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2025 Term 3 week 10

Principal's News

It has been an eventful term, filled with a wide range of internal and external events, as well as rich learning opportunities, all celebrated in this edition of our newsletter.

A particular highlight was our recognition of the 50th anniversary of NAIDOC Week, celebrated under the 2025 theme, "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy." This theme deeply resonates with our school's core purpose, preparing the next generation. Gordonvale State High School has a proud tradition of helping students discover their strengths and chart a pathway toward their future vision of themselves and the world they wish to shape.

As I conclude my ten-week temporary engagement as Principal of Gordonvale SHS, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the many interactions I've had with students, staff, families, and community members. These experiences allow me to confidently make the following statement:

All students at Gordonvale High who choose to take responsibility for their personal vision are supported wholeheartedly by a professional and dedicated staff. Our team consistently goes above and beyond to guide and prepare the next generation. Not only through teaching and mentoring but also by creating an environment that supports both learning and wellbeing.

In an era of rapid technological change that is reshaping how we live, learn, and work, I am genuinely excited to witness the legacy our students will leave for the world.

Next term, we welcome back Mr Geoff Moore from his well-earned leave, just in time to celebrate and congratulate our graduating Year 12 cohort. I would like to close by thanking the many members of the Gordonvale community, from students to long time family friends who have made me feel so welcome during my time here.



Principal - Kirk Findlay

Deputy Principal Student
Services (Year 7 & 8 and
Curriculum) - Davida Laney

Year 7 Transition

Transitioning to high school marks a significant milestone in a young person's life, bringing about numerous changes. Students moving to secondary school can expect:

- Interacting with a variety of teachers
- Increased autonomy in their learning
- Transitioning between different classes
- Adapting to a new dress code
- Navigating a larger school campus with more students
- Managing their time effectively
- Experiencing different daily structures

At Gordonvale State High, our dedicated transition team collaborates closely with the principals of local primary schools, including Gordonvale, Aloomba, St Michael's and Hambledon, to facilitate a smooth transition to secondary education. Our programs commence in Year 5 and continue through Year 7, aimed at helping students tackle the various challenges associated with high school.

To ease the anxiety surrounding the transition to Year 7, the student transition team has organised school visits, allowing them to engage with Year 6 students and discuss the expectations they will encounter in secondary school. Additionally, Year 7 students can join the "Twelvies for Twelvies" program, led by our Year 11 and 12 leaders. This program:

- Creates a supportive environment for Year 7 students to develop skills, understandings, attitudes, and strategies essential for adapting to a larger school setting.
- Fosters peer connections throughout the school.
- Encourages positive relationships within the school community.
- Builds skills in assertiveness, decision-making, problem-solving, and leadership.
- Empowers Year 7 students and their Year 12 leaders to support each other during the transition.

During these visits, students will meet the 2025 leaders, engage in team-building activities, and have the chance to ask questions about high school.

Our House Coordinators play an important role in the transition team. They connect with each Year 7 student and their families, ensuring every student has an adult support person early in the school year. Our House Coordinators and House Captains will also participate in various school events throughout the year involving Year 6 students from their respective schools.

A key highlight for our Year 6 students is their upcoming Transition Day on Friday 28 November, on this day students will have the opportunity to meet teachers and students who will be attending Gordonvale SHS in 2026. To attend on this day students must have completed their enrolment, if you have not yet enrolled your child for please follow the link and complete the Expression of Interest Future Enrolment Form.



The Presentation Evening Thursday 23 October is split into 2 ceremonies:

The Presentation Evening is Thursday 23 October this is a split into two ceremonies:

- Junior Ceremony for Years 7-9 will commence at 5:30pm and conclude at 6:30pm.
- Half hour intermission where light refreshments will be served.
- Senior Ceremony for students in Years 10-12 will commence at 7:00pm and conclude at 8:30pm.

All students who have nominated for special awards will be required to attend the evening as award recipients will be announced on the night. Academic awards are determined based on students' level of achievement in Semester 1 and Term 3. Academic award winners will be published for students to check before the end of Week 1, Term 4. If your student is receiving an award on the night you will be notified via email by Friday 10 October. The criteria for academic awards:

Academic awards are determined based on students' level of achievement in Semester 1 and Term 3. Academic award winners will be published for students to check before the end of Week 1, Term 4. If your student is receiving an award on the night you will be notified via email by Thursday 10 October. The criteria for academic awards:

	Academic Distinction	Academic Merit			
Years 7,8,9 & 10	<i>Distinction Awards are presented to students who have achieved 4 As in core subjects in semester 1 or term 3.</i>	<i>Merit Awards are presented to students who have achieved a combination of As or Bs in their core subjects across semester 1 or term 3.</i>			
Year 11 and 12	<i>Distinction Awards are presented to students who have achieved a GPA of 4.5 or above and studying four or more general subjects.</i>	<i>Merit Awards are presented to students who have achieved a GPA of 3.6 – 4.5 and studying four or more general subjects.</i>			
Year 11 and 12	<i>Recognition of Achievement Awards are presented to students who study applied subjects or three or less general subjects and have achieved a GPA of 4 or above.</i>				
All Students	<i>Personal Excellence Awards are presented to students who have achieved a GPA of 4.5 or above for effort and behaviour in all subjects for both semester 1 and term 3.</i>				
All Students	<i>Subject Awards these awards are presented to the top student(s) of each subject area. Students must achieve a B or greater in their subject area to be eligible for this award.</i>				
GPA	Grade Point Average (GPA) <i>Is calculated by adding all the numbered grades you received and dividing them by the number of subjects you have taken.</i>				
	A = 5	B = 4	C = 3	D = 2	E = 1
	<i>Example: 2 A's, 2 B's and 1 C = 21 divided by 5 (number of subjects) = GPA 4.2</i>				

We are very much looking forward to celebrating our students' successes throughout the year and hope to see you all there.



2025 PRESENTATION NIGHT

Celebrating student success - Academic - Sport

When:	Thursday 23rd October 2025
Where:	Gordonvale State High School Stadium
5.30pm	Junior Ceremony
6.30pm	Interval/Refreshments
7.00pm	Senior Ceremony



Academic, Sporting and Special Awards will be announced on the night.

