



Doug Doherty
Acting Principal

Welcome Back to all students, families, and staff; and a special welcome to all new students and staff. It is imperative that we as a College family know that this is another year of opportunity to be the best we can be and achieve the end to the Year that we desire at present.

It is fantastic to see both campuses buzzing again with people. The excitement and apprehension of over 250 year 7 students to the return of our Year 12 students, preparing for the completion of their secondary schooling, and the apprehension of the journey to university, apprenticeship or employment, was an excellent start to 2022.



Year 7 Students lining up ready for their first day as Secondary School Students at Lavalla Catholic College.

This was an especially significant year for my own family as my daughter Aine, joined our Lavalla family as a Year 7 student.

The message I gave to all staff and students in our Virtual Welcome Assembly is as follows:

“I would like to remind everyone that we are all part of the Lavalla family. Therefore, we must care for each other as a family in making sure that we can all be SAFE, HAPPY and SUCCESSFUL. This means we treat each other with respect and kindness in everything we do and say. We ensure that every class is not disrupted by immature behaviour. We make sure that we do what our teachers ask immediately and if we disagree, we find the right time to discuss the direction positively.

Speaking to you today as your acting Principal until our new principal Mr. Ryan Greer joins us in Term Two. He is a fantastic leader and person, and it will be a great year ahead as our school continues to strive for excellence.

The Marist theme for 2022 – Known and Loved – Dignity for All, which reminds us that human dignity, clothed in compassion, is the heartbeat of the Gospel, and it needs to be the heartbeat of our College family.

The image chosen for this Year’s theme captures this intention beautifully. Created in 2020 by the Italian artist Margherita Gallucci, this spectacular image of Our Lady of Loreto with the Refugees Cloak is dedicated to the sacredness of human life. As the artist explains, ‘We are called to recognise the preciousness and sacredness of every person, to welcome God into our hearts and homes.’”



We have now put Christmas behind us, but we still remain as People of Hope – we now begin the work of Christmas as outlined by Howard Thurman:

“The Work of Christmas” composed by Howard Thurman, an African-American theologian, educator, and civil rights leader.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

So let us build new connections and nurture the important relationships in our lives. Let us act to ‘Know and Love’ each other.

Research has shown time and time again that by giving to others and our community, we can increase our happiness and the happiness of others.

Newsletters

During Term One, our fortnightly Newsletter will take on a new format. This Newsletter will focus on a Welcome Theme and Best Advice from Each Main Department within the College.

Our following Newsletter (Friday 25th February) will focus on Learning and Teaching – what are the critical areas of development for Term One that will affect your child’s learning.

The next focus (Friday 11th March) will focus on Student Wellbeing and Safeguarding and how this is being promoted and actioned throughout the College.

The Final Newsletter for Term One will focus on our Catholic Identity and Preparation for the greatest Christian event – Easter.

COVID-19

Each Monday, I will send a COVID Update on behalf of the Leadership Team. This will outline the key impact of the pandemic within our College and how we are addressing this.

As required, some of you will also be aware that we will contact families, students, and staff that may have been in contact or affected by COVID-19.

The key message I can give to parents/guardians is to thank those who ensure that their child is coming to school with an appropriate face mask.

This term, the focus will be on re-establishing school culture and rituals as much as possible during this ever-increasing pandemic – knowing and loving will be a catalyst to making this happen.

Our focus on developing our Habits of Excellence is simply put as doing our best every day with our work and our relationships – small identified improvements repeated each day.

Lots of people are getting involved in investing in crypto currency – I spoke with some of you last year and I was told I would be crazy if I were not investing in crypto – I have some advice for you now, the most important investment at this time is to **Invest in yourself**.

“Investing in yourself is the best investment you will ever make. It will not only improve your life, but it will also improve the lives of all those around you.” — Robin Sharma.

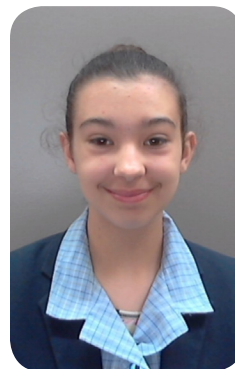
Strive for excellence by **doing your best** in your classwork, homework, and assessments. Listen to your amazing staff – follow their directions, extend yourselves.

Have a successful term One.

