



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 2 Week 10 2026
Thursday 24th September

Rosary Park Catholic School
 Station Street, Branxton NSW 2335
 P: (02) 4938 1541 E: admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au
 Website: www.branxton.catholic.edu.au

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

SEP		OCT	
Fri 25 th	Catherine McAuley – Mercy Day (Afternoon Activities)	Mon 26 th – Fri 30 th	Book Fair / Book Week
Fri 25 th	LAST DAY OF TERM 3	Wed 28 th	Stage 1 League Tag Day – (Years 1 & 2)
OCT		Fri 30 th	Regional Netball Gala Day
Mon 12 th	FIRST DAY OF TERM 4	Fri 30 th	Kinder Transition / Orientation Session 1
Thu 15 th	Regional Cricket Trial	NOV	
Fri 16 th	Our Lady of the Rosary Liturgy	Wed 4 th	Assembly – Year 4 Showcase – 9am
Wed 21 st	Assembly 9am – Year 2 Showcase	Fri 6 th	Kinder Transition / Orientation Session 2
Fri 23 rd	Father Thomas Farewell Liturgy – 9am	Fri 6 th	Regional Tennis, Basketball and Cricket Trials

Principal's Message

Prayer for the End of Term

Loving God, we come to the close of another term, and we give thanks for all that has taken place in our learning community.

Thank you for the opportunities to learn, grow, and build relationships with our peers and educators. We are grateful for the knowledge acquired, skills developed, and the joy and connection experienced.

We ask for your grace as we reflect on the challenges and successes of the past term. Help us to carry forward the lessons learned and the friendships we have made.

Bless our families and loved ones as we enjoy time together during the holidays. Grant us rest, rejuvenation, and moments of joy.

Protect us and guide us during this break, keeping us safe and healthy. Help us to return to the new term refreshed, renewed, and ready to continue our journey together.

Amen.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

A busy, yet successful term has greeted us to end Term Three for 2026. Thank you to all of the staff, students and families who have wholeheartedly supported the school in its endeavours. I wish you all a Happy and Safe break. We return OCTOBER 12 (MONDAY).

Congratulations!

To our Polding athletes, William and Annie, to Ally in Diocesan Public Speaking and to our National Aerobics Teams, a very big WELL DONE on a great effort since the last newsletter.

We are all very proud of the accomplishments you have made, from personal bests, to top ten finishes and just generally, having a go.

UNIFORMS

Uniforms will be SUMMER UNIFORM from now until the remainder of the year and into TERM 1, 2026. Please ensure that correct uniforms are worn at all times, including jewellery, headbands, etc. All hair that can be tied back, must be tied back.

LEADERSHIP SOCKTOBER

It was a real highlight of my last fortnight to spend some time with Ellie, Elke and Shahaan at the recent Socktober Liturgy, held at Charlestown Parish. The three leaders who attended showed poise, great manners and were very engaged in the liturgy, said by Bishop Michael and Father Tony Potts.

We are very lucky, alongside Sasha, to have these three young people leading our school this year. I look forward to the upcoming leadership days with this year's Year Five group and what they will be to the table for 2027.

STAFFING 2027 - KINDERGARTEN

Due to the changes in circumstances, which were communicated to all parents recently, via Compass, we cannot inform you of both members of staff, who will be teaching in Kindergarten in 2027.

I am pleased, however, to announce that Miss Grace Dever will be one of the Kindergarten Teachers for 2027.

Grace has previously taught in Kindergarten and has considerable experience in this area. She has outstanding teaching skills and excellent behaviour management, as well as a delicate balance of empathy, compassion and patience, which is greatly needed in Kindergarten! Miss Dever was very enthusiastic about being back in Infants and cannot wait to work with the new Kinder students next year.

WELCOME BACK MISS MORGAN

We welcome back Miss Chloe Morgan on Year 5 Blue after maternity leave. She will be with us Mon-Wed (week 1) and Mon-Tue (week2).

Miss Nellie Connolly will remain in Year 5 on the alternate days.

