



THE MORISSETIAN

Successful Learning – Responsible Living



NEW LOOK ENTRANCE: An artist's impression of the new welcome signage to be installed at the main school gate.

IMPORTANT DATES

**ZONE ATHLETICS
CARNIVAL - JUNE 4**

**P&C MEETING - JUNE 8
FROM 6PM @ MHS**

**SUBJECT SELECTION -
YEAR 8 (STAGE STAGE 5
2022-23) - JUNE 8, FROM
4.30PM @ MHS HALL**

**2022 SENIOR SUBJECT
SELECTION EVENING -
MEETING - JUNE 8, FROM
5.30PM @MHS HALL**

**CENTRAL COAST CAREER
PATHWAYS EXPO - JUNE 22**

Celebrating our place and heritage

School beautification project continues with special signage

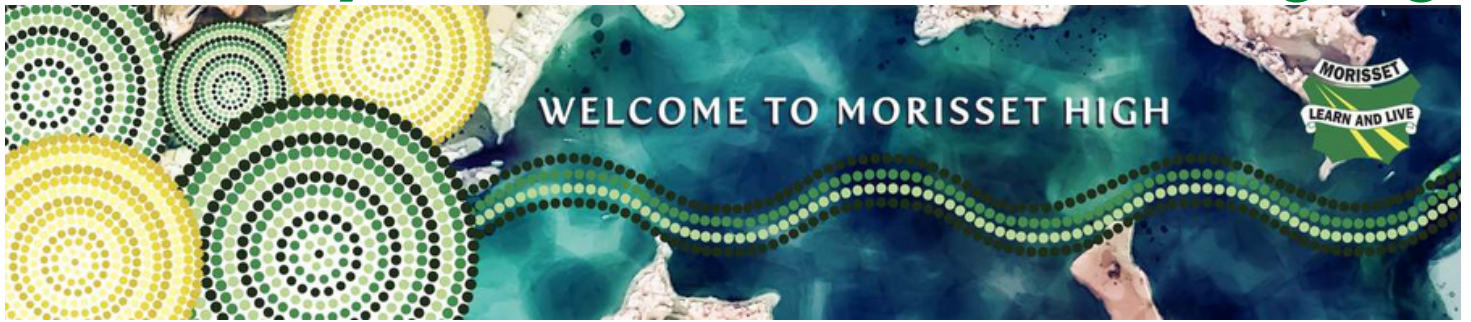
Our school community has been working hard to continue to deliver improvements to learning and student spaces and to beautify our school.

You can read about improvements to our library on page 5 of the Morissetian. Our school has also been working with a company called Edugrafix to beautify parts of our school environment and create a sense of welcome and inclusion for our whole school community.

These improvements and beautification works have built on the more than \$3 million spent last year, on repainting, upgrades, and repairs to school buildings. Those works included the refurbishment of the historic school building and the old principal's residence, which is now home to the Itji-Marru Aboriginal Resource Centre.

CONTINUED PAGE 2

Community links celebrated with new signage



FROM PAGE 1

Designs for the new welcome signage for the school entrance and hall have been approved in consultation with the Junior Aboriginal Education Consultative Group and the Itji-Marru Aboriginal Education Consultative Group and celebrates the learning journey of our students, and our links to our partner primary schools in the Western Shores Learning Alliance.

The designs also incorporate our Positive Behaviour for Learning values of Respect, Responsibility, Engagement, and Safety.

The signage includes a striking aerial photo of the Morisset area, to celebrate our pride of place, and the school hall signage has incorporated an Acknowledgement of Country.

"Morisset High is an important hub for learning and knowledge sharing for the Morisset community. We want everyone, regardless if they have a connection to the school, to feel welcomed and have a sense of belonging here," Relieving Principal, Mr Tony Keevill, said.

Mr Keevill said the signage is made from a type of vinyl that is hard-wearing and easy to clean.

