's Swimming Sports.

Final House points were as follows:

1st place:	EVERARD	722
2nd place:	RUTTER	427
3rd place:	STEWART	400
4th place:	ANDREW	362

A big congratulations to the following age champions:

- 12-13 Girls - Annabelle Lowe (Year 7, Everard House)
- 12-13 Boys - Benjamin Vandijk (Year 7, Andrew House)
- 14 Girls - Olivia De Jonge (Year 8, Andrew House)
- 14 Boys - Samuel Hartley (Year 8, Everard House)
- 15 Girls - Rosie Griffiths (Year 9, Everard House)
- 15 Boys - Archie Bonga (Year 8, Andrew House)
- 16 Girls - Ebony Bire (Year 10, Stewart House)
- 16 Boys - Matthew Brophy (Year 11, Stewart House)
- 17 Girls - Maisie Walsh (Year 11, Andrew House)
- 17 Boys - Conor Hayes (Year 11, Everard House)
- 18-20 Girls - Maali Kerta-Rice (Year 10, Stewart House)
- 18-20 Boys - Jacob De Jonge (Year 12, Andrew House)



## House Athletics Carnival

The whole school headed to Doncaster Athletics Track for the 2023 House Athletics Carnival.

It was great to see the students all dressed up in their House colours and competing in a range of different track and field events. A special shout-out to the Year 7s and Year 8s who had massive numbers participating in every event.

EVERARD took out the clean sweep for 2023 with another dominant performance to win this year's Athletics Sports.

1st place: EVERARD 901

2nd place: STEWART 810

3rd place: RUTTER 762

4th place: ANDREW 664

Also a big congratulations to the following age champions:

13 Male: Jack Beddoe (Year 7, Everard House)

13 Female: Kaia Taig (Year 8, Stewart House)

14 Male: Saxon Schladetsch (Year 8, Rutter House) and Ben Kerr (Year 8, Andrew House)

14 Female: Olivia De Jonge - (Year 8, Andrew House)

15 Male: Ethan Armstrong Bourne (Year 10, Everard House)

15 Female: Xanthe Watson-Jones (Year 9, Rutter House)

16 Male: Zain Andreetta (Year 10, Andrew House)

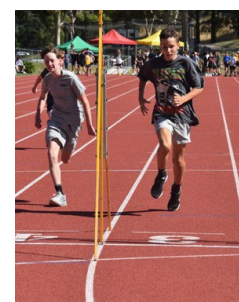
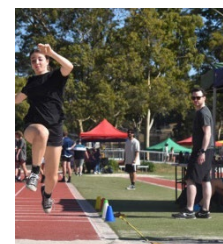
16 Female: Ally Brooks (Year 10, Everard House)

17 Male: Jesse Todd (Year 10, Rutter House)

17 Female: Tahlei Spratling (Year 11, Everard House)

18-20 Male: Chris Nicholson (Year 12, Everard House)

18-20 Female: Talisha Rowland (Year 12, Andrew House)



## Division Athletics

On Thursday 4 May, our Eltham High School Division Athletics team headed to Meadowglen Athletics Track to take on the other eight schools in the Nillumbik / Banyule District Athletics Carnival. Our team consisted of 82 athletes who competed in 102 individual track and field events and nine relays throughout the day, producing some amazing individual results. Eltham finished 4th overall with a total of 629 points.

It was great to see our competitive spirit in all the track and field events and the support and encouragement from each other

# Chamber Strings and String Orchestra Victorian Schools Music Festival

The Eltham High School Chamber Strings and String Orchestra ensembles performed at the Victorian Schools Music Festival. This event was held on July 25th and 26th at the Hawthorn Town Hall and featured performances from many schools from around Victoria.

The Chamber Strings and String Orchestra both received Gold Awards from the adjudicators and performed wonderfully under the increased pressure of a competitive environment.



## Eltham Students Kyra and Kate Represent Australia

Eltham High School students Kyra Meijer (Year 12, Andrew House) and Kate Ditcham (Year 12, Andrew House) recently travelled to Thailand as Australian representatives in the U21 national team that competed in Thailand's National Competition.

For most of the term holidays the girls trained and played volleyball matches with the best talent across Australia and played against elite level Thai teams. In addition to this they experienced the Thai culture and what it is like visiting another country.

Training and playing full time, meant the girls were exposed to what it is like being a full-time volleyball athlete. They also enjoyed the opportunity to watch the Thailand National Women's team train.

Kyra Meijer

"Through the duration of our two-week adventure to Thailand, my favourite recollection was our second day there during Songkran. Songkran, or otherwise known as the Thai Water Festival, is a significant holiday which welcomes the Thai New Year through cleansing and purifying. During this time, my team engaged in street water fights with water guns, buckets and even hoses against each other but also with the Thai locals. Despite our shoes and uniforms getting ruined it brought everyone closer together and was a much-needed relief from the extreme heat."

Kate Ditcham

"The highlight of the trip for me was being able to play with some of the best players from around Australia, and experiencing the culture in Thailand, even though it was really hot."



# Outdoor Education

## Year 12 Outdoor and Environmental Studies - Wilson Promontory National Park

In Week 4 of Term 1, our Year 12 Outdoor and Environmental Studies students had the opportunity to participate in a 3-day camp program at Wilsons Promontory National Park located in south-eastern Victoria. The students participated in a variety of activities such as a historical education session with a Parks Victoria ranger, developing their practical skills in recreational activities such as Stand-Up Paddleboarding and hiking, as well as cooking on Trangia stoves and setting up four-person tents (see attached photos below). The students also had the opportunity to experience a phenomenal view at sunset from the summit of Mt Oberon (see attached photo below). The class had an enjoyable experience and learnt how best to apply examples from this environment to their studies in the classroom.



## Year 11 Outdoor and Environmental Studies - Warbuton

In Week 5 of Term 1, our Year 11 Outdoor and Environmental Studies students undertook an overnight camp program in Warburton, located in eastern Victoria near the Yarra Ranges and alongside the Upper Yarra River. The students had the opportunity to engage in recreational activities such as river-sledding down the Upper Yarra, caving in the Britannia Creek Caves, and a bush-tucker educational session run by highly experienced staff from an outsourced provider known as Warburton Adventure Co. In addition, the students had the opportunity to camp in four-person tents in a wilderness environment at Starling's Gap Campground and learn how to cook on Trangia stoves.

