



WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL

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

Term 2 Week 9 Communication – Thursday 26 June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Warami. It's been another great week at WHS! Thanks to everyone who has booked tickets for the Musical. The feedback has been great. After watching the opening night show, I listened to Queen tunes all the way home. The matinee show today for local primary school students and nursing home residents was outstanding. There are a small handful of tickets available if you want to catch the last two shows this Friday and Saturday night.

Teacher Excellence Award - On Tuesday, Mrs Madeleine Sheehy, attended a regional award ceremony to receive the Executive Director's Teacher Excellence Award. Nominated by Mr Pendergast, she was selected to receive this prestigious award based on the achievement and success of Drama over many years at Winmalee High School. This includes achievements in HSC Drama; student HSC results, nominations and participation of students at state level and her service to NESAs as senior marker for the HSC. In addition, she was acknowledged for her leadership with our school musicals as Director. *We Will Rock You* is the 14th school musical Mrs Sheehy has directed. Congratulations to Mrs Sheehy – as a school community we are incredibly proud.



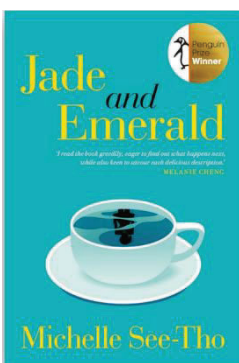
Year 12 Careers Workshops - Yesterday, Year 12 students participated in Careers workshops with experienced careers adviser, Mrs Jeanette Camillos. Students had the opportunity to engage in university, employment and TAFE/apprenticeship workshops, as well as individual appointments for advice. Any resources shared with students will be available to students in their year group Google Classroom. It was great to see students really engaged and asking lots of questions. Thank you to Mrs Redfern for coordinating these sessions.

Winmalee Book Club - This week I attended the staff book club, and it was invigorating and inspiring to discuss reading! Twelve staff, both teaching and non-teaching attended this week's session, where we discussed *Never Let Me Go*, by Kazuo Ishiguro. Inspired by book club, and a conversation with Year 12 student Isabella Wilkinson about this book, I put a call out to students in Year 7-9 on assembly to start a student book club at school. We have already formed a small group with five members, and we have a couple of book recommendations to start us off. We look forward to sharing our student reviews of books!

Mr Pendergast recently asked students to share recommendations for book purchases for our school library. The Turning Page book shop saw this in our weekly communication and have offered to host our students for a personal visit so they can select books for the school to purchase. We look forward to visiting with students soon.

Year 11 RoSE Breakfast (Recognition of Student Excellence) – Congratulations to Year 11 students who were invited to attend the first Year 11 RoSE Breakfast last week. Well done to those students who have maintained such a high level of achievement into their first year of senior school, and a big congratulations to those students who have been invited for the first time. Thank you to parents and families who attended to celebrate with us.

What are you reading? Ms Mather from the Maths faculty is reading....



They say don't judge a book by its cover. I must confess however that it was the beautiful teal colour of the cover of *Jade and Emerald* that caught my eye. And I'm glad it did. Michelle See-Tho's novel is centred upon Lei Ling Wen, a first generation Australian born to her Chinese-Malaysian mother. Lei Ling is in Year 7, and struggling with the strict demands and expectations placed on her, as well as the challenges of growing up in an English as a second language single-parent household. Lei Ling just doesn't seem to fit in anywhere and longs for a different life. A chance encounter sees Lei Ling befriended by the worldly and sophisticated Gigi Nu, who takes her under her wing - educating her in the finer things of life. Suddenly, a whole new world opens up to Lei Ling. This causes tension, and Lei Ling finds herself straddling two worlds, when tragedy strikes. Melanie Cheng writes from the heart, capturing Lei Ling's experiences acutely. It left me aching at times. A novel that will encourage you to reflect on society more broadly, including its cultural norms and expectations...

NEWS

Winmalee: Will Rock You

BY TOM WALKER

WE WILL Rock You isn't just a musical about a rock concert - it *is* a rock concert - right down to the electric atmosphere and feeling in your bones.

The Winmalee High School makes the school hall feel more like front row stadium seating. Lighting trusses are shown proudly, pyrotechnics spew flashing sparks and the musicians can be seen front-and-centre smashing out Queen's hits.

The unique production plays into the school's pride in their live orchestra, merging an engrossing spectacle of the musical's story with the hype of actually being at one of the characters' concerts.

