

Coniston Connection

Newsletter Term 3 Week 10

Celebration time!

Congratulations to our Cantabile Music Festival singers who performed last week at the Sydney Opera House! A memorable experience for all involved.

Singing in the mass choir with over 600 students and accompanied by bands, orchestras and a pianist, our students enjoyed every moment.

In addition to their quality singing, our students were frequently complimented for their outstanding behaviour and positive attitude.

Thank you to the Festival organisers who enabled us to participate free of charge in our first 'test the waters' year.

Thank you also to Miss O'Brien for her tireless work with the singers and excellent organisation, Mrs Pocknall for teaching the songs, and Mrs Jara-Vidal and Mrs Morton who accompanied the group for the rehearsals and performances. It was worth every minute!





Coming events

Term 4 Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	
• Tuesday 14 October: Term 4 commences – students return to school	Tuesday 21 October: Year 6 into Year Keira High School transition day (details to come) – all Year 6 To the Computer of the	School transition day meeting in the Library ome) – all Year 6 • Tuesday 28 October: 9 – 11am:	
●Tuesday 14 October: 9 – 11am: Playgroup	Tuesday 21 October: 9 – 11am: Playgroup	Playgroup	
	 Friday 24 October 10:15 - 11:45am: Grandparent's Day (information in today's newsletter) 		

For your diary

- Monday 3 November 2:15pm: Whole school assembly in the hall – item by Year 4
- Friday 7 November: Fun Run (details to come)
- Tuesday 18 & 25 November, 2
 December 9:15 10:45am:
 Kindergarten 2026 Orientation
- Monday 1 December 2:15pm: Whole school assembly in the hall – item by Kindergarten

What is overdue?

The following items are now **overdue**:

• Kindergarten 2026 enrolments

There are no items currently due.

What is due?



Contact Details

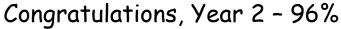
Coniston Public School 123 Auburn Street Coniston NSW 2500 P: 02 4229 1117

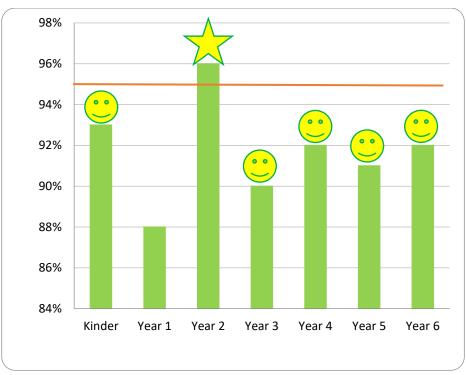
E: coniston-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
W: coniston-p.schools.nsw.gov.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ConistonPS

Attendance - Every day counts!

The attendance graph below is for the period 11 - 24 September 2025. The red line is the Department of Education's 95% expected attendance marker.





Some facts from the NSW Department of Education resource: Every day counts!

Consequences of school non-attendance impact academic, socio-economic and health outcomes



Coniston PS shines at the Cantabile Music Festival! (from Miss O'Brien)

On Monday 15 September, six very excited students from Coniston Public School - Lavanya, Emma, Siena, Molly, Lucinda and Liliana - were accompanied by Miss O'Brien and Mrs Morton to the Sydney Opera House for the Cantabile Music Festival. This wonderful annual event celebrates the musical talents of over 1000 students from public schools across New South Wales. It features a combined primary school choir of more than 600 students from Years 3 to 6, singing together with orchestras and bands made up of primary and secondary students.



Our girls worked incredibly hard, practising many times during lunch breaks and in their own time over the past two terms, with support from Miss O'Brien and Mrs Pocknall. On the day, they enjoyed a technical rehearsal, a delicious dinner at Circular Quay and a spectacular evening performance.

The students represented Coniston PS with pride and enthusiasm throughout the day. Although everyone was very tired by the time they returned home just before midnight, it was an unforgettable experience for all involved!







