

## From the Principal's Desk

Welcome to our first newsletter of Term 2 – and my first newsletter back in the role of Principal at Wingham High School. It has been a rewarding experience to return to a familiar school community, one that has grown and evolved with new staff and a fresh cohort of students.

Over the past two years and one term, I have been on secondment with Educational Services in the Department of Education, working in the area of Professional and Ethical Standards – Employee Performance. This role gave me the opportunity to collaborate closely with school principals across the state, supporting the professional development of staff and ensuring that departmental expectations and standards were met across a wide variety of contexts. It was a deeply fulfilling experience, and I was continually inspired by the innovative and dedicated work happening in our schools.

Returning to Wingham High, I have been energised by both the knowledge I've gained and the remarkable practices that have continued here in my absence. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Monique Cheers and Paul Rosenbaum, who have led the school with professionalism, care and vision during this time of significant educational change. Their leadership has been instrumental in ensuring continuity, innovation, and strong outcomes for our students.

Wingham High School remains fully committed to the Department's strategic directions and to the ongoing improvement of teaching and learning. One of our key focus areas this year is the implementation of Explicit Teaching – a structured, evidence-based approach to instruction that supports student success by providing clarity, breaking down complex content into manageable parts, and offering students consistent opportunities to practise and consolidate their learning.

Of course, I would be remiss not to acknowledge the impact of the recent floods on our community. Many of our students, families, and staff are facing difficult challenges as a result. And yet, once again, I have witnessed the strength and resilience of the Wingham community. The way people have come together – as neighbours, colleagues, and friends – to support one another has been nothing short of inspiring. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to everyone who assisted the school during this time, especially those in our local community who stepped in when many of our staff were unable to access the school. Your support has made a real difference, and we are truly grateful.

We understand that recovery will take time, and our school remains committed to supporting our students and families throughout this journey. If you or someone you know is struggling, please don't hesitate to reach out. We will do everything we can to provide assistance or connect you with the right support networks.

Despite the challenges, Wingham High School is focused on moving forward. We are working hard to restore routine, rebuild momentum, and support every student to continue progressing towards their goals. There is much to celebrate – as you'll see in the pages ahead – and I hope you enjoy reading about the many positive developments taking place in our school.

*Paul Ivers*

*Principal*

### Dates to Remember

**Year 10 (2025) into 11 (2026)**

**Information Evening**

**Monday 16 June 6pm**

**Merit Awards Assembly**

**Tuesday 1 July 11.45-1.15pm**

**P&C Meeting**

**Tuesday 1 July 6pm**

**Final day of Term 2**

**Friday 4 July**

**Immunisations Years 7 & 10**

**Thursday 24 July**



NSW Department of Education



## 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

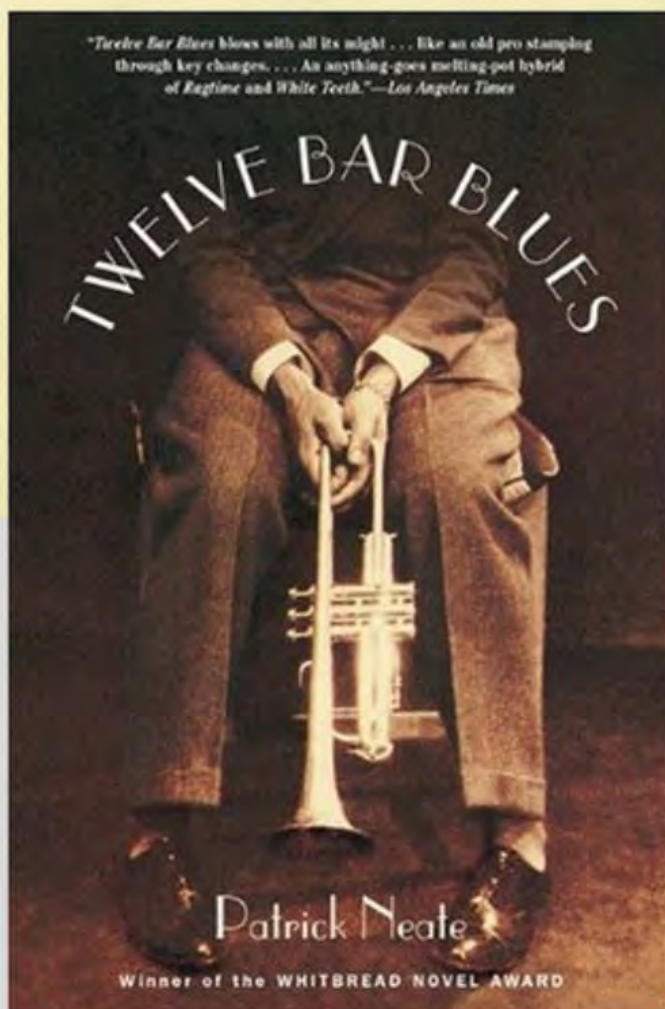
The NSW Department of Education recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