Have a happy and safe break with your children and your families.

Mr Ashley Borg
PRINCIPAL

Assistant Principal's Message

What a busy and exciting way to finish Term 3! This week alone has been filled with wonderful opportunities for our students, including the Kindergarten excursion, our Talent Quest, visits from our friends at Branxton Preschool, and today's Mercy Day celebrations. These events have showcased the enthusiasm, creativity and sense of community that make our school such a special place.

Throughout Term 3, students have embraced a wide range of learning opportunities, demonstrating enthusiasm, resilience and a commitment to achieving their personal best. From classroom learning and sporting events to cultural experiences and special celebrations, there has been much to acknowledge and celebrate.

A highlight of the term has been seeing students continue to live our school values through their positive interactions, willingness to challenge themselves and care for others. We are incredibly proud of the growth and achievements our students have shown across all areas of school life.

As we move into the holiday break, I would also like to remind students and families of the importance of speaking up when something is worrying them. Whether it is a friendship concern, a wellbeing issue, or something that doesn't feel right, we encourage students to report concerns to a trusted teacher or staff member. By letting us know early, we are better able to work alongside families to provide the support, guidance and care that every child deserves.

Thank you to our families for your continued partnership throughout the term. Your support, encouragement and involvement play an important role in the success of our students and our school community.

We wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday break and look forward to welcoming students back for what promises to be another exciting term of learning in Term 4.

Maryanne Hacker
Assistant Principal

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

Living the Mercy Charism at Rosary Park

The spirit of Mercy is deeply woven into the story of Rosary Park Catholic School, Braxton. Our school proudly draws inspiration from the life and mission of **Venerable Catherine McAuley**, who founded the Sisters of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland, in 1831. Catherine believed that education, compassion and service were powerful ways to bring God's love to others, particularly those experiencing hardship. Her vision continues to inspire Mercy schools throughout the world and remains at the heart of our school community today.

The Mercy Charism calls us to live Gospel values through compassion, hospitality, justice, service and respect. These values encourage students not only to learn about faith but to put faith into action through caring for others and making a positive difference in the world around them. At Rosary Park, the Mercy tradition is a living legacy that shapes our learning, relationships and commitment to serving our community.

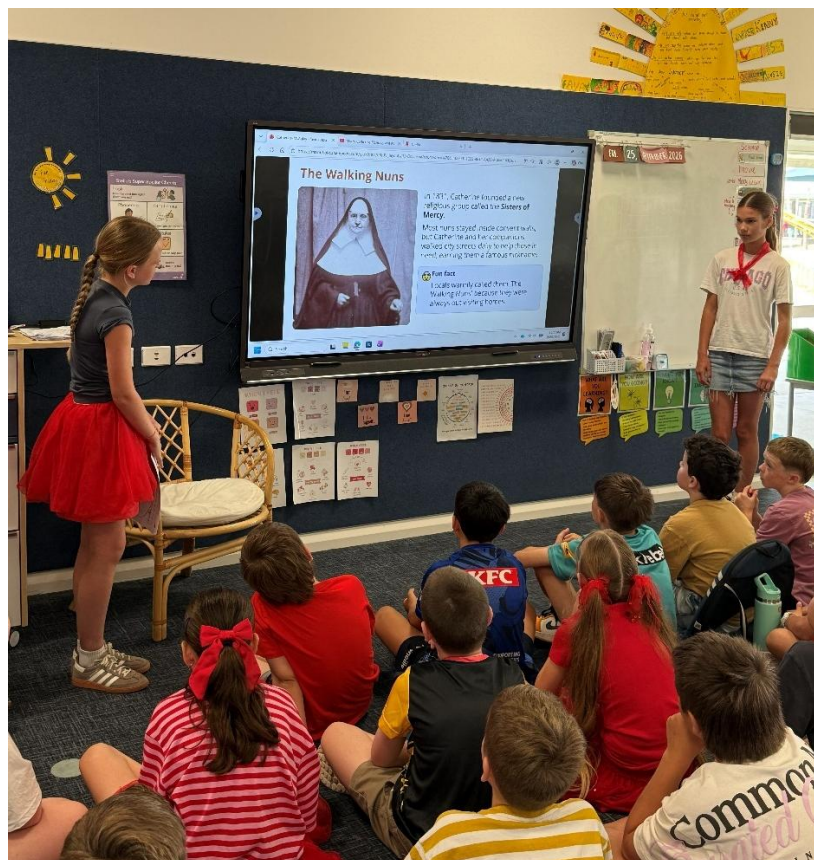
The influence of the Sisters of Mercy can be seen throughout the Hunter region. Their dedication to Catholic education helped establish neighbouring schools in Braxton and Greta, ensuring that generations of young people had access to faith-filled learning grounded in Gospel values. Their commitment to nurturing young minds and hearts has left a lasting impact on our local communities and continues to inspire our mission today.