P&C Disco (from Mrs Flynn)

Last Wednesday, our school hosted a fantastic disco that was enjoyed by students.

A huge thank you to Mr Whittaker and Mrs Jacobs for leading the music and dancing, keeping the energy high and the fun flowing throughout the evening. We also appreciate the other teachers who attended and supported the event, helping to create a safe and lively atmosphere.

The disco featured a variety of great dances, showcasing the skills and routines students have been learning in their dance classes at school. It was wonderful to see so many confident and enthusiastic performances on the dance floor.

A special thanks to our P&C for generously providing glow sticks, drinks and popcorn, adding an extra element of excitement and enjoyment for everyone.

Thank you to all who participated and helped make the disco a memorable event for our school community!





Excelsior Cup - Stage 2 students rise to the challenge! (from Miss O'Brien)

On Thursday 18 September, sixteen enthusiastic students from Coniston Public School took part in an enrichment event hosted by Keira High School. Miss O'Brien accompanied the students to the Excelsior Cup, a High Potential and Gifted Education (HPGE) Challenge Day designed for Stage 2 students from the Keira Community of Schools (CoS).

- Year 3: Winpler, Leni, Muhammad, Evelyn K, Auriana, Sasi and Noe Meh
- Year 4: Gulliver, Taj, Sadie, Alana, Josie, Tabby, Lucinda and Riley

The event encourages teamwork, problem-solving and critical thinking through a variety of fun and challenging activities. Our students competed against five other schools from the CoS, earning points across different challenges with the chance to win the inaugural Excelsior Cup.

Challenges included building a bridge using limited resources, solving mathematical problems and puzzles, participating in physical activity races and tackling a trivia quiz. There was also a "paper, scissors, rock" competition, which didn't contribute points, but our very own Evelyn K was the champion!

It was a fantastic day! Our Stage 2 students represented Coniston PS with considerable pride, excellent manners and a positive attitude. They showed kindness and support to each other and enjoyed mingling with students from other schools during breaks.

Well done, Stage 2—you made us all immensely proud (and definitely earnt your sausage sizzle lunch on the day!).

















Gala Day – Years 3 – 6

Last Friday, we had our Term 3 CWPSSA Gala Day. There were a variety of sports, including soccer for junior and senior boys, Dragon tag for junior girls and AFL for senior girls. We had some volunteer referees from Figtree High School and Edmund Rice College. There was a canteen with snacks and a separate sausage sizzle.

The students who participated at the Gala Day demonstrated teamwork, fairness and respect along with our other school values. We also had music on while we were playing. After each match we would congratulate the other team respectfully with high fives and handshakes. This all was part of the friendly competition.

This exciting day was a memorable experience for us all and was so much fun!

From your Emu Captains, Lyla and Oliver.

Stage 2 United



Stage 2 Rams



Stage 2 Chargers



Stage 3 Sky Blues



Stage 3 Victory



Stage 3 Swans and Giants

















K-2 Excursion - University of Wollongong Science Space (from Mrs Flynn)

On Monday, our Kindergarten to Year 2 students had an exciting trip to the University of Wollongong Science Space. The day began with great enthusiasm as the students were super excited to hop on the bus and begin their adventure.

At Science Space, the children enjoyed a fascinating planetarium show where they explored the stars and learned about the wonders of the night sky. They were also thrilled by a spectacular bubble show, featuring amazing tricks and hands-on experiments that captivated their imagination.

Throughout the visit, students had a fantastic time exploring the many interactive exhibits, sparking curiosity and excitement about science in a fun and engaging environment.

It was a memorable day filled with learning and discovery for all!















2026 staff update

David Lamb, Director Education Leadership Wollongong Network, has finalised the expression of interest process for Mrs Morton's position in 2026. We are pleased to welcome Mrs Sarah Martin to the role. Mrs Martin recently relieved for Mrs Morton and is therefore well-known to our students. An expression of interest to fill Mrs Martin's Assistant Principal Learning and Support role will be conducted early in Term 4. Congratulations, Mrs Martin!

