COBDEN TECHNICAL SCHOOL

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Committed to Students, Committed to Success

Be sure to check out the website for our school
https://www.cobtech.vic.edu/

Term 4 Week 3 **October 2026**

We are committed to find and celebrate successful outcomes for students, whether that is in the pursuit of high-level academic achievement, or the development of specific vocational skills.
The values we strive to develop and promote through our interactions with students, parents and other members of our community are Honesty, Excellence, Accountability, Respect and Teamwork - HEART

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***School Council Parents**: Anita La Franchi ♦ Jenna Hanel ♦ Fiona Dobbins ♦ Amanda Weel ♦ Simone Hayes ♦ Greg Suter*

In the spirit of reconciliation, Cobden Technical School acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this country the Djargurd Wurrung and Kirrae Whurrung peoples of the Eastern Maar nation. We pay our deepest respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the tradition, the culture and identity of the Indigenous peoples of Australia.



Principal's Desk

Narelle Holliday – Principal

As we move further into Term 4, there is certainly plenty happening at school. While our school continues to undergo significant changes, I have been particularly pleased with the flexibility, resilience and positive attitude shown by our students and staff.



Celebrating Our Year 12 Students

One of the highlights of the past week was celebrating the final day of school for our Year 12 students.

It was a wonderful occasion, filled with laughter, memories and a genuine sense of celebration. I was particularly proud of the way our Year 12 students conducted themselves and the respect they showed towards their teachers, fellow students and the school community.



Throughout their time at Cobden Technical School, these students have demonstrated our HEART values of Honesty, Excellence, Accountability, Respect and Teamwork. It was lovely to see these values reflected in the way they celebrated this important milestone.

It is also exciting to see the positive pathways already emerging for many of our students. Some have secured employment, while others have commenced part-time work as they prepare for further training or study in 2027. These transitions are an important reminder that success looks different for every student, and our role is to help each young person find their own pathway.

To our Year 12 students, congratulations on reaching this milestone and good luck to those preparing for their exams. We are proud of your achievements and look forward to hearing about the next chapter of your lives.

World Teachers' Day – Friday 30 October

Next Friday, we celebrate World Teachers' Day, an opportunity to recognise and thank the wonderful teachers who make such a difference in the lives of our students every day.

Teaching is so much more than delivering lessons. Our teachers encourage, challenge, support and inspire young people, often making a difference in ways they may never fully realise.



This year in particular, our staff have demonstrated incredible flexibility as they have navigated changes to classrooms, offices, facilities and daily routines, all while maintaining their focus on student learning and wellbeing.

I am extremely grateful for the professionalism, commitment and care our teachers bring to Cobden Technical School. I would also like to acknowledge our education support and administration staff, whose work alongside our teachers is essential to everything we achieve as a school.

I encourage our students and families to take a moment to thank a teacher who has made a difference. A simple thank-you can mean a great deal.

To all our teachers, thank you for the work you do, the relationships you build and the opportunities you create for our students.

Our building project continues to progress, with the recent demolition of the amenities block marking another significant stage in the redevelopment.

The changes have meant further adjustments to our school environment, including relocated offices, changes to access and the use of portable toilets for the remainder of the term. Gym upgrade works are also currently underway and while these arrangements are certainly not ideal, our students and staff have adapted remarkably well. These changes are bringing us another step closer to being able to access the new facilities and we hope to be able to move in at the end of the year ready for 2027.

Our new student lockers arrived on the first day of term and have now been installed in the corridors, a change from their previous location in the undercover area. Students have adapted well to this new arrangement, demonstrating our HEART values of Respect and Accountability in the way they have embraced the change and looked after their new spaces.

Exploring Opportunities at the new South West Tech School

Our students have also had the opportunity to visit the new South West Tech School, and it has been fantastic to see their enthusiasm and engagement.

The facility provides an exciting opportunity for students to experience contemporary technologies, explore industry connections and develop a greater understanding of the skills and careers of the future.

These visits have provided a glimpse of what is possible when education and industry work together to create meaningful learning experiences.

For students in a regional community such as ours, access to these opportunities is particularly valuable. We look forward to building on this partnership and ensuring our students can benefit from the programs and experiences the Tech School will offer in the years ahead.

Looking Ahead

As we approach the final weeks of the school year, our focus remains on maintaining strong learning routines, supporting students through their final assessments and celebrating their achievements.

With so much happening around us, I continue to be grateful for the commitment of our staff, the support of our families and the positive contribution of our students.

Assistant Principal Report



Sarah Cook – Assistant Principal

A Positive Start to Term 4

It has been a fantastic first three weeks back at Cobden Technical School, with students settling into their learning routines and engaging in a range of exciting opportunities. It has been wonderful to see so many students demonstrating our HEART Values and making a positive start to the final term of the year. We awarded our HEART awardees for Term 3 in our Mentor classes earlier this term and congratulate all students that have been acknowledged for their positive efforts and behaviours in the school and community.

