## SEMESTER 1





C.L.C 2025

A CELEBRATION OF THIS YEAR'S COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE

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## WANGARATTA HIGH SCHOOL

## CLC Semester 1 2025

















#### WHAT IS C.L.C?

The C.L.C (Community Leadership Challenge) is a semester-long program which all *Year 9* students experience.

The first term involves excursions, workshops and school-based activities based around the concepts of gratitude, resilience, mindfulness, social connection, community, philanthropy, teamwork, trust and respect. It gives the kids a chance to get out of the classroom, push themselves outside their comfort zone, make memories and learn life skills.

The end goal, is for all students to volunteer with a Wangaratta community group, where they can "give back" and connect deeper with their community, all while learning new skills and broadening their horizons.

Our students have volunteered and contributed remarkable things over the years at many organisations.

In 2023, a group of our girls helped raise over \$6000 for lockers for Wangaratta's homeless to store belongings. In 2024, one of our girls spent 60 hours drawing an art piece, which she donated to residents she had helped at *Illoura Residentail Aged Care Home*.

Countless young children at primary schools have idolised our Year 9s, and spoke of them at the dining table.

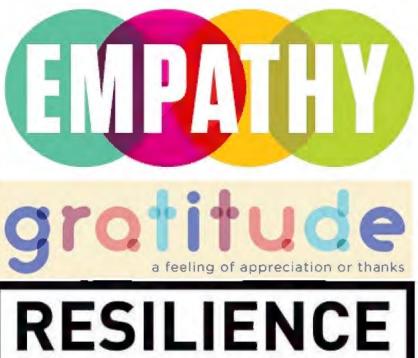
We are extremely thankful to the many community groups who have supported, and still are supporting our program.

We believe this is one of the most important parts of what we offer at Wangaratta High School, with powerful outcomes resulting every year.

Hope you enjoy reading about C.L.C in 2025.

Jud Mullins & Michelle Wilson **CLC Coordinators** 





Our 2024 Year 8s showed during their 2 weeks of Step Up in our **C.L.C** (**Community Leadership Challenge**), that they will in 2025 be up there with the best groups of Year 9s we have seen come through.

Clarence Lampa was the 1st to etch his name on a C.L.C Honour Board, when he defeated Oli Cleave-Sessle in the Final of the Paper-Scissors-Rock championship.

The *Human Bingo* game of Social Intelligence was taken out by **Gus Hedderman**, with **Leo Woodburne** 2nd, **Elijah Grant** 3rd, and then **Lampa**, **Lachlan Downing**, **Thomas Fieldew**, **Leila Hyland** and **Ruby Burns**.

The popular *Progressive Table Ball Bounce* saw **Elijah Grant** and **Leo Woodburne** triumphing with a room-high 7 bounces.

A workshop of Gratitude with stories from *The Resilience Project* and staff's nightmarish experiences from the deepest corners of West Africa led into our steel *Gratitude Ballon Tree* being adorned with balloons, each with words of Gratitude written on them by the kids. Family and Friends were the most common words put up.

Our *Get To Know You Kahoot* had a record 41 personal facts shared. The trio of **Liv Day**, **Gus Hedderman** and **Ruby O'Kane** were the victors, followed by **Clarence Lampa** and then **Thomas Fieldew**, **Leo Woodburne**, **Jono Bowler** and **Charlotte Walker**. Our W.H.S *Campus Scavenger Hunt* winners were led by **Clarence Lampa** and **Leo Woodburne**.

The Minute To Win It challenge made a return for the 1st time in a few years, with the cohort split in 10 randomised groups, with 10 challenges on offer. 10 All-Time Records were broken:

- 1. Gus Hedderman M&M Shuffle
- 2. **Ruby Burns** 3x Balloon Juggle
- 3. Lanie Evans, Clarence Lampa, Steph Sartori Coin Flick
- 4. Thomas Fieldew Tape Roll
- 5. **Hugh Spring** Ballon Juggle (new time 1:37 seconds, old record 39 seconds).
- 6. Lachlan Downing Cup Pyramid
- 7. **Bentley Mitchell** Nut Stack
- 8. Isabelle Moffat, Paige Hanley, Elijah Grant, Clarence Lampa Cup Throw
- 9. Isaac Robinson Cup Stack

On top of this, *C.L.C Family Lunches* were a hit, *Kindness Box* prizes were handed out, we had our Pool Table back in action with brand new felt courtesy of **Pete Hanley** and the *Hands On Learning* crew (thanks **Pete!**), our *Music Challenge* had the whole room singing and dancing to hits "Living On A Prayer", "Call Me Maybe", "Party In The USA" and "Wonderwall", and the crew spent time creating Christmas Packages which they then presented in person to the *Grade 6 Transition* group as they left for the day.

Thanks to the kids for an epic two days.









