

# ***TERM 1 NEWSLETTER***

**Made for the Community,  
By the Students**

**SCS**

**1<sup>ST</sup> Edition  
28 February 2020**

# Principal's Report

## Respect Effort Responsibility

**School Vision:** Every student will be supported through high quality teaching and learning practices in achieving successful outcomes and a pathway of their choice.

## Strive for Success – Attend Today Achieve Tomorrow

Welcome back to the start of a new school year, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new students and their families and welcome back all the continuing students and their families.

On Tuesday February 11, we held the Welcome Night Barbeque at the college and I had the opportunity to meet many of you personally. I look forward to seeing you at the college throughout the year. One of the challenges we face as a senior college is getting our parents to engage with us and I would like to assure you that you are welcome at the college and your active involvement will contribute to the achievement of successful outcomes for our students.

We have welcomed some new staff to the college at the start of 2020 and they are working in the following areas:

- **Chelsea Caines – Physical Education**
- **Tom Noonan – Physical Education / Humanities**
- **Joseph Karaoutsadis – English / Humanities**
- **Gabrielle Semaan – Legal Studies / Business Management**
- **Brita Wardell – Studio Arts**
- **Leanne Jefferies – Food Technology Assistant**
- **Maria Whitmore – Ourschool Alumni Program Coordinator.**

We have also welcomed back some staff who were on leave in 2019:

- **Jess D’Lima – Physical Education / English**
- **Vanessa Riley – Visual Communication & Design**

This year we have farewelled Dionne Hose, the College Chaplain.

Our student leadership team has been selected and the School Captains are Kirsten Canares and Ben Roper, with the Vice Captains being Tiba Sabri and Jumaan Shehna.

These are very important roles and our student leaders make an enormous contribution to the school community. Over the last twelve months we have handed the running of whole school assemblies and information nights over to the school captains and they have exceeded our expectations as ambassadors for the college.

# Principal's Report (cont.)

Over the summer break we had a number of works completed.

As you drive past the college you may have noticed an electronic sign announcing messages about what is happening at the college to keep parents and the community better informed. We ask that you please have a look as you are dropping students off or driving past. We have also had a shaded area added to the end of the 600's building with the installation of shade cloth. I've spoken to a number of students who have suggested that extending it would be a great idea, so I have asked for the company to give me a quote to add some more.

This year marks the 10 Year Anniversary of our first graduating class, the Class of 2010. We are planning a reunion for late November/early December and Sophie Mellor has volunteered to start contacting past students from that class.

**If you know any students from the Year 12 class of 2010 could you ask them to contact Sophie using the details below.**

**Mobile: 0411 318 330**

**Email: [sophie.mellor@hotmail.com](mailto:sophie.mellor@hotmail.com)**

To finish off, I would like to congratulate our 2019 Year 12 students. Our graduating VCAL students have now started in employment or further study. We had an outstanding result for those VCE students who applied through VTAC to gain university entrance and TAFE offers. We look forward to hearing of their all our past students achievements in the years to come.

In terms of VTAC University and TAFE offers for our 2019 graduates, we have great news! 98.17% of Point Cook Senior students received a round one offer, meaning 166 students received offers to universities including RMIT, Monash, VU & Melbourne Uni.

Our Highest ATAR in 2019 was 96.35 and we had a Study Score of 50.

Thank you to Mary Dimech-Hill PCSSC Pathways/Careers Leader and her team who work throughout the year supporting all our students to achieve success in their chosen pathways.

*together we are creating a  
healthy school*

achievement  
program



# For the Community

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The College is seeking volunteers from the community to help attend and supervise excursions at the school.

If you would be keen to assist the College in this way, please see the front office and fill out the "Excursion Volunteer Form."

**Alternatively, you can fill out an online application here:**

<https://tinyurl.com/PCSSCVolunteers>

**Applicants must have  
a current  
Working with Children's Check.**

The form asks for an expression of interest in regards to the subject areas you would be willing to assist with.

## UNIFORM DONATIONS

**Do you have any  
spare uniforms or  
uniforms you no longer need?**

We are again seeking donations of uniform that you no longer need to assist with families who need our support.

If you have any old or unused uniforms that you would be willing to donate, please bring it on into the front office.

**We are very grateful for your support.**

## FREE PADS & TAMPONS

Students at Primary, Secondary and Specialist Schools will have access to free sanitary items progressively from Term 3, 2019.

