



**PROSERPINE**  
STATE HIGH SCHOOL

*Local Spirit  
Universal Success*

4 Ruge Street  
Proserpine QLD 4800  
Subscribe: <https://proserpineshs.schoolzineplus.com/subscribe>

Email: [admin@proserpineshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@proserpineshs.eq.edu.au)  
Phone: 07 4945 0111



5 December 2023

## Date Claimers

### Last Day - Year 7, 8 & 9

Friday, 8 December 2023

### Office Holiday Closure

Closing - 4pm Friday, 8 December 2023

Re-opening - 8am Tuesday, 16 January 2024

### Uniform Store Re-Opening

Monday, 8 January 2024

*See [Uniform Store Update](#) for further information.*

### Positive Culture Day

Monday, 22 January 2024

*See [calendar](#) for further information.*

## Principal Perspective

### THANK YOU TO OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

As another school year comes to an end, we extend our deepest gratitude to our school community for contributing to the success of 2023 at Proserpine State High School. Throughout the year, our students have had the opportunity to showcase their immense talent across a multitude of fields, reflecting the diversity amongst our students. We take immense pride in the remarkable achievements of our students throughout the year.

In particular, we would like to express our admiration for the graduating Year 12 students who have represented what outstanding young individuals our school nurtures. These students are now stepping into the broader community as confident and capable young men and women.

I commend the contribution our student leaders have made to our school in 2023. They have completed their year of leadership with enthusiasm, implemented initiatives to drive positive school culture and have made a difference to those around them, which is the most important aspect of leadership. As our senior student leaders move onto new adventures we wish them every success, confident that their individual qualities will make a positive mark on the world.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, we are filled with pride and confidence for the bright future that awaits our students. We are confident that these young adults will continue to grow as active citizens in the Whitsunday community, carrying with them the values and skills instilled during their time at Proserpine State High School.

Once again, I thank our school community, local industry and businesses, for your unwavering support and collaboration in making 2023 a successful year for our students. We look forward to the continued growth and achievements at Proserpine State High School as we commence our new School Strategic Plan.

### Behaviour and Effort Awards

Congratulations to all students receiving Behaviour and Effort Awards this term for their commendable commitment to school expectations and values. Striving to reach their potential through commitment to personal improvement, striving for their best!

We extend an additional congratulations to those students qualifying for the Behaviour and Effort Incentive Trip to

Whitehaven Beach, a fitting reward for their hard work and dedication to learning. A special thank you to Cruise Whitsundays, for making this incredible experience possible. Well done to all award recipients.

## Year 6 Transition Day

The final transition day for our Year 6 students took place on Monday. Our extensive transition program undertaken throughout the year has prepared students well for secondary school, with students gaining confidence in their new surroundings. There has been a great deal of care and consideration dedicated to our new students in the junior school and I'm very proud of the team at Proserpine State High School for the program that has been created. I am extremely passionate about the Junior Secondary program and believe we have developed a program that will support, nurture and challenge the academic success of our students.

## Away for the Day

Further information will be communicated to families this week regarding the 'Away for the Day' policy at Proserpine State High School. Some frequently asked questions are below:

### When does 'Away for the Day' begin?

From Term 1 2024, all state school students must keep their mobile phones switched off and 'Away for the Day' during school hours.

Wearable devices, such as smartwatches, can be worn however notifications must be switched off so that phone calls, messages and other notifications cannot be sent or received during school hours.

### Why are students being asked to put their phone away for the day?

This approach is being implemented in all Queensland state schools to help:

- reduce distractions in the classroom
- increase face-to-face interactions between students
- promote student health and wellbeing
- reduce the potential for student exposure to negative impacts of the digital world, such as cyberbullying.

### Can my child take their phone with them when travelling to and from school?

Yes, students are allowed to bring their mobile phone or wearable device to school. Students will be able to use their phone outside of school hours to support safe travel, and to make contact with parents, friends and part-time employers.

### Can my child still bring wearable devices to school?

Wearable devices such as smart watches can be worn, however notifications must be switched off so that phone calls, messages and other notifications cannot be sent or received during school hours.

