



Term 4, November/December 2017 - Issue #7

Newsletter

Coomoella High School

Principal: Mr Stephen Harper

Deputy Principal: Ms Josephine Crowley

**New look
senior uniform.
Getting ready
for 2018.**



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Principal's Report

As the end of the 2017 school year rapidly approaches, all staff are working hard to complete assessments and write annual reports. This time of year causes students to reflect on their accomplishments and perhaps some missed opportunities. For some, it marks the end of their school life. On behalf of Coomealla High, I would like to wish these students well for their future endeavours.



*Mr Stephen Harper
Principal*

This year, 2017, will be remembered as a transitional year in the history of Coomie High. After the promotion of Jo Scott to Singleton High, Bill Campbell relieved for one term before handing over the reins to me. With each transition of principal brought new ideas and change. This can prove to be very stressful for staff, students and the community. Last week the merit selection process for the position of Principal Coomealla High School was concluded. I am honoured and pleased to announce that I was successful in this process and will be staying on as your principal in a permanent capacity. I would like to recognise the work of Jo Scott and to thank her for the good state in which she left the school. I am told that she is doing an outstanding job in her new posting of Singleton High School.

In 2017, we say goodbye to one of Coomealla's most dedicated teachers. Bonny Ward has taught Mathematics at Coomie High for the past 34 years. She is well loved by students and staff and will be missed as she settles into retirement. Bonny won't be a total stranger though, as she will be taking over the role of presiding officer for the Higher School Certificate next year and beyond. The staff and students of Coomealla High wish Bonny well.

I am always impressed by the dedication of my staff. Nadein Mayfield has done a wonderful job in organising exceptional experiences for our school community. In November, students participated in the "Good on You Hair Day" as a reward for their exceptional behaviour over the course of 2017.

This proved to be a big hit for the students involved!

During Week 9, Cyber Safety talks were held, tailored to students, community members and staff. Nadein sourced and recruited the services of former NSW Police Cyber Crime Team Leader Cliff Harris to discuss strategies to keep children safe when they're using the internet.

Coomealla High School is a wonderful school. Teachers here work hard to engage students in their learning and to assist with their wellbeing needs. Recently there has been discussion regarding a strategy employed by Sunset State School in QLD to improve the attendance of its students by providing free meals, uniforms, books and school camps. This strategy may be seen by some as a radical plan to improve attendance, but it highlights how important it is to get kids to school.

Coomealla High's attendance currently sits at 81.15%, well behind the state average of 91.49%. This means that on average, our students are missing a whole year from school every five years of their schooling. Students who only attend 81.15% of the time will have missed two and a half years of schooling by the time they finish Year 12. Thank you to the parents and carers who support your children and upholding your legal responsibility under the Education Act 1990, by ensuring that your children get to school.

Increasing the school's attendance rate to 90% would mean that on average our students will receive an extra year's schooling. That means better academic, social and career outcomes for both our kids and our community.

In 2018, there will be a strong push by the school to ensure that our students are identifiable in their school uniform.



Principal's Report

A school uniform teaches students to dress smartly and to take pride in their appearance. Uniforms help students to prepare for when they leave school and may have to dress smartly or wear a uniform for work. The school will be purchasing a small supply of spare uniforms so that students who decide to show up to school in the wrong gear will have an option to dress correctly. Non-compliance with this policy may result in disciplinary action against the student.

School planning for the next three year strategic plan is well underway. Over the next three years we will be focussing on improving in the three areas of learning, teaching and leading. A draft of this plan will be completed by the end of term and presented at the first P&C meeting in 2018. Essentially, the school wishes to become more collaborative, community focused, engaging and futures driven by 2020. There will be a number of changes to facilitate this and some of these changes have already begun to happen.

One such change is the staff restructure project. The staff have agreed to move from their traditional faculty accommodation and into the staff common room. This is to allow for greater collaboration and educative discussion. As part of this project, there has been a reallocation of executive roles. From 2018, there will no longer be the traditional subject based faculty set up. Instead, there will be two Head Teachers of Curriculum, two Head Teachers of Wellbeing, a Head Teacher Pathways and a Head Teacher in charge of Teacher Quality. The staff and I are very excited by these changes and know that this new structure will be a wonderful catalyst to drive Coomealla High's improvement.

