2016 Swimming Carnival

Issue No. 2
22 February 2016
Relieving Principal's Message

Year 12 and 11 Parent Evenings

Thank you to all of our Year 11 and 12 parents and students who came along on Thursday evening to participate in information sharing and specifically tailored subject workshops. The workshops have been designed to support our HSC students in achieving their best in 2016. We were absolutely thrilled with the number of people in attendance and the anecdotal feedback from attendees. One person said, “The teachers at Woonona HS are so helpful. They actually make it clear what it is all about.”

Year 7 Surf Survival

Congratulations to Year 7 for the high levels of enthusiasm and engagement in the Year 7 Surf Survival Day this week. Ms Steele commented that, “Year 7 were awesome. Well behaved, loads of energy, accepted challenges, worked together and represented Woonona HS in a very positive way”. Well done again to our newest cohort of students!

Youth of the Year

We are very proud of school leaders Jamie carter and Amelia McPherson for participating in the Lions Club Youth of the Year. A big congratulations to Jamie Carter for winning the Lions Club Youth of the Year for Woonona!

Parent and Citizens

A big thank you to all of those parents who attended the first P&C meeting for 2016 this week. On behalf of Ms Wall, “Welcome!” to the many, many parents who attended for the first time. A special thank you to the P&C volunteers who so efficiently manage the Woonona HS Uniform Shop and whom have been extremely busy at the start of the new school year. Our school is very lucky to have such dedicated and hardworking community members.

Swimming Carnival

Yet again, the Woonona High School Swimming Carnival has been a resounding success! High levels of participation both in and out of the pool are clearly illustrated in the wonderful pictures within this newsletter. Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who attended. Your support is valued and adds to the excellent atmosphere of this special day.

Schools Funding

You may have heard that it is the National Week of Action to promote the Gonski funding model. This fairer funding model is the funding behind the fantastic results that Woonona HS has achieved in the last few years. Last year 75% of the Year 12 students who were eligible for an ATAR received offers for enrolment at the University of Wollongong. The percentage of students attending university from Woonona HS have increased significantly since the Gonski funding model was introduced in 2013.

Gonski funding will ensure that every school has the right resources to meet the needs of every child. Only one third of the funding has been delivered so far. Parents, teachers and community members have worked together to win the funding. We need to work together to convince the Federal Government to deliver this vital funding in full. If you want to join the campaign then follow the link below to the “igiveagonski” website.


The Woonona HS Open Night

The Woonona HS Open Night is just around the corner...all are welcome on the evening of March 7th to see the interactive displays and to meet the great teachers of this excellent school.

Keep your eyes peeled for yet another wonderful TV advertisement to be shown on WIN. Dates for showing will be released through the Woonona HS app. Thank you to the many students who volunteered to be part of filming this week.

Meet and Greet for Year 7 Parents

Next Thursday (Fed 25th) from 3-5pm, Year 7 parents and their children are welcomed into the school community through the ‘Meet and greet’ afternoon tea in the school hall. The Woonona HS P&C provide an afternoon tea and all teachers of Year 7 will be present.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Year 8 Camp</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**IN THIS ISSUE**

- **2016 Swimming Carnival**
  - Page 4,5,6
- **Year 7 Surf Survival**
  - Page 7
- **Our New SRC**
  - Page 8
- **Peer Support**
  - Page 8
- **Youth of the Year**
  - Page 9
- **Year 11 Biology**
  - Page 10
- **Visual Art**
  - Page 11
- **Year 11 Drama**
  - Page 12
- **Assembly**
  - Page 13
- **Performing Ensemble**
  - Page 13
- **EOY Ice Skating**
  - Page 14
- **EOY Owl Decorating**
  - Page 14
- **Children’s Charity**
  - Page 15
- **UOW Discovery Day**
  - Page 16
- **Library Lovers Day**
  - Page 17

*Delivering excellence, innovation, opportunity and student success*
HOW MUCH FUN CAN A SWIMMING CARNIVAL BE?

The 2016 WHS Swimming Carnival was a total success with both staff and students enjoying the day immensely. Everyone got into the spirit of the carnival with the majority of students and staff wearing house colours as well as some outrageous accessories. Year 12 students led the house “cries” and had everyone “pumped” to support their house.

The weather was perfect, the music was loud and student attendance was high, all adding to the electric atmosphere of the carnival. Competition in the pool was fierce with some great races swum and all students who competed in events are to be congratulated.