With the warmer weather upon us, it has been particularly pleasing to see students being **SunSmart** and wearing their **CTS bucket hats** when outdoors. A reminder that students are required to wear their school bucket hat when outside during Term 4. For students without a hat, or those simply looking for a quiet place to relax, stay cool or enjoy some games with friends, our library is open during break times. We encourage students to make the most of this welcoming space.

It is also important that students bring a drink bottle filled with water to school to stay hydrated. Students are encouraged to take these to class with them. We have also been reminding students about dressing for the warm weather. All students may wear knee length plain black shorts or the green and white checked school dress. If students require support with uniform please speak to the wellbeing team.

Celebrating Our Year 12 Students

We have reached an exciting milestone for our senior students, with our VET students completing their courses and our Year 12 students enjoying a wonderful final day of school. Our final assembly, morning tea and celebration excursion provided a fantastic opportunity to recognise their achievements, reflect on their journey and celebrate the friendships and memories they have made along the way.



It was particularly pleasing to see our Year 12 students demonstrating our HEART Values throughout their final day. They showed respect and appreciation towards staff and peers, celebrated one another's achievements and conducted themselves in a positive and responsible manner. They should be incredibly proud of the way they represented themselves and our school community. We wish them every success as they begin their next chapter.

Next week, our VCE students will begin their examinations. We wish them all the very best and encourage them to approach this period with confidence, preparation and a focus on their wellbeing. Their hard work and commitment throughout the year are to be commended.

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support – ICT Expectations

As part of our ongoing commitment to School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS), our current focus is on being **safe, respectful and focused on learning when using ICT devices.**

Technology plays an important role in supporting student learning, and we are working to ensure that students understand their responsibilities when using school devices. This includes using technology for its intended learning purpose, keeping screens visible to staff, following teacher instructions, respecting others and taking responsibility for the care and appropriate use of devices.

Our staff are continuing to work towards greater consistency in implementing school procedures and explicitly teaching the expectations outlined in our CTS Behaviour Matrix. Rather than assuming students know what is expected, we are focusing on teaching, modelling and reinforcing positive behaviours across all learning environments. Consistency in our approach helps students develop positive habits, understand boundaries and remain focused on their learning.

We encourage families to support these expectations through conversations at home about responsible technology use and the importance of making positive choices online and at school.

Student Bike and E-Scooter Safety

At Cobden Technical School, we have been placing an increased focus on student safety when travelling to and from school, particularly for students riding bicycles, e-bikes and e-scooters. We have been working closely with **Cobden Police**, who have visited the school and spoken with students about road safety, responsible riding behaviours and concerns they have observed within our local community. These conversations have highlighted the importance of wearing helmets, following road rules, being aware of pedestrians and other road users, and understanding the legal requirements associated with e-bikes and e-scooters. We encourage all parents and carers to continue these important conversations at home, ensuring their children understand their responsibilities and are using their bikes or scooters safely and legally. By working together with families, Victoria Police and our wider community, we can help ensure the safety of our students and others when travelling to and from school. We thank Cobden Police for their ongoing support and commitment to keeping our young people safe.

Thank you to our students, staff and families for contributing to such a positive start to Term 4. We look forward to a productive and enjoyable remainder of the school year.



Building Respectful Relationships Within Our School Community

At Cobden Technical School, we value the strong partnerships we share with our families and recognise the important role parents and carers play in supporting student learning, wellbeing and success. Positive relationships between home and school are built on mutual respect, trust, open communication and a shared commitment to achieving the best outcomes for our students.

The Victorian Department of Education's **Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy** outlines the shared responsibility of parents, carers and school staff to maintain a safe, respectful and inclusive environment. Just as we expect our students to demonstrate our HEART Values, it is important that all adults within our school community model these same expectations.

We understand that there may be times when parents and carers have questions, concerns or differing perspectives regarding school decisions, student behaviour or learning. We welcome these conversations and encourage families to raise concerns so that we can work together towards positive solutions. However, we ask that **all interactions with staff remain respectful, calm and constructive**, whether in person, over the telephone, through email or on social media.

Our staff work hard each day to support the learning, safety and wellbeing of every student. As outlined in Department of Education policy, school staff have the right to a safe and respectful workplace, free from aggressive, intimidating, threatening or abusive behaviour. This includes inappropriate language, unreasonable demands and disrespectful comments directed towards staff, whether in person or online.

We encourage families to contact the school through the appropriate communication channels, arrange meetings when more detailed discussions are required and approach conversations with a willingness to listen and work collaboratively. While we may not always agree on every decision, we can work through concerns respectfully and with the student's best interests at the centre of our discussions.

The way we communicate with one another sets an important example for our young people. By modelling respectful interactions, even when navigating challenging situations, we reinforce the positive behaviours and values we teach our students every day.

We thank our families who continue to demonstrate kindness, understanding and respect towards our staff. Your ongoing support helps us maintain a positive school environment where students feel safe, supported and ready to learn.

