



## WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL

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[winmalee-h.schools.nsw.gov.au](http://winmalee-h.schools.nsw.gov.au) f Winmalee High School - Official

### Term 4 Week 1 Communication – Thursday 16 October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Warami. Welcome to Term 4! It was lovely to see our students back and welcome our new enrolments who started this week.

Year 11 have officially commenced their HSC courses, and they received their jerseys on the first day back. We congratulate Year 11 on competing their End of course Exams last term.

Year 12 started their HSC written exams today – we wish them all the best for the next few weeks. We wish our Year 12 families all the best too, as we know that you will be in the background supporting students with balancing study, rest and managing stress.



**Japan Overseas Excursion** – during the October holidays, a fantastic team of students and staff travelled to Japan and visited our sister school, Arima High. It was an amazing trip, which would not have been possible without the support of school staff. We would like to acknowledge Yvette Davis for her work in the coordination and planning of the excursion, as well as for traveling with the school and handmaking beautiful gifts for our hosts in Japan. Thank you also to David MacCormick, Craig McGown and Madeleine Sheehy for travelling with our school and providing students with this amazing opportunity. Our students represented Winmalee High beautifully and by all reports were a pleasure to travel with. Thank you to the parents who have supported this overseas excursion. Please see next page for a short summary of the trip.

**POM winners!** Last week, during the holidays, the Winmalee POM team competed at the AASCF (Australian All Star Cheerleading Federation) All Star Classic. This is the first year of POM for our school, and the Winmalee High team walked away as the **Grand Champions!!** Such an incredible achievement. Well done to the team for their hard work in putting together such an outstanding performance.





## Winmalee High Visits Japan!

During the recent school holidays, 14 students and four staff from Winmalee High School embarked on an unforgettable 11-day trip to Japan to visit our sister school, Arima High School, in Sanda. The adventure began in Tokyo, where highlights included a day at Tokyo Disneyland and an incredible visit to teamLab Planets.

From there, we travelled by shinkansen (bullet train) to Kobe to reunite with our Arima High buddies for a week of cultural exchange and friendship. Students experienced day trips to Hiroshima, Nara, Kyoto and Osaka — each filled with history, beauty, and vibrant city life. A definite highlight for many was spending the weekend with their host families at Universal Studios Japan! For a glimpse at the highlights please visit our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1Cr5Cfj9ik/>



We're excited to announce that Arima High School will be visiting Winmalee in **July 2026**, and we'll soon be seeking host families to welcome our Japanese friends and showcase our wonderful community. Plans are also underway for Winmalee High's return trip to Japan in **January 2027** — we can't wait to continue this incredible cultural exchange!



Congratulations to **Beau Jackson (Year 11)** who was awarded the Reg Newsome Award for the Most Improved Junior Referee in the Panthers region.

A mature and respectful student, Beau is also a talented athlete who also ran at Sydney West Cross Country and played Rugby League and Touch Football for the school in 2025.

We look forward to continuing to follow his journey.



### Tournament of Minds

Our school team received their awards at assembly this week.

Congratulations to students: **Archie Ballard, Ashton Danks, Luke Gabrielle, Felix Stone, Ethan Wright, Cameron Barr, Zoe Jobson, Jasmine Moliterno, Lorelei Payne, Cassie Pigram, & Georgia Walker.**



## ✈ Winmalee High Students Gain a Head Start in Aviation Careers

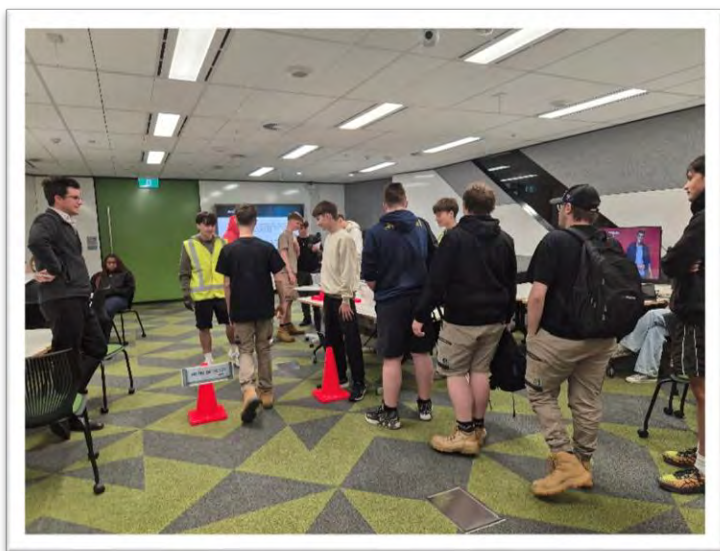
In Term 3, 29 Winmalee High School students successfully completed the **Western Sydney University Micro-Credential in Aviation**, a program designed to provide **job-ready, foundational aviation skills** and support students' **entry into the aviation workplace**.