As part of this program and VCE Units 1 & 2 Outdoor and Environmental Studies, students learnt how to apply classroom theory concepts in relation to motivations for seeking outdoor experiences and personal responses to outdoor experiences, and the impacts these internal factors have on the level of participation in, and overall enjoyment of, outdoor environments.





## School for Student Leadership

Six of our Year 9 students, AJ Moon, Jake Wilson, Raph Hendry, Isla Marshall, Ella Andrew, Thesan Houwen were off in the first week of this term to the Gnurad-Gundidj, School for Student Leadership, Glenormiston South.

I contacted them in the first week and one of our students sent me a communication about how they are travelling.

” Good evening, Mr Sicari,

It’s been ten whole days now, so I thought I’d write to you to give you a bit of an update on how we’re going.

The way that the SSL has already helped me grow and evolve is indescribable. I learn new things every day that I just wouldn’t have even thought about if I was back home.

I’ve connected with a whole range of new people, and it’s been so interesting getting to know them all (Especially my roomie!) because we all come from such diverse backgrounds. It’s crazy that we followed different paths that lead us to the same place.

The activities and classes have taught us all so much, this past ten days have been giving us a taste of what’s to come and preparing us for the adventures that are planned for our near future. It’s very exciting, everybody here gets up full of anticipation of what the day ahead may hold.

I hope all is well back home, we’ll all keep you updated on how we’re going, especially once we start work on our CLP.

## International Success for Sarah Crosbee

Sarah Crosbee Year 11 competed at the recent Penrith Open and Australian Open Canoe Slalom Championships, which also formed the selection series for the National Junior Team. It would be fair to say that Sarah has had a busy summer training session.

This year saw the return of international paddlers and Sarah, as part of the National Development Squad, was able to train alongside Juniors from Japan as well as New Zealand and America.

The training proved worthwhile with Sarah winning the Junior event in both the C1 class and K1 class at the Australian Open.

Congratulations to Sarah on an outstanding achievement in the sport and we look forward to hearing where these latest accolades take her.



## Australian Open Water Championships

Congratulations to Conor Hayes (Year 11, Everard House) who successfully completed the Australian Open Water Championships for the 7.5km in a time of 1 hour 33 minutes and 5km in 1 hour, in Busselton, WA this month.

Racing against top Australians from across all States (and one visitor from Japan), Conor placed 8th in both races.

In following Conor’s successes over the years, it is true to say that he continues to excel in the sport and his commitment and resilience is evident through his outstanding achievement.



Tyra Douglas-Dywer  
Year 11

## Cups for Change

The Eltham High School Team of Term 2, 2022, is excited to announce that we completed our Community Learning Project successfully!

At the start of our journey, approximately two years ago, the Cups for Change team came up with the idea of selling reusable cups bearing a logo that contains our local butterfly, the Eltham Copper-winged Butterfly, to help the environment and to minimise the amount of waste from single-use cups that goes into the surrounding grounds.

We were aided by our local Member of Parliament, Vicki Ward, and her connections to the community, specifically Melbourne's Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP), and their social enterprise, Position Promo, which is an Indigenous Australian-run organisation.

One of our very talented students, Coco Bergmann, won our logo design competition, which included our school's name, and an illustration of the Eltham Copper-winged Butterfly. We were able to put this design onto our cups, supplied by Position Promo, finalising our product. This end product was sold for 10 dollars.

We also took advantage of 7-Eleven's Program, #CUPRESCUE and its partner, Simply Cups. This involved 7-Eleven supplying us with towers where people can dispose of the single-use cups that are still used, as we understood that not everyone can buy a reusable cup. The single-use cups are placed into the towers and collected before being taken to our local 7-Eleven for recycling. Not only has this helped waste around the school by reducing the number of disposable cups used, but it has also helped the broader community.

We raised \$530 to give to our local community farm, Edendale Farm, and it will be interesting to see how our money is used

Our project ended by receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from Vicki Ward MP, marking a final triumph in our long, but highly worth-it journey.

Thank you to all the staff who helped us along the way, we could not have done it without you. And to the current students: please remember that this school is a magical place, it is not only the start of life-long friendships and your own CLP, but is also the starting point of many successes in leadership within your lives in the years to come.

Charlie Clarke, Year 10,  
On behalf of the Cups for Change Team.



## Push Up Challenge – An Amazing Achievement!

This June, as part of the Push-Up Challenge run by the Push for Better Foundation, our school completed over 94,000 push-ups to raise money for the prevention and early intervention of depression, anxiety, and suicide.

On top of this, the school community and the 50 people taking part in the challenge raised \$7,321 towards the cause, a huge effort and seven times the original goal of \$1000.

This is testament to the generosity of everyone involved with the school and really highlights the ability we have to get behind a cause as a collective.

## Young Climate Activists from EHS Participate in Edendale Farm Event



On Thursday 31 August, five of our Year 7 students (Allison Carter, Duncan Heerkens, Emily Johnson, Sage Twyman and Mollie McBride) took part in a climate action event at Edendale Farm. The event, organised as part of the “Kids Teaching Kids” initiative, brought together students from various local schools to share the innovative responses to environmental issues being implemented at their own schools.

The event proved to be an inspiring and enlightening experience for students. The presentation given by our young people focused on a pertinent and urgent topic: the far-reaching impacts of fast fashion on our planet. The young activists eloquently detailed the detrimental effects of the fast fashion industry on the environment, including excessive waste, pollution, and unsustainable consumption patterns. One of the innovative solutions presented was the STEAM upcycling workshop that Year 7 students had recently participated in at EHS. The workshop, aimed at promoting sustainable practices and creative thinking, resulted in the creation of a variety of impressive items made from donated materials, with one standout piece known as “The Pen Glove”.



## Year 7 Camp

The first Year 7 Camp of the season took place on Thursday 17 and Friday 18 August. Our students and staff all had an amazing time making the most of their city experience and spending the night in a Melbourne hostel.

I was fortunate to meet up with the group at their evening activity, visiting the exhibition at LUME. The current exhibition highlights Indigenous Art and the exhibition space is filled with colour and movement.