For our new Year 7 students it was their first major carnival here at Woonona High School. All students agreed that it was lots of fun to compete in the events and to participate in the poolside fun.

It was also great to see a number of parents / carers and grandparents at the pool supporting their children. They also appeared to be enjoying themselves.
SOME GREAT SWIMMING AS WELL!

Congratulations to all students who participated in events at our carnival. There were some great results and these students will be progressing to the Zone Carnival to be held at Corrimal Pool on March 9.

Swimming age champions for this carnival will be announced at next weeks assembly and reported in our next newsletter issue.

The 25 metres event also proved popular with students even though it was noted that illegal floatation devices were being heavily relied on.
Staff had a great time at the carnival as well. Many took the time to dress up and all got behind their houses and encouraged participation throughout the day.

Staff also took part in the much anticipated staff v students race with staff being victorious on the day.

Not only is the carnival a great time to have fun and compete in events it also allows for teacher / student bonding in a very relaxed atmosphere.

Congratulations to carnival organisers, Mrs Sim and Mr Landy on a fantastic carnival and to all staff for their support and assistance.

Thankyou also to Mrs Montague (Visual Art Teacher) who took these amazing photos for us all to enjoy. See more on our facebook page.

Mrs M Sim
A fresh start to the day had over 120 Year 7 students arrive at Woonona beach for the annual Surf Day. This highly educational excursion, was developed to provide our new cohort with a fun, exciting and engaging way to gain a deeper understanding of the beach, which is home to many of our students.

Once grouped, our teacher rep’s lead our five eager groups off to the first station of the day - Swim testing; Rip Awareness and Beach Safety; Swimming Between the Flags; Learn to Surf; and First Aid.

With assistance from Pines Surfing and Sea Australia, the students were in and out of the water all day - having loads of fun and learning new skills. It was awesome to see the students challenging themselves to try something new, such as surfing, in an environment which is quite unpredictable. With strong surf conditions reported, the students stayed close to the shore and rode the waves in on boards - one after another (before quickly racing to line up again for another turn!)

I’d like to personally thank our supervising teacher’s for the day: Mr Rayner, Ms Sim, Ms Walker, Mr Landy, Ms Epton and our top chef, Mr De Main (who cooked up a mean BBQ lunch). We all had such a fantastic day and were so impressed by the attitudes and behaviour of our new Woonona High School cohort.

We hope this day has concreted vital information about water safety and first aid - both of which are essential skills, and produced stronger friendships amongst our new students. Thank you Year 7 for such a fantastic start to the year - we are very proud of your efforts today!

Ms Steele (Year 7 Year Adviser)
There was substantial interest in the candidacy for the junior and Year 11 2016 SRC. Applicants spoke well in front of their year groups and all of them should be commended for the effort and poise they displayed. Congratulations to all the following elected school leaders for 2016:

Year 8 - Arun Wanstall, Harrison Dabin, Tahlia Clennar, Isaac Warbuton & Tishaan Styche
Year 9 - Phoebe Austin, Angus Smart, Fletcher Bowler & Lalita Prosenko
Year 10 - Keegan Loxton, Elly Moore, Dylan Pearce-McGeary, Charlie Cram and Jack-Henry Taylor
Year 11 - Bronte Petrolo, Jay Archer, Conor Johnson & Akira Groben

PEER SUPPORT

Last week Year 7 students took part in the Peer Support Program. Along with their Year 10 mentors the students made towers out of newspaper. This exercise along with mentoring from the peer leaders aims to instil the importance of resilience - to keep going when it gets tough.

The peer support program forms part of or transition program and the groups meet regularly to take on various challenges.
Jaime Carter and Amelia McPherson both impressed the judges at the Lions Club “Youth of the Year Quest” on Monday 15th February.

This quest aims to foster leadership qualities in the youth of today. It is a challenging competition in which students had to submit their resume and were judged on leadership, sporting, cultural and community interests. They then had to undergo a half hour interview with a panel of community representatives including an employee from the National Australia Bank, who sponsor the competition, a lawyer from NSW Legal Aid and a teacher from Dapto High School. They were asked questions on general knowledge of Australia and current affairs, and given points for their knowledge as well as their impact during the interview. They then had to give two impromptu speeches of 2 minutes each, and present a 5 minute prepared speech on a subject of their choice.