Director Madeleine Sheehy, now leading her 14th show at Winmalee High School, said she wants the seats to feel "more like Wembley" than a school hall.

"We do want audience participation in this one. I have the characters doing a lot of entering and exiting through the centre aisles - through the audience - as if they are travelling with this



From left; Tahlia McGown, Kalarni Smoth, Liam Boys and Will Cusack starring in Winmalee High School's production of *We Will Rock You*. Picture supplied

group. So the audience are kind of incorporated into being a part of the Bohemian Crew, that are hiding underground in the tube stations of futuristic London," she said. "Of course, the key song

- where Galileo sings an 'ay-oh' - we are really hoping our audience responds to that. So that's why we want it to be really like a rock concert, so it is a partially immersive experience."

To amp up the flash the school is also using pyrotechnics for the first time with a cold spark machine; completely safe, but visually stunning for the intense moments of rocking out.

Like all the school's productions, *We Will Rock You* is a joint effort from across nearly every year and faculty. Dance teachers provide choreography, the poster was designed in a Year 10 Visual

Arts assessment task, and various other students assist with costumes, ticketing, directing and more.

Music Director Craig McGown said: "Everyone just does their little bit, and that's what's really magical about Winmalee High School... It's a real collective effort across the school."

Year 12 student Tahlia McGown stars in her first lead role as Scaramouche, and said the production is a welcome challenge compared to her previous roles.

"I've been involved in three school musicals now. *Wizard of Oz*, and then *Matilda*, and now *We Will Rock You*," she said.

"It's very exciting. Very different to every other musical I've ever done. I've never done a rock show. So it's been a bit challenging, but I've figured it out."

Winmalee High School's production of *We Will Rock You* will be showing on June 20 at 7pm, June 21 at 1.30pm and 7pm, June 27 at 7pm and June 28 at 7pm.

Tickets are available online, search for: Trybooking Winmalee High.

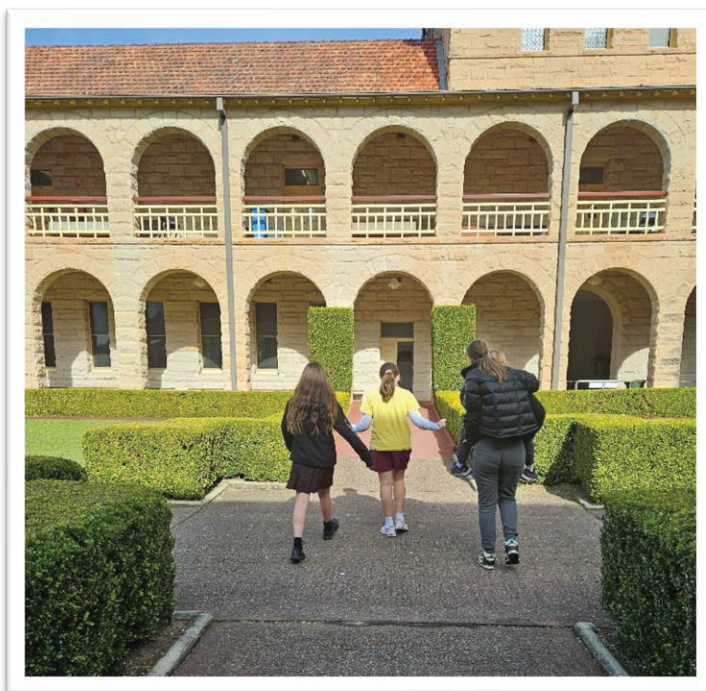
Thanks to the *Blue Mountains Gazette* for this feature on *We Will Rock You* - final shows this Friday and Saturday nights - don't miss out!

Purchase your tickets [here](#).

The **Year 7 and 9 debaters** went to St Columba's Catholic College to compete in Round 2 of the Blue Mountains Debating Competition last Thursday.

Both teams represented the school fantastically, walking away with the wins. They were praised by the adjudicator for their passion and teamwork. Congratulations to both teams!

Year 9 Debaters: Zahra Campbell, Amelia De Battista, Cassie Pigram. Year 7 Debaters: Emily Deeney, Lily Fensom, Elata Silverstone-Clear, Georgia Walker.





Congratulations to our **15s Knockout Netball team** who played their first game together against Katoomba High School on Monday. With students from Year 7-9, the team quickly found their rhythm, showing improved teamwork and cohesion as the match progressed.

