



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Please find below the **Week 9 Term 4 2020** edition of the Parental Lion Roars.

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## From the Principal

Mr Anthony Gleeson

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends of the College,

The last Lion Roars for 2020 will be next week, where we will list the major prizewinners for Semester Two.

By now, all parents/caregivers in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 will have received their Semester Two Reports. Intake 2020 will be published this Thursday. These reports now have comments from each of your child's subject teachers to ensure better quality feedback is provided to you on their learning.

If you have any queries or concerns about marks, grades, progress or comments, please contact the College this week so any matter can be attended to by the appropriate staff, before we close for the summer holidays on 18 December.

### Year 11 (2021) Step Up Program

This week, our Year 10 students (Year 11 2021) commenced their 'Step Up Program'. This enables students to become familiar with the courses they have selected and is also an opportunity for the staff to introduce their classes to Senior study formats and techniques. This morning I visited some classes and the students were being introduced to the particular NESA syllabuses for their courses.

Thank you to the staff taking these classes and introducing our Year 11 2021 to their selected courses.

### Thank you - Tell Them From Me Survey

Thank you to those parents who participated in the Tell Them From Me Survey conducted last month.

The response rate was 66.1% of our parents/care-givers. The survey is now closed and the results are being analysed. In our *Parents In Partnership Principal's Update* in Week 5 of Term One 2021, I will present these results and how they will inform our actions and directions in 2021.



### Girls Rugby League Team Challenge

This Thursday, the College will be holding our Inaugural Girls Rugby League Challenge at lunchtime. We wish both teams good luck as they have been training since the start of this year.

Take a look at the promotional video. Thank you to both **Mr Tavernese** and **Mr Issa** for their time and expertise in coaching both teams.

Watch the [PROMOTIONAL VIDEO](#).



## Year 10 Semi Formal

Last Friday evening the Year 10 Semi Formal was celebrated at The Epping Club. I was very impressed with their attitude, behavior, manners and even their dancing techniques!

Thank you to the staff who attended - **Mr Spurtacz, Ms Hashim, Ms Axton, Ms Frykberg and Ms Li** - but particularly to **Ms Sykes and Ms Tynan** on their overall organisation and the care of the students.

The evening was a great opportunity for the students not so much to celebrate the end of their compulsory education days, but rather the year that has been and enjoyment of each other's company.

So many of the students came and said thank you for the evening as they were Covid-19 escorted out of the premises by their parents.

*Thank you for your time - enjoy the rest of the week.*

**Tony Gleeson**  
**Principal**

## From the Assistant Principal

Mr Daniel Petrie



## Remaining 2020 and 2021 Important Events

2020 - Term IV	Date
Intake 2020 Reports Released	Thursday, 10 December
Last day of Step Up Program (Year 10) and normal classes (other Year Groups)	Monday, 14 December
St Leo's Day	Tuesday, 15 December
Year in Review Awards Ceremony	Wednesday, 16 December
Last day for Students in 2020	Wednesday, 16 December
2021 – Term I	
Teaching Staff Commence / Staff Development Day	Wednesday, 27 January
Intake 2021 and new students commence	Thursday, 28 January
Year 8 - Year 12 students commence	Friday, 29 January
College Open Day	Tuesday, 16 March, 4-7pm
Last Day of Term One - Holy Thursday	Thursday, 1 April
2021 - Term II	
First Day of Term Two	Monday, 19 April

Last Day of Term Two for students	Thursday, 24 June
Staff Development Day (Diocesan Wide)	Friday, 25 June
<b>2021 - Term III</b>	
Staff Professional Development Day	Monday, 12 July
First day of Term Three for Students	Tuesday, 13 July
Last Day of Term Three	Friday, 17 September
<b>2021 - Term IV</b>	
First Day of Term Four	Tuesday, 5 October
Road to Bethlehem Advent Liturgy	Friday, 10 December
St Leo's Day and College Fair	Tuesday, 14 December
Last Day of Term Four / Year in Review Celebrations	Wednesday, 15 December
Staff Professional Development Day	Thursday, 16 December
Staff Professional Development Day	Friday, 17 December

## End of Year Celebrations and Events - Week 10 (14-18 December 2020)

### Overview

Day	Activity
Monday, 14 December	Normal Classes (Intake 2020, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 12) Final day of the Step Up Into Year 11 Program (Year 10)
Tuesday, 15 December	St Leo's Day - Year Group Liturgies (no fair)
Wednesday, 16 December	Year in Review (Streamed Live from LOCC to Mentor) and students final day of classes.