Together, we can ensure Cobden Technical School remains a welcoming, respectful and supportive community for everyone.

- Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy

  Respectful, Safe, Engaged – Shared Expectations for Student Behaviour

Senior Subschool & Careers Report



Jason Beveridge – Senior Subschool leader



Last term finished with our Year 11 Work Experience camp in Melbourne. We continued our partnership with Terang P-12 and the Doxa Foundation to deliver this year's camp.

Students who participated had a great week, gaining some valuable work experience whilst also experiencing what it is like to live and work in Melbourne. All students were great representatives of our school and left a positive impression upon their employers.

The end of term also saw our Year 12 VCE students completing their VTAC applications and submitting any SEAS applications. Deakin University kindly provided vouchers to allow our students to make these applications free of charge. Through many discussions with students, we managed to formulate Plan's A, B and C for our students, allowing those students considering university to enter applications reflecting these options. Students will be able to revisit these plans after they have received their ATAR results.



As we race through Term 4, the end of the year fast approaches. The last day of classes for Year 12 students has been and gone. We celebrated with our traditional final assembly and roll call followed by a morning tea. Students then visited Warrnambool for lunch and some bowling. This is always a day of mixed feelings; students are happy they are moving towards the finish but apprehensive about the future as they complete secondary schooling. Most students, however, meet their future with a sense of purpose and direction and leave Cobden Technical School ready to pursue their goals. Many of our VCE VM students have also transitioned into employment and have entered the next phase of their pathways.

As the end of the year approaches, we have also been busy organising senior school classes for 2027. A small VCE cohort limits the number of options we can offer our students and presents challenges in trying to meet their needs. We have been working diligently to try to develop a program that meets the individual needs of each of our students. The final program for 2027 is almost finalised which will then allow us to move forward with timetabling and planning for next year. Further conversations will be had with every student and their families as we finalise our program and ensure that all senior students are prepared to tackle 2027 with confidence and certainty.

Students in Year 10 have been prepared and supported to seek work placements for their second week of Work Experience from Monday 30th November until Friday 4th December. Students have been provided with information packs in preparation for engaging with potential employers. Students are encouraged to formalise plans for this week of Work Experience as soon as possible.

VCE VM News



Stacey Podger – VCE VM Teacher

Our Year 11 VCE VM Personal Development Skills (PDS) students have had their hands in the dirt this term, and the school veggie garden is better for it.



Late last term, the school won a $500 grant through the Victorian Schools Garden Program. The money paid for a delivery of vegetable seedlings, and the PDS class took charge of getting them into the ground. They prepared the beds, planted the seedlings and made sure they were settled in and watered.

Planting was only the beginning. The students are also responsible for ongoing care of the garden, including weeding, watering and checking on the plants' progress. They will keep up this work for the rest of the term. Tending a garden takes patience and consistency, and the students have shown both. They have also had to work as a team, share jobs fairly and follow through on their commitments.

The class has been making a difference outside the school as well. On Monday, students volunteered at the Cobden Mini Golf in support of the Rotary Club of Cobden. Working with Rotarian Lesley, they weeded the course and spread mulch to help keep it looking its best for locals and visitors. The group will head back next week to continue the job.



Community involvement is at the heart of the PDS program. Projects like these help students build practical skills, confidence and a sense of responsibility, and they show students that their efforts can have a real, visible impact close to home. A big thank you to the Rotary Club of Cobden, and to Lesley in particular, for welcoming our students. Well done to the whole class for representing the school so positively.

Junior Subschool Report



Luke Perriss – Junior Subschool leader

It has been another busy and rewarding start to the term in our Junior Sub-School at Cobden Technical School, and I would like to take a moment to recognise the flexibility, growth and positive contributions our students continue to demonstrate.

Our school grounds have been changing regularly as construction progresses, with workers, machinery, temporary fencing and restricted work zones becoming part of the daily landscape. I have been really impressed by the way students have adapted to these disruptions and continued to move around the school safely and sensibly. Their flexibility and understanding have helped everyone navigate these changes while work continues to improve our school facilities.

We have also welcomed our brand-new lockers, with Years 7 and 8 located in A-wing and Years 9, 10 and 11 in the Science/Art building foyer. Both areas are working well, and the lockers are being kept clean and cared for with very little reminding required – quite an achievement for a group of teenagers! More importantly, I believe this reflects something worth celebrating: when we treat young people with respect and trust them with responsibility, most will rise to the occasion and show us the capable, considerate people they are becoming.

It has been equally encouraging to see a steady stream of merits awarded across our junior year levels for students demonstrating our school HEART values. One of the most rewarding parts of my role as a teacher and Sub-School Leader is recognising these everyday moments of kindness, responsibility, compassion and empathy. Whether it is a small gesture in the playground or a larger act that positively impacts many people, these actions help shape the welcoming and respectful community we want CTS to be.

I also love hearing students share what they have been creating and achieving in their classes. From amazing food prepared in the kitchen, functional Digital Technologies creations and programs, and new team sports developed by creative thinkers, to practical products showcasing trade skills, there is plenty happening to inspire pride in learning and achievement across our school.