Their impressive 47–2 win was a reflection of the hard work and commitment, including a dedicated after-school training session last Wednesday. The students proudly demonstrated our school values both on and off the court — supporting one another, showing resilience, and playing with integrity.

Well done to all players on a fantastic start to the competition! They will have their Round 2 match next term.

Also, thank you to **Addison Down (Year 12)** and **Daisy Marchant (Year 10)** for umpiring the game.

The team for this match was (back row) **Evie Scurr, Erin Kenn, Leah Seymour, Indy Fitzpatrick, Clarissa Winfield, Hollie Loudon, Kiraleigh Brest,** (front row) **Zahra Campbell, Kinley Goodman, & Isabella Gill**

Crochet Labubu Treasure Hunt – Week 10

The Crochet Club has created 6 adorable Labubu figures to be won!

Celebrating the end of Semester one, during Week 10, six lucky tickets will be hidden around the school—find one and you'll win a Labubu.

Listen out for daily notices with more clues, or follow us on Instagram: [thursday_crochet_club](https://www.instagram.com/thursday_crochet_club)





Last week, Winmalee High School was proudly represented by four Dance Ensembles at the **Synergy NSW Public Schools Dance Festival** at Panthers.

Their performances, choreographed by dance teachers Jess Peters, Kate Byrnes and industry professionals Pete Evans and Georgia van Doorn were a crowd favourite and highlighted the incredible talent we have here at Winmalee.

Congrats dancers!



Joshua Chapman Year 10 successfully auditioned for State Boys Dance Ensemble. He has been attending workshops throughout the year and recently performed at the Seymour Centre at the 'In The Spotlight Dance Festival'. He will perform again in September at the State Dance Festival and in November at the Schools Spectacular.



Subject Selection Evening – next Tuesday

Subject Selection information sessions for current **Year 8 and Year 10 students** will be held on **1 July 2025** in the school hall. **They will be held on the same evening, with different start and finish times.**

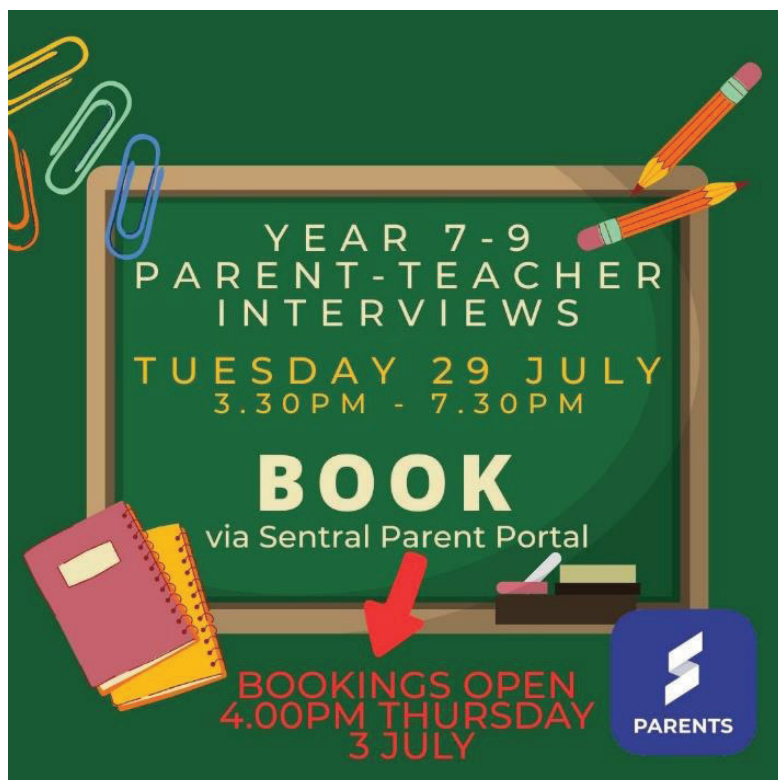
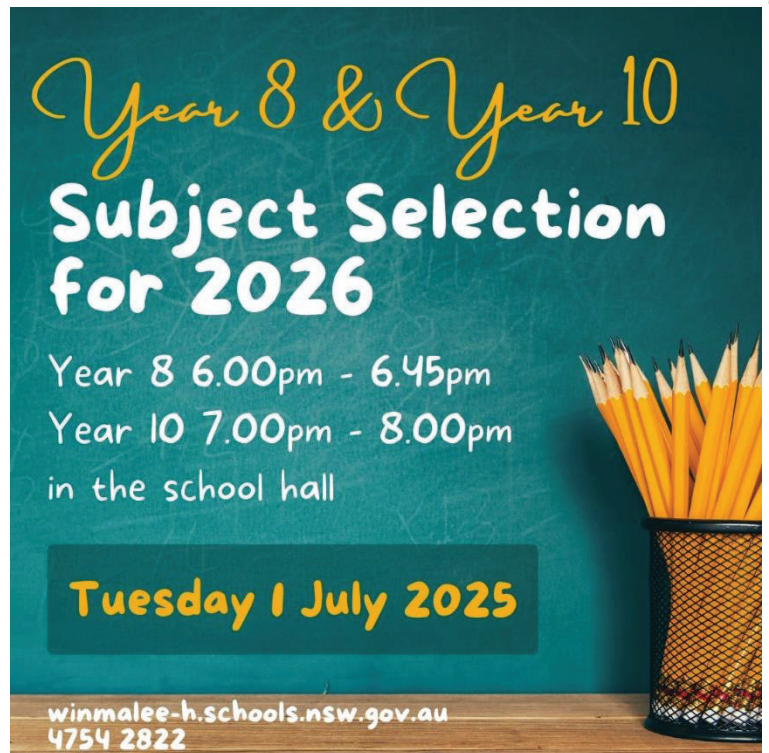
Year 8 - Subject Selection Information Evening for Year 8 into Year 9, 2026
6:00pm – 6:45pm

