



Newsletter

Coomealla High School

Principal: Mr Stephen Harper Deputy Principal: Ms Josephine Crowley

Coomealla HS is moving forward



At our Open Night, many families visited our school to explore our campus, discovering the exciting learning that is to be had at Coomealla High School. There were displays of fine work completed by our students. Many enjoyed the hands-on experiences in areas such as the labs, the kitchen, the music, and woodwork rooms and so much more. Our school leaders and students of all ages gave up their evening to proudly show off their school. Our teachers enjoyed chatting with parents, grandparents, and community members. Best of all, was the enjoyment on the faces of the children who got to make their own pizzas in the wood-fired oven, decorate cupcakes, play games in the hall, and had turns at the bunsen burners and microscopes. Most popular was the baby lamb that was visiting from our agricultural plot. If you missed this opportunity, please feel free to contact the school and a tour can be arranged.

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Join us on  or visit our website <http://www.coomealla-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/home> to keep up to date.

University success! Past students from Coomealla High School graduate with outstanding results.

Congratulations to Caitlin Hancock and Becca Henderson who both recently graduated from university. Both girls were former Coomealla High School students, completing their HSC in 2012.

They attended Latrobe University in Mildura in 2013 and from 2014 to 2016 they had to relocate to University in Bendigo to complete their courses.

Caitlin graduated with a Master of Occupational Therapy Practice and Bachelor of Health Sciences. Becca graduated with a Master of Speech Pathology and Bachelor of Health Sciences. Well done Caitlin and Becca.

Bryony Henderson



Dear Parents and Carers

Coomealla High School will transition to the new NSW Public Schools' finance system and a new bank account on **Monday the 24th of July 2017**.

To ensure a smooth transition, there will be changes to the way we accept payments from parents and carers.

Direct deposits: As of the **Friday the 30th of June 2017**, we will no longer accept direct deposits into our current school bank account as we prepare to close this account and transition to the new one. Any payments made using direct deposit after this date cannot be properly allocated to a student's account in a timely manner. Please ensure you have made any outstanding direct deposits before **Friday the 30th of June 2017**.

EFTPOS payments: We will not be able to accept EFTPOS payments between **Wednesday the 19th of July 2017 and Monday the 24th of July 2017**. Please ensure that you have made any outstanding EFTPOS payments before **Wednesday the 19th of July 2017**. From **Tuesday the 25th of July 2017**, EFTPOS payments will be accepted as before.

Cash and cheque payments: Between **Wednesday the 19th of July 2017 and Monday the 24th of July 2017**, we will also not be able to accept payments by cash or cheque as we prepare to close our current bank account and transition to the new one. Please ensure that you have made any outstanding cash or cheque payments before **Wednesday the 19th of July 2017**. From **Tuesday the 25th of July 2017**, cash, and cheque payments will be accepted as before.



Principal's Report

Welcome to the newly formatted School Newsletter. Thank you to two special people who have put a considerable effort into providing this service to the school community. Firstly, to Rebecca Nixon, she has done an amazing job over recent times in keeping everyone informed of the school's activities in her role as editor. Rebecca has undertaken the new demanding position as school Beatification Coordinator. A very challenging role will play nicely to her skillset. Replacing Rebecca as newsletter editor is Maddi Johnson. Maddi has a background in graphic design. As such, she is helping to "badge" our school with a consistent corporate identity. This makeover is part of that process, I hope you like it!

Together with a new Principal brings new opportunities for change and improved practice but also time to reflect on past successes. Coomealla High has a proud tradition of producing successful citizens by any measure. I recently had a chat with Ian Murdoch from the Australian Dried Fruit Association who, spoke to me with unashamed pride when recalling the wonderful past students that this school has produced. This is only one of many like conversations I have had regarding this topic. During my tenure as Principal, I will strive to maintain and extend upon this proud tradition.

The school has purchased a new bus! This will mean that our students will have greater access to local events and excursions far and wide with greater convenience and more economically. The Director of Public Schools, Peter Macbeth has given the school permission to approach School Sport Victoria to allow us to join the Victorian statewide school sports' programs. Duncan Driscoll has made the approach and we eagerly await their decision. This will provide a marvellous opportunity to our students with sporting aspirations to reach the very highest sporting levels, more conveniently, in our country.



