



A message from Murat Dizdar, Secretary, NSW Department of Education 26 May 2025

Today on National Sorry Day, we pay our respects and acknowledge the Stolen Generations and the ongoing impact of historic government policies that caused profound harm to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people – including historical education policies, where students were systematically excluded. It's a time for reflection, recognition and compassion as we commit to healing and building a more genuine relationship with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.

This year's theme for [National Reconciliation Week](#), 'Bridging Now to Next', invites us to acknowledge past wrongs, to reconcile the past with the present, and walk together towards a more respectful and inclusive future.

Reconciliation is a shared responsibility and evident in [Our Plan for NSW Public Education](#). The actions we take in our learning spaces and workplaces help create culturally safe, respectful and thriving environments for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander learners, staff and communities.

At Coniston Public School, we commenced the week with a visit from Gumaraa. They imparted knowledge about bush tucker and artefacts, and taught us how to weave fishing lines and throw boomerangs. We also experienced both a smoking and ochre ceremony as well as some Aboriginal dances. Thank you, Ms Daly for organising this wonderful event.

On Thursday, our senior Aboriginal students attended the Walk for Reconciliation held at Bellambi Public School. We look forward to expanding our attendance at this event in 2026.

Wollongong Running Festival

Best wishes to all our students and staff who are running in the Wollongong Running Festival on Sunday. A lot of training through our Run Club has led up to this event. Thank you to all the staff involved in our running program.

Have a wonderful fortnight!

Mrs Morton

Coming Events

Week 6

- Sunday 1 June 9:30am: Wollongong Running Festival Kids 2km Fun Run
- Tuesday 3 June 9 – 11am: Playgroup

Week 7

- Tuesday 10 June 9am: Public Speaking Finals. Parents of participants will receive an invitation.
- Tuesday 10 June 9 – 11am: Playgroup
- **Saturday 14 June: P&C Bunnings BBQ Volunteer at**

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



Week 8

- Monday 16 June 2:15pm: Whole school assembly – Year 2 (Darwinia 2) class item
- Monday 16 June 7pm: P&C Meeting
- Tuesday 17 June 9 – 11am: Playgroup
- Thursday 19 June: Wollongong Network of School Public Speaking Finals. Parents of participants will receive an invitation.

Week 9

- Monday 23 June 9am: Stage 2 and Stage 3 Spelling Bee final in hall. Parents of participants will receive an invitation.
- Tuesday 24 June 9 – 11am: Playgroup

Dates for your diary

- Friday 4 July: Last day of Term 2
- Tuesday 22 July: First day of Term 3 for students
- Mon 4 – Wed 6 August. Stage 3 Berry camp part payments can continue to be made. Full payment due 27 June.
- Monday 11 August 2:15pm: Whole school assembly – Year 1 (Darwinia 1) class item
- Wednesday December 10: Year 6 Farewell (inc. Year 5 for dancing). Times to come.
- Tuesday 16 December 9:30am: Presentation Assembly
- Wednesday 17 December: Celebration Mufti Day

What's due?

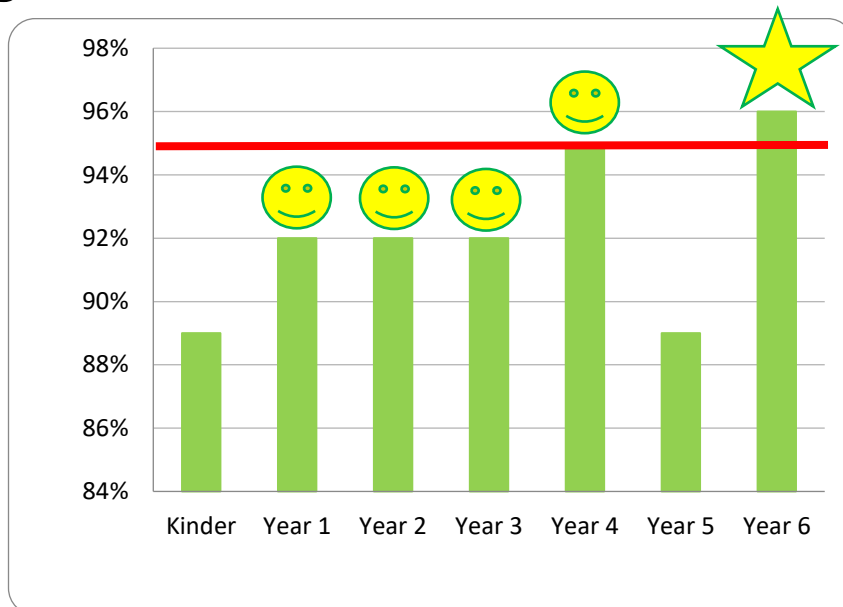
- Friday 4 July: Kinder 2026 enrolments

Attendance – Every day counts!

