

# The Parkway



August 2017

Parkway Edition No. 06

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### School Planning

Every three years Newcastle HS goes through a planning cycle; developing, implementing and evaluating a school plan. This year is the final year of the current school plan, meaning work is under way to evaluate the effectiveness of strategies and collaborate with all of our stakeholders to set the directions of the 2018-2020 school plan.

There will be a variety of ways students and parents can provide input into the new plan. The school will be participating in the Tell Them From Me parent survey and members of the P&C will be conducting focus groups to allow authentic feedback and ideas to be shared.

Please look out for an opportunity to participate in a group or by completing the survey when the details come out.

### Congratulations

On Friday 11 August I attended the Sharon Claydon Newcastle Volunteer Award Ceremony. Three members of our school community were recognised for their work in the community. Caroline and Grant Smith received a school volunteering award for all their work over the last 20 years assisting Newcastle High School and Hamilton Public School as committed members of the P&C and also spending hours on the school grounds. When I am at school on the weekends I regularly see Caroline and Grant in the school putting sprinklers on, creating and maintaining gardens and generally making the environment a place we are all proud of. Thank you and congratulations Caroline and Grant.



# Principal's Message

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Another member of our school community, Sue Prosser, was awarded a community service award for her outstanding work at the Soul Café on Hunter street. Sue prepares meals and food packs for individuals and families needing assistance. Thank you and congratulations Sue.

Whilst on the topic of volunteering I would like to recognise a new initiative within the school which links students to various organisations so that they can volunteer in the community. Over the last two weekends we have had students assisting Rotary and the Lions Club at a couple of events. A number of students gave up time on both Saturdays to assist the Lions Club at Number 1 Sportsground collecting parking money. We also had students give up time on Sunday, helping the Lions club make renovations to a house that will be used as a refuge for domestic violence victims. Thank you to those students who are choosing to give up their time to make a difference in the community. If anyone is interested in taking part in this wonderful initiative please see Mrs Oswald in the English staffroom.

## Year 12 - HSC

Our current Year 12 cohort and teachers are working hard in their final weeks of school, preparing for the HSC that begins on 16<sup>th</sup> of October. It is really important that students manage their time well over the next three months. I encourage students to attend the Monday afternoon senior study session if they would like assistance.

*Nathan Towney*

*Principal*

# Tender Notice

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Recently the school's P&C voted to cease operating the school canteen from 2018. NSW Department of Education schools have three options for canteen operations:

- 1– P&C operated
- 2– School operated
- 3– Privately leased

The school's Senior Executive have decided to create a tender for privately leased operations to move forward. Below is a copy of the tender. Please contact Mr Towney or Kris Collins at school for further information.

**TENDERS** are called for the licence of the School canteen commencing operations in 2018. Annual school enrolments will be approximately 1100. General enquiries and requests for a Tender Information Package should be referred to: Kris Collins, Newcastle High School. Phone: 49693177.

Tenders must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Confidential—School Canteen Tender" and sent to: The Principal Nathan Towney Newcastle High School Parkway Ave Hamilton NSW 2303.

**Tenders close 6th September 2017 at 3pm.**

A tender visit and briefing session is planned to be held in the near future. All applicants must make themselves familiar with Clause 2 of the tender offer.

# Key Dates

Term 3		
Week 5	14 August 15 August 16 August 18 August 18 August	P & C Meeting Year 6 Taster Lessons Year 8 & 9 Subject Selection Evening, see page 4 OZ Tag Regional Tournament Wetlands Field Study
Week 6	21-22 August 23 August 25 August	Year 7, 2018 Young Achievers Interviews Year 6 Taster Lessons Year 7 Wellbeing Day
Week 7	31 August	Passion Project Exhibition
Week 8	6 September 8 September	Parent / Teacher Interviews <i>The Parkway #7</i>
Week 9	11 September 13 September 11-15 September 11-15 September	P & C Meeting Primary GATS Enrichment Day Year 10 (EC) Metal & Engineering Work Placement Preliminary Examinations
Week 10	18-22 September 19 September 21 September 22 September	Preliminary Examinations Year 12 Formal Year 12 Graduation Assembly Last Day Term 3



# Subject Information Evening

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## Subject Information Evening

### **Year 8, 2018**

Parents/Carers and Students are invited  
to attend an information evening

at  
Newcastle High School  
On

**Wednesday, 16 August 2017**

5 - 6 pm

This is an opportunity for parents/carers and students, currently in Year 7, to learn about the Year 8 curriculum for next year.

