

### Dates to Remember

**19 March**

Open Boys Football

**20 March**

School Cross Country

**21 March**

Show Team Excursion  
to Wingham Show

**24 March**

Year 7 Aquatics

**8 April**

Royal Easter Show Excursion  
Agriculture Students

**9 April**

School Anzac Ceremony



SRC and Marine Studies students participated in Clean Up Australia Day

Newsletters are published  
in weeks 3, 6 and 9.

Are available online at:  
[www.winghamh.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.winghamh.schools.nsw.edu.au)

Are emailed to:  
→ all students @education emails  
→ parents/carers with registered  
email accounts.

To receive a copy via email:  
Contact the school and update your  
email address

Or  
Hard copies are available from the  
front office and the library.

Payments for excursions etc,  
can be made online at  
[www.winghamh.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.winghamh.schools.nsw.edu.au)



### From the Principal's Desk

Welcome to the mid-term newsletter.

Our term continues to be quite the environmental challenge with our school works. It must be said that the vast majority of the school community have been extremely resilient and understanding. The situation has had 'extra spice' with our very much needed rainfall having the added effect of slowing down some of the works being completed. Unfortunately the most affected areas is that of the basketball court upgrade and the long awaited tennis court upgrade. Student access to physical activity via curriculum and daily breaks has obviously been hampered. The confined area for students to be at both recess and lunch is quite different to the wonderful space we are accustomed. We will keep encouraging all to be understanding of the situation and most importantly respectful of each other.

Coronavirus is obviously extremely topical and you would be hard pressed to access any media portal and it not be the headline. Our school prides itself in providing learning opportunities outside of the school, often to large centres or cities, where students have access to resources not provided in our rural setting. We are reviewing all of our practices and excursions, some on a daily basis. Of great concern is our involvement in large social events where numerous interactions heighten the risk of virus infection. Such events are our Royal Easter Show excursion, Beef Week and University Open Day visits. In fact University of New England just cancelled an open day recently. The advice the school is following is:

Staff and students who are excluded from a school or workplace are those who departed from or transited through:

- China within the last 14 days
- Iran within the last 14 days commencing 1 March 2020
- Republic of Korea (South Korea) commencing 5 March 2020
- Italy commencing 11 March 2020

OR

- have been diagnosed with the COVID-19
- have had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 infection.

As stated we are constantly reviewing information and reinforcing the washing of hands as one of the greatest precautions.

Attendance is highly valued by the school, it is hard to educate if you are not in attendance! In light of the information presented above it is always advisable that where your child is sick they stay home. I do get a lot of questions around attendance. I have supplied information to parents regarding attendance in this newsletter. Of note is the recording of explanation for non-attendance. Students who are habitually late, miss the bus, or are at appointments that could / should be organised outside of school hours will be deemed 'unjustified'. If families are looking to travel on holidays they are asked to complete an 'Application for Extended Leave'. This form includes a certificate that can clarify any questions from any authorities ie: at airports. Hopefully the information will clarify any further questions, if not, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

*Paul Ivers*



# 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
- Give 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.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

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

### Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Policy library*

### The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Wellbeing and Learning website*

### 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 512  
[www.dec.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au)

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NSW Department of Education and Communities



# Wingham High School Newsletter



## SRC News



Wingham High's new Year 7 year group nominated 10 candidates to join the Student Representative Council in 2020. The whole year group listened to the wise words from the candidates on Wednesday. Elections were held and the five new candidates are: Mikaela Berry, Tyrease Gordon Heterick, Jonah Harrell, Matilda Hurst, Emily Prior. We welcome the enthusiastic students to our team.

The SRC event group are starting to organise the WHS Olympics to be held in Term 3, Week 2. For this, teams of 3-5 will compete in events and challenges including sports and challenge-based activities. More information should be coming out soon with details of the events.

The SRC Wellbeing group have been working on an anti-bullying week to coincide with the Bullying. No Way! National Day of Action on Friday 20th March.



## Leaders Plaques from MidCoast Council

The 2020 captains from six high schools in the Manning were presented with plaques at the February 26 ordinary MidCoast Council meeting in Taree.

MidCoast Council mayor David West presented the plaques to Wingham High School's Dimity Bartlett and Billy Callaghan as well as leaders from five other high schools in the Manning area. Mayor West said it was an honour to present the plaques to the school leaders.



**BULLYING. NO WAY!**  
SAFE AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS.  
TOGETHER.

### Student tips about bullying

#### If it happens in person, try these:

- ignore them (try not to show any reaction)
- tell them to stop and then walk away
- pretend you don't care
- go somewhere safe
- get support from your friends.

Different things work for different types of bullying.

#### If it happens online, try these:

- avoid responding to the bullying
- block and report anyone who is bullying online
- protect yourself online – use privacy settings and keep records.

#### If you see someone being bullied:

- leave negative online conversations – don't join in
- support others being bullied.