With the **Western Sydney International (WSI) Airport** set to open in 2026, this micro-credential gives students an incredible **head start into future aviation career opportunities**.

Throughout the term, students engaged in a series of online modules covering key areas such as **aviation operations, communications and teamwork, safety and security, workplace compliance, digital tools, and situational awareness**.

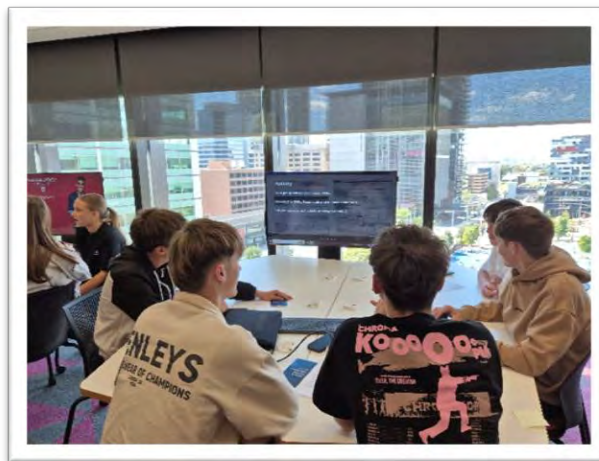
To consolidate their learning, students then attended a **two-day practical workshop on Monday 22 September and Tuesday 23 September at Western Sydney University's Parramatta Campus**. Here, they applied their knowledge to real-world aviation scenarios and worked collaboratively to solve industry-style challenges.

The program coordinators were highly impressed by the maturity, teamwork, and critical thinking demonstrated by Winmalee students, commenting that they **performed beyond expectations** -even exceeding the engagement and insight shown by many mature-aged participants.



This achievement highlights the dedication of our students and the strength of partnerships that provide **authentic learning experiences** linking school to the world of work.

The students now have an excursion to **Western Sydney International Airport** to look forward to later in the term!







The **Year 12 2025 - 2026 Assessment Handbook** has been distributed to students this week and is also available on the Sentral Parent Portal and [school website](#).

#### **WHS Alumni Spotlight: Jaryd Chin (Class of 2017)**

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.

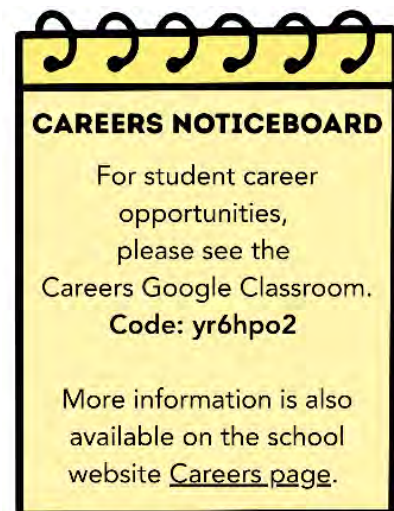
This week Jaryd Chin shares his reflections on his time at Winmalee High and where life has taken him since.

Check out Jaryd'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



## WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE GRADUATING FROM WHS?

After finishing year 12 I started my Electrical Apprenticeship which I completed a couple years ago now, got married at the end of last year and bought my first home here in the mountains!

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

Winmalee High catered to the passions and interests I already had, whether it was working in industrial arts or learning a new sport in PDHPE there was always something to enjoy.

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

Where to begin - Ski Racing, sailing trip, multiple state and regional water polo comps, travelling to Vanuatu. But now, looking back, my favourite memories are just the standard days seeing your mates every day not having a care in the world.

## WHAT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WERE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCHOOL?

Ski Racing, the school's water polo team, touch football comps.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES OUR SCHOOL SPECIAL?

All the extra opportunities you get given and take for granted as well as the amazing teachers.