A general information session will run in the Staffhouse at 5:00pm and again at 5:30pm

Specialist staff will be available to answer questions about specific electives in the Cultural Centre between 5:00 and 6:00pm



## Subject Information Evening

### **Year 9, 2018**

Parents/Carers and Students are invited  
to attend an information evening

at  
Newcastle High School  
on

**Wednesday, 16 August 2017**

6 - 7pm

This is an opportunity for parents/carers and students, currently in Year 8, to learn about the Year 9 curriculum for next year.

A general information session will run in the Staffhouse at 6:00pm and again at 6:30pm

Specialist staff will be available to answer questions about specific electives in the Cultural Centre between 6:00 and 7:00pm

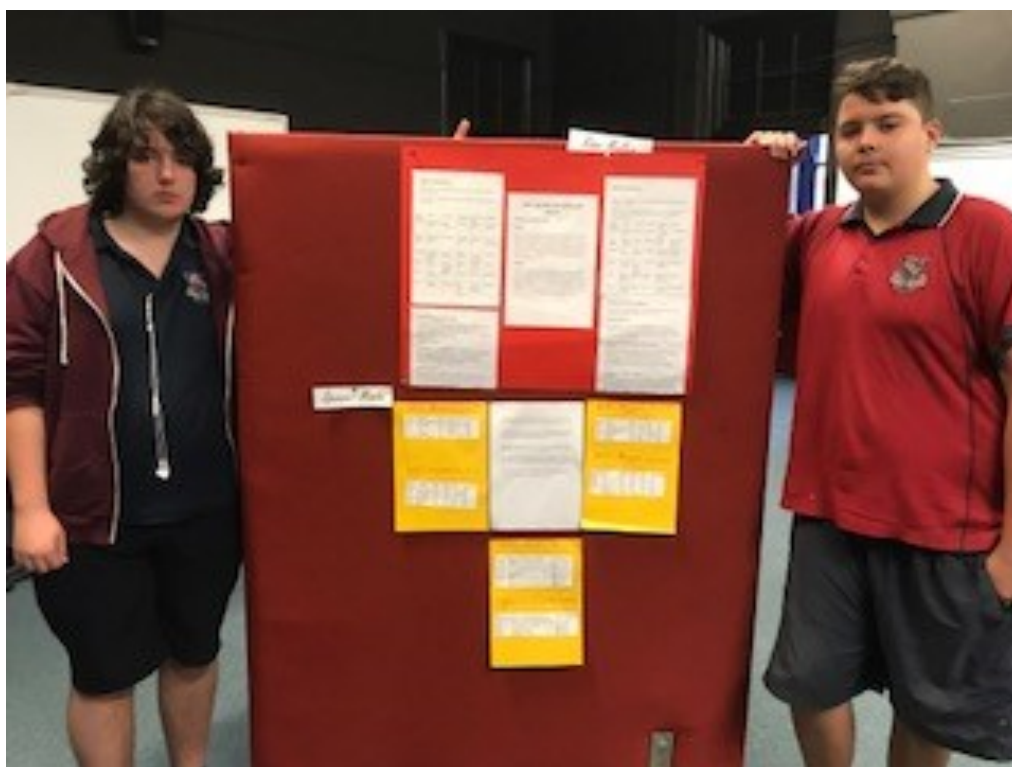
# Maths Report

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As the nature of teaching and learning changes, students at Newcastle High School have increasing opportunities to appreciate the relevance of maths in all aspects of their lives. With the ongoing introduction of Project Based Learning, the often repeated question “When are we ever going to need this?” is becoming redundant. Instead, with Project Based Learning, students are able to see the relevance of maths in solving real world problems.

Two classes of Year 9 students engaged in Project Based Learning as they worked on a history – maths project to address the question “Which World War was an Australian soldier more likely to survive?”. Students were required to research two aspects of both world wars, such as weapons, tactics or illnesses. Students needed to research and compare data and information, in regards to the experiences of Australian soldiers. The challenge for students was to ensure that they didn’t just present facts about the two world wars. Students were expected to draw conclusions and form their own opinion, based on their research.