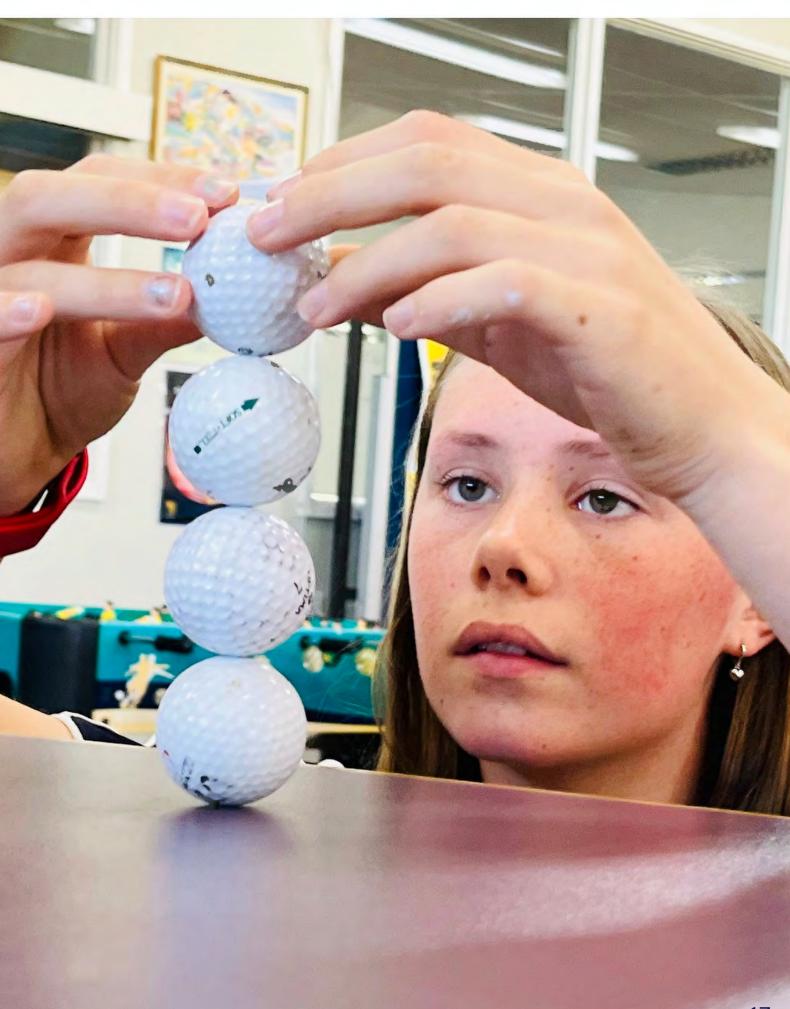


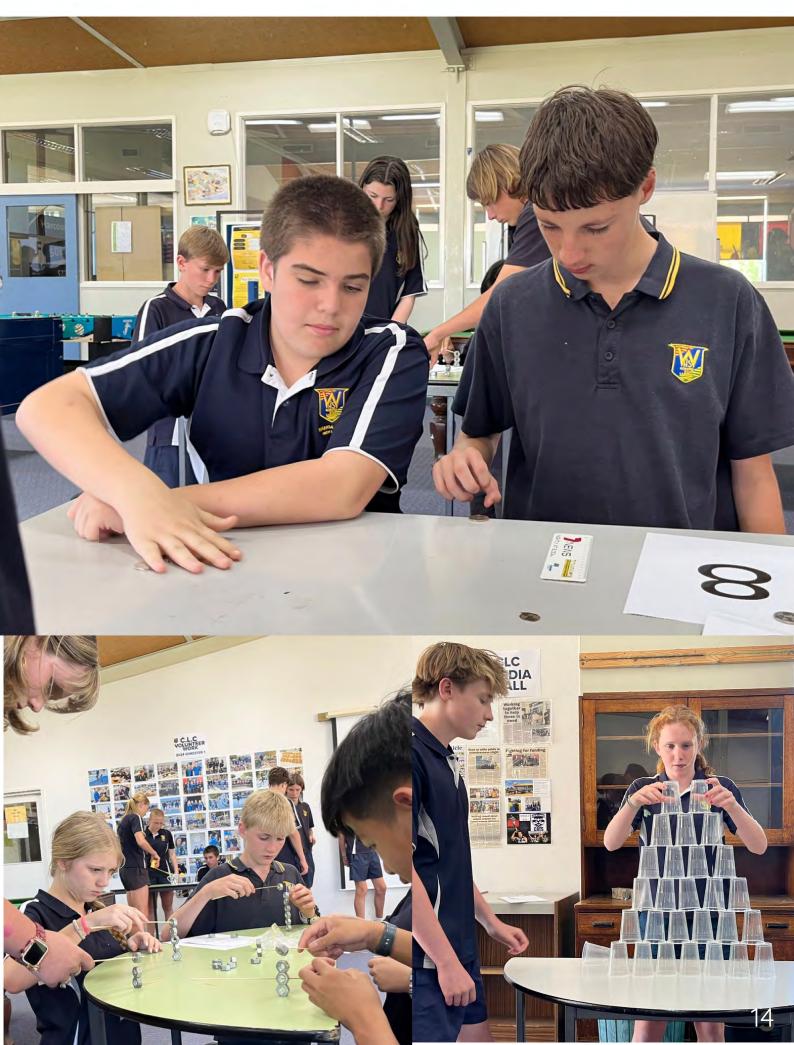




















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## WEEK 1 FIRST AID & FOOSBALL

The Year 9s in our **C.L.C** (**Community Leadership Challenge**) program made an impressive start on Wednesday.

Despite the extreme weather causing us to postpone the planned **Lake William Hovell** excursion and base ourselves at school, the kids were outstanding in workshops focusing on Teamwork, Community, Empathy and Kindness.

First Aid Training took up the bulk of the morning sessions, with most of the 60 students being exposed to the essential material for the 1st time. It culminated with each student tasked with performing the DRSABCD protocol on a *Crash Test Dummy*, complete with correct CPR techniques, as well as demonstrating how to deliver an EpiPen to a friend's quadriceps. These skill are now in their Toolbox, ready to be pulled out if required when out and about this semester.

Human Foosball was as always an epic scene, with everyone tied to rope in the Sport Centre, in a life-size version of the classic Table Soccer game. Team Red came out the victors, thanks to top scorers Ruby Burns (4), Hugh Spring (4), Clarence Lampa (3), Lacy Solimo (2) and Kaity Ford (2). For the losing team, Thomas Fieldew (2), Ruby O'Kane (1) and Charlie Walsh (1) managed to score.

