



Issue 2  
Term 2  
9 June 2022

# NEWSLETTER

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

13 June 2022	Public Holiday
14 June 2022	Student Free day
15 June 2022	Governing Council Meeting
15-22 June 2022	Op Flinders
16 June 2022	Open Girls Netball
22 June 2022	Year 7/8 Girls Netball
24 June 2022	End of Semester
8 July 2022	Last day of Term 2
25 July 2022	Student Free day
26 July 2022	First day of Term 3

teachers who made the event a success – they represented our school very well!

## Engaging with social media

Social media appears to be an essential part of many young people's lives and it can have an enormous impact on the health and wellbeing of adolescents – and adults – who engage. It seems that the relative anonymity of participants in the cyber world has encouraged the 'nasty' side of some people and many comments have been made and shared which are hurtful, unkind and often untrue.

Many young people can experience a form of cyber-bullying. At our school we want all people to stop and think before engaging with others in any context: is what I am saying truthful, is it hurtful, is it necessary, is it kind? Members of our school community are encouraged to report it if it occurs, talk about it and support each other so we can stop it.

What does cyber-bullying look like? It can occur in many ways, including:

- abusive texts and emails
- hurtful messages, images or videos
- imitating others online
- excluding others online
- humiliating others online
- nasty online gossip and chat.

I am being cyber-bullied—how do I stop it? Your response can be:

- talk to someone you trust straight away—like a parent, sibling, uncle/aunt, teacher or friend, or contact [Kids Helpline](#) on:

**1800 55 1800**



- don't retaliate or respond—they might use it against you
- block the bully and change your privacy settings
- report the abuse to the service and get others to as well
- collect the evidence—keep mobile phone messages, take screen shots and print emails or social networking conversations
- do something you enjoy—catch-up with friends, listen to good music, watch a good show or chat online to people you can trust

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The school is concentrating on the teaching and learning in classrooms, with the end of the semester approaching fast. Students have two weeks left to complete their work for semester long subjects, particularly Year 11 students who are finishing off SACE subjects. Working hard to achieve a personal best is an important target!

## Open Evening

An Open Evening for prospective and current parents / caregivers was held at the school on Tuesday, 24 May between 5 and 7pm. It went very well with a pleasing number of parents and students coming along and looking at our programs and facilities! Curriculum based displays with a number of classrooms open, student work available for viewing and the opportunity to talk to specialist teachers about their subjects was on offer. Student Leaders showed the tour groups around the school, responding to questions and giving a student perspective to families about what Year 7 was all about and what RDHS has to offer for students in 2023.



It was a brisk but clear evening, the displays were excellent and we all enjoyed the opportunity to meet and talk to a number of members of our school community – past, present and future families. Thank you to all the student helpers and

- remember you didn't ask for this—nobody deserves to be bullied and you will get through this.

A useful resource is the government website of <https://www.esafety.gov.au> for further advice and information.



## Uniform

The onset of cold weather has resulted in students bringing out their warmer clothes. It has certainly proved challenging for some and we are seeing an array of different interpretations of what we mean by our school winter uniform. A reminder about uniform expectations:

- Girls – plain navy or mid grey trousers, track pants, shorts or skirt, school polo top and school hoodie / jumper / jacket or rugby top, black lace up shoes.
- Boys – plain navy or mid grey trousers, track pants or shorts, school polo top and school hoodie / jumper / jacket or rugby top, black lace up shoes.
- Students can also choose to wear a school jacket, over the jumper for another layer of warmth.

These options do not include trousers or track pants with logos, stripes or any other form of markings and neither does it include 'leggings' or 'tights' as a uniform choice. At the moment there appears to be a variety of different pants or trousers, reflecting poorly on the student's appearance as a member of RDHS. The choice of a non-school hoodie worn underneath the polo shirt also seems to be in evidence at the moment. If students require an extra layer of warmth then the option to wear a long sleeved t-shirt in school colours (navy or white) underneath the polo shirt and a school jumper is available.

If there is a short-term issue with access to parts of the school uniform, can parents / caregivers contact the school and speak to the student's Home Group teacher about the problem. We have been very prepared to be supportive of individual circumstances and the Governing Council has listened and responded to student request for change in uniform design. Therefore, it would be reasonable to expect that all students would comply with the uniform requirements of the school. For school excursions and extra-curricular activities, students will only be permitted to

participate if they present in an appropriate school uniform.

## Pupil Free Day

Our next Pupil Free Day is on 14 June – Tuesday of next week. All staff will be engaged in training and development on that day, focussing on our Site Improvement Plan actions – improving Reading, as well as discussing and planning in year level teams and in curriculum area groups. Some School Services Officers will be undergoing training in the afternoon so they are able to more effectively support students in classrooms.