The Interactive Room was a highlight for our students as was “Emily’s Room”, a collection of art works by one of Australia’s prominent contemporary artists, Emily Kame Kngwarreye. Our students were marvelled by the colour and the depiction of light through the various panels.

Staff reported that the students had been great throughout the day and that they enjoyed the adventure.

I want to both thank and congratulate the Junior School Team under the leadership of Melissa Hughes and thank all our staff both teaching and non-teaching staff who attended the camp, making this wonderful experience possible for our students.



## Year 7 Sustainability Expo

The Year 7 Sustainability Expo that was held on the first Wednesday of the term after school was a fantastic way to launch Term 4 for our Year 7s. The event was the culmination of all the work of Term 3 and of the Year 7 Experience.

We were delighted to welcome so many families to the event and thank you all for your participation and support. The students loved having the opportunity to speak with interested adults about the sustainable solution that they developed to a local or global issue that they had identified. The skills of critical and creative thinking were on display throughout the Expo and many commented on the standard of the presentations from our movers and changemakers of the future.



## Swim Squad Christmas Giving

The Eltham High School Swim Squad has a long tradition of raising money at Christmas time to provide gifts for the many people in our community who need this support. Our student swimmers have been conducting an annual Lap-a-thon for the past 19 years (missing one covid year!) Each student seeks sponsorship for continuous laps swum in one hour at this event held in October.

The charities that this initiative have supported over the years include - 'The Wishing Tree', Oxfam, Farming and Village equipment for Africa, Outdoor furniture for Strathewen P.S., Smith Family and Lions Club.

In 2023 the squad raised \$3,200 and travelled to Greensborough Kmart where they purchased gifts to be collected by the Lions Club and distributed to local families in need. The return trip to school saw cars filled with toys, books, games, bikes etc and 18 very satisfied students who set about arranging gifts under and around a decorated Christmas Tree.

In addition to students and their families and friends, the project could not go ahead without the dedication of teachers, Phil Boyd and Michael Nicassio.





Coco Bergmann  
Year 10

Respect for Diversity

Coco B.

## Respect for Diversity

As we began the 2023 school year, Student Leaders spoke to all year levels about our School Values, and what they mean to them.

“Hi everyone. I’m Ava, I use she/they pronouns, I’m a Year 12, and I’m going to be speaking about Respect for Diversity, because I’m the Respect for Diversity leader for 2023.

First of all, welcome to Eltham High.

Given that this is the first run of these presentations, I’ll read to you Google’s definition of diversity. Diversity is “the practice or quality of including or involving people from a range of different social and ethnic backgrounds and of different genders, sexual orientations, etc.” Unsurprisingly, this is a great definition.

Respect for Diversity, at its core is acceptance of the differences in others.

Eltham High values diversity and promotes individuality and embracing one’s identity.

The cool thing about the values as a whole is that many of them bleed together – there isn’t a clear divide between a lot of them, and they also are the types of characteristics that most people are probably living without being fully aware of it.

I don’t think this will shock anyone, but humans are social creatures, and we often crave the feeling of acceptance from our classmates. As such, everyone deserves to feel accepted and supported by the people around them. Feeling different from your friends can be an isolating experience, and the normalisation of diversity can help many people find their people, who they can relate to on a different level. Eltham High can be that space for many people, especially with tons of lunchtime clubs (which are listed in the upper 100s). One of these is StandOUT, for LGBT+ people and allies.

Practicing Respect for Diversity in everyday life can seem daunting, but small changes can make all the difference, and it’s tons better than making no change at all. Some ways you can start are by:

Asking for pronouns when meeting someone new (and using them);

Calling out racism, misogyny, and queerphobia in your friend groups (including stereotypes, comments like ‘you throw like a girl!’);

Helping others, and, of course, accepting their differences; So, be good to each other.

## VCE-Vocational Major (VM) Fundraiser

A group of VCE-VM students, as part of their course of study, ran a fundraiser for The Salvation Army. They led a community effort to collect a range of clothes, food, other donatables, as well as some money to support families in need.

These Year 11 students, Keagan Pearce, Nicholas James, Jack Brooksby and Dylan Morter are very grateful for the support that they received from the community and wish to express their sincere thanks to everyone who contributed. They know that everyone’s effort will support people in need.

I congratulate the students on their initiative and on demonstrating yet another way in which to live the school value of social responsibility.



## Sorry Day

On National Sorry Day, 26 May, the Nation remembers the Stolen Generations. This is part of the ongoing effort towards reconciliation between Indigenous and non- Indigenous Australians.

This Year, School Leader Beau Duder (Year 12, Rutter House) and Year 10 student Indiana Upton, each delivered an address to the school.

### Beau's address:

“On 26 May, we acknowledge National Sorry Day. This day marks the anniversary of the tabling of the Bringing Them Home Report in the Australian Parliament in 1997. The report detailed the history of the forced removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, under laws enacted by Australian Governments.

This is what we know as ‘The Stolen Generation’. Today, as a sign of respect for those traumatised and impacted by The Stolen Generation, our flags fly at half-mast.

The dates for National Reconciliation Week remain the same each year; 27 May to 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey— the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision, respectively. The 1967 Referendum marked two key changes in Australian politics – Indigenous Australians being counted in the census as citizens and being able to have laws made for them.

The Mabo Decision, passed in 1993, was significant as it acknowledged Indigenous connection to the land and led to the introduction of the Native Title Act.

This year, the theme for National Reconciliation Week is ‘Be a Voice for Generations’. In the year The Voice Referendum will take place, this theme encourages all Australians to be a voice for reconciliation in tangible ways in our lives.

### Indiana's address:

“This day marks the handing down of the Bringing Them Home Report. Of the 27 recommendations, there has only been one implemented.

My great grandma was taken away from her country and family, as well as my grandma and uncle.

Today, we recognise those who were ripped away from their family and country by the government and put into communities where they had to act as if they were not Indigenous.

Aboriginal children are 17 times more likely to be removed from their families. Twice as likely to take their life by suicide and on average live 10 years less.

This shows the intergenerational trauma and the lasting impacts of the choices of the governments at the time.

