

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**Term 1 Week 7 2025
Thursday 13 March**

Rosary Park Catholic School

Station Street, Branxton NSW 2335

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Website: www.branxton.catholic.edu.au

We acknowledge the Wonnarua people-the first custodians of this land

Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect

IMPORTANT DATES

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults - particularly those who participate in the life of the Diocese. All employees are required to undergo a National Police Check and, where legislated, hold a Working with Children Check. Diocesan workers are expected to personally adopt and enact the Diocese's Safeguarding Commitment Statement.

Weekly Mass Times: 6pm Saturday Branxton; 8am Sunday Greta.

| MARCH | | APRIL | |
|--|--|----------------------|--|
| WED 12 TH – MON 24 TH | NAPLAN 2024 (YEAR 3 AND YEAR 5) | WED 2 ND | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STAGE TWO NRL DAY POLDING SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS – SYDNEY ASSEMBLY |
| FRI 14 TH | PUPIL FREE DAY | WED 9 TH | PALM SUNDAY LITURGY – 9:15AM |
| WED 19 TH | ASSEMBLY – PEG MEETING (COFFEE AND TEA) TO FOLLOW THE ASSEMBLY 9:15AM – ALL WELCOME | THU 10 TH | HOLY THURSDAY LITURGY 9:15am |
| FRI 21 ST | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY HARMONY DAY (SEE COMPASS NOTE) | FRI 11 TH | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LAST DAY OF TERM TWO GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY 9:15am |
| WED 26 TH | SWIMMING RIBBON ASSEMBLY | FRI 25 TH | ANZAC DAY – BRANXTON RSL 10:30am for an 11:15am start |
| FRI 28 TH | BACK UP DATE CROSS COUNTRY (HOPE WE DON'T NEED IT!) | MON 28 TH | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FIRST DAY TERM TWO ANZAC DAY LITURGY 2:15PM |
| | | TUE 29 TH | ROSARY PARK ATHLETICS CARNIVAL – MAITLAND |
| | | WED 30 TH | STAGE THREE NRL GALA DAY |

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

With the recent news of Pope Francis being in hospital, we invite all of our readers to pray for the Holy Father.

Pope Francis was admitted to Rome's Gemelli Hospital recently to undergo testing and treatment for bronchitis, the Vatican said.

The 88-year-old Pope was hospitalised in the late morning on Feb. 14, following meetings with a number of people, including Prime Minister Robert Fico of Slovakia.

Pope Francis has been sick with bronchitis for more than two weeks. On Feb. 6, the Vatican announced the Pope would hold most of his meetings that day and the following days in rooms at his Vatican residence, in order to rest more.

The Franciscan Missionaries of the Eternal Word — founded by EWTN's foundress, Mother Angelica — wrote this prayer so we may all unite as one voice to lift up the Vicar of Christ in prayer today.

We thank you for the loving service of Pope Francis and the hope he has inspired in so many in your great mercy.

Have mercy on him in his illness now, we pray, and guide the medical staff in his care.

Grant him peace and healing. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEG MEETING AFTER ASSEMBLY – Wednesday 19 MARCH

We have assembly as per normal next Wednesday 19 March. An invitation is extended to everyone to stay back for approximately 30 -45 minutes, have a chat and a cuppa and engage in some discussion around Rosary Park and how we can best maintain the high standards we currently hold.

I have been so impressed with the start to the year. Having a new Principal and several new staff comes with its challenges, but students and staff have worked extremely hard to continue the great learning.

I would like to discuss fundraising opportunities and student led conferences, something I know will be coming up in the school in the next term or two.

Please join me in the Hall after assembly, from 9:15am.

Parent Teacher Conversations

The beginning of each school year is such an important time and one whereby teachers are working hard to formulate positive relationships with their students. A learning environment based on trust, where students feel safe to share their ideas and comfortable to make mistakes can set the scene for a successful school year, for each child.

Our teachers have been forming these positive relationships over the last few weeks by getting to know your child; finding out their strengths as learners, their passions, hobbies, challenges and goals they have for the year ahead. It has been a joy to watch Kindergarten begin their journey of primary school. The provocations set up by our Kinder teachers (as part of Successful Foundations) has created a wonderful space for our little ones to play.

