





NARARA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER December 2024



The principal's article for our final newsletter for 2024 will be the transcript of the principal's address from our recent Presentation Assembly.

Good evening students, parents, carers, staff and our special guests.

It is hard to believe that yet another year has passed by.

The Narara Valley High School presentation assemblies are of course, such magnificent occasions. We recognise achievement across such an incredible array of activities, both curricular and co-curricular. I want to start by congratulating each and every award recipient tonight. I can tell from the number of certificates I have signed in the last couple of weeks that we have a huge group of very capable young people in our school. We also look forward to the annual CAPA concert tomorrow night, that showcases the outstanding talents of our creative and performing arts students.

I really want to thank and recognise our special guests in attendance – Mrs Coleman from Niagara Park PS and Mrs Francis from Wyoming PS. Our primary school partnerships are so vitally important to ensuring the ongoing success of students in our community. Likewise, I thank Mr Baldwin, Director Educational Leadership for the central coast principal network - who provides vital support to us on the department of education's behalf.

2024 has been a year of significant achievement at Narara Valley High School. NAPLAN results this year demonstrated growth for both the Year 7 and 9 cohorts. In the area of Reading, our Year 9 students were 11 points higher than state average and 33 points higher than statistically similar schools. Our Year 7 students were 19 points higher than statistically similar schools, which is a great tribute to our primary partners and Year 7 teachers. NVHS scored higher than our statistically similar schools across most areas of NAPLAN this year. I would like to recognise the work of Mrs Karazinov in leading our literacy and numeracy initiatives, our teachers who continue to do such outstanding work in the classroom and of course our Year 7 and 9 students who did so well.

Our 2024 HSC students are waiting for their final results, due out this week. We look forward to seeing how they will use their HSC for the next exciting stage in their lives. I would like to recognise that approximately 30% of students in our HSC group received early offers for university – some receiving multiple offers. This is a great testament to the academic gains they made in the senior school and is something we are all very proud of. Well done to these students and their fantastic teachers.

One of the real highlights of 2024 was the opening of the Valley Way café. The café is the brainchild of our outstanding VET teacher, Mrs Anderson, and allows us to deliver elements of the Hospitality Food and Beverage course. Together with her colleagues, Mrs Anderson set about creating an excellent space and an even better menu, which has been an absolute hit.

We have had many CAPA and sporting highlights this year, however, I will pre-empt our awards by speaking about these in detail now. Suffice it to say that NVHS students have once again excelled.



In 2025 we are very excited to be planning not one but two overseas tours. In April we will be sending a group of students and staff to Cambodia as part of a Habitat for Humanity experience — allowing our students to perform community service globally. The second of our tours will be to Japan, a trip our school has made very successfully in the past. My thanks to Ms Gilmour and Mrs Robinson respectively for the masses of organisation they have already done for these adventures.

As always at this time of year, we have the sad duty of farewelling some of our excellent staff. Long serving PDHPE teacher and relieving head teacher, Mrs Jackie Morrison, will leave us for a 12-month appointment as head teacher PDHPE at Kincumber High School. Jackie's achievements at NVHS in the classroom and across the school are too numerous to mention, but I know she will fast become as invaluable to Kincumber as she is to us.

Mr Anthony Bush will likewise take up a 12-month appointment as relieving Head Teacher English at Brisbane Water Secondary College Umina campus. Mr Bush has ably led the English faculty while Ms Rae has been away from us and has led many great initiatives school wide. His most recent work has been with our school leaders. I have assured the principals of both Kincumber HS and Umina campus that these staff members belong to us, and this is just a loan!

Mr Liam Jarret in the Mathematics department has only been with us this year but has quickly established great relationships with his students. He is leaving to pursue an opportunity in a school closer to home. We are sad to see Mr Jarret leave and wish him every success for the future.

Miss Jami Young has been with us this year as a temporary English teacher and will next year take up a position at Swansea High School. Miss Young has done an incredible job in her first year teaching and has become a vital part of our English department. All the very best for next year, Miss Young.

Mr Stan Baric has worked with us in our support unit this year and will next year take up a permanent teaching position at Lisarow HS. We have been so fortunate to have an educator of Mr Baric's experience working with us in 2024 and we wish him every success.

I would also like to wish our HT HSIE, Mrs Debenham, all the very best as she takes maternity leave next year. We are all very excited about the new arrival and look forward to seeing Mrs Debenham back with us in 2026.