Acknowledging our students' achievements in 2025



Deputy Principal Student Services (Year 7 & 8 and Curriculum) - Davida Laney

Deputy Principal Student Services (Year 9 & 10 and Curriculum) - Caroline Elliott

End of Term 3 Update

As we wrap up Term 3, I would like to congratulate all our Year 9 and Year 10 students on their hard work, persistence, and achievements throughout the term. It has been a busy and rewarding term, and we are proud of the way students have continued to demonstrate commitment to their learning and engagement in school.

A special congratulations goes to our Year 10 students who have now completed their Senior Education and Training (SET) Planning for 2026. This process marks an important milestone in preparing for senior schooling, as students have carefully considered their future pathways, explored career options, and selected subjects that align with their individual goals and aspirations.

I would like to acknowledge the effort students have put into this process, as well as the valuable support provided by families, teachers, and staff who guided students through their

decision-making. This is a strong step forward in ensuring our young people are well-prepared for the exciting opportunities of senior schooling and beyond.

As we head into the final term of the year, we encourage all Year 9 and 10 students to maintain their focus, continue striving for excellence, and take pride in the progress they have already achieved. I wish everyone a safe and restful break and look forward to another successful term ahead.



Deputy Principal Student Services (Year 9 & 10 and Curriculum) - Caroline Elliott

Deputy Principal Student Services (Year 11 & 12 and Curriculum) - Jacinta Evans

TERM 4 INFORMATION FOR YEAR 12

As we approach the end of a remarkable year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on our journey and share some important updates. With the final stretch ahead, it's crucial to stay informed about key dates and essential information that will guide us through the concluding weeks. Please read the details in the newsletter below to ensure you're up-to-date and prepared for the important events coming your way.

In Term 4, all students will attend their timetabled classes as normal for weeks 1-3. In week 4, the external exam block will commence, and all Year 12 students will be dismissed. Attendance at school will only be required for external exams during weeks 4-6, or to complete assessment as arranged with the school. In week 7, students will return to school for Leaver's Week.

Key Dates:

- 7 October - 24 October (Weeks 1 - 3) – Normal school routine and timetable
- 27 October - 14 November (Weeks 4 - 6) – External exam block

- 18 November - 20 November (Week 7) – Leaver's Week (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday only)
- 21 November - Year 12 Farewell Ceremony and Formal

Please note that students are to wear the correct school uniform at all times when attending the school (including for external exams) except for on specified free dress days during Leaver's Week which have been indicated below.

Leaver's Week Activities

The final week is made up of an alternative timetable which aims to provide opportunities for education and celebration for our exiting seniors. If your child is not participating in a designated event, parents/carers will need to ensure they are signed out through the main office, or their absence explained. As there is no cost for students, we encourage all students to attend all of these events. Throughout the week, students will be required to be at school for Senior Farewell rehearsals and to receive key information to ensure the smooth running of the event. Below is a draft of the timetable for Leaver's Week. Attendance is compulsory during this time, as students will receive important information regarding graduation and the formal, engage with service providers, rehearse for graduation, attend a final excursion and complete tasks to wrap up their schooling.

Babinda Boulders Excursion

Students in Year 12 are invited to attend the final excursion to Babinda Boulders. This day is always regarded as a relaxing last day to reflect on fond memories created throughout each student's school journey. The school will provide a sausage sizzle and fruit for lunch. Students must return signed consent forms to participate.

Year 12 Farewell Ceremony

The Year 12 Farewell Ceremony will occur at the school. Students are encouraged to invite their relatives to attend, and details will be provided for families to RSVP closer to the date. Date claimer information is below. Details for the Year 12 Farewell Ceremony:

Date: Friday 21 November

Location: Gordonvale State High School Stadium

Ceremony Start: 9:00 am

Ceremony End: 10:00 am

RSVP: Invitation to be sent to families closer to the date.

Uniform: Students are required to wear their 2025 Senior Shirt with knee-length plain black shorts or long plain black pants, or the GSHS formal uniform. Please note tight shorts (e.g. activewear) are not appropriate for this event. Students not wearing the required dress will be asked to change.

Year 12 Formal

The Year 12 Formal Arrivals and Dinner will be held on Friday 21 November. This event is for students enrolled in Year 12 at Gordonvale State High School, partners must be from within their cohort. As the school is covering the cost of Norman Park arrival event, the cost of the Formal Dinner ticket has been reduced.

Tickets will be available for purchase from the Office from Monday 15th September for students who have met the criteria. Payment must be finalised at the main office by Friday 31 October

Arrivals

- Commences at 5:00pm and concludes at 6:30pm, at Norman Park, Gordonvale.
- Norman Park will be decorated for the event, (parent committee to support the park decorations)
- Students will be allowed to invite as many guests as they like to attend
- Streets around Norman Park will be closed for your arrivals as you will do a lap around the park
- Students will be allocated an arrival time and an arrival number
- Canapés will be provided free of charge to students and guests
- Photographer to take photos of students and families under the Rotunda at Norman Park
- Photographer to take photos of students and their cars on arrival
- School will provide transportation to and from the Hilton. Parents will not be able watch arrivals at the Hilton
- Parents can request to personally drop students at the Hilton. This will be at the Principal's discretion.

Transport to the Hilton

- School will provide transportation to and from the Hilton at 6:30pm. Parents will not be able watch arrivals at the Hilton
- Parent/carers can request to personally drop students at the Hilton, students will not be able to drive themselves to the Hilton
- The permission form attached will need to be signed and returned to school indicating whether students will be catching the bus or transported by their parent/carers
- Once a preference for transport to the Hilton has been made, it cannot be changed

Formal Dinner

- Commences at 7:00pm and concludes at 10:30pm, at The Hilton, Cairns Esplanade.
- Formal tickets are \$110 per student
- A photo booth will be available at the Hilton for students to take fun photos with friends
- Only students of Gordonvale State High School are able to attend the formal dinner. Students are not permitted partners outside of the Year 12 cohort.

