



Welcome to the Parental Lion Roars for Week 2 Term 3, 2022

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

Staff Update

Welcome back for Term 3. Firstly, welcome to the families of the **11 new students** who have joined us across Years 7 through to 11 in recent weeks. Welcome back also to **Mr Anthony Wilson** from leave in Term 2, and to **Ms Fiona Milkins** from unexpected leave late last term.

I would like to publicly thank **Ms Carolina Murdoch** and **Mr Scott Mulford** who did such a thorough job in steering the College whilst I was on sudden leave for last 8 weeks last term. In these times of teacher shortages and illness, it's great to see we have many staff capable of stepping up to take on other roles with a minimum of fuss, and importantly, lead with confidence, surety, and expertise.

The Leadership Team have reverted to their normal roles in the College, being:

Mr Peter Grace - Assistant Principal, Evangelisation and Catechesis

Ms Carolina Murdoch - Assistant Principal, Student Achievement

Mr John Duston – Welcome to our new Business Manager (who commenced last Term; an Economics teacher by trade, but branched into the business side of things in New Zealand)

Mr Daniel Lane - Director of Learning Improvement - Student Improvement

Mr Ashley Johansen - Director of Students

Mr Scott Mulford - Director of Administration

Mr Nathan Smith - Director of Pastoral Care & Wellbeing

I would also like to welcome our new members of staff:

- **Mr Tony Abou-Nasr** – Starting with us this week, Mr Abou- Nasr has taught at two schools in rural NSW including boarding schools and will be teaching **Religious Education** at St Leo's. I hear he is a bit of a league expert as well - however supporting the Bulldogs!
- **Ms Cathy James** – Ms James joined the College mid-way through Term 2 and will teach **Science**. She comes to us from Brigidine College, Randwick and prior to that, schools in Tasmania and NSW. Ms James has held significant pastoral and academic positions in these schools.

Over the past few days, I have reconnected with many students too, particularly at recess or lunchtime. The students are in good spirits, and I am amazed by how many have grown and matured in the past 10 weeks!

Thank you to our Year 12 Construction students who make these great bench seats for students to use in the outdoor breakout space outside the Music rooms. Great work!



Year 12 Trial HSC Exams

At last Monday's assembly, we prayed as a College for our Year 12 students who begin their Trial HSC Exams this coming Monday. As a Catholic Learning community, let us all pray and send our best wishes to our Year 12 students as they prepare for these last major assessments prior to the HSC over the next two and a half weeks.

Student Learning Conferences

Thank you to all who attended the Student Learning Conferences (Parent/Teacher Interviews) over the past two weeks. We value your partnership with us in your young person's development, and I trust the discussions gave you valuable insights into their learning this year. Thanks also for your patience as we negotiated lighting problems on the first night and the change to online meetings for the second!

College Co-curricular Activities

As always, the College has been very busy with co-curricular activities for the start of term. Well done to our **Student Leaders** and the **Vinnies Conference** team along with **Rev Adrian Gomez** who launched the Vinnies Winter Appeal this week with a mufti day and sold-out BBQ lunch. This leads up to our **Vinnies Winter Sleepout**, which will again raise awareness and funds to end homelessness by students 'sleeping rough'. Last year our sleepout at home during lockdown raised over an astonishing \$22,000, making us the top fundraising school in the state! We hope you will support this initiative again this year. (See p.6 for more information).

On Wednesday afternoon, the College conducted a **Year 12 Afternoon Study Group** in the Aquinas Resource Centre. It was supported by many teachers who gave of their time to assist the Year 12 students in their final preparation (and to soothe any nerves) for the upcoming Trial HSC Exams. Thank you to the staff who assisted, in particular **Ms Megan De Kantzow** (Leader of Information Resources) and **Ms Megan Tynan** (Leader of Year 12) who initiated and implemented the idea.



This week I also attended 'Transcend', our **Senior Dance and Drama Showcase** in the Flora MacKillop Theatre. Participants were supported by many of their peers as well as their families. It was superb to see our students in a space that was built for that exact purpose. The quality of the items was fantastic, and students revelled in being able to display and perform their many talents. Well done to everyone involved and many thanks to **Ms Brittany Skea** for her wonderful organisation. (See p.9)

Ms Skea also coordinated over 70 of our co-curricular Dance students to compete at the **City of Ryde Dance Eisteddfod**. The competitors did themselves, their families, coaches and the

College proud, with two ensembles even coming away with Highly Commended awards. More on p.8.

