



THE GOORA GAZETTE



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educating hearts and minds

Ms Wolski's Message

Dear Somerton Public School Community,

I hope this message finds you well and ready for a fantastic and event filled end to term one.

A recent highlight was the Winanga-li Learning Alliance Harmony Day event. Our school community gathered with other small schools in the area, to celebrate diversity and inclusion, participating in a variety of activities, games, and cultural opportunities. It was truly inspiring to see students and community members sharing and embracing different cultures, fostering an environment of understanding and respect. During our gratitude circle after the event, many students reported 'making new friends' as the best part of the day. Thank you to everyone involved for making this event a success.

Students have been diligently working on finalising their academic projects and preparing for end of term assessments. Their dedication and hard work over the last term have been impressive as they strive to achieve their best outcomes.

As we look forward to some well-deserved rest, I encourage our students to relax and enjoy time with family and friends. Thank you for your ongoing support, and I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable break.

Warm regards,

Crista Wolski
Rel. Principal
Somerton Public School



April 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 END OF TERM ASSEMBLY ALL WELCOME 2:45PM	10 ANZAC DAY VETERAN VISITOR ALL WELCOME FROM 2:30PM	11 LAST DAY OF TERM 1 EASTER HAT PARADE ALL WELCOME FROM 2PM	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 ANZAC DAY MARCH begins 7:45am	26	27
28 STAFF ONLY	29 STAFF ONLY	30 FIRST DAY OF TERM 2 FOR STUDENTS	1	2	3	4

Have a safe and happy school holiday!

ANZAC DAY March & Ceremony 25th April 7:45am starting at Somerton Public School.





Harmony Day





Compulsory school attendance

Information for parents

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

What are my Legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age of 17 years. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the NSW Education and Standards Authority for home schooling.

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

The Importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

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

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

What if my child has to be away from school?

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

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

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

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

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

Travel

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

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.

My child won't go to school what should I do?

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

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

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

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- **Compulsory Schooling Conferences**

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

- **Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order**

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

- **Prosecution in the Local Court**

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

What age can my child leave school?

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

Working in Partnership

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

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

More information

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

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's Policy Library AND The Department's Attendance Matters Website

The school leaving age:

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

Do you need an interpreter?

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

2025 Currabubula Small Schools Art Show

entry information

- When:** Thursday 22th – Sunday 25th May 2025
- Entries:** **One** artwork per student for the show, A4 or A3 size only including the border (no laminate or heavy frames please)
- Where:** Red Cross Art Exhibition at Currabubula Hall
- Entries close:** Please have entries delivered to Currabubula School or Tamworth District Office by end of Week 2 Term 2 (9th May).

Categories

- Portrait** Painting or drawing depicts the image of a person or animal, or group thereof.
- Landscape** The depiction of natural scenery outdoors, i.e. mountains, trees.
- Abstract** Art that does not attempt to represent an accurate depiction of a visual reality but instead use shapes, colours, forms and gestural marks to achieve its effect.
- Photography** Plain photo or mounted on cardboard only, no heavy frames.
- Collage** Pieces of paper, photographs, fabric and other ephemera are arranged and stuck down onto a supporting surface. Needs to be mounted with blue tack so not too heavy please!
- Black & White** Black, white and 50 shades of grey.

Art work will be judged across 3 stages:

- | | |
|---------|------------------------|
| Stage 1 | Kindergarten to Year 2 |
| Stage 2 | Years 3 and 4 |
| Stage 3 | Years 5 and 6 |

Currabubula Public School
currabubul-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au | 02 6768 9010 | Bolton Street, Currabubula

Please return this completed slip with your artwork to the school office by:

Friday, 9th May (Term 2 Week 2) to enable us to get the entries to Currabubula in time.

Student Name: _____

Category(see above information): _____

100 Mile Dinner

SHOWGROUND PAVILION
SATURDAY 12 APRIL, 6PM

Presented by



Live Music

Join us for this unique event, under the stars at Manilla Showground Pavilion.

Bringing sustainability to the dinner table, the 100 Mile dinner features local, seasonal produce from within 100 Miles of Manilla, with a menu curated by renowned caterer Laura Swan.

Gather your friends and enjoy this beautiful evening by the Namoi.

