



Hellyer College

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Issue 5 - Tuesday 18th November 2025

Principal's Report

What an incredible way to finish the year! We were truly overwhelmed by the support of parents and our wider community at the recent Celebration Assembly, held on the last day of formal classes. Over 240 family members joined us as we farewelled the Year 12 class of 2025. Watching our students walk out to the sound of the bagpipes was a proud and emotional moment, marking the completion of their formal secondary education.

Imogen Lloyd delivered a thoughtful and inspiring speech on behalf of the student body, reflecting on her time at Hellyer College and acknowledging the encouragement and care provided by staff throughout the journey. We also celebrated the achievements of our major award recipients and presented merit certificates to many students whose effort and progress deserve recognition. Your positive feedback on the day was greatly appreciated, and we hope all parents felt a sense of pride in being present for a significant milestone for our year 12 students.

The end of the academic year has been busy but rewarding. Many students are still on campus completing exams and final course requirements, and we are proud of the courage and determination they have shown to give their best. At the assembly, I shared the impressive gains in attendance this year—our college remained 6% above the state average for Years 11 and 12. This is a collective achievement we can all celebrate.

A reminder to come along to our student Art Exhibition at the college this Thursday, 20th November @5.30pm. The exhibition highlights the vibrant and diverse student work. Congratulations to Pat Grieve, Phil Hawley, Dave Young, and all our talented art students for their creativity and dedication.

Thank you to our entire college community—students, families, and staff—for your support throughout 2025. We look forward to continuing our partnership with current Year 11 students and welcoming over 350 new students from across the region into Year 11 for 2026. Next year will be especially exciting as we celebrate 50 years of quality public education at Hellyer College—a milestone we can all be proud of!

On behalf of all staff, I wish you a safe, joyful, and relaxing holiday season. May the break bring time to recharge and celebrate with loved ones. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2026 for another exciting year at Hellyer College.

Warm regards,



Shane Cleaver
Principal

2025 Hellyer College Student Art Exhibition



<https://youtube.com/embed/R9EviADcZzU?autoplay=0&modestbranding=1&rel=0>

Celebration Day Breakfast



2025 Major Award Winners

Congratulations to all the 2025 Major Award Winners:

Hellyer College - Best All Rounder Award - **Imogen Lloyd**

ADF 2025 Future Innovators Award - **James Hyland**

ADF 2025 Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award - **Imogen Lloyd**

Principal's Award - **Andy Jones**

Principal's Award - **Dakota Crawford**

Year 12 Leadership Award - Sponsored by The Hon. Ruth Forrest MLC - **James Hyland**

Year 11 Leadership Awards - Sponsored by Senator Josh Dolega - **Elliot Smedley and Ciara Harvey**

Respectful Student Award - Sponsored by Minister for Education Jo Palmer - **Rivinu Athukorala**

VET Award - Sponsored by Anne Urquhart MP - **Hana Jarvis**

Arts Award - Sponsored by Anita Dow MP - **Thomas Close**

Sports Leader Award - Sponsored by the Hon. Felix Ellis MP - **Ella Scolyer**

Australian Olympic Change Maker Awards - **Max Hay and Shukuya Broomhall**

Student Residence Community Award - Sponsored by The Hon. Gavin Pearce MP - **Shelby Wedd**

Connections Award - Sponsored by Craig Garland MP - **Tyson Templeton**



Tourism and Hospitality

Tourism and Hospitality students enjoyed another overnight excursion to Launceston recently. The trip included a hotel tour at Peppers Silos, a visit to Drysdale Campus at TasTAFE, site tours at Western Tiers Distillery, Country Club Casino, and The Range. This was a great opportunity to finish off the year and learn more about what is on offer within the industry.

International Youth Science Forum

In late July I was fortunate enough to attend the 66th annual London International Youth Science Forum in the UK. The forum hosted over 450 students from 92 countries and brought together leading scientists from their fields as guest speakers; this included Nobel laureate Sir David MacMillan.

While I was in London, I was able to visit many of the UK's leading universities, including Imperial College, as well as both Oxford and Cambridge. I also took part in visits to top scientific establishments like the National Space Centre and the UK Atomic Energy Authority where I was able to see the JET fusion reactor.

Whilst listening to the inspiring lectures and exploring the city, I made lifelong connections with like-minded students from 6 different continents, who I hope to meet again in the future.

Overall, participating in the forum has further fuelled my interest in pursuing further studies in the field of science and engineering.

by James Hyland



Careers Corner

Our relationship with the University of Tasmania Rural Clinical School has strengthened again this year and RCS staff have provided some invaluable opportunities for Hellyer students and staff, with small groups visiting the school on numerous occasions. Feedback has been fantastic, and our students have gained great insight into careers in medicine and also the lives of current medical students. Thanks to Dr Lizzi Shires, Dr Richard Shanasy, Josie Thompson and the medical students for facilitating these experiences for Hellyer students.

Here's some of the feedback received after our students and staff visited the campus.