Did you know that the NSW Department of Education requires parents/carers to explain their child's absence with 7 days? It is at the Principal's discretion if an absence reason is accepted. The quickest way to advise us is by responding to the SMS message from **0436 480 998**. Absences of three or more days for illness should be explained with a medical certificate.

The attendance graph below is for the period 15 - 28 May 2025. The red line is the NSW Department of Education's expected 95% attendance marker.

Congratulations, Year 6 – 96% attendance!



Kindergarten 2026 - enrol before the end of Term 2.

Is your child due to start school in 2026?

To assist us with planning and to ensure our school is allocated the correct staffing and funding, **please enrol your child before the end of Term 2**. Our numbers are due to the Department early in Term 3.

This year you can complete an online application located at [Online Enrolment Application](#).

You can collect an enrolment form from our office if you prefer.

For more information on enrolling your child at Coniston Public School, please visit [Coniston PS Enrolment 2025 update.pdf](#) and [Online enrolment for parents](#).

If you know of someone who is due to start school and is not a member of our school community, please pass on this information.



Gumaraa visit for Reconciliation Week

A quote from Archie:

“The activities were extremely enjoyable. We learnt new information about Dharawal people and how they lived. My favourite activity was boomerang throwing because we got to learn the techniques and I could get my boomerang to return to me”.



Walk for Reconciliation

Archie, Elena and Lamesha thoroughly enjoyed representing our school at yesterday's Walk for Reconciliation held at Bellambi. Joining with 40 schools and 2000 students, we walked along Cawley Street finishing at Bellambi Public School. Here we were treated to a welcome from Aunty Shaz, a smoking ceremony, a variety of performances, including dance, didgeridoo playing and singing, and a sausage sizzle (3000 sausages!!!).

Our students were all very impressed with the event and strongly support its expansion in 2026.



Time Tables Rock Competition

During Week 3, students in Years 4 to 6 competed in the New South Wales Rocks times table competition. Coniston Public School placed 7th overall out of 94 schools. Competition was fierce with 3886942 questions answered collectively by 6403 students from more than 114 schools and 488 classes. Our best performing student, Isaac in Year 5, answered an amazing 5519 questions correctly! Well done to all students who engaged in the competition and made improvements in their recall and speed. Students have their own unique account and can continue to practise their multiplication and division facts at home.



Walk Safely to School Day

On 16 June, many children, parents, carers and pets took the opportunity to walk to school. Despite the rainy weather, we had more people than usual participate.

The primary purpose of Walk Safely to School Day is to provide parents/carers with the chance to talk to their child about road safety and ensure they know how to cross the road, where to stand at the traffic lights (back at least on metre) and to walk on the left of the footpath. With more and more pedestrians being struck by cars, it's never too early to instil good habits.

Thank you to everyone who participated!



Fundraising update

Bunnings BBQ and Cake Stall Saturday 14 June – Volunteers needed

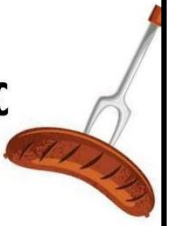
On Saturday 14 June, we have the opportunity to raise further funds without drawing from our own community. For this day to be successful though, we need lots of volunteers to set up / pack down, cook and serve. If you can spare two hours during the day, we need you!! Time slots start from 7:30am. We also need families to donate any baked goods for the day. Please let us know if you can contribute something for the day. Baked goods can be dropped off to the school on Friday 13 June or delivered straight to Kembla Grange Bunnings on Sat 14 June.