Jaime and Amelia were up against two student leaders from Holy Spirit College as well as a student from Bulli High School. All five contestants were highly impressive, but Jaime Carter won through at the end!

Congratulations to Jaime, who will now go on to represent the school at the Regional Youth of the Year competition in March.

Ms Clare Matthews
H/T English
On Tuesday February 9th Year 11 Biology left the confines of their regular Science laboratory to venture out into the wild and complete a field study of a mangrove ecosystem at Minnamurra River.

The yearly expedition had students working alongside staff from the Illawarra Environmental Research Centre to learn more about field Biology in the working world and what a career in Biology could potentially entail.

After learning the basics of species identification and distribution the students conducted quadrat sampling of biodiversity in the area and collected data on abiotic and biotic factors along a 20 metre transect of the intertidal zone.

Once the hard work was completed and all the data had been collated, the students then had an opportunity to try and find some of the larger animals in the ecosystem using a range of tools including scoop nets, waders, nipper pumps and fishing rods.

The data collected from the excursion will now be used by the year 11 Biology students to create an in depth analysis of the health and diversity of the mangroves at Minnamurra river.

It was a fantastic excursion, with the Biology class all showing great enthusiasm and representing the school with pride. Our guide, Steve, from the Illawarra Environmental Education Centre did an amazing job helping all of the young Biologists gain a deep understanding of the ecosystem while keeping the activities fun and interesting. I think it’s safe to say that the future of Australian Biology is in good hands!

Mr Tim Wilson
Acting H/T Science
Students in our Visual Arts classes have been working hard already this term. Above are 3 landscape paintings completed by our students. Sarah Sheppard, Year 9 (art work top left) and Jada Naidu, Year 9 (below left) produced these vibrantly colourful works whilst Brianna Gurney, a member of the Year 8 Accelerated Arts program produced the fantastic black and white landscape shown right.

The 3 drawings shown below are from Year 9 students in our Accelerated Arts program. The students have been learning to use charcoal which will lead to the creation of large self portraits. Shown are works by (from left) Jorgia Camilleri, Phoebe Morgan and Caitlyn O’Flynn.

Mr Hoole (Visual Art Teacher)
The Year 11 Drama class this week began their first major assessment task for the year.

This was an “improvisation and devising” task where the students were placed into groups and each group given a case to open. Each case contained various objects (for example on case contained flowers, photos, hats, lines of dialogue and a mirror) . The students then had to devise an eight to ten minute play based on the objects which were found in the case.

The task was also about using dramatic elements (such as those found in the cases) to engage the audience.

The final product of these plays will form part of the students’ audition for the South Coast Drama Festival.

Ms Amber King
Drama Teacher.
THIS WEEK AT ASSEMBLY

At assembly last week staff and students took part in a hilarious skit aimed at motivating and enthusing our students to wholeheartedly support their house at the annual swimming carnival.

To the tune of "Down Town" (except the words were sung "Don't Drown") staff took to the stage with their crutches, wheelchairs, walking sticks and frames whilst students performed a lively dance routine - very entertaining!

Mr McDermott, Ms Epton, Mrs Sim, Mr Rayner, Ms Matthews, Mr Mucci amongst other staff members were looking decidedly poorly—but was it a ploy to lull our students into a false sense of security in preparation for the staff v's students event?? See page 6 for the official result.

REGIONAL PERFORMING ENSEMBLE

This week at assembly three of our Year 9 students were congratulated in their selection in the 2016 Regional Performing Ensemble.

Caleb Bate, Ethan Johnson and Phoebe Austin will all be joining the ensemble performing around the state for Public School students. They will be showcasing their talents in a one hour variety performance.

To start off their experience in the ensemble the students will attend a three day tuition camp this month.

Congratulations to these students.
We had 30 students who enjoyed a "slice of the cool slide" at Canterbury Olympic Ice Skate Park. Ms Bolam and Mr Bradley were even seen to take part, but you had to be quick to spot Ms Bolam, whose moves on the ice were a little shaky. Mr Bradley enjoys a slow but "steady as he goes" approach to his technique which keeps him standing upright for us all this year. A great day out!

Ms Bolam

Five Year 7, 2015 students took on the challenge of designing, making and decorating five toy owls in five hours at end of year activities. Threads, needles, cloth, scissors and buttons swirled around TX.2 room in a haze of frantic, focused, fun as the students started from scratch to produce a take home soft toy by the end of the day. Sewing machines needed a "rest" over the holidays. Here are some of the toys.