As with any school function there are some basic rules and guidelines that need to be followed to ensure a successful evening:

- This is an alcohol-free event, no consumption of alcohol by any guest regardless of age before or during the course of the evening.
- Dress should be appropriate for a formal school function.
- Students must remain inside the venue at all times under the supervision of teachers.

The following four conditions also apply to this extra-curricular activity:

1. Fees - Text Hire fees and charges paid in full or a payment plan set up and honoured.
2. Attendance - Students must be present at school for 90% for Semester 2. All absences must be explained.
3. Behaviour - Students must have demonstrated an exemplary behaviour and adhered to the school's Student Code of Conduct
4. Academic - No outstanding assessment as per school's Assessment Policy.

Seating arrangements and dietary requests will be organised at a Year 12 parade during Term 4. Arrival time and order for the arrivals at Norman Park will be allocated at this parade.

Attendance at school in the morning of this event is mandatory for final arrangements for the arrivals, students will then be released to go and get ready for the evening. However, any student who does not attend requires parental contact with the school prior to Friday 15 November with an explanation.

The Year 12 Formal Dinner is a major event and a significant part of the finalisation of students' schooling years. We look forward to making it a memorable and enjoyable celebration for all involved.



Deputy Principal Student Services (Year 11 & 12 and Curriculum) - Jacinta Evans

HOD Student Services (Years 7 & 8)

Year 7 Students Engage with The Resilience Project

Last Tuesday, our Year 7 students had the privilege of attending a special presentation as part of The Resilience Project (TRP). We were fortunate to welcome Ray Thompson from the North Queensland Cowboys, who shared his inspiring Rugby League journey with our students.

Ray spoke about the challenges and setbacks he faced throughout his career and highlighted the importance of resilience, gratitude, and empathy, all key focus areas of The Resilience Project. His stories provided students with a real-life example of how these values can help people overcome obstacles and grow both on and off the field.

The presentation encouraged students to reflect on their own experiences, consider the power of a positive mindset, and recognise the role resilience plays in achieving goals.

We thank Ray for generously sharing his time and insights, and we look forward to continuing to build these important life skills in our Year 7 cohort through The Resilience Project.



Reminder: Energy Drinks Prohibited at School

The wellbeing of our students is always our highest priority. Recently, we have noticed some students bringing energy drinks to school. We would like to remind families that energy drinks are **not permitted** at school.

These products contain extremely high levels of caffeine and sugar, which can negatively affect concentration, mood, behaviour, and overall health. Research shows that excessive caffeine consumption in young people can lead to anxiety, sleep disruption, irritability, and difficulty focusing in the classroom.

Our expectation is that all students arrive at school ready to learn, and part of this involves making healthy choices. We encourage families to support this by ensuring students bring water and other nutritious drink options instead.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and supportive learning environment for all students.

Year 6 into 7 Enrolment Meetings

We are continuing bookings for Year 6 into 7 enrolment meetings. Families are encouraged to secure a time to discuss enrolment, transition, and opportunities available for students moving into Year 7 in 2026.

Meetings are available **Wednesday and Thursday afternoons (from wks 2-5) from 3:00pm to 4:00pm.**

To book your meeting, please contact the school office on **4043 3222.**

PBL Acknowledgement Day

As part of our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) framework, students who achieved clearance were invited to attend our recent Acknowledgement Celebration.

Students enjoyed a Pizza and Zooper Dooper party, followed by the opportunity to participate in a range of fun activities. These included organised games of volleyball and basketball, relaxing with free time on laptops, boardgames, or watching a short film.

This was a fantastic way to recognise and celebrate the positive choices our students are making each day at school. Well done to all students who earned their place at this event!

HOD Student Services (Years 7 & 8) - Joel Jerome

HOD Student Services (Years 11 & 12) - Jeannie Richter

Year 12 Term 4

In Week 9, a letter was sent home to families of Year 12 students detailing events which are scheduled to occur. Key dates to note:

- 6 October-24 October (weeks 1-3) – Normal school routine and timetable
- 27 October-14 November (weeks 4-6) – External exam block
- 17 November-21 November (week 7) – Leaver’s Week (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday only)
- 21 November – Year 12 Farewell Ceremony and Formal

In week 7, students will return to school on Tuesday 12th November for ‘Leaver’s week’ activities, through to Friday 15th November for the Farewell Ceremony, and formal. Students and families have been provided with a letter detailing these events at the end of Term 3. Parents and Carers will be emailed an invitation for the Farewell Ceremony in Term 4. Attendance during week 7 is compulsory. The schedule for week 7 will be:

	Tuesday 18 November	Wednesday 19 November	Thursday 20 November	Friday 21 November	
Uniform requirement	Free dress – “Pyjamas”	Free dress – “Anything but a bag”	Free dress – Babinda Boulders excursion	Formal uniform / Senior’s shirt with black shorts/pants	
Before School	Breakfast S Block Hall				
Lesson 1	Red Frogs Party Safe	Link & Launch	Farewell Ceremony Rehearsal	Farewell Ceremony	
Lesson 2	Red Frogs Life after school	1 st aid & CPR 4 Life	Babinda Boulders Excursion	Year 12 students dismissed	
Lesson 3	QCAA MyPortal Updates	Farewell Ceremony Rehearsal			
Lesson 4	Formal arrivals briefing				

External Exams

As of Monday 27th October (weeks 3- 4), Year 12 students are only required to attend school if they are sitting an external exam for a general subject. The external exam timetable has been previously emailed to families. Please check this thoroughly, as, if your student misses an exam without sufficient explanations, they will receive an N rating for the subject, and will not receive the QCE points applicable, as per the QCAA guidelines. When attending exams, ensure students arrive at the Library for their external exams at least 15 minutes prior to the start time in full school uniform. They must have all necessary exam equipment. Please visit <https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/see> for more information, or refer to the correspondence which has been emailed previously.

If your student is unable to attend an external exam, please phone Jean Richter immediately on (07) 4043 3264 and I will provide you with the steps necessary.

