



# Thomastown Secondary College

NEWSLETTER

TERM 2 2022

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## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>Term 3</b>	<b>Jul</b>
<b>Commences</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>7-10 Parent Teacher Interviews</b>	<b>Jul 21</b>
<b>7-10 Exams</b>	<b>Aug 15-19</b>
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## College Principal's Report



The only way to start this newsletter is with a huge thank you to every member of our college community. Our students have returned with a positive attitude and enthusiasm to catch up with their friends, connect with their teachers and to re-engage with all the activities we are able to offer now that many restrictions are being eased. There is no doubt that the last two and a half years have been very difficult for people right across the country and certainly for many of our families who have struggled with illness, under employment and sometimes healthy uncertainty. I'm constantly amazed at how well our young people have managing this gigantic interruption to the plans they had at the start of 2020.

Having said this, I'm also regularly reminded by the people who visit the College and comment on the two things that stand out every time. The first is the general calmness of the environment and the second is the polite and open way they are welcomed by our students from the minute they park their car. Of course, the relaxed and calm atmosphere has a lot to do with the way this school is structured, and the way students are linked to smaller groups of peers and to their designated group of teachers. However, we all know that young people develop their respect for others, their tolerance and their kindness from the family and their home environment. All this contributes to making the school a positive environment in which to teach and learn and possibly is the reason our teachers never leave and we're seeing the third generation of families attend the college. A huge thank you to each one of you. We couldn't do it without you and we appreciate everything you do.

Term 2 has been a very short term indeed. Only nine

weeks and yet we seem to have managed to pack a great deal of activities into the nine weeks. Our students have been involved in both athletics within The Whittlesea Division of School Sport and we have also had students compete in the interschool sporting competition at every level. The Naplan assessment was completed, and results may be available for you with reports early next term. VCE students have completed their Semester 1 school-based exams and their reports will be sent home at the end of this week.

Our Year 10 students have submitted their preferred subject choices for 2023 and now are involved in a work experience environment. It's amazing how much students learn from the work environment. You can read about many other experiences our students have had in the pages that follow.

I'd like to congratulate Neha Alam who was recently selected to attend the 27th National Constitutional Convention at The Hotel Windsor.

## Principal's Report Continued....

Normally this event is held in Canberra but this year's students from across the country came together online. Her experience is detailed in the following pages, and she will also speak about this at the next College Assembly. I also want to congratulate her teacher Sandra Gacovski who supports students to access this experience every year. Thank you, Sandra, for your ongoing commitment.

The pages in the centre of this newsletter speak for themselves. I have never experienced a day with so much enthusiasm and pride in the richness of our cultural diversity. This year some students sought permission for students other than those that were actually dancing to wear their cultural costumes or appropriate cultural symbols and it was a great success. As usual there was mutual respect and support for every group that performed but I must particularly congratulate the last three groups who refused to give up even when the rain came. It was not cold, and they knew that they would soon change out of their costumes into warm clothes. Although given the option to perform the following day they preferred to be able to perform in front of their peers and the other visitors who joined us

on the day. Unfortunately, photos only capture some of the warmth and happiness shared on that day. I want to recognise those people who put a great deal of work into helping the students practise their dances, organise their costumes and convince their families to participate. Thank you also to every family and past student who joined with us on that day. It will be another one of those unforgettable events. Thank you to Julie, Deanna, Nadia and Jimi, the dancers practising after school until dark and everybody else who gave their time to make this happen.

You may have heard that from 2023 a new certificate will be included within the VCE and VCAL will be phased out. Most schools that offer a VET program for students deliver this through the VCAL framework. Thomastown has always insisted on providing a pathway for all our students within the VCE. All our students enrolling in Year 11 and Year 12 studies do this within the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and on successful completion of their senior qualifications are awarded the VCE certificate. Because we do not offer VCAL but include all our students within the

VCE framework our transition will be much simpler. However, we do need to register with the Victorian Registration and Qualification Authority and be able to make the Victorian Pathways Certificate available. This is unlikely to affect students in 2023 but interest may build in the future, and we will make sure that you are kept informed of any developments in this area.