We need our voices heard, Thankyou

## Pride March 2023

Congratulations to all students and staff that represented our school at the Pride March 2023. A number of staff and students were in attendance; the weather was amazing for the march and our students, as always, were well received. Thank you to Matthew Hapsberg and the Standout Team for their organisation of our participation in this event.

where we live, work, and socialise. It urges all Australians to use their power, their words, and their action to create a better, more just Australia for all of us.

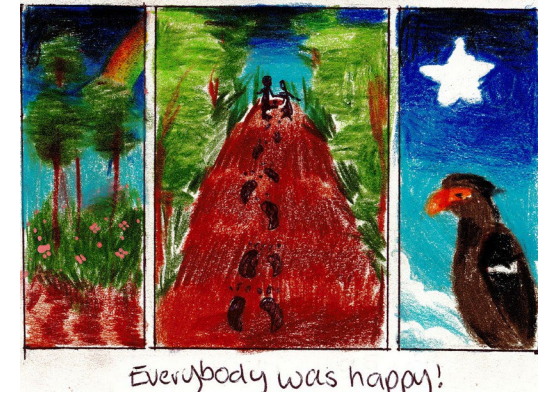
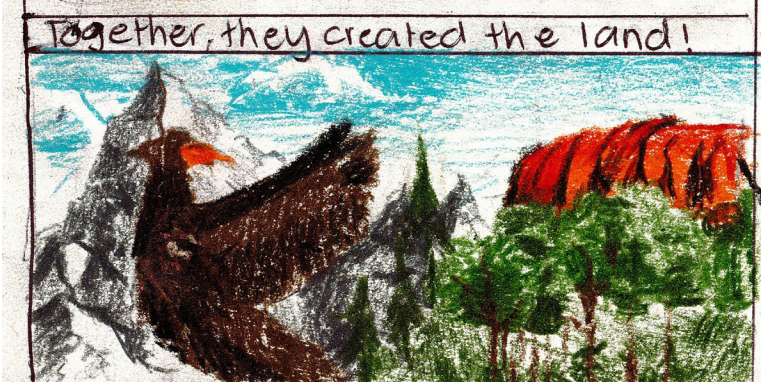
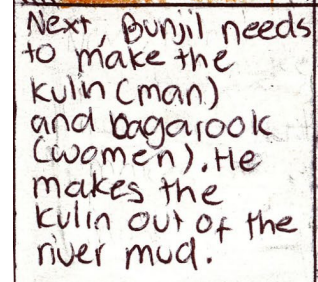
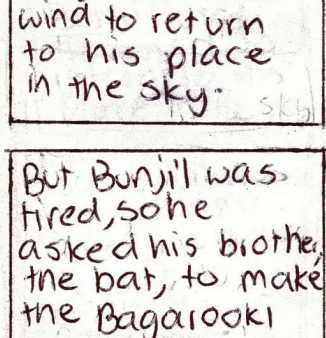
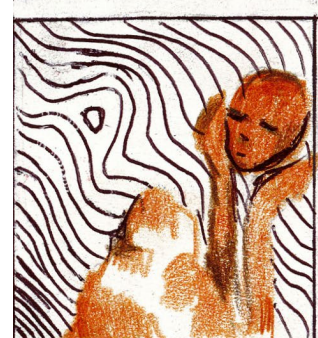
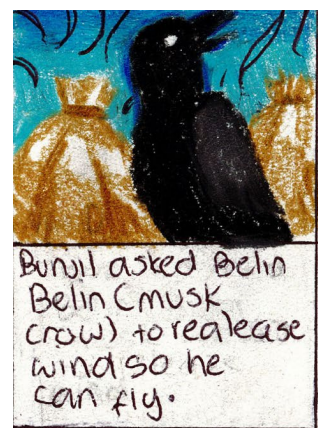
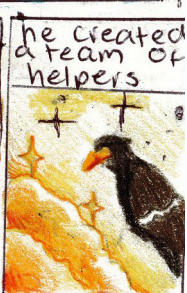
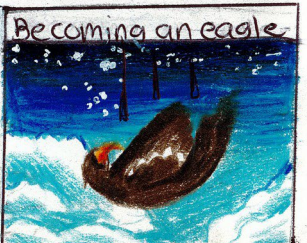
I encourage you all to consider how you can use your voice to be a voice for generations and Reconciliation in our local and national communities.





# Year 7 Humanities

Annabelle Lowe has created a comic featuring the creative acts of Bunjil the Spirit Ancestor, as told by Wurundjeri Elder Aunty Joy Murphy.



## EHS World Mental Health Day Activities

On Tuesday October 10, our students and staff came together to participate in a variety of meaningful and transformative wellness initiatives, highlighting the importance of mental health in our school community. These included community facilitated meditation and yoga sessions to promote relaxation and mindfulness. The creativity flowed in our Collage Art Workshop, allowing students to express their emotions and thoughts. The adrenaline rush in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and the artistic flair in Street Art Workshop provided students with diverse outlets for self-expression and stress relief.

Many students expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to engage in activities that not only benefited their mental health but also allowed them to connect with their peers in a meaningful way. World Mental Health Day is not just a one-day event at Eltham High: We will continue to promote and introduce initiatives and resources to ensure our students have access to the support they need.



## Victorian Young Leaders Indonesian Program

In 2023, three of our Year 9 students participated in an Indonesian Language Program run by the University of Melbourne and the Asia Institute.

“For the last three weeks, I have been taking part in the Victorian Young Leaders Indonesia program, where we have been collaborating with other students from Victoria and Indonesia to create a health and wellbeing campaign. My group created a campaign about how physical health impacts mental health and the benefits of exercise for mental health. Creating the campaign included creating posters, animations and a logo in English and Indonesian.

The program has been a great experience for learning about Indonesian culture as well as the language. I have very much enjoyed taking part in the program and would recommend it to anyone who was interested in taking part in it in the future.  
- Abigail Johnson Year 9.

“When I was offered the chance to go on a three week program to develop my Indonesian language skills, I couldn’t refuse. Meeting new people while learning about mental and physical health, as well as health issues facing Indonesia, while learning Indonesian! We played lots of learning games. We also made posters and infographics, learnt lots of new vocabulary and made a website with a video to make a campaign about alcohol use among teenagers.

