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Craig Whittred
Deputy Principals:
Anna D'Illario,
Cheryl Wade (Acting)
Jasmine Brix (Acting)
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Issue No 4

Newsletter of Ayr State High School

Wednesday 10 June 2026

Congratulations to our 2026 AITSIAP Team

Congratulations to Wassie Ghee, Faith Geas, Vai Neliman and Lorna Rattler on winning the North Queensland AITSIAP Regional Finals!

The girls will now progress to the State Finals in Brisbane after an outstanding submission, supported by Auntie Ollie Henaway and Mrs Mirella Buffa.

We wish the girls the very best of luck at the State Finals and know they will represent both the North Queensland region and Ayr State High School with pride.



Mrs Ollie Henaway, Wassie Ghee, Faith Geas, Mr Craig Whittred, Lorna Rattler, Vai Neliman, Mrs Mirella Buffa



Attendance

Ayr State High School Expectation = 95% = maximum of 10 days absence per year.

Consistent attendance is the most critical indicator of success.

Every day counts



Absentee Hotline 4790 4353

If your child is away either:

- phone the hotline - if unanswered please leave a message with reason for child's absence,
- respond to school text message or
- hand in a note, on return, to the office.

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From the Principal

by Mr Craig Whittred, Principal
Editorial - Newsletter No.4 10/06/2026



Congratulations to all students on their hard work and commitment in completing their Term 2 assessment. I am confident that students have given their best efforts and I am sure many will achieve personal best results for Semester 1.

As assessment draws to a close, students and teachers will now transition into the units of work for Term 3. The final two weeks of this term will be used to establish a strong foundation for learning, allowing students to gain a valuable head start on the work ahead.

Congratulations also to our students who performed in our Burdekin Interscholar Drama Festival production last week. Continuing a proud Ayr High tradition, this year's script was written by School Captain, Caitlyn Cheyne. Caitlyn did a fantastic job creating an engaging and entertaining production, and our talented cast and crew, under the guidance of Mr Pickersgill, did an outstanding job bringing her vision to life on stage. The performance was a wonderful showcase of the creativity, dedication and talent of our students.

Well done to everyone involved in making Drama Festival such a success.

Congratulations to our ATSIAP team, who recently won the North Queensland Finals and have qualified for the State Finals in Brisbane during Week 10. This is a tremendous achievement, and I am sure our girls will represent Ayr High and North Queensland with pride.

Next term, our school musical production, *The Addams Family*, will take to the stage. I am incredibly excited to see our talented students showcase their hard work and creativity. School productions are always a highlight of the year, and I look forward to seeing our school community come together to support this wonderful event.

Term 3 will also see a major facilities upgrade with the installation of a new high-security perimeter fence around the school. The new black fence will enhance the safety and security of our school grounds. In recent years, we have experienced increasing levels of vandalism and damage after school hours and during holiday periods. This

Welcome to Ayr State High School

Our school acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land. Today, they are still the custodians of the cultural heritage of this land. Further to this, our school acknowledges there are other Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Island people who have lived, worked and contributed to the cultural heritage of our community.



upgrade will help protect our facilities and provide a safer environment for students by limiting unauthorised access to the school during school hours.

Finally, I would like to advise the school community that I will be on leave during Weeks 9 and 10 to celebrate my daughter's wedding. During my absence, Mr Deon Stripp will assume the role of Acting Principal. Mr Stripp is a highly experienced school leader, and with the continued support of Ms D'Ilario, Ms Wade and Mrs Brix, I am confident that our students, staff and school community will be very well supported.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Ayr State High School. I wish all students and families a safe and productive end to the term.

Yours in education

Craig Whittred
Principal



Girl STEM Power Camp

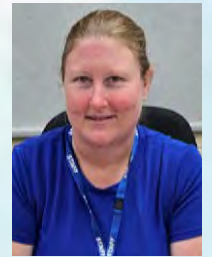
by Jorja Jerkic, Yr 10 Student

I was incredibly grateful to be selected as one of only 60 Year 10 girls across Queensland to attend the STEM Girl Power Camp in Brisbane. Throughout the weeklong camp, I participated in a range of exciting hands-on and thinking activities and experiences that gave me a deeper insight into STEM careers and opportunities. Some highlights of the camp include designing a model of a water dam, visiting a pathology lab where we observed real life organs, and exploring both QUT and UQ Universities. We also visited the planetarium where we learned about the night sky and discovered stories and meanings behind different stars. Along with that we explored the Museum of Brisbane and the Spark Lab where we were amazed by the tesla coils. The camp was a wonderful opportunity to explore a range of STEM fields as well as meeting like-minded students, build new friendships and creating unforgettable memories. I am incredibly thankful for the chance to be part of such an inspiring and empowering experience, and look forward to applying what I have learnt for National Science week and future STEM activities.