It's easy to volunteer – just register through the QR code or <https://signup.com/go/VBoMCyF> (no login or account creation required) or email your availability to conistonps.pandc@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance for assisting us on the day. We have a great chance to make in excess of \$2000.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED CONISTON PUBLIC SCHOOL P&C BUNNINGS KEMBLA GRANGE BBQ FUNDRAISER



Sat 14 June 2025
7am – 5pm



Volunteer Times:

7am – 9am

9am – 11am

11am – 1pm

1pm – 3pm

3pm – 5pm

*Please sign up asap to help! The more volunteers we get
the less time each volunteer needs to be there.*

Sign up

at: <https://signup.com/go/XWBaXQO>

or

Scan QR code to nominate a time



Future events

Term 3:

- **Second hand children's book fair** – start collecting your good quality pre-loved children's books ready to donate to the P&C's book sale. The book sale will be held on 21 – 22 August to coincide with the school's Book Week parade (Thursday 21 August 10.15am). Books will be for sale on Thursday 21/8 from 10:55 - 11:45am (BYO Picnic Lunch time) and 2:30 – 3:30pm. Books will again be for sale on Friday 22/8 from 8:30 – 9:30am. We will need volunteers to set up on Wednesday 20/8 and to sell books at the indicated times. We hope you can assist by donating and/or working at the book sale. (Please note: this is an alternate to the school's book fair that will be held in even years.)
- **Father's Day Stall** Thursday 4 September. Volunteers will be needed to sell up and sell.
- **Pie Drive** – orders will be sent home next term for delivery on Thursday 4 September. Volunteers will be needed to process the orders and distribute the pies.
- **Disco** Wednesday 17 September – times to come. The school staff run the disco, but the P&C will be involved in other ways – more information to come.
- **Meal Deal Day** Friday 19 September – more information to come.

Term 4:

- **Fun Run** Friday 7 November - more information to come
- **Celebration Day** Wednesday 17 December – volunteers needed to distribute the ice creams – more information to come

Next P&C Meeting: Monday 16 June 2025 7pm in the school library. (This meeting will be held in Week 8 due to the Monday public holiday in Week 7)

ICAS is an online academic competition across Australia that gives students the opportunity to challenge their higher order thinking and problem-solving skills in English, Mathematics, Science, Writing, Spelling Bee, and Digital Technologies. If you would like your child to participate, please see the information below and additional information sent home on School Enews. Participation is completely optional.



Join the ICAS 2025 Academic Competition.

The fun and inspiring challenge for bright young minds.

We're proud to offer ICAS 2025 to our students—a national competition that challenges their thinking, motivates them to excel, and celebrates their academic skills.

How ICAS helps our students succeed

- Develops critical thinking and problem solving through fun academic challenges
- Recognises academic achievement like we do in sport and the arts
- Provides insights that help educators and parents identify strengths and areas of growth.

Who can participate in ICAS?

ICAS offers a comprehensive suite of subjects for Year 2 to 12 students.

Dates and pricing

Each subject costs \$20.95 per student, except Writing which is \$24.95



Digital Technologies
 4 – 8 August



Science
 18 – 22 August



Writing
 4 – 8 August



Spelling Bee
 18 – 22 August



English
 11 – 15 August



Mathematics
 25 – 29 August



If your child is interested in taking part, speak with their teacher to find out how they can get involved.

[icasassessments.com](https://www.icasassessments.com)



Lunchbox ideas and a congratulations!



Stress-free fussy eating ideas

Fussy eating is common, but that still doesn't make it easy.

Does your child dislike foods because of their colour, texture or the way they are prepared?

Don't despair, SWAP IT will help with ideas on how to pack an everyday lunchbox for your fussy eater.



Try the **3:1 lunchbox rule** everyday:

- **Three** items your child likes
- **One** new everyday item



eNews



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



Paper notes will usually only be sent home if they have a permission slip that needs to be returned to the school. We acknowledge that some families may not always be able to access our communications electronically or would prefer a paper note. Please let our school office know if you would prefer paper communication.

Subscribe for Email Updates

- 1) Visit your [www.coniston-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto: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)

School Enews delivers news directly to parents!

Playgroup



ILLAWARRA MULTICULTURAL SERVICES
advancing participation

PLAYGROUP



Multicultural Supported Groups

مجموعات اللعب المدعومة متعددة الثقافات
လူမျိုးပေါင်းစုံ ကလေးကစားပွဲ
Muhimu Watoto Dada Kikundi

**FREE
Welcome
to ALL!**

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

 www.ims.org.au

 info@ims.org.au

 02 4229 6855

 www.facebook.com/ims.org.au

 www.instagram.com/illawarramulticulturalservices/

Community News

CAMP Australia



ROCKETEERS

THE ULTIMATE SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

SCHOOL HOLIDAY BOOKINGS NOW OPEN

Programs vary by location and are subject to change. Jump on our website to find out what's happening at your local Rocketeers.

