

A first compilation by Christopher Szaday, December 2019

Community and alternative schooling in Warrnambool at 72 Henna Street and 86 Lava Street

A scrapbook of newspaper articles and other documents



The community school is one which:

- (1) promotes within its group an awareness of the worth of each of its members and of their inter-dependence;
- (2) fosters a close educational partnership with the home;
- (3) employs decision-making procedures which encourage the active participation of students, teachers, school administrators, parents and other interested people in the making of decisions concerning the roles, life and operation of the school;
- (4) offers the resources under its control for regular and extensive use by other local citizens for educational, recreational and cultural purposes, as part of its role as a major community centre;
- (5) uses as major resources for its educational programme those beyond its perimeter, in order to help students to structure their experiences in the wider community;
- (6) makes the life of its local neighbourhood area, and of related areas, a major focus of study in its curriculum; and
- (7) provides community service projects as part of its programme for "school-age" students and, in co-operation with appropriate community agencies, provides a wide range of services to local citizens.



Figure 10 : A Theoretical Concept of the Community School

Community and alternative schooling in Warrnambool at 72 Henna Street and 86 Lava Street: A scrapbook of newspaper articles and other documents

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December 2019

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P3



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SPORT
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P32



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THE STANDARD

STUDENTS' PAWS-ITIVE IMPACT

Framlingham's Iziah Harrison, 15, and his dog Bubba are part of a WAVE school project aimed at teaching dogs to help other students learn. **FULL STORY: P5**

Picture: ANTHONY BRADY

Students' dogs lead paws-itive change



LEARNING TO HELP: Kimberley Harradine and her dog Dusty, David Pringuer, Ethan Bloom and dog Johnny, and Kim Pringuer are training dogs to help others.

EDUCATION Warmambool

A GROUP of Warmambool students are sharing classes with their pets and training them to lend a helping paw.

Four students from the city's re-engagement school this week taught their dogs to help children learn, or help others feel less isolated.

Their four-legged companions will soon be eligible for a program improving literacy skills for some Warmambool primary school students, who relax while reading to dogs.

Framlingham's Iziah Har-

ison said the WAVE school encouraged him to enrol his dog Bubba.

"They make some people feel safer. I've had a dog since I was two and I have just always loved my dogs," the 15-year-old said.

Ethan Bloom's dog Johnny is also learning to play a role in the community. "We are thinking of going out to Lynloch and Mercy Place and doing visits there. People in nursing homes can get lonely, dogs bring out the best in people," Ethan said.

Cobrico-based Pawfect Communities social worker

Kim Pringuer said the six-day program taught the dogs to respond to their owner. "Humans have to understand dogs' psychology, where the alpha is responsible for safety and routine," she said. "The dog gets rewarded through pats and voice and then it just comes becomes voice."

South West Local Learning and Employment Network organised the program and executive Emily Lee-Ack said it was a way for WAVE school students passionate about animals to give back.

— JACKSON GRAHAM

WAVE
RESPECT HONESTY SUCCESS



The 2019 WAVE School Pop Up Shop

WAVE is once again running its own Retail Pop Up Shop!

Our students will be selling unique, handcrafted products that they have designed and manufactured themselves, including:

- Repurposed Pallet Wood Products (eg. furniture & planter boxes)
- Art & Craft Items
- Bespoke Homewares and Gifts

So visit the WAVE School Pop Up Shop! Grab a bargain, support student learning & achievement, and tell all your friends!

Mon 16th Sept - Wed 18th Sept

9:30am – 4:00pm

**Shop 1 Bayside City Plaza
Fairy Street
Warmambool**
(near The Cheesecake Shop)



A Big Life

Like This Page · September 10 · 🌐

What a fabulous initiative for the WAVE students to feel engaged and foster a sense of purpose. All essential ingredients for [#wellbeing](#).
[#biglife](#) [#connected](#)



12

1 Share

School needs 'suitable' site

EDUCATION

BY JACKSON GRAHAM

Warmambool

WARRNAMBOOL'S most vulnerable students are learning in sites "not fit for purpose", educators pushing to secure a new campus say.

The city's WAVE program, a re-engagement campus for about 40 students at-risk of not completing school, has been without a permanent home for the past three years.

Students are currently taught at a Lava Street office building, located next door to a bottle shop with one classroom and no outdoor area, and regularly walk a kilometre to a Fairy Street site where they do construction-based learning.

Beyond the Bell Warrnambool action group chair Glynys Phillipot said the arrangement was "woefully inadequate".

Mrs Phillipot said there was a push for the WAVE program to move into the Warr-

nambool Special Development School's Hyland Street campus next year, when that school moved to a new facility in Wollaston Road.

"This would allow more programs to be run and more students to be accommodated in a model that is kicking goals despite its space limitations," Mrs Phillipot said.

Warrnambool College auspices the WAVE program and principal David Cliff said Victoria's Department of Education and Training was aware students needed a new campus.

"Any fit-for-purpose education facility that can be transformed quickly to suit

vulnerable youth in Warrnambool is what we're looking for," Mr Cliff said.

The department confirmed it was "considering options" to relocate the program.

Classes have been taught at the rented sites since mid-2016, when health and safety concerns forced students out of an education department site on the corner of Lava and Henna streets.

The Standard has previously reported on the educational challenges facing the region, including a four-

day increase in the number of days students were absent from Warrnambool

- ### OUR CHALLENGES
- WAVE school without suitable campus for three years
 - Three former school buildings vacant for years
 - Absenteeism for state school students increased four days between 2013-17
 - Census data shows 66 per cent of Warrnambool's 20-to-24-year-olds completed school



NOT SUITABLE: Warrnambool College School Council president Leanne Williams outside the WAVE site on Lava street which is no longer suitable. **Picture: Mark Witte**

state schools between 2013 and 2017.

Warrnambool College School Council president Leanne Williams said support for Warrnambool's vulnerable students had improved in recent years, but governments had neglected the need for a safe permanent campus for the WAVE program.

"State governments have dropped the ball. But it's been multiple," Ms Williams

said. "There was money given along the way, but it was a band-aid approach to the situation, there has been no concerted effort to turn it into the type of facility the community really needs."

She said she was confident the school had the support of the state government to resolve the situation.

"The students at WAVE deserve a better facility," Ms Williams said.

VACATED SCHOOL SITES LANGUISH FOR YEARS

THE future of Warrnambool's former rundown WAVE school campus is uncertain three years after it was vacated due to safety concerns.

While the Victorian Department of Education and Training is preparing another two former school sites in the region for sale, a spokesman said the future of the



66

We carefully consider a number of factors, including projected population and student growth, before declaring any former school site surplus

Department spokeswoman

Ma Britnell said she raised concerns about the Caramut site three years ago, when it was vandalised and posed a risk to children who used it as a playground.

"The government's inaction is leaving it as an eyesore for the community and a danger," Ms Britnell said.

She said she was unaware if Warrnambool's former WAVE site could find a future use because she was uncertain if it was "economically viable".

"The buildings will suit whatever the market determines, but they can't just sit there to rot," Ms Britnell said. "That is just a poor use of taxpayer funds."

PUSH TO SWAP: There is a push to move Warrnambool's WAVE program from an 'unsuitable' office block into the current Warrnambool Special Development School site at Hyland Street, when that school moves into a new Wollaston Road site next year.

prime CBD land was "yet to be determined".

Ms Williams said students vacated the site in 2016 due to concerns about air quality and mould. A sign at the site now warns that the building contains asbestos.

Ms Williams said while it was the department's decision what to do with the site, she would like to see the building redeveloped and used again. "I think you'd be looking

and discipline, before then being used to encourage youth activities such as basketball and badminton.

The building is not the region's only former education site to remain vacant for an extended time, with the former Caramut Primary School and Bessie Belle Primary School sites each vacated about 15 years ago.

A department spokeswoman said those sites were now declared "surplus" and

were being prepared for sale. "We carefully consider a number of factors, including projected population and student growth, before declaring any former school site surplus," she said.

Caramut General Store co-owner Gary Toth said the town had pushed for the former school building to be occupied again. "A lot of the town's people are wanting something done with it," Mr Toth said.

He said the site was run down and locals did what they could to maintain it. "I know a few of the people who keep putting their sheep on it, it's the only reason the grass is down," Mr Toth said.

He welcomed that the site would be sold, but lamented that the town had no school. "There would be almost enough kids to justify having the school open in this area now," Mr Toth said.

South West Coast MP Ro-



Warrnambool Standard

July 17 · 🌐

Warrnambool's WAVE school has been without a permanent home for three years. Meanwhile, the future of a rundown CBD site it formerly occupied is uncertain.



STANDARD.NET.AU

Push for 'suitable' home for Warrnambool's 'most vulnerable' students



Shaunie O'Connor Hollerhead Would also be nice if the students stayed in school and not cause half the issues they have been SDS will be available shortly, they could maybe merge with southern Grampians (old seal building) there is plenty of vacant spaces around

Like · Reply · 20w  1



Peter Russell Great to see people advocating for some of our most disengaged students. Trying to deliver a challenging curriculum in a environment that doesn't make them feel like second class citizens. Keep up the good work!!

Like · Reply · 20w  3



Kate Darmanin I feel ashamed, as a Warrnambool resident that students in my community are treated like this. Out of sight out of mind.....James Merlino

Like · Reply · 20w · Edited

→ 1 Reply



Julie O'Connor if these students are vulnerable why arnt you trying to keep them in school during school hours and u let them roam the streets in school hours think u need to change the way you do things at this school try and help them not be vulnerable stop them hanging around the streets they need an education

Like · Reply · 20w



Ned Kelly Julie O'connor let let teachers can only do what there a loud to do probably help if school was not in Main Street think that's what story is about they don't have a permanent home

Like · Reply · 20w  1

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



The Warrnambool WAVE school celebrated 40 years of alternative education in March with an event hosted by South West TAFE. Students interviewed past students and staff about their memories and experiences which were screened at the event, alongside documents and an artefact display. WAVES school is a sub school of Warrnambool College and has a close relationship with South West TAFE as a pathway to further education.

The Warrnambool Gift has combined with the WAVE school for the construction of their podium



Sean Hardeman



FAST FINISH: Warrnambool Gift committee members (back l-r) Roger Kennedy, Rob Duynhoven and Richard Wearmouth. (front) Gill Hayden pictured with the events new podium. Picture: Morgan Hancock

WARRNAMBOOL College's WAVE school student's handy work will ensure the first champions of the Warrnambool Gift stand proud on its steps.

Two students, a male and female, from the alternative education program approached the Warrnambool Gift committee to lend a hand for the fourth staging of the Victorian Athletic League event, which runs at Friendly Societies Park on Saturday.

The students and their teacher aid Darren Pearce built the podium that all the winners of the nine-event program will stand on to receive their winners medals.

"It's a great effort by them," Richard Wearmouth, the President of Warrnambool Gift Committee Incorporated, said of the builders handy work.

"The wave school was something we didn't bank on but we had to get a podium done and they have helped us out and really appreciate it."

Pearce said the WAVE school is about giving back to the community and the Gift's podium was one of many projects the students are involved in.

"When someone from the Gift approached us and said 'can you guys build this for us?' and a couple of kids put their hand up and said they would love to do it," he said.

"It wasn't a hard project for them to complete and they enjoyed making it."

Colleen Square's Photos



Like Comment Share

Options Send In Messenger

Colleen Square
November 17, 2018

Please Support...if you are in Warrnambool 19th to 23rd Nov (next week) please support my student photography class competition by popping into Hoppys Cafe , main street opposite Factorie and vote on your favorite photo. Thank you

9 Comments 5 Shares
Like Share

Royal N Tee Herekiva Awesome will do
Like · 1y

Royal N Tee Herekiva repli... · 2 Replies

Geoff Beard Looks great colleen,Wish I could have a look..good luck...
Like · 1y

Colleen Square replied · 4 Replies

Geoff Beard Thanks
Like · 1y



Roma Britnell MP · October 16, 2018 · 🌐

...

This afternoon I visited the WAVE school in Warrnambool and sat in on a few classes- a great school which has a flexible learning environment and aims to keep kids engaged in education. — at Warrnambool.

Bernadette Northeast, Margaret Riordan, Linda Morris and 20 others like this.

Archie Graham Centre

June /July

2018

WAVE School Project.

Trey, Yahni and Blake are students from the Warrnambool College WAVE School, who under the direction of their Integration Aid Darren Pearce, built this amazing planter seat which is located in the Courtyard at Archie Graham Community Centre. Many thanks for your hard work guys and we look forward to working with you on future projects. We hear a vertical planter might be next?



Students from Warrnambool's WAVE school visited nine different south-west employers as part of training to secure a job in the future



Rachael Houlihan



INSIGHTS: Students from Warrnambool's WAVE school visited nine different south-west employers as part of training to secure a job in the future.

Warrnambool's WAVE school students have received an insight into what it takes to secure a job, with a series of visits to south-west employers.

Pupils visited nine businesses over two weeks as part of a training and education program delivered in partnership with South West Local Learning and Education Network (SWLLEN).

Students gained an insight into the automotive technology and car sales, agriculture, retail, corporate business and hospitality industries at sessions at Clinton Baulch Nissan and Kia, Jean Jail, Bunnings, the Flying Horse Bar and Bistro, Shirley and John Harlock's dairy farm, Badeness Rural, Coastal Tyres, Crossfit Gym and South West Kitchens.

The business owners and managers explained to students what they wanted in employees.

Warrnambool's Trey Rodgers, 14, said he had enjoyed visiting a range of workplaces.

"My mum and dad and I have always had conversations about attitudes and what is expected in work places," he said.

"It's given me lots of information on how to talk to employers and what they are expecting. All the little things add up to the big things."

Trey said the hospitality industry had caught his eye.

"I love cooking," he said.

"I know it's a hard industry though. It's not for everyone."

Trey said one thing he had learnt was how employers respected their staff.

"They know their staff's wife and kids names and share a tight bond with them," he said.

WAVE school teacher Damian Farley said the students were learning transferable skills.

"It's real-world learning," he said.

"They are asking questions in the workplace and making connections with potential employees. We are hugely grateful to all the businesses that allowed us to come and to SWLLEN for helping open the doors."

The students will now undertake mock job interviews to practise their newfound skills.



COUNCIL 2 COMMUNITY

April 2018

A new game for the city centre

MAGAZINE OF THE WARRNAMBOOL CITY COUNCIL



WAVE School Coordinator
Damien Farley, Aston Hall,
Archie Graham Coordinator
Ken Radley, Brodie Eden-Powell

Making WAVEs in the community

The Archie Graham Community Centre is a place for people of all ages, with local teenagers doing their bit to leave a positive mark.

Students from the Warrnambool Alternative VCAL Education (WAVE) program are helping to make the centre's courtyard a nicer place to sit and spend time. Students from the school's landscaping elective are working on a bench seat complete with planter boxes to liven up the outdoor space. The 3m bench will accompany two raised garden beds on wheels which they constructed for Tasty Plate to use as a herb garden.

WAVE Coordinator Damian Farley said that it was great to be able to help improve a facility which the WAVE school also makes use of.

"Hands-on learnings are always good skills to have, but it's nice to combine that with doing something good for the community," he said.

"We do 90 minute sessions on Thursdays... the bench is probably another few weeks away from being finished."

Student Brodie Eden-Powell said that he enjoys being able to learn practical skills such as carpentry at school.

"It's better than sitting there playing a game, I'd rather be outside working with wood."

Brodie builds and sells his own planter boxes and coffee tables, which he posts on the Warrnambool Buy Sell Swap Facebook page.

WARRNAMBOOL COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

29 March 2018

Issue Five

Principal's Report



On Tuesday evening this week I had the privilege of being part of the audience at the WAVE school family reunion night – a celebration of the ‘incomplete history’ of 44 years of alternate learning education in Warrnambool. The care and attention that the WAVE students put into their collection of the history of WAVE was simply stunning, and to have pulled in all together in 5 short weeks was an incredible demonstration of persistence, resilience and mutual respect. I am so proud of everything that the WAVE school does for our Warrnambool Community and all that our WAVE students achieve.