From the Junior Deputy

by Mrs Jasmine Brix, Deputy Principal (Yr 7 and Yr 8)



I would like to take the time to thank the Year 7 and 8 students who have shown great learning behaviours in their classrooms. It is wonderful to walk through these classrooms daily and see students engaged in their learning. We look forward to seeing students continue to learn and engage with activities right up to and including the last day of term - Friday 26 June 2026.

Week 8 Attendance update

Students need to be at school each day as we move into the last weeks of term. Assessments are occurring across classes and missed lessons often lead to catching up work that needs to be completed. Please support your student with attending school each day on time. If you need support with your student's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact the school office to make an appointment.



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow



#schooleveryday

Students leaving school grounds

Students need parent/carer permission to leave school grounds during the school day. This permission is preferred in writing to school administration staff so they can best support your students with leave passes.

Upcoming Alva Beach excursion for Year 7 Students

On Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 June 2026 in Week 10, our Year 7 students will be going on their Alva Beach Activity Days. These days are packed full of activities and will support students with team building and communication skills.

Crushing time is on again

Use your TRAIN BRAIN

- ⚠ Be alert
- 🚦 Obey signs and signals
- 🚂 ALWAYS give way to cane trains

wilmar
Sugar and Renewables

Keep a watch on our school these holidays

Parents and students can help take care of our school by reporting any suspicious after-hours activity to School Watch on **13 17 88**.

By keeping an eye out we can work together to create a safer school community and help to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in our school.

If you see something suspicious, please don't intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter.

The Invisible Crowd

Burdekin Interschool Drama Festival

by Mr Thom Pickersgill, Teacher

The 2026 Burdekin Interschool Drama Festival was held on 5 June and, of course, we had some amazing and talented students perform. Drama Festival is a night put on by the local high schools where each school acts out a play. Every year, one of our students writes our script, and this year, our School Captain Caitlyn Cheyne created our play, *The Invisible Crowd*. It follows the story of Amber, a newly turned 13-year-old, who must decide if she is going to hold onto her life long friends that she has outgrown or keep them with her forever. But, did we mention that her friends were imaginary? The night was filled with lots of laughs, memories, and fun, including a few awards. Congratulations to cast, crew, and award winners. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make this night happen!



LtoR: Caitlyn Cheyne, Lilliana Stafford, Amelia Franklin, Mason Lando

Special Mention to our winners:

Director's Award - Caitlyn Cheyne

Barry Jones Award - Lilliana Stafford

Best Actor - Mason Lando

Best Supporting Actor - Amelia Franklin



School Musical Update

by Ms Courtney Carrigan, Producer

The school musical is progressing extremely well with tickets now on sale through the Burdekin Theatre for our three public performances (21, 22, 23 August 2026) - scan the QRcode to secure your tickets now!



Rehearsals

Rehearsals are progressing well with major leads continuing to block scenes, learn their lines and work on their vocals. Additional Tier 1 and Tier 2 students have been rehearsing their dance numbers along with practicing their vocal parts with Mr Pickersgill and Mrs Julyan each Sunday. With rehearsals moving to the hall, the additional space allows us to replicate the stage floor area, so we can specifically work on positioning, entry and exits etc. This means we should be ready to hit Theatre Week full steam ahead next term. The band have also been rehearsing the musical score throughout the term and are coming along under the direction of Ms Wall. Rehearsal schedules for Term 3 will be issued in Week 10 and will involve our entire cast (Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 students). We look forward to bringing everyone together.

Fundraising

Our next fundraiser will kick-off next week with our Pie Drive through Phelan's Pies. Students will be issued with a letter and order form on Monday 15 June. Payment/order forms are to be returned to the office by the end of Week 1, Term 3 (Friday 17 July) with delivery expected in early August (approx. Week 4, Term 3).

We look forward to continuing to share our progress and can't wait for you to see our production next term!

