



ELIZABETH COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

July 2026



STUDENT LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

Student leadership plays a vital role in shaping a positive, inclusive and forward-looking school culture. At Elizabeth College, our leadership group reflects this commitment, with membership open to all students; ensuring a diverse range of voices, perspectives and experiences help guide our community.

Recently, our student leaders attended the Reconciliation Tasmania Breakfast, centred on the theme of Truth, Reckoning and Change. They heard from inspiring speakers including Rodney Gibbins, a lifelong campaigner for Palawa self-determination; Alison Overeem, a nationally respected leader creating culturally safe spaces; Cody Gangell-Smith, a powerful truth-teller and advocate; and Professor Tim McCormack, contributing to the Pathway to Truth Telling and Treaty project. These voices challenged and encouraged our students to think critically about history, justice and their role in shaping a more inclusive future.

Our student leaders have also taken action within the school, driving participation in the Push-Up Challenge to raise awareness for mental health, demonstrating care, initiative and a commitment to wellbeing for all.

Lastly, students represented Elizabeth College at the CEDA State of the State address alongside Tasmania's business community and peers from other schools. Hearing directly from Premier Jeremy Rockliff, engaging in Q&A, and speaking with leaders including Treasurer Eric Abetz provided valuable insight into Tasmania's future.

Experiences like these empower our students, ensuring they are not only participants in their education, but active contributors to their community and future. Well done to our student leaders for their active leadership!

Best Wishes

Shaue Fuller

Principal





BREAKFAST CLUB BEATS THE WINTER BLUES

Our Breakfast Club is warming hearts and beating the winter blues, with record numbers of students visiting The HIVE each morning. Pancakes, toasties and hot drinks have proven a winning combination, drawing students in before classes begin. It's more than just breakfast; students connect with friends, chat with staff and relax over jigsaws in a welcoming space. Our dedicated support staff and teachers serve up delicious treats daily, always with a smile. A big thank you to DECYP and Variety, The Children's Charity Tasmania for their generous support of this highly valued program that continues to nourish both bodies and community spirit.





EC SHINES AT THE CITY TO CASINO

It was an early and chilly morning on Sunday 17 May as Elizabeth College students and staff gathered at the start lines for the iconic City to Casino fun run. Despite the cold conditions, spirits were high, with participants taking part across the 7km walk, 7km run and 12km run events.

The college was proudly represented by a strong contingent of more than 30 participants, including staff members Sarah Briggs, Dannica Burrows, Oliver Close, Naomi Colbeck, Corinna Connell, Jess Davies, Chris Deeley, Cal Fox, Marty Goss, Lloyd McDonald, John Schuringa, Michael Self, Sue Self, Ashleigh Snigg, Lyn Standaloft, Lloyd McDonald, and Kelly McManus, alongside students Sarah Brauer, Abbey Davidson, May Gell, Emma Hitchcock, Zoe Hitchcock, Ashleigh Holmes, Mariko Iwahara, Annabel Jia, Angie Li, Mia Parkinson, Sophie Siberas, and Emmi Stokman. We also had a number of EC students and staff take part independently, including Lulu Bestley Toman and Amelia Boughton.

A special congratulations goes to EC student Sarah Brauer, who delivered an outstanding performance in the 12km event, placing third female overall.

After crossing the finish line at the Casino, the EC team gathered to celebrate their achievements, proudly wearing their well-earned medals and enjoying the warmth of jumpers and shared camaraderie. As always, it was fantastic to see the college so well represented at this much-loved community event.



EC STUDENTS DEBATE THEIR WAY TO THE FINALS

The Elizabeth College debating team is celebrating an outstanding achievement, with students Sage Campbell, Lachie Monk, Jack Jordan, and Stella Varcoe-Dodd winning the Grand Final of the Southern Schools Debating Competition on Wednesday 1 July.

Throughout the season, the team impressed adjudicators with their critical thinking, teamwork and confident public speaking across a range of complex topics. Competing in both affirmative and negative positions, the team successfully debated issues including arguing the negative case for the motion, "That, as an artist who has experienced significant suffering, we would choose to create pessimistic rather than optimistic art" in the Grand Final.

The EC community congratulates Sage, Lachie, Jack and Stella on an exceptional season. What a fantastic way to finish an outstanding debating season, with the shield returning to Elizabeth College!



ROSTRUM VOICE OF YOUTH 2026 SOUTHERN SEMI-FINALS SUCCESS

Congratulations to Sage Campbell on an outstanding achievement at the 2026 Rostrum Voice of Youth Tasmanian Southern Semi-Finals, winning their division and securing a place in the State Finals.

