



### **Term 1 Wrap-up**

Term 1 has flown by with the holidays commencing at the end of next week.

As always, the term has been a busy one.

Our students are off to a flying start, settling well into their classes and highly engaged in their learning. By the end of next week, all three sporting carnivals will be complete; that's an impressive achievement in itself.

The teachers are very pleased with the attitude and application of their students. Professional learning is well underway with both The Resilience Project and Explicit Direct Instruction courses started.

The P&C have also been working hard and are now preparing for the Easter Hat Parade next Friday, the election BBQ on 3 May and the Mother's Day Stall on 6 May.

Thank you to Mrs Flynn and Mrs Jacobs for relieving as Principal and Assistant Principal respectively, throughout Term 1. Mrs Morton will return full-time from next week.

Thank you, everyone for ensuring our school is striving to be the best it can be by working together and supporting each other.

### **Congratulations, Mr Formica!**

Mr Formica (Cedar 3) is currently on paternity leave due to the birth of his second child, Florence on 25 March. Mr and Mrs Formica and Flynn are very excited to have Florence join their family. Congratulations to the Formica family from all of us at Coniston!



### **Cross-country Carnival**

Congratulations to all our runners in last week's Cross-country Carnival. It was wonderful to see so many parents at the event, cheering on the students. One of the highlights was the contribution of our House Leaders who spoke, recorded and ran with the younger students then their own events – great work! Congratulations, Miss Aroney for organising such a successful carnival! (More information later in the newsletter.)

*Have a wonderful week and holidays!* (Students resume Wednesday 30 April 2025)

### **Coming Events**

#### **Week 11**

- Tuesday 8 April 8:30 – 11am: Playgroup
- Tuesday 8 April: Illawarra South-east Performing Ensemble – school funded
- Thursday 10 April: Athletics Carnival
- Friday 11 April 9:15am: Easter Hat Parade
- Friday 11 April: Last day of Term 1

#### **Term 2 Week 1**

- Monday 28 April: First day for staff
- **Wednesday 30 April: First day for students**
- Friday 2 May: **Photo Day – green shirt**
- Saturday 3 May: Election voting (8am – 6pm) & P&C BBQ

#### **Term 2 Week 2**

- Tuesday 6 May 9 – 11am: Playgroup
- Tuesday 6 May: P&C Mother's Day stall
- Wednesday 7 May: Stage 3 Science Space Excursion
- Friday 9 May: District Cross Country Carnival

### **Dates for your diary**

- Monday 19 May 2:15pm: Whole school assembly – 5/6A (Banksia 3) class item

### **What's overdue?**

- Friday 28 March: Stage 3 Berry Camp EOI and deposit
- Thursday 3 April: Athletics Carnival permission and payment

### **What's due?**

- Wednesday 30 April: Stage 3 Science Space Excursion

## Attendance – Every day counts!

The attendance graph below is for the period 20 March – 2 April 2025. The red line is the NSW Department of Education's expected 95% attendance marker.

Please be aware that Eid al-Fitr has affected our attendance rates this fortnight. Eid al-Fitr was celebrated on **sundown of Sunday, March 30th ending at sundown on Monday, March 31st**. Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan (month-long fasting) and the beginning of a feast that breaks the fast.

# Congratulations, Kinder & Year 1 - 93% attendance!



## Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

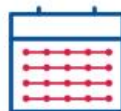
and years over their school life

**1** day per fortnight



=

**4** weeks



=

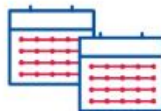
Over **1** year missed

**1** day per week



=

**8** weeks



=

Over **2.5** years missed

## 🌸 🐰 Easter Hat Parade reminder 🐣 🌸

Dear Families,

Hop to it! 🐣 Our Easter Hat Parade is just around the corner, and we can't wait to see your creative masterpieces shine! It's time to get crafty and make an Easter hat that's as bright and fun as the season itself! Each class will also be performing a dance on the day. Parents and carers are welcome.

When: Friday 11 April

Where: Under the Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA). Remember to bring a hat.

Time: 9:15am

🎨 Get Creative at Home! 🎨

Here's your chance to let your imagination run wild! Use what you have at home to design a spectacular hat. You can go for a classic Easter theme with bunnies and chicks or choose something totally unique that reflects your interests.

