

Maclean High School

Newsletter

November 2025



www.maclean-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

02 6645 2244



Principal's Report

Dear Parents, Students, and Staff,

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt congratulations to our Year 12 students on completing their HSC exams. Despite the unexpected disruption on the very first day due to a road closure, our students handled themselves with maturity and resilience, coming prepared and ready to give their best efforts. Their dedication and commitment have been truly commendable.

I also want to congratulate the students who have been recognised for their outstanding major work projects this year. Each year, the best projects from around NSW are nominated for prestigious exhibitions that celebrate creativity and excellence across a range of Year 12 subjects. In 2025, we proudly had several nominees: Paige and Ruby for HSC Onstage, Ethan for HSC Encore, and Keely for HSC Art Express. This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to their hard work and talent.

A special congratulations goes to our two finalists. Luke has been selected to perform his drum solo for Encore at the Sydney Opera House in March 2026 – a remarkable honour. Additionally, Akaysha's incredible weaving visual arts project has been selected for Art Express, highlighting her exceptional artistry. These successes would not be possible without the dedication and support of our talented CAPA staff, who nurture and guide our students every step of the way.

We eagerly look forward to the release of HSC results on Thursday, 18th December. To celebrate and support our students, we invite all Year 12 students to join us for 'Donuts and Debrief,' a new initiative to be held at Barney's in Maclean. This will be a wonderful opportunity for students to come together, share their experiences, and reflect on their achievements. Further details can be found within this newsletter.

Earlier this term, I informed all parents and students about the upcoming changes to our bell times for 2026. This adjustment is designed to reduce transition times between classes and maximise learning time for all students. Please find the updated timetable included in this newsletter for your reference.

Finally, there have been many other significant achievements across the school this term which you will read about in detail within this newsletter. I want to thank everyone—students, staff, parents, and carers—for your ongoing support and commitment to making our school community a vibrant and successful place to learn and grow. As we head into the final weeks of assessment and reporting, I would like to remind our students to remain focused on achieving excellence -each and every day. When we come with this in mind, magic things happen at Maclean!

James Witchard
Principal



Student Success at the Jacaranda Wood Expo

Students from Maclean High School once again showcased their creativity, craftsmanship, and design excellence at the annual Jacaranda Wood Expo, held as part of the Grafton Jacaranda Festival. Competing against students from across the Clarence Valley, our representatives demonstrated the impressive skills and dedication being developed in the school's TAS workshops.

A special congratulations goes to Zac in Year 9, who achieved First Place in his division against entries from six local schools — an outstanding accomplishment that reflects both talent and perseverance.

Adding to the success, Lyla in Year 11 received the Best Design Award, recognising the sophistication and innovation of her design project. Her work stood out for its high level of finish and thoughtful approach to aesthetics. Highly Commended Awards were also presented to Lachlan (Year 8), Chloe (Year 10), Jessica (Year 11) and Malaki (Year 12) for their exceptional design work and attention to detail. Each student produced a unique timber project that combined creativity with precise craftsmanship.

These results highlight the commitment of both students and staff to hands-on learning and design excellence. The school congratulates all participants on representing Maclean High with pride and thanks the Clarence Valley Woodworkers Association and community sponsors for their continued support of young designers and makers in the region.

Important Dates

- 1 Dec
 - Yr 6 Transition Day
- 3 Dec
 - MHS Surfing Comp
 - Wheelchair Basketball & Goal Tournament
- 4 Dec
 - Presentation Night & Rehearsals
- 8 Dec - 9 Dec
 - Yr 10 to 11 Transition Day Workshop
- 9 Dec
 - Cultural Tour
- 12 Dec
 - Basketball Gala Day - Grafton



Our Cattle Show Team had a very healthy and strong showing at the North Coast National in Lismore. 27 students and 18 cattle made the trip for the 4 day competition with many very pleasing results. Winner of the Overall School Champion- from around 20 schools.

Group 1 Junior Judging Zone Finals - 2nd Lilly, 3rd Olivia. Lilly will now progress to the Sydney Royal event to compete in the State Final.

Junior Paraders Results

13 to under 15s - Lyall 3rd Place, Lane made it to final.

15 to under 17s - Lilly 1st in age and Grand Champion Parader. Emma and Maya made it to finals.

