

Coming Up

Thu 4 Sep - Sports Awards Presentation Evening

Fri 5 Sep - AECG Sports Day

Fri 5 Sep - Year 12 Night In

Wed 10 Sep - Durunga Upper Blue Mountains Dance Festival

Mon 15 Sep - HSC Major Works Exhibition

Wed 24 Sep - Yr 12 Breakfast

Thu 25 Sep - Yr 12 Graduation

We are very pleased to share our mid-term newsletter for Term 3. We hope you enjoy reading about all of the news and happenings from the first few weeks of term.

Congratulations to our new School Leaders!

This term we were very pleased to announce the Katoomba High School Leadership Team for 2025-2026! These students successfully progressed through the application and selection process which included speeches and voting for the six Captains roles.

Congratulations to our 2025-2026 School Captains Tess Rogan and Tani Hoffman, our Vice Captains Sylvie Argall and Mars Fraser, and our Sports Captains Chloe Flugge and Allyssa Ng-Saad.

Congratulations to our 2025-2026 Prefect Team Sylvie Argall, Joshua Crabtree, Tilda Horne, Shanthi Ingold, Ruby Loeb, Luke McGrath, Anton Mimica, Ainsley Pollard, Grace Watts and Tyler Weitzner.

This fantastic new leadership team has already stepped into their roles



brilliantly. We look forward to seeing what you achieve together over the next year!

Well done also to all students who put their hand up to be considered for these important roles, there was a high calibre of applications this year which is great to see. We are very proud of all of you.

Open Girls Soccer Team Finish Top 4 in the State!

Huge congratulations to KHS teacher Coach Kirby Marsh and her team of soccer superstars for their amazing achievement this year.

The Open Girls team played the State Semi-Final game against Merewether on Wednesday 13th August showing amazing skill and sportsmanship against some very tough opponents.

Our girls got away to an amazing start with Amber-Lee scoring in the



opening minutes. The opposition had a few lucky breakaway goals. Nina, relieving in goals did a great job saving a few more.

Trailing 4-1 at half time the girls outplayed Merewether for much of the second half. Some classy play saw Allyssa score two and the team had some other great attempts only stopped by some amazing saves. The final score was 5-3, but our team was in the fight the whole way.

Congratulations to Aila Gulson, Grace Hogan, Daisy Glass, Amber-Lee Bergmann, Chloe Flugge, Tani Hoffman, Tilda Horne, Saskia Krinks, Nina Mimica, Allyssa Ng-Saad, Eve Seldon, Hazel Walters, Lu-Anne Angwin, Annabel Dignam, and Kaya Peacock-Hurst.

Your passion, effort, achievement and sportsmanship are a fantastic example of our school is all about. It was a great day for KHS sport!



Celebrating NAIDOC

NAIDOC at KHS

Last week we held our NAIDOC celebrations. On Tuesday, staff and students wore red, black and yellow, we ran a lesson about the meaning of NAIDOC, and we had a whole school assembly.

Our Year 10 Aboriginal students, Kameryne Lipscombe and Phoebe Hitchell, led the assembly and did a who did a fantastic job! They spoke about the importance of this year's NAIDOC theme "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy" and spoke about the importance of possum skins in Aboriginal culture.

Year 7 students George Fang and Hayden Elliott with Mrs Fliegner gave us a peek into what Year 7 students are learning in their Dharug language classes.

We congratulated Nicole Tsahtarlis who came third in the state for the Zonta Achievement Award for Young Indigenous Woman.

Mrs Tully was our guest speaker and spoke about the importance of legacy and told a story of a legacy she left behind as a teenager. She encouraged our students to think about the legacy they hope to leave.

We ended the assembly by making the Aboriginal flag by the students holding coloured paper above their heads. It looked amazing.

On the way out of Yanguu, students were treated to a traditional muffin baked and served by Mrs Hanrahan, the TAS team and students for the whole school!



The assembly was a great celebration of NAIDOC. Thank you to the Aboriginal Education Team for your work organising this special event.





Mob Lunch

On Friday 22nd August our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their friends came to our mob lunch. This is a time to get together, enjoy a yummy lunch, yarn and learn new things. Ms Mah did an amazing job organising and catering for this get together. Mrs Tully bought in our very special possum skins for the students to wear and become familiar with. She spoke about their importance and students were able to experience first-hand what a possum skin pelt is like. Thank you to Ms Mah and Mrs Tully for organising this event.



A Special Gift for Auntie Carol Cooper

We were thrilled to be able to offer Auntie Carol Cooper a very special gift before NAIDOC Week last term. Mrs Tully and a group of Aboriginal students made a beautiful traditional Possum Skin Cloak as a special gift from our school community. Auntie Carol accepted this gift with grace and gratitude and proudly wore it to her NAIDOC Week celebrations. Thank you, Auntie Carol.