A promotional poster for a 'Pie Drive' fundraiser. It features a large image of a pie, the school crest, and the Phelan's Pies logo. The text 'School Musical' is written in a cursive font, and 'PIE DRIVE' is in large, bold, pink-outlined letters. A list of pie options is provided in a pink circle, and a deadline for order forms is at the bottom.

School Musical

PIE DRIVE

Phelan's Pies

Family Pies:
-plain
-bacon & cheese
-mushroom
-pepper
-curry

Family Pasties
Party Pies
Party Sausage Rolls

ORDER FORMS AND PAYMENT DUE TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY FRIDAY 17 JULY 2026 (WK 1, T3)



Pie Drive

Information letters and order forms will be issued on Monday 15 June.

Delivery expected at the beginning of August (TBC).

All proceeds go towards the school musical.



Ayr High's Voices of the Future

by Mrs Linda Attard, Competition Co-ordinator

Recently, we welcomed Burdekin Rostrum Club member Mr John Mackay, to our *Voices of the Future* afternoon workshop. John generously shared his wisdom among our group of enthusiastic students who have nominated for our public speaking competition. He spoke to us about what the adjudicators are looking for in a persuasive speech, the do's and don'ts of public speaking, how to structure and deliver speeches, and how to involve the audience. We would like to sincerely thank John for his continued support of our Ayr High Family.

Also, it's not too late to enter the competition. If anyone is looking for an opportunity to develop and hone their public speaking skills, see Mrs Attard in A5 staffroom for an invitation letter and consent form.



Staff vs Student - Game 3 Basketball

by Ms Courtney Carrigan, HOD - HPE, The Arts, LOTE & Sports

Students claimed victory in the third game of this competition played last Friday, with a score of 19-17. In what should have been a lopsided game to the students, the staff hung in until the very end with the students claiming a bucket at the buzzer to claim victory. *Who schedules basketball when two of their very best are away at State Basketball Championships? Students, that's who.* Thanks to Amaya and Chase for refereeing. The best of 5 series is currently 2-1 to the students. Next up is touch football in Week 3, Term 3.



Year 10 TFF Class Supports Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

by Mrs Julie Dobe, Teacher

Our Year 10 TFF students recently showcased their impressive skills and teamwork by catering for Australia's Biggest Morning Tea as part of their studies, raising more than \$750 for Cancer Council Australia - a fantastic achievement for such a worthy cause.

The event provided a real-world learning opportunity, with students taking on the challenge of catering across multiple staffrooms while meeting a range of individual dietary requirements. From planning and preparation through to service and delivery, the class demonstrated professionalism, adaptability and strong organisational skills.

We are incredibly proud of the Year 10 TFF class for their dedication, teamwork, and commitment to both their studies and their community. Their efforts not only contributed to a successful fundraising event but also made a meaningful difference in supporting those affected by cancer.



Cancer Council
Australia's Biggest
Morning Tea

Biology Camp 2026

by Mrs Brock's Yr 12 Biology Class

Declared by some Year 12 students as “the best camp ever” and “fun for all,” the 2026 Biology Camp was a memorable experience from start to finish. Mrs Brock and Mr Kies were particularly impressed with our packing skills as we somehow managed to fit 20 humans, their luggage, and an alarming number of snacks into the Burdekin School minibuses before heading south to Cape Hillsborough.

The weather was almost perfect throughout the trip, although an unexpected evening downpour arrived at the least convenient moment possible, soaking tents, phone chargers, and disrupted Mrs Brock's plans for a night walk and star gazing. Fortunately, most students remained reasonably dry and slept soundly enough to make an early rise and witness the spectacular sunrise over the bay.

One of the highlights was feeding the kangaroos and making sure we fed ourselves as well. Cooking meals on the BBQ was a fun novelty, particularly for some of the male students who discovered that cooking involves more than simply standing near the food. Everyone learned

valuable new skills, many of which extended beyond biodiversity sampling using quadrats and transects.

While some aspects of data collection on the reef and in the mangroves proved slightly ambiguous (and occasionally muddy), we successfully gathered quality data across the mountain, forest, reef and mangrove ecosystems. Overall, the camp was a fantastic blend of science, adventure, teamwork and fun, providing plenty of memories and stories that will last well beyond Year 12.



Ayr SHS Certificate II in Production Horticulture Students Reach Halfway Milestone

by Ms Louise Nicholas, Home Hill State High School Teacher

Our Ayr State High School students have reached an exciting milestone in their Certificate II in Production Horticulture, progressing through the first half of their competencies and developing valuable skills for the horticulture and agricultural industries.