Speaking on the topic *People Power*, Sage delivered a compelling and deeply moving speech that explored the power of the individual to create change in the face of nihilism and apathy. Through a passionate and thoughtful argument, Sage highlighted how purpose, conviction, and action can inspire hope and encourage communities to engage with the world around them.

The Rostrum Voice of Youth competition celebrates public speaking, critical thinking, and the ability of young people to communicate ideas with confidence and authenticity. Sage's performance demonstrated all these qualities, captivating both the audience and adjudicators alike.

We congratulate Sage on this significant achievement.



CAREERS EXPO INSPIRES FUTURE PATHWAYS

On Thursday 14 May, Elizabeth College hosted its annual Careers Expo, bringing together 42 stall holders representing 24 different industries. The event provided students with an invaluable opportunity to explore tertiary, vocational and career pathways, connect with industry professionals, and discover possibilities they may have never considered.

One of the highlights of this year's expo was seeing several former Elizabeth College students return as industry representatives. Their presence offered a powerful reminder of the diverse pathways available after college and showcased the exciting career journeys our graduates have undertaken.

Our students engaged enthusiastically with exhibitors, asking thoughtful questions and demonstrating genuine interest in the wide range of opportunities available to them.

It was fantastic to have our feeder schools, Hobart City High School and Taroona High School, onsite as well; engaging with the expo and learning about the enrolment process and what it's like to study at Elizabeth College.

We are incredibly grateful to all stallholders who generously donated their time, expertise, and an array of fantastic giveaways to support the event. Their willingness to engage with students and share their experiences played a vital role in making the day such a success.

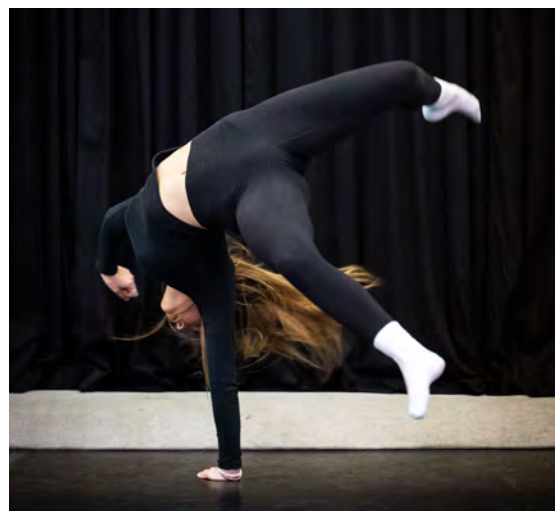
The 2026 Careers Expo was a wonderful event that inspired students to think broadly about their futures, explore new possibilities, and take important steps towards achieving their goals.





CHOREOGRAPHING CREATIVITY: DANCE STUDENTS IN ACTION

In Dance this year, students have spent significant time developing choreography through both solo and group work in preparation for a performance held in June. Students have explored movement ideas, choreographic devices, and performance skills while creating and rehearsing their own works. As part of their studies, students have viewed and analysed recorded performances, including *Mathinna* by Bangarra Dance Theatre and *A Dance for the Forgotten* by TasDance. Students also participated in a contact improvisation workshop where they learned about weight-bearing exercises, partner work, balance, trust, and safe movement practices.





INSPIRING FUTURES IN STEM

NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE FORUM

Two EC students, An Le and Hazel Arora attended the 2026 National Youth Science Forum in Queensland. Here's what An Le had to say about it...

"National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) felt like stepping into a whole new world of science and finding my people at the same time. In labs at the University of Queensland, hearing researchers talk about breast cancer trials and snake venom being turned into a life-saving gel, scientific work stopped feeling like a school subject. It started to feel like a space where creative and bold, consequential ideas were being tested. The breadth of fields we were exposed to added to that; one day exploring biodiversity at the Boondall Wetlands, the next in conversations about deepfakes, digital ethics, and cybersecurity. Then came Dr Katrina Wruck, the 2025 Young Australian of the Year, speaking about

water pollution and forever chemicals in Torres Strait Islander communities. Her question, "What can we do for our communities?", is one I'm still carrying as a personal challenge. But what made NYSF unforgettable were the people. We got lost on campus, lost our voices at the STEM Olympics, and somehow still made it to the concert and disco. The laughs we shared made saying goodbye the hardest moment of the program. I'm grateful to the Rotary Club of Hobart for making it possible, and I'm leaving with a much bigger idea of what a future in science could look like."