# BLUE MOUNTAINS WRITERS FESTIVAL

31 Oct — 02 Nov

**94**  
Authors

**56**  
Events

**14**  
Workshops

CHRISTOS TSIOLKAS • HANNAH KENT • STAN GRANT • KATE GRENVILLE  
MAXINE BENEBA CLARKE • ALI COBBY ECKERMANN • CRAIG SILVEY • BRYAN BROWN  
DRUSILLA MODJESKA • DANIEL BROWNING • CHARLOTTE MCCONAGHY  
CRAIG REUCASSEL • SOFIE LAGUNA • OSHER GÜNSBERG • DEBRA OSWALD  
INGA SIMPSON • JENNIFER WONG • JUMAANA ABDU • GARRY DISHER • PLUS MORE

[bluemountainwritersfestival.com.au](http://bluemountainwritersfestival.com.au)



# BLUE MOUNTAINS WRITERS FESTIVAL

Friday 31 October — Sunday 02 November

Join us for three exhilarating days featuring Australia's sharpest minds and most expansive thinkers.

Offering challenging and playful opportunities for connection, the main program unfolds across multiple stages at The Carrington Hotel and nearby venues, with special events at Scenic World and the Megalong Valley.

For young people, the free kids program at Katoomba Library will buzz with activity, while aspiring writers of all ages can dive into an extensive workshop program at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre.

**Don't miss the chance to celebrate ideas, creativity and community at this literary festival like no other!**



[bluemountainswritersfestival.com.au](http://bluemountainswritersfestival.com.au)





# WEEKEND FESTIVAL PROGRAM

## Kids Program



KATOOMBA LIBRARY

10:00AM — 10:45AM



### STORYTIME *with* **SOFIE LAGUNA**

**AGES 2+**

Author **Sofie Laguna** brings a treasure trove of her picture books to life with animated retellings that will transport young audiences (and their accompanying grown-ups) from one glorious adventure to the next.

11:00AM — 11:45AM



### RUNT AND THE DIABOLICAL DOGNAPPING *with* **CRAIG SILVEY**

**AGES 8+**

Join author **Craig Silvey** for a chat about his bestselling children's book, *Runt*, and what lies in store for its beloved protagonists in their second adventure.

12:15PM — 1:00PM



### DRAW YOUR OWN FOOD MONSTER *with* **BILL HOPE**

**AGES 5+**

Adventure fans, budding artists or creative geniuses are invited to a special event with illustrator **Bill Hope**, as he spills the beans on how he draws wicked cool characters and how you can master them too.

1:30PM — 2:15PM



### POETRY STUFF *with* **MAXINE BENEBA CLARKE**

**AGES 8+**

Come and get your poetry on—learn how to write a great haiku, acrostic poem, poem in rhyming couplets and more with poet **Maxine Beneba Clarke**.

2:45PM — 3:30PM



### NAYNAY AND THE MERMAID *with* **TASMA WALTON** *and* **CHARMAINE LEDDEN-LEWIS**

**AGES 4+**

Author and actor **Tasma Walton** and illustrator **Charmaine Ledden-Lewis** bring the ocean to the mountains for this magical event that draws on the stories of the Boonwurrung people of coastal Melbourne.

# Teens Program



BLUE MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTRE

10:00AM — 12:00PM



## THE BIG BANG THEORY OF STORY BEGINNINGS *with VIVIAN PHAM*

AGES 13-18

Have you always wanted to write but weren't sure where to start? Good news: every writer begins somewhere – and often, they begin again and again. This hands-on workshop offers guidance for starting your writing journey.

12:30PM — 3:30PM



## SLAM POETRY WORKSHOP *with EMILIE ZOEY BAKER*

AGES 13-18

A high-energy interactive workshop where young people explore the art of slam poetry and learn how to transform raw ideas into powerful spoken word pieces.

TIBBI WHALAN HALL

12:45PM — 1:45PM



## LITERARY FUTURES *with JUMAANA ABDU, BILL HOPE, JASMIN MCGAUGHEY and NEVO ZISIN*

ALL AGES

What does it really take to break into the creative industries when you're still finding your voice? How can writing build connection, community and change in a world that feels like it's shifting every day? Four successful young creatives share how they got started — and what they've learned along the way.

REGISTER TO SECURE  
A FREE TICKET TO THESE EVENTS:  
[bluemountainwritersfestival.com.au/kids](http://bluemountainwritersfestival.com.au/kids)







**SYDNEY REGION ABORIGINAL CORPORATION**

# **COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

## **TERM 4**

### **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**"Growing Strong,  
Leading Proud"**

**PENRITH  
COMMUNITY HUB**

**FOR OUR SCHOOL  
AGED YOUTH**



**Monday**

**Didge & Dance**

3:30pm - 4:30pm

**Tuesday**

**High School Group**

3:30pm - 4:30pm

**Wednesday**

**Sport Clinic**

3:30pm - 4:30pm

**Thursday**

**Primary School Group**

3:30pm - 4:30pm

**Friday:**

**Playgroup**

10:00am - 2:00pm

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