In the afternoon, a **Just Dance** team challenge inspired by the recent Social Media clips of AFL team *GWS Giants*, challenged the kids to break outside their comfort zones. Each of the 6 teams nominated two (or more) dancers to get up and dance in front of their peers, with judges awarding points for the most accurate performers.

The dancefloor quickly filled with kids dancing to hits such as the 1978 hit "Rasputin" by Boney M, "Gangnam Style" by Psy (2012), "Hips Don't Lie" by Shakira (2005), copying the moves on the big screen. Most of the cohort were on their feet, with hilarious scenes and laughter all round with Elijah Grant working harder than most and Matthew Leerson's intense and unique moves drawing the hardest laughter. To see a room of 15-year olds, with absolutely no inhibitions, dating like that for 30 minutes, with he boys probably the most enthusiastic and energetic, was something else. It was one of the best things C.L.C staff had seen in their careers.

Thanks to all of our students for making it a wonderful 1st day. We're off to **Bounce Trampolining** in Wodonga this Wednesday.



































## WEEK 2 BOUNCE TRAMPOLINE

We hit the border in Week 2, with an excursion to **Bounce Trampolining** in Wodonga.

For two busy hours, the 40 + Year 9s bounced, climbed and flipped through various challenges and had a serious blast.

Inanay Gilson was the stand out on the Gymnastics floor, showing the technique hones over a decade at the *Moyhu Gymnastics Centre*, flipping from a standing start - something few can do. On the trampolines, she swung multiple backflips together with ease.

On the two Slam Dunk rings, *VJBL* Basketballer **Oskar McGahan** emulated the famous Michael Jordan "Air Jordan" pose, and **Lachlan Downing**, **Zach Wills** and **Jed Murray** also had the ablity to time their jumps and slams well.

A *C.L.C Family Lunch* in the Bounce Cafeteria, with small groups sharing their own box of Pizza, and bonding over food, was a ripping way to finish the 1<sup>st</sup> out-oftown excursion for the year.







#### WEEK 2



#### WEEK 2





#### WEEK 3 LASER TAG & HILL HIKE

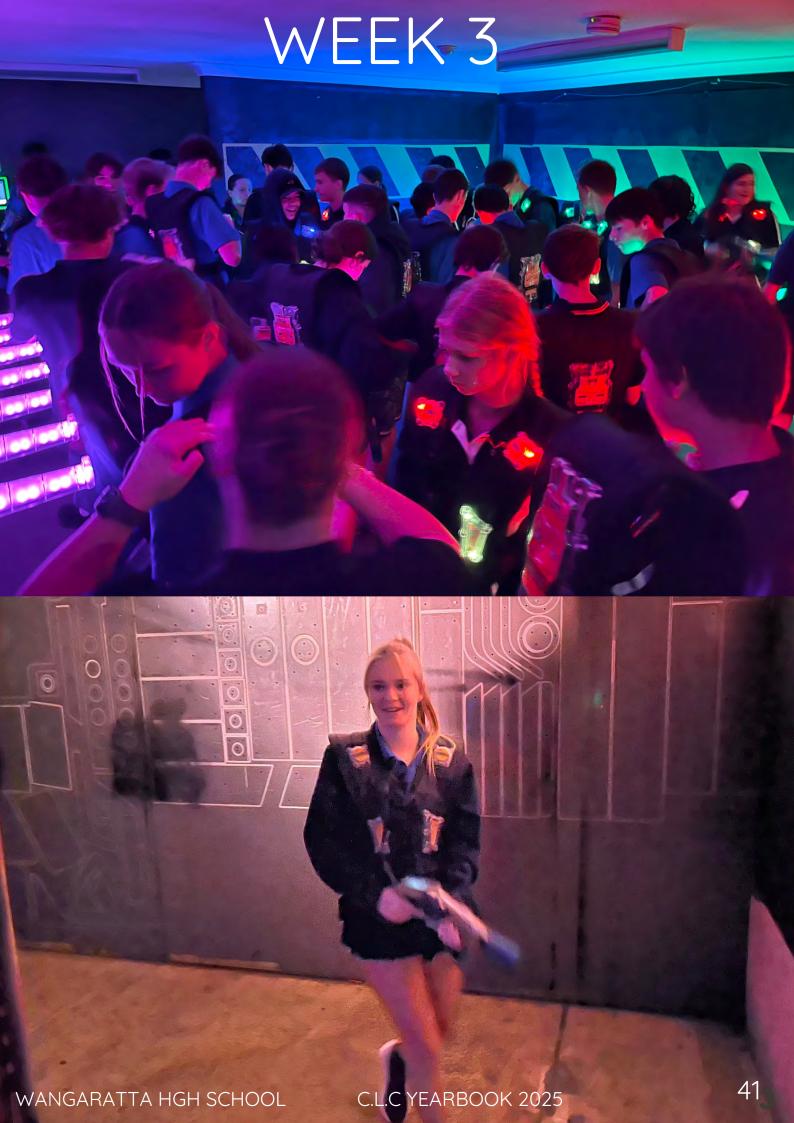
Week 3 took the group for their 1st *Interstate* excursion. Thank you to **Zone Laser Tag Albury** for hosting us for the 1st time. Our 45 students had a blast challenging themselves at *Laser Tag, Mini Golf* and *Human Foosball*. **Matthew Leerson** (playing as "Talon") was the deadliest tagger, followed by **Cameron Vincent** ("Jester") and **Lachlan Downing** ("Gauntlet").

After lunch at the **Albury Botanical Gardens**, we hiked from the Gardens up to the top of *Monument Hill* (an 80m rise across 550m) where at the Memorial students were tasked to study one of the fallen soldiers and reflect on the concepts of Gratitude and Empathy.