From 2018, we will be using a new discipline process that has been developed over the past three months by an internal review committee. A draft of this process was unveiled to the P&C in October and will be discussed with the students on the first day of 2018.

This information will be published on the school's website in the New Year and also be available via a link on our Facebook page.

As students reach Year 10, their academic obligations increase. From the beginning of 2018, Year 10 (current Year 9) will be issued with a book outlining all of their assessment responsibilities for the year. All schools in NSW have an obligation to ensure that students meet with NESA requirements. If students fail to meet any of the three basic requirements of: 1. Working with due diligence and sustained effort; 2. Following a course developed or endorsed by NESA; or 3. Meeting some or all of the course outcomes, then the school is bound to determine the student ineligible for any course where breaches of these conditions occur. This may mean that a student is ineligible for the ROSA credential or their HSC. It may mean that a student could be refused entry into Year 11 the following year, this process is called the N-Determination process and was enacted in 2017 on a number of occasions. Throughout next year, letters will be sent home to warn you that your child/ward is failing to meet their academic obligations if that is indeed the case. These letters need to be taken seriously and should trigger a discussion with both your child/ward and their teacher. I will write further on this early next year and update you on future developments.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday! Thank you to the school community for your wonderful welcome to this amazing part of Australia! To the staff of Coomealla High, I salute you for the amazing work you do! To the students of Coomie High, you are an amazing student body and I can't wait to work with you again in 2018! To the parents, carers and community members, I really appreciate the amazing support that you give to our wonderful school and look forward to its continuance in 2018.

Merry Christmas
Steve Harper
Principal



SRC & Leadership

TERM 3 SCHOOL SOCIAL

On the last Thursday night of Term 3, the SRC held a Hawaiian themed social. Everyone had a fantastic time and it was the perfect way to say goodbye to our beloved Year 12s!





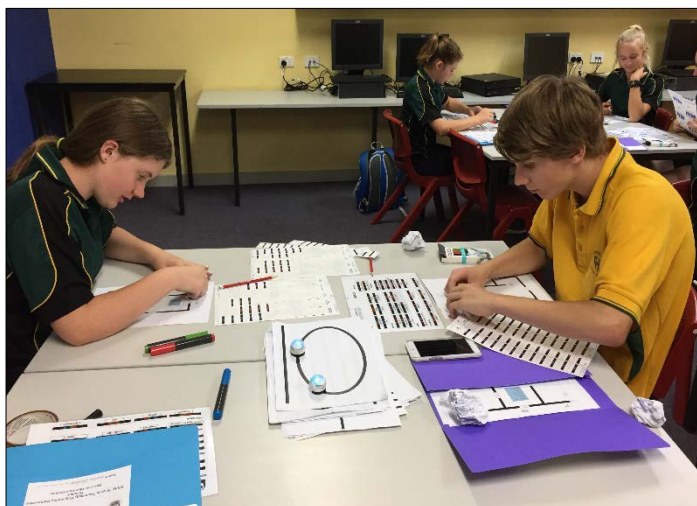
SRC & Leadership





Robotics

CODING AND PROGRAMMING WORKSHOPS FOR STUDENTS



The morning began with learning how to sequence instructions and judge the most efficient course of action. Students quickly moved on to designing their own winding tracks for the little robots. This culminated in a race where students had to figure out the fastest route along the path. By lunch time, brains were feeling thoroughly exercised after a range of network and maze challenges. In the afternoon, students were introduced to block coding. They used tablets and a range of apps to develop programs, involving all manner of flashing lights, spins, twists, and zigzags that made the robots 'dance' to music.

On Wednesday 29th November, a group of year 7, 8 and 9 students participated in a full day robotics workshop. The students were able to develop critical and analytical thinking skills as they solved logistical problems, programming their robots to follow different paths and complete certain tasks.