While we have had so much to celebrate, this doesn't mean, that everything is perfect all the time. We have had a small number of incidences where students' behaviour has not been acceptable. We will never accept aggressive behaviour towards other students or staff. We have clear expectations of everyone at the College and these expectations are designed to provide a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

Towards the end of Term One we had a small number of incidents that were totally unacceptable. Any such incidents are too many. In response, students were called to a full school assembly where it was explained very clearly that behaviour that breaks the law when it happens outside the school gate

still breaks the law when carried out inside the school gate. Behaviour such as physical assault, harassment and bullying, and discrimination on any of the protected attributes will be met with further education/support and sanctions. We understand our role as educators extends to the individual behaviour of students but students also need to understand that behaviour that breaks the law will be reported to police. Our overall responsibility is to ensure that every young person has the right to always feel safe. No one can learn in an unsafe environment

Since this assembly there has been a noticeable improvement in students' behaviour in the playground, in the classroom and on the way to and from school. We understand that it will take some students longer to be able to behave appropriately in bigger groups, and we will continue to promote and support a respectful, kind and listening approach.

Should you have any concerns or wish to discuss further any of the information in this newsletter please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's Home Group teacher.

Please note that 7-10 Parent-Teacher Interviews will take place in Week 2 of Term 3 on

Thursday 21st July. VCE reports will be mailed out this week.

I hope you are able to get some time to spend with your children over the following two weeks and they return rested and excited to begin Term 3.

**Leonie White**  
*Principal*



THOMASTOWN  
SECONDARY COLLEGE

*Year 12 VCE 2021*

## Alumni Dux Award

*Presented to*

*Shad Mohammed Amin*



# National Schools Constitutional Convention



Congratulations to Neha Alam who represented our school at the 27th National Schools Constitutional Convention 2022. This year the Convention was held at the Windsor Hotel in the city of Melbourne and Neha was one of the 20 students from across a multitude of Catholic, Private and Government schools to form the Victorian State squad. Candidates from across the entire country came together via Zoom to debate this year's topic, Does Australia need a Bill of Rights?

Now, countries in the common law tradition typically balance several potentially competing considerations in designing a Bill of Rights.

These include:

- \* The responsibilities and roles of elected governments and Parliaments
- \* The need to protect key rights of individuals, now also recognised by interna-

tional human rights instruments

- \* The potential of courts to enforce legal protection of human rights

- \* Recognition of the individual liberties of citizens.

Australia is a common law country. If we were to decide to provide more specific legal protection for rights, we would almost certainly be concerned about balancing these considerations as well. In this case, we would be interested in the way in which other countries have done so.

The purpose of this Convention was to identify some of the options for the design of a Bill of Rights, drawing on the experience of four other comparable common law countries: Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom. All of these countries have adopted Bills or Charters of Rights within in the last 30+ years.

After the preliminary readings were completed and

the guest speakers were heard from the affirmative and the opposition, the delegates went about discussing the pros and cons of the topic at hand. Two days of deliberations revealed many mature arguments and it all came down to a final vote which saw 60% of the delegates vote "YES" in favour of the proposition and 40% voted "NO".

The day concluded with many friendships being forged brought together by a common desire to learn and participate in our legal and political system. I congratulate Neha and the entire delegation for a wonderful 2 days of interaction and look forward to their communiqué being delivered to our federal government for consideration.

**Sandra Gacovski**

**VCE Legal Studies  
Teacher**



*"The purpose of this Convention was to identify some of the options for the design of a Bill of Rights, drawing on the experience of four other comparable common law countries"*



# Year 7/8 CityLink Program

During the last two weeks of Term 2 (June 14<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>) the Years 7 and 8 students participated in **CityLink**, a program designed and run by the college to build awareness of environmental sustainability. Students were inspired to understand the importance of making conscious choices in their everyday lives to contribute to a sustainable future.

During the CityLink program students engaged in a variety of on-site curriculum-based learning and visited local environments including Melbourne Museum, Imax, Edendale Farm and Hawkstowe Park. We hope students enjoyed the two-week program and gained valuable knowledge about how to better care for their planet.

## *Program Overview*

### EDENDALE FARM

Students explored food production and the positive environmental impacts of selecting local foods and foods with reduced packaging in the 'Consumption Down' and 'Food Footprint' programs at Eltham's Edendale Farm. They explored the farm to learn about local food production.

### WHITTLESEA COUNCIL WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Students engaged in a series of workshops run by the education officer from Whittlesea Council. The program exposed students to the council's waste management processes and encouraged consideration for their own recycling practices. Students gained a clearer picture of waste disposal options through the program 'Recycling Rules' and understood the environmental impacts of packaging in 'the Wrap on Wrapping' session.