### My child uses their phone / wearable device to manage and monitor a health condition. Can they still use it?

Yes, exemptions will be made available for students who require access to their mobile phone or wearable device for health monitoring purposes.

### How can I contact my child for emergent reasons?

You can continue to contact your child through existing school processes, such as phoning the school office.

## FAREWELLS

I would like to extend my appreciation and thanks to the following staff who will be leaving Proserpine State High School this year. Each person has contributed to the lives of our young people through their respective positions in the school. They have all impacted our young people, with the view to make their lives rewarding and purposeful, with endless possibilities to explore. I wish them all the best of luck in the future.

We say goodbye to our:

School Technician - Eduardo (Eddie) Avendano Rocha

Teacher Aide – Kel Sheather

Teachers – Carrie Turner-Jones, Kel Colling, Tia Attwood, Cara Behncke

Teacher and Acting Deputy Principal – Ro Robertson

Acting Deputy Principal – Daniel Leschke

I take this opportunity to extend my sincerest appreciation to several retiring staff:

### Mrs Narelle Latter

Special mention to Mrs Narelle Latter who after 38 years as an educator officially retired this year. Narelle has been instrumental in our Junior School program since moving to secondary school teaching in 2015. She has followed the journey of many of her primary school students as they have grown into young adults, always taking immense pride in her contribution as a teacher and her influence in shaping students futures.

### Mrs Jenni Healy

Last year I farewelled two "super heroes" of our support staff - Carol Davis and Christine Davies. This year we farewell the third member of this incredible team, Mrs Jenni Healy - after an impressive 33-year dedication to Proserpine State High School and the broader community. Jenni joined our school in 1990, and has supported endless staff and students throughout this time. Her invaluable contributions in facilitating the Career Expos and annual school magazine production of "ARROW", will be cherished by many.

### Mr Steve Oliver

An outstanding educator with 33 years of teaching experience, Mr Steve Oliver has devoted 29 years of his profession to the students and school community of Proserpine State High School. His enthusiasm has inspired students in science and chemistry, a passion which led to him receiving the prestigious Peter Doherty Award for Outstanding Teacher of STEM. Beyond awards, his impact extends through generations of

students whose passion for science subjects was ignited by Mr Oliver's teaching and guidance. Field trips, a cherished part of his learning experiences, I'm sure have created lasting memories for many students over the years.

Finally – a special mention to an outstanding school leader, **Ms Jan Phillips**

After joining Proserpine State High School as an Administration Assistant, appointed Registrar and since been the Business Manager, for 33 years of service to Proserpine State High School.

Jan has supported our school to grow from 550 students, 46 staff and 9 buildings, to now boasting over 1200 students, 150 staff and 19 buildings. Jan has been instrumental in managing growth, overseeing the construction of modern facilities including the Trade Training Centre, Science & Language Centre, Agriculture Centre, Multi-Purpose Hall, STEM Complex and Performing Arts Centre.

Recently Jan was presented with the "Significant Achievement Award" at the School Business Managers Association of QLD Awards Night. Jan was recognised for her significant contribution to Proserpine State High School and the broader education system within Queensland.

A passionate leader and strong advocate of our school and staff, with a view to making a difference to the young people within our community through education. Her promotion of support staff and the crucial role they have in the operation of the school is relentless which has created a culture of respect for every member of staff at our school. Remarkable leadership and commitment to our Proserpine State High School community. Thank you!

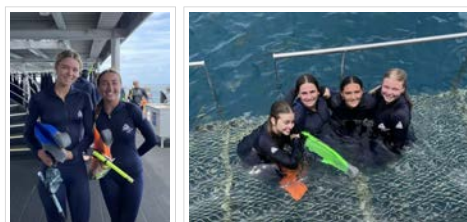


*Don*  
**Mr Don McDermid**  
Principal



## Aquatics and Marine Science

On Friday, 24 November, 52 Year 11 students travelled out to Reefworld at Hardy Reef with Cruise Whitsundays as part of the Aquatics and Marine Science program. The Aquatics students have just completed a snorkelling unit where they honed their skills with weekly visits to the Proserpine Pool. The Marine Science students are midway through the Marine Systems (Coral Reefs) unit where they have been studying coral reef ecosystems. The conditions were perfect with a fairly smooth ride out and back, small tides so little or no current and a nice breeze to keep things cool. A perfect way to finish the school year!