Around the Grounds

Connecting to Country – Strength, Vision, Legacy.

HSIE were privileged to have Uncle David King, Gundungurra custodian of Birriban, and James Bevan and Jess Colussi, Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC), speak to our Year 10 Geography students as part of their assessment task. The task considers the cultural and environmental significance of Birriban and weed management.

The Jakular (lyrebird) people of the Gundungurra nation are the traditional owners of Birriban. It became a Bushcare site around 2007 through the connections and vision of a school SLSO (since passed – unnamed with respect), Aunty Lynn, an elder, and Uncle David, who named it Birriban (emu), his totem, to honour story.

James explained that only 17% of the site is in poor condition. With the combined efforts of students, knowledge of BMCC, volunteer Bushcarers, and contractors, weeds can be managed, resulting in strong, resilient native bushland and a legacy for future generations.



Student Art from Japan

In our school library this term is a wonderful exhibition of children's artwork from Sanda, our Sister City in Japan. This has been organised by the Blue Mountains Sister Cities Committee.

Thank you to Allan and Petra Graham and Mark, our wonderful SLSO for translating some of the citations accompanying the work. We will soon be sending a selection of artwork by our students to be exhibited in Sanda, Japan.

Dharug Language Learning

We are thrilled to be able to offer Dharug Language lessons at Katoomba High School and it was fantastic to see the students up on stage at our assembly speaking in language. If you are interested in learning with us, Ms Fliegner has shared a free Dharug Language Speaking App that can be used on phones and computers. If you are interested, have a look at the 'Bayala' (which means talking or communicating) app info [here](#)

Zonta Leadership Award

Each year the Zonta Club present statewide awards for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who have shown strong leadership. This year, Nicole Tsahtarlis from Year 12 was nominated. Nicole has been a strong advocate for young people in out of home care and sits on an of advocacy committee. Nicole's application was very strong and she received third place in the state. Nicole was presented with her certificate by Ms Devine on our NAIDOC Assembly.

Congratulations Nicole. This is wonderful recognition of the work you do.



Students Carve Out Success in the Holidays

While most students were enjoying a well-earned break in the winter holidays, our dedicated Year 12 Industrial Technology Timber students were hard at work in the workshop, putting in extra hours during the holiday tutoring program to advance their HSC major projects. With their final works due on the 14th of August, the commitment, craftsmanship and collaboration on display have been nothing short of outstanding.

Under the guidance of their teacher, students have taken full advantage of the quieter holiday period to refine

their joinery, perfect their designs, and push their creativity to new heights. The workshop has been a hive of activity and determination, with students confidently operating tools, clamping intricate assemblies, and chiselling fine joints — all with a strong focus on detail and precision.

The photos captured during this program speak volumes. Whether it's carefully gluing a checkerboard inlay, carving dovetails by hand, or collaborating to assemble complex components, these moments highlight the hands-on learning, skill-building, and pride in workmanship that define the subject. The teamwork evident in the shared focus and support is a testament to the strong learning culture within the class.

These major works represent not only technical competence but also the personal growth and discipline required to see a project through from design to completion. It's clear that these students are not just building furniture — they're building futures.

We look forward with great anticipation to seeing the finished pieces proudly submitted in August. Congratulations to all students involved for their incredible work ethic and passion for the craft.

Mr McLaurin - TAS Teacher.



Congratulations Year 12!

Congratulations Year 12! 🎉 The 2025 Major Projects for Industrial Technology Timber and Multimedia are now complete!

What an incredible year it has been. A huge thank you to our amazing TAS teachers, Mr McLaurin, Mr Moulder, and Mr Murray, for their hard work, guidance, and dedication in supporting our students to create such outstanding projects.

Well done to our Year 12 students your commitment, skills, and creativity have truly shone through in your fabulous work. We are so proud of what you have achieved!

Congratulations to our Year 12 Textile and Design students! 🎉

A huge thank you to their amazing teacher, Mrs Draper, for her hard work, guidance, and dedication in supporting students to produce such outstanding projects. Well done on creating such impressive textile works, showcasing a wide range of styles, skills, and techniques. Your creativity is clearly reflected in your work, and we couldn't be prouder of your achievements 🙌

Congratulations to our Year 12 English Extension 2 students! 🎉

Please join the English faculty in congratulating our two amazing future writers, Aidan and Miette, under the expert eye of Erin Cummings, for submitting their final English Extension 2 Major Works on Friday. A valiant effort by this power trio and a testament to our wonderful Katoomba HS critical and creative thinking! 😊

Good luck to our art students are busily preparing their major works for submission on Monday!

