



ELIZABETH
COLLEGE
NEWSLETTER

JULY

2021





Hobart City Partner Schools principals with DoE Secretary, Tim Bullard

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Term 2 is one of our most productive and social terms, with many public events on our calendar that invite the wider community to see and experience the wonderful learning and achievements that are taking place at our College. After the cancellation of last year's musical, we were able to once again open our doors and invite the public to be entertained by our talented actors, singers, dancers, musicians and technicians in the highly-anticipated production of *Cabaret*. I am always in awe of the professionalism and team effort that goes into each production, and I am never disappointed. This production was truly outstanding.

In May, we were able to host our parent/teacher interviews on campus, with both parents and teachers enjoying meeting and having face-to-face conversations. In June, we held our annual Information Evening and welcomed future students and their parents/carers to learn about the many subject choices we offer at Elizabeth College. Year 10 students also joined us for our annual Taster Day to participate in 'taster' classes, where they were given an insight into their potential subject choices for 2022 and got to meet our friendly and professional teachers and staff.

Term 2 is also a time where students consolidate their learning and receive constructive feedback on their progress from their teachers, through our Term 2 Reports and the Mid-year Assessment Period that takes place in June. These are an important part of each student's learning arc and allow students to reflect on both their successes and any areas that they need to focus on to achieve the outcomes they are striving for, so they can follow their chosen pathway.

In May, our College participated in an External School Review, a process that occurs across all Department of Education Schools across a four-year cycle. Approximately 75 schools in the state are reviewed each year. During their three day visit, the review panel spoke with staff and a substantial number of students and parents/carers. On behalf of the College staff, I would like to thank all students and parents/carers who shared their insights and experiences, as members of the Elizabeth College community, with the reviewers. The College received a comprehensive report which contains affirmations and commendations, as well as suggested opportunities and recommendations for improvement. A copy of this report will be put up on our web page once it has been received. Our 'Connected and On Track' motto is reflected in the review panel's commendations, which recognises that we are building and maintaining positive and caring relationships within our community, and that we are providing learning in a safe, respectful and inclusive environment.

Our Hobart City Partner Schools' consultation is progressing well and I can see that this move to a larger school across various campuses will have positive, long-term outcomes for continuity in learning. We have engaged The20, an advertising and marketing company, to lead our consultation with staff, students, parents/carers and other stakeholders, and create a consistent brand for our new school. More information about the partnership and how you can contribute to the establishment of this new school is available on our web page at education.tas.gov.au/hobart-city-partner-schools

Dr Dianne Purnell

CELEBRATING OUR SUPPORT STAFF

On 20 May, Elizabeth College staff came together for a morning tea to celebrate Education Support Personnel Day for 2021. This is an important day on our College calendar as we acknowledge the significant contributions of our professional support staff. We currently have 47 professional support staff, including our library, teacher and laboratory assistants, our administration, facilities and IT staff and our Student Services team. Often their roles are done behind the scenes, but without their hard work, professional knowledge and experience, our College could not function.

At the morning tea, EC's Principal, Dianne Purnell, spoke of the deep appreciation throughout the College community for the professional support staff and of the 'one staff' ethos that continues to strengthen and unite our college community. Staff also took the opportunity to express their gratitude for teams and individuals alike on a special message board.



NATIONAL SCHOOLS DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

On 24 May, Elizabeth College hosted the first day of the National Schools Debating Championships. Over 70 debaters from teams across Australia participated, and the event was a tremendous success. Our support staff did an amazing job to make sure the schedule ran smoothly, and our ECAAD students helped guide the visiting teams to their allocated rooms throughout the day.

The Tasmanian team competed against the ACT and lost in a split decision. However, Tasmania finished the Debating Championships with three unanimous wins (against Qld, WA and NT), and finished fifth nationally, with the best Tasmanian wins (including adjudicator numbers) since 2003. A terrific result! Hosting this national event allowed our students

to watch dynamic and skilled debaters in action, which will no doubt raise awareness and interest in debating at EC!