Over 17s - Grace 1st, Olivia 2nd .

School Led Steer Competition over 400kg - Red Rock 4th on the Hoof and 2nd in the Carcase Judging.

Speckles Park Ring

Class 4204 Bull 15months and under 18 months -

Midnight Special 2nd

Class 4208 Bull 30 months and over - Might N' Power 1st, Reserve Senior Bull

Pair of Bulls - Might n Power + Midnight Special 3rd

Class 4215 Female 24 months and under 30 months - Sarah Lee 1st

Braford Ring

Class 4141 Female 16 months and under 20 months -

Allure 2nd

Brahman Ring

Class 4090 Female 16 months under 20 months - Miss Joline 2nd

Class 4092 Female 24 months and under 30 months - Miss Isis 2nd, Miss Iris 3rd

Junior Heifer Show

Class 4366 Heifer 18 months and under 20 months - Miss Joline 3rd



North Coast National Show - Lismore



Year 12 Graduation & Formal

Our Year 12 class of 2025 officially graduated from Maclean High School on Thursday of Week 10, Term 3. The day began with a staff-hosted breakfast for our graduating students, followed by a memorable graduation ceremony held on the school courts. The event was very well attended, with heartfelt speeches and outstanding musical performances from our talented students.

In the evening, celebrations continued with the Year 12 Formal — a sensational occasion that marked the end of their high school journey. The day was filled with reflection, pride, and many fond memories shared with a cohort we will not soon forget.

Our Year 12 students completed their HSC exams throughout Weeks 1–4 of Term 4. We wish them all the very best as they take their next steps beyond school. The entire Maclean High School community is incredibly proud of them.



