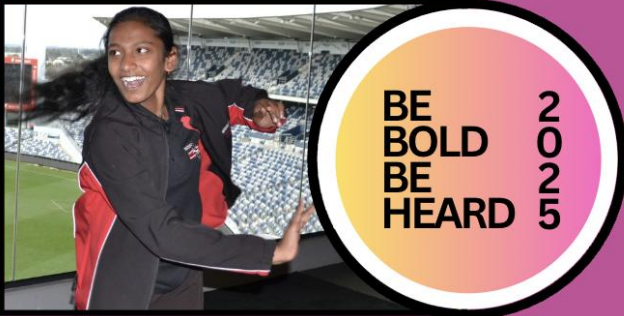


# Be Bold, Be Heard

"Be Bold, Be Heard" inspires and empowers teen girls to effect meaningful change within their classrooms, colleges, and communities."



The Be Bold, Be Heard (BBBH) program empowers teenage girls in Geelong and surrounding areas to drive change by addressing gender gaps and enhancing student voice. Through collaborative forums and mentorship, students develop action plans and implement changes in their schools and communities. The program has successfully tackled various issues beyond gender, leading to increased confidence and student progression into leadership roles.

## Leadership Summit

On Friday 16th May, we held our first leadership summit. This was an 'application only' opportunity for students in the program to be extended in their leadership. Some students who were looking for more development applied and attended this at the Victoria Academy. Here, led by 'yLead', students participated in a range of activities to build their capacity to lead others in the program. The intention being for them to lead the next few forums. This, under the banner of empowerment of women, with some additional inspirations from Lara MP and proud supporter of our program Ella George, the day was a fantastic success for the students.



## Staff Professional Learning

To support our staff BBBH Champions we added a professional learning opportunity to our annual program. This afternoon activity ensured staff felt confident in the management of their group to ensure they help their kids reach their goals. 'yLead' were excellent in their leadership of these champions. All staff appeared to appreciate the opportunity to extend their understanding and foster greater capacity to lead and facilitate student action.

## School visit -Copperfield College

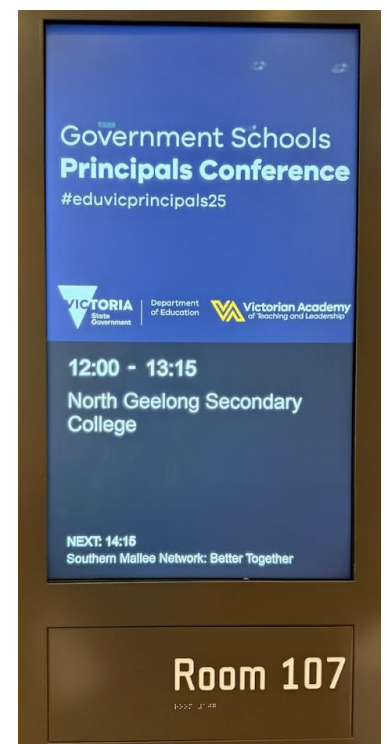
As a result of their engagement with the BBBH, on Friday 9th May I was invited to Copperfield College to liaise with the Honourable Minister Hutchins, The Minister for Women. Students at the school highlighted the impact the program had on them and the community. I presented the Minister with a BBBH badge and the background of the program and its successes. She asked for permission to discuss this in parliament and some of her transcript is included below.



**Natalie HUTCHINS (Sydenham – Minister for Government Services, Minister for Treaty and First Peoples, Minister for Prevention of Family Violence, Minister for Women) (10:01):** Last week I visited Copperfield secondary college, Sydenham campus, and what a great experience I had seeing the maturity and changes in the school leaders there as we did a quick tour of the school and popped into a few classrooms. I got to see the humanities teachers in action with their new democracy in action program that they are running with the children. I also listened to the views of year 9 students, who talked about their current projects and expressed a desire for more performing arts spaces. Can I thank the humanities teachers Paul Singh and Ms Taylor Van Orsouw on supporting students in teaching that program. I also want to thank the Delahey senior principal Michael Gruis, who is doing a great job in the leadership there, and it is good to see that the female student leaders have recently participated in a program called Be Bold Be Heard, a program that they are partnering on with Geelong schools, which is aimed at empowering teenage girls to set goals and providing them with a platform to become future leaders. This was awesome to see in action and to see the change the girls are already making in improving the participation rates in sports for girls.