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





## BOOK REVIEW



Reading ***Twelve Bar Blues*** by Patrick Neate is like getting dropped into a 1920s jazz club with no idea what's going on, holding a trumpet in one hand and your great-grandma's diary in the other. It's a weird mix, but somehow it works.

You've got Lick Holden, a cool muso in Harlem, and Sylvia, a modern-day woman from London trying to figure out where she came from. Their stories jump all over the place — past, present, here, there — like a kangaroo on a sugar high. It's a bit hard to follow at times, but once you get the rhythm, you're in for a good time. The book's got a lot of soul, plenty of laughs, and more twists than a curly fry. It talks about family, identity, and finding your roots, but without getting too heavy or serious about it.

Final Verdict:

A strange but fun read. Feels like jazz in book form — all over the shop, but pretty cool once you're into it. Give it a go if you like music, mystery, and a bit of a wild ride. — **Jonah Harrell, Year 12**



## Wingham High School students serve the Wingham community

In a remarkable display of community spirit, students from Wingham High School came together to prepare and cook meals for local residents affected by the devastating flooding in the area. The initiative, led by the Student Representative Council (SRC) alongside other interested students, took place in the school's Hospitality rooms, showcasing the students' culinary skills while making a meaningful impact.

Under the guidance of Mrs. Beth Ripley and our Wellbeing team, students worked diligently to prepare nutritious meals. These meals were not only distributed from the school but were also delivered directly to flood-affected homes in the surrounding streets, ensuring that those in need received support during this challenging time.

A special thanks goes to Alesco College at Tuncurry for their generous contribution in preparing meals, which they delivered to Wingham to enhance the school's supplies. This collaboration exemplifies the power of community partnership in times of need.

The feedback from the community has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the appreciation for the students' efforts and the importance of community support. Students expressed their enjoyment in helping those who have always supported their school, reinforcing the bonds between the school and the community.

This initiative not only provided immediate assistance to those in need but also fostered a sense of empathy and teamwork among the students, reminding everyone of the power of coming together in times of crisis.





# Wingham High School Newsletter

## A Day at the Farm 2025

On Monday 12 May we were pleased to host our annual Agricultural showcase, welcoming Year 6 students from all over the Manning to spend the morning at our farm. Our Ag students conducted educational sessions on a rotation, including a visit to our bottom farm, where the students were transported by bus. A highlight was a visit from Snow & Sons, The Master Butchers who gave an educational demonstration on beef production, butchering and cooking. Our new cattle crush was also featured along with our cattle who will be transported to the Wingham Showground today to participate in Wingham Beef Week.





## Wingham Beef Week 2025

Wingham Beef Week 2025 was once again a showcase of talent, dedication, and agricultural excellence—and Wingham High School stood proudly at the forefront. With 39 students representing the school and 10 head of cattle in tow, our team was part of a massive turnout that included over 30 public and private schools and commercial breeding and stud farms. A staggering 738 entries filled the showgrounds, making this year's event one of the largest on record.

