The 2014 school year is rapidly coming to a close. Our school and our students have had many successes during the year and I thank all staff and students for their contribution to Wonthaggi Secondary College.

Planning for 2015 is already well underway and this week our Year 7 and 8 students are commencing Year 8 and 9 in Head-start programs. Year 9 students have made the move to McBride Campus and are experiencing their first week as students of the senior campus.

Our Year 12, 11 and 10 students have now completed their 2014 school year. Apart from the Middle School Presentation afternoon (December 17), Year 9 students will finish at the end of this week. For Years 7 and 8 students there will be activity days on Monday December 15 and Tuesday December 16.

Our Year 10 Presentation Afternoon was held during the Year 10 into 11 Head-start program. This was a very successful event – particularly because the early timing meant that all Year 10 students were in attendance. We had a very good parent turn out. Having all students present provided a very positive atmosphere in which to acknowledge the efforts and achievements of their peers.

On Monday December 15 we will receive results for our 2014 Year 12 students. A potentially stressful time but hopefully one where our students see reward for their hard work.

On Wednesday December 17 at 10am we will be having our Year 7 Presentation Morning. The Middle School Presentation Afternoon will be at 1pm on the same day and our VCE Presentation Night will be at 7:30pm that evening. Dudley students who are receiving awards and those students who would like to attend the ceremonies are asked to please attend the Dudley Campus on the Wednesday morning. At the various ceremonies we will acknowledge the generous contribution of many individuals, businesses and organisations from our community at each Awards Presentation. I would like to also note here that the financial support we receive from our community for student awards is significant and greatly appreciated by me and by our school.

New Senior Campus

It is timely to make comment on the status of our frustrated plans for a new senior campus for our school. Prior to the recent State election the then Premier Denis Napthine visited our school and announced that if the Coalition were returned to Government that $21 million would be provided for a new senior campus. At the time we sought to get a similar undertaking from the Labor candidate but this was not forthcoming.

With a Labor Government now in place we are more or less back to square one. We will certainly be using any connections and influence we can bring to bear to convince the new Government of the importance of this project for the Bass Coast community. The new MP for Bass Brian Paynter has visited the school since the election and reiterated his support for our new school and his commitment to the building of a new campus. He has undertaken to try to convince our new decision makers that the Wonthaggi senior campus – Education Precinct project is too important to be held back by Party politics.

Old Senior Campus

While we may say a lot about the inadequacy of the current senior campus and its’ poor state it is important to point out that our students are suffering no real disadvantage. Our argument has always been that the McBride campus is old; it needs expensive upgrade works; it is on a tiny site and its’ facilities are outdated and unsuitable for 21st century learning. We say these things because we want our students to be able to access the best quality education available. We want them to have the advantages that other students in better resourced electorates have.

Buildings are very important. Having the best available facilities and resources is important. The most important factor however for receiving a quality education is “what happens in the classroom”. I can assure all parents and students that a focus on providing high quality educational experiences and outcomes for all of the students of Wonthaggi Secondary College remains our top priority. Our students are not being disadvantaged, but we do want them to have every available advantage. The young people of Bass Coast Shire don’t deserve any less than what is available to students elsewhere in the state.

Best wishes to all and compliments of the season.

Garry Dennis - College Principal
## Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECEMBER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 15</td>
<td>Dudley</td>
<td>Dudley students End Of Year Activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 16</td>
<td>Dudley</td>
<td>Dudley students End Of Year Activities– Korumburra Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Presentation Ceremonies</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>- Year 7 - 10am</td>
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<td>- Middle School - 1pm</td>
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<td>- VCE - 7:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015 JANUARY</td>
<td>Tuesday 27</td>
<td>Book Collection Day 10am - 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 29</td>
<td>Students</td>
<td>Students Return</td>
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### 2014 SCHOOL CHARGES

Statements were sent out recently to all families who still have charges outstanding for 2014. It would be appreciated if these charges could all be paid before the end of the year. If you have voluntary charges (prefaced with an asterisk *) that you don't wish to pay, please notify the school to have them removed. Payment can be made at the office by cash, card or you can pay on-line directly into the schools bank account.

The schools bank details are:

- **Bank:** Westpac
- **B.S.B:** 033-265
- **Account Number:** 194569
- **Account Name:** Wonthaggi Secondary College Official Account
- **Details:** 3 letter, 4 digit Student ID.

If you want your payment to go to a specific charge, please indicate this in the detail section. For example: If John Citizen wants $20 to go to his zoo excursion he should put CIT0001-ZOO in the details. If he wanted to pay $20 off his curriculum charge he would put CIT0001-CURRIC.