Research has shown that students achieve more in school when their parents are actively involved in their education. Parental involvement not only enhances academic performance, but also has a positive influence on a child's attitude and behaviour. A parent's interest and encouragement in a child's education can influence the child's attitude towards school, classroom conduct, self-esteem, absenteeism, and motivation in a positive manner.

As per last year, student led conferences with the involvement of your child on JUNE 30 (pupil free day). A document explaining these will be disseminated via Compass very shortly. We remain focussed however on an open dialogue between home and school so if there is anything of concern that you wish to discuss with us, please make contact via admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au.

We will also share information about calls to families in week 1 and 2 of term 2 in our next newsletter.

Our Diocesan Commitment to Safeguarding.

During the second half of 2023 the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle underwent an external audit to test its compliance with Edition Two of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards ('the Standards'). The Standards were developed in response to the findings and recommendations of recent Royal Commissions into the abuse of children and vulnerable people. The purpose of the Standards, and this audit, was to ensure the safety of those who encounter the Church.

The Most Rev Michael Kennedy, Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle, asked that the audit be particularly rigorous, as he wanted people to feel confident about the results. The audit was conducted by Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd. (ACSL) and Prolegis Lawyers, whose senior auditor was a solicitor for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The Diocese has achieved an outstanding result with 98% of the Standards' indicators being assessed as being 'Developed and Embedded' or 'Developed'. The ACSL-Prolegis Audit Report summarised their findings:

The NCSS assessment of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland Newcastle indicates that the Diocese is successfully implementing and embedding a culture of safeguarding throughout its organisation. The excellent audit result can be attributed to the unwavering commitment of Diocesan leadership, particularly the late Bishop Bill Wright, the former Diocesan Administrator Rev Greg Barker, and has continued under the guidance of the recently installed Bishop Michael Kennedy. The expertise and dedication of diocesan personnel, particularly those in the parishes and schools that participated in the on-site audit, was extraordinary and demonstrated the Diocese's clear and persistent commitment to safeguarding.

(taken from 'Aurora' diocesan magazine Autumn 2024 edition)

Volunteers at Rosary Park

If you wish to volunteer in our school (canteen, etc) you need to complete our Diocesan Volunteer clearance. The link below contains a number of forms to be completed including a police check. This process normally takes a number of weeks to be finalised.

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/people/volunteer/>

2025 Athletics Carnival

This will again be held at Maitland Athletics Centre for K-6 children on Tuesday 29 April. You are most welcome to join us as all children compete on the day!

Kindergarten Enrolments 2026

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2026 are now open and will close on 23 May. If you have a child to enrol for kindergarten, visit our Rosary Park Website on www.branxton.catholic.edu.au to enrol. Under the Enrolment tab you can select Enrol Online Now. This page will offer instructions on how you are to enrol onto the system. Please also let any family, friends or neighbours know about these dates. As always, you can contact the front office with any questions.

NAPLAN 2025

Naplan 2025 Year 3 and Year 5: 12th March till the 24th of March

Education ministers agreed in 2019 to set proficiency standards for numeracy and literacy assessed by NAPLAN.

These new standards will give teachers and parents better information about what a student can do. The names of the new standards are based on advice from ACARA's First Nations Australians Advisory Group and parent bodies. They are **Exceeding, Strong, Developing and Needs additional support**.

These will be accompanied by detailed descriptions that are useful for teachers and families. The descriptions will be developed by a panel of teachers. They will simplify reporting, replacing the 10 NAPLAN bands and national minimum standard, allowing parents and carers to know at-a-glance whether their child is where they need to be in literacy and numeracy, which are skills that underpin all other learning.

These will provide parents and schools with easy-to-read information about what they mean for a student's strength in literacy and numeracy. The statistical benchmarks for the new categories of achievement will also be confirmed by teachers with relevant experience.

Our Commitment to Learning

It is extremely important that children are at school every day and they are there for the *whole* day. As you know we have a brief Monday morning assembly only as we make a school wide commitment to commencing literacy teaching promptly each morning- that is Spelling Mastery Years 3-6 and Initial Lit in Kindergarten -year 2. If your child is late, they are missing vital and explicit learning in spelling and reading.