Looking back, I am surprised how many new things I learned, which is why I would recommend this for anyone interested.”  
-Max Carter Year 9.

“The program has been a great experience to expand my Indonesian language and knowledge of the UN goals. It has also been a great opportunity to work alongside other Victorian and Indonesian students to further get to know each other and develop our skills.

The VYL program has also given me an insight into the effects in both Australia and Indonesia of smoking and bullying on health. The program has taught me a lot about myself and has been a great, character building opportunity overall.” - Brian Dintinosante (Year 9, Andrew House).



Madison Gibbs  
Year 10

## Integrity

Integrity' speech by Maisie Walsh's Year 12.

“Hi, my name is Maisie Walsh and I am one of the Andrew House Leaders for 2023 and I am here to talk about one of the Eltham High Values which is Integrity.

In the context of school, acting with integrity is showing respect for your teachers and fellow students and being reliable and dependable when it comes to your homework or showing up on time. Acting with integrity also means showing good judgement and being accountable for your own actions, but also holding other people accountable for their actions too. Integrity is one of the most important values that defines you as a person: if you act with integrity, people know that they can rely on you to do your best. People that demonstrate integrity are naturally going to influence others to act in similar ways to them.

If you want to be the best you can be this year, come to every class with integrity and demonstrate good judgement, flexibility, respect, and gratitude.”

## International Women's Day 2023 Pauline Toner Prize

In 2015, our local State Member of Parliament, Vicki Ward MP, created the Pauline Toner Prize to recognise the achievements of local young women active in the areas of social justice, the environment, and/or gender equality.

Vicki has paved this path through the recognition of the remarkable women in previous generations who worked hard to make all of this possible and in particular Pauline Toner, the first female Victorian State Government Minister, the first female State Member for Greensborough and the first female Mayor and Councillor for Diamond Valley.

The Pauline Toner Prize is made available to young women in Years 9 and above who live and/or study in the Seat of Eltham.

Our nominee for 2023 was Scarlett Harrison Year 10. Scarlett consistently demonstrates a commitment to protecting the environment and works closely with her local and school community to do so, as exemplified by her work in several fields related to the environment and disaster resilience.

At Eltham High School, Scarlett contributed to the “Cups for Change” program. A student-led initiative which targeted single-use coffee cups and promoted awareness of the Eltham Copper Butterfly. Through this program, Scarlett and her peers raised funds for local environmental groups and the establishment of a garden for the Eltham Copper Butterfly.

Outside of school, Scarlett is closely linked with her local CFA group. As part of the Strathewen-Arthurs Creek Bushfire Education Partnership, Scarlett participated in a student-led evaluation, collaborating with her peers to design evaluation surveys, and presenting their results at the Australian Disaster Resilience Conference.

Scarlett has also written the foreword to the upcoming publication “School- based Education for Disaster Risk Reduction: A practice Framework for the Australian Emergency Management Sector”, which will be published by Natural Hazards Research Australia.

We congratulate Scarlett on her nomination and for the amazing work she is doing in the community.



## Eltham High School's ANZAC Day Ceremony

Our ANZAC Day Commemorative Ceremony took place on Monday, 24 April. It was a beautiful morning and the ceremony proceeded well amongst the sounds of the birds resting in the large gum tree in the courtyard.

We were joined by our State Member of Parliament, Vicki Ward, who spoke to the assembly not only in terms of commemorating our ANZACs but also in consideration of all wars, including the most recent and current upheavals across the globe.

Our Student Leaders did a commendable job with the program led by Year 12 students Zoe Glynatsis and Noah Harrison as MCs. The Members of the choir led us all into a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem and our trumpeter, Rordy Watkins, did a wonderful job playing the Last Post and Reveille.



## Eltham RSL Dawn Service

We arrived at the dawn service bright-eyed and bushy tailed at half past five on ANZAC day morning. After everyone arrived, the soldiers assembled around the Cenotaph and the ceremony began. There was a particular focus on Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War as it was the 50th anniversary of the withdrawal of Australian involvement in where over 3000 Australians were wounded and more than 500 killed. Towards the conclusion of the service, as the sun was rising over the Eltham Township, community organisations and schools were invited to lay a wreath. We lay a wreath for the school and paid our respects.

It's extremely important to recognise those who fought for our country, and we must continue to honour the legacy of the ANZACs, even as the time since WWI passes. We can't allow ANZAC day to become disconnected from its original meaning to avoid repeating the same past mistakes; we must ensure we never forget the disastrous consequences of war.

I encourage everyone to attend future dawn services to reflect on the sacrifice of the Australian soldiers and to be grateful for the sheltered lives we live.

Beau Duder

## Eltham/ Montmorency RSL Family Service

On 25 April 2023, myself, Maddie Azzopardi, Year 11 and Kris Van Der Kamp, Year 10, Stewart attended the Montmorency/ Eltham RSL ANZAC Ceremony and read out the ANZAC Requiem. It was incredible to see hundreds of faces in front of us as we remember the ANZACs who fought and died so Australians could live free lives without war. The presence of so many young people at the ceremony signifies the respect and importance of ANZAC Day that the younger generation is being taught, in the hope of continuing the ANZAC's legacy for many years to come.

The ceremony went for about an hour, and everyone involved spoke with well-mannered and fluent voices, as well as those who beautifully sang and played their instruments. It was an honour to be part of such a ceremony and I hope that others are inspired to do the same in future years.

Maisie Walsh



## Whole School Breakfast Club

On September 13, Student Services hosted a whole school Breakfast Club! It was an amazing effort. Thank you to our student leaders, teachers and the Eltham Lion's Club for volunteering and promoting an important wellbeing initiative.

Why is a Breakfast Club important? The School Breakfast Club program seeks to address the impact disadvantage can have on education outcomes by offering free and healthy food for students. Research shows a young person's ability to concentrate in class, self-regulate and learn is negatively impacted if they are hungry.

Here at Eltham High, we provide the Breakfast Club to all students every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday morning in Room 413.



## Enviro Clubs Kitchen Garden

In Term 1, our Enviro Club was joined by Tim, Polly and Carolyn from Edendale Farm.