Year 10 - Subject Selection Information Evening for Year 10 into Year 11, 2026
HSC Preliminary Course (Year 11 RoSA)
7:00pm – 8:00pm

Subject selection booklets which include detailed information about the subjects being offered for study in 2026 are available on the Parent Portal. This will allow students and their families to view the subjects and discuss suitable choices. Some paper copies of the booklet will be available on the evening, but as it is a one-use document, we will not be issuing printed copies for all students. Please download a copy of the booklet to your device so you can refer to it on the night.

On the evening, information will be provided about the curriculum pattern for 2026 and the process of selecting subjects. Staff from each faculty will be available to answer questions about the courses being offered.

Subject Selection forms **will be provided on the evening** and must be returned by Term 3, Week 1 - **Friday, 25 July 2025.**



Our **Year 7-9 Parent-Teacher Interviews** are scheduled for **Tuesday, 29 July 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 will be open from 4:00pm from next Thursday, 3 July until 4:00pm on Monday, 28 July 2025.

Please check your emails and the Sentral Parent Portal for information about booking parent-teacher interviews that was sent today.



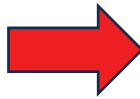
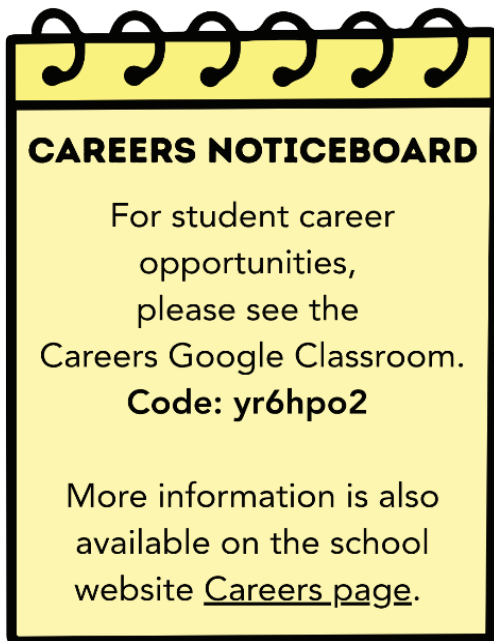
🏠 **WHS Alumni Spotlight: Nicole Dalby (Class of 1990)**

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.

This week **Nicole Dalby** shares her reflections on her time at Winmalee High and where life has taken her since.

Check out Nicole'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.



Please see flyer at end of the Newsletter re a **TVET Virtual Subject Selection information session** on Thursday 3 July.

Best wishes,

Winmalee High School



The Power of Numbers

Using Mathematics for Social Impact



Dr. Katie Buchorn, Mathematician
ARC Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against
Monash University

29 JUNE @ 2:00 PM
Springwood Sports Club (Bowlo)
www.scienceatthelocal.org



Computational Creativity

Music and Art in the Age of AI



Prof. Oliver Bown
University of New South Wales

29 JUNE @ 2:00 PM
Springwood Sports Club (Bowlo)
www.scienceatthelocal.org



This Sunday!



