



Naracoorte High School Newsletter



Issue #8 December 2025

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Celebrating Outstanding Student Achievement!

We are delighted to recognise the exceptional accomplishments of our students in 2025.

Special congratulations to Elijah Flint, who achieved the highest ATAR of 97.75, an outstanding academic result. Eli was presented with the Westley DiGiorgio Norcock Highest ATAR award on Monday morning by Peter Westley and Mr Hicks, topping off what was a fantastic year!

In addition, 11 students successfully utilised VET studies towards their SACE, showcasing the strength of varied learning pathways. Overall, students earned an impressive 26 A grades across 15 subjects, including 4 A+ achievements.

These results reflect the dedication, resilience, and hard work of our students and staff. Congratulations to all on a fantastic year of achievement!



WHAT'S INSIDE?



YEAR 12 CELEBRATION BALL



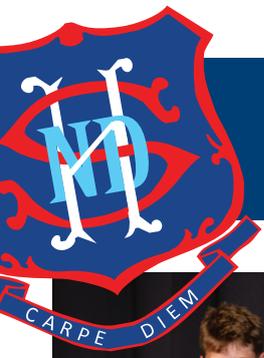
2026 STUDENT LEADERS



PATHWAYS CAMP



Government of South Australia
Department for Education



Presentation Assembly



Event Dates.



TermOne. 2026

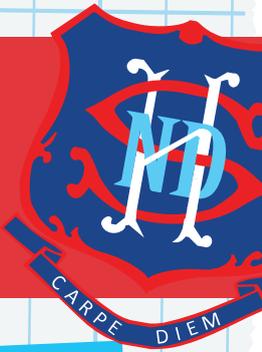
January

26th	Public Holiday
27th	Year 7 Students First Day
27th-28th	Year 12 Retreat @ Robe
29th	All students return

February

13th	Interschool Swimming Carnival
17th	School Photos

Important Reminders



2026 Staggered Start

To support a strong beginning to the school year, Governing Council has endorsed a staggered start structure for 2026:

Day 1 – Tuesday, January 27

- Year 12s: Retreat at Robe
- Year 7s: On-site induction and commencement of Semester 1 timetable
- Years 8-11: Exempt from school

Day 2 – Wednesday, January 28

- Year 12s: Retreat continues
- Year 7s: Continue induction and begin timetabled lessons
- Years 8-11: Exempt from school

Day 3 – Thursday, January 29

All students return and begin their structured timetable.

WISHING EVERYONE A
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



We acknowledge the traditional custodians the Meintangk/Moandik people whose land we gather on today for they hold the memories, traditions and culture of Aboriginal people.

We pay our respects to ancestors and elders past, present and emerging and respect their continuing connection to land, waters and community. May we continue to walk, feel, hear, touch and learn through this land as they have for thousands of years.



Presentation Assembly

Our annual awards Presentation Assembly was held in the final week of Term 4, where we celebrated and recognised students for their individual achievements throughout 2025.

Alice McKenzie and Elijah Flint did a wonderful job hosting the evening in their last official duty as this years School Captains, before handing over the reigns to incoming Captains, Ben Phelan and Jack Barker.

Thank you to our award sponsors, staff, students and families who were in attendance on the night and a big congratulations to the following students who received awards.

Year Level Dux Awards

Joint Dux of Year 7	Mia Walter & Mimi Thomson
Dux of Year 8	Annie Rasheed
Dux of Year 9	Kaidee Thomson
Joint Dux of Year 10	Dylan Flint & Henry Tanner
Joint Dux of Stage 1	Jack Barker & Kailey Sneath
Dux of Stage 2	Elijah Flint

Stage I Dux Awards

Agricultural Science	Ben Phelan
Biology	Mia McCarthy
Creative Arts	Lillyana Soderlund
Industry & Entrepreneurial Solutions	Thalia Benier
Material Solutions - Woodwork	Mia McCarthy
Information Processing & Publishing	Sienna Porter
English	Jack Barker
Essential Mathematics	Kendra Bilston
Mathematical Methods	Jack Barker
Specialist Mathematics	Jack Barker
Integrated Learning - Pathways	Evie Mott
Integrated Learning - Sport & Rec.	Jack Kay
Food & Hospitality	Alyssa Bennier & Claire Ogilvie
General Mathematics	Thalia Benier
Physics	Jack Barker
Psychology	Kailey Sneath
Visual Arts	Lillyana Soderlund
EIF	Tahlia Maresch
Physical Education	Thomas Maney
Outdoor Education	Adan Materne
Geography	Faiza Kamali
French Beginners	Imogen Martyn