Our students participated across a variety of competitions, including parading, cattle judging, junior judging, and carcass assessment. They not only represented our school with skill and professionalism but demonstrated the values of teamwork, commitment, and resilience throughout the demanding week. From early mornings prepping cattle to the long afternoons in the ring, every student played their part—and the results were a credit to their effort.

The parading section was a highlight, with students showing their cattle with precision and calmness, despite the competitive environment. Many of our students received commendations for their handling skills and ring presence, proving that Wingham High is producing some of the most capable young stock handlers in the region. The judging competitions also saw a strong performance, as students applied their knowledge of structure, muscle development, and meat quality to evaluate livestock with confidence and accuracy.

One of the standout aspects of the week was the level of teamwork and support shown among students. Whether it was helping each other prepare cattle, offering encouragement before a class, or assisting other schools and competitors, our students continuously went above and beyond. Their positive attitude and sportsmanship were recognised by stewards, judges, and fellow schools.

Staff and community members accompanying the team—Mr Hawkins, Ms Silcock, and long-time supporters Tim and Jennifer Minett—were incredibly proud of the way the students conducted themselves. “The level of maturity, hard work and enthusiasm these young people showed is something really special,” said Mr Hawkins. “They did themselves, their families and Wingham High School proud.”

Behind the scenes, the preparation for Beef Week involved months of work. From training sessions on the school farm to weekend cattle handling, students committed themselves to learning the responsibilities of livestock care and the expectations of the show ring. The success at Wingham Beef Week is a reflection of that dedication—and the passion they have for agriculture.

It was not just about the ribbons and placings—though there were many. The week was an invaluable learning experience that built confidence, friendships, and skills that students will carry into future agricultural pathways. Whether they were first-timers or seasoned show team members, every student came away with a sense of achievement and pride.

As Wingham High School looks ahead to future shows and opportunities, the spirit of Beef Week 2025 will remain a reminder of what's possible when hard work, passion, and community come together. Congratulations to all involved—you've set a new benchmark of excellence.



10 cattle, 36 students

## Wingham Beef Week Results 2025

**Ebony Lansdowne**

1<sup>st</sup> 13's judging

**Lola Miggins**

4<sup>th</sup> 14's judging

**Lucy Austin**

Tom Woollard Memorial Trophy recipient

Wingham Beef Week Encouragement Award Nominee

## Heifer Classes

**Waffles**

1<sup>st</sup> Commercial Heifers aged 16-20 months

## Carcase Results – Hoof & Hook

**Winston**

3<sup>rd</sup> lightweight steer on hoof

3<sup>rd</sup> Class 1.1 Lightweight on hook with 80.75 points

**Venom**

1<sup>st</sup> Class 3.2 Heavy Middleweight on hook with 88.53 points

**Vector**

4<sup>th</sup> Class 4.1 heavyweight on hoof

3<sup>rd</sup> Class 4.1 Heavyweight on hook with 78.39 points

**Wall.E**

6<sup>th</sup> Class 4.3 Heavyweight on hook with 81.59 points





## Wingham Beef Week 2025





## Zone Cross Country 2025

Congratulations to our Cross Country team who travelled to the Manning Zone Carnival on Thursday 8 May. The students enjoyed a successful day. The students who have progressed to compete in the Regional Carnival are:

### Girls

#### 13 years

Tegan McCallum & Scarlett Allwood

#### 14 years

Melia Ward

#### 17 years

Phoebe Taylor & Aurora Dent

#### 18 years

Luci Yarnold & Aliesha Bell

### Boys

#### 14 years

Kye Welsh, Riley Knoke & Jayden McCallum

#### 15 years

Isaac Franklin & Joshua Oliver

#### 16 years

Sean Hurst





Transport for NSW

## Road safety



## Driving and parking safely near schools

The beginning and end of the school day are busy times around schools. That is why you need to take extra care in 40km/h school zones.

