





The Heathdale community welcomed its first students on the 10th of February in 1982 and has been providing authentic Christian education to families in the western suburbs of Melbourne ever since. Our educational approach is rooted in the Word of God and focuses on nurturing the whole child — academically, spiritually, physically, and emotionally. This fundamental belief shapes our College's identity and helps each child thrive from a Christ-centred perspective.

We value the partnership between parents and the school, fostering a love of learning and curiosity throughout each student's educational journey. As students grow into young adults, we aim to develop their deep understanding and wisdom.

Our goal is to instil Christian values such as integrity, honesty, respect, love, honour and truth, all which inspire students to discover their God-given potential and serve both locally and globally.

> At Heathdale, a student's learning journey can begin in Kindergarten and continue through to Year 12. We offer a wide range of subjects and robust learning programs that encourage excellence in all areas of life. The early years focus on building a strong foundation in literacy, numeracy, science, and humanities. In early secondary school, students explore various subjects, learn up to three languages, participate in sports for personal growth and competition, study science, math, creative and visual arts, embrace leadership opportunities, and engage in community service. This diverse curriculum leads to one of the most extensive selections of subjects for VCE, VCE VM and VET in the western suburbs. Our aim is to empower students to achieve outstanding results and feel confident as they move forward in their life's journey. With this solid educational platform, we provide each student with a unique pathway beyond school.

> By August 2023, we had grown to 2204 students (Kinder to Year 12) across our Melton and Werribee campuses. The College's Federal Government's Direct Measure of Income (DMI) model, calculated Heathdale's capacity to contribute (CTC) score as 100.





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Annual Report 2023

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Introduction

A YEAR OF SERVICE

2023 was highlighted by one of our key values: 'Serve'. Specifically, the kind of service inspired by a God-honouring, neighbour-elevating love, as described in Mark 12:30-31: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

At Heathdale, our heart isn't simply to see students act in a way that we deem to be noble. Our heart is to help students discover a kind of service inspired by an understanding of who God has created them to be.

Throughout the year, classroom learning equipped students to better understand the world God created, and opportunities laced within school culture empowered students to positively impact others around them.





Nancy Dorothy Dethlefs was a beloved figure of Heathdale who passed away in September of 2023. She originally came to the Heathdale community in support of her husband Geoff, who God provided as the second Principal of the College. In 1983, when the Preparatory teacher at the time became ill, Nan took on this responsibility in a volunteer capacity. The next year, she was officially appointed to the role, and paid. In 1992, Nan was appointed as the Head of Junior School. A tireless and conscientious educator, Nan never backed down from a challenge: whether it was feeding a crowd at a moment's notice; organising a full-scale musical of Primary School performers; or - along with Geoff - establishing the foundations of many of the schools early traditions, Nan was a passionate Christian witness and dedicated to living out her faith.

Now is shown here officially opening the Year 1-2 Building on our Werribee Campus in 2023 with past Board Chair, Trevor Sawyer.

Board Chair Report

Matt Wilson, Board Chair

We are committed to nurturing a Christian culture that practices what Christ teaches us about loving our neighbours. t Heathdale, we understand the difficulty in instilling the virtue of selflessness within a society that frequently prioritises personal gain. This is why, as we help develop future generations, our Christian school environment is crucial. In a world that tells us that an individual's agency is the only thing that matters, our focus at Heathdale Christian College is to nurture a Christian culture and identity that emphasises loving our neighbours as ourselves, just as Jesus told us and showed us how to do.

Last year's theme of 'A Greater Love' captured the way our students and staff nurtured an others-focused culture that both transforms the lives of our students and reaches beyond our school walls. Our Leadership Programs at both campuses expanded to include more service categories and encourage a greater student voice. Our students ran fundraisers and drives for those in our local and global communities who needed a helping hand, including providing books for students without the library resources that we have available to us, and raising funds for displaced neighbours. Our youngest students showed a great knack for serving in everyday ways and we took great joy in encouraging these 'Values Champions' at assemblies.

These opportunities for students to show their servant hearts not only benefit those they serve but also tend to leave a lasting impact on our students, shaping them into compassionate, responsible, and outward-looking individuals.

As a College Board, we seek to model this 'Greater Love' by serving our community, continuing to honour God by setting a clear direction for our College, and effectively stewarding the resources available in service of the development of future generations.

We are committed to nurturing a Christian culture that practices what Christ teaches us about loving our neighbours. I thank our dedicated teachers, staff, students, and parents who embrace this culture and encourage every member of the Heathdale community to take part in this journey.

Let this Greater Love be the driving force behind our actions and interactions as we help future generations of students not only excel in their individual pursuits, but also enrich the lives of those around them through acts of love, compassion and selflessness.

Executive Principal's Perspective

Ross Grace, Executive Principal

Reflecting on the past year, I am reminded of a favourite old movie that I watched on a wet and cold afternoon: 'Paying it Forward'. The film tells the story of Trevor, a 12-year-old boy, whose Social Studies assignment inspires a chain of kindness, each act prompting the recipient to help three others. This simple yet profound concept has resonated deeply with me and captures the spirit of what 2023 was like at Heathdale Christian College.

Why do so many people embrace the 'pay it forward' principle? Acts of kindness build exponentially, creating a ripple effect that can transform communities. At Heathdale, we have witnessed this firsthand. Our community thrives on the belief that one good deed deserves another, embodying the Christian value of thinking of others before ourselves.

Throughout last year, our focus was on fostering an environment where everyone feels truly and deeply loved, mirroring the love that God has for us. This love, demonstrated through the life and sacrifice of Jesus, is our foundation and security. It is this profound love that motivates us to serve others and build a strong, supportive community.

Daily, we have had the privilege of sharing God's deep love with our students and their families. This has provided a robust springboard, ensuring that everyone in our community knows they are safe, treated with dignity, and that they belong. This sense of security and belonging empowers our students to become the individuals God has called them to be, with an outward focus on serving God and those around them. The sense of community and belonging has been a hallmark of Heathdale since our inception. Rooted in the unconditional love of God, we have strived to create a community that not only understands this love but also lives it out by paying it forward. This principle shaped last year and will continue to guide us in the years to come.

As we look back on 2023, I am filled with gratitude for the dedication and hard work of our staff, the support and involvement of our parents, and the enthusiasm and achievements of our students. Each member of our community has played a vital role in making Heathdale Christian College a place of inspiration and growth.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our school. It is an honour and privilege to serve alongside such a passionate and dedicated community. May we continue to pay it forward, making the world a better place through our actions and faith.

Each member of our community has played a vital role in making Heathdale Christian College a place of inspiration and growth.







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The pictured artwork is titled 'Our School Journey' and was created by First Nations artist Shanai Kellett of Maloga Art. The large, vibrant piece was first revealed at the opening of the Year 1&2 Building at our Werribee campus in April of 2023.

"Our School Journey' is a story of Reconciliation between Indigenous culture and the students, staff and community of Heathdale Christian College walking together." *Shanai Kellett*



At Heathdale, it is a blessing to see our students flourish in their God-given potential. One of the ways we have the privilege of seeing this has been through our Captains expanding their leadership capacity. A few of our Captains participated in a Q&A to give us an insight into what their experience of 2023.

