

Coming Up

Term 1 2025

Fri 31 Jan to Wed 5 Feb - Staff Development Days

Mon 3 Feb to Wed 5 Feb – Office Open for Uniforms purchases 9:30-1:00pm

Thu 6 Feb – First day back for ALL students

Tue 11 Feb - KHS Swimming Carnival for all students

Fri 20 Feb – KHS Athletics Carnival for all students

Fri 28 Feb - School Photo Day

Welcome to our last school newsletter of 2024! It's been an amazing year at Katoomba High. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our newsletters and congratulations to everyone who has been featured. We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2025!

Sydney Opera House ENCORE Selection!

Congratulations to KHS Year 12 student Lucius who has just been selected for the Sydney Opera House HSC Showcase ENCORE Showcase for exemplary work!

The ENCORE music showcase features the cream of the crop of all HSC work from across the State. This is a fantastic achievement! Lucius also received a second nomination for his HSC performance piece.

Well done Lucius! This is a very well-deserved accolade for your

wonderful talent and amazing dedication to your craft!

ENCORE will be held at the Sydney Opera House on Monday 24 February 2025.



Congratulations Class of 2024 on your exceptional HSC Results!

We are very excited and proud to share that our KHS Class of 2024 achieved truly outstanding HSC results this year! We had many students make it onto the 2024 HSC Honour Roll which recognises

students who are elite achievers with recognition for all-round achievement, best in course and all Band 6/E4 results. We also had many high achievers who received Band 5 results.

I'm very pleased to see so Katoomba High students receiving exceptional HSC marks this year, but I'm also very proud of the entire year group.

The proportion of students who achieved HSC results in the top three bands increased by 37% this year versus last year. This, combined with an incredible 24 Band 6 results, a HSC Showcase selection and multiple showcase nominations, is a truly outstanding achievement and a testament to the dedication of students and our amazing staff.

This is truly a fantastic achievement that is the result of many years of effort and dedication.

Congratulations everyone!

Ms Devine



Congratulations Class of 2024!

HSC HONOUR ROLL - DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVERS BAND 6/E4

 Edward Bell-Smith ATAR 98.25	 Jake Campbell ATAR 98	 Johannes Nelson ATAR 94.45	 Arlo Langley ATAR 93	 Lucius Mortensen Gacon ATAR 92.4
 Justine Pollard ATAR 91.4	 Brianna Galbraith ATAR 89.75	 Hannah James ATAR 89.65	 Max Campbell ATAR 88	 Magumi Seita ATAR 87.8
 Tessa McKay ATAR 86.9	 Clare Houlihan ATAR 86.9	 Katya Zheluk ATAR 83.7	 Rafaele Aartali ATAR	



KHS 2024 HSC HIGH ACHIEVERS

Our High Achievers received outstanding Band 5 results.

BAND 5 HIGH ACHIEVERS

<p>Beatrix Stone-Woods Ancient History, Drama, English Std, Earth & Environmental Science, Visual Arts, Mathematics Std, Onstage Nomination</p> <p>Emmagen Cronshaw Ancient History, English Standard, Legal Studies, PDHPE</p> <p>Jaya Doko Ancient History, CAPS, Legal Studies, Mathematics Standard</p> <p>Joseph Woodburn Ancient History, English Advanced, Music 1, Visual Arts</p> <p>Isla Roberts Drama, English Advanced, Legal Studies, Society & Culture</p> <p>Isaac Mackay Mathematics Standard, Software Design & Development, Information & Digital Technology</p> <p>Olivia Andersen English Advanced, Music 2, PDHPE</p>	<p>Travis Mallin Mathematics Standard, Society & Culture, Visual Arts</p> <p>Pearl Besser Legal Studies, Modern History, Visual Arts</p> <p>Zachary Manning Software Design & Development, Information & Digital Technology</p> <p>Poppy Petersen Aboriginal Studies, Visual Arts</p> <p>Ava Chaffey Earth & Environmental Science, Visual Arts</p> <p>Elliot Jarvis English Advanced, Legal Studies</p> <p>Tobias Westcott Ancient History, Mathematics Standard</p>
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Congratulations to the KHS Class of 2024!

Presentation Night 2024

On Tuesday 10th December we had a sneak peek of our beautiful new multi-purpose facility at Presentation Evening.

It was so lovely to recognise so many of our talented students. I was blown away by their achievements this year.

Thank you to all our families, special guests and sponsors for attending and supporting our students.

Congratulations to all students for all you have achieved this year.

Ms Devine




KHS 2024 HSC HIGH ACHIEVERS

Our High Achievers received outstanding Band 5 results.

BAND 5 HIGH ACHIEVERS

<p>Paloma Ryder Mathematics Standard, Hospitality</p> <p>Leónie Faivre Visual Arts, French Beginners</p> <p>Chelsea McKinnon English Advanced, Legal Studies</p> <p>Akiro Dallmeyer Engineering Studies</p> <p>Georgie Mah Visual Arts</p> <p>Chet Smith Ancient History</p> <p>Conrad Gorgan Visual Arts</p> <p>Jack Holmes Construction</p> <p>Dane Rogan Visual Arts</p> <p>Eleanor Ward Drama</p>	<p>Lily Keep Music 1, Visual Arts</p> <p>Ella Wallace Music 1</p> <p>Odette Kapferer Visual Arts</p> <p>Xavier Kells Construction</p> <p>Emma Carlon Hospitality</p> <p>Derek Nguyen PDHPE</p> <p>Tehya Holmes Drama</p> <p>April Mansfield Visual Arts</p> <p>Marek Zdrojowski English Standard</p> <p>Hannah Mein Business Studies</p>
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Congratulations to the KHS Class of 2024!



Newsletter

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Sneak Peek at our new Multi-Purpose Hall

We were very excited to welcome our school community into our brand-new multi-purpose facility and hall for our end of year presentation evening last week.

The hall includes a stage, indoor sports court, toilets and change rooms, storage and back of house facilities for performing arts.

The facility will cater for a diverse range of performances and sporting activities including basketball, netball, volleyball, badminton, and boccia.

An official naming ceremony for the hall will take place in 2025, along with further works to refinish the floors and add line markings for the sports courts in coming months. We look forward to seeing our students and community enjoying this fantastic new addition to Katoomba High School.



Around the Grounds

Music Video Premiere!

On Wednesday 10th December we invited some of our students into our new hall for the very first time for a special event... the Blue Mountains premiere screening of the new music video for internally acclaimed Blue Mountains duo Hermitude!

Hermitude are Luke Dubs and Elgusto – multi-instrumentalists who have gone from exploring sounds and honing their craft as teenagers in the Blue Mountains to an award-winning electronic hip-hop duo touring the world to international acclaim. They've won the Australian Music Prize, had a track remixed by Flume with singles going Gold and double platinum, a #1 debut on the ARIA Charts, and headline tours and festivals across Europe, Asia and North America.