## Junior Secondary News

### Transition Day

On Monday we welcomed our 2024 Year 7 students for their final transition day. During the day these students were placed in their core classes for 2024. They were involved in a variety of activities that will ensure they are ready to make a successful start to 2024.

I would like to recognise and thank the leaders in years 8-11 who very kindly offered to assist on this day.

I know these students have all that is required to make a positive start next year. I look forward to seeing them settle in next year.

Students received the following final reminders:

- First day of school is Monday, 22 January 2024
- On this day we will hold our annual *Positive Culture Day*
- Students are to wear their house shirt or day uniform

## Faculty News

### Resource Centre News

Reminder to return all borrowed items to the Resource Centre please before Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. If all resources have been returned from this year, students can borrow out some holiday reading from our new releases.

The photos are from our games and craft activities from this past week, students had fun and appreciated the air conditioning.



- Year 7 Students are to meet in their eating area in the morning before school
- Tuesday, 24 January is their first *normal* school day
- Students are to ensure they purchase shoes and socks that meet uniform standards of Proserpine State High School before they begin high school next year.

Acceptable ✓	Unacceptable ✗	Acceptable Socks ✓
		
		Unacceptable Socks ✗
		
		
		



**Kahlia**  
**Miss Kahlia Goodwin**  
 Year 7 Coordinator  
[kxgoo8@eq.edu.au](mailto:kxgoo8@eq.edu.au)

### Inclusive Education

During September, Proserpine State High School was lucky enough to get a visit from Paul Corry, an Associate Professor in the School of Mathematical Sciences at QUT. Along with teaching subjects in the Bachelor of Mathematics course, and working on research projects, Paul is the academic lead for engagement in mathematics. This means he also devotes time in his hectic schedule to visiting schools and talking about the many and varied career pathways in applied mathematics. Paul has also been generous enough to volunteer as a coding mentor to our very own Clayton Colling and Steven Heath.

While here on a research project, Paul made time to meet with our Heads of Science and Mathematics to discuss possible future opportunities to inspire students with an interest in mathematics. He was also able to make time to spend with Steven while he was here. Unfortunately, Clayton was absent on this occasion. Steven and Paul worked together for an hour, sharing their projects and ideas. Paul described Steven as a very talented student with advanced computer programming skills. Steven asked some excellent questions about Paul’s work and Paul was in turn, very impressed with one of Steven’s own projects on animation creation, stating that Steven was a natural coder.

Paul is now looking forward to more time mentoring Steven and Clayton and creating some online opportunities with Proserpine

State High School in 2024 to engage our future mathematicians.



### Student Support Services Team

#### Health Matters

Ask the experts about parties and teenagers

Parties can be a tricky thing to navigate with your teenager. We asked Associate Professor Cath Chapman of the Matilda Centre for Research in Mental Health and Substance Use at the University of Sydney to share some tips on setting boundaries with your child around parties they attend in high school.



As an expert in substance use prevention and a parent of teenagers herself, Cath Chapman provides her expert advice in the video link below:

<https://parents.au.reachout.com/common-concerns/everyday-issues/things-to-try-drugs/ask-the-experts-about-parties-and-teenagers>



**Karen**  
**Mrs Karen Dachs**  
 School Based Youth Health Nurse  
 Monday, Tuesday and alternating  
 Wednesday from 8am to 4pm  
[kdach1@eq.edu.au](mailto:kdach1@eq.edu.au)

#### Yarning Circle

##### School Student Broadband Initiative

To boost education opportunities and narrow the digital divide, the Australian Government is providing up to 30,000 eligible families with no internet at home a free National Broadband Network (nbn) service.

Federal Minister for Communications Michelle Rowland has announced an extension of the Program. This means the nomination period will remain open until 31 December 2024 with free nbn broadband services for all new and existing families continuing until 31 December 2025.

<https://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/rowland/media-release/government-extends-free-home-broadband-school-kids-2025>

#### Eligibility

To be eligible for the SSBI, a family must:

- Have a child living at home that is enrolled in an Australian school.
- Not have an active nbn® network internet service at home. Having a mobile internet service does not affect eligibility.
- Not have had an active nbn connection during the previous 14 days.
- Live in a premises that can access the nbn network through a standard connection.