*Mr Stephen Harper
Principal(R)*

Thank you to the community members that supported our wonderfully successful Open Night – anecdotally, the attendance on the night was up by 200% on recent years. Congratulations to Kathy Alderton and her team for their achievement in promoting our wonderful school. The media team is polishing up our public interface. In the near future you will see how our four big media tools (Facebook,

Skoolbag, the Website and the Newsletter) will work together to provide you with the most accurate and timely news on what's happening in our school. Stay tuned!

The end of this term brings a close to a chapter in the history of our school. We farewell Ms Fiona Shoobridge, Head Teacher for the Support Unit. Fiona has accepted a position at Bomaderry, on the south coast of NSW. On behalf of the school, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Fiona for her positive contribution to the education community of Coomealla High and specifically to those students with special needs. Fiona is wished continued success in her new position at Bomaderry High School. Her position at Coomealla High has been discontinued.

I recently had the pleasure of attending Bill Campbell's retirement dinner in Tamworth. I passed on everyone's well wishes to him. Bill asked me to remember him to the community. Although his time here was brief, Coomealla High has left an indelible and positive imprint on Bill's heart.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the school community for your warm welcome to the region and to wish everyone a well-deserved and safe holiday. Recharge those batteries for the exciting times ahead.

Steve Harper

SRC & Leadership

Semester One Social – Movie Stars!



The Student Representative Council (SRC) worked hard for most of Term One to hold a movie star themed social to celebrate Youth Week. The social was held on the last Thursday of term and all who attended had a fantastic time!

The SRC needs to be congratulated for their amazing efforts and leadership skills to both organise and run the night, including a sausage sizzle and prizes. Some of our captains, Monique Mitchell and Tarryn Shaddock did an excellent job interviewing some of the 'movie stars' as they walked down the red carpet.

The Wentworth Shire Council gave considerable financial assistance to the school to allow the night to be so enjoyable. A council member attended the night and was impressed with student participation, enthusiasm and behaviour on the night.

The SRC has already started planning the theme and social for Term Three - something exciting to look forward to!

Prize winners for best dressed:

Year 7: Kurt Gooding

Year 8: Lachlan Witte (winner) and Jasmine Robertson (runner up)

Year 9: Sara Mezzatesta (winner) and Jameika Kennedy (runner up)

Year 10: Amy Christian (winner) and Eliza Collier (runner up)

Year 11: Rachael Hanneman (winner) and Trinity Kervin (runner up)

Year 12: Colby and Bevan Wade (winners) and Zach Witte (runner up)

Honourable mentions (for best dressed):

Summer Halls, Piper Nash, Montana Norris, Hayley Kerridge, Chelsea Manger, Lucy Stephens, Chloe Hyde, Phoebe Sullivan, Charlotte Amos, Isaac Kervin.

Guessing game champions:

Megan Amos and Elliott Driscoll



SRC & Leadership

Fundraising at Coomealla – Relay for Life

Relay for Life

On the last weekend of the holidays, thirty-nine Coomealla High School students and six staff attended the Relay for Life at the soccer fields at Aerodrome Ovals to walk for a cure for cancer.

Most students camped at the grounds over night to show their support with a team member continually walking in the relay for the entire 18-hour event. Throughout the afternoon and night, students participated in many events, including the carers lap (Miss Nixon and Rachael Hanneman) Miss Relay Event and Zumba.

Coomoalla High School Relay for Life Team donated \$6136.50 towards cancer research.



This was an amazing effort with students and community coming together to raise money for this cause. Some efforts included:

- A \$1000 donation from the Coomealla Club.
- Over \$600 from a coin collection night at the Coomealla Club.
- Over \$550 from the school bake sale and events day.
- Sizeable donations from parents and community.
- Terrific fundraising efforts from individual students.
- A further \$2000 will be added from the Wentworth Shire Council.

What an excellent student and community achievement!