The Victorian Government committed \$20.7 million over four years to provide free pads and tampons in government schools.

**The initiative aims to:**

- Provide students with confidence that sanitary items will be readily accessible at school
- Relieve students of the stigma, anxiety and discomfort which may be associated with periods and its management
- Ease the cost of living for families

Asaleo Care have manufactured a dispenser in collaboration with the Victorian Government which complies with Victorian OH&S standards.

**Students are provided with the following products:**

- Libra Tampons (Regular)
- Libra Ultrathin Pads with Wings (Regular)



**For more information, see the following links:**

<https://lovelibra.com/educators/>

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/free-sanitary-pads.aspx>

**Or contact Asaleo at:**  
[libraschools@asaleocare.com](mailto:libraschools@asaleocare.com)

**1800-234-613**



# Vaccinations

The Secondary School Vaccine Program offers free vaccines to Year 7 and Year 10 students.

## These vaccines provide protection against:

- **Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) – one dose for year 7 students**
- **Human Papillomavirus (HPV) – two doses for year 7 students**
- **Meningococcal A,C,W,Y – one dose for year 10 students**

Parents/guardians of Year 7 and 10 students should look out for the Vaccine Consent Card booklet coming home from school with your child. You need to read the information, complete and return the card regardless of whether your child is being vaccinated at school.

The Wyndham City Council immunisation service may contact you about the Secondary School Vaccine Program. Schools are authorised to provide basic parent/guardian contact details to local councils for this purpose.  
*Contact the school by 28 February 2020 if you do not want your contact details given to the Wyndham City Council immunisation service.*

Additionally, the Commonwealth government is funding vaccinations for all children under 20 years of age who missed any scheduled vaccines, including a catch up program for Meningococcal ACWY vaccine for adolescents aged 15-19 years of age who have not already received the vaccine in school. If students have missed vaccines, either in childhood or adolescence, and require catch-up vaccines, they should speak with their immunisation provider (e.g. local council or GP)

**To learn more about the Secondary School Vaccine Program, the vaccines, the diseases they protect against, or how you can prepare your child for vaccination, go to:**  
[betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://betterhealth.vic.gov.au)



**BetterHealth**  
Channel

# PCSSC Commitment To Respectful Relationships

Point Cook Senior Secondary College is a Respectful Relationships School. The college is committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment that promotes gender equality, celebrates diversity and encourages respectful and healthy relationships. Through the teaching of Respectful Relationships and through positive conversations with students and families the school will influence the development of a healthy community culture.

## **As part of this commitment:**

- Our principal will actively promote gender equality and speak out against gender-based violence.
- Our school will provide:
  - professional learning for leadership staff for the planning and implementation of the whole school approach to promote respectful relationships and gender equality
  - professional learning for teachers delivering Respectful Relationships curriculum in the classroom
  - professional learning for all school staff on gender equality, the prevention of gender-based violence and Respectful Relationships Education.
- Our school will undertake a thorough assessment and planning process to identify gaps and limitations in existing culture, policies and practices in gender equality.
- Our school will create mechanisms for staff feedback on gender equality in the workplace.
- Our school will identify, resource and implement key actions to promote gender equality and prevent gender-based violence.
- Our school will engage with external experts for advice and support in promoting gender equality and respectful relationships among staff and students.
- Our school will build partnerships with expert family violence services to increase school capacity to respond to students and staff who experience, witness or perpetrate gender-based violence.
- Our school commits to continual improvement and evaluation of Respectful Relationships Education.

The DET Respectful Relationships program came out of a Royal Commission into family violence. The Commission found that:

- More than one in three Australian women aged over 18 has experienced violence since the age of 15 (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2012). A 2013
- Almost a quarter of believe that partner violence can be excused if the person is so angry they lose control
- Only half knew where to get help if they were faced with a problem about violence against women (VicHealth, 2013)

If you have experienced or are experiencing family violence, please contact the school for referrals to support services.

# Year 12 RMIT Orientation

On the 14th of February, Year 12 students attended RMIT to obtain vital information in preparation for their final year of school.

We looked at presentations about how our ATAR is calculated and how to best go about getting into the course we want with the scores we get. This was followed by an "Amazing Race" style competition where students ran across the many areas of RMIT to solve an answer sheet. Personally, this was my favourite part of the day as it required teamwork and good communication skills.