Tasmania's Debating Championship 2021 team, including EC student Charlie Pilkington (far right)

NATIONAL SCHOOLS CONSTITUTION CONVENTION

Earlier this year, five students including Griffin McLaughlin from Elizabeth College represented Tasmania at the National Schools Constitution Convention (NSCC). EC teacher, Jared Sharp, attended as a supervising teacher. 110 delegates from around Australia represented their states and territories via Zoom, from 11 hubs around the country.

The Convention's focus question was: *Should the Constitution have a new preamble that would recognise our history, our aspirations and the many peoples and groups that make up our nation?*

Students heard from a range of legal experts about the Constitution and the preamble in particular, and states and territories drafted versions of a new preamble. They then voted on one preamble, to represent the preferred preamble of the delegates as a whole. At the completion of the Convention, this preamble was presented to the President of the Senate to be tabled in the Senate.

The Convention was a unique opportunity for students to learn more about Australia's Constitution. Next year's Elizabeth College Legal Studies students are strongly encouraged to apply to represent Tasmania at the 2022 Convention, which will hopefully be held face-to-face in Canberra.



SUPPORTING OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY

On 19 May, rainbow flags flew across Elizabeth College as we recognised the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) and celebrated diversity within our community. It was a colourful and enjoyable day, with staff and students wearing rainbow colours, and stalls for students to make customised badges and fairy bread. The day allowed LGBTIQ+ students to express their identity openly and freely, along with student allies, and our wonderfully supportive teachers, staff and Student Services team.

The following week, Rodney Croome spoke to staff and students in the EC Library Learning Hub about his experiences as a LGBTIQ+ rights campaigner. Rodney, a world-renowned activist, academic and 2015 Tasmanian of the Year, described how Tasmania went from the worst (until 1997, homosexuality was illegal with a maximum sentence of 21 years) to having the strongest laws regarding gender diversity anywhere in the world. During his presentation, Rodney noticed our LGBTIQ+ books on display and stated, "if we had accepted compromise, those books would have been illegal to read in a school."

Staff wearing the colours of the rainbow in support of our LGBTIQ+ students and staff



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HASS

During Term 2, students studying courses in the Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) Department engaged in a wide range of learning opportunities. On Saturday 8 May, six of our amazing students competed in the Ethics Olympiad with schools from all around the state and were awarded the bronze medal for the three-round competition - a phenomenal effort!

Our Certificate II in Tourism and Innovation Enterprise classes got out and about, exploring our beautiful city with a walking tour of Hobart and a trip to Richmond and Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary.

Students also looked into the viability of small business in Tasmania after hearing an insightful presentation from Brand Tasmania's CEO, Todd Babiak.

The Legal Studies 3 class was visited by two amazing guest speakers: The Hon Mike Gaffney MLC discussed the new voluntary assisted dying law in Tasmania, and activist and academic Rodney Croome shared his involvement in influencing law reforms for those in the LGBTQIA+ community in Tasmania and Australia. Both speakers imparted a wealth of knowledge and experience and were nothing short of inspirational!



EAL STUDENTS SHARE FOOD FROM THE HEART

Favourite family meals were turned into a literacy activity this term when students studying English as an Additional Language (EAL) wrote recipes for traditional dishes from their home countries and then cooked them for their classmates.

The feast featured the Ethiopian beef dish, tebsi; pani puri masala, a delicious Nepalese street food of crispy puri balls filled with potatoes and spices; and kao tom mud, a sweet dish of bananas in sticky rice; steamed in banana leaves; as well as Thai fried rice and Ethiopian bread.

By tasting the cuisine of each country, students were able to gain a little insight into the rich cultural heritage of their friends, as they shared stories and memories around the banquet table.





EC MUSICAL CABARET WOWS AUDIENCES!