In our TAS department, Mr Ryder will take next year to travel around Australia with his family – we hope to see him back with us in 2026. Mr Fisher, our Wednesday farm assistant, will finish with us and we wish him every success for the future.

Mrs Tobin in our careers and transition team has decided to take some leave in the lead up to retirement, and we will celebrate her wonderful career a bit closer to the day.



Finally, one of the great personalities of our office, Mrs Kerry Halls, will retire at the end of this year. Mrs Halls will be greatly missed by us all and I want to offer a huge congratulations to her on her career with the department of education. Thank you for everything you have done for us, Mrs Halls.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organisers of today's presentation assembly. To Mrs Barrale, our HT Science, Mrs White in our school office, and Mr Bush our R/HT English, thank you for the months' worth of work you have put in to ensure that every detail is considered and that our assembly recognises the broad range of successes in such an authentic way. Thanks also to Mr Legg and Ms Hunter for sound and lighting. Thank you also to the team of staff who have assisted them and done numerous other jobs to make today successful.

I am surrounded by an outstanding group of students who inspire me every day to work hard for them. Thank you to our entire staff team for the outstanding work you do each and every day in supporting or students. I acknowledge our hard working executive staff who lead the full spectrum of learning and wellbeing activities across our school. Thanks to our deputy principals, Mr Fleming, Mrs Karazinov and Mr Goodenough for all that you do for our students and staff. Nothing in our school can happen without you and I am truly grateful.

Once again, tonight is about celebration, so congratulations to all of our award recipients. Have a fantastic Christmas holiday, Narara Valley. Take care of yourselves and I look forward to serving you in 2025.







ANDREW SKEHAN Principal





















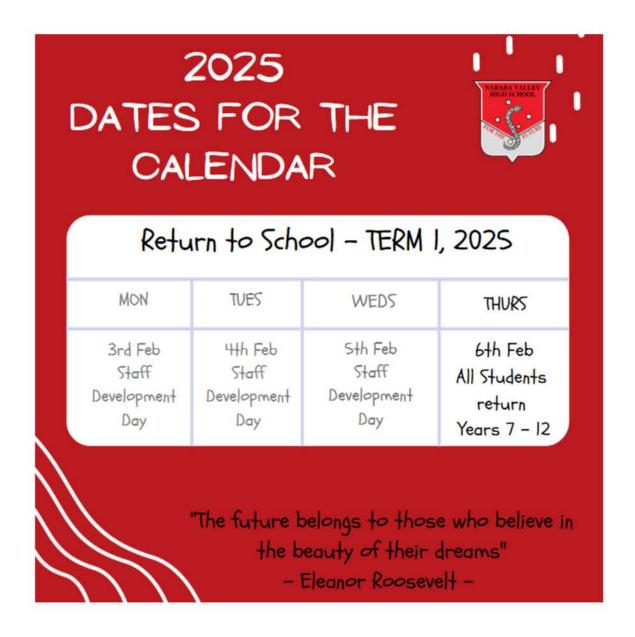












^{*}Dates current at time of this issue and may be subject to change.



Year 7:

I would like to sincerely express my thanks to Year 7 for an excellent 2024 at Narara Valley High School. Throughout the year most students have displayed our core values on a regular basis, and I have been privileged to observe consistent academic and social growth. The transition to high school is not always easy and this year many students have experienced a wide range of emotions as they learn to adapt to a new school setting with many new friends. I have been very happy to see the high level of resilience displayed by many students and the comradery that is developing as we come to the end of the year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Year 7 cohort for their ongoing efforts and as they look forward to beginning Year 8, I would like to remind all students to be proud of the accomplishments throughout the year, regardless of how big or small your achievements have been. We hope that all students have a growth mindset and continue to build on the knowledge and skills they have gained when they move into Year 8 in 2025.

Year 10:

Well done to all students in Year 10. You have achieved excellent outcomes, and I am very proud of all of you. Many students will be staying on with us in 2025 and will begin their HSC journey next year. We hope you have paid attention to some of the careers and transition events that have been held during the year and take on board the planning and studying skills recommended to reduce stress and enhance productivity in Year 11. Mr Koen, Ms Green and I will be available to answer any questions you need regarding study plans and managing the increased expectations.

For those students who have expressed a desire to seek alternative pathways in 2025, we ask that you still come to school on the first day so that a member of our Careers and Transition Team can talk to you to ensure that your post-school plans are suitable. We want all students to achieve their goals and dreams and want to ensure that you have the right foundation and are enrolled in the correct course, apprenticeship or traineeship before moving on from high school. I have spoken to many parents and students over the past few weeks, and I am always available should any parents or students have further questions regarding Stage 6 or post-school options.

