



# Allendale East Area School Newsletter

Courage Excellence Respect



To build strong, diverse futures for all of our young people by providing quality education driven by needs, skill and aspirations.

**YELP - NARACOORTE CAVES**

**Term 1 Week 6**

**2026**

Last Wednesday, the YELP Team travelled to the Naracoorte Caves for Forum #1. The Limestone Coast Landscape Board are passionate about fostering and developing a 'Love of Nature' in young people as they are our next generation of protectors and monitors for our environment. This forum was an introduction to the year ahead for the YELP program. They like to describe it as the Head, Heart & Hands. Term 1 is about the Head, gaining knowledge about our local environment and in particular, the history inside Blanche Cave and the critically endangered Southern Bent-Wing Bat. We broke up into two groups, our group was Orange and Evie was pretty happy about that!! We visited the Bat Cave first. It was pretty cool seeing all the bats hanging upside down in the cave and they even zoomed in so close that we could see them yawn. All students thought it was very interesting learning about the bats. Dylan wrote that he was interested in learning that bats hibernate in winter, they use echo location to find their way in and out of the cave, they are the size of a jelly bean when born and it only takes 6 weeks for them to become teenagers. At the end of the day, students shared what sustainable projects their school currently does like recycling and collecting food scraps and then we broke off into brainstorming sessions for this year's project. The students cannot wait for next term's forum which will be the overnight camp in Week 5.



## IMPORTANT DATES

### MARCH

- 3 Immunisation Information Session
- 4 Safer Journeys Regional Road Safety - Year 10-12
- 9 **Adelaide Cup - Public Holiday**
- 10 School Photos
- 11-23 NAPLAN Testing
- 13 Interschool Sports Day - AEAS
- 16 **Student Free Day - OSHC Available**
- 17 Year 10-12 Integrated Learning
- 17 Chinese Teacher Visit

### MARCH

- 18 Governing Council Meeting - 5:30pm
- 19 Street Smart Incursion
- 30 Seaweed, A Celebration
- 31 Year 7 & 10 Immunisation

### APRIL

- 3 **Good Friday - Public Holiday**
- 6 **Easter Monday - Public Holiday**
- 7 Walking the Seasons
- 11 Last Day of Term 1 - Early Dismissal 2:15pm

## Allendale Contact Information

Principal - Ms Kylie Smith

Assistant Principal - Ms Suzie Mitchell

Governing Council Chairperson - Lisa McGregor

Phone: (08) 8738 7218

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Office Hours: 8:15am - 4:00pm  
dl.0751.info@schools.sa.edu.au

## NEW STAFF



Lauren Agnew

We are pleased to welcome Lauren Agnew to Allendale East Area School as a classroom support staff member. With a background in teaching swimming and coaching netball, Lauren enjoys working with children and young people, seeing them thrive and grow in their learning. Having completed year 12 in 2025, Lauren plans to study journalism and creative writing at university from 2027 onwards. She is excited by her new role at Allendale East, and looks forward to supporting students in the school, and getting to know the school community.



Mitch Ford

Aboriginal Education Workers hold invaluable insight and knowledge that support the social, wellbeing and learning needs of Aboriginal students in schools. A key part of the role is supporting parent and community engagement in sites, as well as providing cultural advice and support. AEWs in schools are known as Aboriginal community education officers (ACEOs) or Aboriginal secondary education transition officers (ASETOS). We are delighted to welcome Mitch Ford who has recently joined us on Wednesdays to fill this position. Mitch also works at Reidy Park Primary School and has a wealth of knowledge and experience to share with our students and community. Welcome Mitch, we look forward to working with you.

## NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) takes place each year for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 and has been an everyday part of the school calendar since 2008. NAPLAN helps parents, carers and educators to see if children are meeting important numeracy and literacy standards. Schools are required by law to collect personal information about you and your child, irrespective of whether your child participates in NAPLAN testing. The purpose of this notice is to advise parents and carers of how personal information about you and your child will be used for NAPLAN testing (both online and paper tests) and NAPLAN readiness activities scheduled at various times leading up to the test in March 2025.

If you have a child in the above mentioned years, please keep an eye out for the full NAPLAN privacy collection notice that was distributed as a hard copy last week.

## PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS BOOKING

As a site, Allendale East Area School will undertake a new system to book our parent teacher interviews, later this term. The platform we will be using is Microsoft Bookings.

### **A bit about Microsoft Bookings.**

This system makes scheduling and managing appointments a breeze. It helps you schedule and manage appointments with your customers, clients, or colleagues. Whether we need to book time to meet people or set aside time for different meetings, Bookings makes it easy and convenient for both us and our attendees. Bookings include a web-based booking page, which is integrated with Outlook to optimise our calendar and give our parents and caregivers the flexibility to book a time that works best for them. Email and SMS text notifications reduce no-shows and enhance client satisfaction. Our school will save time with a reduction in repetitive scheduling tasks. With built-in flexibility and ability to customise, Bookings can be designed to fit the situation and needs of many different parts of an organisation. We look forward to providing more information about how to book your parent/teacher interview soon. Please note that allocated days will coincide with teacher availability from Monday 30 March - Thursday 2 April 2026. This is Week 10 of Term 1. For any additional offerings due to teacher availability, some options will be provided for Week 11 - final week of the school term. We will 100% support you through this transition, and as always, we are more than happy to manually make bookings for those who would prefer this process.