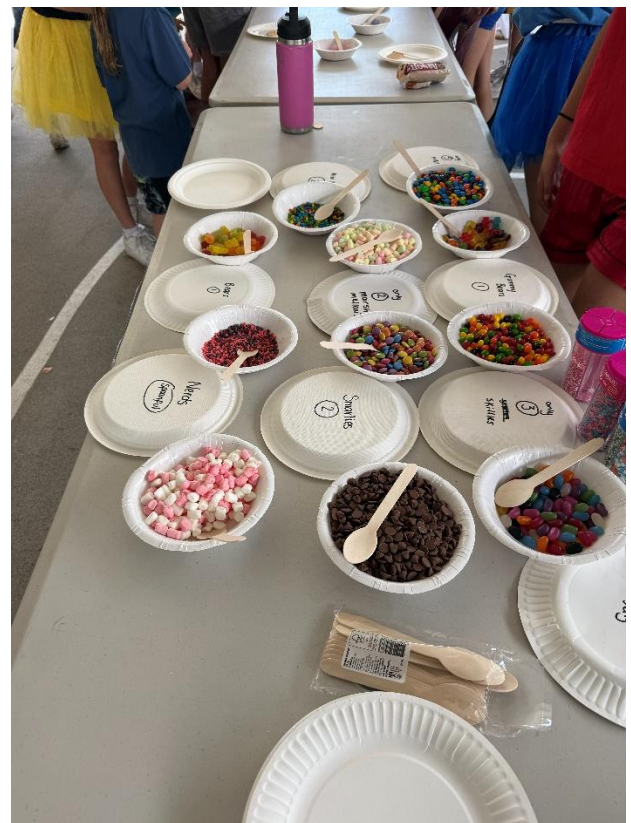
This week, Rosary Park students had the opportunity to celebrate and live out the Mercy value of **Service** during our Mercy Mission Day activities. Year 5 students stepped into leadership roles by designing and running a variety of stalls and activities for younger students. Through careful planning, teamwork and enthusiastic participation, they demonstrated that leadership is about serving others and helping build a stronger community.

The event showcased the wonderful leadership qualities emerging within our students. Year 5 students displayed initiative, responsibility, kindness and generosity as they encouraged participation and created a fun and welcoming atmosphere for all. Their efforts reflected Catherine McAuley's belief that small acts of love and service can have a profound impact on others.

Beyond the enjoyment of the day, the event played an important role in strengthening Mercy formation across the school. Students experienced firsthand what it means to lead with compassion and to use their gifts in service of others. Through these opportunities, Rosary Park continues to nurture young people who are inspired by the Mercy tradition and committed to making a difference in their communities.

As we continue our journey as a Mercy school, we give thanks for the example of Catherine McAuley, the legacy of the Sisters of Mercy, and the students who bring these values to life each day through their faith, leadership and service





Celebrating Our Lady of the Rosary and Giving Thanks for Father Thomas

As a school proudly bearing the name **Rosary Park**, we look to our patron, **Mary, Our Lady of the Rosary**, as a model of faith, prayer and discipleship. The title "Our Lady of the Rosary" reminds us of Mary's special role in leading people closer to Jesus through prayer and reflection on the mysteries of Christ's life. Throughout history, Catholics have turned to the Rosary as a source of strength, peace and guidance, making Mary a fitting patron for our school community.