After a brief lunch break, we had a presentation from Carol Cooke. She told us many stories from her life as a Paralympian with multiple sclerosis. Her experiences inspired students as she shared her ups and downs, and how she overcame difficulties in her life, teaching us that with the right mindset, anything is possible.



*Mary with 3 Point Cook Senior alumni*

Next, 3 former PCS students shared their experiences of life in university and in the pursuit of their careers, providing some insight for potential pathways while giving us a good expectation of what is to come when choosing a university.

Lastly, we were given some advice by Elevate Education, an organisation that surveys how high-achievers got their results. They sharing some study tips and tricks for exams to prepare us for the journey ahead so we could better our chances of getting a high ATAR.

Overall the day was quite enjoyable, with helpful advice for our final year of schooling and inspiring words from a great Paralympian - words we can use in our day to day lives.

**- Ben Roper, 12A  
School Captain**

*Year 12 VCAL students*





# Year 11 Orientation

It's been a very busy start to the year as students commenced the first year of their VCE/VCAL programs.

Students have been working hard to stay motivated whilst providing support to their peers.

Our Welcome Night on Tuesday 11th February was a wonderful opportunity for students and families to gain valuable information in regard to VCE and VCAL programs and allowed parents to meet students' Advisory teachers.

Thank you very much to all families who attended the evening as it was a great success.

*The Magic Show*



On Friday 14th February we held our first orientation day for all Year 11 students. This day was a terrific opportunity for students to transition into their first year of their chosen VCE/VCAL pathway.

We started the morning with a session presented by Elevate, covering study techniques and how to best prepare for upcoming assessments.

Students then worked with their Advisory teachers to look closely at the requirements for VCE and VCAL programs.

Students also heard from Point Cook Youth Services and participated in resilience and team building activities. The highlight of the day was the magic show after lunch which had students puzzled and amazed by the sudden appearance of \$100 notes and objects multiplying before their eyes.

It is to be commended the excellent behaviour and maturity demonstrated by all students – well done.

# Year 11 English

## CATE KENNEDY INCURSION

During the incursion on Tuesday morning, the author of 'Like a House on Fire,' Cate Kennedy, came to speak to the Year 11s as we are studying her book.

She spoke to us about many things, including how she comes up with characters, themes, titles, and how lots of her stories are based off real events or emotions she has experienced.

One thing that really stood out was her saying: "to write a story you need to zoom in on a specific moment or character rather than trying to fit too much in."

Everyone who attended her presentation learnt a few things about how to write a good short story but also valuable insight into her stories and how she wrote them, which we can use in our essays.

**- Victoria Green, 11K.**



## INTERMEDIATE LITERACY

Over the last 5 weeks, Year 11 Intermediate Literacy students have been investigating the different forms of storytelling in many different civilizations and points in history.

Last week, we looked at the story behind nursery rhymes and how some serve as a warning to future generations.

After investigating a number of rhymes, students then had the task of coming up with their own rhymes regarding either a current political issue or something close to their heart.

**A huge thank you to Elijah McMiller for sharing his beautiful and moving words below.**

### Global Warming

Earth is a gift  
A place where we live  
Where love and respect is shown within  
But the world is now dying  
And the earth is crying  
Earth is real  
Let's not take it for granted

### Family

Love can be shown  
Relationships never broken  
Hearts filled with joy  
Stories unspoken  
We live and we learn  
We fight and get hurt  
But above all wrongs, family comes first  
So tell them you love them  
With a kiss and a hug  
Enjoy every moment still while we're young  
So when you have kids  
Living, loving and laughter  
Will carry on



# Year 10 Orientation

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> of February, the Year 10 cohort participated in their first Advisory program.

Students were keen to get going and complete the team building challenges with their advisory and their advisory teachers. Students participated in the Toxic Waste challenge, a group juggling challenge, giant chess, blindfolded activities where trust and teamwork were used and many more team building challenges throughout the morning.



During session 3, students heard from inspirational speaker Carly James, a local of Point Cook and also an Australian Hockey Representative. Carly spoke about building teams and resilience.

After lunch, students heard from Values for Life where our aim was to empower students, providing learning outcomes that engender pro-social values, empathy and resilience through a lively combination of information and interaction.

# Year 10 English Incursion

On Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, author Alice Pung visited Point Cook Senior to talk to Year 10 English students who are studying her anthology 'Growing Up Asian in Australia'.