Hermitude's most recent album, 2022's Mirror Mountain was the duo returning to their roots - a love letter to their hometown of the Blue Mountains.

After an extensive US tour, Hermitude were back at Katoomba High to launch their new video clip for one of their latest tracks 'Queenstown'. The video was created and produced by a collaboration of Mountain of Youth and KHS students Zoe Locke, Melody McKee, Heidi Taylor, Sophie-Kate Wilds, Lucy Davies, Mav Fergus, Karri Gill, Ember Henninger, Lila Manning, Harper Robinson and Sidney Swinfield.

The students worked with the Mountain of Youth team in a series of workshops to develop the concept, write the script and plan the production. They then worked with the Mountain of Youth cast and crew on the two-day shoot on location in Katoomba.

We can't wait to see the response when the clip is officially released. Keep an eye out for the cameo appearance of our very own Mr McLeod!

Huge thanks to Mountain of Youth for being such amazing mentors for our students and to Hermitude for the tunes and this amazing opportunity. Congratulations to everyone involved!



Special Commendations

Our Year Group Celebration Assemblies were held in week 8 and 9 this term. It was lovely to see how many students were recognised for their effort, achievement and attendance. We tried to do it a bit differently this year by presenting these awards in front of the whole year group as well as parents, carers and family members. Thank you to everyone who attended and special thanks to all of the teachers and staff who have taken so much time and care in preparing the awards and these special events!



New Sports Houses

We were excited about holding the first meetings for our new Sports Houses over the last week.

The swimming and athletics carnivals area very early in the term next year so it was great to see students getting into the spirit.

Thanks to Mrs Jeffrey, all the new House Patrons and the House Captains for making this all happen!

It's going to be lots of fun!



Welcome to Year 7 2025

On Tuesday 3rd December we welcomed our Year 7 students for 2025 to Katoomba High for Orientation Day. Students toured the school, took part in some classes and fun activities, and enjoyed a BBQ lunch cooked by our KHS student leaders. We then welcomed students, parents and carers in the evening to hear all about Year 7 and meet the teachers. It was a great day and we look forward to seeing everyone in 2025!



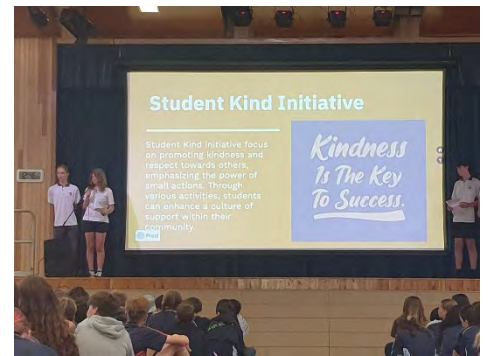
Students Support 16 Days of Activism

Every year, from November 25 to December 10, communities around the world unite in 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, a campaign to raise awareness and mobilise action to end all forms of violence against women and girls.

To support the 16 Days of Activism our KHS student leaders ran a collaborative initiative for all Blue Mountains Schools to 'Say NO to Violence'. At KHS they ran a program of activities throughout the 16 Days to increase awareness and motivate conversations about the prevention of violence against women including lesson content, mixed gender sports activities, special assemblies, a drone photo, a bake sale and orange mufti day which raised over \$600 for DV West.

The SRC also supported the campaign by running a 'Caught You Being Kind' activity where students were nominated for random acts of kindness to go into the draw to win prizes. It was fantastic to see so many kind students recognised.

This was a fantastic effort to raise awareness and support for an incredibly important cause. Well done to everyone involved.





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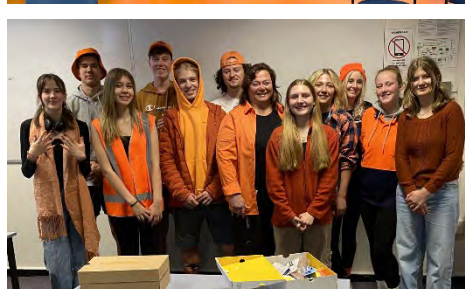


Awesome in Orange!

It was amazing to see so many students and staff donning their best orange outfits and accessories to show support for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. Thank you to everyone who took part with such spirit and enthusiasm.

The award for the best orange socks goes to Vice-Captain Robbie and a very special mention goes out to the Year 10 boys who were absolutely everywhere in their coordinated High Vis!

This was a fantastic awareness raising effort that also raised money for DV West support services. Amazing effort, well done everyone!



Freaky Food Tech

'Freaky Caramel Milk shakes' is that the 8FT1 class received all the same ingredients except they could vary the topping flavourings!

For once we 'forget' about the Australian Dietary Guidelines for Adolescents and the students designed and produced a stunning milkshake that they would love to receive in a cafe!

Prizes were awarded for - First, Second, Third and Fourth as the competition was so fierce! The winners were...

- First: Max Myers - Freakiest
- Second: Tyran Rome - Effective use of ingredients
- Third: Astrid Healy - Beautiful and Colourful
- Fourth: Alana Oats – Artistic



The Year 9 students who were accepted as leader training will be excellent role models for our new Year 7 students. They were so well-behaved and so engaged with the training. Year 9 are a very talented and interested group of people with huge potential when given the right opportunities, support and leadership. As number of other students are already sending emails to teachers asking if they can be leaders next year and help support our incoming Year 7s – how good is that!

I am so grateful to have the chance to be the Year Adviser of this group of students and to help see them through to 2027.

To train around more than 100 students in leadership at the end of Term 4 was a massive task but it happened to perfection thanks to the amazing efforts of Mrs Wilson, Ms Glasscock and Ms Kiah.

Well done to everyone involved especially and thank you to everyone who made it happen!

Mr Nikolai Liu

Year 9 Year Adviser 2024

Peer Support Success!

Year 9 students have completed another fantastic peer support program this term.



Year 10 Stools inspired by Finn Juhl: A testament to creativity & craftsmanship

This term, Year 10 students have been showcasing their creativity and craftsmanship through an exciting design project, creating stools inspired by the renowned Danish designer Finn Juhl. The project has allowed students to explore various woodworking techniques while drawing inspiration from Juhl's iconic designs.

The stools feature tapered legs, decorative front and back rails, and a beautifully curved, laminated top, all elements that reflect Juhl's innovative approach to furniture design. Each student has put in a remarkable amount of effort, demonstrating an exceptional level of skill in executing both the technical and aesthetic aspects of their designs.

The laser-etched tops, in particular, highlight the students' attention to detail and their ability to merge modern technology with traditional

craftsmanship. The result is a series of stools that are not only functional but also artistic pieces in their own right.

We commend Year 10 for their outstanding work on this project, as their dedication and attention to detail have produced some truly impressive pieces. Their efforts have undoubtedly paid off, and they should be incredibly proud of the high-quality work they've achieved this term.

Mr Jock McLaurin

Year 11 Ceramics

We are very lucky to have an amazing ceramics program at KHS as part of our CAPA subjects across year groups.

