



WEST WYALONG HIGH SCHOOL

Newsletter

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Monday 7 April 2025

Term 1 Week 11

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As we complete term 1, I want to highlight the significant strides we are making in addressing cyber safety, respectful relationships, bullying, and resilience within our school. The wellbeing of our students remains our top priority, and I am proud to share the initiatives we have implemented to support this goal.

Throughout this term we have focused heavily on enhancing the wellbeing of all students through a comprehensive Behaviour Support and Management Plan. This plan is readily available on our school website and I encourage parents to take the time to access this document and gain a deeper understanding of our school plan. To facilitate this, we have engaged external providers to deliver a series of highly valued workshops. These sessions have included informative talks from local police, the engaging Consent Lab, and activities such as Man Cave and Girl's Empowerment that have resonated well with our students.

Our Year meetings have also been dedicated to fostering respect and understanding among students. Through various activities, we are equipping our students with the skills necessary to engage with one another positively and respectfully, creating an inclusive environment for everyone.

Looking ahead, our commitment to improving student wellbeing will be further strengthened by the integration of The Resilience Project into our school culture. This initiative will be ongoing over the next couple of years and will focus on building resilience, emotional intelligence, and fostering a sense of belonging among our students. We will continue to collaborate with our partner primary schools and the wider community to enhance student engagement and support a strong sense of belonging within our schools. Together, we can create a safe and supportive environment where every student feels valued and

empowered. Please schedule a time with the principal or deputy principal if you would like to discuss our approach to improving student wellbeing or if your child requires any further support.

Mr Sheens

CALENDAR – TERM 1 & 2, 2025

WEEK 11	
Monday 7 April – Wednesday 9 April	Year 12 half yearly examinations
Thursday 10 April	Police talks
Friday 11 April	Make Bullying History Last day of Term 1
WEEK 1 TERM 2	
Wednesday 30 April	Students return for Term 2

THE ROLE OF THE ARCO

Mr Darryl Meredith has happily accepted the role of Anti-Racism Contact Office (ARCO) at West Wyalong High for 2025. This follows professional training in 2024.

The role of the ARCO is to educate our students, continue to develop the knowledge of our staff and to support students and staff who feel that a racist act has occurred toward them.

This support may involve taking witness statements, supporting the wellbeing of affected students and staff, discussing options moving forward, mediation sessions and in some cases, referring the incident onto the Deputy or Principal for further action.

If you have any concerns please feel free to contact Mr Meredith during school hours on 6972 2700.

STUDENT ORGANISATION

STAGE 5 AGRICULTURE

West Wyalong High School have recently received their new team of 6 wethers from Egelabra Merino Stud for the 2025 School Wether Challenge. Every Friday the Stage 5 Agriculture students weigh the sheep using Gallagher technology to keep track of their progress.



REROC LEADERSHIP FORUM

On 26 March, 8 of our Year 10 students, along with Mrs McDonnell, headed to The Range Function Centre at Wagga Wagga for the annual REROC Leadership Forum. REROC stands for Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils. This year's event was a different format from previous years and was led by the Burn Bright team. The Take Charge leadership forum focuses on providing young people with the tools required to have a stronger voice in society, take up leadership roles, and inspire them to be more involved in their local community.

Joining other schools in our region, we had the opportunity to make meaningful connections while

participating in a range of challenges throughout the day. These challenges were aimed at developing our leadership abilities and empowering us to take positive action within our community. Our values and actions have an impact on others which we need to be aware of.



NSW PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENT SURVEY

In Term 2, we are offering our students the opportunity to participate in the NSW Public Schools Student Survey. The survey gives students the chance to share their thoughts and feelings about life at school, including questions about their engagement, learning experiences and wellbeing at school.

Hearing directly from our students will help us understand what's working well and where improvements can be made to our school. The survey is confidential, takes around 10 to 15 minutes to complete, and will be conducted online during school hours.

Participation is voluntary. If you prefer your child not to participate, please complete the opt-out consent form, which will be sent home, and return it to the school. Further information about the survey is available at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/npss>

CWA PHILLIP GROUP EDUCATION GRANT SUPPORTING WWHS STUDENTS

At our recent assembly, Rhonda Widdows of the local Bellarwi CWA Branch was on hand to present the certificates to those students who were successful in securing a Phillip Group Education Grant. These grants are funded by the CWA Phillip Group to provide additional support for rural and remote students to meet education costs as they pursue their educational goals.

"For 40 years, Phillip Group's metropolitan branches have been allocating money to country students across NSW to help pay for their education expenses. The city branches include – Eastwood-Epping, Georges River, Manly, Mascot, St George & Sutherland Shire and Sydney City" Source Phillip Group Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CWAPhillipGroup/>

This year 33 students from West Wyalong schools received a grant. In addition, three students from the High School also received a Sylvia Osborne Grant given to pursue studies in interior design, public speaking, dance and trumpet; and for art and drawing. In total \$11,050 was given by Phillip Group of CWA to West Wyalong students.

Thank you to all those involved in the NSW CWA Branches for offering our students the opportunity to apply for this assistance.