Students learned about Alice Pung's personal migration experience and the challenges and opportunities she has faced as an Asian Australian.

Alice's talk was very funny and engaging and students found it very helpful in understanding the themes in their text.



# THE BREAKFAST everyone is welcome CLUB

**Our Breakfast Program has supporting students in need for 9 years now!**

Not only does our program provide students with a fulfilling breakfast to start their day with, but it also improves student wellbeing, supporting their outcomes.

**Everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy a free breakfast and a carefree environment to start their school day.**



***Join us and build positive relationships with staff and students!***

**where? Room 312**  
**when? Fridays 8:00am - 8:30am**



# Recognising Achievement

## REPRESENTING VICTORIA

Year 12 student Kyle Douglass has been selected in School Sport Victoria's 18 Years & Under Baseball State Team competing in the School Sport Australia Championship to be held in Lismore, NSW from 26 April to 2 May 2020.

It's been a great performance by Kyle who participated in a structured trial process to be selected to represent Team Vic.

Many past School Sport Victoria team members have gone onto compete at national and international competitions including Olympic Games, World Championships and Commonwealth Games.

Here's to hoping that Kyle and his Victorian teammates can achieve their personal goals at a national level to win the School Sport Australia title and that Kyle may be representing Australia in the years to come!



## DEBATING IN PARLIAMENT

Last year I was presented with an incredible opportunity to attend the Parliamentary Convention in Victoria. Having studied Legal Studies, I was extremely thrilled and excited for this, as it meant I was able to expand my current knowledge of our parliamentary system.

Upon our arrival, each school was required to debate in response to whether the 'Legislative Council should be abolished in Victoria', resulting in a successful win for Point Cook Senior.

This is when I was presented with the opportunity to apply for the National Constitutional Convention, where selected students would debate within the Commonwealth Parliament.

I completed various application processes and late last year found out that I was successful in my application and will be travelling to Canberra in March, 2020. This accomplishment felt surreal to me, as I couldn't believe that I would be travelling to Canberra to debate with other schools across the entire country.

I encourage everyone to apply for this Convention, as it is an incredible experience that I will always cherish and look back upon.

**- Mila Dimitrijevic 12A**

# Careers & Achievements

## KLDYS PROGRAM

**Congratulations Year 11 students Leighton Dunstan & Victoria Green** for being accepted into the **University of Melbourne's Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program!**

These students will further enrich their studies and form a supportive community with members of the University through a tailored program of events and activities.

Well Done!

## CELEBRATING 2019

**Congratulations to the class of 2019!**

Over 165 students completed a Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre application for University or TAFE last year and it is exciting to announce that **98.68%** of students received a tertiary offer.

Many students will be commencing their courses this month, whilst others have successfully gained an apprenticeship or employment.

We wish them all the very best and look forward to hearing about their future endeavours.

## CAREERS COUNSELLING

The Careers office has commenced career and course counselling with individual students in all year levels, with a particular emphasis on Year 11 in Term 1.

Congratulations to the Year 11 and 12 students that have secured School Based Traineeships with a variety of businesses/organisations including QANTAS, Victoria Police, Estia Health and Barry Plant Real Estate.

As part of Year 12 Orientation students attended a University/TAFE showcase afternoon and in February attended RMIT University, introducing students to the general elements of tertiary course selection and destinations.

**The Careers office is open for appointments Monday-Friday from 8.30am-3.30pm.**

Students will need to schedule times with Mary or Doug and negotiate with their classroom teacher.



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program





# the artist's corner



- Written and Illustrated by Portia Woods, 12A

**That's right, everyone! This page is entirely dedicated to showcasing YOUR artwork!**

If you're interested in sharing your art with the school community, send an email to:

[syama.radhe.p@gmail.com](mailto:syama.radhe.p@gmail.com)

with your name, advisory and any captions you want added with the artwork.



