



WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL

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winmalee-h.schools.nsw.gov.au f Winmalee High School - Official

Term 2 Week 5 Communication – Thursday 29 May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Warami.



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2025

Bridging Now to Next

On assembly this week a number of students spoke about Reconciliation Week; the assembly then viewed a short video of past Prime Minister Paul Keating giving the Redfern speech. This was the first time one of our Prime Ministers publicly recognised the past wrongs and implored all Australians to recognise and contribute to reconciliation. National Reconciliation Week first occurred in 1996, below is an extract from the reconciliation.org.au website. The Redfern speech is also on YouTube.

The National Reconciliation Week 2025 theme, Bridging Now to Next calls on all Australians to step forward together, to look ahead and continue the push forward as past lessons guide us.

Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

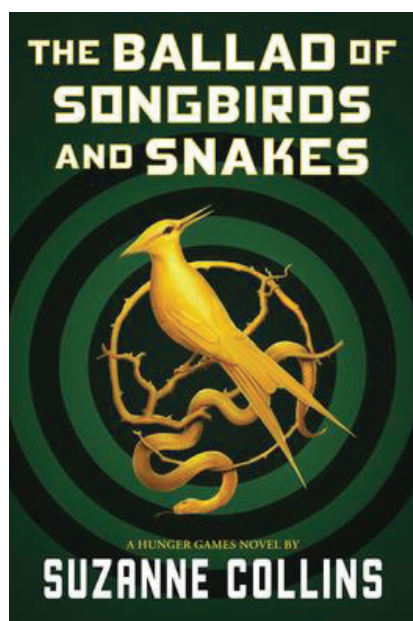
We all have a role to play when it comes to reconciliation, and in playing our part we collectively build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories, cultures, and futures.

The term is half over and Year 12's time at Winmalee High School is approaching an end. Today was the last RoSE breakfast for Year 12 as next term will be graduation, and they will have finished their HSC examinations.



What are you reading?

Ms Harris is reading - *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* by Suzanne Collins



I recently read *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* by Suzanne Collins. Many of you will know her as the author of *The Hunger Games* series. This novel serves as a prequel, jumping back in time to explore how President Snow became the cold, calculating dictator we know from Katniss' story.

I really enjoyed this addition to Collins' world of Panem. She shifts both her writing style and perspective, moving away from Katniss' first-person narrative to a third-person view that offers a more nuanced and layered portrayal of Snow. This change allows readers to explore his motivations and the events that shaped his character. It's a highly engaging read that keeps you wondering what happens to Snow and Lucy Gray.

I would recommend reading *The Hunger Games* series first, then diving into *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*. You'll have a more enjoyable reading experience if you're already immersed in the world of Panem, and you won't miss the many subtle references to the original trilogy.

I'm looking forward to reading Collins' most recent novel, *Sunrise on the Reaping*, which follows Katniss' mentor, Haymitch Abernathy, during his Hunger Games. No spoilers please!

We Will Rock You – **TICKETS NOW ON SALE!**

A fist-pumping, foot-stomping anthem to individuality!

We Will Rock You is a high-energy rock musical set in a future where music is banned, and conformity rules. But a group of rebels, the Bohemians, refuse to be silenced. With the help of two young outsiders, Galileo and Scaramouche, they rise up against the ruthless Killer Queen and her empire, fighting to bring back real rock 'n' roll. Packed with electrifying performances and Queen's greatest hits, this show is an epic battle for freedom, individuality, and the power of music to change the world!

Performances dates:

- ★ Friday 20 June 7.00pm
- ★ Saturday 21 June 1.30pm & 7.00pm
- ★ Friday 27 June 7.00pm
- ★ Saturday 28 June 7.00pm

Click on the below link to purchase tickets or scan the QR code on the poster!

<https://www.trybooking.com/DAMMR>

Poster designed by **Lexie Firth (Year 10)**.



Back-to-Back Peace Prize Success for Winmalee High at Model UN

This past weekend, two of our outstanding students, **Lucinda Balogh (Year 12)** and **Aurora Edwards (Year 10)**, proudly represented Winmalee High School at the 2025 Western Sydney Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA), held at Nepean Creative and Performing Arts High School.

MUNA is a Rotary initiative designed to give senior high school students (Years 10–12) a deeper understanding of the United Nations' role and valuable insights into international diplomacy.



Competing as the Kingdom of Denmark, Lucinda, Aurora, and supervising teacher **Mr Kevin Joseph** spent months preparing — learning about Danish history, culture, geopolitical alliances, and current global issues. Over the weekend-long assembly, the team engaged in lively debate and careful negotiation on resolutions addressing topics such as international security, human rights, environmental challenges, nuclear disarmament, trade policy, and United Nations reform.