This term, our Sub-School Leader team has continued to focus on **Accountability and Respect**. We are maintaining a firm but fair approach to behaviour, consistently connecting expectations with what it means to be part of the Cobden Technical School community. Our approach is informed by what we know about young people's development: clear boundaries, supportive relationships and opportunities to take responsibility all help young people develop into capable and respectful adults. Many of our conversations with students involve navigating friendships, making positive choices and finding help when challenges arise. Growing up can be tough, and knowing how to ask for support is an important life skill.

As our Year 12 students move into their next phase, undertaking exams and preparing for employment or further study, the rhythm of school shifts and new opportunities emerge for others to step forward and grow. Through these changes, please know that support services within the school and beyond remain available. Our team is committed to being present, listening and helping students navigate whatever comes their way. That is, and always will be, an important part of what we do.

Thank you to our students, families and staff for continuing to contribute to a school community where young people are supported to learn, grow and become their best selves.

Year 8 Art & Media & Design News



Stacey Podger - Teacher

It has been an exciting few weeks for our Year 8 Art and Year 8 Media and Design students.

Students from both classes recently had their work exhibited at the Camperdown Show. It was a great opportunity for them to share their creativity with the wider community, and they were rightly proud to see their pieces displayed alongside entries from across the district. Several students were also recognised by the judges and came home with prizes. Congratulations to our winners, and to every student who entered! Putting your work on public display takes courage, and all of our entrants should be proud of what they produced.

Back in the classroom, both classes have been learning the ins and outs of photography. Students have been looking at what makes a strong image, including how to frame a shot, use light and choose an interesting point of view.

To put these skills into practice, the classes went on photography walks along a section of the Camperdown–Timboon Rail Trail. With nature photography as their focus, students captured the trees, plants, textures and scenery of the trail. The walks were a welcome chance to learn outdoors and to see a familiar local landmark through a new lens.

Next, students will move into the editing stage. They will select their strongest images and learn how to refine them by cropping, adjusting and enhancing to bring out the best in each shot. We can't wait to see the finished results.





Art News

Naomi Zala – Art Teacher

In 3D Art, students have been working on developing their sculptural skills and have each created a unique mask using a variety of techniques such as papier mache, plaster gauze, modelling paste, 3D printing, armature wired forms plus utilising lots and lots of cardboard and masking tape! Each mask is completely different and reflects the individual's tastes and style! This reflects Cobden Technical School's diversity and talent!



We recently entered most of the class's completed masks into the Camperdown Show – Incredibly, we had 3 students achieve a place. Stephanie S won 1st place, Chloe M in 2nd place and Lexi T achieved 3rd place. Well done to all students who entered.



Year 7 Art

Our Year 7's have been working on Lino Printing and most have completed their mounted prints.

The concept was to produce a 'line monster', with a focus on creating controlled lines using the tools. The students then based their colours on the colour theory of complimentary colours according to the colour wheel and it produced some really eye-catching pieces which are now being displayed in the Science Wing!



Info From The Inclusion Desk....



Sharon Cotton – Inclusion Coordinator

Info from the Inclusion Desk … ADHD Awareness Month

October is ADHD Awareness Month, an opportunity to build understanding, challenge misconceptions and celebrate neurodiversity within our school community.

ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) is a neurodevelopmental difference affecting approximately 1 in 20 Australians. It can influence attention, organisation, impulse control and activity levels, but presents differently in every individual.

While ADHD can present challenges in learning and everyday life, it is equally important to recognise the strengths that many people with ADHD bring. These may include creativity, innovative thinking, problem-solving, adaptability, enthusiasm and the ability to focus deeply on areas of interest.

How do we create ADHD-inclusive classrooms at CTS?

At Cobden Technical School, we recognise that students learn in different ways. Our teachers and Education Support staff use a range of inclusive practices and individualised adjustments to reduce barriers to learning, build independence and support student success.

Some examples of how we support students with ADHD include:

- **Structured lessons and clear instructions:** Our CTS Instructional Model provides a consistent lesson structure across classrooms. Teachers break learning into manageable steps, explicitly model tasks and check for understanding before students begin independent practice.
- **Visual supports and predictable routines:** Classroom expectations, visual prompts, checklists and worked examples help students understand what is expected, organise their materials and work through tasks with greater independence.
- **Movement and regulation breaks:** Our five-minute lanyard break system provides students with an opportunity to take a short movement or regulation break when needed. Access to sensory tools, such as fidgets, can also support attention and self-regulation.
- **Positive reinforcement and encouragement:** Through our School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support approach and HEART values, staff explicitly teach expectations, acknowledge positive behaviours and provide specific feedback that recognises effort, progress and individual strengths.
- **Flexible ways to learn and demonstrate understanding:** Teachers adjust learning tasks and assessment approaches to meet individual needs. This may include reducing written demands, providing sentence starters, using assistive technology or allowing students to demonstrate their understanding verbally or through practical activities.