Stage II Dux Awards

Industry & Entrepreneurial Solutions	Jack Barker
Essential Mathematics	Zach Boston
Biology	Farieda Akbari
Creative Arts	Zoe Williams
Information Processing & Publishing	Madison Hagarty
English	Molly Crouch
Essential English	Henry Collins
Mathematical Methods	Elijah Flint
Chemistry	Elijah Flint
General Mathematics	Alice McKenzie
Psychology	Farieda Akbari
Integrated Learning - Cambodia	Molly Crouch
Integrated Learning - Sport Studies	Chloe Stewart
Modern History	Kailey Sneath & Zoe Williams
Physics	Elijah Flint
Agricultural Production	Jack Barker
Visual Arts	Zoe Williams
Physical Education	Lucy Midwinter
Specialist Mathematics	Elijah Flint
AIF	Jack Barker

2026 Student Leaders

School Captains	Ben Phelan & Jack Barker
Flynn House Captains	Jack Kay & Imogen Martyn
Carter House Captains	Jim Hansford & Tahlia Maresch
Murdoch House Captains	Nicolas Bald & Mia McCarthy

Special Awards

Excellence & Equity Award	Cleo Adams
Nutrien Ag Excellence in Ag	Jack Barker
Naracoorte Hotel Hospitality Award	Lucy Midwinter
Field Agriculture Award	Will Turner
Public Speaking Award	Piper Holmes
Drews Young Problem Solver	Lachlan Hill
The News Creative Writing Award	Zoe Williams
Greves Performing Arts Award	Jessica Frick
National Trust History Award	Kailey Sneath & Zoe Williams
Malcolm Evans Memorial Prize	Sharif Ahmadi
Vanita Hutchinson Memorial Art Prize	Zeena Moesengruber
Hansen Print Design & Tech Prize	Jack Barker
Excellence in Science Award	Elijah Flint

Presentation Assembly



Special Awards cont.

Uni SA Specialist Maths
Uni SA Mathematical Methods
Uni SA Award
Barker Shield – Academic
Barker Shield – Service & Spirit
Barker Shield – Leadership
MacKillop Rising Star Award
Noelene Ferguson Award
Stand Like Stone Foundation

Elijah Flint
Samuel Hole
Aliakbar Qalandari
Mia Grady
Brooklyn Fitzgerald
Alice McKenzie
Tahlia Maresch
Ali Ashgar Qurbani
Madison Hagarty

ADF Awards

ADF Long Tan Award – Year 10
ADF Long Tan Award – Year 12
ADF Innovators Award – Year 10
ADF Innovators Award – Year 12

Lochlan Dolphin
Mia Grady
Jack Barker
Lucas Bald

VET Awards

MAS Award
SYC Award
GTE Award

Muzammil Rezaie
Ali Reza Panahi
Casey Evans

Sports Awards

Junior Sportsperson of the Year
Senior Sportsperson of the Year

Angus Norcock
Lucy Midwinter

Citizenship Awards

Lewis De Garis Citizenship Award
Wardle Junior Citizenship Award
Dr Darren Di Iulio Junior Award
Dr Darren Di Iulio Senior Award
Ampol All Rounder Award

Henry Collins
Skylah Gnys
Charlie McCarthy
Jack Barker
Lucy Midwinter





Principal's Update



2026 Staffing Announcements

We are pleased to share our staffing updates for the 2026 school year, which reflect both continuity and renewal across our teaching and leadership teams.

Hillary Trotter has won and accepted the 3-year Senior Leadership position – Teaching Practice and School Systems. Hillary brings extensive experience from Renmark High School, Penola High School, and her previous time at Naracoorte High School. We warmly welcome Hillary back and look forward to the expertise she will bring in 2026 and beyond.

Felicity Slotegraaf returns to Naracoorte High School after a successful year as Principal at Naracoorte South Primary School. Flic will step into one of our three Senior Leader roles, overseeing Curriculum Innovation and Learning Design.

Emma Phillips has been appointed to the 3-year B2 position – Middle Years Leader (Engagement, Capabilities & Curriculum, Years 7–9). Emma's leadership in our New Metrics partnership with Melbourne University has already influenced Years 7–9, and this position enables her to continue strengthening capability-focused learning across the middle school.

Bron Longbottom will continue as Culturally Responsive Pedagogies Leader for a further 12 months.