Ms Bolam
It is only the start of the year and unfortunately there has been a number of road and traffic incidents which need to be discussed.

There have been 3 accidents involving students on bicycles commuting to and from school. Two of these accidents involved vehicles and in the 3rd incident the student concerned lost control of his bicycle before crashing. Fortunately, each student only received minor injuries and each was wearing a helmet as required by law. Families are reminded that there are new state laws coming into force on the 1st March, 2016 which will dramatically increase the fines for bicycle riders without a helmet and also for not obeying rules such as stopping at stop signs.

Parents and carers are reminded that extreme care needs to be taken when dropping off and picking up students at the start and the end of the day. Drivers are requested not to drop their students at the main school entrance gates or to drive into the school to drop of students. This causes massive congestion and is extremely dangerous when many students are arriving or leaving school. It is requested that parents drop their children in Liddle Street or further along Nicholsons Road.

It is also requested that students using the Nicholsons Road entrance, enter and leave the school by using the pathway and not walking on the roadway where teachers and other staff are driving.

There are also concerns at the Austin Street entrance to the car park on the southern side of the school. Students are leaving the premises on foot, on bicycles and in cars and the congestion at the start and end of each day requires all people to be observant, patient and respectful of each other. Neighbours are also concerned at the way people wait for students in cars and block their driveways. Please be prepared to park a little further up the street and allow students to walk up the road a short distance to avoid the dangerous conditions that may occur.

Students have been warned to take care in these situations and it is a simple but necessary process that we all must follow to ensure safety in our busy precinct.

N.Brophy (Acting Deputy Principal.)

An important safety message for parents, carers and students.

On the 23rd of January, Pheobe Austin (Year 9 student) cut off 34cm of her hair and donated it to 'Variety, The Children's Charity' which is an organisation that supports Australian children with alopecia, a condition that causes hair loss. They use the hair donated to create wigs for the children so they can feel good about themselves again.

Below are some before and after photos of her hair donation.

Well done Phoebe! A child will definitely appreciate your donation.

Delivering excellence, innovation, opportunity and student success
Careers Report

On February 8, a group of Year 12 students travelled to UOW to attend the 2016 Discovery Day. Each student was given the opportunity to select a range of lectures and tutorials that they were interested in. This allowed the students to see what it would ‘really’ be like to be a uni student. Lectures were attended by students from various High Schools from all over New South Wales.

I chose to attend an Arts heavy curriculum that included lectures in Philosophy, English, Psychology and Visual Arts. The Psychology lecture was particularly interesting. In this session we learned how other people can influence individual decision making. It was shown how a convincing person is able to persuade people to adopt their views despite their inaccuracy. This insight has profound implications for our political society.

We all learned that university learning is much more independent than in high school. At university the choice to attend lectures and synthesise learning is the responsibility of the student and professors do not check for white socks.

Overall the day left all of us absolutely weathered but eager to experience university life in the future.

Chloe Jackson
Year 12

HSC 2015 DESTINATIONS

The best job of my year is complete. I have contacted 69 of the 70 students that completed HSC at Woonona High School last year and heard their stories. As per the result for the last few years, an overwhelming majority of our graduates are enrolling in degrees at the University of Wollongong; of 57 students that were eligible for an Australian Tertiary Admissions Ranking (ATAR) 75 per cent received offers from UOW. 12 per cent of the total cohort is enrolled in apprenticeships or traineeships and an equal number are otherwise employed. The entire Woonona School community should be proud of the job we do to prepare students for life after high school.

Congratulations to Brodie O’Brien and Jonathon Cotterill, both are enrolled in cadetships and being paid to gain professional experience while they study.
Valentine’s Day is celebrated around the world on 14th February. What you may not know is that this date is also World Library Lover’s Day.

So this week the school library was covered with lots of red love hearts to mark this very important day.

The library also hosted a morning tea and invited students to enter competitions to test their knowledge of the library and Valentine’s Day.

**DoE STUDENT VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM**

The DoE Student Volunteering program is designed for Years 9 and 10. The program encourages students to be active participants in their school and community. This program asks students to undertake a minimum of 20 hours of volunteering in their school and or community. Students who achieve this will receive a certificate from the Department of Education, as well as further certificates for completing 40, 60, 80 and 150 hours of volunteering during Years 9 and 10.