# REMINDERS

## KEY DATES

### SEMESTER 1

**02 March** Senior Summer Interschool Sports

**05 March** Hobsons Bay Division Swimming Carnival

**09 March** Labour Day Public Holiday

**10 March** Curriculum Day  
Student Free Day

**20 March** Harmony Day  
National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

**26 March** Western Metro Swimming Carnival  
Parent Teacher Interviews (evening)

**27 March** Parent Teacher Interview (morning)  
Year 12 Further Maths SAC  
Term 1 Ends

**14 April** Term 2 Commences

**16 April** College Athletics Carnival

**17 April** Year 11 English Incursion  
*Cosi*

**22 April** Year 10 Immunisation Day

**04 May** Hobsons Bay Division Cross Country

**14 May** Senior Winter 1 Interschool Sports  
Year 10 WRICA Careers EXPO Excursion

**22 May** Mabo Day

**27 May** GAT Assembly All Students  
Doing Units 3/4

**01 - 05 June** Year 10 & Year 11  
Revision Week

**08 June** Queens Birthday Public Holiday

**05 - 12 June** Year 10 & Year 11  
Mid-Year Exam

**10 June** GAT For All Students Enrolled  
In Unit 3/4

**16 June** Intermediate Winter 1  
Interschool Sports

**17 June** Girls Football & Boys Netball  
Interschool Sport

**18 June** Western Metro Cross Country

**22 June** Whole School Assembly

**25 June** Senior Winter 2 Interschool Sports

**26 June** Year 12 English Orals  
(No Classes for Year 12 students)

Term 2 Ends



**National Day  
of Action** against  
Bullying and Violence

**TAKE A STAND  
TOGETHER**

**Friday 20 March 2020**  
[www.bullyingnoway.gov.au](http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au)

# RESPECT

# EFFORT

# RESPONSIBILITY

# REMINDERS

## ATTENDANCE

Student attendance information is available on Compass, including the option to approve absences and input requests to leave early for an appointment.

### **Late Arrival to School**

Students are requested to use the Compass card to sign in at the Compass Kiosk at the front of the school.

Students who do not have cards can report to the attendance office.

### **Early Leave**

Parent approval is required for any student requesting to leave early. This can be done either by having parents enter approval on Compass or contacting the attendance office.

**Students are required to provide a medical certificate when absent from a VCE class or assessment.**

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**Attend Today,  
Achieve Tomorrow**



# Compass

**Majority of our communication with parents at PCSSC are made through the Compass Parent Portal.**

All parents have a portal account that provides access to:

- reports
- attendance information
- absence requests and approvals
- school photo ordering, teacher email contact
- booking for parent-teacher interviews
- calendar of events
- excursion consent/permissions and
- news items to keep you updated with what is going on.

**If you are a CSEF (Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund) recipient,** please contact the school before consenting to any event so that we can adjust the costing.

***To access your account:***

1. go to the College's homepage [www.pointcooksenior.vic.edu.au](http://www.pointcooksenior.vic.edu.au)
2. click on the Compass Portal icon.

OR directly go to Compass login:

<https://pointcooksenior.vic.jdlf.com.au/Login.aspx>

**If you are having trouble accessing your account,**

click on the "Can't access your account" and follow the prompts to access it using your username, email address or mobile number.

**If you need guidance on how to navigate the Compass Portal,**

please contact the school or see the 'Compass Help' page on the school website.





# Tuning in to Teens



## WORKSHOP



## COME ALONG TO A FREE 2-HOUR WORKSHOP

Tuning into Teens is for parents and guardians of young teens, to learn how to:

- Help your teen develop emotional intelligence
- Help them to learn to manage their emotions, behaviours and deal with conflict
- Improve your understanding and ability to talk to your teen

**THURSDAY 12 MARCH**  
**AT 5:45PM - 7:45PM**

### TO BOOK:

[HTTPS://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/BHKWM](https://www.trybooking.com/BHKWM)

To find out more visit:

[www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/youth](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/youth)