Coomoalla High School received two awards for their fantastic fundraising efforts:

- Research Award (this is presented only to teams that rise over \$5000 and means that in June, team members will get to decide on a branch of cancer research for their money to specifically go towards).
- Youth Team Award (this is presented to the Youth Team that raises the most money).



**2017 SCHOOLS SPECTACULAR
TICKET SALE ANNOUNCEMENT**



Tickets will soon be on sale for the *2017 Schools Spectacular – Own The Moment*.

For further ticket information please contact Richard Spiewak on 02 8512 1161 richard.spiewak@det.nsw.edu.au



SRC & Leadership

Fundraising at Coomealla – Relay for Life



Bake sale fundraiser raising over \$550.00. All proceeds raised were proudly donated to the Cancer Council for research.

Alex Smith receiving the trophy for the Youth Team that raised the most money.



Challenges and activities day.



Proudly sponsored by the Coomealla Memorial Sporting Club and the Wentworth Shire Council



What's happening in English and Drama?



They have gained inspiration from many stimuli including detention, Saturday night, a day in the life of..., and the year 3000. The students can incorporate one prop into their performance, but are not permitted to talk, something that a lot of them are struggling with! From the look of their rehearsals, we're going to be in for many great performances. Break a leg Year Nine! **Miss Leon Drama**

Students include Jackson McDermott, Hayley Kerridge, Taylor Kemp, Lauren Boundy, Zoe Sapuppo and Olivia Daymond

The Year Nine Drama class has been exploring many different performance styles this semester including mime and improvisation. In Term One, the students worked in groups to create an improvised performance. Lauren Boundy, Jackson McDermott and Zoe Sapuppo created a performance about two girls who rob a bank only to find out that their friends have actually been undercover cops planted to catch them. Hayley Kerridge, Olivia Daymond and Taylor Kemp created a performance about old friends who are united at a high school reunion who start to talk about how successful they've become, only to find out that one is wanted by the cops for accidentally murdering someone. Both performances were highly entertaining and showcased all the students' hard work.

This term, the class is working on mime and at the end of the term, they will showcase their individual mimes to the class.



In Miss Leon's Year Nine English class, students have been learning about Shakespeare and the Elizabethan Era. Throughout this unit we have looked at language, clothing, Elizabethan torture methods and the play 'Twelfth Night'. Whilst, learning about the language Shakespeare used throughout his plays, we specifically looked at compliments and decided to share some happiness around the school by writing these compliments on post-it notes and finding teachers to give them to. Some of the teachers who received compliments include Miss Steel, Mrs Batchelor, Mr Kiely, Mr Tarrant, Mr Harper, Mr Ward, Ms Crowley and Ms Johnson, explaining to them what these compliments meant. Although some of the compliments sounded a little weird to us, like 'thou art a dainty, fertile fresh kicksy wicksy,' we hope that those who received these compliments enjoyed them!

Year Nine English class



Science

La Trobe University Science Day!

What is a beamline? Sounds very high tech, and it is!

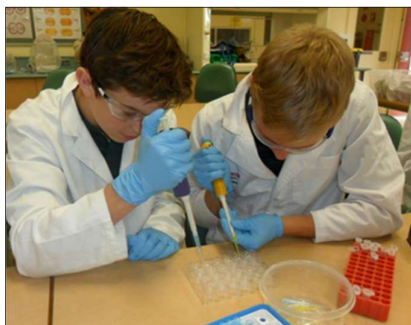


Year Ten students visited La Trobe University, Mildura Campus on Tuesday the 30th of May, to complete hands-on and theory tasks.

The students discovered that a beamline could be used in all kinds of cutting-edge experiments, including the making of crystal proteins which the students produced; viewing them under a microscope. With these skills, students could look at proteins that are involved in human diseases; creating an opportunity to extend their knowledge while grasping a taste of Years Eleven and Twelve content, as well as university

All students represented Coomealla High School proudly and completed all theory and practical tasks competently. Well done to all of these students for their maturity and bravery to take the challenge to extend their knowledge and practical skills!

