



DUNKELD CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL


We are a Child Safe School and we will protect all children at all times.

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Find us on 

Newsletter No. 6 – Wednesday 28 April 2021

APRIL 2021

- Wednesday 28 Somers Camp - students return.
Dunkeld Consolidated School Newsletter issue 6.
- Thursday 29 Caulfield Grammar School visit and Concert.
[School Lunch Orders.](#)
- Friday 30 SAKG Kitchen and Garden classes.

MAY 2021

- Monday 3 ~~House Cross Country events. Held in the afternoon. Postponed due to forecasted heavy rain.~~
- Tuesday 4 Policy Sub-committee Meeting commencing at 5.15pm in the staffroom.
Fundraising Working Party Meeting commencing at 6.15pm in the staffroom.
[School Lunch Orders.](#)
- Wednesday 5 **House Cross Country events commencing at 1.30pm.**
Dunkeld and District Community Newsletter Issue 6.
- Thursday 6 [School Lunch Orders.](#)
- Friday 7 SAKG Kitchen and Garden classes.
Combined Division Athletics Carnival at the Brauerander Park Athletics Track Warrnambool.
- Tuesday 11 **NAPLAN** testing will run from 11 May through to Thursday 20 May. Testing will involve all Year 3 and 5 students.
[School Lunch Orders.](#)
- Wednesday 12 Dunkeld Consolidated School Newsletter issue 7.
- Thursday 13 MARC Library.
[School Lunch Orders](#)
- Friday 14 **Do It For Dolly Day** – students are encouraged to wear a ‘touch of blue’ and bring a gold coin donation.
National Walk Safely to School Day.
SAKG Kitchen and Garden classes.
SGSSA Cross Country at Tarrington School.
[School Lunch Orders](#)
- Tuesday 18
- Wednesday 19 **ANNUAL SCHOOL PHOTOS.**
National Simultaneous Story time.
Dunkeld and District Community Newsletter issue 7.
- Thursday 20 MARC Library.
[School Lunch Orders.](#)
- Friday 21 SAKG Kitchen and Garden classes.
- Monday 24 Greater Western Region Cross Country Championships at Brauer College, Warrnambool.
- Tuesday 25 School Council Meeting commencing at 7.30pm in the staffroom.
[School Lunch Orders.](#)
- Wednesday 26 Dunkeld Consolidated School Newsletter issue 8.
- Thursday 27 MARC Library.
[School Lunch Orders](#)

FROM Mrs Dee-Anne Gerring, Acting Principal...

Acting Principal's Report

Welcome back to all our students, teachers, families and community members to Term 2. We hope to see an uninterrupted term, full of engaging learning activities for our students to enjoy. I thank all our staff for their continued dedication to our students. The care and guidance they give to our students and teaching delivered, is second to none. Students and families, we are so lucky!

We again start the term with the calendar filling up quickly. Whilst students enjoyed a Pupil Free Day for the first day of term, staff spent the day revising our School Strategic Plan and Annual Implementation Plan, to monitor how we are tracking and guide where to next with our planning and use of resources. We also revisited the Framework for Improving Student Outcomes (FISO), which we will continue to do regularly and ongoing.

During the first week, we held our own school ANZAC Day Service, where senior students delivered readings, poems and stories. I would like to congratulate Libby Herrmann for her inspiring speech about the life of her great-grandfather, Henry Leech. The time and effort Libby spent diving into the life of Mr Leech, was not only a wonderful learning experience for her, but a moving experience for all who were lucky to hear her speak at our school assembly and then at the Dunkeld RSL Dawn Service. Libby, thank you for sharing Henry Leech's life story and well done on the exemplary delivery. Thank you also to Mitchell Gordon who read the Ode of Remembrance at both services and to

Hugh Prentice for his reading of an ANZAC Day poem.

This week we have Caulfield Grammar visiting our school. This has been a long standing partnership of their Music students visiting our school and showcasing their talents to our younger students. Our wonderful P & F Committee and volunteers will be providing Caulfield Grammar their lunch and a small concert will follow for all students in the afternoon.

