



WINMALEE HIGH SCHOOL

High School Drive Winmalee NSW 2777

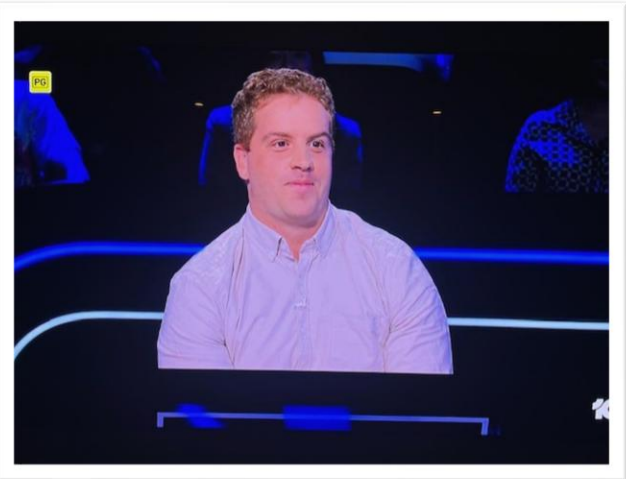
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winmalee-h.schools.nsw.gov.au f Winmalee High School - Official

Term 2 Week 1 Communication – Thursday 23 April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Warami. Welcome to Term 2. It was lovely to see students yesterday and commence what will be another busy term. If happened you watch **Who Wants to Be a Millionaire** in the holidays, you would have spotted Mr Bonora! He's not a millionaire yet, but he had a great time, and it was exciting seeing him on the big screen.



Many students continued to excel in different fields over the holidays. Three of our students travelled to Brisbane to compete in the **Australian Junior Athletics Championships**, and our **Hip Hop and Pom teams** had a rehearsal at the Dance Dymension studio. Read on for more details.

On assembly yesterday we congratulated the Cross Country Age Champions – well done to these students, and another thank you to all students who participated in the event.

Today, we held our **school ANZAC Service**, with close to 50 students involved in preparations, presentations and performances. It was a meaningful and professional event, and we were proud of everyone who was involved. Our School Captains and Prefects led the service with grace and poise. Mr Pendergast presented engaging information on

landmines and the important work rats are doing in Cambodia to safely remove landmines. Thank you also to Mrs Fox, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Bailey, Mrs Douglas and Mr McGown for their leadership and organisation behind the scenes



ANZAC Vocal Group Performance



Landmines Presentation

Athletics Carnival - We look forward to seeing a record number of students attend our Athletics Carnival tomorrow. There will be a \$100 lucky door prize on the day and best dressed picnic prize for a Year 12 student. Even if they are not competing, please send your child to participate in the day, and have a good day soaking up some vitamin D and supporting those who are competing.

On Saturday, our school will be marching and participating in the Springwood ANZAC Service. All students are welcome to join. Students attending and marching with the school need to be in full school uniform and meet staff at 9.50 am near the Post Office. All welcome!