And well done to all of Year 12 who completed their Trial HSC Exams at the beginning of Term. We all know how challenging this time is and we are very proud of their resilience and hard work.

We are looking forward to seeing all of the outstanding student work at our **HSC Major Works Exhibition on Monday 15 September**. More info to come very soon.

Science Week Bubbles

As part of Science Week celebrations, our students explored the fascinating concept of surface tension by creating giant bubbles in the classroom. Using a special bubble mix and straws, they discovered how the cohesive forces between water molecules allow bubbles to stretch into shimmering spheres without immediately bursting. The activity was filled with laughter, curiosity, and a few very impressive bubble masterpieces, perfectly capturing the fun and wonder of science in action!



Balancing the School Week

Sport is an essential part of the school curriculum, helping all students build both physical and social skills, through teamwork and individual skill building.

The winter weather has proven to be a challenge at times, as has the resurfacing of our tennis courts, but our students have risen to the challenge.

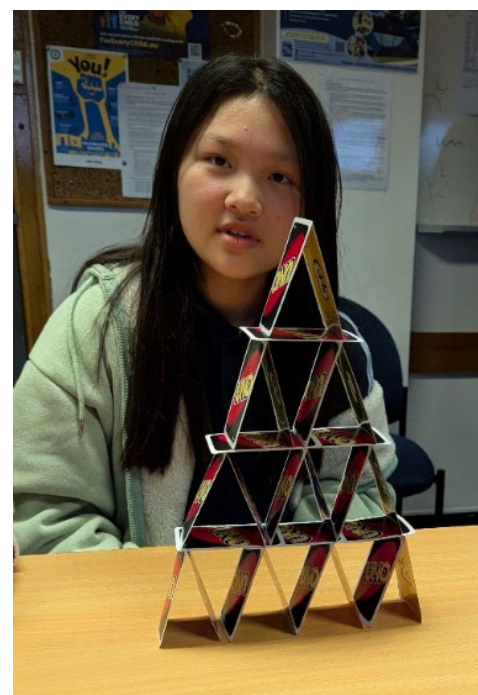
The loss of the tennis court gave rise to an attempt at yoga, with seven year 9-10 girls continuing into Term 3, building core, balance and teamwork, while year 8's walk and talk became card games.

As our great sports coordinators say: "there is always a way to stay active, engaged and be in the right place." .

Ms McMahon

HSIE Teacher

(sometimes yoga, walking and games instructor 😊)



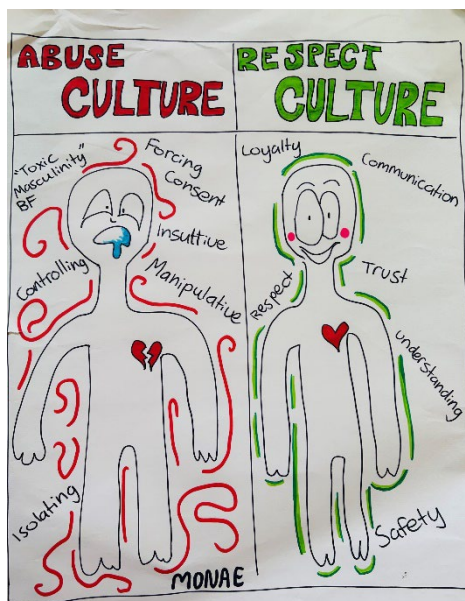
Love Bites Program – Building Respect and Consent Culture

On Thursday 14 August, our Year 10 students participated in the Love Bites program — an engaging and important initiative focused on consent, and developing safe, respectful, and healthy relationships.

Delivered by trained facilitators, the program provided students with the opportunity to explore these topics in a supportive and age-appropriate environment. Through interactive discussions and creative activities, students learned about the foundations of respectful relationships, the importance of setting boundaries, and how to communicate with care and confidence.

The day encouraged thoughtful conversations and empowered students with knowledge and tools that are essential for their social and emotional wellbeing. It was a positive and meaningful experience for all involved, with students showing maturity, curiosity, and a strong sense of empathy throughout the day.

We're proud of the way our Year 10 cohort engaged with the program, and we thank the facilitators for delivering such an impactful session.