Together we established a kitchen garden for our Food Technology Department so that students will have access to fresh herbs and vegetables when they cook. The two raised garden beds were planted with sage, thyme, rosemary, onions, chives, lettuce and rhubarb. Beside the beds we planted three broad bean plants, which we hear grow to be 6 feet tall! We are also working with the council to procure a compost tumbler to manage food waste from the student kitchen in a more sustainable way. The garden beds and compost system will be maintained by the Enviro Club with the help of the food tech teachers.



## In the Spirit of Reconciliation

The Eltham High School Symphonic Band featured at the 25th anniversary celebration of Reconciliation in Nillumbik, as it did in 1998 at the first Nillumbik Reconciliation event. To commemorate this milestone, the school commissioned a piece of music from well know composer and friend of Eltham High School, Jodie Blackshaw.

Jodie reflected that at first, she found having to create a piece of music based on Reconciliation a bit of a challenge, but then turned to the members of the current Symphonic Band and enlisted their input. She asked them to consider what Reconciliation meant to them.

One of our Year 9 students, Kate McRae (Rutter House) expressed her views of Reconciliation through a poem. The poem was so compelling that it inspired Jodie to create the piece that she did.

The premiere performance of 'Old Trees, Old Wisdom' took place on Monday 22 May in the Nalleijerring Performance Centre at Eltham High School during the first Mid-Year Concert for the year in the presence of members of the Nillumbik Reconciliation Group. The music composed by Jodie is so unique that it features a reading of Kate's poem as part of the performance.

With Kate's permission, I share her poem here with you:

### **Extend a hand**

We always extend a hand  
Impatiently  
And say  
We're different now  
We always extend a hand  
Impatiently  
And say  
Why isn't this enough  
We never extend a hand  
Patiently  
And ask  
Is this okay  
We never extend a hand  
Patiently  
And ask  
Will you forgive us  
To extend a hand  
And be met with a hand in  
Return  
To extend a hand  
And expect to walk arm in  
Arm  
We must wait  
Patiently  
With a hand extended  
And our mind and hearts  
open.

Congratulations, Kate, and thank you, Jodie for an exceptional piece of music; and a big thank you to all the members of the Symphonic Band and their Conductor, Rick Keenan, for an outstanding and memorable performance.



Emily Dickson  
Year 10

**Creativity**



## Creativity

Zoe Glynatsis' Year 12, speech highlighting the value of Creativity.

Creativity can be defined as the use of imagination or original ideas to create something. This could be an idea that pops into our head spontaneously or a concept that you've spent hours trying to conceive, either way it is equally important that we view creativity as a vital school value here at Eltham high school. Creativity is essential in not only our school lives but also our personal lives as it allows us to express ourselves and take on difficult challenges.

Being creative enables us to experiment with different aspects of our lives, for example we can try a new clothing style, create a new play for your basketball or netball team to attempt, write a story in a style you're not so comfortable with, or try writing a piece of music for the band you hope to start one day.

Here at Eltham, we value the pursuit of creativity in all its forms, whether it's through your schoolwork, music aspirations or sporting achievements

## Year 12 Media Incursion

On Wednesday, Year 12 Media students were treated to a presentation by 2022 Top Screen Finalist Koko Crozier. Koko, who is now studying Film at the Victorian College of the Arts, shared her experiences in making her short horror film, 'Hereafter'.

She discussed the creative process of filmmaking, including her thoughts and tips on each stage of production. It was an outstanding presentation that clearly inspired the Year 12s who are in the process of refining ideas for their upcoming productions.

Thanks, Koko! We look forward to following your career as a filmmaker.



## Life Drawing for Senior Students

In Term 3 over six weeks senior students have engaged in life drawing at Nyora Studio Gallery. Under the tutelage of local artist, Emmy Mavroidis, students have managed to produce some remarkable studies of the human form.

Each year we are amazed by the quality and level of maturity reflected in our students work.

Congratulations to the following students from Year 12, Odette Moore, Sophia Howse, Year 11, Sarah Baker, Madison Tindal, Maddie Azzopardi, Ellie Winnard, Victoria Pantelejenko, Stephanie Smith, Olivia Walls-Moran, Year 10, Rune Fitzmaurice, Amelie Menzies, Kokono Nakamura, Ani Roberts, Lucinda Roberts and Soren Kean, on their amazing achievements.



## Top Design 2023 Season of Excellence

Congratulations to Shahla Paynter Class of 2022, whose Product Design - Fibres Folio was selected for the 2023 Season of Excellence.

Shahla's work was on display at the Victorian Museum in the Top Design Exhibition from Saturday 25 March to Sunday 9 July.

This is an outstanding achievement and one which we are all very proud of. Well done Shahla!

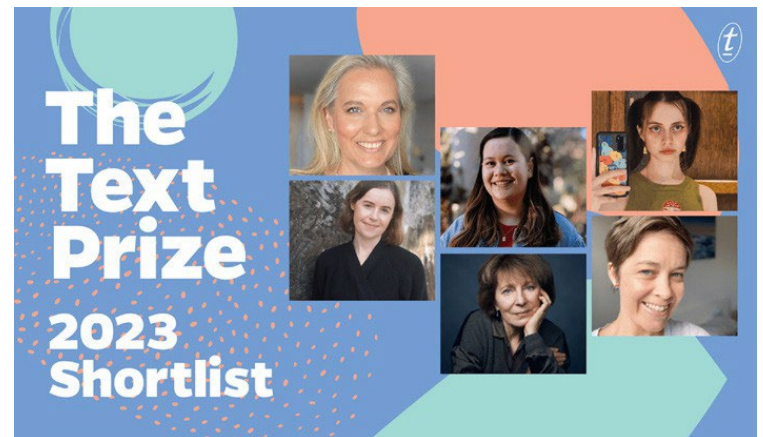


## Past Student's Achievements: The Text Prize

Congratulations to Ella Pilson class 2020, whose work has been selected for a prestigious award, The Text Prize.

RIBS by Ella Pilson: After a bullying incident, sixteen-year-old Leila moves to a new school with a vibrant curriculum and some genuinely cool people. Leila thinks she's all set for a simple school year...until she falls for her falls for her classmate, Maxine.

Ella is an author-in-progress. She was shortlisted for the Hachette Australia Prize for Young Writers in 2020 and is a recent graduate of RMIT's Associate Degree of Professional Writing & Editing. Her pieces have appeared in RMIT's Catalyst and on ArtsHub.