WAVE School puts call out for past teachers and students to get in touch

Madeleine McNeil

More than 40 years after his teaching career began in Warrnambool, Chris Szaday has returned from Switzerland to lead a history project where it all started.

Mr Szaday worked at the Warrnambool Technical School annex, now the Warrnambool Alternative VCAL Education School (WAVE) and said he made the trip because he wanted to give back to the community that gave him so much.

Mr Szaday has returned to lead a group of students who are working on a project to document more than 40 years of alternative education at the school.



Celebration: WAVE School students Nikki Edwards, Monique English, Danielle McKenzie-Sturgess, Coedan Gruar and Chris Szaday who travelled from Switzerland to lead the history project. They are pictured with some of the prompts they will use when interviewing past staff and students. Picture: Morgan Hancock

The students will interview and film past students and staff about their memories and experiences which will be screened in March at an event, alongside a document and artifact display. The school's founder Les Cameron is just one of many alumni to be interviewed this week.

The school has had various names including the Warrnambool Community School and the Warrnambool Alternative School.

“I took more from the Warrnambool community or kids than I gave back then so now it’s like coming back and giving something back and closing the circle,” Mr Szaday said. “I’ve been out of Australia for 26 years so it’s nice finishing where it all started. It’s fantastic. I really love it here. The kids taught me more than I taught them.”

The group working on the project hope to highlight the benefits of attending the school, how it has helped them, its small class sizes and family-like atmosphere.

They also want to raise awareness about WAVE, a sub-campus of Warrnambool College which offers a VCAL program for 15 to 19-year-old students who need an alternative to mainstream school settings.



■ WAVE School students are reaching out to past staff and students to share their experiences for a history project

“It’s gone under different names and was hosted by different schools,” Mr Szaday said. “Unfortunately we don’t have access to (the former) Henna Street (school). We would have liked to take people back there. When you see the building, when you smell the building all the memories come back but unfortunately we can’t. We’re also after any stories from 72 Henna Street back before it was a school.”

Teacher aid Colleen Square has worked at WAVE for the past six years and has seen the change in the students who made the move from a mainstream school.

“It takes a special person to work at a place like this,” Ms Square said. “At the end of the day it’s not just a job for us, this is personal. We love our kids. The kids we work with are our number one priority, it’s always been like that.”

Nikki Edwards, 17, said she liked working with teachers one-on-one which helped her build relationships with them. “It’s a smaller school so we’re closer to our teachers and they’re a massive help.”

Nikki is enjoying the audiovisual project so far. “I love it, it’s fun. I’m massively into English.”

Monique English, 17, enjoys the smaller classes and said she was able to access more help at WAVE after falling behind in mainstream school when she was sick. “For me WAVE was a second chance to be able to finish my schooling,” Monique said.

Anyone who would like to share their story, photos or any memorabilia is asked to contact Stacey Byron on 5562 9279 or email byron.stacey.r@edumail.vic.gov.au before Friday, March 9.



Warrnambool College

October 29, 2017 · 🌐

👍 Like Page



Make sure you check out the hands on projects created by the WAVE school students.

Bayside City Plaza

Tuesday-Thursday this week only.

WAVE
RESPECT HONESTY SUCCESS



The WAVE School Pop Up Shop

WAVE is once again running its own Retail Pop Up Shop! Our students will be selling unique, handcrafted products that they have designed and manufactured themselves, including:

- Repurposed Pallet Wood Products (eg. Furniture & planters)
- Art Work
- Craft Items
- Bespoke homewares & decor
- Handmade Toys
- Screen Printed & Tie Dyed T-Shirts
- Jewelry
- Record Bowls and Clocks
- Concrete Pot Plants

Tues 31th Oct - Thurs 2nd Nov

10:00am – 4:00pm

**Shop 1
Bayside City Plaza
Fairy Street
Warrnambool**

👍 12

4 Comments 13 Shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

Wave school students to host pop-up shop

Matt Neal

STUDENTS from Warrnambool's Wave School will get a crash course in running their own business next week.

The pop-up shop at 101 Liebig Street will be the culmination of a term's worth of work for the students, co-ordinator Damian Farley said.

Students had to design and manufacture their own products, with many of them having to learn new skills to make their wares. They had to do so without the help of the internet, as the school's new home is yet to be connected by the Department of Education.



LET'S GO SHOPPING: Wave School students (from left) Ben Tate, Mitchell Zwiers and Sarah Hancocks with some of the wares they'll be selling at their pop-up shop next week. Picture: Vicky Hughson

“There was a lot of hands-on learning,” Mr Farley said.

“There were a range of design and creativity outcomes, as well as marketing, customer service and workplace-related skills. The brief was ‘can you think of a product someone will buy, and can you design it and can you manufacture it?’. It had to be a good-enough quality and able to be reproduced – they couldn’t make just one.”

Jewellery, t-shirts, clocks, candle-holders, furniture and more will be on sale from September 13-15.

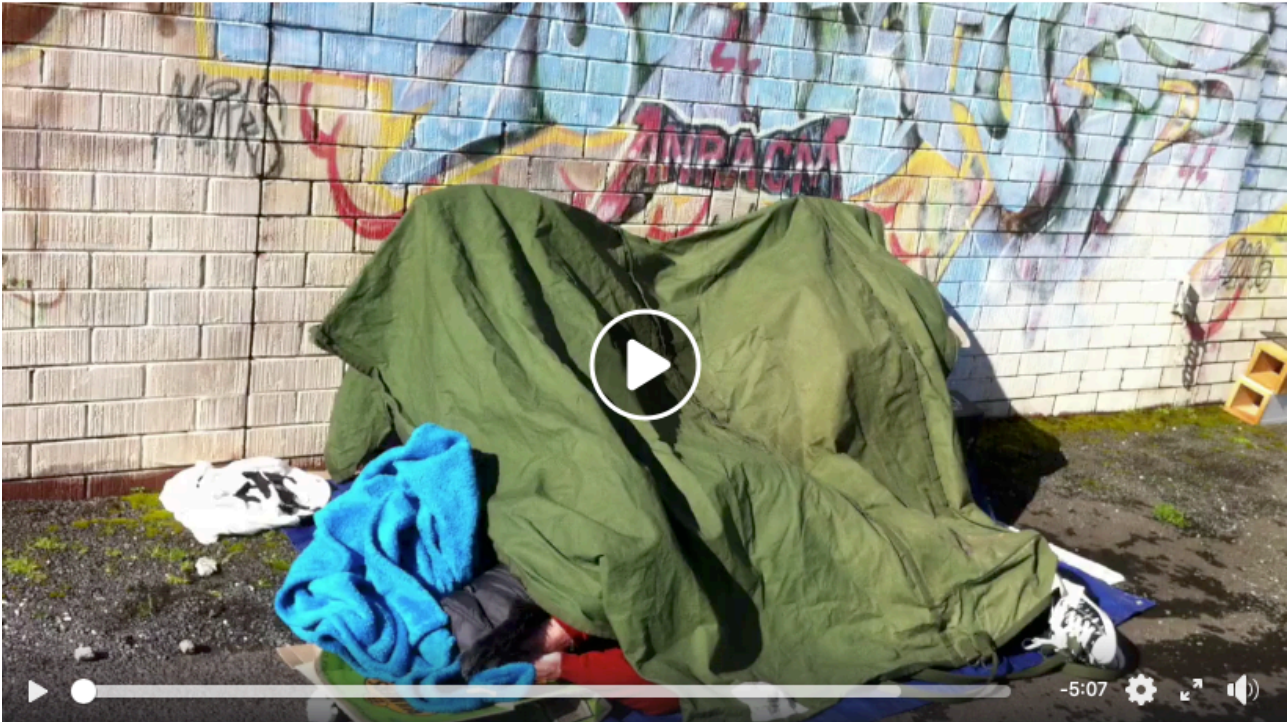
FACEBOOK
AUGUST 4 2016



ABC South West VIC · Follow

The homelessness cycle

This week is Homelessness Week and students from the Wave School in Warrnambool used this theme to take a series of photographs. We have made them into a slideshow and with an audio story. ABC Open producer Colleen Hughson interviewed some of the students about their lived experiences of homelessness. You can listen to 15 year old Jessica's story about her father's homelessness and the cycle that he has found himself in. Jessica herself is homeless too as a result of her parent's addictions. Photographers: Kree, Kalinda, Seth, Teleah, Dave , Colleen S. and Telita. [Warrnambool College](#) [Communities That Care](#) [Warrnambool Brophy Family & Youth Services](#) [Salvo Connect](#) [See Less](#)



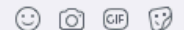
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9 · 3 Comments

Most Relevant ▾



Write a comment...



Press Enter to post.



Keith McAlley interesting conversation other night on news about homelessness not through addiction but accident and redundancy. I wish everyone saw people as homeless and not some addict.

Like · Reply · 3y



Yes, I agree with you Keith McAlley. From the people I spoke within the homelessness service industry, one of the common stories leading to homelessness are men having accidents, resulting in an inability to work, leading to an inability to pay off the mortgage/rent, leading to marriage/relationship breakdowns and this cascade of events can happen in just over a few months. This story of Jessica's here is just one story of many and does not reflect the whole picture by any means. There are many different causes and experiences leading to homelessness (Open Producer-Colleen Hughson)

Like · Reply · 3y



Colleen Square Thanks for the opportunity Colleen H .

Like · Reply · 3y · Edited



Warrnambool College Newsletter

Issue 8, June 2016

Upcoming Events

check the College Website for all updates & further information

www.wbllcoll.vic.edu.au



David Clift Principal Report

For some in our school community however, the past month has been very difficult. Emotional, social, physical and mental wellbeing has been compromised and it has made it hard for some to focus on learning in the classroom. Our WAVE school is currently going through significant changes which will ultimately present incredible opportunities for our alternate learning setting, but not before experiencing some short term uncertainty. It's been important to support each other through these times and I'd like to thank the many people who take the time to listen to student's stories and are 'just there' for each other when needed. Such care for one another is a gift and is not to be taken for granted – it's a quality that strengthens our school and makes it so great.

Basalt to Bay Landcare Network awarded \$46,930 federal grant for agricultural sustainability

Steff Wills



Launch: Member for Wannon Dan Tehan hammers the first signpost of the shelterbelt project with Basalt to Bay Landcare Network's Tim Bligh. Picture: Rob Gunstone

Lines of rare, native vegetation will become the new tracks of the former Woolsthorpe Railway siding.

The neglected native, woody grassland will host a shelterbelt showcase for south-west farmers interested in the crop-protection method.

Incumbent member for Wannon Dan Tehan attended a walk-through of the land to announce Basalt to Bay Landcare Network as winners of a \$46,930 federal grant, and to launch the project.

Farmers using shelterbelts will see the practical and cost benefits of using various species, native to Victoria.

Mr Tehan said it was encouraging to see the passion of so many involved in the project.

“These shelterbelts are a win-win,” he said.

“They’re great for the environment, great for farmers and great for the education of our youth.”

Mr Tehan hoped the project would be the start of something that would spread across the nation.

Basalt to Bay Landcare Network facilitator Lisette Mill said they were excited to get work under way.

“It’s been a long time coming,” she said. “There were a lot of applicants for this grant and after more than four years of begging we’ve got it.”

Ms Mill said while the use of shelterbelts was nothing new, this project offered a range of benefits.

“We have the opportunity to improve the native land, improve farmer awareness of costs and techniques and to build the skills of local youth,” she said.

“We haven’t had the opportunity to do something like this before.”

Students from South West Conservation and Land Management Class will work with Warrnambool Alternative VCAL Education School students to build, plant and monitor the project for the next 18 months.

“We have the chance to give young people practical skills and more employment opportunities,” Ms Mill said.

Signage will give details of the project to farmers who are interested in using alternative species of vegetation to achieve shade and shelter.

The Basalt to Bay Landcare Network partnered with Victrack, Landcare Australia, CFA, WAVE School, South West TAFE, Leadership Great South Coast and Worn Gundidj to bring the project to life.

“We are immensely grateful to everyone involved in the project,” Ms Mill said.

Warrnambool's Rotary East Club lends its support to youth in the form of \$20,000

Rebecca Riddle

The Rotary Club of East Warrnambool took some of the pressure off local youth groups this week by distributing the \$20,000 efforts of their annual fundraising.

The contributions, which were up \$4,000 from last year, were distributed between The Clontarf Academy, South West LLEN, Standing Tall, the Wave School, Great South Coast Science Challenge and the East Warrnambool Neighbourhood House.



Beneficiaries: (back L-R) Mick Riddle from Clontarf Academy, Rotary Youth Vocational Director Mike Bellamy, Gerry Quinn from Deakin University, Denise Len from South West Local Learning and Employment Network (SWLLEN), (front L-R) Mike Toone from Standing Tall, Sharon Umbers from Warrnambool Neighbourhood Community Centre, and Damian Farley from the WAVE School. Picture: Amy Paton

The funds raised were an accumulation of the many projects they undertook throughout the 2015/16 year.

Rotarian Michael Bellamy said he hoped the donations will continue to benefit such worthy causes.

“We have chosen organisations we believe are doing great things in the community and deserve extra funding,” he said.

Funding for shelter



Lisette Mill

STAKEHOLDERS have joined to gain funding for a local environmental project. Basalt to Bay Landcare Network facilitator Lisette Mill is driving the project, which will focus on helping landholders to learn how to build better shade and shelter using local native species. The Landcare network is partnering with Victrack, Landcare Australia, CFA, WAVE School, South West TAFE, Leadership Great South Coast, Worn Gundidj, and landholders to deliver the project.

Youthlaw visit Warrnambool to explain legal implications of cyber bullying and sexting.

Madeleine McNeil

Online behaviour can have serious consequences in the real world.

This was one of the messages presented to parents and young people at online safety sessions in Warrnambool this week.



Melbourne Youthlaw outreach lawyer Jo Ellis spoke about the legal implications of cyber bullying, sexting and consent in the sessions, presented in conjunction with Warrnambool headspace.

Ms Ellis said today's teens, and their parents, were the first generation to tackle social media issues growing up and the challenges it presented.

"Sending messages or taking, keeping or sharing sexual images on your phone or online can be illegal. It can still be illegal even if the people in the pictures agree," Ms Ellis said.

"If those messages involve child pornography or cyber bullying, there can be serious legal consequences."

She said it was important young people, and the adults supporting them, were well informed about the law and their rights so they could make good decisions.

"It might seem harmless to send photos of yourself to someone, or funny to share embarrassing pictures of your friends, but when these images find their way online they can be really difficult to remove," Ms Ellis said.

“Not only can this be very distressing, and increase the risk of mental health problems like depression or anxiety, it can harm your job prospects and reputation into the future.”

She said a common occurrence was when a young person shared a private picture of themselves with a boyfriend or girlfriend, which was shared with others or online.

Another example was when a young person is bullied relentlessly or sent threatening messages online, often by other students at school.

“Not only are these types of behaviours extremely harmful for the victim, they can also be illegal,” Ms Ellis said.

“Ultimately the police have discretion over whether to lay charges, but if a person is found guilty of offences relating to circulating a private image or stalking, for example, they can get a criminal record and if the offence relates to images of a child, they may be put on the sex offenders register.

“These things can impact your ability to get a job, get a working with children check and travel overseas,” she warned.

Emmanuel College teacher Susannah Gleeson said it was fantastic that the session was available to regional students.

“Having a solicitor explain to the students the future implications of sending what they may deem a harmless text, was invaluable,” Ms Gleeson said.

She said the students were engaged because they could relate to the social media scenarios.

“I think they appreciated being told the boundaries and consequences of their possible actions when using social media.”

WAVE School teacher Tim Kelly said the students found the session informative, particularly the laws around sexting and cyber bullying, that they were unaware of.

“In the past we had problems with Facebook fights and inappropriate texting and this was seen as an excellent opportunity to know exactly where students stand within the law,” Mr Kelly said.