Sue Spratt (Science) will continue at 0.8.

Georgia Block (HPE / English) will continue at 0.6.

Lizzy Stewart (Performing Arts / English) will continue on a 1.0 contract for 2026–27.

Lucy Henschke (HPE / Maths) will continue teaching for most of Semester 1, 2026 before heading to the USA to work at a Summer Camp.

Sam Rodgers (Science / Maths) will continue on a 1.0 contract following his work in Term 4.

Chelsea Dahlenburg (Agriculture) will return in a 0.6 role after a year at Penola High School.

Gennaeve Mislov (Maths / Science) will join us in a 0.6 capacity.

Caitlin O'Grady (HASS / English) will join us in a 0.6 position as she relocates from Adelaide.

Josh Cother (HPE / Maths) will join Naracoorte High School from Naracoorte South Primary School, where he has been a valued member of staff.

Marie Otty (Food Technology) will join us on a 1.0 contract from Coober Pedy Area School.

Staff Farewells

Morgan Randall will be leaving at the end of 2025 to return to his leadership position in Burra. We thank Morgan for his thoughtful leadership of Curriculum and Pedagogy during 2025 and wish him well in his return to the Mid North.

Amanda Thompson will be farewelled after 15 years of dedicated teaching as she relocates to Adelaide. We thank Amanda for the significant impact she has had on student learning and wish her every success in her transition to city life.

Principal's Update



Sophie Gibbs leaves our Student Services and Wellbeing team as she embarks on her career as a Social Worker. We wish Sophie all the best.

Amanda Mangelsen and **Georgie Stott** are taking 12 months' leave to explore different parts of the world. We wish them safe travels and look forward to welcoming them back in 2027.

Further staffing updates will be shared as they are confirmed.

Staggered Start for 2026

To support a strong beginning to the school year, Governing Council has endorsed a staggered start structure designed to promote positive transitions and early relationship building.

Day 1 – Tuesday, January 27

Year 12s: Retreat at Robe

Year 7s: On-site induction and commencement of Semester 1 timetable

Years 8–11: Exempt from school

Day 2 – Wednesday, January 28

Year 12s: Retreat continues

Year 7s: Continue induction and begin timetabled lessons

Years 8–11: Exempt from school

Day 3 – Thursday, January 29

All students return and begin their structured timetable.

Staff not directly involved in the Year 7 induction or Year 12 retreat will participate in professional learning focused on quality teaching, engaging pedagogical design, and effective system operations.

Supervision will be available for vulnerable or at-risk students and those requiring care on Days 1 and 2.

School Device Purchase Program (SDPP)

Governing Council has endorsed a staged implementation of a School Device Purchase Program beginning in 2026.

Rollout Plan:

2026:

- Year 10s encouraged to purchase via the Department's device portal
- Years 11–12 continue with school-supplied devices

2027:

- Year 10s required to purchase via the portal
- Year 12s may continue with existing devices
- Year 11s using school devices from 2026 may continue

2028:

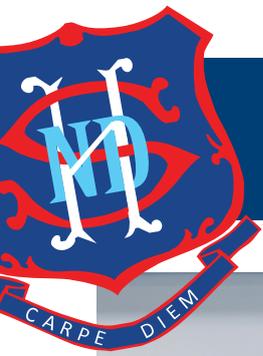
- Year 10s and 11s operate under the SDPP
- Year 12s may continue on school devices

2029:

- Full implementation across Years 10–12

All devices must be purchased through the Department's approved portal to ensure access to ongoing ICT support.

Kieron Hicks
Principal



Student Leadership 2026



Student Leadership 2026

As part of our commitment to growing strong, visible, and connected student leadership, 2026 will see the introduction of a refreshed student leadership structure. This model reflects feedback from our current student leaders and strengthens opportunities for meaningful voice and influence across the school.

This updated structure ensures that our student leaders are not only visible but also deeply engaged in shaping the culture, direction, and day-to-day experience of Naracoorte High School.

A Leadership Model with Greater Connection and Purpose

Fridays (Session 4, Weeks 2, 5, 8)

Combined leadership meetings involving House Leaders, Executive House Leaders, School Captains, and the Principal. These sessions will provide clear direction, strengthen collaboration, and ensure our student leaders are active contributors to school improvement.

Mondays (Weeks 3, 6, 9)

House Assemblies will follow the leaders' meetings, enabling consistent communication and a shared sense of purpose across all Houses.