Farm it Forward Fun! 🌱

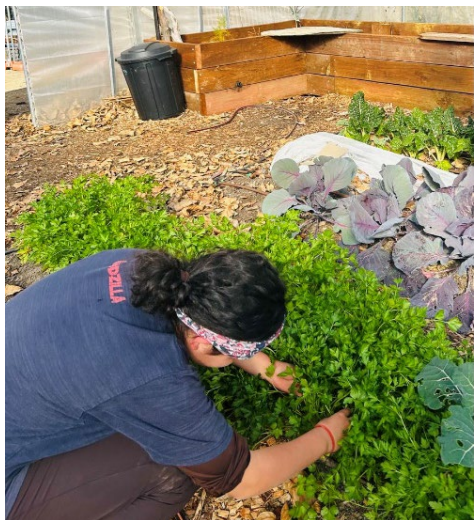
Our workshop on Friday was full of energy, creativity, and muddy boots — just the way we like it! We continued work on our beautiful communal art project — a hand-made rug that's slowly stitching together stories, laughter, and connection. Everyone added a few more loops of love!

Out in the garden, we planted a fresh round of seedlings (our second succession for the season!) and double-covered them to keep them cosy through these chilly mountain nights. We're getting everything prepped and thriving for the Edible Garden Trail this October/November — and fingers crossed, we'll have some healthy seedlings to sell during the trail too!

And the BIG excitement — every single student received a pair of brand new Merry People boots! Huge thanks to Merry People and Farm It Forward for your generous donation and community grant program. We are so grateful — our muddy feet have never felt so stylish!

Thanks to everyone who came, lent a hand, shared a story, and made the day what it was. The garden is slowly growing, and so are we. 🌱





The Bright Side at KHS

We were delighted to welcome Channel 7's Bright Side team to our school at the end of last term to feature a heartwarming story from our agricultural program — the birth of our gorgeous baby lamb, Snowy! Snowy's arrival captured everyone's hearts and highlighted the real-life learning experiences our ag students get to enjoy.

The segment also explored the incredible work happening in our polytunnel greenhouse, run by the amazing team - Farm It Forward. Their support also makes our Nature Craft Connection program possible, giving students the chance to connect with the natural world in creative and meaningful ways.

Huge credit to Mr McLaurin and our dedicated TAS team for their tireless work in delivering such a rich, hands-on learning environment that brings together agriculture, sustainability, and innovation.

And lastly, a big thank you to all our wonderful Agriculture and Farm it Forward students — your care, curiosity and enthusiasm continue to make our programs shine. 🌟

📺 Watch the segment [here](#)



Student-Built Chicken Coop

Our Year 12 Construction students have proudly completed the new chicken coop, now home to a lively group of young pullets. The coop showcases the students' practical skills, from steel framing to secure mesh panel installation, providing a safe, hygienic, and functional environment for the birds.

The pullets are settling in well, with access to a well-ventilated space, clean water, and a feed system designed for efficiency and welfare. This hands-on project has not only supported animal husbandry at our school but also given students valuable experience in planning and building to real-world specifications.

Well done to all involved!

Mr McLaurin.



Yanguu Plaque Unveiling

On Friday 15 August Chris Minns, Premier of NSW, and Trish Doyle, Member for Blue Mountains, visited our school to officially open Yanguu, our new multi-purpose facility. The Premier was very impressed by both the facility and our school overall.

It was lovely to have former students Joe Woodburn, Edward Bell-Smith and Max Campbell with us for the occasion – as Year 10 students they met with Mr Minns when he visited in 2022 as Opposition Leader and they used the opportunity to advocate for a new multi-purpose facility which became a 2023 election promise! It was a wonderful full circle moment for them to see the finished product and be part of the official opening. Thank you to our other special guests including Kate Ford, Director of Educational Leadership for the Blue Mountains, our P&C President Claire Absolum and Vice President Helen Pitcher. And thank you to the whole P&C for their support of the need for the new facility.

Thank you to our current leadership team members, School Captain Jude Bennett and Vice Captains Oliver Gray and Robbie Corlett who attended the opening in the middle of their Trial Exams, along with our wonderful new Year 11 Prefect Team and their mentor Mrs Jeffery. All of our school leaders did a wonderful job confidently mingling and speaking with the Premier and our special guests.

A very special thanks also goes out to Mr Tintner, Mr Boothroyd and all of the teachers and students of Year 7 classes 7Y, 7J and 7O who looked fantastic as they demonstrated 'sitting volleyball' for the Premier. Thank you also to Mr Moulder, the TAS team, and Hospitality students, who served delicious coffees and

morning tea, and to all the other staff who helped organise and manage the morning – well done everyone!

I was so impressed with how well all students represented our school – it makes me very happy and proud to be the principal of such a fantastic school!

Ms Tess Devine.



KHS Out and About

In Concert at the Sydney Opera House

On Monday 18th August the KHS vocal group proudly represented the school by singing with the combined school's choir at the Sydney Opera House for as part of 'In Concert'.