More areas of the school have been earmarked for beautification and artistic signage. Keep an eye on the Morisset High School Facebook page for updates.

We the Staff and Students at Morisset High School acknowledge the **AWABAKAL PEOPLE** as the traditional people of this land.

We also pay our respects to Elders past, present and future and extend our respects to all First Nation Peoples as well as everyone who visits our school.

We must always remember that under the concrete and asphalt, **this land is, was and always will be Aboriginal Country.**

IMAGES, FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: A close-up of the signage for the main entrance to the school; the artwork for the entrance to the School Hall that includes an aerial photo of the Morisset area; the Acknowledgement of Country included in the School Hall design; and a close-up of the signage planned for the school entrance.



Principal's Report - Big things ahead for MHS

With Relieving Principal, Tony Keevill

Last term saw the creation and publication of **Morisset High's School Improvement Plan 2021-2024**. The plan provides a 'blueprint' for the school to follow to improve student learning outcomes and to achieve success measured against a range of activities.

Strategic Direction One focusses on the important system-based targets and Premier's Priorities. Strategic Direction Two; *Building Learning Culture* and Strategic Direction Three: *Teaching Practice and Impact* - have been constructed in consultation with our teachers and staff. These address areas of development and need that was unearthed through the comprehensive Situational Analysis from last year.

Success Criteria and Improvement measures are included in the plan to keep track of progress and school finances. So make sure to watch this space as Morisset High moves into the next exciting stage of its evolution. You can read the **MHS School Improvement Plan 2021-2024** in more details on our website: https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/doe-nsw-schools/plan-report/2021/8413/2021-2024_Morisset_High_School_SIP.pdf

My tenure as Relieving Principal will conclude at the end of this term. The great news is that by then we will have a new Principal, appointed through the Merit Selection process which is currently underway. I have been working on a range of 'back of house' matters (finance/staffing/health and safety/ operational systems) to streamline processes and procedures and allow a seamless transition for the incoming Principal. As I said earlier - exciting times ahead for MHS.



On the matter of Human Resources and, we currently have four other panels running to stabilise the staffing component of Morisset High. Term 2 will also see the appointment of a new Technical Support Officer; Head Teacher of Secondary Studies; Head Teacher Wellbeing; and, a maths teacher.

While I look forward to returning to my substantive position as Principal at Lake Munmorah High School, I must say that I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here at MHS. I have really enjoyed the opportunity to work with the students, staff, and broader learning community of Morisset High School - it's been a fantastic learning experience, and I look forward to hearing more great things about the school heading into the future.

Kind Regards,
Tony Keevill, Relieving Principal MHS

Reconciliation Week - taking action at Morisset High School

Our school recognised National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week by growing understanding in our school community of how together, we can build relationships and a community that values Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories, cultures, and futures.

A special thanks to our Junior Aboriginal Education Consultative Group, for organising an impactful and thought-provoking school assembly for Sorry Day, and Reconciliation Week. The assembly was attended by the President of the Itji-Marru Aboriginal Education Consultative Group, and Aunty Cecilia Enoch. Our school leaders also contributed to the moving assembly which included a performance by two members of our school's Didj Group, Chase Hovenden (JAECG President) and Brock Fischer (JAECG member).



Aboriginal Learning Garden gets new lease on life

Our JAECG is also driving the revitalisation of our school's Aboriginal Learning Garden, with the support of Sunshine Silverwater Landcare Group, Southlake Community Services, and Frisco's Landscape Supplies, which have supplied materials, plants and trees indigenous to our area.

The Garden was originally planted in 2012 and includes a Learning Circle and signage describing the significance and uses of the different plantings by the Awabakal.

Our JAECG, other students, and members of the school community, including our Wellbeing and Aboriginal Education teams will continue to revive this important learning and cultural space for our school, which will be reopened during the school's NAIDOC celebrations in Term 3.



