



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Week 4 2025
Thursday 14th August

Rosary Park Catholic School

Station Street, Branxton NSW 2335

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

Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect

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.

IMPORTANT DATES

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

AUGUST		SEPTEMBER	
Fri 15 th	Taronga Zoo Excursion – Year 3	Wed 3 rd	Father's Day Stall
Mon 18 th	Naidoc Week Celebration and Liturgy	Thu 4 th	Lower Hunter Soccer Gala Day – Stage 3
Thu 21 st	Parish Mass 9:15am – Kinder, Year 3 and Year 6	Thu 4 th	Parish mass 9:15am – Year 1 and 4
Thu 21 st	Cessnock Library Infants visit 12 noon in the hall	Fri 5 th	Father's Day Celebration – 12pm
Wed 27 th	Assembly 9:15am – Year 4 Showcase	Wed 10 th	Assembly 9:15am – Year 2 Showcase
Thu 28 th	Lower Hunter Soccer Gala Day – Stage 2	Fri 12 th	PUPIL FREE DAY
Thu 28 th	ICAS Maths	Mon 15 th	Regional Public Speaking
		Mon 22 nd	Diocesan Public Speaking

Principal's Message

God, you are the source of our wisdom. We pray for wisdom and courage to do justice, to respond to what is wrong in the world by acting to make it right. We pray for wisdom and courage to grow in the unity of your Son, Jesus Christ.

CONFIRMATION / COMMUNION

Congratulations to all of the students making the First Communion or Confirmation last Sunday at St Brigid's Church. It was wonderful to be at the Mass and celebrate this occasion with you, Father Thomas, Father Andrew and Bishop Michael.

This is a beautiful and important step in your faith journey. Through these sacraments, you have received the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Body of Christ, which will guide and strengthen you throughout your life.

Remember that your faith is a lifelong journey of love, learning, and growing closer to God and your community. Keep nurturing your relationship with Jesus through prayer, kindness, and service to others. You are now called to be a shining light in the world, sharing God's love with everyone around you.

We are so proud of you and excited to see how your faith will continue to grow and inspire those around you.

God bless you always!

COMPETITION SUCCESS!

Congratulations to Willow Jackson, who recently won the Responsible Pet Ownership Sticker Design Competition, held by the Cessnock City Council.

For her efforts, Willow receives a sticker design on a special corflute, a \$50 gift card and she gets to meet the Mayor, which is quite a treat indeed.

As my mum used to say to me, "You can't win something you don't enter". Well done, Willow!

LATE SIGN IN

Please make sure that you come with your child to sign them in, if you are late bringing your child to school. We understand there are genuine reasons for being late. The responsibility the school has is to ensure that a parent / guardian signs children in.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation with this important legal requirement.

PRIME MINISTER SPELLING BEE

Thank you to the students who have submitted entries for the Prime Minister Spelling Bee. We will hold this, as a group, next Wednesday. I plan to do this at 12pm. All students who are entered are required to bring headphones, to plug into the laptops for the competition.

Entries for this close Monday. Please see Compass for further details.

STAFFING NEWS

A very short message to make everyone aware of some exciting news for Miss Groves (albeit very sad for us at Rosary Park). She was recently appointed to the Religious Education Coordinator position at St Columban's Mayfield, to commence at the START OF 2026.

We still have Miss Groves with us until the end of the year, so we will be a lot more sad then! Nikola has done an outstanding job here at Rosary Park and in the short time I have known her, I have witnessed her unwavering commitment to students, staff and the wider community. She definitely goes above and beyond for the Rosary Park community. On top of this, Miss Groves is a wonderful colleague, friendly, inviting and collaborative. She is an asset to our school and she will be terribly missed.

We recently held interviews for the Religious Education Coordinator role, recently relinquished for 2026 by Miss Gageler. We will update the Rosary Park Community when able.

PEG MEETING

Thank you to the parents who took time out of their busy schedules to attend the PEG Meeting on Wednesday. We generally discussed the sound system in the Hall and the issues it poses for

parents / visitors during assemblies and large gatherings. To this end, I have investigated different avenues to fix or replace this sound system. Things take time, so stay tuned (pardon the pun).

We also discussed the bell and possibly looking at incorporating music with the bell times, to make things a little more pleasant for students going to and from class and adding a bit more fun to the school. I have also made inquiries about this and will hopefully have some answers.

