



WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL

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



Term 1 Week 4 Communication – Thursday 19 February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Warami. This week we have had our Girls' Basketball team play, and Pulse Alive rehearsals take place. Congratulations to the Girls' Basketball Team for their win against Jamison High - 44 to 25!

The results from the Swimming Carnival have been released. Congratulations to these students for their outstanding results. More information will be issued to students soon about the Nepean Zone Swimming event, which is being held on 3 March.

2026 Swimming Age Champions

Girls

12 Years - Adeline Earl

13 Years - Roxy Elliott

14 Years - Violet McRae

15 Years - Amalia Tredoux

16 Years - Rori Bowman

17+ Years - Sophie Knight

Boys

12 Years -

13 Years - Brayden Northcott

14 Years - Henry Templeman

15 Years - Leo Zeballos

16 Years - Malachi Smith

17+ Years - Luke Minard



Next week we will be hosting our **Year 6 into 7 Expo Day**, and **Family Information Evening**. Expo Day is taking place on Monday, and the information evening is on **Wednesday evening from 6.30 pm**. If you know any families that are interested in enrolling at Winmalee High, please let them know they are welcome to attend. We have included the flyer to share with anyone interested in finding out more. We are also happy to provide individual tours for any prospective families, if they can't make it on Wednesday evening.

In this week's WHS Alumni, **Kylie Richardson** outlines her impressive career path, achieving first class honours and a PhD. We loved that one of her favourite memories was doing the cross country in the local bushland. It is a reminder of how lucky we are to have such beautiful surrounds at our doorstep.

Last week at our first **P&C** meeting for the year, we discussed ideas for how the **P&C Voluntary Contribution** funds can be spent this year. Previously, contributions have led to the purchase of a new combi oven for our Hospitality kitchen, outdoor shading, a new projector for the assembly hall, as well as awards for student achievement and leadership at our annual presentation evening. For 2026, we will be inviting students and staff to put forward their ideas. The P&C appreciates all contributions, no matter how small, as this means of contributing is more equitable for all families.

P&C Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month during school term at 6.30pm. We alternate between face to face and online meetings. New members are always welcome.

Anyone who is interested in joining the P&C can contact info@winmaleehighschoolpnc.au

The dates for meetings for the remainder of the year are as follows:

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
11 February	13 May	12 August	14 October
11 March	10 June	9 September	11 November



Congratulations to **Addison Scott (Year 7)**. Over the weekend, Addison travelled down to Canberra to compete in the ACT State Athletics Championships.

Addison won gold in both the 100m and 200m races. She also achieved two National Qualifiers for both events, which means she will now travel to Brisbane to compete at the Junior Australian Athletics championships in April.

Year 7 students enjoyed their first prac last week as part of their Mandatory Tech program. They whipped up a banana and berry smoothie and then enjoyed drinking it!



YUM!



Stems & Stories

By Jenna Bryant

The next issue of 'Stems and Stories' by Year 12 student **Jenna Bryant** is attached to this Newsletter.

Read on to find out about **Rose Lau's** (Year 12) favourite plant!



Year 9 Food Tech students made delicious Aussie Scrolls last week as part of the Healthy Eating for Life unit.



🎓 WHS Alumni Spotlight: Kylie Richardson (Class of 2005)

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 **Kylie Richardson** shares her reflections on her time at Winmalee High and where life has taken her since.

Check out Kylie'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.



SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

DAY OF PHOTOGRAPHY

FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2026

1. Place your order online before the day of photography - go to www.advancedlife.com.au.
2. The school code is available through the parent portal.
3. Payment can be made using VISA, Mastercard or Paypal.
4. Students are required to wear their full summer school uniform on the day.
5. If you are unable to order online, please complete an order envelope and hand it directly to photographers on the day of photography.

*If you have any queries concerning ordering, please contact **advancedlife** directly - www.advancedlife.com.au/contact*



WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL

FAMILY INFORMATION EVENING 2026

WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 6.30PM

Take a tour and explore our facilities
Meet our principal and teaching staff
Learn about our academic, co-curricular
and wellbeing programs

*Families of students from all year groups, along
with prospective students currently in primary
school, are warmly invited to attend.*



For more Information

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<https://winmalee-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

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Winmalee High

Careers Bulletin



For the latest student career opportunities please check out our [Careers page](#) and see our new look Careers Bulletin at the end of the Newsletter.