How do you understand the concepts of love and servanthood, and how did you relate them to effective leadership in your experience as a student leader?

"Love in a leadership sense is about the honour and respect we have for those around us, students and teachers alike. Servanthood is the consistent effort and drive towards serving others, working in the background rather than attempting to be the merely visual leader." **Anna**

"Love-driven leadership fosters teamwork, raises morale and leaves a legacy of care. Above all, serving with love mirrors God's devotion to drawing us closer to Him." **Kalani**

How did you collaborate with teachers and staff to improve the overall school experience for everyone?

"In 2023, we teamed up closely with teachers and staff to enhance the school experience by aiming to spread the message of God's unwavering grace and love. Our collaboration involved addressing assemblies, connecting with students personally, and arranging guest speaker sessions that focused on God's grace." **Kalani**

"Other collaborated events involved things like charity events, such as Hoodie Day where students could wear their choice of a Hoodie or Oodie to school with a gold coin donation that went towards supporting homeless young people in Australia." **Zion**



(L-R) Sasha Chehade (College Vice Captain), Zion Tun (College Captain), Kalani Boothby (College Captain), Anna Rodrigues Vance (College Vice Captain)

How does humility play a role in effective leadership?

"Humility plays a crucial role because it provides clarity in decision-making. As a leader, avoiding the hindrance of ego and pride is essential for serving others well. Our pride can blind us to the right decisions, making us more focused on ourselves and our position rather than the people we're meant to lead." **Sasha**

"To avoid letting pride or ego hinder our ability to serve others, we must remember Jesus and His example of servanthood and leadership – the King of Kings becoming man, humble in the flesh and never boastful of His power. We must attempt to reflect Jesus' character in order to be effective leaders." **Anna**

How can prayer and seeking guidance from God help someone to become a more loving, humble and servant-hearted leader?

"As a leader, you are bound to experiences hardships as well as weird and awkward situations. For these moments, being able to pray about how to deal with these situations and praying for other people is a great way for to stay humble and give our troubles to God." **Zion**

"Being a leader doesn't imply having all the answers; seeking guidance from others is crucial, and who better to seek guidance from than our Creator? Praying to God for wisdom and a heart after His own reminds us of the qualities we need to reflect to others." **Sasha**

Governance & Corporate Structure

Our College is governed by a group of dedicated volunteers who use their skills, knowledge and wisdom to establish our strategic direction. We are continually blessed through their deep commitment to Christian education, their forward strategic thinking and their love of our College. The following persons were directors of the College during the whole of the financial year and up to the date of this report 31 December 2023, unless otherwise stated:

College Board

Chairperson



Deputy Chairperson & Acting Secretary

Treasurer

Executive Member

Board Members



Director of Community Wellbeing, Ballarat City Council

Matthew Wilson - B.A., Postgrad B.Ed. (P-12), M.B.A.

Patrick Pathinathan – M.B.A., B.Sc. (Com.Sc.) Global Client Director, ServiceNow



Kalli Green – B.Bus. (Accounting), B.Mus. Accountant, Werribee Baptist Church



Darren Gardiner – B.Sc. (App.Sc.), Dip.Dairy Tech Agriculture & Food Principal Research Consultant, CSIRO



Amanda Newton – M.Acc., Cert IV Property Services Global Sales & Marketing Leader, Intuit QuickBooks



Stan Richey – M.Ministry, Grad Dip. (Global Leadership), B.A (Pastoral Studies) Pastor, Werribee Baptist Church



Christine D'Souza – M.Bus., B.A. (Economics) Finance Manager, South West Training Services (resigned February 2023)



Penny Telfer – B.Law, B.Legal St., Grad Dip Legal Prac. Senior Counsel, HWL Lawyers



Ashley Battle – B.A. (Communication), AdvDip. Multimedia, Dip. IT Pastor, Enjoy Church Melton



Victoria Gatt – B.A. Law (Honours) and B.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice Victorian Legal Aid (appointed October 2023)

Our Senior Leadership Team provides our Academic and Professional staff with leadership and expertise in both Christian education and business services. This team provides staff with vision, direction and purpose and allows the opportunity for ongoing career growth and development.

Senior Leadership



Ross Grace – Dip.T. (Prim.), Grad.Dip. (Learning Disabilities), M.Ed. (Educational Leadership) Executive Principal



Deborah Letcher – B.A., B. Teach. (Hons.), M. Instructional Leadership Principal of Secondary - Werribee



Yvonne Harvey – BSc(Hons), QTS(Ex), PGDipSW (Melb), MEd (Melb) Principal of Primary - Werribee



Dr Christopher Prior – B.Agr.Sci., B.Min., M.A.(Theol), M.Ed., Grad.Dip.Ed.(Sec), Ed.D. Principal of Melton (resigned November 2023)



Graeme Hallett – B.A. (Humanities), Dip.Ed. Director of Learning & Teaching



Kristine McClelland – *B.Ed., M.Ed. (Special Education)* Director of Student Wellbeing & Educational Services



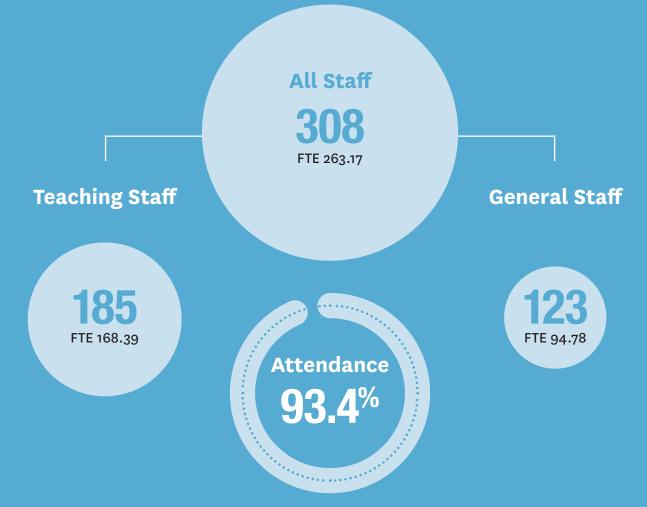
Andrew Ballesty – B.Ec. FCPA MBA Director of Business Services (commenced July 2023)



About Our Staff

To stay true to our College's purpose and vision, all staff members are active in their Christian faith and receive support to ensure they devotedly express this faith in every aspect of their work, thereby fulfilling our College's mission. We highly value the efforts of our staff and appreciate each individual employee.

Our academic staff comprises qualified teachers who are passionate about helping each child discover their God-given gifts and talents by fostering curiosity and promoting deep learning. As students progress from Kindergarten through Year 12, our staff encourage them to grow in wisdom and discernment across all aspects of their education. This nurturing approach cultivates an attitude of excellence, motivating our students to strive for their best. Our professional staff are dedicated to creating an atmosphere of excellence at our College, enabling our teachers to focus on our unique Christian education and nurture our students' academic, spiritual, physical and emotional growth.