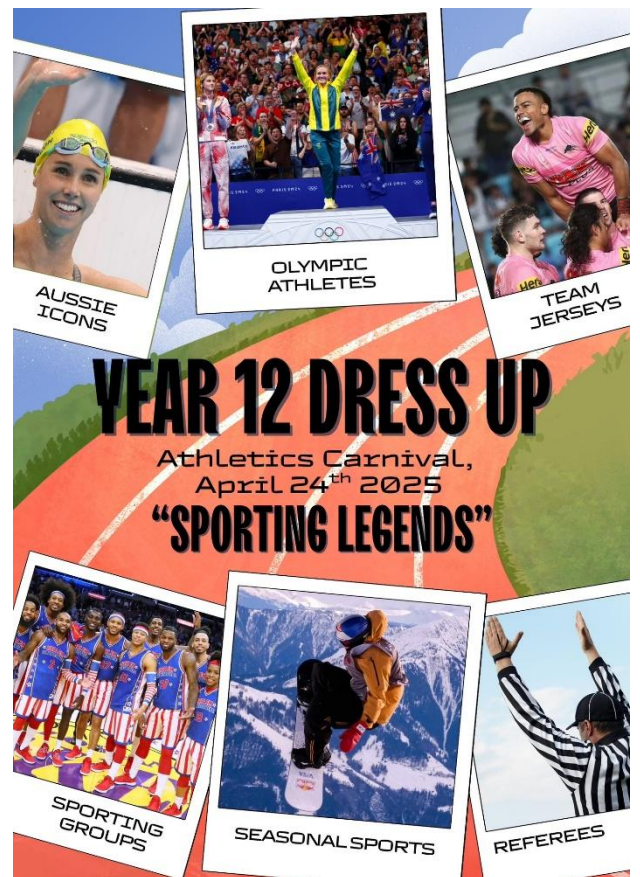
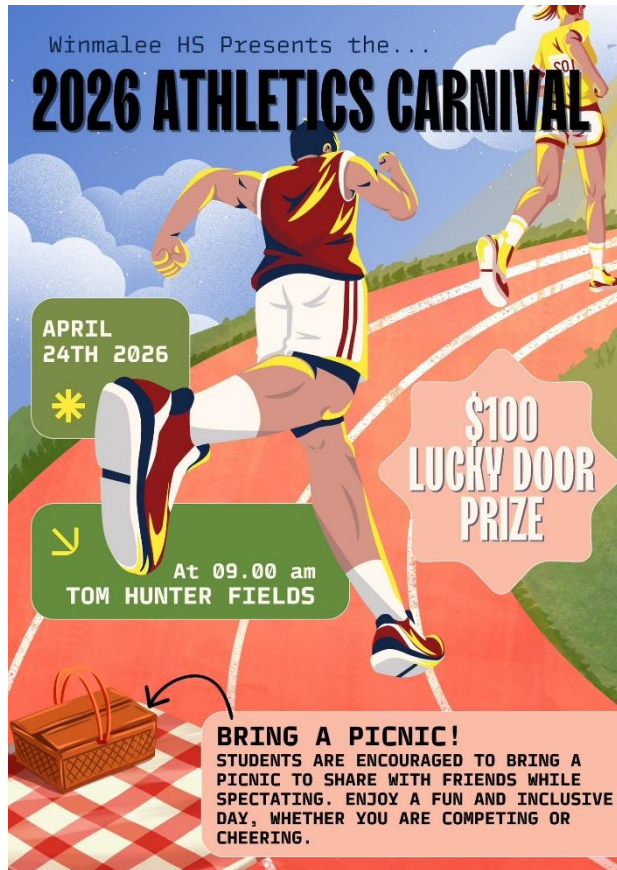
A reminder that Monday is the ANZAC Day Public Holiday. We hope you have a good long weekend.



Cross Country Age Champions 2026

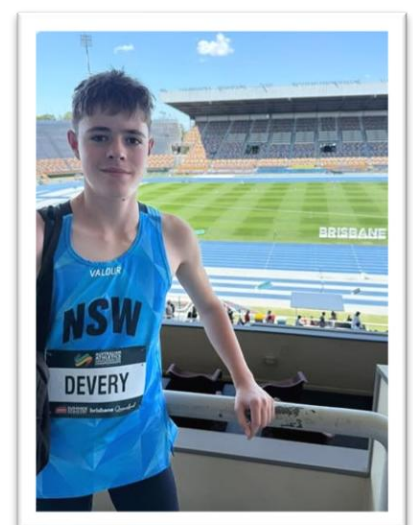
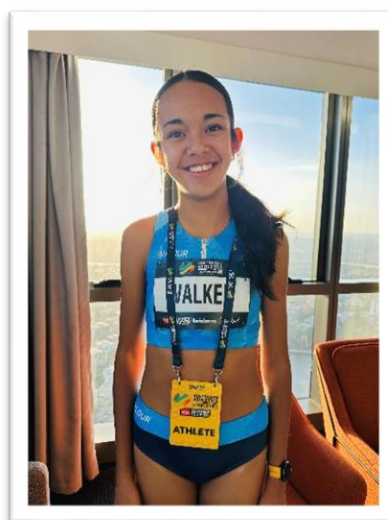
Girls		Boys	
12 Years	Clea Ballard	12 Years	Lincoln Hockings
13 Years	Madi Posford	13 Years	Tom Boland
14 Years	Elyse Walker	14 Years	Braxton Radzki
15 Years	Maizie Tolhurst	15 Years	Dexter Pachinger
16 Years	Marley Chevor & Piper Meek	16 Years	Ethan Hutchinson
17+ Years	Annabella Sciberras & Amelia Peake	17+ Years	Beau Jackson

Athletics Carnival – TOMORROW!