Coming up, we have School Cross Country on Wednesday 5 May 2021. Students have been doing some practise in PE sessions, as well as having the opportunity for a daily run around the set course.

NAPLAN testing begins on Tuesday 11 May 2021. All students in Years 3 and 5 across the country will be participating in this testing. Our students have had a chance to familiarise themselves with the process of completing the computer based practise tests. If students are absent during one of the testing days, there is a catch-up period throughout the two-week period.

Thank you, Dee Gerring

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

The School Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday 27 April was cancelled and the next School Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 25 May 2021, commencing at 7.30pm in the staffroom.

The following sub-committee meetings will be held on Tuesday 4 May 2021 in the school staffroom:

- Policy Sub-Committee meeting commencing at 5.15pm.
- Fundraising Working Party Meeting commencing at 6.15pm.

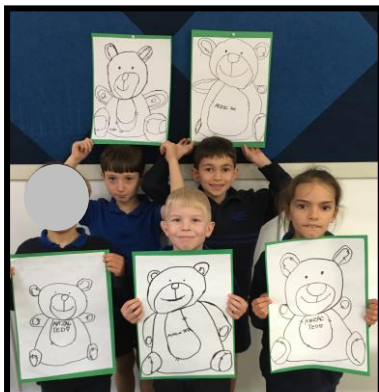
The Facilities Sub-Committee organised a meeting/inspection of school facilities during the recent school holidays.

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

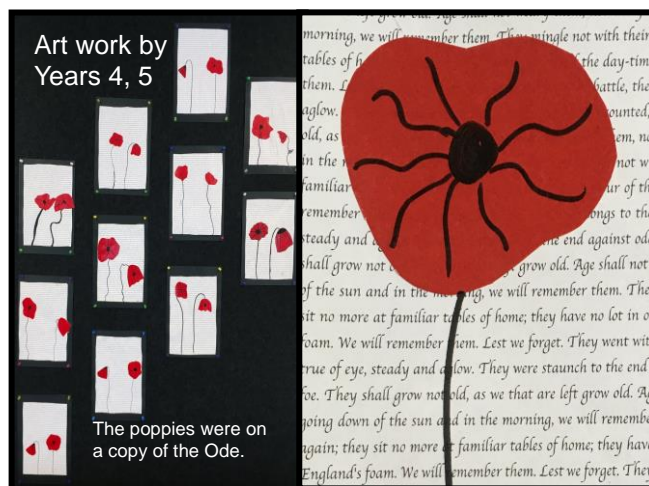
ANZAC ART

Our students have a respectful and amazing display of their ANZAC artwork throughout the school.

Prep and Year 1 Art:



ANZAC Ted
Year 2/3 Digby, James,
Archie, George and Chloe.



Art work by
Years 4, 5

The poppies were on
a copy of the Ode.



Outstanding Year 4, 5 and 6.

Some reflections about ANZAC Day from Prep and Year One

Libby told us they had no food. Annabelle Beveridge

I learnt some soldiers were prisoners and I didn't know that they had to build train tracks. Michaela Roache

ANZAC day is the day we think about the people in the army and the people that died. Liv Lance

Soldiers go marching on ANZAC Day. Edwin White

They have to be brave to be in the war. George Phillips

Libby had the longest story and we found out that you get really hurt in war. War isn't very nice. Dempsey Gerring

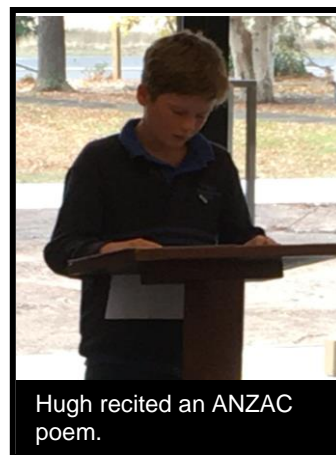
On Friday 23 April our school assembled to commemorate all the men and women who served our nation in all wars.