Our Lady of the Rosary was chosen as our patron because the values she exemplified mirror the qualities we strive to nurture in our students each day. Mary's humility, courage, compassion and trust in God inspire us to be people who listen, serve and respond generously to the needs of others. As a Mercy school, these values align beautifully with the charism of Catherine McAuley and continue to guide our mission of educating the whole child in faith and service.

On **Friday, 23 October**, the Rosary Park community will gather to celebrate our annual **Feast Day Mass**, commencing at **9:15am**. We warmly invite all parents, carers, parishioners and members of our wider community to join us as we give thanks for the many blessings we have received throughout the year and celebrate the special place Mary holds in the life of our school.

This year's celebration will also provide an opportunity to acknowledge and farewell **Father Thomas** as he prepares to return home to India in November. Father Thomas has faithfully served our parish community for a number of years, offering spiritual guidance, pastoral care and unwavering support to our students, staff and families. His presence at school liturgies, Masses and special celebrations has strengthened the connection between our parish and school and helped nurture the faith lives of countless young people.

On behalf of the Rosary Park Catholic School community, we extend our sincere gratitude to Father Thomas for his dedicated service, kindness and commitment to the people of Braxton and the surrounding communities. We thank him for the many ways he has shared Christ's love with us and wish him every blessing as he begins this new chapter of his journey.

Following Mass, students will participate in a range of engaging Feast Day activities centred on **Our Lady of the Rosary**. These experiences will provide opportunities for prayer, learning, creativity and community building, helping students deepen their understanding of Mary's role in our faith while celebrating the unique spirit of Rosary Park. We look forward to sharing this special day together as a community united in faith, gratitude and joy.

Nicholas Redgrove
Religious Education Coordinator

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION NEWS



Weaving Workshop with Taneisha

Some of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls recently participated in a small group weaving workshop with Taneisha. During the workshop, Taneisha shared her knowledge about how weaving materials are made and taught us how to weave our own bracelets.

The girls enjoyed learning this traditional skill and had a wonderful time having a yarn together while creating their bracelets. It was a great opportunity to connect, learn, and celebrate culture in a supportive and enjoyable environment.

We would like to thank Taneisha for sharing her knowledge, stories, and skills with us. We are grateful for the opportunity to learn something new and to gain a deeper appreciation of this important cultural practice.



Year 4 Indigenous Seasonal Calendars

As part of their HSIE learning, Year 4 students investigated Indigenous seasonal calendars and their importance in sustainability. Students compared the ~~Mirrrowong~~ Mirrawong, Noongar and Awabakal seasonal calendars, as well as calendars from other Aboriginal Nations across Australia.

Through this learning, students discovered how Aboriginal peoples use observations of plants, animals and weather patterns to understand seasonal change and make sustainable decisions about caring for Country. The unit highlighted the value of Indigenous knowledge and its ongoing importance in helping us understand and care for our environment.



Year 4 Bush Tucker

Year 4 students recently participated in a Bush Tucker tasting lesson as part of their HSIE and English learning. Students explored native foods including wattle seed, finger lime, lemon myrtle, native rosella and kangaroo, learning about their cultural significance, sustainable use and nutritional benefits.

Using their senses, students described the appearance, aroma, texture and taste of each food and then used this rich vocabulary to enhance their creative writing. The lesson helped students develop descriptive language while learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and sustainable food practices.

A special thank you to Oz tukka, where most of the bush foods were purchased. Oz tukka products are available online and at the Newcastle Farmers Market each Sunday, providing a great opportunity for families to explore Australian native foods at home.





School Sports Aerobics – Nationals

What an incredible achievement for our School Sports Aerobics teams, who proudly represented our school at the National Championships!