### Drive safely

- Slow down to 40km/h in the school zone and stay aware of crossings.
- At a supervised crossing, follow the directions of the School Crossing Supervisor. They help manage traffic and assist children to use the crossings on roads near and outside of schools.
- Always give way to pedestrians particularly when entering and leaving driveways.

### Park legally and safely

- Parking signs are planned with children's safety in mind.
- Park safely and legally, even if it means walking further to the school gate.
- Always park and turn legally around the school. U-turns and three-point turns are dangerous.
- Never double park as it puts children at risk.
- Never park in a bus zone or in the school bus bay.

- Don't park across the school driveway or the entrance to the school car park.
- Make sure your child uses the 'Safety Door' (rear kerb side door) to get in and out of the vehicle.
- Model safe and considerate behaviour for your child – they learn from you.
- It's always a good idea to use the drop off and pick up area suggested by your school. This will help keep all children as safe as possible during the busiest times of the school day.

**Children learn safe road user habits from you and will continue them when they are old enough to travel alone.**



For more information on keeping children safe in the road environment visit the families section on [safetytown.com.au](https://safetytown.com.au)



Too many lives lost on NSW roads.  
**Our goal is zero.**





# ARE YOU IMPACTED BY THE **FLOODS** ON MID NORTH COAST??

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## YOUTH WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

TAREE • FORSTER • WALLABI POINT

**JUNE 13**

### **Vibe & Thrive Night**

Chill, create and connect with movies, music, maker space  
+ free food

**JUNE 14  
& 28**

### **Introduction to Brazilian Jiu Jitsu**

Self Defence for Youth – a 2 hour workshop on the  
fundamentals of this empowering martial art

FORSTER CIVIC CENTRE & WALLABI POINT

**JUNE 14  
& 28**

### **Ink it Out!**

Tattoo Illustration Workshop

TAREE LIBRARY & FORSTER CIVIC CENTRE



<https://library.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/>

**FREE WORKSHOPS • AGES 12 -22 • BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**



## ONLINE ORDERING

- Available 24/7
- Convenient for parents
- Removes paper orders and cash
- FREE registration

Online ordering is more convenient, providing a 24/7 payment and ordering system that can be accessed from home, work or a mobile device.

No more fumbling around for coins in the morning or sending kids to school with excess cash, online orders are faster and more accurate giving parents peace of mind that their order and payment is received accurately at the school.

Registration is free and only takes a few minutes.



## EASY, ONLINE REGISTRATION

- Go to [www.flexischools.com.au](http://www.flexischools.com.au)
- Click REGISTER NOW
- Enter your email
- You will be emailed a link to an online form - follow the link
- Choose a username and password and complete the form
- Add each student and their class
- Top-up the account - VISA or Mastercard preferred.



Place lunch orders from your iPhone or iPad! Find us in the App Store.

## CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

All you need is a free Volunteers Working with Children's Check and one simple form for you to enjoy a free morning tea and lunch and a good laugh with our fabulous canteen team. However, most importantly you are helping our students receive nutritious, NSW Government approved meals. You won't have to serve or handle money.

So come in and lend a hand as much or as little time as you like - and you don't have to have a child at this school to help!

**Please call Judy on 6553 5488.**



## Wingham High School ~ Winter Canteen Menu

REMEMBER to ORDER before 9am  
**ORDER on-line with FLEXISCHOOLS**



For any special requirements please call in & have a chat with Judy.  
**Payment by cash or card only**