#### If it doesn't stop:

- talk to an adult (parent, teacher) who can help stop the bullying
- keep asking for support until the bullying stops.





## School Photos

The day for school photos had come on Tuesday, 3 March and formal group photos were taken of our current Year 12, Student Representative Council and School Leaders.

Year 12 had a photo in their uniform as well as their jerseys which they are very proud of and are a great reminder of their time at Wingham High. Principal Mr Paul Ivers was very proud to stand beside his students and leaders.



## Welcome back Mr Sedgwick

Wingham High School has welcomed back Mr Brett Sedgwick this year in the position of Relieving Head Teacher of English. Mr Sedgwick has been relieving at Chatham High School for the last two years and was very keen to return to Wingham.

Mr Sedgwick has said:

"Mr Gary Dunbier, who was my first Head Teacher when I began my career at Wingham High School, is currently on long service leave before his retirement. When I heard about his position becoming vacant I jumped at the chance to return. I felt that it was my duty to continue the stellar work and the high benchmark that Mr Dunbier has set at Wingham. He was a fantastic mentor and I hope to do him proud. I have been made to feel really welcome by staff and students in the first few weeks of my return and it feels great to be home. Bring on 2020."



## Gym for Sport

Every Friday for sport a large group of students head to the Body, Strength, Health and Fitness Gym. They can use any of the equipment or do a fitness circuit. A weekly challenge has been introduced with the plank challenge being the first, won by Year 7 student Bligh Bowbrick. Jake Andrews also in Year 7 won the second challenge doing the most push-ups. The next challenge will be crunches.



## Street Education for our Seniors

This week Year 11 students each received a copy of the StreetSmart handbook. The StreetSmart Handbook has been in circulation throughout Australian secondary schools since 2002, guiding and assisting teenagers as they navigate their way into adulthood.

Also, Year 11 are booked in to go to the RYDA (Rotary Youth Driver Awareness) Program, excursion in June. Then in September we are booked in to participate in the Street Smart Interactive Education program at Homebush.





## Clean Up Australia Youth Day

Since Clean Up Australia Day began thirty years ago, almost 18 million Aussies have donated their time as part of Clean Up activities. This equates to more than 365,000 ute loads of rubbish being removed from our environment. On average, Australians use 130kg of plastic per person each year. Only 12% of that's recycled. More frightening still, up to 130,000 tonnes of plastic will find its way into our waterways and into the ocean. Once in the ocean, it endangers our marine wildlife. Studies have also shown that it has begun to enter the food chain and onto our plates.

On Friday 28th February, several students from Wingham High's SRC and the combined Years 9 and 10 Marine Studies classes collected several bags of waste from along the water's edge of the Manning River where it runs into the ocean at Manning Point. They also walked along the high tide shoreline zone of the adjacent beach north of Old Bar. A number of glass bottles, aluminium cans, cigarette butts, two torn shoes, multiple plastic fragments and a number of degrading plastic bags were among the rubbish collected during the morning.

We would like to thank Harrington Lion's Club for their contribution to our survey. Having organised a Clean Up activity on Sunday the 1st March, they subsequently donated the waste their group collected from the waterfront at Harrington. The collection of this debris will be valuable to the Year 9 Marine Studies students in identifying, categorising and recording the items found. This will culminate in a class survey to document beach debris as part of our upcoming unit about oceans and the effects of pollution on the marine environment. The study of sources, impacts and solutions regarding marine debris is being spearheaded by the National Marine Science Centre at Coffs Harbour in collaboration with Tangaroa Blue Ocean Foundation who are dedicated to the removal and prevention of marine debris across Australia.

## Marine Studies Water Safety and First Aid Practical Activities

During Weeks 5 and 6 this term, students from Year 9 Marine Studies took part in their mandatory water safety activities at the Wingham Memorial Pool. They participated in a number of competency outcomes as part of their required practical assessment for this semester. This included swimming laps, retrieving coins from a depth of two metres, conducting a number of rescues using floatation aids and simulating the conditions surrounding being stranded in water whilst wearing non-swimming attire. Several students noted the difficulty they experienced trying to swim in - and then remove, while treading water - their heavy, waterlogged clothing.



Students also completed basic CPR training using a dummy to practise their chest compressions. They also worked in groups to wrap bandages and learn to tie arm, elevation and collar-and-cuff slings.



Students in Year 10 completed similar water safety re-accreditation and first aid activities; in addition to this they also practised their basic snorkelling skills whilst at the pool.





## Year 7 Welcome Breakfast

Year 7 parents and carers were welcomed to the school on Wednesday 26 February for a BBQ breakfast. They were able to come and chat to teachers and ask any question they might have about their child's first year in high school. It was a lovely way to help settle any nerves with a cuppa and a bacon and egg roll. Thanks to the parents and carers that attended as well as the staff that made this happen.