One student, Spencer Mowle, investigated the weapons used and the illnesses suffered by Australian soldiers. At the exhibition he presented his report and was able to justify his opinion that World War Two was far more brutal for Australian soldiers. Well done, Spencer!



This term we welcomed Mr Dylan Gambrell to the maths staff as a permanent member. Dylan is a keen mathematician and passionate teacher. He has already introduced some alternative learning activities to engage students in their learning and see the relevance of maths in practical applications.

# Maths Report

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Next term we will be joined by Ms Samone Dinnery, who has also been appointed to the maths faculty as a permanent member of staff. Samone is currently working at the Cooks Hill Campus, so we are looking forward to sharing the Big Picture ideas she will bring with her. I wish to extend my thanks to Ms Trisch LaSorsa, who has been working hard to help students achieve their best in Terms 2 and 3.

The learning possibilities provided through Project Based Learning, Innovative Teaching and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Digital Technologies are endless. It is becoming increasingly necessary that students bring their own computer device to school. Students have access to Microsoft One Drive and the Google suite of applications, as well as many other excellent applications that can enhance learning and help students organise their resources. When students bring their own laptop or tablet to school they enjoy continuity with their work rather than relying on USBs, compatible software and email attachments, to transfer work between computers. It's a straightforward process for students to add their computer to the school wireless network.

Year 12 students are beginning to approach the end of their coursework, allowing time for revision and study. The students should be going through their trial papers to determine areas of weakness. They should also be completing past HSC questions to enhance their understanding. The Year 12 students are also encouraged to attend the tutorial sessions on a Monday afternoon in the Library and Breakfast Club on a Wednesday morning. A Senior Study area has also been established, with a teacher present during periods 2 and 3 on most days, in the Library.

Breakfast Club on a Wednesday morning continues to operate thanks to the generous donation of time by Mr Sam Crichton. All students, Year 7 to 10, are welcome to attend from 7:45am to 8:45am, every week to access tutoring support in maths. During this time students can catch up on homework, ask about work they are doing in class or revisit previous work to improve their understanding. We even provide Milo, milk and toast.

Some of our maths teachers have been busy this year engaging in professional learning in preparation for the introduction of a new syllabus in Year 11 Mathematics. In 2018 students who would have studied General Mathematics will now study Mathematics Standard. There have been quite a few changes within the coursework to be delivered, compared to the General Maths course. Most notable is the introduction of the topic of Networks in Year 12. Also, a limit on the number of assessment tasks has been introduced, with one task required to be an investigation or project style task rather than an examination.

## **Teacher Profile: Sam Crichton**

Sam is a wonderful asset to the maths faculty and to Newcastle High School. He is passionate about maths and about quality learning and is often sharing information and ideas with other staff members about ways to engage students and introduce innovative teaching in the classroom. Sam has developed a great relationship with many of the students at our school. He is a tireless worker in the staff room and often seamlessly steps into my Head Teacher shoes when I am out of the school. He also makes himself available to support students outside the maths classroom. Each year he often helps HSC music students by playing an instrument during the HSC performance tasks.

# Maths Report

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I asked Sam 10 questions to find out more.

How long have you worked at Newcastle High? 9 years, I think.

Why did you become a maths teacher? Love of numbers and I enjoy helping people.

The way we teach maths is changing, how do you feel about these changes? Excited

You don't work Thursdays, at the moment. So, what do you enjoy doing on Thursdays? I love doing things with my beautiful daughters. So, we do baby music lessons in the morning and then spend the afternoon at the park.

If you could teach a Passion Project with Year 7, what would it be about? Something with coding; I think we can do so much with coding and there is so much room to play and to link in with computers.

You like to run. Do you have any running goals at the moment? Yes, I want to run 5km in 25 minutes, then move on to 10km in 50 minutes.

What's the most important skill for a student to learn in maths? The ability to problem solve and not give up.

How many musical instruments can you play, and what's your favourite? I can play 3 instruments, but I love playing the viola. I play with the Christ Church Camerata in four concerts throughout the year.

How do you rate yourself at handball? I am a master!

If you hadn't become a teacher, what career path would you have followed? I would have loved to follow astronomy, but there are not a lot of career options in that. If I changed careers now, I'd love to move into robotics.



