Wentworth ANZAC Day March

Student and Staff representing Coomealla High School marching in the ANZAC day celebrations.

Updated on our Website this fortnight:
Welcome back to Term 2.

It has been a great start to the term with improvements to the school completed in the holidays and more to come. The removal of the old green Lino was completed and the corridors are looking fresh and almost new.

Work on the car park, however, has been delayed due to some new considerations that came up in the last week of term 1. We are hoping that work will begin in the next 2 weeks.

We have organised the replacement of the bell system and that is in place to be completed during week 2 of this term.

I was very pleased to see most students in uniform last term and at the beginning of this term; I am hopeful that this will continue throughout winter. I have had some samples of possible new Summer dresses for the girls to look at this week and feedback has been very positive. We are also looking to bring in the new jumpers before the really cold weather sets in. Please be reminded that the last day of each term is NOT an out of uniform day.

Unfortunately Ron Jackson our AEO is going to be away for a few weeks as he is unwell. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

Staff are continuing with a focus on both the completion of mandatory training and technology training in our staff development days. Our staff development days will involve these areas this term.

Our second after school staff development afternoon will be the 12th of May from 3.30 - 6.30 pm.

Solar panels are a current area of research regarding improvements to the school. We are getting quotes at present and I am confident that we will have something in place ready to use by Summer.

Our first Year 6 orientation/welcome night was on the 29th April. This was a wonderful night, supported by approximately 80 enthusiastic prospective students and parents. They used the opportunity to learn a great deal of vital information regarding our school. The night began with a barbecue, then a formal discussion and finishing with a tour of the school.

I have spent considerable time on our new school plan and the annual school report for 2014 over the holidays. The ASR will be on our website on the first of May for all to read and copies of our plan will be available. Please ring the school if interested.

It was with great sadness that our school community received the news about the senseless tragedy of the death of a previous teacher Stephanie Scott. Stephanie did her final practicum at Coomealla HS and also replaced Mrs Batchelor whilst she was on maternity leave. A number of staff attended her funeral on Wednesday. Support systems have been put in place for staff and students.

Our students once again did us proud with their support of ANZAC day both at school and in our local area. Thankyou to Nick for being part of the wreath laying ceremony at Curlwaa and Wentworth ceremonies. Special mention must be made in regard to Shanae and Abbey whose speech at these venues was one of the best I have ever heard. Many compliments were received about not only the content of their speech but also the professional manner in which it was delivered.

Jo Scott
CHS Principal
ANZAC Day Celebrations

On Anzac Day, Coomealla High School students played a significant role in the Curlwaa Commemorative Service. The Curlwaa Scout Group marched in the proceedings; from Coomealla High School, Olivia Daymond, Zac Hyde and Meagan Verstappen took speaking roles, Josh Verstappen raised the flag and Chloe Hyde and Meagan placed white crosses beneath the names of those who had sacrificed their lives. School Captain Nicholas Cottrell read the Prayer of Thanksgiving near the start of the service. School Captains Shanae Tilley and Abbey Patterson gave the formal address with a focus on the service of several local soldiers during World War 1. They had put in extensive research from primary sources and gave very moving accounts of what took place on the battlefield. The occasion was made most poignant by the announcement that Private Sage of Curlwaa lost his life exactly one hundred years ago to the day.

At the Wentworth Service, despite the rain, a number of people turned out to march including staff and students from Coomealla High School. The service was conducted in the Wentworth Services Club in front of a substantial crowd. Again our School Captains presented their speeches alongside of the Mayor of Wentworth and other dignitaries. Nicholas Cottrell laid a wreath on the stage along with many others. After the service, a great many people complimented the school captains on their excellent participation and the quality of their speech.

Kathy Alderton
Head Teacher English
Interschool Tennis Report

On Monday 23\textsuperscript{rd} March, Coomealla High students travelled to the Mildura Lawn Tennis Courts for the Interschool Tennis Championships. Our students were keen and energetic, gaining skill on the lawn surface as the day progressed.

The Junior Boys enjoyed the challenging level of competition while the Intermediate boys finished 4\textsuperscript{th} in their division. The Senior boys team played enthusiastically against proficient teams like St Joseph’s College and Red Cliffs High School. Full credit to Alex Smith, Bevan Wade and Colby Wade who played above their age level.

The Intermediate team of Imogen Smith, Sara Hancock, Chantelle Gunn and Meagan Verstappen placed 5\textsuperscript{th} and had two wins against St Joseph’s B team in the final matches of the round robin.

Thank you to other team members for their spirited participation. They were Bailey Chatterton, Jaidyn Ruhs, Mitchell Kemp, Riley Clifford and Alex Fasolino, Zac Hyde, Josh Verstappen and Connor Chatterton. A big thank you to Mr David Mathieson and Megan Cooper for their assistance on the day. Also to Mrs Linda Barker for her time and effort in helping with organising our participation in the event.

