



# Newsletter

## Coomoalla High School

Principal: Mr Stephen Harper Deputy Principal: Ms Josephine Crowley

### NAIDOC Day Celebrations

NAIDOC Day was held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2017. Students, staff, family and community joined together in celebration.

Pictured is Mr Stephen Harper, relieving Principal and Year 12 student Monique Mitchell during the opening ceremony.



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# Community News

## NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Dear parents/caregivers

We hope you are enjoying the new look Coomealla High School Newsletter.

Given that our monthly newsletter is available electronically on our website and our Facebook page, we are no longer going to distribute coloured hard copies to all families. Should you still require a coloured hard copy or a copy emailed to you, we ask that you fill out the form sent home with your child and return it to school as soon as possible.

Please also note that we have made provisions for you to update your contact details on the newsletter distribution letter.

This new method of distribution will commence beginning of Term 4, 2017. If you have any questions, please contact us on 03 50274506.

Thank you.



## GOL GOL COMMUNITY BAND

If you have an interest in a musical instrument, the Gol Gol Community Band may be just right for you.

Coomealla High School has three students participating in the Gol Gol Community Band. Ashton Tilley, Laura Tilley and Makayla Witte who are all enjoying this experience.

The band is taught by experienced music teachers who have done a wonderful job with students from CHS, local primary schools and interested community members. Participants have learnt a variety of brass and string instruments.

If you are interested in learning an instrument, we welcome you to join the band. You will be amazed at how quickly your skills will develop and the fun you will have.

We welcome everyone to come and enjoy.



# Principal's Report

No sooner does it seem that we get into the swing of the term and the end appears in sight.

There has been much activity already since I last reported, but as we close the term out, the pace has not relented.

Thank you to Linda Barker and Duncan Driscoll for their efforts in organising yet another successful athletics carnival!



*Mr Stephen Harper  
Principal(R)*

Although the weather was not cooperative for Monday, Thursday's show was much more like it. The early reports so far, I am happy to report that students demonstrated exception behaviour and the carnival was conducted in a wonderful spirit.

Thank you to Will Ward and Natalie Wighton for the amazing effort you went to organise a wonderful celebration into Aboriginal culture for our (delayed) NAIDOC celebrations. I managed to visit all the classes and can testify that all students were very happily engaged with their work and enjoying the activities on hand. Thanks to all the volunteers and parents who came in on the day to make it as special as it was.

This term from Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> September until Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> September CHS will be participating in the NAPLAN Online school readiness test. The school readiness test is a "practice run" designed to help schools assess their technical and administrative readiness for the transition to NAPLAN Online.

The readiness test will involve students from Years 7 and 9 sitting two 40 minute assessments, a writing test and a combined numeracy / literacy test.

Student participation in the readiness test is an opportunity to become familiar with the NAPLAN Online test format. It is not an assessment of student ability and there will be no reporting of student results.

It is important to note that the participation in the school readiness test will have no effect on the students' NAPLAN results from the paper-based tests sat in May.

I am making a call out for those of you who may be in possession of second-hand school uniforms in good repair. If you have no use for them, could you please donate these to the school? We have a plan to use them as part of our wellbeing strategy. If you wish too donate, simply drop off the uniform to the front office. It would be very much appreciated if you ensured their cleanliness before donating. Thank you!

The staff have been actively following up on truancy over the past two weeks. This has seen better attended lessons and most students are getting the message that skipping class is definitely not an option.

Until next time, stay happy and keep safe.

Steve Harper

Principal (R)





# Coomealla News

## Jumpstart Youth Conference

The Wentworth Community Bank, in conjunction with Headspace Mildura, recently held the third 'Jumpstart' Youth Conference. This year it was held at Coomealla High School with Mildura Senior College and St Joseph's College students also attending. The organising committee which included Monique Mitchell and Colby Wade, were very pleased with the response from students and presenters.

The afternoon had a relaxed feel about it with representatives from a wide range of organisations covering 'life skills' topics. These topics were ones that are not always addressed on university information days or trade days. Students all seemed to find an area of interest to them with Colby and Monique starring as models for the presentation on how to dress for different occasions.

We hope to be able to hold Jumpstart again next year while continuing to make improvements to the program.

