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No. 8 27 May 2026

"Withcott Warbler"



PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

Farewell and Thank You, Mrs Pauli

After 18 years of dedicated service to Withcott State School, we farewell Mrs Pauli as she begins her well-earned retirement.

Throughout her time at our school, Mrs Pauli has made a lasting impact on countless students, families, and staff through her kindness, commitment, and passion for education. She has been a valued and respected member of our school community, always placing students at the heart of everything she does.

We sincerely thank Mrs Pauli for her many years of service, care, and contribution to Withcott State School. Her positive influence and warm presence will be greatly missed by all who have had the privilege of working and learning alongside her.

We wish Mrs Pauli every happiness, good health, and many exciting adventures in retirement.

The Importance of Play in Childhood Development

Play is far more than just fun, it is a vital part of healthy childhood development. Through play, children learn to communicate, problem-solve, cooperate, create, and build resilience. Whether they are building with blocks, playing outdoors, engaging in imaginative games, or participating in sport, children are developing important cognitive, social, emotional, and physical skills.

Unstructured play also supports creativity and independence. It allows children to explore ideas, take manageable risks, and develop confidence in their abilities. Importantly, play provides opportunities for children to practise emotional regulation, negotiate with peers, and learn empathy.

In today's busy and highly digital world, ensuring children have time for active, meaningful play is more important than ever. Encouraging outdoor play, limiting screen time, and providing opportunities for imagination and social interaction can have lasting positive effects on a child's wellbeing and learning.

At school and at home, play remains one of the most powerful ways children grow, connect, and thrive.



Lyndal Symonds, Principal

SPORT

Interhouse Athletics Carnival

Junior Carnival - Thursday 25 June (5-8yr olds, born 2018-2021)

Students aged 5-8 will be participating in the Junior Athletics Carnival on Thursday 25 June from 9:00am-1:00pm. The morning session will consist of field event rotations, with the focus on participation. Following morning tea, there will be sprint events and relays, with ribbons being awarded for the sprint event only.

Senior Carnival - Thursday 25 and Friday 26 June (9-12yr olds, born 2014-2017)

The Senior carnival will begin with the 800m and discus events on Thursday afternoon from 1:00pm. The main carnival will be on Friday with long jump, high jump, shot put, 200m, sprints and relays. Please note 200m heats will be ran during school hours before hand with the finals only being run on the carnival day. Completed consent forms are mandatory for participation in discus.

Parents, carers and spectators are welcome to attend both the Junior and Senior Carnivals. All students should wear their appropriate coloured house polo shirt (with collar if possible-Sunsmart) Gorman - Red; Cunningham - Yellow; Oxley - Green. If you are unsure of your student's house colour, please see your class teacher or the office. Interhouse Athletics Programs will be available via QParents. Following the Interhouse Athletics Carnival, selected students will participate in the Upper Lockyer District Athletics Carnival on Friday 31 July at Ropehill. The number and age of students to be selected in specific events is listed in the table below (subject to change).

Age	Sprint				Field				Distance		Relay	1500
	Multi	50m	80m	100m	High	Long	Shot	Discus	800m	200m		
8 yrs			4							4 #	1	UPP Loc Team selected from 800 first 6
9 yrs			4		3	2			4	2	1	
10 yrs	2			4	3	2	2 (2kg)	3* (500g)	4	2	1	
11 yrs	2			4	3	2	2 (2kg)	3* (750g)	4	2	1	
12 yrs	2			4	3	2	2 (3kg)	3* (750g)	4	2	1	

Whole School Assembly – Every Thursday at 9:00am. All welcome!



QParents: Reminder to activate your QParents account if you have not already done so! The majority of consent/permissions forms will be done through QParents. You can also submit absences, view report cards and pay invoices. Please contact the office with any questions or issues with activating your account. If you are new to the school this year, an invitation to join QParents has been sent by email.

If you are not on QParents, paper copies of excursions ect will need to be collected from the office.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC BAND

Congratulations to our School Band whose debut performance of the Australian National Anthem took place on Thursday 14 May. We look forward to the band performing each week at assembly.



CHOIR

Congratulations to our choir students for an amazing performance at the Empire Theatre on Friday 15 May. Here is some of the feedback from the adjudicator:

Sweet Unison Strong Rhythmic Pulse Spirited Singing
The choir was awarded 86 points out of 100 for the performance.

CHAPPY COFFEE

What better way to start your day then with a cup of coffee supporting chaplaincy?! Scan the QR code to order a bag of coffee beans (beans or ground) right to your doorstep, 40% of each purchase directly supports Chaplaincy at Withcott State School when you select it as your school.