Week One reflection of a New Student

At ease and calm were my first emotions after my first day of Year 7. It was all thanks to the lovely, kind and friendly staff. This is a brand new experience and environment and it can be nerve racking, so they really helped. As the days went on I got more and more excited for school

everyday, as the classes were engaging. I'm looking forward to see what my future holds here at Laval-la and the new friendships I'll forge.



Karla Murdoch Yr 7.6

College Vision and Graduating Goals:

The posters below will be displayed throughout the College, in every classroom and large banners in each hall; to help us as a College to achieve our goal for Term One:

To unite as a school community to ensure that we re-establish College expectations and rituals that allow staff, students and parents to work together within a successful relationship to help us all to achieve our College Vision, Mission and Graduating Goals.

Stay safe and God Bless

Mr Doug Doherty

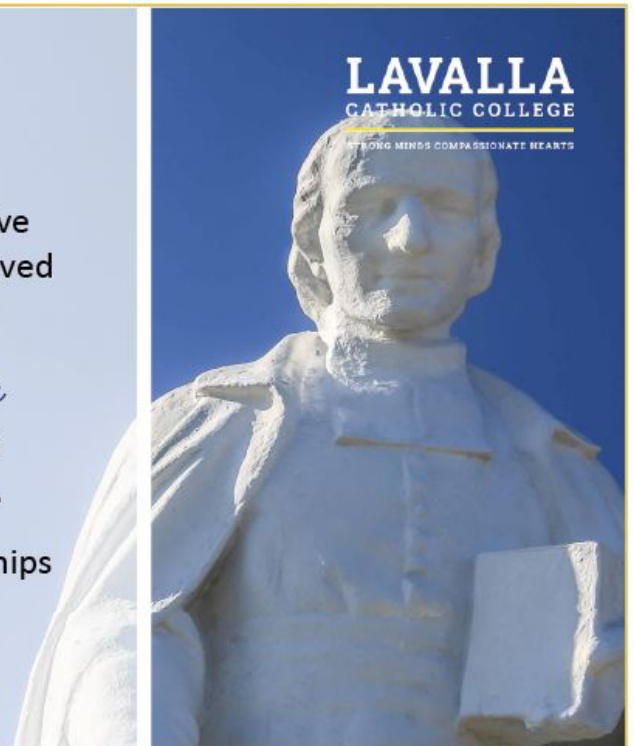
Acting Principal

Vision Statement

Lavalla Catholic College is a welcoming, inclusive community called to make Jesus known and loved through education in the Marist Tradition.

With '*Strong Minds and Compassionate Hearts*' we unite to inspire, journey with and prepare learners for life in our changing world.

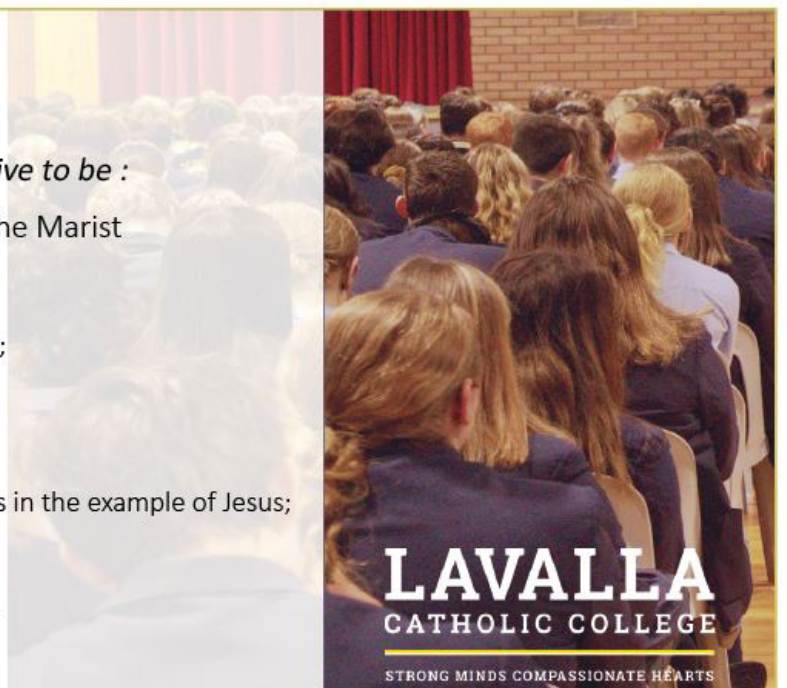
In our daily actions we build positive relationships following the model of Jesus Christ.



