



Hellyer College

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Issue 1 - Friday, March 6 2026

Principal's Report

Our *Evening of Excellence* was a wonderful celebration of the outstanding achievements of our students in 2025. With more than 200 people attending, an event of this scale requires significant teamwork. I would especially like to acknowledge senior staff member **Richard Walsh** for his tireless efforts in ensuring the night ran smoothly. Thank you to all students, staff, parents, and invited guests who joined us.

We are incredibly proud of the progress our students made throughout 2025. Our School Review data, included in this newsletter, highlights several positive shifts in student outcomes. A particular highlight was having **three students** recognised in Tasmania's **Top 100 ATAR** results. Congratulations to **Bo Ellis, Isabel Gitzinger, and Alice Dean** on this exceptional achievement.

Our 2026 college year has had a very positive beginning. We anticipated an enrolment of 640 students, and on census day this number had grown to **672**. Notably, **43 Year 11 students**

have joined Hellyer College after completing Year 10 in the non-government sector—an encouraging sign of our growing reputation.

Attendance and engagement remain key priorities for us. Our expectation is that all students maintain **90% or higher attendance**, and we greatly appreciate the support families provide in helping us reach this goal. We also value responses to attendance text messages explaining student absences whenever possible.

Earlier this term, our SMS communication system experienced an unexpected glitch following a provider software update, resulting in multiple duplicate messages being sent to staff, parents, and students. To acknowledge the inconvenience—and inject a little humour—we hosted a **#smsbigmistake BBQ** on Wednesday March 4 for students some of who received up to 15 messages.

At our first assembly, we highlighted the importance of student leadership and the positive influence it has across our college community. We were pleased to receive many nominations for our 2026 Year 11/12 Student Leadership Group. Congratulations to the following students:

- Ava Ferguson
- Ciara Harvey
- Claire Davison
- Connor Stirling
- Elliot Smedley
- Emma Bracken
- Heidi Kable
- Jessica Buist
- Madison Lello
- Maitland Sayer
- Maya Williscroft
- Morgan Ling
- Rhani Summers
- Rose Welsh
- Ruby Constable
- Savannah Poke
- William Stirling
- Willow Cummins

Thank you once again to all parents and carers for your ongoing support and partnership. Your contribution plays a vital role in ensuring a strong and successful start to learning in 2026.



Shane Cleaver
Principal

Hellyer_College_School_Improvement_Plan_2025_Review.pdf
https://hellyerc.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1367/hellyer_college_school_improvement_plan_2025_review.pdf

Notifying student absences

You can text us directly to notify the school of student absences.

Just send us the student's name and reason for the absence to **0418 131 038** alternatively, you can respond to the attendance text message when you receive it.

Evening of Excellence

On Thursday January 29, we proudly celebrated the academic achievements of our students at our Evening of Excellence Awards. The event, held at the Burnie Arts Centre, welcomed a full audience of parents, students, staff, sponsors, and invited guests.

We are deeply grateful for the continued support of our generous sponsors, as well as the strong partnership we share with parents and families who joined us on the night.

The evening provided a wonderful opportunity to recognise both individual accomplishments and the collective achievements of our college community. Congratulations to all award recipients—your hard work and dedication are truly commendable.

To our departing Year 12 students of 2025, we extend our very best wishes for every success as you move into your chosen pathways in 2026 and beyond.

Award_Frame_2026_Newsletter.pdf

https://hellyerc.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/1369/award_frame_2026_newsletter.pdf

A Week of STEM in Canberra – Oliver's NYSF Experience



In January, Oliver travelled to Canberra for the NYSF Year 12 Program. For nine days, he stayed on campus at the Australian National University, surrounded by students from all over Australia who shared his enthusiasm for science and technology. During the program, the group toured real research labs and industry facilities, met scientists working on cutting-edge projects, and learned about the wide range of study and career pathways available in STEM. They heard from experts about their research and discussed university life with people who had experienced it firsthand.

One of the highlights for Oliver was the connections he made. The social activities and teamwork challenges helped the students bond quickly, and by the end of the week it felt as though they had known each other much longer. The NYSF alumni running the program created a fun, supportive, and welcoming environment.

Oliver's involvement with NYSF continues beyond the program itself. He is now connected to the wider NYSF alumni network, opening up even more opportunities — events, programs, and pathways for anyone wanting to keep exploring STEM.

