

## WELCOME TO TERM 3!

Thank you to our students, families and staff for a fantastic Term 2. The term has been filled with exciting opportunities, memorable experiences and meaningful connections that have strengthened our community across all campuses.

One highlight was our Portsea Camp, where students from our City, Hybrid, South Melbourne and Sunshine campuses came together to challenge themselves, build friendships and create lasting memories. A smaller group of students and staff also participated in our first Extend Tour for the year to Central Australia, enjoying long days filled with adventure and sharing new experiences.

Our annual School Formal was another standout event, bringing students together for a wonderful evening of celebration and connection.

Throughout National Reconciliation Week, students engaged in meaningful learning that deepened their understanding of Australia's shared histories, encouraged reflection on the ongoing impacts of colonisation, and highlighted the importance of reconciliation.



Looking ahead, Term 3 promises even more opportunities for learning, growth and connection. Progress Meeting Week will support productive individualised conversations and goal setting, our Vietnam Extend Tour travellers will depart in August, and a range of significant recognition and celebration days will continue to promote inclusion, belonging and community across all campuses. We look forward to another exciting term ahead.

### **Amanda Amato**

Assistant Principal  
Wellbeing and Inclusion



**FORMAL 2026**

**SCHOOL, ONLY DIFFERENT**



# MEET OUR MID-YEAR GRADUATES!

## **Aiden, how do you reflect on your time at Hester?**

My reflection of my time at Hester Hornbrook has been extremely positive. I am a completely different person from before I started and I'm glad I changed for the better.

I've particularly enjoyed the Extend Tour and greatly appreciate the opportunity.

## **What are your interests and passions?**

I have a very big passion for the film and music industry. I would love to work in one of those respective industries.

## **What is your favorite lunch at Hester?**

Kat makes amazing sausage rolls, and I could eat 100 of them.

## **What are you excited for in the future?**

I have been attending Hester for a number of years, so I am a bit nervous, but excited to move on from school and pursue my interests, so I can get employment in my dream field of work.



## **Jay, how do you reflect on your time at Hester?**

I reflect on my time at Hester as a good, enjoyable and interesting time of my life. I went from being very shelled and quiet to an extrovert with a lot more friends and a better understanding of myself and what I'm like. I have enjoyed my time at Hester as it's allowed me to explore many different things and learn a lot of skills for when I exit and enter that scary thing known as \*the real world\*

## **What are your interests and passions?**

My interests are Lego, photography and honestly anything that allows me to be creative. Lego has been a lifelong passion and interests for me as it allows me to focus on one thing and be creative. Photography is also another passion I have as it allows me another kind of output creativity wise, combining Lego and photography is just a nice mix of forms I always enjoy when I have free time and motivation.

## **What is your favorite lunch at Hester?**

My favourite meal is when we get burritos and/or burrito bowls

## **What are you excited for in the future?**

I'm excited for finally being completed my high school equivalent learning, going into uni and finding more things I can become passionate about. It's gonna be daunting at the start like all thing but I look forward to it.

# LIVE MUSIC AT SCHOOL!

This term Werribee Campus experienced a live gig, when **7 Pound Halo** came and performed on campus. It was really cool and unexpected, and we loved having loud music blasting through the whole school. It was fun getting to see the band so close, dancing up front and speaking with the musicians afterwards.

Cookie from **Wyndham Youth Services** also led a workshop for students, where we learnt about live music tech set up. He was funning, and it was great that students could connect over similar interests.

Nine students took up the opportunity to go to Wyndham Youth Services Live Gig on the following Saturday night, where we got to see many well-known local bands perform. It was pretty alright. We would like to go and see more bands but often they are expensive, have big crowds and are far away. This was cool because it was affordable, youth friendly and a small venue where you get to be up-close. The highlights were the Mosh Pit and the Wall of Death during the night.

We would love to see more bands come to school.

## Seren and Thorn, Students



# MEET THE TEAM: KUMARI!

## What is your role at Hester?

Community Liaison Officer/ Youth Worker

## What drives you in work and life?

I'm motivated by helping people feel seen, heard, and included. Whether at work or in life, I love creating positive experiences, strengthening connections, and supporting people to thrive.

## What do you do to look after your mental health and wellbeing?

My outlet is Lawn Bowls. I love being involved in a sport for all ages, playing in the sunshine with friends and having the opportunity to represent Sri Lanka on the international stage. Recently, I took leave to compete in the World Bowls Indoor Championship, where athletes from 33 countries attended, and I was proud to win a bronze medal in the Women's Singles.