Three of our vocal ensembles participated in the **City of Ryde Vocal Eisteddfod** yesterday, under the tutelage of **Ms Fiona Milkins** and **Mr Vince Tavernese**.

Congratulations to our **Male Vocal Group** (right) who won their category, and our **Cubs Singers** (Year 7) and **Lions Singers** - both Highly Commended. Well done to you all!



COVID-Smart Update

The College has received another shipment of 'RAT tests' which will be distributed to students next week in Mentor classes. With the recent surge in cases across the community, the College is continuing to do all we can to be COVIS-Smart, including increased ventilation, sanitisation stations and continued daily hygienist services throughout the campus. Please remind your young people that **masks on public transport** are still required.

The future is bright – for enrolments!

Enrolment numbers at St Leo's have never looked better. A steady stream of new students in all year groups have starting throughout the year and we are now at capacity!

For Year 7 next year (2023), we reached our cap of just over 200 quite some time ago and now have a waitlist of nearly 70, while 2024 is already 75% full with students from our Priority Feeder Schools, who receive a guaranteed offer within certain enrolment windows. Demand is so high that we have even received several enrolments for 2032!

If you are a current St Leo's family and have not yet submitted an application for a sibling, please make contact with our Registrar, [Mrs Joanna Gower](#), as soon as possible to secure your place.

Our Mobile Phone Policy sets an example

Our revised **Mobile Phone and Device Policy** restricting student use of devices during school time continues to be successful, with students notably spending less time focussed on their screens and more time interacting – particularly at lunchtime and recess.

Parents have generally applauded the changes and we have even been acknowledged for our initiative as part of an [article](#) and [petition](#) by North Shore Mums calling for the Minister Sarah Mitchell and the Department of Education to create a consistent mobile phone policy for usage at secondary school. This petition has had over 20,000 signatures and hundreds of comments from parents.

On a personal note...

And just finally, I have very much appreciated the concern and well wishes you have offered since my return last Monday week - from the written thoughts expressed at the Year 11 Retreat to all the emails and notes throughout Term 2. Simply put, it does mean a great deal to me. I am praying that I can be a better leader of this community and put back just some of the thoughts and efforts that have been shown to me, particularly over the past 10 weeks. I keep you all in my daily (now twice a day) prayers.

Tony Gleeson

Principal

From the Assistant Principal – Evangelisation and Catechesis

Mr Peter Grace

Parents in Partnership for Term 3

Our next Parents in Partnership (PiP) meeting to update you on a range of College issues is set for **Wednesday, 24 August**, so please pencil in the date. We hope to make it a 'hybrid' event with both an in-person and online options.

We are planning an in-person even for Year 7 on that evening (see below) and to invite others to join the meeting online. However, with our current COVID reality, we will need to wait until closer to the date to finalise the format.

If you have any items you would like the College to address at the meeting, please complete [this form](#) by Monday, 8 August.

Year 7 Bible Presentation

COVID-pending, we would like to invite our Year 7 students and their families along to the College at 5:15pm on **Wednesday, 24 August** for a short liturgy in which each Year 7 student will be presented with a hard cover Bible. This Bible will be used in Religious Education classes for each student's time at St Leo's. More details will follow, and once again, it will depend on our COVID-Smart plan at the time.

We hope a large number of Year 7 parents will stay after the liturgy for a barbeque and a chance to meet other Year 7 parents. We recognise the limited opportunities parents and carers have had to meet and socialise and hope to be able to address this. It also coincides with our next Parents in Partnership meeting, so we encourage



our Year 7 parents to stick around for that, too. We will provide supervision for students should you wish to stay for the PiP meeting.

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On Monday, 15 August, as Catholics we celebrate the Feast Day of the Assumption of Our Lady when the Holy Mother, 'having completed her course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory'.

This is a Holy Day of Obligation and Catholics are expected to attend Mass on this day. In pre-COVID times, St Leo's joined with Cathedral parishioners and Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School to celebrate Mass on this day. This was suspended in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID. It has been decided that, due to the resurgence of the virus, a full school Mass will not be held, and we instead encourage families to attend Mass at their local parish either before school or in the evening. We will provide Mass times in the next edition of *The Lion Roars*.