After lunch at the **Albury Botanical Gardens**, we hiked from the Gardens up to the top of *Monument Hill* (an 80m rise across 550m) - a massive physical challenge for even the fittest and strongest in the group, with Resilience required by all.

At the Memorial after admiring the beautiful view back down Dean Street and across **Albur**y's CBD, students were tasked to study one of the fallen soldiers and reflect on the concepts of Gratitude and Empathy.

















# WEEK 4 LAKE WILLIAM HOVELL

Excursion Season continued in Week 4 with a nature trip to Lake William Hovell.

Focusing on Connection and Team Work, the crew engaged in a 5km *Bush Hike* under the towering Gum Trees. Many headed deep down Slater's Creek to explore, and as always, memorbale deep conversations were shared between students and staff. **Inanay Gilson** was the champion in the *Longest Leaf Competition*, which was hotly contested as it always is.

The traditional *Pipe Filling Challenge* was the key Teamwork activity, with the kids in teams on the beach of the stunning lake. Many became drenched either via spillage from their buckets, or when "accidentally" breaking the knee-deep rule in the lake itself.

The hilarious *Oreo Challenge* was achieved by quite a few this time around - **Leila Hyland**, **Hugh Spring**, **Thomas Fieldew** and **Elijah Grant** among them.

Lanie Evans was a standout with her acrobatics on the *Slack Line*, while her crew in their downtime worked together on an impressive *Human Pyramid*. Elsewhere, boys played a casual game of Cricket, others headed to the lake-bank with Fishing Rods and dropped a line. All of this, in the picturesque surrounds, with no wi-fi or phones.

Was great to have teacher Harry Hildebrand along. A former WHS student who grew in nearby Whitfield, Harry has spent many years *Vice Principal* at an elite International School in **Peru** in South America and has taken many camps in the *Amazon Jungle*.

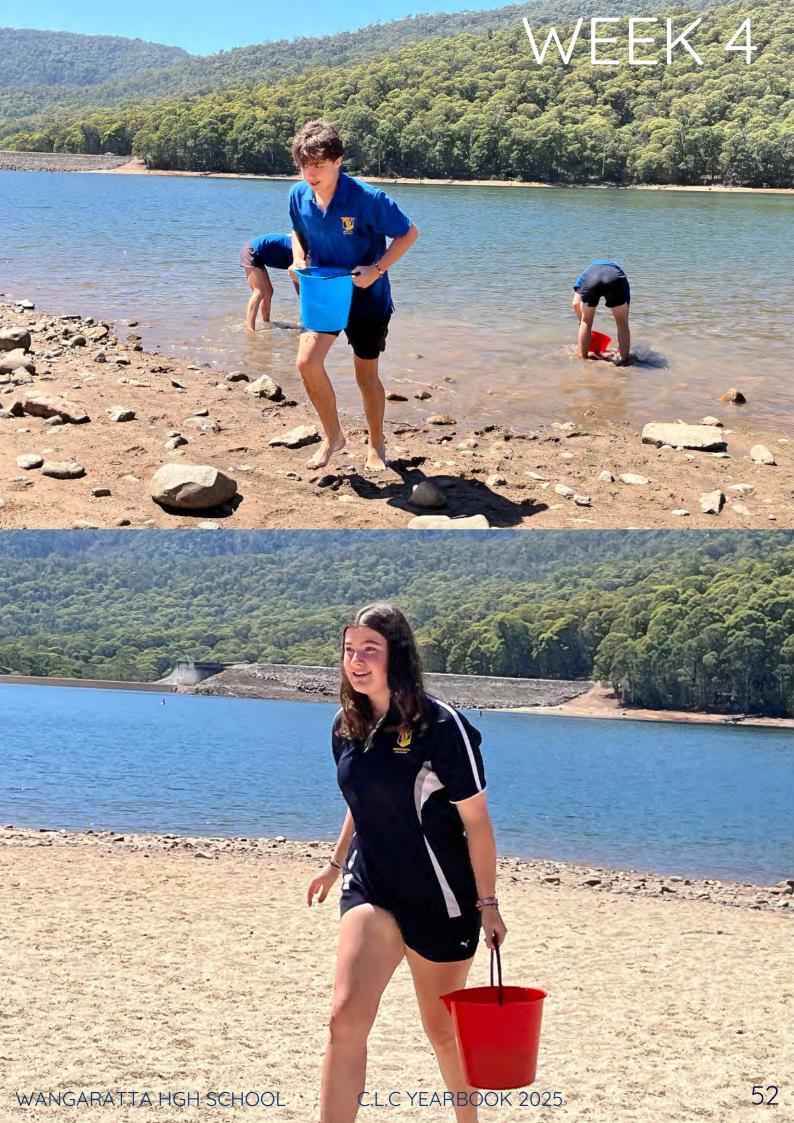








































# WEEK 5 TEN PIN BOWLING

Week 5 was a busy day, with the morning seeing our first 2 *Guest Speakers* present *Volunteer Project* ideas. Di Duursma from Wang Night Shelter, and Ange Jude from Illoura Aged Care are both long-time C.L.C partners, and gave rousing talks about their organisations.

Our kids also created their own C.LC War Memorial, writing personal messages of Gratitude to a fallen soldier from our Albury excursion. They were asked to reflect on the concept of Gratitude in their life.

After sitting their 1<sup>st</sup> NAPLAN test for the year in Sessions 3-4, **Wangaratta Supa Bowl** hosted us for an afternoon excursion. *Ten Pin Bowling* as always provided another chance for the kids to push themselves out of their comfort zone, and perform on show in front of their peers.