Thank you to the volunteers who have put their hand up to help out with the Father's Day Stall. We now need to look at the Colour Fun Run, so please reach out and email me at the school if you are able to assist in any way.

We are looking at ways to spend our gatherings from fundraising. To this end we would love some suggestions from our parent community. You are the people that go to such great efforts to fundraise and we want to hear from you. Please email the school if you have any worthwhile suggestions (no we can't build a pool or get new rooms built!) The teachers will also get a wishlist to compile in the coming weeks.

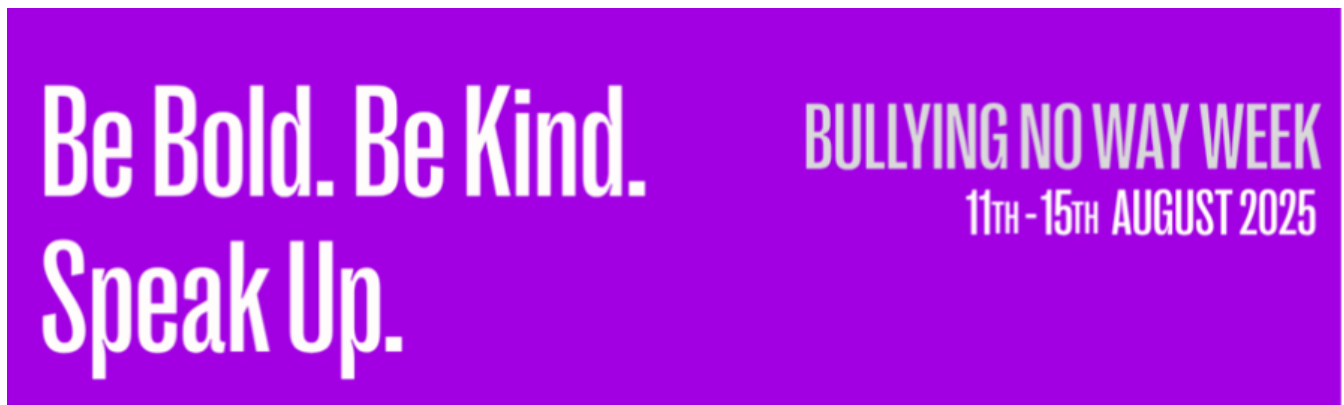
If you want to have a say, then come to the next meeting! The group is keen, enthusiastic and wants to hear your voice.

The next meeting is: **WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER from 10am AFTER ASSEMBLY.**

We will be discussing ways that we might best use the funds from the PEG. The meeting also features a Principal's report of the comings and goings at RPB, as well as any educational information you would like to hear. Please contact Mr Borg for any details.

Have a great week ahead,
Mr Ashley Borg
PRINCIPAL

Assistant Principal Message



National Bullying No Way Week

Bullying No Way: National week of action is 11th – 15th August – this week! The theme for this action is – **Be Bold. Be Kind. Speak Up!**

At Rosary Park we actively teach children about bullying, what it is, what it looks like, what to do about it and the importance of speaking up.

Our PBL rule this week is – I am Respectful

Our Behaviour focus is – I show justice when I listen to others and value our differences. (This had a focus on educating about Bullying)

This rule was explicitly taught in classrooms throughout the week. Children were rewarded with 'gotcha tokens' for displaying behaviours of inclusion and our Mercy awards in each class this week were given in relation to displaying justice and including everyone.

During the week we will be engaging students in meaningful discussions and activities aimed at promoting empathy, understanding and respect for diversity. We encourage families to take this opportunity to have open and honest conversations with your child about the impact of bullying and what they can do if they need support.

Understanding Bullying

Bullying is complex and difficult to define. It is necessary to understand exactly what bullying is and isn't, in order to take appropriate action.

A formal definition of bullying for Australian schools has been developed by the Safe and Supportive School Communities Working Group. This group includes all state, territory and federal education departments, as well as national catholic and independent schooling representatives. It states,

"Bullying is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening. Bullying can happen in person or online, via various digital platforms and devices and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert). Bullying behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time (for example, through sharing of digital records). Bullying of any form or for any reason can have immediate, medium and long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders. Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying."