Positively
PENRITH

The Next Generation:
Strength, Vision and Legacy

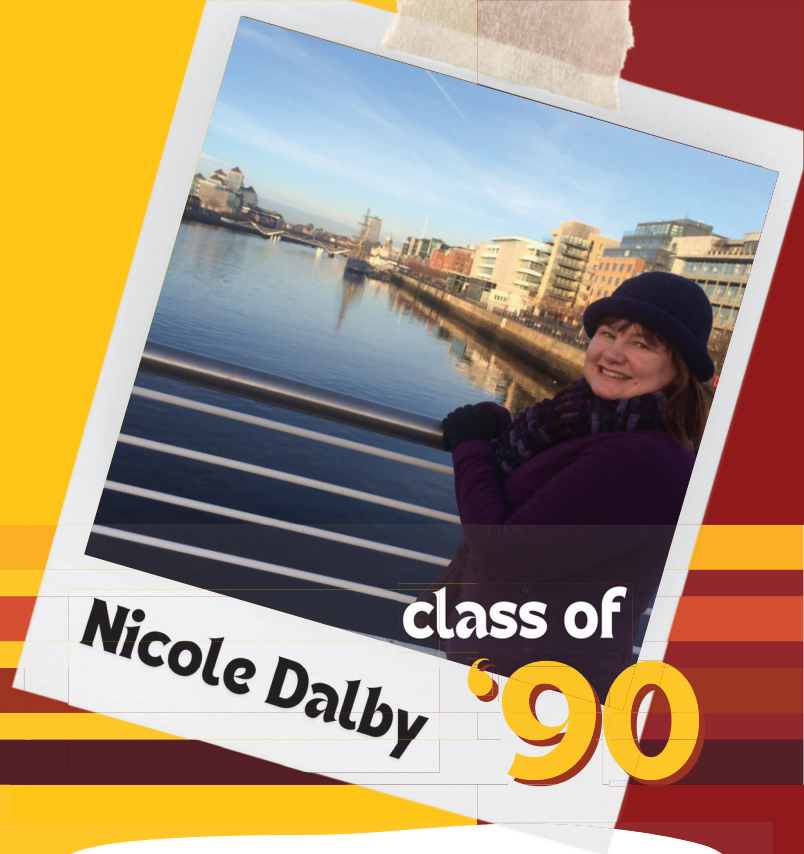
Save the date for NAIDOC 2025!

Friday July 11 2025
Jamison Park



penrith.city

WHS ALUMNI Q&A



Nicole Dalby class of '90

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE GRADUATING FROM WHS?

Teaching in many other schools before returning to Winmalee (including one year in Canada on teacher exchange), performing in numerous local plays and musicals, travelling by myself and with my family and currently singing with Moo Choir.

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

Performing with the choir at the Opera House, debating at Bathurst (where I ended up going to University) and playing Miss Josephs in FAB.

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

Performing with the school choir, debating and being heavily involved in the first school musical really shaped where I am now. I loved hanging out in the English/History rooms and the CAPA block as a student. To this day I love visiting Art Galleries when I travel and seeking out the artworks we studied at school "in real life".

WHAT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WERE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCHOOL?

Choir, Debating & Public Speaking, School Musical and School Magazine.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES OUR SCHOOL SPECIAL?

Creativity, Community and Team Work. It amazes me to see how far the School Musicals have come and I love working with students who have entered the same Public Speaking Competition I did as a student. I wish I could share more of this joy in the everyday classroom.



Turn your life's passion into a future career



You're Invited!

Virtual Information Session on TVET & SBAT

Courses Date: 3rd July 2025

Time: 6:00 pm

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 440 496 568 492 3

Passcode: nV3Mj2Nm

Join us for an informative session where you and your family can learn about:

What is TVET and SBAT?

Discover the benefits and opportunities of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and School-Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBAT).



Photo: Pavel German

Things to do in the School Holidays

Come and join the fun with NPWS ranger-guided activities for kids, teens and families. Discover, create, imagine and explore!

Winter 2025

Grand Cliff Top Walk guided tour

Join a Discovery Ranger on a 3 hour guided tour along the Wentworth Falls section of the newly constructed trail. Learn about the unique ecosystems and how this spectacular 19km walk on Gundungurra country was created.