ELIZABETH COLLEGE DIGITECH CLUB

Our first DigiTech Club for high school students is off to a great start with nine Year 9 and 10 students attending weekly after-school sessions here at EC to explore coding, 3D printing, 3D modelling and animation, laser cutting, and all things DigiTech! Thanks to teachers Chris Deeley and Lloyd McDonald, and to the students of Hobart City High School, Dominic and Fahan for making it happen.

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA MARINE BIOLOGY PROGRAM

Heidi Barker and Mira Corry recently joined 23 students from across Australia in the week-long UTAS Practical Introduction to Marine Biology course. They spent five days on Maria Island collecting and analysing data for projects on fish, zooplankton, sediment infauna and intertidal ecosystems. Highlights included snorkelling, completing fish transect surveys, and observing hundreds of organisms under microscopes. Each day ended with an engaging lecture, often with bandicoots nearby! The final day saw students present their findings at IMAS in Salamanca, drawing on 10 years of data and over 63,000 organisms recorded in 2026 alone. Students also gained TCE and UTAS degree credit points.



AUSTRALIAN ASTRONAUT AND 2026 AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR – KATHERINE BENNELL-PEGG

Over one hundred Elizabeth College Year 11 and 12 STEM students were fortunate to attend the 2026 EdCAT (Education, Careers and Technology) summit at Wrest Point, hearing from the inspiring Katherine Bennell-Pegg, who discussed the challenges, joys, inspirations and revelations associated with being an astronaut! She spoke about the challenges and rewards of her career, sharing how seeing Earth from space highlights our shared responsibility to care for it and each other.

Katherine encouraged students to focus not so much on what they want to be, but how they want to contribute when they enter the workforce. She also encouraged us all to realise that we are never the smartest person in the room, and that if we find that we are, we should get ourselves into another room! So, keep reaching for the stars, keep learning, and keep finding ways to act in ways that promote respect, unity and environmental compassion.





ALL IN FOR RECONCILIATION WEEK

In Week 4 of Term 2, Elizabeth College marked Reconciliation Week with the theme “*All In*,” reflecting our shared commitment to reconciliation. This important work continues through the development of our Reconciliation Action Plan, with valuable input from students, staff, parents and the Tasmanian Aboriginal community guiding future directions. Reconciliation shapes how we build relationships, listen to First Nations voices and grow in understanding together. We aim for all First Nations students to feel seen, respected and supported. Looking ahead, we are excited to work with young artist Taylah Picket to design a new artwork celebrating culture, connection and community.





CELEBRATING NAIDOC WEEK: 50 YEARS OF DEADLY

In the final week of term, we came together to celebrate NAIDOC Week and this year's theme, "50 Years of Deadly", recognising five decades of history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our celebrations began on Monday with the return of Aboriginal Educator Nerissa, who worked with the English 3 class to facilitate the From Gumnuts to Buttons activity. Students enjoyed the opportunity to learn through hands-on cultural experiences and conversations.

On Wednesday, we were privileged to welcome Tasman Langford, cultural practitioner and performing artist, who spoke about the importance of truth-telling and the significance of celebrating NAIDOC Week, before leading a moving smoking ceremony. The day also featured cultural foods

including bush tea, damper, rock lobster and wallaby BBQ, while our music students entertained us in the sunshine. Students further explored culture and creativity through a range of cultural craft activities.

To conclude the week, we lit the fire in the Healing Garden to create a quiet space for reflection, conversation and yarning.



THE STORIES WE TELL OURSELVES: ENGLISH INQUIRY 2

This term students in English Inquiry have been working through the unit, *The Stories We Tell Ourselves*, investigating how narratives shape our understanding of people and culture.

A key focus of the unit has been examining the stories that have been told about Tasmania's colonial past and considering whose voices have been included, amplified or silenced.

Through critical inquiry students have explored how historical narratives influence our contemporary understanding of truth, particularly in relation to Tasmania's First Nations peoples.

As part of this learning, students participated in *From Gumnuts to Buttons*, an immersive experience that explores the effect of colonisation on Aboriginal communities and place in Tasmania. Through personal stories and historical sources students were encouraged to engage with multiple perspectives and reflect on the importance of truth-telling in understanding our shared history.

The unit coincided with National Reconciliation Week 2026 - *All In For Reconciliation*, providing an opportunity for students to consider the role of reconciliation in contemporary Australia.

The unit has challenged students to think critically about the narratives that shape society and to recognise that history is shaped by stories that continue to influence the way we see our past and present.