[National definition of bullying for Australian schools](#) -

Bullying prevention for schools



What we know

Bullying is an **ongoing** and **deliberate misuse of power** in relationships through **repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour** that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm

Read the full definition at www.bullyingnoway.gov.au/understanding-bullying

Bullying

is a challenging social issue

should be taken seriously

is dynamic and complex

involves students in varying roles in peer groups

can be reduced and prevented

can have lasting negative impacts

requires multifaceted approaches

needs individual and group level responses

Effective practices

- Explicit teaching of **school values** and **positive behaviour**
- Fostering a **positive school climate**
- Integration of **social-emotional learning**
- Proactive support and teaching of **practical strategies**
- **Whole school** and **multifaceted** approaches
- **Involving students and families** in bullying prevention and policy
- Teaching **bystander strategies**
- Being prepared with **effective responses**

What works

Positive teacher-student relationships

- **Respect** for students
- **Shared understanding** of bullying
- Appreciation for **students' perspectives** about their social interactions
- **Consistent, calm and respectful** responses
- A focus on **lasting, positive solutions**

Positive family relationships

- Parenting that is **calm and firm**
- **Proactive discussions** at home about bullying
- Learning about **effective responses**
- A focus on **lasting, positive outcomes**
- **Collaboration** with the school

Sources can be found at: <https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/understanding-bullying/bullying-research>

Read more about effective ways to prevent bullying at www.bullyingnoway.gov.au

If you would like more information about bullying or you want to support your child to find more information you can contact me at school or look at Kids Helpline Online. Anyone can locate information, watch informative videos or chat safely online at - <https://kidshelpline.com.au/> or call 1800 55 1800.

Supporting Wellbeing in Children

As always at Rosary Park we focus on developing the whole child. That means a focus not only on the academic development of each child, but also supporting their wellbeing.

In classrooms teachers focus on having a growth mindset. This helps children to accept that tasks will sometimes be challenging, however with perseverance and effort, children can succeed beyond what they feel they are capable of today.



One important way to see this is through the power of “yet!” In class, when a child says, “I can’t do this,” we add the word “YET!”

Raising Healthy Minds App

This is a good App that can be downloaded onto your phone. It has useful content to support wellbeing and resilience in children. Short videos and suggestions are offered to answer questions you might have and help parents to best support their child at varying stages of development. The link to this app was shared with parents at our recent PEG presentation evening.



Parent Line NSW

Free Telephone Counselling for Parents and Carers of Children



If you have any questions about supporting your child's relationship building, resilience and mental health, please do not hesitate to reach out to the school.

[Parent Line NSW](#) is a free telephone counselling, support and referral service for parents and carers with children aged 0 to 18 who live in New South Wales. Parent Line is also an information service for professionals working with children and families.

Whether you need some help or just want someone to talk to, the qualified and experienced counsellors are available seven days a week to support you.

What Can I Talk to Parent Line NSW About?

The service receives calls from parents, carers and professionals who have questions or concerns about babies, children, or teenagers. Parent Line counsellors can help to support you, offering advice and guidance on concerns such as...

- Child and adolescent mental health
- Friendship issues and bullying
- Social media and increased screentime
- Anxiety in children
- Child and behaviour development
- Managing stress and anxiety
- Support during family separation
- School transitions
- Family violence

Call Parent Line NSW on 1300 1300 52 to access free and confidential counselling. Open Monday to Friday (9am to 9pm) and Saturday & Sunday (4pm to 9pm).

As always, if your child is struggling socially, or with any aspect of their school life, please reach out to your child's class teacher, myself or Ashley and we can discuss possible ways we can support their wellbeing.

Warm Regards,

Janelle Dixon
Assistant Principal

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

Congratulations to Our Sacramental Students

Last Sunday, 10th August, several of our students celebrated an important step in their faith journey, receiving the Sacraments of **Confirmation** and **First Holy Communion**. We were very blessed to have **Bishop Michael Kennedy** celebrate this special occasion with us.