Mrs Grahovac is a passionate and talented ceramics teacher who runs classes and lunch time activities, and we even have our very own ceramics kiln.

Here are some fantastic examples of Year 11 Ceramics students having fun with creating in clay...



Fun & Games with Purpose

As the school year ends and the temperature outside rises, we all start wondering about the fun and games that await. In HSIE we set our Year 7 and 10s to the task of designing their own games around the core concepts of human wellbeing and liveability, and the results were outstanding. From 'Country Heads' to 'Polyopoly' our students put the Parker Bros to shame, building on the core concepts they have learned to consider just what it means to 'win' in the game of life.



And for those classes with limited time a ten-minute brain-break is all that was needed to give the endurance to cover that last bit of material.



The creativity of our students from Years 7 -10 was incredible, transforming the random squiggles and letters of our topic into amazing representatives of the concepts of Human Society and Its Environment.

Ms Tracie McMahon, HSIE Teacher

Judo Yellow Belts

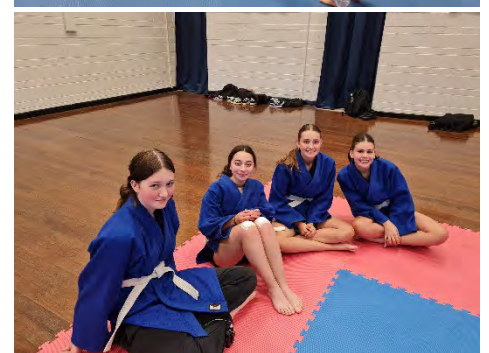
After a year of running Judo as a school sport, I have had the pleasure of seeing major growth in all students who have participated. Many have learnt to work with other students, build respect and foster healthy sportsmanship.

I would like to congratulate the following students on earning their Yellow Belt: Nathan Mongan, Alec Fraser, Finn Kleij, Sidney Swinfield, Erik Aksman-Glosz, Jacob Mackay and Lyric Silk.

Earning a yellow belt required students to know 8 throws, 4 Breakfalls, at least 4 hold-downs, 2 rollover and 2 escapes, 2 counters and 2 combinations, and show dedication, respect and control.

The belts earned are internationally recognised and showcases a level of dedication, drive and resilience (all principle we share at Katoomba Highschool). Other students attending the grading as spectators were highly encouraging and respectful. Overall, the students participating in Judo should be incredibly proud of their achievements.

Mr Hamish Moulder, TAS Teacher



Industrial Technology Timber

The Year 8 timber students worked patiently on a finger jointed box with a curved laminated timber lid as picture here with Farley Dawes.



They also constructed a pine laptop desk with folding legs.



L-R: Elvie, Astrid, Max, Farley and Pascal

The Year 9 students made a hat and coat rack with turned pegs and a carriage clock with a laser cut clock face. Both projects featured rebated joints and decorative edging made using a plunge router which the students used in a safe and professional manner to their credit.

Congratulations and thank you to all Year 8 and 9 timber students for your hard work and attention to detail when constructing your projects this year.



L-R: Harry, Gilbert, Erik, Jonah, Jarrah, Holly and Ali



Clock by Harry Osterberg



L-R: Nate, Holly, Gilbert, Jonah, Estelle

Growing Skills Together

When Blue Mountains TAFE and KHS join forces, amazing things can happen. Over the past 18 months, every Friday, students from Katoomba High School have turned a barren patch of land into three magnificent gardens.



Each term, students had the opportunity to work with Landscape Construction and Horticulture TAFE teachers to create their masterpiece. Students learned many skills including concreting, retaining wall construction, planter box and seat construction, paving, planting and turfing. Year 10 student, Isaac Roberts said, "I really enjoyed the program. I got to learn some new skills and each week I could see the project progressing. I'm really happy with how the planter box and seat turned out."

For some students the program has led to work experience opportunities and one student has been offered a job with one of the teachers involved. "I have loved working outside with my friends and the TAFE teachers" said Year 9 student, Angus Guerra-Ricketts. "I have worked very hard and am excited to keep working in the landscaping / horticultural industry when I finish school."

The program was developed collaboratively by Katoomba High School Transition Advisor, Mr Tom Daniels, and TAFE Services Coordinator, Dyonne Barberie. As Mr Daniels puts, “Students bring a variety of skillsets, and many learn in different ways. Offering a project outside of the classroom environment that goes all the way from planning, to ordering, to building, and eventually finishing, gives the students a sense of achievement that they might not have received otherwise.”

Over the 18 months of the project, many students were given the opportunity to participate. “We organised the program so different students were enrolled in the course each term. This gave a large number of students the opportunity to participate as well as collaborate between groups” Dyonne Barberie said. “I was particularly excited when four female students joined the program this year.”

The gardens were officially opened by Katoomba High School Principal, Ms Tess Devine, at a celebration BBQ on Monday 2nd December. All students and teachers involved in the program were treated to some tasty sausages, cooked by the students themselves.

Now this phase of the program is completed, planning for the next one is underway. This will include maintaining the three garden areas, as well as working with Farm it Forward and the new onsite Grow Tunnel. With Mr Daniels leaving Katoomba High School at the end of the year, Careers Adviser, Mrs Tully, will keep the program thriving with many eager students excited to learn new skills.

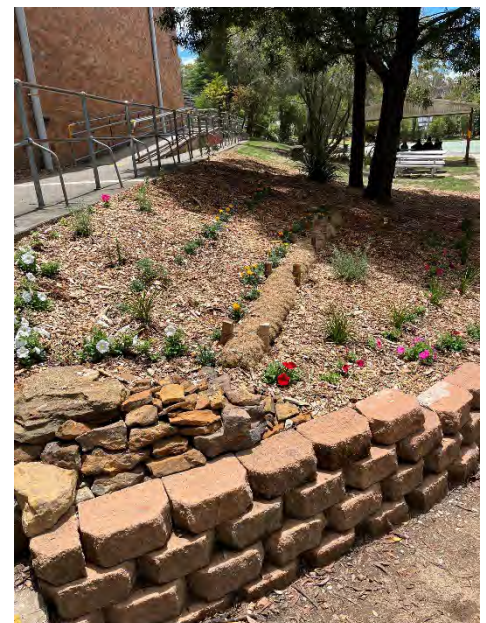
Katoomba High School and Blue Mountains TAFE would like to thank the amazing TAFE teachers who ran the program, namely Aaron Anderson, Rick Toovey and Paul O’Reilly, as well as Dillinger’s Nursery for their generous donation of plants.



Thank you to everyone at Dillinger’s Nursery

Shout out to Dillinger’s Nursery of Wentworth Falls for their generous donation of supplies for our Landscaping students. The students have done a fantastic job fixing up the eroded slope along this walkway at school. Great job everyone! And thank you Dillingers!

Thanks also to everyone who responded to our Facebook call out for landscaping donations. It is amazing to know we are surrounded but such a generous and supportive community.



Perspectives on Classroom Learning

7 HSIE E and N spent a period each in the Farm it Forward Polytunnel and surrounds to consider the classroom from a new perspective.