Mr Ted O'Shannessy



Thank you, Bendigo Bank,  
for supporting Coomealla  
High School.

 **Bendigo Bank**

Good for **U**  
**AND** your  
community





# Coomealla News

## Jumpstart Youth Conference







**SOFTBALL**  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**SA DRAGONS  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH  
PROGRAM**

**5<sup>TH</sup> SEPT 2017**

**OLD AERODROME SPORTING COMPLEX  
537 ELEVENTH STREET, MILDURA**

**WE WANT YOU!**

**4.30PM**

**RECRUITING & TALENT ID  
BOYS & GIRLS  
(BORN 2001-2004)**

**7.00PM**

**DRAGONS INFO SESSION**

**8.00PM**

**COMMUNITY MEETING  
ALL WELCOME**

**[08] 8353 6766**

**events@softballsa.com.au**





# Careers

## Year 10 Subject Selection Day



On Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> August, all Year 10 students had their subject selections. These sessions are designed to help transition students from Years 10 to Year 11.

Guest speakers from La Trobe, TAFE, Australian Apprenticeship and Traineeship Centre, SMGT, Chances for Children, NSW Health, and Armed Forces, spoke to students about careers. A lot of information was shared and students were informed of processes and pathways to their careers in the future. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a great day!





# Careers

## Year 10 Work Experience





## Year 10 Work Experience

Work Experience is a great way for school students to begin to explore and experience the world of work. Year 10 students completed a week of Work Experience on Monday the 31<sup>st</sup> July to Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

Work Experience allows a short-term placement of students with employers, to provide insights into the industry and the workplace. Students select placements to observe and experience the industry they are most interested in.

During this week we had students placed with employers in the Sunraysia region. Employment choices were varied and included: Law, Vet, Teaching, Nursing, Aged Care, Retail, Hospitality, Childcare, Builder, Radiologist, Engineer, Office Administration, Speech Pathologist, Architect and Horticulture. The trades were very popular, these included Electrician, Engineering, Plumbing, Building, Tiler, Conservation, Hairdressing and Automotive.

Here are some comments from the students.....

“The work experience helped me decide what I wanted to do in the future.”

“It gave us a chance to experience what working everyday was like and started us thinking about what skills we need to get a job.”

“Everyone really enjoyed work experience!”

“I got offered an apprenticeship!”

“I discovered if I really liked that job or not.”

“I have casual work at the place I did work experience!”

A big thank you for all our fantastic employers who hosted a student for the week and to the Year 10 class teachers and head teachers who helped supervise the students. Thank you also to all the students who did such a great job!

Gillian Wakefield

Careers Advisor





## Enrichment Friday



As part of our Enrichment classes on Fridays, some of our Year 10 students travelled to Gol Gol Public School to work with the primary students to successfully complete a range of science experiments.

All Year 10's represented- the school proudly and worked well with the primary students to engage and motivate them. This provided the Year 10's with an opportunity to further develop their leadership skills, whilst providing support to the primary students who will soon be beginning their high school journey.

Ms Koko Dove

Mathematics/Science Teacher







# English Competition

## Students engage with English

On Tuesday the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, 35 Coomealla High School students from Years 7, 8 and 9 participated in the ICAS English Competition. This is an Australian and International test with over 20 countries involved.

Our school offers this opportunity to cater for our gifted and talented students who appreciate being extended and enjoy being challenged. It is a comprehensive skills based exam that assesses higher order thinking and problem solving skills. It also provides practice working under exam conditions which is a skill in itself.



The exam paper varies with each year group; Years 7 and 8 must answer 55 multiple choice questions in 55 minutes and Year 9 students 60 questions in an hour. Students should have their results and formal certificates before the end of the term and these will be presented at the Term 3 Assembly. These certificates look impressive when placed in resumes and can help when applying for jobs.

Overall, it was very pleasing to see that despite some students saying 'the test was really hard', everyone had a positive attitude and gave it their best on the day. Well done to you all!

Ms Jackie Watson

Teacher Librarian





# NAIDOC Day

## Creativity at its best

It's that time of the year where we have celebrated NAIDOC Day at Coomealla High School.

NAIDOC celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The theme for NAIDOC day was 'Our languages matter' which is very important to Aboriginal culture.