Year 12 Graduation & Formal

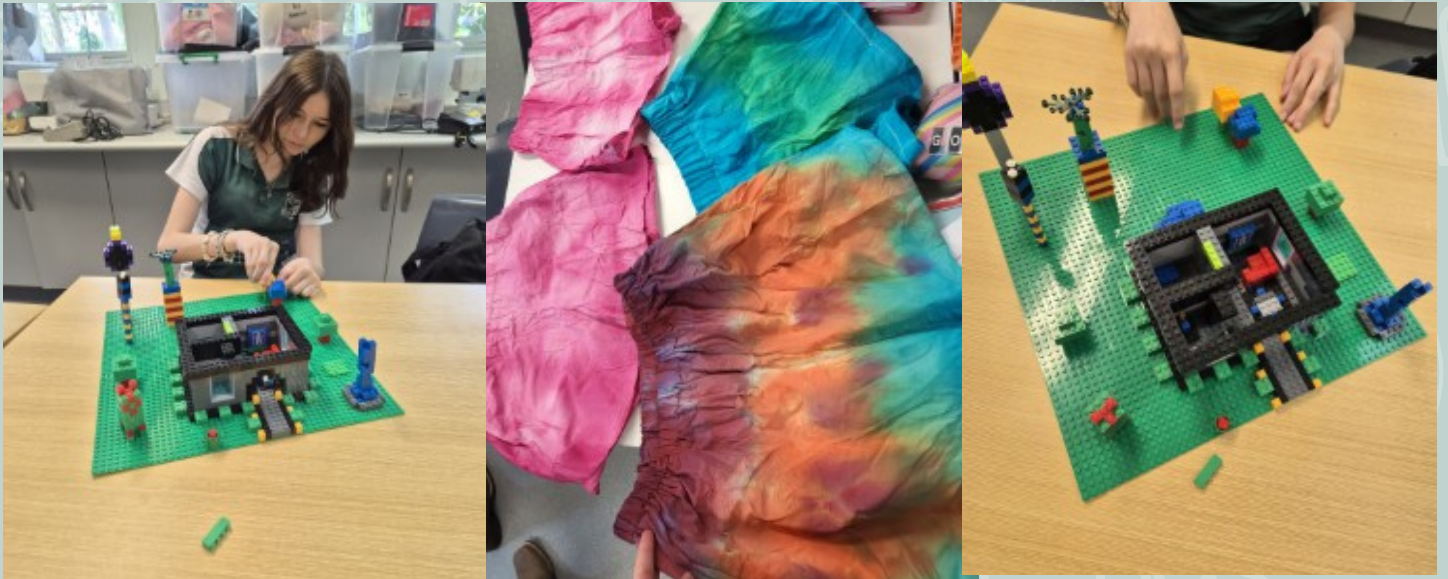


Senior Study Hub

The T12 Senior Study Hub is now open and ready for Year 11 students- Year 12 2026. We would love to see you drop by and explore the educational resources available. Thanks to those who are already visiting this space and accessing the facilities. Later this term, we will offer free tuition, where there will be small groups and one-on-one tutorials in T12, led by expert and experienced tutors. These sessions will focus on assessment task feedback, writing techniques and structure, exam strategies, and any learning areas identified by students or their teachers. Students can choose to attend once a week or a few times per term, depending on their learning needs and timetable availability. A variety of subjects will be covered, with tutors available to support students across different areas. Keep an eye out for session announcements on Facebook, the school newsletter, Google Classroom, and in the T12 Study Hub. Spaces may be limited, so be sure to sign up early to secure your place. For more information, please see Mrs Jurd.



Year 8 Technology



Year 8 TEC2 have been quite busy lately! They finished their tie-dyed boxer short unit in Term 3 with great results and colours. This term we are exploring tiny houses. Students have three practical challenges to complete that use different skills. First, students had to create a digital CAD-type model, which we used Minecraft for. Students really enjoyed this challenge, which included one bedroom, a bathroom, a laundrette, a kitchen, a living space, and an outdoor space. Their designs were unique and very creative! Next, we completed a Lego 3D model. As you can see, students created different designs individually or in pairs. The results were interesting, and it was really rewarding to see their enthusiasm. Our final project is a shoebox tiny house model started in Week 7; this will be due in Week 9. Stay tuned!



EAL/D Visit to Grafton High School



On Thursday the 23rd of October, 4 of Maclean High School's English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) students travelled all the way to Grafton on a minibus! Why did they go? To meet the EAL/D students at Grafton High School!

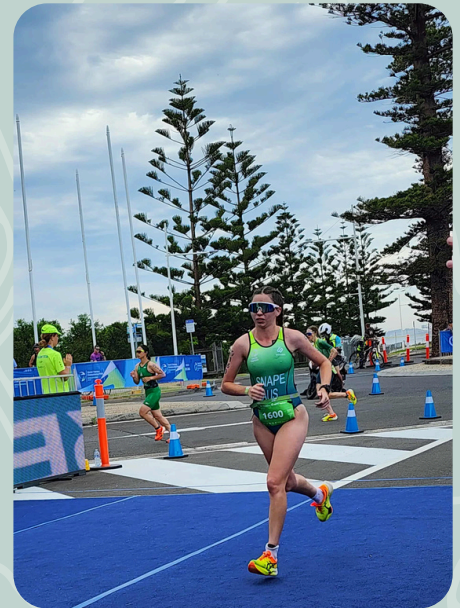
Maclean students originally from India, Vietnam and Thailand met with Grafton High students from Spain, India and Thailand. Adjusting to a new culture, lifestyle and language (all at once) is an extremely challenging experience. So, it was great to hear stories from other EAL/D students and teachers about how they have successfully done this. It was encouraging to share the challenges and the victories they have all faced in their journeys learning English so far, and to meet some other EAL/D students in the Clarence Valley area.

Together we played games, ate yummy food and took some photos of Grafton's famous Jacaranda trees!

It was a great day out using English, their new language, to communicate, learn and have fun.



2025 World Triathlon Championships



Congratulations to Zoe for her achievements at the 2025 World Triathlon Championships.

Thursday, 16th October – Standard Distance

Event Distance: 1.5 km Swim, 40 km Bike, 10 km Run

Zoe delivered an outstanding performance, finishing 8th in the 18-19 age category.

Friday, 17th October – Sprint Distance

Event Distance: 750 m Swim, 20 km Bike, 5 km Run

Competing in the highly competitive 16-19 age category, Zoe achieved 43rd place.

River Guardians



On 17th of October Year 12 Chemistry students were given the opportunity to participate in the Clarence River Guardians citizen Science project, run by Southern Cross University. This project aligns with the analysing inorganic substances section of the Year 12 Chemistry Syllabus. Grafton High School joined us for the day, which involved us going to Lilydale bridge and Copmanhurst to collect sediment samples. On the Saturday the general public were also involved, and over 100 sites were samples across the whole Clarence catchment. The project aims to provide a baseline for the health of the river and to monitor any impacts from activities such as mining. This is a great initiative for the community as a whole and we're very grateful to SCU for involving us in the day.