At CTS, inclusion is about recognising that every student has a unique learning profile and ensuring they have the adjustments and opportunities needed to participate, experience success and develop independence.

ADHD Awareness Month reminds us to look beyond challenges, recognise individual strengths and celebrate the different ways our students think, learn and contribute to our school community.

One Day Studio Excursion

Our Term 3 One Day Studio participants visited the Warrnambool studio to celebrate the completion of another successful program.



Throughout the term, students explored stop-motion filmmaking, developing storyboards, creating unique characters from air-dry clay and designing custom backdrops. Using DaVinci Resolve, students brought their stories to life by combining individual photographs into short films.

During their visit, students enjoyed hands-on activities exploring professional-grade clay, the Procreate drawing app and Toon Me. They made the most of the experience, proudly demonstrating our HEART values in the community.

A highlight of the day was watching their completed stop-motion films on the big screen!

We are fortunate to offer this program, which provides students with opportunities to develop creative skills, build confidence and strengthen friendships in a safe, inclusive and supportive environment.





Wellbeing Team




Liv Williams & Kayla Horan (Wellbeing Coordinators)

Term 4: Looking After Ourselves as the Year Winds Down

Term 4 has a feel all of its own. Summer sport is cranking back into gear, the weather can't quite make up its mind (fingers crossed for a few more warm days), and suddenly the end of the school year is in sight.

For many students, that's exciting. For others, it can stir up some nerves. The usual routine of the school year starts to loosen, there are more unknowns on the horizon, and not everyone finds that easy. Feeling a bit unsettled at this time of year is very common, and it's okay to say so.

A few small things can help at home. Try to keep some regular rhythms going, like meals, bedtimes and a bit of movement each day, even when the timetable gets a bit looser. Ask open questions and be ready to listen, even if the answer is "I'm fine." And if you're noticing changes in mood, sleep or behaviour that stick around, it's worth checking in a bit more.

If your young person would like to talk to someone outside of school or home, headspace is a great place to start. Young people can access support online or through the headspace app, where they can have a general chat or book an appointment. There are also local centres in Warrnambool and Colac:

Warrnambool: https://headspace.org.au/headspace-centres/warrnambool/
Colac: https://headspace.org.au/headspace-centres/colac/

As always, our staff are here too. If you have any concerns about your child, please get in touch with the school.

Food hampers and uniform

We also have food hampers available if you need one, as well as some uniform. Please reach out to our lovely office ladies or email liv.williams@education.vic.gov.au for more info.

Farewell to Kayla

Kayla will be finishing up with us at the end of Week 5, as she starts her next chapter at the Orange Door in Warrnambool. We thank her for her fabulous work with our students and wish her the very best! Please direct any communication you would normally have with Kayla to Liv at liv.williams@education.vic.gov.au

Here's to a smooth, happy and well-supported end to the year.

Sports Report



Belinda Savage – Sports Co-ordinator

Upcoming Events

Monday October 26th South West Middle Years Clay Target Shoot (Lake Gillear)
Monday November 30th – Year 7 – 9 Summer Sports Day



Greater Western Region Track and Field Athletics – Thursday 8th October

Seven students qualified to attend the Greater Western Region Athletics in Ballarat, and it was fantastic to see two of our students take up this opportunity to compete at this level. A big thank you to the parents for transporting our students to Ballarat and supporting them in this achievement.

Well done to:-

- Rhys S (U16 Male) – After a very close finish in the 100m, Rhys achieved an outstanding 2nd place, followed by another 2nd place in the 200m. A fantastic effort, Rhys.
- Ryan B (U14 Male) – Ryan achieved 4th place in Discus and 6th place in Shot Put. An excellent effort, Ryan.

Both students should be extremely proud of their achievements, representing not only CTS but also the Hampden Division.

SchoolTV

Importance of Connection



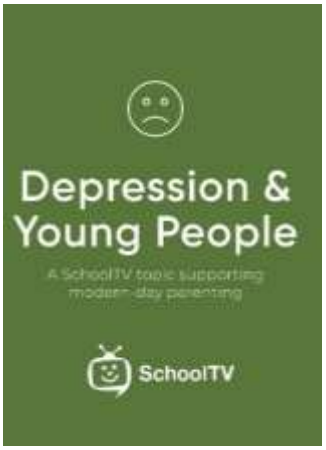
Strong, supportive connections play an important role in a young person's mental health, wellbeing and development. Feeling connected to family, friends, school and community can provide children and adolescents with a sense of belonging, security and acceptance, helping them feel valued and supported as they grow.

As young people navigate friendships, increasing independence, social pressures and the digital world, maintaining meaningful connections can sometimes become more challenging. Positive relationships and a strong sense of belonging can help protect against loneliness and isolation, while building resilience, confidence and emotional wellbeing.

This edition of SchoolTV explores the importance of connection and offers practical strategies to help strengthen relationships, foster belonging and ensure young people feel supported, understood and connected.