**Cameron Vincent** was the top scorer with 118, following on from his Runner-Up effort at *Laser Tag.* **Chas Spencer** (108) and **Hugh Spring** (102) were the only others to crack 100, and **Kaity Ford** was the Top Girl (93).

Others to go 90+ were Zach Wills (98), Charlie Bell (95), Jansen Robles (95), Jed Murray (93), Isaac Robinson (93) and Matthew Leerson (90).

We thank **David** the *Supa Bowl* manager for many years of supporting **C.L.C** - sadly it was his final session before moving on to greener pastures.

For the 1<sup>st</sup> time ever, our **Random Act Of Kindness** was performed inside the *Supa Bowl* venue instead of *King George Gardens*. **Kaity Ford** and **Emilie Sanderson volunteered** to present a bought of flowers and a handwritten note, to a young mother bowling with her young son. Milly just so happened to be a former student who went through the **C.L.C** program 10 years ago. She revealed to staff that she and her "Highschool Sweetheart" Jack, recently married.

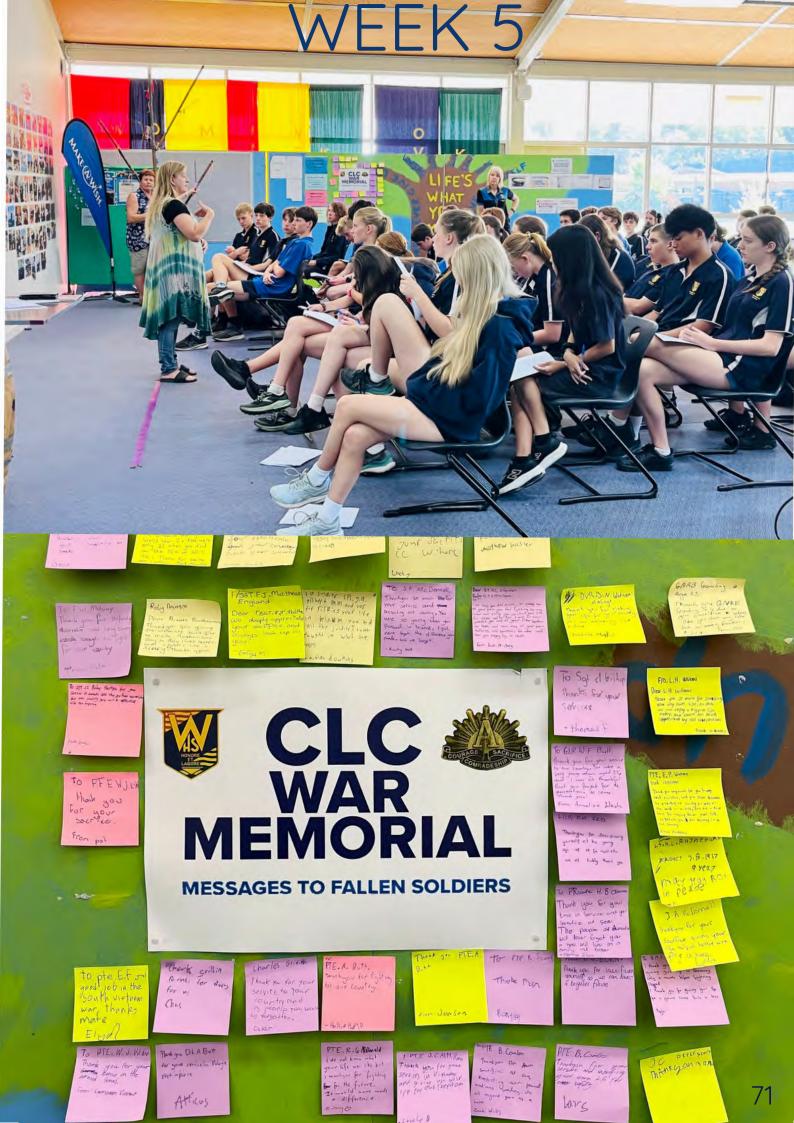
As always, the whole C.L.C group watched on, and gave a rousing applause. A huge feel-good moment for everybody involved.











### WEEK 6 GOLF DRIVING RANGE

In **Week 7** it was the **Wangaratta Golf Club** who hosted us at their *Driving Range* in the prestigious suburb of **Waldara**. With many kids standing over a Golf Ball the 1st time in their life, it was a tale of pushing outside Comfort Zones and trying one of the most difficult Sporting skills there is.

The cool-as-a-cucumber and all-round Sporting talent Isaac Robinson, had the most fluid and "Textbook-like" Golf Swing of the 45 hitters, striking the ball excquisitely and smoothly. Hugh Spring, Lachlan Downing and Thomas Fieldew were also to nobody's surprise striking it well. However it was Patrick Alker-Jones who was the 1st to hit the 50m Sign out ahead, with Inanay Gilson also claiming a prize for striking the sig'ns pole.

Former Head Basketball Coach of the Wangaratta Superdeckers, **Trevor Trimble**, again volunteered an hour of his time to teach the kids. He also bought prizewinners **Patrick** and **Inanay** a drink each from the Clubhouse Shop with his own cash. What a great man.

**Inanay** then responded in handing over a thank you card and voucher to **Trevor** on behalf of the whole **C.L.C** group.

Campus-based Teamwork challenges involved the hilarious *Drawing -On-Back Challenge*, won by **Oskar McGahan**, **Chas Spencer**, **Jono Bowler** and **Charlie Bell**.

The *Paper Tower Challenge* was dominated by **Leila Hyland** and **Bella White**'s group, who constructed a 1.2m free-standing tower with just 7 pieces of A4 paper - the only group to go 100cm +.