## State Principals Conference 2025

On Tuesday 2nd June we were invited to present the successes of the BBBH initiative at the State Principals Conference. It was such a pleasure to highlight the achievements of the students in our region in such a fashion. I was delighted to be able to share the stage with Maddie Solly (NGSC BBBH Coordinator) and Nya Tut (Former NGSC captain and BBBH leader). The 'sold out' crowd were so impressed by the achievements of all the BBBH champions and students. There is likely to be a few more BBBH programs pop up in metro Melbourne in coming years.





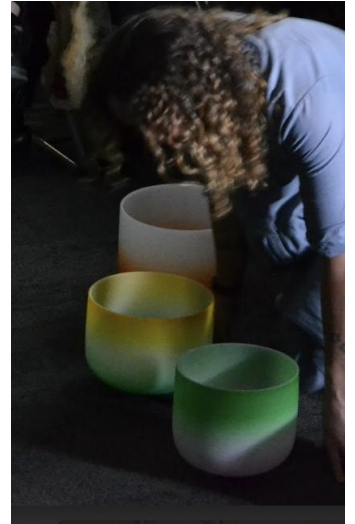
# BBBH Forum #2: Breaking Barriers

## Unlocking Equality in Every Space

Completing a very busy term for BBBH was the second forum for 2025, entitled Breaking Barriers the students engaged positively with the students from 14 other schools. Our host Iona College arranged a wonderful day that included great ice breakers, sound bowls and a 'Just Dance' session. Intertwined with these activities were Respectful Relationships leading discussions on how students could challenge the expectations of females in their own contexts. Our guest speakers of Sally Lasslett, Lena Moxon, Carly Headlam and Lucinda Goodwin were hugely inspiring.

Sally Lasslett started as a food teacher who, as principal, has transformed Hester Hornbrook Academy into a 7-campus school for the top 10% of at risk students in the north west of Melbourne. She shared stories of students who started as selective mute and on the day of graduation completed the Acknowledgement of Country. Many students had never packed a bag for a trip, nor had been on a plane and she treasured these moments. Her messages to students included: "don't be bitches, come together for equality, not apart". Say to yourself "I am beautiful and amazing" and "I am a woman, and I can".

Lucinda Goodwin is a young woman who photographs musicians. She said that she had to be bold to pursue her dreams. Careers teacher advice was to go to uni and do PE. She listened to her own inner voice instead. Her message: "trust your gut and back yourself".



From Left to right: Carly Headlam, Lena Moxon, Lucinda Goodwin and Sally Lasslett.

Lena Moxon grew up in Corio and was determined to have her own values be visible in the moment and that was her authentic and most important version of herself. Lena has owned many businesses and enjoys coaching and training young people in boxing and fitness. She told students to “not give a s#\$% about the postcode, embrace it”.

Carly Headlam (my younger, more determined and athletic sister) had quite a bit of success following a schooling that was less so. An array of jobs in the health industry and sport has seen her reach the heights of accomplishing a nursing degree (high distinctions) in her forties. Carly has reached great heights in her local sport and now in coaching told the students to be competitive and don't be apologetic about it. She also said to the students to “be kind to yourself”.



Students involved then worked on their own actions in their school groups, whilst still buzzing after all the engaging activities. We are looking forward to our third forum for 2025 in term 3 on 22nd August to be hosted by Bellarine SC.

NBC students working on their action plans

## BBBH Committee

If you would like to have your school involved or know a staff member who would like to be on our committee, please contact either myself, Julianna or Maddie pictured below with Geelong School Captain and Maddison Gore (mental health practitioner).



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