We congratulate them on this special occasion and pray that they continue to grow in faith, hope, and love. Congratulations to Kenny A, Maici B, Leo B, Ayla B, Eleanor C, Charlie D, Stanley H, Addison K, Lleyton L, Frances M, Lauren M and Reeve W

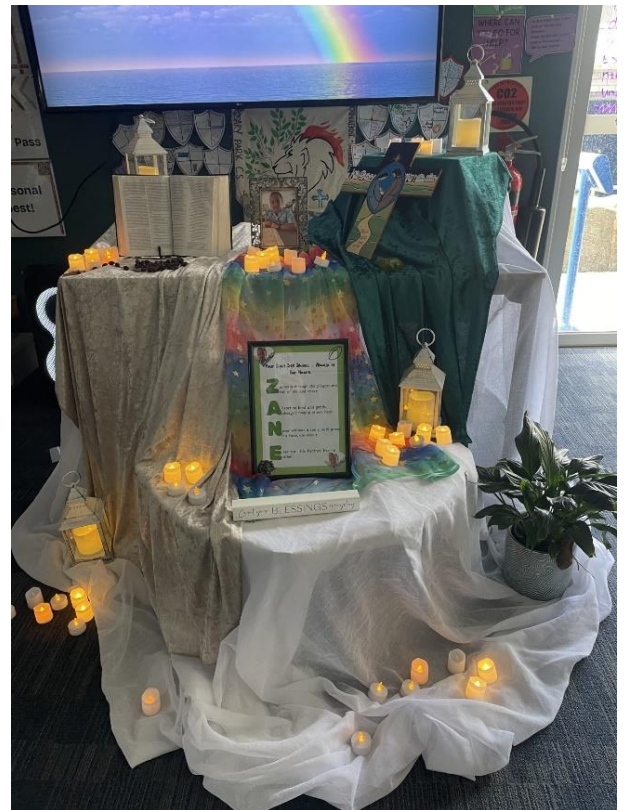
May the Holy Spirit guide them always.



Zane's Anniversary: Last Tuesday 5th August we held a liturgy with Year 6 children and families for the third anniversary of Zane Slomka's passing. It was a beautiful morning remembering all the wonderful memories we shared together and finishing off with a game of football which Zane always loved.

You may like to use the following reflection to spark a conversation with your child about remembering our loved ones in Heaven.

Bubbles are magical. They make us smile. They make us giggle. They remind us of simple joys and simple times. Bubbles are brief. They are here for just a moment, sparkling, bouncing, shimmering. Then having completed their task, they are gone. Left behind is the memory of the joy and the experience. So, as we watch these bubbles dancing in the air, let us be thankful for Zane's time on earth. While it makes us sad to not have him in our world, we can remember this sparkling life that bounced through your lives and left memories that will stay with us forever.



Parish Masses:

Parish Mass Times:

This term we have re-commenced attending our parish mass on a Thursday. Every grade will have the opportunity to attend Mass at 9.20am led by Fr Thomas. See below dates when classes are attending Mass. Parents are more than welcome to join us at the church on a Thursday.

Week and Date	Grade to attend Mass
21 st August Week 5	Kinder, Year 3 and Year 6
4 th September Week 7	Year 1 and Year 4

Religious Literacy:

On Monday 1st September Week 7 our Year 6 students will sit the Diocesan Religious Literacy test.

What is Religious Literacy?

If we define the word literacy using a dictionary, we will find the simplistic but accurate definition: literacy means the ability to read and write, but when we delve deeper into the word it means competence or knowledge of a particular subject, or a particular type of knowledge. So, in Religious Literacy we are talking about a knowledge of the core teachings, Scriptures, history and tradition of our Catholic faith.

When we ask what a religiously literate person is, this is what we are referring to. Even if students are not religious or have no religious affiliation, they can still be religiously literate. They can have a basic understanding of all the components that make up a religious tradition.

A religiously literate person will possess:

- a basic understanding of the history, central texts, beliefs, practices, and contemporary manifestations of several of the world's religious traditions as they arose out of and continue to be shaped by particular social, historical and cultural contexts.
- the ability to discern and explore the religious dimensions of political, social and cultural expressions across time and place.

Why is it important to be Religious Literate?

"To be well educated in today's world, students need to be aware of the religious diversity of our social context. This requires a level of religious literacy to enable them to function effectively in our current environment. Learning about religion can break down barriers, assist us to understand the social contract and encourage social cohesion. Students, therefore, need to learn about and from religion."

Professor Peta Goldberg Catholic Schools Guide February 6, 2013

How can parents and families help?