Best wishes,

Winmalee High School

The next *Science at the Local* on 8 March features **WHS Alumni!!**



New Voices, New Futures

*Celebrating International Women's Day
with early-career research and
young women beginning their science journeys.*

Rewilding the Microbiome: A New Approach to Seahorse Conservation

Mia Leach, USYD

From Student to Stony Desert: First Lessons in Kowari Conservation

Nina J. Manning, ANU



8 MARCH @ 2:00 PM

Springwood Sports Club (Bowlo)

www.scienceatthelocal.org



WHS ALUMNI Q&A



WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE GRADUATING FROM WHS?

After leaving Winmalee High I studied occupational therapy at Western Sydney University graduating with first class honours. I went on to complete my PhD in occupational therapy, exploring the economic value of services for older adults in hospital. Over my career I have worked both clinically in community and hospital settings as well as academia. I'm currently a senior lecturer at ACU. I've married and have three girls and now live in the Newcastle Region.

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

I was lucky to receive a local rotary scholarship in my senior year which helped me access additional support for my HSC. This gave me the encouragement to pursue my healthcare education at graduation.

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

Doing cross country through the local bushland. Now living away from the Blue Mountains and seeing where my kids have to do cross country we were so lucky to run through the local bush land.

WHAT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WERE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCHOOL?

Supporting the discos that we used to run at the primary schools in the local area.

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES OUR SCHOOL SPECIAL?

Lovely community spirit.



Stems & Stories

By Jenna Bryant



THE PLANT - HYDRANGEA

This month's pick is the *Hydrangea Macrophylla*. These flowering shrubs are known for their large, globe-shaped blooms that appear in shades of blue, pink, purple, and white.

Native to Asia and the Americas, hydrangeas have been cultivated for centuries, particularly in Japan, where they are culturally associated with gratitude and sincere emotion. Valued for their resilience and decorative beauty, hydrangeas remain a popular choice in gardens around the world.

THE PERSON - ROSE LAU



Rose Lau, a fellow Year 12 student, is our current school captain and member of the student leadership team. Rose was kind enough to share the impact these plants have had on her growing up in the Blue Mountains.

"Hydrangeas have always been my favourite plant. As a child, I was amazed that a simple bush could produce such large ball-shaped flowers filled with many colours, like the ombre drawings I tried to recreate. Even when the summer heat made the plant sag despite my parents' care, a little rain would revive it, a reminder of its resilience. Hydrangeas still remind me of my childhood home and continue to amaze me whenever I see them."

Hydrangea Trivia

They can change colour

The bloom colour depends on soil pH. Acidic soil turns flowers **blue**, while alkaline soil makes them **pink**.

They're ancient

Hydrangeas have existed for millions of years, with fossils dating back over 20 million years.

Name with a meaning

"Hydrangea" comes from Greek words meaning *water vessel*, referring to the plant's need for plenty of water and the shape of its seed capsules.

Classification

Scientific name: **Hydrangea macrophylla**

Common name: **Hortensia, mophead**

Family: **Hydrangeaceae**

Origin: **Primarily native to East Asia**

Conditions: **semi-shaded position with moist, fertile, and well-drained soil**

Size : **Large 1m-3m bushes**

GROW IT YOURSELF

Common in local gardens, these hardy deciduous shrubs, flower from late spring through summer.

Hydrangeas thrive in moist, nutrient-rich soil with partial shade (morning sun, afternoon shade).

Ideally, plant during dormant winter months, in well-draining, improved soil. Soak with water 1-2 times weekly, especially in summer, and prune back by 1/3 in winter to promote new, flowering branches.



Stems & Stories is about getting to know the Winmalee High family through their favourite plants. It is put together by Year 12 Biology student Jenna Bryant.

Careers Bulletin

Term 1, Week 5, 23 February 2026

Opportunities:

Australian Museum School

Science Eureka Prize

Where curiosity leads, discovery follows. The Australian Museum Eureka Prizes is the ultimate stage for primary and secondary school students across Australia to showcase their creativity, scientific rigour, and passion for discovery. Follow your curiosity and create a two-minute film based on the theme 'patterns.'