Celebrating NAIDOC here at Coomealla High School was a great opportunity for us to continue to build and sustain our connections with our community. The day was filled with great workshops that the students really enjoyed.

A BIG thank you to Nicole Taylor and John Mitchell who gave up their time to give their support to our school and offer their talents in jewellery making and Aboriginal art

Thank you to Ms Josephine Crowley, Deputy Principal, for the support she gave to make NAIDOC day 2017 a wonderful success.

Lastly, we would like to thank Coomealla High School staff for their efforts and support and to all the students for their participation and respect.

Ms Natalie Wighton and Mr Will Ward

Aboriginal Education Officers





# NAIDOC Day

## Activities galore





# NAIDOC Day

## The best Johnny Cakes in town





# Special Education

## Viking History

This term students have been learning about the Vikings in History. They have enjoyed learning about their culture and lifestyle, including how they dressed and the type of houses they lived in. They particularly enjoyed learning about Viking long ships, here they are making some models of their own.



### Up and coming events.

The staff and students are currently planning an excursion to the Coomealla Memorial Sporting Club for lunch and a lawn bowls tournament. Permission notes will be sent home shortly outlining all details.



Jason Mitchell with his finished Viking boat and Shyann Millar-Burow working with Sky James .

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

## Interschool Girl's Netball

Late last term, a large group of keen CHS netballers arrived at Mansell Park in Mildura to take on teams from the other local high schools. We entered four teams; one Year 7, one Year 8 and two Year 9/10 teams.

Credit to our girls! They were excellent ambassadors for our school displaying strong teamwork; sportsmanship and trying their best despite coming up against some very polished (sports academy) players. Overall, our teams won a few and lost a few games while maintaining a positive attitude.

I was particularly impressed to see the girls watching and supporting the games of our other Coomie teams in between their own matches.

This is no mean feat as the day is very full on with a tight time frame, different draws to follow and team duties to fulfil.

With this in mind, I'd like to thank Mrs Frost for going and Mrs Fraser for taking the time to organise an umpiring and scoring roster beforehand. She also lined up Mrs Mangan and Kristy from the Wentworth Netball Club to be team managers and umpires. Mrs Fraser, Brandi Oliver and Shanae Watson also voluntarily umpired throughout the day. So a big thank you to those people.

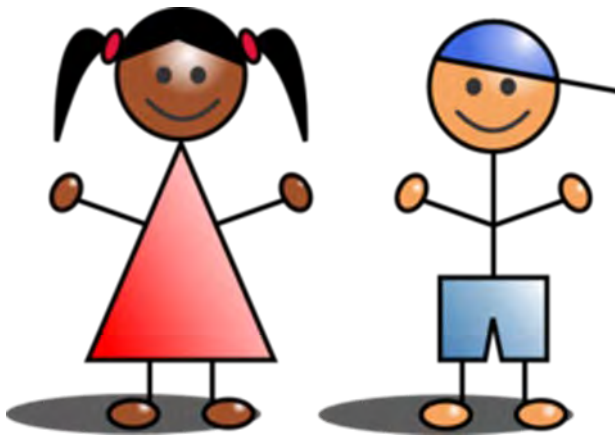
Overall, it was a fantastic day and I look forward to seeing you there next year.

Jackie Watson



## ROOM FOR ONE MORE?

### Have you considered becoming a Foster Carer?



"Foster Care is providing a Secure and Safe Home for children who cannot live at home for whatever reason – you can be a Foster Carer for a few nights, weeks or maybe years"

**New South Wales Office: (03) 5027 7600**



# Food Technology

## Wentworth Show

The Year 7 Food Technology class has been madly decorating their cupcakes for the Wentworth Show. Time and effort has gone into both the design aspects and the production where, I think you will agree, they achieved superb results. Likewise, the Year 9 and 10 Food Technology class has also been slaving away with the decoration of their cakes.

All students should be very proud to have displayed their artistic talents. Well done to all students!

Mrs Lisa Frost

Food Technology teacher







# Coomealla Noticeboard

## Dear Parents and Carers

**Coomealla High School** will transition to the new NSW Public Schools' finance system and a new bank account on **24<sup>th</sup> 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 **30<sup>th</sup> 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 **30<sup>th</sup> June 2017**.