Some ideas to get you started:

- **Bunny Ears:** Cut out some fluffy bunny ears from cardboard and decorate them with cotton balls or colourful paper.
- **Chick Chic:** Create a bright yellow hat adorned with feathers and googly eyes for that cute chick look!
- **Spring Fling:** Use flowers, ribbons, and any colourful decorations to make a vibrant spring-themed hat.
- **Recycled Wonders:** Transform old newspapers, magazines, or even plastic bottles into stunning headpieces!

Remember, the more colourful and imaginative, the better! 🌈 ✨

Let's make this Easter Hat Parade an egg-cellent celebration filled with creativity and fun! We can't wait to see all the wonderful hats on parade day!

Happy crafting!

Kate Rodgers  
Coordinator



## SRC Fundraising

### Easter Basket Guessing Competition

The SRC are hosting an Easter basket guessing competition. **Guess the number of the eggs in the basket of goodies for only 50 cents a guess.** Guesses can be made each day, during the first half of play time. Find the SRC representatives on the back field to pay and register your guess. Guess as many times as you like! The winner of the basket will be announced in Week 11 at the Easter Hat Parade. All proceeds will go towards future SRC student activities.



## Cross-country

Last Thursday, we had a wonderful morning running at the school Cross Country Carnival. Students younger than 8 years ran a lap around the oval, 8-10 years ran 2km (4 laps of the school) and 11-12 years ran 3km (6 laps of the school). We loved to see everyone cheering and supporting their houses. You all looked so bright in red, blue and yellow. Well done to everyone who participated in their races and for trying your hardest. Thank you to our fellow Sport Captains for running the carnival so smoothly and to the families who came to watch and support. Congratulations to students who qualified to represent our school at the District Carnival in Term 2. Miss Aroney will send a note home shortly for these students. We can't wait for the Athletics Carnival next week. From your **Emu Captains**, Lyla and Oliver.



## Stage 3 Excursion – Art of Place

Last week, Stage 3 enjoyed an exciting excursion to Stuart Park. They engaged in a series of enriching learning experiences linked to Creative Arts, connecting them to nature and fostering their creativity.

*Winshar*

My favourite thing I did at the art excursion was when we went for a walk to the rock pools and looked for rocks to make Ephemeral art, which is art using natural objects like rocks and seashells.

*Lyla*

My favourite activity was when we did the water colour. We went out into this area with a big Norfolk pine tree with little trails to grab a little piece of nature. We had some small kits, which included a pencil, a fine line pen, a little bottle of water, a sponge, water brush and, of course the water colours. I grabbed a piece of a Norfolk pine leaf. It was a very light peach colour then faded into a dark brown. We sat down and we drew all the little details and then used watercolour. Continuing from that we could outline what we did. I didn't get enough time to finish my outline. At the end, we wrote how we drew our amazing nature creations.

*Cheyenne*

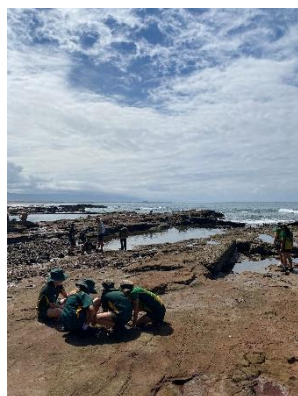
At the lagoon we did grounding. It was a very great experience for me - it was the best thing of the excursion. We got to feel things, smell things, look at things and more. There were things that were spiky, soft, and sharp.

*Lola*

My favourite activity was the close up nature drawing. I liked it because we got to go down a little track to find stuff to draw. I chose a Banksia flower. But before we got to draw and paint we had to walk to this really cool spot near the lagoon. I also really liked doing the magnifying glass activity. What we had to do is get a magnifying glass and find an object to really look at the items and then we drew it. I chose a sand ball. It was a bit hard to draw but it was still really fun.

*Emma M*

We went to the lagoon and did some grounding - which means getting to know your environment better. For example, we took 6 deep breaths, we looked around for 5 different things, we listened for sounds and what they smelled like too! After we were more aware of our surroundings by the grounding activity we got to drawing something natural in our art journals. It was a really fun activity especially with the watercolours. We got to do a scavenger hunt on a sheet of paper so we could draw the things we found and there were so many things to go find! For example, we had to find something fuzzy, something that was a primary colour, something with light and dark on it and so much more.