Year Ten students who attended the excursion were Jade Andrews, Blake McDonnell, Murphy Baird, Connor Chatterton, Emily Bertalli, Reyne Moore, Lee Evans, Lucy Stephens, Chloe Hyde, Chelsea Manger, Ashton Tilley, Eliza Collier and Phoebe Sullivan.



If you want to know more about the Australian Synchrotron, visit www.synchrotron.org.au/

The beamline we played with is at www.synchrotron.org.au/images/stories/beamline/factsheets/synchrotron_factsheet_px_tcd.pdf

If you are interested in courses or employment offered at La Trobe, visit www.latrobe.edu.au/

Agriculture

On the farm

Agriculture classes have been engaging in a variety of projects required to keep the farm running. Students have developed their design and technology skills to build and create agricultural model:

Year 7 and 8

Years Seven/Eight continued working on their vegetable plots as well as studying a topic on chickens. They have been making models of small animal shelters.



Year 9 and 10

Year Nine/Ten have studied sheep, beef cattle and goats as well as pastures and winter cereals such as wheat and oats. They have also worked on a garden.



Year 11 and 12

Year Eleven/Twelve have helped with some tractor and fencing work as well as doing plant trials on the farm and in the laboratory.



Finally, the last of our pigs is looking for a home. We will be fixing up the pens and then getting some replacement pigs in Term Three.



Learning Centre

Life in the Learning Centre

As always it has been very busy in The Learning Centre.

The Year Seven students are powering along in the Lexia Core 5 Reading Program with the assistance of Mrs Brown. They are excited about moving up levels and receiving certificates to acknowledge their achievements. Many of the students are realising the value of the activities and how it is helping them with their literacy skills particularly in spelling.



Our Aboriginal Education Officer, Will Ward, has been assisting with the organisation of Personal Learning Plan meetings for our Indigenous students with a focus on commencing the Year Seven plans.

This is a great opportunity to meet the parents/carers and build a positive connection while giving the students a chance to have an input into the school support they need and set some achievable goals.

It has been pleasing to receive some encouraging comments from parents about the value of these meetings.

We have been enjoying providing lots of support in the classrooms across all of the faculties which has been appreciated by the students and teachers.

Annette Finch - Learning and Support Teacher



**Nationally Consistent
Collection of Data**
School Students with Disability

**Education
Council**

Information for parents and carers

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (the national data collection) is an annual collection that counts the number of school students receiving an adjustment due to disability and the level of reasonable adjustment they are receiving.

The national data collection counts students who have been identified by a school team as receiving an adjustment to address a disability as defined under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (the DDA).

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your child's school if you have further questions about the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability.

You can also visit www.education.gov.au/nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability

Special Education

Kids having fun



The Year Seven and Eight students from the Special Education class and Mr O'Shannessy are enjoying working together in Metalwork. Recently, they have been making their own metal hammers using the cold cutting saw and the lathe and braising with the oxy acetylene torch. Other projects made include tool boxes, mirrors and sets of hooks.



What a way to start the day!



These students start off their day with a wholesome breakfast of homemade bread thanks to Mrs Henderson, with vegemite or jam, milo, fruit and carrot sticks.

The students are developing their social skills by learning table and social etiquette by interacting and communicating with each other. No phones are allowed and each student actively participates in clean up duties on a rotating roster. This is a fantastic way to start a day of learning in a fun environment.

Maddi Johnson & Debbie West – Special Ed Teachers

Coomealla High School Special Education staff and students would like to thank Buronga Bake for their weekly donation of fresh bread and buns. The breakfast program continues to be a success through the generosity and support of this local business.





Physical Education

Coomealla sports

Hockey Championships 2017



On Thursday the 15th of June, eleven Year Seven and Eight students represented Coomealla High School. With only two experienced hockey players it was a super effort by those who were not familiar with the game to jump right in and have a go.

We arrived by bus at 9.30 am. The students watched the first game to try to gain a bit of a feel for the game and positions. We played the second game of the competition against Merbein P-10 College.

Due to our lack of experience, we had a slow start, however it did not take long before our Coomealla team were feeling a lot more confident and even began to dominate Merbein in the second half.

The final score was 2-0 to Merbein.