Ms Ellis said while parents and carers could feel they lacked the knowledge or experience to support their children, she said the Warrnambool community was proactive.

She said local schools, organisations such as Brophy, headspace and the police were working to educate families and Youthlaw was pleased to be involved.

It was important for young people and parents to know that the law was there to protect young people online and support was available, she said.

While it was tough for young people to deal with the consequences of cyber bullying or sexting, she encouraged young people to speak to an adult they trusted.

“The workers at headspace Warrnambool and eheadspace have a lot of experience in these areas and can support young people to access the right help,” Ms Ellis said.

“Young people can also contact lawyers directly for help. You can access free and confidential legal advice from Youthlaw (by phone on 9611 2412, via skype from headspace Warrnambool or by email to:legal@youthlaw.asn.au) or Victoria Legal Aid on 1300 792 387 or the office at 185 Fairy Street, Warrnambool).

“In serious cases, or when you feel unsafe, you should report your concerns to the police,” Ms Ellis said.

Parents to learn about the legal implications of cyber bullying and sexting

Madeleine McNeil



The legal implications of cyber bullying and sexting will be explained to parents in Warrnambool on Tuesday.

The legal implications of cyber bullying and sexting will be explained to parents in Warrnambool on Tuesday.

Parents concerned about their childrens online safety can learn more at a free information session in Warrnambool on Tuesday.

Youthlaw outreach lawyer Jo Ellis will discuss the legal implications around issues such as cyber bullying and sexting.

Headspace Warrnambool community awareness and engagement co-ordinator Karen Walsh said the session would include information parents needed to be aware of.

Ms Walsh said Ms Ellis would explain the laws, how they applied to young people and how to access legal help.

Ms Ellis will also conduct mid-week student workshops at Emmanuel College and the WAVE School.

The parent session will be held at the Brophy Community and Youth Complex, Timor St at 7.30pm.

To register or for more information contact Karen on 5561 8888.

Warrnambool College Newsletter

Issue 3, March 2016



David Clift

Principal Report

WAVE Site

We have been in negotiations with DET (Department of Education and Training) regarding the relocation of our WAVE (Warrnambool Alternative VCAL Education) Campus to a new learning environment.

At present WAVE are staying at the 72 Henna St premises for at least first term. We are actively working on relocation options which we hope will be in the short term future.

In the meantime please refer any WAVE related queries to the usual WAVE contacts – ph: 5562 9279, address 72 Henna St.

wave school warrambool
in Communities That Care Forum



Brophy Family & Youth Services
· February 22, 2016 · 🌐 · 📍

Roy Reekie, Tim and Damian from WAVE School Warrambool — at Lighthouse Theatre.

👍 1

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Warrnambool workshop tackles trauma in region's youth

Kate Zwagerman

Students with physical, emotional and mental health problems are an increasing concern in south-west schools.

A workshop in Warrnambool next week is aiming to tackle the issues and help schools better deal with students suffering from untreated trauma.

The free event is organised through the Regional Engagement Expansion Project, an initiative of South West Local Learning and Employment Network, and the Department of Education, which is using the Hands On Learning program to better engage students. South West Local Learning and Employment Network chief executive Toni Jenkins said more children were showing signs of trauma.

“That means they’re not ready to learn, which impacts on all students,” she said. “Schools have always had children who misbehave but report they haven’t previously seen so many students suffering from the physical, emotional or mental health problems like they are now.”

Warrnambool WAVE School co-ordinator Damian Farley agreed incidents of serious trauma were growing.

“I’ve been teaching for more than a decade and I’ve noticed real growth in the past five years with the number of families experiencing disruption and conflict with housing, employment and ability to get kids to school,” he said



Toni Jenkins

THE STANDARD ONLINE – PHOTOS OF THE WEEK
MAY 29 2015



Maddie Porter, 15, works on an art piece, as Kyia Brooks, 16, displays some of her finished work for the WAVE School Open Night. Picture: Rob Gunstone

Creative approach to crime and its impact at WAVE School expo

Madeleine McNeil



Lachie Peach, 16, relaxes in the skull chair he designed and constructed for the WAVE School open night. Picture: ROB GUNSTONE

CRIME doesn't pay — but creative people do. That's the lesson WAVE School students have put into practise this term with various hands-on works showcasing their take on crime prevention.

The creative exhibition, to be held tomorrow night, features an eclectic mix of woodwork, art, research projects, cooking, audio projects and photography which will be displayed.

Some items will be for sale as part of the small business project at the Henna Street school.

There will also be market stalls featuring handmade items, crafts, food and a martial arts display.

WAVE School co-ordinator Damian Farley said some of the students' work had a clear crime prevention message, focusing on specific crimes and their impacts, while others highlighted alternatives to crime.

He said the 30 students, aged from 15-19, had shown a rare side of themselves and enjoyed being creative, while driving home an important message.

Highlights of the program include working with audio producer Colleen Hughson, sharing their experiences and opinions on crime, and the chance for aspiring musicians to record and edit their vocals and rapping with sound engineer Sid Sprague.

Listening stations will be available on the open night to hear their stories on topics including cyber bullying and domestic violence.

A Department of Justice Community Crime Prevention Initiative grant helped fund the creative arts project at the alternative education school.

"This is a cohort of kids who have probably seen more and experienced more than the average kid, therefore have more to say on a topic like crime prevention.

"Whether it's their experiences of crime, or their opinions on crime in the community, these are the kids that know. They're putting themselves out there in some of their work," Mr Farley said.

Maddie Porter, 15, said painting provided her with another focus.

"When I'm angry I like to paint so I don't get into trouble, because I've been in heaps of trouble in the past. Painting has helped me heaps."

Lachie Peach, 16, designed and constructed a skull chair which he said reflected his personality. "It's unusual for me to be creative so for me to be creative in something like this I was stunned."

Lachie encouraged the public to come along and view the students' work on tomorrow evening.

"I think people would really enjoy it. It's lovely, the students and teachers are really nice," he said.

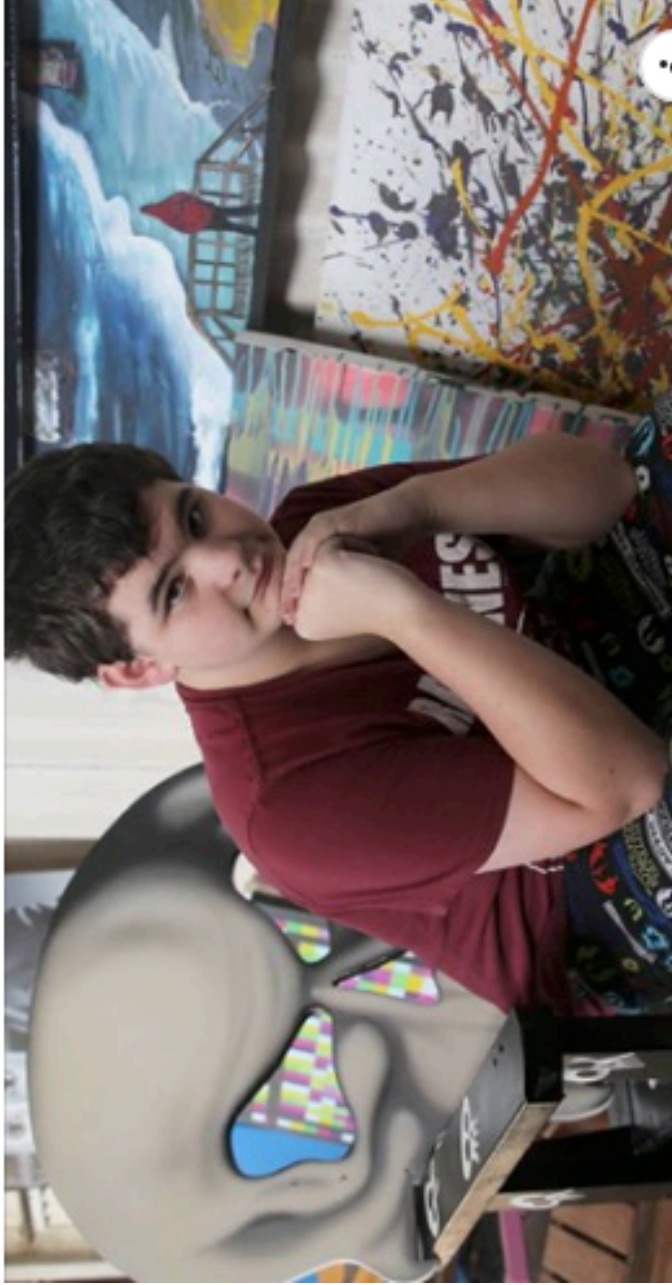
The open night runs from 5.30pm to 7.30pm.



Warrnambool College via Warrnambool Standard

May 27, 2015 · 🌐

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STANDARD.NET.AU

Creative approach to crime and its impact at WAVE School expo

👍 15

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Warrnambool forum seeks to address social, health problems of youth

Jono Pech

Problem behaviour among youth will be tackled with a new program researching the health and social issues facing young people in the south-west.



Guest speaker Dr Bosco Rowland addresses the Communities That Care Warrnambool public forum at the Lighthouse Theatre. Picture: Aaron Sawall

Communities That Care Warrnambool held a public forum on Wednesday to gauge the problems affecting Warrnambool's youth.

So far 12 local schools and the VCAL programs at South West TAFE and the Wave School have also agreed to participate in a youth survey to identify the local unique profile of risk and protective factors.

Communities That Care co-ordinator Cameron Price said the program aimed to promote the development of children and teenagers by preventing health and social problems, such as violence, alcohol and substance abuse and dropping out of school.

“Communities That Care works to prevent health and social problems by reinforcing the protective factors that increase the likelihood of positive development and decreasing the risk factors that can lead to adverse outcomes for children and young people,” Mr Price said.

“Evidence from the 500 communities around the world where it has been successfully implemented indicates that young people and the communities in which they live have benefited significantly.

“By learning about and supporting Communities That Care, you can be part of that change for Warrnambool.”

The survey and forum results will be used to help select programs to target areas of need.

FINDING THE RIGHT PATH

Kayleearne Clyde has found her right education niche at the Warrnambool WAVE School and is further spreading her wings with regular work at South West LLEN.

"WAVE is amazing. I definitely learn more in that environment," Kayleearne said.

Her enrolment at the WAVE School over the past few years has also helped her to find regular work at South West LLEN and has opened up other training options.

Each Tuesday Kayleearne does reception, filing and other support work at the LLEN's Warrnambool office.

The job came about quite by accident.

"I was called and told I could have a job interview in five minutes so it was all a bit rushed but I did okay," Kayleearne said. "I had a three week trial and passed that so now I'm here every Tuesday.

"I've learnt lots of new things since I've been here and it's an awesome place to work. Everyone is very supportive," she added.

Kayleearne recently completed a week of work experience at the Florence Collins Childcare Centre in Warrnambool and hopes to pursue a career in the childcare field.

"That experience has been really good and I enjoy working with kids," she said.



PATCH IT UP

SCHOOLS IN THE SOUTH-WEST ARE BEING ENCOURAGED TO LINK INTO A NEW PILOT PROGRAM THAT CONNECTS PRACTITIONERS FROM DIFFERENT AGENCIES WORKING WITH COMMON CLIENTS.

Patchwork is an innovative web application developed in the UK by FutureGov and the pilot is happening in the Warrnambool region through the Municipal Association of Victoria.

The information sharing network is being trialled in a number of local government areas.

South West LLEN is encouraging local schools to become part of the pilot and support the partnership. At this stage the WAVE School has signed up but it is hoped others will follow suit.

Senior partnership broker Marcus McCormick said Patchwork creates an online network of service providers working with a person. "It will help schools to understand what organisations students are dealing with in the community and they will be able to help them accordingly," Marcus said.

"If students are engaged with other support services in the community, schools could benefit from having access to an easier way of identifying and contacting these services," he said.

The idea behind Patchwork is that professionals are able to provide better services to a client when they know and can communicate with the whole team working with that client. This has the added benefit that each person working with a client can be on the look-out on behalf of other agencies, and share their concerns in a quick and simple way.

UK councils have found that Patchwork can improve collaboration. It has the aim of transforming the way governments interact with vulnerable families through improved collaboration.

The project involves staff working in the areas of maternal and child health, and youth services, but Patchwork is potentially applicable to all human services areas in which partners are involved.

The ultimate aim is for Patchwork to be available to all 79 councils, creating links with a wide range of public sector services, community agencies, and relevant private health practitioners across Victoria.

The trial is underway in the Warrnambool and Glenelg areas until December.

A little work experience goes a long way for Tiana

Matt Neal

WAVE School students are getting a taste of work thanks to a new program at the school.



Tiana Kladaric, 16, is the first WAVE School student to start an industry mentoring program at Warnambool store Ishka.

The school's co-ordinator Damian Farley said the industry mentoring program was like a work experience program, but more specifically tailored to the students.

"There are existing programs and opportunities that aim to prepare young people for work, but they are often too brief to provide ongoing learning for the student, or to allow a business to invest enough time in a student to do more than basic odd-jobs," Mr Farley said.

WAVE School tries to engage young people who have become severely disengaged from mainstream education by helping them achieve Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning certificates.

“For many (of our students) they are at an age where they are outgrowing the mainstream school environment, but they’re not yet ready for full-time employment,” Mr Farley said.

“Industry mentoring bridges this gap.”

The program kicked off yesterday, with WAVE School student Tiana Kladaric, 16, beginning her first day of mentoring at Ishka in Warrnambool, under the guidance of store manager Sahra Beckham.

“I think it’s really important to give young people a chance to step out ... and have a go,” Ms Beckham said.

“And I’m grateful for the opportunity it gives me to put back into the community.”

Students will undertake weekly work experience sessions over a period of months in what is hoped to be “a more supported, ongoing experience” than traditional work experience, which typically happens in a couple of week-long slabs, Mr Farley said.

“The aim of the program is to provide young people with a better introduction to, and immersion in, the world of work and specific industries they are interested in. All schools have work experience programs that provide students a snapshot of the world of work. However, these tend to be only a couple of weeks which restricts how much a student can learn and how valuable they can become to a business.

“The industry mentoring program provides a more supported, ongoing experience.”

Heads down, bums up for Brophy bikers

Everard Himmelreich

A TEAM of 10 cyclists from Brophy Family & Youth Services is among the new teams to take on next month's Murray to Moyne (M2M) long-distance cycle relay.



Let's roll: Brophy CEO Francis Broekman (left), IT co-ordinator Axel Goddyn, headspace regional manager Anne Waters and headspace awareness and engagement co-ordinator Karen Walsh.

The team is raising funds for a new headspace Warrnambool project that will provide an innovative physical activity program for disadvantaged young people.

The program will include canoeing, peer mentoring, environmental learning and skills for maintaining good mental health.

Headspace spokeswoman Karen Walsh said the team had been in training since February for the April 5-6 ride.

Team members will ride the daytime route in relay from Echuca to Port Fairy.

The team includes two experienced M2M riders, Mark Powell and Brophy chief executive Francis Broekman, who will mentor and motivate the team.

Ms Walsh said Brophy had decided to take part in the M2M to highlight the importance of physical activity in maintaining good mental health and to raise funds for the mental health project that it hopes to run in partnership with Warrnambool's WAVE school later this year.

"Every team member has been training hard and working on sponsorships to make sure we raise as much money as possible," she said.

The team will hold a fund-raising event at the Capitol Cinema at 7pm on Thursday, March 27 with the screening of the film Tracks.

The M2M is an annual charity cycling relay run since 1987 to raise funds for community health-related organisations in Victoria and South Australia.

Teams of cyclists are sponsored to ride 520km from a choice of three departure points on the Murray River to Port Fairy within a 24-hour period.

The event also incorporates lesser distances to include cyclists of all ages and abilities.

M2M co-ordinator Maggie Leutton said about 1100 riders from 72 teams were so far registered to take part in the 2014 event, with more teams expected to register in the next few weeks.

Ms Leutton said teams comprised up to 40 members this year after the event relaxed a restriction on the size of teams.