Over the April school holidays, **Addison Scott (Year 7)**, **Elyse Walker (Year 8)** and **Elijah Devery (Year 9)** competed at the Australian Junior Athletics Championships in Brisbane.

They achieved some amazing results representing New South Wales against the other states: - **Addison** - 16th in the 100m, 18th in the 200m, **Elyse** - 26th in the 3000m and **Elijah** - 12th in the 100m Hurdles, 14th in the 200m Hurdles. Congratulations!





Our talented **Pom** and **Hip Hop** teams didn't slow down over the school holidays! They were fortunate to rehearse at Dance Dymension, making the most of a fantastic space to prepare for their upcoming competitions later this term.

Opportunities like this are incredibly valuable for our school, helping students build confidence, teamwork, and pride in representing Winmalee High School. A huge thank you to Dance Dymension for their generosity and support, our students truly appreciated the experience.

We can't wait to see our teams take the stage and represent our school in competitions this year. Best of luck to all involved!

Congratulations to **Dexter Pachinger (Year 9)** who is LA bound!

48 BLUE MOUNTAINS GAZETTE Wednesday April 15, 2026 bluemountainsgazette.com.au

facebook.com/bluemountainsgazette twitter.com/bmgazette

SPORT



SPORT
All the results from around the region

P47

Dexter's LA trip

BY JENNIE CURTIN

DEXTER Pachinger is headed to LA to represent Australia in the national football league.

It's an unusual step for a 14-year-old Winmalee High student but Dexter has always been a fan of the American competitions, particularly the 'flag' variety which plays non-contact NFL using flag tags rather than tackling.

Dexter, who plays for the Nepean Ducks American Football Club, has been competing across Sydney.

"After almost three months worth of trials I was selected to represent NSW at the national competition in March," which meant more training and trips across Sydney.

"I love playing Flag because it is fun, very social and I get to mix with people from all over NSW who have similar sporting interests. I've made lots of great friends and I love the tactical aspect of the game."

Dexter has been selected as one of the top three NSW U15s boys to represent Australia in the Junior International Cup and will be travelling to Los Angeles in June to compete for his country.

He thanked his parents and sister Taylor for all their support and sacrifices.

"I have reached my dream in this sport by being selected to represent my country and this wouldn't have been possible without them. I would like to thank my club and NSW squad coaches for guiding me, and encouraging me to push myself toward my dreams."

To support Dexter's trip, see <https://asf.org.au/campaigns/dexter-pachinger>.

Dexter Pachinger is headed to LA to represent Australia in national football league's Flag format. Picture supplied



☀️ Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) Update ☀️

Supporting success across all year groups

📖 Year 7 – Setting the Foundations

Our Year 7 students are continuing to build strong habits for success!

🌟 What's happening:

- Clear classroom **routines and expectations** are being established
- Consistent language and expectations are being implemented, supported by our **Senior Leadership & PBL team**

💡 *Strong routines = confident learners!*

★ Year 8 – Celebration of Success

We're celebrating the positives while supporting students to achieve success.

🎉 Highlights:

- Continued use of **Goldies & commendation cards** to reward positive behaviour

👏 *Recognising success while providing the right support!*

🌈 Year 9 – Building Positive Connections

Positive reinforcement remains a key focus.

💬 Our approach:

- Increasing use of **commendation cards & letters home**
- Celebrating effort, improvement, and achievement

✉️ *A quick message home can make a big difference!*

🎯 Year 10 – Attendance Matters

We are placing a strong spotlight on attendance and engagement.

🎯 *Every lesson counts—every day matters!*

🎓 Years 11 & 12 – Leading the Way

Our senior students are being supported to stay focused and prepared for success.

