



Dear Parents and Carers,

Warami. We started off the week with our annual Dance Showcase on Monday night, and it was amazing! Thank you to all families, friends, staff and past students for attending. It was a full house. Congratulations to teachers, Mrs Byrnes, Mrs Brockman, Ms Howlett, Ms Peters and all students, for their performances on the night and their hard work throughout the year. The quality of the performances was simply outstanding. We couldn't be prouder.

Speaking of Dance, Winmalee Public School will be holding their Dance Showcase at Winmalee High next week. See the flyer on the following pages for details. All are welcome.

Leadership Induction - Bright and early on Tuesday morning, our community came together to celebrate the induction of our incoming School Captains, Prefects and Student Representative Council members. We welcomed special guest, Susan Templeman, Federal Member for Macquarie. Susan spoke to students about courage in leadership, and being a voice for their fellow peers. This cohort of leaders is one of the largest we have had, with representation from all year groups. We are excited at what 2026 brings with these dedicated young leaders at the helm.



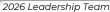
Remembrance Day - On Tuesday, Ms Facas and Mr Pendergast attended the Springwood RSL Remembrance Service with School Captains and Prefects. This was the first official community event attended by the new student leadership team. It was an honour to lay a wreath and pay our respects at the service. We would like to give a special shout out to Mr Jim McKinnon for his leadership over the years. This service was his last as President of the Springwood subbranch RSL. Thank you to Seda, Macauley, Harry, Rose, Charli, Ava, Ruby and Amelia for representing Winmalee High School.



At our school assembly, we commemorated Remembrance Day as a school, with our School Captains leading the event. Our students showed exemplary respect during the assembly. Thank you to our three buglers, James Graycon (Year 7), Oliver Cusack (Year 10) and Gordon Hewitt (Year 11) for playing the last post and reveille. It is a special thing to have this played live during a service.









Leadership Team at the Springwood Remembrance Day Service

Year 11 RoSE Breakfast – congratulations to students who were invited to the last RoSE Breakfast for high academic achievement and growth mindset for Year 11.



Congratulations to Year 12 Visual Arts student **Ella Zaccazan**, who has been nominated for possible inclusion in ARTEXPRESS 2026!



ARTEXPRESS is an annual exhibition celebrating the most outstanding Bodies of Work from HSC Visual Arts students across NSW. Of nearly 10,000 students who studied Visual Arts this year, only a select few receive this honour.

This nomination is a remarkable achievement and a testament to Ella's



creativity, skill, and dedication!



Congratulations to **Max Koutsoudakis (Year 7)** for his participation in the NSW Department of Education and the NSW Braille Forum Writing Competition.

He received his certificate at assembly this week and will attend a presentation event next week. Well done, Max!



Last Friday Winmalee High School students took flight into the world of aviation!

As part of their Western Sydney University Micro-Credential in Aviation, our students visited the **Western Sydney International (WSI) Airport** for an exclusive tour. This fantastic opportunity gave them a behind-the-scenes look at airport operations and the exciting developments taking place before the airport officially opens in 2026.

A big thank you to Western Sydney University and WSI Airport for providing our students with such an inspiring, real-world learning experience!











Congratulations to the **U16 Girls Rugby League team** who beat Springwood HS last Friday, 36-0 in 35 minutes. The girls showed some fantastic, fluid football and were strong in attack and defence, whilst maintaining respect for the opposition. We had four girls on debut and hope the whole team had fun on the field. Special mention to Aubree, Leah, Abby and our dance teachers for allowing the girls to balance both rugby league and dance commitments over a busy few days. Abby was a force on the day, scoring a double on Friday and then performing in six routines at Showcase on Monday night!





Congratulations to the Term 3 Best and Fairest winners - Marley Chevor (Year 9) and Owen Row (Year 10). These students competed in our grade sport competition last term (and are doing so this term again).

They were recognised by their coaches each week for their skills, spirit and sportsmanship. Both Marley and Owen collected a \$10 canteen voucher and a coveted Winmalee HS sporting banner. Well done.



AROUND THE GROUNDS AT WEDNESDAY SPORT

After starting the Term with some rough weather, we have been back to it for Wednesday Sport. Our grade teams played Penrith this week (wins for The Deviles Euroball team and Boys Soccer). Penrith Rec went to Flipout, Rock Climbing and Bowling. In Winmalee, Tennis, Plus Fitness, School Gym, the Walking Group and Dance/Circus all had fun!





Principal for remainder of Term 4 - From today, Ms Facas will be on leave for the remainder of the term, and Mr Pendergast will be relieving as principal. Ms Facas will return at the beginning of next year.

WHS Alumni Spotlight: Sophie Peterson (Class of 2015)

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.