The Student Leadership Body, comprised of School Captains and House Leaders, creates a streamlined and highly connected leadership group. This structure is designed to promote strong student voice, visible leadership, and aligned priorities across the school.

Leadership development for Years 7–9 students will continue through our Futures programs, coordinated by the Middle School Leader.

We congratulate all students on their appointments and look forward to supporting them as they lead their peers and contribute to the direction of the school in 2026.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS



BEN PHELAN



JACK BARKER

MURDOCH CAPTAINS



NIC BALD



MIA M^CCARTHY

FLYNN CAPTAINS



JACK KAY



IMOGEN MARTYN

CARTER CAPTAINS



JIM HANSFORD



TAHLIA MARESCH



2026 Materials and Service Poll Results

Section 129 of the Education and Children's Services Act 2019 allows schools, in consultation with the governing council, to charge, collect and recover a materials and services charge.

For the 2026 school year, the governing council has approved a proposed materials and services charge amount of \$520.00.

As the materials and services charge is greater than the legislated prescribed amount(s), as referenced in the Education and Children's Services Act, the governing council is required to undertake a poll to gain majority support from the school community for this proposed charge to be compulsory, and therefore recoverable in full.

The prescribed amount as per the Education and Children's Services Regulation (Regulation 81) is \$306 for a primary student and \$403 for a secondary student.

The governing council therefore seeks your support for the proposed 2026 materials and services charge of \$520.00 to be compulsory.

The results of the poll indicate:

Yes – 149 No – 53

Therefore the \$520 Materials and Services charge will be compulsory for 2026.



Pathways Camp



Year 10 Pathways Careers Camp – A Week of Discovery and Inspiration!

Our Year 10 students recently returned from an action-packed Careers Camp—five days filled with hands-on experiences, industry insights, and a glimpse into the incredible opportunities awaiting them beyond school. Here’s a look back at their exciting week:

Day 1 – University Pathways in the Heart of the City

The week kicked off in Adelaide’s CBD with visits to the University of Adelaide and UniSA city campuses. Students explored campus life and learned about a wide range of career pathways, including commerce, finance, law, robotics, engineering, the arts, astrophysics, space exploration, and geology. It was an inspiring introduction to the study options available after high school.

Day 2 – Innovation, Trades & Health

Students led the way, navigating public transport to the Tonsley Innovation Hub. Here they discovered careers in technology and STEM and attended a career-skills presentation.

A guided tour of Tonsley TAFE showcased trade pathways such as construction, carpentry, cabinetmaking, plumbing, electrical, refrigeration, sign writing, bricklaying, plastering, and tiling.

Flinders University staff then introduced students to health careers including optometry, paediatrics, nursing, midwifery, and paramedicine.

The day concluded with a behind-the-scenes tour of Adelaide Oval, where highlights included the media centre, historic scoreboard, change rooms and the museum.

Day 3 – Animals, Emergency Services & the Arts

At the Adelaide Zoo, students explored careers in zoology, veterinary science, and animal care.

A visit to the Metropolitan Fire Service demonstrated the vital role of emergency services and pathways into the field.

At City TAFE, students were exposed to courses in hair, beauty, cosmetics, floristry, fashion and allied health—before enjoying lunch at the iconic Central Market.

The afternoon included visits to the Art Gallery, SA Museum, and State Library.

The day wrapped up at the brand-new SASI facility, where students explored careers in elite sport, sports science, physiotherapy, exercise physiology, and peak performance. They were even lucky enough to meet Olympic hopefuls Olly and Solly, who are training toward Brisbane 2032.

Pathways Camp



Day 4 – Trades, Hospitality & High-Tech Exploration

A bus trip to Regency TAFE opened students' eyes to automotive careers including light and heavy vehicle mechanics, auto electrical, outboard mechanics and electric vehicle technology. They even got to try VR welding—technology used to train apprentices working on ASC and BAE naval projects.

Students also learned about hospitality careers such as chef training, butchering, baking, winemaking, craft brewing, and cheesemaking, followed by a delicious lunch at Tiros, the graduate-run restaurant.

The day finished at UniSA Mawson Lakes with an exploration of STEM fields including design and technology, aviation, engineering, and space exploration.

That evening, students tested their teamwork and problem-solving skills at the Adventure Rooms!