For all staff, based on actual as a percentage of possible total.

Teaching Staff Qualifications



Professional Development



worth of internal and external PD completed in 2023

Parent & Staff Satisfaction



parents expressing contentment in choosing Heathdale for their child's education

"I am happy with my choice to send my child to this school."

"I am happy to recommend this school to others."

"I chose this school because of the emphasis on development of high morals, values, beliefs."

"I chose this school because of its high reputation in the community."

PARENT REFLECTIONS

We value the input of the families in our Heathdale community, which is why we seek their feedback every year. The participation rate in our 2023 Parent Satisfaction survey, which was well above the statistical norm, validates the overwhelming positive results and demonstrates a high level of engagement by key stakeholders in our community.

We are thrilled to share that parent satisfaction with our College remains significantly high above the average satisfaction of similar independent schools (82%), with an incredible 93% of parents expressing contentment in choosing Heathdale for their child's education and eagerly endorsing our institution to others.

We are deeply grateful for the trust that our Heathdale families in us, as reflected in the invaluable findings of our 2023 Parent Satisfaction survey. As we continue to prioritise growth and progress, guided by our core values, we remain dedicated to providing an environment where every student can flourish in their God-given potential.







STAFF REFLECTIONS

Our devoted Teaching and General Staff work collaboratively, driven by a shared passion to positively impact the lives of our students. The culture they foster is one of initiative, constant learning and growth – a testament to their dedication in fulfilling God's call through their careers.

Our staff's commitment and dedication have shone brightly, leading to a greater satisfaction and positive response. A testament to their dedication, over 93% of our staff expressed deep contentment in their roles at Heathdale.

At Heathdale, we embrace a culture of continuous learning, and the lessons we learned in 2023 have ignited our passion for growth. Our staff continue to strive for excellence in their roles, paving the way for a brighter future.

Together, as a united community of parents, staff, and students, we envision a future filled with boundless opportunities for learning to help all people grow in their God-given potential.

Over 93%

of our staff expressed deep contentment in their roles at Heathdale.

"I am proud to work at this school."

"I am happy to recommend this school to others."

"I would be happy to enrol my children at this school."



New Starter Reflections

We asked two of our new staff members who joined us in 2023 about their experiences of starting their journey with the College. Rodney Latham, who was part of our Werribee campus staff years ago, rejoined Heathdale as the Years 9-10 Coordinator, this time at our Melton campus. Meanwhile, Kate Scarpino, one of our Learning Assistants, began her role at Heathdale to expand her understanding of the support students require as she studies to become a teacher.



Teaching Staff - Melton

What motivated you to pursue a career in teaching?

I felt God calling me toward teaching, and my long-standing interest in learning led me to explore the idea further. After completing my Bachelor of Arts in History in the USA, I worked for several years in sales and management here in Australia, realising that the experience and skills I had gained would provide a strong foundation for a teaching career. Additionally, with a continued sense of God's guidance, I completed a Graduate Diploma in Education (Secondary) and began a Masters in Education while continuing to work in business.

What influenced your decision to join Heathdale as a staff member in 2023?

Having spent ten years at Heathdale's Werribee campus from 2003 to 2012 as the Learning Area Coordinator for ICT, followed by serving as the Year 11-12 Coordinator, I have fond memories of working at the College. Additionally, three of my children graduated from Heathdale. When I discussed opportunities to work at the developing Melton campus, where they would be focusing on establishing upper Secondary from 2023 to 2025, I was excited about what God was doing and the professional opportunities to be part of that foundational time.

What were some of the best moments from your experiences at Heathdale in 2023?

I enjoyed being part of a smaller teaching team and working with colleagues who brought experience from various places. We intentionally focused on how we would develop the culture of the Secondary school on the Melton campus.

How did the support and mentorship from College leadership and colleagues contribute to your growth as an educator in your first year at Heathdale?

I was given broad direction and empowered to use my nearly 20 years of experience working in various upper Secondary schools to help build the students and the culture within Melton Secondary. I felt valued and encouraged to be creative in problem-solving.

Describe how Heathdale's culture aligns with your values as an educator and how Heathdale's Christian work environment influenced your 2023 experience.

Heathdale has always emphasised the importance of the Bible, the clear presentation of Biblical ideas and fostering a Christian worldview and thinking in education — values that are important to me as well. Providing a safe environment for both students and staff is also crucial to good Christian education. The challenge is to ensure that our education is Christian in both teaching and practice. We exist to educate students in a wide range of subjects, not just in Christian matters.



Kate Scarpino General Staff - Werribee

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Transitioning back into the workforce while juggling studying and a young family hasn't been easy but being part of an environment where everyone is willing to pray for and support your professional development and personal life, while developing genuine friendships, is extremely rare to find.

What motivated you to pursue a role in Learning Assistance?

As I'm currently completing my teaching degree, I knew this role would be helpful not only for the teachers I would be assisting but also for developing my own understanding of how to best support all students' needs within the classroom prior to having my own.

What influenced your decision to join Heathdale as a staff member in 2023?

As an alumnus (P-12) with a child currently enrolled, I know and have experienced the benefits of being a part of Heathdale's community.

What were some of the best moments from your experiences at Heathdale in 2023?

As a Learning Assistant, I work directly with students requiring extra support in the classroom, and after a lot of hard work, when they finally understand a concept or formula, the joy and pride they express stays with you. Additionally, having a lot of laughs in the staff room with fellow co-workers, and of course, zorbing with Miss Puopolo during the Year 6 graduation activity day was definitely memorable.

How did the support and mentorship from College leadership and colleagues contribute to your growth as a Learning Assistant in your first year at Heathdale?

I cannot speak highly enough of the Learning Assistant team at Heathdale. I am blessed to work alongside such dedicated and supportive colleagues who continually learn from one another. On my first day, I joined a family who encourages you every day and ensures you are not out of your depth, offering assistance and support when needed (along with a lot of laughs).

Describe how Heathdale's culture aligns with your values as a Learning Assistant and how Heathdale's Christian work environment influenced your 2023 experience.

Transitioning back into the workforce while juggling studying and a young family hasn't been easy but being part of an environment where everyone is willing to pray for and support your professional development and personal life, while developing genuine friendships, is extremely rare to find.





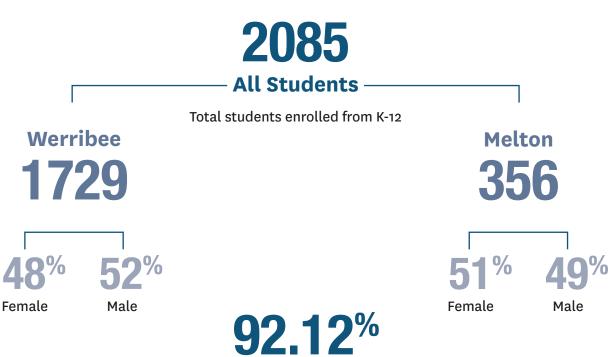
t Heathdale, we foster the growth of our students to thrive in their unique, God-given potential by providing diverse pathways for their future. This enables them to make well-informed decisions based on their strengths and passions, whether they choose to pursue higher education, enter the workforce or take a gap year after completing their pivotal final year of Secondary school.