### 2015 BOOK COLLECTION DAY

The 2015 Book Collection Day will be held at Dudley campus on Tuesday 27th January 2015. The hours of operation will be from 10.00am to 7.00pm.

At the book collection day you will be able to:

- Collect and pay for your 2015 school books
- Purchase uniform items
- Pay your school charges

Please note that all items above will need to be paid for by cash or card. **There will be no credit arrangements in 2015.** Any family with a credit on their school account can use their credit to pay for books, uniform or school charges.

Please be aware that the book supplier, Campion (formally known as Landmark School Supplies) also do home delivery of prepaid books. Please note, there is a small fee for this service. This service might be a sound economical alternative to driving in to Wonthaggi to collect books, particularly for our residents from Phillip Island and beyond Bass.

### EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

For many years now low income families have had access to a number of financial assistance initiatives to help them put their children through school. One of these was the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).
From The Business Manager Continued...

EMA Continued.....

From 1 January 2015, the government will provide extra financial support directly to Victoria’s neediest schools instead of providing the Education Maintenance Allowance directly to parents.

Parents will not be able to apply for the Education Maintenance Allowance in 2015.

The money will be allocated to eligible schools through schools’ core operational funding mechanism, with the neediest schools receiving the most funding. Not all schools will be receiving funding in 2015.

This change to how the money is distributed was required by the funding agreement with the Commonwealth government to make sure Victorian schools receive increased funding that will benefit all students and, in particular, those from schools with concentrated disadvantage.

The majority of parents who received the EMA payment already elected to provide the money directly to their school.

If you are experiencing financial hardship, you can speak to your Principal about how you can access assistance from the State Schools’ Relief Committee for clothing and uniforms.

The end of the EMA direct payments to parents will not affect any other payment you may be receiving such as the Schoolkids Bonus, which is provided directly to eligible parents to assist with education costs.

One consequence of the change in EMA funding is that Wonthaggi Secondary College WILL NOT be entering into any credit arrangements from 2015. With this in mind I ask that you plan ahead so that you are in a position to pay for your school books, uniforms and charges in 2015. The payment of the schoolkids bonus to eligible parents in the fortnight leading up to the commencement of the 2015 school year will be timely.

The amount of funding the school will receive is determined by the schools ‘Student Family Occupation’ (SFO) index. The index is calculated using the occupation code parents record on the student enrolment form. Only families with the occupation codes of D or N will qualify for assistance under the new funding model. There is no need to contact the school to access this funding as we will allocate the funding from our data base. Unfortunately the new amount will be significantly less than previously available through the EMA arrangements.

Please notify the school whenever your employment status changes.

The Business Manager can be contacted on 5671 3706 to answer any queries.

CENTREPAY

Centrepay is a free direct bill paying service available to Centrelink customers who receive an Australian Government Department of Human Services Centrelink payment, family assistance payment or Parental Leave Pay.

Wonthaggi Secondary College is now a registered service provider for Centrepay. If you would like to nominate Wonthaggi Secondary College to receive deductions from your Centrelink payments you will need to complete a Centrelink SA325 form. You can do this by logging on to www.humanservices.gov.au/centrepay or you can pick up a form from the administration office at either McBride or Dudley Campus.

There a couple of details you will need to know when completing the SA325 form:

- Service Providers Centrepay Reference Number: 555-111-259-L
- Your account number with the Service Provider: Student ID number if 1 student at school. Family ID number if more than 1 student at school.

If you are unsure of what number to record or want more information on Centrepay; please ring the school on 03 5671 3700 for assistance.

Steve Plumb - Business Manager
Changes to the Secondary Schools Tax File Number Program

The Secondary Schools Tax File Number (TFN) Program will not continue beyond 31 December 2014. This means that School TFN forms will no longer be processed beyond this date.

How students can apply for a TFN from 1 January 2015

The Australian Taxation Office in partnership with Australia Post is making it easier for individuals to apply for a TFN. Students can now apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office.

Applying online is the fastest and most convenient way for students to get a TFN. More information on applying online can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for ‘QC27248’

Students who are unable to visit a participating Australia Post office will still need to complete the application form which is available online. More information about lodging this form can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for ‘QC22604’

The ATO will continue working with teachers to educate students about tax and superannuation. The curriculum resource Tax, Super & You is a free, easy to use, online educational resource aligned to the school curriculum of each state and territory. This resource can be accessed at taxsuperandyou.gov.au

If you require any further information you can phone 1300 130 282 between 8:00am and 5:00pm Monday to Friday.