# **WEEK 7**PARKOUR & SCAVENGER

There were lots of highlights, in Week 8, but none as powerful as when long-time C.L.C boss **Michelle Wilson** returned and thanked students for their *Act Of Thoughtfulness* last week. They had written a card for **Michelle**, who sadly lost her mum recently. Each of them wrote unbelievably heartfelt personal messages on a large card, and **Newmo** slipped it under **Michelle**'s door on the afternoon of the funeral.

It was a very special moment when **Michelle** returned and thanked the group for what they had written, and talked about how the card would be kept and treasured forever. If there was a single person that exemplifies what **C.L.C** is all about, it would be **Michelle**, and this was a lesson for the kids about what it means to have Empathy for others, to show Kindness, and to help others in any way possible.

**Excursion Season** rolled on this week at the **Apex Park** *Parkour Park* for a special session with Parkour experts from **Risky Kids Albury**, who instructed them on various manoeuvres around the park. Plenty of big moments involved the kids showing persistence and resilience to master tricks and overcome fears.

Riley McKay, Taylor Rowley and Maton Tatchell were outstanding on the high-wire Stepping Stones. Sport stars Kaity Ford and Inanay Gilson impressed on the Climbing Walls - the 1st girls to scale the height The athletic and spring-heeled Hugh Spring and Matthew Leerson after a few attempts completed the new Gum Tree Challenge, which many tried but failed at.

Ruby O'Kane as always exemplified the C.L.C ethos, spotted helping out one of her classmates who was struggling with a fear of heights on the *Monkey Bars*. O'Kane was drawn out of the Kindness Box a record 3 times due to her actions on the day. What a kid she is. Other recipients included Ruby DeFazio, Clarence Lampa, Zach Wills, Lachlan Downing, Ruby Burns, Kaity Ford and Inanay Gilson.

The traditional *CBD Scavenger Hunt* again proved a key plank in building Trust, with groups independently and semi-supervised roaming the streets to find clues, with **Kaity Ford**, **Inanay Gilson** and **Ruby O'Kane** the winners for time and accuracy.

Our Random Act Of Kindness was this week handled by Ruby DeFazio, Emily Matthews, Issy Moffat and Annelise Nash. They selected a lovely lady named Christine, wheelchair-bound and at the park with her carer, and presented her flowers and a handwritten card. The look on her face in the photo says it all. The rest of the cohort watched on and applauded, and were reminded of how our body releases Oxytocin when we are kind to others.

The trip concluded with a *River Walk* along the Ovens back to school, with great conversations and an appreciation of nature topping off a superb trip.

















### WEEK 9 MILAWA & WHOROULY

An epic Term 1 *Excursion Season* was capped off in Week 9 with Working Bees at two rural Primary Schools - for the 1<sup>st</sup> time, **Milawa** and **Whorouly**.

The 17-strong crew at **Whorouly** built strong connections with their wonderful littlies in just a matter of hours.

While a crew worked outside trimming trees and weeding garden beds, two other groups worked inside classrooms (one in Juniors doing Science, one in Seniors doing Music). Staff members had high praise for those in her class, with **Clarence Lampa** named as being outstanding in his interaction with her 1s and 2s, and **Oskar McGahan** also getting a mention.

At Lunchtime, we cooked up 60 sausages on the BBQ (with aproned and tong-weilding cooks **Riley McKay** and **Patrick Alker-Jones** handling business), then served them to all 30 **Whorouly** students.

Afterward, an epic 20 v 20 game of Soccer ensued. Natural leader **Ruby O'Kane** was seen taking charge of the team-allocation process, and she was also witnessed helping out a littlie who got collected by the ball.

Paige Hanley was one who the youngesters were drawn too, with one girl piggybaking on Paige's back during the match. Lachlan Downing however emerged the most powerful presence. A charismatic Prep by the name of Zane, followed Lachy around everywhere, and the most moving moment fo the day occurred when Zane scored a goal. The entire ground erupted in celebration, with our Year 9s bellowing at full voie with arms raised, and then Lachy lifted Zane up above his head like Rafiki did to Simba at Prride Rock, making Zane feel like a rock star.

It was something to see, tiny Preps just 5 years old, playing Soccer against our 15-year olds, some of who are 6 feet tall. The way they all mixed, and especially how our kids knew all the names of the youngsters, was remarkable.