New look library, senior's space and career's hub

More changes planned for shared learning space

A more modern and inviting learning environment is being created in the Morisset High School Library. New furniture has been purchased for students to use during classes and breakout times, and the Senior Learning Space is being relocated into the main area of the library. A quiet study space for seniors and other students will also be created.

The library has always been an inclusive learning space, where all students can come together for lessons and to research and work on assessments. With the help of the school librarian and library assistant, or hang out in break times and play games, or quietly chat with friends. Two new student clubs for lovers of Japanese cartoons – Anime – and a Chess Club have been organised by groups of students, who are meeting in the library each week. The Anime Club meets at lunch on Wednesdays and Chess Club each Thursday during lunch.

Our school Career's Advisor, Ms Ford, has relocated to space at the entrance to the library, boosting the visibility of the Career's Service for students. Ms Ford has created a job board and is displaying information on careers and post-school learning options for students.

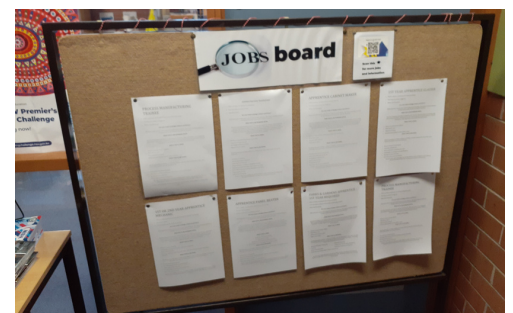
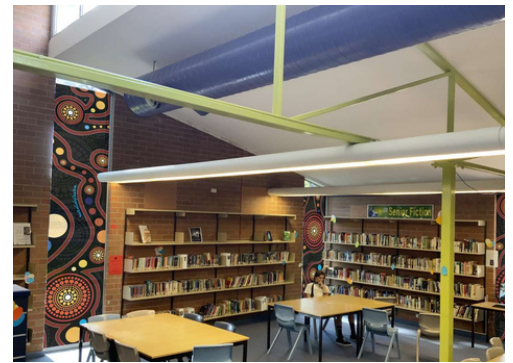
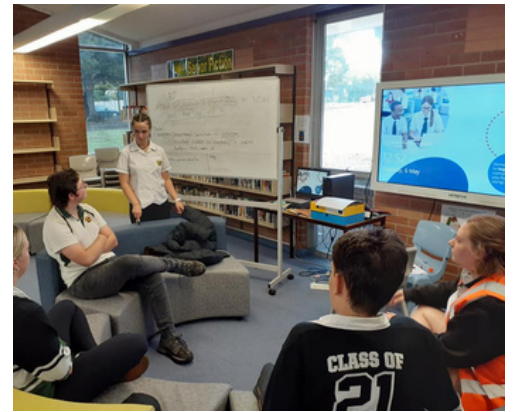
School assessments and activities, as well as interesting facts are being shared with students on new signage, located at the entrance to the learning space.

Our relieving School Librarian, Ms Smith, said the students were excited by the new furniture and Senior Learning Space.

"The students have also been playing card games as well as just meeting up with their friends to chat quietly. They can also have access to the computers to complete schoolwork, learn to type, and play learning-based games during recess and lunch," she said.

"It's great to see the students using the space respectfully and being responsible, making sure they respect and care for the space."

The library refresh will continue during 2021. We'll keep parents, carers and community up-to-date on changes to the learning space.





Difficulties, stresses and challenges are a part of life. Learning how to manage and work through difficult issues helps us to move forward and grow as a person. Something we strongly encourage at the high school is for students to talk to others, such as a teacher or a trusted adult, if they are feeling overwhelmed or stressed. I really like this short story which is a reminder to us to share our problems with others and to seek support for anything that may be overwhelming us.

“A psychologist walked around a room while teaching stress management to an audience. As she raised a glass of water, everyone expected they’d be asked the ‘half empty or half full’ question. Instead with a smile on her face, she enquired: “how heavy is this glass of water?”

Answers called out ranged from 8oz to 20oz.