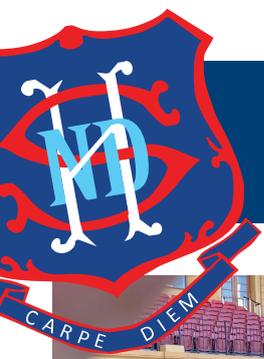
Day 5 – Parliament House & Farewell

On the final day, students were given a special tour of Parliament House with Nick McBride MP (Member for Mackillop) and Ben Hood MLC (Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and former Naracoorte High School student).

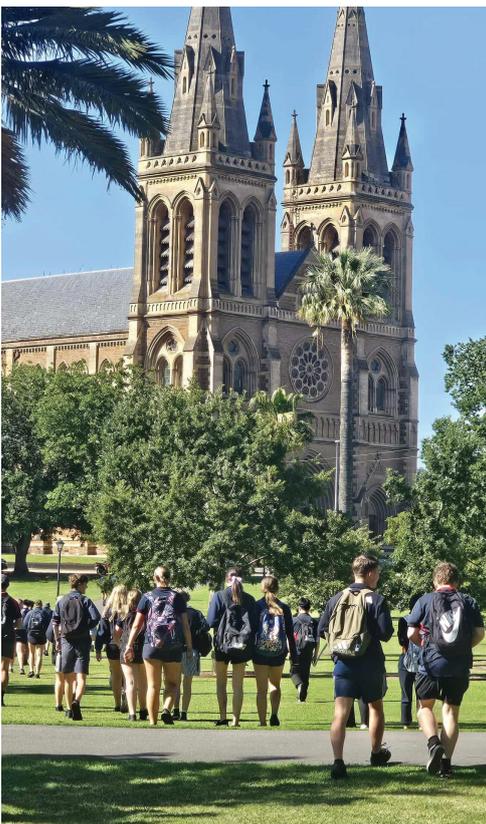
After the tour, the group began the journey home—tired but inspired—following what was truly a jam-packed, rewarding week.

A huge thank you to all staff and students for making the Year 10 Careers Camp such a memorable experience. We can't wait to see where these pathways lead!



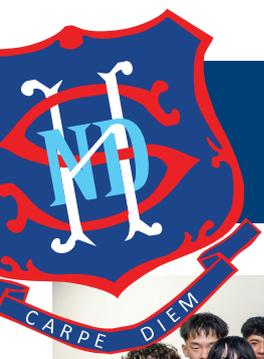


Pathways Camp



Pathways Camp





Celebration Ball

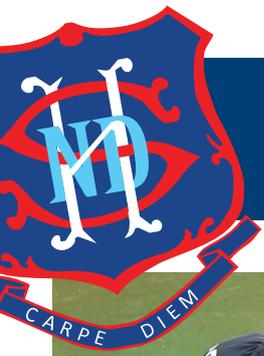


With  love Photography
CREATIVE | PERSONALISED



Celebration Ball





Transition



2026 Year 7 Transition

Our final Year 6 transition took place over 2 full days in Week 9! Students from NSPS, Naracoorte Primary, Padthaway and Frances Primary Schools joined us on Thursday and Friday and participated in a variety of activities in class and around the school.

From the moment students arrived, the excitement was obvious, and it was clear the Year 6 students were eager to dive in and get a feel for secondary school life!

Our current students were just as thrilled, welcoming the new faces with warmth and helping guide them around the school.

A team building activity in the gym (involving a packet of lollies and some toothpicks) was the perfect way to wrap up our transition program for the year.

We now look forward to welcoming our newest Year 7 cohort with a staggered start at the beginning of 2026.

Georgia Block
Teacher



Drama Performance





Year 7 Camp



Week 6 saw our Year 7 students attend the Murraylands Aquatics Camp for a fun filled week of water activities!

Day 1 We set off from school at 8:40 a.m., full of excitement for the adventure ahead. After a quick stop at Tintinara, we arrived at camp around 12:30 p.m. and were warmly welcomed by the camp owner, Michael, who shared the rules and introduced the instructors who would guide us over the next three days.

Students jumped straight into their first activities, rotating through a range of aquatic experiences including kayaking, sailing, canoeing, knee boarding, stand-up paddleboarding, skiing, and small-boat handling. It was a big first day filled with challenges, teamwork, and plenty of laughs.

In the evening, we enjoyed a delicious lasagna dinner before teaming up for a fun quiz. We ended the night with some peaceful fishing on the bank before heading off to bed.

Day 2 began bright and early! After waking up at 6:30 a.m, we fuelled up with breakfast and got ready for our first session at 8:30 a.m. Students completed two activities before lunch and were more than ready for a hotdog break.