P&C NEWS

P&C meetings are held **every fourth Tuesday** of each month. The next meeting will be 23 June at 6:00pm in the Library, all welcome! The P&C welcomes all parents, carers and members of the school community to get involved with the Withcott SS P&C. If you would like more information, please email pandc@withcottss.eq.edu.au.

Country Disco - Friday 5th June in the auditorium - come dressed in your best Country outfit!!

-Pizza: 5.30pm Disco: 6pm - 7.30pm **FREE ENTRY**

-Pizza order forms have been sent home with your children, alternatively find attached to newsletter or order via P&C Square website:

<https://withcott-pandc.square.site/> under Events

-Please preorder Pizza - orders due by 9am Wednesday 3rd June. This event is **ONLY** for Withcott State School students and their immediate families - Parents/Carers and Younger Siblings are invited - **NO OLDER SIBLINGS** please. Children must remain under the supervision of a parent or responsible adult. Children must not be dropped off without supervision.

P&C are looking for some volunteers to assist at the Disco. Volunteers needed:

-5pm - assist with set up

-5.30pm - approx 6pm - assist with sorting pizzas and coordinating preorder collection

-5.30pm - 7.30pm (happy for people to do a half hour shift and swap out) - service at P&C stall selling drinks and snacks

-7.30pm - assist with pack up Please contact Anita Kruger to volunteer: 0407759943, or anitakrugersecretary@gmail.com

P&C Voluntary Contribution

-P&C invite you to make a donation to the P&C through the Voluntary Contribution

-This year the P&C are aiming to raise \$2500 via the Voluntary Contribution which will be donated to the school to assist in the purchase of a brand new tractor mower to keep our school grounds looking nice & tidy.

-The School's mower is broken and needs replacing - it also requires an upgrade to a tractor style mower, which requires more money than originally budgeted for.

-If every family donates \$20 or \$30 we will reach our fundraising goal! As a Thank you for making a donation, the P&C run a multi prize Draw - every donation will give you an entry into the Voluntary Contribution Draw - Prizes are drawn throughout the school year.

Draw #1 will be Week 9, Thursday 18th June @ Assembly - Prize is an Oodie! - a fun wearable blanket for endless snuggles & cosy moments!

Make a Voluntary Contribution today: <https://withcott-pandc.square.site/> - select Donate Here, Voluntary Contribution. Thank you for your support.

SCHOOL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2026	Term 2
28-29 May	Regional Soccer (Boys)
29 May	Regional Soccer (Girls)
2 Jun	Regional Touch Trials
10 Jun	Regional Softball Trials
10 Jun	Regional Rugby League Trials
18 Jun	Regional Basketball Trials
18 Jun	3.4 A & 3.4 E Amaroo Excursion
19 Jun	3.4 G & 3.4 W Amaroo Excursion
25-26 Jun	Interhouse Athletics Carnival
26 Jun	Final Day Term 2
13 Jul	School Resumes Term 3
27-30 Jul	Life Ed
31 Jul	Upper Lockyer Athletics Carnival
10 Aug	Public Holiday (Lockyer Show Holiday)
12 Aug	Zone Athletics 1500m
14 Aug	Zone Athletics
21 Aug	Prep Amaroo Excursion
25-26 Aug	Regional Athletics
4 Sep	Student Free Day
7 Sep	Carbal Retest Day
16 Sep	1.2 N Amaroo Excursion
17 Sep	1.2 M & 1.2 B Amaroo Excursion
18 Sep	Zone Soccer/Netball Carnival
18 Sep	Final Day Term 3
6 Oct	School Resumes Term 4
12-14 Oct	State Athletics
25 Oct	Aquathlon
3 Nov	CHSHS Transition Afternoon #1
10 Nov	CHSHS Transition Afternoon #2
7 Dec	Swimming Carnival
11 Dec	Final Day Term 4

PAYMENTS/ PERMISSIONS DUE

29 May	Discus Consent Forms
30 May	Instrument Music Fees
11 Jun	3.4 Amaroo Consent & Payment

LAMINATING

Prices: A4 - \$1.50, A3 - \$2.50, Posters - \$5 a metre. Drop items into the office at any time!!

BUSH TUCKER GARDEN

Withcott State School to Create First Nations Bush Tucker Garden.

At the P&C monthly meeting on 26 May 2026, it was announced that Withcott State School had successfully secured a 2026 Sustainable Futures Grant to create a First Nations Bush Tucker Garden.