The Coomealla Hockey Team were fantastic ambassadors for our school. They were enthusiastic and gave 100%. It was wonderful to witness their confidence grow throughout the game. We certainly have some naturally gifted sportspeople. Tobias Watson-Kiely, our goalie, was approached by a local hockey club and asked if he would be interested in playing in an under 15s side!

Well done to Jesse Crisp and Leah Harry who assisted the non-players in positional play and strategy.

A wonderful day had by all.



Tennis

Interschool Tennis was held on Monday the 27th of March at the Mildura Lawn Tennis courts.

We entered three teams of four students and the format required each student to play single and doubles against the other schools.

The senior boys' team consisting of Alex Smith, Jaidyn Ruhs, Colby and Bevan Wade came up against a very strong team from the Senior College but were still able to win one of the six matches.

The intermediate boys' team consisting of Matthew Hancock, Zac Hyde, Josh Verstappen and Aston Tilley were very successful finishing third overall with wins over both Red Cliffs Secondary College and Trinity Lutheran College.

Our junior girls' team had to play in the intermediate section and while they did not win any overall rounds, they were able to win some of their matches. The players were Shanley Marshall, Laura Tilley, Olivia Barber and Amelia Paech.

Well done to all competitors.

Physical Education

Interschool sports

Senior Boys Basketball

Congratulations to the senior boys' basketball team who finished second overall in the competition defeating Mildura Senior College Blue and St Joseph's College and only losing to Mildura Senior College White.

The boys were fantastic, played hard all day and shot plenty of three pointers. The team consisted of Tarryn Shaddock, Jesse Lugg, Nicholas Mezzatesta, Bevan Wade, Reyne Moore and Elliott Driscoll.



Back row: Nicholas Mezzatesta, Bevan Wade, Tarryn Shaddock, Jesse Lugg
Front row: Elliott Driscoll and Reyne Moore

Girls AFL

We had a junior and a senior girls' football team compete in the competition at the Aerodrome Ovals on Monday the 22nd of June.

The senior team had a tough day coming up against Mildura Senior College, St Joseph's College and Merbein P-10 College. Our girls tried valiantly all day but were out played by stronger teams. Our team consistent of mostly Year Ten students and as they move through to the senior years we should be more competitive. Thank you to Jasmin Pohner for coaching.

The junior girls had an equally tough day but played with determination and fought hard for the ball. The majority of the team was Year Seven and again as they progress they will become more competitive. They played St Joseph's College, Merbein P-10 College, Red Cliff Secondary and Irymple Secondary College.

Thank you to Mr Driscoll for coaching and for all the students who assisted with umpiring.

Congratulations to all the girls who played and we look forward to taking you back next year.

Interschool Cross Country.

We had about 30 students travel to Apex Park to compete at the Interschool Cross Country.

We had some great individual results with Aston Tilley winning the 16 boys age group. In this age group, we also took out the team event with Blake McDonnell running third, Elliott Driscoll in fourth and Connor Chatterton coming in twelfth. This is an impressive effort for the boys and it is about the third time they have won the team event, but it's the first time they had to run five kilometres.

Results:

Laura Tilley 2nd, Kyla Gregg 4th, Summer Halls 5th, Chloe Henderson and Chloe Thompson 7th, Jake Irrgang 7th and Deakin Richards 7th.

Lake Mungo excursion

On Thursday the 25th of May, Coomealla High School's Year Eight students participated in a curriculum based learning experience at Mungo. It was a wonderful day with lots of learning. Thanks to Kaye from **Western Local Land Services** who supplied the buses, food and Indigenous guides.



Thanks to Lance, Ernie and Dion for sharing with us your wealth of knowledge. We feel grateful and privileged to share in this knowledge.

Some comments from students:

Mungo was good; my favourite part was when we rolled down the sand dune.

"It was great and we learnt how they cooked the emu with the mouth open and when the smoke came out of the mouth they knew it was cooked."

"Mungo was really fun and I enjoyed learning about the Aboriginal campfires and the "Great Wall of China". It was also really fun rolling down the sand dune."