Woonona High School will be offering students in Years 9 and 10 an opportunity to participate in the DoE Student Volunteering Program through two volunteering programs.

**The Russell Vale Primary School Infants Reading Program.** This program involves students helping children read at our local primary school for 10 weeks every Tuesday, Periods 1 and 2.

**The Russell Vale Primary Sports Coaching Program.** Students help coach the children in various sporting activities. Knitting for Aid program

If your child is interested in any of these activities please get them to see Mrs Roddis in the library to register their interest.
Saturday School of Community Languages

The Saturday School of Community Languages (SSCL) is a public secondary school which operates mainly in Sydney but also in Wollongong where lessons are held at Smith’s Hill High School on Saturday mornings during school term time. It gives students the opportunity to study their background community language when that language is not available at their own school.

Whether students attend a public or a non-government school, parents are not charged any fees for their children to attend Saturday School. At the Smith’s Hill High School centre for 2016 we are teaching:

- Arabic, Years 7-12
- Chinese, Years 7-12, including Heritage and Background Speakers courses in Yr 11/12
- Macedonian, Years 7-12
- Serbian, Years 7-12
- Spanish, Years 7-10 (to extend into Year 11 in 2017, depending on student enrolments)
- Turkish, Years 7-12

We would like to reintroduce Modern Greek as a class if there is sufficient interest. I would ask if students in years 7 to 10 who are committed to joining the Greek class could please contact me as a matter of importance so we can look at the establishment of the class.

Students in Years 7-9 may enrol at any time during the year and will be accepted, providing there is space in the class. Students in Years 10-12 only have until the end of Week 4 to submit their applications. More details about enrolment may be found in the 2016 enrolment information booklet which can be accessed on: http://www.sscl.schools.nsw.edu.au/how-to-enrol. Late enrolments in Years 10 and 11 submitted after Friday, 19 February 2016 and all new enrolments for Year 12 must also include appendix 1 and supporting documentation. The SSCL email address is: saturdaycl-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

FREE HSC RESOURCES

The free “Half Yearly Exam Revision Bonus Lectures” have been designed to provide students with the skills and information required to perform to the highest standard possible, and to decrease study commitments in the lead up to the half yearly exams. Each subject lecture offers students detailed and comprehensive coverage of examinable materials as well as significantly more examination hints and instruction than that offered by any other program provider. The additional exposure to examination-style questions and specialised instruction in examination strategies and solution processes offers immeasurable benefits, and will help students develop that important advantage over their HSC peers. Further details see:

Thirroul Readers and Writers Festival
On the Edge

WRITING COMPETITION

Open section
Using this picture as inspiration write an original story up to 1,000 words.

Photo by Hal Pratt

See Festival website for full conditions:
http://thirroulreadersandwritersfestival.org/
Send your entry to:
Thirroul Readers and Writers Festival, c/- Ann Collaery, 33 Park Rd, Bulli 2516
by 30th June, 2016

Prizes: book by one of the Festival authors, chance to talk about your writing with an author, free entry to the Thirroul Readers and Writers Festival for you and a friend or relative.
mathsonline.com.au is now available for 2016!

Existing Users must renew their subscription by 1st March. This computer tutor became very popular with many students in 2015. It provides clear video lessons and covers all mathematical concepts presented in NSW schools across all levels from kindergarten to year 12. Simple practice worksheets with model solutions are also provided.

It costs only $20 per student.

This grants the student a year long subscription.

How to join:
1) Simply pay $20 at the Woonona HS front office for Mathsonline.
2) Students then take their receipt and present it at the Maths Staffroom.
3) Students receive an account number and password from Mr Holliday.

MATHEMATICS EXCEL WORKBOOKS 2016—Available for all Year 11 & 12 students!

These books have proven that they boost student’s confidence and results. All senior students at Woonona H.S. will use these books in 2016. Students who purchase the book will enjoy the convenience of writing in the workbooks. The books contain a great variety of questions along with practice HSC style exams. A shipment has been ordered and will be available for all senior year 11 and 12 mathematics students.