### St Leo's Day - Tuesday, 15 December

St Leo's Day is the day dedicated to celebrating our College Patron Saint, Pope St Leo the Great. This day of celebration also marks the Season of Advent in preparation of the Feast of Christmas. Traditionally this day is celebrated with a College Mass followed by a College Fair. This year due to covid restrictions, the Fair has been postponed and the College will host Year Group Liturgies. These will be held at the following times:

Tuesday 15 December	St Leo's Day Liturgies	Location
Year 8	Period 1 (8:50 - 9:50)	Flora MacKillop Theatre
Year 9	Period 2 (9:50 - 10:50)	Flora MacKillop Theatre
Year 7	Period 3 (11:15 - 12:15)	Flora MacKillop Theatre
Year 12	Period 4 (12:15 - 1:15)	Flora MacKillop Theatre
Year 10	Period 5 (2:00 - 3:00)	Flora MacKillop Theatre

## Year in Review - Wednesday, 16 December

The Year in Review is the College celebration dedicated to highlighting student achievement in each of the six growth domains. Traditionally this Ceremony would be open to parents. Due to Covid restrictions this is regrettably not possible for 2020. In addition to this, the restrictions pertaining to the mixing of year groups has also remained unchanged and as a result, the College will be hosting separate award ceremonies. Due to separate locations across the campus for each of these ceremonies, a streaming service will not be available for 2020.

Families and award winners will be notified via Compass (email) by the conclusion of Week 9 that their daughter/son will be receiving an award.

Schedule	Timing
Mentor	8.35-8.50
Period 1	8.50-9.50
Period 2	9.50-10.50
Recess	10.50 - 11.20
Period 3	11:20 - 12.10
Year Group Award Ceremonies	12:10 - 1:10
Dismissal from Murru Mittigar	1:10 - 1:30

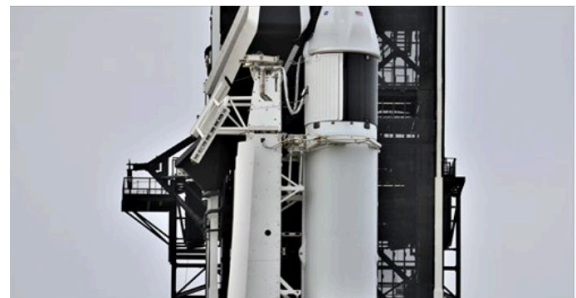
## St Leo's Wattle Seeds in Space!



The St Leo's contribution to the Wattle Seed Project blasted off on Saturday and are presently in orbit.

These seeds will return to earth and will be planted and studied as part of our Science Program.

Students and staff eagerly await the biological insights these will bring.



SPACEUPCLOSE.COM  
1st Upgraded SpaceX Cargo Dragon 'GO' for Falcon 9 Blastoff to ISS Saturday Dec. 5: Watch Live/Photos - Space UpClose

You can [view the launch by clicking on the image \(right\)](#).

## Christmas Hamper Appeal

At St Leo's, creativity and charity go hand in hand. Below is an animation created by one of our Youth Ministry students in Year 10 that merges the St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal with adapted text from the 'Night before Christmas'. All drawing, animation, scripting and editing was completed by the students.

This audio visual reminder is a moving call to generosity and courageous giving this Advent. All students are asked to bring their donations to Mentor.



Please [view the clip below by clicking on the image \(above right\)](#).

This year we are asking students from different year groups to bring in the following items for the hampers:

- **Intake 2020 and Year 12:** Non-perishable food and Christmas food
- **Year 8:** Christmas accessories to be put in hampers
- **Years 9 and 10:** Donations to the Jesuit Refugee Services (such as food items and toiletries).

In addition, each Mentor group will decide on a **favourite book for a student their age to be donated to Youth Off the Streets**. A student from that Mentor group will be assigned to buy the book and deliver it to the Aquinas Resource Centre.