Roslyn Buckley
Tennis Coordinator.
YEAR 7 TEAM WORK ACTIVITY
Support Unit News

Students in the Support Unit have been learning about Australian history and how political and social events can have an effect on families and their everyday life. In memory of the 100th Anniversary of WWI the students made a timeline of events leading up to Gallipoli. They also examined a timeline of significant events of WWI.

They were able to access the resources from the Centenary Education Website by Australia Post to read letters written 100 years ago and then write our own letter. We learnt about WWI by playing a board game that used facts and events from WWI battles and campaigns. I have included some pictures of the newly released stamps and the web address we used for parents who would like to follow up on this work with their child or other children. It is well worth a look.

www.centenaryeducation.com.au

Fiona Shoobridge
Head Teacher Special Education
**YEAR 10 — WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM 2015**

**MONDAY 1st June - FRIDAY 5th June**

During the week 1st June to 5th June 2015, your son or daughter is invited to participate in work experience with an employer in the Sunraysia area or in another area if suitable work experience can be found and organised.

We believe that work experience is very valuable in allowing students to gain an insight into the working environment before they face it full-time.

Students should choose jobs in which they are interested, however, some careers are unsuited to the Work Experience Program. In this case, it would not be appropriate for a student to complete work experience in that field at all and in other cases, students will need to understand that they can be observers only. Some students and parents have already organized, via friends and relatives, a workplace for students to be placed at for this week, Well done!

The program will be in the form of a block release from the school on Monday 1st June to Friday 5th June 2015, inclusive, with students attending the workplace each week day. A supervising teacher will visit each workplace during the week. Leading up to this week of work experience, Year 10 will have career lessons to help them prepare for the workplace.

At the end of the week, the program will be evaluated in terms of the student’s performance on the job and views on the value of the program will be collected from parents, students, employers and teachers.

If your child needs assistance in choosing a work experience position or if they or you have any questions regarding this program, please talk to Ms. Wakefield (Careers Adviser). We wish for the students to make the most of their work experience. Please encourage them to make their choice carefully and to give adequate time and consideration to their choices. Notes regarding work experience will be coming home in the next week.

_Gillian Wakefield_
Careers Adviser

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**ATTENTION**

_All Parents and Students_

The Mildura bus is a service for students who live in Mildura and attend Coomealla High. It is a 24 seat minibus and there are 24 students who have their names on the list to use the service.

There isn’t any capacity for students to use this bus to travel from school into Mildura of an afternoon. Please make other arrangements if your child needs to travel into Mildura for an appointment, training, or other activity.

The bus driver has been instructed to NOT take any students other than those that are entitled to travel on the bus.

If you have any questions about this service, contact Mr. Gee during school hours.
**Term 1 Social**

What an awesome night!! The first school social for 2015 was held during Youth Week, 26th March, proudly sponsored by the Wentworth Shire. The theme was ‘What I want to be when I grow up’ enabling many students to be creative with their costumes, letting their imagination wonder back to when they were younger. Batman made an appearance on the night along with Men in Black, Woody from Toy Story and princesses with crowns. We were also fortunate to have our very own Coomie Police Squad dressed for the occasion providing security when needed.

Fun was had by all attending the social which raised $940.00 – proceeds will be donated to various local groups and charities within our community.

Thank you to DJ David Burrows for providing the music, Marshall Security for patrolling the school grounds, all teachers who attended providing supervision and to the members of the SRC for your hard work with ticket sales and BBQ duties.

I would also like to express thanks to Ms Janet Power, Wentworth Shire for the many hours of work in making this event such a huge success. Thank you to all.

*Mrs Maddi Johnson*

SRC Coordinator
FREE FEED FRIDAYS!!!

Who doesn’t love free food?! What better way to bring on the weekend than joining us at headspace Mildura for a feed on a Friday afternoon after school. Different food is on offer every week! Come down and see us at the old Cottee’s Building on the corner of Pine Avenue and Tenth Street.

Phone: 03 5021 2400
Email: my.headspace@headspacemildura.com.au
April 2015

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

headspace Mildura
2/125 Pine Ave, Mildura
5021 2400

What is headspace Mildura about?

headspace Mildura is here to help 12-25 year olds who may be going through a rough time.

Everyone will experience tough times in their life. Talking about it helps big time, and that's where headspace Mildura comes in. Any issue ranging from constantly feeling down, to struggling in school, to needing help with qualifications or courses to undertake, we can help you with.

While it is the national youth mental health service, headspace offers so much more than just mental health support. Our other core streams include physical health, alcohol and other drug support and vocational education. In other words, we have free or low cost health access for any issue you may be facing.

Come and see our awesome and friendly team for any needs you may have at the old Cottie's building on the corner of Pine Avenue and Tenth Street.

WE WANT YOU!
FOR all those who are aged between 12 and 25 are fun and awesome:

- Do you want to organise epic events for the young people of Sunraysia?
- Do you enjoy free food?
- Are you passionate about improving the health of young people in the region?
- Are you after a big tick to put on your job resume?
- Do you want to help build headspace Mildura into the biggest thing since sliced bread?