Graduation Goals

Graduates of Lavalla Catholic College will strive to be :
open to the journey of faith and to practise the Marist Characteristics;

- Stewards of our people, place, time and traditions;
- adaptable resilient life-long learners;
- responsible citizens;
- respectful in building loving, inclusive relationships in the example of Jesus;
- people who will celebrate all that is good;
- people of compassion, integrity, dignity and hope.





Brett Van Berkel
Assistant Principal Learning &
Teaching

Welcome to 2022

Parents, guardians and students, I welcome you to the 2022 year. The start has been another one filled with uncertainty. However, our students and staff have again shown their resilience and agility in the face of new COVID challenges.

Learning and Teaching initiatives 2022

The key Learning and Teaching initiatives running across 2022 focus on improving student literacy.

- **The Writing Revolution** (school-wide) is a method that enables students to master the skills that are essential if they are to become competent writers. In turn, those skills equip students to become better readers, to communicate more effectively in writing and speaking, and most importantly, to elevate their thinking.
- **Renaissance Reading** (Years 7 to 9) is an international reading program that encourages and motivates students to read books at school and home. Teachers conference with students about these books and set goals to improve their reading and comprehension.

You will hear more about the above initiatives and more in upcoming newsletters.

Change in Grading Scale For Years 7 to 9

Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage
A+	95-100%
A	85- 94%
B+	80-84%
B	70-79%
C+	65-69%
C	55-64%
D+	50-54%
D	40-49%
E+	35-39%
E	25-34%
U	24-Below%

Following a school review in 2020 and 2021, the College has responded to findings and feedback by aligning the grading scale for all year levels. As a result, Year 7 to 12 results will be displayed using the A+ to U grading scale. A percentage score or raw score may also accompany the result. All results will be available via your PAM account. The goal is to provide clarity for students and parents with one grading scale from Year 7 to 12.

For Unit 3 & 4 subjects, all results provided by subject teachers will be subject to moderation by the Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority (VCAA). Further information on statistical moderation for Unit 3 & 4 subjects can be found [HERE](#).

We look forward to working with you and your child across 2022 to assist them in being the best they can be.



Robyn Rebbechi
Assistant Principal Catholic
Identity & Mission

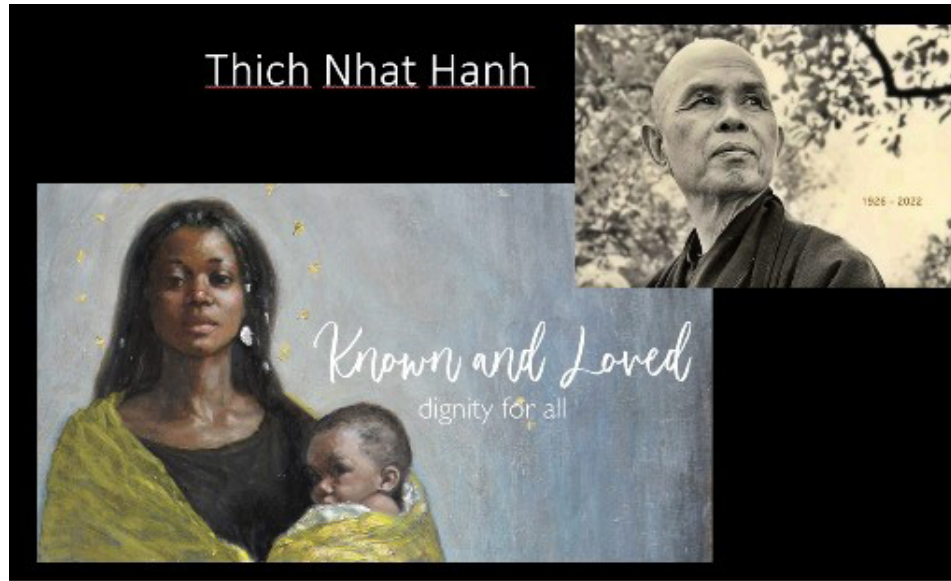
Start with the end in mind: Creating a community of peace

At our beginning of the year assemblies, I spoke to the students about a Buddhist Monk called Thich Nhat Hanh whose life work was teaching people about mindfulness, compassion and peace. This very wise man, teacher, and poet died recently at the age of 95. I had recently listened to an old interview with him which had a lot of relevance to what we're trying to achieve this year, a year in which our Marist theme is 'Known and Loved: Human dignity for all'.