**Renee Wells**

**HT Mathematics (Rel)**

# Senior Jindabyne Camp Report

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## Senior Jindabyne Camp 2017

The Senior Jindabyne camp was held in Week 3 of this term, with students from Years 10 and 11 attending. Everyone had a wonderful time, with great conditions for skiing and snowboarding. Mr Gambrill and many of the students had not seen snow before. It was very exciting for them on Monday morning. Throughout the week the students enjoyed beautiful sunshine, low cloud and fresh snow. It was a perfect week. By Thursday all students had moved off the beginner slope, with many enjoying skiing and boarding in Pleasant Valley, on Side Saddle and the runs at Guthaga, whilst others spent the week practising going fast while staying in control and landing jumps. The students made life easy by turning up everywhere on time, taking responsibility for their equipment, co-operating with Sport & Recreation staff and participating in the evening activities with a positive attitude. I wish to extend my thanks to Mr Gambrill and the students who attended for their good company throughout the week. I have a feeling that many of them will be back for more snow fun in the future.

*Renee Wells*





# Attendance Report

## Attendance Interview Day

Regular attendance at school is a key factor in the education of your child. NSW policy states that parents must ensure children who are enrolled at school attend every day the school is open for their instruction. Parents are also expected to provide an explanation for absences by means such as a telephone call, written note, text message or email to the school **within 7 days from the first day of any period of absence**. After this 7 day period absences will remain on your child's record as unjustified absences.

On **Wednesday 9 August** the school hosted a team of Home School Liaison Officers and Aboriginal School Liaison Officers visiting to interview students who have been identified by the school as having attendance concerns. The interviews took place in the Library and students were withdrawn from class in order to participate.

If your child was interviewed they should have brought home a letter and a copy of their attendance record for this year. Please complete the reply section and return it to school for collection in roll call.

Thank you for working with the school to improve the educational outcomes for your children.

## Careers

**MY BIG TOMORROW**  
mybigtomorrow.com.au

See which careers could be part of your big tomorrow.

What are you into?  
**Find the career for you**  
Discover a career →

Try the Career-a-majig!  
**See a random career**

Take your pick  
**View all career options**  
View all careers

My Big Tomorrow is a Website designed by the University of Newcastle. It features a wide range of career options and acts as a one-stop-shop for information. A free resource that features 93 different careers and is device responsive with various entry points to career information.

**NEWCASTLE OPEN DAY**  
**NEW NEEDS YOU**

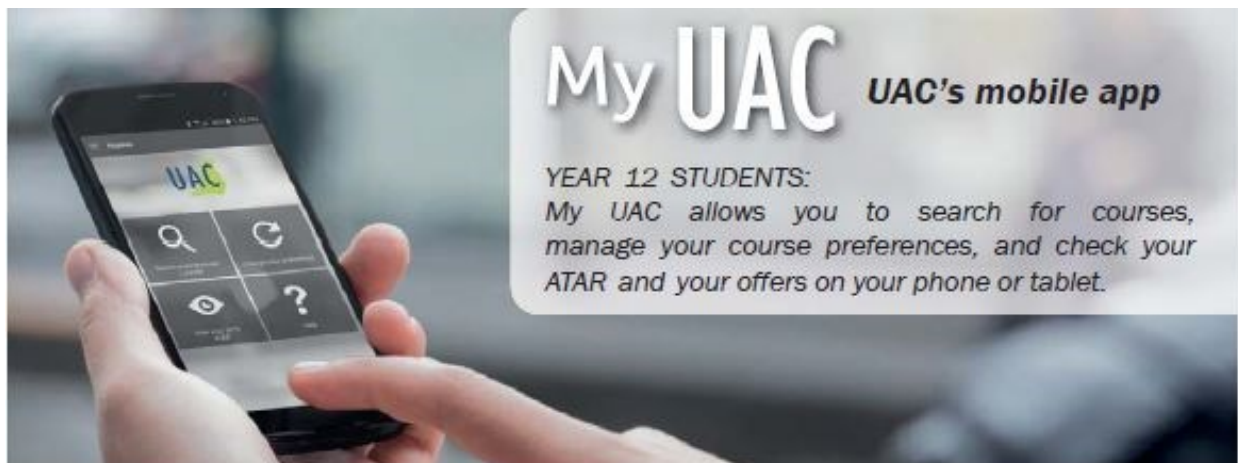
**Open Day Planner**  
The online planner allows you to create a customised program for your Open Day.