Similarly, their learning continues until 2:55pm. Normally our afternoon timetable consists of HSIE, Science and Creative Arts activities which are also a very important part of a child's learning with creativity, collaboration and problem solving forming key aspects of these lessons.

You are discouraged from continually taking your child early as not only is it disrupting your child's learning, it interrupts other children's learning and the class teacher's focus on teaching with constant phone calls to the classroom. If there are extenuating circumstances as to why your child needs to leave early, please write to your child's teacher giving reasons why. Our staff and children thank you in anticipation for your commitment to learning for all our children.

Please ensure that you explain your child's absence from school preferably via Compass. You have seven days to do this. The Education Act mandates that we as a school and system are to monitor children's attendance at school.

Children with excessive days off school may be asked to provide medical certificates.

Our diocesan policy directs that parents receive a letter from the school if their child's attendance is not satisfactory and you may need to work with us in formulating an Attendance Improvement Plan for your child if their attendance does not improve.

Kind regards and God Bless,

Mr Ashley Borg

Assistant Principal's Message

NAPLAN 2025

The way NAPLAN results are reported to parents and schools has changed in recent years. There are new proficiency standards which are challenging, but fair. These standards describe what a child should be able to do in literacy or numeracy at the time of sitting NAPLAN. They provide a reasonable expectation of what students should be capable of at the time of testing and are based on numeracy and literacy skills learnt in previous years of school. Student results are reported across 4 levels of achievement.

The levels are -

- exceeding
- strong
- developing
- needs additional support

These levels clearly show parents what their child's numeracy and literacy skills are at the time of testing. It provides a clear indicator of the need for additional supports or interventions for some students. These 4 achievement levels will be reported against the key areas of

- writing
- reading
- conventions of language (spelling, grammar, punctuation)
- numeracy

NAPLAN testing in all areas but writing is now 'adaptive'. This means that the difficulty of the questions changes depending on what the child answers correctly or incorrectly. This means that children may not all see the same questions. The benefit to this is that all children will be able to correctly answer questions when they adjust to the level of the child. This means NAPLAN reports will show a list of skills children are able to do, as well as skills each child is still developing.

The NAPLAN report will show the average results for a school, and a comparison between the school and national averages.

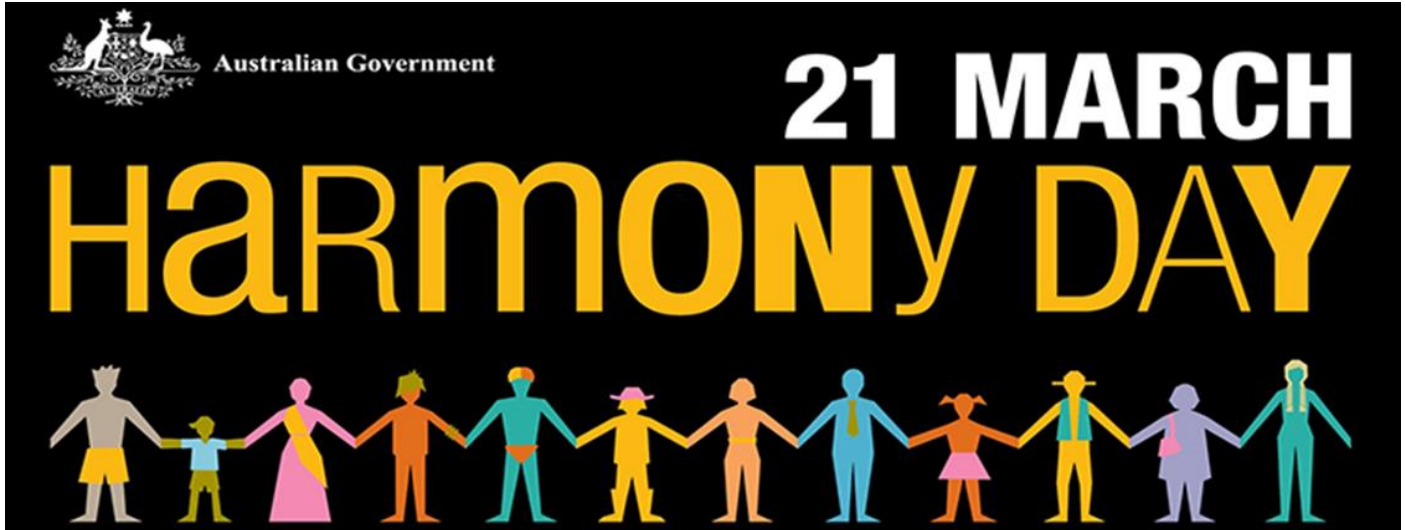
NAPLAN testing will be carried out in sessions between the 12th and 24th March for children in Year 3 and Year 5.