A particular highlight this term has been the commitment shown during our practical training sessions. Students have achieved 100% attendance at recent practical classes, demonstrating a strong work ethic and enthusiasm for hands-on learning. Let's maintain this into the weeks to come.

Throughout the first semester, students have worked towards a range of competencies, including workplace health and safety, biosecurity, plant identification, propagation, potting up plants, caring for nursery plants and workplace communication. They are currently developing their knowledge and skills in AHCWRK211 – Participate in Environmentally Sustainable Work Practices, exploring how sustainable practices contribute to productive and environmentally responsible horticultural enterprises.

Competency-based training requires students to demonstrate both practical skills and theoretical understanding, ensuring they are workplace ready and capable of applying their learning in real industry settings.

The second half of the course promises even more exciting learning opportunities, with students progressing into planting horticultural crops, collecting production data, supporting crop harvesting, maintaining drainage systems, undertaking post-harvest operations and consolidating their practical skills across the qualification.

We congratulate all of our students on their efforts so far and look forward to seeing them continue to grow in confidence, capability and industry knowledge as they work towards completing their Certificate II in Production Horticulture. Their commitment and the excellent attendance during practical sessions have set a strong foundation for a successful second half of the year.



Back-to-Back-to-Back for Hawks at BSS Interschool Cross Country



by Mr Jake Lacey, Sports Co-ordinator

Congratulations to the Ayr SHS Hawks for being crowned CHAMPIONS at the 2026 BSS Interschool Cross Country Carnival, with a total of 1455 points.



This is the third successive year that the Hawks have been successful at this carnival.

All participants, including our Year 12 Sport Leaders, are to be congratulated for their efforts. Furthermore, congratulations Darci, Stella, Milla and Kashton for claiming Age Champion honours.

AGE CHAMPIONS	
13 Yrs	Darci Colls
14 Yrs	Stella Borellini
15 Yrs	Milla Chapman
16 Yrs	Kashton Ferguson



13-19 Yrs BSS Cross Country Champions



13-19 Yrs Age Champions
Darci Colls, Stella Borellini, Milla Chapman, Kashton Ferguson

Northern (NQ) Selections

by Mr Jake Lacey, Sports Co-ordinator

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to represent Northern. Well done and good luck at the State Championships.

- Amaya Mahoney - 13-19 Yrs Golf
- Kayleah McCarthy - 10-12 Yrs Hockey
- Quinn Jones - 10-12 Yrs Football



Amaya Mahoney



Kayleah McCarthy



Quinn Jones

JCU Legal Studies Conference

by Mrs Vollema-Creek, Teacher

Recently, several Year 11 and 12 Legal Studies students attended the annual JCU Legal Studies Conference. Students participated in engaging sessions focused on Human Rights and Youth Justice, both highly relevant to their current assessment and studies.

Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to ask questions during presentations and speak with presenters during the breaks, further extending their understanding of current legal issues.

It was a valuable learning experience and a great opportunity for students to connect classroom learning with real-world legal perspectives.



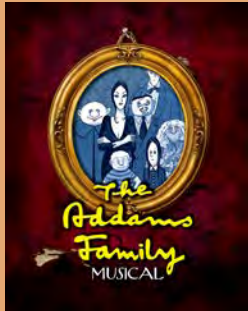
**Burdekin Show Day
Public Holiday
Wednesday 24 June 2026**

**School Musical -
Sponsorship**
by Ms Courtney Carrigan, Producer

Thank you to the many local businesses and families who have returned Sponsorship Forms indicating your support of our school musical (in-kind or financial).

If any other businesses or families are wanting to assist, please contact or collect a form from Ms Tricia Land at the school office or see our school Facebook page.

Again, we thank all businesses and families for their consideration.



Tutoring at Ayr SHS

Tutoring is available for all students in all year levels. Teachers are available to help with homework and assessments.



