



COOMIE NEWS

TERM 2, WEEKS 3 & 4 2022

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UPCOMING SCHOOL ACTIVITIES & KEY DATES

Wednesday 25th May

Stage 5 Science Prac Test (All Classes)

Thursday 26 May

National Sorry Day

Wednesday 1 June

Year 11 English Studies Game Multimodal

Year 9/10 Child Studies Task 2

Thursday 2 June

Year 9/10 Aboriginal Studies Photo Essay

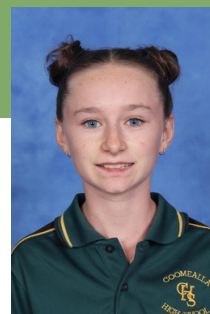
STUDENT VOICE

Anzac Day to me is a day where we show our respect to the men and women who served our country past and present to preserve our way of life.

At a young age remembering the ones that lost so much so long ago, not just the soldiers but their families. I remember dad telling me about how he went to Gallipoli and walked through the Lone Pine cemetery and how young some of the soldiers were that lost their lives. I walk around school and see kids and friends and still at school than some of the names he saw on the headstones. Some as young as 13.

I feel honoured to take part in the ANZAC Day march to show respect, with my school colleagues, other schools, emergency services alongside those who have sacrificed the most, past and present. To have what we have today, a free country. Lest we forget.

Jess Doidge - Year 7



Dareton ANZAC Day Service

This year saw the first ANZAC Day Memorial take place in Dareton since 1999.

I was very privileged to attend and represent the school along with Oscar Collins (School Captain), Mia Thompson and Jodynn Boundy (Vice Captains.) These students played a very important role in the service acting as flag bearers on the request of the Dareton-Coomealla-Namatjira Community Action Team.



The Community action team have worked extensively creating a memorial in Tapio Park. This tells the story of Dareton and Coomealla, and they have also erected a monument to commemorate residents that have served their country and the township. This was commissioned as part of the ceremony on the day.



It was a fantastic occasion for Dareton, Coomealla and Namatjira to come together and remember community members that have served. there were many past students and staff in attendance. I look forward to seeing this grow in the future.

I would like to say thank you and congratulations to our School leaders for representing the school and their community with dignity and grace.

Mr Driscoll

National Reconciliation Week

27 May - 3 June



**BE
BRAVE!
MAKE
CHANGE.**

**NATIONAL
RECONCILIATION
WEEK 2022**

27 MAY - 3 JUNE

#NRW2022

NRW.RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU



Inter-School Cross Country

On Friday 6th May a small group of dedicated and determined students competed in the Inter-school Cross Country event staged at Apex Park Mildura.



Our team competed well and all students represented the school and themselves with dignity.

The highlights in terms of results were:

Bonnie Perkins finished in 6th place in the 14 Girls.

Lola McInerney finished 3rd in the 15 Girls.

Brandon Sobkowiak finished in 4th place in the 15 Boys.

We also had 5 other students finish in the top 20 competitors in their events. This included Charlotte Sammut, Danika Farmilo, Ellie Vines and Abby Collihole.

Congratulations to all of the students who competed, as we move forward the school would like to see more students commit and compete in Team Sports and Athletics later in the year.

Mr Driscoll

Open Night



This is the Van de Graff generator which is a static electricity generator. Many of the students enjoyed playing with it making their hair stand on end and zapping each other with electrical charge.



EVERYDAY COUNTS!

Is your child staying away from school due to an issue that is impacting their Health?

We appreciate that there are many different reasons that students experience difficulty, and often this can reduce their attendance at school.

Coomealla HS has a well-resourced Well being hub with personnel with Specialist knowledge and experience to support our students to resolve issues impacting their well being, and indirectly their attendance.

In addition to our very dedicated and caring teachers, we have some other people to help. These include:

Michelle Chapman- our Well being and Health Intake Nurse (WHIN) Coordinator who can support families to access a wide range of Agencies in the local area.

Ash Parcev- our recently appointed Student Support Officer. See the introduction in this edition of the Newsletter.

David Potts- School Chaplain- Dave works 2 days each week as our Chaplain. He is available to support students when they are experiencing difficulty, to talk and share their worries, and to help them find support as needed.

Our school Counselling team are available for Specialised Psychological support, assessment and referral to other agencies. Our team consists of:

Keely Ings- available on Monday and Tuesday each week.

Natalia Williams- available on Thursdays.

Carmen Jewell- available on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Aboriginal Education Officer- Judy Afermui, can also be a point of contact for students and families.

As of Week 6, Ms Jackie Watson will take on the role of Relieving Head Teacher Welfare for the remainder of the year while Ms Della Philp is on leave.

You can also contact the school and ask to speak to the relevant Year Adviser (see list below) to start the process of supporting you and your child.

Year 7- Ms Tonkin

Year 8 - Ms Nixon


Year 9- Ms Watson

Year 10- Mr Kiely

Year 11- Ms Dobe

Year 12- Mrs Gigg

Please contact the school during work hours (8.30 to 3.30) to discuss as required.



STUDENT SUPPORT OFFICER



Hi everyone,

My name is Ashley Parcev (she/her) and I am the new Student Support Officer (SSO) at Coomealla High School. I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Barkindji lands, where I now have the incredible opportunity to work and live. I also pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and recognise and celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal peoples and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of NSW.

