



**CALLAGHAN  
COLLEGE**

Waratah Campus

WARATAH CAMPUS NEWS  
TERM FOUR 2023  
WEEK 4 EDITION

# OUR STUDENTS' VOICES

Influencing education decisions

*In this issue -*

World Teachers' Day 2024

Cafe Obsidian

Visiting Knights HQ

## SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Fun times in the sun for our annual swimming carnival.

Great results, fancy dress, heaps of fun and even some feathered visitors!

Check it out on Page 11.

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**CALLAGHAN  
COLLEGE**

# SNAPSHOTS

Out and about at Callaghan Waratah.

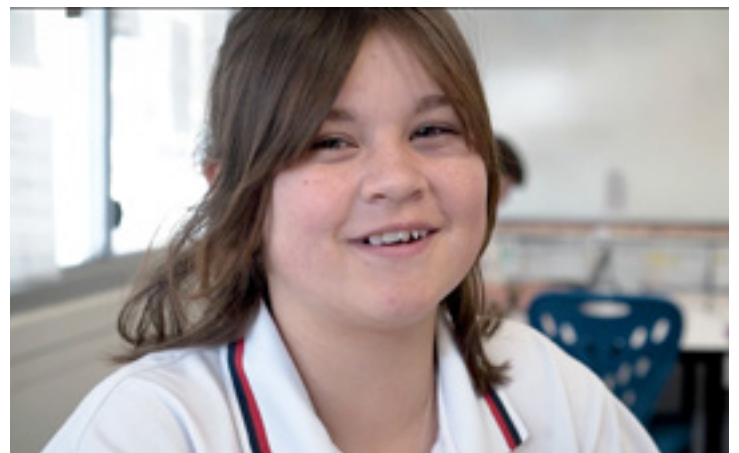


Congratulations to our group of students who recently studied and attained a White Card qualification. A White Card is a vital qualification for working on building and

construction sites throughout NSW. These students now have a great head start on their career paths.



Our Food and Technology students recently attended the FIA Food Trade Show, meeting with industry professionals and exploring career paths. They got to see the latest food trends, innovations and even got to taste test various foods.



The first episode in our series of Orientation Videos were sent out to our partner primary schools last week. These videos help our incoming Year 7 students get prepared for high school. Thank you to all our current students who have taken a starring role in this series.

# SNAPSHOTS

In the classroom at Callaghan Waratah.



Callaghan Waratah campus is a big place, with many different classrooms and areas for students to learn, study, perform, play and stay active.

Our learning areas have been very busy places over recent weeks with lots of learning and final assessments taking place.

We encourage students to stay focused and make the most of all the learning opportunities available to them.

# SNAPSHOTS

Our teachers at Callaghan Waratah.

Hats off to our Callaghan teachers for all the work that they do in the classrooms and behind the scenes.

World Teachers' Day was celebrated on Friday 27th October. We are proud of our teachers and the skilled work they perform to educate, inspire and support our students, not just on this day, but throughout the school year.

We're lucky to have highly skilled and passionate teachers who are always working to improve their teaching practices and our students' learning experiences. We are grateful for everything they do.



# PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Ms Nicole Avard, Rel. Principal

Welcome to Week 4 of term 4. Can you believe it? We're nearly halfway through the last term of 2023!

This term is always jam-packed with activities. Our students are working hard in our classrooms, getting ready for their final assessments of the year. As a school, we're also getting ready for our end-of-year events and ceremonies. These occasions are all about celebrating our students' achievements in their studies and extra-curricular activities, as well as their contributions to our school community. It's a special time to acknowledge their transition to the next phase of their learning journey. You can find the dates for these ceremonies on our calendar (please see last page).

We're also preparing for a transition in student leadership. Our Year 9 students who aspire to be school captains are getting ready for the upcoming captain elections in a few weeks. We have a fantastic group of nominees, and we can't wait to hear their ideas and commitments to leadership.

Last week we celebrated World Teacher's Day. This day is all about recognising the incredible impact that teachers have on their students' lives. At Waratah Campus, we appreciate our skilled and passionate staff. I'm truly grateful for all that they do, and I thank our students for showing their appreciation to their teachers in the form of thank you notes.

Since our last newsletter, we've had many reasons to be proud. A group of our students shared their thoughts

on learning at the Directors of Educational Leadership Conference (please see page 13). Our campus swimming carnival was a fantastic display of House spirit and lots of fun (for more details, see page 11). Zanetta and Francesca (Year 10) had the honour of trialling to represent the Hunter/Central Coast team for the Junior State Debating Championships. Both girls performed incredibly well with Zanetta making it into the team of four and Francesca receiving an honourable mention. Our Aboriginal Dance Group performed at the Ngaarr Dhuwi inter-school Touch Football Gala day and is busily preparing for their part in the Nutcracker Remixed at Speers Point Park in December. Fifteen students successfully completed their White Card qualifications as part of our Careers program, and our girls' five-a-side soccer teams in the under-14s and under-16s categories finished 2nd and 3rd respectively at the interschool gala day. Congratulations, girls!