Students finished the day by writing and executing programs that allowed them to draw geometric shapes. This proved more challenging and far more mathematical than it looked! The activity involved working out all the necessary distances, turns and angles the robot needed to move through in order to create a recognisable image. Many had success writing their initials, but the most impressive accomplishments were engineered by the Year 9 students. Joshua Verstappen and Jackson McDermott demonstrated excellent scientific skills as they identified systematic errors and methodically debugged their code to produce a precise and symmetrical five-point star. Hamish McCarten also employed great ingenuity and mathematical deduction to write a program that drew an almost perfect circle.

Well done to everyone who participated in the workshop. It was a fantastic day that gave students valuable opportunities to learn about some of the functions of robotics and coding in the world, and experience working as programmers.

Koko Dove
Science teacher

Robotics





Coomoella Noticeboard

Gol Gol Community Band 2018

Expression of Interest

We are seeking expressions of interest from students at Coomealla High School, Gol Gol and Buronga Primary Schools and adult community members, who would be interested in learning a musical instrument and joining the Gol Gol Community Band in 2018.

- Students would need to be in Year 4 or above.
- Beginner band lessons are conducted at Gol Gol Primary School every Tuesday morning at 8:15am – 9:00am, and a combined band rehearsal (beginner and advanced bands) every Thursday morning 8:15am-9:00am.
- Instruments can be hired for \$50 per term.
- Weekly lesson fees are \$10, paid by the term.

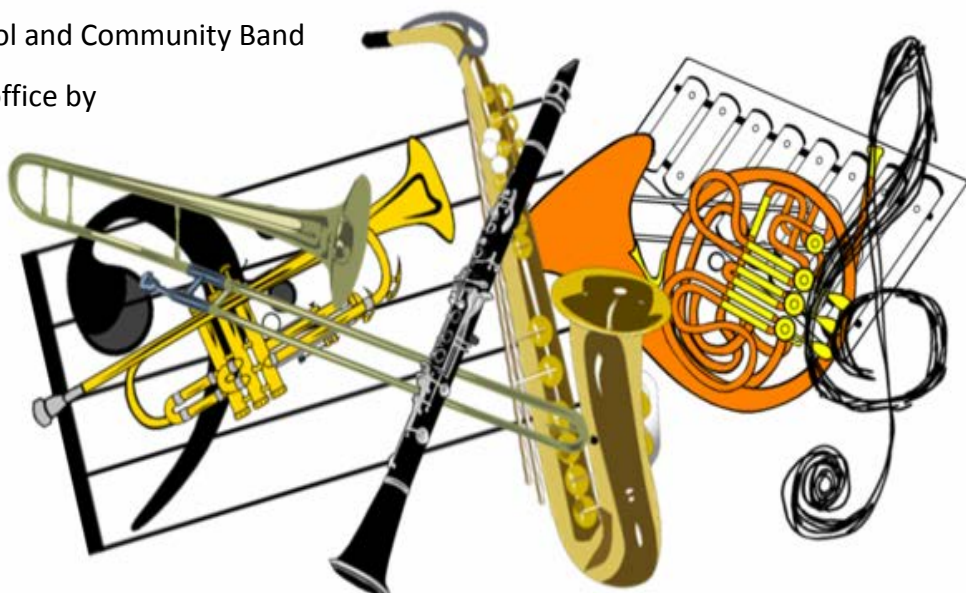
All members are expected to attend the weekly lesson and the band rehearsal. Co-operative behaviour during rehearsals and lessons is essential to your child's success and the smooth running of the band. Learning an instrument requires a high degree of focus and commitment. All children go through stages when they question whether they wish to continue. Children who persevere through the difficult stages go on to be committed band members and skilful players. Parental assistance in encouraging regular practice at home is a fundamental factor in their child's progress.

Band Fees - Band fees have been set at \$100 per term plus \$50 per term for instrument hire. This includes all tuition and music books. This is very reasonably priced when compared to what other schools charge. Members who have their own instruments do not pay the hire fee. Fees will be invoiced via email and are payable by the end of each term. Fees are non-refundable, even if a student misses a lesson or does not continue to the end of the term.

How to Join?

Please fill out the Joining the School and Community Band form and return it to your school office by Tuesday 5 December 2017.