Thich Nhat Hanh taught that peace always begins with yourself as an individual, and as an individual, you may help building a community of peace. As I explained to the students, we aim to create a community of peace in our school, but for us to do that, every single person in this community needs to think about how we act towards others, the way in which we honour and give dignity to all of those around us.

As each of us goes about our work this year, in classes, in meetings, at school events or just talking to each other at the school gate, we all need to think about how we are recognizing others for who they are and whether in our own behavior we are listening and looking with kindness. Are we recognizing others as people who are precious, and making allowances for their hopes, dreams and fears? Are we seeing others, who may be different from us in appearance or opinions, as created with love by God?

We pray together in a way which acknowledges that showing respect and dignity to those around us requires **action**, not just good intentions.



Help me, Lord, that my eyes may be merciful, so that I may never judge from appearances, but look for what is beautiful in people around me

Help me, Lord, that my ears may be merciful, so that I may listen to those around me and not ignore their pain or sadness

Help me, Lord, that my words may be merciful, so that I should never speak negatively of those around me, but have a word of comfort and forgiveness for all.

Help me, Lord, that my hands may be merciful, so that I may do only good for those around me and choose the path of compassionate action

Help me, Lord, that my heart may be merciful so that I may share with compassion the suffering and the joy of those around me...

Amen



Natalie Macpherson
Year 7 Wellbeing Leader

Megan Stewart-North
Assistant Year 7 Wellbeing Leader



What's Happening in Year 7

What a wonderful start to 2022 for our 248 Year 7 Students! They have shown an immense amount of resilience navigating through yet another year with Covid19 interruptions. We are disappointed that our Year 7 Orientation Camp has been postponed, however, our Year 7 Team is working on innovative ways to ensure that new friendships are still created. Although we have a bit of a wait until camp, it is exciting to think that we will experience our first ever winter camp with fun and new activities that include, mountain bike riding, horse riding, obstacle courses and night hikes, just to name a few. Once our students have settled into their new environment a homeroom competition will commence. This will provide our homerooms with the opportunity to focus on team work skills while getting to know each class member.

I am extremely proud of all of our Year 7 students on an exceptional start to the year and it has been wonderful seeing all students wearing our uniform with pride, treating each other with kindness and seeking support when required. I look forward to watching each and every Year 7 student flourish and succeed throughout the year.

Welcome to a new school year and term.

Marcellin Champagnat's great desire and legacy is that we try to relate to each other as the members of a loving family would intuitively do. We seek to make this a reality in everything we do in the college. In Home Room this week, students have been learning about the Marist Family Spirit and have worked together to brainstorm ways that they can act as a family while they are in class together and out in the yard. Some Home Rooms have tried to capture this idea in a photograph- can you see how they have shown Family Spirit?

We would like to thank all of the parents and guardians of our year 7 cohort for helping them ease into this new environment. And with your continued support we can all look forward to the year of opportunity and growth that is ahead of us!

*Apologies if your child does not appear in their class photo. They may have been absent or completing another activity at the time. There will be many other opportunities for photos throughout the year.





Meaghan Ambrose
Acting Director of Students

Welcome to a new school year and term.

Over the past two weeks it has been wonderful to see students back in the classroom and engaging with their peers, teachers and learning. Despite the uncertainty that comes with living with COVID and the need to complete regular RATs, it has been a smooth start to the year.

As a result of COVID restrictions, guidelines from DOSCEL and Marist Schools Australia, we haven't been able to hold our Year 7 "Getting to know you" Camp as well as the campus bases Swimming Carnivals. While we know students enjoy these events, we do need to keep in mind our COVID Safe procedures. Year 7 Camps have been rescheduled to occur in August and we are working hard to reschedule the Swimming Carnivals for later in the term.

Where to go for Assistance

Lavalla Catholic College prides itself on having a strong Wellbeing program where Wellbeing staff unite and journey with students and parents to name, know and support the holistic learning, growth and aspirations of our students.

This means that Wellbeing staff work with Homeroom / Learning Advisor Teachers, Classroom teachers, College Counsellors and Support staff to nurture and encourage every student, every day to engage in learning opportunities that allows them to improve, so that they can make wise choices for themselves.

If you require assistance or support please contact the following people.