*Thank you for your generosity.*

## From the Acting Director of Evangelisation & Catholic Formation

Mr Nathan Smith

### Virtual Road to Bethlehem – our Christmas Pilgrimage continues

As we are unable to unite as a whole school for our end-of-year College Advent Liturgy, this year we have created a Road to Bethlehem Christmas Pilgrimage video series which students are watching and discussing each day in Mentor classes.

Together with St Peter's Catholic College, Tuggerah and Catholic Youth Broken Bay, we have produced a series of Advent videos to be played in all schools in the Broken Bay Diocese in the lead up to Christmas.

Each video begins with a Gospel reading dramatised by our students, followed by a reflection, dance, song or artwork organised by St Peter's. Then, there are videos of students (primary and secondary school) sharing what Christmas means to them. Eleven episodes have been prepared and each go for approximately 10 minutes.

We hope you and your family are able to take the time to enjoy the videos together. Here are the links for the stations so far:

Stop 1: [The Annunciation](#)

Stop 2: [The Visitation](#)

Stop 3: [Mary's Song of Praise](#)

Stop 4: [Caesar announces the Census](#)

Stop 5: [The Donkey](#)

Stop 6: [The Road to Bethlehem](#)

Stop 7: [No Room at the Inn](#)

Stop 8: [Silent Night](#)

Stop 9: [Shepherds & Angels](#)



## From the Dean of Curriculum and Professional Development

Mr George Morad

### More about 'Step Up into Year 11'



The 'Step Up into Year 11' Program for Year 10 in Weeks 9 and 10 is designed to allow students to experience a taste of the Year 11 courses and begin the process of "skilling themselves" for the start of their Stage 6 Year 11 courses in 2021. Ms Ellison has restructured the timetable for Year 10 so they can be in the core subjects and electives for 2021 with a teacher of that particular subject. Content for the Year 11 course is not directly taught but the skills required for Term 1, 2021 are reviewed.

For example, Year 10 English students are in their Advanced, Standard and Studies classes for 2021. English in 2021 begins with a Common Module that requires students to be able to showcase their skills and respond to short response questions based on stimulus material. For the next week and a half, English students will be taken through the skills of answering short response questions to stimulus material and shown how to write responses for maximum marks. These skills will be employed by Year 11 English students early in 2021. This becomes their "step up" into Year 11 in Year 10.

Incorporated into this week and next week is time for students to complete NESAs mandatory All My Own Work program as well as some students complete their Minimum Standards test.

Here is a link to the [schedule for the program](#).

## Zoom Meeting for Parents of Intake 2020 and Year 9 2021 regarding Mathematics next year

There will be a Zoom Parent Meeting held regarding information for parents of Year 8 and 9 2021 students (The current Intake 2020 and Year 8) regarding how St Leo's will be teaching Mathematics in 2021.

The speakers on the evening will be Mr Gleeson and Mrs Donaghy, the Head of Mathematics.

The details for the Mathematics Zoom Meeting are as follows:

- Date - Monday 14 December
- Time – 6pm to 6.30pm
- Zoom Link - <https://dbbcatholic.zoom.us/j/95567176182>

The meeting will be recorded and questions will be answered in the chat during and after the meeting. These questions and answers will be collated and shared with parents along with the presentation slides.

*Looking forward to seeing you online Thursday.*



## From the Director of Pastoral Care & Wellbeing

Mrs Lindy Sykes

### DASS Screening for Year 12 Wellbeing (2020/2021)

One aspect of our pastoral care program for our senior students is to utilise a mental health screening tool. In 2018, the College piloted a program that we felt was very effective in supporting students' mental health through their HSC studies.

This time last year we asked the 2020 cohort of Year 12 students to complete the Depression Anxiety Stress Scale (DASS) online; a screening tool that assesses their current state of mental health. This is not a diagnostic tool and therefore it does not label any students with a disorder. However, it was effective in alerting us to students that did require more support throughout the HSC year.

In June, the students were again asked to complete the same test. This assisted us in identifying students that needed some help in the immediate lead up to the HSC and any 'shift' in students' state of mental health over the year. As such, the DASS screening enables us to inform relevant support for each student as well



as direct Mentor conversations for optimum student growth and wellbeing during this stressful period of their schooling.

If you would like to discuss this, please contact me or the College Counsellor, Anne-Marie Newham.