If you have any questions, please contact Judith Tilley on judith.tilley@det.nsw.edu.au.



Coomealla Noticeboard

Instrument Selection - Probably the most difficult decision to be made as part of joining the Band is selecting what Instrument to learn.



Flute: Woodwind instrument in the upper register that produces sound by blowing across an opening.



Clarinet: Woodwind instrument that has a wooden reed to produce sound. Can produce lovely mellow sound and higher sounds.



Alto Saxophone: A woodwind reed instrument that plays in the upper registers.

Tenor Saxophone: A larger saxophone that plays in the middle register



Cornet/Trumpet: Smaller Brass instruments that play in the higher registers. It has valves to make the different notes.



Trombone: A Brass instrument that plays in the lower registers. It is played with a slide rather than valves.



Tuba/Euphonium: Large Brass instruments with valves that plays in the lower registers.



Drums/Percussion: The percussionists keep the rhythm in the Band and play a wide range of percussion instruments, such as drum kit, xylophone, maracas, triangles, tambourines, bells, etc



Coomoalla Noticeboard

Joining the School and Community Band 2018

Please return this form to your school Office by Tuesday 5th December 2017.

Student Member Details:

Name: _____ School: _____

Year level _____ (in 2018)

Parent Contact Details:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Community Member Details:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Instrument Preference: (please tick one option below and complete Instrument Preferences)

☐

I have my own instrument and would like to play in the School and Community Band.

Instrument Type: _____

☐

I require a loan instrument. Please complete preferences below.

1st choice: _____ 2nd choice _____

3rd choice: _____

(Options include trumpet, saxophone, trombone, tuba, drums, flute, clarinet, percussion)

We will do our best to provide one of your choices. If this is not possible, we will contact you to discuss. Please understand that we only have a limited number of each instrument type.

Acknowledgement:

☐

We/I understand the obligations of Band Membership, including that membership fees are due by the end of each term and are non-refundable.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Judith Tilley on judith.tilley@det.nsw.edu.au



Wudhagaragarra Awards

The Wudhagaragarra Awards celebrate and recognise innovation, excellence and achievements in Aboriginal education in New South Wales public schools and communities. Awards will be presented to selected high-achieving Aboriginal students, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal teachers, staff, community members, schools.

The Award Categories are:

- Encouragement Award – ES1, S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6
- Award for Outstanding Achievement in Sport (Primary and Secondary)
- Award for Outstanding Achievement in Performing/Creative/Visual Arts (Primary and Secondary)
- Student Leadership Award (Primary and Secondary)
- Academic Excellence Award (Primary and Secondary)
- Award for Outstanding Contribution to educational achievement by an Aboriginal staff member
- Award for Outstanding Contribution to educational achievement by a non-Aboriginal staff member
- Award for Outstanding Contribution to educational achievement by a community member (SEG award)
- School Community Partnership Award
- Award for Outstanding School – Primary, Central and Secondary
- Vocational Educational Training Award
- Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) Award – Western 1, Western 2, Western 3, Riverina 1 and North West 1

We at Coomealla High School are proud to announce that Will Ward (AEO) and Jesse Jackson (Year 11 student) were both successful in receiving awards and will attend the presentation ceremony in Dubbo on Thursday 7 December.



Will Ward - Aboriginal Education Officer

Award for Outstanding Contribution to educational achievement by an Aboriginal staff member

Will is an integral member of the Coomealla High School community. While his official title is Aboriginal Education Officer, his contribution and influence is felt throughout the school and he is respected, valued and regarded warmly by staff and students alike. He is 'Uncle Will' to the entire student body and a key member of staff.

Some of the areas where Will's work makes a difference to the lives and education of our students:

- Parent and student support person in meetings with the Principal and Deputy Principal
- Developing Personalised Learning Plans
- In-class learning support
- Lunchtime sports program
- Facilitator of Bro-Speak and the boy's dance group
- President of the AECG



Jesse Jackson – Year 11 student

Student Leadership Award (Primary and Secondary – female)

Jesse is a diligent student who strives towards excellence in all areas of her studies. She represents Coomealla High School as 2018 School Captain, House Captain and member of the School Representative Council (SRC). Jesse also finds time to work part time and is a member of the Midway Dance group. She is a leader and a role model for everyone, Indigenous spokesperson and a wonderful caring person.