POWER UP LEARNING: SMARTER HABITS FOR SUCCESS

Learning Practices focus on teaching students how to learn, building essential skills that improve focus, organisation and confidence. Through our Connections program this term, students have been developing practical strategies for time management, managing mobile phone use, understanding growth mindset, and how to overcome procrastination. These skills empower students to take control of their learning and achieve their goals. At the same time, teachers have engaged in targeted professional learning, sharing effective approaches to strengthen student focus, support encoding, and consolidating new knowledge. Together, these efforts are creating a consistent, supportive learning environment where every student can thrive and succeed.





SUNDAY, MONDAY, HAPPY DAYS, OUR SELL-OUT MUSICAL!

Our production of *Happy Days, A New Musical* had audiences singing "Tuesday, Wednesday, Happy Days!" as we played to packed houses all season. Arnold's came alive with the Fonz, Pinky, Richie, Potsie and Ralph, and the whole Cunningham crew. Backed by a super band and awesome tech team, the colourful show delivered laughs for parents, friends and families, "these days are ours!" Our production team were thrilled to work once again with alumni, Chris and Braeden Oakley (set design), Hannah Gorisch (costume design), and Jamie Roberts (program and graphics). Their contribution, along with our dedicated cast and crew, made this production truly unforgettable.



SUNDAY, MONDAY, HAPPY DAYS





ECAAD HIGHLIGHTS: THINKING FORWARD, ACTING LOCALLY

What is the true value of a humanities education in an age of artificial intelligence? How can we better understand the way we learn? What does it mean to use your education in service of your community? These were some of the questions ECAAD students grappled with this term, in a program that balanced big-picture thinking with hands-on engagement.

Visiting speaker and UTAS academic Naomi Milthorpe opened up rich discussion on the academic, personal and career benefits of studying humanities, social sciences and English at university. Her talk sparked thoughtful conversation among students about the impact of artificial intelligence on the future workforce, and the enduring societal value of critical and creative thinking as we navigate that uncertain future.

Closer to home, students turned their attention inward, exploring metacognitive skills to better understand and strengthen their own study practices, identifying areas for growth in both independent and group work. Weekly sessions also saw students examine the epistemic value of education itself, offering their own thoughtful and much-needed student voice to conversations about how ECAAD (and learning more broadly) can best support them.

This spirit of inquiry was matched by a strong term of action and service. ECAAD students fulfilled their academic extension and community service roles by competing in competitions like the Ethics Olympiad, run by Philosophy and ECAAD teacher Megan Lennon, coordinated a team for the Push-Up Challenge, and offered their support at the Reconciliation Breakfast, to name a few. Term 2 has been focused on turning ideas into action by finding ways to contribute to the world as well as questioning it.

SEWING, STITCHING AND SUSTAINABLE STYLE

Students in Textiles have been developing a diverse range of creative and practical skills this term. They have explored techniques including tapestry, crochet, appliqué and felting, while also learning how to read and design patterns.

Alongside these creative processes, students have gained hands-on experience using equipment such as sewing machines and overlockers, building confidence in a workshop environment.

Their work has resulted in an impressive range of completed projects, including skirts, bags, dresses, hoodies and swimwear, showcasing both technical ability and individual design choices.

A key focus has been upcycling, with students transforming existing materials into new, functional pieces. This approach not only highlights their creativity but also promotes sustainable practices within the textiles industry.



BUILDING LIFE SKILLS THROUGH INCLUSIVE PRACTICES

In Inclusive Practices this year, students have participated in a range of practical learning experiences and excursions, including visits to Agfest, the Careers Expo, and the Hobart Waterfront. Throughout the year, students have developed their understanding of Financial Literacy through activities focused on budgeting, payslip investigations, bank account comparisons, buying and selling cars, and furnishing a home within a set budget. Students have also explored future career opportunities, pathways to employment and further education, and strategies for setting and achieving personal goals to support their transition into adulthood and the workforce.





A TASTE OF LIFE AT EC

Weeks 7 and 8 of this term were an exciting time at Elizabeth College, showcasing what life at EC is all about. In Week 7, we hosted our Information Evening, welcoming parents, carers and prospective students. Guests heard from key staff about the many initiatives and opportunities available, before heading to the Subject Expo to meet teachers and explore the wide range of courses on offer.

In Week 8, our Transition Day welcomed a large number of Year 10 students from across Hobart. Visitors explored the campus, met staff and future classmates, and sampled a range of subjects highlighting the breadth of learning at EC.