Finally – I wish all my families and students a safe, happy and positive Christmas and holiday break filled with joy and kindness.



ROY GOODENOUGH
Deputy Principal
Year 7 & 10





In the final newsletter for 2024, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the Narara Valley High School Community (Staff, Students, Parents and Caregivers) for working together throughout the year. I am looking forward to many of our students' achievements being celebrated at our day time merit and night time special awards presentations. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the students that will receive awards at these events.

It was fantastic to see students participating in the numerous events such as school camps, sporting carnivals and other excursions that reinforce what is being taught in class or build a sense of belonging within the school community in 2024. I am extremely thankful to all our staff that put in the extra work to organise such events.

As quickly as this year has flown by, it is important that students are attending school as much as possible so that they can seize the opportunities available to them.

I look forward to following year 9 students on their educational journeys in 2025. Year 9 students will move into the final year of Stage 5 of their education, I always find that year 10 is an important year for students to ensure they have the building blocks in place to be successful Senior students in the future. Our incoming Year 7 students have already completed a number of transition and orientation days. I would like to encourage students to reflect on these days and remember the supports that are available to them during their first year of high school.

I would like to congratulate the Year 12 students who will shortly receive their HSC results. I am hopeful these results will reflect the dedication of both our students and staff.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season and I look forward to seeing you all back in 2025!



GEOFFREY FLEMING
Deputy Principal
Year 9 & 12





The end of our school year is marked by several important events, including our presentation ceremonies, which were held on Monday. These awards acknowledge the effort and achievement of our students across key learning areas. I would like to extend my congratulations to our award recipients, students on our honour roll and dux of each grade. I commend their diligence and dedication to their studies, sports and humanitarian pursuits. NVHS is proud of you.

Last week, I had the privilege of attending the 8 Betts Film festival as part of the Water Efficiency Program, a joint venture between Rumbalara Environmental Education Centre and the Central Coast Council. The quality of films produced from our students were exceptional. We certainly have some up and coming future film makers at NVHS. I would like to congratulate our yr 8 students on their ability to bring such important environmental issues to light, using their creativity and critical thinking skills. A special mention to their teacher, Mrs Grundy, for her organisation, support and guidance of our budding film makers.

Our new year 12 students have now finished their first term of their HSC courses. It has been a challenging time over these last few weeks with looming due dates of multiple assessment tasks. However, our students have impressed their teachers with their organisation and pragmatism, submitting quality tasks. A reminder to our stage 6 students that if you are ill on the day of an assessment task or are seeking an extension, that you must have a medical certificate for that day, stating the specific reason for the illness. You must also submit an illness/misadventure form along with your evidence. This form must be filled out by the student, parent, teacher, head teacher and Deputy for the illness/ misadventure to be considered. You can find the form on our school website at https://nararavaly-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/learning-at-our-school/assessment-schedules-.html.

Finally, I would like to wish our NVHS community a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope you all have a restful and well-deserved holiday period.





NATALIE KARAZINOV Rel. Deputy Principal Year 8 & 11



The Narara Valley High School HSIE Faculty would like to take this opportunity to wish all students and their families a safe and happy Christmas. Thank you to all students for your continued efforts this year in your HSIE classes. Students have achieved some wonderful results this year and we look forward to celebrating your achievements again in 2025.

REMEMBRANCE DAY THANK YOU

At our week 6 PBL assembly we took the time to acknowledge the Students and Teachers who made our annual school Remembrance Day assembly on the 11th of November possible. Students were acknowledged for their outstanding school service with a certificate and round of applause from their peers.

Thank you to Jude.C, Hannah.P, Charlotte.M, Imogen.P, Renna.G, Jacinta.L, Jasmine.M, Zahli.F, Luke.R, Joshua.R, Mr Legg, Mrs Akhurst and Mr Fleming for your efforts on the day.







YR 12 MODERN HISTORY SYDNEY JEWISH MUSEUM EXCURSION

On Monday 25th of November our Year 12 Modern History students went on an unforgettable excursion down to the Sydney Jewish Museum. Our day began with a tour of the museum with a lovely volunteer Louise. The students learnt about the widespread ideologies throughout Europe, viewing of primary artefacts that had been donated to the Museum and paid our respects in the children's memorial.