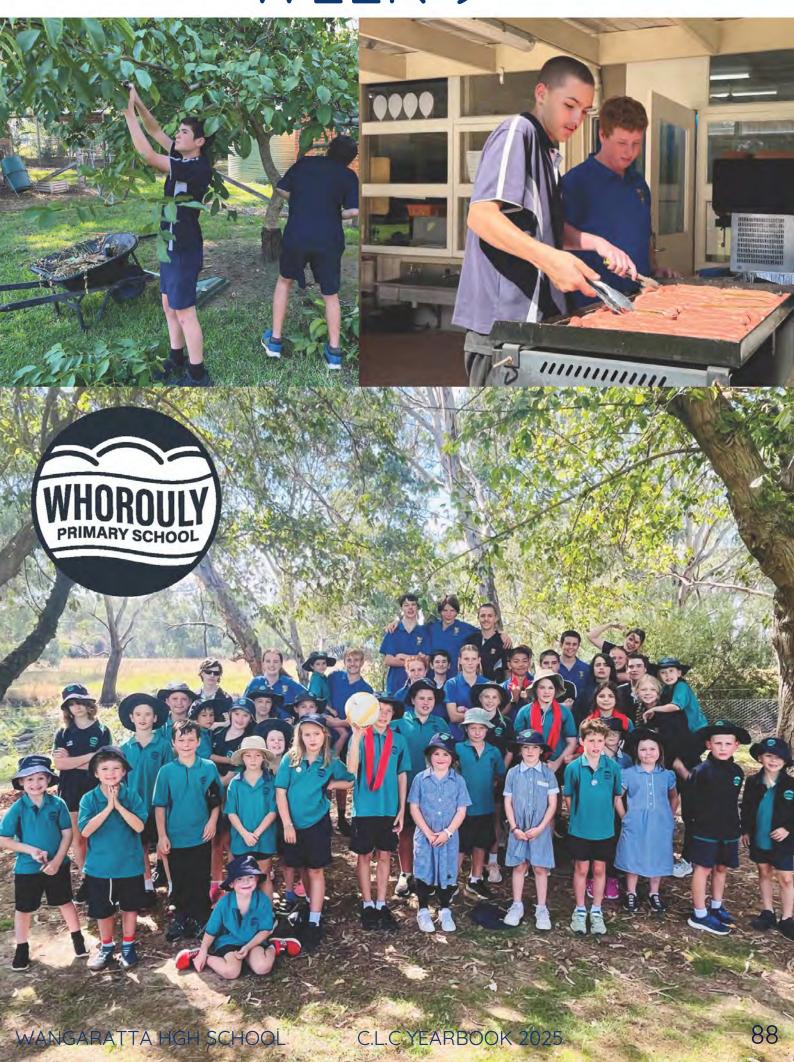
As our kids headed to the Bus at 2:00pm, having gifted all 30 **Whorouly** kids an Easter Egg to celebrate Easter, their seniors had come out of their room to farewell us, with one calling out "Thanks for coming to see us...can you back again one" day?

At **Milawa**, similar scenes were observed by **Newmo** and **Mrs Wilson**. The 17 C.L.C kids there did significant Working Bee jobs, including cleaning all of their bubble-tapware, plenty of gardening and tidying, and even painting a Wellbeing room.

Lunchtime involved a whole-school game of tag. Some Year 9s said to be the ones kids gravitated to, were **Elijah Grant**, **Hugh Spring**, **Thomas Fieldew** and **Matthew Leerson**.

On our bus on the way home, we could hear our kids talking positively about the youngsters (by name) and interactions they had. Very powerful.

We thank the two Principals Pauline McPherson (Whorouly) and Bron Wright (Milawa) for having us, allowing us to "give back", and for helping us create memories for both our kids and theirs.















### WEEKS 10-14 VOLUNTEERING

A Standing Ovation is due to the Semester 1 cohort of our beloved **C.L.C** (**Community Leadership Challenge**) program, who yesterday completed their final Wednesday of a 5-week Volunteering Project, showing Empathy and Kindness, developing Team Work and Resilience, and building Connection with their Community.

Lavish kudos and thank you messages have flown in from all around Wangaratta, from the people our kids have helped and made an impact on.

At the Wangaratta District Specialist School (WDSS), the group of Matthew Leerson, Jed Murray, Hugh Spring and Cameron Vincent have been praised heavily by both P.E teacher Rowan Barrow (W.H.S alumni and our greatest Swimmer/Athlete ever) and several other teachers. The boys have gone swimming and bike riding with the WDSS student, judged Gymnastics competitions, and have fitted in seamlessly.

At Illoura Aged Care, there has been similar praise for a large group helping with the elderly residents - Patrick Alker-Jones, Charlie Bell, Atticus Carta, Lanie Evans, Elijah Grant, Paige Hanley, Leila Hyland, Oskar McGahan, Chas Spencer, Emilie Sanderson and Anges West.

They have engaged in all sorts of activities with the residents, from walking the Wheelchair Group, playing board games and running Bingo tournaments, to just having conversations an providing company. At Wangaratta West Primary School we've had 3 groups, with school Leadership delighted with their contribution, and sad yesterday was our final week. Plenty of tales of their little talking about our kids by name at the Dinner Table at home. Many of our kids are Wang West alumni returning to "give back", say hi to former teachers, and some even able to touch base with their parents working and siblings attending there.

The "Classroom Helpers" (Emily Matthews, Issa Moffatt and Chase Lovell) have impressed helping Prep classes with their literacy, numeracy and various activities.

The "Ground Crew" (Thomas Fieldew, Isaac Robinson and Noah Williams) have worked hard beautifying the grounds with plenty of weeding and wheelbarrow loads of bark chips into multiple garden beds, as well as completely transforming, cleaning and reorganising their Garden Shed.

The "P.E Teachers" (Lars Croft, Kaity Ford, Inanay Gilson, Clarence Lampa, Ruby O'Kane and Zach Wills) have been running two P.E sessions of Grade 2 P.E each week, as well as helping with another two, under the guidance of P.E teacher **Demi Walker**.

I've seen firsthand the impact they have had on the Grade 2s - my own daughter talks of them regularly and remembers them all by name.

Three girls (Annelise Nash, Lacy Solimo and Bella White) went back to "give back" to their old school, Appin Park Primary School, facilitated by another o our great alumni in Craig Kerlin.

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# **WEEK 14**VOLUNTEERING

Two other girls have Volunteered at their previous primary Schools - Ruby Burns (Beechworth Montessori School) and Ruby DeFazio (Glenrowan PS). They showed terrific initiative and organised their own placements.

Riley McKay and Taylor Rowley did a great job helping pack food for the Homeless at the Anglicare Loaves & Fishes depo in Ovens Street, while Jono Bowler, Oli Cleave-Sessle, Bentley Mitchell and Logan Mills raised over \$200 for the Make A Wish foundation, running BBQs at Coles - according to teacher Michelle Wilson, the largest tally she can recall in C.L.C.