Important Dates for Term 3

Week	Date	Event
2	Sat 30 Jul	City of Ryde Drama Eisteddfod
3	Mon 1 Aug	CSSA Trial HSC Exams commence
3	Tue 2 Aug	City of Ryde Instrumental Eisteddfod
3	Wed 3 Aug	- Yr 7 Laudato Si Excursion - Yr 10 Meningococcal Vaccinations
4	Wed 10 Aug, 6.30pm	Yr 8 into 9 Subject Selection Talk
4	Fri 12 - Sat 13 Aug	Vinnies Winter Sleepout
5	Mon 15 Aug	- Feast of the Assumption - CSSA Trial HSC Exams conclude - Vinnies Market Day Garage Sale
5	Tue 16 Aug	Katrina Fanning Girls Rugby League
5	Fri 19 Aug	Praisefest
5-6	Fri 19 – Mon 22 Aug	National Aerobics Championships (Gold Coast)
6	Wed 24 Aug	- Year 7 Bible Presentation Liturgy & Social (BBQ), 5.15pm - Parents in Partnership Meeting, 7pm
7	Tue 30 Aug	BBSSSA Athletics
10	Wed 21 Sep	Yr 12 Graduation Mass (am) and Ceremony (pm)

Spiritual Opportunities

Ms Colleen Kofron, Leader of Learning, Religious Education

Year 7 Laudato Si Excursion to West Head

A reminder for our Year 7 families, we will be embarking on an excursion to West Head National Park to celebrate and engage in God's Creation next week on Wednesday, 3 August.

Year 7 students are to wear their sports uniform and carry a satchel for the day. It is recommended that students bring their recess, water, and something to sit on, such as a small towel or picnic blanket for the day. We will depart from The LOCC at 8:30am. Details of the excursion are outlined on the [permission slip](#) which must be signed and returned for students to attend the excursion.

Religious Creative Arts Competition for Art, Music, Dance, Drama or Film!

The **Bishop's Art Prize** competition is a well-established event at Catholic Schools Broken Bay that has been running for the past nine years. In 2022, the art prize competition has been re-imagined. Open to all CSBB school students from Kindergarten to **Year 10**, it is now called the '**Religious Creative Arts Competition**', and includes five categories: **Visual Arts, Dance, Drama, Music, or Short Film**.

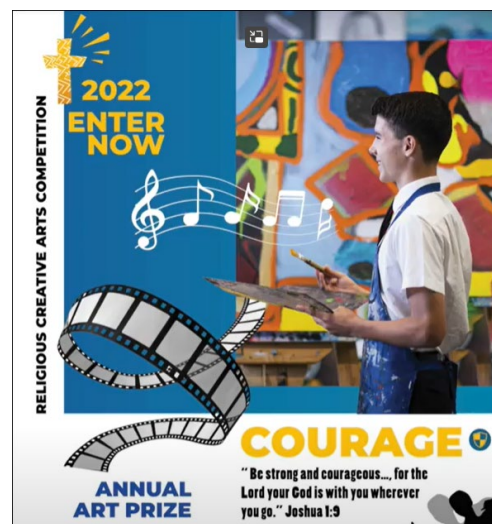
One of the key elements of the competition is how students demonstrate their understanding of and connection to the theme. In 2022 the theme is one of CSBB's core values, **COURAGE** - 'Be strong and courageous..., for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go' (Joshua 1:9) – which of course is also our St Leo's theme this year.

Students are required to link their creative piece directly to the religious theme of **courage** by answering the question: 'How is this theme lived out or demonstrated today?' Thus, as well as creating an artwork, short film, dance, drama or music piece, students need to write a short explanation of their work (*maximum word count 150 words*) to outline how it connects to the theme of courage.

Artworks are to be handed in to schools by Week 5 of Term 3 – **Monday, August 15**.

Local judging will take place followed by a selection of finalists. These finalists will then be featured at the **CSBB Showcase Night** to be held at the Light of Christ Centre on 18 October.

Be excited, and join in the fun! See the [video](#) for further details.



News from the Aquinas Resource Centre (ARC)

Mrs Megan de Kantzow

During the **Year 12 Study Afternoon Tea** this week, over thirty students worked with senior teaching staff to prepare for their HSC Trials using a variety of past papers. Students appreciated the time looking at whole papers, timing, and drawing together their skills and knowledge.