The afternoon brought another two water sessions, with many students growing more confident and determined as they tried new skills. Dinner was hearty baked potatoes followed by outdoor games that brought everyone together for a relaxed and fun evening.

Day 3 Our final day started with breakfast and a sense of accomplishment as students completed their remaining water sessions. With skills growing stronger and friendships even stronger, it was a great way to finish the camp experience.

While waiting for the next group to arrive, everyone had the chance to make their own fresh salad rolls—a tasty way to wrap up three days of adventure!

Year 7 Camp



NHS BOOK CLUB

gemma.files987@schools.sa.edu.au

If you love reading and want to chat to like minded students, come join....

Page Turners

All year levels welcome to join!

Meetings will be held during lunch times, sharing our love of reading in a relaxed environment.

SE Zone Boys Netball



It was another freezing cold, rainy day in Mount Gambier, only this time Ash Bennier and Georgia Block were rolling in with two minibuses packed with 18 excited students, geared up for boys' netball!

It was a tough day out for our Year 7/8 team, facing off against a very strong, Tenison Woods College in Round 1. Shout out to Tom Vilde for standing the tallest player in their team and dominating, as well as Frazier Brodie for his speed and intercepts in defence!

Will Maney scored one of our only goals for the day, which we're counting as a super shot! With only one practice game before we left for the Mount, the boys

worked well together and unfortunately on the day, they just happened to face some exceptionally skilled boys netballers!

Our Year 8/9 team however, was on fire from the first whistle! With the likes of Kath Mott (Cooper) and Mads Moss (Levi) leading the attack, we knew we were set up for something special! This side had some brilliant passages of play, but their run was cut short thanks to relentless, sideways rain.

Well done to all boys involved - thanks for a fun day out!

Georgia Block
Teacher



Library & Resource Centre



PREMIER'S READING Challenge

Congratulations to all NHS students who successfully completed this year's Premier's Reading Challenge. Nine students completed the challenge this year earning points for their house with a total of 288 books read between them. We also had awards for the NHS Year Level Top Readers and an Overall School Top Reader Award.

Well done everyone!

Champion Medal (5 years): Cooper Rees

Legend Medal (6 years): Lucas Sinclair

Reader for Life 8: Dylan Flint, Brooklyn Fitzgerald, Alexis Flint, Chelsea Rosmann & Narelle Rosman

Reader for Life 9: Piper Southern & Lisa Tate

Year Level Awards

NHS Overall Top Reader & Year 7 Top Reader:

Alexis Flint (64 books)

Year 8 Top Reader: Chelsea Rosmann (51 books)

Year 9 Top Reader: Lisa Tate (12 books)

Year 10 Top Reader: Cooper Rees (60 books)

Year 12 Top Reader: Brooklyn Fitzgerald (19 books)



End of Year Returns

All 2025 items are now overdue. Emails have been sent out to both students and parents for outstanding items and thank to those that have been returned already. Only 46 items remain outstanding. Invoices for unreturned items will be issued at the start of 2026.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

To keep reading during the Summer Holidays don't forget to visit our great town library. You can find out information here:

www.libraries.sa.gov.au/client/en_AU/naracoorte/

Anita Miles
Library Manager

Library & Resource Centre



Dewy the Elf!





Community News & Events



STRINGYBACH music
EST. 2007

GUITAR AND BASS TUITION

TERM 1 2026 BOOKINGS OPEN
CONTACT ERICA 0412 629 768
STRINGYBACHSTUDIOS@GMAIL.COM
@STRINGYBACHMUSIC
ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM



Rotary

BECOME A HOST FAMILY

SEEKING NOW!

EXCHANGE YEAR 2025-26

The Rotary Club of Naracoorte is welcoming an inbound high school exchange student from mid 2025-mid 2026. We are seeking 3-4 host families to open up their hearts and home, and share in international understanding and fellowship.

YOUR NEXT FAMILY PHOTO

QUICK INFO:

- Host for approx 3 months
- Lots of support from Rotary Club
- Student must have their own bed, food and a loving family!

Contact the Rotary Club of Naracoorte today! 0468 347 807 (Judy Stafford) naracoorterotary@yahoo.com.au

Naracoorte High School

2025 School Magazine



\$25 each.

Orders are now open for the 2025 School Magazine!

The cost for the magazine is \$25.00 and can be ordered via the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/1cUs6MnL0N>

PLEASE NOTE: The 2025 School Magazine will be available at the beginning of Term 1, 2026. Payment is to be made on collection. Please contact the front office with any