Stage One of the project will be developed in the area between the music room and the tennis courts. The space will include two yarning circles, quiet reflection areas, and a map of Australia identifying Aboriginal Country. Australian native seedlings will also be planted throughout the garden.

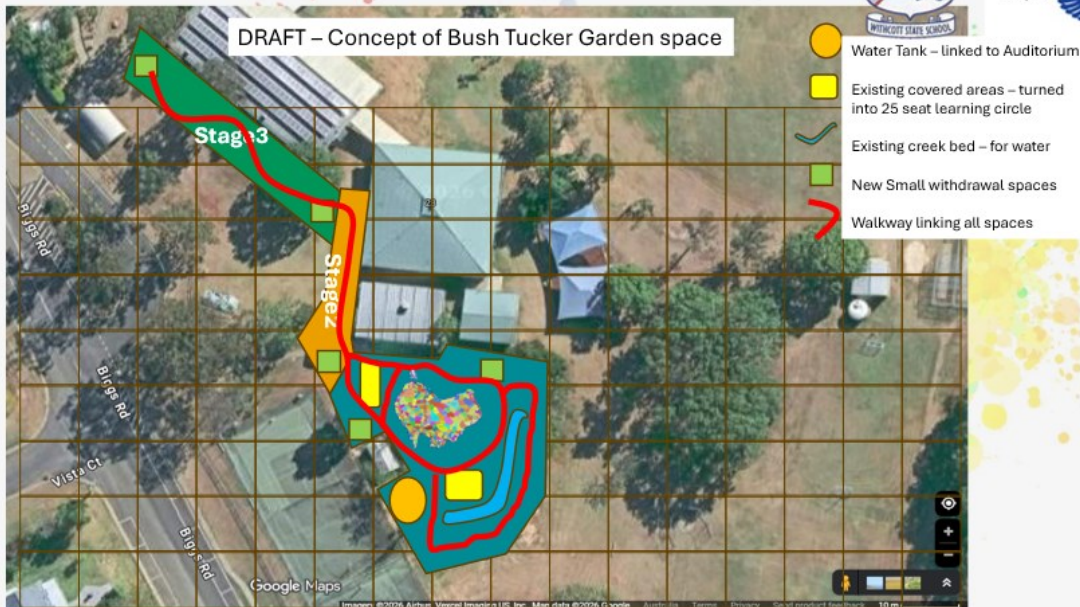
The project aims to provide students with real learning opportunities through real life experiences, while embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures into everyday learning. Students will explore local plant knowledge, learn about respect for Country, and discover traditional food practices used by First Nations peoples across Australia. The garden will also serve as a multi-purpose outdoor learning space for all Key Learning Areas.

Planning for the project is already underway. A stakeholder meeting is scheduled for 4 June 2026, where a detailed project plan will be developed to align with the construction period from July to October 2026.

Following the major construction works, each class will visit the garden area so all students can plant bush tucker seedlings in preparation for the official garden opening in November 2026.

Mr Rafter is overseeing the project and would like to thank school staff, the P&C, local Aboriginal Elders and community members, and the Lockyer Valley Regional Council for their ongoing support of this exciting initiative.

Bush Tucker Garden (BTG)



UNIFORM SHOP: The Uniform Shop will be **open** (during term time) **3:10pm - 3:45pm**, Tuesday and Thursdays for Term 2. Card payments accepted. Second-hand uniforms are also gratefully accepted on a donation basis.

LIBRARY


Our school would like to thank one of our generous students for donating the book *Amazing Australian Women* to our collection. The student was also lucky enough to meet the illustrator Sophie Beer.

This inspiring book introduces readers to 12 amazing Australian women who have changed the world in both small and large ways. From Edith Cowan, Australia's first female parliamentarian, to Emily Kame Kngwarreye, a renowned artist, there is something for everyone to discover. Borrow this book from the library soon to learn about 12 women who have shaped history.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

If you need care or would just like the assurance that your child is cared for if you have that appointment that runs late, contact www.campastralia.com.au or phone customer care 1300 105 343. You are always most welcome to come and have a look around, ask questions or just have a friendly chat. Bye for now from Team Camp Australia OSHC. Thank you for supporting Camp Australia. ~ *Guiding Children's Growth* Team Camp Australia OSHC

STUDENTS P-2
All students in P-2 should always have a **change of clothes** in their bag in case of toileting accidents.

 **Sun Safety**
All students need a wide broad brimmed hat. Please ensure it is clearly labelled.