2026 Senior Shirt & Jersey

A reminder that the 2026 senior polo and jersey are now available to order. Students can view the approved designs on the notice boards underneath B Block.

Polo Cost:	\$35.00 (+\$3.50 surcharge for orders of shirts 4XL-6XL)
Jersey Cost:	\$75.00 (+\$3.50 surcharge for orders of shirts 4XL-6XL)

Purchase of the polo and jersey is for students with clearance only. The requirements for clearance are:

- Uniform Infringement: No more than 3 uniform infringements recorded.
- Resources: No overdue library resources.
- School fees: School fees from previous years and Term 1 and 2 of current year paid in full.

There are sample sizes available for students to try in B13 during breaks and before/after school. For those students who have not met clearance, they are able to arrange a meeting with Ms Richter to determine why they have not met clearance and submit a clearance appeal. Clearance appeals are to be submitted by no later than Wednesday 8 October. Students can check their clearance with Ms Richter in B13.

2026 Student Leader Applications

The selection process for the 2026 Student Leaders has been ongoing throughout Term 3, with applicants participating in an interview with a selection panel and presenting speeches to the school for student and staff voting. Congratulations and well done to all students who have put forward an application, you have demonstrated courage and resilience throughout the process! The 2026 School, Vice and Indigenous Captain positions will be announced during Presentation Evening, and the House Captains during a special House Parade in Term 4.



Key dates Term 4

Key dates Term 4

Term 4 2025	
Date	Event
6 th October	Public Holiday
7 th October	First day of Term 4
9 th – 12 th October	QLD All School Touch
14 th October	Years 7,8 & 9 Performance – Mental Health Awareness
15 th October	Clontarf Year 11 Leadership Camp – Tinaroo
15 th October	Parent Infor Session Yr 5 into 7, 2027
23 rd October	Presentation Night
20 th – 24 th October	Year 11 Block Exams
21 st October	Clontarf Year 7 Leadership Camp – Woodleigh Station
27 th – 31 st October	Year 12 Block Exams
29 th October	Clontarf Year 9/10 Leadership camp - Cairns
31 st October	Clontarf Year 9/10 Rugby 7's Carnival
3 rd – 18 th November	Year 12 External Exams for general Subjects
4 th November	Clontarf Awards Night
6 th November	Year 7 Vaccinations
14 th November	Year 11 Biology Excursion to Behana Gorge
18 th November	RACQ Road Safety Presentation
19 th November	Clontarf Year 8 Leadership Camp – Bramston Beach
20 th November	Leaver's Excursion
21 st November	Year 12 Farewell Ceremony – 9am – 10am
21 st November	Year 12 Formal – Arrivals Norman Park & Dinner at Hilton
27 th November	Clontarf Year 12 End of Year trip – Melbourne
28 th November	Transition Day
5 th December	Clontarf – Touch Rugby League Carnival
12 th December	LAST DAY 2025



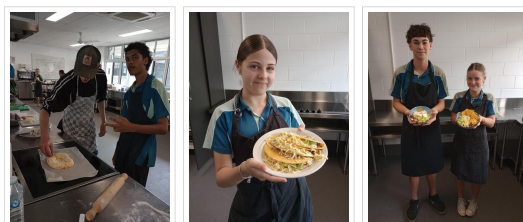
HOD Student Services (Years 11 & 12) - Jeannie Richter

Art & Technology

Year 9 Food Specialisations – Harmony Day Showcase

Our Year 9 Food Specialisations students have proudly completed their *Harmony Day Unit*, where they explored the theme of diversity through food. Throughout the unit, students researched sustainable cooking practices and discovered recipes from a wide range of cultural traditions.

For their final showcase, students prepared and presented vibrant dishes that highlighted their practical cooking skills while reflecting values of inclusivity, respect, and care for the environment. From selecting sustainable ingredients to experimenting with new flavours, they demonstrated collaboration, cultural appreciation, and pride in their learning – a wonderful way to share learning through food!



Clontarf

Year 7/8 AFL Carnival & Leadership Camp & AFL Carnival

Last Wednesday, the Year 7/8 students from Gordonvale Academy packed their football boots and fishing gear, ready for an action-packed AFL carnival and leadership camp.

The carnival was a hit with our boys. While we didn't come home with the win, they showed outstanding teamwork and a never-give-up attitude that made us all incredibly proud.

After the carnival, we headed off to Palm Cove, where we stayed overnight. The boys enjoyed some night fishing, and the next morning they took the lead in making their own breakfast before wetting a line once again.

To finish off an unforgettable trip, we hit the wake park — a place full of endless fun and laughter as the boys challenged themselves (and each other!) to stay afloat and not get dunked.

A fantastic trip full of memories, mateship, and leadership!



Year 9 Touch Football

As is common across many FNQ schools, our boys are passionate about all things Rugby League. While they love trying new sports at Clontarf, some of the best afternoons are still the simple ones—playing a game of touch footy with a few mates.

That's exactly what our Year 9s enjoyed in Week 7: an afternoon full of skills, laughs and healthy competition. It was the perfect mid-week break and, as always, we wrapped it up with a well-earned feed.



Morning Training

As Term 3 rolled on, so did our dedicated team of morning trainers. In what has been a massive year, the boys have shown outstanding commitment, with many finishing the term having clocked up eight or more sessions.

Throughout the program we explored a range of sports and activities, focusing on teamwork, resilience, communication—and, most importantly, having fun.

Each week a student was recognised with our **Spirit Award**, celebrating those who best demonstrated the values we aim to foster in our boys.



Southern Corridor AFL

In preparation for the Year 7 & 8 AFL carnival, we welcomed our neighbouring academies for a big Monday afternoon clash to wrap up the Southern Corridor Competition.

Instead of splitting into separate teams, everyone jumped in for one full-field game of AFL. The boys laughed and cheered as they mixed together, tackling, kicking and handballing their way through an afternoon of fun—capped off with a deadly feed to finish.

Naidoc Week Celebrations

In Week 7 we proudly celebrated NAIDOC Week at Gordonvale High School. We always encourage our boys to get out into the community and be part of events—especially those that connect to their own culture—and it was inspiring to see them doing just that.