Attendance at our annual student leadership training day was at its peak this year with nearly all the House Captains joining the SRC reps and the School & Vice Captains. 42 selfless Maclean High Students attend the GRIP conference in Coffs Harbour in order to enhance their skills and knowledge of how to better serve the students they represent. Students enjoyed picking elective session throughout the day so they could hone in on developing the skills that felt applicable to their needs and leadership position.

They walked into the event having thought about the things they currently dislike about our school and walked out feeling empowered to change those things.

The highlight was seeing the camaraderie between Senior and Junior Representatives planning joint initiatives in the lunch break and the House Captains exploring ways to build House Spirit in 2026.

Our school is so lucky to have this great bunch of students committed to enhancing a strong and thriving school community and creating lots of fun for their fellow students.

Thanks to Mr Witchard for investing in these students and in-turn the entire school community by fully funding the excursion. We know that the dividends keep coming for our school through enhanced student-lead initiatives, agency and voice.

Ms Rossington & Mr Obst

A STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM at its BEST

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Combined Clarence Valley High Schools Touch Football Tournament

On Friday, 7 November, our Junior and Senior Boys and Girls Touch Football teams travelled to McKittrick Park in Grafton to participate in the Combined Clarence Valley High Schools Touch Football Tournament, proudly presented by Bulgarr Ngaru. The afternoon was a great display of teamwork, school pride and competitive spirit.

MHS Junior Boys team finished as deserved tournament champions after winning every game and posting a resounding victory over South Grafton High School. Zephyr, Mostyn and Leo all led the way, with special congratulations extended to captain Beau, who was awarded Player of the Tournament in the Junior Boys division for his outstanding performance and leadership on the field.

The Senior Boys team also performed exceptionally well, going down by just one point in a close and hard-fought final against McAuley Catholic College. Peter, Cooper and Harper were amongst the Senior Boys' best throughout the tournament.

Both our Junior and Senior Girls teams represented the school with commitment and enthusiasm. They demonstrated excellent teamwork and skill throughout the day, narrowly missing out on finals places in their respective divisions, both finishing 3rd overall. In the Senior girls, Emma and Dimity were strong playmakers, while Scarlett and Andelene were standouts in the Junior girls.

We are proud of the effort, sportsmanship and positive attitude shown by all students who represented our school. Thank you to the staff, referees, organisers and supporters who contributed to making the tournament a success.



Youth of the Year Competition

A few weeks ago Ellie, Angus and Eve proudly represented MHS in the Lions Clubs of Maclean and Yamba, Youth of the Year Competition. We congratulate them on the poise, presentation and maturity shown during the interviews and public speaking. Well done to Eve for finishing as the highest point scorer of the competition.

Prepared Speech Title: Never be Anyone but Yourself.

“Participating in the Youth of The Year Lions Club Competition gave me an excellent opportunity to improve my leadership skills. I enjoyed the learning curve of answering impromptu questions on stage, as well as the private interview section. I am honoured to be the Yamba Lions Club Youth of the Year, the highest point scorer of the competition, and to have won the Public Speaking Award for Yamba Lions Club. This experience was greatly rewarding to myself and my fellow participants, Ellie and Angus. I look forward to the Regionals competition next year. “

- Eve



Celebrating Our Outstanding Visual Arts HSC Graduates

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the achievements of our 19 Visual Arts graduates, who recently showcased their HSC Bodies of Work in a stunning three-day exhibition titled 'PERSPECTIVES'. With more than 400 visitors from across our school community, the exhibition was a vibrant celebration of creativity, dedication, and artistic growth.

The result of the People's Choice Award will be announced at our Presentation Night next month.

A special congratulations goes to Akaysha and Keely, who were nominated for ARTEXPRESS, a remarkable accomplishment that recognises the exceptional standard of their work.