This Term, **Year 7 and 8 English** have a focus on 'wide reading' for enjoyment and developing skills in sustained, deep reading. Each class will be visiting the library once a fortnight and students keep a reading journal as they progress. The library reading will complement their classwork on novels, with Year 7 focussing on reading more widely, and Year 8 looking at historical fiction.



Don't forget, all students have access to our extensive **online library of eBooks and audiobooks** through [Wheelers.co](#). Students simply use their St Leo's single sign-on for access.

The **Premier's Reading Challenge 2022** finishes on **August 19**. All books read must be logged so Mrs de Kantzow can validate the reading record. Well done to our keen readers. Most students who entered have now completed their challenge for this year!

Our **Chess Club** will shortly be starting up a new **Wednesday lunchtime competition** in the ARC - details in the library soon. New books (e.g., How to beat your dad at chess!) are available to hone students' strategies.

Social Justice @ St Leo's

Deacon Adrian Gomez,
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Vinnies Winter Sleepout

The St Leo's **Vinnies Winter Sleepout** for students will be held from **6pm Friday 12 August to 7am Saturday morning**, raising awareness and money to support the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society in the area of homelessness.

Last year, during lockdown, this was an incredibly successful event, with students sleeping out in their backyards raising over \$22,000 - making us the **top fundraising school in NSW**. This year we will be gathering at the College for a more traditional school Winter Sleepout. Students from all year groups are invited to participate.

The School Sleepout allows students to connect with the issue of homelessness on a personal level by experiencing, in a small way, what it means not to have a comfortable bed at night, while fundraising for Vinnies through the [St Leo's sponsorship page](#).

The evening will include activities designed to break open the issue of homelessness, a Vinnies presentation about homelessness, and simulated homeless experience by 'sleeping rough' in a controlled environment. Participants will be monitored by both male and female staff, and a security guard will also be hired overnight as an extra precaution.

Dinner and breakfast will be provided, and they will be required to bring a pillow, sleeping bag, warm clothing, and toiletries. We hope the School Sleepout initiative will give our students a tangible experience of what it would be like to be homeless, bring awareness about the realities faced by people considered to be homeless, and encourage students to do something about it.

*** Scan the QR Code to register or donate to the Leo's team!**

Students wishing to participate should also complete this [Permission Form](#) by Monday 8 August. If you have any questions, please contact [Deacon Adrian](#).



Vinnies Secondhand Market



An **Op Shop/Garage Sale-style Market** will be run by the Year 11 Vinnies Conference at lunchtime on **Monday 15 August**. We are asking students to **bring secondhand items** of good quality like **clothes, books, games** that they no longer use. Rather than throwing these things away, we will give people the opportunity to reuse them, one small way of helping the environment and cutting down on waste, as well as to raising money for a good cause.

For this to work, we are relying on the generosity of our St Leo's community. The second-hand items students bring in will be sorted and priced during the Winter Sleepout on Friday, 12 August to be sold on the following Monday at school.

So, over the next two weeks, please go through your cupboards and find things that you have outgrown but that are still of good quality. These may be dropped into the Youth Ministry Room at any time. Anything left over from the day will be donated to the Vinnies Op shop in Hornsby. The money raised will go towards the Vinnies Winter Appeal. Thank you for your support!

Tony, Zinta & Oscar

Year 11 Vinnies Conference President, Vice President and Spiritual Advisor



Catholic Earthcare Partner School

St Leo's is proud to now be a Catholic Earthcare Partner School.

Catholic Earthcare Australia is a program of Caritas Australia and is the ecological agency established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in 2002. It responds to the call from *Laudato Si'*, the environmental encyclical in which Pope Francis implores us to protect our common home.



The Catholic Earthcare Australia Schools' program is open to all Australian Catholic schools. It involves a process of ecological dialogue, conversion and action which aims to transform hearts and minds.

There are 5 levels of participation. St Leo's has joined as a level 1 partner and once certain activities have been completed, we will progress up to level 2, hopefully by the end of this year. Please have a look at the [website](#) for more information.

As part of joining Catholic Earthcare, the College Environmental Group will be renamed '**St Leo's Earthcare**'. The Earthcare group meets every Tuesday at lunchtime in the Youth Ministry Room. Students from all year groups are welcome to join at any time.