M2M continues the dream of Port Fairy cyclist Graham 'Woody' Woodrup, who was keen to show more people the health and social benefits of cycling.

Tragically, Woody's life ended while on a training ride in February 1992 but his vision lives on in the relay.

"Woody was one of the early adopters — one of the first people to understand the benefits of cycling," Ms Leutton said.

"This event came about because of his efforts and it's fabulous to see members of his family still involved today," she said.

n Tickets to the Tracks night are \$17 including light supper, available at Kulcha Shift Retail, 210 Timor Street, or at the Capitol Cinema.

Enticing teens back to the education system

Sean McComish

NEARLY 700 teenagers are at risk of homelessness, unemployment and crime across the south-west.

The figures released by Skills Victoria also reveal up to 350 youths in Warrnambool alone are not enrolled in school or employed.

Warrnambool's WAVE school, which aims to get them back on track to school or training, is leading a campaign to find out what is behind the problem. Less than 50 young people are enrolled at WAVE.

Co-ordinator Damian Farley said a generation of unskilled young people were facing an uphill battle to find work.

"There's a whole lot of kids out there who don't go to school at all, they don't go to TAFE and they're not coming to a place like this," Mr Farley said.

Starting this week WAVE will use a simple idea — placing a blackboard at key sites around the city asking a simple question: "What would it take for you to go back to school?"

"They may be distrustful or just over school — but this is a non-confrontational way of engaging with them," Mr Farley explained.

Silly comments or crude remarks will inevitably be chalked but there are hopes honest insights could give the school a starting point.

"It recognises that there is a whole cohort of young people who aren't sitting in school and that something needs to be done. We're looking at a group who are resisting connecting or are simply being missed," Mr Farley said.

Project officer Jen Whitwell said poverty was a problem but there were still missing pieces to the problem.

"It's obviously not working," she said.

The blackboard will be used over the summer with hopes it might encourage people to enrol into a new school year.

"We've had to take into consideration who can read and who can write," Ms Whitwell said.



WAVE School teacher Tim Kelly (left) and co-ordinator Damian Farley are trying to find out how to get at-risk teenagers back into education or employment.

WAVE: a different way of learning

Madeline McNeil

THERE is a little-known secondary school in Warrnambool teaching important lessons to teenagers and equipping them for life.

The WAVE School wants to raise awareness within the wider community about the role it plays in providing alternative education to 15 to 19 year olds.

A recent Values Day explored what the WAVE School is and should be, what it is to be a WAVE student and focused on the school's values of honesty, success and respect.

Lead teacher Damian Farley said discussing the WAVE's values promoted students' ownership of the school.

WAVE project officer Jen Whitwell said it was a "school of choice" and "an alternative pathway to academic achievement".

In the day's activities the students spoke about their emotional issues, the life experiences they had in common and also their personal strengths.

"We thought in order to promote the school we needed the students' input. We wanted to find out from them what the school meant to them, so this was a way of finding out what they thought their strengths were, what the school looked like to them and how they felt about themselves," Mr Farley said.

Mrs Whitwell said the students used a suitcase to talk about their past experiences and what "baggage" they brought to school, then a tool kit to discuss their strengths and assets.

"Everybody has baggage and it affects everybody differently. It crops up when you're not expecting; what sort of baggage is typical that people bring to the school, what do you have in common? Then we have the toolbox — what strengths do you have to help you deal with the baggage and the choices that you're making," Mrs Whitwell said.

Taylah Fitzgerald, 16, has attended WAVE for a year. "To me it's for people who don't fit into normal school. Here it makes you feel more comfortable and part of the group," she said.

Keynen Knight, 17, agreed: "We're all at the same level and on the same page as all the other students, with everything, personality as well. We all know where we're coming from. We're all mates here."

The WAVE School is a small campus of Warrnambool College.



Wave School students Keynen Knight and Tayla Fitzgerald say their school is a vital option for those who do not fit into the mainstream education system.

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

Thursday, 21 June 2012
(Extract from book 11)

Internet: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/download/hansard

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ADJOURNMENT COUNCIL

Thursday, 21 June 2012

Warrnambool Alternative YCAL Education School: future

Ms TIERNEY (Western Victoria) — My adjournment matter this evening is for the Minister for Education, and it is in relation to the Warrnambool Alternative YCAL Education School, or WAVE. The WAVE program was established in 2010 as a satellite school to Warrnambool College. Prior to that it was auspiced by Brauer Secondary College, Mordialtie College and Hawkesdale P-12 College as a community school. The school was established to re-engage students who were finding it difficult to engage in mainstream education in the region.

Currently there are 32 students aged between 14 and 19 enrolled at the school. Students include young musins, indigenous youth and intellectually impaired students, as well as students with mental illnesses. Organisations involved in the school include Brophy Family and Youth Services, Worn Gundijf, the Western Region Alcohol and Drug Centre, and Western District Employment Access, as well as local police helping out with counselling and other programs.

There have been a number of positive outcomes achieved at the school. We have seen an improved completion rate, employment transfers and entry into trainee and apprenticeship programs. We are seeing an improvement in attendance and in the culture at the school, however, it is clear the students do not see mainstream education as an option. WAVE provides an option for those in the community who are doing it really tough, and it provides them with friendships and mentoring when they are going through difficult times.

Whilst there are some positive outcomes being achieved at WAVE, there are some issues that require the attention of the minister. The site is in desperate need of repairs, as it currently fails many standards and does not meet level 9 of the building code, which is a requirement for accredited Victorian certificate of applied learning programs. Earlier in the year it was reported in the Warrnambool *Standard* that the school was warned that it could be shut down because the buildings were unfit for use. As I understand it, Warrnambool College has made presentations to a number of Liberal members of Parliament, both state and federal. As yet it has not received a response or any information as a result of those meetings or visits to the school.

Reports of the school closing and the current state of the buildings are detrimental to its students, who are already facing significant challenges, so tonight I urge the minister to provide the necessary funding to bring

this important facility up to a standard alongside our mainstream schools as a matter of urgency.

Alpine Health: aged-care beds

Ms MIKAKOS (Northern Metropolitan) — My matter this evening is for the Minister for Health. I wish to express my concern at the lack of action taken to proceed with the much-needed high-level aged-care beds in Bright for Alpine Health. In 2010 the Brumby government provided \$150 000 to Alpine Health to develop its \$40 million plan to build a two-storey hospital in Bright that will include much-needed specialist aged-care beds.

In fact the member for Benalla in the other place crowed at the time about his lobbying prowess when \$150 000 was allocated by the Brumby government for the development of the Bright Hospital master plan. Dr Sykes mentioned in his media release of 30 September 2010 how he had met with then health minister Daniel Andrews, so clearly Daniel Andrews acted decisively in delivering the funding at that time.

The master plan has since been finalised, however, since the Baillieu government has come to office no further funding has been allocated, preventing the plan from progressing any further. In an article in the *Border Mail* dated 27 April and headed 'Hospital funds sidelined again', Mr Bruce McDonald, chair of the Bright Hospital Redevelopment Committee, was reported as saying that the current hospital in Bright: ... was outdated and the aged-care centre unable to cope with high-needs patients.

He says there are repetitive examples of elderly couples having to travel as far as Wangaratta to find a suitable aged-care bed and others having to move town as they plan for old age.

The Bright Hospital Redevelopment Committee is seeking \$200 000 to conduct a feasibility study for the next step of the plan. However, this year's budget overlooked the funding required, and the coalition government has ignored the needs of the people of Bright.

I call on the minister to advise when the Bright community can expect to receive funding for the feasibility study into this much-needed hospital and these high-level aged-care beds.

Responses

Hon. M. J. GUY (Minister for Planning) — I have a number of matters to deal with. Firstly, there are three written responses. The first is for Mrs Petulich, dated

WARRNAMBOOL ALTERNATIVE VCAL EDUCATION SCHOOL: FUTURE

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My adjournment matter this evening is for the Minister for Education, and it is in relation to the Warrnambool Alternative VCAL Education School, or WAVE. The WAVE program was established in 2010 as a satellite school to Warrnambool College. Prior to that it was auspiced by Brauer Secondary College, Mortlake College and Hawkesdale P-12 College as a community school. The school was established to re-engage students who were finding it difficult to engage in mainstream education in the region.

Currently there are 32 students aged between 14 and 19 enrolled at the school. Students include young mums, indigenous youth and intellectually impaired students, as well as students with mental illnesses. Organisations involved in the school include Brophy Family and Youth Services, Worn Gundidj, the Western Region Alcohol and Drug Centre, and Western District Employment Access, as well as local police helping out with counselling and other programs.

There have been a number of positive outcomes achieved at the school. We have seen an improved completion rate, employment transfers and entry into trainee and apprenticeship programs. We are seeing an improvement in attendance and in the culture at the school; however, it is clear the students do not see mainstream education as an option. WAVE provides an option for those in the community who are doing it really tough, and it provides them with friendships and mentoring when they are going through difficult times.

Whilst there are some positive outcomes being achieved at WAVE, there are some issues that require the attention of the minister.

The site is in desperate need of repairs, as it currently fails many standards and does not meet level 9 of the building code, which is a requirement for accredited Victorian certificate of applied learning programs. Earlier in the year it was reported in the Warrnambool Standard that the school was warned that it could be shut down because the buildings were unfit for use. As I understand it, Warrnambool College has made presentations to a number of Liberal members of Parliament, both state and federal. As yet it has not received a response or any information as a result of those meetings or visits to the school.

Reports of the school closing and the current state of the buildings are detrimental to its students, who are already facing significant challenges, so tonight I urge the minister to provide the necessary funding to bring this important facility up to a standard alongside our mainstream schools as a matter of urgency.

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Waves of support for school's future

Peter Collins

It's classtime as usual for Warrnambool's alternative education WAVE school despite being warned earlier in the year it could be shut down because the building was unfit for use.

Three politicians have taken the issue on board and a local Rotary club is organising to fix windows and stairs at the Henna Street venue which had previous lives as a quarry and YMCA centre.

More than two months after revelation of three audits which found the 51-year-old building below education department standards, a time limit is yet to be announced for the necessary repairs.

"We are hopeful of government support," said Mary Pendergast, principal of Warrnambool College which operates the school.

"There has been a lot of moral support from the community.

"We aim to hold a public meeting after we know the outcome of our requests to the politicians."

A presentation was made to Education Minister Martin Dixon, South West Coast MP and multi-portfolio minister Denis Napthine mentioned the plight in a cabinet meeting and federal Wannon MP Dan Tehan visited to meet students.

Warrnambool City Council will assist with an engineer to compile a list of repair jobs.

The school offers a supporting education environment for students aged 15-19 to complete a Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) qualification.

Students serve up rescue plan



Member for Wannon Dan Tehan bites into a pizza cooked up by WAVE school students (l-r) Luke Goodwin, Nicky Warren and Caitie Wilks during talks about how to save the school. Picture: Leanne Pickett

STUDENTS at Warrnambool's WAVE school cooked pizzas and served them with a menu of personal anecdotes when Wannon MP Dan Tehan checked out their classrooms at risk of being condemned.

He heard how their lives had been turned around through the alternative Victorian Certificate of Advanced Learning school.

Recent audits have found the 51-year-old building, which once served as a YMCA venue, is unsuitable as an education venue.

Preliminary estimates have put the figure for repair or replacement at \$500,000.

A public campaign has been launched to help find the money and put pressure on state and federal governments.

This week's visit by Mr Tehan was arranged by WAVE student Monique Shalders who is organising a community petition which is expected to be circulated later this week. She hopes to gather more than 1000 signatures to present to State Parliament.

Mr Tehan said he was impressed by the students who had previously been disengaged from mainstream education and were now looking to gain employment or further qualifications.

"This learning space is quite unique," he said.

"The first step is to get a quote for what needs to be done. I said I would then write to the Minister for Education and Minister for Indigenous Affairs to seek if they could help in restoring the facility."

Mr Tehan also met the principal and vice-principal of Warrnambool College and the WAVE school manager during his visit.

School's SOS sparks forum

Peter Collins



South West LLEN CEO Toni Jenkins (right) with Warrnambool College principal Mary Pendergast and WAVE School manager James Matthews at the WAVE School.

A FORUM will be held to look at ways of saving a school for disengaged students after safety audits found the building needs urgent repairs estimated at \$500,000.

Community support has been rising since The Standard highlighted the plight last Saturday for the Warrnambool Alternative VCAL Education (WAVE) School.

Its 32 students from across the district, who had previously dropped out of mainstream education, face an uncertain future unless funds can be found for renovations or an alternative venue.

South West Local Learning and Employment Network executive office Toni Jenkins said yesterday there was increasing awareness in the wider community on the benefits of continuing the facility.

“People have been stopping me in the street asking what they could do to help,” she said.

“There will be a public forum in the near future to look at how to move forward.

“I believe it’s time Warrnambool addressed the issue of re-engaging people who have fallen through cracks in mainstream education.

“There’s still a perception that the WAVE school is for kids who are bad or not very bright.

“But that’s not the case.

“These are kids who for many reasons don’t succeed in the normal system and we are trying to reach them with a facility where they can achieve.

“Sometimes there only needs to be a single barrier, even in primary school, which turns them off and stops them achieving their potential.

“If kids don’t have the building blocks to reading before kindergarten they’ll struggle.”

WAVE School student launches rescue campaign

Jono Pech



Monique Shalders has enlisted the help of Warrnambool City councillor Michael Neoh in her campaign to keep open the Wave School in Henna Street.

TEENAGE student Monique Shalders is taking charge to save the school that once saved her.

The 15-year-old last week started a petition and has written to Warrnambool City councillors and local MPs, seeking help to save the Warrnambool Alternative VCAL Education (WAVE) School from closure.

After learning the Henna Street venue was at risk of being shut down without \$500,000 for repairs, she told community leaders of her past learning difficulties and how the school had helped her overcome a disinterest in education.

Monique said a traditional high school environment was not for her.

"I didn't fit in and didn't adjust at all after a year-and-a-half," she said.

"I didn't want to learn. Mum couldn't get me up for school and I started to rebel."

Too young for TAFE, Monique started at the WAVE School and found it the perfect fit . She is now a qualified professional wax therapist and make-up artist, has completed year 11 VCAL and is continuing with VCE studies at the school to expand her knowledge of the beauty industry.

"It was a lot better than any mainstream school could have been for me," Monique said.

"I was very disappointed to learn it was facing closure because I would like others in my position to have the same opportunities the school gave me.

"It's more one-on-one learning, so you have more support."

Warrnambool City councillor Michael Neoh said WAVE provided those not suited to traditional schools another chance to prepare for the workforce.

"The outcomes they've achieved here with facilities that aren't that modern show they could do miracles with some more resources," Cr Neoh said.

"It's my hope that funding can be found to renovate or move to a suitable facility."

He said he expected the council to back Monique's efforts in seeking state and federal funding.

Member for South Coast Denis Naphine is awaiting response from Education Minister Martin Dixon and said he was determined to keep the program running.

"There's a few options that need to be explored but what is clear is the wave school does a terrific job in engaging young people who would otherwise not be attending school and be disadvantaged for the rest of their lives as a result," he said.

"A high percentage of people in the school are young mothers, people from indigenous backgrounds and people who just don't fit into a normal school environment.

"Having the WAVE School as an alternate setting is really invaluable in providing educational opportunities and life skills to develop to those young people.

School in jeopardy: \$500,000 appeal to rescue building

Peter Collins



WAVES School manager James Matthews (left), Warrnambool College principal Mary Pendergast and South West Local Learning and Employment Network CEO Toni Jenkins inspect the roof which is in need of repairs.

AN alternative Warrnambool school that rescues disengaged young people is at risk of being shutdown after three audits found serious faults in the building.

It will cost an estimated \$500,000 to rejuvenate the venue which is set in the 51-year-old former YMCA centre on the corner of Henna and Lava streets near the CBD.

If alternative facilities cannot be found soon there are fears the 32 students at the Warrnambool Alternative VCAL Education (WAVE) School will be forced out on to the streets and lose their chance to achieve improved education standards.