### Location:

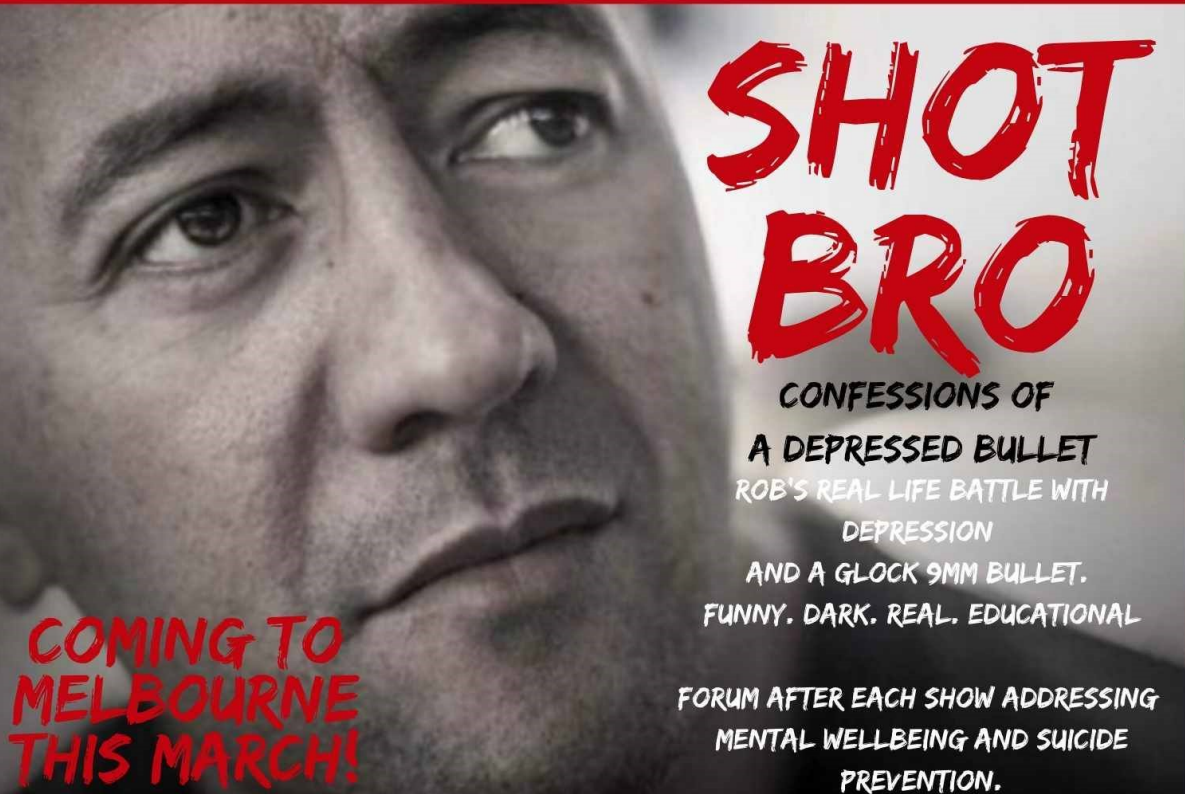
Point Cook Senior School  
Cnr Boardwalk Boulevard  
and Bergamont Drive,  
Point Cook TBC

wyndhamcity

**Youth**  
Services



**MULTI-AWARD WINNING ACTOR AND WRITER ROB MOKARAKA**



# SHOT BRO

**CONFESSIONS OF  
A DEPRESSED BULLET  
ROB'S REAL LIFE BATTLE WITH  
DEPRESSION  
AND A GLOCK 9MM BULLET.  
FUNNY. DARK. REAL. EDUCATIONAL**

**FORUM AFTER EACH SHOW ADDRESSING  
MENTAL WELLBEING AND SUICIDE  
PREVENTION.**

**COMING TO  
MELBOURNE  
THIS MARCH!**

**Westside - Mon 2nd March** Newport Community Hub, Newport, 7pm

**Central - Wed 4th March**, Caulfield RSL, Caulfield, 7pm

**Southside - Thurs 5th March**, Cranbourne Senior Citizens Hall, Cranbourne, 7pm

*Cost: gold coin donation welcome , light refreshments provided.*

**TO REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE AT ANY ONE OF THESE SHOWS OR THE FULL DAY  
WANANGA PLEASE CLICK THE RELEVANT LINK ATTACHED.**

**THIS EVENT PROUDLY  
SPONSORED BY**



## **WANANGA**

### **FULL DAY WORKSHOP**

**SATURDAY 7TH MARCH**

**7:30AM - 5:00PM**

**LONG ISLAND BEACH TENNIS CLUB,**

**GOULD ST FRANKSTON &**

**FRANKSTON NORTH COMMUNITY**

**CENTRE**

**COST: \$20**

**MORNING TEA, LUNCH AND**

**AFTERNOON TEA PROVIDED.**

**7:30am - Smoking Ceremony**

**and Blessing**

**Long Island Beach Tennis Club,**

**Gould St Frankston.**

**8:30am - Frankston North Community**

**Centre, Frankston North.**