It is important to note that the NAPLAN test is a "point in time" assessment for a child. It provides parents with a basic outline of what their child can do, and a school with data around what is being covered well and areas requiring attention from a school perspective. If parents have

questions around specific areas of strength or need for their child, they are encouraged to have a conversation with the class teacher, who is better able to outline any academic or social needs.

If you have any questions regarding NAPLAN, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school via admin email or phone call.

Harmony Day



Come and join us to celebrate harmony and diversity at Rosary Park!

Parents and Carers are invited to join us on Friday 21st March from 1pm.

Children wear orange to celebrate the day!

Timetable

1pm Parents/Carers join in Harmony Day lessons/discussions in the classrooms.

1:30pm Bring along some afternoon tea and share it with your child/ren on the playground.

During this time, visit the hall to see our world map showing links to where our families originate from.

Also see our wonderful "Harmony Day" posters where you might learn about customs and traditions from different cultures.

2pm Join in or watch as we participate in a range of activities to foster teamwork and "harmony" throughout the afternoon

Creativity Challenge

Option 1: Let's learn about each other!

Design a poster that shares information about a country/culture connected to your family. It may be somewhere you have lived, or a place linked with your ancestry or heritage. You might research or share information about the country, location, traditions, customs, traditional dress, foods, flags and currency.

Option 2: Let's embrace difference!

Design a poster that encourages acceptance and fits with the theme of "Harmony Day-Everyone Belongs!"

Option 3: Power point, Video or Poem

If posters aren't your thing, you could write a story or poem, make a presentation, or even record an interview with someone on this theme and play it from a laptop on the day.

Bring these to school and they will be displayed in the hall on our open afternoon.

Every child who completes the challenge gets a prize and a certificate!



Racism – No Way Lessons during Harmony Week

As a school community, Rosary Park does not accept comments or remarks of a racial nature. Any comment made to make fun of a person's appearance, cultural background, customs, ethnicity or beliefs is inappropriate and unacceptable.

We have adopted a number of strategies to eliminate these incidents at our school. A main focus is on educating children about racism in age-appropriate ways through structured lessons designed to help them identify racism, learn and understand the law, research events in history, empower them to take an active stand against it and to report incidents to trusted adults.

The resources used come from the Australian Government and Department of Education resource pack "Racism-No Way". The main aim of the lessons is to build an understanding of what racism is and encourage children to speak up against it. The Australian Human Rights Commission campaign slogan "It stops with me," shows children they have the power to make a stand on such behaviours in their community, whether they are a victim or a bystander.

More information can be found at <https://racismnoway.com.au/>



During Harmony Week each class will complete a lesson from the "Racism-No Way" package. At Rosary Park this message is a constant one. Our self-reflective questions are centred on being an upstander, not a bystander.

If you would like any further information about or Harmony week focus, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school.

Afternoon Dismissal

As you would have seen we are currently trialling a few changes to our methods for afternoon dismissal. Change is often a challenge, but we would like to thank all those who participated in our survey regarding the "Meet and Greet" line. We have made another change to the timing of the lines this week and we will reflect next week to see how things are going. The survey remains open for anyone who feels they would like to provide any further feedback. As always, safety is at the centre of what we do. We all want the same thing out of afternoon dismissal and that is to assist our 370 students to get to their bus, car, parents or homes in a safe, effective and efficient manner.

Warm Regards,

Janelle Dixon
Assistant Principal

Religious Coordinator Message

Ash Wednesday

Last week we celebrated Ash Wednesday with a small liturgy beginning the season of Lent. Students received ashes on their foreheads as a sign of repentance and renewal. May this sacred time be one of love, hope and faith for us all. A special well done to our Kindergarten students who performed our final song. You did a fantastic job!

What is Lent?

