



School Community Newsletter

TSA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL LAWNTON

The Elephant Rope

As a man was passing the elephants, he suddenly stopped, confused by the fact that these huge creatures were being held by only a small rope tied to their front leg. No chains, no cages. It was obvious that the elephants could, at anytime, break away from their bonds but for some reason, they did not.

He saw a trainer nearby and asked why these animals just stood there and made no attempt to get away. "Well," trainer said, "when they are very young and much smaller we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it's enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free."

The man was amazed. These animals could at any time break free from their bonds but because they believed they couldn't, they were stuck right where they were.

Like the elephants, how many of us go through life hanging onto a belief that we cannot do something, simply because we failed at it once before?

Failure is part of learning; we should never give up the struggle in life.

Welcome Mick!

Mick Callanan joins The Salvation Army Independent School as Lead Teacher – Wellbeing and is based at our Lawnton campus. Mick brings over 20 years of leadership and teaching experience across large Catholic and independent secondary schools in Victoria and Queensland.



Most notably, he spent more than a decade in senior student and pastoral leadership roles at Marcellin College (Bulleen), where he developed deep expertise in wellbeing, engagement, and values-led school culture.

More recently, Mick served as Principal of The Industry School in Queensland, with a strong focus on workplace learning, vocational education, and industry-connected pathways that support young people to re-engage in education and transition successfully into training, employment, and further study. Mick is passionate about creating safe, supportive learning environments where young people feel known, valued, and equipped for life beyond school.

Farewell Wayne

On Thursday 7th May we farewelled our much-loved Hospitality Trainer, Wayne who has taken much-deserved retirement.

We are so grateful to all that Wayne brought to TSA Independent School while he was with us.

Wayne gave so much of himself to the students and they really appreciate all that he taught them. Wayne is a very servant-hearted man and will be truly missed.



Wow! Student Reception has had a bit of a facelift!

We hope you enjoy reading this story which was written by one of the students who wished to remain anonymous.

The amazing noses of bloodhounds

Bloodhounds have multiple names, sleuthhounds, hound dogs, scent hounds, or just hounds, these amazing creatures have been used for their tracking abilities able to track a scent over 16 kilometers days after the event.

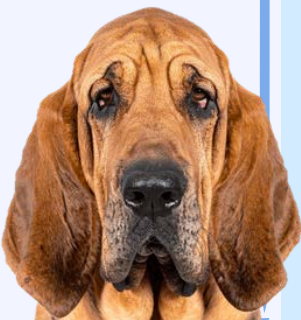
The typical 'bloodhound' is a St Hubert hound, named after the monastery people say it was bred in, there is no true answer to where the breed originated in, some say it was bred in the Saint Hubert monastery in Belgium while it's more likely to originate from France home of many modern hounds.

This breed was used in medieval times for hunting, being used as a "limer" or "lyam", they would be handled on leash as they followed their prey, their prey often consisted of harts and boars, after the bloodhound found the prey the other dogs would hunt it. Bloodhound were prized for their special nose capable of smelling cold scents of individual animals.

The blood hounds signature droopiness of their skin is not just for show, the skin helps trap scents, the wrinkles around the eyes let the bloodhound see even when looking down tracking, the way the skin moves when the dog looks down frees its eye so it can see ahead and not run into stuff. The ears of a bloodhound sweep up the ground, acting as a broom it pushes the dust into the air letting the dog smell even stronger. The bloodhound is built for endurance and not strength meaning that the dog can walk for longer than any other dog.

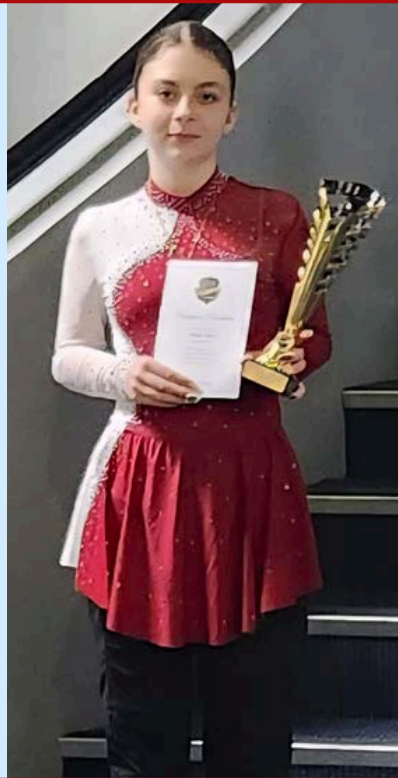
A bloodhound's temperament is obsessive meaning that once the dog gets a scent it's very hard for them to drop the scent, this makes the breed famously stubborn meaning that a lot of dog trainers won't train these dogs as the dog won't relent.