### HAWKSTOWE PARK ADVENTURE WALK

Students embarked on a half-day adventure walk through the Hawkstowe Park. They explored the natural surrounds of the parklands including the wetlands and wildlife and the historic Le Page Homestead. The adventure through this peaceful setting of indigenous wildlife, flora and fauna invited an opportunity for students to nurture their physical and mental wellbeing. The visit also reminded them of the importance of conscious consumer choices in a bid to preserve spaces of natural beauty.

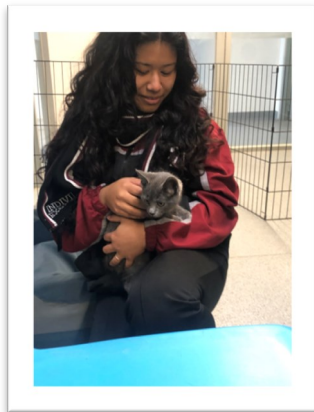
### IMAX AND MELBOURNE MUSEUM VISIT

Students connected with their city in this day visit to Melbourne's CBD for a cinematic experience at IMAX. A viewing of 'A beautiful Planet' or 'The Great Barrier Reef' highlighted the grandeur of our natural world. Satellite images of Earth showed the impacts we have on our planet and conveyed an empowering message of the changes we can make to secure our future to preserve our world. A tour of the museum, including the 'Dynamic Earth' gallery tour, reiterated the messages in the Imax film.



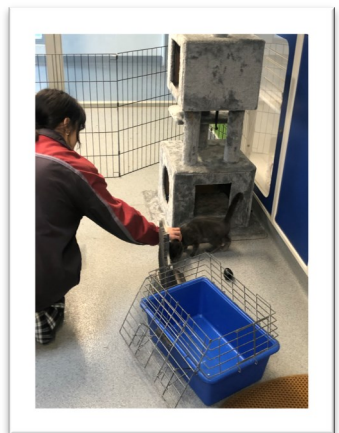
# RSPCA Donations

*“We are thankful to not only the students and teachers who donated, but also to the parents and the community who went out of their way to help provide for the RSPCA foundation”.*



On the 4th of May 2022, Blue unit forum went to the RSPCA animal shelter for their blue unit donation. Prior to leaving, blue unit collected months' worth of supplies for the animals and finally set off to give the materials. These included blankets and pillowcases, doona's, animal beds as well as tennis balls and toys. Some of the blue unit forum

members were fortunate enough to go and visit the animals at the shelter. They played with the cats and got to learn how our donation would help provide the animals with not only warmth, but with improved living conditions. Therefore, we are thankful to not only the students and teachers who donated, but also to the parents and the community who went out of their way to help provide for the RSPCA foundation. The blue unit forum is pleased to confirm that this will be an annual event due to the amount of success that was achieved.



**Navleen Sandhu and Emma Faatele**

**Year 10 Forum Students**





# Business Management - Sutton Tools

The year 11 Business Management class attended an excursion to Sutton Tools in Thomastown as part of their Operations Management studies. Founded in 1917, Sutton Tools began as a family enterprise, manufacturing threads and gauges, and over time it has expanded its expertise into a broader portfolio of cutting tools. Today, Sutton Tools remains an Australian family business that is renowned for its high-quality power tool accessories and cutting tools for the hardware market and it has a wide range of specialised industrial applications.

The students were introduced to Tim and Paul (both engineers) who talked about the structure and contribution that Sutton Tools has made in regards to the manufacturing of these high-quality tools in Australia. Indeed, Sutton Tools supplies tools to a broad spectrum of indus-

tries – including general manufacturing, electronic manufacturing, automotive, medical, mining and power generation – most advancement in material technology its experiences are occurring in the aerospace, defence and oil/gas industries. The students were then taken on a tour of the plant and they got to see the use of some very interesting technology. The use of robotics has meant that there is very little error in the way that drill bits are produced. Using computer-controlled machines that are able to complete a number of turning operations in a single manufacturing stage has enabled the whole process to be completed efficiently and effectively. The students were impressed with the way the whole process worked as they were able to apply what they had learnt in class in real life scenarios.



We thank the team at Sutton Tools for allowing us to visit the Thomastown plant. It was an experience that the students will remember and hopefully inspire some of them into pursuing careers in engineering, computer technologies and even management.

**Sandra Gacovski**  
**Business Management**  
**Teacher**



**suttontools**



# Multicultural Day Celebrations









# Focus Program

The Focus program is a girls-only program that runs for three sessions, and each session is approximately 2 hours long. This program focusses on building young women’s leadership qualities.

Students are mentored by senior women in business who have achieved outstanding successes in their field of work.