## Bags, school equipment and mobile phones

Recently some students have made questionable choices about how they manage their personal equipment at school – carrying their school bag, computer and other items (sometimes bulky and heavy) around at all times, dragging them into classrooms and at times keeping them on their backs, even while seated in a chair. This poses a hazard to their health, a tripping hazard in rooms and does not promote good organisational skills. We also are concerned about the security of classrooms and we have had some minor issues with misplaced items. All students do have access to a secure place to leave their personal items and school equipment issued to them. There are good reasons for students to use their assigned lockers – it reduces the weight in their bags if they choose to carry them, adds security for personal items and will assist them to develop better skills of organising what they need for lessons between breaks.

A reminder also that we have a clear Mobile Phone Policy – students are able to have their phone at school, with the proviso that they must be on silent or switched off and put away so the classroom environment is not disturbed and students are not distracted from tasks. Responsible use of phones includes no access during learning time; this includes walking to and from lessons in the yard or when heading for a drink or to another area of the school. There is also to be no recording or photographs of other people (students and staff) or facilities at any time without permission. This means we maintain attention on what's important – teaching and learning – and everyone remains safe at school. Any inappropriate use will result in confiscation of the phone for the rest of the day with escalating consequences for repeated incidents. We would ask that parents support us in this, encouraging their young adult(s) to leave phone use for recess and lunchtimes only.

Recently we have had some accidental damage to school laptops which has been expensive to repair and inconvenient to the student in losing access to an important piece of equipment for a period of time. Students are expected to be very careful in handling their laptops – not carrying them by the screen or leaving them lying about in rooms and

the yard, ensuring that they are carried from class to class carefully and not just thrust into bags with other bits and pieces. As with any other piece of issued equipment students are reminded they are responsible for the condition of their laptop and the cost of any repairs required will be passed on to them.

### **Attendance**

As the end of the term draws nearer, students are looking forward to holidays and anticipating a two week break. There is still much to do at school however and we ask that families focus on maintaining a regular attendance pattern for all students. Being present at school is an important element supporting successful achievement; when absences are frequent, gaps in learning occur which are increasingly difficult to overcome. The minimum expected attendance rate of the Education Department is 95%, meaning that in a ten week term, a student can only miss a maximum of 2.5 days! While many students do make that target, a significant number do not and this will have an impact on their learning outcomes. We would ask that all parents / caregivers support us in ensuring every student attends and participates in their schooling to give them the best possible opportunity to be successful.

Regards  
Kathy Champion



### **FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL**

#### **End of Semester 1 arrangements**

Semester 1 subjects for senior students will finish at the end of Week 8 Term 2, June 24. Monday week 9 June 27 will see the start of Semester 2 subjects.

Year 11 students have had the opportunity to look at their Semester 2 timetables and make changes based on their experiences and career pathway.

Due to the disruptions that this year has thrown our way we have decided to make year 10 and 11 end of semester exams or timed tasks voluntary for those teachers who choose to run them. The exams or timed tasks will be scheduled during normal lessons in Week 8.

I would like to encourage all our students to try their best in the last 2 weeks of this semester so that they can achieve success.

Regards  
Vicky Mudge

### **MOCK INTERVIEWS**

It's that time of year again! On Friday, 3 June our year 10 students participated in their 'mock interviews'. This involved students applying for an allocated school leaver position, and creating a resume and cover letter appropriate for the role. Students also prepared answers to a range of common questions that were asked during their interview and practiced their presentation skills.

On the day of the interview, students came prepared with a change of interview clothes, and attended an interview with an esteemed member of our community at an allocated time. In 2022, we were lucky to have Wendy Marshall-Hodson return to assist us for the third year in a row, as well as having Glenys Monroe and Jim Oakey for the first time as our interviewers.

At the end of the day, the jobs were awarded to a student in each category. The winners were:

- o Shaylee Grocke – Kitchen Hand
- o Kalee Noble – Council Worker Apprenticeship
- o Emma Talbot – Checkout Operator
- o Mitchell Noll - Service Station Attendant
- o Harriett Aston - Waiter
- o Erin Pycroft - Farm Hand

These students were able to choose a block of chocolate as a reward for their excellent work. Overall, this is an incredibly tough task for students, and they all performed admirably. They should all be extremely proud of their efforts.