Careers News

Ms Megan Tynan, Careers Advisor

See this month's [Careers News Bulletin](#) for the following opportunities:

- **Year 12** - Key Dates for Uni Applications
- UTS Open Day
- University of Newcastle Open Days
- The University of Notre Dame Open Day
- Bicycle Mechanic Apprenticeship with 99 Bikes
- Navy Careers Opportunities
- Traineeship & Apprenticeship vacancies with Australian Training Company (ATC)
- Apprenticeship opportunity – Thornleigh
- Endeavour Energy Apprenticeships for 2023.



What's been Happening?

Year 10 Commerce

What is money really for? How do people decide when to spend their hard-earned income?

Last Term, Year 10 Commerce 1 studied the role of markets in business in a topic called 'The Economics and Business Environment'. One practical activity was a class auction. Students used their theoretical understanding of supply and demand to bid on items in a class auction using funny money that they had earned.

They came to understand the concept of scarcity and the role of purchasing power. The students used their skills in collaboration to create a cartel to achieve the best outcome from the activity. They came to appreciate that the monetary value of products is balanced by the perceptions of the consumer. Altruism was evident when items were purchased and given to classmates.

Mrs Lorraine Champ, HSIE Teacher



CAPA Wrap

Vocal Winners!

Congratulations to the three vocal ensembles who participated in the **City of Ryde Vocal Eisteddfod** yesterday. Our **Male Vocal Group** who won the **Edna Wilde Award for Non-Auditioned Secondary Choir**, while our **Lions Singers** placed third and **Cubs Singers** (Year 7) **Highly Commended**. This is a wonderful result for our dedicated vocal groups! Well done to all involved!

Co-curricular Program - Dance

Congratulations to all our Co-curricular Dancers for their dedication and efforts at the **City of Ryde Dance Eisteddfod** on Saturday, 23 July. A special shout out to our **Pride Jazz Ensemble** and **Pride Lyrical Ensemble** who received **Highly Commended** awards from the adjudicator.



It was amazing to see over 70 dancers on stage representing St Leo's. We had the most participation on stage at the event. A big thank you to all the family and friends who supported the ensembles on the day - we couldn't have done it without you!

The next eisteddfod is The Hills Dance Spectacular Sunday, 28 August at Pacific Hills Christian School.

Upcoming City of Ryde Eisteddfod Dates

- Drama Ensemble - Saturday 30 July
- Instrumental Ensembles - Tuesday 2 August

Are you interested in joining our CAPA Co-curricular Program?



Please email [Ms Skea](#) if you are interested in being part of our Co-Curricular CAPA Program for Term 3. We encourage you to check out our [website](#) to access the current (Term 3) timetable.



Charlotte a Photo Finalist

Congratulations to Year 11 Photography, Video & Digital Imaging student **Charlotte D** who has been selected as a finalist in the [Head on Photo Festival](#) with this stunning photo of her sister (*left*). Nice work Charlotte!

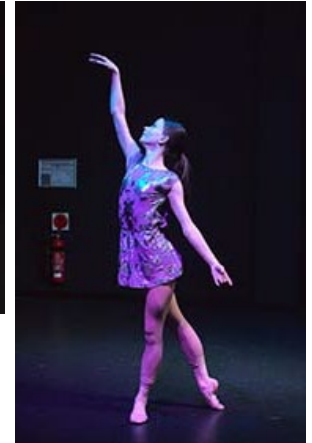


Transcend Dance & Drama Showcase

On Wednesday night, our Stage 6 (Year 11-12) Dance and Drama students presented their HSC major works and Preliminary classwork at our annual showcase 'Transcend'.

The showcase included video drama, monologues, group performances and dance performances and compositions.

Additionally, some students had chosen to major in critical analysis and design, also on displays in the theatre foyer. We wish our HSC students the best of luck with their upcoming practical examinations commencing in Week 5.



Studio Concerts – Showcase Musical and Vocal Talents



At the end of Semester 1, our [Private Music Tuition](#) students showcased their range of vocal and musical talents at our Studio Concerts. It was great to see many of our new Year 7 students involved, along with returning students from Years 8-12. Audiences were blown away by the professionalism, commitment, and musical skills of all the students.

Thank you to parents and friends for your support. We look forward to seeing our musicians back on stage for the Semester 2 concerts– so save the dates!