Only $20

Pay now at the front office. Show your mathematics teacher your receipt and pick yours up today.
## TERM CALENDAR

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<tr>
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<td>Immunisation, Year 7, 9 &amp; 11</td>
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<td>School Cross Country</td>
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<td>GOOD FRIDAY</td>
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<td>Mar 28</td>
<td>EASTER MONDAY</td>
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<td>Mar 29</td>
<td>2017 WHS CAPA Auditions</td>
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<td>Apr 7</td>
<td>Year 12 Parent / Teacher Interviews</td>
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## CANTEEN ROSTER

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<td>Mon 21st Mar</td>
<td>Karen Dubowic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 22nd Mar</td>
<td>Kerrie Austin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 23rd Mar</td>
<td>Help Needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 24th Mar</td>
<td>Donna Thompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 25th Mar</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 28th Mar</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 29th Mar</td>
<td>Help Needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 30th Mar</td>
<td>Help Needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 31st Mar</td>
<td>Karen Bate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 1st Apr</td>
<td>Help Needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 4th Apr</td>
<td>Gabi James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 5th Apr</td>
<td>Janece Pender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 6th Apr</td>
<td>Help Needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 7th Apr</td>
<td>Janelle Te Pariri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 8th Apr</td>
<td>Help Needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**FOOTBALL SOUTH COAST RECOGNISES THE SUPPORT OF ITS MAJOR PARTNERS:**

![Partner Logos](image)

**ONE REGION ONE GAME ONE VOICE**

*Delivering excellence, innovation, opportunity and student success*
Woonona Boardriders Junior Summer Sessions

You are invited to our Woonona Boardriders junior open days over summer

FREE surf sessions open to Girls and Boys from any level of ability:

- Beginners: Learning the fundamentals of surfing, right through to standing up on a wave
- Intermediate: Catching a green face wave, bottom turns, duckdiving
- Little Rippers (Advanced): There’ll be judged heats for Under 14, and Under 16

Dates
- Round 2: Sunday 29th November
- Round 3: Sunday 20th December (Juniors only round)
- Round 4: Sunday 31st January (also rego day for anyone who wants to join for the full 2016 year)
- Round 5: Sunday 28th February

Come along to any or all of these dates

Time
Sign on at 7.30am for an 8am start (we will finish juniors around 9.30am)

Place
Woonona Beach or North Side, depending on conditions, look for the Woonona Boardriders tent

If you have any questions, we can be contacted on Facebook @ Woonona Boardriders or you can call Lucas (0418 589402) or Paul (0407 263308)
WOLLONGONG JUNIOR CHESS CLUB

JNR CHESS TOURNAMENT
2016 SUMMER SUNDAY
(Under 18 Year Olds)

7 ROUND SWISS

WHEN: Sunday 28-Feb-2016 (10:00am to 4:00pm)

WHERE: FAIRY MEADOW COMMUNITY CENTRE - KEIRA ROOM
Guest Park - Crn Cambridge Ave and Princess Hwy Fairy Meadow
(Opposite Woolworth)

Trophy Prizes: 1st, 2nd, 3rd + Age Groups

Games will be rated by NSWJCL
Results will influence qualification to NSWJCL Country Championship

Entry Fee: $10

Lunch: Players should bring their own lunch and refreshments.

Arbiter and Information: JOHN MAZZIERI
Phone: (02) 4283 3080
e-mail: mazzieri@exemail.com.au

WOLLONGONG JNR CHESS CLUB meets Thursdays 4:00-6:00pm (not school holidays)
Fairy Meadow Community Centre

Future SUNDAY TOURNAMENTS
23-MAY - 2016 AUTUMN
28-AUG - 2016 WINTER
06-NOV - 2016 SPRING

FSC WIN Network
Senior Boys Academy

For boys aged 13 - 16 years

Monday nights 5:00pm - 6:30pm
Ian McLennan Park, Kembla Grange

Summer Term:
Monday 15 February -
Monday 11 April
(8 Weeks)

Summer Term Cost $160

Registrations Now Open

Coaches:
Noel Spencer
Jason Spencer

www.footballsouthcoast.com

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Naturallypuremedicine@gmail.com

Learn to play the Drums!

Benefits of Drumming:
- Builds listening and concentration skills.
- Increases self esteem, confidence and social skills.
- Increases coordination and motor skills.
- It gets you into a band!

Drum Tuition in Woonona

Learn to play the drums with a qualified high school music teacher.
All ages and musical styles taught.
Beginners welcome!

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www.lee-carey.com