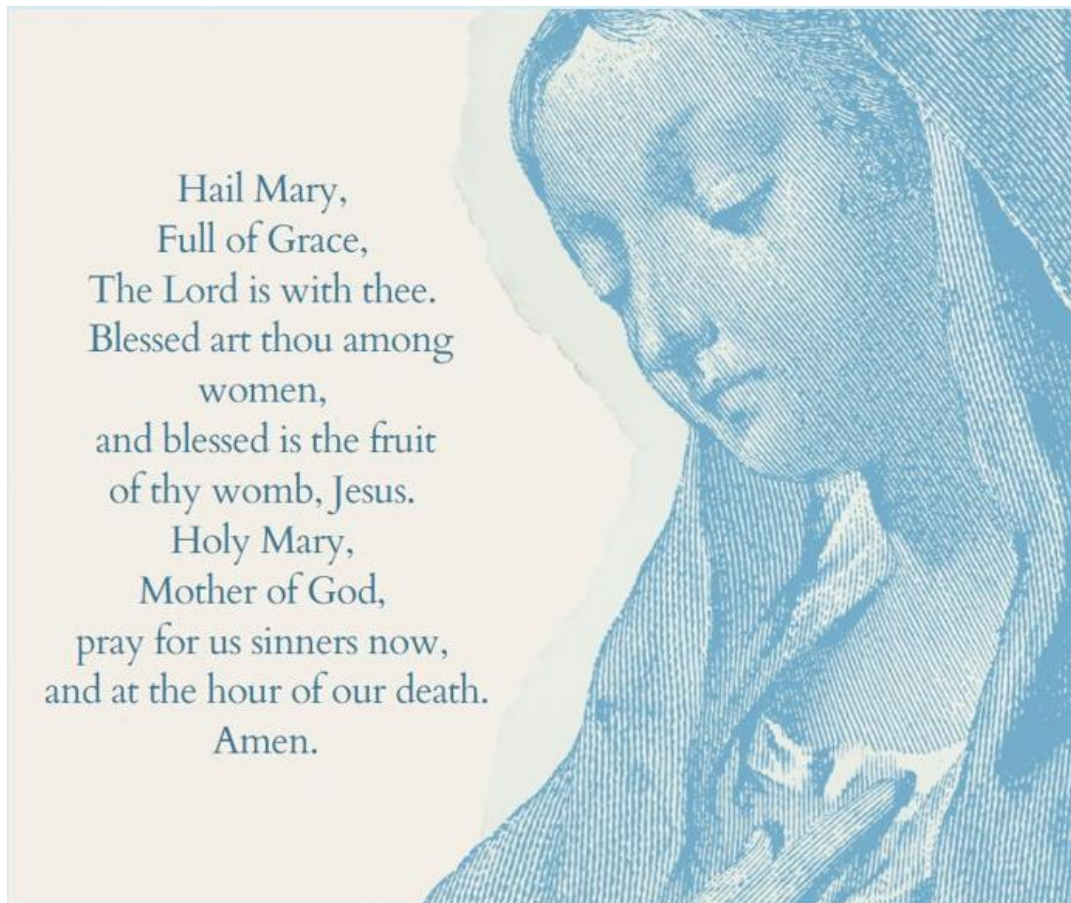
Students who feel Religious Education is important to them, are more likely to engage in lessons. Have conversations with your child around what they are learning about in Religion and help them connect ideas to the world around them. The following questions might help prompt some conversations:

1. What are you learning about?
2. How are you going?
3. How do you know?
4. How could you improve?
5. Where can you go for help?

The Assumption:

Today we celebrate the assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary which is celebrated on the 15th of August. The Assumption means that Mary was taken up into the glory of heaven not only with her soul but also with her body.

Together we pray the Hail Mary



Father's Day Celebrations

We warmly invite all fathers, grandads, pops, stepfathers, and significant male figures to join us for our Father's Day Sausage Sizzle and Games Afternoon on **Friday, 5th September**, starting at 1:00pm.

Please RSVP via the QKR app.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

God Bless,

Mackenzie Gageler
Religious Education Coordinator



Families are warmly invited to join us for the Rosary Park Christmas Concert on the evening of Thursday 4th December 2025.

Over the coming terms, students will work with the ASPIRE Team (Creative and performing arts team for the diocese) to create both an artwork and a performance piece for the concert.

Art Days:

- Thursday 21 August - Years 5, 6, and 1
- Thursday 4 September - Kinder, Year 2 and Year 4
- Monday 15th September - Years 1, 2, 3 and 5
- Thursday 25th September - Kinder, Years 3, 4, and 6

Performance Days:

- Wednesday 27 August - Years 3 and 4
- Thursday 11 September - Years 5 and 6

Infants students will participate in their performance workshop days in Term 4.