Community and business leaders are being urged to step in and try to raise sufficient funds to keep the service running in the hope more government support will follow.

It is understood one of the auditing agencies could recommend it be condemned.

The Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority has told Warrnambool College, which operates the school, there are serious occupational health and safety issues which would prevent the building from being re-accredited as an education venue. It needs a new roof and windows, stairway replacement, electrical re-wiring and several other upgrades including the toilet section.

The Education Department yesterday confirmed it was reviewing a number of schools, including the WAVE campus.

“The Department is working in consultation with the WAVE campus to ensure the program will continue to be delivered to local students in appropriate facilities,” a spokesman said.

Warrnambool College principal Mary Pendergast told The Standard yesterday the audit reports had arrived only in the past few weeks and threw the whole program into jeopardy.

“This took a long time to build, but could be ruined in a day,” she said.

“This program is vital in improving the social health of Warrnambool by providing opportunities for children who drop out of the normal education system.

“It gives them a future and a chance for a career.”

The building operated for many years as a YMCA centre and roller hockey rink before becoming a community school annexe operated by Brauer College for several years before being disbanded.

Eight years ago it was reopened by the South West Local Learning and Employment Network.

Network executive officer Toni Jenkins said there had been many success stories where students turned their lives around through the program and found employment.

“We are appealing for help from the Warrnambool community to either raise sufficient money for the repairs or find another suitable place,” she said. “We know the building is not a palace, but it’s in a great location.”

Anyone keen to help save the school can contact Ms Jenkins on 5561 0047.

30 March 2012

Warrnambool school faces \$500K repair bill

A school providing Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning courses in Warrnambool is struggling to survive.

The Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority has deemed the building used by the WAVE school, in Henna Street, is unfit for use and courses done there will not be recognised.

The executive officer of the South West Local Learning and Employment Network, Toni Jenkins, says \$500,000 is needed for repairs.

She says the school is helping disengaged young people complete their education.

"Too many of them they've never been engaged in education and their life has been one of disadvantage and for whatever reasons they've never really been able to be in a stable enough environment to connect well with education," she said.

"It's a fairly old building that's been used for many different purposes over the years.

"It was originally the YMCA and over the years it hasn't had any maintenance or money put into it and it now is not compliant."

Teenage Pregnancy

Mainstream schools often cannot provide a comfortable environment for pregnant teenagers and young mothers according to a Warrnambool alternative education leader.

Head of the Warrnambool Alternative VCAL Education School (WAVE) James Matthews said mainstream schools generally did not cope well with teenage pregnancy.

"[In my experience] many schools are relieved when a young girl falls pregnant and drops out of school," Mr Matthews said.

Although many schools try to engage kid as long as possible in education during pregnancy, they are "ill prepared" once the baby is born.

The lack of child care and special rooms for breast feeding and changing nappies made it difficult for young mothers to stay at school, Mr Matthews said.

At his own school, the young mums have a room they could turn in a nursery themselves to give their children a quiet place to sleep and play.

Mr Matthews said it was crucial for the school to provide the young mothers with a space that suited their needs and made them feel welcome.

"It was an important statement from us to say: we believe in you and we want to work with you," he said.

Aleesha Hams is one of four young mothers studying full-time at the WAVE School. She tried to enrol at another school but was rejected because of her pregnancy

The public school advised her to contact the WAVE school and today Ms Hams could not imagine being at a mainstream school anymore.

The fact that she could not take her 18month old son, Zac, with her to school would made it impossible for her to attend class, because like many young mothers, she lives on her own and has no support from her family.

Warrnambool college principal Mary Pendergast , only once experienced a teenage pregnancy at her school in the 4 years she has been principal.

"Our goal is to support the articulated needs of the young mother," Ms Pendergast said.

But she admitted that was a "real challenge" to keep young mothers engaged in a continuous education.

Mr Morrison, Principal at the Emmanuel College, had a different approach and in the 8 years he has been at the school he had never experience with teenage pregnancy.

He ensured that they would try to support the young mother in her choices as good as possible but believed that "prevention is better than cure".

Mr Morrison also said, that a talk with the teenager would be required to ensure, that the school's values are still supported by the life choices made by the student.

Material Arts Therapy

A Martial Arts program was initiated by a Wannambool alternative school to teach students important life skills and improve their life quality.

Wannambool Alternative VCAL Education (WAVE) school manager James Matthews said he believes healthy children are able to deal better with other things in life.

He said it was important to encourage a healthy lifestyle amongst the students and he was glad that the school was able to do that by offering the Martial Arts classes.

Indeed, battled with sclerosis after a car accident and struggling to fit into mainstream school a 16year old teenager found the answer in the Martial Arts Program at the school.

Not only did the physical activity strengthen her back muscles and gave her back life quality, the relaxing breathing exercises helped her to concentrate during class and with everyday challenges.

The classes have been running for five months and the alliance with the Martial Arts instructor David Gibb was a "marriage of convenience", so Mr Matthews.

The contact with Mr Gibb developed during his work at Brophy Family and Youth Services, where he is responsible for event management.

Mr Matthew's interest in Martial Arts and Mr Gibb's need for facilities lead to an arrangement that both parties could benefit from.

Although starting slowly, the Martial Arts Classes soon became more popular amongst the students and the class sizes are constantly growing.

Mr Matthews said he wanted to make it a central plank of the school's curriculum.

"It is a very positive way for kids to get to know who they are and get to know their own body," the school manager said.

Mr Gibb started Martial Arts over 20 years ago and explored a variety of styles and his diploma in counselling allowed him to develop a style that incorporated therapy.

"It is all about a physical activity having a lesson behind it," the instructor said.

He said his core philosophy is to push to one's limits and beyond and his goal is to teach life skills that will help his students to work through tough situations.

The major principles taught during his classes are about respect, discipline, honour, and humbleness.

Another core value in Martial Arts is that only out of a calm centre an effective kick or punch can develop.

This was crucial to manage anger issues, so the Brophy worker.

Mr Gibb currently teaches Martial Arts once a week for WAVE students and also offers public lessons on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the WAVE facilities, corner Henna and Lava Street. He also offers lessons once a week in Port Fairy.



Shine

April 2010 | Issue 03

Every child,
every opportunity

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Barwon South Western

■ Warrnambool College is supervising a new project to help disengaged students to finish high school. The Warrnambool Alternative VCAL Education (WAVE) project offers students aged between 15 and 19 the chance to study for a Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) qualification in a supportive environment.

Project coordinator Jim Matthews says students would have a course designed to suit their individual needs, and that the specialised attention would help pave the way to a career or tertiary education.

"This is a Year 11 and 12 course for students who don't feel comfortable or cannot participate in mainstream schools. Some of our students have young babies, some have had a fractured schooling history, others may have encountered cultural problems and others simply just don't operate well in a secondary school world of bells, uniform, different classes, different teachers," he says.



School of thought as WAVE is launched

Tina Liptai



At the WAVE program launch are (back from left) WAVE co-ordinator James Matthews, Kirrae Wurrong elder Lenny Clarke and (front) students Toni Arnold, 16, with daughter Alexa-Jade Parnell, and James Dennis, 19.

THIS school only has three rules. Respect. Honesty. Success.

And they were all on display as students welcomed the community to the official opening ceremony of the Warrnambool Alternative VCAL Education (WAVE) program.

The project offers young students the chance to complete high school studies in a supportive environment with their education tailored to specific needs.

The program was started four years ago by Hawkesdale College but has been run as a satellite school of Warrnambool College since November last year.

WAVE co-ordinator James Matthews said he was proud of the progress the students had already made this year.

They had completed a number of projects, including designing the school's logo, building a coop for the chickens and beginning work on a mural, Mr Matthews said.

"We are the last chance at education for most of these kids," he said.

"These kids don't fit into the mainstream education."

Kirrae Wurrong elder Lenny Clarke was part of the official opening and said he was pleased to see a school like this for young people.

"It's so important not to leave any kids behind in education," he said.

"It's important in any society."

Instead of completing the traditional VCE requirements, students aged between 15 and 19 will pursue a Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) qualification at the refurbished facilities in Henna Street.

Among the students who were celebrating the re-launch of the school was 16-year-old mother Toni Arnold, who sees the school as her only way of completing a high school education and giving her eight-month-old daughter Alexa-Jade a good start to life.

"I want to be a better mum for her and be able to help her with her homework when the time comes," she said.

She is one of six young mothers who attend the WAVE school, which has a nursery for their children.

Toni said family problems had made concentrating in mainstream school impossible for her and she had been expelled a number of times. But at WAVE she was able to get the support she needed.

"It's more flexible than other schools and the class sizes are smaller," she said.

Toni said she hoped to get a job in hospitality or aged care when she finished school. About 35 students attend the school.

Mr Matthews said close links with Brophy, WDEA, South West TAFE and the Kikkabush co-operative would help the students achieve their goals.

Healthy habits are worth fighting for

Tina Liptai



Waves community school, teaching kids how to box. Pictured is Corey Davey 19 at front, back L-R is Rebecca Hockey 17, Brittney Purcell 15, Helena McKenzie 15, Andrea Jeffries- instructor, Danial Bates 15, Michelle Thorne 18, Christopher Hopgood 19.

HEALTHY habits are worth fighting for and a group of youngsters has come out swinging.

The students will take part in a new boxing fitness program as part of their study through the Warrnambool Alternative VCAL Education (WAVE) program.

WAVE project co-ordinator James Matthews said students would stay out of the boxing ring.

However, the program would teach them basic boxing skills to promote alternative fitness activities and build confidence while helping them find a positive outlet to vent emotions.

"We're hoping to use boxing for fitness, as a way to deal with anger management and develop skills," Mr Matthews said.

"We don't have anger issues here (at the school) but anger has been a problem for some of them in the past and this is just one constructive way to teach them deal with it."

Based on promoting similar values, Portland Boxing Club president Gary King is set to start a daily boxing program to keep young offenders out of trouble while developing fitness, discipline and respect.

The WAVE project offers students who cannot , or choose not to, complete VCE with an alternative study option tailored to their individual needs while gaining a Victorian certificate of applied learning qualification.

Among those keen to get involved in the program was 19-year-old Corey Davey.

"I've done martial arts before but I've never done boxing and it sounds like a pretty interesting thing to do," he said.

"It will be good to get some anger out and stuff but I'll get a bit fitter and learn something new too."

Mr Matthews said that about half of the 30 students involved in the project had shown interest in the boxing program.

He said he was pleased boxing instructor Andrea Jefferies had volunteered to hold a weekly class at the community school.

Ms Jefferies said traditional fitness activities, games and sports were not for everyone and she hoped to show the students different ways to be active.

"It's good to have choices about different ways to have a healthy lifestyle and fitness," Ms Jefferies said.

"I'll be looking to improve their overall fitness levels and hopefully teach them how to look after themselves better and incorporate fitness activities into their life."

Ms Jefferies said the program needed donations or the loan of boxing equipment including gloves, mits and punching bags and appealed for anyone who could help the program to contact the school.

WAVE project offers another way to learn

Meagan Rooth



WAVE project co-ordinator Jim Matthews believes it will be a vital educational alternative. Picture: Angela Milne

AN INNOVATIVE new era of specialised education has rolled into Warrnambool.

The Warrnambool Alternative VCAL Education (WAVE) project offers young students the chance to complete high school studies in a supportive environment.

Instead of completing the traditional VCE requirements, students aged between 15 and 19 will pursue a Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) qualification at refurbished facilities in Henna Street.

WAVE project co-ordinator Jim Matthews said students would have a course designed to suit their individual needs.

"This is an alternative year 11 and 12 course for students who are unable or choose not to complete VCE," Mr Matthews explained.

"Our course will be a VCAL course but our setting will provide a unique alternative to students who don't feel comfortable or cannot participate in mainstream schools.

"I think WAVE is a suitable metaphor. We are really talking about the waves of change here, as well as making a few of our own waves."

The first project for Mr Matthews is to renovate the old YMCA building on the corner of Henna Street and Lava Street.

A new recreational room, garden area, kitchen and classrooms are planned for the run-down site. Mr Matthews, who has been teaching in the region for 27 years, said Warrnambool College was supervising the program.

"I have been impressed by the positive approach from Warrnambool College which is now the auspicing school," he said.

"The college gets very high academic results but is interested in supporting all students into a positive pathway in life."

While learning is the focus of the WAVE project, students will have access to youth workers and support agencies.

Partnerships have also been made with the police, Brophy Family Services, WestVic Staffing Solutions and South West TAFE.

Mr Matthews said the specialised attention would pave the way to a career or tertiary education.

"Some of our students will have young babies, some will have had a fractured schooling history, others may have encountered cultural problems and others simply just don't operate well in a secondary school world of bells, uniform, different classes, different teachers," he said.

The project also aims to involve young Koori and Sudanese students.

Prospective pupils are being interviewed and an open day is planned.

"We will design our course to match these students and there will be an official public open-day in the coming months."

Blitz gives old school building a new look

Andrew Thomson



Students Natasha Vail, 18, Ebony Cartledge, 17, Mick White from Western District Employment Access and Bunnings manager Paul Hughes (rear) help clean-up the Henna Street community school. Picture: Cassie Cowling

WARRNAMBOOL'S version of Backyard Blitz has helped transform the old community school on Henna Street into something fresher and brighter. Two teachers, Anne Murphy and Mag Rooney, work out of the building taking 31 teenagers who are unable to attend mainstream school due to their personal situations. The students undertake a community Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning course and are taught literacy, numeracy, cooking and other basic life skills. Lunch is also provided and it's often the only guaranteed meal for the young people on any given day. Mrs Murphy said it was terrific for the students to realise the community was there to support them. "We're planning a thank you dinner for the workers and the organisers using our new stove and kitchen setting," she said. "This group of young people are often forgotten. They drop out of school and no one picks them up. We assist in education and gaining skills for employment. This has given everyone a real boost." Bunnings Warehouse manager Paul Hughes and radio 3YB general manager Peter Headen helped co-ordinate the clean-up. "The most pleasing aspect was the kids were really keen to get involved. They were on the brushes and rollers and it was amazing how much was able to be achieved," Mr Hughes said.

'These sorts of programs are really important because they nurture pride in Indigenous children, understanding in non-Indigenous children and a sense of reconciliation in the broader community.'



School Revives

Indigenous Games in Victoria

A few hundred primary school students gathered at Warrambool's Friendly Society Sports Oval before the end of term to play sports and games that once dominated the country. The 500 children from eight primary schools in the area tried their hand at Buroinjin, and put their strength into Gorri and their hearts into Battendi.

The games, all traditional Indigenous games, have been revived in the Warrambool area as part the Warrambool Alternative School Program (WASP). WASP is an intensive 10- or 20-week intervention program for students experiencing significant difficulty in participating in a regular school education program. Under the pilot program, students from WASP visited other schools in the district and taught children five games and their meaning within Aboriginal culture.

The coordinator of WASP, Michael Mance, says that through the program Indigenous children in the area developed an appreciation of their own cultural traditions and pride in their heritage.

'It was also a great opportunity to teach non-Aboriginal children about Indigenous sporting traditions and the social and geographic context in which they were played. Some games were important for survival, escape, social interaction and hunting,' said Michael.

Michael says descriptions of the games were put together using records from settlers, explorers and government officials in Australia in the nineteenth century, as well as consultations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The children were faithful to the traditions of the games, despite the use of less threatening equipment in most cases. For example, instead of spears, which were once used in Battendi in areas of South Australia, rods were substituted.

Gary Wingrove, the Indigenous Sports Development Officer in South West Victoria, and WASP students, including several Indigenous children, helped run the workshops in 15 primary and secondary schools. According to Michael, it was a great opportunity for young people to share their culture with a sense of pride. It also enhanced leadership skills in children who were having trouble at school.

The Department of Education, Employment and Training embraced the program, which is the first of its kind in Australia. The workshops and training sessions were incorporated into the schools' physical education or sporting program and the significance of the sports in Indigenous culture was covered in other parts of the curriculum. Once the workshops were over, the games also became a welcomed part of lunchtime recreation.