As an SSO, my role focuses on enhancing and promoting the wellbeing of students across the entire school. This will be through providing individual support, running small groups, and implementing whole-school initiatives. I will be working with students and staff across the school, as well as engaging with parents and external services outside of school.

I am here to walk alongside students in their journey through high school and to support them through any challenges that may arise. I am available for a chat if you need any advice, guidance or support. Students can self-refer or may be referred by the Learning Support team / Wellbeing team, Year Advisers, Head Teachers, Deputy Principal and Principal. A student might be referred to me for support in areas such as bullying, developing self-esteem and resilience, conflict resolution, coping skills, managing stress or anxiety, social and emotional coaching, family issues, financial issues or to be connected to local external support or youth services. I am not a teacher or counsellor. My background is in Social Work, and I work alongside the Wellbeing team. I am based at school Monday to Friday, and you can find my room in the main office across from the Wellbeing Hub.

I am excited to work as an SSO, because I am passionate about supporting young people to achieve their goals and overcome challenges. The students I have met so far have been awesome and the staff have really helped me feel welcome. I look forward to getting to know you more and working together to help all students achieve and believe in their best. Please feel free to drop by for a chat. I look forward to meeting you all soon!

Ashley - Student Support Officer

Dental Van



Royal Flying Doctor Service

The furthest corner. The finest care.

RFDS DENTAL VAN

The Dental Van is visiting in May

Tuesday 24th

Wednesday 25th

And

Thursday 26th

At Coomealla Health Aboriginal Corp.

Please call **0418963208** to make an appointment with one
of our friendly dental team.

Year 11 & 12 LifeReady





PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Open Night

It was wonderful to meet so many of our prospective incoming students into Year 7 next year at our Open Night. Thankyou to our staff for their efforts to make it a fun and informative evening and to the parents and students who ventured out on a rainy and cold evening. We look forward to continuing to get to know the Year 6 students as we involve them in transition activities throughout the rest of the year.

Parent/Teacher interviews


Thankyou to parents and students who joined us for the parent/teacher interviews last Tuesday. It is important to us that school staff can work with parents and carers to build shared support around their children and communicate effectively about learning, areas and strategies for improvement. I was pleased to speak with many parents whom I hadn't met yet and I am always keen to receive feedback from our community, whether it be positive or raising concerns. Semester 1 reports are currently being prepared by teachers and these will be received at the end of term. Parents are always encouraged to contact their child's class teacher if they have concerns or information to share about their child.

Work Experience

Thankyou to our community businesses for taking almost all of our Year 10 students for Work Experience last week, and to our hard-working Careers Adviser, Ms Gillian Wakefield. This is such an importance program for our students in Year 10 who are preparing to make decisions about options post compulsory schooling and may be considering pathways and subjects. We will be supporting students in the next few months as they consider their options, including further information about the intensive support, small classes, experienced teachers who get results in a caring environment, that have shaped our success for generations of senior students at Coomealla HS.

Staffing

We've had a tough week with staffing, with days of up to 13 staff absent due to COVID and illness. This has resulted in the merging of many classes in mainstream and the regretful closure of the Support Unit for 2 days. We have appreciated the co-operation of our students who have shown resilience to cope with the many staff changes this week and I again, want to thank our staff who have been most agile in teaching classes across the school. As at the time of writing, we had no new cases of COVID within staff this week, so we are hoping that next week will bring a return to normal classes. We will continue to recommend the wearing of masks throughout next week as an added precaution.



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



I am pleased to announce the permanent appointments of two Head Teacher positions, Ms Della Philp into HT Welfare and Ms Keli Golledge into HT Secondary Studies. We are very fortunate to have both of these talented teachers and leaders in our school. Della will starting maternity leave from Friday and we wish her well during this time. We have also appointed an English/History teacher Ms Kira Pittaway who will commence in term 3 and we are currently recruiting positions in PDHPE and Science. I wish to thank our P & C for their support in selection panels.

We will be moving forward with recruitment of our Senior Leader Community Engagement which is designed for an Aboriginal person from our community to be apart of our Executive team and provide support and build connections with community to improve outcomes for our students. We hosted a meeting last week to share information about this position and we hope to attract a talented person into this role to help us shape and deliver quality programs involving community, for our students.

Attendance

We talk with students every day about how important it is for their future that they come to school every day they are able to (unless unwell or regretfully, suspended!). Education provides skills, opportunities and brighter futures. It opens doors for work and improved lifestyles. If your child is not at school, we contact you via text message at approximately 10.30am each morning.

We ask that you reply to this SMS to explain why your child is absent. Alternatively, you are able to phone the school to provide a reason for your child's absence from school. If we don't hear from you within 7 days, the absence reverts to unexplained and this can cause problems for Centrelink payments and also place your child at risk of referral to legal services.

At the moment, we are also sending weekly letters home about absences, but we wish to advise that we will be transitioning away from these weekly letters to be able to redirect funds into other areas and we will be relying on our SMS communication to notify parents of absences. We only be sending letters about attendance when there has been a referral to agencies such as the Home School Liaison Program for students who have a high number of absences. If you wish to continue to receive letters instead of SMS, please contact the school.

Kath Steward
Executive Principal