Photos: Remy Brand/DCC/EEW

Operates every Saturday during school holidays



For bookings visit: www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/guided-tours/grand-cliff-top-walk-guided-tour



#NSWParks

Join our team this July for some exciting school holiday activities.

Photo: Hans Sheargold

B Bush Alive **J** Junior Rangers



J 10-14YRS

Navigation, Mapping and Orienteering

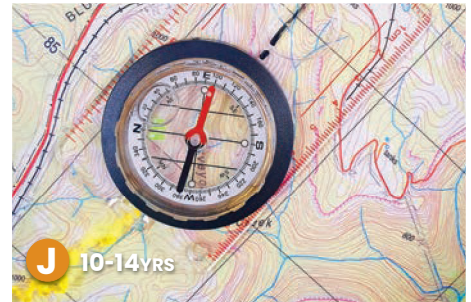
Tuesday 8 July • Blackheath



B 5-12YRS

Spotlight

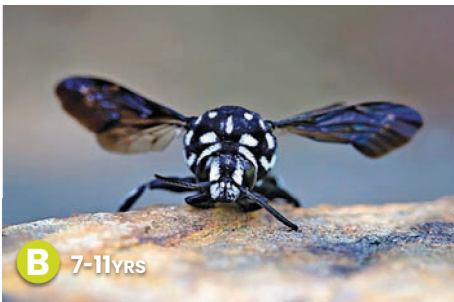
Thursday 10 July • Katoomba



J 10-14YRS

Navigation, Mapping and Orienteering

Tuesday 15 July • Blackheath



B 7-11YRS

Bee Adventure

Wednesday 16 July • Blackheath



B 5-12YRS

Spotlight

Thursday 17 July • Katoomba



Claustral Canyon Virtual Reality

All holidays

\$10pp

book now

Grand Cliff Top Walk Guided Tour

Operates every Saturday during school holidays



Holiday activities \$20 per person. Most activities are onsite at Blackheath 10am–12pm. Spotlight is held at Katoomba 5pm–7pm. Grand Cliff Top Walk is held at Wentworth Falls. Meet 15 mins before activity start time.
T 02 4784 7301 E BlueMtns.Education@environment.nsw.gov.au



nswparks.info/bluemountainkids





WESTERN SYDNEY WANDERERS FC

All Abilities Holiday Clinic

Does your child love football or want to learn how to play, Join us this Holidays at Wanderers Football Park for a fun filled clinic for people of disability.

THURSDAY 10TH JULY

10:00AM TO 12:00PM

AGES 5 - 18

WANDERERS FOOTBALL PARK

FIELD 7

GATE B, 81 EASTERN RD, ROOTY HILL NSW 2766

COST - \$50

**USE DISCOUNT EARLYBIRD
FOR 20% OFF BY JUNE 30TH**



**SCAN HERE
TO BOOK NOW!**



HOLIDAY PROGRAM COASTAL WALK

Manly to the Spit Bridge

MYST is teaming up with The Girls and Boys Brigade to take some young people on a 10km Coastal walk in Sydney. The scenic track is from Manly to The Spit Bridge

Where, When and How Far

When: Tuesday 15th of July, 2025

Where: Pick up from MYST Springwood at 9am

How Far: 10km - the walk is easy but it is long

What to bring: Myst will provide some snacks but any other food and water is on you. Bring a back pack

Registration and Questions

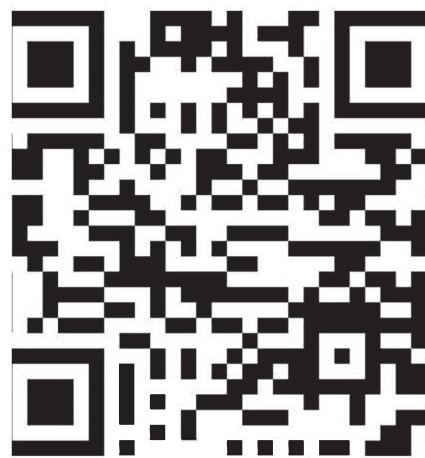
Register: via the QR link

Questions: email or talk to Bek or Reuben

rebekah.stubbs@myst.com.au

reuben.elstub@myst.com.au

Confirmation: confirmation of attendance will be sent via email prior to the program



mountains youth
services team



THE GIRLS & BOYS
BRIGADE