## Annual Report 2024

Our 2024 Annual Report is now complete and published on our school website:

### [2024 Coniston Public School Annual Report](#)

The Annual Report evaluates our 2024 strategic plan and provides information about future directions. Towards the end, are the results of the satisfaction surveys for parents/carers, students and staff; these results are definitely worth a read. Thank you, Mrs Flynn and the team that prepared this report.

## Library News



The 2025 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge has started at Coniston PS and all the students are excited! The reading challenge is an initiative which aims to develop a love of reading for leisure and pleasure. It encourages students to engage with quality literature and promotes the benefits of reading. The Premier's Reading Challenge involves all students in K-6.

K-2 classes will share Premier's Reading Challenge books with their teachers and will complete the reading challenge in class at school. If students in Years 3-6 wish to participate in the reading challenge they need to read 20 Premier's Reading Challenge books independently and enter them online on the Premier's Reading Challenge Student Site. The PRC student site can be accessed through the Student Portal.

Please find the link below:

<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/studentExperience.html#/>

All students have been introduced to the reading challenge in library lessons and will be supported throughout the challenge at school. Students in Years 3-6 were given an instruction sheet to take home to help when entering books online. Please see me if your child needs an instruction sheet to follow.

The 2025 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge finishes at the end of August.

Happy reading!

*Mrs Smith*  
(Teacher Librarian)



## Camp Australia (Out-of-school hours care) Update

Unfortunately, Camp Australia will close its doors to before school care from next term due to a lack of enrolments. Before school care has been a valuable resource for some of our families and we are sad to see this happen. Vacation care was cancelled last year for the same reason. Thank you to Jaide and the team for all you have done to support our students in the morning.

The good news is that after-school-care will still be running! If you are looking for care after school, you can enrol or express an interest at any time.

<https://campaustralia.com.au/>

## Lost Property

We have had a pair of glasses (black/green) and a watch with floral band handed into the office. If one of these belongs to your child please send them to the office to collect.



## Pens/markers recycling

### Do you like to recycle?

Do you have any old pens or markers that do not work anymore?

At Coniston PS, we care about our earth.

Instead of throwing out all your pens etc, you can now bring them in and place them into the Oficeworks box. Once filled, these will then be taken back to Oficeworks and our school will go into a draw to win a voucher!! How cool is that?

Pens, biros, textas and whiteboard markers are all accepted. You will find the box in the office. There will also be one in Mrs Hill's classroom. Every marker makes a difference!

Thanks everyone!!

Mrs Hill



## P&C News

Coniston Public School P&C Association would like to thank all of our families for their support of our showbag fundraiser. The most popular bags were the Science and KitKat showbags – are your children looking forward to receiving theirs next week?

### Community Building Partnership Grant

The P&C have applied for funding through the State Government's Community Building Partnership grant in the hopes that we can secure enough for the installation of play equipment at the school. Unlike our neighbouring schools which have access to multiple play structures, we haven't had any for a number of years due to drainage issues, so this project is a priority for the P&C.

The criteria for funding is that our project must meet the community's needs - so your support in this matter could make a huge difference. You can contact our State MP Paul Scully's office on **(02) 4226 5700** or at **wollongong@parliament.nsw.gov.au** to let him know that our kids - and all kids - are deserving of inclusive and first-rate facilities.

### Election Sausage Sizzle & Bake Sale Volunteers Required

The P&C will be holding a sausage sizzle and bake sale on Saturday, May 3. Do you have a couple of hours to spare to help us raise funds towards additional resources for the school? Duties include setting up, packing down, cooking, serving, assisting with baked goods and raffle ticket sales, taking orders from customers. Visit the URL below to register for a time slot – no login or account creation required – or email your availability to [conistonps.pandc@gmail.com](mailto:conistonps.pandc@gmail.com)



<https://signup.com/go/VBoMCyF>



# SchoolEnews

Schools send alerts and notes, newsletters, digital permission notes, events and more.