### National Referral Centre

Families can directly contact the SSBI National Referral Centre (NRC) to check their eligibility for the Initiative. After a family contacts the NRC, an operator will check their eligibility and support the family to get connected through a participating internet provider.

Contact the National Referral Centre on 1800 954 610 (Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm AEDT), [www.anglicarevic.org.au/student-internet](http://www.anglicarevic.org.au/student-internet). Call-back and webchat functions are also available via the website. SSBI promotional materials are also available via the weblink – scroll down to find resources materials.

Nbn is implementing the SSBI on behalf of the Federal Government and is currently working with more than 55 Nominating Organisations in the community services, non-profit and education sectors to identify and support eligible families to get connected.

Further information is available at the link below.

<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/media-communications-arts/internet/national-broadband-network/school-student-broadband-initiative-ssbi>

### QATSIF Term 4 Newsletter

Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation's (QATSIF) have issued their Term 4 Newsletter. It can be accessed online at:

<https://www.qatsif.org.au/newsletters>  
[https://proserpineshs.schoolzineplus.com/\\_file/media/6615/qatsif\\_newsletter\\_issue\\_4\\_term\\_4\\_web\\_.pdf](https://proserpineshs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/6615/qatsif_newsletter_issue_4_term_4_web_.pdf)

### Career Trackers

#### Work Shadow Week Experience Years 9 – 12

Career Trackers are inviting Years 9 – 12 First Nations students to apply for Work Shadow Week experience from 15 – 18 January 2024.

This will give students the opportunity to experience what their future career could look like and to make some great contacts.

If you are interested, please complete the Work Shadow application form below and Career Trackers will be in touch!

<https://form.jotform.com/211167665418055>  
<https://careertrackers.org.au/high-school-program/>

### Together Strong Connected Care Healthy Lifestyle Program

The Together Strong Connected Care is a Healthy Lifestyle Program for those 'At risk of Type 2 Diabetes', 'Living with Type 2 Diabetes' and 'Post-Gestational Diabetes'.

This program is available to clients that meet one or more of the below criteria:-

- First Nations People (aged 15 and over) and Australian South Sea Islander people;
- Vulnerable people living in rural and remote areas within the Mackay Hospital and Health Service footprint (aged 15 and over);
- People who are at risk, newly diagnosed or living with T2DM.

The Together Strong Connected Care team involves a range of health professionals from the Mackay Hospital and Health Service (HHS):

- Nurse Practitioner;
- Diabetes Educator
- Dietitian; and
- Physiotherapist.

If you have any queries please reach out to:-

Josephine Ferguson  
 First Nations Community Liaison Officer –  
 Whitsundays  
 M: 0474 500 346  
 E: [Josephine.Ferguson@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:Josephine.Ferguson@health.qld.gov.au)

### QATSIF

#### Yarning With Our Elders Project

Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation (QATSIF) in partnership with Australian Catholic University (ACU) is inviting all Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander secondary students to yarn with, learn from and share stories, wisdom and cultural heritage of our Elders.

Over Term 4 and the Christmas holidays, we are inviting students to yarn with an Elder and record one important aspect of their life. Some examples could be:

- What was it like growing up in their local community?
- Their Stolen Generations or Stolen Wages story.
- What is their advice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people?
- Important local traditional language words, their meaning and pronunciation.
- Important local traditional stories, dances, technology or history.
- What did they learn from their own Elders?

Students are invited to share their Elder's story using any appropriate media eg. video, voice recordings, essay, poetry, music, interviews etc. Preferably, presentations should be less

than 10 minutes or 5000 words in length (or equivalent). Entries close: Friday, 23 February 2024.

Griffith University  
Indigenous STEM Camp

The Griffith University's Indigenous STEM Camp 2024 seeks to promote pathways into STEM amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Years 9 and 10 (in 2024) and support the next generation of critical thinkers and innovators.