*Please note the fees on the following pages are only of the maximum Child Care Subsidy (CCS) a family may be entitled to. To find out your eligibility, simply log into MyGov and complete your CCS Assessment.

Camp Australia's Rocketeers school holiday program bookings are now open – and while it's not hosted on-site at Coniston Public School, local families can still join in the fun at Albion Park Rail Public School

FUN AWAITS!

YOUR WINTER HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Albion Park Rail Public School

Address: 14-24 Tongarra Rd ALBION PARK RAIL NSW 2527

Phone: 0452 247 770 Program Times: 06:30 am - 06:30 pm



Mon
07 Jul

Project: Mini Golf Masters

Design, build, and play! Create your own mini golf course with wild obstacles and tricky turns, then compete in an epic tournament. Plus, take home your decorated golf visor and golf ball!

Full Fee \$96.38 | After Max. CCS* \$9.64



Project Incursion

Tue
08 Jul

Operation: Sound Surge

Let the music move you! Today is all about exploring sound, rhythm, and creativity in your own way. However you choose to take part, whether it be beats, sound or something new, let music inspire your imagination!

Full Fee \$71.38 | After Max. CCS* \$7.14



Base Camp Day

Wed
09 Jul

Adventure: Elio at Event Cinemas

Blast off into space with Elio, an imaginative underdog who's accidentally named Earth's ambassador to the universe! Meet wild aliens, explore strange planets, and join Elio's epic journey to discover who he truly is.

Full Fee \$121.48 | After Max. CCS* \$12.15



Excursion

Thu
10 Jul

Project: Dino Dash Adventure

Step into the dino age! Uncover amazing dinosaur facts, then build your own Dino Dash Game to take home. Designed by Eye Heart Science, it's a day of roaring fun, creativity, and real science!

Full Fee \$97.38 | After Max. CCS* \$9.74



Project Incursion

Fri
11 Jul

Operation: Master Builders

Grab your tools and unleash your creativity! Today's all about building big, solving problems, and bringing bold ideas to life. Let's get hands-on and make something amazing!

Full Fee \$71.38 | After Max. CCS* \$7.14



Base Camp Day

Mon
14 Jul

Operation: Yellow Burst

Get ready for a burst of brightness! Today is all about celebrating the colour yellow with fun, creativity, and pure joy. From crafts to games, let's fill the day with sunshine and smiles!

Full Fee \$71.38 | After Max. CCS* \$7.14



Base Camp Day

Tue
15 Jul

Experience Takeover: Games of Country

Run, play, and learn through traditional Indigenous games from across Australia! Discover the stories, history, and culture behind each activity in this action-packed session led by No Limit Sports.

Full Fee \$99.38 | After Max. CCS* \$9.94



Experience Takeover Incursion

Wed
16 Jul

Project: Cosy Creations

Cook up tasty jaffles, craft your own snow globe from clay, and dive into more fun games and crafts. It's a day of creativity, cooking, and winter magic—plus, you get to take your snow globe home!

Full Fee \$95.38 | After Max. CCS* \$9.54



Project Incursion

Thu
17 Jul

Adventure: Pin-Smash! At Shellharbour Tenpin Bowl

Roll on in as we head to tenpin bowling. Leave nothing to spare, as you aim for as many strikes as possible! How will your pins fall?

Full Fee \$116.88 | After Max. CCS* \$11.69



Excursion

Fri
18 Jul

Big Art Day: Winter Wonderland

Dive into a world of icy inspiration and bold creativity on Big Art Day! Today, we're creating winter-themed masterpieces using vibrant colours, textures, and techniques. Let's make art that's as cool as it is amazing!

Full Fee \$71.38 | After Max. CCS* \$7.14



Base Camp Day

Mon
21 Jul

Operation: Globe Trotters

Pack your bags for a journey like no other! Today, you'll explore amazing cultures, customs, and traditions from around the globe. Get ready to travel the world—without leaving the room!