Ctrl + click here for link to this topic

Depression & Young People



Depression is a serious mental health condition that can affect how children and young people think, feel and interact with the world around them. While occasional sadness and mood changes are a normal part of growing up, depression is more persistent and can significantly impact a young person's relationships, school engagement and overall wellbeing.

Recognising the signs of depression can sometimes be challenging, particularly during adolescence when emotional and behavioural changes are common. Academic pressures, friendship difficulties, social media and challenges around identity and belonging can all contribute to emotional distress. Understanding the warning signs and knowing when to seek help are important steps in ensuring young people receive the support they need.

This edition of SchoolTV explores the signs and causes of depression, offering practical guidance and strategies to help recognise concerns early and provide appropriate support.

Ctrl + click here for link to this topic

COBDEN TECHNICAL SCHOOL

School preparations for the bushfire season



Each year, to prepare for bushfires and grassfires, schools and early childhood services complete a range of activities.

The Department of Education runs an annual fire risk assessment of schools and early childhood services. They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 4) and are published on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR).

All schools and early childhood services listed on the BARR and Category 4 list will also close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district.

When the Bureau of Meteorology provides public fire danger rating forecasts or fire weather warnings, they use fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries. Our school is in the **South West fire district.**

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and conducted regular maintenance of vegetation around our site.

What does this mean for our school?

Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a Category 4 school.

Our school will **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in the **South West fire district.**

What is the department's policy?

The department's Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy requires all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 list to close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

When will our school be closed due to Catastrophic fire danger?

Our school will **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in the **South West fire district.**

Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day. Any information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by Compass, SMS, CTS website and a letter sent home with students.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, even if the weather forecast changes. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

Families are encouraged to action their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. **On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by checking COMPASS or checking our website.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school closed due to a Catastrophic fire danger. Further information can be found on the CFA's website.
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are actioning your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can find more information on emergencies, warnings and preparedness actions here:

- VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website https://emergency.vic.gov.au
- Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency)
- Twitter (https://twitter.com/vicemergency)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

Calendar 2026

TERM 4		
WEEK 4	**DATE**	**EVENT**
Monday	26 October	➢ South West Middle Years Clay Target Shoot (Lake Gillear)
Tues-Tues	27 Oct – 17 Nov	➢ Exam period
Wednesday	28 October	➢ McGrath Foundation Fundraiser (wear uniform with a 'touch of pink')
Thursday	29 October	➢ Year 9 Future Me Event
WEEK 5	**DATE**	**EVENT**
Tuesday	3 November	➢ **Melbourne Cup Public Holiday**
Thursday	5 November	➢ Senior Citizens Lunch
WEEK 7	**DATE**	**EVENT**
Wednesday	18 November	➢ Valedictory Dinner
Friday	20 November	➢ **Report Writing Day – Pupil Free Day**
WEEK 8	**DATE**	**EVENT**
Monday	23 November	➢ **CTS Staff First Aid Training – Pupil Free Day**
Tuesday-Friday	24-27 November	➢ Careers Week (Year 10 & 11)
WEEK 9	**DATE**	**EVENT**
Monday	30 November	➢ Summer Sports Day (Year 7-9)
Monday-Friday	30 Nov – 4 Dec	➢ Year 10 & 11 (Optional) Work Experience
Thursday	3 December	➢ Senior Citizens Lunch
WEEK 10	**DATE**	**EVENT**
Tuesday	8 December	➢ State Transition Day
Wednesday	9 December	➢ End of Year Program – Adventure Park Geelong
Thursday	10 December	➢ End of Year Program – Movies & Tenpin Bowling
Friday	11 December	➢ Final Assembly


COBDEN 2026
THROUGH THE LENS
Cobden Stories Through the Lens
Photo Exhibition
Friday 23 October
GRAND OPENING
FROM 6.30PM
$15 ENTRY
NIBBLES PROVIDED
BEER, WINE & CHAMPAGNE
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
Saturday 24 October &
& Sunday 25 October
OPEN 10AM - 3PM
ENTRY VIA DONATION
Come and view the amazing images capturing the people, places and stories of Cobden and beyond.
VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE
IN THE COMMUNITY CHOICE AWARDS
COBDEN CIVIC HALL - SUPPER ROOM
VICTORIA STREET, COBDEN
Capturing Moments. | Sharing Stories. | Celebrating Cobden.