Wellbeing Leaders - St Paul's Campus

- Year 7 Wellbeing Leader – Mrs Natalie Macpherson
- Year 7 Wellbeing Assistant – Ms Megan Stewart-North
- Year 8 Wellbeing Leader (Term 1) – Mrs Tina Westin
- Year 9 Wellbeing Leader – Mr Matthew Harris
- Year 9 Wellbeing Leader (Term 1) – Ms Jasmine Santamaria

Heads of House – Kildare Campus

- Champagnat – Mrs Pierina Fenech
- Delany – Mr Vashon Weaver
- Nagle – Mr Alex Rathbone
- MacKillop – Mr Shane Reid





Kelly Murray
Head of Library - St Paul's

Known and Loved
dignity for all

Renaissance



In 2020, the year 7 students were enrolled in Renaissance, a reading program supporting our students. Since then, we have continued to grow the program to now include all English classes at St Paul's campus. Tania Masut and I will be leading the program in partnership with the English class teachers.

Every student will complete a diagnostic test to assign a reading level so that we can work with students to develop their skills based on what they are ready to learn next. This is not a one-size-fits-all approach, which is exciting for both staff and students.

Students will have the opportunity to borrow from our wide range of texts, develop their reading fluency and comprehension skills, and spend time conferencing with teachers. Tania and I are looking forward to watching each child's reading ability grow this year.

Library Lovers' Day

February 14 is a special day for book lovers around the world. The day is a celebration of all things literary. To celebrate the day, each campus library has a display called "Blind date with a book." Students and staff are invited to make a date with a book.

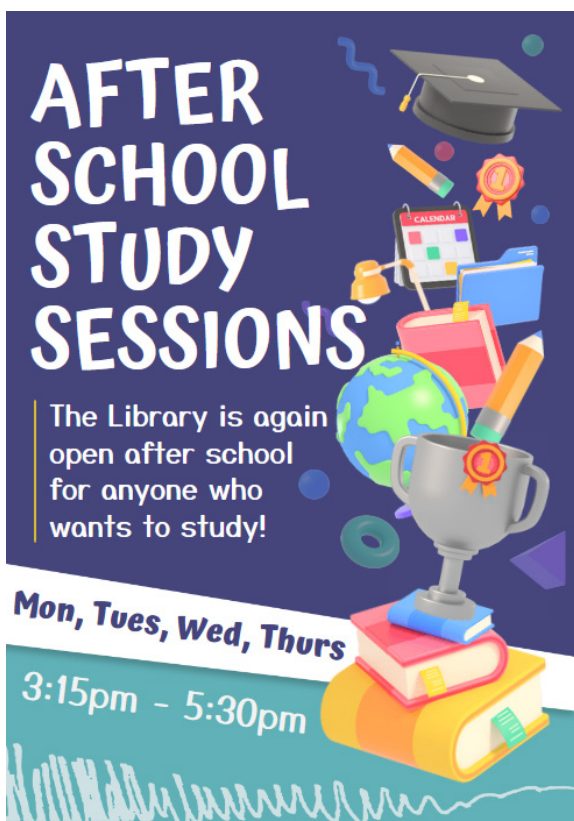
After School Study Sessions

Today's newsletter includes a flyer regarding the after-school study sessions available in the Kildare Library. These sessions are held Monday-Thursday each week, and students are welcome to attend from 3.15-5.30 pm. All students are welcome to take advantage of the quiet and comfortable study space.

Starting the week of February 21, we will introduce after-school study sessions in the Marian Learning Centre (Library) at St Paul's. These sessions will be held from 3.15-5.00 pm on Monday and Wednesday each week for St Paul's campus students. I am looking forward to welcoming students to these sessions.

Recess & Lunchtime Activities

COVID restrictions have meant that we have not had an opportunity to offer games and activities in the libraries so far this year. The library team is looking forward to having games available again when restrictions lift. We are also open to student ideas regarding clubs and activities they would like to see up and running throughout the year.





Shane Lebbe
Director of Music

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Music Program

The music program at Lavalla Catholic College has been recognised for its excellence at a local, state and even national level. It is one of the most vibrant and rewarding experiences a student can have at our College and we encourage all of our new year 7 students to become a member of our program.

As a member of our Music Program our students have the opportunity to build strong bonds with their peers while developing their potential within our ensemble program. Participation in the Music Program can develop such traits as cooperation, teamwork, leadership skills and perseverance. These are all characteristics that contribute to success in all areas of education and life, and there is a strong correlation between learning a musical instrument and academic excellence.



