



WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL

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

Term 3 Week 8 Communication – Thursday 11 September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Warami. Last Friday, I had the pleasure of visiting the **AECG Sports Day** to see our First Nations students participating in a range of activities with primary and high school students from across the Blue Mountains. It was wonderful to see such strong participation and leadership in action. Thank you to parent and AECG member, Mrs Melissa Hather, and teachers Mrs Wood and Ms Burcher for their attendance and support on the day. Katoomba High were terrific hosts for the day.

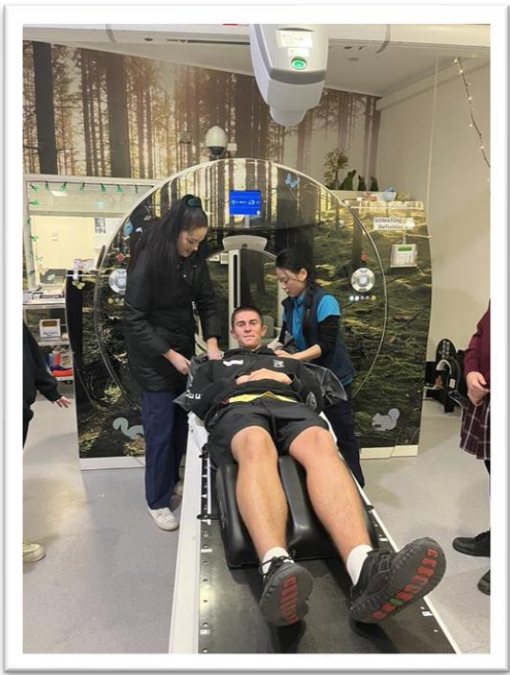


Student Book Committee - On Monday afternoon, Ms Doyle, Ms Redfern and I visited the **Turning Page Bookshop** in Springwood with our Student Book Committee. Our task for the afternoon was to select books that students want to read, to add to the School Library's collection. Students made quick work of finding some excellent new books, with a few good piles built up during our visit. A big thank you to Michelle Rickerby and staff at Turning Page for welcoming us and helping students with recommendations and finding titles they were interested in. We had a great time!



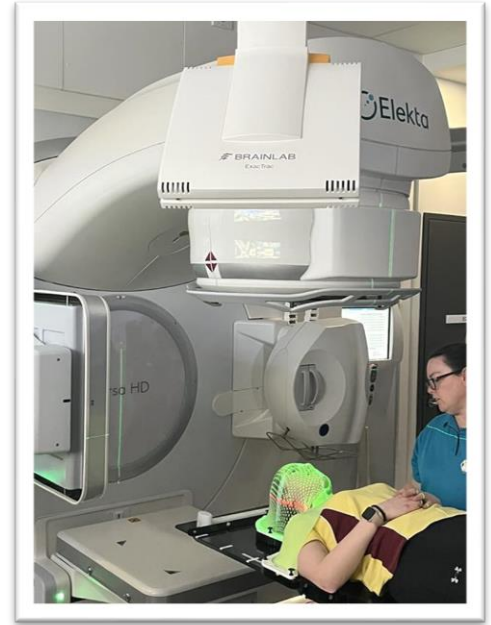
HSC Practical Exams and Submissions – We have one final HSC Practical Examination to take place for Music 2 students on Monday. Once that is complete, Year 12 will have completed all HSC Practical Examinations and Project Submissions. Well done to all students involved. It has been a stressful period with lots of due dates.

We have our **Open Night this evening**, so if you have time to pop in and see some student performances or view student work, please come along. If you have any friends, family or neighbours who might be interested in attending Winmalee in the future, please let them know they are welcome to come along. The evening runs from 5.30pm – 7.00pm.



Leah Vasiliev and Robbie Pigram (Year 10)

participated in a program at Nepean Hospital called 'Koori Kids Futures' last week. Koori Kids Futures is a work experience program at Nepean Hospital for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students in the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District (NBMLHD) to gain insight into health careers. Participants observe and participate in various ward-based activities to explore clinical and support roles within the health system, with the goal of inspiring future Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals.