We also have a group who recently returned from Term 1 spent at the School For Student Leadership (Alexis Cox, Liv Day, Gus Hedderman, Charlotte Walker and Leo Woodburne), who have continued their project in designing and planting a new garden bed near the entry of the school.

Each week groups have shared their achievements in our *C.L.C Celebration Circle*, and prizes have bnne awarded from our *Kindness Box*.

Overall, a sterling 5 weeks. Thank you to all of our students, staff and especially our generous hosts around the community for hosting our teenagers.

Their next task is to prepare their groups's Presentations, which will they present to an audience of our Year 7-8 kids, as well as families and community hosts at our **C.L.C Presentation Assembly** on *Wednesday June* 18th.

### APPIN PARK P.S CLASSROOM HELPERS



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### APPIN PARK P.S CLASSROOM HELPERS









# WANGARATTA WEST PS P.E HELPERS 101

# WANGARATTA WEST PS P.E HELPERS





### WANGARATTA WEST PS CLASSROOM HELPERS





### WANGARATTA WEST PS CLASSROOM HELPERS





### WANGARATTA WEST PS GROUND CREW



#### WANGARATTA WEST PS GROUND CREW







#### MAKE A WISH FUNDRAISERS





#### MAKE A WISH FUNDRAISERS



### ILLOURA AGED CARE



### ILLOURA AGED CARE



### WDSS SPECIALIST SCHOOL



# WDSS SPECIALIST SCHOOL P.E HELPERS 117 WANGARATTA HGH SCHOOL C.L.C YEARBOOK 2025

# WDSS SPECIALIST SCHOOL P.E HELPERS



### **GLENROWAN PS**



### SCHOOL FOR STUDENT





An audience of 200 witnessed a wonderful C.L.C Presentation Assembly on Wednesday 18th June, conducted by the Year 9s in our Community Leadership Challenge program, held at our *Performing Arts Centre*.

Principal **Dave Armstrong** gave another stirring speech about service and kindness, and our 3 brave Year 9 emcees in **Ruby Burns, Inanay Gilson** and **Clarence Lampa** were excellent in the tough role, inspiring our Year 7 and 8 cohorts in attendance, as well as families and staff.

Then, 10 groups of our C.L.C students took turns at the lectern presenting their Volunteering achievements, backed by detailed slideshows, and for many, it was their first taste of Public Speaking.

The speakers were incredible, with many examples of them displaying empathy and kindness to others, and thoughtful reflections on how their Volunteering impacted both others, and themselves.

Thank you to all students that presented, and to everyone that came along.

Again we thank your treasured community orgs who hosted our students each Wednesday.

Thanks to C.L.C staff **Michelle Wilson** (chief organiser), **Sandy "Newmo" Newman** and **Jodie Bell**.

We look forward to welcoming the next cohort of Year 9s to the program next week, continuing the **C.L.C**'s 18-year legacy.

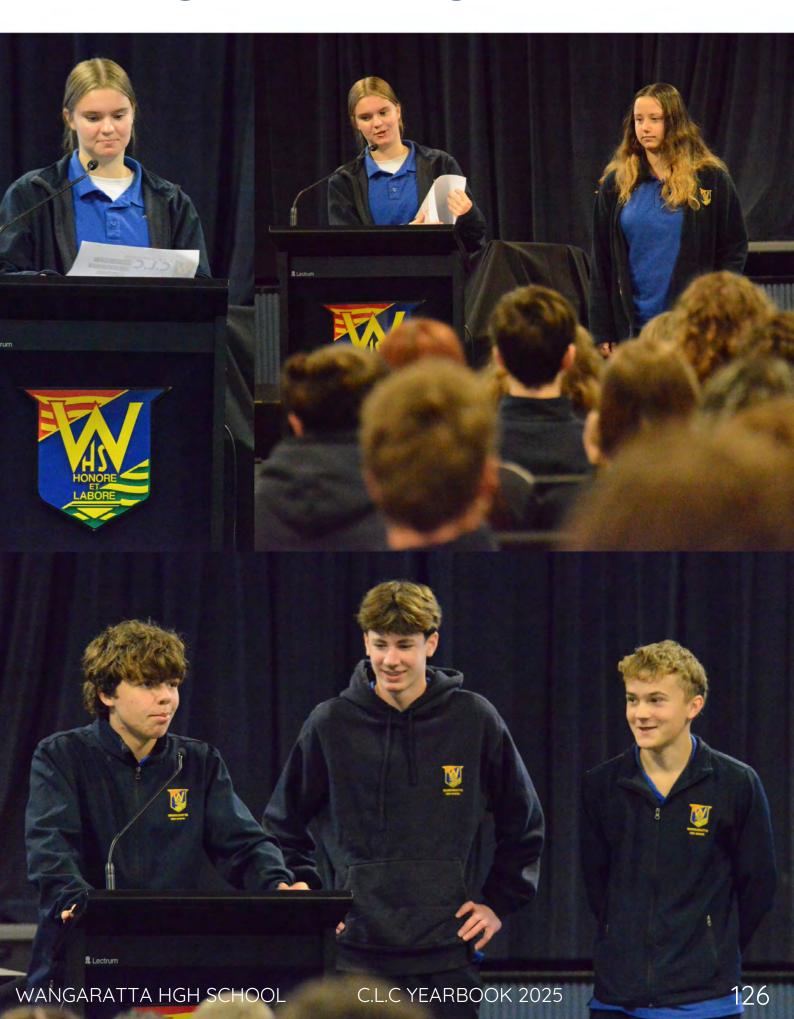






#### **WEEK 16**

























### WANGARATTA

HIGH SCHOOL

#### CLC Semester 1 2025