Booklists

Please be advised that booklists are to be returned to the school by Wednesday 10th December. We have been advised by the school's supplier, Campion, that we are unable to accept booklists after this date.

If you have not returned your booklist to the school by this date, you will have to submit your order online at www.campion.com.au. Please be aware that online orders submitted AFTER the 10th December will not be available for collection, you must pay for home delivery.

Orders submitted by the 10th December will be available at our book collection day on Tuesday 27th January at the Dudley Campus, from 10.00am to 7.00pm. If you prefer, you may choose the home delivery option with books to arrive to your door during the week ending 16th January 2015.

Year 9 Girls Hiking Camp

This term during Year 9 Camps Week a group of eight girls headed off to Wilson's Prom to go on a five day, four night hike. Carrying 22kg hiking packs the group walked a total of almost 60 km over the five days. Sore feet, tired shoulders and blisters were definitely forgotten when the group enjoyed swimming at Little Waterloo Bay, roasting marshmallows over a tiny cooking stove and taking in the view from various parts of the track. The group certainly had a great feeling of accomplishment when they reached Telegraph Saddle car park where the bus came to take them home. I can definitely recommend this camp to any Year 8 or even Year 7 girls starting to think about Year 9 camp. It was a fantastic experience that I know all the girls involved will never forget. I'd also like to say a huge thank you to Miss Wallace and Mrs McFee for taking us.
RYDA Road Safety Driver Education Program

During the Year 12 Headstart program our students attended the RYDA Driver Education Program. The aim of the program is to equip young people with the knowledge to stay safe on our roads.

Young people aged 17 – 25 represent 15% of the population but count for around a quarter of deaths and injuries on our roads. Getting behind the wheel of a car as a young driver is said to be the most dangerous thing that a person will do in their entire life. The RYDA Program equips young people with the tools and knowledge they need to stay safe on the roads.

During this program the students take part in six interactive sessions on a range of road safety topics. Topics included: Stopping Distances; Hazards, Distractions & Risks; Plan B: Alcohol, Drugs and Fatigue, Road Choices, Crash Survivor and My Wheels.

Year 11 Headstart Excursion to Vietnam Veterans Museum

On the 2nd of December the Year 11 students ventured down to The Vietnam Veterans Museum. Upon arriving the students were broken up into 5 groups and guided around the museum by the friendly and knowledgeable staff. The information they learnt and the experience will be a valuable tool when the students write their essays next year. After leaving the museum the students had lunch at San Remo and enjoyed ball games by the beach. A huge thank you for Mr Fincher who organised the excursion and also Mr Hooper, Ms McNiece, Ms Gold and Mr Wilson who facilitated the day. Enjoy the break Year 11 and make sure you read your English texts!

Carly O’Malley
**GJ Gardner Homes Helping To Inspire Our Architects Of The Future**

**GJ Gardner Homes ‘Get the Facts up Front’ Building & Design Award**

Over the last term our Year 10 Building & Design students worked to specific criteria to design and construct a model house. GJ Gardner Homes have recently partnered with the secondary college and have offered incentives to further inspire the students.

Mr McLeod and Mr Cochrane’s classes produced some excellent assignments. The team from GJ Gardner Homes was impressed with the design elements, effort and skill from of the students.

Brett Tessari from GJ Gardner Homes judged the assignments and this week he met with the winning entrants: Nic Dobbie and Weston Sparkes. For their efforts Nic will collect a cheque for $150 and Weston $50. Will Dryden and Tom Eden also produced excellent pieces and were unlucky to miss out.

These students satisfied the criteria and both produced housing models which were innovative, environmentally friendly, realistic and showed that both boys were enthusiastic about a possible career in this industry.

GJ Gardner Homes have offered the opportunity to work further with the students and have their designs incorporated into the GJ Gardner range of homes. Watch this space for further developments and maybe even look on the GJ Gardner Homes website for “The Dobbie Deluxe” by Nic Dobbie, or “The Wow Factor” by Weston Sparkes.

Pictured here is Brett & Sue from GJ Gardner Homes, Adam Cochrane and the award winners: Nic Dobbie and Weston Sparkes.

**Careers Information**

**Certificate in IV Hospitality**

**Summer School for School Leavers**

Course Commencing 6 January 2015 at Wonthaggi RSL


Our Summer School program is a stage one of a two stage program. It is specifically designed for school leavers and university students to help them transition from school to the workforce and start earning money.