Last Friday, part of our Winmalee HS Mob attended the annual **AECG First Nations Sports Day**. This year the event was held at Katoomba High School. Several of our students stepped into leadership roles, running two fantastic workshops: weaving and parachute games for primary students from across the Blue Mountains.

The day was not only a celebration of culture and sport but also a powerful opportunity to come together, share knowledge, and build strong connections across our wider community. Our Year 7 and 8 students took part in a range of cultural activities, including traditional Indigenous games. All of our mob had a fabulous day and were praised for their positive attitude, leadership, and maturity throughout the event.



Charmaine Tully, AECG Secretary and Ms Wood



Huge congratulations to **Zoe Nicolle (Year 12)** on her CALLBACK nomination! CALLBACK is a showcase of exemplary HSC Dance works, a massive achievement!

The Smith Family organisation helps young Australians to overcome educational inequality caused by poverty and works with thousands of children and their families to help them unlock better futures for themselves.

The SRC at Winmalee High are committed to this charity and supporting a student less fortunate than themselves through sponsoring them to help pay for their education.

As part of this Fundraising effort the SRC are organising a **MUFTI Day TOMORROW**. It is a 'Wear your favourite sporting jersey' theme and all participants are required to contribute a gold coin donation. All monies raised go towards our sponsorship costs.

A profile of Winmalee High School's sponsor child, Michael, is attached at the end of the Communication.



GO Foundation Scholar Program



Today, seven of our GO Foundation Scholars attended their second Cultural Connection Day at the Kimberwalli Centre.

The students were excited to take part in a Bangarra Dance Theatre workshop and engage in a range of cultural workshops, deepening their connection to culture, community, and Country. Students also had the opportunity to meet Adam Goodes and Michael O'Loughlin, co-founders of the GO Foundation. The GO Foundation was founded in 2009 to empower Indigenous young people through education, providing scholarships and culturally focused support.

Tournament of Minds

Congratulations to the 2025 Winmalee High Tournament of Minds team for their success in the recent event held at WSU over the weekend. Our team members ended up in fourth place (out of 13) and with a Merit in the STEM category. Students prepared well for the event and displayed outstanding teamwork and effort on the day. Thank you to Mrs Macqueen and Mr MacCormick for supporting students and attending the event.



Well done to:

Year 7: Zoe Jobson, Georgie Walker

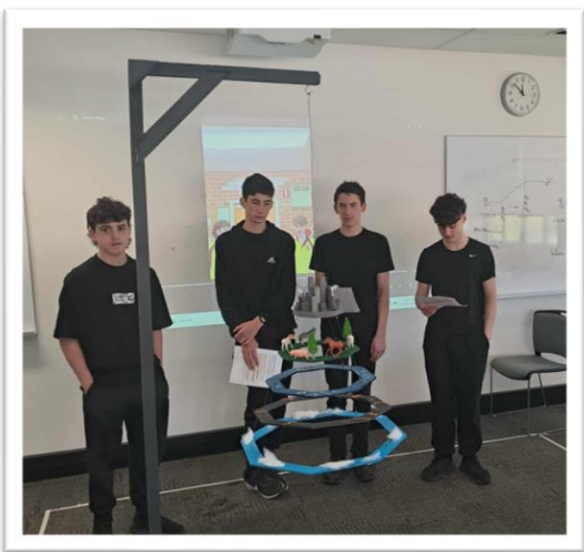
Year 8: Archie Ballard, Luke Chapman, Luke Gabriel, Morgan Sell, Ethan Wright

Year 9: Ashton Danks, Jazmin Moliterno, Lorelei Payne, Cassie Pigram, Felix Stone

Year 10: Cameron Barr

Year 12 – challenge facilitators

Flynn Steinhoff, Jack Reynolds, Zac Stanley



Report by **Zoe Jobson (Year 7)**

The Tournament of Minds is a competition with four divisions: STEM, social sciences, language literature, and the arts. This year Winmalee HS entered two STEM teams into the competition, the Goblin Gang and the Nebulas. This year, the challenge was to create an emblem that represented the four natural spheres, the lithosphere, biosphere, atmosphere, and hydrosphere, that fell apart, then came back together stronger. Both teams started strong with creative and unique ideas.