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sunset, with Mass, on Holy Thursday. It is a 40-day time of prayer, fasting, and giving to the poor that helps Christians prepare to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter.

Why is Lent important?

For Christians it is a time of reflection and repentance. A time to make right with others and God as they are led to the Paschal Mystery, that is the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Why is the colour purple significant during Lent?

Colours have always played an important part in the liturgical life of the church. Symbolically it can be used to represent royalty. Historically it was an expensive dye and only afforded by the wealthy. In the Gospel of Mark, we read that Pilate used a purple robe on Jesus to mock Him as "King of the Jews".

See below a Lenten reflection:

Pope Francis reminds fast from hurting words and say kind words. Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude. Fast from anger and be filled with patience. Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope. Fast from worries and trust in God. Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity. Fast from pressures and be prayerful. Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy. Fast from selfishness and be compassionate. Fast from grudges and be reconciled. Fast from words; be silent and listen.

What almsgiving, prayer and fasting does in truth is temper us like Gold is tempered in fire: it strips away our impurities, not our humanity but our impurities and reminds us of what is important. It should be tough enough to be difficult to do but not so difficult that it is not achievable for us. We have to practice our Lenten journey consistently. It is also intentional. You can't accidentally do what Lent asks – it is in modern speak, mapped, planned and benchmarked. There should be a bit of reflective time along the way so that we can see where and how we have been.

It is a time to know forgiveness and to celebrate that we are a people always being reconciled not only with God but with each other. Lent is one of those things that we might do in the privacy of our own hearts, but which has an enormous impact on the hearts of others.

Diocesan Jubilee Launch:

Thank you to those families, students and staff who were able to attend. It was the perfect morning with the perfect weather, and it was great to have a group of students, and their families represent our school.



Holy Week Liturgies:

During week 11 in the preparation to Easter we will have short liturgies to acknowledge the events of holy week. It would be lovely if you could please join us. Each liturgy will begin at **9.15am** in the hall.

- Wednesday 9th April Palm Sunday lead by Kindergarten and Year 6
- Thursday 10th April: Holy Thursday Year 2 and Year 5
- Friday 11th April: Good Friday Year 3

And in Week 1 Term 2 2025

- Monday 28th April : The Resurrection Year 1 and Year 4

First Week of Lent

(Week beginning Monday 10 March)

This Lent, we're invited to *Unite Against Poverty* with Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. This year is especially significant as we celebrate the Jubilee Year - *a time of renewal and solidarity*.

Project Compassion 2025 shares three stories from around the world. We'll meet **Toefuata'iga** - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) a young student from Samoa who faced severe water shortages at her school. Thanks to Caritas Australia and the generosity of supporters like you, her school now has a 10,000 L water tank improving hygiene and allowing the teachers to prioritise education.

We'll get to know **Lam** from Vietnam, born with short stature, Lam faced social exclusion and limited employment opportunities – through the I-SHINE program, Lam is now a freelance graphic designer.

And we'll meet **Irene** from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (*DRC*) who faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family.

Watch our Introduction to Project Compassion film [HERE](#) - be inspired by 3 powerful stories of resilience and strength, and learn the impact that your support can have on vulnerable communities around the world.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.

God Bless,
Mackenzie Gageler
Religious Coordinator

Rosary Park to Compete in APSMO Math Competitions

We are excited to announce that Rosary Park will be participating in the APSMO (Australian Problem Solving Mathematics Olympiad) Math Explorer, Math Games, and Math Olympiad competitions this year! These prestigious competitions challenge students in Years 3 to 6, helping them develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills through engaging and complex mathematical problems.

This initiative provides an excellent opportunity for students to strengthen their mathematical reasoning in a fun and stimulating environment. It fosters creativity, logical thinking, and perseverance—valuable skills that support learning across all subjects.

Throughout Terms 1, 2, and 3, selected students will take part in weekly preparation sessions, each lasting 20–30 minutes. These sessions will focus on refining problem-solving strategies in preparation for the four contest papers they will complete during the competition period.

If your child has been selected for this opportunity, you will receive further details, including a consent form, to confirm their participation. We encourage families to support and celebrate this fantastic learning experience, which nurtures a love of mathematics and essential life skills.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to watching our students grow and excel through this exciting mathematical challenge!