With their teacher Ms Heenan, Xanthea Berthon, Evangeline Ogden, Caitlin Avery, Ada Blaxland, Melody McKee and Sophie-Kate Wilds did a wonderful job singing with more than 800 singers from around 40 public schools as part of the NSW Public Schools Combined Choir.

It was a challenging repertoire, including some pieces in Latin accompanied by a variety of prestigious student orchestras.

A huge highlight was the opportunity to sing with Katie Noonan and her vocal group.

The students were buzzing after the event, and they loved the opportunity to collaborate with others and perform in such a beautiful space!

The group were very grateful that both Ms Grahovac and Ms Devine attended in the audience and were clearly excited to show off all their hard work at such a prestigious location and professional event.

Ms Heenan was very proud of the students' behaviour, demeanour and vocal capabilities not only for the concert but also throughout the rehearsals for the show.

Congratulations everyone!



Singing for the Seniors Community Lunch

Thank you to Ms Heenan and the members of our vocal group for joining the Seniors Community Lunch in Katoomba recently as part of their International Friendship Day activities. It was lovely to see our students making community connections and putting smiles on faces! Thank you to Ms Heenan, Ms Grahovac and to Blue Mountains Food Services for inviting us and providing such a delicious lunch.



The Sports Page

U15 Girls Basketball Win!

The Katoomba High Girls Under 15s Basketball Team travelled to Blacktown PCYC recently to play against Blacktown Girls High School. After a long train trip, the girls were met with some tough competition. At the end of the first quarter, they had a slim lead and a defensive plan to stop Blacktown's sharp shooter. The plan was executed perfectly, stopping the points flow and allowing our girls to score consistently. It was a great performance by the girls to come away with a 49-24 victory! Congratulations team!

Mr McDonell



All Schools Cross Country

Well done to the students who competed at the All-Schools Cross Country competition - an event for all high schools in NSW including the Catholic, Independent and Public high schools.

Frank Toohey 14 Boys 59th
Amber-Lee Bergman 17 Girls 29th
Tani Hoffman 17 Girls 45th
Annabel Dignam 18 Girls 28th
Keira Atkinson 18 Girls 74th

This is an outstanding result for these students. Congratulations!

AFL NSW Leadership Camp

Year 9 student Felix Craye took up an exciting opportunity in the holidays.

Felix is in his third year with the GWS Giants AFL academy and was invited by AFL NSW to participate in a three-day leadership camp in Narrabeen for U14 Indigenous and Multicultural AFL Players. The second day of camp was the Diversity Cup where the Indigenous team plays the Multicultural team in a livestreamed game at the Blacktown International Sports Park. It was an incredible opportunity. Felix was proud to represent his South African heritage.

Felix has also been invited to join an AFL NSW tour to Fiji in December to play against their U14's team. This is a fantastic achievement and will be amazing opportunity for Felix to play the game he loves in another country and experience a new culture.

Congratulations Felix! We can't wait to hear all about your future AFL adventures!



Fun Lunch Time Comp's

Our Sports House competitive spirit isn't limited to carnivals! A series of fun student and staff competitions have been happening at lunch times. Here are some snaps from a recent paper plane competition!



Careers Corner

Year 12's Final Weeks

Year 12 have just completed their HSC Trial Examinations and are currently preparing for their HSC Examinations which begin on 16th October.

With only a few weeks of school remaining, some of our students are busy finalising their university applications with a number of deadlines looming.

Other students are making plans for TAFE and employment. It is important with the changing nature of employment where employees change careers around six times in their working life that students ensure they are engaged in some type of training, work or travel when leaving school.

Once out in the world many other opportunities will present themselves and students will explore a myriad of career paths.

Scenic World Mentoring Program Kicks Off! 🌟

This term we are running the Scenic World Mentoring Program for a group of Year 10 students. Students were paired with mentors based on shared interests and spent the morning in the library enjoying board games, cards, puzzles, and engaging “getting to know you” conversations.

This program is designed to support Year 10 students as they navigate their learning and personal growth, offering guidance, encouragement, fun opportunities to connect with peers and mentors and talk about their goals for the future.

The mentoring sessions will run weekly on Thursdays and will continue until the end of the term. There's already lots of buzz and laughter in the air—this is shaping up to be a fantastic program!

Thank you to Scenic World and all of the mentors for so generously giving up your time and sharing your wisdom and experience to support our students and our school.



Year 10 TAFE Applications

Year 10 students are currently invited to put in their applications for TAFE courses that they will study for their HSC. There are a range of courses available. The deadline is 12th September.

Mrs Tully
KHS Careers Adviser



Introducing Mr Erikson!