Our Performing Arts Department provided yet another amazing experience for audiences, making our 2021 musical a 'hot-ticketed' event. This year's performance of *Cabaret* transported audiences to the Kit Kat Klub in Berlin, during the Nazi's rise to power in the late 1920s. The story centres on the relationship between American writer Cliff Bradshaw and English cabaret performer Sally Bowles; with the subplot of an endearing (often humorous) romance between an elderly boarding house owner and her aging Jewish suitor. In the opening scene and throughout the production, the flamboyant Emcee (Master of Ceremonies) and an abundance of cabaret performers lure both the characters and audience into their seedy, yet theatrical, nightclub.

The performances by all the students on stage were outstanding and the band was exceptional. Our talented music students accompanied those on

stage so flawlessly, that during intermission, a fellow audience member admitted to thinking the music had been taped. Our student technicians working on lighting and sound, and students backstage and front-of-house, also contributed significantly to this production's success.

The Secretary for Education, Tim Bullard, who attended the Gala evening, congratulated those involved on the quality of the production, saying he "was so impressed with the polished performance and strong cast. It was truly a knockout performance." The students felt privileged to be involved in a live stage performance after last year's musical was cancelled due to lockdown. No doubt they will have fond memories of this production, and will possibly find themselves, in years to come, reminiscing and singing the words 'Life is a cabaret, old chum, come to the cabaret.'





KITCHEN OPERATIONS – WHAT'S COOKING?

VET Certificate II Kitchen Operations students have been developing their skills in the commercial kitchen this term. Under the guidance of their experienced teacher, students work to create varied and enticing menus of takeaway lunches for staff to purchase. The dishes often have a healthy focus and have included delights such as poached trout, beef stroganoff, chilli squid, with a tempting sweet treat always on offer. The weekly takeaways are very popular with our busy staff, who purchase the meals for lunch and/or dinner.



By creating real-world conditions, with discerning and purchasing customers, the Kitchen Operations students are learning about the rigours of a busy kitchen environment. The course also focuses on hygiene, food safety, cleaning and above all the importance of teamwork to achieve common goals.



ART STUDENTS MEET THE MAKERS

This term students studying visual art and media courses experienced the real-world potential of their passion for art and media. Students engaged in a variety of workshops and presentations by practicing artists and industry experts from the wider community, including: photographer Rosie Hastie; media and photography specialist Jacob Collings; printmaker Olivia Moroney; and graphic designer Gareth Prince.

There were also many wonderful excursions that allowed students to engage with the contemporary

arts community, including visits to MONA, The Glover Prize, Art Rage and a studio visit to see painter Megan Walch.

Towards the end of the term, our level 3 students prepared for their mid-year review and our level 2 students celebrated and shared their artistry in our annual Work-in-Progress Exhibition, which opened on 9 June and was displayed in the EC Library Learning Hub for several weeks.





TASTER DAY

On 11 June, Elizabeth College welcomed Year 10 students to our campus for our annual Taster Day. Despite the wintery conditions, there was a festive atmosphere on campus with over 575 Year 10 students from 35 different schools in attendance.

Taster Day provides students with an opportunity to explore their potential subject options for Year 11 and possible future pathways. In each 'taster' class, teachers shared course information, answered questions and created learning experiences that were fun, engaging and reflective of what students can expect in 2022.

A Subject Expo also ran in the library throughout the day and complemented students' taster subjects by providing information about the extensive and diverse courses available at Elizabeth College. University of Tasmania representatives were also present to provide information about tertiary pathways.

Taster Day aims to inform and help students to plan their pathway, so they feel confident when they take that next step into College. Year 10 students should now be well-positioned to make informed course selections for 2022, and we look forward to seeing them at EC soon when enrolments begin in Term 3.