This is an outstanding achievement, and it is just that Ella be recognised in this way.

Ella also demonstrates that she continues to live the values of our school through her pursuit of excellence, individuality, creativity, respect for diversity and integrity.

We wish Ella all the very best.

## STEAM Club

In 2023 STEAM Club worked on a number of challenges focused on integrating knowledge and skills from science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.

Students first created devices to transport objects across long distances efficiently, and then worked on creating a claw to reach and move a ping pong ball from a distance away.



# Arts and Technology Exhibition 2023

The opening of the Arts and Technology Exhibition on Wednesday 15th November was a huge success and well attended by our school community. The last on-site opening was in 2019 so it was great to be able to host an opening once again and enable the school community to experience student works firsthand.

The refinement and diversity of the work produced by our students is always remarkable and this year was no exception. Works in wood, metal, paint, photography, mixed mediums, design, media and textiles reflected the thoughtful and sometimes thought-provoking ideas and approaches students take in their creative journeys

This exhibition would not go ahead without the hard work and support of many including the inspiring Arts and Technology teachers. Special thanks to the following - David Matters, Gabe Piras, Peter Vapp, Donna Ayres, Lauren McNally, Laura Cain-Asbury and Timothy Clifton along with our Visual Art student leaders for their roles in the exhibition.

The huge roles of Catherine Leigh in the administration of awards and certificates, Yasemin Ziada and the Year 11 hospitality students in catering for the event and Ute Leiner for curating the exhibition was significant in the success of this event.

We would like to congratulate all the students for their participation and demonstrating creativity and excellence through their achievements.

Congratulations to the following students who were the recipients of the major awards on the night.

## The Arts KLA Creativity Award

Madison Gibbs, Year 10

## The Claire Edgoose Awards for Excellence in The Arts

Lumi Runnalls, Year 7 Annabelle Lowe, Year 7 Laura Dickson, Year 9 Izzy Coburn, Year 9, Joshua Wike-Gysen, Year 11 Tyra Douglas-Dwyer, Year 11

## The Peter Brock Bursary Award

Victoria Pantalejenko, Year 11

## The Vicki Ward Prize

Ava Grzechnik, Year 12

## The Nyora Studio Gallery Exhibition Prize

Bindi Hillen, Year 10

## The Principal's Award for Excellence in Technology

James Rattray-Wood, Year 12

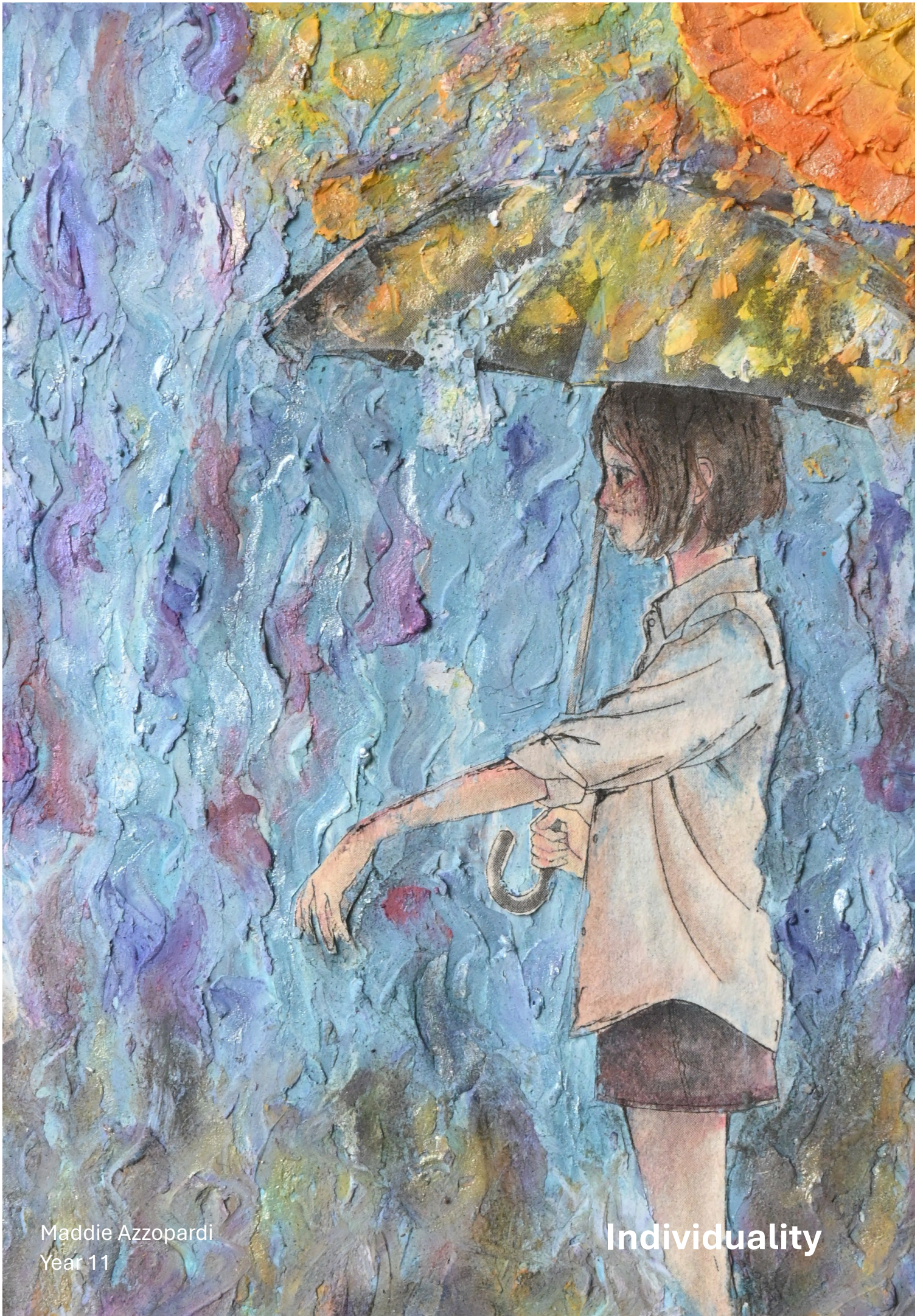
## The Wes Muir Acquisition Award

Charlotte Wales, Year 12

## The Principal's Acquisition Award

Emily Dickson, Year 10





Maddie Azzopardi  
Year 11

**Individuality**

## New House Patrons

After a long process lead by our Student Leaders, the new House Patrons were determined. On behalf of the Student Voice and Leadership Team, I am pleased to announce that our Houses from 2024 onwards will be:

### **TONER HOUSE - House Patron: Pauline Toner**

The first female Cabinet member of Victoria, Pauline Toner was an advocate for the environment, community services, young people and education. She was a passionate campaigner and instigator of the Eltham Copper Butterfly Reserve, which is now named in her honour.

