

PICTON HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPALS NEWS

TERM 1 WEEK 7



Last week our student leadership team were in action, being put through some challenging activities as part of their SRC induction. In 2025 we have over 60 students that make up our SRC. They had the opportunity to raise matters where they would like to see some changes which were both enlightening and innovative. Well done to Ms Baxter and Mrs Mant for their leadership in this space.

NAPLAN for 2025 is well and truly underway. I must congratulate our students for their exemplary behaviour in these testing conditions. Testing continues this week for both year 7 and 9 students and we wish them all the very best.

Monday of last week we had many of our swimmers compete at the regional level representing us and the Sydney South West team. Again we saw some outstanding individual and team results with a strong team making it through to the NSW Combined High Schools meet. Well done to all who competed.

Our enrichment class students enjoyed a day out at Warragamba Dam last week applying some of the knowledge learnt in the classroom to practical based activities. We are currently working on developing our High Potential and Gifted Education programs at Picton High with some exciting changes coming for Semester 2 2025 and into 2026. Currently there are programs that work towards developing students talent in the physical, creative, social/emotional and intellectual domains.

THE WEEK AHEAD

WEDNESDAY 19/3

Year 9 Outdoor Education Excursion - Thirlmere Lakes Hike (Ms McPhee)
Year 9 Outdoor Education Excursion - Glenrock Reserve (Ms Lindsay)
School Captain Leadership Visit to Parliament House

THURSDAY 20/3

Year 12 English Studies Excursion - On the Road
Wellbeing Program - selected students

FRIDAY 21/3

Zone Tennis
Harmony Day celebrations



LUKE FARTHING PRINCIPAL



Education

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Thinking about high school options for your younger children?
If you have a child in Year 5 or 6 and are considering enrolling them at your local comprehensive high school for 2026 or 2027, come and see what we have to offer!

Join us for our Open Night on Tuesday, 25th March 2025, from 5:30pm.

☀️ What to Expect:

- ✓ Guided tours of our school
- ✓ Meet our dedicated teachers, students, and parents
- ✓ Experience sample lessons
- ✓ Discover the incredible opportunities available at our innovative high school

Come and see first-hand why our school is a fantastic choice for your child's future! We look forward to welcoming you. 💙📖

Use the link below to RSVP

<https://forms.gle/6pqY2BZ4QfB4AGwAA>

What's happening in the HSIE classrooms?

HSIE Update: Engaging Minds, Shaping the Future

At our school, studying HSIE (Human Society and Its Environment) empowers students with essential skills and knowledge to navigate both academic and real-world challenges. Through History and Geography, students develop critical thinking, problem-solving, research, and analytical abilities—skills that will serve them well in every aspect of life. HSIE subjects encourage them to explore complex social, economic, and political issues, deepening their understanding of the world. It also fosters communication and collaboration through discussions, debates, and group work, while promoting awareness of ethical and cultural perspectives. Ultimately, HSIE subjects prepare students to be informed, responsible citizens ready to contribute thoughtfully to society.

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This semester, students have been immersed in fascinating topics across various year levels:

Year 7:

Students have been exploring the ways historians and archaeologists investigate the ancient past. They're learning to interpret historical sources and understand the importance of preserving history. Soon, they will dive into Ancient China, studying its significant events, beliefs, values, and influential figures.

Year 8:

Year 8 is delving into Water in the World, where students examine water as a vital resource, exploring the factors influencing water flow and availability. They're investigating the nature of water scarcity and how it can be managed sustainably, while also exploring varying perceptions of water's value across the globe.

Year 9 History:

This term, Year 9 students have been studying key change-makers who have shaped the modern world. Their exploration culminated in a museum-style project, where they created exhibits on historical figures of their choice. Next, they will explore Australia's involvement in World War I and II, studying the significant events and impacts of these wars.

Year 9 Geography:

In Geography, Year 9 has been focusing on biomes—understanding their physical characteristics and the impact of human activity, particularly agriculture. Students are investigating challenges related to food production and sustainability, as well as forecasting future food supply and demand issues.

Year 10 History:

Year 10 students have been studying the world since 1945, exploring key global events such as the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and more recent issues, and examining how these events have shaped the modern world. Soon, they will study human rights and freedoms, including the role of the United Nations and the struggles of First Nations Australians and the American Civil Rights Movement.

Year 10 Geography:

In Geography, Year 10 students are exploring Environmental Change and Management, learning about human-induced environmental challenges and how to address them. Their current focus is on the impacts of change to Australia's coastal environments.

Other HSIE Highlights:

HSIE also continues to shine in our Stage 5 elective classes, with students taking on subjects like Commerce and Elective History, while in Stage 6, we have sixteen Year 11 and 12 classes engaging in a broad range of fascinating curriculum areas.

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Recently, several exciting excursions have brought classroom learning to life:

- Year 7 Enrichment visited the State Library and Australian Museum for a creative writing workshop and a hands-on look at ancient artifacts.
- Year 10 History Elective toured the Police and Justice Museum to explore the infamous Pyjama Girl case, learning how historians and forensic experts piece together the past.
- Year 11 and 12 Legal Studies participated in a Legal Aid workshop with a solicitor, gaining insights into how the law affects young people.
- Year 8 Enrichment explored Warragamba Dam as part of their Water in the World unit, engaging with Water NSW's educational program.

As the year progresses, we look forward to more enriching excursions and opportunities that connect the classroom with the real world.

Historical Riddle:

I was born on March 16th, 1751,
A famous inventor, whose work was never done.
I gave the world the lightning rod,
And helped with science, which many found odd.
Who am I?

Mrs Miranda Dunn - Head Teacher HSIE

Have a great week ahead.

Luke Farthing
Principal

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