May 2015 Newsletter

2015 State Budget disappointment
It was with much disappointment we were again overlooked in the State Budget released in early May. This is the 4th consecutive year that the college has not been granted Stage 2 funding. Our School Council and I, as Principal, have advocated hard for funding every year since 2012 and to again be refused the funding we need to finish our school is extremely frustrating for us all.
What is also frustrating is the lack of communication we receive from the Education Department in terms of explanation for why we are not receiving the funds required to finish our school. At least this year a bureaucrat from the Department actually called to state how they realise we must be disappointed...this did not help!
What does this mean for Tarneit Senior? Unfortunately it means more portable buildings will be located on our site for 2016 and more spending of our own money on landscaping and walkways to make the area worthy of our students. All money wasted because as soon as we build Stage 2 these areas will no longer be used.
I have been assured by bureaucrats that we are 'top of the list' for funding in 2016...I'll believe that when the money is in our bank accounts and we are building Stage 2. School Council and I will continue to agitate with the Education Department and State Government throughout 2015 to put us in the best position to obtain Stage 2 funding in next year's State Budget.

Something Good in the Budget! - Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund
The Victorian Government have unveiled a new $148 million initiative to ensure all Victorian students can take part in school trips and sporting activities.
The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) will run over four years and provide payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions.
Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. $125 per year will be paid for eligible primary school students, with $225 per year paid for eligible secondary school students. Payments will go directly to the school and will be tied to the student.
Families were emailed this information last week. We urge you to take advantage of this Fund to support your child's education.

Improved Bus services for Tarneit!
I met with our local bus company recently to discuss the upcoming improvements to bus services for the Tarneit community. It was all good news for Tarneit Senior! More detail will follow on our website but with the opening of the Tarneit Railway station; bus services throughout Tarneit will improve greatly. We will email families as soon as we have finalised timetable and Bus routes.

2014 Annual Report to School Community
Our 2014 Annual Report is now available for community reading on our website. The Report summarises the performance of our school during the 2014 school year. All government schools are required to produce an annual report to the school community.
Library in winter
As the days get cooler, the library heats up with lots of board games and card games at lunchtime. Students meet their friends and socialise over the break. Others come to hide away and get some work done. We have a new library assistant, Rebecca, is working part time in the library putting all the books into the catalogue. In the meantime, students can still loan books from the Library Desk. The new veranda is keeping us dry as we walk from building B over to the library.

Introducing 2015’s STUDENT VOICE:
Student Voice matters at Tarneit Senior. In 2015 our Student Voice are playing an important role in the developing culture of our school. Student Voice members balance their commitments to study with their passion to represent their fellow students.

Year 12: Foad Mume  Tapairu Katoa  Amber Hayes  Dumi Newbetre  Jennelin Guanzon  Chol Aguek  Jessica Amato
Year 11: Rachael Dooley  Tamia Stewart  Sagal Duale  Archana Charlapally  Alex Muktyala  Safiyyah Mohammed  Rahma Abdullahi  Tayla Amato  Ilili Adugna  Sahra Sarup
Year 10: Anjelica Oztan  Shannon Jacobs  Loveyta Stevens  Bobby Grover  Barisa Degal  Amie Crawford
The College thanks School Captains and House Captains for their time in interviewing and choosing all the students who make up this year’s Student Voice.

Curriculum Day – Friday 22 May 2015
The college held its first Staff professional learning day on Friday 22 May. Staff spent the day focussing on how we can ensure every child in every class is catered to in terms of their learning needs.
School Athletics Carnival
The TSC athletics carnival was held in late April at Werribee Athletics track. Fortunately the weather held up and the day was a success. It was great to see so many of our students participating and getting into the House colour theme on the day. Congratulations to Red House on their victory.
End of Semester exams
All students sit exams at the end of semester one. Exams encompass all the work students complete during a semester. In preparation for exams students should be reviewing and revising the work they have completed during terms 1 & 2. Exams commence on Friday 5 June.

Outdoor Education
Last week the year 11 Outdoor and Environmental Studies class attended a camp to Lake Eppalock. Students visited the dam wall and spoke to the ranger on the water management of the area, visited local historical sites and were challenged to navigate around the Kimbolton State Forest to find navigational markers during the day and also at night. The group worked well together as a team to find their way around the bush after being geographically embarrassed a number of times and survived the trip. Many laughs were had and lots of skills were developed. The class is now using this practical experience and knowledge to complete course work and looking forward to the next camp to Wilsons Prom later in the year.

More building works
Covered ways have now been installed along our portable buildings to enable staff and students to get to class without getting wet! It was extremely disappointing that the Education Department would not support us in provision of these covered ways and we were required to fund the cost of installing these walkways out of money we would rather have spent on student resources. Our fencing is now complete. Whilst it took significantly longer than our fencer indicated it would take; at least we now have a secure boundary around the whole college property. This will reduce the amount of rubbish dumping that was occurring on our site over the last three years. Funding for the fence was a partnership between Tarneit Senior and Tarneit P-9 and on this occasion the Education Department did support us through the provision of some money to fund the fence.

Winter Uniform wearing
It’s getting cold; this does not mean wearing hoodies or other non-uniform items is ok! Our uniform requirements are clear at Tarneit Senior. Students arriving out of uniform are instructed to remove any non-uniform items or return home to get changed into correct school uniform. We ask parents to support us by ensuring your child does not leave for school out of uniform.
Yr10 Sport Coaching

This semester the Yr10 Sports Coaching class has been taking charge of our practical sessions and putting their coaching skills and plans into practice. During this time, the class has peer coached sports including; Netball, Basketball, European Handball, OzTag, AFL, Volleyball, Ultimate Frisbee, Capture the Flag and in the images attached, the Soccer coaches in action. Well done to all coaches!

Alicia Walsh

It’s not okay to be away

At Tarneit Senior College we have a minimum attendance rate of 90% for all students. Even an attendance rate of 90% is in reality too low and all students should aim to be at school every day.

As a parent one of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she is at school on time every day.

There is a clear and established link between school attendance and success at school. A recent report from the Victorian Auditor General found that 'students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long term unemployment later in life'. Conversely; students who attend school regularly experience success and achieve higher scores at Year 12.

School refusal

Children of all ages can be very persuasive when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear. If your child refuses to attend school then the best course of action is to contact the school for support; not to allow your child to stay at home.
Tarneit Railway Station Event # 2 – FREE bike checks and BBQ!

Sponsored by WynBUG Bicycle Network

When: Saturday 30 May, 2015
Where: Tarneit Community Learning Centre, 150 Sunset Boulevard, Tarneit
Time: 1pm – 3pm
FREE: Bike checks and BBQ at 1pm with ride commencing 2pm and concluding at 2.45pm
Register: Via email info@getwyndhammoving.com.au or call 9742 0996

The Get Wyndham Moving team are encouraging residents to tell people about the new services and best walking and cycling paths they discover to/from the new railway station. Get in contact with us too if you’d like to be involved with the temporary signage project to help highlight the best bike paths to the stations.

For more information about the events and to view bike path maps click here
Further information about the new services will be available from the 1st of June onwards on the Public Transport Victoria (PTV) website http://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/ or call PTV anytime from 6am - midnight daily on 1800 800 007.

It’s reassuring to know that you increase your child's chances of future success just by making sure they turn up for school every day. Please support us in making sure your child attends school every day.

Michael Fawcett - Principal