### **SKIPPER HOUSE - House Patron: Sonia Skipper**

Sonia Skipper was a prolific artist and painter with works featured in collections across Australia. As the daughter of founding members of Montsalvat, she was responsible for constructing the barn at Montsalvat and completed several of the carvings in the main Montsalvat building. Sonia's legacy represents the shift towards recognising the contributions of female artists at Montsalvat.

### **PAKANA HOUSE - House Patron: Uncle Charles Pakana**

Uncle Charles Pakana is an Indigenous Australian journalist and Head of Victorian Aboriginal News. He has worked extensively within mental health awareness and advocating for widespread acceptance for those with mental health issues. Uncle Charles is an active member of the Eltham community and comes to speak with Year 12s every year about Indigenous Australians. Pakana is a Palawa word that comes from the north of Tasmania and refers to the Indigenous people of the area.

### **EVERARD HOUSE - House Patron: William Everard**

William (Bill) Everard represented this district in the Legislative Assembly for many years. We believe it's important to retain Everard House to recognise the ongoing support from the Everard family through the W H Everard Award for Social and Environmental Responsibility.

## Student Achievement: International Success for Janaki Easwar

Congratulations to Janaki Easwar Year 9, who was invited by Kerala Arts and Crafts Village, (an initiative of Department of Tourism, Government of India) to perform at their Woman's Week celebration on Saturday, March 11.

Following this opportunity, Janaki was involved in the audio launch of a few projects that she has remotely collaborated with.

Janaki travelled to India on March 9 as a result of her exceptional talent and creativity. The following is a poster of the event.



## Rock Concert



On Monday 27 March, students participating in Year 10 Music, VCE Music Performance and the lunchtime Rock Band Program performed in a lunchtime concert. This was an informal gathering in an outside courtyard and provided great entertainment for students and staff.

The concert was organised in partnership with the Contemporary Music Student Leaders and supported by Gabriel Piras and other music teachers.

I congratulate all our students who performed on the day.

## Eltham High School Inaugural Postcard Show

In term three the Visual Arts Leaders launched our inaugural postcard show. Staff and students were invited to create a postcard sized artwork that responded to the theme Connections.

Over 70 entries were received each depicting the unique ideas and responses of the artists. Artworks were completed in diverse mediums including pencil, pen, paint, collage and photography.

Judging of the artworks took place last week which proved to be a difficult task with so many creative entries.

The Visual Arts Leaders selected a work from each year level to be awarded highly commended, while Mr Sicari and an art panel selected three overall winners who will have their works reproduced as cards to be used by the school.

Congratulations to the following award recipients.

### Visual Arts Leaders Highly Commended Awards

Year 7 - Lumi Runnalls

Year 8 - Wilf O'Neill

Year 9 - Alice Campbell

Year 10 - Coco Bergmann

Year 11 - Mia Paterson

Year 12 - Chloe Wilkins

Staff Award - Laura Asbury

### Principal's Selection

Year 10 - William Cook

Year 11 - Amber Coleman

Year 12 - Imogen McVeigh



## Student Achievement: Jagajaga Resilience Award

On Tuesday 10 October, Kate Thwaites, Member for Jagajaga, attended Eltham High School to present the Jagajaga Resilience Award. This award acknowledges secondary students in Jagajaga who have set an example through their capacity to adapt and respond to new or unexpected circumstances. These students may have overcome personal difficulty or hardship, or they may have supported others at school and in the community to be resilient.

We are thrilled to announce that this year's recipient at Eltham High School is Elliot Lowdin, Year 7. Elliot was nominated by his teachers for his innate kindness, warmth, and the extraordinary empathy he demonstrates in his interactions with his peers. Elliot has had a remarkable transition to high school, leading by example and being a dependable and supportive friend. He is an integral and cherished member of his class, admired and respected throughout the school. We congratulate Elliot on this extraordinary achievement.



## Eltham High School Choir Boroondara Eisteddfod

Congratulations to all students who are members of the Eltham High School Choir who on Wednesday 14 June, participated in the Boroondara Eisteddfod at the Hawthorn Arts Centre.

The 70-voice EHS Year 7-12 Choir represented our school admirably. The choir members were magnificent in every way and had a wonderful day singing and being together. Naomi Dique Year 9, and Jessica Nicholls Year 10, conducted the Choir's two performances.

The Choir gained a final mark of 83/100 points, which was only 7 points below the school choir that came first. This is a great achievement.

The accompanying photo is of the whole choir as a 'selfie' taken by Ava Andrews Year 11, who is also one of the talented Choir Captains. In congratulating our students, I also congratulate our Choir Director, Lynlee Williams, for her outstanding support of the students and for the encouragement that she provides to our young choir conductors who also do an amazing job. A big thank you to Choir Accompanist, Darren Squires, whose effort is much appreciated by everyone.



## Past Student Achievement: Change the Game Ambassador

Gabby Seymour class of 2014, is not only kicking goals in the field as Vice-Captain of the Tigers Women's team but also as an ambassador for the "Change the Game" initiative.

Gabby has become a prominent advocate for players as part of the Union in ongoing collective bargaining agreement negotiations and has been a major player in shifting the expectation of what is allowed to be worn on the field by female players. Recently, the shift from having to wear white shorts to wearing black brought about a positive change in the level of comfort felt by AFLW players.

Gabby has always been very motivated - whether it was in her studies, her extra-curricular programs such as music and sport, or in bringing about change.

We congratulate her and we are very proud of her achievements to date.