Our Year 7 & 8 students took on the door-decoration challenge, creating a striking collage featuring favourite leaders from the past, present, and emerging (including our own students). We also ran a dot-painting station where staff and students designed some truly deadly patterns.

A highlight of the week was watching some of our lads perform traditional dances in front of their peers and guests—a moment of immense pride for everyone involved.



Part time Employment Forum

One of our key academy goals is helping the boys explore part-time work and think about life after school. In Week 7 we put that into action with an employment forum and a series of worksite visits.

Our first stop was Pioneer North Queensland in Edmonton, where the boys toured the facility, learned about the company's history and future goals, and—most importantly—heard firsthand what it takes to land a job there.

Next we visited Gordonvale Woolworths, a valued Clontarf partner that always welcomes our students. Staff shared tips

on applying for part-time work and highlighted the pathways available—many of which have already been taken by past and current Clontarf students.

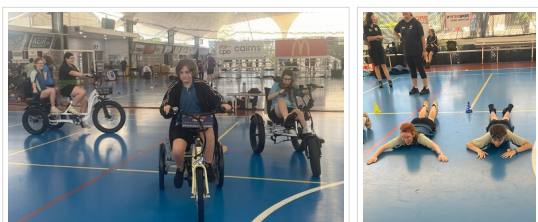
After a big afternoon, everyone regrouped over pizza to chat about what they'd learned and to set personal goals for their own employment journeys.



CLONTARF Director - Rickki Sutherland

Diverse Learning Centre

In August a group of our senior students attended the Abilities Unleashed Sports Day run by Sporting Wheelies, participating in activities including land swimming, pickle ball and riding e-bikes. This was the first time we have attended this event, and it was much enjoyed by students and staff. We hope it is run again in 2026, and if so, plan on taking a larger group including junior students.



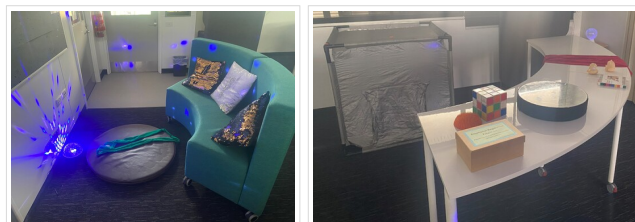
In September we attended All Abilities Day, a try-a-sport day we have been participating in for several years. We took a large group of both junior and senior students who enjoyed the usual cricket, footy, tennis and athletics. This year there was also the new experiences of lawn bowls and seated volleyball to add an extra dimension of fun.



Our QCIA cooking class has been exploring morning tea and finger foods all term, culminating in a High Tea showcasing their favourite recipes. Devilled eggs, sliders and strawberry sandwiches were just some of the delectable treats enjoyed with “fancy” crockery supplied by Teacher Aide Shelley. Some students created place cards and a menu and everyone practiced folding linen napkins. It was also an opportunity to practice manners and conversation in a semi-formal dining situation.



A temporary sensory space was set up in one of our classrooms, with students accessing it at lunch breaks and for short periods during lesson times. Many of our students enjoyed choosing a nook and handling the range of sensory items available. Some of the items are school resources while others were on loan from the ARC Resource Library. The sensory space was also available to visitors during Vivid Festival.



HOSES - Anita Ramage

Hospitality

Year 7 Kitchen Adventures

Our Year 7 students have had an exciting and delicious term in the kitchen! From sweet treats like **apple croissants** to savoury favourites such as **Mediterranean chicken with cous cous**, they explored a wide variety of flavours and cooking techniques. For their assessment task, students blended up refreshing **smoothies**, and in their final session they mastered the art of the perfect **poached egg**. As always, every young chef played their part in keeping our space sparkling clean—because in our kitchen, **everyone cooks and everyone cleans!**

Year 10 Certificate I in Hospitality

Our Year 10 Certificate I in Hospitality students have continued their exciting cooking journey this term, experiencing both **tasty successes** and a few **epic fails** along the way! From hearty **lasagna** to delicate **profiteroles**, they've challenged themselves with a wide range of dishes and grown their skills in the kitchen. Next term, the focus shifts to **assessment tasks** as students work towards completing their Certificate and showcasing everything they've learned.

Year 12 Certificate II in Hospitality

It's been a **massive term** for our Year 12 Certificate II in Hospitality students, packed with incredible experiences and real-world events. They've showcased their skills by catering for the **Careers Expo**, competing in the **Culinary Cooking Competition**, serving at the **NAIDOC Dinner**, and contributing to **VIVID**, before finishing the term in style with the **Principal's Lunch**. With the **finish line in sight**, students are on track to complete their assessments by the end of the term, ready

to kick off Term 4 with some well-earned fun—creating spectacular celebration cakes to mark the end of their journey!



HOD Arts & Technology - Tennille Farnsworth

Science

Gordonvale State High School came alive with the excitement of National Science Week as students took part in a range of hands-on activities designed to inspire curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving.

Students eagerly joined in the fun with the Watermelon Bust Challenge, putting physics to the test in a spectacular (and messy) way. Science and art blended beautifully with colour-changing roses, while sodium alginate worms brought chemistry to life in a wiggly, eye-catching experiment. For those who enjoy a challenge of a different kind, monkey fist keychains gave students a chance to develop their knot-tying and design skills. Finally, the ever-popular static electricity experiments had sparks flying—literally—as students explored the power of invisible forces.

The week was not only about fun but also about showcasing how science is part of our everyday lives. Students left with a stronger appreciation for the role of science in shaping the world around us, and a big dose of inspiration for future studies and careers in STEM. A huge thank you goes to our dedicated Science staff and student leaders for making this week such a success. Science Week at Gordonvale SHS reminded us all that discovery begins with curiosity—and a willingness to try, test, and explore.

A massive congratulations to Year 12 student Sophie who was announced as a recipient of one of the 2025 Outstanding STEM Student awards at the Peter Doherty Awards for Excellence in STEM Education ceremony during Science Week. Sophie has worked very hard to maintain outstanding results across her science subjects, is a keen supporter of science and community events and is on a career pathway to be a Forensic Scientist.