Grandparent's Day - Friday 24 October 10: 15 - 11:45am

We are excited to invite all grandparents to join us for Grandparent's Day on Friday 24 October, Week 2 of Term 4. From 10:15 am, grandparents are warmly welcome to visit classrooms and explore the learning environment alongside their grandchildren.

Following the classroom visits, grandparents are invited to stay for morning tea, providing a wonderful opportunity to connect and share in some special time together.

We look forward to celebrating this special day with our school community and honouring the important role grandparents play in the lives of our students.

P&C News



CONISTON PUBLIC SCHOOL



Future events

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: 7pm Monday 27 October 2025 in the school library.

Lunchbox ideas



Quick everyday lunchboxes

It doesn't take a lot of time to pack an everyday lunchbox.

To save time, try:

- Packing the lunchbox the night before
- Using leftovers from dinner in the lunchbox
- Packing whole vegetables and fruit, such as apples, bananas, cherry tomatoes or baby cucumbers

















Multicultural Supported Groups

مجموعات اللعب المدعومة متعددة الثقافات

လူမျိုးပေါင်းစုံ ကလေးကစားဝိုင်

FRFF Welcome to ALL!

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









The Lord Mayors School Starter Picnic



www.transitiontoschool.com.au













A Wollongong City Council accessible and inclusive event. Wollongong City Council is a child safe organisation and committed to the principals of social justice and celebrates diversity.















Low-Cost & Free Meals Directory

Location	Time	Service	Provider
Monday			
Globe Lane Wollongong	8.30 - 9.30am	Breakfast	Need A Feed
16 Miller St Coniston	9am - 12pm	Meals & Free Groceries	St Vincent de Paul Coniston Homeless Hub
1A Denison St Wollongong	9am - 12.30pm	Breakfast (adolescents only)	CHAIN
Wollongong Train Station (Gladstone Ave Side) Wollongong	6.15 - 6.45pm	Dinner	Vinnies Van
Tuesday 1A Denison St			
Wollongong	9am - 4.30pm	Breakfast (adolescents only)	CHAIN
16 Miller St Coniston	9am - 12pm	Meals & Free Groceries	St Vincent de Paul Coniston Homeless Hub
Building 11, Level 1A, University of Wollongong, Northfields Ave Keiraville	9.30 - 11am	Free Groceries	Pulse Pantry
Myuna Way Mangerton	10.30am	Meals & Free Groceries	Vinnies Van
3 Court Lane Wollongong	11am - 12.30pm	Morning Tea & Lunch	Lifeline South Coast
1 Railway Station Square Wollongong	5.30pm	Dinner	Lighthouse Community Kitche
MacCabe Park, Burelli St Wollongong	5.30 - 6.30pm	Dinner	Kind Hearts Illawarra
Wednesday			
1A Denison St, Wollongong	9am - 4.30pm	Breakfast (adolescents only)	CHAIN
16 Miller St Coniston	9am - 12pm	Meals & Free Groceries	St Vincent de Paul Coniston Homeless Hub
3 Court Lane, Wollongong	11am - 12.30pm	Morning Tea & Lunch	Lifeline South Coast
Wollongong Train Station (Gladstone Ave Side) Wollongong By Appointment	6.15 - 6.45pm	Dinner	Vinnies Van
170 Corrimal Street	Call (02) 4228 1499	Free Groceries	Women Illawarra
Wollongong	Call (02) 4228 1499	Free Groceries	women illawarra
1A Denison St	9am - 4.30pm	Breakfast (adolescents only)	CHAIN
Wollongong			
16 Miller St Coniston	9am - 12pm 11:30am - 12pm	Meals & Free Groceries Lunch	St Vincent de Paul Coniston Homeless Hub
3 Court Lane Wollongong	11am - 12.30pm	Morning Tea & Lunch	Lifeline South Coast
Building 11, Level 1A, University of Wollongong, Northfields Ave Keiraville	2 - 3.30pm	Free Groceries	Pulse Pantry
4-10 Gibsons Rd Figtree	5 - 6.30pm	Dinner	Manna House
Wollongong Train Station (Gladstone Ave Side) Wollongong	5 - 6.30pm	Free Groceries	Wollongong Homeless Hub and Housing Services
1 Railway Station Square Wollongong	5.30pm	Dinner	Lighthouse Community Kitchen
MacCabe Park, Burelli St Wollongong	5.30 - 7pm	Dinner & Free groceries	Kind Hearts Illawarra
Friday			
1A Denison St Wollongong	9am - 4.30pm	Breakfast (adolescents only)	CHAIN
16 Miller St Coniston	9am - 12pm	Meals & Free Groceries	St Vincent de Paul Coniston Homeless Hub
3 Court Lane Wollongong	11am - 12.30pm	Morning Tea & Lunch	Lifeline South Coast
83 Burelli St Wollongong	5pm	Dinner	Fresh Start Mission
Sunday			
McCabe Park, 83 Burelli St Wollongong	5pm	Dinner	Food Not Bombs
By Appointment			
152 Keira St Wollongong	Call (02) 8624 8600	Free Groceries	Anglicare
170 Corrimal Street Wollongong	Call 4228 1499	Free Groceries	Women Illawarra