The new Year 12 cohort (2020/2021) will be asked to complete this survey during Mentor time this week.

## From the Director of Students

Mr Ashley Johansen

### Mufti Day - Friday 11 December

This Friday will be a mufti day for students (and staff). The theme is **Christmas dress** and all students are encouraged to **contribute a gold coin** in support of **Edmund Rice Camps NSW**. During the Mentor period, Year 12 leaders will be collecting donations.

#### About Edmund Rice Camps

Edmund Rice Camps NSW is a community based not-for-profit organisation providing recreational holiday getaways for disadvantaged children aged between 5 and 15 years who would otherwise not be able to enjoy such an experience. They respond to the needs of children and families experiencing poverty, marginalisation and social isolation in the Sydney and wider area by promoting sustainable, grass roots change and development in communities. By encouraging and supporting the children on their camps, they enhance resilience, promote self esteem and encourage a sense of purpose and personal achievement, enabling kids to pull themselves out of entrenched disadvantage. The organisation depends on the generosity of the amazing young leaders who donate their time and talents to mentor and inspire children on camp, whilst improving their own understanding of social justice and connecting with local families facing adversity in their own backyard.



### St Leo's Merit System

Each week the College generates a number of Purple and Gold Merit Awards for those students who have excelled across any of the six (6) Growth Domains - Academic, Physical, Spiritual, Cultural, Social Emotional and Environmental. These students are often acknowledged with certificates at Year Meetings and College assemblies.

Last Monday morning **Max T, Intake 2020** and **Jing Xuan N, Year 10** (left) were awarded St Leo's Medallion certificates for achieving three Gold Merit Awards or **90** Merits. Special congratulations to both students for their wonderful efforts! The College award criteria are:

**Purple Merit Award** = 10 merits

**Gold Merit Award** = 3 Purple Merit Awards

**St Leo's Medallion** = 3 Gold Merit Awards

### New Uniform Appointments – Cowan and Lewis

Please note, we have been advised by our uniform supplier, Cowan and Lewis, that due to continued Covid-19 restrictions, their store will be accessible via **appointment only** during January. Please see the letter at the end of this newsletter or contact them directly for more information.

## Having ‘the Alcohol Discussion’ – a SchoolTV special report

Talking to your teenager about alcohol consumption and the potential dangers associated with it can be tricky and overwhelming. However, no matter how difficult this conversation may be, it is an important one to have in order to ensure the safety of our young people.

The legal drinking age in all Australian states and territories is 18 years, however this does not deter some adolescents from experimenting with alcohol. Health experts say that young people are at greater risk of alcohol-related harm than adults as it increases the risk of damage to their developing brain. It is a substance that affects their body, behaviour and decision-making abilities, highlighting the importance of preventing or limiting your teenager’s alcohol use. End of school and the impending festive season may be a cause for celebration for many teenagers ready to party and wanting to put this year behind them. However, the impact of the pandemic has experts concerned that these celebrations may involve excessive alcohol consumption and result in risky behaviour.

Parent and caregivers can help minimise these risks by influencing sensible drinking habits. It is important to outline the rules and boundaries around age-appropriate alcohol consumption and what the legal implications may be. Although many teenagers are fully aware of the dangers, they put more value on the reward than adults. **Start the conversation today.** Parents and carers need to educate their children on when, where and how to drink responsibly.

If you require further guidance or information, contact the **Alcohol and Drug Foundation Helpline on 1300 85 85 84** for free confidential support.

## Sports Round-Up

### BBSSSA Netball and Touch Football

Last Thursday, the Junior and Intermediate Netball (Girls) and Touch Football (Boys) competed at the BBSSSA finals day after the Term 4 round robin format.

The students travelled to Adcock Park on the Central Coast and faced both tough competition, and as the light rain began, very tough conditions. This didn’t stop the students playing extremely well and finishing the season in style with the Inters Boys Touch coming away with a strong 6-2 victory over Mackillip, and the Junior Girls netball fighting back for a 21 all draw against St Brigid’s.

The Junior Boys battled gallantly in their nail-biting 6-4 loss to St Brigid’s, with the final two tries being scored in the last few minutes of the match, and the Inters Girls and Juniors stepping up, went down in the last quarter to St Brigid’s.