Thank you to our guest speaker, Mr Terry Noble.



The Ode was read by Mitchell.



Hugh recited an ANZAC poem.

Libby Herrmann Year 6, told us a remarkable recount of her great-grandpa, Henry Leech's time in the war.

On this special day when we remember our brave ANZACs, I am thinking of my great-grandpa Henry Leech. Some of you may remember Henry from his many years in Dunkeld, or will have seen his name on the RSL Room in our Community Centre, or may know that he received an Order of Australia Medal for his contributions to the Dunkeld community. But to me, he was just 'Pa Henry'. I remember him as a very tall old man, who had trouble with his eyesight, and he would bend down to see my face when we talked to each other. He was kind and funny and everyone says he was a true gentleman.

Eighty years ago, he was just a 16 year old boy when he enlisted in the army in World War II. He was only four years older than I am, but he told the enlistment officers he was 21! Henry joined up with his best mate from school, Davey Young. They'd been boys together in Fitzroy, and then they became Private Leech and Private Young of the 2nd/29th battalion of the Australian Imperial Forces. They got photos taken in their brand new uniforms with Davey's sisters, and then they went off to train for war.

Mostly when I think about war, I think of soldiers going off to fight the enemy with guns and tanks, or getting wounded or dying in battle. That's what Henry thought too. He thought they'd be going to the Middle East where his big brother Joe was fighting. But instead of fighting the Germans in the desert, they ended up in the jungle fighting the Japanese, and had to surrender to them in Singapore after only two months. Henry and Davey were among 15 thousand Australians, and tens of thousands of British troops who suddenly became Prisoners of War. They would still have to fight, but it was a different sort of fight to the one they'd imagined. And their enemy had a different code of honour.

The Japanese believed that it was a shameful disgrace to be captured alive by your enemy. It was an honour to kill yourself or die fighting for the Emperor, rather than be taken prisoner. Prisoners were weak in spirit; sick prisoners were even weaker. They weren't worthy of life, let alone decent treatment. All that they were good for, was working to build things that would help Japan win the war.

And that's how Henry came to be a slave on the Thai-Burma Railway. It wasn't called the Death Railway yet. It was an epic railway line that was to be 415 kilometres long, through remote wilderness, over rivers, over mountains and through rock. And the prisoners had to build it all by hand. No machines, just basic tools – shovels and wicker baskets to shift the dirt, blunt axes to clear the thick spikey bamboo, picks and crowbars to chip away at the rock.

When Henry first started on the line, the weather was good. The work was hard but not unmanageable. The men were still capable of things like performing concerts in their camp and acting out horse races. But the camps were very rough. Their huts were just bamboo shelters with a palm leaf roof, and their toilet was just a long open pit in the ground. There was never enough food and the men were slowly starving. They started to get diseases of malnutrition and tropical diseases. There was no medicine and so men began to die.

And the whole time, they were under constant threat of brutal punishments by the guards. If they tried to escape, they were killed; got caught with a radio – killed; got caught drawing pictures or keeping a diary – killed. But mostly they were just bashed with sticks of bamboo. Bashed every day for the smallest things, and sometimes even bashed for being sick.



Henry, like everyone else, got sick. He had malaria which would relapse with fevers every few weeks. And he got tropical ulcers on his legs. The ulcers would start from a small scratch which was really common because the men's boots had worn out and they had to go barefoot. The scratch would turn into a big, painful, rotting wound and if it got into the bone, your leg would have to be amputated. At times, the doctors were cutting off 8 legs a day, sometimes with no anaesthetic. Luckily Henry's ulcers healed.

The camp doctors worked so hard to protect their men, and they were loved for it. One doctor saved Henry's life just by crossing his name off a list! Henry was on a list of men who were to go by boat to Japan to work in the mines. However, his feet had been badly burnt while working, and the doctor said he wasn't fit to go. The boat was torpedoed and sunk, and three quarters of the men on board died.