STUDENTS EXCELLING IN SCIENCE

Macquarie University offers extra opportunities for female science students!

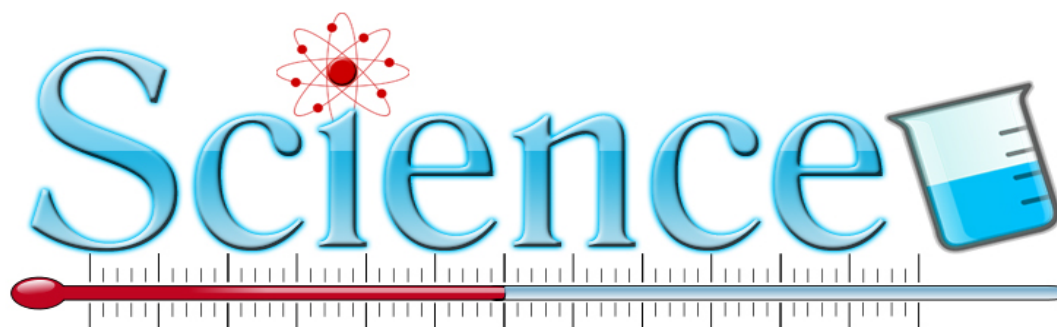
On Thursday 26th October, a select group of high performing female science students from Coomealla High School were chosen to have a VC with successful female scientists from Macquarie University.

The speakers discussed their university and research successes which ranged from finding potential cures for cancer to exploring stars. Students could ask questions at any times during the presentations. Macquarie University specifically ran this to inspire young women to undertake science studies and careers, as well as showing students possible career opportunities they may not have considered before.

The participating students included: Sarah McCarten, Makayla Witte, Jasmine Robertson, Zoe Sapuppo, Hayley Kerridge, Murphy Baird, Chelsea Manger, Jessica McCarten, Trinity Kervin, Imogen Smith and Mahkaila Sansom.

Natalie Steel

Head Teacher Science (R)



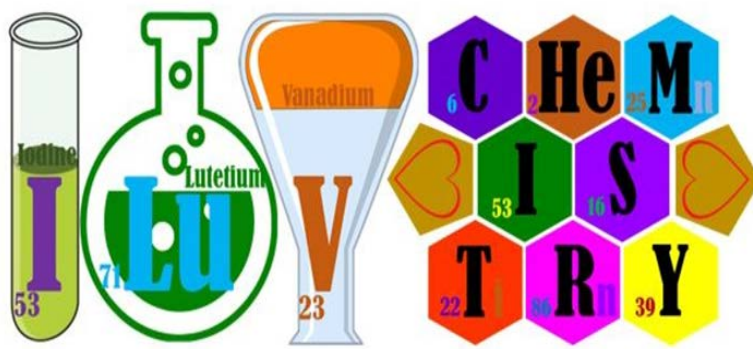
INTERNATIONAL CHEMISTRY EXAMINATION

Excellent results in international chemistry examination

Earlier this year, gifted and talented science students in Year 7-9 had the opportunity to complete an international chemistry test against students from across the world. The Coomealla High School students performed extremely well, with particularly impressive results from Matthew Hancock who received a credit and Sarah McCarten who received a distinction. There were a few unlucky misses (Makayla Witte and CJ Jarmaine needed one more mark for a credit!) Well done to all students involved who were brave enough to take the challenge!

The Coomealla High School participants were 'Apisai Nau, Kayla Hall, Grace Darby, Holly Bysouth, Mikaela Lees, Sarah McCarten, CJ Jarmaine, Matthew Hancock, Mia Alderton, Mikaela Witte, Kynan Chappell, Jackson McDermott and Joshua Verstappen.

Natalie Steel
Head Teacher Science (R)



Coomealla Noticeboard

ACTIVE KIDS



Commencing 31 January 2018

The NSW Government will allocate \$207 million over four years to establish Active Kids. Active Kids is a program to help NSW families meet the cost of getting their kids into sport and active fitness and recreation activities.