Thank you to the families who came through and visited us at our Vivid stall this year. It was wonderful to have people amazed by our giant bubbles and our vortex (fog) rings. The fog rings demonstrate how the air in the centre of the ring is travelling faster than the air exiting around the edge of the ring. Since the air inside the vortex moves faster than the outside air, the resulting inward pressure is the force that holds the fog ring together. Eventually air friction steals away the energy in the vortex and the ring drifts to a stop.

Term 3 in classrooms has seen students covering a range of topics from investigation plate tectonic movement and rock formation process in Year 8 to developing a process to filter water after a cyclone in Year 7. Year 9 students have been investigating how different coloured objects absorb or reflect heat and year 10 students have been applying Newton's Laws of physics and forces to the movement of objects.

Senior students in Biology, Chemistry and Physics have now completed both their Research Investigation and Student Experiments and are preparing for their end of Unit 2 exam. 11 Agricultural Practices students have been continuing their work with Bee handling techniques while Year 12 have been investigating local Animal Industries. Science in Practice students have been using their physics knowledge to analyse

HPE

This term saw our Touch Football Clinics revisit GSS to work with their Prep B and Grade 1/2 Composite Class. Our coaches headed down to GSS to teach their youngest students the basics of touch football! In each session, they practiced their passing, learnt how to play the ball and score tries and make tags with all learning new skills and having a ball with bullrush to end the sessions! This term we had new coaches taking up the mantle with Jake, Luke and Sofie all getting involved learning the skills and becoming great coaches already! Over two weeks, all students improved their passing, catching and tagging skills and became super fast in playing the ball! Later this term, our coaches then ran Touch Football at the All Abilities Day for over 300 students from all over FNQ! Our coaches took students with disabilities from all over and taught them the basics of touch football with fast and frantic fun had by everyone! What was even better to see was some primary schools we have visited this year had students we had coached attending showing off some amazing skills that they'd learnt from our coaches earlier this year! Well done Ella, Mackenna, Jemma, Jorja, Tajhanna, Layla, Luke, Whalun, Liam, Jake and Sofie!



HOD HPE - Matt Sperring

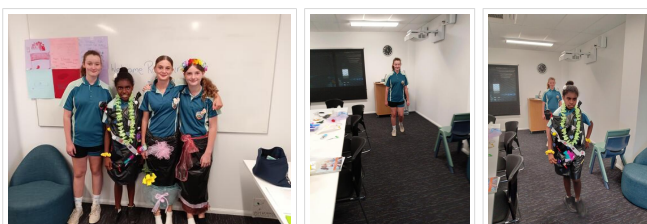
vehicle design in year 11 and year 12 students have been building their understanding of physics. Year 11 and 12 Aquatics practices students have spent their term designing, painting and making lures.



HOD Science - Kylie Sheehan

School Chaplain

Girls Radiance ran during term 3 group finishing in week 9 with the girls had a celebratory lunch of pizza and a movie. In week 8 we talked about confidence and the activity associated was to dress up a garbage bag to wear and then walk confidently down the catwalk. Shane the School Nurse was the judge and all girls were winners. The girls also learnt that taking care of ourselves is important inside and out. The girls enjoyed trying the natural face masks.



Chaplain - Wendy Van Hassel

VIVID recap

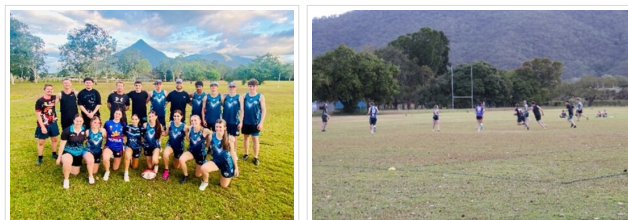
VIVID Festival Returns to Gordonvale SHS!

What an incredible night it was! VIVID Festival lit up Gordonvale State High School once again, celebrating the talent, learning, and creativity of our students.

A huge thank you to our amazing students for showcasing their skills, our dedicated staff for all their work behind the scenes, and our wonderful community for coming out to support and celebrate with us.

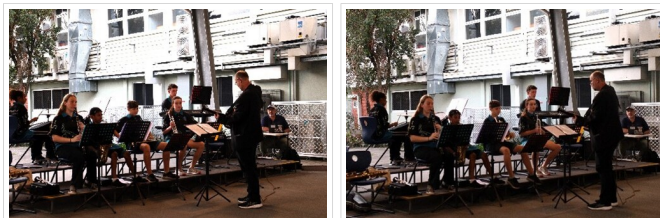
Touch Footy Kick-Off

The evening began with a thrilling pre-event touch football game, where our current school team took on ex-student touch legends in a friendly (but fierce!) match. Spectators cheered loudly from the sidelines, setting the perfect tone for the night ahead.



Music & Art Highlights

VIVID officially opened with a performance from our Stage Band under the baton of Mr Kelly Perger. For many students, it was only their second time performing in front of an audience – and what a performance it was!



In the Art rooms, visitors admired the dazzling displays of creativity from across all year levels. Many joined in a collaborative workshop led by Mrs Petrasevic, contributing to a collective artwork soon to be displayed at the school.



Science, Tech & VR Fun

Science came alive with air cannons firing smoke bombs, giant bubble stations, and hands-on experiments. In the Library, the fun continued with interactive History, English, and Technologies displays. Visitors immersed themselves in Virtual Reality – stepping into the shoes of Vikings and exploring new worlds – before listening to audiobooks written by students with guidance from author Richard Yaxley. Robotics displays also

wowed crowds, as Lego bots followed tracks and performed programmed moves.