**Register to attend and Go in the draw to win a \$200 Westfield voucher**

**Saturday 19 August 2017**  
**Newcastle Callaghan and City - 10am to 4pm**

Attend Newcastle Open Day at both Callaghan and City campuses to learn more about the University and all it has to offer. Tour the facilities, participate in hands-on activities, attend presentations, meet with staff and students, ask questions about degrees, or learn more about different pathways into the University.

**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS**  
**50**  
1965-2015



## My UAC *UAC's mobile app*

### YEAR 12 STUDENTS:

My UAC allows you to search for courses, manage your course preferences, and check your ATAR and your offers on your phone or tablet.



## Download My UAC



### Search for courses

You can search for courses by keyword, field of study, institution name, course name, course cut-off, course code, or distance from your location.

Tag your favourite courses. They'll be saved to your Favourites list so they'll be easy to find next time you use My UAC.



### Manage your course preferences

Your course preferences are the courses that you have applied for through UAC Apply. In My UAC, you can manage your application wherever you are by adding courses, removing courses or re-ordering your course preferences.

- > Your UAC PIN. UAC PINs are sent to Year 12 students in August. If you've forgotten your UAC PIN and you have applied through UAC, use Check & Change to have your UAC PIN automatically emailed to you. Otherwise, call UAC on 1300 ASK UAC (1300 275 822) or (02) 9752 0200 from mobiles to have your PIN re-issued.

#### What you need to log in

- > Your UAC application number. It has nine digits and is issued when you apply. You can find it on your Confirmation of Application.



### View your 2017 ATAR

ATARs will be available from 9am, Friday 15 December 2017.

You'll need your Year 12 student number (or your UAC application number) and UAC PIN to view your ATAR.



### Check your offers

You can view and respond to your offers.

Offers are made in a number of offer rounds throughout the year.



### Need help?

For more information about using My UAC, visit [uac.edu.au/undergraduate/mobile-app](http://uac.edu.au/undergraduate/mobile-app).

My UAC is available for FREE in iOS and Android. Download our App today!



## **School newsletter copy**

### **Year 9 NAPLAN results and the HSC minimum standard**

#### **Message from NESA**

#### **HSC minimum standard required to receive the HSC from 2020**

Literacy and numeracy skills are the foundation for success in life after school. This is why eligibility for the HSC is changing. From 2020, students will need to show they have the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to complete everyday tasks.

#### **Your child will have a number of opportunities from Year 9 to Year 12, and even after the HSC to show they meet the HSC minimum standard**

Some students will meet the requirement early through their Year 9 NAPLAN results in reading, writing and numeracy. However, most students will show they meet the standard by passing short, online reading, writing and numeracy tests in Years 10, 11 or 12.

The writing test will require students to respond to a question about a prompt or stimulus.

#### **Year 9 NAPLAN reports available in mid-August**

Your child's Year 9 NAPLAN report will indicate which online HSC minimum standard test/s (if any) they will need to pass to be eligible for the HSC certificate. Remember your child has three more years of learning before the HSC and can take the HSC minimum standard online tests in Years 10, 11 or 12. Year 9 NAPLAN is a good chance to check they are on track or get support to meet the minimum standard by Year 12.

If your child has achieved a Band 8 or above in reading, writing or numeracy, the NAPLAN report will indicate that they have "Met the HSC minimum standard early" in the respective area/s.

#### **Your child can sit the online HSC minimum standard tests when they are ready**

There are three separate 45 minute online tests: reading, writing and numeracy. Students don't have to pass all three tests at once and can attempt each test up to twice a year. The reading and numeracy tests each contain a maximum of 45 multiple choice questions. You can try some sample reading and numeracy questions at <https://hsliteracynumeracy.nesa.nsw.edu.au/>

**For more information visit [www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au](http://www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au)**

# Schools test readiness for NAPLAN Online

In August and September, schools around the country will have an opportunity to assess their readiness to move to NAPLAN Online in 2018. The school readiness test aims to ensure each school is prepared to undertake NAPLAN Online and has sufficient bandwidth and wireless connectivity. The test will give state and territory education authorities valuable feedback about the extent of school readiness to undertake NAPLAN Online from 2018.

Teachers will practise managing the classroom logistics for an online assessment as well as the processes for administering the test.

Schools across Australia will start to go online from 2018 on an opt-in basis. State and territory education authorities are responsible for determining when their state/territory moves to NAPLAN Online. These education authorities are preparing schools for the move from the current paper-based NAPLAN tests to online-based assessments, supporting schools with a variety of readiness tools, activities and training, including this readiness test exercise for selected schools.