What is Active Kids?

The NSW Government will provide a \$100 voucher to parents/guardians of school enrolled children. The \$100 voucher can be used for registration and participation costs for sport and fitness activities.

The initiative aims to reduce barriers to participation and help change the physical activity behaviours of children and young people in NSW.

Who is eligible to claim the voucher?

Every child (4.5 - 18 year old) enrolled in school from Kindergarten to Year 12 will be eligible for an Active Kids Voucher. This includes those who are home-schooled or enrolled in secondary school education at TAFE NSW.

It will not be means tested and one voucher will be available for every child in the family annually over the next four years.

There will be no limits on the number of applications per family, as long as every child is enrolled in school.

How long are vouchers valid?

Vouchers provided are valid for redemption during the current calendar year activity program (Year 1 will commence from 31 January and expire on 31 December 2018). Vouchers shall expire at the end of the calendar year.

2019 vouchers and beyond will commence from 1 January each year and expire on 31 December.

How do you download a voucher?

From 31 January 2018, parents/guardians/carers with legal responsibility of an eligible child resident in NSW will be able to download a voucher from an online platform. The platform will run by Service NSW and can be accessed through this website.

<https://sport.nsw.gov.au/sectordevelopment/activekids>



Learning Centre

LEXIA READING PROGRAM SUCCESS!

I would like to congratulate these Year 7 students who have made an outstanding application to the Lexia Reading program this year. Lexia allows students to work independently to develop critical reading and language skills through individualised, motivating learning paths.

All students, regardless of their skill level, can each work at their own pace and the teacher is notified (on web-based reports and via email) only when they require support.

Annette Finch
Learning & Support Teacher



Back row: Andreana Rees-Cook, Amelia Paech, Kyla Gregg, Alissa Stewart-Medianik, Holly Bysouth, Laura Tilley
Front row: Nellie Baird, Jesse Crisp, Leah Harry, Natalie Bath, Mia Thompson, Mikaela Lees.
Absent: Grace Darby and Claire Follett



Mathematics

WENTWORTH & DISTRICT COMMUNITY BANK ® BRANCH

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

Through Mr O'Shannessy and the students on the Wentworth Community Bank Board, the school recently received a significant sum of money to contribute to the student's costs for a HSC excursion to Adelaide. We would like to acknowledge and thank the Wentworth & District Community Bank ® Branch for their continued support of our school and students. While planning is in the early stages, the purpose of the excursion will be to expose students to specific and relevant tertiary courses and activities that will enhance their understanding of the syllabus in the subjects they are studying. Many of these activities would otherwise be unavailable to the students in Sunraysia.

Initial contact has been made with universities and accommodation, and possible activities have been discussed with the students. While the dates now are flexible, we believe the best time will be late in Term 4 of 2018. We welcome any thoughts or ideas and are happy to attempt to accommodate those which will benefit the students.

Please contact the school with any enquiries. We are again very grateful to Mr O'Shannessy and our students on the Bank Board for this opportunity.

Wentworth & District
Community Bank® Branch



Supervised HSC study for Year 11 students

As Year 11 have now commenced their HSC studies, the mathematics faculty would like to offer supervised study sessions for all Year 11 students. The two sessions will be held immediately after school on a Monday and Thursday, for approximately an hour. Students are welcome to one or both, dependent on their commitments in other areas. Students will be able to complete homework, seek help with the class work or attempt review exercises or past exams when appropriate. Work can be provided for those students who are up to date, but still wish to study.

The sessions will run with a minimum of one student, and if successful will continue next year for the first three terms. If you or your child has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. While we are willing to be flexible if these nights do not suit, staff do have other commitments after school such as meetings.



Coomealla High School would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

The 2018 school year will commence on Tuesday 6 February for Years 7, 11 and 12 students and Wednesday 7 February for Years 8, 9 and 10 students.

All new Year 7 can purchase a book pack from the front office for \$35.00 or at Clarkes Newsagency in Wentworth.