For Year 6 students starting Year 7 at Waratah in 2024 and our Year 10 students transitioning to Year 11 at Jesmond Senior Campus, more transition events are coming up throughout the term. You can find the dates on the last page. Additionally, Years 9 and 10 are preparing for their student-led conferences. Year 9 students will have workshops this week to help them get ready for their conferences, and Year 10 conferences will be held at Jesmond Senior Campus, marking an important step in their journey towards senior studies.

Have a wonderful term everyone and I look forward to seeing families in person at all our upcoming events.



# WILD VISITORS

## Supporting our students AND our feathered friends

Spring is here, and our school has had some sweet encounters with baby birds.

A baby magpie was recently found in our playground, and our awesome administration team took care of it until WIRES came to help.

But there's more! At our swimming carnival, a family of ducks decided to join the fun, even taking over a swimming lane. They won everyone's hearts.

If you'd like to help, WIRES is looking for volunteers, so please get in touch with them.



# GEOGRAPHY IN REAL LIFE

## Learning at Redhead Beach

Our Year 10 students recently went to Redhead Beach to study the local coastal environment and develop their geography fieldwork skills.

They learned how to use tools like a hygrometer, compass, anemometer, clinometer, and light meter. They did a survey of the plant life and examined the impact of coastal processes, like waves and currents.

What's more, they looked at coastal issues from different viewpoints, such as the local council, residents, tourists, and the Awabakal traditional owners.



# CAFE OBSIDIAN

## Cooking up a storm

Cafe Obsidian has continued throughout 2023 with great success. The cafe is run by our Special Education students and staff, with the aim of developing students' work and social skills.

Each week, the group plans, prepares and serves delicious meals for staff and students. This year we've been treated to nachos and tacos, pulled pork burgers, banh mi, meatball subs, burgers and even teriyaki bento boxes.

We are certainly lucky to have such a dedicated team, providing delicious food and wonderful service.



# INTERWOVEN

## Aboriginal Studies Workshop

In the first week of the term, our Aboriginal Studies class had the privilege of taking part in an enriching workshop on Aboriginal weaving techniques, led by Speaking in Colour.

This hands-on experience was a memorable journey into the art of weaving, and our students had the opportunity to craft their own woven keepsakes.

We extend our gratitude to Wesley Mission for their support in making this valuable cultural experience possible for our students. It's through such opportunities that we aim to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of our diverse heritage.



# BROSPEAK

## Exploring cultural identity

Our Brospeak program supports Aboriginal boys in exploring and valuing their cultural identity through community engagement activities, projects, and excursions.

Recently the boys visited significant cultural sites, including Baiame Cave and Nobby's Headland to learn about dreaming stories, tracking and traditional lifestyles.

The boys are to be congratulated for their engagement in this year's program.






# OUR COUNTRY

## Composing Acknowledgements of Country

Students from all year groups had the opportunity to engage in an educational workshop centred on the Acknowledgement of Country at the end of last term. Aunty Robyn led the session, where students gained valuable insights into the significance of Acknowledgement of Country, its role in events at Callaghan Waratah, and its broader relevance in the community. Additionally, they learned about the thoughtful considerations involved in composing an Acknowledgement of Country.

We'd like to share with you a beautiful Acknowledgement of Country written by Jedda W (Year 9).



*Wiyabu/hello my name is Jedda and I am a proud Biripi woman. I was born on Awabakal country and grew up on this beautiful land. It is my privilege to take this opportunity to pay my respects to the traditional custodians of the area – the Pambalong clan of the Awabakal nation 'from the mountains to the sea'. This country has been given life and gives life and has been nurtured by our Ancestors for thousands of years.*

*Aboriginal people were the very first scientists. They made boomerangs which led to the invention of planes and how to get them to fly.*

*They were the first astronomers, using the stars to find out when to harvest food and predict the weather.*

*Aboriginal people were the first healers and environmentalists; they used bush medicines like tea-tree oil which is made by crushing leaves. Tea-tree oil is used all around the world for different conditions, from acne to fungal infection it's the world's oldest medicine.*

*It's important that we continue to look after this land for thousands of years to come because we are a part of this land. No matter where you are from its important that we look after this land together.*

*I acknowledge and pay respect to all Aboriginal people here today.*

# KNIGHTS HQ

## Mentoring with The Knights

Last week, eight Year 8 students had a special opportunity. They got to visit the Newcastle Knights' headquarters as part of a mentoring program. While they were there, they met the Knights' Community Liaison Officer, who showed them around the places where the NRLW and NRL players train. This visit helped them understand what it's like to be a professional NRL player and the high standards they have to meet.