She replied: “The absolute weight doesn’t matter. It depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute, it’s not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I’ll have an ache in my arm. If I hold it for a day, my arm will feel numb and paralysed. In each case, the weight of the glass doesn’t change, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes.”

She continued: “The stresses and worries in life are like that glass of water. Think about them for a while and nothing happens. Think about them a bit longer and they begin to hurt. And if you think about them all day long, you will feel paralysed – incapable of doing anything”.

“Remember to put the glass down”.

Sara Donald
School Counsellor
Morisset HS



Uniform Shop Winter Hours

The Morisset High Uniform Shop's operation hours will change from June 1, 2021.

Tuesdays 8:30am - 12:00pm

Thursdays 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Uniform items can also be purchased online, and picked-up by students, parents or carers.

To buy online visit:

<https://daylightsportswear.com/morisset/>

School leaders meet NSW Premier and get rare access to NSW Parliament

Meeting NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian was the highlight of an eventful tour of NSW Parliament House by some of our lucky School Leaders and staff.

A special thanks to Member for Lake Macquarie Greg Piper MP for the invitation for our school leaders to take a special tour of Parliament House, with the students getting to see parts of the historic buildings, and parliament functions, not often seen by other tour groups.

It was a busy day in Parliament with another community transmission of COVID-19 in Sydney, but the students were very surprised, and a little awe-struck, when Ms Berejiklian called by for a chat.

It was a busy day in Parliament with another community transmission of COVID-19 in Sydney, but the students were very surprised, and a little awe-struck, when Ms Berejiklian called by for a quick chat. Our Premier took the time to speak to School Captain Kaylee Bercli, and Vice-Captain Taiah Burbage about their plans after finishing school this year, encouraging Kaylee to pursue her plans to study at University and Taiah to pursue a career in hospitality as it is a high demand industry for employment. She also spent a few minutes speaking to Year 9 student Destiny Hansell, who also attended the Parliament House tour, about her interests in Agriculture and learned about our school's farm and growing Agriculture program.

With Mr Piper having an important role in Parliament as one of the Temporary Speakers (who manage the Member's debate in the NSW Legislative Assembly), the students sat in the Chamber when Mr Piper spoke to an important new piece of legislation, were explained the nuances of Question Time by Mr Piper and were officially welcomed by the Speaker of the House, the Hon. Jonathan O'Dea MP.



The students were also lucky to get a rare tour of some of the historically significant parts of Parliament House, formerly the Sydney Hospital, which was built by convicts in the early 1800s. They visited the Wentworth Room and looked in on the parliamentarians as they debated in the Legislative Assembly. The room has Extraordinary Heritage value with original windows and window panes and room paneling, which is more than 200 years old, still in place. The students also got to view a 100-year-old newspaper in the Jubilee Room, known as the 'Harry Potter' room, part of which once the kitchen of the former 'Rum Hospital'.

The students got to visit the Members Offices, take in a magnificent view of Sydney Harbour from the top floor of the government building behind the Parliament House, and enjoyed some time asking questions of Mr Piper during lunch. It was a fantastic and informative day that inspired the students and staff who were lucky enough to attend. Thanks to our Deputy Principal Ms Wilson, for escorting our students!

Check mates! New MHS Chess club



Twelve students came to the first meeting of the Chess Club in the library, hosted on Thursday lunchtimes by our librarian Ms Smith.

There were five games on at once, and those who participated were given a sherbet lightsaber left over from Star Wars trivia. Chess Club is an open space for students to win some prizes, make new friends and of course, learn how to play chess.

There should be tournaments being held towards the end of the term with prizes for the winners and snacks for the spectators.

This article was written by Macklen Turriff, who also happens to run Chess Club.

Chess Club



**Library - Thursdays
@ Lunch**



MHS Brekkie Club

Morisset High School Brekkie Club is back! Serving a free breakfast every Thursday morning.



Thanks to Southlake Youth Service for coming on board to support the school's Brekkie Club.