The year 9 Home Ec students catered an amazing meal for our interviewers as an expression of our thanks for giving up their time. From scratch, our talented students made hamburgers, meat pies, sausage rolls, brownies, weet-bix balls, macarons, and pizza. It was all delicious! The brownies and the pies were particular favourites. Our interviewers were also given a bottle of the school's new wine – a lovely rosé – as a thank you. Thank you again to our interviewers; we couldn't give our students this valuable experience without your help!



## YEAR 12 HEALTH EXPO

The year 12 Health students have just completed their collaborative initiative task, requiring them to work in groups to make a positive impact to a target group about a current Health issue.

After some initial research and brainstorming, students decided upon running a Sexual Health Expo to the RDHS Year 10 cohort. The class then divided into 3 groups and planned for different Sexual Health topics: Consent, Contraception & STIs, in the hope of providing opportunities for students to consolidate what they have learnt in Health lessons.

Lisa Harrison



## YEAR 7/8 BOYS FOOTBALL

On Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> of May our Year 7/8 boys headed to Pt Pirie to compete against St Marks and MNSEC in the 7/8 Knockout Football competition.

In game one we came up against a tall and skilful St Marks side. Our boys battled hard and got better and better as the game went on. Unfortunately, we were beaten by a taller and stronger side.

In game two we again started slowly, however we fought hard and were able to begin having repeat forward entries. As the game went on our endeavour increased and we began playing well as a team. A positive is the amount of Year 7 students we had in the team, which is promising for next year's competition. All students tried their hardest all day and represented RDHS with pride.

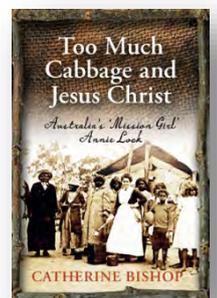
The team comprises of students from Burra Community School, Eudunda Area School and Riverton and District High School- also known as the BEARS- an acronym of the three schools. A huge thankyou to the Hadley, Branson, Allen and Fry families for supporting and helping out during the day.



## AUTHOR VISIT

On Thursday afternoon Catherine Bishop, an award winning Historian, visited the library to give us a talk about her book 'Too Much Cabbage and Jesus Christ'.

A group of students and community patrons attended, learning about the local girl Annie Lock and how she grew up in Rhynie then went away to become a missionary in the early 1900s. For 34 years she worked across Australia with Aboriginal men, women and children believing Aboriginal lives mattered, with controversial results. During this time she met up with Daisy Bates, the Duke of Gloucester, and a young RM Williams. She was regarded variously as "a crank", lovely, and for some Indigenous people, the provider of "too much Jesus Christ and cabbage".



## INTERVENTION PROGRAMS

RDHS now has a unique Intervention room with a dedicated team that use the Fresh Start literacy and Quicksmart numeracy program to address specific learning needs.

2022 has seen the introduction of the Fresh Start literacy program. Fresh Start is the vigorous teaching of synthetic phonics. Students learn 44 common sounds in the English language and how to sound blend which enables them to become a confident and fluent reader.

We have continued to see substantial improvement rates with the Quicksmart numeracy program, which is designed to help students reach their academic potential, gain confidence and fill identified gaps. The aim is to teach students strategies in conceptual understanding to improve numeracy skills. Quicksmart allows students to self-monitor, and to receive and generate immediate feedback about their performance.

Our enthusiastic interventions team, Lisa-Lee Anderson and Tayla Case use their skills, training and love of literacy and numeracy to create a fun learning environment and collaborate closely with teaching staff to ensure the content is explicitly linked with the current curriculum.



## AGRICULTURE UPDATE

This term in Agriculture has been a flurry of activity across all of the areas on the school farm. Students have had the opportunity to work with new livestock, new machinery, new technology and the start of a new cropping year.

Year 9 students have again had the opportunity to be involved with the Cows Create Careers program. This excellent program is run through SADA (the South Australian Dairyfarmers Association), who organise calves, calf milk replacer, feeders and curriculum materials. Students have relished the opportunity to feed, weigh and care for the calves throughout their 3 week stay at school. Special thanks to the Zweck family for their wonderful calves. Thanks also to Brad Toy for his presentation to the students about his role in the dairy industry and opening the student's eyes to the range of career opportunities available within dairy.

The year 10 and 11 students have eagerly awaited the arrival of the new Kawasaki Mule, side by side ATV. Since it has arrived, students have been learning about the safe operation of the vehicle in controlled situations. The ATV is a very common type of farm vehicle and skills in safely operating it are applicable across many farming and vineyard operations.