In 2023, our Year 12 cohort saw significant growth, with 26 additional students joining us, bringing the total number of graduates to 86 compared to 60 the previous year. Despite this increase, our students continued to achieve exceptional results, further enhancing the College's reputation for academic excellence.

Forty students were granted Early Entry to their desired universities, recognising their academic achievements, exemplary citizenship and maturity. Many opted to explore their VTAC preference list over accepting these offers, driven by their outstanding ATAR results. Remarkably, 100% of our VCE VM students and 93% of our VCE students secured first or second-round offers.

The students' success, underpinned by diligent study across a wide range of subjects, the guidance of skilled educators, positive attitudes and unwavering dedication, solidified their readiness for the next phase of their lifelong learning journey, wherever it leads them. We look forward to hearing about the promising paths they forge in their future endeavours.





Average attendance rate (Year 1-10)

Female

Werribee

1729

Student Outcomes

RITHICA

SRINIVASAN

– ATAR —



"I was excited and proud to be named the Dux of 2023. It was a goal I worked hard to achieve, and receiving the news was a key moment that validated my efforts. My interest in science and medicine, particularly neuroscience, was inspired by my brother, who has an intellectual disability and epilepsy. His brain surgery when I was four years old sparked my interest with the brain. This interest grew over the years, inspiring me to study Neuroscience, an advanced and ever-changing field that can help millions, like my brother. My family has supported and encouraged me to follow my passions and ultimately achieve my goal of helping people, just like the surgeons helped my brother."



Average Study Score

Our average study score in 2023 was our highest in 10 years! One of our students had a perfect study score of 50 in Legal Studies, and in a very pleasing display, we had students post study scores of 40 or more in 10 different VCE subjects from Music Contemporary Performance to Physics. This reflects our desire to help each child's unique God-given potential, no matter what their passion may be.

8.4% of VCE students earned a study score over 40

Study Scores Over 40

72.71

Average ATAR

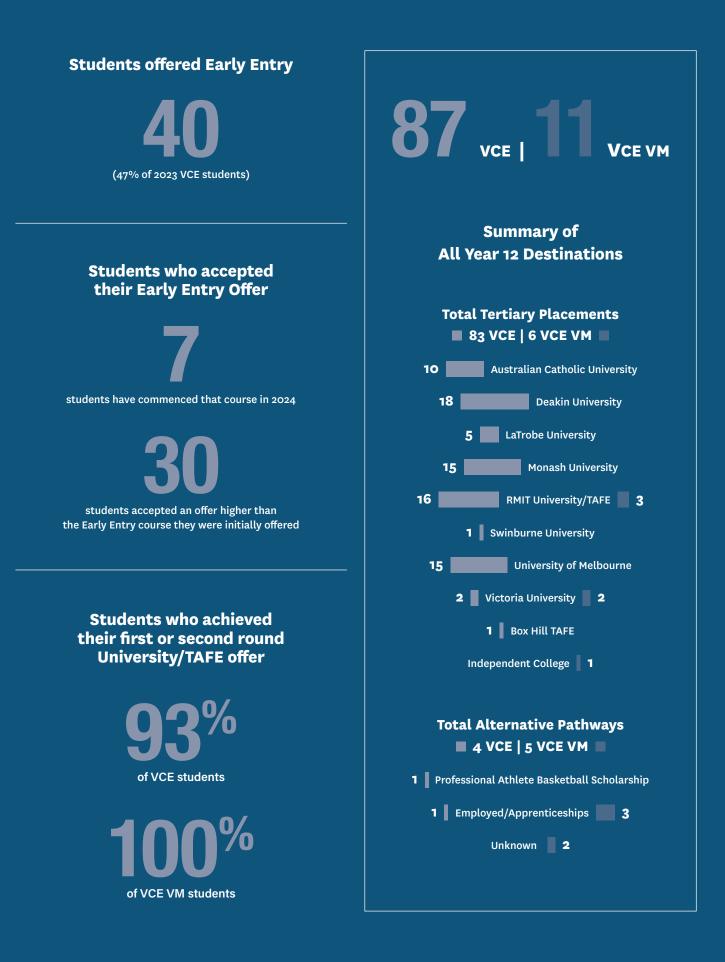
Our average ATAR for 2023 was our second highest result in a decade, and significantly higher than the state average of 69.31. With a 30% larger cohort of Year 12 students, 86 of whom participated in the VCE, we are incredibly pleased to have journeyed with many of our students through their entire school journey and see such a large group achieve consistently above expectation.

Perfect 50 **Study Score earned in Legal Studies**

ATARs above

19.8% of our VCE students gained an ATAR of over 90. Of these students, 12 of them achieved an ATAR of 95 or above.

Offers, Pathways & Placements





ith 2023 marking yet another year of growth, the Heathdale community continued to make strides in learning, celebrating the achievements and progress of students.

The Science department flourished under the guidance of a collaborative and passionate team. Students immersed themselves in the wonders of God's creation, exploring the intricacies of microscopic cells, the nature of matter, the principles of Physics and the complexities of human behaviour. Classroom activities included quizzes, group tasks, direct teaching and hands-on experiences, while beyond the classroom, Year 8 students engaged in a STEM incursion, constructing earthquake-resistant structures and testing water. Year 10 students analysed a crime scene at Deakin University, and Year 12 Physics students visited Monash Synchrotron to learn about its applications in global research. Science Week featured Professor Bunsen's lively shows, sparking curiosity and exploration across our Werribee and Melton campuses, inspiring both Primary and Secondary students.

In Mathematics, students actively engaged in developing their knowledge and demonstrating their skills. Junior Secondary students experienced the energetic Maths Race, which enhanced their problem-solving skills and interest in Mathematics. The Maths staff dedicated time to tutoring during lunch, embraced new curriculums and developed skills and resources that empowered students to learn more effectively. The 2022 Education Perfect Mathematics Championskip saw Heatrid de clime to 5th position in Victoria, a remarkable improvement from the previous year. Special congratulations go to Aneesh K. (We E) and Ednard J. (We F), who earned Elite badges, the highest award in the competition

English at Heathdale provided students with opportunities to critically, write effectively, and speak eloquently Students with texts, enhancing their ability to app Insigh and Scripture. Public Speaking computitions, inclu to their d competition, showcased, tudents growth as communicators lish department celebrated students' abilities to to everyday engagements with Scripturs and oth annual events like Happy Hut Day and the Tid apply classro her texts ie T ddy Bear Picn our young Prep students learn and celebrate the alphabet Bo k Week gave Primary students a chance to showcase their favourite books and characters, and the LEGO theme of the Werribee Libra encouraged imagination and design fi









The Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) Learning Area offered rich and diverse experiences both inside and outside the classroom, from visiting Kryal Castle to snorkelling with seals and dolphins at Queenscliff. Our Year 12s observed the Australian legal system at the Supreme Court, and others enjoyed a snowboarding trip to Mount Buller. A highlight was the launch of a new Year 9 subject, 'Culture and Environments,' where students delved into First Nations cultures and the diverse societies of South and Southeast Asia, culminating in a showcase of sustainable projects.

