

DONALD HIGH SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL SELECTION PROCESS EXECUTIVE OFFICER: MR. TONY CASHIN

THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Donald is located 300 km North-West of Melbourne on the Sunraysia Highway. The town has a population of approximately 1,500 (1700 in the district) and acts as the service centre for the surrounding grazing and grain growing community. A number of light industrial plants are active.

The town has Service Clubs of Lions, CWA, and all major Churches are active. There is a good range of shops and services. The town is very well served by sporting clubs with excellent facilities for tennis, golf, cricket, basketball, football, squash, netball, bowls, hockey, water skiing, fishing and shooting.

The town has 2 resident doctors and an eighteen bed public hospital.

SCHOOL COUNCIL STRUCTURE

Parents 6, Co-opted 4, DEET 4.

Sub-Committees: Finance, Buildings, Grounds.

The Council meets monthly. President is Mr. Peter Russell

BUILDINGS

The main building is a Type 300 LTC which dates back to 1962 and an Art/Craft wing was added ten years later, while the library was extended in 1992 and new computer laboratories and exercise/weights rooms were developed in 1996. Science and staff rooms were redeveloped and enlarged in 2007.

Facilities include two computer laboratories, a photographic darkroom, a well-stocked library, a Weights Room and fully equipped specialist rooms. In 2006 a large video conference/teaching area was established as part of our Leading Schools Fund program.

The school has been well maintained and is located in extensive and attractive grounds at the Western end of the town.

The school is well equipped for computers and other educational technologies and equipment, including Internet connections, and is part of a cluster using video-conferencing facilities.

ENROLMENT

Years	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2006	36	34	28	27	32	18	175
2007	36	38	33	27	25	25	184
2008	24	35	35	34	29	20	175

Teaching staff consists of 16 full time and 6 part time.

CURRICULUM

Years 7 to 10 cover all Learning Areas with LOTE (French) a Core subject in Years 7 & 8 and elective in Years 9 & 10.

In Year 9, all students attend the Cluster Centre (Charlton) for one day per week and have access to a very wide range of Technology studies.

There is a wide range of VCE studies offered to Year 11 and 12 students and this is augmented by the Units in Technology Studies and Agriculture/Horticulture which are available at the Cluster Centre. Co-curricular activities include Work Experience, Drama, the Music Group, Inter-school Sport and Public Speaking.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2008 - 2011

Following our Negotiated Self Evaluation the following goals were established:

	Student Learning	Student Engagement and Wellbeing	Student Pathways and Transitions
Goals	To develop students' personal learning skills in Year 7 - 10	To improve Student Learning Confidence and school connectedness to schooling particularly for students in Years 7 - 10	Improve students' pathways planning and decision making skills

ACCOMMODATION FOR TEACHERS

There are four government-owned flats and five government-owned houses in the town and a limited private rental market.

THE SCHOOL CONTEXT

The school aims to maintain the strong partnership that exists between teachers, students, parents and the wider school community, so that each student may reach his or her full potential. The school promotes excellence in learning and achievement and encourages the values of respect for others, courtesy, honesty, resilience and responsible behaviour. A Pastoral Care program supports these values for Year 7 to 10 students as does a special "Time Out" program in Year 9 and a confidence building program in Year 8.

Donald High School is located in spacious, well-maintained grounds in the East Wimmera town of Donald, serving the town and surrounding farming area. Over one third of the school's students travel in by bus from these areas. The school population reflects changes in the district's demography and, while there was a steady, but small, decline in numbers from 2000 to 2004, numbers have shown a small steady rise over the last 3 years – partly due to an increase in student

enrolments from outside our normal enrolment catchment. Most of the students entering Donald High in Year 7 come from the Donald Primary School but others may come from St. Mary's, Marnoo and Minyip Primary Schools.

Education and the role of the school are strongly supported in the community where the School enjoys a very high reputation for excellence and innovation in its programs. There is strong parent involvement through the School Council, Parents' Club and volunteer help with sport, excursions and grounds maintenance.

The nearest large centres are Horsham (100kms to the west) and Ballarat (180 kms to the south) and the school has, therefore, built up strong co-operative partnerships with secondary schools in the area through membership of the North Central Schools' Cluster. The nearest TAFE or tertiary providers are significant distances away and our cluster arrangements help us to provide for specialist technical education, and options for VET and VCE technology at the senior level.

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The school provides subjects from three strands in the new Victorian Essential Learning Standards Key Learning Areas (VELS). In Years 7 - 10 (English, Mathematics, Science, The Arts, Health and Physical Education, Geography and History, Languages other than English - L.O.T.E. and Technology) are delivered. In Years 7 and 8 all students follow a Core Curriculum covering the three stands. In Years 9 and 10 there is a small number of electives (L.O.T.E./S.O.S.E., The Arts, Technology) but the bulk of time is allocated to Core Studies. In Year 9, students travel to the North Central Cluster Centre (N.C.C.C.) one day a week to experience a wider range of Technology studies. During this Charter period a "*Time Out*" program - started in 2001 to increase engagement at this level and to develop independence, self-confidence and strengthen community connectedness at the Year 9, was reviewed. Every student entering the school is tested to determine if they require additional assistance via the programs run by a specialist literacy teacher.

In Years 11 and 12, students have a wide choice of VCE units that includes sequences in Technology and Agriculture available at N.C.C.C. and extra units offered via Videoconferencing from other Cluster Colleges. They may also choose Vocational Education and Training (VET) units through the NCCC and other external providers or may decide to enter a School Based New Apprenticeships (SBNAs). The school is a strong supporter of the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL).

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities available in a small school to participate in a wide range of Sports, Public Speaking, Drama, Work Experience, Debating and Music programs. They have access to enrichment programs and have the opportunity to enter national Maths, Science and English Competitions. There are programs to help students with learning difficulties. Leadership skills are developed through the leadership development programs, the House System and the Student Representative Council. Students in each Year level have the opportunity to be involved in specific camps and excursion programs.

Donald High School is a member of the North Central Schools' Cluster for the purpose of:

- Widening curriculum options for students through the use of the N.C.C.C. (Technology and Agriculture), Videoconferencing and shared resources.
- Improving the quality of teaching and learning through networking and cluster professional development.

- Organising inter-school sport through the North Central Secondary Schools' Sports Association (N.C.S.S.S.A.)

The school has an experienced and committed team of teachers and non-teaching staff, and the teachers have high expectations of their students linked with a readiness to provide extra help to enable students to achieve their best. Over the past six years there have been a number of retirements of experienced staff and these positions have been filled by enthusiastic graduates who have taken on the ethos and expectations of the school and community.

Our students have gained excellent VCE - HSC results over the last twenty-five years (top non-selective state school in 2002 and 2004) and have been extraordinarily successful in gaining entry into their first choice tertiary courses, employment and further training.

The school will continue to service the Donald community and to further build on its proud tradition of academic and sporting excellence.