🔑 Key priorities:

- Maintaining strong **attendance**

👉 *"Small Things Matter."*

🏆 Senior Goldie System Update

Exciting updates to recognise and reward our senior students!

📧 How it works:

- **Week B:** ☀️ *Senior Shout Out Draw*
 - Staff nominate students for achievement, effort, or values



- **Week A:** 📅 Attendance Prize Draw
 - Based on student attendance over the previous two weeks

By working together—students, staff, and families—we continue to build a positive, supportive, and high-expectation school culture.

World's Greatest Shave – NEXT THURSDAY 30 APRIL!

Winmalee High School is once again taking part in the World's Greatest Shave – please support this worthy cause by donating! <https://www.worldsgreatestshave.com/fundraisers/WinmaleeHigh2026>

The graphic features the Leukaemia Foundation logo at the top left. The central text 'World's Greatest Shave' is written in large blue letters on a light green background. To the right, 'PLEASE DONATE!' is written in yellow and green. At the bottom left, '30 APRIL' is written in large red letters. A QR code is located on the right side of the graphic.

The banner has a yellow and orange patterned background. It includes the text 'Winmalee High' in a dark box, 'Careers Bulletin' in large letters, and the Winmalee High School crest on the right. The crest features the year '1985', 'WINMALEE HS', and the motto 'STRIVE TO ACHIEVE'.

For the latest student career opportunities please check out our [Careers page](#) and read the latest Careers Bulletin.



WHS Alumni Spotlight: Tate Harrington (Class of 2014)

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

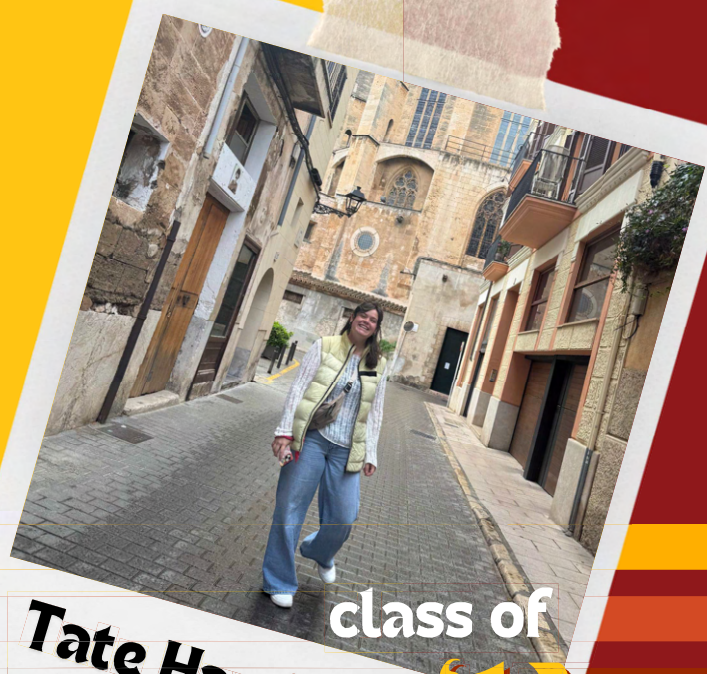
Check out Tate's Q&A at the end of the Newsletter and stay tuned as we continue celebrating the amazing paths our alumni are forging!

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



class of
Tate Harrington '14

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE GRADUATING FROM WHS?

I have graduated from UTS with a double degree and was very lucky to be able to attend university in Germany the year before Covid lockdowns. I've since traveled the world, hiked pilgrimages, climbed mountains and have now worked my way into a career in operations and logistics. My current work is in the sports industry and it's opened up the opportunity to work with some of the world leaders in sustainable technology and business practice. I also currently live in Melbourne with my gorgeous dog called Fish.

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

I was given the freedom to explore so many subjects without the pressure to commit to what 'traditionally' made sense at WHS. I remember loving science classes as much as art and drama and I never had to choose or felt defined by what I elected to spend my time on.

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

The creative or slightly unconventional moments stand out the most. Musicals, art classes, using a bunsen burner for the first time, being trusted enough to use the wood working and metal work rooms .