The Goblin Gang had four octagons, each one smaller than the last. They connected with strings on a large stand, which they then cut and replaced with wire.

The Nebulas had two spheres, one that was smaller and went inside the other. The outside one then fell apart and reconnected, metaphorically stronger.

Each team also had to complete a secret spontaneous challenge that couldn't be revealed until the end of the day. Each team only gets four minutes to think and talk and one minute to present their solution to the judges. The question was open-ended, and teams were judged on their ability to work together as a team.

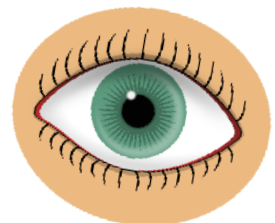
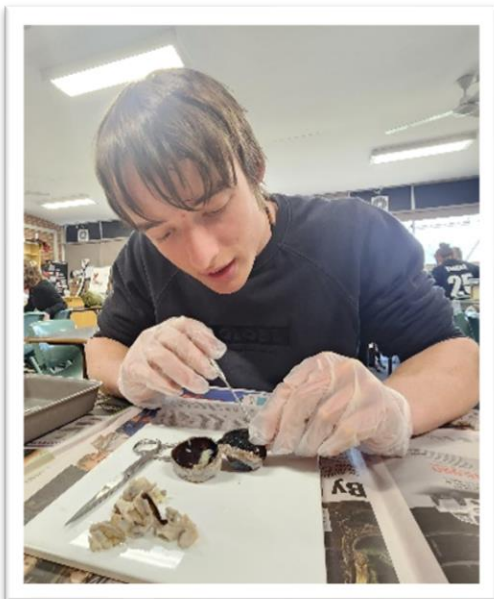
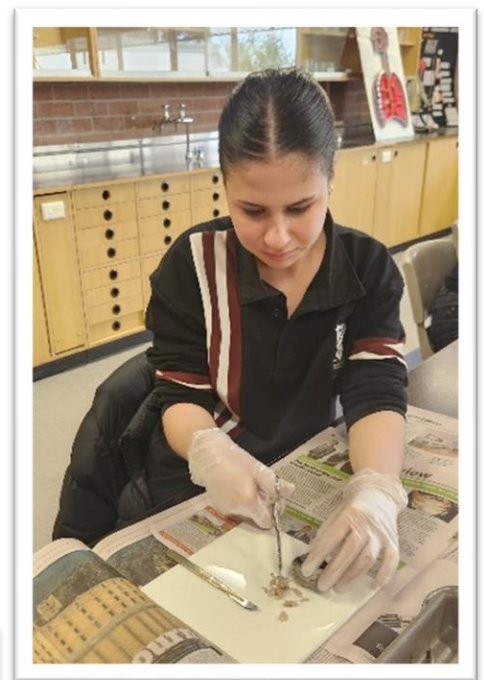
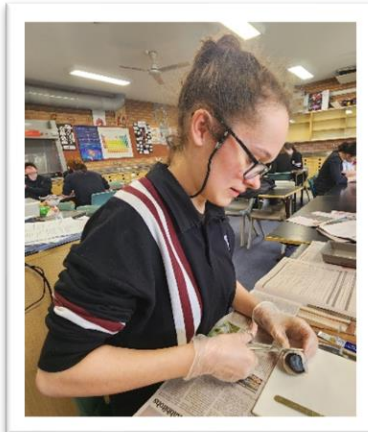
Both teams did very well, with the Nebulas winning merits, meaning they were in the top 30% of scores. It was a good day overall and was very fun.