## How to install School Enews

### iPhone and iPad Users

- 1) Press App Store icon on your device
- 2) Press Search and type in "School Enews"
- 3) Press "Get", the app will download
- 4) Press "Open" and accept "push alerts"
- 5) Search for your school

### Android Users

- 1) Press Play Store icon on your device
- 2) Press magnifying glass and type in "School Enews"
- 3) Press "Install", the app will download
- 4) Press "Open"
- 5) Search for your school

### Configure Push Alerts - ESSENTIAL TO GET NOTIFICATIONS

- 1) Press "Settings / Cog" icon
- 2) Turn off the lists you don't want

### Other Smartphones and Tablets

Visit <http://app.schoolenews.com> for more apps



*School Enews delivers news directly to parents!*

## Subscribe for Email Updates

- 1) Visit your [www.coniston-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](http://www.coniston-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)
- 2) Scroll down to Newsletters and Notes
- 3) Under the "Subscribe" heading, tick on appropriate lists
- 4) Enter in your name and email address.
- 5) Click Subscribe (IMPORTANT: An email will be sent to your email address, you MUST click the "Activate Now" inside this email that is sent to you)

# Playgroup



Communities & Justice



ILLAWARRA MULTICULTURAL SERVICES  
advancing participation

# PLAYGROUP



## Multicultural Supported Groups

مجموعات اللعب المدعومة متعددة الثقافات

လူမျိုးပေါင်းစုံ ကလေးကစားခိုက်

Muhimu Watoto Dada Kikundi



**Mondays**

**9:30 AM-11:30 AM**

IMS Office - Level 1, 67-69  
Market St, Wollongong

**Tuesdays**

**9:00 AM-11:00 AM**

Coniston Public School  
123 Auburn St, Coniston

**Thursdays**

**10:00 AM-12:00 PM**

Wollongong West Public School  
442 Crown St, Wollongong

**ALL WELCOME!**

\*The groups are run in English

Contact Paulina to register your interest  
Mobile: 0431 123 389  
Email: [ppesavento@ims.org.au](mailto:ppesavento@ims.org.au)



# Outside School Hours Care at Coniston Public School OSHC



At our OSHC service, we're dedicated to providing a safe, fun, and enriching environment for your children for before and after school care. Our experienced staff offer a range of exciting activities, from arts and crafts to outdoor games, ensuring that your child has a chance to relax, learn, and make new friends.

With a focus on care, creativity, and community, we give parents peace of mind knowing their children are in a supportive and caring space. Join us today and let your child explore, grow, and thrive with us!

Our passionate staff located in the hall from the hours of 6:30am – 8:30am & 3:00pm- 6:00pm are here to answer any questions you may have, share the exciting activities we offer, and ensure you feel confident and comfortable with our OSHC service. We're always happy to show you around and discuss how we can support your child's growth and development in a fun and nurturing environment!

[www.campastralia.com.au](http://www.campastralia.com.au)



Coniston Public School OSHC



### Inspiring before and after school programs



**Your OSHC.** by



Our Before School, After School and Pupil Free Day experiences are tailored to your child and designed to inspire their confidence, creativity, and independence. Our inspiring experiences include science experiments, cooking classes, group sport and so much more.

### Extraordinary holiday adventures



**ROCKETEERS** by



Every school holiday break is a new mission for your child to embark on. With hundreds of fantastic feature experiences every mission, your child will be engaged from morning until evening. Your child's holidays could be filled with trampoline parks, big sporting carnivals and filmmaking workshops.

## Register with Camp Australia

Once registered, you'll be able to easily make and manage your bookings online via our Parent Portal.

Register now at [pp.campastralia.com.au](http://pp.campastralia.com.au)



## Stars of Wollongong Dance for Cancer

One of our parents is dancing to raise funds for the Cancer Council!

<https://stars.cancercouncil.com.au/fundraisers/darrenframe/stars-of-wollongong>

Darren is a dedicated Construction Manager who spends his days collaborating with Project Managers and Supervisors, coaching and supporting his team to grow both professionally and personally. Whether it's managing projects or helping his crew reach new heights, he's always ready to lead and inspire, but now he's stepping into a new challenge: the dance floor!

Darren's motivation for joining *Stars of Wollongong Dance for Cancer* hits close to home. Having lost his father to cancer in 2010 and with his wife, a Radiation Oncology Medical Physicist, working passionately to calibrate cancer treatment tools, Darren is determined to raise awareness and funds for cancer research. He's also passionate about promoting the wellbeing of his work family and helping to create a positive, supportive environment for his team, all while honoring his family's experiences.

A few things you might not know about Darren: he grew up in the small town of Russell Vale, is happily married to Maddy with two sons, Ethan and Isaac, and has been running D.Frame Electrical since 2003. When it comes to dancing, well, let's just say his skills are *underdeveloped*, but with his 'give it a go' attitude, he's ready to learn. While he's not usually the first on the dance floor, if a great beat hits, he's always up for a groove!