This year, our year 10 leadership students were invited to participate in the program.

Along the three sessions, we and the mentors focused on introducing leadership styles, understanding strengths, and

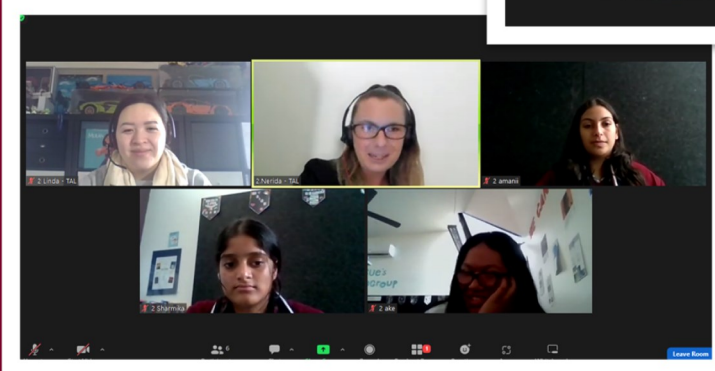
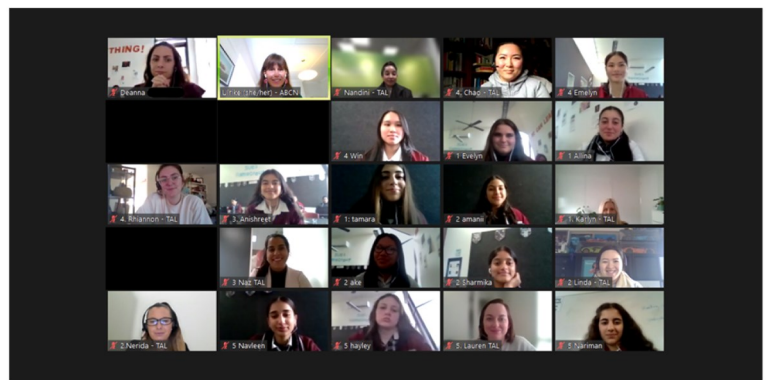
developing a leadership image.

Before joining the program, we didn’t really have an idea about women leadership or what it takes to be a leader. However, after joining, we feel more informed about women in leadership roles in the workforce and what skills and attributes are required to obtain leadership roles. This is because during the program, we talked about our fails and how we learn from them. We learned about famous leaders who overcame hardships and we got to know about our mentors and what they think about leadership.

We highly recommend this program for any girl who is interested in leadership and wants to learn more about it. If you are thinking of joining next year, speak to Deanna Tornatora to apply for this program. It usually runs in term 2

**Deanna Tornatora**  
**Goals Program Coordinator**

*“Students are mentored by senior women in business who have achieved outstanding successes in their field of work”.*



## STEAM Club

Every Tuesday at lunchtime STEAM club allows students to learn, connect and design STEAM curriculum.

The club is continues to grow in numbers and is open to students of all abilities.

This term we built drone remote controls and are now working in teams to code a synchronised flying routine.

Individuals from STEAM club are competing in a Statewide coding challenge and more information about this will be in the next newsletter.

Two teams of four students from 7-10 have been selected to compete in a Statewide 3D print a car challenge, hosted by QUANTUM Victoria.

This prestigious competition will run until the end of the year, more information can be found here

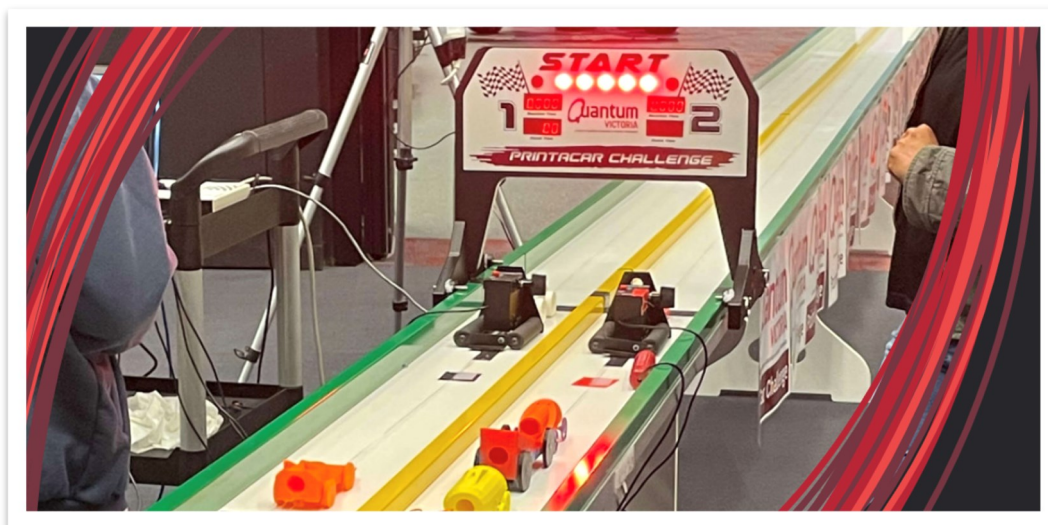
<https://www.quantumvictoria.vic.edu.au/events/2022/11/2022-quantum-victoria-printacar-challenge>