Meanwhile, back at home, Henry's family were waiting to hear news of their boy. They'd been told in February 1942 that he was reported missing. It wasn't until 18 months later, in October 1943, that they received a telegram saying that "VX60451 Leech H.F., previously reported missing, is now reported prisoner of war." Barely any mail was allowed to get in or out of the camps. Henry was lucky one day to receive a small treasure – a photo of his little sister Doris holding a horse. His family only received 2 cards in the next 2 years. They were pre-written by the Japanese, describing the camps as a good place to be, and signed by Henry. On one of them he was able to write at the bottom: "Remember me to all at home. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas. Lots of love." They probably felt



relieved and thought that he was safe and out of harm's way.

But on the railway, the monsoon season started and things actually got worse. The Japanese were under more and more pressure to get the line finished, so they made the men work harder and harder.

For the next six months, Henry's days would have gone like this:

Wake up at 5.00am.

Line up for breakfast – a cup of watery rice.

Pack lunch – a ball of rice the size of a golf ball.

Gather at assembly in the pouring rain, wearing only a loincloth and hat.

Listen, as the Japanese officer calls out the number of fit men needed to go and work that day.

Watch, as the camp doctor tries to haggle the number down, because there are no fit men. There are only men who are less sick than others.

Start walking towards the railway, barefoot in the mud and filth from the overflowing toilet pit.

See the men at the front of the line, who look a bit like skeletons, but can still walk OK... See the men in the middle, shaking with malaria, and stumbling in pain on their ulcerated feet...

And see the men at the back, too weak and starved to walk, being carried on stretchers by their mates who refuse to leave them behind to die...

Then arrive at the worksite. Chip away at the rock or dirt or track for 14 hours, before turning around to walk back to camp in the dark. This time with different men taking a turn carrying the stretchers.

Line up for dinner – more rice (often dirty rice with rat poo and maggots).

Then go to bed on the hard bamboo sleeping bench with maybe just enough room to be able to lie flat and go to sleep and dream of home, before waking up at 5.00am to do it all again the next day.

Somehow, two out of three Australians on the railway did get through each day and live to go home after three and a half years when we finally won the war. They proved to the Japanese that they weren't weak in spirit. They were amazingly strong. *Their code of was 'always help your mates'.*

But there was one mate who Henry couldn't help...

When Henry got sent to the railway, Davey was sent to Sandakan in Borneo. 2,434 men were at Sandakan... Only 6 came home... Davey died five months before the end of the war.

Henry got home just after he'd really turned 21. And for the next 70 years he lived a full and happy life, and always gave what he could to help those who needed it.

SPORT

HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY ON WEDNESDAY 5 MAY 2021 – 1.30pm start

Due to inclement weather being forecast for Monday 3 May, our House Cross Country Sports will now be held on Wednesday 5 May commencing at 1.30pm. Regular classes will run prior to the Cross Country events.

Students are encouraged to wear a red polo shirt/t-shirt if they are in Wannan House or their blue polo shirt if they are in Sturgeon House. There will be an early lunch break at 12.30pm and the first event will begin at 1.30pm, concluding with presentations and assembly at 3.00pm and dismissal at approximately 3.20pm.

Age groups and distances are as follows:

- 5/6 years 500 metres
- 7/8 years 1000 metres
- 9/10 years 2000 metres
- 11/12/13 years 3000 metres

Parents are welcome to attend.



DIVISION ATHLETICS CARNIVAL ON FRIDAY 7 MAY 2021

The following students have qualified to compete in the Combined Warrnambool, Portland and Hamilton Division Athletics Carnival on Friday 7 May 2021 at the Brauerander Park Athletics Track in Warrnambool: *Phoebe Lazzari, Lachie Gordon, Lachie Oldfield Mann, Charles Prentice, Jack Oldfield Mann, Indi Mibus, Charlotte Alderman, Phoebe Ross, Ella Peters, Sean Bird, Darcy Potter, Edie Jackson, Sebastian Aarons, Oscar Fanning, Zander Mibus, Louis Lazzari and Hugh Prentice.* We wish all our students the best at this next level of competition.