For three (3) days a week for three (3) weeks, you’ll learn how to make espresso coffee; prepare drinks behind a bar; serve food in a restaurant; and respond to a first aid emergency. Not only that, you’ll earn your Responsible Serving of Alcohol (RSA) certificate, your Responsible Service of Gambling (RSG) certificate, your Food Safety (FSH) certificate, your Apply First Aid certificate and more.
Year 10 Presentation Day

Last Monday afternoon the Year 10 Class of 2014 were acknowledged for their efforts over the past year. The ceremony at the Wonthaggi Arts Centre was watched on by students, staff, family and friends. Awards and Certificates were presented to students recognizing their involvement across academic, sporting, community and leadership programs.

The two key awards this year were won by Sydney Vanderheyden as Year 10 Student of the Year and Hannah McRae as Year 10 Sports Person of the Year. While Adam Busana and Renee Myring both won Coordinators awards for their consistent efforts across a range of subjects this year. Jake Lambert was this recipient of this year’s Jeff & Rose O’Meara Award.

Special awards for attendance were given to twelve students recognizing their near perfect attendance at school in 2014. In addition to this eight students were recognized for gaining an Effort recognition in every one of their subjects across both semesters this year. In addition to this there was a record 51 students acknowledged for gaining Efforts in the majority of their subjects and a further 32 students recognized for gaining Honours and Efforts on the majority of their subjects this year.

The ceremony was highlighted by a musical performance by Fergus McKittrick and Maddy Murray singing U2’s “All I Want is You” and an entertaining drama presentation performed by Alex Hancock, Elli Whitehead, Kayman Gruen-Barber and Tarnya Braumann.

Congratulations to all students on their efforts this year and a hearty thanks to all staff who supported the Year 10 group this year.

Phillip Island Jazz Festival

Congratulations to Kylah Di Pietro (Year 8 - pictured far right) and David Lawson (Year 12 - pictured right) who received encouragement awards at the recent Phillip Island Jazz Festival. In recent years, as part of the three day program, awards have been presented to encourage local students to pursue their musical endeavours. Our thanks to Robin Blackman (Festival Director) and all members of the organising committee - their support of our students is truly appreciated.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

The pursuit, even of the best things, ought to be calm and tranquil.

Marcus Tuillus Cicero
COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WONTHAGGI LSC
Bronze Camp 2015
Participants Handouts

Start: Sunday January 4, 2015 @ 2pm
Finish: Saturday January 11, 2015 @ 2pm

Wonthaggi LSC Bronze Camp is filling fast and is a great opportunity to learn new skills, develop new friendships and have fun. The camp will be held at the Wonthaggi LSC clubhouse and is fully catered and challenges candidates with practical sessions and scenarios to develop teamwork and leadership. We want to inspire new candidates to achieve their dull potential and be part of great movement that will bring our their best.

COST: This camp is $250 which is inclusive of accommodation, all food catered for the week, training manuals, patrol uniform, high visibility pink safety vest & membership fees for 2014/2015 season.

ACCOMMODATION: Is provided at the Wonthaggi LSC for the duration of the cap for those that wish to stay.

Participant under the age of 18 will have to fill in the additional parent/guardian permission form.

To register or any enquiries for the camp contact Cassandra - 0438 556 967 or Tayla - 0452 271 670 or Email - chiefinstructor@wlsc.org.au

Jessica Watson OAM – Ambassador for the Inverloch Classic Wooden Boat Regatta Australia Day Weekend 2015

Jessica Watson became the youngest person to sail around the world solo when she sailed back into Sydney Harbor in 2010. In 2011 she was honored with the award ‘Young Australian of the Year’ and later that year skippered the youngest crew ever to take on the Sydney Hobart Yacht Race. In 2012 Jessica was awarded the Order of Australia Medal.

Jessica will be in Inverloch on the Australia Day long weekend to support the Inverloch Classic Wooden Boat Regatta and give a public talk on her sailing adventures. Come and see up to 50 classic wooden boats on the inlet over the weekend and hear Jessica, accompanied by film footage, at the Inverloch Community Hub on Saturday evening 24th of January. She encourages young people to pursue their dreams and to take on the challenges of life. Jessica has addressed a wide range of audiences including the United Nations. She will also open the Regatta and be on the beach talking to people about their wooden dinghies.

TARWIN SHARKS UNDER 11’s & 13’s in 2015

The Tarwin Lower Football & Netball Club are pleased to announce that the 2015 season will see our kids in the Alberton Under 11 and Under 13 Competition.

The Tarwin Football & Netball Club has a great culture and is one of the most family orientated clubs in the league. Tarwin has a solid base of support from parents and anyone who wishes to get involved would be welcomed.

The club has a good number of local kids who are keen to play but more players are needed. For more information contact Mick Owen on 5663 5454.