## 2022 Quantum Victoria PrintACar Challenge | Quantum Victoria

Over 1500 students from across Victoria have engaged in the Quantum Victoria PrintACar Challenge since its establishment eight years ago. Registrations for up to two teams of 2-4 students to compete for the coveted overall Secondary (Years 7-12) winners' prize of a 3D Printer and a championship trophy for your school are now open!

[www.quantumvictoria.vic.edu.au](http://www.quantumvictoria.vic.edu.au)





# The ARTS

Year eleven students from Visual Communication and Design (VCD) and Chemistry have been working together to create designs for a permanent display in the Science area.

The designs are inspired by a similar project at QUANTUM's headquarters which explores the history of technology and scientific discovery through the periodic elements.

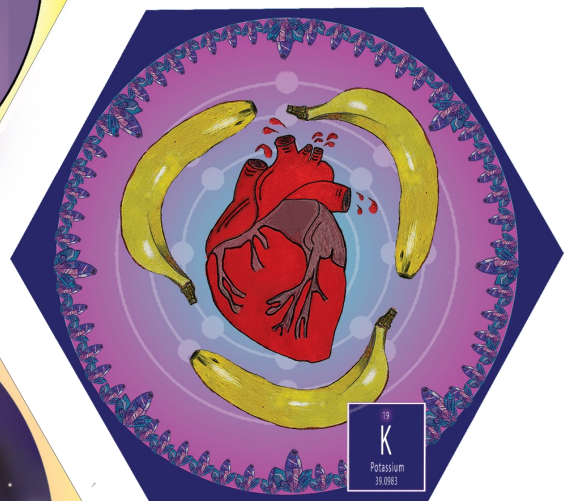
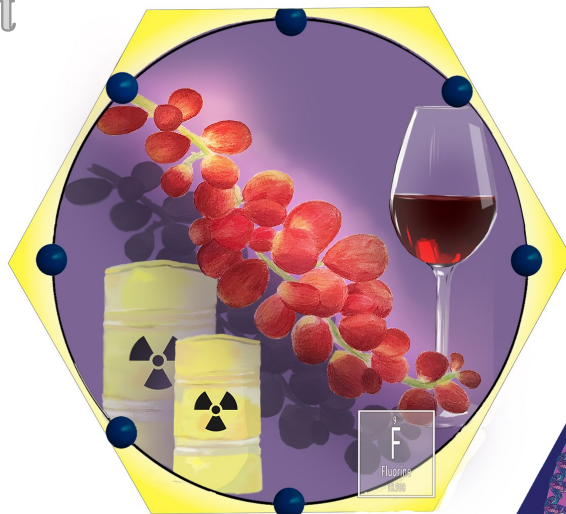
This highly engaging project has produced excellent work and has given students the opportunity to experience a full design process, with research, consultation, manual and digital drawing and proofing.

The project is currently in final proofing and test printing and will be launched shortly, please watch closely for further announcements.

**Emma Fitzpatrick**  
**ARTS Coordinator**



## Periodic Table Project



# Studio Arts - Season of Excellence

As part of VCE Studio Arts studies students visited the National Gallery of Victoria, Ian Potter Centre, to view Top Arts exhibition and folios. Top Arts is a showcase of A+ artworks from year 12 2021 students across Victoria. Students view this to inform and inspire their studio practice.

For more information on Top Arts visit

<https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/exhibition/top-arts-2022/>

The exhibition is open daily until the 24th of July.

While at the Ian Potter Centre we also viewed other eye-opening exhibitions including the reopened Indigenous art collection.

Visiting a variety of public, non for profit, commercial and artist run galleries, is an integral part of our studies.