# Allendale East Area School Sports Day Athletic Champions 2026



Sub Junior Girls  
Champion - Chelsea  
Grosvenor  
Runners Up - Zaylee Welsh  
& Cora Hape



Sub Junior Boys  
Champion - Dylan Connell  
Runners Up - Logan Martlew



Junior Girls  
Champion - Alyirah Kayee  
Runners Up - Sofia Bramley



Junior Boys  
Champion - Hunter  
Livingston-Waters  
Runners Up - Harry Grambau-  
Blacksell



Intermediate Girls  
Champion - Emily Osborne  
Runners Up - Sienna Black



Intermediate Boys  
Champion - Riley Virgo  
Runners Up - Kade  
Grosvenor



Senior Girls  
Champion - Zaria Shephard  
Runners Up - Zoe  
Vandepeer



Senior Boys  
Champion - Oliver Bramley  
Runners Up - Tanner Jones



Open Girls  
Champion - Ciara Henare  
Runners Up - Ava Brown



Open Boys  
Champion - Ben Virgo  
Runners Up - Joshua Virgo



## NOORLA YO LONG EXCURSION

This week, Year 10 students enrolled at Limestone Coast Technical College travelled to Noorla Yo Long for their first Crew induction session. Students from across the region who are enrolled in Multi-Trades came together to build relationships and get to know their Crew Leaders. Students participated in low ropes challenges, indoor rock climbing, and a scavenger hunt that tested everyone's abilities. These activities provided an excellent opportunity for students to connect with peers outside of their normal school communities and friendship groups. Throughout the day, students demonstrated remarkable personal growth during challenges designed to build resilience, problem-solving, and collaboration—all skills that will support them on their journey at LCTC. The Limestone Coast Technical College is grateful to Noorla Yo Long and SAPOL for their support of this program. Allendale East Area School congratulates Declan Kain for demonstrating Courage, Respect, and Excellence during his excursion experience.



## WALKING THE SEASONS

Walking the Seasons in the Limestone Coast is an educational, community-based program that connects our students to Country, culture, and nature, guided by local First Nations Elders and educators. These seasonal guided walks explore the landscape through the local Aboriginal seasonal calendar, fostering environmental and cultural understanding, as well as wellbeing. On Tuesday, 10 February, the Year 7 students enjoyed an outstanding excursion and adventure for Sugar and Eel Time. The weather was amazing, and students had the opportunity to learn about First Nations History in the local area, alongside some European Landcare information. For example, did you know that if emu eggs in nests appear lower than usual in number, it is a clear indication for First Nations people that there will not be much rain in the area? Or that Tiger snakes' diet mainly consists of frogs, whereas Brown snakes much prefer rodents? The class as a whole was very well-behaved and engaged in appropriate communication throughout the excursion. It was great to see the entire group in school uniform and wearing suitable clothing and footwear. We are looking forward to our next visit to the trails, when we will be exploring the Cultural Ceremonial Time.



## TONY PASIN - FLAG PRESENTATION

On Thursday, 26 February, Federal Member for Barker, Tony Pasin MP, delivered an informative presentation to the entire school about the Australian Flag. He discussed its significance, components, history and origins, as well as its connections and parallels to the Aboriginal Flag. Mr Pasin also explained the various protocols associated with flying the Australian Flag, emphasizing the importance of keeping flags in good condition. To support this, he noted that schools will regularly receive replacement flags. During his visit, our school received a new Australian Flag, and we will also be receiving a replacement Aboriginal Flag in the near future. Mr Pasin made the official presentation of the new Australian Flag to our school captains, Kanisha Miller and Zoe Vandeppeer, marking a fitting first official duty for both of them. All students were attentive throughout the presentation and responded thoughtfully to a variety of questions posed by Mr Pasin. Following the presentation, Kanisha and Zoe assisted Mr Pasin in raising the new flag, and official photographs were taken to commemorate the occasion.



## PARLIAMENT/CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP

On Tuesday, our Year 5/6 class visited Wulanda for a day filled with valuable learning experiences. Students participated in two engaging workshops, one led by the Parliament of South Australia Education Team and another by the Electoral Commission of SA. These sessions helped students understand how a Bill becomes a new law, the correct process for casting a valid vote, and the roles and structures of both the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council. The hands-on activities made the learning fun and accessible. The students enjoyed taking on the roles of parliamentarians and election officials. Later, the class toured The Englebrecht Caves in Mount Gambier. Students explored the underground geography and learnt about the unique water system, linking what they study in the classroom to the natural local environment. This real-world experience sparked a lot of enthusiasm and questions from the group. Our students represented Allendale East Area School with pride and curiosity throughout the excursion. It was a fantastic day that brought classroom learning to life.