WESTERN AREA RUGBY LEAGUE TRIALS

On Wednesday 26 March 2025, five students represented West Wyalong High School at the Western Area rugby league trials. Kayne Crowe and Will Tulloch in the Opens and Bobby Bryant, Nixon Loudon and Ryder Pettit in the Under 15s. Congratulations to all 5 students who gained selection in the sides.

On Thursday 3 April, the boys then attended the Western Area trials in Peak Hill. Congratulations to Kayne Crowe, who made the Opens side and Bobby Bryant and Ryder Pettit who secured their spots in the Under 15's side.

A commendable effort was shown by Will Tulloch and Nixon Loudon who narrowly missed out on selection this time.

Kayne, Bobby and Ryder will now trial next term for the Greater Western side. We wish them the best of luck as they continue their rugby league journey.



LIONS YOUTH OF THE YEAR

Riley Evans recently represented the West Wyalong Lions Club, West Wyalong High and the Bland Shire in the 2nd round of the Lions Youth of the Year competition. She competed against neighbouring districts in the right to move forward in this national competition.

Riley had to attend an interview with the judging panel where they asked her about her hobbies, interests and career aspirations along with her opinion on topical current affairs.

Later that evening, she had to attempt two impromptu questions in front of an audience and deliver a 5 minute prepared speech.

Whilst Riley was not successful in progressing in the competition, she was a fine ambassador for the Bland Shire who represented us with style and dignity.

The school would like to acknowledge the Lions Club, particularly Mr Brad Staniforth, for giving our students this outstanding opportunity to enhance their general knowledge and public speaking skills.



PEER SUPPORT

During Term 1, our Year 7 students have been taking part in Peer Support groups with Year 10 leaders. The program includes 10 sessions where students do activities like icebreakers, learning about staff members, improving organisation and time management, resolving conflicts, and effectively working well in groups. The Year 10 leaders use their school experience to guide Year 7 students through their transition to high school, offering advice and support as well as sharing their own experiences. This program helps to build confidence in Year 7 students while giving Year 10 leaders a chance to develop their leadership skills, creating a supportive and welcoming school community.

SPECIAL VISIT

On Friday, our Hub students had an incredible experience during a visit from Pic, a friend of Mrs Hague's and a fireman in his spare time. The students were fascinated as they explored the fire truck, examined the equipment and even had a chance to hold the hose. Their enthusiasm was evident as they eagerly asked numerous questions about firefighting and safety. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Pic for providing our students with this amazing opportunity and inspiring them with his knowledge and passion for his work!



LAKE COWAL CONSERVATION CENTRE

On Tuesday 25 March, our Year 8 students visited the Lake Cowal Conservation Centre as part of their depth study excursion. When we arrived at the centre, we were greeted by Sally who showed us her range of bird and animal skeletons and skulls. We then had a bit of a chat about the Lake Cowal area and how the lake itself changes through seasons and climatic events.

We then headed to the lake and got ready to take part in the three different sessions spread over the day. In the session on food chains and human impacts, Miss Wesierski and her group made food chains with pictures of animals in the local ecosystem. We then sat under a tree by the lake side that looked toward the mine and discussed the human impacts from the different activities taking place in the area.

Sally led an activity which took the students through a range of climate and soil testing activities. We recorded temperature, wind speed, lux and soil pH in various areas around the lake. We also investigated the water bugs that inhabit the lake and discussed how they can indicate the health of the water way.

During the session with Mrs Riach, we observed different bird species in the area and undertook a capture-mark-recapture activity. We used various binoculars and telescopes to observe the various bird species that live, move around and feed at Lake Cowal. Then we undertook the capture-mark-recapture activity to understand how scientists can use samples of the population to estimate the size of an entire population.

We would like to thank Mrs Riach for running her activity and collecting our calculators, Miss Austin for supervising us on the bus and being our photographer, Miss Wesierski for running her session and organising the excursion, Karla for supporting us and cooking a bunnings worthy sausage sandwich, Sally Duncan for organising all the equipment and resources at the lake and Delwyn from Kelly's Coaches for driving us around the country side.



WESTERN REGION TRIAL DATES - 2025

WWHS students have been successful over many years in being selected in a variety of Western Region teams with several of them going on to higher levels. These students have been self-motivated, organised and spent many hours training to compete against other highly skilled athletes from our Region, State and even Australia.

Western Region Trial dates for various sport have been released and details can be viewed on the Western Region School Sport page (<https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/sport/Western>) and accessing specific sports trials and events through the 'find events' tab. Explore the sports/events that you are interested in.

Any students who intend to trial for Western Region teams, please keep in mind that the school must approve your attendance at the trial. In addition, you will need to organise transport to and from the trial venue.

To ensure that you don't miss events that you are interested in, listen carefully to the daily notices or assembly reports for nomination dates and information and collect and return all relevant forms to Mrs Milsom in a timely manner.

As with all absences from school, students are expected to talk with their teachers about class work and assessment tasks that may be impacted by their absences and find workable/appropriate solutions.

Everyone is welcome to view current (and the most up to date) information on the Western Region website. If you have any questions, please see Mrs Milsom.



REMINDERS

We ask that parents/carers return the following to the front office as soon as possible –

- Family Information Update - only one form per family required
- General permission notes.

Students are reminded that fully enclosed leather shoes must be worn for practical subjects.

PUBLIC NOTICES

