

HANDS ON LEARNING



"A place to belong, People to belong to, Real things to do, A chance to give back"

Hands On Learning is an innovative, school based program that caters to the different ways young people learn. Artisan teachers work collaboratively with a small groups of students from years 7 - 10, one full day per week, on real projects. This provides a platform for students to engage, grow confidence and achieve success at school.

Hands On Learning fosters strong, long term relationships that help young people develop the skills and abilities they need to succeed in work and life like collaboration, problem solving, communication, leadership, resilience and empathy.

Whether projects are large or small, the goal remains the same — creating meaningful opportunities for students to connect, contribute, and take pride in their work.

Beyond the physical outcomes of completed projects, it is the growth in students themselves — in their confidence, sense of belonging at school, and experiences at home — that remains the most important part of the program.



in the garden

Term 2 has already been a busy and rewarding one for Hands on Learning students at Frankston High School, with students engaging in a wide range of practical, creative, and community-based projects across the term. Students have focused on maintaining and improving our Hands on Learning spaces through hut and veggie garden maintenance, compost care, and general garden upkeep. Paving work has continued to be a major part of the current program, with students learning practical landscaping and construction skills while helping beautify our spaces using donated and handmade materials.



jigsaw



hammer and chisel

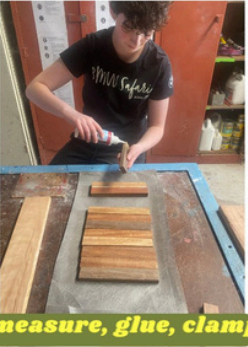


jigsaw

in the workshop



drills and hole saws



measure, glue, clamp



jigsaw

Students have been collecting green waste from the junior school kitchens, Overport Primary School, and local community members to process into nutrient-rich compost for our garden beds. Thanks to the success of the program, we are now producing enough compost to begin sharing with others — community members are welcome to get in touch for a free organic bag of compost. Students have also supported the Frankston High School Aerobics Team by constructing custom wooden forms used in costume-making, helping streamline the process of attaching thousands of sequins and decorative elements for upcoming performances.

Some Hands on Learning students have also been participating in additional opportunities through scenic painting for the school production of Mary Poppins. These students have been learning new painting techniques, building confidence, and contributing to large-scale set pieces that are already looking fantastic.

Students have also developed practical workshop and repair skills through equipment maintenance projects, including repairing wheelbarrows with new fixings and extending the life of our hand-built pizza oven with new cement.

The workshop has been especially busy this term, with students exploring a variety of creative and hands-on projects including large-scale mosaic work, ceramic tile painting, and the construction of small wooden creations such as chopping boards, sculptures, and vases.

giving back



creating forms for the FHS Aerobics Team to use for costume making



scenic painting for the school production



we now save green waste from the Junior school kitchens, Overport Primary and Frankston South community centre. We process everything in our bins, and now have enough compost to give out to keen organic gardeners - get in touch for a bag!



Cooking and life skills have continued to be a much-loved part of the program. Students have made spaghetti bolognese, ravioli, pizza scrolls, bacon and egg sandwiches, Mexican tacos, chicken schnitzels, and a variety of sweets including apple tarts and raspberry muffins. These sessions continue to build confidence, teamwork, independence, and kitchen safety skills.

In recent weeks, students designed and created handmade timber birds as Mother's Day gifts, learning to measure, cut, sand, paint, and assemble an end project from start to finish. These were a wonderful and much-loved gift for students to take home to loved ones.



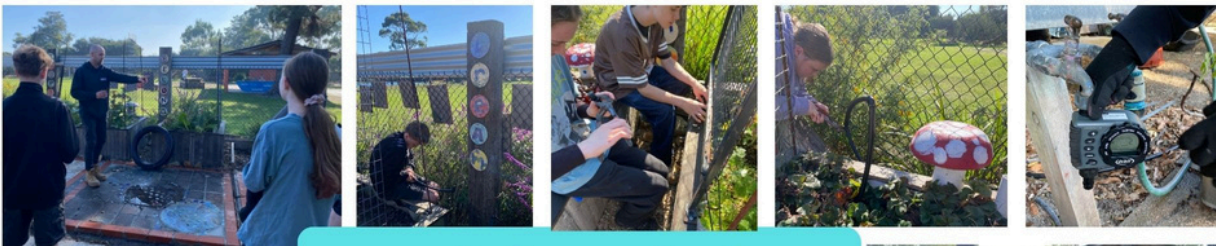
Students have greatly enjoyed exploring large-scale mosaic work this term, learning patience, creativity, and problem-solving skills throughout the process. From selecting colours and shaping tiles to carefully placing the pieces, students are contributing to vibrant artworks with free materials that continue to brighten and personalise the Hands on Learning space.

Paving has remained a major ongoing project within Hands on Learning this term, with students developing practical landscaping and construction skills while helping transform and improve our outdoor spaces. Using donated and handmade materials, students have worked together to create functional and visually appealing pathways through the garden area.



HANDS ON LEARNING **BUNNINGS** SAUSAGE SIZZLE

On ANZAC Day, the Frankston High School Hands on Learning team ran a very successful fundraiser at Bunnings Warehouse Frankston, raising approximately \$1,200 profit for Hands on Learning projects and resources in only around four hours of operation due to the public holiday. Thank you to everybody who gave their time, assistance, or gold coin donations to help support our program and goals.



*special workshop
irrigating our HoL
garden with donations and
guidance from
Sunshower Online*



We have also been incredibly grateful for the strong support shown by local businesses and community organisations this year. In May, [Sunshower Online](#) generously provided an on-site irrigation workshop and donated approximately \$500 worth of irrigation equipment to the program. Students worked alongside a specialist installer to learn about irrigation systems and help install watering infrastructure into our garden beds, building practical skills while improving the sustainability of our growing spaces.

The program has continued to grow strongly this year, with five new students already joining Hands on Learning in 2026, and continued referrals and tours highlighting the ongoing demand for practical, relationship-based learning opportunities within the Frankston High School community.



We look forward to continuing to connect with the wider school community throughout the year, while also building a strong sense of ownership and belonging within our Hands on Learning space.

The Frankston High School community is always welcome to visit the Hands on Learning precinct and see the work students proudly contribute each week.

We are incredibly proud of the effort, creativity, teamwork, and persistence our students continue to demonstrate, and we look forward to continuing to grow the program throughout the year.

For more information, questions, or Hands on Learning referrals, please contact Lily at ldonovan@fhs.vic.edu.au

Hands on Learning proudly supported by our community partners



eco outdoor



bread solutions

sunshower
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