The Languages department celebrated linguistic diversity and creativity through French poetry and Latin reading competitions, where students showcased their passion for languages. In Chinese, students celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival by practicing calligraphy on paper fans, learning a poem about homesickness and writing good wishes using brushes. A significant highlight for 2023 was the language exchange program, where Year 10 and 11 students travelled to France and would welcome their exchange partners in 2024. The study of languages broadened horizons, fostered unity and inspired a greater love for humanity, reflecting God's love for diversity.

The Arts department provided opportunities for students to explore their talents in music, drama, and visual arts. Our youngest Primary students were introduced to African drumming and learned about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander music with Ryka Ali. Choirs, orchestras, and bands performed at soirées and music concerts, and instrumental students from our Melton campus had the opportunity to shine in the Royal South Street Eisteddfod. Drama students excelled in the CSEN Theatre Sports competition and the CSEN Play for a Day competition, securing first place in both. In Art, Primary students explored themes ranging from Landscapes and Gardens to Minecraft-style selfies and C.S. Lewis' 'Chronicles of Narnia' books. Secondary Visual Arts students found inspiration at ACMI and the Top Arts exhibition at Federation Square, exploring their personal creativity, and our class of VCE Art Making & Exhibiting students presented their Year 12 art exhibition in the Werribee Campus Gallery, titled 'L.I.G.H.T.'

The Technologies department thrived, boasting specialised teachers, diverse courses and talented students. At the Melton campus, new subject offerings in Year 10 Food Technology and Computing developed students' skills, while excitement grew for VCE Applied Computing, set to commence in 2024 for the first VCE class. The Werribee campus welcomed an experienced Woodwork teacher and looked forward to launching VCE Product Design and Technology in 2024. Engineering students tackled real-world problems, while Food Technology students enhanced their culinary skills with exciting recipes like Biscoff cookies and chicken tray bakes. Textiles classes saw creativity flourish with clothing creations, and the partnership with Wyndham Tech School continued to provide valuable industry learning opportunities.

In Christian Life Studies (CLS), students engaged in a wide array of activities and topics, discovering more about God and His perfect plan. Under the CLS umbrella, the Year 12 VCE class, Texts and Traditions, focused on the Gospel of Luke. Earlier in the year, the class had an enriching experience exploring the Jewish Museum and a nearby synagogue, learning about the socio-cultural historical background of the first century ancient world, which enabled them to better understand the Gospel of Luke's audience.

In Physical Education and Health, we regularly witnessed the positive impact on students' overall well-being. As part of their Contemporary Issues unit, Year 11 Physical Education students participated in a session of wheelchair basketball, delving into the nuances of the game and eagerly learning the techniques and strategies involved. This hands-on encounter dispelled misconceptions and revealed the considerable skill and effort demanded by wheelchair basketball. Additionally, our annual Athletics Carnivals, Swimming Carnivals, and Cross Country events were held at both campuses, further promoting physical activity and school spirit.

Throughout the year, Heathdale's dedicated staff supported students in developing a growth mindset, demonstrating a commitment to continuous improvement and perseverance in their learning journey.



School Competition

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ATHLETICS

In March, the Werribee Secondary Athletics Carnival began with cold winds and rain but ended with sunshine and a great atmosphere. Despite the rain, spirits remained high, and students enjoyed competing, though the High Jump was rescheduled due to safety concerns. Sebastian (Year 12) broke the school record in the triple jump, and new timing gates enhanced race accuracy and field event recording. After rescheduling the High Jump, Taylor House emerged as the winner, followed by Stanway, Judson and Carey. Congratulations to all participants and thanks to those who supported their Houses.

The Werribee Primary Athletics Carnival on the 10th of May began slowly but quickly gained momentum thanks to dedicated volunteers and staff. The day featured pleasant weather and cheerful participants, with all children taking part in 100m and 200m races, as well as field and novelty events. At the end of the day, Carey House came in 1st place, followed by Judson, Stanway and Taylor.

In August, 35 students spanning Years 4-6 from our Melton campus participated in the MPSSA District Interschool Athletics Carnival at Melton Athletics Track, with standout performances by Kaitlyn (Year 4), who won the 10 Girls Discus event and set a new district record at 20.7 meters, and Eloise (Year 6), who secured 2nd place in the 12 Girls High Jump. The 10 Girls Relay team also finished 3rd. In September, Kaitlyn and Eloise competed at the Division Athletics Carnival against top athletes from Greater Melton, Gisborne and Bacchus Marsh. Kaitlyn's 18-meter throw in the 10 Girls Discus was unfortunately fouled, and Eloise achieved 5th place in the 12 Girls High Jump, matching her personal best. Congratulations to both girls for their efforts.

CROSS COUNTRY

In May, 22 students from Years 4-6 at our Melton campus participated in the MPSSA District Cross Country Carnival, with seven students securing top-10 finishes and earning spots in the Division Cross Country event. The day was further highlighted by Heathdale Melton's 4th place overall finish, our best performance since joining the competition in 2018. At the MPSSA Division Cross Country Carnival, Elijah (Year 4) was our best performer, placing 15th in the Boys 9/10 event. Congratulations to all students who gave it their best.

Additionally, at the CSEN Cross Country Championship, Heathdale Melton made history by winning the Division C shield, based on school size, for the first time ever! This remarkable achievement was the result of the exceptional performances and unwavering dedication from all runners.

Our Werribee Secondary athletes excelled at CSEN Secondary Cross Country at Bundoora Park in July, securing the Division B shield and dominating in 7 out of 10 age groups. Standout performances included Luke (Year 12), Harsh (Year 10), and Katherine (Year 9) who won gold medals, while Oliver (Year 12), Noah (Year 8), Antonia (Year 10), Rianna (Year 8), and Elissa Rose (Year 8) earned silver medals. Oliver (Year 11) and Joshua (Year 10) added bronze medals to the school's impressive haul.



SWIMMING CARNIVALS

In February, 22 students from Years 4 to 6 represented our Melton campus at the MPSSA District Swimming Carnival at Melton Waves, competing against top swimmers in the area. Notable team performances included the U10 Boys and Girls Freestyle relay teams, who secured first and second place ribbons, respectively. Individual achievements were highlighted by Jaycee's (Year 4) 1st place finish in the U10 Boys Backstroke and Cody's (Year 4) 2nd place in the U10 Boys Freestyle. Both boys advanced to the next level of competition on March 7th for Division. The day concluded on a high note with the announcement that Heathdale Melton finished in 4th place overall, marking our best finish since joining the event in 2018! It was a successful and enjoyable day for all involved, with thanks extended to Mrs. Pardo, parents for their support, and the students for their outstanding efforts.