"Mungo was fun, we learnt heaps, and it was a fun bus ride. We did a tour at the "Great Wall of China" and went to the Visitor Centre as well."

"Mungo was fun and good and very historical."

"I liked how Lance explained everything. I loved everything about the trip. I score the trip 10/10."

"Mungo was fun. The best bit of Mungo was the food and going to the sand hills and learning about my people."

Attention Parents & Carers

Update your contact details now!!

In preparation for the new school year we need to have the most current and relevant contact information so that we can reach you when necessary.

Please let us know your preferred mode of contact and update your details if you have moved address, changed phone numbers, or changed your email.

Thank you for the support.

What's been happening in Mathematics?

The Year Seven students have had a semester of settling in and experienced some very interesting and challenging lessons. The Half Yearly Reports have been written and will be distributed after the Term Two Assembly.

In the Year Seven Technology classes, students have been studying some very interesting topics: MS-Word and MS-Publisher, Robotics and Programming, sending and receiving e-mails through Google Classroom and using Tinkercad software to design and print 3D Objects.

On Wednesday the 26th of July, a Study Skills day will be held for the HSC Mathematics students via video conference, where students can discuss solutions with other students throughout the state.

We will be participating in the Australian Mathematics Competition next term.

I look forward to seeing you all back full of energy and positivity for the second semester.

Wishing you all a very safe and happy holiday.



Australian Mathematics Competition

On Thursday the 27th of July, next term, some students will be participating in the Australian Mathematics Competition.

Letters have been given to students who voiced an interest in the competition and we are asking that all notes and \$3.00 entry fee, which has been heavily subsidised by the school, be submitted to the front office by Friday the 30th of June.

Bonny Ward - Head Teacher Mathematics

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING ABSENTEE NOTES

The DET Attendance Policy PD20050259 states that:

Parents are responsible for explaining the absences of their children from school promptly and within seven days to the school. (*from Responsibilities, 2.1 point 3*); and

A hard copy of the electronic record is to be generated weekly for the previous two-week period. The principal or delegated school executive must endorse this hard copy, certifying its accuracy. Once signed, this hard copy becomes the record of attendance and **must not be amended.** (*4.2 Electronic Attendance Registers, 4.2.2*)

Please send absentee notes to school promptly and, if you are going on holidays, please inform the school in advance.

Community News

Slow down to 40 when bus lights flash

Tactical public awareness campaign

NSW has the largest metropolitan bus fleet in Australia. More than 3850 buses operate in the Sydney area, while another 1000 buses service the Newcastle, Wollongong, and Blue Mountains areas. In addition, in NSW there are thousands of buses that travel every day transporting students on country roads.

Crashes involving buses often result in more severe outcomes to other road users. This is because the size, mass and weight of buses mean they need more time to stop.

The Centre for Road Safety is committed to improving safety around buses. We are implementing a tactical school bus safety campaign comprising radio and social media which targets motorists and parents.



The issue

We are seeking to highlight for parents and carers the need to always supervise their children and hold their hand when walking to and from the bus stop or interchange and when crossing the road and about the need not to call their children across the road.

We are seeking to highlight for drivers the laws around bus flashing lights. Lights flash on the front and back of a bus when the bus is picking up or setting down school children. A 40km/h speed limit applies when bus lights flash.



Are you looking for something to do in the school holidays? Something your whole family will enjoy? Sunraysia Gang Show is the thing for you.

Join us for our 41st show as we hop aboard the Sunraysia Gang Show cruise ship and explore the great wide sea! Hunt for buried treasure with some friendly pirates and discover some of the beautiful islands in the Pacific Ocean. Do some scuba diving under the sea or just relax on the beach.

There is plenty to see and on-board as well! Get those hips ready to conga all night long, or if you're after a bit of a laugh, head down to the comedy club. Don't forget to bring something white to wear to the White Night Party!

Performing seven shows from Friday the 7th of July to Saturday the 15th of July at St Joseph's Mercy Theatre, corner Riverside Avenue and Eleventh Street. Get your tickets via our website www.sunraysiangangshow.org.au or by calling our Ticket Hotline on 0439 662 888.