The late but very welcome, season breaking rains fell over the past two weeks, which has stimulated a period of additional activity on the school farm. Students have witnessed and participated in field preparation and seeding activities with the assistance of Mr Hier. We are keen to see the crops emerge, including a paddock of forage brassica which we are trying for the first time this year. Special thanks to Richard Noll and NTS rural supplies along with Brenton Palmer and Frank McInerney for agronomic advice and seed donations. Thanks also to Sam Przibilla for his ongoing assistance with spraying the paddocks.

Finally, a selection of year 10 Agriculture students had the opportunity to attend a viticultural field trip last week. Students were shown through two 'eco-vineyards' and heard from experts about how these vineyards were increasing the diversity of invertebrates above and below the soil surface. Students were shown how to collect and identify insectivorous insects and spiders as well as soil borne creatures such as worms.

The first of the 2022 wines, made here at RDHS, is available for purchase now. It is a 2022 Shiraz Rose, available individually for \$10 per bottle or in cartons of 6 for \$50.



Thanks  
Aaron Fechner



## RYDA

Students in Year 11 were all encouraged to attend the RYDA (Rural Youth Driver Awareness) workshop day where students learned all about driver education and safety. Students were put into groups with Burra Community School and Clare High School. The students were provided with fresh fruit and water for recess and a sausage sizzle for lunch.

The highlight of the day for students was the car speed/brake testing. An instructor drove the car at 40km and braked so the students had to guess what the distance would be if the driver was doing 60km. When the instructor braked at 60km the students were certainly stunned at the distance change for the two speeds.

The students also did driver S.O.S run by the RAA, pointing out blind spots and driver awareness. The Crash Investigations chat was conducted by two police officers which was also really eye opening for our students.

This program is offered free to our students and it would be great if parents could ask their child about the day and what their child learned.

As usual our students were commended on their behaviour from both the instructors and other schools. It is always a pleasure to go anywhere with our students even if they were giving me driving tips on the way home in the bus.

Deanne Bowden



## NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

Below are some new books added to our collection in the library. Now is a great time of the year to snuggle up somewhere warm and catch up on your reading time. We look forward to seeing you in the Community Library soon.



## MEDICAL INFORMATION

Has your child recently been diagnosed with a medical condition?

The Department for Education require schools to have health care plans and other supporting documents in place to enable adequate support for young people in the education setting. This includes camps and excursions. The care plan, completed by your child's doctor, should document recommended emergency, routine health and personal care support.

Regardless of whether a young person self-manages their medical condition, the school should be updated or informed of current medical conditions.

Does your child use medication?

Should emergency medication be required (eg Asthma puffer, Epi-Pen or anti-histamine), it must be provided in the original pharmacist container, prescribed for your child and with directions on the label. A maximum of one weeks' supply is to be provided at any time (except asthma medication).

Should the school need to call and ambulance for a young person, medical information must be provided to emergency services, ambulance officers and paramedics. Sometimes, the student is unable to communicate their medical history and parents/caregivers are not immediately available. Having the latest information is very important to ensure that the appropriate actions are taken.





THE HON PETER MALINAUSKAS MP

PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Dear parent/caregiver

Ref: fB28983

At the recent State Election, we made a commitment that a Malinauskas Labor Government would give South Australian families with school-age children a \$100 discount on their public school's Materials and Services Charge for each child, for the next two school years (2022 and 2023).

At a time when cost of living pressures are being felt by many families, we are making sure we deliver on our commitment as quickly as possible.

You don't need to do anything yet or contact your school.

If you have already paid the 2022 Materials and Services Charge, your school will contact you shortly with information on how you can ask for a refund, or how a rebate can be applied to other outstanding charges (such as excursions or school camps).

If you haven't yet paid the charge for 2022, your school will automatically apply a \$100 discount to the amount owing.

The discount does not apply to families who have been approved for school card as they are not required to pay a materials and services charge.

We hope that this extra support will make things a little bit easier.

Yours sincerely

Peter Malinauskas

PREMIER

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION,  
TRAINING AND SKILLS

7 / 6 / 2022

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26 May 2022

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Re. Damage/vandalism on the Tarlee Bus

Unfortunately, there have recently been some incidences of vandalism on the Tarlee/Stockport bus which has resulted in significant damage to 4 seatbelts, such that they will need to be replaced.

Given the seriousness of the matter and the cost implications, the bus company, Lofty Coaches, has decided to report the damage to the Police and the matter is now in their hands.

Any students found responsible will face consequences with respect to their ability to access the school bus in addition to any Police action.

It is a requirement of bus travel that students remain in the allocated seats, with seatbelts fastened and we would like to give a timely reminder that failure to do so can result in students' access to bus travel being removed for a period of time.

Yours sincerely

Hazel Greatbanks  
Coordinator

Kathy Champion  
Principal