Year 12 students

The trip to the Rural Clinical School was both enjoyable and highly educational. It offered valuable insights into many of the behind-the-scenes aspects of medical training that aren't often discussed. One of the highlights was our conversation with Richard, who gave us a clear picture of what a typical schedule looks like for a first-year student. It was reassuring to learn that medical school doesn't mean being in class every single day!



I also really appreciated the opportunity to watch the Year 5 students during their ward simulations. While it was slightly intimidating, it was also inspiring to see how much they had learnt in just five years, — it made me curious and motivated about my own future progress.

Overall, the experience was excellent. It deepened my understanding of what lies ahead and further strengthened my passion for pursuing a medical career through the Rural Clinical School.

The visit inspired me to consider a future career in medicine and rural healthcare through student interactions and activities at the Cradle Coast Rural Clinical School.

I observed first-hand what medical students' study and their experiences during their clinical training. Seeing the fifth-year students undergo the practical assessment task for myself helped give me more of an understanding of what I'd be doing if I chose to study medicine next year.

It helped me gain an insight into the practical hands-on side of the learning environment at the Rural Clinical School. I learnt about the structure of the five-year medicine degree including the weekly timetable, clinical placements, the transition from classroom and from home online learning to hands-on experiences.

I was impressed with the staff to student ratio at RCS and I thought the experience was more personal for studying medicine. According to the students it is less stressful than year 12 and I was impressed with the small groups of students per classroom and the staff who are very passionate about their teaching positions and their role in the community.

I also liked the fact that in the first year of medicine, especially the second half of the year, students get to go on placements. The discussions with other students were fantastic and it gave me a better idea of what to expect at our own RCS in Burnie.

Year 11 students

As a potential medical student at RCS, I liked participating in class and learning things that the first-year students do which was helpful and interesting.

It was great getting an idea of what class time looks like, the lecturers were brilliant and engaging as they were super easy

to talk to and ask questions. The way they answered the questions was really helpful and allowed me to understand the content and what to expect in the first year.

I thought the facilities were outstanding and stunning!

I was impressed by taking a tour of the facility and noticed how everyone was very welcoming and the very passionate staff. The question-and-answer sessions were interactive and very informative, as it increased my understanding of learning as well, for instance, only two intensive days at RCS and the rest online, although it was very interactive on those two days at the clinical school which gives me more ideas about what to expect in the future for study.

Dr Richard provided a good snapshot of what the students' average week looks like and when asked a question about the pathways he laid out the steps people might take after leaving their initial university course to undertake further training and study.

My excursion to the Rural Clinical School gave me the opportunity to participate in a first-year medical students' class. I was able to observe the students working through a scenario with a patient with an injured ankle and I was impressed with the facilities and the inbuilt section of the hospital containing multiple wards which are ready to use as a classroom environment.

I was also impressed by the welcoming environment created by the staff and students, especially Dr Richard who answered all my questions in great detail. I'm thankful for the Q&A time afterwards as it was informative and will give me some ideas about what to do in year 12 and beyond.

I enjoyed being in an actual class and seeing how it actually plays out. I also liked talking about what happens after completion of your degree and pathways to specialisation. I was intrigued by the small class size; there was a good opportunity for one-on-one talks with their teacher.

I think it made me want to study medicine more. Everyone was so welcoming, and I liked how they made sure that we were able to keep up with the content. Sitting in on one of their lessons was really cool - I loved hearing their thought processes and seeing how the students worked collaboratively to assess the case. The environment felt supportive.

It was also beneficial to understand the timetable and uni system a bit better. To have our questions answered and to see what being a first-year med student is actually like made it feel more achievable.'

Everyone was super and being able to be in the lecture was beneficial. The lecturers helped to outline our possible futures in medicine, and the students provided great feedback regarding future studies.

The RCS program looks great and visiting took stress away from not knowing what happens at university.

I really enjoyed the time we got to spend at the RCS. Sitting in on their class and seeing how they collaborate while diagnosing a case was very interesting and gave insight on what they do at the RCS. Seeing the environment that they study in and how close-knit the classes are, has also made me reconsider whether I want to move away or stay local for university, as I loved the environment at the Clinical School.

Sitting in one of their classes and seeing what it's like to be a first-year med student made studying medicine seem more achievable than I originally thought and cemented that it's the pathway I want to pursue.

Hellyer College Staff

I was most impressed with the student to teacher ratio in the simulation and tutorial spaces which gave students and myself a better idea about how RCS operates. I was also impressed with the level of individual support and guidance as well as Richard's role and how he follows up with students about assignments and grades and extra support with health in their first year.

Another key aspect was that the whole idea of being Burnie based and having the opportunity to travel to Launceston for specific Science-related content when required is very appealing to students.

A great advantage and opportunity in the Burnie and northwest region was the availability of jobs if you wish to stay after completing your five years of study and degree.

Overall, I found the whole experience of visiting RCS beneficial to students and the potential of future discussions with students beyond this year.