Perspective is one of the key concepts in the History curriculum as students “learn to analyse sources as evidence ... and show an understanding of historical concepts including continuity and change, cause and effect, perspectives, significance and contestability” (NESA, 2024, History 7-10 Syllabus).

Manu and El introduced the class to the operations of the Polytunnel as a social enterprise set up by a group of people wanting to think about food and food production from a community perspective.

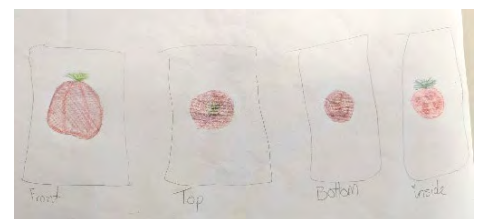
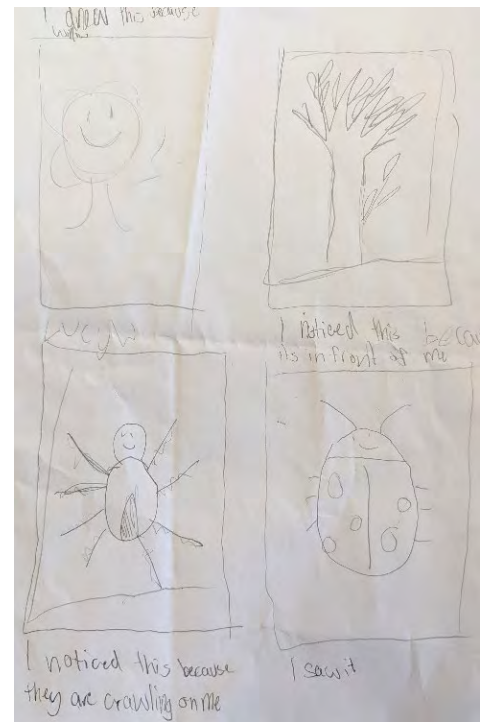
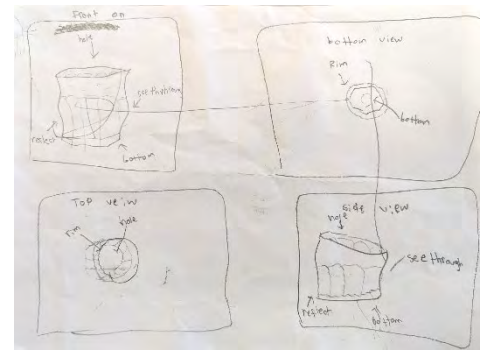
It was a sticky, hot day, and the students moved between the tunnel and shaded areas considering the plants and objects inside as sources of information. They considered how they look from different angles, close up and far away and what that tells us about the object. Will it stay the same and are there things we miss when we only take a cursory glance? It often pays to slow down and carefully consider the source for the evidence that it provides.

For those that may not have consider this a ‘real’ lesson, some great one-on-one conversations were had about learning. Learning can, and does, take place everywhere, every day, in the school room and outside, and in every aspect of our lives. HSIE is a space where we aim to help students make sense of the world around

them in a structured way and ensure they can communicate their point of view with clarity. The end-product might be an essay, but that essay is the final destination of a journey involving research, thinking and learning.

Tracie McMahon

HSIE Teacher



The Photography Fun Continues...

When we last left our intrepid Photography Academy, they were grimly considering the prospect of a photography course with no actual Darkroom experience! However, with sheer grit and determination Year 11/12 students were able to cobble together a darkroom MacGyver style.

Using an old photography textbook with a due date stamp older than them, they dutifully assembled chemicals and tubs and enlargers in the old darkroom. Thanks to the great patience of Ms Paulley, they were able to access through her room whenever they had a photography class or a free study period.

After a lot of practicing and trial and error they have learned to bulk load a roll of unexposed 35 mm film from a darkbag, expose using some old still functioning 35mm cameras, including the classic East German Soviet built Practika camera!

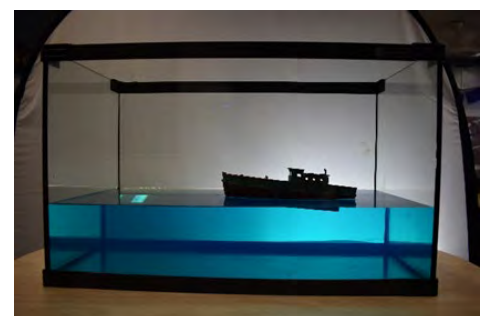
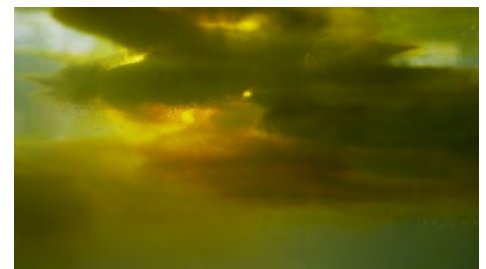
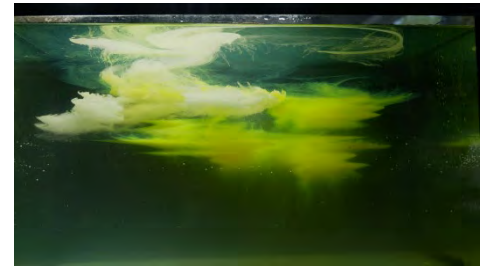
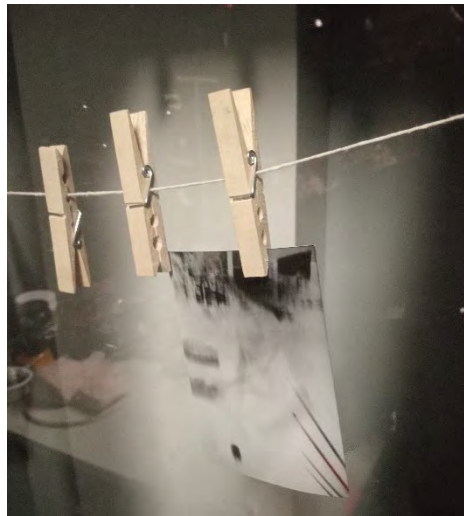
The Students were able to develop their negatives in the tube and then finally to make some enlargements ...and then see if they were any good, or if they were developed correctly or any number of variables that can affect an image before you get a chance to even see it. A big deal if your previous experience with recording imagery is pretty much instant and infinite. 24 exposures on a roll and a couple of days to go from bulk loader to final developed image!

And yet they absolutely almost obsessively loved it.

Students have also been experimenting with some very cool applications of cloud tanks and using models to create scenic photography.

Well done people, very proud!