CUBBY HOUSES FOR SALE!
MADE BY STUDENT BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION CLASS
HAND-CRAFTED
HIGH-QUALITY CONSTRUCTION
PERFECT FOR KIDS
READY FOR PLAY!
DIMENSIONS:
2.7m Long, 1.4m Wide, 2.0m High
PRICE: $1,200
CONTACT:
GENERAL OFFICE ON 55951202


elevate education
Elevate Education's Term 4
Parent Webinar Series
Elevate Education delivers high-impact workshops to our students that help to develop their study skills, motivation, and exam preparation. Over the next term, you're invited to join their parent webinar series, where you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.
How You Can Help Your Child Manage Their Time
28th October 6:30pm (AEDT)
How To Help Your Child Alleviate Stress
11th November 6:30pm (AEDT)
How You Can Build Resilience in Your Child
25th November 6:30pm (AEDT)
How You Can Set Your Child Up for Successs
9th December 6:30pm (AEDT)
Register today at: https://go.elevateeducation.com/auschoolwebinars


COBDEN
AMATEUR
SWIMMING CLUB
DIVE IN, HAVE FUN, MAKE FRIENDS!
2026-2027
OUTDOOR POOL SEASON
33 METRE POOL
PERFECT FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES!
LOTS OF FUN!
Great Coaches
Supportive Team
Build Confidence
Improve Fitness
Life Skills
SWIM • PLAY • GROW
BE PART OF OUR SWIM FAMILY!
TRAINING SESSIONS
MONDAY 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
TUESDAY 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
THURSDAY 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
PARTICIPANTS
Participants should be able to swim 33 metres, with or without a kickboard.
WHY JOIN?
Qualified & experienced coaches
Fun, supportive environment
Improve fitness & technique
Build confidence & friendships
Opportunities to compete from club level to state and beyond!
0419 480 770
cobdenswimmingclub@gmail.com
EVERY NEW MEMBER RECEIVES
a Cobden Swim Club cap and info pack at their first training session!
SIGN UP TODAY!
VIA SWIM CENTRAL
GREAT PEOPLE • STRONG COMMUNITY • LIFELONG MEMORIES

COBDEN FNC JUNIOR NETBALL SQUAD SELECTION TRIALS

ELLEN DARCY COURTS
COBDEN RECREATION RESERVE

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28
DEVELOPMENT & 13 & UNDER - 4:30PM
17 & UNDER AND 15 & UNDER - 5:30PM

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 4
DEVELOPMENT & 13 & UNDER - 4:30PM
17 & UNDER AND 15 & UNDER - 5:30PM

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8
DEVELOPMENT & 13 & UNDER - 10AM
17 & UNDER AND 15 & UNDER - 11AM

WEAR A WHITE OR LIGHT COLOURED TOP (NO CLUB APPAREL) & BRING A DRINK BOTTLE

REGISTER ATTENDANCE VIA LINK ON COBDEN FNC FACEBOOK PAGE

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT
JUNIOR COORDINATORS
LIZ ROBERTS 0418542073 OR JESSICA MCGLADE 0427825584



RIST
RURAL INDUSTRIES SKILL TRAINING

2027 Course Information Sessions

In person: Monday 26 October, 6:00 PM
@ RIST Hamilton

Virtual: Wednesday 28 October, 6:00 PM
via Teams

Find out how to apply to study in 2027

Bookings Essential. Reserve your seat today

1800 883 343 | info@rist.edu.au | rist.edu.au

JUNIOR CLINIC

Train with Mia



Come along before the action starts and learn from Olympic sprinter Mia Gross.

Open to all school-age children.

COBDEN GIFT

Community Bank Cobden Recreation Reserve

Saturday October 24 11.00am

Enquiries 0409 253 727

Bendigo Bank | RURAL BANK

JUNIOR PENNANT





Starting 7 November 2026

Held on Saturday mornings at the Warrnambool Lawn Tennis Club for players aged between 9 and 17 years old.

Register now

All players must be a WLTC member (Junior or Family) before the first week.

www.warrnamboollawntennis.com
41 Pertobe Rd Warrnambool

Camperdown Preschool

CAMPERDOWN PRESCHOOL ASSOCIATION INC

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are welcoming expressions of interest across a variety of roles, qualifications & experience levels to support our 3YO & Pre-Prep programs, including:

- Early Childhood Teachers
- Diploma Qualified Educators
- Certificate III Qualified Educators
- Educators currently studying towards a qualification
- Primary School Teachers interested in Free TAFE to obtain ECT qualification

A range of opportunities are available, including:

- Full-time
- Part-time
- Casual
- Relief & fill-in

Please send your resume and brief cover letter to baranbali.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

EOIs close 30th Oct



FREE YOUTH SURF PROGRAM

WARRNAMBOOL

STOKED is a 6-week surf therapy program for young people (14-24).

Riding the waves of life can be stressful.

Come catch waves, meet new crew, yarn about life & boost your wellbeing - Yeeew!

YARN - SURF - EAT

MONDAYS 4:30 - 7:30PM

MONDAY 09 NOVEMBER
MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER
MONDAY 23 NOVEMBER
MONDAY 30 NOVEMBER
MONDAY 07 DECEMBER
MONDAY 14 DECEMBER

6-WEEK PROGRAM

NOV - DEC 2026

for young people aged 14 - 24

Location:
SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB
PERTOBE RD
WARRNAMBOOL

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The program involves a crew of amazing mentors, local surfers, ocean lovers and other local legends who want to join in and connect with young people.