'For some Indigenous children this project was the first chance they have had to publicly acclaim their culture in a way that is great fun. In the end-of-term carnival almost half of the children competing were Indigenous,' Michael said.

'These sorts of programs are really important because they nurture pride in Indigenous children, understanding in non-Indigenous children and a sense of reconciliation in the broader community.'

For information about the games, contact Michael Mance at the Warrambool Alternative School Program on (03) 5561 7232.

Traditional games revived



More than 500 primary school students from Victoria's Warrnambool district recently participated in a traditional games carnival and cultural day.

The students have been involved in the delivery of a pilot program that has seen traditional indigenous games incorporated within the mainstream curriculum.

During the first three terms of the last year, more than 1200 students from primary schools across the Warrnambool district were taught a range of traditional indigenous games during school clinics.

Gary Wingrove, an indigenous sports development officer with Sport and Recreation Victoria, Warrnambool Alternative School Program co-ordinator Michael Manco and student leaders from the Warrnambool Alternative School Program conducted the clinics targeting Year 4, 5 and 6 students.

These clinics culminated in the staging of the inter-school traditional games carnival and cultural day.

Organisers said the day was a huge success in terms of size, scope and outcomes.

The initiative was delivered as a partnership between VicHealth, the Warrnambool Alternative School Program, Sport and Recreation Victoria, Gundijmara

Aboriginal Co-op and Koori educators from the Department of Education, Employment and Training. VicHealth financially supported the program through a \$5000 contribution.

Organisers said the program readily demonstrated a tangible example of reconciliation operating at the grassroots level. "Importantly, the program provided indigenous participants with an opportunity to celebrate their cultural traditions and raised the cultural awareness of non-indigenous students," they said.

The day began with a traditional welcome by Gundijmara Elder Ivan Couzens, together with a smoking ceremony and dances performed by the Kuyang Yandaa Dancers.

Students from seven Warrnambool district schools across the three age divisions competed in Battendi, Waha, Pulygee, Gorri and Buronjin.

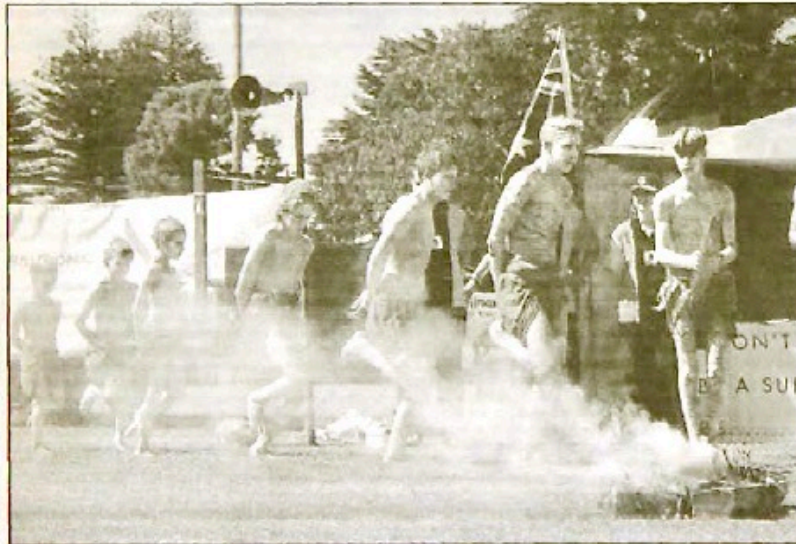
During the day, participants were also invited to sample 'bush tucker' from the barbecue, as well as try their hand at spear or boomerang throwing.

Many of the region's schools featured strongly in the various events, but it was Hawkesdale P-12 College which took the honours as the carnival's inaugural winner.

Plans are under way to expand the initiative throughout the south-west and other areas of Victoria during 2001.



Robbie Lowe Sr and Jamie Commons were kept busy teaching spear throwing to the masses.



The Kuyang Yandaa Dancers perform a smoking ceremony during the opening. Gundijmara Elder Ivan Couzens welcomed the participants.



A Warrnambool West Primary student winds up for his throw during the Battendi competition.



Rob Bundle presents a trophy to a category winner.



The Hawkesdale school captains.



The emphasis of the day was on fun.

OPINION/FEATURES

Sweating on a cure

WHEN Tim Smith sweats, he produces copious volumes of fluid but a deadly toxin has changed his life — and for the better.

His problem is caused by a condition called hyperhidrosis. While everyone else was cool and dry, he soaked three shirts a day. "It's just so disgusting," he says. But Mr Smith's life changed about a year ago after a doctor friend suggested he try an injection of Botox. That's botulinum toxin, the same paralyzing stuff that causes food poisoning and is part of the arsenal of biological warfare. Doctors had used it in small doses to stop muscle seizures and smooth forehead wrinkles.

Mr Smith was the first person in Washington state to get the treatment but he wasn't deterred by the experimental nature of the injections. "The alternative is living with it, feeling gross all the time," he says. Dr Ib Odderson injected a small amount of Botox into Mr Smith's underarms.

By a quirk of biological fate, the chemical that causes some muscle spasms — acetylcholine — is the same neurotransmitter involved in sweating.

"The next afternoon, he called me and said, 'I think

'It's just so disgusting'

'It's working,'" says Dr Odderson, who practises at Overlake Hospital Medical Centre in Bellevue, Washington. "Four days later he called and said, 'I haven't changed my shirt today.'"

Mr Smith says of the treatment: "It's amazing. You join the rest of the world, basically."

For a long time, there had been no hope for people like him. Dr Odderson estimates about five per cent of the population has hyperhidrosis but it may be more because many excessive sweaters are too ashamed to seek treatment.

Options for sufferers are limited. Strong creams work for some but they irritate or do nothing for others.

Like most sufferers, Mr Smith made sacrifices. A hairdresser, he passed up lucrative work at hair shows because he knew his sweating would embarrass him in front of a crowd.

He tried almost everything anti-perpirant, an electrical device that was supposed to shock his sweat glands into submission, even sanitary napkins stuffed under his armpits.

"Now he's found the answer."

Alternative school year big success

From M. Mance, coordinator, Warrnambool Alternative School Program.

AFTER our first year of operation, it would be fair to say that the Warrnambool Alternative School Program has been a huge success.

Much of the credit for this has to go to the students, who have worked to meet their academic and personal development goals in a positive and dedicated fashion.

These young people deserve a great deal of praise and recognition, as do those members of the community who have donated their time, energy or resources to the program. It is to this group that I would like to extend a public thank you.

Thanks to Lee Hagen for the many hours he put into our mural and to Davina McGregor for teaching our students to weave and draw.

Thanks to Dale Cleves Music for the donation of an electric guitar and to the directors of the Cebregang Foundation who made a valuable contribution to our program, enabling us to purchase four internet-connected computers. The students use these constantly.

Staff at Brophy Youth and Family Services have been supportive this year and I would like to take this opportunity to give them a plug. The team at Brophy are skilled and dedicated professionals and Warrnambool is extremely fortunate to have such an important agency in our local area.

Judy Crowe and the staff at Warrnambool College have been much-appreciated supporters this year, allowing us the free use of their transit van and camping equipment.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to give recognition to the Warrnambool Standard. This year, through the generosity of The Standard, we have been able to provide each student with our local paper and this has been used as part of our reading pro-

LETTERS

Reading *The Standard* every day has also served to connect our students to their community and provide an understanding of issues of local, national and international importance.

The *Standard* also deserves praise for its commitment to publishing the "good news" in relation to young people. While some people argue that the media tends to demonise young people, this could not be said of *The Standard*.

Each day there are articles celebrating student achievement and the paper also provides organisations that are working in the youth issues area with a valuable platform into the broader community.

Staff and students at the Warrnambool Alternative School Program salute you all.

Michael Mance
Warrnambool

potential to create division and ill will at a time when cooperation and goodwill would serve the Koroit community in a much more positive way.

Barbara Price
Station Street
Koroit

Stirring up controversy defended

From P. Cassidy:
THE columns of *The Standard* have provided an interesting exchange between Peter Hulín and the mayor of Warrnambool, David Atkinson.

Mr Hulín was, in my opinion, justified in his criticism of bonus payments to senior employees while the mayor's rejoinder was most unconvincing.

The justification of 68 out of 78 Victorian councils providing annual bonus payments based on performance indicates to me 67 other councils are worthy of criticism.

While acknowledging the necessity to engage consultants on some occasions, there is little doubt the practice has become a farce at all levels of government and must be reined in.

As a person who has visited Warrnambool for over 30 years, I would say that in the development stakes your city has slipped well behind a place like Shepparton, and it is this type of comparison which should be the yardstick. The value of new building works in isolation really has little meaning in the matter under discussion.

I remember, in the not too distant past, Warrnambool was justifiably considered the premier city in Victoria outside the metropolitan and provincial areas. Not so now.

Complacency can cause this to happen and controversy through the local newspaper is a very good way of encouraging citizens' interest.

Mr Hulín has done a public service and it seems to me the mayor and his fellow councillors should welcome such comment and not be so defensive.

Peter Cassidy
Broadway Street
Cobram

Vote Yes to better your lot

From P. Roache:
ALL responsible organisations in the Victorian dairy industry agree dairy deregulation will occur. These organisations, dairy cooperatives and United Dairy Farmers, have access to all the facts, have studied all the possible alternatives and have agreed on the only sensible outcome — dairy deregulation with a package.

Do we follow their advice and vote Yes? Or do we listen to the group who use the name "Concerned Dairyfarmers", vote No and risk the predicted collapse of regulation and miss out on the package?

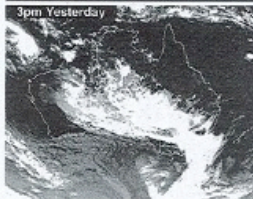
One farmer against deregulation threatened to sue for damages if deregulation goes ahead — he would have no hope. If his spoken and written opinions were matched against the sound, sensible supported arguments for the Yes vote, I know which direction the damages would go.

The group which uses the name "Concerned Dairyfarmers" has used a hotchpotch of real and imaginary figures to scare up support for the No case. Their arguments, like their figures, don't make sense. I understand the fear of deregulation that some No vote supporters have — no one wants even less income — but I urge them — follow the informed advice of our elected dairy leaders.

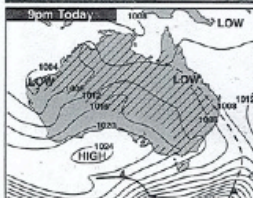
"We will be better off if we deregulate" — Vote Yes.

Patrik Roache
Cameron Street
Terang

Warrnambool: Few showers. Max 18

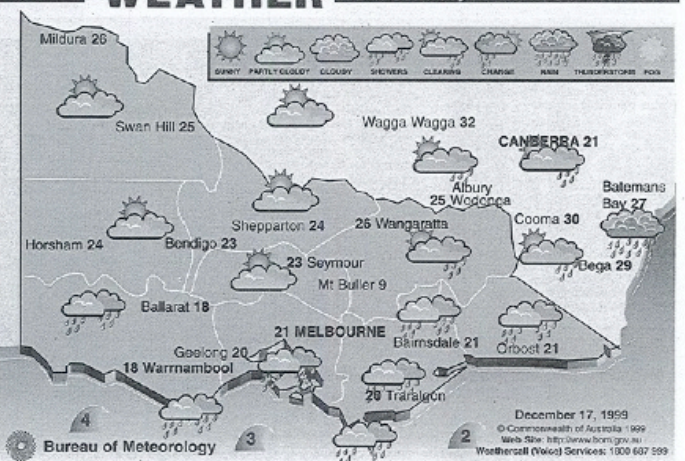


WARRNAMBOOL		
TODAY		
Cloudy periods with a few showers. Moderate to fresh southwest winds.		
Min	Max 18	
Saturday. Few showers. Min 9 Max 18		
Sunday. Few showers. Min 9 Max 18		
Monday. Shower or two. Min 8 Max 18		
YESTERDAY		
LOCATION	Temperature Min. Max.	Rainfall to 9am
Warrnambool	15 21	6 mm
Hamilton	14 21	5 mm
Portland	14 18	6 mm
Port Fairy	15 21	5 mm
Mortlake	14 23	6 mm



AUSTRALIA TODAY		
City	Condition	Max
Adelaide	Partly cloudy	20
Brisbane	Rain at night	27
Canberra	Rain clearing	21
Darwin	Shower/storm	33
Hobart	Mainly fine	18
Melbourne	Showers dev'	21
Perth	Fine	31
Sydney	Rain easing	23

WEATHER Weather by FAX: 1800 630 100



9pm Tomorrow
Weather map showing low pressure systems over the region.

VICTORIA
Scattered showers on and south of the ranges. Fine north of the Divis. A cool to mild day. Moderate to fresh south-westerly wind, strong at times along the Gippsland coast.

SOUTH-WESTERN VICTORIA WARNINGS
A strong wind warning is current for Victorian coastal waters east of Wilsons Promontory.

WESTERN BASS STRAIT
West/south-westerly wind 15 to 20 knots. Sea to about 2 metres. South-westerly swell 4 to 6 metres slowly ebbing.

WESTERN DISTRICT
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Cool with a fresh to strong south-westerly wind easing slightly.

Saturday. Scattered showers. Cool wind. Sunday. Scattered showers. Cool wind. Monday. Isolated showers. Cool to mild.

SUN/TIDES

Rise	Set
Sun: 6.09am	8.58pm
Moon: 2.32pm	2.22am

Tides:
High tide at 5.37am (0.69)
Low tide at 2.24pm (0.39)

Police launch car theft sting

MELBOURNE — Victorian police will use decoy cars in hot-spots across Victoria in a major sting aimed at plucking up car thieves.

The cars would be watched by hidden cameras, thus catching thieves in the act, police said at the launch of the scheme yesterday.

Detective Inspector Doug

O'Loughlin said the scheme, partly funded by insurance company AAMI, aims to cut car theft, which totalled more than \$200 million in 1999, by five per cent.

He said police would put decoy cars, supplied by AAMI, at known car theft hot-spots in Melbourne and country Victoria.

In some cases, where it was suspected gangs were involved in changing the appearance of stolen cars, the decoy vehicle would be tracked by satellite to the gang's headquarters, Inspector O'Loughlin said.

He declined to reveal how much AAMI was contributing to the six-

month scheme, but said the sum was "substantial".

In 1998-99 in Victoria, cars worth \$232.8 million were stolen, and those unrecovered were worth \$59.9 million, he said.

Inspector O'Loughlin said a trial of the sting method carried out in Broadmeadows in Melbourne's north had been very successful.

"While Operation AAMI is expected to reduce theft of and from cars across the state, perhaps the best weapon Victoria has are the car owners themselves — by taking precautionary measures people can help keep the incidence of car theft down."

Students meet the challenge to create colorful mural

By REBECCA TROTT

A GROUP of Warrnambool students have found a positive and creative way to brighten their school environment.

Sixteen students from the Warrnambool Alternative School have joined forces to create a mural in the school's courtyard.

The students were each allocated a piece of their own wall space to create individual designs, which were later joined together with the help of the mural coordinator and community artist Lee Hagan.

Warrnambool Alternative School coordinator Michael Mance said the students had initially wanted to do graffiti-style art, but later moved towards creating something "more challenging".

"They saw they could do something more ambitious, so they took the challenge," he said. Mr Mance said the mural had brightened the courtyard area and added that completing the mural had been a "bonding" exercise, with students and teachers working as a team.

Teacher and Emily Reeves said the students were involved in all aspects of the mural, from planning to the creation of the designs.

"The project has allowed the kids to improve their school environment, it's something they can be involved in and it allows them to take pride in their school environment," she said. Student Scott Hanlon, 15, said he had enjoyed being involved in the mural.

"We've put something back into the school, the wall looked bare, so we've really added something to the school," he said.