This Term we warmly welcomed Mr Karl Erikson to Katoomba High as a permanent addition to our Deputy Principal team. By way of introduction, we asked Mr Erikson to share about himself...

How long have you worked at Katoomba High School and what is your role?

I have just started at Katoomba High School. It's been an amazing first few weeks where I have loved meeting the students, families and community. I have also loved getting to know the passionate and talented staff who work here each day.

Please tell us a bit about your teaching background.

I started as an SLSO at Kingswood High School a long time ago and loved it so much I changed my career path and became a teacher. I spent the next few years working in numerous schools as an educator for students with a disability before moving to the Fairfield area to run a centre that specialised in helping students with emotional and behavioural challenges. I was then lucky enough to spend 6 years as a Deputy Principal at Fairfield HS, it was a steep learning curve, but I loved the leadership team, students, staff and community.

Have you worked in fields other than teaching?

As I started my university studies and then teaching career, I spent many years working in hospitality. I worked on a paddle steamer, at a golf course and then at local places like the Hydro Majestic, Fairmont Resort and Carrington Hotel over numerous years. I have lots of great memories from those days and was lucky to have made a lot of lifelong friendships.



Please tell us about something you are proud of.

I think my proudest moments these days are often linked to watching the growth and success of my own children. They regularly remind me how tough it can be to be a kid and how hard you need to work to develop quality friendships, achieve goals in your passion areas and to reach your potential.

Watching them grow, learn and achieve, is amazing. Seeing them fail and then try again is inspiring. Spending time with them each day is a blessing. They are definitely the thing I am most proud of, and their journey brings me renewed pride regularly.

What do you enjoy about teaching?

I think it's the same enjoyment that I feel when supporting my own kids, I really enjoying supporting students to grow and reach their potential. It's hard to be a kid (and a parent) in the modern world, so watching young people overcome challenges, set goals and achieve their dreams is the best part of this job.

What is the best thing about Katoomba High?

That's a hard one this early in my time here, the truth is I really like it all. I love being part of a leadership team that is so positive and driven towards growth. The staff here are all lovely. The students have a diversity and character that is great to interact with. And all the parents and community members I have met have been delightful.

What do you enjoy doing outside of school?

Spending time with family and friends is my favourite thing to do. I love travelling, beach days, BBQ's, playing board games, going to the football with my kids (who I have finally convinced to follow the Bulldogs and not the Panthers), family cooking nights, camping, reading books and watching action movies.

What would you like to be doing in 10 years' time?

Life's pretty wonderful now, so hopefully it's still the same – unless I win the lottery and can travel the world with my family for a few years. My goal is to still be spending lots of time with the people I love, working in a great school surrounded by wonderful people and having quality friends to share adventures with.

Welcome to Katoomba High Mr Erikson!

From the Principal

Dear Parents, Carers, Students & Staff,

I am very pleased to welcome Karl Erikson as our new permanent Deputy Principal this term. Karl will work alongside our other DPs Brad McLeod, Brigid Gibson and Melinda Mungai completing our Senior Executive team. Karl will be the Deputy Principal supporting current Year 8 students and is a key point of contact for Year 8 parents and carers. Amongst other things Karl will be supporting our numeracy, sports and mentoring initiatives and will be the Deputy principal for our incoming Year 7 next year. Karl has shown an enormous amount of passion and expertise in his role already and I am looking forward to working with him at KHS.

I am very sorry to share that this term brought some terribly sad news for our school community. Much loved teacher and friend Maurice O'Connor passed away early last month following a courageous battle with illness. Reece Boothroyd has written the following heartfelt tribute to our dear friend on behalf our staff and students. Thank you, Reece.

Any students who need a little extra support around this news can speak with me, a Year Advisor, Deputy Principal, Viktoria our Student Support Officer or a truster teacher if they would like to.

Kind regards,
Ms Tess Devine.



In Memory of Mr O'Connor

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to an incredible educator and amazing person on Tuesday 12th of August 2025.

Maurice O'Connor came to Katoomba High School and made an instant impact with his infectious enthusiasm, passion for all things learning, his keen interest in sports and helping students to reach their full potential. His bubbly energy filled the hallways, classrooms and playground with excitement and his teaching style was kind, nurturing and professional.

He had a particular impact on the students in Binyang who all speak so highly of him and were opened up to new experiences made possible through his tireless efforts.

His contribution to the PDHPE department brought fresh perspectives and a talent for differentiation. Mr O'Connor also volunteered to take many knockout sports teams, participated wholeheartedly in the school swimming and athletics carnivals and loved to organise extracurricular activities and excursion for our students.

Not only was Mr O'Connor a fantastic teacher, but he was also a valued member of the community who always took the time to check in with others and make them feel special.