Overall, the Canberra NYSF session was packed with learning, offered great opportunities to meet like-minded people, and is something Oliver highly recommends Year 11 science students apply.

Drama and Tech Theatre Students Dive Into Workshops and Industry Experiences

Drama and Theatre Performance students enjoyed a one-day workshop with internationally renowned physical actor, clown, and teaching artist Clint Bolster. Clint has conducted workshops at Hellyer for the past 18 years. While equipping students with valuable performance skills, he also helps to establish a culture of trust and collaboration in the class which sets them up for a successful year performing together.

Students in Technical Theatre are looking forward to their Big Day of Tech excursion on Thursday March 19. Students will travel to Launceston for a technical theatre workshop at IO Performance and a backstage tour of the Albert Hall, before returning to Burnie Arts to watch a live performance of Domaur Productions' Jagged Little Pill. Students in Drama and Theatre Performance will also view this production

on Wednesday March 18.



Meet the family - Musical cast announced!

Hellyer College is thrilled to announce the cast of our 2026 production of The Addams Family, taking the stage at the Burnie Arts Centre from August 7–15.

After a fantastic round of auditions - we are proud to reveal our talented and dynamic cast!

Stay tuned for behind-the-scenes updates as we begin the journey toward an unforgettable show!



The Addams Family
MUSICAL

CAST
ANNOUNCEMENT

GOMEZ ADDAMS:
BAYDAN C & ELLIOT S

MORTICIA ADDAMS:
BRONTE M & SHAYLA G

UNCLE FESTER:
TANNER W & MAX C

WEDNESDAY ADDAMS:
MONTAYAH R & SADIE HS

GRANDMA:
PAIGE H & GABE H

POGSLEY ADDAMS:
SUZANNA W & HARRISON H

LURCH:
REED S & REID S

MAL BEINEKE:
COOPER T

ALICE BEINEKE:
HEIDI K & MAKAYLA W

LUCAS BEINEKE:
LENNY P & MITCHELL B

FEATURED SINGING ANCESTORS:
ISSY A & WILLOW C
MEG H & ASHA C
SAPHIRA J & AMBER S
RORI W & SAVANNAH J

BRIDE/JUNIOR CAST LEADERS:
CIARA H & JORJA J

THE ANCESTORS:
HAYLEY H & ZEPHYR C
ZANE W & RYAN J
AMBER A & KATELYN P
JACINTA G & ALEX A
TORI C & RANDY W
HOLLY G & RHIANNON B
MIAH SS & ZEPHYR C

DANCE CAPTAIN:
MEG H

ASSISTANT DANCE CAPTAIN:
MIAH SS



Book by Macmillan, Burrows and Nick Elam | Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lloyd Webber | Based on Characters Created by Charles Addams
An Arrangement with Originals™ Theatrical Co. of Theatrical Artists' Workshop, New York

Rural Clinical School visit

On Tuesday this week we had the first of our "science lunches" for the year. Richard, Bec and Harry from the University of Tasmania Rural Clinical School in Burnie were able to share their knowledge and expertise around studying medicine at UTAS. It was particularly inspiring for the students to talk to Harry, who most of them knew as a student here last year.

Discussion included:

Why medicine is a great career

The different pathways into medicine

ATAR and UCAT information

The advantages of studying in a smaller cohort

The importance of keeping options open

Applying for medicine even if you think that your ATAR won't be quite good enough (because you never know)!

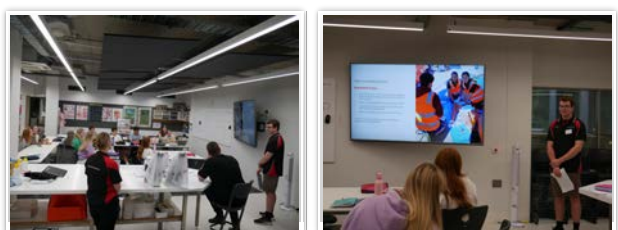
Great advice from Harry included:

Study biology even though it isn't a pre-requisite

Apply for UCAT early

Harry also mentioned that a great advantage of studying in Burnie was that he could still live at home.

Thanks again Richard, Bec and Harry for sharing your expertise with our next generation of doctors.



Outdoor Leadership Camp

Outdoor Leadership 3 students kicked off their year with a successful 3-day, 2-night camp at Guildford this week. Guided by Murray, the class embraced the opportunity to lead their own activities, putting their classroom learning

into action. From navigating challenges to fostering teamwork, the group returned with new skills and stronger connections, marking a high-impact start to their Outdoor Leadership 3 journey.