The middle of our excursion consisted of a very humbling and privileged moment where our students met holocaust survivor Dr Dasia Black Gutman. Who explained her experiences and means of survival as a young Jewish child in Poland during WWII.

Finally, our day ended with a valuable source analysis task seminar where students had the opportunity to further develop their skills and gain different perspectives on primary and secondary sources of the time. This was extremely helpful as this seminar particularly focused on our current and core unit of study Power and Authority.

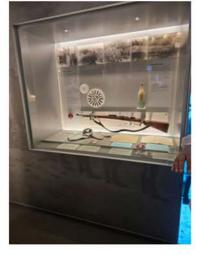
Throughout the day, Year 12 carried themselves with respect, compassion and empathy whilst representing NVHS.

As we have returned to school the students undertook a source analysis activity where they reviewed the sources they were shown at the seminar, putting into action their newly learnt skills. They were then required to apply this knowledge to analysing the propaganda piece for their upcoming assessment task. Well done Year 12.













ILLUMINATE CHALLENGE

Social Science students have been given a number of different opportunities to participate in learning experiences that test their actual practical skills in real to life situations this year. Of these, Illuminate is amongst the most challenging and the most rewarding.

Year 9 and 10 Commerce students were offered the opportunity to participate in this challenge in Term 4 this year. The challenge consists of teams of 4-6 students being presented with a real world problem that is challenging governments and other social organisations in the contemporary real world. The challenge is for students to create a hypothetical response to the issue that could be implemented in the real world. In the past, such complex issues as overpopulation and climate change have been tackled. This year, teams were challenged with the issue of the ageing population. This was a terrific challenge to pose as it allowed students to come to grips with a subject that probably very few of them had had any previous experience with.

The event took place over the course of an entire week. The first two days were spent on site at the Newcastle University's Ourimbah Campus. Students then returned to school for a further two days to work on their responses. They returned to the University Campus for the final day, which included presentations of their idea to a panel of judges.

The week was a veritable hurricane of work. Ideas needed creating and refining, materials and budget documents drafted and submitted, deadlines and obstacles overcome. Our teams came up with the ideas of a social gym for seniors, and a bus service to aid socialisation and ease access to medical appointments. By the end of the week, all team members were exhausted by their efforts.

A good job was done by all but it is particularly pleasing to report that a prize was awarded to one of our Narara Valley teams for outstanding presentation of their stall.

The students all agreed that it was quite an incredible experience. Their teachers saw the real world experience that they garnered from the experience of a life-like high pressure workplace environment was nothing short of absolutely invaluable.

















POMPEIIAN FEAST

On 11th of December, the Year 12 Ancient History class, experienced a small taste of what it would have been like to live in the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in 79 AD. This is part of their Core Study: Cities of Vesuvius – Pompeii and Herculaneum. Students dressed up like some members of different social classes in Pompeii (Gladiators and Elites) and had the opportunity to try some of the local delicacies such as - Bread, Garum (Fish Sauce), Cheese, Fruits, Olives, Seafood and Wine (Red Cordial) to aid in their understanding of the everyday life of the citizens of the ancient cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum.











CARLA DEBENHAM
Head Teacher HSIE





Year 12 PDHPE Gee Recovery

Students and teachers completed a practical session at the Berkeley Vale clinic, as well as an educational piece on recovery, health and fitness. Thank you Mr Rodrigues and Ms Anderson for attending and participating in this opportunity. Thank you Mrs Morrison for your organisation.

12SLR, 12EEC, 12PDHPE & 12CAFS

Congratulations to our new Year 12 students for completing their first HSC Assessment Tasks this term. It can be daunting, but you have all embraced the challenge, well done.

MOVEMBER & BLOKE'S BREAKY

It was one for the books! The day was kicked off with a breakfast for all male NVHS students, followed by a powerful presentation from Tom at Find Ya Feet. Students shared a safe and open space to share vulnerabilities, fostering a sense of community and support. The day included music, a barber station, and lunchtime sports.

Thank you Mr Koen and Team for this outstanding event.

Thank you to the students who shared and participated in the event.

#MentalHealthMatters #BlokesBreakfast #Movember #CommunitySupport

TSP

We had a fantastic excursion to Toowoon Bay for beach fitness recently. This was the final excursion for our Year 8 TSP students before they graduate the sport program. We thanked our coaches on Tuesday 10th December with our final coaching session for the year with a card and chocolates to celebrate. We look forward to welcoming our 2025 TSP cohort.