All Eyes on Year 12

Our Year 12 Biology students recently completed their final dissection of the year – the eye. This hands-on investigation allowed students to explore the intricate structures of the eye, including the lens, cornea, retina and optic nerve, and to connect their theoretical learning about vision to real biological anatomy.



It was a valuable opportunity to consolidate their understanding of the structure and function of the eye as they approach the end of the course.





Last week, Winmalee High School's eight extra-curricular dance ensembles performed at the Inspire Arts Challenge. Competing against public and private schools from all across Sydney, our dancers showed professionalism and grace throughout the whole day.

1st - Junior Hip Hop

2nd - Company Contemporary

2nd - Company Jazz

HC - Intermediate Ensemble
and Senior Hip Hop



Great performances by
Junior Ensemble,
Senior Ensemble and our new Pom team!

Please see our [facebook page](#) for more photos.



Our Year 10 Food Technology students recently completed their **Freakshake Assessment practical**, where they planned, designed, and produced their own unique Freakshakes. The students showed fantastic creativity in their designs and worked hard to bring their ideas to life. The results were both impressive and delicious looking, with a wide range of inventive flavours, toppings, and presentation styles on display. Congratulations to Year 10 for their effort and enthusiasm – their Freakshakes were a true showcase of imaginative food creations!



Last week, Winmalee sent three teams to the **All Schools Combined Metro 7/8 Touch Football Gala Day**. All teams played with energy and enthusiasm. The girls were once again placed in a pool with both Westfields and Hills Sports High Schools. Both teams rose to the occasion well. The Year 7s grew in experience throughout the day and the Year 8s finished third in this challenging pool, which culminated in a Winmalee v Winmalee derby - Year 8 getting the win.

The boys put together a nice campaign, with strong defence and athletic ability. They pushed eventual champions Holy Cross Ryde to their toughest match all day, just falling short, 1-4. Congratulations to the boys, whose performance was strong enough to secure a Wildcard entry to the State Finals on Wednesday 17th. A huge thank you to our student helpers and to Mrs Dutton and Mr Richmond for their continuous support of students. Please see our [facebook page](#) for more photos.



OPEN NIGHT TONIGHT! The Uniform Shop's 20% off annual sale commences today and it will also be open tonight for students to attend, view and try on uniform.



Open Night

Thursday 11 September 2025






5:30pm to 7:00pm

Open school and faculty displays

Student performances

Chat with staff

Sausage Sizzle

Café open for light refreshments



All
Welcome

Winmalee High School - High School Drive, Winmalee
02 4754 2822



SALE!

UNIFORM SHOP

Thursday 11th September to Friday 26th September 2025

**** 20% OFF** Sale applies to
IN STOCK ITEMS ONLY & ONLINE STORE

Items **EXCLUDED** from the sale include
Woollen Jumpers

NO Refunds or Exchanges
(unless garment is faulty)