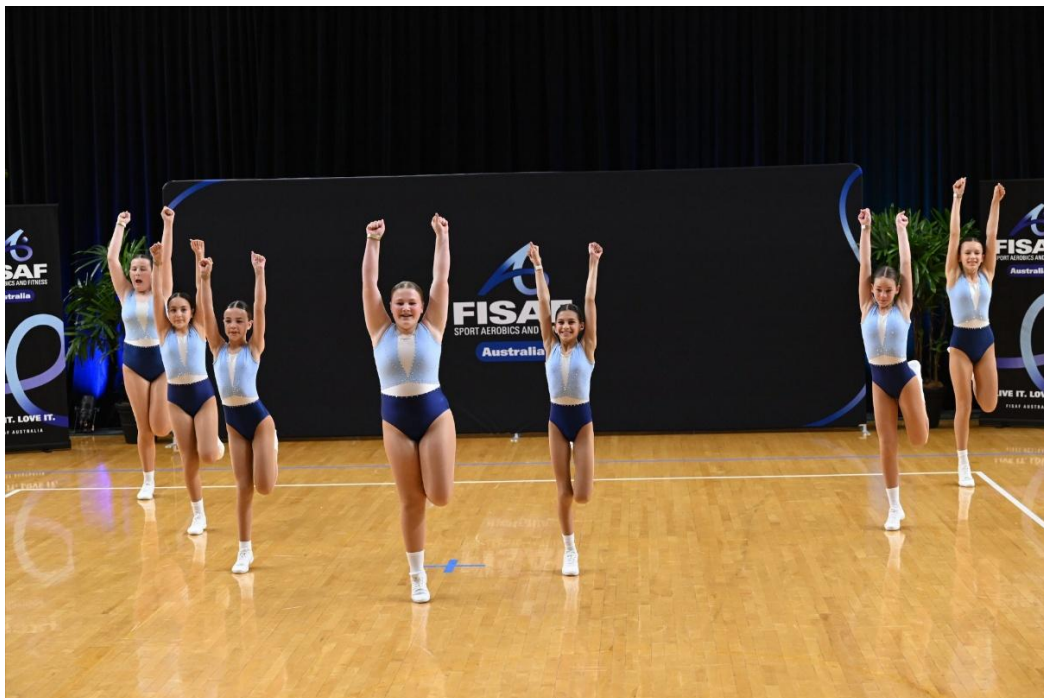
A huge congratulations to our **Branxton Believers, Branxton Boot Scooters, Branxton Blazers and Branxton Bosses** for their outstanding performances. Each team showed incredible commitment, teamwork, energy and sportsmanship, showcasing the months of hard work and dedication that went into their routines.

We are so incredibly proud of the way our students supported one another and represented our school on the national stage. What an amazing experience and achievement for all involved!

- Miss Graham, Miss Dever, Miss Edwards and Ms G







Weekly Awards

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

Week ending 18th September 2026 (Week 9)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Luke L	Navy s	Isla C
Kinder White	--	--	--
Year 1 Blue	Harvey S	Jaxon K	Zoe S
Year 1 White	Asha W	Hannah P	Alex H
Year 2 Blue	Sophia S	Dustin P	Harvey D
Year 2 White	--	--	--
Year 3 Blue	--	--	--
Year 3 White	Amelia H	Baylee H	An N
Year 4 Blue	Scarlett C	Aiden L	Lleyton L
Year 4 White	Leo B	Theo C	Vinnie L
Year 5 Blue	Minh B	Jayden M	Noah K
Year 5 White	Mason C	Stanley H	Inidigo G
Year 6 Blue	--	--	--
Year 6 White	--	--	--

Week ending 25th September 2026 (Week 10)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Edan S	George B	Kai B
Kinder White	Isabelle R	Abbigail N	Jaxon A
Year 1 Blue	Ivy E	Jimmy S	Toby N
Year 1 White	--	--	--
Year 2 Blue	--	--	--
Year 2 White	--	--	--
Year 3 Blue	--	--	--
Year 3 White	James D	Stella M	Claire D'A
Year 4 Blue	Tommy E	Axl D	Tristan C
Year 4 White	Aerith J	Harley R	Dom P
Year 5 Blue	--	--	--
Year 5 White	Anderson P	Franklin W	Cruz J
Year 6 Blue	--	--	--
Year 6 White	Luke H	James S	Ellie A