Miss Groves

Weekly Awards

Congratulations to those children who have received awards this past fortnight.

Week ending Friday 7th March 2024 (Week 6)

| Class | Class Award One | Class Award Two | MJR Award |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Kinder Blue | Reuben L | Tillie E | Ari P |
| Kinder White | Bryon R | Lucy P | Savannah R |
| Year 1 Blue | Daytona A | Hunter B | Ally C |
| Year 1 White | Archie A | Lara A | Toby B |
| Year 2 Blue | -- | -- | -- |
| Year 2 White | Carter A | Lylah H | Baylee H |
| Year 3 Blue | Callum F | Ava M | Reeve W |
| Year 3 White | Harley R | Hendrix M | Dominic P |
| Year 4 Blue | Zoe H | Stanley H | Alfie T |
| Year 4 White | -- | -- | -- |
| Year 5 Blue | Dev T | Frances M | Charlize L |
| Year 5 White | Jye D | Blake C | Paige I |
| Year 6 Blue | Alyssa B | Lola M | Liam P |
| Year 6 White | Darcy H | | Taylor B |

Week ending Friday 14th March 2024 (Week 7)

| Class | Class Award One | Class Award Two | MJR Award |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Kinder Blue | -- | -- | -- |
| Kinder White | Sage L | Elias C | Isabella B |
| Year 1 Blue | Cleo P | Sophia S | Harvey D |
| Year 1 White | Savannah R | Oliver B | Angus M |
| Year 2 Blue | -- | -- | -- |
| Year 2 White | Makayla C | Amarni L | |
| Year 3 Blue | Sawyer D | Dylan R | Amelia H |
| Year 3 White | Tommy E | Aiden L | Scarlett C |
| Year 4 Blue | Brailyn L | Annie H | Willow J |
| Year 4 White | Louella T | Will M | Kade B |
| Year 5 Blue | Leah W | Emmett C | Addison K |
| Year 5 White | Max K | Isaac L | Addison S |
| Year 6 Blue | Charlotte P | Eyden G | Charli F |
| Year 6 White | Ruby N | Shelle C | Owen C |

Principal's Awards

Oliver C, Blaine S, Savannah R, Jett I, Lincoln H, Carley O, Piper R, Dominic P, Aubree M, Hunter I, Ruby N, Sophie C, Liam P,



VOICEWORX 2025

The diocesan vocal program VoiceWorx is open to any diocesan student who wants to join a vocal group or choral ensemble and learn more about singing with like-minded students.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

- Vocal technique, warmups and exercises for correct voice production and vocal hygiene
- Ensemble skills and learning about the roles of each part of a choir
- Dynamics, phrasing and expression
- Listening skills and reading notation
- Following a conductor
- Performance skills and preparation

WHERE?

There are 6 groups, one for each Region and a Secondary group - Upper Hunter, Lower Hunter, Manning, Lakes, Central/Norths.

You will only need to attend the rehearsals closest to you:

Upper Hunter: St Joseph's Catholic College, ABERDEEN (Year 8, Year 7, Primary)

Manning: St Clare's High School TAREE (Year 8, Year 7, Primary)

Lower Hunter: St Aloysius Catholic Primary School CHISHOLM (Primary)

Lakes: St Paul's Catholic College BOORAGUL (Primary)

Central/Norths: San Clemente Catholic College MAYFIELD (Primary)

Secondary: St Francis Xavier's College HAMILTON (Secondary)

WHEN?

PRIMARY CHOIRS

Upper Hunter, Manning, Lower Hunter, Lakes, Central/Norths: 10 rehearsals (Week 6 Term 1 – Week 6 Term 2, Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday 4pm – 5.30pm)

Performance- Civic Theatre Newcastle, Tuesday 10th or Wednesday 11th June

HOW TO REGISTER FOR VOICEWORX 2025

Registration is an online process via the ASPIRE website.

The following QR code will direct you to the:

2025 VOICEWORX REGISTRATION FORM



1. Follow the link or scan the QR code: <http://mn.shor.tn/ASPIREVoiceWorx2025>

2. **FILL IN THE FORM TO APPLY**

COST: The cost will be \$100 per year. A VoiceWorx polo shirt, sheet music, rehearsal and/or backing tracks will be supplied. *Financial support is available if needed.