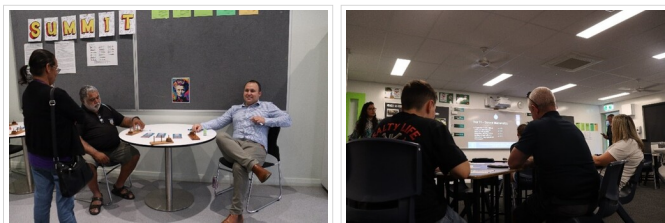
Challenges & Competitions

In the Stadium, the HPE team put students and families to the test with rigorous physical challenges. Nearby, the Summit offered the tricky Tower of Hanoi puzzle, while the Maths team hosted the fast-paced “Are You Smarter Than a High Schooler?” trivia.

Congratulations to our winners:

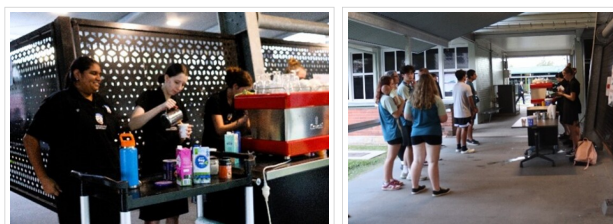
- **Parent/Community:** Debbie Anderson, Jake Galpin
- **Students:** Jessica Anderson, Ruthie Flynn, Liam Moffat
- **Staff:** Jacinta Evans

Meanwhile, while House spirit was on display in the *Minute to Win It* competitions – earning points towards the ultimate prize, the House Cup!

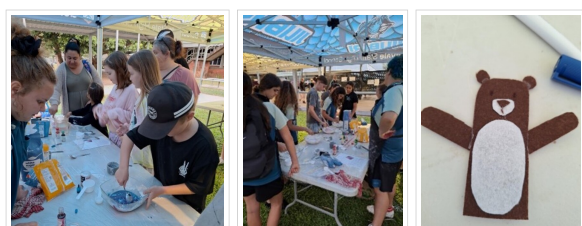


Food, Fun & Family

Hospitality students kept crowds smiling with free coffee, hot chocolate, and a cupcake decorating station. The school's Touch team and Clontarf staff also served up dinner, raising funds to support their trip to the Gold Coast All-Schools Touch Competition – go Gladiators!

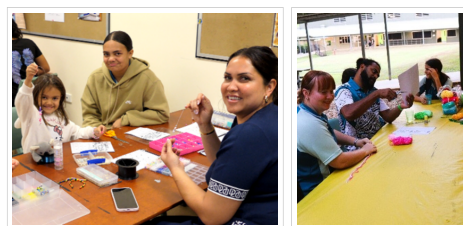


For our youngest visitors, Early Childhood students ran hands-on activities including cloud play dough, finger puppets, and even interactive experiences with training baby dolls, giving kids (and parents) a taste of childcare in action.

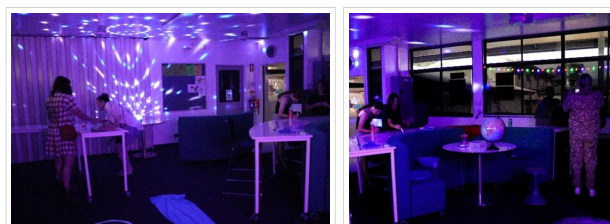


A highlight of the evening was the First Nations weaving and beading workshops, where staff and students shared their

cultural knowledge and creative skills. Visitors were invited to try their hand at traditional techniques, creating small woven pieces and beadwork to take home.



Finally, for those who needed a breather, the DLC staff hosted a calming sensory “Chill Out Zone,” complete with beanbags, low lighting, and mindfulness activities.



A Night to Remember

From music and art to science, sport, and community fun, the 2025 VIVID Festival truly had something for everyone. Thank you once again to our students, staff, and local community for making it such a success. We can't wait to do it all again next year!

ADVERTISING

\$5,000 Scholarship Applications Open!

Have you been impacted by a serious illness during your years at school? Are you leaving school to go to university, or to complete an apprenticeship/vocational training next year? Then this scholarship could be for you!

A serious illness can make it very difficult for young people to continue their education and achieve their life goals. Our Charlie Bell Educational Scholarship will award grants of \$5,000 to deserving young people to help them follow their career dreams. Ronald McDonald House Charities North Australia is here to help the recipients to succeed in their chosen career. The money can go towards university or VET fees, apprenticeship tools, books or supplies, etc.

Applications are now open for eligible young people:

- between 15 and 20 years old;
- who have suffered from a serious illness at some point during their schooling years; and
- who are leaving school and enrolling in a university or VET course for 2026.

The online application form requires you to supply:

- Educational information/history

- Relevant medical history
- An outline of your study aims, career pursuits, personal achievements, community involvement & goals for your future
- A written personal reference
- A written Education/Employer reference
- Signature of parent/guardian (if under 18 years)

Applications close 30th November 2025.

Apply online now at: <https://rmhc.org.au/what-we-do/charlie-bell-scholarship/>

If you have any questions or would like further information, please feel welcome to contact us:

Belinda O'Neill

Education Services Manager

1. (07) 4775 5600
2. belinda.oneill@rmhc.org.au

Shakira Beale

Learning Program Coordinator

1. (07) 4775 5600 – Ext 201
2. shakira.beale@rmhc.org.au



Ronald McDonald Learning Program*



\$5,000

Tertiary Scholarship

RMHC Charlie Bell Scholarship program

The Charlie Bell Scholarship offers grants of \$5,000 to young people who have suffered serious illness or injury to assist students or apprentices in furthering their education or careers.

Key Info

- Applications close 30 November 2025
- Available for school leavers aged 15-20 years
- Scholarships are awarded annually
- Selection will be made by the Ronald McDonald House Awards Committee

Enquiries

✉ learning.na@rmhc.org.au

📞 (07) 4775 5600



Scan to Apply Today

<https://rmhc.org.au/what-we-do/charlie-bell-scholarship/>

Turn to Teaching and Trade to Teach – 2026 Intakes Now Open

As you may be aware, the department is offering a new round of the Turn to Teaching program for 100 participants, along with a further round of the Trade to Teach program for 30 participants. We are excited to welcome new candidates into these programs commencing in 2026, enabling us to support career changers through internship pathways and contribute to addressing teacher shortages in Queensland state schools.