Mr Sean O'Keeffe



Building Bridges

This term, our Year 10 students participated in an exciting bridge building competition. Each team was tasked with constructing a bridge using 120 paddle pop sticks and PVC glue, with the bridge required to span a gap of 400mm and have a maximum length of 800mm. The design needed to be self-supporting and capable of holding the maximum weight possible before failing. We are thrilled to announce that the winning team's bridge successfully supported an impressive 44kg, holding every mass in the science department! Congratulations to all participants for their hard work and creativity!



activities to understand the importance of working together to achieve common goals. These activities included bushwalking, swimming and canoeing.

Thank you to all TAFE teachers and community agencies for creating and delivering such a wonderful program.



YES Community Services

Every Tuesday in Term 4, 6 year 9 & 10 students participated in a Youth Engagement Strategy (YES) program at Blue Mountains TAFE entitled - Introduction to Community Services.

Students spent time with MYST, Headspace, Youth Services teachers and Outdoor Recreation teachers learning about careers in Youth Work. They also learnt about the impact of drugs and alcohol on youth.

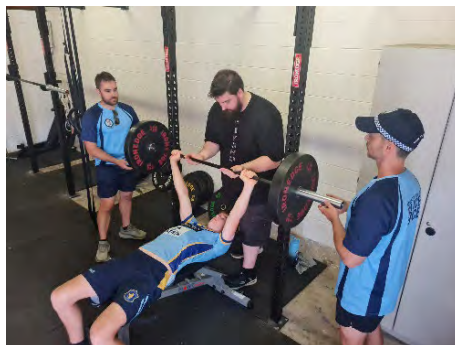
As part of the program, students participated in challenging outdoor

Fit for Life Wrap-Up

Every Wednesday Period 1 selected Year 9 & 10 students, as well as Year 11 SLR, have been participating in a Fit 4 Life program facilitated by Transition Adviser, Mr Daniels. Fit 4 Life is a mentoring program with a focus on physical fitness and its impact on physical, mental, emotional and social health. The programs aim is to engage students in a program that interests them and build connections with peers and community members.

Each week we have a physical fitness focus as well as a debrief with community members. Over the course of the year we have had a variety of community members attending. They all participate in the exercise and then have a Q&A with the students. Community members include staff from Blue Mountains Youth Command, NSW Fire & Rescue, RAAF, and PCYC. Other units from the NSW Police have also attended, including Probationary Constables, Domestic Violence Officers, Police Rescue, and Detectives.

This was a very successful program as, not only did all participants improve their fitness levels throughout the year, but important connections were made both within the school and with the wider community. Congratulations and thank you to all participants. We look forward to the Fit 4 Life program continuing to grow in 2025.



Farm it Forward

What a fantastic day at the Farm It Forward workshop! Despite the brewing storm, we rolled up our sleeves and got to work. We wheelbarrowed mulch from the pile into the garden bed, planted cucumbers and fennel, and prepared seedlings for more planting.



In between, we had some fun weaving with a circular loom and stitching up eye patches and other decorative items. Crocheting added a creative flair to the day, too!



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When the rain finally poured down, we didn't just take cover—we danced in the rain, celebrating the much-needed downpour! It was a hot one, but Manu came to the rescue with refreshing cold berry and mango kombucha from the esky, which everyone welcomed with open arms.

Thank you to everyone who joined us today for a day of hard work, creativity, and joyful celebration!



Youth Shoe Box Project

Our KHS Student Leaders did a great job again this year collecting donations for the wonderful Youth Shoebox Project. Students packed and delivered more than 50 shoe boxes. Thank you to everyone who contributed for your kindness and support. This important project has distributed almost 3,000 shoeboxes of Christmas gifts to children seeking refuge and asylum, here in the Blue Mountains and Greater Sydney. The project also offers the opportunity to work collaboratively to spread kindness, connection and compassion for others. Well done everyone!



Artwork by Year 9 Aboriginal students

Kameryne and Zoe presented an Aboriginal Artwork to Ms Devine that a group of students painted as part of the Deadly Dreaming Program. The students painted the artwork especially for Ms Devine and it now proudly hangs in her office. Ms Devine said that the artwork is amazing, and she will enjoy looking at it every day when she comes into work.



even more cheer. The main corridor was buzzing with excitement as they handed out Zooper Doopers, cranked up the Christmas tunes, and let loose a flurry of joy with a bubble machine! The energy at school was contagious as we all celebrated the last day of school before the Christmas break.

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make today such a memorable one.



Student Media Club bring on the Festive Fun

What a way to wrap up the school year at Katoomba High! On the last day of school, we celebrated with a Festive Fun Mufti Day, and the school was brimming with holiday cheer. Students and staff donned their most festive suits, colours, and accessories, embracing the Christmas spirit in style!

This special mufti day was a gold coin donation initiative organised by our amazing Media Club students. Together, we raised over \$260, which will be donated to two fantastic causes: the Blue Mountains Refugee Centre and the Youth Shoebox Project.

At lunchtime, the fun continued as members of the Media Club joined forces with Viktoria (SSO) to spread

Christmas Cheer at Breakfast Club!

This week, we celebrated the final Breakfast Club of 2024 with a festive feast! Students enjoyed delicious croissants, focaccia bread, cereal, fruit, cheese toasties, and more – a perfect way to start the day and wrap up the year.

A big shout-out to [Bakers Delight Katoomba](#) for their weekly donations of delicious pizzas, scrolls, finger buns, and croissants, and to [Hominy Bakery](#) for their amazing contributions of meat and veggie pies and beautiful sourdough buns. Your support is invaluable! Thank you to the [Rapid Relief Team AU](#) for their generous donation of a new box of Smart Cookies each term.

Thank you also to the team at [headspace Katoomba](#) for joining us once again and spreading holiday cheer. Your ongoing support means the world to us! 🌟

To our incredible staff who work tirelessly to make Breakfast Club happen every week – thank you for your dedication and kindness. You are amazing, and we couldn't do it without you. ❤️

We're excited to announce that Breakfast Club will return in 2025. We can't wait to see you all there.



Santa Hat Challenge!

Katoomba High School past and present staff were out and about supporting the Great Santa Hat Challenge recently to raise funds for Cancer Research.



KHS Out and About

Year 10 Dinner Dance

Congratulations to Year 10 on completing their first four years of high school. This milestone was celebrated on Monday evening with a dinner dance held at the Katoomba RSL. It was a fantastic night of music, dancing and creating memories with friends. The room was awash with balloons, fairy lights, pretty dresses and smart suits. A big thank you to all students who conducted themselves beautifully, the teachers who supported them on the night, the fabulous live DJs Jack and Ben and Michael from Bluey's Event Hire for the wonderful balloon display. You all contributed to a wonderful celebration.

Ms. Lorna Maher, Year 10 Advisor.





Newsletter

Martin St, Katoomba, 2780 | Ph: (02) 4782-2622
katoomba-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

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Year 8 Picnic Day

Year 9 students walked to Falls Reserve on Thursday 28 November to participate in fun team building activities to help develop their communication and collaboration skills. All the teachers were very impressed by their participation and excellent talent at completing the different activities.