SPORT

NVHS Sport has come to a conclusion for 2024. Students enjoyed the opportunities they were provided during Sport and represented NVHS with respect and pride. We can not thank Mr Koen enough for his time, efforts and expertise as Sports Organiser. His reign has come to an end, thank you.



KNOCKOUT SPORTS / GALA DAYS

→ Girls Waterpolo Wombat Cup. Our NVHS girls waterpolo team ventured out to the Peninsula Leisure Centre to partake in the highly regarded Wombat Cup. The team was made up of Year 9 students, all eager and proud Blacksnakes, led by their co-captains, Isabella Hennessy and Tayla Singh. The Wombat Cup is an Opens Competition but the girls made a case on why they should be there to Mr Rodrigues days before the competition. Games 1 and 2 were tightly contested but the team was not phased. Game 3 the Blacksnakes faced off against Gosford HS. With minutes remaining and the score locked at 2-2, Tayla Singh took the challenge head-on and broke the deadlock with an absolute screamer of a goal! The day finished with NVHS contesting for 3rd. Thank you to Mr Rodrigues, coach extraordinaire. The girls represented NVHS with pride.



→Unfortunately, both the TSP Game Day and the Brisbane Water Zone Gala Day were cancelled due to weather conditions this term. Our Talented Sports Program has been unfortunate with weather conditions this year, we are hoping for a better 2025.

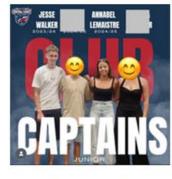
SPECIAL MENTIONS



Special mention to Emmerson Squires and former graduates Kobi Rodrigues and Jesse Walker on their recent Senior NSW Touch Football tournament and achievements. The boys were victorious overall, Emmerson put her heart and soul in the final but fell short.



Further special mention for Annabel Lemaistre and Jesse Walker on being named as Club Captains for their Junior Representative teams for the upcoming junior tournament.







Isabelle Hart (Year 12) and Lilly Hart (Year 9) competed at the National AASCF Cheerleading competition in Queensland last week, and we are incredibly proud to share the outstanding results they achieved, both individually and as a team.

Isabelle's all-girls Open Level 4 stunt group won 1st place, becoming National Champions! This achievement is especially meaningful as they choreographed the routine themselves and had to qualify to compete at Nationals. Isabelle also earned 5th place in Australia with her Open Level 4 Non-Tumble team.

Both Isabelle and Lilly competed together in the Open Level 4.2 team, which placed 3rd in their division.

Congratulations to both girls on these amazing results in what was the largest cheerleading competition in Australia's history, with over 12,000 athletes and more than 2,400 teams competing. We couldn't be prouder of their hard work and dedication!







Special mention to Mrs Jackie Morrison. Mrs Morrison is truly a force to be reckoned with. She leaves NVHS next year and we will all feel her absence. Mrs Morrison is a beloved teacher, person and teammate.

Thank you for being an exceptional leader, mentor, and source of inspiration. Your vision, wisdom, and unwavering support have not only guided us through challenges but have also empowered us to grow, both professionally and personally.

You have created a workplace where we feel valued, motivated, and encouraged to excel. Your ability to lead with both strength and kindness is truly remarkable and it's a privilege to have been part of your team.

Your impact goes beyond just the work we do - you've built a legacy of leadership that will be remembered and cherished. We are immensely grateful for your guidance, trust, and the opportunities you've provided us.







UPCOMING SYDNEY NORTH REGIONAL SPORTS TRIALS AND INFORMATION

- Sydney North Boys Volleyball Trial Friday 7th February, 2025
- Please note that Ms Moody is the Sports Organiser for 2025, taking over from the formidable Mr Koen.

2025 Important Dates

School Swimming- Feb 21st Zone Swimming- March 6th Syd North Swimming- March 19th

School Cross Country- April 3rd (Week 9 Thursday) Zone Cross Country- **TBC** Syd North Cross Country- June 13th

School Athletics Carnival- May 9th Zone Athletics- June 30th Syd North Athletics- 28th & 29th of July





If you play at representative levels for these sports and are interested in attending the trials, please see Mr Koen in the PDHPE staffroom to get a permission note.

"True Christmas is about presence, not presents." - M Legace

The PE Faculty wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year. Looking forward to seeing you all in 2025.



JESSICA MOODY Rel. Head Teacher PDHPE





LUNA PARK EXCURSION:

The students who recently attended the Luna Park Excursion had a fun filled day, with our Senior Physics class completing their first assessment task related to the physics of amusement park rides.