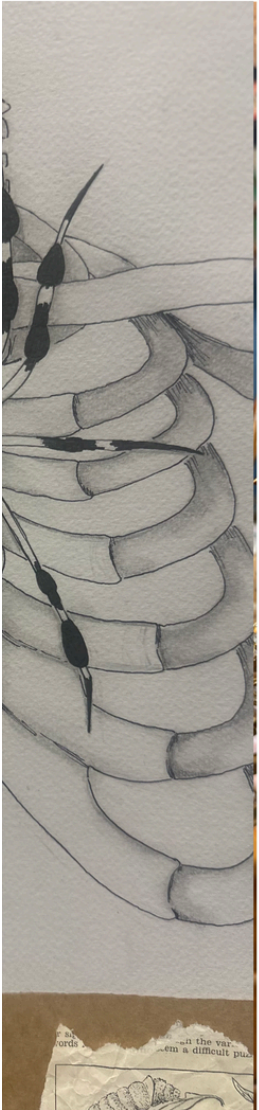
We also applaud Charli and Paige, who were nominated, among only 17 students across the entire Clarence Valley, for the prestigious Grafton Regional Gallery Emerging Artist Scholarship. We are thrilled to announce that Charli was awarded the \$5000 scholarship, an incredible achievement and a testament to her talent and hard work.

Beyond their exhibition success, several of our Visual Arts students have already been accepted into creative industries pathways in secondary education, film and fine arts. Their creativity, critical thinking, and emotional intelligence nurtured through their study of art and the world around them, will undoubtedly support and enrich their future endeavours.

We congratulate all our graduating Visual Arts students and look forward to seeing the unique perspectives and talents they bring into the world.

We would also like to thank the Iluka Emporium for their generous community support of prizes and future exhibition opportunities for our students. We are incredibly excited to share that Ken Done has also generously donated an artwork, 'Jacaranda Reef', to be awarded at our Presentation Night in recognition of one very lucky student.

Celebrating Our Outstanding Visual Arts HSC Graduates



Maclean High Under-14 Boys Claim Strong Win Over Kadina



Our Under-14 boys cricket team put on an impressive all-round display last week, securing a dominant victory over Kadina High School. In a match highlighted by disciplined batting, sharp bowling, and great team spirit, Maclean posted a solid total of 129 runs before bowling out Kadina for just 39.

Maclean's innings was built on patience early before accelerating as the boys settled in. Oscar got the scoring underway with a well-crafted 23, showing confidence against the opening bowlers and laying a steady platform. Kai continued the momentum with a composed 25 not out, rotating the strike smartly and punishing anything loose. The highlight of the innings came from Dusty, who remained 27 not out, batting with maturity and powering Maclean to a competitive and ultimately match-winning total.

With the ball, Maclean were just as impressive. Patrick led the attack superbly, finishing with a remarkable 4/17, removing key batters and breaking Kadina's resistance early. He was supported brilliantly by Dusty, who backed up his batting performance with figures of 2/28. Oscar capped off an excellent all-round performance by taking 2/1, tightening the screws during Kadina's final overs.

Congratulations to all players and coaches on a terrific performance. Maclean High looks forward to carrying this momentum into the next round of competition against Kingscliff.





On Wednesday, November 5th, Maclean High School celebrated Cultural Diversity Day! A wonderful time was had by all as together we celebrated the many cultural backgrounds we all come from.

Teachers and students joined together to do face painting, Bollywood dancing, eat European pancakes and have a traditional dress fashion parade!

Slushies and donations helped raise money for Doctors Without Borders. Thank you to all the students and teachers who helped make this celebration possible, especially Anna Bennetts, Sara Rossington and Emma Turner.

We are already looking forward to doing this again next year!



Cultural Diversity Day

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Crafting Skills and Community Spirit

Our school community is proud to celebrate former student Garrett, who recently put his talent and hard-earned skills to work by creating the trophies for the Evans Head Disabled Surfing Event. His craftsmanship, creativity, and attention to detail helped make the event even more special for the participants and their families.

Garrett's involvement is a wonderful reminder of how practical skills can open doors to meaningful opportunities. From design and construction to teamwork and problem-solving, he has shown how hands-on learning can grow into real-world contribution.

It's always inspiring to see our ex-students continuing to develop their abilities and give back to the wider community. Garrett's work is a shining example of the positive impact young people can make when they combine passion with purpose. We're incredibly proud of him and look forward to seeing where his skills take him next.