Please contact Aspire Musical Director Jessica Lopez jessica.lopez@mn.catholic.edu.au for more information.

SECONDARY CHOIR:

St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton
10 rehearsals (Week 4 Term 3 – Week 3 Term 4, 4pm – 5.30pm)

Performance- City Hall Newcastle, Tuesday 4th November

VOICEWORX

Rehearsal Venues:

**Central/Norths- San Clemente Catholic College,
Mayfield** (Primary)

**Lower Hunter- St Aloysius Catholic Primary School,
Chisholm** (Primary)

Lakes- St Paul's Catholic College, Booragul (Primary)

Manning- St Clare's High School, Taree (Year 8, Year 7,
Primary)

**Upper Hunter- St Joseph's Catholic College,
Aberdeen** (Year 8, Year 7, Primary)

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |
|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Term 1 4 – 5.30pm | 10th March (Week 6) Central/Norths Lower Hunter Manning | 11th March (Week 6) Upper Hunter | 12th March (Week 6) Lakes |
| | 17th March (Week 7) Central/Norths Lower Hunter Manning | 18th March (Week 7) Upper Hunter | 19th March (Week 7) Lakes |
| | 24th March (Week 8) Central/Norths Lower Hunter Manning | 25th March (Week 8) Upper Hunter | 26th March (Week 8) Lakes |
| | 31st March (Week 9) Central/Norths Lower Hunter Manning | 2nd April (Week 9) Upper Hunter | 2nd April (Week 9) Lakes |
| | 7th April (Week 10) Central/Norths Lower Hunter Manning | 8th April (Week 10) Upper Hunter | 9th April (Week 10) Lakes |

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Term 2 4 – 5.30pm | 5th May (Week 2) Central/Norths Lower Hunter Manning | 6th May (Week 2) Upper Hunter | 7th May (Week 2) Lakes |
| | 12th May (Week 3) Central/Norths Lower Hunter Manning | 13th May (Week 3) Upper Hunter | 14th May (Week 3) Lakes |
| | 19th May (Week 4) Central/Norths Lower Hunter Manning | 20th May (Week 4) Upper Hunter | 21st May (Week 4) Lakes |
| | 26th May (Week 5) Central/Norths Lower Hunter Manning | 27th May (Week 5) Upper Hunter | 28th May (Week 5) Lakes |
| | 2nd June (Week 6) Central/Norths Lower Hunter Manning | 3rd June (Week 6) Upper Hunter | 4th June (Week 6) Lakes |
| | PERFORMANCE: Celebrate! Choirs at the Civic- Concert 1 (Term 2, Week 7) Tuesday 10th June, 6pm Celebrate! Choirs at the Civic- Concert 2 (Term 2, Week 7) Wednesday 11th June, 6pm | | |

MUSIC LESSONS

Piano and guitar lessons available during the school day on Thursdays

Please contact Upper Hunter Conservatorium on 65414888,

or complete the online enrolment form via the below link:

[Student Enrolment Form](#)

Ask for lessons with Susan Langbein

Annual Epilepsy Day!

The Taylor Family is hosting their annual Epilepsy Day at Miller Park Hotel Branxton

Sunday March 16

From 12pm to 7pm

Everyone is welcome

Let's Make March Purple for Epilepsy

Muck challenge at 3pm

Raffles drawn at 5:30pm (includes Easter Egg prizes)

Merchandise is available at MPH (wristbands, pens, pins, stubbie holders, fluffy toys and even purple capes, so everyone can be Epilepsy Hero's.

Please pass on, as we would like everyone to know about Epilepsy, Medication, side effects, living with the condition and how our son, Morgan, passed from SUDEP (Sudden Unexpected Death Epilepsy)

Thank you Leigh, Darren & brother, Ethan Taylor



**EVERY 33 MINUTES
A LIFE IS TURNED
UPSIDE DOWN
BY EPILEPSY**

HELP US TURN THINGS AROUND

BY MAKING MARCH PURPLE



Epilepsy
Action
Australia



**MAKE MARCH
PURPLE
FOR EPILEPSY**

**PURPLE
MUCK
CHALLENGE**

The School Opal card

The School Opal card gives eligible students free or discounted travel between home and school using metro, train, bus, ferry and light rail services you nominate in your application.