The poster is a vertical rectangle with a dark blue background. At the top left is the Cancer Council logo (a yellow flower) and the text 'Cancer Council'. At the top right is the WAVE FM 96.5 logo (a blue wave) with the tagline 'THE ILLAWARRA'S BEST MUSIC'. In the center, the word 'STARS' is written in large, glowing blue-outlined letters, with a large, glowing yellow star replacing the letter 'A'. Below this, the words 'OF WOLLONGONG' are written in white, sans-serif capital letters. To the left of the bottom section, there is a paragraph of text in yellow and white, followed by the date and venue in white. Below that is a yellow 'DONATE NOW:' label, a QR code, and the D.Frame Electrical logo. On the right side of the bottom section is a portrait of Darren Frame, a man with a beard and short dark hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt with a logo on the chest.

 Cancer Council

 WAVE FM 96.5  
THE ILLAWARRA'S BEST MUSIC

STARS  
OF WOLLONGONG

Please support Darren Frame from D. Frame Electrical as he dances to raise funds for a cancer free future!

Saturday 31st May 2025  
WIN Entertainment Centre

**DONATE NOW:**



# BOOK UNIACTIVE'S STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES FOR YOUR 2025 SCHOOL SPORTS PROGRAMS

Take advantage of the diverse range of quality sports facilities located at UniActive to host your school's sport elective. Our Sports Officers will lead your students in engaging, safe and inclusive sports activities, and we're flexible to tailor the activities to meet your needs!

If your school is interested in creating a strength and conditioning focus or an aquatics focus for your sport elective, our team of Health & Fitness and Aquatics professionals can also help!

## OUR SPORT FACILITIES

### ✔ SPORTS HALL

Our Sports Hall is a versatile facility designed for a wide range of indoor activities, with available configurations as follows:

- Badminton: 6 courts
- Volleyball: 2 courts
- Basketball: 2 courts
- Netball: 2 courts

### ✔ SPORTS HUB

Our Sports Hub is a premier indoor facility with 3 multipurpose courts, suitable for basketball, volleyball, netball and futsal.

- ✔ 8 GRASS OVALS/FIELDS
- ✔ 1 HOCKEY TURF
- ✔ 2 OUTDOOR TENNIS COURTS
- ✔ INDOOR SQUASH COURTS

## OUR HEALTH, FITNESS & AQUATICS FACILITIES:

### ✔ SPORTS MEZZANINE

Our mezzanine floor is ideal for high-performance strength and conditioning, including functional training areas; pin loaded and cable strength machines as well as dedicated lifting cells, lifting platforms and a dedicated indoor 200m running track. Our Personal Trainers and Group Exercise Instructors will guide the students through an array of exercises in a safe and age-appropriate manner.

### ✔ DEDICATED GROUP FITNESS SPACES

We have a dedicated group fitness studio, sports lounge, cycling studio and Pilates Reformer studio where we offer a wide variety of group exercise classes, including Less Mills programs (Bodyump, Bodybalance, Core, RPM), boxing, yoga/pilates and Zumba.

## SUGGESTED PACKAGES

We make it easy by putting together some suggested options for your sport elective. Participate in each of the items listed within the packages throughout the term, with some being repeated, depending on the length of your program.



### ✔ OUTDOOR FIELD SPORTS

- Rugby
- Soccer
- Touch Football
- AFL
- Cricket
- Oztag



### ✔ RACKET SPORTS

- Badminton
- Squash
- Tennis



### ✔ INDOOR COURT SPORTS

- Basketball
- Dodgeball
- European Handball
- Futsal
- Netball
- Volleyball



### ✔ GROUP FITNESS CLASSES

- Body Balance
- Body Pump
- Boxing
- Core
- FMT
- Pilates
- RPM
- Yoga
- Zumba



### ✔ AQUATICS

- Swim for Fitness
- Aqua Group Fitness
- Swim School
- Carnivals

## DESIGN YOUR OWN PACKAGE

If the suggested packages aren't what you're looking for or you want the option to pick and choose for a variety of sport, health, fitness and aquatics options, we will work with you to create a specialised program for your school! Rotate between activities or simply pick your students' favorites!



Parliament of New South Wales

# FESTIVAL OF DEMOCRACY

Tuesday 15 April 9.30am – 3pm



**Free activities for children up to 12 years at the Parliament of NSW**

Visit Australia's oldest Parliament, learn about democracy in NSW, step inside history with guided tours and get creative in workshops and role plays.