**EFTPOS payments:** We will not be able to accept EFTPOS payments between **19<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017**. Please ensure that you have made any outstanding EFTPOS payments before **19<sup>th</sup> July 2017**. From **25<sup>th</sup> July 2017**, EFTPOS payments will be accepted as before.

**Cash and cheque payments:** Between **19<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and 24<sup>th</sup> 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 **19<sup>th</sup> July 2017**. From **25<sup>th</sup> July 2017**, cash, and cheque payments will be accepted as before.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we transition to our new finance system. If you have any questions, please contact **Johanna Pardoe on 5027 4506**.

## 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.**

## ANAPHYLACTIC SHOCK

All parents should be aware that there are several children in school with a severe life threatening food allergy to peanuts and nuts (anaphylaxis). This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to specific foods and can result in death within minutes. Although this may or may not affect your child directly, please send your child to school with food that is free from peanuts or nut products.

**Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.**







# Mathematics

## Gifted and Talented

Mr James Kiely has been utilising the different library learning spaces when teaching Year 7 Extension Maths as part of the Gifted and Talented focus at our school. These students will be meeting up with Mr Kiely twice a cycle to challenge and extend their mathematical concepts.

## Mathematics Competition

The Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC) was introduced in Australia in 1978 as the first Australia wide mathematics competition for students. It has become the largest single event on the Australian education calendar allowing students to attempt the same tasks on the same day in over 300 countries around the globe.

The AMC is for students of all standards. Students are to solve 30 problems in 60 minutes (Years 3 to 6) or 75 minutes (Years 7 to 12). The problems are designed to test mathematical thinking rather than focusing on calculations, thus questions are designed so that they can be answered just as quickly without a calculator. The problems become more difficult through the competition, so by the end they are challenging even to the most gifted students.

On Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017, 25 students from Years 7 to 10 participated in this competition. The students enjoyed the challenge, many discussing their answers or the questions after they had finished. I look forward to receiving the results very soon.

The following is a question from the junior paper (Years 7/8):

Alice is playing with words. At each tick of her grandfather's clock she swaps two letters. What is the smallest number of clock ticks during which she can change WORDS to SWORDS.



## Mathspace

To celebrate our 200<sup>th</sup> birthday, Westpac are giving all Australians free access to maths education through Mathspace Essentials. This new partnership will give all Australians the opportunity to boost their Maths skills free of charge. The program is for students in Years 3 to 12 and specific to the Australian Curriculum and has the NSW Stage 6 (Years 11/12) curriculum for each Mathematics subject offered. The features include:

- Thousands of interactive questions
- The ability to complete work online
- Step by step hints and feedback
- Handwriting recognition
- Video lessons created by Maths teachers

Sign up for free at

<http://www.mathspace.co/westpac/educator/>

Although relatively easy to navigate, the website has a large amount of content. The Maths staff will be happy to assist students to sign up at school and guide them to areas that will assist particular areas or topics. Please contact Nicole Fraser with any queries on 5027 4506.



# Community News



Education

## *Tell Them From Me:* Parent survey



You're invited to participate in the *Tell Them From Me (TTFM)* Partners in Learning survey, designed for parents and carers. This survey complements the TTFM student and teacher surveys, which focus on student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practices. All Department of Education schools have the opportunity to participate if they choose.

### Why should I participate?

Parents and carers are an important and valued part of the school community. Schools will be able to use the survey feedback to make practical improvements and inform their school plan.

### What does it involve?

This is an online survey that takes about 15 minutes to complete. It is anonymous, and voluntary. If you have more than one child at this school, and feel that your children's experiences differ, you can complete the survey more than once.

### How can I participate?

You can access the survey in your own time, between 21<sup>st</sup> August and 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017. Follow the link below on your computer, tablet or smartphone: <https://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/b6cdk>

The survey is available in English, Arabic and Chinese (Traditional). After clicking on the link above, parents will have the option to choose their language.

More information on the Partners in Learning survey can be found on the NSW Department of Education's TTFM website: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/>



NSW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WWW.DEC.NSW.GOV.AU

## Attention Parents & Carers

### Update your contact details now!!

Having the most current and relevant contact information is important 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.