We held our Werribee Secondary Swimming Carnival in March at the Werribee Outdoor Pool. Students showed great enthusiasm in both competing and supporting their peers. In the end, Judson emerged as the winner with a 34-point lead, followed by Carey, Stanway and Taylor. Congratulations to all the staff and students who participated and contributed to the success of the day. Primary and Secondary teams from our Werribee Campus also competed at the CSEN Swimming Competition at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatics Centre. Our Primary team secured the 1st place shield, with record-breaking wins from individuals and teams. Highlights included Luke (Year 6) breaking the 12-year-old Breaststroke record, Claire (Year 4) breaking the 10-year-old Freestyle and Butterfly records, the 10-yearold Girls Relay Team shattering the old record by 1 second, and the 9-year-old Girls Relay Team exceeding the old record by 14 seconds, finishing a minute ahead of the second-place team. The Heathdale Secondary Swimming team emerged as Division A winners, excelling in various age groups, with Gabriel (Year 7) breaking the boys' Under-13 Backstroke record. Heathdale earned 13 Gold, 8 Silver and 12 Bronze medals, highlighting the dedication and support of athletes, coaches, and supporters.

We were blessed with amazing weather at our Melton Campus Swimming Carnival, held in December, where students participated in swimming and concurrent games and activities. It was a memorable day and a great way to end the year on a high!





GENERAL KNOWLEDGE & ESPORTS

Melton's Years 3-6 General Knowledge Competition was a closely contested battle of wits. Judson House emerged victorious, securing first place, while Stanway took second place. The competition was intense, leading to Taylor and Carey sharing the honour of third place. We commend all the participants for their dedication and efforts in making this event a success.

On the same day, in a thrilling showcase of Mario Kart skills, the Years 7-10 House Mario Kart Competition concluded with Carey House seizing first place in the Grand Finals. Taylor secured a commendable second place, closely followed by Stanway in third. Despite finishing fourth, Judson displayed remarkable sportsmanship and perseverance throughout. The event underscored our college's vibrant Esports community, where students not only excel in traditional sports but also in virtual competitions. Esports has become a pivotal part of our extracurricular activities, fostering teamwork, strategy and sportsmanship among students.

Werribee's Years 7-9 General Knowledge Quiz on Kahoot featured Mr. Deroon as a surprise participant, randomly selecting students to answer questions, achieving an impressive 87% score and 1st place. Top students included Alyssa from Stanway (2nd), Clark from Judson (3rd), Eliana from Taylor (5th), and Holly from Carey (7th). In the second quiz, additional teachers joined, increasing the excitement. Abishai from Taylor emerged as the overall winner, surpassing both students and teachers. The competition aimed to test knowledge, and all participants, including those who challenged the teachers, deserve commendation. Final rankings were Taylor in first, followed by Stanway, Judson, and Carey.

PUBLIC SPEAKING & DEBATING

In the Werribee Secondary Debating Competition, Houses tackled topics on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Fashion Industry. Kabir (Year 11) of Stanway stood out for his persuasive arguments against AI's social benefits, while Isabella (Year 11) was recognised as the best speaker, closely followed by Jack (Year 12). Congratulations were extended to all debaters, with special appreciation for Miss Harris and Mr. Ricketts, who adjudicated the competition.

In the Years 7-9 Public Speaking Competition at our Werribee Campus, speech topics ranged from exploring the intricacies of the English language to unconventional debates like whether to pour milk before or after cereal, which won the best overall speech. Each participant delivered a confident and eloquent 3-minute prepared speech, while the impromptu speeches, given under pressure with only 5 minutes to prepare, were also impressive. Stanway emerged victorious with just one point difference in scores from the external judges, followed closely by Taylor, Carey and Judson. Congratulations to all speakers for their maturity and enthusiasm throughout the competition.

In the Years 10-12 Public Speaking Competition, twelve students addressed diverse topics such as tall poppy syndrome, children's fitness, and the excitement of tabletop role-playing games. Joshua (Year 12) delivered the standout prepared speech on the USA's mission to reach the moon. The impromptu speeches added a light-hearted touch, covering themes like beauty being subjective and the value of learning from mistakes. Taylor House clinched first place, with Carey, Judson and Stanway following closely behind in the rankings.





MUSIC

In August, our Werribee Campus hosted its annual Battle of the Bands House Competition for Secondary students, themed around 'Songs from the '50s and '60s'. Each house delivered standout performances, embodying both the music and style of the era. Judson came in first place with their renditions of 'Stupid Cupid' and 'Johnny Be Good', impressing judge Miss Elly Poletti, a former contestant on 'The Voice 2023', who praised their authentic interpretation and skilled keyboard performance. Stanway secured second place, followed by Carey in third and Taylor in fourth. Congratulations to all participants for their spirited performances, and special thanks to Mr. Salvador for his guidance and musical expertise.

In November, our Werribee campus hosted its annual Choral Competition. All Secondary students participated in their respective House Mass Choir, and select students prepared items for the Small Group category. Congratulations to the winners: Carey claimed the top spot in the Mass Choir category, while Judson secured victory in the Small Group category. Additionally, Taylor was recognised as having the Best Conductor, and Stanway received the award for Best Accompanist. Carey accumulated the most House points throughout the event, making them the overall winners of the 2023 Choral Competition.

After entering the Kool Skools Competition with an album titled 'On the Pavement', Heathdale earned the title of the 'Koolest Skool' of 2023. Accolades also went to the following students: Jamie and Kalani for the Best EDM Track with 'Mind'; Madison, Norah, Charlotte and Lilly for the Best Pop Track with 'Compromise'; Zane, Lachlan, Michael, Samuel and Madison for the Best Rock Track with 'Way Down We Go'; and Mikail for the Best Acoustic Track with '7AM (Maccas).' Congratulations to all participating students for these incredible achievements.





DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

At Heathdale, we proudly nurture the growth of our student leaders' capacity to lead, both for the benefit of our school and the broader community. Recognising that this young generation holds the key to the future, we encourage them to responsibly cultivate their innate gifts and talents, fostering a culture of humility and service for the glory of God. Some practical ways that we encourage this growth is through mentorship, valuing student voice and ideas, leadership development opportunities and more.

We hosted the Christian Leadership Conference in February, welcoming 260 Year 6 student leaders from 16 schools across Victoria, including 22 from our Werribee and Melton campuses. The day included devotions, worship, games, reflection, prayer and sessional learning. Students explored the qualities of a Christian leader — caring, inclusive, serving, humble and curious — linked to our school's values of safety, dignity, belief, belonging, becoming and service. They discussed personality versus character, emphasising traits like kindness and influence. The concept of "backwards leadership" was also explored, focusing on actions over words and sacrificial leadership. By the end, students understood their potential for positive impact.

The Year 6 Student Leaders from our Werribee campus also attended the GRIP Primary Student Leadership Conference at the Melbourne Convention Centre on March 28. During the event, they gained insights on effective leadership and its immediate application in the school context, with discussions centred around themes like "How to be an Others-First Leader" and "Ideas That Impact Everybody." This experience provided valuable learning, idea planning, and networking opportunities with student leaders from across Melbourne, showcasing their representation of our school and contributing to a fantastic day of growth and connection.