- Make craft animals and objects
- Visit our heritage rooms
- Learn how to vote and make a law
- Participate in a committee role play
- Enjoy live music and more...



**FREE ENTRY**  
Activities 9.30am to 3pm

**LOCATION**  
Parliament of New South Wales,  
6 Macquarie Street  
Opposite Martin Place

**Enquiries P:** (02) 9230 2047 or  
**E:** [dps.education@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dps.education@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

The public café will be open.

**FREE**

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

### LEARN, PLAY & GROW

-  **BASKETBALL**
-  **GYMNASTICS**
-  **NERF/LASER TAG**
-  **ESCAPE ROOMS**
-  **CRAFTS**
-  **PICKLEBALL**
-  **OZ TAG**
-  **FUTSAL**


And more! Kids Vouchers Accepted  
Book 2 days, and get the 3rd at 50% off



BOOK NOW



## Cataract Holiday Adventure




# HOLIDAY ADVENTURE

**School Holiday Programs**  
Fully supervised, safe and **FUN** activities for ages 8-14

**waterslide, obstacle course, giant swing, high ropes, flying fox, campfire cooking**

Each day has a unique selection of activities - attend multiple days and experience something new!

challenge yourself for an action-packed adventure these school holidays!

**Scouts**  
Cataract Activity Centre

# HOLIDAY ADVENTURE

**School Holiday Programs**

Fully supervised, safe and fun activities for ages 8-11 and 11-14. Each day has a unique selection of activities - attend multiple days and experience something new\*!

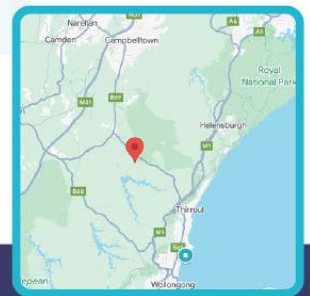
**\$85**  
PER DAY

**Mon 14 April**    **Tue 15 April**    **Wed 16 April**

8-11 years	Challenge Valley, flying fox, waterslide	Challenge Valley, giant swing, campfire cooking	Waterslide, giant swing, Challenge Valley
11-14 years		Challenge Valley, waterslide, high ropes	

Challenge yourself for an action-packed adventure these school holidays!

**Daily Program**  
8.30-9am: arrival and games  
9am-5pm: activities  
5-5.30pm: pickup



More info and to book:  
Visit [scoutsnsw.au/school-holidays](http://scoutsnsw.au/school-holidays)  
or scan the QR code

\*activities vary per day, and are subject to change based on weather and operational requirements participants grouped 8-11 and 11-14 years

Cataract Activity Centre | Baden Powell Drive, Appin | 02 4631 6697

## PCYC

### David Walliams' Ratburger coming to Wollongong!

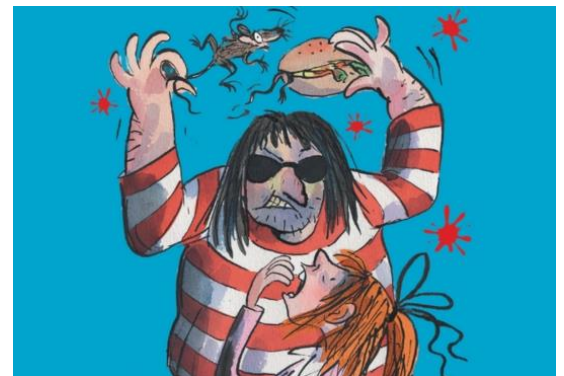
23 - 24 APRIL

These April School Holidays - fun is on the menu at Illawarra Performing Arts Centre. Don't miss the screamingly funny **Ratburger** live on stage!

Zoe lives with her dad and a stepmother who ignores her, the school bully makes her life a misery, and now, her pet hamster has died! When she befriends a loveable dancing rat named Dapper, things start looking up – but the evil Burt from Burt's Burgers is cooking up an awful plan...

David Walliams' number one bestselling book comes to life with visually stunning sets and charming puppetry, for the whole family to enjoy.

Book Ticket Now | [MERRIGONG.COM.AU](http://MERRIGONG.COM.AU)



## Contact Details

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Coniston NSW 2500

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W: [coniston-p.schools.nsw.gov.au](http://coniston-p.schools.nsw.gov.au)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ConistonPS](http://www.facebook.com/ConistonPS)