Our Youth Reference Group will be made up of amazing 16 to 25 year olds who want to achieve the same things as you. Together the group can become one of the most important crews in Sunraysia!

If we have sparked your interest, send an email our man Mitch Rodd (Mitch.Rodd@headspacemildura.com.au) and let him know why you would be the best person to join the crew.

headspace Mildura
Coomealla High has continued to develop its ties with the rugby league community. We have established a strong connection with the Melbourne Storm and in particular, their development officer, Martin O’Rourke.

Recently, Martin was able to arrange for members of the Melbourne Storm to go bush, but more importantly, to visit our school. They spent time at Coomealla delivering some very important messages about the importance of healthy living, to students of year 7 and 8.

Their focus emphasised the negative effects of not getting enough sleep, how this can affect your daily functioning and that going to bed early is far healthier than sleeping in. Diet and healthy foods such as fruit, vegetables and lean meat were also a focus, but above all, the need to think carefully about the lasting effects of poor choices.

The physical challenges they organised found our youngsters at a distinct disadvantage, as the AFL focus does not pass the football, but a serious effort by Rhys Christian, who absolutely smoked the storm representative in a push-up competition, we were able to save face.

Thank you to “the Storm” and to our students whose behaviour and attitude were impeccable.

Dennis Brown
Sport Coordinator
Science Report

The second unit for all junior classes has been completed, including student sitting tests. These stage 4 classes are beginning Our Solar System unit (year 7), and Electricity (year 8) and these will continue for four weeks.

Rotations will continue for year 9 and will commence for year 10.

Year 9 units are:
- COORDINATING BODY SYSTEMS with Mr Colley,
- ATOMIC THEORY - Mr Brown,
- PLATE TECTONICS with Ms Bradley.

The year 10 classes will rotate teachers for the units,
- LAWS OF MOTION with Mr Brown and
- OUR UNIVERSE with Mr Fratti on a four weekly schedule.

These rotations should see a uniform delivery of each unit of work across the classes, as the same teacher will deliver their unit of work to all children in the year.

We continue to be very excited about the benefits of this system of teaching.

Aquaculture

After the last newsletter I was hoping to receive some donations or at least some phone calls about some excess fish tanks or reject above ground pool parts or equipment, especially an old liner. Alas things were very quiet.

We live in a unique section of Australia, at the junction of Australia’s two major rivers. It would be good to showcase our native Aquatic animals, fish and yabbies from this region. So I send out a request for spare parts and extra tanks again. If anyone has anything to donate it would be greatly appreciated and put to go use.

Dennis Brown
Head Teacher Science & Sport
ART- BIKE—HOSPITALITY

First term saw the commencement of the Art Bike and Hospitality programs. All students involved produced some excellent work.

The Year 6 and Year 7 students involved in the bike program really had their work cut out for them with the collection of bikes that needed repairing. First thing was for them to pick a bike suitable in size and one they felt they could bring back to life with some hard work.

A big thank you to Robert Sinclair who was the teacher in term 1 arranging tools for the students to use.

We look forward to seeing the finished bikes on display.

ART students have prepared the backing board, sketched out the layout onto the board and have commenced painting of the new mural. The theme this time is a Non Indigenous piece showing what our area has to offer. This is a huge job and all students involved are working at the best to get this done. Congratulations to all involved.

The Hospitality group are certainly doing a great job. Their skills in the kitchen must be of high standard as news has it, Riverina Institute of TAFE and Coomealla High will provide a luncheon for the CMSC Ladies golf day in September.

Second Term will see the commencement of the NRL Rugby program kick off.

Congratulations to all students involved in the programs, they are showing improvement in their chosen areas and there is a positive attitude from all students around the school.

Well done and keep up the good work.

Di Brown—Project Manager  Links to Learning
Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day.
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine.
- Gives students time to greet their friends before class.
- Reduces classroom disruption.

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child’s absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child’s school principal.
My child won’t go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents, and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.

- Application to the Children’s Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child’s attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

The school leaving age:

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement
Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 5129
www.dec.nsw.gov.au
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NSW Department of Education and Communities
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.

Coomealla High School—Absence Note

Student Name: ___________________________ Year: ________ Roll Group: ______________

My child was absent from school: Date/s ____________________________________________

Reason: ______________________________________________________________________

Signed: __________________________________ Parent/Guardian

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Coomealla High School—Absence Note

Student Name: ___________________________ Year: ________ Roll Group: ______________

My child was absent from school: Date/s ____________________________________________

Reason: ______________________________________________________________________

Signed: __________________________________ Parent/Guardian

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Quotable Quote:

"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

Mattie Stepanek

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Change of Address/Personal information

Please obtain an official ‘Change of Student Details’ form from the front office.
This will allow details to be updated on our system.