All students can enjoy a free breakfast every Thursday morning, in Quad 2, outside The Hub, from 8.15 am, served by the team members of The Hub and Southlakes Youth Service.

It's great to see so many students coming along and starting the day together.

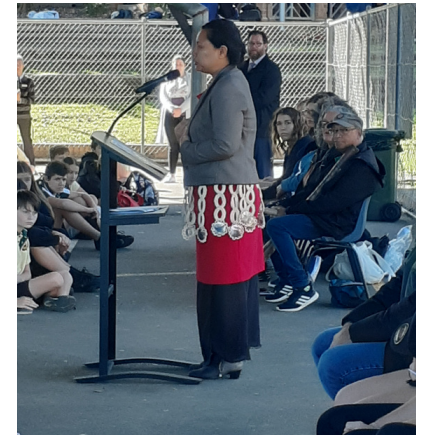
Celebrating belonging for Harmony Day

Earlier this term our school community came together to celebrate diversity, inclusion, and cultural respect for our 2021 Harmony Day celebration.

Our students also learned about Aboriginal lore, culture, and custom in pre-colonial times from Darkinjung Elder, Uncle Gavi Duncan, who was a special guest of the school and performed a traditional smoking ceremony.

A special thanks to our performers and speakers for sharing their culture and what belonging means to them, and to Mr McPherson for organising the special celebration. The event was also an opportunity for our school's Pacific Islander boys to farewell PDHPE teacher Mr Benzoli, by performing a traditional Hakka. Mr Benzoli had been an important mentor for the boy's group.

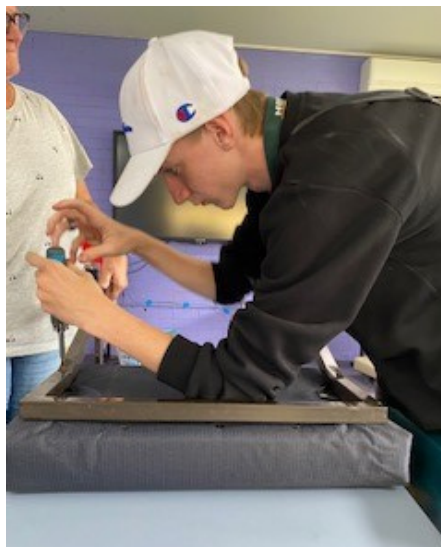
Visit our school Facebook page to view a video of the Harmony Day event - @MorissetHighSchool
<https://www.facebook.com/MorissetHighSchool>



Red Support gets hands-on to improve their learning space

Red Support class has been busy beautifying their environment using upcycling techniques.

Whether it be using mulch made from the cutting down of trees within our school to upcycling some chairs with some funky material and designs, or painting on old wood to make skateboard look alike, Red Support class have been keen to develop their hands-on learning skills. Some of the student's work was on display at the Morisset High School Open Afternoon at the end of Term 1, 2021.



Red Support gets cooks up a storm

This term the support unit has incorporated basic cooking techniques into TAS programs.

The RED class has been looking at different countries and experimented with Crepes and French toast. Many students in the support unit had not tried French toast and it was definitely a hit. This supports the life skills programs that are incorporated into the curriculum for all support students to enable them to be independent community members in the future.



2022 Subject Selection

Our Year 10 and Year 8 students will soon make their subject selections for 2022-23.

Parents, carers and students are invited to a Subject Selection Night where teachers and school leaders will share information on subjects and how students can best prepare for their next stage of schooling.

Year 9/10 Subject Selection Night - Tuesday, June 8 from 4.30pm @ Morisset High Hall
- for students currently in Year 8

Senior Subject Selection Night - Tuesday, June 8 from 5.30pm @ Morisset High Hall
- for students currently in Year 10

More information will be sent home with students and emailed to parents and carers.