During the tour, the students even had the chance to see Jackson Hastings and Adam Clune, which left some of them feeling star-struck! We want to say a big thank you to the Knights for making this experience possible.



# KICKING GOALS

## Great results at Gala Day

Our under 14s and under 16s girls' soccer teams showed fantastic determination and skills at the recent Interschool Soccer Gala Day at Speers Point Park.

The under-16s team reached the grand final undefeated but narrowly lost in an exciting sudden death penalty shootout, finishing 2nd overall.

The under 14s first team secured 3rd place, and the second team wrapped up the day with a win.

Huge congratulations to all the girls for their hard work and teamwork and special thanks to our coach, Ms Salter, for her support and guidance.



# SWIMMING CARNIVAL

A day of sun, fun and sportsmanship



Our school's swimming carnival was a blast! Students and staff showed great House spirit by wearing their House costumes and having a lot of fun. The day was full of exciting events, from novelty races to the epic continuous swim.

This year, the Tigers House came out on top, with results as follows -

TIGERS - 261 points      VIPERS - 256 points  
DEVILS - 238 points      SHARKS - 187 points

Congratulations to the Tigers and a big shout-out to our Age Champions and everyone who took part.

## 2023 AGE CHAMPIONS

12 YEARS - Sean O and Myah R

13 YEARS - Jack S and Audrey D

14 YEARS - Kaylan W and Ashlea M

15 YEARS - Otis M and Addison C

16 YEARS - Jed C, Tewera B, Jemima K and Sanne D





# OUR STUDENTS' VOICES

Presenting to our Educational Directors



Across the three campuses of Callaghan College, student voice and agency are activated through a wide variety of learning opportunities. We encourage students to find learning styles that best suit them and allow them to plan and study effectively.

To showcase this, a group of nine Callaghan students from our three campuses presented their thoughts on these themes to over 20 Directors of Educational Leadership from School Performance Regional North.

These students articulated a very clear message about the value of student agency and voice, and their desire for more opportunities to take greater control over their learning.

Throughout the session, our students shared a wide range of learning experiences across our three campuses with great enthusiasm, leaving our Directors in no doubt that these activities had promoted authentic engagement and high expectations at Callaghan College.

Thank you to Ahmed M, Zoe A, Raabia N, Alex G, Jemima K and Zoe K from Callaghan Waratah for participating in such an important session with our Directors. Your dedication to learning and willingness to express your opinions fills us with immense pride.



# DIARY DATES

**NOV 13-24**

MyHSC@JSC Transition Program  
(Year 10 only)

**NOV 20-22**

Year 9 Camp  
The Urban Challenge

**NOV 28**

Orientation Day for incoming  
Year 7 2024

**DEC 11**

Presentation Ceremonies  
Years 7 & 8

**DEC 12**

Presentation Ceremonies  
Years 9 & 10

**DEC 15**

Gotcha Draw  
Last day of Term 4

## YEAR 9 CAMP

Our Year 9 camp is fast approaching and we can't wait to see our students participate in The Urban Challenge.

A reminder for students with medication requirements. These must be with our administration office by Monday 13th November.

The camp commences on Monday 20th November, with students required at Broadmeadow station at 7am.

Enjoy the challenge and have fun!

## STUDENT TRAVEL

2024 school travel applications are now open.

Most students using the Opal network will not need a new Opal card and can continue travelling on their existing card.

However, if you've changed address or need a new or replacement School Opal card or travel pass, you can apply now at [this link](#).

Applications are now open - so get in early to ensure you're ready for the start of the new school year.

## STAYING IN TOUCH

Wondering who to contact for any learning or wellbeing issues relating to your child?

Visit our communication flow charts on our school website at <https://waratah-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/contact-us.html>

## PRESENTATIONS

We invite families to save the date for our end-of-year presentations.

### YEARS 7, 8 and 9

Families of students receiving awards in Years 7, 8 and 9, are invited to our presentations on the following dates -

#### YEAR 7

Monday, 11th December at 10.45am

#### YEAR 8

Monday, 11 December at 9.15am

#### YEAR 9

Tuesday 12th December at 9.15am

### YEAR 10

Families of all Year 10 students are invited to our Year 10 Ceremony and Graduation on -

Tuesday 12th December at 12.30pm

Invitations for this ceremony were emailed to families this week. Please RSVP prior to Monday, 13th November.

All presentations will be held in our hall.

Please enter via the Harris Street gate at the rear of the school.

Further details will be provided closer to the above dates.