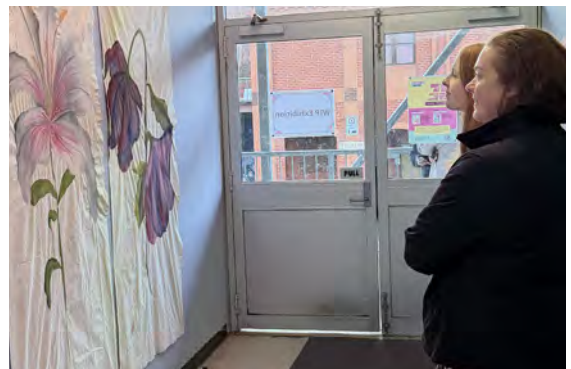
Together, these events provided a valuable insight into college life, and we look forward to welcoming many familiar faces back in 2027.

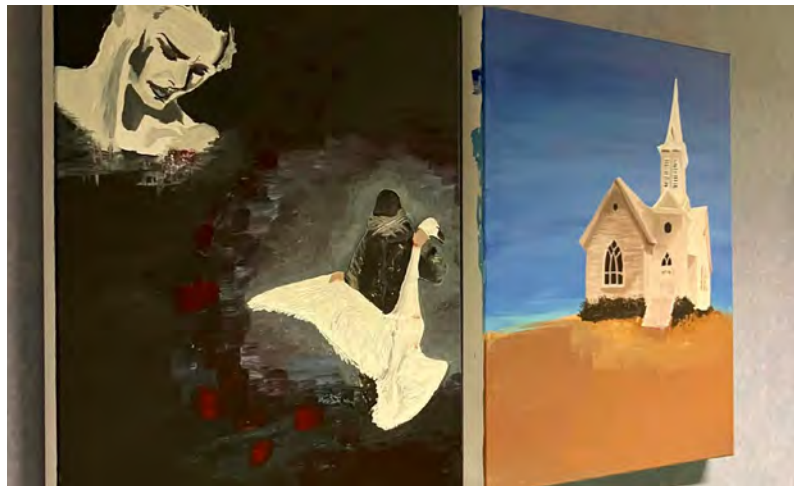




CREATIVE TALENTS TAKE CENTRE STAGE AT SHOWCASE

The recent Arts Showcase held in early July was a vibrant celebration of student creativity and talent. Families, staff and community members gathered to enjoy a sensory explosion of Dance, Drama, Media and Music performances and Visual Arts exhibition. Students proudly presented their work, demonstrating both skill and imagination, while live performances added energy and excitement to the evening. The event highlighted the strong commitment to the arts within our school and provided valuable opportunities for students to share their achievements.





FROM THE ARCHIVES

Take a trip down memory lane with these snapshots from 1960, showcasing the College's original cooking space which is now home to our much-loved Breakfast Club and The HIVE.

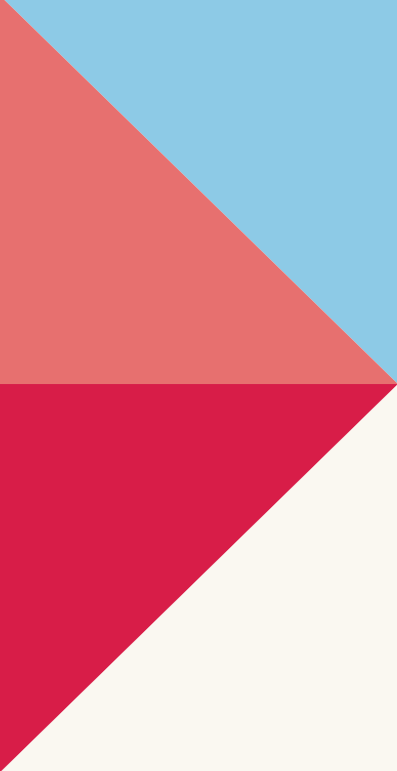


ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: DAVID'S GLOBAL JOURNEY IN ENERGY AND RESEARCH

David Close D.Phil. (Oxon) is now the Co-head Australia Operations for start-up gas exploration and development company Daly Waters Energy, and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Queensland Gas & Energy Transition Research Centre. He's also currently volunteering as the Co-Secretary of the Queensland Rhodes Scholarship Selection Committee. David has primarily worked in the private sector, however, he spent 2024-25 as the Centre Director at the UQ Gas & Energy Transition Research Centre.



David's higher education and career since EC has taken him to Oxford, Tamaulipas (Mexico), Texas, and Alberta; before returning 'home' to Brisbane in 2012. David has volunteered widely in professional organisations and conference committees since graduating; he also founded and co-chaired the inaugural NEMDEV conference in 2025, a conference designed to improve the dialogue about Australia's energy industry. When he's not working or talking with people about energy, he's generally coaching hockey or cricket or trying to improve his declining tennis serve or increasing golf handicap.





Elizabeth College

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Department for Education,
Children and Young People