: Lifeline

Lifeline South Coast Big Book Fair

23 - 26 October, 2025 Illawarra Sports Stadium, Berkeley

Early Bird Night Thu 23

5pm - 9pm **\$10** entry Fri 24 - Sat 25

(a) Lifeline

9am - 5pm Gold Coin entry

Sun 26

9am - 4pm Gold Coin entry ½ price Book Day!

Super Saturday

1pm - 2pm: Special Author Appearance

4pm - 5pm: Low Sensory Hour

www.lifelinesouthcoast/bigbookfair.org.au

Asthma Workshop





Give Me Space!

Free School Holiday Workshop for Families Living with Asthma

- · A day of fun and learning for families living with asthma
- Circus activities with Milk Crate Circus
- Receive a \$75 shopping voucher for participating in a consultation about supporting a child with asthma
- Each child with asthma receives a free spacer device

Koonawarra Public School (enter via Wallabah Way gate)

Date: Thursday 17 July

Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm (includes lunch and snacks)

Info: Call Alexander on 4283 8111, email

alexander@healthycities.org.au

Transport available. Bookings essential.









FREE ENTRY

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

The public café will be open.



P: (02) 9230 2047 or E: dps.education@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Nippers Season 2025-2026

Regos now open **Nippers Season** 2025-2026

Its time to register your children and families

for the Nippers Season

New and returning members WELCOME!

- Returning Nippers Jump online to register
- ❖ New to the club, email: wcslscnippersrego@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE CALENDAR

21/9 - Swim Proficiency (10-12)

12/10 - Nippers Commences







SPRING INTO THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AT PCYC



Book 3 Days and Get the 4th Free (T&Cs appply) Check out your local School Holiday Program below



MORE INFO





Free Swimming Lessons

Northern Stars Swim School is excited to announce that our free Swimming Lessons Program, proudly funded by the NSW Government, will be running in Term 4 2025!

This valuable 10-week program is designed to help children who are not currently enrolled in swimming lessons to build vital water safety and swimming skills — at no cost to families. We encourage families to nominate their child/ren.

Key Details:

- Location: Russell Vale or Dapto centres
- Program Duration: 10 weeks, commencing the week of 13th October
- Eligibility: Children not currently accessing swimming lessons and are at a beginner level
- Notification: Families will be informed of the outcome from Monday 6th October
- Nominations Close: 27th September

To nominate a child, please contact the school's office for the application form then email it to the relevant centre

- Russell Vale: info@northernstars.com.au
- Dapto: <u>dapto@northernstars.com.au</u>.

Don't miss this chance to give your child/ren the skills they need to stay safe and confident in the water.