If you would like more information regarding enrolments, please contact Elizabeth College on 6235 6555 or go to <https://elizabethcollege.tas.edu.au/enrolment/>



SPEAK UP STAY CHATTY'S SHORTS DAY

On 23 June, students and staff wore shorts in support of Speak Up Stay ChatTY's Shorts Day and youth mental health. Tasmanians wearing shorts (and even thongs) in the middle of winter is not an uncommon sight, so many students and staff braved 'the cold and the difficult conversations', knowing they were raising money to support this worthy cause. To find out more, go to <https://staychatty.com.au/shorts-day/>

Elizabeth College has a strong cultural focus of supporting our students' and staff's mental health and wellbeing. Our Student Services team play an active role in helping students who may be experiencing a rough time. Our counsellors, psychologist, youth worker, social worker and security all play a crucial role in helping students with any issues they may be facing. Our mental health and wellbeing coordinator, Sarah Briggs, focuses on our students' mental health and wellbeing awareness through programs and activities both in Home Group and across the campus. This term all Home Groups watched a segment from



the acclaimed 2020 documentary, *The Social Dilemma*, which explores the motives of social media companies and how overexposure to technology can dangerously affect individual mental health.

nipaluna karati - HOBART FRIENDS

Our new Aboriginal Education Worker, Madelena Andersen-Ward, has introduced some great initiatives this term to raise awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture around the College.

This term our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student group launched their name: *nipaluna karati*, meaning Hobart friends in palawa kani, with support from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre's language program.

Towards the end of term *nipaluna karati* attended a cultural excursion to piyura kitina (Risdon Cove), facilitated by cultural awareness co-ordinator Dewayne Everettsmith. This excursion gave students the opportunity to connect with country, community and culture, as well as learning about local palawa history.

In recognition that our campus is built on Aboriginal land, Acknowledgment of Country banners now stand tall in our front office and Library Learning Hub's entrance.

The Yarning Collective is another initiative, and the group had their first collaborative staff and student meeting this term, which generated valuable discussions around inclusion of indigenous histories and palawa culture and perspectives in contemporary settings.

Students from *nipaluna karati* also hosted the end of term assembly in the spirit of NAIDOC Week. Palawa artist, writer and curator Julie Gough visited the college to speak about her work and journey as an artist. Students are creating works inspired by this year's NAIDOC theme "*Heal Country, heal our nation*". These works will be projected on the A Block window (corner of Elizabeth and Warwick Streets) throughout NAIDOC Week, which runs from 4 – 11 July.



WILDLIFE RESCUE ENRICHMENT - SNAKES ALIVE!

The Enrichment program at Elizabeth College provides opportunities for students to meet other students, and to develop new skills and knowledge outside of their regular subjects. Enrichment courses range from fun and social activities like tenpin bowling, to accredited, certificate-based courses such as the Responsible Service of Alcohol and First Aid.

A popular course for students who love nature and have an interest in animal welfare is the Wildlife Rescue Enrichment group. This term Natalie Rivers, the owner/manager of Tasmanian Animal Rescue, visited the College and brought along some very special rescued animals - tiger snakes! After a thorough safety brief and locking all doors in the College gymnasium, Natalie lifted out the snakes for the students to see and even touch if they chose to (while she controlled the head).

Natalie explained that the tiger snake is the fourth most venomous snake in the world, yet they are typically docile and quite solitary, and only become defensive (not aggressive) when provoked. She also explained some important first aid steps in rare cases when someone is bitten (usually by accidentally stepping on them), and spoke about the effect of climate change on snakes' ability to go into torpor or brumation (a 'deep sleep' state) and its impact on their breeding success.

Students have also learnt how to put together a rescue kit for marsupials, how to care for injured and orphaned wildlife, and how to enrol in further specialist training. The group visited the Raptor Refuge in Kettering to see how they care for injured native birds like wedge-tailed eagles.



Enrolments for the final Enrichment block will happen early in Term 3. A list of all the Enrichment activities on offer will be made available in Home Group, and students will also be able to access this list on the student intranet, and the EC Facebook page and website.





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Celebrating 50 Years Strong

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