All students are to be congratulated on their efforts and the way they have represented the College this Term.

### House Swimming Champions

Congratulations to **Loyola House** for winning the modified House Swimming Carnival last week. The Swimming Cup was proudly accepted at Monday’s assembly by Year 12 Loyola House Ambassadors, **Julia R** and **Hannah M** (pictured right).





## Women's Rugby League Challenge

As highlighted last week, Rugby League has really taken off for our female players this year and will culminate with an exhibition game this Thursday.

Team Gold and Team Purple in our Women's Rugby Cup will battle for victory with some NRL Special guests in the audience to show their support. It is wonderful to witness the growth of non-traditional women's sports at St Leo's.

Please [watch our promotional video HERE](#).

## From the CAPA Team

### Dancers into DanceLife Nationals

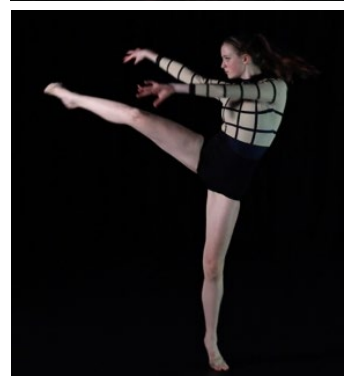
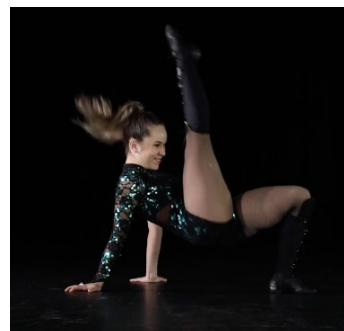
Congratulations to Year 12 (2021) students Bianca and Jade who have both been successful in making the National finals of the DanceLife competition which will take place at Sydney Olympic Park from the 17 – 21 January.

Both scored above 90 in their Online Regional Heats, allowing them to qualify for Nationals. They will be competing against dancers from around Australia and New Zealand in the 16 years and under Lyrical, Contemporary and Jazz sections.

Both Bianca and Jade agreed that most the exciting aspect was being able to perform in front of an audience again, after not being able to with Covid-19 restrictions this year.

Well done to you both, and best of luck in the finals! We look forward to following your progress during the holiday break.

Dance is offered at St Leo's as an elective subject for Year 9 – 12, and as a co-curricular activity for Intake 2021 – Year 12. The Dance program offers a range of opportunities for students to develop and extend their technique, performance and choreographic skills across a range of styles.



### Expressions of Interest - Music Tuition Program for 2021

St Leo's runs private music lessons onsite for students of all year groups and abilities. We offer a vast range of different instrument/vocal lessons including; Female/Male Vocals, Guitar (classical/electric), Bass Guitar, Violin, Piano, Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, French Horn, Saxophone and Drum Kit/Percussion.

If you would like more information please refer to the Expression of Interest form [Click Here](#) or [email Mr Tavernese](#). 2021 is the perfect year to start your child's musical journey at St Leo's Catholic College.

## Second-hand Uniforms and Textbooks

A reminder that our new Intake 2021 students have begun looking for uniforms, so if you have any that you have outgrown, why not post them on [sustainableschoolshop.com.au](https://sustainableschoolshop.com.au).

Sustainable Schools is an online trading platform to buy and sell both old and new style second-hand uniforms and well as textbooks now available for our parents/carers.

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL SHOP 

## Community Notices

### Cowan & Lewis Pty Ltd

A.C.N 000412779

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Turrumurra NSW 2074  
Phone 9449 9777  
Web: [www.cowanlewis.com.au](http://www.cowanlewis.com.au)

PO Box 119  
Turrumurra NSW 2074  
Fax 94408931  
mail:sales@cowanlewis.com.au

December 2020

Dear Parents,

Due to COVID restrictions not being relaxed as hoped we will still be operating at 1315 Pacific Highway Turrumurra by appointment in January, ensuring we are adherent to the mandatory social distancing restrictions of 1 person per 4 square meters.

The Store will be accessible by **APPOINTMENT ONLY** from the 4<sup>th</sup> January through to the 30<sup>th</sup> January Monday to Friday from 9am – 5pm. Saturday 9am – 12pm

Alternatively online orders can be made and delivered to school twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays during the school term. Exchanges can be arranged back through the school office by contacting Cowan & Lewis or leaving an exchange form in the bag to be collected, the exchange form can be located on the Cowan & Lewis website on your school's page.