MORISSET
LEARN AND LIVE

BREKKIE CLUB

Thanks to Southlake Youth Service

SOUTHLAKE YOUTH SERVICE

ALL STUDENTS WELCOME
EVERY THURSDAY
• **FROM 8.15 AM**
IN THE SCHOOL HALL

New venue at hit for Athletics Carnival

Close competition between Carroll and Reid at first event at Hunter Sports Stadium

Congratulations to Carroll for taking out the first Morisset High School Athletics Carnival held at the Hunter Sports Stadium at Glendale.

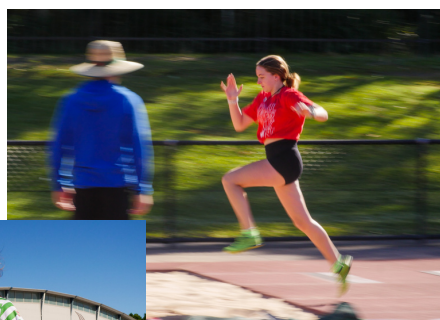
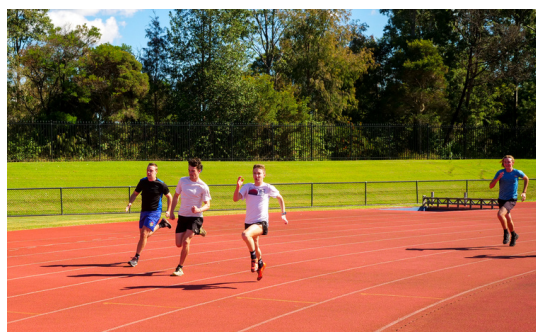
The event was a great success with all students enjoying making use of the state-of-the-art facilities at Hunter Sports Stadium.

Carroll has dominated the 2021 sports carnivals, winning the Swimming Carnival in Term 1 before taking out the Athletics Carnival with 866 points, over Reid with 839 points, Simpson on 671 and Warner on 385 points.

Congratulations to our 2021 Athletics Age Champions

- **12 Years** - **Bodhi Osborne** (Year 7) and **Jaymee-Lea Robb**(Year 7)
- **13 Years** - **Samuel Freeman** (Year 8) and **Jaida-Rose Kirk** (Year 8)
- **14 Years** - **Kyle Clarke** (Year 9) and **Melanie Wilson** (Year 9)
- **15 Years** - **Joshua Bartley** (Year 10) and **Ashlea Porch** (Year 10)
- **16 Years** - **Hayden Roberts** (Year 11) and **Chelsea Hillhouse** (Year 10)
- **17 Years and older** - **Liam Bartley** (Year 11) and **Imogen Bailey** (Year 11)

A special thanks to Mr Simpson for organising the carnival and to all staff for helping the event to run smoothly.



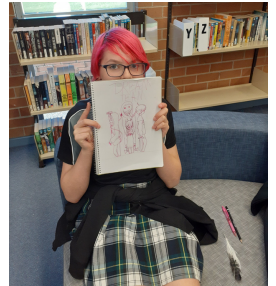


Manga Club gets Spirited Away

Sugoi (cool)! Our students who like Japanese cartoons (Manga) and movies and shows (Anime) come together each Wednesday at lunch to chat and watch an animated film.

Manga and Anime has grown in popularity and is more than Pokemon and Naruto. Last week the Manga Club started watching Studio Ghibli's masterpiece, *Spirited Away*.

Our school library has a large collection of Manga for our students to borrow or read.



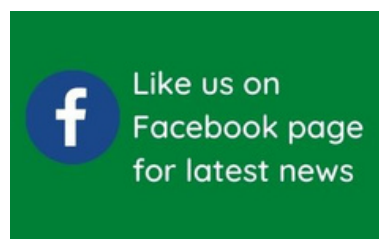
MHS Rugby League Third Place in Regional University Shield

Congratulations to our Morisset High School Rugby League team who placed third in the Hunter Region in the University Shield Rugby League.