Principal's Awards: Frances M, Lauren M, James D, Jaxon D, Isla C, Isabelle S, Archie M, Eva N, Harvey S, Maci H, Brianna D, Zoe C, Teren G, Navy S, Tyler T, Elias C, Asha W, Willow J, Leo B x 4, Hannah C, Levi W, William H, Noah H, Ari P



BECOMING RESILIENT AND READY TOGETHER

What does your community need to strengthen community connection, capacity and preparedness, for shocks and stresses, including natural hazard emergencies?

Cessnock Council has launched the *Becoming Resilient and Ready Together Project*, with the goal of developing a Cessnock Community Resilience Plan.

This Plan aims to:

- Assist our communities to become better connected;
- Improve community preparedness for challenges, shocks and stresses, including emergencies and natural hazards;
- Help build safer, stronger and more resilient communities.

Help us identify the most effective strategies/initiatives to increase connection within our communities, implement effective risk reduction actions, improve preparedness and build resilient communities.

Add your knowledge and experiences to the interactive map and provide feedback on local risks and levels of preparedness via our Community Resilience Survey.



Take part in the survey by scanning the QR code or visit
[together.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/
becoming-resilient-and-ready-together](https://together.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/becoming-resilient-and-ready-together)



Lunchbox Heroes

Packing a healthy lunchbox doesn't have to be complicated. Think of each food as a "hero" with an important job to do!

The Energy Hero:

Wholegrain bread, wraps or crackers provide the fuel children need to stay active throughout the school day.

The Stay-Full Hero:

Cheese, yoghurt, eggs, tuna or hummus help keep little tummies satisfied until home time.

The Crunch Hero:

Carrot sticks, cucumber, capsicum or cherry tomatoes add colour, and are great for crunchy veg breaks during class.

The Fresh Hero:

Seasonal fruit is naturally sweet, easy to pack and a great choice for recess or lunch.

The Hydration Hero:

A refillable water bottle is the best drink to help children stay refreshed and ready to learn.

When every hero has a place in the lunchbox, packing healthy lunches becomes quick, easy and delicious!



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.





BRANXTON

— COMMUNITY HALL —



School Holiday

SILENT DISCO

with Cessnock Library



Thursday 8th October



6pm to 7.30pm



Do come along and enjoy!

\$5

ENTRY FEE
PER CHILD



Contact Cessnock Library
to book in





THURSDAY NIGHTS AT 6PM

Commences 15/10/2026

Junior Dolphins to Opens.

All ages & abilities.

15m, 25m, 50m, 100m

& 200m races.

BBQ dinner available.

Fun for all the family!



Singleton Amateur Swimming Club

Est. in 1928

Enquires to:

singletonswimming@hotmail.com

Facebook:

Singleton Amateur Swimming Club

Register online:

<https://swimcentral.swimming.org.au>

Create the primary account under parent name in Step 1 and then follow the prompts!

Closer to the season commencing you will be contacted by committee with further information.

MEMBERSHIP PRICING 2026/2027

Full Swimmer \$150

Essential for club members who want to compete at club nights and at external meets & competitions. Race at area, state & national competitions. Added benefits.

Club Swimmer \$130

For swimmers who only want to compete at Singleton Swimming Club nights. For those who are not yet ready or not wanting to swim at inter-club meets.

Second Claim \$50

For swimmers who have registered as a Full Swimmer with another club but also want to swim at Singleton Swimming Club nights.

Dry Membership \$49.99

One parent per child registered to be a dry member. Also for committee members and those wanting to be accredited as a Swimming Australia Technical Official.

MY CHILD IS A PRESCHOOLER... WHY JOIN?

Build water confidence

Extra time in the pool helps consolidate the skills learned during weekly swimming lessons.

Learn to have a go

Junior Dolphins can get their first experience of racing in an environment where participation is what matters and they are cheered on by the older kids.