PICTURED: Warrnambool alternative school team, from left: rear: Troy Howlett, 14, Emily Reeves (teaching aide), Scott Hanlon, 15; sitting: Nini Buccicchi, 13, Dougie Wright, 12, Tristram Phisler (teacher), Steven Newell, 12, Michael Mance (coordinator), Jamie Stapleton, 12. WRE-4/205.



Alternative study a learning curve

By REBECCA TROTT
THE first group of students to graduate from Warrnambool Alternative School are now gearing up to return to traditional classrooms.

After an intensive 20-week program, nine graduates of the educational and recreational program are returning to their respective schools.

Graduates Scott Hanlon, 14, and Bianca Mackay, 14, will soon be returning to Warrnambool College after completing the program.

Scott was enthusiastic about the alternative study option, saying it suited his needs better than the ordinary school system.

"It's not like a classroom setting, we're not stuck in a chair in front of a blackboard each day," he said.

Scott said he had learnt to control his temper with anger management classes, and also how to avoid confrontational situations.

"If it looks like I'll get into trouble I've learnt to take myself away from the trouble," he said.

Scott hopes to finish his school year at Warrnambool College and later complete a TAFE course or look for full-time employment.

While Bianca is unsure what the future holds for her, she hopes to go back to school and finish her VCE.

She said the program had also helped her to focus on her education and, like Scott, she found anger management classes particularly helpful.

"I can work better and I can control my temper more now," she said.

Both students said the alternative schooling had taught them how to encourage and support each other and fellow students.

Program coordinator Michael Mance said the first round of graduates had proved the alternative learning program was a "fantastic success".

"It's been great. The thing that's impressed me most is that the group of students have come in prepared to change," he said.

Mr Mance said the students had been willing to learn and encourage each other to succeed.

"When they arrived they were focused on their own needs and now they've been given the skills to think about other people," he said.

Mr Mance said the mainstream schools involved in the program were also prepared to make an effort to change.

"The kids have changed and the schools they've come from are



Bianca Mackay and Scott Hanlon, both 14, have acquired new skills after graduating from the Warrnambool Alternative School.

Picture: LEANNE GOURLEY, 090915001

also prepared to change the way they deal with student problems," he said.

Mr Mance said over the last 20 weeks, students had been taught skills to help them fit

more easily into the regular school system.

"They're the bravest kids I've ever met because they've been prepared to look at themselves and try to change," he said.

Driver caught out four times on same offence

POLICE pulled over a woman driver four times — including twice on the one day — for driving an unregistered car without number plates, the Warrnambool Magistrate's Court heard yesterday.

Mother of three Leonie Young, 29, pleaded guilty to six charges before Magistrate Ian Von Einem — four of driving an unregistered vehicle and two of fixing false number plates to her car.

Police prosecutor Senior Constable Bryan Raymond said Young had twice been intercepted in her silver XE Ford sedan on May 26 this year, the first time in Raglan Parade and the second near her home in Donovan's Road.

The car had no number plates and a check confirmed it was unregistered, he said.

Police again pulled over the car at a later date and found it still unregistered but with number plates from another car attached. The number

plates were not listed on the VicRoads database, he said.

Senior Constable Raymond said Young was again driving the vehicle when it was pulled over the next day, again with the same plates attached and still unregistered.

Solicitor Vimes Peters described Young as likeable and from a good family.

He said her partner was schizophrenic and the oldest of her three children, aged from three to 10, attended school, which required a half-hour walk from their home.

Mr Peters said Young had bought the car on the understanding it would be registered but that had not eventuated. She did not have the money to get it registered.

Mr Von Einem convicted her of the six charges but said he took into account her financial and family situation when imposing a community-based order to complete 70 hours of unpaid work.

Bond for drunk cyclist

A WARRNAMBOOL man who rode his bicycle into the back of a car while drunk has been placed on a good behavior bond.

Warrnambool Magistrate's Court heard Lee Kennedy, 25, of Merriwale Drive, was not wearing a helmet when he crashed into a Mitsubishi sedan in McGregor's Road on the afternoon of July 21 this year.

Police prosecutor Bryan Raymond said Kennedy had been injured in the collision but had been uncooperative with people who came to his aid.

When police arrived he continued to be aggressive and walked out on to the road, after which he was overpowered and arrested for being drunk, he said.

Kennedy yesterday pleaded guilty to being drunk in charge of a bicycle, being drunk in a public place, resisting arrest and failing to wear a helmet.

The court was told Kennedy had

consumed about 10 pots of beer at the Warrnambool Hotel before he was seen riding fast along McGregor's Road about 3.50pm.

He had his head down and a hood pulled over his head obscured his vision, Senior Constable Raymond said. When he veered to the left side of the road he ran into the back of the car.

Solicitor Vanessa Pocken said Kennedy had suffered brain injury as a result of a paint sniffing habit and tendered a psychiatric report to Magistrate Ian Von Einem.

She said her client no longer sniffed paint, had not drunk alcohol since the accident and had been performing well on a community-based order previously imposed by the court.

Mr Von Einem, urging Kennedy to continue to avoid alcohol, convicted him of the charges and placed him on a 12-month good behavior bond.

Second chance to pay fines

A CAMPERDOWN man has been given a second chance to repay \$661 in fines, unpaid since 1994.

George Arndell, 37, yesterday pleaded guilty in Warrnambool Magistrate's Court to two counts of breaching a community-based order.

Rod Gault of the Warrnambool Community Corrections Centre said Arndell had not completed any of the required 28 hours of unpaid work, which had been imposed after a request for his fines to be converted to a community-based order.

Arndell told Magistrate Ian Von Einem he had not reported to do his community work because he had been the victim of an attack with a baseball bat which resulted in having

30 stitches inserted in his head.

He had also been forced to flee to Sydney, where he had been "laid out for several months," he said.

Mr Von Einem said he could guess what the baseball bat attack was about but that was not the matter before the court.

He said Arndell should have explained his circumstances to the Community Corrections officials so other arrangements could have been made for his work order.

Mr Von Einem ordered Arndell pay separate fines of \$300 and \$251, in default of three days' jail for each. The baseball incident had not been reported to police and no arrests made, he said.

COURT PENALTIES

PENALTIES imposed in the Warrnambool Magistrate's Court yesterday by Magistrate Ian Von Einem included:

Shayne Colin Greaves, 23, of Jubilee Caravan Park, Allanford: theft from a motor vehicle, obtain property by deception — convicted and placed on a community-based order of 80 hours' work.

John Albert Kennedy, 44, of Henry Street, Warrnambool: drive while disqualified, drive unregistered vehicle — convicted and fined \$600 with \$53 court costs.

Shane Michael Landy, 45, of Gladstone Street, Warrnambool: cultivate cannabis, possess cannabis, use cannabis — convicted and fined \$450.

Lea Jeannette Scott, 46, of Gladstone Street, Warrnambool: possess cannabis, use cannabis — convicted and fined \$250.

Paul McGinness, 46, of Howard Street, Warrnambool: exceed .05 — convicted and fined \$400 with \$33 court costs, licence cancelled and disqualified from driving for 14 months.

Royce Orr, 31, of Raglan Parade, Warrnambool: exceed .05 — without conviction placed on a 12-month good behavior bond and ordered to pay \$350 to the court fund.



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Remaking lives

Troubled kids will get a second chance at the Warrnambool Alternative School. It is hoped more severe problems later in life might be "headed off at the pass" by a more sympathetic school environment. MARY PAPADAKIS reports.

'Not a baby-sitting service where schools get rid of their worst cases.'

It takes more than a "magic wand" to steer young people in the right direction but, according to Warrnambool Alternative School's program coordinator Michael Mance, a positive environment and a vigorous education and recreation program should do the trick.

Stressing the fact that Warrnambool's new alternative school shares nothing more than the same site with its predecessor (the former Warrnambool Community School), Mr Mance says the new school's curriculum and aims are very different.

"There is a negative perception of the community school as being the place where all the hard cases ended up," he said this week.

"This isn't the community school. Our approach is completely new and different.

"While many positive things may have happened in the community school, there is a perception that somehow community schooling in general is not a good idea. We will demonstrate that it is positive."

The new school will open at the beginning of next term for boys and girls from years five to nine. The school's theme will be "Schools investing in students and students making positive choices".

Twelve youngsters from Warrnambool College, Warrnambool East Primary School and Warrnambool West Primary School have already been referred to the program and will undergo an intensive 20-week program designed to rehabilitate and reintegrate them back into mainstream education.

These are not "hardened or negative kids" but ones with problems of underachievement, misbehavior or who appeared unhappy and disconnected from their surroundings, Mr Mance said.

He said teachers should pay particular attention to girls because they were better at hiding their feelings than boys who outnumbered females in alternative schools at a ratio of 10 to 1.

Referring schools will contribute between \$1500 to \$2000 to cover program costs. This "investment" in the student recognises his or her potential to deal with their behavioral problems and return to the school, Mr Mance says.

"Society puts an awful amount of time into dealing with the consequences of young people running off the rails but we are going to put an awful amount of time into stopping them from going off the rails," he said.

"We are telling schools not to see this as an opportunity to get rid of their worst students but to look at those who could benefit from one-to-one intervention."

Having enlisted the help of other local educational sources, vocational training providers and community groups including Brophy Family and Youth Services and the Warrnambool hospital's Centre Against Sexual Assault, Mr Mance commented that district support has been good.

But he wants to break down any community perceptions of the school being seen as a "dumping ground" for difficult students. "I want to establish the place as a key player in Warrnambool. I want this to be seen as a very important part of the Warrnambool community," he said.

"We have a management committee with principals from a wide range of schools. This is very much a district resource. It's not a baby-sitting service where schools get rid of their worst cases."

And the draft report of the Warrnambool



Warrnambool Alternative School's program coordinator Michael Mance says the relaxed, informal learning environment — coupled with a vigorous education and recreation program — should help turn around youngsters who need a little special attention.

"Society puts an awful amount of time into dealing with the consequences of young people running off the rails but we are going to put an awful amount of time into stopping them from going off the rails. We are telling schools not to see this as an opportunity to get rid of their worst students but to look at those who could benefit from one-to-one intervention."

City Council's "Community with Spirit" initiative, aimed at improving community safety, already recognises the alternative school as an important intervention program.

Students referred to the school will participate in an intensive outdoor physical education program, film and cultural studies, health, art and drama sessions as well as conventional English and maths classes.

Mr Mance said there were plans to establish a mini-computer lab and also, possibly, introducing a community service component to the curriculum — such as adopting an area of foreshore or land along the Hopkins River to take care of.

The variety of the course curriculum was set to improve students' self-esteem and confidence. "Let's give them a whole lot of positive experiences. Let's give them a chance to do things they haven't done before," he said. "If we do nothing, some of these students could end up on the wrong side of the law, unemployed, in jail or on

drugs." Students' progress will be assessed, with reports issued at 10 and 20 weeks. Regular contact will be maintained with the referring schools, through meetings with school staff and their parents.

While his staff of four would be sensitive to the needs and rights of students, all students would be held responsible for their own behavior, Mr Mance said. "We are not going to tolerate students who smoke, harass others, use bad language consistently, are destructive, steal or don't respect their physical environment," he said.

"We are an alternative school program, not an alternative place to be. At the end of the 20 weeks the students are going to walk out of here and be an advertisement for what we do here."

The new school has had to "start from scratch", using government grants to help pay for repairs, furniture, course materials and a fresh coat of paint.

The building's appearance is important to the way students feel about the program

and themselves, Mr Mance believes.

Students will return to their referring schools with a positive outlook and the ability to deal with issues that may have got them into trouble in the past.

Students will also undergo counselling if needed and be introduced to services in the community that can help them with particular problems.

"We will act as a facilitator and put students in touch with people who can help them. We can put them in touch with positive people."

Mr Mance, a former Warrnambool College year level coordinator and teacher, has taken up his new position as program coordinator at the school with great enthusiasm.

He has carried out research and visited similar schools in Melbourne to get ideas and make sure Warrnambool's alternative school program is second to none.

While he admits he has taken on his role at the school partly as a personal ambition, he says his greatest satisfaction will come at the end of the 20-week program when students are reintegrated back into their original schools.

"It's a chance to do something really, really positive for young people. It's going to be hard work but it's just so rewarding and so positive," he said.

"I'm no saint, I'm just an average bloke but I can treat kids with respect and hopefully that will come back. There's no magic wand."

From PREVIOUS PAGE regional area has helped them to become a part of Australian life.

"I think we were lucky because we came to the country, we learned the Australian way of living through mistakes," Oksana says.

They have learned a lot about Australia in six years. Oksana has even learned to like meat pies — but maintaining their Eastern European heritage is important. They speak Russian at home,

No more long queues for necessities

An hour after the plane on which the family was travelling touched down in Australia, Oksana's mind was made up. Australia would be her home.

Some migrants prefer to leave everything about their country of origin behind, Oksana says. "I think that is wrong. For me it's

important my kids know the language and where they came from. But there are no regrets about coming to Australia, despite the struggle and despite missing family and friends. The three have already built a lot

from the nothing they arrived with. Galyna is employed at a motel and owns her own home. Oksana has set up her own business, Andrei teaches at TAFE and both have gained citizenship. "It's not that easy to leave your house, your city, your family, your life and start from zero," Oksana says. "Back home you can work very hard and go nowhere, out here all your dreams can come true."

THE STANDARD

Thursday, December 31, 1998

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The top choices in names
Page 3

ON THE LAND



Worm wine works



Off to state titles
Back page

SCHOOL REVAMP



Michael Mance: away from the 'dumping ground' stigma. BY 2000A

Alternative for problem students

By MAREE MCKINNON

SOUTH-WEST students finding it hard to fit into the mainstream education system are being given a new alternative.

From term two next year, the Warrnambool Alternative School will aim to assist young people from across the region turn around their behavioral and learning difficulties and gradually return to the classroom.

Formerly the Warrnambool Community School, the Department of Education initiative will aim at putting referred students through a 20-week program catering for academic needs, personal development and indi-

vidual interests. Program coordinator Michael Mance said the new program was far removed from the stigma the institution was a "dumping ground" for problem kids.

Towards the end of the individually-tailored 20-week program, the student will be gradually integrated back into the referring school, which will meet most of the costs of the student attending there, he said.

"For a student to attend here, there has to be agreement from the referring school, the parents, the student and a placement committee," he said. "Schools have got to be committed to having the students back at

school after the 20 weeks."

The school's new structure will also see it working closely with a number of support agencies, such as Brophy Family and Youth Services and Human Services, Mr Mance said.

Similar education models had operated successfully around the state for several years, including a school in Colac, he said.

For part of term one, the former Warrnambool College VCF coordinator will travel around the state to observe other similar institutions.

Teachers and support staff would be appointed when enrolment numbers are finalised. □ Continued page 2.

Hostages killed in gunfight

SANAA, Wednesday An Australian and three British hostages were killed and three other Westerners injured when Yemeni security forces stormed kidnapers holding 16 tourists, a Yemeni official said.

In Canberra, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade confirmed that an Australian woman, 33-year-old Sydney resident Catherine Spence, survived the gunfight yesterday.

A DFAT spokesman said Ms Spence had been visited by an Australian diplomatic representative who travelled to Yemen after the 16 tourists were kidnapped on Monday.

A 35-year-old Sydney man, whose identity is unknown, was killed in the rescue effort for the hostages.

The DFAT spokesman said it was understood that Ms Spence had not been travelling with the Australian killed in the hostage rescue and that he had simply been part of the same tour group.

Meanwhile, the family of Melbourne barrister Patrick Luckman, 56, who was aboard a United Nations plane which crashed in the war-torn African nation of Angola believes he could still be alive.

A spokesman for Mr Luckman's family said they were encouraged by reports that the plane had been located and might have survivors.



Peter Ronald holds old artillery plugs he found at the bottom of Lady Bay, Warrnambool. Picture: DAMIAN WHITE. BY 2000A

By DAVID TOWLER

A CENTURY after they were hurled by 16 pounds of gunpowder from Flagstaff Hill out into the sea, two small, weathered pieces of Warrnambool's history have come home.