We had free time where students played a great game of cricket and football and had the opportunity to do Karaoke thanks to St Uni supplying the music and microphones. TAS supplied a great BBQ lunch and we were all set for a colour run when a large thunderstorm happened.

Overall, it was a great day and all the teachers who went, their Year advisor, Mr Finlay and Mrs Devine were very proud of them and their efforts throughout the day thunderstorm and all.

Ms Glasscock





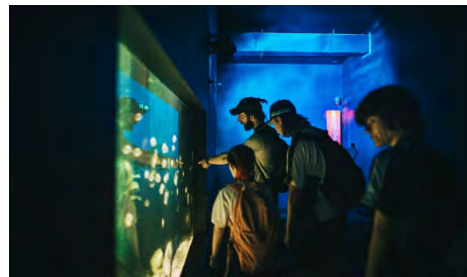
Binyang Year 12 Excursion to Sydney Zoo

On Thursday we went to Sydney Zoo as our last excursion of the year. We had an amazing day.

There were lots of animals we hadn't seen before including meerkat, big fishes, elephants, rhinoceros and sharks. Some of the animals were funny to see.

It was a hot day but it was fun. We were really tired and hungry after walking around the zoo, so we got McDonalds on the way home.

- Year 12 Binyang students



Film Festival Winner!

Congratulations to Year 10 student Lucy, who was named the winner of the 'Bloodfest' Youth Horror Film Festival at the Red-Carpet Gala Awards Night held at the Australian Film, Television and Radio School on Tuesday!

When asked what the night was like, Lucy said "It was electric. To be able to see the cast and crew, as well as those closest to them, be truly proud of their work made the whole process worth every hiccup and sleepless night. To be at AFTRS (Australian Film, Television and Radio School), a place where its purpose is the education and passing on of stories, is a dream come true."

Lucy's KHS drama teacher Ms Guild said "Lucy is an incredibly talented film maker. It's always exciting working with Lucy and hearing her initial ideas then reading her clever script and finally seeing it all come into fruition. I'm always very impressed by her work ethic and creativity."

Congratulations Lucy! We can't wait to see what you do next!!!



Scenic World Buunyal Tour with Uncle David

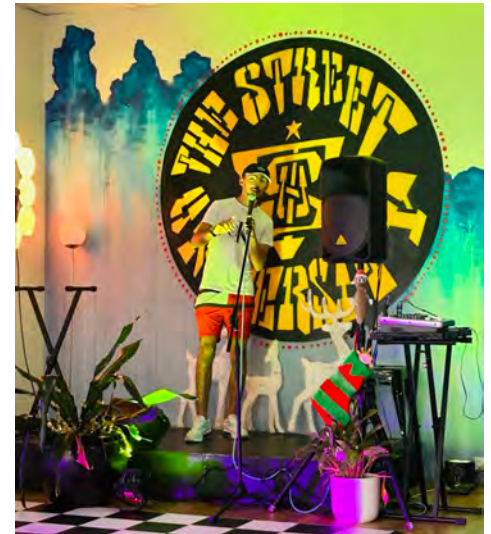
On Tuesday 5 December, a group of indigenous and non-indigenous students along with Mrs Tully and Ms Paulley visited Scenic World and completed the Buunyal tour with Uncle David King. They heard stories of culture and experienced country in an indigenous way. It was a fantastic tour. A big thank you to Scenic World and Uncle David King.



KHS Shines at the Street Uni Christmas Party!

What an incredible afternoon at The Street University Katoomba Christmas Party! Our talented Katoomba High School students wowed the crowd with amazing rap, dance, and guitar performances. The place was packed, buzzing with creativity and excitement! The

crowd were also treated to a screening of the KHS Mountain of Youth Hermitude music video. It was an inspiring celebration of talent, community, and festive cheer. A huge thank you to everyone who made it happen. What a way to kick off the holiday season! 🎉❤️



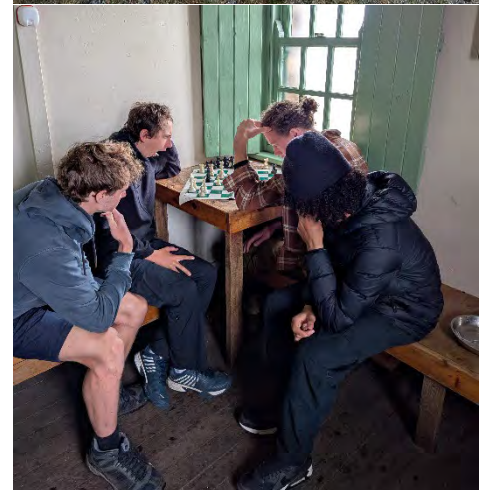
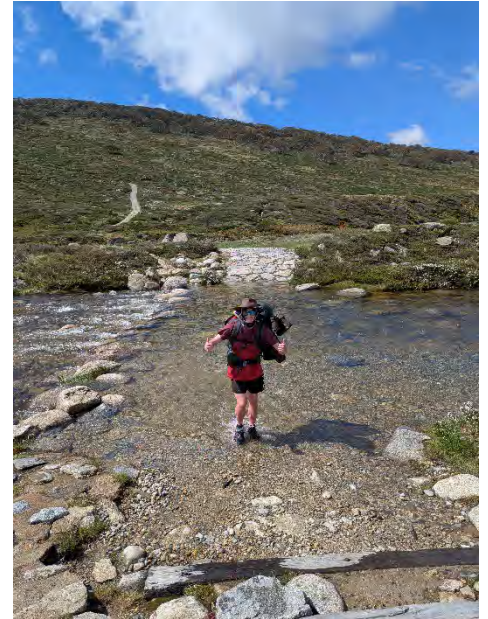
Outdoor Ed Adventures

Epic Kosciusko Hike

The Gold Duke of Edinburgh Excursion to Kosciusko National Park this term was an incredible and dynamic experience. Many seasons were experienced over the five days in true Alpine style. Some key highlights were:

- The Main Range loop and summiting Mt Kosciuszko
- Swimming in the Snowy River and at Island Bend campground.
- Illawong Swing Bridge and Guthega Dam
- Epic games of Chess
- Getting dry and warm in White's Hut for lunch
- Navigating in the clouds with wind and rain
- Camping by Seamans Hut and all the brilliant views.
- Exciting river crossings
- Campsite Frisby

Thank you, Mr. Huxley, for organising an amazing excursion and experience for our students! And a big thank you to our volunteers Emilia, Cooper and James.





KHS Students tackle the Kosciuszko Ultra Trail

Five Year 11 KHS students, Finn Gulson, Annabel Dignum, Pip Wegner, Zvi Ho-Schacher, and Jude Bennett successfully completed the Kosciuszko Ultra Trail 30km run in the Snowy Mountains at the end of November. An amazing experience and an incredible effort! Well done everyone!