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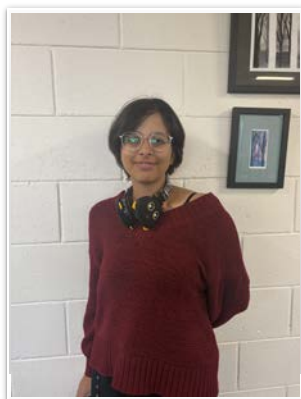
International students

This year at Hellyer College we have the pleasure of 3 international students, 2 from Brazil and 1 from Switzerland, all staying with host families within the community. They have travelled a long way to experience what Hellyer College and Tasmania has to offer as well as improve their English.

Leo and Kailane are from Brazil and will be with us for term 1, while Nico is from Switzerland and is with us for the year. They have been making new friends and have settled into life at Hellyer College very well. If you see them around, please have a chat and make them feel welcome.



Leonardo Porto Viera on the left and Nico Catalini on the right.



Kailane Felix Rodrigues

2026 Staff and first day



Hello from the Student Health Nurse



2026 What Matters? Writing Competition



Now open for students in Years 5 to 12

Got something to say? Want to change the world, or at least get people thinking?

The *What Matters? Writing Competition* is your chance to speak up, stand out, and share what YOU care about most.

Inspired by Gough Whitlam's belief that young people should help shape Australia's future, this competition invites students to answer one big, important question: **What matters?**

How to enter

- In up to 600 words, write about anything you care about. Big or small, personal or global. Your voice, your style, your take. Entries must be original and can be fiction or non-fiction, persuasive writing, poetry or prose.
- Submit your entry online via the [What Matters? Writing Competition](#) Students can enter through their school, or from home via the website.
- Entries close on Friday, 15 May 2026.

What Matters? Tasmania

Tasmanian students who enter the national competition

are automatically entered into *What Matters? Tasmania*.

Like the national competition, prizes are awarded in four categories: Years 5/6, 7/8, 9/10 and 11/12. Category Winners receive \$350, and \$200 is awarded to each Category Runner Up.

Visit the [What Matters? Tasmania](https://www.whatmatters.tas.gov.au) website for more information or to check out last year's winning entries for inspiration!

Every School Day Matters



Every school day matters.

We love seeing your children at school, every day. Going to school every day gives your child every chance to learn, grow and connect with their friends and teachers. It gives our staff and students a chance to engage with your child.

We all play a part in helping our kids get to school every day. Please know that if you're struggling to get your kids to school, help and support is available. Talk to us at school or visit Anything can happen - Department for Education, Children and Young People.

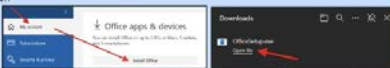
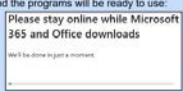
Students, you can get Microsoft Office on your device for free!

As a student, you can install Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, etc.) on your personal device for free.

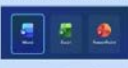
GET MICROSOFT 365 ON YOUR PERSONAL DEVICES FOR FREE!*

Your school account includes a Microsoft 365 licence, which allows you to install the 365 apps on your personal devices, or simply to use them online without installing any software.

For Windows and MacOS computers, laptops and tablets:

1. Open your internet browser, go to office.com, and click on the 'person' button in the top-right corner.
2. Type your education email address, followed by clicking **Next**:
 - Student: user.name.00@education.tas.edu.au
 - Staff: user.name@education.tas.gov.au
 - or user.name@dcygo.tas.gov.au
3. Enter the password that you are currently using to sign into the school computer network and click **Sign In**
4. In the menu on the left side of the screen, click on **Apps**. Click the **Install apps** button that will appear in the top-right, then click **Microsoft 365 apps**.
5. Click on **My account**, then **Install Office**. This will download OfficeSetup, which you will need to open to start the installation.
6. A 'Please stay online...' window will appear while installing. Leave your device open and connected to the internet until the window closes, and the programs will be ready to use:

For Android and iOS phones and tablets, install your chosen apps from your app store, and sign in with the same email address and password as above:



*Valid for currently enrolled students and currently employed staff in the Tasmanian Department for Education, Children and Young People

Harmony Week

Waratah Wynyard Council Community Harmony Week Celebration

Wednesday, March 18 2026, 4 pm – 7 pm

Wynyard Yacht Club

You are warmly invited to join us for our free Community Harmony Week Celebration on Wednesday, March 18 2026, from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Wynyard Yacht Club.