They missed out on the final by one point in their pool of six teams. The team had a loss, a draw, and two wins.

Team coach, Mr Millet, said he was proud of the team who played outstandingly and beat one of the favourites Taree High School in their last game.







A special thanks to our Relieving Principal, Mr Keevill, who has been a professional league coach, for helping the team to prepare for the competition.





Could \$500 help you with school costs?

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

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-  books & supplies
-  camps & excursions

To join Saver Plus, you must be at least 18 years or over, have a child at school or attend vocational education yourself, have regular income from paid employment (you or your partner), have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card and be in receipt of an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment*



* many Centrelink payments are eligible, please contact your local Coordinator for more information.

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 for more information.

Contact

your local Saver Plus Coordinator

Phone or SMS

your name and postcode to 1300 610 355

Email

NewcastleSP@thesmithfamily.com.au

Online

saverplus.org.au

Find us on Facebook 



Helping our students be job-ready

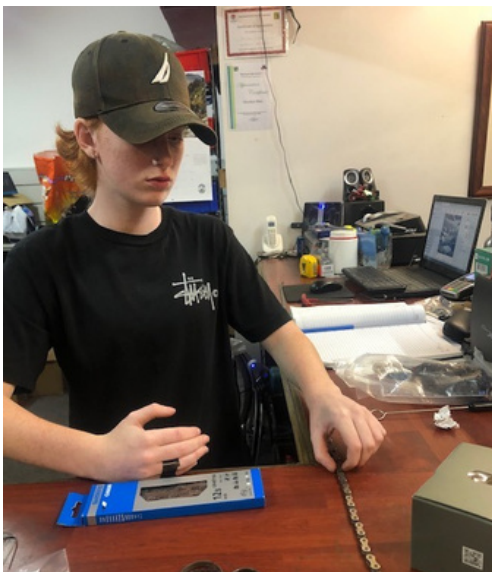
Empowering our students with the skills they need to succeed after school and in the workplace is at the heart of Morisset High's purpose.

Our students in the Support Unit can have access to work experience opportunities in the community to improve their work-readiness and boost their confidence.

Recently students from Year 10 and 11 have been hosted by local businesses, learning a range of skills from customer service to detailing and bike repairs.

A special thank you to the businesses that have hosted and shared their industry knowledge with our students:

- Platinum Window Tinting and Care Care, Morisset;
- Priceline Pharmacy, Morisset;
- Gifts by the Creek, Morisset;
- Revolver Bikes, Cardiff; and
- Hey Presto Mobile Mechanic.



Could you help our students get job-ready?

Work experience hosts are needed across a range of skills and industries

Contact MHS Careers Advisor, Hayley Ford, on (02) 4973 1999

Year 10 ready for work experience

Year 10 students have recently been given paperwork for the 2-week work experience block which begins Monday the 22nd of November until Friday 3rd of December. Students have the option to complete 1 week with two separate host employers or complete both weeks at one host employer.

It is the responsibility of the student to source and organise their placement(s). Students will be guided through the process; however, they are accountable for the organisation and follow-up. Our Career's Advisor, Ms Hayley Ford, is able to provide support if students have exhausted all avenues of their own.

Work experience can provide:

- insights into what a job involves
- structured, supervised, hands-on experience
- useful work skills that are recognised in the workplace
- confidence in your ability to learn and become competent at new tasks
- work/life skills, such as communicating effectively, or working in teams
- a chance to demonstrate how you can contribute in a work environment
- an understanding of the world of work
- experiencing a new environment and people
- an opportunity to demonstrate commitment and reliability
- a new referee to add to your resume
- an employment opportunity

Students will have the following responsibilities in organising work experience:

- approach a business about the possibility of undertaking work experience at their company
- follow-up with prospective host employers
- organise the host employer to return notes
- return form promptly to school
- ask if you need any help what so ever

Information has been sent home with Year 10 students, and their parents and carers have been emailed the information. Got questions? Contact Ms Ford in the Career's Office in the library, or phone (02) 4973 1999.