Build independence

Following instructions, listening for the whistle, and waiting to be called for marshalling are little achievements that build confidence.

MY CHILD IS IN PRIMARY SCHOOL... WHY JOIN?

Race yourself, not others

Children learn to aim for a personal best and experience the satisfaction of seeing their own times improve.

Develop a growth mindset

Persistence and gradual improvement teach children that effort makes a difference.

Build friendships and belonging

Spend Thursday nights with families from across the Singleton community.

MY CHILD IS A TEENAGER... WHY JOIN?

Maintain fitness in the off-season

Swimming in the summer could help maintain fitness and strength alongside other sports or interests.

Goal-setting, discipline, resilience

Chase PBs, improve technique, stay persistent, deal with set-backs, challenge yourself - all skills that transfer beyond the pool.

Stay connected

Be part of a positive community environment.

BONUS FOR PARENTS!
BBQ DINNER MEANS NO COOKING ON THURSDAY NIGHTS!

SYDNEY ACADEMY OF CHESS
presents

2026 MAITLAND CHESS CHALLENGES

TENAMBIT COMMUNITY HALL



ONE DAY CHESS TOURNAMENTS FOR KIDS UNDER 18 WHO
WANT TO HAVE FUN AND CHALLENGE THEMSELVES!

- DATES** Wednesday 8th April (Autumn)
Wednesday 8th July (Winter)
Wednesday 30th September (Spring)
- VENUE** Tenambit Community Hall
Tyrell St nr Kenneth St, Tenambit NSW
- COST** \$40 per player
\$50 if paid after 5:00pm the day before tournament
- TIME** 10:45am Check-in
11:00am Round 1 begins
1:30pm Lunch break
3:15pm Prize-giving
There are short breaks between the rounds.
- FORMAT** These tournaments are individual and not team events. The tournaments are restricted to players under 18 years of age. The tournaments are 7-round 'Swiss' competitions. This means that all players play 7 games and no-one is 'knocked out' of the tournaments.
- The time limit is 15 minutes per player per game.
These tournaments will be JCL rated.



PRIZES

Trophies will be given for:
1st Place, 2nd Place,
3rd Place

Medals will be awarded for age prizes to be decided by the arbiter on the day.

- ✓ All participants receive an electronic certificate of participation

Players are eligible for only one prize.

To enrol please pay online with your credit card or debit card at
www.sydneycademyofchess.com.au/payment
enter the code **6ZZN1CXF79**
and fill in the electronic form, with your child's details.

SYDNEY ACADEMY OF CHESS
presents
**2026 CENTRAL COAST
HOLIDAY COACHING CLINICS**



IMPROVE YOUR CHESS SKILLS AND
COMPETE FOR MEDALS
IN A FUN TOURNAMENT!

Address: East Gosford Progress Hall
10 Henry Parry Drive, East Gosford NSW

Central Coast Holiday Coaching Clinics



When: Friday 10th April, Friday 10th July and Friday 2nd October
Each clinic will run from 9:00am - 1:00pm



What: Chess lessons plus a fun tournament

Cost: \$60 per workshop

\$70 if paid after 5:00pm the day before Clinic



Children will be given lessons according to the level of the group - Rookie players will learn some basic strategies and checkmating patterns, and Intermediate/Advanced players will learn and practice some more complex tactics and traps to use in their games.

Medals will be awarded for the top scorers in the fun tournaments.

There will be a couple of short breaks during the day, so each child is encouraged to bring along some food and drink.

To enrol please pay online with your credit card or debit card at

www.sydneyacademyofchess.com.au/payment

enter the code **SU00YMB34P** and fill in the electronic form, with your child's details.



SYDNEY
ACADEMY OF CHESS

Sydney Academy of Chess Pty Ltd

Sydney Chess Centre, Level 2, Suite 2, 1-17 Elsie Street, Burwood NSW

P: 9745 1170 PO Box 2034, Burwood North NSW 2134

E: enrolment@sydneyacademyofchess.com.au W: sydneyacademyofchess.com.au



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