Keen to get involved?
Scan the QR code above to get in touch!

Contact Stoked
ph: (03) 5561 6888 e: STOKED@brophy.org.au
brophy.org.au/stoked

facebook.com/brophy.org.au
stoked_surf_therapy

brophy YOUTH SERVICES

FORG PRESENTS A FUNDRAISING

TRIVIA & AUCTION NIGHT

ALL PROCEEDS TO RODNEY GROVE POOL AND GYM APPEAL

GOODS AND SERVICES AUCTIONS.

FRIDAY

NOVEMBER 13TH

$10 ENTRY (SUPPER PROVIDED)

BYO Nibbles

6PM TO 9PM

COBDEN BOWLS CLUB

BOOKINGS OR MORE INFO :

LESLEY: 0409535914

A RESERVE FOR EVERYONE. A FUTURE WE CAN BUILD TOGETHER.

Cobden Community Bank Recreation Reserve Redevelopment



Dear community member,

Our reserve has served Cobden for more than four decades. Now it is time to secure its future.

The Cobden Community Bank Recreation Reserve is one of our district's busiest and most important shared assets. Each week, more than 1,800 people use the precinct through football, netball, cricket, tennis, the Cobden Gift, school sport and carnivals, community events and general recreation. It is where children learn, teams compete, volunteers contribute, families gather and friendships grow.

More than 40 years old - and no longer fit for purpose

The main pavilion was substantially built in the early 1980s. Despite the tireless work of the Committee of Management and every user group to maintain and improve it, the building has reached the end of its functional life. It is undersized, in poor condition, does not meet modern accessibility expectations or current sporting standards, and cannot properly support the range of people who use it today.

Steps and difficult entry points, narrow access, inadequate amenities, cramped changerooms, limited privacy and ageing shared spaces create real barriers - particularly for people with disability, older residents, families with prams, and growing women's and girls' participation.

This is not a reflection on the care invested in the reserve. It is the reality of a facility designed for another era. **Patch-up work alone can no longer provide the safe, welcoming, inclusive and flexible community hub Cobden needs.**

A community-wide investment

The proposed redevelopment will benefit far more than any one club or sport. It will create gender-equitable and accessible changerooms and amenities; better first-aid, meeting, office and storage spaces; improved spectator and volunteer facilities; safer access between levels; and a roofed, lit multi-purpose training venue for sport, schools and other suitable community uses.

Better facilities will help more people participate, volunteer, attend and stay involved - especially women and girls, children and young people, older residents and people with disability. They will also strengthen Cobden's ability to host events, welcome visitors and support local activity for decades to come.

The planning work has been done. Now we need the backing to build it.

Under the auspices of the Cobden Community Bank Recreation Reserve Committee of Management, the Development Subcommittee has taken the initiative and, with the strong support of the Corangamite Shire, funded the planning work needed to move this project forward. The plans are complete, the project has been costed, and the redevelopment is shovel-ready. **What is needed now is the support of government, funding partners, businesses, community organisations and local people to turn those plans into reality.**

STAGE 1	**The essential pavilion works: new and improved changerooms, accessible amenities, gym, trainers' and first-aid areas, foyer, canteen, offices, meeting and storage spaces, plus lift and stair access to the existing first-floor social rooms.**
STAGE 2	**The roofed and lit multi-purpose facility: Open space that converts to either five cricket nets, or a tennis court, or a netball court, providing flexible, weather-protected training and warm-up for all sports and community use.**
STAGE 3	The next phase: renovation and extension of the first-floor social rooms, kitchen and bar areas, balcony, media, coaching, timekeeping and supporting facilities.

Stages 1 and 2 are the immediate priority. Together they deliver the core facilities the reserve needs now. Stage 3 will follow, completing the long-term vision for a fully renewed community precinct.

Why this project matters now

This is not simply about replacing an old building or upgrading facilities for sporting clubs. It is a shovel-ready investment in community health, inclusion, participation, education, volunteering and social connection. It will support sport and events throughout the year while making the reserve safer and easier to use for people of all ages and abilities.

One reserve. Many sports. An entire community. Public and community investment here will serve schools, events, visiting groups, casual users and generations of local families. No member of our community should be prevented from participating, volunteering or attending because the facilities cannot accommodate them.

How you can help

Please talk about the project, share the plans, encourage decision-makers and funding bodies to support it, and stand with the Committee and user groups as we seek the investment required. Every expression of support helps demonstrate that this redevelopment matters to Cobden and the surrounding districts.

WATCH AND SHARE THE REDEVELOPMENT VIDEO
Available from 31 August. Scan the QR code or visit cobdenrecreserve.org.au
Plans, progress reports and further information are also available online.

Together, we can create a reserve that is accessible, welcoming and ready to serve our whole community for the next 40 years and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Yours sincerely,

James Green
Chair
Cobden Community Bank Recreation Reserve Development Subcommittee

Craig Dwyer
President
Cobden Community Bank Recreation Reserve Committee of Management