It has been wonderful to see our musicians excitedly arriving at our ensemble rehearsals this past week. We have welcomed thirty students to our first Junior Choir rehearsal, begun preparations with our Concert Bands and Jazz Ensembles for the upcoming Band Camp later this term, and had our Senior Choir busy rehearsing for a recording session with Nanoo Nanoo and an upcoming community performance. We are also looking forward to the commencement of our year 7 Training Band later this term as we continue to receive enrolments.

If you have any questions about our program, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at music@lavalla.vic.edu.au, or speak with any of our Music Teacher: Shane Lebbe; Stella Felten; or Joel Dickason. You can also find more information about our enrolment process of the College website [HERE](#).

YEAR 12 So far.....

With Covid somewhat out of our hair, year 12 is looking like it will be a very smooth year. Jumping straight in with some sacs, holiday homework due, and catching up on those books that we may have forgotten to read.

Aside from the school work, our year 12 cohort is a very close group of people, all coming together, helping each other and most of all being there to support one another. The study centre, is a place that you see most of this take place, with every person studying for a different subject, we see those come together to help prepare each other for a sac or assignment.

I am mostly proud of all of the year 12 cohort stepping up in the first few weeks, the maturity levels are great to see, and hopefully last throughout the year.

Fingers crossed at the beginning of term two, you will be able to recognise the year 12s more as we will hopefully have our year 12 jackets!

A note to the parents.

Be there to support your year 12, check in on them, and make sure that they are okay. Year 12 is a hard year with just the work load, add on top everything else that we try to fit into our week. It's crazy. Support and love your year 12.

A note for year 12s. Give it your all! Check in on your friends! Try your best :)

Melody Paulet Yr 12



Known and Loved
dignity for all



Karen Joyce
Sports Enrichment Coordinator

Sports Enrichment



Information sessions.

Last Friday we ran an information sessions for our SEP athletes where we outlined the plan for the year and started to put some organisation tools in place to assist these athletes. We also did some goal setting and a little bit of sports psychology looking at mindset and grit.

Morning sessions

This week we had our first full week of morning training sessions. It was fantastic to be back out on the floor training. Tuesday mornings we have a Pilate's session, Wednesday mornings our basketballs have a shooting skills sessions and Thursday morning we have a strength and Conditioning session. We have a large number of new year 7's to the program.

If you have any questions about the program or would like more information please contact Ms Joyce or Mr Scholes at the St Paul's Campus.



The Gippsland Youth Drama Workshop

Established 1993
Over 2000 Students
70 Original Productions
20,000 Audience Members

Come & Put on a Theatre Show. Learn About
Performance, Have Fun, Gain Confidence &
Make New Friends!!!
2 Production Groups Per Year

Classes Designed for

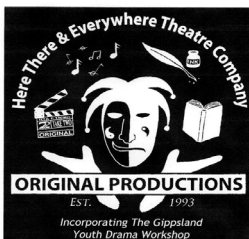
Solid Reading Age / Upper Primary School through to 17 Years Old

Incorporating:

Drama Games & Theatre
Sports Activities for
Confidence & Team Building
Improvisations of Characters
& Stories
Writer's Workshop to Build
an Original Show
Establishing Themes & Plots
Original Music
Rehearsal Technique
Voice Projection
Final Production for Family,
Friends & the Community

WEDNESDAYS
5:15 - 6:45 IN TRARALGON
Cost \$20 Per Session

Gippsland's Longest Running Youth Theatre Program
Helping Create Stars for Life



Bookings Essential / Places Limited
Contact Director Phillip A Mayer
on 0409 878 688

The Director is assisted by a Dedicated & Experienced
Crew including Technical Director, Musical Director,
Stage Manager, Production Manager
& other Key Supporting Production Personnel

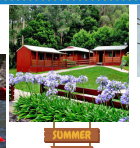
Interchange Gippsland Siblings Camp

Friday 25th - Sunday 27th February 2022

CYC Forest Edge Camp
405 McKenzie Road Neerim East, 3831

Activities will include:

- Flying fox
- River Sledding
- Water Slide
- and MORE!



- The weekend camp is fully catered for including breakfast, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and evening meals.
- Attendance is open to all siblings aged 10-16 of a person with a disability across the Gippsland region.
- For further information or to register for a place on this camp please contact 1300 736 765

This camp is fully funded and there is no cost to participants

This is a Drug and Alcohol Free event

Phone - 1300 736 765

Email - admin@icg.asn.au

Website - www.icg.asn.au



Find us on Facebook and Instagram - Interchange Gippsland