SATURDAY 12 APRIL
6PM - late
Formal Dress
18yrs+ (BYO)

Tickets \$75
Tables of 6 | \$420

Tickets contact: Fiona Kelly
M: 0425 220 671
or via Humanitix >



RENEWABLE Manilla

Presented by



Manilla Showgrounds
SATURDAY, 12 APRIL

WORKSHOPS + FAMILY FUN

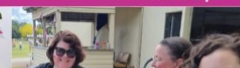
8.00am
till 3.00pm

FREE Family Fun

- Selah Yoga @ 8am
- Sound Meditation
- Artist led workshops
- drawing + printmaking
- Music + Making + Fun
- Clothes Swap - 2-3pm



NATURE JOURNAL



COLLABORATIVE MAKING

ALL AGES

8AM -Yoga
9.30 - Workshops



LOCAL CREATURES



CLOTHING SWAP 2-3PM

<https://events.humanitix.com/renewable-manilla-25/tickets>

RSVP ONLINE

COMMUNITY
CLASSIFIEDS



TASTE TAMWORTH FESTIVAL

4 - 13 April 2025

Experience our region on your plate



Privately delivered by

Tamworth Regional Council

TAMWORTH REGION
CITY OF LANDSCAPE

Bubbogullion 100 Birds on Farms Walk



Join Bubbogullion 100 Landcare Group for their second Bird Walk & Talk, a guided experience exploring the diverse birdlife in the Somerton area. This event is designed for bird lovers and interested community members to enhance their bird identification skills and deepen their understanding of bird habitats, food sources, and environmental influences.

What to Expect:

- ✓ Learn to identify local bird species across different landscapes
- ✓ Gain insights from Dr. Steve Debus, Independent Environmental Services Professional & Adjunct Lecturer at UNE
- ✓ Discuss bird habitats, food sources, and environmental factors impacting bird populations
- ✓ Explore various locations, concluding at the Peel River (weather permitting)

For more information and to Register [click here](#)
or contact Susan Wilson 0400590776 or
susan@trla.org.au

DATE

Sunday 13th April

TIME

8.30 am until after lunch (depending on the birds)

LOCATION

"Lyngai", 1755 Top Somerton Rd. Somerton

CATERING

Morning Tea and Lunch Provided



What to Bring:
Binoculars (some available to borrow),
bird ID book, hat, sunscreen, water &
sturdy footwear

Limited spots available (Max 30).
Registration essential!

This activity is part of the Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative



Local Land
Services

The Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative is funded by the NSW Government, and is supported through the partnership of Local Land Services and Landcare NSW.



ANZAC DAY

Somerton Community Commemoration
Friday, 25th April, 2025

Lest we forget

ALL STUDENTS & COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Are welcome to assemble at Somerton Public School before 8.00am.

School students, from all schools, please wear your school uniform.

At 8am, we will march to the Somerton War Memorial Hall for the ANZAC Day Service, commencing with wreath laying at approximately 8.15am. All citizens are welcome to lay a wreath.

Our ANZAC Day commemoration continues with a guest speaker in the hall.

Morning tea will follow the service and all attendees are encouraged to bring a plate to share.

Please note: Veterans and serving personnel wear their decorations on the left chest. Many people choose to remember relatives by wearing their medals. You are welcome and encouraged to wear your relative's medals to ANZAC Day, however, please wear these on the right-hand side of your chest.

Parliament of
New South Wales

FESTIVAL OF DEMOCRACY

Tuesday
15 April
9.30am – 3pm



**Free activities
for children up
to 12 years
at the
Parliament
of NSW**

Visit Australia's oldest Parliament, learn about democracy in NSW, step inside history with guided tours and get creative in workshops and role plays.

- Make craft animals and objects
- Visit our heritage rooms
- Learn how to vote and make a law
- Participate in a committee role play
- Enjoy live music and more...



FREE ENTRY
Activities 9.30am to 3pm

LOCATION
Parliament of New South Wales,
6 Macquarie Street
Opposite Martin Place

Enquiries P: (02) 9230 2047 or
E: dps.education@parliament.nsw.gov.au

**BOOKINGS
ESSENTIAL**



The public café
will be open.

FREE

COMMUNITY CLASSIFIEDS



We are here! 8am to 12pm
on the 2nd, 4th & 5th Saturdays
of the month

Bicentennial Park, Tamworth
Enquiries: 0422 801 702