We visited Blindside and Flinders Lane Gallery, at the heritage listed Nicholas building, <https://blindside.org.au/> <https://www.flg.com.au/>

Making our way down Flinders Lane, we visited Forty five downstairs,

<https://fortyfivedownstairs.com>

where we had the opportunity to talk to the exhibiting artist, Mike Reed. Mike started his career in film and video production, as well as editor for tv commercials. Mike shared with the students his passion for the creative arts, story telling and capturing the world around him in quirky, humorous ways and identifying juxtaposition oddities.

Walking we took a detour through Melbourne’s colourful and iconic Hosier Lane famous for its street art. We witnessed exhibitions and artworks on the streets and in galleries with a theme of “Being Human” part of the International Festival of Photography “Photo 22”.

Recent research from Norwegian University of Science and Technology has proven that “a trip to the art gallery or muse-

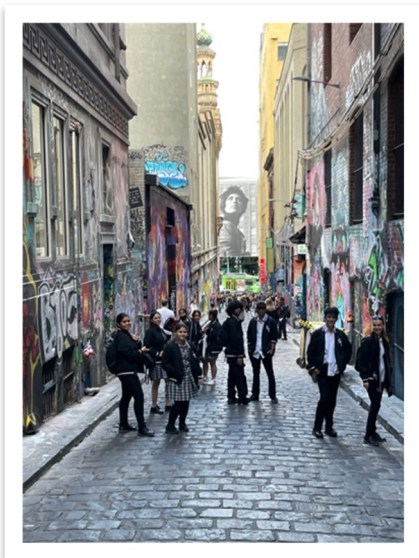


**Ian Potter Centre – Indigenous Collection**

um can positively impact your health and well-being in several essential ways, like lowering anxiety and depression and boosting critical thinking skills.”

It was a great opportunity to explore Melbourne, its streets, galleries and exhibiting artist.

**Samia Townsend**  
**VCE Studio Arts teacher**



**Hosier Lane, Melbourne**



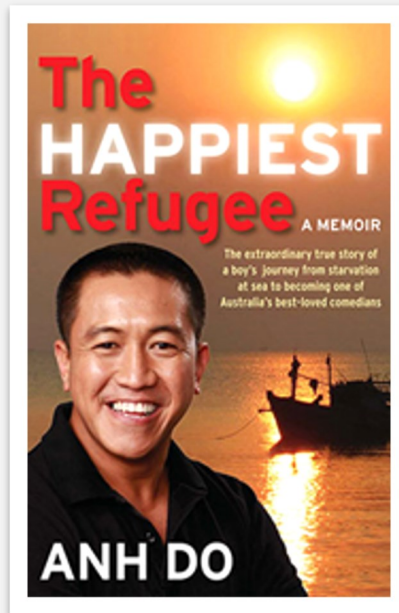
**Forty five downstairs with Mike Reed - Artist**

# English Report

The Year 9 and 10 English study of Ahn Doh's memoir, 'The Happiest Refugee', inspired students to write about their own life journeys. The students' memoirs below illustrates the empowering nature of self-reflecting and revisiting personal experiences and memories through writing.

**Kylie Villella**

**Learning Specialist Teacher**



***“Thank you to the Year 9 and Year 10 students who have shared their memoirs”.***

## Memoir Writing - A place where I am most myself

Being the youngest kid in a large family is not as easy as many make it out to be. No one talks about how lonely it can be at times, or how much you may feel like an outcast. I'm the youngest of a large family and at times, it's hard. Very hard. I'd find myself putting on a façade to appeal to their needs. To appeal to what they want, and I would realise that it slowly began to disconnect me from my true self.

So sometimes, when it's late at night, and everyone is confined to their warm bedrooms, I would sneak outside and sit in the silence. Sit in such a silence that only my thoughts could be heard. Loud and desperate thoughts that wouldn't dare to be spoken aloud. I would sit there and contemplate whether or not keeping

all of this in is worth the amount of pain and stress it's putting me through or putting up with it for the sake of my family's happiness.

But why should I? Why should the cost of their happiness be mine?

I felt conflicted and hurt. Like no one understood me. I remember sobbing in the dark and quiet night, wishing for a solution that just wouldn't come. So instead, I let the salty tears fall urgently down my cheeks as I prayed.

I prayed and prayed and prayed.

If I couldn't express how I felt to my family, then surely God would listen. And he would. He'd patiently sit and listen as

the burden on my shoulders would lift and fall onto his.

When I'm with God, that is when I feel free. That is when I am most myself.

**- Anonymous.**