In an impressive display of diplomacy and leadership, Aurora and Lucinda authored and sponsored a resolution promoting self-determination for Greenland. Their resolution received widespread support from other delegations and was successfully passed.

In recognition of their thoughtful advocacy, collaborative spirit, and persuasive diplomacy, the team was awarded the **2025 Peace Prize** by the adjudicators. Remarkably, this is the **second consecutive year Winmalee High has received this prestigious award** — a testament to the calibre of our students and the strength of our debating and public speaking programs.

A special thank you to the **Springwood Rotary Club** for their generous sponsorship, which made this opportunity possible.

Congratulations to Lucinda and Aurora on their outstanding achievement!



Warm Heads, Warm Hearts: 84 Beanies to Donate!

Our amazing Crochet Club has been busy with hooks in hand and hearts full of kindness. We're proud to share that we've completed **84 handmade beanies** to donate to **Penrith Community Kitchen!** Every stitch was made with care, and we're thrilled to know these cozy creations will help keep heads warmer this winter. A huge thank you to our amazing students who have given their free time to be part of this initiative. For some students it is their 3rd year contributing to this cause. – your time and talent are making a real difference in our community.

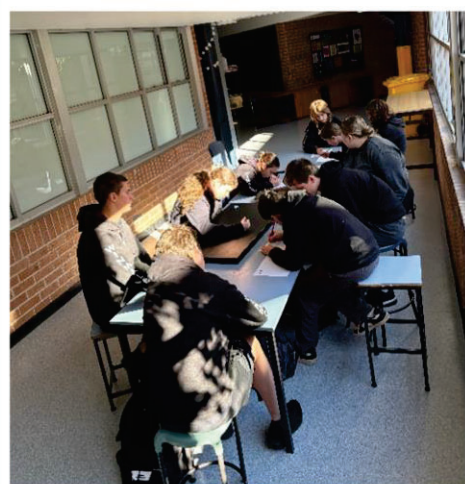
Any **donations of yarn or hooks** would be greatly appreciated. We are about to commence making Wildlife Nests to donate to WIRES.



A small group of First Nations students have been actively participating in the **Deadly Dreaming** mentoring program each Wednesday morning. As part of this journey, students have started designing a collaborative art project that brings together the school's Lyrebird totem with their own personal totems. This project is not only a celebration of

identity and culture but also places a strong emphasis on building a sense of belonging and connection within our school community.

We look forward to seeing their final creation and the powerful message it will share with the whole school.





Open Girls Netball – Sydney West Knockout

On Friday, 23rd May, the Open Girls Netball Team travelled to Doonside High School to compete in the 3rd Round of the Sydney West Knockout Competition. The match was tightly contested from start to finish, with the team facing off against a talented Doonside side.

Winmalee displayed outstanding teamwork and determination, ultimately securing a thrilling 27–26 victory. Well done to **Addison Down, Holly Clark, Ebony Richards, Larissa Atkins, Abby Bain, Mia Corscadden, Pippa Mein, Emiliana Hart, Charlotte Hughes, and Erin Kenn.**

The team now progresses to the Sydney West Netball Gala Day on Monday, 30th June.

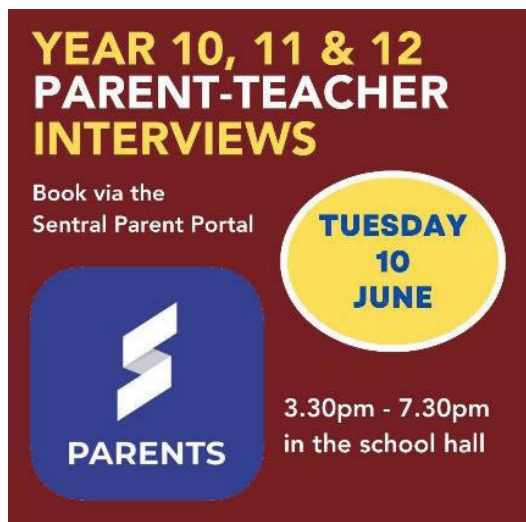

Good luck, girls!

A reminder that Ms Doyle is running a **Netball Development Program** on **Wednesday afternoons**. If your child is interested in joining this program, there are notes available in the library.



Huge congratulations to **Layla Davis (Year 7)** who recently placed 3rd in the 12yrs Musical Theatre section at Sydney Eisteddfod, in a tough section of nearly 20 performers.