It's been fantastic to see students embracing the warmer weather by heading straight for the surf during our Term 4 weekly sport. After a short winter break, some of our more advanced surfers have slipped back into those fluoro green rashies, ready to carve up the waves with confidence and skill. Just as exciting is the number of new beginners giving surfing a go, many of them catching their very first waves with huge smiles to match.

Offering surfing as a school sport is a unique opportunity which sets our school apart. With such incredible beaches right on our doorstep, we're able to give students the chance to learn ocean awareness, build physical fitness, develop resilience, and connect with our coastal environment in a hands-on, meaningful way. Whether mastering a pop-up or simply learning to feel comfortable in the water, every session builds valuable skills both in and out of the surf.

Being part of any of our weekly sports programs, plays an important role in student wellbeing. Sport encourages teamwork, persistence, confidence, and healthy habits. It provides a break from the classroom, strengthens friendships, and helps students discover talents and passions they may not have realised they had.

School Sport Surfing Program

www.macle-an-h.schools.nsw.edu.au / 02 6645 2244

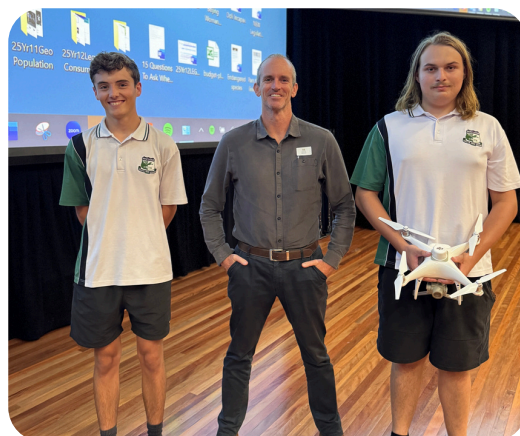


Year 10 and 11 students recently took part in an engaging surveying industry excursion that blended cutting-edge technology, problem-solving, and career exploration. Through interactive demonstrations and hands-on challenges, they experienced how modern surveyors use drones, GPS, laser scanners, and 3D mapping tools to understand and shape the world around us.

The day also highlighted the diverse and exciting career pathways in surveying, from engineering and environmental science to mining, government, and even space exploration. Students learned how the profession combines outdoor fieldwork, strategic thinking, and advanced technology, all while offering strong job prospects and global opportunities.

A special presentation by MHS Alumni Tom Searles on thinking and problem-solving added further depth, encouraging students to apply critical and creative approaches to future studies, careers, and life.

Industry facilitators praised our students for their enthusiasm, mathematical capability, and the thoughtful questions they posed throughout the sessions. Their engagement was so strong that several are now exploring surveying as a potential career and investigating work-experience options.



Surveying Excursion

www.macleah-h.schools.nsw.edu.au / 02 6645 2244



BELL TIMES

SNR (Years 11 & 12)	8:00-9:00
ROLL	9:00 - 9:10
Period 1	9:10 - 10:10
Period 2 (Assembly Week B)	10:10 - 11:10
RECESS	11:10 - 11:40
Period 3	11:40 - 12:40
Period 4	12:40 - 1:40
LUNCH	1:40 - 2:10
Period 5	2:10-3:10

2026 Bell Timetable

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Student access to NSWEduChat

Information for parents and carers

NSWEduChat is a generative artificial intelligence tool owned and designed by the NSW Department of Education. It is designed to be safe, educational, secure and private.

Student access to NSWEduChat

Students in Year 5 to Year 12 will gain access to NSWEduChat in Term 4, 2025.

Safety of students using NSWEduChat

NSWEduChat data is secured. All data stays within the department. This means that students can input their work and personal identifying information safely into NSWEduChat.

Educational design of NSWEduChat

NSWEduChat does not simply provide the full answers to questions. It responds to students by asking open-ended questions. This encourages students to explore and share their thoughts and reasoning.

NSWEduChat only uses text. This means it cannot produce media such as pictures, video or music.

Using NSWEduChat for help with homework and assessment tasks

If schools advise that NSWEduChat can be used for homework or assessments, students should notify their teachers if they have used NSWEduChat in completing tasks. This includes using NSWEduChat for tasks such as, but not limited to, summarising study notes, definition of key terms or structuring text. Schools should communicate the ways in which students can reasonably notify their teachers.