This on-campus experience will provide students the opportunity to participate in interactive workshops, lab tours, learn about Indigenous student success programs and strengthen their academic skills. Students will hear from the GUMURRII Student Success Unit, academics, and current students about everything Griffith University has to offer. This camp will run from 1-4 April 2024 at the University's Gold Coast campus. All reasonable costs including travel, flights, accommodation and meals are included. **Applications close 16 February 2024.**

<https://www.griffith.edu.au/gumurrii/STEM>

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please see me at the Student Advisory Centre.



Kelli

**Mrs Kelli McDonald**  
Teacher Aide (First Nations)  
[kmcd0302@eq.edu.au](mailto:kmcd0302@eq.edu.au)

## Link & Launch

Finished Year 12 and need support to take the next step? Call or text Shelley on 0467 858 781. #linkandlaunch



Shelley

**Ms Shelley Simpson**  
Link & Launch Officer  
Monday, Wednesday  
and Thursday  
[ssimp208@eq.edu.au](mailto:ssimp208@eq.edu.au)

## STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME

### REMINDER

Please contact our accounts department if you wish to receive a copy of your 2024 Student Resource Scheme invoice.

**2024 Student Resource Scheme fees are due for payment by Friday, 2 February 2024.**

Prompt payment of Student Resource Scheme fees will enable students to have immediate access to all benefits provided by the scheme. Payment by internet banking or via the Qkr! app may be made at any time during the holidays. These payments will be processed during the week prior to the commencement of school in 2024.

EFTPOS and cash payments can be accepted up to 3pm **Wednesday, 6 December 2023**. The school office will be closed from Friday, 8 December 2023 and will be open in 2024 from Tuesday, 16 January to accept Student Resource Scheme payments.

#### Internet banking details:

Proserpine State High School General Account  
(Commonwealth Bank)  
BSB 064-816  
Account Number 0009 0131.

Please make sure the payment can be identified by using the student's name as the description.

Student Resource Scheme fees unpaid from previous years will be carried forward and payment will be expected in 2024. Any unpaid fees remain a debt to Proserpine State High School.

## Uniform Store Update



## UNIFORM STORE BACK TO SCHOOL HOURS JANUARY 2024



PROSERPINE  
STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Monday	8 <sup>th</sup>	8am - 4pm
Tuesday	9 <sup>th</sup>	8am - 4pm
Wednesday	10 <sup>th</sup>	8am - 4pm
Thursday	11 <sup>th</sup>	8am - 4pm
Friday	12 <sup>th</sup>	8am - 4pm

Monday	15 <sup>th</sup>	8am - 4pm
Tuesday	16 <sup>th</sup>	8am - 4pm
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	8am - 4pm
Thursday	18 <sup>th</sup>	8am - 4pm
Friday	19 <sup>th</sup>	8am - 4pm



For any students finishing school or perhaps leaving the area, can we ask you to please consider donating your uniforms that are no longer required. We receive requests to supply items of uniform for surprisingly varied reasons and whilst most times they do get returned, we appreciate donations that keep us with enough items to be able to continue to offer this assistance to our students.

## Community News

## Christmas Pop-Up Shop



### Supporting Low-Income Families this Christmas

We want to make sure every child has a gift under the tree.

REGISTER VIA QR CODE

This gift shop is open to low-income families that live in suburbs:  
Airlie Beach, Brandy Creek, Cannonvale, Cannon Valley, Flametree, Jubilee Pocket, Mandalay, Mount Marlow, Shute Harbour & Woodwark; & receive Parenting payment or Family Tax Benefit from Centrelink.



Registration open November 19 - December 10, 2023



Whitsunday Neighbourhood Centre



## Whitsunday Sea Eagles

## Wilmar





# YESS

## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & SUPPORT SERVICE

The Youth Empowerment and Support Service (YESS) is a free, voluntary support service for young people aged between 8 - 21 who are located within the Mackay and Whitsunday Regions (including Sarina, Pioneer Valley, Bowen and Collinsville).

We connect with organisations and services to provide up-to-date information and referral pathways for young people.

We provide collaborative case management services focused on achieving positive outcomes for young people.

**We support and mentor young people to:**

- Access professional services
- Focus on wellbeing
- Achieve personal goals
- Develop life skills
- Transition to high school or adulthood
- Engage in education and/or employment
- Connect to community and engage in other forms of recreational activities
- Access housing and Centrelink