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

<https://www.instagram.com/on?igsh=MndueW44eXBjd29s>

WHAT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WERE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCHOOL?

I was involved with all the musicals that took place while I was at WHS (huge shoutout to the legendary Mrs Sheehy!), ski racing team and Duke of Ed. All such cool things to have been able to build confidence and friendships with!

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES OUR SCHOOL SPECIAL?

I think the extracurriculars were extraordinary for so many of my peers but honestly we had such incredible teachers who pushed us to recognise the potential in ourselves. The teachers truly cared about our success and happiness which made it a very supportive place to grow.



Careers Bulletin

Term 2, Week 1 20 Apr 2026

Opportunities:

5 tech careers and the electives you'll need to get started

If you're still brainstorming tech careers, you could choose from robotics + automation engineer, cybersecurity analyst, software developer, metaverse engineer or AI ethicist, plus many more. Check out more info [HERE](#)

FREE Interactive Workshop – Where to Now?

This workshop is designed for year 10,11 and 12 students to help them explore future pathways without the expectation of having clear answers on\about what they want to do. The aim is to normalise uncertainty and foster curiosity without adding pressure that they must have it all figured out right now. Find out more and register [HERE](#)

FREE Interactive Workshop – Inspiring Apprentices!

This workshop runs for 60 mins for young people and their parents/carers. It breaks down what apprenticeships and traineeships really look like today, through an interactive presentation we help participants figure out what path might be best for them. We talk pathways, expectations, insights into pay, how to get started and what financial and Transition to work supports are available, participants will get the chance to talk to local supports and ask questions. Find out more and register [HERE](#)



Cyber Spotlight

How did you get that dream job in sport?

Like positions on a sporting team, competition for jobs within the sports industry is fiercely competitive. This sports webinar looks at the competitive edge three AFL SportsReady alumni had through completing their traineeships. What career journey the traineeship took them on and how it has led to their dream role across various sectors of professional sports clubs and organisations.

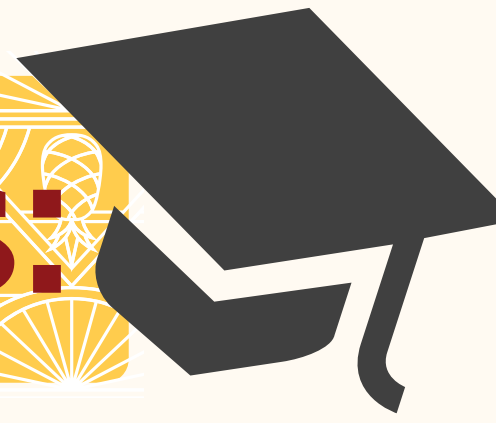
AFL SportsReady alumni share how they landed their dream job in sports and how their traineeship was the vehicle to get them there.

Alumni line up

- Alex Pietrus - Trainee to Business Development, Executive Club, Manchester United
- Jemma Whitnall - Trainee to Review Operations Coordinator, National Rugby League
- Tamara Joy - Trainee to GM People & Culture, Motorsport Australia

Watch [HERE](#)

For Seniors:



Torrens University: Short Course - 'Sport for Good'

Developed in collaboration with human rights activist Craig Foster, these free online short courses explore sport's growing responsibility to promote positive change. Investigate gender equality, climate action, anti-racism and more through the lens of sport and the eyes of athletes. Find out more [HERE](#)

ACU Webinars in May

ACU are hosting a series of webinars to give year 12 students the opportunity to learn more about a variety of career pathways:

- 6 May - Occupational therapy and physiotherapy - Register [HERE](#)
- 7 May - Teaching and Education (Early Childhood Education, Primary and Secondary) - Register [HERE](#)
- 13 May - Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine. Register [HERE](#)
- 14 May - Law, Criminology and Business. Register [HERE](#)

Residential vs Commercial Carpentry Apprenticeships

Apprentices gain valuable work experience in both commercial and residential sectors. This article highlights the differences in workplaces, business structure, project types, and earnings. Some may choose to work in both sectors for broader experience, while others might specialise in one. Understanding these differences will help apprentices make informed choices to reach their career goals. Find out more [HERE](#)

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