- Year 7-8 Studio Concert – **Tuesday, 29 November**
- Year 9-12 Studio Concert – **Wednesday, 30 November**

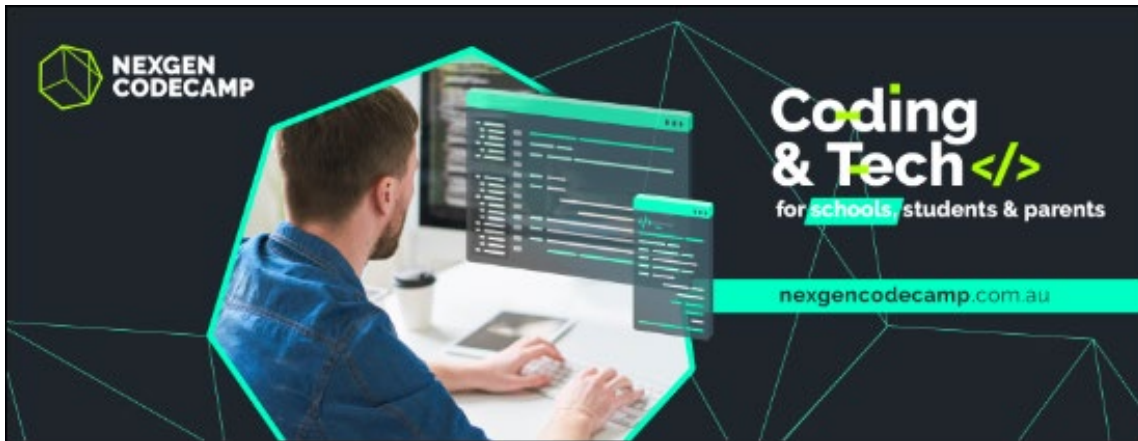
REMINDERS:

New Uniform Items - College Scarf, Gloves and Hat

A lightweight, unisex navy College scarf (\$15) is now available from our uniform suppliers, [Cowan and Lewis](#), along with plain navy gloves (\$8). A new College bucket hat for sport, etc. is now also available for order.



Robotics and Coding Club @ St Leo's



Places are still available for our Robotics and Coding Club for Terms 3 and 4 after school on Wednesdays.

Sessions run for 8 weeks per Term here on campus. Term 3 will cover 'Coding in Python' and Term 4 'Arduino Basics'. Cost is \$275 for Term 3, and Creative Kids Voucher (\$100) can be used.

Read more about the course content - nexgencodecamp.com.au or contact [Mr Slowey](#) (Pathways) to register.

Community Notices

Position Vacant - Part Time Maintenance Officer

Catholic School Broken Bay is seeking a part time Maintenance Officer for The Light of Christ Centre.

[Read more information about the role here.](#)



Liverpool FC Academy Term 3 – Limited Places Still Available

A few places are still available for our Liverpool Academy on Monday afternoons (for U12-16 years) and Wednesday afternoons (for U6-11 years).

[Find out more information or register here...](#)

Disability Services



NOVA.
TRANSITION

You're invited to your local
Pathways to Employment Event
AUGUST 2022

DON'T MISS THIS EVENT

Are you leaving school and planning for future employment?
You need a quality disability service that gets results.



Hear from parents and past trainees.



Discuss your needs and employment plan.



Lucky door prizes and light lunch provided.

Bookings essential! So call us, and come and meet the NOVA Team to discuss your pathway to employment.

See the back of this flyer for dates and locations

NOVA.
EMPLOYMENT

School Leaver Supports (SLES)

NDIS Registered Provider

www.novaemployment.com.au
www.transition.com.au

NOVA.
TRANSITION

Book a spot, and come and meet the NOVA Team to discuss your pathway to employment at these locations from 11am - 2pm.

Thursday 11 August	Penrith	Museum of Fire 1 Museum Drive, Penrith
Tuesday 16 August	Campbelltown	Mawson Park Queen Street, Campbelltown
Thursday 18 August	Moorebank	Liverpool Hockey Fields 101 Junction Road, Moorebank
Tuesday 23 August	Castle Hill	Castle Hill Showground Harvey Lowe Pavilion Cnr De Clambe & Doran Drive Castle Hill
Thursday 25 August	Penshurst	Olds Park Penshurst Olds Park Lane, Penshurst

RSVP:
02 8886 5800

For more information give us a call and book your spot.