Check the blackboard for daily specials

HOT FOOD	
Low Fat Plain Pie	\$5.50
Low Fat Flavoured Pie	\$6.00
Low Fat Sausage Roll	\$4.00
Ham and Cheese Pocket	\$3.50
Chicken, Cheese and BBQ Sauce Pocket	\$4.50
Fish Piece	\$3.50
Chicken Fingers	\$4.00
Pizza (Home-made)	\$6.00
Toasted Sandwich	\$4.00
Homemade Soup	\$3.00
Garlic Bread	\$3.00
Chicken Burgers	\$5.50
Roast Chicken Dinner (Home-made)	\$6.50
Gluten Free Sausage Rolls	\$5.50
Gluten Free Meat pies	\$6.50
Lasagne	\$5.00
Potato Bake (GF)	\$4.50
Spaghetti Bolognese	\$5.00
Spring Rolls (V)	\$3.00

GLUTEN FREE options available  
Wraps  
Sandwiches  
Pizzas & Pies  
**Please Order**

COLD FOOD	
Salad Roll (white or wholemeal)	\$4.50
<b>All Sandwiches</b> (white or wholemeal)	
Salad	
Egg and Lettuce	
Ham, Cheese and Tomato	\$4.00
Ham and Cheese	
Chicken, Lettuce and Mayo	
Corned Beef and Pickles	
Salad Wrap	\$5.50
Salad Wrap with Chicken or Ham	\$6.00
Half Wrap with Ham and Salad	\$3.50
Salad Box with Egg, Chicken or Ham	\$5.50

Salads consist of lettuce, tomato, beetroot, onion, cucumber, carrot and low fat cheese.

VEGETARIAN	
Spinach and Cheese Roll	\$3.50
Vege Mornay Pie	\$5.50
Vege Burger	\$5.50
Macaroni Cheese	\$5.00

**Please note:**  
NO Heating up of food not purchased through the canteen.  
NO hot water will be given out.  
**NO Students in the canteen.**  
**See Judy at the front counter.**

ICE CONFECTIONS	
Paddle Pops (2 flavours)	\$2.50
TNT's	\$1.00
Sour Snaps	\$2.00
Twisted Frozen Yoghurt (2 flavours)	\$2.50
Frozen Fruit	\$1.50
Frozen Fruit Poles	\$1.50
Low fat Ice Cream Cup	\$1.50
Frozen Juice Cups	\$1.50
Choc Malt Icecream	\$1.50
Frozen Fruit Smoothies	\$1.00
Moosies	\$2.00
Sour Snaps	\$1.50
Mini Calippos	\$2.00
Berri Sticks	.50c
Juicies	\$1.50

Vegetarian meals available every day  
**Please Order**

MISCELLANEOUS	
Aprons - Blue or White	\$10
W.H.S Packs (apron, goggles, ear plugs, dust mask)	\$20
Visual Arts Diaries	\$7

SNACKS	
Fruit Muffin	\$2.00
Fresh Fruit, whole or pieces	\$1.50
Fresh Fruit Salad	\$4.00
Yoghurt Fruit Custard Cup	\$3.00
Fruit and Yoghurt Cups	\$2.00
Popcorn	\$2.00
Chips 28gm	\$2.00
Grain Waves	\$2.00
Noodle Snacks	\$1.50

DRINKS	
All Juices (4 flavours)	\$2.50
Flavoured Milk (large)	\$4.00
Flavoured Milk (small)	\$3.00
Just Natural Flavoured Milk	\$4.00
Plain Milk	\$3.50
Up & Go (small)	\$3.00
Hot Chocolate	\$4.00
600ml Water	\$2.50
No Sugar Gaterade	\$4.00
Active Water	\$4.00
Juice Bombs	\$2.50

**Gluten Free Options  
Now available by order**



Payments for excursions etc, can be made online at  
[www.winghamh.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.winghamh.schools.nsw.edu.au)



Newsletters are published in weeks 5 and 10.

Are available online at:  
[www.winghamh.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.winghamh.schools.nsw.edu.au)

Are emailed to:

- all students @education emails
- parents/carers with registered email accounts.

To receive a copy via email:

Contact the school and update your email address  
Or

Hard copies are available from the front office and the library.