My thoughts about the Rural Health excursion were - what a good setup, easy to access and easy to find your way around!

I liked the small classes format - class was broken down into three breakout spaces with roughly eight students per group. Staff to student ratio is high (low student numbers, high staff numbers) and the course work is the same as what students would do in Launceston and Hobart. The only difference is that when there are guest speakers, the Launceston and Burnie campuses watch them online.

The timetable and lessons were straight forward with a mixture of practical, theory, UTAS campus and Rural Health Clinic lessons. A bonus was the Rural Health Clinic is next door to the hospital so students in first year medicine get to do practical experience in the hospital gaining insights straight away while students in Launceston and Hobart they don't get to go into a hospital until third year.

The small group workshop we saw worked really well. The students were able to get immediate feedback on their work and ask clarifying questions as well as be given ideas for extension and links to other learning.

I really liked the way they approached the case-based learning. Presenting the information in the way they did, made it a lot more relevant than just factual information.

The facilities and location right at the hospital look like they would be a big plus for the students.

The lecturers seemed very knowledgeable and approachable.

I was impressed with the first-year student-doctor's short sharp presentations in their small group session. The relaxed atmosphere and ease of communication with lecturers was a standout. The student-to-student questions were supported, and the sense of team was very apparent with humour and support as they explained each case study ranging from newborn screening fractures and vaccinations.

A great part was hearing the background stories of some students ranging from local Northwest coast students to post graduate students from Melbourne and beyond.

Dr Richard's explanation of the degree and the possible future for young doctors certainly gives an insight of the future careers and locations where RCS students are

currently undertaking their residency commitments.

The RCS bonus for medicine students is the emphasis on E.D. experiences in Year 1 of the course and the mantra “We do what matters” to develop well rounded doctors. The 5-year time frame to complete the degree and ability to be close to home with accessible staff and facilities is a bonus I would encourage Hellyer students to explore as they think of their futures.

I think that the high staff to student ratio at RCS is great. It's obvious that staff already know the first-year students really well and the students are very comfortable there. This is probably not the same on a larger campus.

For Hellyer students having the RCS on their doorstep is a huge bonus and, for some, makes the prospect of a five-year degree seem more achievable.

Fabulous that our students can go down there and interact with med students who were here last year – great role models. It demonstrates that medicine is an achievable goal.



Hellyer College Chess Club

The Hellyer College Chess Club has had a great year in 2025!

Our Monday lunchtime meetings have been fun, with our members playing games of chess, talking tactics, and improving our skills together. A tight-knit community has evolved, with many new friendships being formed throughout the year over our shared love of the game. As a group, we have been involved in a number of chess-related events this year, including our self-run Hellyer College Chess Cup. The Chess Cup was fun for all, with member and non-member students and staff all invited to compete for the grand prize. Once the competition was underway, a series of nail-biting

games ensued, with Dieter Linden taking home victory, and Rhyllie Yaxley taking out second place.

The club has also had the opportunity to compete in North-West inter-school chess competitions over the course of the year, where we consistently placed highly, compared to other schools in the region. In one competition, we were awarded second place: a great achievement for the club! Our repeated successes culminated in the team earning a spot in the prestigious State Championship in Launceston, which we recently attended. Competitors performed their best and we had a great day! This year we certainly cemented ourselves as one of the best teams in the North-West region.

It is safe to say that every team member has become a stronger chess player over the course of the year. As the chess club captain, I am extremely proud to have had the opportunity to lead such a committed, encouraging, and tight-knit team. I would like to say a massive thank you to John Wilkinson, our club's organiser, for everything he has done to help us succeed. We couldn't have done it without you!

Finally, I now pass the baton to next year's Chess Club captain, Connor Sucic, and wish the 2026 Hellyer College Chess Team all the best!

By Sam Langerak



Congratulations to Deegan Campbell

Congratulations to Deegan Campbell who was selected in the Tassie Inclusion squad for AFL Open 2025 and also awarded the 2025 MVP.

This was Deegan's second year representing the state and the team's third year straight winning the national title.



Vacancy TASSO Board

Casual Vacancy - TASSO Board

Responsibilities:

- Hiring and overseeing leadership
- Policy development
- Risk management
- Strategic planning
- Performance monitoring
- An ambassador for the organisation

We are seeking individuals who:

- Possess a passion for government education
- Bring governance experience (or are willing to undergo training to acquire the necessary expertise)
- Have a background in accounting
- Demonstrate strategic thinking skills
- Specialise in change management
- Be adept at collaborating statewide through technology
- Embrace principles of accountability, transparency, and integrity

The TASSO Board invites expressions of interest (EOIs) to fill roles a casual vacancy of North-West Representative.

TASSO stands as the peak body for School Associations across all Tasmanian State Schools. We offer support and guidance to School Association Committees while actively advocating for parents in consultations with key education stakeholders.

Submit expression to

info@tasso.org.au



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Jessica Bennett at

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