The maritime museum has taken possession of two metal artillery plugs which were recovered from the sea floor by former museum director and keen

Blast from past

scuba diver Peter Ronald. He found the most complete plug about two years ago in "the channel" — the safe passage for shipping into Lady Bay which runs in line with the two hillside lighthouses.

He initially did not know what to make of the mishapen brass or copper lump.

"I thought it was an ashtray, actually," Mr Ronald said. "In those days it was not uncommon for a lot of stuff to be thrown overboard. You find a lot of plates, crockery and things."

"I just had it at home, then the week before Christmas I found the other one."

It was then that the three small lumps evenly spaced around the edge of the plugs made him think of the cannons. □ Continued page 2.

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Fire in supermarket

From page 1.
The artefacts were given to the museum for measuring and sure enough, the 17cm (six-inch) diameter was the same as the bore of the old cannon. And the three lumps matched perfectly the grooves cut into the barrels, which gave the shells their spin.

It is thought the plugs were placed into the barrels after the bag of gunpowder and before the 80-pound projectiles.

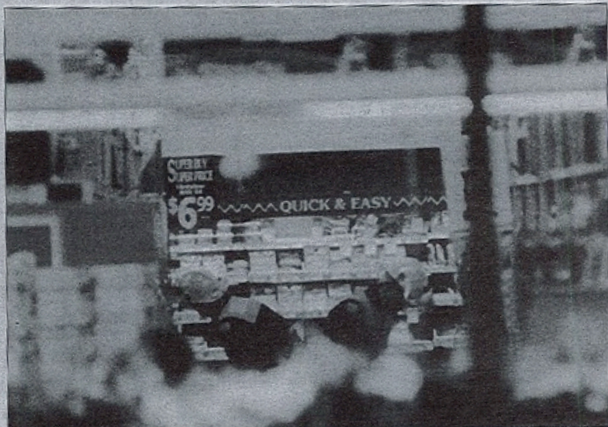
The shells had a range of 5.5 kilometres. Mr Ronald said the plugs were found perhaps a kilometre from the guns.

"We're not sure if they were separate from the shell or part of it," he said.

"I suspect that they were actually the base plate of the shell and that was confirmed by members of the artillery re-enactment group.

The battery at Cannon Hill was used regularly for training drills and ceremonial occasions between 1887 and the end of the century.

Hundreds of shells were probably fired out to sea before the old guns, obsolescent before the First World War.



Firemen check Safeway Supermarket after extinguishing a fire last night.

DETECTIVES are investigating a fire which last night caused the evacuation of the Safeway Supermarket in Warrnambool.

Fire officer Henry Hinton said it was believed the incident was suspicious. About \$1500 damage was caused.

Staff and about 50 shoppers in

the building were evacuated shortly after 10pm while the flames were extinguished and smoke was cleared.

There was a considerable amount of smoke in the building so as a precaution people were evacuated until we removed the smoke using two positive pres-

sure ventilation fans," Officer Barton said.

"The store was closed to the public for about half an hour. A city council health inspector was called to check foodstuffs and he gave it the all-clear."

Two fire trucks and 10 brigade members attended the scene.

School to be revamped

From page 1.
Funding for the school, which two years ago was threatened with closure, would be provided partly by the Department of Education and referral schools.

"It will be mostly a user-pays system - by the administrative side of things run by Mortlake College," he said.

Student placement and a school management committee will be made up of representatives from a handful of south-west schools and the DOE, with scope for referral school delegates to sit on the board," the coordinator explained.

Mr Mance's leadership and day-to-day

decision-making will also be assisted by Mortlake College principal Adrian Calderwood.

He said the new initiative would produce benefits for not only students, their families and the schools they attended, but also the general community.

"Any objective analysis shows one of the key factors in adolescent problems is early departure from school," he said.

"Even if some of the older kids may not continue school much longer once they leave here, but we would be looking to give them skills so they can move into the workforce."

THAT'S ODD

Kevin Cole is duly proud of smashing the world record in New Mexico for blowing spaghetti out of his nose - a 7.5-inch (19cm) effort recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records. "It's not very often that Carlsbad gets put on the map like this," he said. Cole took the title at a December 16 competition when he bested the former world record holder, Matt Welch, by 2 inches (5cm). Cole, 24, said he uses his tongue to push the pasta to his nasal passages. "Then you just blow," he said. "It's just like blowing your nose."

THE SYDNEY TO HOBART AFTERMATH

Survivor critical of life raft

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Lotto
Oz Lotto draw number: 254
40 3 4 9 37 34. Supps: 29 11
Div 1: (1 winner) \$1,199,564,344; div 2: (5) \$35,954; div 3: (113) \$2,916.65; div 4: (6145) \$32.65; div 5: (17,492) \$41.10.

Tatts two
Wednesday draw
42 and 29. Div 1 prize: \$1023.

Keno
Wednesday draw
45 6 12 16 20 21 28 30 36
38 39 40 55 56 57 103 162 73 78
There was no Spot 10/Missed 10 jackpot winner.
Estimated jackpot: \$1,577,000.
The Standard has taken all possible care but cannot accept responsibility for any errors, whether due to equipment fault, staff handling or any other cause.

Text for the day
"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father who loved us and gave us by his grace everlasting comfort and good hope, comfort your ears and make you stand firm in every good work and deed."
- 2 Thessalonians 2:16 (New Testament in plain English)

Thought for the day
"Though the past haunt me as a spirit, I do not ask to rest."
- Fellow Dorothea Browne Hermans, English poet 1833-1883.

Train times
Monday to Friday

Warr -> Melb	Melb -> Warr
Depart	Arrive
3:35 am	8:50 am
2:20 pm	3:30 pm
1:35 pm	9:00 pm

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PAMBULA - A survivor of doomed Sydney-Hobart yacht Winston Churchill yesterday criticised the life raft from which three mates were swept to their deaths in huge seas.

John Stanley said he would complain about the safety standards of the RFD life raft in cyclonic conditions when the New South Wales Coroner examined the deaths of four crew members and the presumed deaths of two others.

"When you want to use the thing, it's in those conditions, not a 16-knot breeze," Mr Stanley said.

The life raft capsized eight times during more than 24 hours at sea before rescue services arrived.

Sydney-based manufacturer RFD was not contactable to respond to Mr Stanley's criticisms of its liferaft's performance in heavy seas.

The nine crew of the Winston Churchill abandoned ship on

Sunday into two life rafts. Four men in one raft were saved, but only Mr Stanley and John Gibson were rescued from the second craft.

The bodies of Mike Bannister and Jim Lawler were recovered on Tuesday, while John Dean is missing at sea presumed drowned.

Mr Stanley, who broke his ankle and tore a ligament in his hip while being tossed "like a beachball," said he was unsure whether the five made the right decision when they cut an airhole in the bottom of the raft when it first capsize, rather than attempt to right it.

He said the five had comfortably stood on the raft's canopy for hours before another huge wave flipped them over.

"Then with the bodyweight of people falling to the floor, the split just opened right up," he said.

Mr Stanley revealed the anguish of watching crew-

mates being washed away from the raft by mountainous waves in Bass Strait in the dark hours of Monday morning.

"It was about 3am, about that time one wave just came out of nowhere and just threw us through the water so hard," Mr Stanley told journalists outside the Pambula District Hospital.

"I was just hanging on for grim death. I think I lost my vest straight off the top of me."

"We went for a hour time, I held my breath and I just kept hanging on, then finally it came to a stop and I put my head up for some air."

"I yelled out 'Who's there, are you all there?'"

"And there was only one answer. John Gibson replied because he was tied on to the thing."

Mr Stanley said he saw two of the three lost shipmates

Death yacht towed ashore

EDEN, Wednesday - Crippled Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race entrant Business Post-Natal was towed to a private wharf at Eden yesterday with the bodies of two of her crew still aboard.

A colleague of the two dead men - one believed to be the yacht's owner and skipper Bruce Guy - formally identified the bodies yesterday, Eden police Inspector Rick Mawdsley said.

Police took extensive photographs of the bodies and the yacht at the Greensea wharf as evidence for a NSW coronial inquiry into the deaths and two presumed deaths during the Sydney to Hobart race.

"The bodies were in situ as the crew had secured them before they abandoned ship," Inspector Mawdsley said.

Skipper died in friend's arms

LAUNCESTON - A survivor yesterday told how his friend and skipper died in his arms from a heart attack in the flooded cabin of a stricken Sydney to Hobart race yacht.

Another survivor told how he almost drowned as he struggled to free himself from the deadly trap of a safety harness, which drowned a crew mate, after a giant wave overturned their yacht.

Steve Walker of Wynyard and Rob Matthews were giving the first accounts of their nightmare hours on the Tasmanian 12-metre Business Post-Natal after it was disabled by huge seas on Sunday night about 40 nautical miles south of Gabo Island.

Owner-skipper Bruce Guy, 51, and crew member Phil Skeggs, 35, who lived in the same street in the Launceston suburb of Riverside, died.

An emotional Mr Walker, who broke down several times, said the weather steadily worsened during Sunday afternoon and night.

By about 6.15pm, with their wind-speed instruments gone, they were trying to sail with bare poles.

Shortly after a massive breaking wave rolled their boat 360 degrees.

The mast, windows and cabin were broken and four crew went over the side in their harnesses, but were rescued.

They sent out a mayday, which was acknowledged, cleared the shrouds from the propeller and started their engine heading for Gabo Island.

About 11pm another wave rolled the boat, but this time it stayed upside down for four to five minutes.

Mr Matthews, who was on deck shift with Mr Skeggs, said: "I was trapped over the back of the boat in underneath the cockpit behind the aft lifelines. I had nearly run out of breath when the boat was lifted by another wave and I just sucked enough air to keep me going for another 10 or 15 seconds. I don't know how long."

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ability to SEEN E short course titles in August.

Public meeting on new school

The advantages and requirements of Warrnambool's proposed community school were outlined to 200 people last night at a public meeting in the Methodist hall.

They were told the school required community involvement, and were asked to fill in questionnaires on their opinions of the school, whether they would be prepared to be involved in it, and in what fields they could help.

Community school steering committee member, Mr. Bruce McKenzie of the Warrnambool Institute of Advanced Education, spoke on the needs for such a school from community and educational points of view.

Because the educational system was built on a statistical model it catered for only about 68 per cent of the population and the other 32 per cent had to "make do", Mr. McKenzie said.

This 32 per cent needed an alternative which could be provided by the community school.

The present system worked on yardsticks such as examinations and parental expectations. If these yardsticks were not met, a student was placed under emotional stresses because he was regarded as different, Mr. McKenzie said.

"We believe that the people who don't meet the yardsticks should be given an alternative form of education.

"With the development of teaching diploma and degree courses into the Warrnambool Institute there is going to be more educational expertise in the community.

"There should be a variety of outlets for this expertise so the community can fully benefit from it," Mr. McKenzie said.

Steering committee member, Mr. Tony Purcell, of Warrnambool Technical School, described the running of the school, the need for parent involvement, and the ways in which skills could be imparted without the use of a rigid teaching method.

Mr. Sam Hopkins, of Warrnambool Technical School, also a steering committee member spoke on how the school would aim to find the needs of the individual student and to meet those needs.

4—The Standard, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 1974

Lost boy's parents thank searchers

The parents of a 10-year-old Cobden boy who disappeared on a mountain near Marysville two months ago, on Sunday thanked rescue workers and searchers for their efforts.

Mr. Peter McKenzie and his wife, Marcia, arranged a Mass of Thanks for the 250 rescue workers who searched unsuccessfully for five days for their eldest son, Damien.

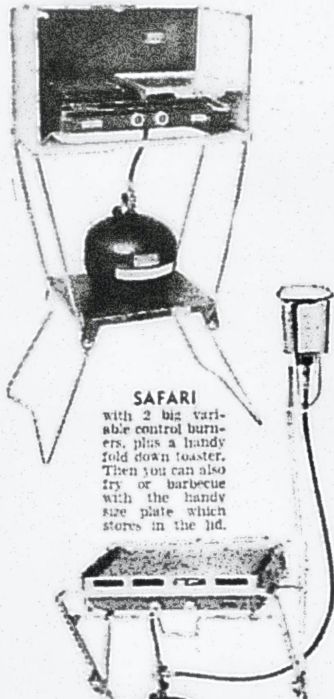
St. Brendan's Catholic Church, Cobden, was packed by more than 300 people.

Members of the police force, civil defence, volunteer emergency reserve, Forestry Commission, Red Cross and bush-walking clubs who took part in the search attended the Mass.

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COMMUNITY SCHOOL PROPOSAL:

• In this article Mr Tony Purcell, a committee member of the proposed Warrnambool Community School, sets out the aims of the proposal. Plans for an alternative method of education in Warrnambool started some months ago at a meeting between six teachers. The idea caught on and soon a steering committee comprising

20 people was formed. This committee has contacted the Education Department and the Australian Schools Commission about its plans. Tomorrow night the people of Warrnambool will be asked for their support for the proposal at a public meeting in the Methodist hall.

Where pupils learn instead of being taught

The proposed Warrnambool Community School is radical only in the belief that people learn most effectively by having an environment which provides plenty of stimulation and open-ended opportunities for follow-up work.

The school aims to serve 150 students in the 4-18 age range, and it will operate very much like a kindergarten.

The role of teachers is to provide—with assistance from parents and students—areas in which the students can develop the necessary skills to take a meaningful place in society.

Obviously this will include basic areas to allow for speaking, writing, and reading abilities to be developed, as well as most of the commonly accepted school facilities. A major difference will be that of attitude.

The community school takes the view that children learn and are not taught in the formal sense.

If they are enthusiastic about a topic and they have sufficient time and assistance then the results of their labor are likely to be much more meaningful.

In providing the assistance necessary for people to complete the tasks to which they are committed, we will be calling on the widest possible cross-section of the community.

We expect that people with expertise in anything from the law, medicine or technology to gem collection, boat-building or cement laying will be utilised by students as they develop their environment and interests.

To provide this opportunity one of the first tasks the group will undertake is the establishment of a registry.

This will include names, addresses, skills, materials and conditions under which people can make themselves available.

In a submission to the Australian Schools Commission request has been made for a \$15,000 grant to pay those people who offer their services.

The role of the parent is critical to the viability of the community school.

We believe that Warrnambool offers a magnificent situation for giving parents the opportunity of being closely involved in their child's development.

With the majority of parents being involved in nine-to-five occupations there is great scope for parents in a school whose activities will extend from 8 am to 10 pm.

The policy of the Warrnambool Community School is that parents will be given the opportunity to decide on curriculum, rules and activities, or an equal basis with parents and students.

A weekly meeting will decide on activities for the following week and this will be held at the most appropriate time to allow all parents this decision-making right.

To summarise the learning process we suggest that there are four worlds in which all people exist.

The first is the private world of thoughts and

concepts that each individual develops in a unique way.

The second world is the world he knows. This is the world of his experiences in which he is aware of what is required of him because he has experienced the situation.

The third world is the world of possible experiences—things that could have been done or thought about, but through lack of opportunity or resources, have not been undertaken.

The fourth is the world of undreamed possibilities. A young child knows little outside his family and an adolescent knows little outside his town, and we hope that through our efforts to bombard each individual with a large number of stimuli that people will recognise a world of wider possibility.

In general we hope our efforts will encourage a movement which enlarges the first three worlds for each individual.

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Negotiations on new school

The Warrnambool community school could be established early next year.

The project steering committee is negotiating with the Schools Commission and the State Education Department for approval to start.

The school, which aims to present an alternative method of education to the present system, will cater for 150 students, aged from four years to 18 years.

Students would be able to choose their own subject activities and would receive parent and teacher guidance in that field.

Through social and educational activities the

school plans to provide cultural opportunities which are not available in Warrnambool.

It will provide resources to bring people with similar interests into contact with each other.

The steering committee has finalised its second submission and is negotiating with the Schools' Commission and the Education Department.

Committee member, Mr Tony Purcell, said yesterday many local groups had supported the project.



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