Full Fee \$71.38 | After Max. CCS* \$7.14



Base Camp Day

FIGTREE HEIGHTS OOSH – BEFORE SCHOOL CARE

Figtree Heights OOSH

Fun, Adventure & Play Everyday



Services We Provide:

BEFORE SCHOOL CARE: 6:30am - School Drop Off

AFTER SCHOOL CARE: School Pick Up - 6pm

VACATION CARE: School Holidays 6:30am - 6pm
(Open to all children from any school)



Schools we service for Before & After School Care:

- Figtree Heights Public School
- Figtree Public School
- Mount Saint Thomas Public School
- Nareena Hills Public School
- Mt Kembla Public School
- Unanderra Public School (Before school Care only)
- Coniston Public School NEW*** (Before School Care only)



To make an enquiry please visit:
www.figtreeheightsoosh.com

WEST WOLLONGONG PUBLIC SCHOOL BEFORE SCHOOL

Big Fat Smile information for new families...



Family Handbook

A comprehensive oversight in to all things Big Fat Smile from our Educational Framework to daily routines, fees and more!



Child Care Subsidy

A Frequently Asked Questions guide for our Long Daycare & Care and Fun Club families on the application of the Child Care Subsidy



Kangaroo Time

A guide for Fun Club families to install and use the Kangaroo Time app to make casual and vacation care bookings



Policy Guide (EL & C)

A guide for families entering in to early learning & care services on policies



Policy Guide (Fun Club)

A guide for families entering in to our Fun Club school-aged learning & care services on policies



HAVE A QUESTION?

Speak to your Service Director or contact our Client Engagement Team
info@bigfatmile.com.au

We enrich the lives and minds of our children and families in their communities

BIGFATSMILE.COM.AU

Government Funded FREE Swimming Lessons



We are excited to share a new, fully funded initiative at **Northern Stars Swim Schools – Dapto and Russell Vale**, made possible by the support of the **NSW Government**. This program is targeting school aged children (K-Year12) through to adults and is available to all families not currently accessing swimming lessons. Participants in this program will receive:

- ✓ **10 free swimming lessons** with experienced instructors
- ✓ **A swimming cap and goggles** to support their learning
- ✓ **The opportunity to gain vital water safety skills and confidence in the water**

Places are limited. If you would like a nomination form you can either print from here [enrolment form - Northern Stars Swim](#) or contact the school office for a copy.

Online Carer Education Program

Organised by the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District Carer Program

2025 ONLINE CARER EDUCATION PROGRAM

ARE YOU CARING FOR A PERSON WITH DISABILITY?

FREE Carer Education Program - information to help people providing support to a family member or friend living with disability, including children to young adult age.

This four, half-day program includes information for carers supporting a child to young adult aged person with disability
Topics include:

- Services and supports
- Planning ahead
- Health and wellbeing
- Opportunity to meet other carers

Dates: Across four consecutive Thursdays
12 June, 19 June, 26 June, & 3 July

Time: Week 1: 9.15am - 1.00pm
Week 2, 3 & 4: 9.30am - 12.45pm

Venue: ONLINE

For more information or to RSVP

To RSVP email ISLHD-CarersProgram@health.nsw.gov.au or call 0422 004 119

Attendance across all four days of program is required.

If you need help with respite call Carer Gateway on 1800 422 737

Organised by the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District Carer Program

2025 ONLINE CARER EDUCATION PROGRAM

For carers of children to young adult aged people with disability

The free, four half-day Carer Education Program provides information on services and supports, planning ahead, and carer health and wellbeing. There is the opportunity to meet other carers within the online format.

WEEK 1

Welcome and introductions
Overview of caring role and impacts of caring
Value of respite and other community support
Carer Gateway
Development and supports

WEEK 2

Peer Care learnings and story
Centrelink financial information
Transitions and Education

WEEK 3

National Disability Insurance Scheme
Disability and Health Services

WEEK 4

Legal Planning
Transition to Adult Services
Carer wellbeing and stress management
Review and evaluation

For people providing support to a family member or friend living with disability. This workshop is particularly relevant to those supporting someone from childhood to young adulthood.