A Click and Collect service for online orders and Exchanges in January will also be available from the warehouse with no appointment required. Further information will be provided on the school's page.

Cowan & Lewis are very mindful of the inconvenience this may cause with restricted accessibility whilst avoiding unnecessary queuing and delays where possible and ensuring the safety of our Staff, Parents and students.

We would strongly encourage uniform to be purchased prior to the end of the year to ensure you are catered for before the commencement of the new school year.

Appointments can be made on the Cowan & Lewis website [www.cowanlewis.com.au](http://www.cowanlewis.com.au). Select shop online, locate your schools crest, and click on the booking link and select the appropriate date and time.

- Each appointment will have a 30 minute duration.
- **1 Adult and 1 Child per booking**
- For each additional sibling a booking will be required
- We ask that you arrive 10 minutes prior to your appointment
- If you arrive more than 5 minutes late to your appointment we will unfortunately ask that another time be made to ensure the next appointment is not delayed

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work through this challenging time and look forward to welcoming you to our store. **Please feel free to contact our staff via email [stleos@cowanlewis.com.au](mailto:stleos@cowanlewis.com.au) or phone 9449 9777 should you require any further information.**

Kind Regards  
Staff and Management  
Cowan & Lewis Pty Ltd



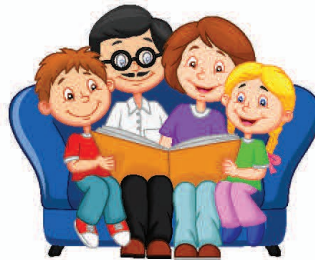
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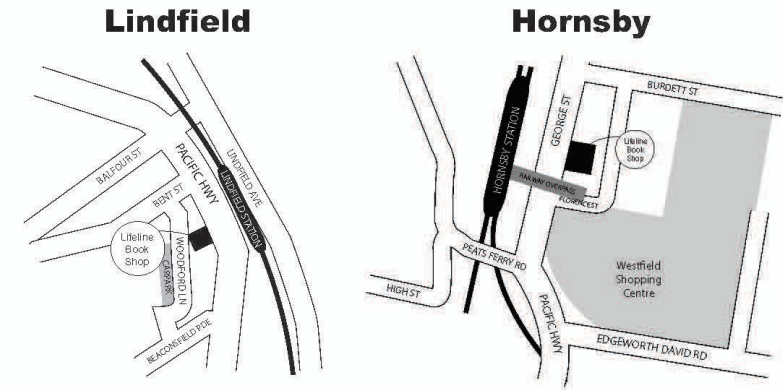
**20 George St**  
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**Tues-Sat 10am-4pm**

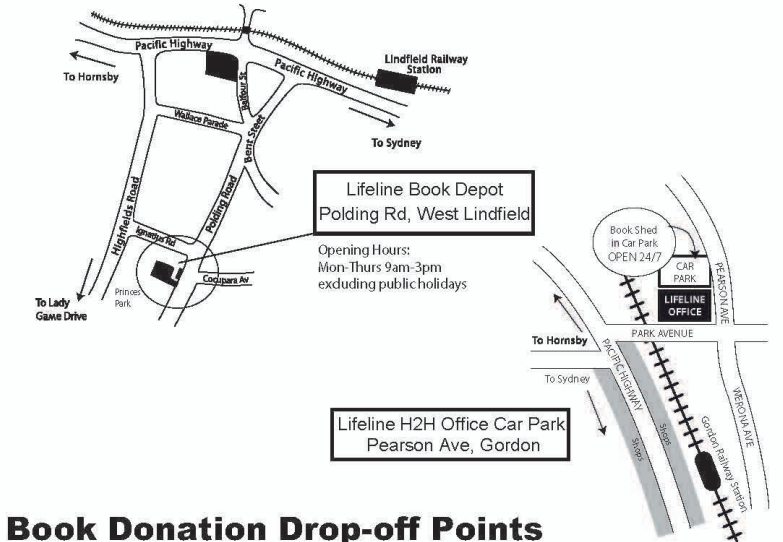
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