In March, our College Captains team participated in the Compass Student Leaders' Conference in Canberra, joining student leaders from across Australia to enhance their leadership roles and personal faith journeys. Seminars focused on the Biblical narrative and its relevance to students' participation in shaping the world, inspiring their school leadership, and preparing for lifelong opportunities. Alongside engaging teachings and discussions, our Captains enriched their conference experience by visited Parliament House during Question Time and making a meaningful trip to the National War Memorial.





BUILDING INDIGENOUS AWARENESS

On a dark April morning at the start of the Easter holidays, a group of eleven VCE students and two teachers from our Werribee campus assembled in the carpark, ready to embark on an epic journey across outback New South Wales, Queensland and Northern Territory aboard a bright red OKA tour bus. Covering over 5000 kilometres, their destination was Uluru, marking Heathdale's long-awaited first trip to Central Australia following the cancellation of their 2020 plans due to the COVID outbreak.

Led by tour operator Rob Alley of 'Across the Divide,' accompanied by his wife Jenni, who have been organising trips for church and school groups for over a decade, their adventure aimed to immerse them in the diverse Aboriginal life of Central Australia. The journey took students and staff to an Aboriginal Christian convention in Goodooga NSW, iconic locations like Mt Isa, Longreach and Uluru, as well as the remote Aboriginal community of Canteen Creek. Along the way, they witnessed the landscape transition from dusty outback plains to lush tropical scenery and finally to the desert around Uluru, greened by a recent heavy wet season.

Activities ranged from football games and school visits in Canteen Creek to swimming in mineral springs, attending outdoor church services and learning about Aboriginal culture and artifacts with local guide Harold Dalywaters, who became a good friend to the students. Amidst moments of joy and fellowship, they also confronted the complexities of Aboriginal life, hearing stories of both resilience and hardship. This journey left the group with a profound appreciation for Aboriginal culture and a deeper understanding of the need for mutual respect and understanding among all Australians, underscored by the simple yet profound act of sharing stories around a campfire.

Later in the school year, we had the honour of hosting Uncle Harold and his wife, Aunty Kaye, at Heathdale. During their visit, Harold and Kaye shared about their life in Elliot with staff and students, performed original music in English and Indigenous language, showed and explained their artwork, including pieces that depict the Gospel story, and shared stories about their lives and experiences as First Nations Christians. It was a great privilege to host Uncle Harold and Aunty Kaye and deepen our relationship with them as a community. We are thankful to God for what we were able to learn and the opportunity to build friendships with our brothers and sisters in remote Indigenous communities.



CAMPS

Camps help students break out of their comfort zones, deepen friendships and strengthen their Christian faith, making them a school year highlight. We prioritise these connection and character-building opportunities, as they are crucial for a well-rounded education that prepares students for success both in and out of the classroom.

We completed our first-ever Werribee campus Year 4 Camp, where students bonded, built stronger teams, and tackled new challenges. Activities like archery, low ropes and bush cooking helped students grow, while peer encouragement enabled them to overcome fears, especially on the climbing wall. Devotions deepened connections and understanding of Christian faith.

The Werribee campus Year 6 students spent three days in October at The Summit in Trafalgar East. They worked as a team, faced new challenges and enjoyed highlights like the giant swing and monster course, stepping out of their comfort zones and strengthening friendships.

The Melton campus Year 8 Camp at Lyrebird Park focused on building a culture that honours God and others. Students participated in activities like rock climbing and the flying fox, learning communication, teamwork, and determination. Devotions helped them understand their identity in God, breaking personal barriers.

In June, Year 9-10 students at the Outdoor Education Camp embraced nature, conquered challenges, and formed lasting memories. They pushed their limits, set up camp, cooked meals, and showed resilience and adaptability, laying a strong foundation for future outdoor endeavours.

Our Werribee campus Year 10s, who missed out on activities due to Covid, had a four-day camp at Camp Coolamatong in August. They engaged in canoeing, rope climbing, beach games, and more, with a theme of 'Resilience,' and were encouraged to face challenges with Jesus by their side.

Camps provide students with valuable opportunities to connect with peers and staff, crucial for Year 12s during their final year. In February, our Class of 2023 had a three-day trip along Victoria's Great Ocean Road, with high ropes, team-building, archery and surfing, plus inspiring talks from Andrew Seedhom and Arthur Bolkas.



Embracing the diversity of heritage and culture that makes up our College community, our Melton Year 6s and Werribee Secondary subschool each celebrated a Multicultural Day. By embracing the diversity of heritage and culture through events like Multicultural Day, we don't only celebrate the unique backgrounds of students, but also foster a sense of belonging in our school. These celebrations make every student feel seen, heard and valued, contributing to a supportive educational experience for all.

Additionally, Madison, a Year 10 student from our Werribee campus, represented Heathdale at three local Citizenship Ceremonies, where 1500 individuals became Australian citizens. Her participation symbolised our College's dedication to celebrating and embracing the diverse cultures of the Wyndham community. Madison's performances of 'Advance Australia Fair' and 'I Still Call Australia Home' added a powerful dimension to the ceremonies, highlighting the essence of Australian values and belonging. Madison's contribution to these events reinforces our desire to see our local communities thrive; where every member, regardless of their background, feels valued and can belong.

THE INAUGURAL HEATHDALE CUP

In an exciting conclusion to the 2023 sports calendar, the Werribee and Melton campuses joined forces for the inaugural Cross Campus Games, featuring basketball and soccer. Spirited matches at Melton campus showcased the talent of Years 9-10 Boys Soccer, Years 8-9 Girls Basketball and Year 8 Boys Basketball, fostering skill development and new friendships. Two days later, the competition continued with Years 7-8 Boys Soccer, Year 7 Girls Basketball and Year 7 Boys Basketball teams engaging in friendly competition. The inaugural Heathdale Cup marked the beginning of strengthening the inter-campus relationship through the unifying spirit of sports.

SPREADING CHRISTMAS JOY IN THE COMMUNITY

In a heartwarming display of community spirit, our Years 5-6 Choir performed at the launch of the Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal at Pacific Werribee, singing carols and sharing the story of Christ's birth. Their involvement marked a festive start to the Christmas season and reflected our College's commitment to generosity and service. The Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal, Australia's largest gift collection drive, supports children, adults, seniors and families in need, aiming to give hope to those struggling with poverty, homelessness, illness or family crises, in partnership with The Salvation Army.

Continuing to spread joy to our local communty, a choir made up of Years 3 and 5 students from our Werribee campus supported Encore Events Centre's 'Tis the Season' Christmas show. The audience thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated the choir's singing and choreography alongside the performers. This Christmas show was part of 'Morning Melodies,' a Wyndham City music program that gives opportunity for residents to experience affordable, feel-good music and entertaining shows monthly.