**PARENTS, CARERS
& STUDENTS are invited to attend**

Year 9/10 2022-2023

Subject Selection Night



**Tuesday, June 8, from 4.30pm
@ MHS Hall**



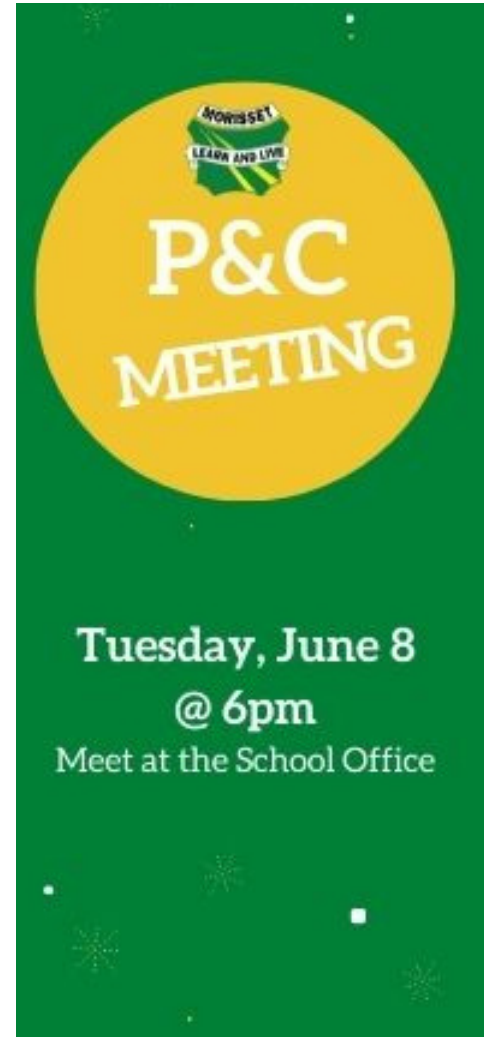
Excursion and sport notes and payments made easy with SchoolBytes

Our school is moving to online permission notes provided through a system called School Bytes.

The online system will help streamline the process for parents and carers when they need to provide permission for school activities, such as an excursion, and make a payment. Parents and carers will receive an automatically generated email with a link that can be clicked on to open the secure online permission form. This form will contain information about the activity as well as a section for you to complete and sign (with your mouse or finger on mobile devices).

If the activity involves a cost, there will be a 'Make Online Payment' button on the form. All emails will be sent from noreply@mail.schoolbytes.education so please ensure this is not marked as spam/junk in your email.

For more information, including a step-by-step guide on how to use School Bytes please visit the Morisset High School website , or please contact our School Administration Office on (02) 4973 199 if you have any questions.



**STUDENTS, PARENTS, CARERS
are invited to attend**

2022-23

SENIOR SUBJECT SELECTION NIGHT



**Tuesday, June 8, from 5.30pm
@ MHS Hall**



Relationships Australia NSW and headspace Newcastle present

Surviving Adolescence

This seminar aims to support parents to assist their teenagers in meeting the challenges of the adolescent years.



Wednesday 2nd June 5pm - 730pm:

- Understanding adolescence as a stage of development
- Understanding one another
- Communication strategies

Wednesday 9th June 5pm - 7.30pm:

- Developmental expectations
- Parenting styles
- Ways to minimise family conflict

Participants can attend either or both seminars as stand-alone sessions

Online via StarLeaf online platform (Free app downloadable from Google Play, Apple store or free download at starleaf.com)

Cost: FREE

Bookings Essential - please phone 49 294 201

headspace.org.au/newcastle
relationshipsnsw.org.au/



| NSW Department of Education

2021 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

Start reading now!

Key dates for
students in K-10:

Challenge opens
Monday March 1

Challenge closes
for student entries
Friday August 20

Artwork by Dr
Bronwyn Bancroft

www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au