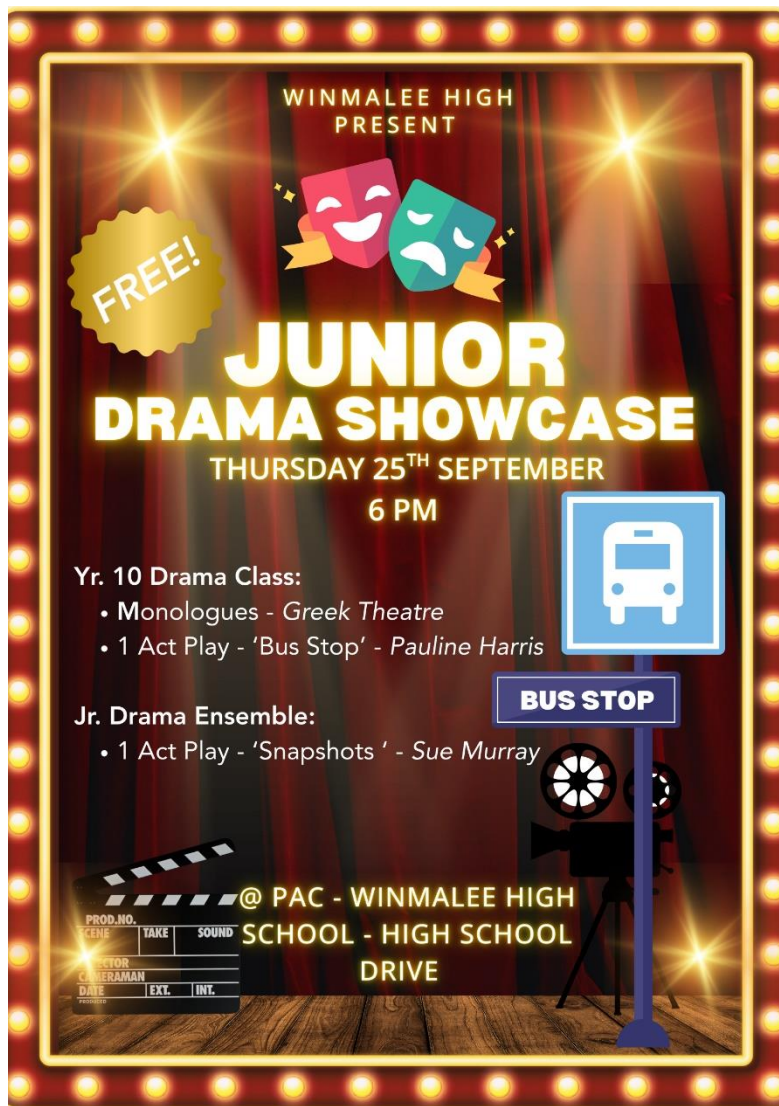
NO Rainchecks



SHOP NOW

<https://daylightschoolwear.au/winmalee>





WHS Alumni Spotlight: Nathan Chapman (Class of 2008)

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 Nathan Chapman shares his reflections on his time at Winmalee High and where life has taken him since.

Check out Nathan'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.

Blue Mountains formal dress resale

If you are interested in buying or selling a formal dress at a discounted price, please have a look at:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1BKF9igBfL/>

Best wishes,

Winmalee High School

WHS ALUMNI Q&A



**Nathan
Chapman**

class of

08

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE GRADUATING FROM WHS?

Since finishing school, I've built a successful career in real estate sales, now entering my 16th year in the industry. I've had the privilege of working across the Blue Mountains region, where our office currently facilitates around \$100 million in property sales annually. This journey has provided me with extensive experience in residential sales, client relations, and local market expertise. After a brief period living away, I've returned to the Blue Mountains and now reside in Winmalee with my fiancée and our four children. I'm proud to be part of this vibrant community both professionally and personally, and I'm passionate about helping others make the Blue Mountains their home.

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

Some of my favourite memories from school were the camps, especially the sailing trip in 2007/2008, which still stands out as one of the most memorable experiences of my time at Winmalee. I was also fortunate to be part of a close-knit year group, many of whom I'm still connected with today.

DO YOU HAVE A BUSINESS INSTAGRAM OR WEBSITE THAT YOU WOULD BE HAPPY FOR US TO SHARE?

<https://www.facebook.com/nathanchapmanrealestate> and
Instagram: nathanchapman_realestate

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

During my time in school, I wasn't entirely sure what career path I wanted to pursue, but I stuck it out knowing that completing my education would give me more options down the track. While I didn't have a clear direction at the time, finishing school gave me the confidence to explore different opportunities eventually leading me into the real estate industry.

WHAT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WERE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCHOOL?

Not alot of extracurricular activities, mostly sport based, I was actively involved in sport and made the most of every opportunity to compete. I played in just about every team available to us, including cricket, soccer, and AFL.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES OUR SCHOOL SPECIAL?

For me Winmalee High had a strong sense of community and you really got to know your teachers on a more personal level.



My student profile

Thank you for sponsoring me



**The Smith
Family**

Learn today, change tomorrow.

My name is Michael and in 2024 I'm in Year 4 at school.

The three most interesting things about me are...