Who can apply?

To be eligible for a School Opal card, students may need to live a minimum distance from their school:

Years K-2 (Infants)

There is no minimum distance.

Years 3-6 (Primary)

More than 1.6km straight line distance or at least 2.3km walking.

Years 7-12 (Secondary)

More than 2.0km straight line distance or at least 2.9km walking.



If you live too close to be eligible for free travel, you may still qualify for a School Term Bus Pass, which offers travel on buses between home and school at a discounted rate for the whole school term.

Who needs to apply

A new application is only required if the student has not had a School Opal card before.

If the student already has a School Opal card and is changing schools, campuses or home address, you will need to update their Opal card for the new school year before mid-December at transportnsw.info/ssts-update

How to apply

Applications for next year open at the start of Term 4 this year.

Step 1

Once the new school has confirmed your child's enrolment, complete the application at transportnsw.info/school-students

Step 2

The school endorses your application.

Step 3

Once Transport for NSW has approved the application, a School Opal card will be sent to the address provided on the application.



A parent or guardian must apply for students 15 years and under. Students 16 years and over can apply for themselves.



Better together

The School Opal card is only for travel to and from school. So it's a good idea to get a Child/Youth Opal card for travel after hours, on weekends or during school holidays.

Child/Youth Opal card benefits

- Concession fares across the Opal network
- Half-price travel after eight paid journeys each week*
- \$1 transfer discount for every transfer between modes (metro/train, ferry, bus or light rail) as part of one journey within 60 minutes from the last tap off*
- Set auto top up and link it to your credit or debit card so there's always enough value on the card to travel.

Find out more at transportnsw.info/opal or pick one up from an Opal retailer. To find a retailer in your area visit transportnsw.info/opal-retailers



Secondary students aged 16 and over can travel with a Child/Youth Opal card when carrying a Transport Concession Entitlement Card. To apply contact your school or institution.

* Excluding Sydney Airport station access fee.

Privacy

For information on how we handle personal information please refer to the Opal Privacy Policy at transportnsw.info/tickets-opal/opal/opal-privacy-policy and the School Pass Terms transportnsw.info/school-pass-terms



Rural and regional school travel

Apply online for free school travel in rural and regional NSW. You only need to complete one form, even for journeys using more than one operator.

Who can apply?

To be eligible for free school travel, students may need to live a minimum distance from their school:

Years K-2 (Infants)

There is no minimum distance.

Years 3-6 (Primary)

More than 1.6km straight line distance or at least 2.3km walking.

Years 7-12 (Secondary)

More than 2.0km straight line distance or at least 2.9km walking.

Who needs to apply

You only need to apply if the student has never been approved for free school travel before. Students in a shared parental responsibility situation (e.g. joint custody) should submit a separate application for both addresses.

How to update your details

You need to update student details online if the student is changing their name, address, school or campus, or their Transport operator. You can update them at transportnsw.info/ssts-update

Frequently asked questions

Does the approved free travel include travel outside school hours?

Approved free school travel is only for travel to and from school. So for travel after hours, on weekends or during school holidays, students will need to buy a ticket.

What if there's no public transport in my area?

In areas where there is no public transport, you may be able to get a subsidy for driving the student to school. For details, visit transportnsw.info/school-students

How do I apply if the student needs to travel from two addresses because the parents live separately?

Each parent (or the student if aged 16 or over) needs to apply separately for each address. The same minimum distances apply.

How to apply for free travel for the first time

You can apply for free school travel for next year from the start of Term 4 this year.

Step 1

Once you have enrolled your child at the new school, apply online by giving your home address and telling us which bus company the student needs to travel with between home and school. You can apply online at transportnsw.info/school-students

Step 2

The school then confirms to us that your details are correct.

Step 3

We will then work on your application. You will get an email confirming if the student is approved for free travel. If so, we will tell your local bus company who may send a school travel pass (if needed) to your school or, in some cases, the bus company will contact you directly about travel arrangements.

A parent or guardian must apply for students aged 15 years and under. Students who are 16 years and over must apply for themselves.

What my card will look like



Want to know more?

For more information, visit transportnsw.info/school-students

For help in your language, call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450.

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