Applications are now open for the 2026 intakes of the Turn to Teaching and Trade to Teach Internship Programs, closing on 21 September. Prospective candidates can submit their applications via the program webpages:

- **Turn to Teaching (TTT)** – a 2-year supported pathway for career changers interested in teaching, who already have a degree in another field
- **Trade to Teach (T2T)** – a 4-year supported pathway for skilled and industry-experienced tradespeople and chefs to transition to a rewarding career in teaching.

We welcome your assistance with promoting the 2026 intakes of both programs to your networks, including regionally-based schools and communities.

To assist you with promoting these opportunities, below are some links to our social media posts that you can share:

- [Teach Queensland TTT Facebook post](#)
- [Department of Education TTT LinkedIn post](#)
- [Teach Queensland T2T Facebook post](#)
- [Department of Education T2T LinkedIn post.](#)

I have also attached social media tiles that you may like to use in emails, newsletters or on your socials. We also have new [TTT](#) and [T2T](#) videos on YouTube that you can share.

We will be holding an online 'Live Chat' session for each program, giving prospective candidates the opportunity to learn more about the benefits, eligibility, and application process:

- [Turn to Teaching Internship Program Live Chat](#), 5.00pm 9 September
- [Trade to Teach Internship Program Live Chat](#), 5.00pm 10 September.

For further details, please contact the Internship Programs team by email at TurntoTeaching@qed.qld.gov.au or TradetoTeach@qed.qld.gov.au, or by phone on 0487 149 473.



Family Survey

Just a friendly reminder that there is still time to win one of three \$50 gift cards!

Complete this short, anonymous online survey that takes less than 10 minutes. It focuses on your experiences with family-school communication.

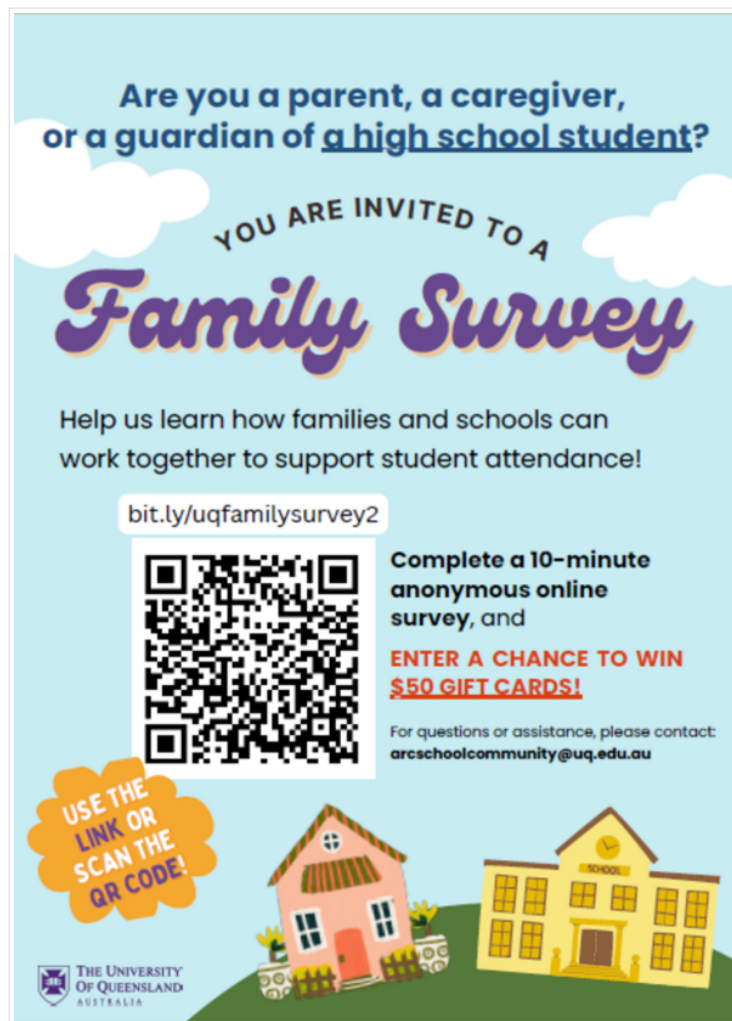
If you have not already, click the link to take the survey: bit.ly/uqfamilysurvey2

Or scan the QR code below:



If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact: Tarissa at arcschoolcommunity@uq.edu.au

Thank you again for your time and support!



Cairns Regional Council - Apprentice Fitter & Turner

We have an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic and determined Apprentice to join our Mechanical Maintenance Team maintaining our critical water assets across our region! Please find attached advertisement for requisition #781. This apprenticeship is part of our 2026 Intake with commencement in January for the successful candidate.

What is a Fitter & Turner? Please refer to the attached information document to find out about this amazing career pathway!

To apply for the role scan the QR code in the attached. Some of the benefits we provide:

- ? Earn your trade – Certificate III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade (Fitting/Machining)
- ? Paid On and off-the-Job Training - earn while you learn
- ? 17.5% Annual Leave Loading
- ? 9-Day Fortnight – enjoy a better work/life balance
- ? Fitness Passport – subsidised access to gyms and swimming pools
- ? Up to 5 Weeks' Annual Leave + 3 Weeks' Personal Leave

? Mentorship Opportunities – learn from experienced tradesman committed to your growth and professional development into your trade

? 12% Superannuation Contribution

? Ongoing Learning & Development opportunities beyond your qualification – build your skills and career with us

Community Fundraiser

SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2025 8am to 12 noon

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER
Gordonvale School Chaplaincy

All Saints Church
cnr Church St & Mill Rd

PLENTY OF PARKING, SHADE & SEATING

***SILENT AUCTIONS**
Local Business Vouchers & Special Items

***Devonshire Teas**
expresso coffee \$3 Devonshire Tea \$7.00

LOCALLY HAND CRAFTED GIFTS
practical household, children, Christmas, & more

***CAKE STALL**
home baked, jams, cakes, slices, etc,

***POT PLANTS**
Healthy & Low Prices

***SALE PRE - LOVED & SECOND HAND ITEMS**

***SAUSAGE SIZZLE**

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