Layla has been singing for several years and is under tuition from ex-student **Maddie Epthorp**. Layla frequently competes in eisteddfods and enjoys being part of local theatre productions, including with Blue Mountains Musical Society.



**YEAR 10, 11 & 12
PARENT-TEACHER
INTERVIEWS**

Book via the
Sentral Parent Portal

**TUESDAY
10
JUNE**

PARENTS

3.30pm - 7.30pm
in the school hall

To Year 10, 11 and 12 Parents and Carers:

Our **Senior Parent-Teacher Interviews** are scheduled for **Tuesday, 10 June 2025** from **3.30pm - 7.30pm** in the school hall. **Please save the date in your calendars.**

This year, the **online booking system** will again be through the **Sentral Parent Portal**. If you haven't yet registered for access to the portal, we encourage you to register and activate your account prior to interview bookings opening.

Please contact the school via phone or email if you require an activation key for the portal: 02 4754 2822 or winmalee-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

Interview bookings are now open and will remain open until 4.00pm on Monday, 9 June 2025.

Parents of Year 10, 11 and 12 students are encouraged to check your emails for the "important information regarding Year 10/11/12 interviews" that was emailed last week. Documents are also available on the Sentral Parent Portal and [school website](#).

WHS Alumni Spotlight: Lily Patterson (Class of 2020)

We're thrilled to share the stories of our former students with the school and wider community, highlighting their experiences at WHS and the diverse journeys they've taken since graduating.

First up is **Lily Patterson**, our 2020 School Captain, who shares her reflections on her time at Winmalee High and where life has taken her since.

Check out Lily's Q&A at the end of the Newsletter and stay tuned as we continue celebrating the amazing paths our alumni are forging!

We would love to hear from as many former students as possible across a wide range of years and pathways for our Alumni Spotlight feature. Former students can go to [WHS Alumni Q & A](#) to fill out the form and share their experiences with us.

Best wishes,

Winmalee High School

WHS ALUMNI Q&A



Lily Patterson class of '20

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE GRADUATING FROM WHS?

Since graduating high school, I moved out of home to start my studies at the University of Wollongong. I lived on campus during the 2021 lockdowns, which surprisingly turned into one of the most rewarding experiences— I have made lifelong friendships, and I've called Wollongong home ever since, completing a Bachelor of Nutrition Science and now nearing the end of my Master of Nutrition and Dietetics. Over the past five years, I've also been lucky enough to travel overseas—both solo and with friends where I've made some of the best memories to date! I've lived with some of my best mates, worked in a job role I never expected to be in, and learned so much along the way. Now, I'm proud to be on the brink of finishing my masters degree in something I'm incredibly passionate about !!

WHAT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WERE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCHOOL?

Ski Racing, Duke of Edinburgh, sporting teams (probably close to all of them to be fair hahaha), Cross Country and athletics and Hospo Cafe.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE MEMORIES FROM YOUR TIME AT WHS?

Hands down Ski Racing and the Duke of Edinburgh trips. Those experiences were seriously the best—full of laughs, challenges, and moments I'll never forget. Whether it was the early mornings on the mountain, the boys forgetting their tent poles and 4 of them having to bunk into a 2 man tent or hiking through the Snowy Mountains, they were such a big part of what made school so memorable. Sport was another huge highlight—from solo events like track and cross country to playing in the open girls soccer and touch teams, I loved being involved and those moments really shaped my time at WHS

HOW DID YOUR TIME AT WHS INFLUENCE OR HELP YOU DISCOVER YOUR PASSIONS AND INTERESTS?

My time at WHS really gave me the space to explore a range of different interests—whether it was through sport, art, academics, or other opportunities. I felt encouraged to try new things and figure out what I enjoyed and where I wanted to go.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES OUR SCHOOL SPECIAL?

The range of opportunities WHS gives students to get out into the real world and try new things. For me, ski racing and the Duke of Edinburgh program were huge highlights—they gave me the chance to step outside the classroom, challenge myself, and make some of the best memories. On top of that, there were so many different groups and sporting teams to get involved in. No matter what you were into, there was always something to be a part of.



OUTDOOR EXPLORE

UPCOMING ADVENTURES

Try exciting,
new things
& stretch
your
comfort
zone

Join us for
adventurous
activities

Connect with
nature &
other young
people

Ages 12 to 15:
Please still reach
out if you're not
in this age group.

Transport
leaving
Katoomba or
Springwood

Build skills &
explore your
potential

SAVE THE DATES:

Saturday 17th May
10am to 4pm

Saturday 14th June
10am to 4pm

School holidays Tuesday 15th
& Wednesday 16th July.

**Register
now**



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www.myst.com.au