What are you good at? Do you have any special skills or talents? Do you do any after school activities? What are your favourite things to do on the weekend?

I know how to play basketball and I know the game I'm good at maths I like to play basketball and go fishing with my dad

This year, I want to learn...

What is a goal you have for this year? Do you want to learn a new school subject, special skill or trick? For example, a sport, language or game.

I'm learning some tricks with basketball

I felt proud recently when...

Have you done something kind for someone? Do you help your family at home? Have you won any awards or certificates?

I help my mum and I like to protect her

My dream job is...

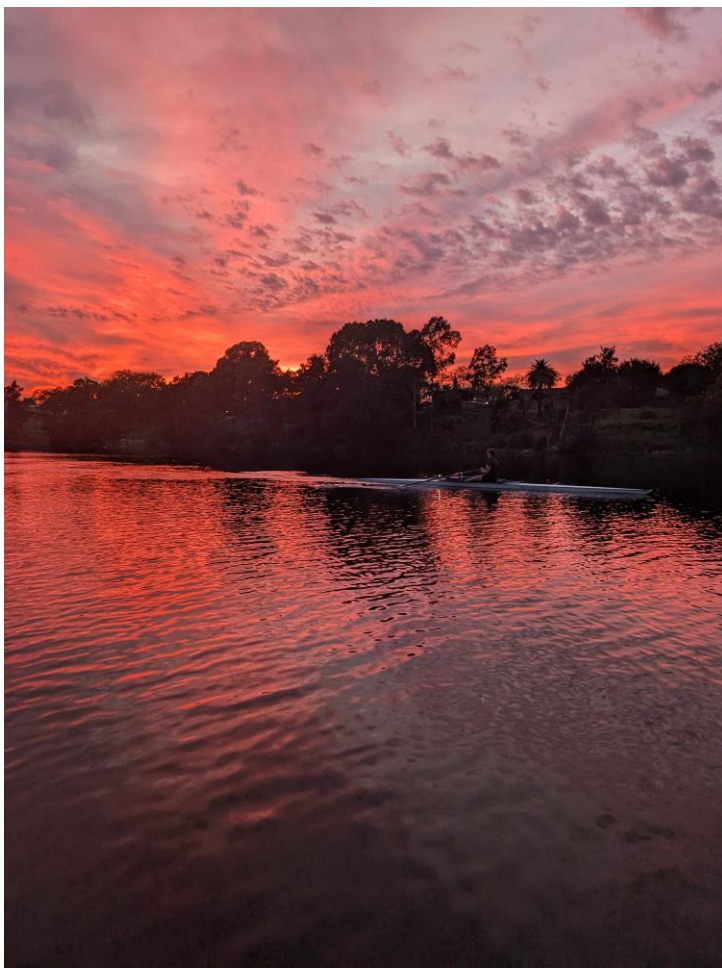
What is a job you would like to do in the future? It may be a job that doesn't exist yet!

I wanna play for the nba

Write a comment to your sponsor from your parent or carer

What has your child improved most in? How has The Smith Family's support helped you? What would you like to share with their sponsor?

Micheal is understanding more when it comes to his emotions and understanding and controlling them and learning empathy and his speech is getting better and better. Micheal is loving playing basketball and even is teaching himself tricks. He is a happy child.



NEPEAN ROWING CLUB COME TRY DAYS

Details

Nepean Rowing Club is offering free two-hour sessions this school holidays. Please register on our website or email us to book your spot.

<https://www.nepeanrowingclub.com.au/come-try-days.html>

**COME TRY ROWING ON
THE NEPEAN RIVER**

**FREE TWO-HOUR
INTRODUCTORY
ROWING SESSIONS**

**EXPERIENCE ROWING
THIS SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

**September 29th, 1st and
3rd October 1-3pm**

NEPEAN ROWING CLUB

32 Bruce Neale Drive
Penrith, NSW, 2750

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www.nepeanrowingclub.com.au

Email:
rowing@nepeanrowingclub.com.au