He was a man who loved to push himself to new heights and was known to run marathons, cycle and complete in swimming races. It was shared at his funeral that he was the youngest winner of a long-distance swim through his hometown in Ireland, and he even attempted to swim the English Channel.

The Katoomba High School community will miss him dearly. We pass on our sincere condolences to his family.

Mr Boothroyd.

On behalf of KHS staff, students and community.

Exceptional promotion and delivery
of sport and physical activity for students with disability

Maurice O'Connor
Katoomba High School



Inclusive Education Leadership:

Maurice, part of the Inclusive Education faculty at Katoomba High School, primarily teaches PD/H/PE across ten support classes for students with autism, intellectual disability, physical disability, and mental health conditions.

Success in Supporting Athletes with Disabilities:

In 2023, Maurice played a pivotal role in supporting athletes with disabilities, enabling their access and success at representative levels, including the Sydney West Boccia, Sydney West Swimming, NSWCHS Swimming, Sydney West Athletics, and NSWCHS Athletics Championships.

Exceptional Engagement and Support:

Has talent for engaging reluctant students in physical activity, stands out through his willingness to provide opportunities, motivate, train and sustain their engagement, making a significant impact in the Inclusive Education faculty at Katoomba High School.



Community Noticeboard



BLUE MOUNTAINS NEEDS A CLIMBING GYM.

PLEASE SIGN THE PETITION

FOR COUNCIL TO BUILD AND RUN A BOULDER GYM AT THE KATOOMBA SPORTS AND AQUATIC CENTRE (KSAC)

We are a group of residents who have presented council with an in-depth proposal and council, our local MP Trish Doyle and the KSAC management all are enthusiastic about making this a reality. However currently council does not have enough funds available to action the proposal.

THIS IS WHERE WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We need you and our community to sign the petition to show just how many of us believe the Blue Mountains region needs this gym - as a priority.

Sign the petition and for more information



f



Instagram



Follow us and watch our videos on social media

A climbing gym would have a tremendously positive impact on our region:

- a safe recreational community hub for climbers and all active residents and visitors
- boost mental and physical health for all age groups (from school kids to seniors)
- create a gateway to the mountains' great outdoor adventure culture
- supply a world class training facility, including for our own homegrown talent
- complete the Blue Mountains' reputation as Australia's number one climbing Mecca and a world-famous climbing destination
- flow-on economic benefits for our region, including tourism and additional revenue for council and our community

Penrith Relay For Life 2025



SAVE THE DATE

Sat 13th Sept 2025

Attention Schools, Clubs and local businesses



Get a team together and put up the challenge to raise the most money for your school, club or business

Join us at

Penrith Relay For Life

Saturday 13th September 2025

www.relayforlife.org.au/event/penrith-2025

Community Noticeboard

AGES 12-18
HANGOUT HUB

TERM 3
STARTING 28 JULY

MON
SPRINGWOOD LIBRARY
3 - 4:30 PM

WED
KATOOMBA LIBRARY
3 - 4:30 PM

For more information please email:
headsacekatoomba@uniting.org
or ring: 1800 478 626

OUTDOOR EXPLORE **FREE**
CLIMB & CAVE

Challenge yourself!
Explore Bush Ranger's Cave
Leaving from Katoomba & Springwood Youth Centre

Build trust in yourself & others
Build skills that help you face fears

WHEN? Tuesday October 7th - 10am to 4pm

*climbing activity will be changed to abseiling, same location, if wet weather

0493 025 772 | outdoorexpl@myst.com.au | www.myst.com.au

headsace KATOOMBA NEURODIVERSITY HUB

Pause, Reflect, Reconnect.
A Hangout Hub for Neurodiverse Young People

Alternate Thursdays @ 3:30 - 5:30
NEXT SESSION: 21st August
Missed it? Join us 4th September

FREE - NO NDIS NEEDED
12-18 year olds

Location:
Neurodiversity Hub Katoomba
Lower Ground Floor, 33-35 Waratah Street, Katoomba, 2780
For More Information and to Register:
1800 478 626 • 047822132 •
headsacekatoomba@uniting.org • hello@kndhub.com

OUTDOOR EXPLORE **FREE**
EPIC DAY OUT

Explore pagoda country
Take dirt roads to a far out place
Build fire under a large camp cave
Take a cool dip in the plunge pool

Leaving from Katoomba Youth Centre

WHEN? Wednesday October 8th - 9am to 5pm

*activity will be changed if wet weather precedes & impacts road conditions

0493 025 772 | outdoorexpl@myst.com.au | www.myst.com.au

Community Noticeboard



THINKING ABOUT GETTING YOUR DRIVER LICENCE?