[Find Out More](#)

Apple Developer – Swift Student Challenge

Apple is proud to support and uplift the next generation of developers, creators, and entrepreneurs with the Swift Student Challenge. The Challenge has given thousands of student developers the opportunity to showcase their creativity and coding capabilities through app playgrounds, and earn real-world skills that they can take into their careers and beyond. Submit by 28 Feb.

[Find out More](#)

The 11 Second Club – Animation Competition

The 11 Second Club is a monthly character animation competition open to everyone.

[Find out more](#)



Cyber Spotlight

Career Spotlight – Cabin Crew

Find out more about what the role of Cabin Crew is onboard an aircraft. It's not just about good customer service! [Read More](#)

Stem + X: Science Webinar

Join for a free webinar to dive into how you can turn your interest in science into a fulfilling career. Supported by QUT. [Find out more](#)

Work Experience with the Australian Federal Police's Forensic Science Team

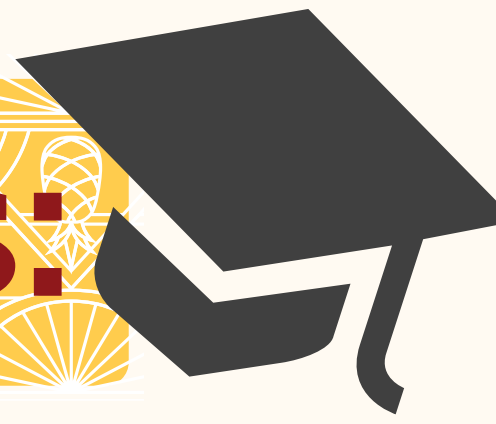
Curious about working with the AFP? Love forensic science? Fascinated to learn more? Our Forensics Work Experience Program is a one-week immersive program for students in Years 10 to 12. It's held twice a year at our AFP Forensics Facility at Majura in the ACT.

Come and learn about the inner workings of AFP Forensics. Find out if a role with us could be your perfect career.

Applications close 1 March

[Find out more](#)

For Seniors:



University of Wollongong - Future Talk Webinar

9 March

This webinar will help parents support students through Year 12 & beyond. With big post-school decisions ahead, this session is designed to provide clarity, reassurance and practical advice to help you navigate university decisions with confidence.

[Register Here](#)

Pathways into Medicine and Dentistry - Live Webinar

17 March

The National Institute of Education (NIE) is proud to present the free information seminar all about UCAT and the undergraduate pathways into medicine, dentistry, and some other health science programs. The session is PACKED with loads of valuable information. From industry experts.

[Find out more](#)

[UCAT Key Dates](#)

UAC - Class of 2026!

Understand what UAC does and how the University Admissions Centre can help you with your post-school study options. This YouTube session covers:

ATAR calculation
early offers and the Schools Recommendation Scheme
Educational Access Scheme
Equity Scholarships
choosing your application course preferences.

[Watch Here!](#)

Australian Defence Force Gap Year

Spend an exciting 12-months in the Navy, Army or Air Force, where you'll get paid for meaningful work while travelling around Australia, gaining skills for life, and making lifelong friends. Complete an online enquiry form, visit a Recruiting Centre, attend an event, or simply call us, and we'll be more than happy to help.
[Find Out More](#)

The University of Sydney: Information Night - Penrith

11 March

Join in for an information night to discover how the University of Sydney can help you shape the future you want. Connect with current students and alumni from Greater Western Sydney, each representing a diverse range of degrees and pathways to higher education, and discover what life is really like as a university student. Plus, University staff and a UAC representative will be available to answer your questions and guide you through your options.

[Register Here](#)

Australian National University Open Day

28 March

Don't just imagine it. Experience your future at ANU Open Day.

What to expect:

- Dive deeper into degrees at information sessions.
- Connect with experts and students at the Study Options Expo.
- Take a campus tour.
- Explore student accommodation.
- Wander around the campus and discover our welcoming community.

[Register Here](#)

University of NSW 360 Virtual Tour

Tour through UNSW on your mobile or PC. Explore the different departments and see what University life is like. Imagine yourself enjoying the experience of studying in a tertiary environment and making new friends along the way.

[Find out more](#)

University of Wollongong 360 Virtual Tours

Check out UOW virtual tours - see lecture theatres, libraries, learning spaces and more!
[Click here.](#)