Careers Corner

Blue Mountains Health Trust Scholarship

Chloe Cayzer has accepted an offer to Western Sydney University Hawkesbury to study nursing. Chloe has recently been awarded the Blue Mountains Health Trust Scholarship which was set up by Mary Hammond the wife of Harry Hammond who was the original founder of Scenic World. Chloe said that she was very appreciative to be awarded the scholarship and said that it will make an enormous difference to assisting her in meeting the cost of her studies.



Retirement Medal

Mr Don Cheeseman retired from Katoomba High School in 2016 after teaching here for 25 years and recently received his retirement medal. Mr Cheeseman worked as a Social Science teacher before the faculty merged with History to become the HSIE Faculty. Mr Cheeseman taught Geography and Business Studies, but his true passion was Legal Studies which he taught to many students during his time here. We wish Mr Cheeseman a continued happy retirement.



Beauty Therapy

This year, six of our Year 11 students attended a Beauty Therapy Makeup course at Katoomba Campus of Blue Mountains TAFE. The students learned and practiced make-up skills which will be skills that they will use during their lifetimes. The course will finish in September 2025 with the opportunity to progress onto the Diploma or pursue a Beauty traineeship.



TAFE Barber Course

On 10th December, Jalen and Calan travelled down to Kingswood TAFE to spend the day learning barbering techniques. Calan hopes to gain an apprenticeship as a barber.



Save the Date

14 Feb Australian Defence Force talk for students in Years 9 to 12.

30 May Careers Market at Randwick for Years 10 and 12.

Mrs Tully,
Careers
Adviser



What's On at School

Student Locker Hire & Renewals

Secure student lockers are available to hire each year for \$60 for Years 7-11 and \$45 for Year 12 students. Lockers are located in the canteen area for Junior students and outside the library for Seniors.

Students with a locker this year who would like to continue their hire for next year, are asked to advise the office as soon as possible. Students interested in starting a new locker hire can collect a locker contract from the front office.



Swimming Carnival 2025

Our 2025 KHS Swimming carnival will be held very early in Term 1 on Tuesday 11th February. This will be a whole school event that will take place at the Katoomba Sports and Aquatic Centre.

All students are encouraged to attend either as competitors, supporters, or spectators. School Sport House based activities on the day will include the "Lizard Lane" and novelty events.

Permission notes have been given to students, can be collected from

the table outside the PE staffroom and included at the end of this update. Please sign and return notes to the office before the end of this term if possible.



Athletics Carnival 2025

Our school athletics carnival will be earlier than usual next year due to the availability of Pitt Park. The athletics carnival will be held on Friday 20th February and will be a whole school whole day event. All students are required to attend the carnival to compete or cheer on their fellow students. We are looking forward to seeing what our newly invigorated Sports Houses get up to on the day!

Uniform Shop Update

The Uniform Shop will be closed for the holiday break. The office will be open for Uniform purchases during the Staff Development Days at the start of Term 1 as follows:

Uniform Shop Opening 2025
Mon 3rd to Wed 5th February
Open 9.30am - 1.00pm

Then 8.30am - 2.30pm as normal on school days after students return on Thursday 6 February.

You can find uniform information and a price list on our KHS website [here](#).

School Photo Day 28 Feb

School photography day will be on 28 Feb 2025. Information has been emailed to parents and carers this week. If you would like to order online, you can do so now at www.advancedlife.com.au by entering our school's online order code: 1KX K27 R2J.

New students starting in 2025 will receive all the necessary information during week 1 term 1 2025.



Reminder:

Term 1 2025

Fri 31 Jan to Wed 5 Feb - Staff Development Days

Mon 3 to Wed 5 – Uniform Shop open 9:30am-2:00pm

Thu 6 Feb – First day back for all students

From the Principal

Dear parents, carers, students & staff,

It is hard to believe that 2025 has come to a close already! I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all members of our school community.

To our students, congratulations on your perseverance this year! I have loved watching you all grow and achieve. Your hard work and determination have really shone through, especially in light of the recent HSC results. I am thrilled to announce that two-thirds of our students achieved results in the top three bands, marking a significant improvement compared to previous years. We are proud of you all!

Results like these don't happen without an emphasis on improvement and excellence. The focus we have had on teaching study skills, improving writing and helping students select the right pathways has started to pay off and I look forward to seeing how much further we can go!

I want to thank our highly skilled staff for their commitment and willingness to come along on this journey of excellence with me this year. Your support for our students has made a significant impact on their learning. It is your enthusiasm that inspires our students to strive to do their personal best, and for that, I am incredibly grateful.

To our parents and carers, thank you for your continued support and partnership. Your involvement in your children's education is so important. I appreciate the trust you place in our school.

Sadly, we bid farewell to some of our staff members leaving us this year.

Al Reynoldson, Maths Teacher is retiring after 22 years teaching and 5 years at KHS. We will miss him, but we hope to see him back occasionally to do some temporary teaching!

Tom Daniels from PDHPE, has been appointed to the Careers Adviser role at Springwood High School after 15 years here at Katoomba. We know he will do a great job there!

Sean O'Keeffe who has been working here as a Visual Arts teacher for 6 years, is returning to his substantive

position at Lithgow High School. We will miss his expertise.

Grace Guild has been appointed to a permanent position at Penrith High School. We appreciate her great work with our Drama students and choir over the past couple of years.

Andrew Nicholson has worked for the last year in Binyang and is returning to his substantive position at Katoomba Public School in 2025. The Binyang students have benefitted greatly from his specialist skills.

You will all be missed, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

In addition, **Rachel Hall** has worked part-time all year in our CAPA faculty, and we thank her for her hard work, particularly with Year 7 wellbeing classes. **Nat Muller** also jumped into the TAS faculty early this year and we greatly appreciate her efforts with so many classes. Several other temporary staff, including **Casey Hedge, Sean Catterson, Julia Pannell, Rebecca Patterson, Trish Hickey, Narelle Kathryn and Tracie McMahon** have also helped us out in various capacities at times throughout the year and most will be returning in some capacity in 2025. Plus, we so appreciate all our casual teachers who we love having here at Katoomba High! Thank you all for your contribution to our school community.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable holiday season, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting year in 2025.

Kind Regards,

Tess Devine





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A message from your P&C



About the annual voluntary P&C contribution

The Katoomba High School Parents & Citizens Association (KHS P&C) is a group of parents and carers with children at the school who meet monthly, both face-to-face and online, during school terms to discuss issues relating to the school.

These meetings are a great opportunity to connect with like-minded parents and carers and speak directly with the school's Principal, Tess Devine, and other senior staff about ideas, opportunity and issues that may be concerning you or your child.

To sustain the P&C financially and maintain our status as a charitable organisation (which makes donations to the school tax deductible) the KHS P&C has to pay approx \$1500 each year to cover our public liability insurance and auditing fees.

To ensure that we are able to operate next year and beyond we are asking all KHS families to make an annual, voluntary contribution of \$20 to the P&C.