Kind regards, Northern Stars Swim School



Russell Vale



Exciting Opportunity – Free Swimming Lessons with Northern Stars!

School Aged 5-12yrs - High School 12-18yrs - Adults

Northern Stars is thrilled to announce a new initiative, proudly funded by the NSW Government, to provide free swimming lessons to participants! This fantastic program will run for 10 weeks during the school term, helping participants build essential water safety and swimming skills, and who are not currently accessing swimming lessons.

Lessons will be held in either our Russell Vale or Dapto locations.

info@northernstars.com.au

Spaces are limited in this program and as such there will be a selection process. You will be notified by 18th July if your child has been selected in the next round of lessons.

Nominations are open now and will close on 27th September. The program will commence the week of 13th October.

We encourage all interested participants to take advantage of this amazing opportunity. For more information, please contact either centre.

dapto@northernstars.com.au

Dapto

42858700	42615826
To nominate a participant ple	ase complete the below form and return via email
Your Name	
Name of Participant	
Participants D.O.B.	
Non-English Indigenous	Yes No No
Your Relationship to Participant	
Your Contact Number (or cor If participant is under 18 years;	ntact number of adult participant)
Parents Name	
Parents Contact Number	
Reason for Nomination	
Swimming Ability	
Swim Centre Wanting to Attend	Russell Vale Dapto

Please Note: It is a requirement of this program that you/your child commits to their lessons and attends 10 weeks of swimming. Continuity of lessons in the same class and with the same teacher is important for the progression of swimming skills. If you/your child is going to be absent, please contact the centre with minimum 24 hours' notice. We will then reschedule the missed lesson for your child to attend.



"Every tree has a story", so take a trip to Bulli showground on the serene South Coast of NSW this October 18th & 19th to see those stories come to life through a range of exciting workshops, exhibitions, performances and much more.

Enliven your senses and celebrate some of the Australian most respected artisans with a love for wood who have honed their craft to share their skills and creations with you at this special event the whole family can be part of. "With a passion for preserving and inspiring the tradition of working with wood, we have handpicked a diverse selection of skilled artisans from across Australia and beyond to welcome you to roll up your sleeves and get some hands-on skills," Stuart Montague from the Illawarra Woodwork School, who founded the festival along with his wife Suzanne Montague said. "Or simply 'switch off', reconnect and rediscover the joy of hands-on experiences amongst skilled makers of all ages and cultural influences." In a world of mass consumer consumption & screen time, take time out amongst the relaxing environment of the Illawarra escarpment to observe and appreciate the skills of those working with wood in all its intriguing forms, whilst rekindling a connection to the style of woodworking shows from yesteryear through authentic, educational and entertaining experiences the whole family can enjoy.

Come along to this one-of-a-kind festival in beautiful Bulli, just minutes from some of the best beaches on the South Coast for an up-close-and-personal experience with some of the world's best spoon carvers, traditional toolmakers and woodturners, with the opportunity to see some of the finest wood creations including furniture, jewellery, sculpture, crafts and more. There will also be wood-with a variety of workshops across the weekend suitable for all interests, ages and abilities. Woodfest is proud to be part The Sydney Craft Week 10th - 19th October which celebrates 'material intelligence' at the 2025 festival.

With a selection of tasty quality food, a barista cafe and bar, live music and entertainment activities for the kids, you'll be spoiled for choice at this annual exciting event that celebrates a global love for wood.

Regards Suzanne





Monday 29th September 6pm - 8pm UOW Wollongong - UniHall

Learn, connect and engage in this practical, emotional, and empowering presentation that will take you through tools to have body safety conversations that matter, build unshakable trust with children, and spot the red flags before it's too late.

FREE event - bookings essential

A light supper will be provided



Thanks to our partners for collaborating with UOW Pulse and Kids' Uni in making this important event possible for families and educators in our community.