If you need help with respite call Carer Gateway on 1800 422 737



**BEGINNER
INTERMEDIATE
ADVANCED
BABIES - ADULTS
CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
\$15 PER LESSON
ACTIVE KIDS PROVIDER**

SWIMMING LESSONS

SEND US A MESSAGE
OR EMAIL TEAM@PKYP.ORG.AU

- We run our lessons in a small, indoor, heated pool - perfect for winter lessons!
- Qualified instructors trained to teach all ages and abilities
- Can request private lessons (\$40) or group lessons (\$15)


Thursday & Friday Afternoons

"We are a not-for-profit charity and social enterprise, dedicated to supporting the community since 1981."

www.pkyp.org.au team@pkyp.org.au




AW7435070



FREE

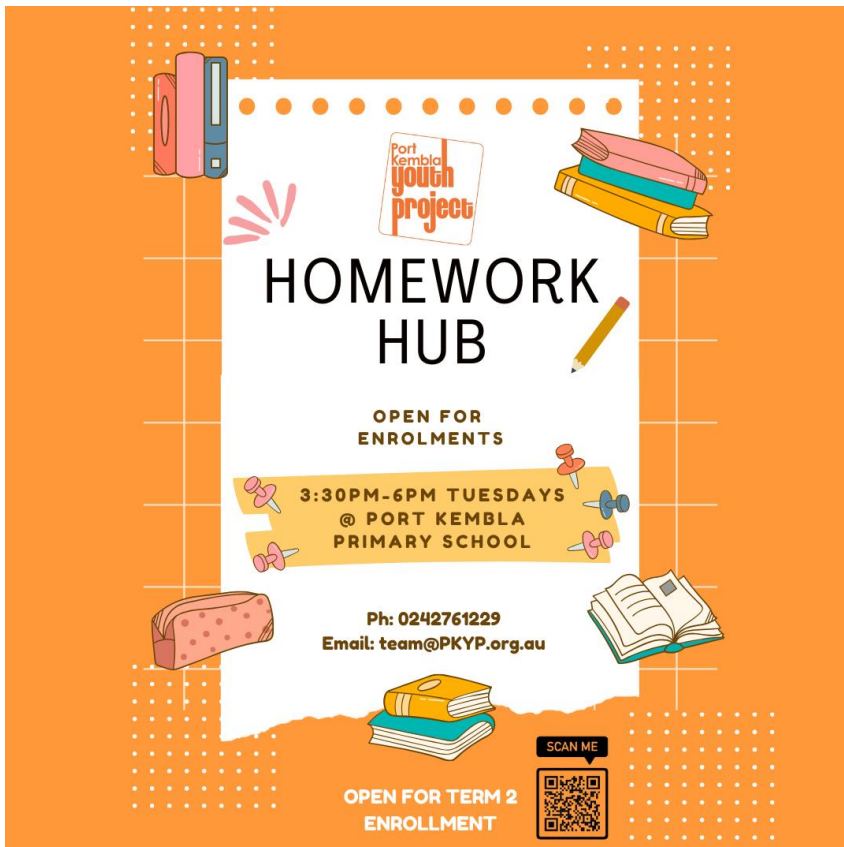
ROBOTICS WORKSHOPS



**FORTNIGHTLY ROBOTICS
AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM –
OPEN TO ALL AGES!
3.00PM TO 4.30PM**

28th April	12th May	26th May	23rd June
Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hands-On Building & DesignCoding & ProgrammingSTEM ChallengesTeamwork & PresentationCreative Exploration		Cnr Allan & Kembla St, Port Kembla 2505 Email team@pkyp.org.au for more details!	

More Information (02) 4276 1229 pkyp.org.au



Port Kembla Youth Project

HOMESCHOOL HUB


OPEN FOR ENROLMENTS

**3:30PM-6PM TUESDAYS
@ PORT KEMBLA
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Ph: 0242761229
Email: team@PKYP.org.au**

OPEN FOR TERM 2 ENROLLMENT

SCAN ME



Food Relief



Food relief

for the Illawarra and Shoalhaven region

Food relief is available to support your family.

From breakfast programs and low-cost grocery solutions to community kitchens that provide daily meals.



Find out more.

Scan the QR code or visit
bit.ly/FoodReliefDirectories

UniActive



SPORTS HOLIDAY PROGRAM

MONDAY 7 - THURSDAY 10 JULY
8:30AM - 3:30PM
SPORTS HUB AND UNIACTIVE POOL
\$55 PER DAY | \$200 FOR THE WEEK



BOOK HERE NOW!

Get the kids out of the house this winter holidays and join us for a day full of active fun for all ages and abilities. Run, jump, kick and play in a range of sports and games including soccer, touch footy, dodgeball and much more at UniActive!

UNIACTIVE.UOW.EDU.AU
@UOWUNIACTIVE

UNIACTIVE

Contact Details

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Coniston NSW 2500

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