“States and territories have previously undertaken trialing in preparation for the move to NAPLAN Online,” ACARA CEO Robert Randall said. “During August 2016, students from more than 1,000 selected schools across the country took part in a trial of the assessment platform for NAPLAN Online. Feedback received from the 2016 trial was generally positive and will be used together with this year’s readiness testing to ensure schools have a smooth transition.”

NAPLAN Online will allow for a wider range of question types and a broader range of skills to be assessed. It will also feature tailored testing, where the test automatically responds to student performance, providing more, or less, demanding questions based on how a student has gone in previous sections. This means that NAPLAN Online will provide more precise results and a more engaging test experience for students.

When NAPLAN moves online, test results will also be available within weeks instead of several months under current arrangements. This will assist teachers to identify learning priorities and meet individual student needs earlier than with the current NAPLAN paper tests.

As technology develops, ACARA aims to further refine the delivery of the tests to best use the available technology as well as to provide increasingly sophisticated assessments and valuable feedback to teachers, parents and education authorities.

Significant planning, development, research and trialing have been ongoing since 2012 to support the move to NAPLAN Online. ACARA has established a demonstration site to help students and teachers familiarise themselves with NAPLAN Online, as well as the types of items to be included in the online tests. The public demonstration site is available at [www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au)

ACARA and Education Services Australia are working with the Australian Government and all states and territories on the move to NAPLAN Online. States and territories are responsible for preparing schools for NAPLAN Online and selecting schools for readiness testing.

Newcastle High School will be taking part in this trial during Week 9 of this term. Year 7 and 9 students will participate in a school readiness test between 11-15 September 2017. More information will be sent to parents regarding this process.

**HEAD OFFICE**

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🌐 [www.pestfree.com.au](http://www.pestfree.com.au)

**PLUG IN**  
**Pest Free**®

ABN 41 002 388 623  
ACN 002 388 623

Dear Parents / Carers,

Newcastle High wishes to inform all parents that the school has now installed a non-chemical pest management system that is non reliant on dangerous and toxic chemicals around your children for the elimination of rodents in school buildings. The company and solution that we decided upon is called Pest Free Australia Pty Ltd, which is a twenty four year old company and is the only company in the world to possess conclusive scientific testing from the University of New England by an emeritus professor with over forty two years' experience and classed by the United Nations as an expert in his field to the effectiveness of the Pest Free products.

Pest Free Australia Pty Ltd, has generously offered the school a discount on their units that have been installed throughout the school and we would also like to pass on a saving to parents as well if you wish to purchase a Pest Free for your own home. Pest Free Australia Pty Ltd, wishes to offer a twenty dollar discount to all parents from the normal retail price, and with each purchase by you, Pest Free Australia Pty Ltd, will also donate twenty dollars back to the school that can be utilised for computer equipment, sporting needs etc and general maintenance of the school.

Your purchase of a Pest Free unit for your home will not only benefit you, it will also benefit the school.

Pest Free Australia Pty Ltd, also wishes to inform parents that two storey homes would require one Pest Free unit for each level of the home.

Pest Free Australia Pty Ltd brochure and order form available from the Newcastle High School front office and attached to this Newsletter.



**Darren Connell**  
**General Manager**

OFFICE(02) 4969 5515  
FAX (02) 4969 5517  
EMAIL [d.connell@pestfree.com.au](mailto:d.connell@pestfree.com.au)








[www.pestfree.com.au](http://www.pestfree.com.au)





# Could \$500 help you with high-school costs?

Join Saver Plus and we'll match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to \$500 for school costs.

-  laptops & tablets
-  specialist subjects
-  uniforms & shoes
-  books & supplies
-  sports fees & gear
-  camps & excursions

To join Saver Plus, you must have a Centrelink Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, be at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner), and have a child at school or attend vocational education yourself.



#### Contact

Cynthia Culhane  
your local Saver Plus  
Coordinator

#### Phone

02 4032 4703  
1300 610 355

#### Email

cynthia.culhane@  
thesmithfamily.com.au

#### Web

[www.saverplus.org.au](http://www.saverplus.org.au)



Saver Plus is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Go to [www.dss.gov.au](http://www.dss.gov.au) for more information.



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