Capping off the school year, we were delighted to be a major sponsor of the 2023 Wyndham Carols by Candlelight. The children's activities at the beginning of the evening were a hit, and the performances by Jemma Rix, Urban Praise and the Carols Team were a joy to watch. We were proud of our Primary and Secondary choirs for taking the stage during the pre-show performances to sing Christmas carols - in front of 5000 people!

Fundraisers



At our Werribee campus, Miss Scherping and the Stanway House Leaders spearheaded a Crazy Hair Day fundraiser to aid those impacted by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. The initiative showcased the leadership and negotiation skills of the Stanway House Leaders, who presented their proposal to Mrs. Harvey for supporting the affected communities. Their engaging presentations persuaded the school community that Crazy Hair Day would be both enjoyable and meaningful in raising funds for a worthy cause. Stanway Captain Gauransh said, "I think it was important to run this fundraiser because it showed the people in Turkey and Syria that another community is ready to help. The crazy hair and House point rewards encouraged students to bring money and contribute to the fundraiser."



For over 20 years, the 'Off Your Back' winter coat drive has provided warmth to those in need by collecting around 150,000 high-quality preloved coats from the community and distributing them through the Salvation Army. At our Werribee Campus, Taylor Student Leaders coordinated a successful campaign with 'Off Your Back' to collect coats for the local community. Students in Years 3-6 participated by donating clean, quality coats, surpassing their goal with a collection of 312 coats. Led by Year 6 students Ethan, Alina, Ahan and Samaira, the initiative aimed to fulfil a simple act of kindness inspired by their faith and commitment to helping others in need.



In August, Enjoy Church collaborated with True Visions Schools in Cambodia, an educational institution serving 3600 Khmer students across nine campuses. Their focus includes English education from childcare through Secondary school. Heathdale Christian College seized the opportunity to support this initiative, embodying Christ's compassion and generosity for the broader community by organising a Book Drive during Book Week at the Werribee campus. Originally planned for Years 3-6, the drive expanded to include Years 1-2 and Secondary, gaining momentum as contributions poured in from the Heathdale community. Ultimately, an astounding total of 1756 books were collected, reflecting the community's heartfelt generosity.



Carey House Captains for Primary at our Werribee Campus organised a Cultural Day, encouraging students from Years 3-6 to dress in attire representing their cultural heritage or the colours of their country's flag. The event aimed to promote cultural diversity and understanding among students. Funds were raised through gold coin donations, with proceeds going to the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre. This cause was selected by the Carey Captains to align with their classroom studies on the challenges faced by asylum seekers and refugees. When pitching the event idea to the Principal of Primary - Werribee, Mrs Yvonne Harvey, Carey Captains Savannah and Aarna expressed, "upholding the needs of refugees in our countries is an important priority that falls in line with God's vision for unity amongst us."



In late November, the Werribee campus Library, supported by our Library Leadership Team, organised a successful Pre-Loved Book Sale Fundraiser. We raised \$202 for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF), which will provide 20 culturally relevant books to children in remote Indigenous communities. The ILF extends their immense gratitude to the students and staff for supporting their mission. Beyond benefiting the ILF, the sale repurposed books that had been previously enjoyed but were ready for new homes, fostering a love for reading among new readers. Twelve of our Library Leaders played pivotal roles in planning, promoting and executing the event, ensuring its success.

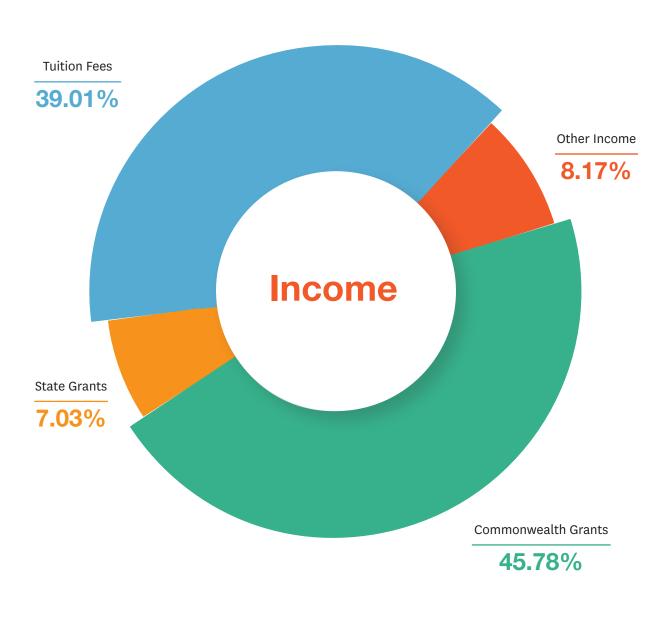


A team of eleven Secondary students at our Werribee campus organized the annual Christmas Food Drive to spread the joy of Christmas to those in need through FoodBank Victoria. Students were encouraged to bring donations of unopened, non-perishable food items, toiletries, and hygiene products to school. Across both campuses, the drive received a total of 1450 donations, marking the highest number raised in this campaign at Heathdale.



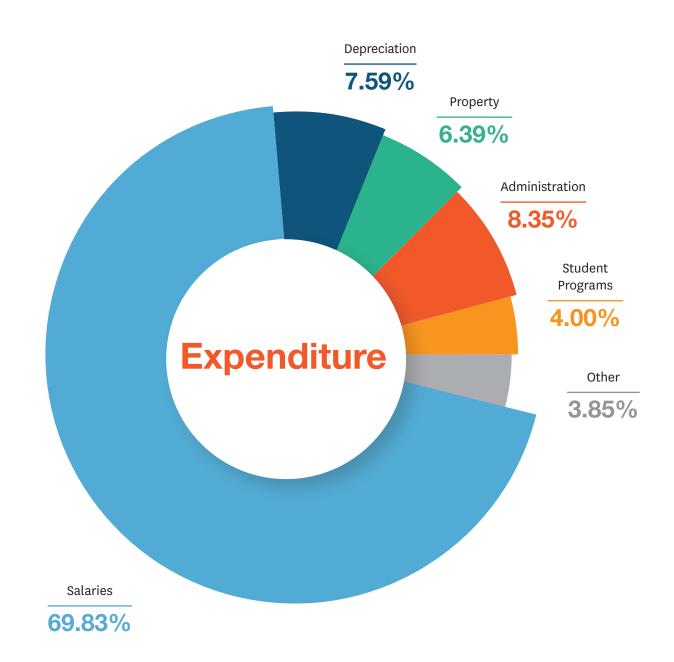
In line with our Foundational Quality Statements, we pursue best practice management systems and excellence in all areas. Our College Board takes a fiscally responsible approach to all financial activities. The following charts demonstrate the financial activities of the College with regard to revenue and capital expenditure in 2023.

Heathdale Christian College Income





Heathdale Christian College Expenditure





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PO Box 1042 Werribee Plaza, 3030 enquiries@heathdale.vic.edu.au

Melton 102-110 Centenary Ave - (03) 8746 3100 Werribee 175 Derrimut Road - (03) 9749 1522 HeathdaleChristianCollege 🕇 O

ABN: 40 005 962 792 School No.: 1846 CRICOS No.: 00578B