Weekly Awards

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

Week ending 8th August 2025 (Week 3)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Savannah I	Asha W	Hunter P
Kinder White	Logan D	Hannah P	Alani B
Year 1 Blue	Lewis S	Aster R	Blaine S
Year 1 White	Ayla D	Blair C	William H
Year 2 Blue	--	--	--
Year 2 White	--	--	--
Year 3 Blue	--	--	--
Year 3 White	Nic L	Brynn S	Dominic P
Year 4 Blue	Boston B	Allie D	Holly N
Year 4 White	Baxter A	Reni S	Louella T
Year 5 Blue	Emmett C	Linda P	Levi C
Year 5 White	Paige L	Liam D	Lucy S
Year 6 Blue	--	--	--
Year 6 White	--	--	--

Week ending 15th August 2025 (Week 4)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Jaxon D	Aydin A	Zoe S
Kinder White	Bryon R	Noah B	Emmett B
Year 1 Blue	Kylan K	Tyler T	Cleo P
Year 1 White	--	--	--
Year 2 Blue	--	--	--
Year 2 White	--	--	--
Year 3 Blue	Callum F	Stella G	Vinnie L
Year 3 White	--	--	--
Year 4 Blue	Jesse S	Matilda M	Ken P
Year 4 White	Ellesse S	Jayden M	Jack C
Year 5 Blue	Frances M	Lachlan B	James S
Year 5 White	Max K	Blake C	Ellie A
Year 6 Blue	Jesse C	Sophie C	Calen C
Year 6 White	Jema M	Stirling R	Ruby N

Principal's Awards

Jesse J, Indy M, Archie M, Reni S, Ellie Y, Maci H, Maici B x 2, Zaylee D J, Mason P, Claire D'A, Lincoln H, James L, Dominic P, Levi W, Hunter P, Lylah H, George A, Allie D, Hudson W, Alfred W, Bronson Q, Ayla D, Hallie D, William H, Luca C, Abbey A, Louella T.

THE MISSING DIARY - ASPIRE

Next date: Friday, 29 August 2025 | 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM



The Missing Diary

ASPIRE Young Actors Program

Presented by Catholic Schools Newcastle - Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Darren writes in his diary every day. He puts all his thoughts in there. What he thinks about people at school, the race for class president, even what he dreams about.. It comforts him to write things down until One day he can't find his diary and he feels like his voice has been taken away. Join Aspire' Young Actors program in this relevant original play about friendship, imagination and acceptance.

Add to Calendar



Date & Time

Friday, 29 August 2025 | 11AM & 6PM

Ticket Prices

Adult: \$32.00

Concession: \$22.00

Family (2 adults/2 children): \$90.00

Child: \$22.00

Student - School Group (Matinee Only):
\$7.50

For accessible bookings, please call the
PACC Box Office on (02) 4993 4266 or
email us at pacc@cessnock.nsw.gov.au

BUY TICKETS



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LITTLE ATHLETICS

SEASON 2025-26 IS
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LIVE MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT • WHIP CRACKING • MAGIC SHOW
MEDIEVAL REENACTMENT • FOOD & DRINKS • MINE TOURS

For more info visit www.brokevillagefair.com.au

  @brokevillagefair



**BULGA
COAL**
GLENORE





Game: Tricky Catches

Try this activity at home to challenge your coordination and practice the skill of catching.

You will need:

- 1 Different items to catch (e.g. a tennis ball, bean bags, frisbee, soft ball, large ball or a rolled up pair of socks).

How to play:

- 1 Find a space away from others and hold your throwing object.
- 1 Throw your object into the air and do a trick before catching it.

You could:

- See how many times you can spin in a circle
- See how many times you can clap
- Try to do a burpee
- Do a dance



Hunter New England
Local Health District

@HNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au
<https://goodforkids.nsw.gov.au>

Good for Kids acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land that we live and work on as the first people of this country, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN

Cricket Blast \$100

5-10 year olds, Program run during Term 4 2025

Junior Rego \$210

8+ year olds, Includes game and club shirt

Senior Rego \$170

Weekly Game Fees \$15, 1st Yr Apprentice \$10, Student \$5

Register before 31st August
to win your Rego fee back
One Senior and One Junior
Rego up for grabs



www.playhq.com

For more information message the
Greta Branxton United Cricket Club Facebook
page or email gbucricketclub@hotmail.com



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