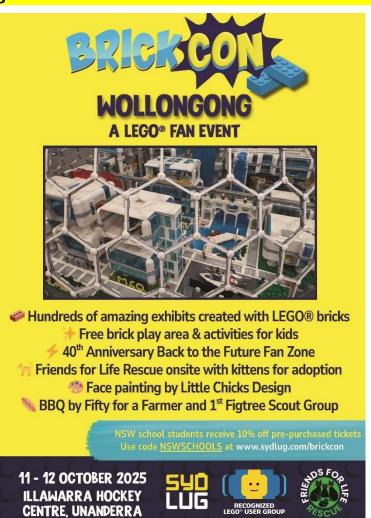








BrickCon Wollongong



Figtree Heights OOSH - Spring 2025 Vacation Care

Our Spring Vacation Care Program is now available!

Bookings will open on Monday 8th September from 10am (possibly earlier).

Families are reminded that children will need to bring **morning tea, lunch, a drink bottle, and a hat** each day.

We look forward to welcoming all current and new OOSH children for another fun-filled holiday program!

For more information or to view the program, please contact **Figtree Heights OOSH**:

Website: www.figtreeheightsoosh.com

Ph: 0412 012 061

Email: centre@fhoosh.net

VACATION CARE SPRING PROGRAM 2025

BOOKING CONDITIONS - NON-NEGOTIABLE

Please consider this carefully at the time you make bookings.

- Bookings will be open by Monday 8th September 10am. (may be earlier than this)
- NO CANCELLATIONS or CHANGES. Fees are payable with all bookings.
- CCS: Is also applied to additional excursion costs
- WAITLISTS We do NOT keep waitlist. Owna allows a system notification to alert you to places
 newly available for any specific day. Select the "Bell" on the day you want to be waitlisted for in
 the bookings section.
- FEES APPLY FOR ALL ABSENCES. All fees are payable on any absence bookings, including
 excursion and incursion additional fees.
- NEW ENROLMENTS must attend 1 x In Centre, BSC or ASC session before attending an excursion.
 Management may get in touch if more time is needed.
- . Excursion Authorisation Forms are required in OWNA at time of booking.
- Call the centre before 7:30am on the day for last-minute availability and bookings. Bookings are unable
 to be made in the app on the day.
- BOOKINGS IN ERROR must be notified IN WRITING to the service immediately to be removed. Email
 or text is accepted. Errors not notified will incur normal fees.

NEW FAMILIES WILL NEED TO ENROL BEFORE BOOKING FOR VACATION CARE.

Excursions restricted - New enrolments must have attended at least ONE onsite sessions before being eligible to participate in an excursion.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR ENROLMENT DETAILS AND INFORMATION

https://www.figtreeheightsoosh.com PH: 0412012061

EMAIL: centre@fhoosh.net

ALLERGIES

Children with allergies & conditions attend our service including allergies to these common foods:

- Nuts (all kinds)
- Dairy (including lactose)
- Eggs
- Seeds
- Legumes
- · Fish (including shellfish)
- Gluten (including wheat)

Please be mindful of this when packing food for your child to eat at OOSH.



WHAT TO BRING EVERYDAY

- BACKPACK Pack each child's belongings in a backpack they can carry. Please ensure each child has their own bag, as siblings can be allocated to different educator groups & buses.
- APPROPRIATE CLOTHING ALL children must wear clothing with sleeves and appropriate sun-safe clothing for the activity and weather.
- ENCLOSED SHOES Enclosed shoes
 MUST be wom everyday NO thongs/ Crocs or
 sandals allowed
- HAT
- DRINK BOTTLE A \$2 fee per child is applied if no drink bottle is brought.
- MORNING TEA OOSH will provide afternoon tea.
- LUNCH Please include food that considers potential allergies and is relevant quantity for your child. We do not accept food that requires pre-heating
- SPARE CLOTHES Please have a complete set of extra clothes regardless of the age of your child
- ADDITIONAL ITEMS FROM THE
 PROGRAM Any additional items as set out in
 the program for the activity
- LABEL ALL ITEMS WITH CHILD'S NAME