## STEWART HOUSE

NSW Public Education's Charity of Choice



For almost 90 years, **Stewart House** has supported children from across NSW and ACT public

**schools who are going through tough times and are in need of a break.** In more recent times, this has included many children from families who have been adversely affected by prolonged drought and economic hardship.

Children attend Stewart House **free of charge** and we rely almost entirely on charitable donations to run our 12-day program, designed to develop their physical, social and emotional wellbeing.

School fundraising has always provided much needed revenue for us and there are many fun ways your school can get involved:

### Donation Drive

The **Stewart House Donation Drive** has been running in NSW public schools for more than 40 years.

Both students and staff are encouraged to enter the draw. For only \$2.00 you could win a holiday prize worth \$4,000.

Envelopes for entry in the competition are available at the Front Office or see Mrs Boyle.

**Stewart House**

[www.stewarthouse.org.au](http://www.stewarthouse.org.au) | 02) 9930 3100 | [marketing@stewarthouse.org.au](mailto:marketing@stewarthouse.org.au)



# Wingham High School Newsletter



## Canteen Roster Term 1

### March

	15	16	17	18	19	20
Week 8	Leanne J	Jennifer H	Judy A	Ray L	Elissa	
	Cheryl B		Bev B	Lauren R	Jenny	
	22	23	24	25	26	27
Week 9	Leanne J	Jennifer H	Judy A	Ray L	Elissa	
	Cheryl B		Bev B	Marina K	Jenny	
	29	30	31	1	2	3
Week 10	Leanne J	Jennifer H				



Gluten Free  
Options  
Now available  
by order

### CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

All you need is a free Volunteers Working with Children's Check and one simple form for you to enjoy a free morning tea and lunch and a good laugh with our fabulous canteen team. However, most importantly you are helping our students receive nutritious, NSW Government approved meals. You won't have to serve or handle money.

So come in and lend a hand as much or as little time as you like - and you don't have to have a child at this school to help!

Please call Judy on 6553 5488.

## HELPING LEARNER DRIVERS BECOME SAFER DRIVERS

Free workshops  
for parents and  
supervising  
drivers



If you're teaching someone to drive you'll know it's not always a smooth ride. Come along to learn how you can make the most of every lesson.

You'll gain practical advice about:

- Current laws for L and P licence holders
- Supervising learner drivers
- Completing the learner driver log book
- The benefits of supervised on-road driving experience
- Low risk driving

Workshops will be held at:

**Gloucester:** 6pm, Thursday 19 March  
SES HQ, 23 Tate Street

**Taree:** 6pm, Tuesday 24 March  
MidCoast Council, 2 Pulteney Street

**Forster:** 6pm, Thursday 26 March  
MidCoast Council, 4 Breese Parade

**Book now:** Email [road.safety@midcoast.nsw.gov.au](mailto:road.safety@midcoast.nsw.gov.au) or call 6591 7236, providing your contact details and workshop location. Workshops run approx. 2 hours, and light refreshments will be available.

[midcoast.nsw.gov.au](http://midcoast.nsw.gov.au)

# INFORMATION SESSION for Parents, Carers & Interested Professionals



## Supporting Children and Young People in Drought & Bushfire Impacted Communities

Loss at any time in life can be challenging. At Good Grief, we develop and support a range of evidence-based loss and grief education programs that help children, young people and adults to understand their experience and attend well to their grief following major loss experiences.

Disasters, such as drought and bushfires, bring many changes and losses for children, young people and families in the community and more broadly. Concerns are often raised about the impacts and how we may best support children and young people.

### COMMON QUESTIONS ARE:

1. What is the impact of disasters for wellbeing of children and young people?
2. What are normal and natural reactions for children and young people?
3. How can I best support the children and young people in my care?

### ATTENDEES WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT:

1. Children and young people's reactions following significant life events;
2. The Seasons for Growth approach to understanding and supporting children and young people following significant life experiences;
3. Practical strategies to support children and young people;
4. Caring for yourself;
5. Questions and answers, networking.

**VENUE:** Club Taree

**DATE:** Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March, 4-6pm.

Good Grief will also provide training to enable professionals working in schools and community organisations to facilitate the Seasons for Growth Children and Young People's small group program with children and young people. Seasons for Growth provides a safe learning environment for children and young people where they can give voice to their experiences, understand their feelings, learn skills to adapt and recognise 'I'm not the only one'.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on Seasons for Growth, visit [www.goodgrief.org.au](http://www.goodgrief.org.au)

*This initiative is funded by from HNECC Primary Health Network through the Australian Government's PHN Program and Empowering Communities program.*

If you are interested in attending the session, please RSVP for catering purposes:

**NAME** Kylie Atkinson  
**CONTACT NO** 0437 268 325  
**EMAIL** [kylie.atkinson@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kylie.atkinson@health.nsw.gov.au)