Come along and celebrate the rich diversity of our community with a fantastic afternoon of live performances, including:

- Burnie Nepalese Community (Traditional Nepalese Dance)
- Jorge Cuba (Peruvian Flute)
- Las Amores (Traditional Filipino Dance)
- Chris O (Multicultural Blues Folks & Roots)
- Burnie School of Irish Dance
- Burnie Highland Pipe Band
- Hikaru Daiko (Taiko Drumming)

Enjoy delicious food available from:

- NOMAD Global Kitchen
- RAST Authentic Kitchen
- Tasmosa

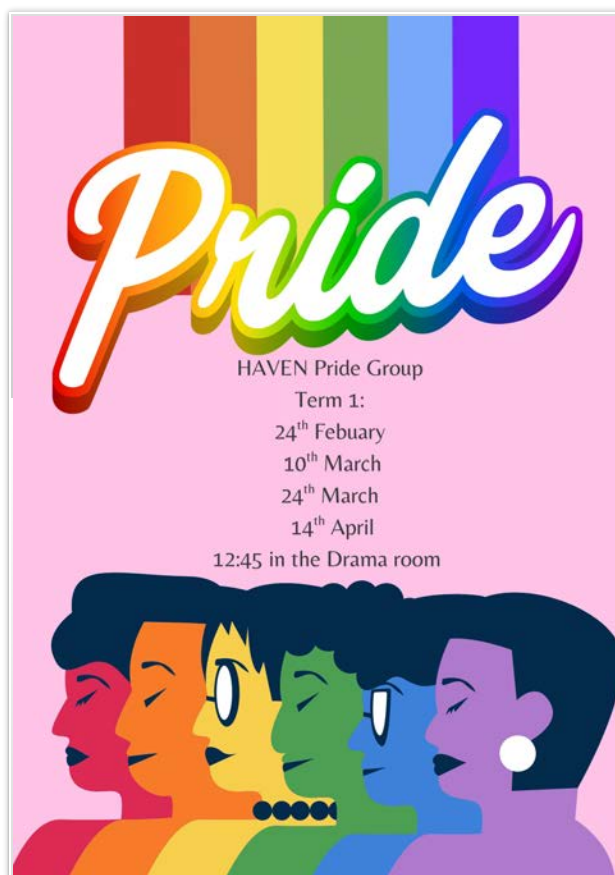


Lions Youth of the year

YOTY_FLYER_2.pdf

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Haven Pride Group



North West Ecofest 2026

Ecofest is a two-day festival dedicated to building a more sustainable future. Set at Camp Clayton in Ulverstone, Festival goers can enjoy a great family day out experiencing fun from eco-kids activities, presentations and workshops to adventure activities, bustling market stalls, and a lively line-up of music to enjoy alongside great food and drinks, every moment is designed to be both fun and meaningful.

Our Theme “Many hands make a lighter planet” captures the idea that a sustainable future depends on shared effort. It highlights how community action—small or large—adds up to real change, and how every person, has a role in caring for the place we all call home.

Ecofest celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, marking a decade of growth from the small grassroots gathering into one of the North-West Coast’s premier sustainable

living festivals. What began as a local initiative now attracts thousands of people each year, all coming together to take sustainable living to new heights.

This year's focus is celebrating with **zero waste**. Across the two-day festival, visitors will be invited to help create a shared celebration space that will become the venue for our closing event on day two. Throughout the weekend you can immerse yourself in hands-on displays and activities that show how simple, creative choices can reduce waste in everyday life—gift wrapping without single-use paper, food storage without clingfilm, reusable decorations, and beautiful pieces made from repurposed materials. Learn to fold paper flowers, craft streamers, and explore practical ideas for all ages.

Proudly a Zero Waste festival, ecofest is powered entirely by volunteers and supported by a not-for-profit community organisation. This unique spirit of collaboration makes Ecofest more than just an event—it's a movement toward a greener future. We look forward to welcoming you in 2026 to share in this unforgettable experience.

Ecofest 11th & 12th April

Gates open 8:30

Camp Clayton, Ulverstone

Plan your weekend and take advantage of the early bird ticket prices. Head to our website for details:

<https://www.ecofesttas.com.au>