This payment will be used for:

- Covering our annual insurance and auditing costs as are outlined above
- Contributing to or paying for (depending on how much money we raise) small items such as: Netball Uniforms - Approx \$500 for 10, Prefect Blazers - \$1000 for 10, TAFE Landscaping Project materials - such as sleepers, soil, plants, pavers - approx \$1000 per term, Breakfast Club - approx \$800 per term.
- Providing prizes for end-of-year awards (such as \$50 book and cafe vouchers which are given to prize winners)

Having an official and financially audited P&C also means that we can apply for grants on behalf of the school (for example the Winmalee High School P&C have been able to secure \$250K in grants for their school).

As an affiliated organisation which is connected to other P&Cs we can also advocate for the school politically by engaging with local, state and federal governments.

About the Blue Mountains P&C Alliance

This year the KHS P&C became a member of Blue Mountains P&C Alliance (BM P&C Alliance) which is a newly formed group of highly engaged and motivated parents from across the four public high schools in the Blue Mountains (this includes Springwood High School, Winmalee High School, Blaxland High School and Katoomba High School). The group was formed with the goal of seeing a greater share of state and federal funding go to the public school sector*.

Since its formation in September this year, the BM P&C Alliance has achieved some impressive wins such as securing a face-to-face meeting with Federal Education Minister, Jason Clare, in October. With a federal election coming up early next year, the group is now working on a pre-election campaign strategy with the aim of seeing all major parties commit additional funding to the public education sector.

If you would like to find out more about the KHS P&C or the BM P&C Alliance, please email us at:

katoombahighschoolpandc@gmail.com

The KHS P&C appreciates that times are tough for households, and we really appreciate any support you can give us - either financially or by donating your time and energy.

We hope you have a fantastic summer break and look forward to seeing you and your kids in 2025 at the wonderful place that is Katoomba High School!!

Kind Regards,

Claire Absolum
President, KHS P&C

**The NSW Teacher's Federation recently highlighted the fact that NSW public schools face a funding gap of \$1.9 billion just this year alone. Analysis by the NSW Department of Education shows that over the next four years the Federal government will provide \$24.2 billion to the state's 970 non-government schools, but only \$14.3 billion to the 2216 public schools.*



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Thank you to our end-of-year award sponsors!

We are very grateful for your generosity and ongoing support of our students and our school. Thank you.

Councillor Suzie van Opdorp
Mr and Mrs Cavanagh
Blackheath Quota Club
Uncle David King
Dr Paul Terracini

Leura Evening Country Women's Association
Blue Mountains Teachers Federation
Upper Blue Mountains Learning Community, Andrew Foy



NEW SOUTH WALES
**TEACHERS
FEDERATION**



Community Noticeboard



Join the Youth Council and make your voice heard! ☀️
Connect with like-minded peers, develop your leadership skills, and tackle issues that matter to you and your community. Be part of the change and help shape a brighter future! Applications open until the end of January!



School holiday
activities
calendar

Find out about affordable, local and fun activities for children, families and young people.

And all in the one place!

Visit strongerfamilies.net.au

blue mountains
City Council



Summer Reading Challenge

Win great prizes for you and your school!

The Summer Reading Challenge is open to all members of the Blue Mountains Library between the ages of 0 and 18.

To participate, students need to log any Blue Mountains Library book read between 1 December and 31 January. For every completed logsheet, participants will receive a \$5 book voucher redeemable at local participating bookstores.

In addition, you have the chance to put your school in the running to win a \$200 book voucher.

Find out more



Summer School Holidays

Workshops and Events

Book into one of our workshops to create, make and construct. More workshops over the page.

To book visit the website or your local Library branch.
bluemountainlibrary.eventbrite.com.au



Rainbow Crowns with Naomi Oliver

10.00 - 11.00am | Kindy - Year 6 | \$6

Tuesday 14th January, Springwood Hub

Tuesday 21st January, Katoomba Library



Join us for a fun and colourful workshop where kids design their very own rainbow crowns using soft wire and beads. Perfect for little creators, this hands-on activity will spark their imagination as they twist, string, and shape a dazzling headpiece to take home. Let's craft something magical together!

Tiny Creations with Naomi Oliver

12.00-1.00pm | Year 5- Year 10 | \$6

Tuesday 14th January, Springwood Hub,
Meeting Room 1

Tuesday 21st January, Katoomba Library



During our Tiny Creations workshop you will create a miniature world using collage, drawings and found objects. Learn techniques to craft intricate, layered scenes that fit inside repurposed tin containers.

Community Noticeboard



The School Holidays are right around the corner and the Wanderers have an exciting opportunity for students to get involved in a clinic at Commbank Stadium!

Participants will have the chance to meet their Wanderers heroes with a player meet and greet, as well as an exclusive tour of the stadium after running around on the pitch.

Date: Saturday January 18, 2025

Time: 10.30am-12pm (ages 5-10), 1pm-2.30pm (ages 11-16)

Location: Commbank Stadium, Parramatta
Age Group: 5-16

We are also running a number of clinics in other locations across the January period.

Students can register and find out more information about our clinics and their locations by heading to our [website](#).



PLAY SOMETHING UNREAL

MOUNTAIN DEVILS JRLC 2025

Do you want to play rugby league?
Join the Devils family for the 2025 season

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR:

- ✓ Ages 4-17 years
- ✓ Boys and girls
- ✓ U5 & U6 Tag comp
- ✓ U7 tackle ready program
- ✓ Rego U5-U7 \$130
U8- U17 \$180- includes playing shorts, socks and training shirt

Nicole 0403717956 | Mountain Devils JRLC | Playrugbyleague.com (search: Katoomba) | mountaindevilsjrlc@gmail.com

BMCC IS HIRING!

CADETS/ APPRENTICESHIPS/
TRAINEESHIPS (CATs) 2025

OPEN UNTIL
12 JAN

Kickstart your career and earn while you learn! Blue Mountains City Council's 2025 CATs program is open for applications.

LEARN MORE



BMCC.NSW.GOV.AU/ TRAINEES



Community Noticeboard



Survival Day 2025
Sunday 26th January

Where – Katoomba North Public School

11am Start for Opening Ceremony
3pm Finish

Amusement Rides, Food Trucks/Sausage Sizzle, Indigenous Performers, Information and Activity stalls, Live Music & more...

Get up to \$500 for education costs

Achieve a savings goal for 10 months, and ANZ will match it up to \$500.

To be eligible, you need to meet these requirements:

- 18+**
18 years or older
- \$**
A regular income (you or your partner)
- 💻**
Attend free online financial education workshops
- ✓**
Are studying yourself or have a child at school, or starting next year
- Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card**

[Saverplus.org.au](https://saverplus.org.au)
1300 610 355



Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered in partnership with The Smith Family and Berry Street. It is funded by ANZ and Department of Social Services.




Australian Red Cross
Lifeblood®

We're coming to town

Give life. Give blood in Katoomba.
2 to 4 January

We're rolling in to:
Katoomba – United Cinemas
225 – 227 Great Western Highway
Katoomba NSW 2780
Open daily

Book your donation now

 13 14 95
give blood