I also enjoy sharing my passion for the sport and introducing new people to the game—so if you're keen to learn, let me know!



**Kumari**  
Werribee Campus  
CLO & Youth Worker



# FIND YOUR FUTURE JOBS FAIR

This term students had an opportunity to talk to suppliers from a huge range of industries and higher education providers at our City & West HUB annual Find Your Future Jobs fair. Thank you to our incredible Careers, Alumni, Pathways and Employment (CAPE) team for showcasing the wealth of pathway options out there. Thank you also to the many young people from Hester Hornbrook who took the chance to speak to our stallholders on the day.



# SOLAR BUDDIES

The Sunshine senior class are raising awareness about the over 650 million people living in energy poverty and built this tub full of solar lights to be shipped to school children in Africa to provide them with light to cook, read and study after dark.



# EXTEND TOUR: CENTRAL AUSTRALIA



Every year, Hester Hornbrook Academy invites students to take a walk on the wild side, travelling to places like Central Australia, Singapore, or Vietnam. It is an exciting opportunity to experience the world away from home.

This term's EXTEND Tour to Central Australia took our young people to Alice Springs, where they experienced Uluru, were introduced to First Nations culture, desert wildlife, the Royal Flying Doctors service and the Earth Sanctuary Observatory; the Central Desert's night sky is not to be missed!

We are proud of the young people who put their hand up for this trip. It takes guts to get on a plane, meet new people and spend time away from home. We hope this trip will ignite curiosity and be the beginning of a lifetime of travelling, experiencing new cultures, and the world. We are all lifelong learners!



# GEELONG CAMPUS UPDATE

My name is **Alison Balchan**, and I am delighted to be the new **Head of Campus for Geelong**. I have been working closely with our executive and Geelong teams to strengthen connections and introduce ourselves across the local community by visiting schools and community organisations. It has been encouraging to see strong interest in our school, with many people keen to learn more about our unique model of education.

**On 30 July**, we will attend the **Geelong Careers Expo** at the new Convention Centre on the waterfront, where approximately 3,000 people are expected. We look forward to introducing Hester Hornbrook Academy to the wider community.

**On 6 August**, we will host an **information evening** at **Novotel, Eastern Beach Road, Geelong**:

- Session 1: 4.30pm–5.30pm (for schools, educators, community organisations)
- Session 2: 6.00pm–7.00pm (for students and families)

Please direct interested community members to our website or the QR code below to register. We are excited to continue growing our presence in Geelong!



**Alison Balchan**  
**Head of Campus**  
**Geelong Campus**



coming up...

### Progress Meetings

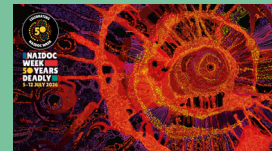
Tuesday July 14<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> - 11am-7pm

Friday July 17<sup>th</sup> - 9am-1pm

**Please get in touch with your or your young person's classroom team to book a meeting.**

## NAIDOC

Due to the Term Break Hester Hornbrook will celebrate NAIDOC in the last week of Term 2 and the first week of classes in Term 3.



**THEME: Fifty Years of Deadly** marks a milestone. It's a tribute to the people who built the NAIDOC movement. the Elders who stood firm, the organisers who made space, the artists who turned resistance into expression, and the communities who keep showing up, year after year.

NAIDOC has always been more than a week — it's a platform, a protest, a celebration, and a statement of survival. Due to the Term Break

## WEAR IT PURPLE

Friday August 28<sup>th</sup> is Wear It Purple Day show LGBTQIA+ young people that they are seen, supported, and celebrated for who they are.



## R U OK? DAY



Thursday 10 September is R U OK? Day but whether it's a friend, family member, partner, or colleague, the people around us go through life's ups and downs every day. That's why we want everyone to feel confident to check in with the people they care about and Ask R U OK? Any Day.

## TERM 3 - OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

### FIRST DAY of Classes Term 3

Date: Monday 20<sup>th</sup>, July

### Geelong Campus Information Session

Date: August 6<sup>th</sup> sessions at 4:30 and 6:00pm  
Novotel, Eastern Beach Rd, Geelong

### Student Free Day

Date: August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Campuses closed.

### LAST DAY of classes Term 3

Date: September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Time: 10:00am -1:30pm



[HHACADEMY.VIC.EDU.AU](http://HHACADEMY.VIC.EDU.AU) OR CALL 1800 517 218