Getting a driver licence is an important step in accessing education, employment and health services, as well as connecting with your mob and Country.

There are a number of programs and services available to support you:

- Driver Licensing access Program (DLAP)**
A free program providing support to people in NSW who face extra challenges in getting a licence.
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/driving-boating-and-transport/driver-and-rider-licences/driver-licences/driver-licensing-access-program>
- Driver Knowledge Test (DKT) online**
Complete an interactive course about the road rules and test your knowledge online.
<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/driver-knowledge-test-online>
- Supervising Learner Drivers – the fundamentals**
An e-learning course is available to support anyone supervising a learner driver.
<https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety/young-drivers/supervising-learner-drivers>

[education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/road-safety-education](https://www.education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/road-safety-education)
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THINKING ABOUT GETTING YOUR DRIVER LICENCE? RESOURCES

- Services NSW**
¹ [Driver licence support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities](https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/services/driver-and-rider-licences/driver-licence-support-for-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-communities)
• proof of identity
• getting a NSW driver licence
- On the move**
² [Resources for secondary teachers, students and families](https://onthemove.nsw.edu.au/families-students)
Find road safety information including:
• Applying for your Learner licence
• Buying your safest car
• Breakdown safety
- Department of Education information for teachers**
³ [Helping young people get their driver's licence](https://edu.nsw.link/helping-young-people-get-their-drivers-licence)
checklists and advice about driver education and driver training.

Web links

¹ <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/services/driver-and-rider-licences/driver-licence-support-for-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-communities>
² <https://onthemove.nsw.edu.au/families-students>
³ <https://edu.nsw.link/helping-young-people-get-their-drivers-licence>

[education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/road-safety-education](https://www.education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/road-safety-education)
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Gathering for First Nations Women
Women's Health Week 2025

First Nations women and girls are invited to gather to reflect, connect and create at this FREE event.

Activities include:

- Wagana performance & workshop
- Weaving with Interweave
- Cooking with native ingredients
- Yarning circles
- Wayapa Wuurk workshop
- Art & more...
- Catering by Kallico

DATE: Saturday 6th September
TIME: 10:00am – 3:30pm
LOCATION: Blue Mountains Women's Health & Resource Centre
124 Lurline St, Katoomba

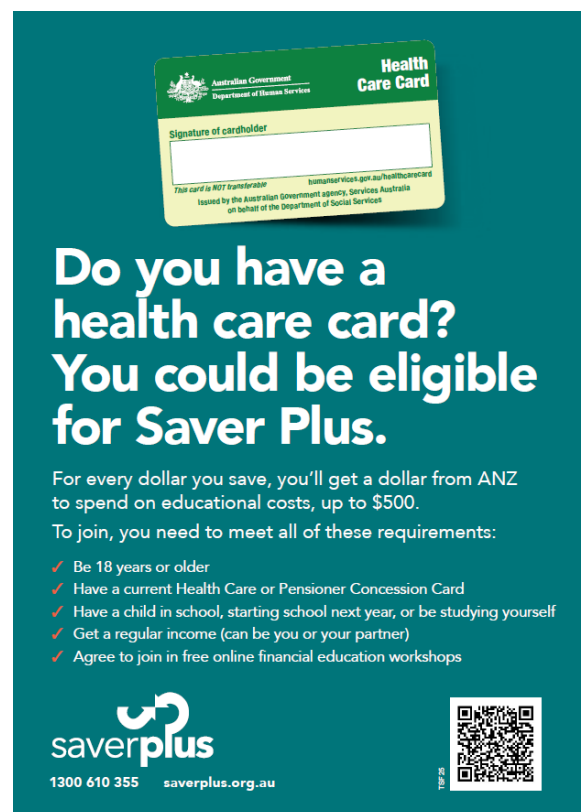
This event is made possible thanks to our sponsor, Complete Care Team.

Enquiries: Angie Jackson 0491 072 762 or Cherie Brandon 0451 773 887

Thank you for collaborating with us to bring this special event to our community:

Gateway
Blue Mountains Women's Health & Resource Centre

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional knowledge holders and custodians of the land on which we work, the Darug and Gundungurra people.



Do you have a health care card? You could be eligible for Saver Plus.

For every dollar you save, you'll get a dollar from ANZ to spend on educational costs, up to \$500.

To join, you need to meet all of these requirements:

- ✓ Be 18 years or older
- ✓ Have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card
- ✓ Have a child in school, starting school next year, or be studying yourself
- ✓ Get a regular income (can be you or your partner)
- ✓ Agree to join in free online financial education workshops

saverplus
1300 610 355 saverplus.org.au