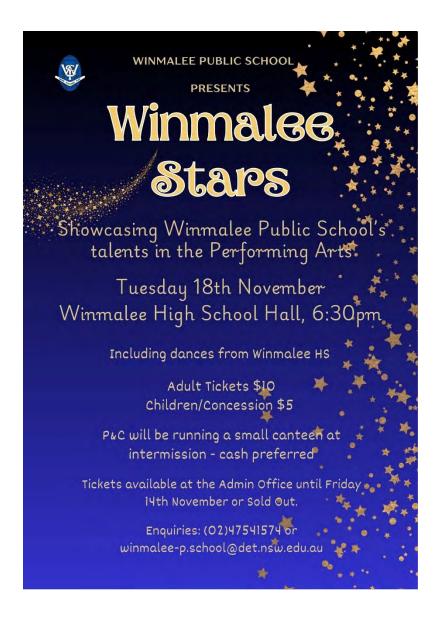
This week **Sophie Peterson** shares her reflections on her time at Winmalee High and where life has taken her since.

Check out Sophie'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 <u>WHS Alumni Q & A</u> to fill out the form and share their experiences with us.

Best wishes,

Winmalee High School



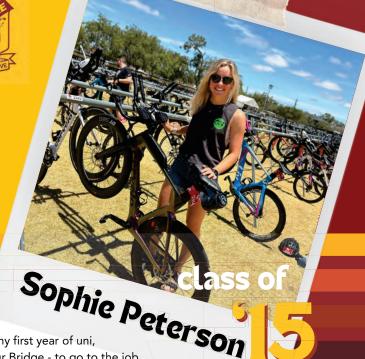
For student career opportunities, please see the Careers Google Classroom.

Code: yr6hpo2

More information is also available on the school

website <u>Careers page</u>.





WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE GRADUATING FROM WHS?

I moved to Wollongong and studied Mechanical Engineering at the University of Wollongong. I was fortunate to receive a scholarship in my first year of uni, which gave me work as an undergrad engineer on the Sydney Harbour Bridge - to go to the job site each day I would walk over the top of the bridge! In my third year of university I won a second scholarship that sent me for a mine site tour in Mt Isa for a week. I loved it so much I knew this is what I wanted to do, so when I came back home I called around and picked up a 3 month vacation program living in Perth and flying to the Pilbara over the summer. During this time my company offered me a full time mining engineer role, and so in my last year of university I was flying weekly to the Pilbara for work and back to Wollongong to attend lectures - I wrote my thesis at 2am somewhere over the Nullarbor! Once graduated, I moved permanently to Perth and continued to work fly in-fly out of the Pilbara. During this time I worked as an Engineer (designing pits and blast patterns!) operated big haul trucks and other machines, loaded explosives, supervised teams and most recently I was the Production Superintendent - looking after a team of 120 operators and supervisors moving the dirt. Lots of fun! During this time I lived in Arnhem Land in an indigenous community, and designed and opened a guarry owned and operated by an indigenous organisation. This quarry will be used to build the road out from Arnhem Land, which will provide access during the wet season for much needed supplies. I am now the Pilbara Mines Mining Executive, working with our company director and flying to a different site every week to see the team! Outside of work I love doing endurance sport - I do Ironman Triathlons and recently ran the UTA 100km ultra marathon in the beautiful Blue Mountains. My partner James and I are avid travellers, and have spent a lot of time travelling all around the world to ski and snowboard, so many fun memories from ski racing at WHS!

WHAT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WERE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCHOOL?

Ski racing, rugby union and league teams, athletics and cross country, touch football.

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

Ski racing, and the 12 month countdown! Being in engineering and physics classes and learning about real world problems and systems thinking mindsets, volunteering at foundation day, being on the rugby team and travelling to Canberra, and all the wonderful support the staff gave me during my time at WHS - I will never forget this, and it has been a pivotal part of my journey.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES OUR SCHOOL SPECIAL?

1) The staff at WHS have always gone above and beyond to support their students. They can see more in the student than the individual can, and they use this to help motivate and drive them to achieve things they would never have believed possible. 2) The amount of extra curricular activities is beyond any other school in the regions, and I was always so grateful for these opportunities.

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

I studied engineering, physics and extension maths throughout Year 11 and 12 at WHS. This was the perfect combination to be sure I wanted to study engineering at university. Studying mechanical engineering was one of the highlights of my life - not just because of the course work, but because of all the extra curricular activities such as being on the Formula 1 team and living in college! The sport at WHS has had a huge influence on my continued love for running, rugby and new love for Ironman triathlons! I did ski racing every year at WHS, and I now use this skill to travel all around the world! I was school captain in 2015, and I have been grateful for this early development into my leadership career.

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

https://www.linkedin.com/in/sophie-peterson-330530122? utm_source=share&utm_campaign=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_me dium=ios_app DISASTER RISK AWARENESS EXPO & FAMILY DAY

SATURDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 10AM - 4PM

PLANETARY HEALTH CENTRE

33-39 Acacia Street Katoomba

FREE ALL AGES WELCOME

Meet the Emergency and Hazardous Materials teams keeping our community safe!

Register online for workshops, talks and activities, including:

- Free plant-based community BBQ
- Free fire-retardant plants from Santa
- Drumming and pollinator workshops with Amelie Ecology and Hands, Heart and Feet
- How to make plastic-free Christmas presents
- How to retrofit your home to make it safer and healthier!
- Launch of the Bushfire Retrofit Toolkit with UTS
- Betty the Asbestos Education House
- Managing hazardous materials after extreme weather

bluemountainsplanetaryhealth.com.au

For more info or to host a stall, contact: planetaryhealthevents@bmcc.nsw.gov.au