A bloodhounds have been used as tracking dogs for centuries and they probably will be used for centuries more, it is very unlikely this breed will ever die down or stop being used for tracking.



Skating Superstar!

Recently, Year 11 student Tayla competed in the Towne Family Skating Competition where she received the trophy for Skating Excellence. Well done, Tayla!



WELCOME MARTIN!

We would like to welcome Martin to the school. Martin is now the Hospitality trainer. He comes to us with a wealth of experience in the hospitality industry. He has travelled all over the world using his chef skills in places such as Saudi Arabia, West Indies, Europe.

Martin is passionate about empowering young people to achieve their full potential.



Brisbane Careers and Employment Expo

28th May 2026

At the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. Student needs to be at school by 9:15am to travel by bus to the EXPO.

This excursion is for the Year 11 students only.

Permission letters have been sent home.

Mother's Day High Tea at the Corps

On Thursday 7th May, the Corps held a delightful Mother's Day High Tea. A number of our students and their mums attended and enjoyed a special time together. The food was scrumptious and the music was just so fine!!!



Student Representative Council news:

The members of the SRC continue to meet weekly to discuss activities and events they're planning for their fellow students. The Vibes Craft Group has been given the task to create the Indigenous ornaments (a SRC initiative) that will be painted and hung around the school for National Sorry Day and National Reconciliation Week. This year's theme for National Reconciliation Week is All In. Members of the SRC will arrange with class teachers to visit classes during Reconciliation Week to hold short sessions on the meaning of National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week.

The SRC is also working on something for the end of the term. Stay tuned for further updates!

Learning Support

The Learning Support room is running hot with many students visiting these past weeks for additional assistance with their school work. The space is calm and quiet, helping students to focus on their work away from what can be the normal hubbub of the regular classroom. Some of our Year 12s are taking advantage of the space to complete catch-up work as they head towards the end of their final year of school. There are four (4) study carrells available for independent work. If students are interested in using these, they can speak with their class teacher to book a time to come up.

School Dress Code

Unfortunately, we have recently needed to address an issue regarding the mode of dress with some of our students. While TSA Independent School does not have a specific student uniform, there are guidelines that students are expected to follow:

- **Modest, tasteful, non-revealing, practical and non-offensive clothing (eg shirt or singlet with straps/sleeves, covered midriffs and if possible, closed shoes).**
- **At school, we try to use the 5 b' rule: no breasts, no bottoms, no bare midriff, no bare shoulders and no bare feet.**

Please be advised that if students come to school dressed inappropriately, they will be sent home.

OUR BOYS HAVE GOT THE RHYTHM!

Students are enjoying participating in the RAP (Rhythm And Poetry) program each week, where they are learning how to write lyrics, build confidence, and express themselves creatively through music and storytelling. The program encourages students to develop communication skills, creativity, rhythm, and self-expression in a positive and engaging environment while working together and sharing their ideas through rap writing and performance.



"If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way." - Martin Luther King, Jr



About Us

The Salvation Army Pine Rivers is a vibrant, relaxed, family-friendly church.

We offer a variety of support services, community connection, church services and fantastic coffee via our coffee cart!

We believe Jesus loves everyone in our community and everything we do flows from that.



Pine Rivers

Here to serve our community

At The Salvation Army Pine Rivers we believe that nobody should have to eat alone or do life alone.

We value community and human connection.

Come along and join us for dinner,

We can't wait to meet you!



Community Dinner Church

Tech One Volunteers paid us a visit

Yesterday, Tech One volunteers visited to do some jobs around the campus - painting of garden boxes and handball courts, as well as some gardening. We are always appreciative of the time Tech One gives to our school.



At Our Table...

Everybody is welcome

Everybody has a seat

We eat together

We do life together

We are real & authentic

We share hope

We share faith

We laugh and cry together

We are family



Wednesdays
6-8pm



Pine Rivers

27-29 Lawnton Pocket Rd
Lawnton
Cost: By donation

FIND OUT MORE



OR CALL

3285 2401

Surge Youth @ Pine Rivers

Grade 7-12

Friday 6:30-8:30 during school terms

\$2 per person

Come hang out, make some new friends and have some fun!!!

Scan the QR code below to sign up

Pine Rivers Salvos
27-29 Lawnton Pocket Rd



Pine Rivers