English Tutoring

Tuesday
3:00 - 4:00 pm, A4



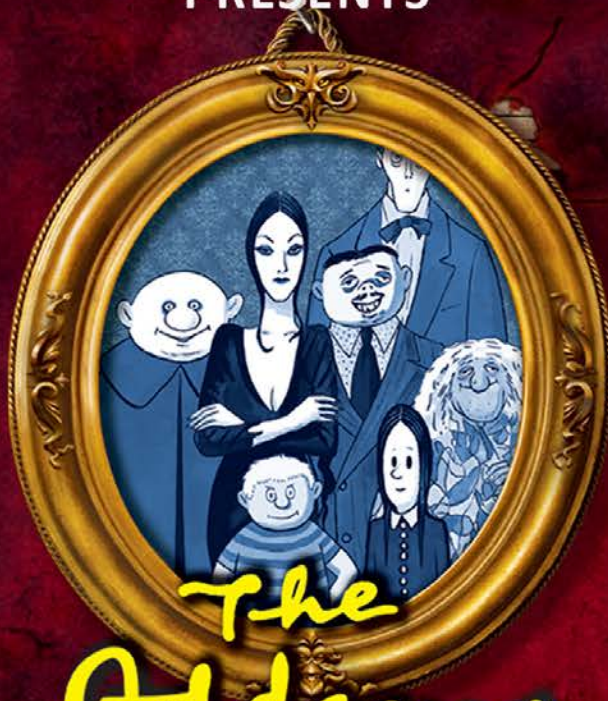
Maths & Science Tutoring

Wednesday
3:00 - 4:00 pm, C11

Diary Dates

- 12-13 Jun** Instrumental Music - SHEP (Townsville)
- 14 Jun** Musical Rehearsal - Major Leads, Tier 1 (10:00 am-1:00 pm, Ayr SHS Hall)
- 15-26 Jun** Yr 12 VEP Annual Industry Shifts
- 15 Jun** Cultural Week (Lunch time activities)
Concert Band Practice (2:40-3:30 pm, A14)
Instrumental Ensemble (3:30-4:00 pm, A14)
Yr 11 VHF Connect 'n Grow Excursion (Townsville)
Interhouse Athletics Carnival - Whole School Nominations (1:50 pm)
- 16 Jun** NQ Trials - 14 Yrs G/B Rugby League
Choir Rehearsals (11:30 am-12:00 pm, A12)
- 17 Jun** Yr 10 Vaccinations & Catch-up
NQ Trials - 12 G/B Basketball
Interact Meeting (2nd Break, I Block)
- 18 Jun** Choir Rehearsals (1:15-1:45 pm, A12)
Musical Rehearsal - Major Leads (3:20-5:00 pm, A06)
- 19 Jun** Careers Day (9:00 am-2:00 pm, Ayr SHS Hall)
Instrumental Music - NQIM Workshop - Intermediate (Perform Music)
Yr 11/12 Legal Studies (select students) - The Model UN Conference (William Ross SHS)
- 18-19 Jun** Yr 12 VEP - The Ville Hospitality Experience
- 20 Jun** Yr 12 Grad Fundraiser - Car Wash (8:00 am-2:00 pm, L Block, Ayr SHS)
- 21 Jun** Musical Rehearsal - Major Leads, Tier 1 & 2 (10:00 am-1:00 pm, Ayr SHS Hall)
- 22-26 Jun** Yr 10 Trade Pathway Program (Townsville)
- 22 Jun** Yr 7 Activity Days (Incl Yr 11 LIP Leaders, All day Alva Beach)
Concert Band Practice (2:40-3:30 pm, A14)
Instrumental Ensemble (3:30-4:00 pm, A14)
- 22-24 Jun** ATSIAP Challenge (Brisbane)
- 23 Jun** Yr 12 QTAC Session (S2)
NQ Trials - 12 Yrs G Rugby League
Choir Rehearsals (11:30 am-12:00 pm, A12)
Yr 7 Activity Days (Incl Yr 12 LIP Leaders, All day Alva Beach)
- 24 Jun** **Burdekin Show Day Public Holiday**
- 25 Jun** Choir Rehearsals (1:15-1:45 pm, A12)
Musical Rehearsal - Major Leads (3:20-5:00 pm, A06)
- 26 Jun** **End of Term 2**
- 11 Jul** Yr 12 Grad Fundraiser - Sausage Sizzle (8:00 am-12:00 noon, Woolworths)
- 18 July** Yr 12 Grad Fundraiser - Sausage Sizzle (8:00 am-12:00 noon, Woolworths)
- 13 July** **Term 3 Commences**

AYR STATE HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS



The Addams Family MUSICAL

Book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice
Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lippa
Based on Characters Created by Charles Addams
By Arrangement with ORIGIN™ Theatrical on behalf of
Theatrical Rights Worldwide, New York

SCHOOL EDITION

21-23 AUGUST 2026
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