Access to NSWEduChat at home

Students can access NSWEduChat at home through:

- the student portal at <https://portal.education.nsw.gov.au/>
- directly via chat.education.nsw.gov.au

Students will need to log in using their NSW Department of Education login. Only the student who logged in should use NSWEduChat.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of this tool, please contact the principal.



For more information and access to the NSWEduChat parental privacy notice, visit: [Student use of NSWEduChat](#).

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Harry Menzies

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Sarah O'Hearn

"This job & Cert III has provided me with real life skills. From dealing with different types of people, to being able to organise, coordinate and manage the centre and all its events"



The Safer Drivers Course logo is a trade mark of Transport for NSW, of 18 Lee St Chippendale NSW Australia



MACLEAN

COURSE DATES JANUARY

Sat, 31 Jan 2026 at 9:30AM

Get 20 Logbook Hours

LIMITED
SUMMER HOLIDAY
SPOTS.
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Spriggy Schools

The canteen has partnered with Spriggy Schools for online lunch orders!

Creating your account

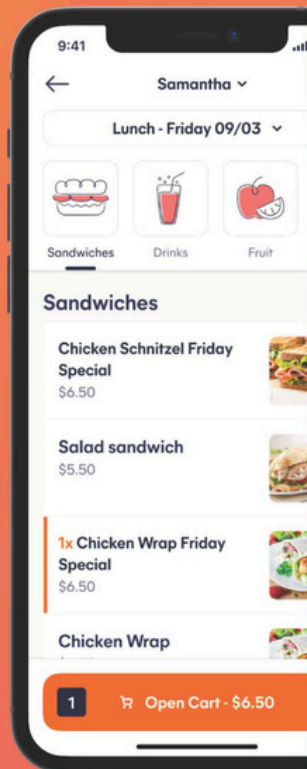
- Download the app
- Register your details
- Create a profile for each child

Placing your first order

- View the canteen menu on the home screen
- Browse the menu and tap 'Add to Cart' on any item
- Go to cart and tap 'Place Order' to confirm
- You can edit or cancel your order before the cut-off time



Download the app now!



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NICA

NATIONAL
INTERSCHOLASTIC
CYCLING ASSOCIATION
AUSTRALIA

Youth mountain bike teams for youth in school years 6 - 12.

NICA is the world's largest youth mountain bike organisation, and we are reinventing youth sports with fun, inclusive, and equitable youth development programs. We use bikes to build confidence, leadership and community and create athletes for life. **No sidelines. No selections. Everyone rides!**

MTB TEAMS • TEEN TRAIL CREW • GRIT (GIRLS RIDING TOGETHER) ...and more!

School and community-based teams are led by qualified coaches who love riding, are passionate about youth development and live NICA's core values: **Fun, Inclusivity, Equity, Respect & Community**. 75% of NICA coaches are parents, and you don't need to be an expert rider. We provide the tools, training and support needed to start a team and become an inspiring coach.

Join us at the Stromlo NICA Coach Summit and learn how you can help bring this incredible program to life in your community. 50% off with code: **NICASUMMIT#2**

nicausmtb.org.au



From 10 December, you will need to be 16 or over to have an account on social media.



For more details go to eSafety.gov.au



Authorised by the Australian Government, Capital Hill, Canberra



Everyone deserves to feel safe at school

Please treat our staff and students with **kindness and respect**

Aggressive behaviour will **not be tolerated**

Together, we can create a **safe and harmonious environment** for our students and staff



education.nsw.gov.au

Helpline Numbers/Online Resources

Kids Helpline: 1800 551800 or www.kidshelp.com.au

Lifeline: 13 1114 or www.lifeline.org.au

Headspace: 1800 650890 or www.eheadspace.org.au

Beyond Blue: 1300 224636 or www.beyondblue.org.au

Reachout: <http://au.reachout.com>

Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659467

Parent Line NSW: 1300 1300 52 or www.parentline.org.au

WayAhead Directory: <http://directory.wayahead.org.au>

Mental Health Telephone Access Line: 1800 011511 (operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

It is staffed by clinicians who can provide advice, make referrals and link callers to the Mental Health Service in their local health district).

School Counsellors: Mr Andrew Allen & Ms Naydene Beaver

Wellbeing & Health In-reach Nurse Coordinator (WHIN): Ms Sally Loy (0484 648 062) Further Information for the WHIN program:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/whinprogram>