SCHOOL NEWS AND EVENTS

CAULFIELD GRAMMAR SCHOOL VISIT ON THURSDAY 29 APRIL 2021

On Thursday 29 April, a group of Caulfield Grammar School Music students will be calling into our school as part of their tour of Western Victoria. The P & F Association will kindly provide lunch for the Caulfield Grammar School students and staff. The music students will hold a concert for all our students in the school hall from approximately 2.00pm to 3.00pm.

NATIONAL WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL

Primary school aged children across Australia will make those important steps towards a healthier future by participating in National Walk Safely to School Day on **Friday 14 May 2021.**

National Walk Safely to School Day is a community initiative that aims to raise awareness of the health, road safety, transport and environmental benefits that regular walking (especially to and from school) can provide for the long term well-being of our children. Apart from the physical benefits, regular walking also has a favourable impact on their cognitive and academic performance.

The annual event, now in its 22nd year, encourages primary school aged children to build walking into their daily routine, by walking to and from school, not just on Friday 14 May, but every day.

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM – LITERACY AND NUMERACY 2021

NAPLAN testing will involve all students in Years 3 and 5 only. *Please try to ensure that your child is present on each day and on time to school where a test is scheduled.* Dates for this year's NAPLAN Tests are as follows: Tuesday 11 May through to Friday 21 May for testing and catch ups, if needed. NAPLAN tests are Language Conventions and Writing Tests, Reading Test, Numeracy Test.

SCHOOL PHOTOS ON WEDNESDAY 19 MAY 2021



The annual school photos for all students and staff will be held on Wednesday 19 May 2021. Students are required to wear full winter school uniform including black school shoes/runners or black school boots. Parents are encouraged to have all students in correct winter school uniform.

Order envelopes will be sent home with all students in the near future.

Misplaced School Sports Jacket

One of our School Sports jackets has been misplaced. May be tucked away in a cupboard, drawer or at bottom of a wash basket. It would be appreciate if past and present students could have a look please.

STEPHANIE ALEXANDER KITCHEN GARDEN PROGRAM (SAKG)

Reports by SAKG Kitchen and Garden Captains ...

Kitchen Report

Last Friday the Awesome Agapanthus cooked in the kitchen. We cooked Beetroot and Herb Risotto, Borek, and Silver beet, Leek and Feta Slice. It was delicious! By Libby Herrmann.

Garden Report

This week in gardening, Group B have been very busy. We continued with pruning the fruit trees in our garden. With the rain and sun we have been getting, our garden should do well. By Jake Linskens



Reminder: SCHOOL LUNCH ORDERS

Our external school lunch provider is Izzy's Mountain View Café, Dunkeld.

Lunch orders will be available on a TUESDAY and THURSDAY.

Students are responsible for placing their orders, written on a brown paper bag with money enclosed, in specially marked box near the School Admin Office. Please send correct money if possible. A copy of the menu and pricelist is available on the school website: www.dunkeld.vic.edu.au/page/77/School-Lunch-Orders

Students who fail to put in their lunch orders (or forget their lunch) will be given school supplied lunches. **A charge of \$1.00 per item will apply.** This charge will be paid to the school using the child's lunch order money or a note sent home in the child's diary.

BATTERY FUNDRAISER REMINDER

The Dunkeld Consolidated School wants your Used Batteries!

The Dunkeld Consolidated School Council has been conducting an ongoing Battery Collection Fundraiser.

Kelly's Dunkeld have kindly offered to be a central collection point for used batteries for the Dunkeld Consolidated School (Jason Linskens was instrumental in organising this). Any unwanted car, truck, tractor, boat batteries etc may be dropped off at Kelly's Hardware Store, 101 Parker Street, Dunkeld.

Components of used batteries e.g. metals, acids and plastics are reclaimed, recycled and put back into the manufacturing process to build more batteries and household products, 98% of the battery is recycled.

If you require any assistance with the pick-up of your used batteries, please contact Simon Ross on 0408 984 499. Thank you for your support!