MARINE AND AQUACULTURE TECH EXCURSIONS

Our Marine students have ended their school year participating in a range of extracurricular activities including fishing, a trip to the Sea Life Aquarium and an overnight excursion to Port Stephens. We will share more information on these activities on our school facebook site.

SCIENCE SAFETY SHOES

Just a reminder if you are purchasing new shoes for the 2025 school year, students MUST wear black leather shoes.







AMANDA BARRALE
Head Teacher Science



RECENT WORK

YEAR 8 - 11 VISUAL ARTS AND PHOTOGRAPHY





CAPA CONCERT 2024











As we come to the close of the year, it is great to sit back and reflect on all of the wonderful things that have happened. We are looking forward to our Merit and Distinction assemblies where students will be recognised for their outstanding efforts and achievements. Students will have noticed a few new faces teaching their English classes this year. As an English faculty, we were pleased to have Miss Young, Mrs Wright, and Miss Hunter join us in teaching some classes in Years 9, 10, and 11. Three excellent practitioners with bright futures ahead of them.



Congratulations to Year 12 2025 for completing their first term of the HSC English Studies, Standard, Advanced, and Extension courses. As our Year 10 students come to the conclusion of Stage 5, we encourage them all to enjoy their holiday break as they prepare to commence with their preliminary HSC courses in Year 11. There are a number of students who still need to select which English course they wish to take and we encourage you to speak with your English teacher and then confirm your selection with Mr Goodenough and Ms Green.

Our year of debating finished with Gabriella Lints representing Narara Valley High School at the Junior State Debating Championships in Sydney. Gabby is an outstanding debater and public speaker and her team, Hunter/Central Coast, made it to the state semi-finals. A remarkable achievement!

We would also like to recognise the following students for their love of literature and commitment to reading in the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge:

Tom Egar, Penny Munro, William Wighton, Francis Calisin, and Ivy Wilson. Matinka De Kalb will be honoured with her Platinum Award for 7 years of consistent effort and participation in the PRC. It is with great pride that we also recognise Scout De Kalb with highest honour in the PRC, the Premier's Medallion. Scout is an avid reader and her perseverance in this challenge is worthy of praise and recognition.

Next year we will welcome back Ms Rae as Head Teacher of English after she completed a year as Deputy Principal at the senior college in Coffs Harbour. We farewell Mr Bush who will depart to Brisbane Water Secondary College - Umina Campus.



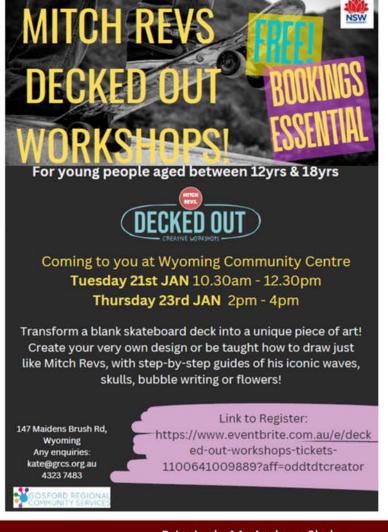
Be safe, enjoy the holiday break, read books, write poetry, view films, tell stories, and be ready to come back fully charged for 2025!



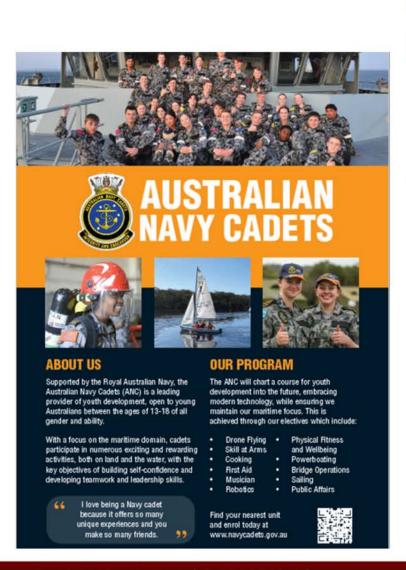
ANTHONY BUSH
Rel. Head Teacher English













Honour those who made the Supreme Sacrifice for us in all wars







We are looking for new members aged 12+ to join our Military Re-enactment group

Train as Flag Bearers & Memorial Guards for Remembrance Services

Visit Aged care facilities, Schools & Sporting events

Training once per month at Alison Homestead - Cape Rd, Wyong Parade Unform Supplied - Training T-shirt \$28 Fees \$25 per year

> Contact: John jbcadservices@yahoo.com.au