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12th December 2025

Date Claimers

School Holidays - Saturday 13th December - Sunday 25th January

Week 1

Monday 26th January - Australia Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 27th January - First day of school for 2026

Tuesday 27th January - Friday 20th January - Positive Culture Week

Week 2

Monday 2nd February - 2026 Leadership Induction Ceremony

Tuesday 3rd February - Year 8 Deadly Choices Program, Newsletter 1 due out

Thursday 5th February - School Photos, Year 10 & 11 Deadly Choices Program, Australian Defence Force visit

Friday 6th February - School Photos



Junior Indigenous Student Leader – Brooklyn Bredl

Student Representative Council
President – Myka Kelly
Vice President – Roxanne Groom
Secretary – Tyler Porter
Treasurer – Kyle Knott
Junior Indigenous Student Leader – Brooklyn Bredl

Year 6 Into Year 7 Transition Day

The final orientation Transition Day for our Year 6 students took place on Monday. Our transition program conducted throughout the year, has prepared students well for Secondary School, helping them gain confidence in their new school. A great deal of care and consideration has been dedicated to our new students in our Junior School, and I'm very proud of the team at Proserpine State High School for the program they have created.

I am extremely passionate about our Junior Secondary Program which is based around the Junior Secondary framework that will support, nurture, and challenge the success of our students. Thank you to our Year 7 Coordinator Miss Kahlia Goodwin for supporting our incoming students and their families through this process.



Principal Perspective

Junior School Leaders

We are excited to announce the appointment of our Junior School Leaders for the 2026 school year. These students have demonstrated enthusiasm in developing their leadership qualities and are ready to step into their roles. We look forward to seeing them lead by example and contribute to our school community making 2026 a memorable and successful year.



Behaviour and Effort Incentive Day

It was wonderful to celebrate our students who have achieved terrific results across their behaviour and effort throughout the year. Congratulations to all students who have reached the benchmark of three certificates this year. This recognition reflects their ongoing commitment to striving for their best in all aspects of school life.

Students are invited to participate in a fun-filled day of activities, including an inflatable water slide, obstacle course, and a range of other games and events.

A special thank you to our amazing Parents and Citizens' Association for their generous financial support, which helps make this celebration possible.

Australian Schools Cup Volleyball



Well done to our Year 9 and 11 students who have been representing our school at the Australian Schools Cup Volleyball event on the Gold Coast this week. They have recorded some terrific results playing in Division 1 and will play off in the finals tomorrow.

Thank you to our teacher Miss Thompson for travelling with the team and for the many hours put in before, during and after school with training.

Annual Christmas Appeal

The spirit of giving is alive and well at Proserpine State High School, with families, students and staff once again rallying behind our Annual Christmas Hamper Appeal. Generous donations of toys, books, food and household essentials have poured in over recent weeks, all destined to bring a little extra Christmas cheer to community members in need.



This year's hampers will be distributed throughout the Whitsundays by several local organisations, including the Whitsunday Neighbourhood Centre, ZONTA Club of the Whitsundays Inc., Whitsunday Counselling & Support Inc., C&K Childcare & Kindergarten, PCYC Whitsundays and the Proserpine Nursing Home.

Our Industrial Technology and Design teacher Mr O'Keefe added a special touch to the appeal, dedicating his time each morning to hand-build a collection of wooden toy trucks that will be included in the hampers. Thank you to our senior teacher Ms Foot and our Community Committee students, who coordinated the initiative and encouraged participation across our school.

This generosity reflects the strong community spirit that continues to be a core value of Proserpine State High School – we want our students to learn that a little bit of kindness goes a long way!

2025 Farewells

I would like to extend my appreciation and thanks to the following staff who will be leaving Proserpine State High School this year for new adventures. Each person has contributed to the lives of our young people through their work in various ways through their respective positions. I wish them all the best in future endeavours.

The following two leaders begin a new career transition in 2026:



Deb Brown - After 41 years of dedicated service to the Department of Education - 35 of those at Proserpine State High School and 31 as Head of Department, Deb leaves an incredible legacy.

A leader of professionalism, loyalty, and genuine school spirit, Deb's impact on staff and students is forever. From leading her Business and Technology faculty, to digital learning across the school, to inspiring fun through her creative Care Group antics, Deb's contribution has shaped our culture. We thank and will deeply miss her.



Alison Rodgers - After 36 years of dedicated service to the Department of Education - 23 of those at Proserpine State High School and 17 as Deputy Principal - Alison leaves a legacy of exceptional leadership and creativity for her students. Her strategic insight, innovation, and compassion have shaped teaching, curriculum, and community connections across our school.

Alison's deep care for every student, unwavering support for staff, and genuine love for education have inspired us all. We thank Alison for her extraordinary leadership, and lasting impact on Proserpine SHS.

To the following teachers transferring, we wish you all the best:



Kahlia Goodwin - After 11 years of dedicated service to Proserpine State High School, Kahlia has made a lasting impact as a teacher, Year 7 Coordinator, and Acting Head of Department.

Her leadership and support have helped shaped the Junior School, guiding new generations of students through their transition to high school.

We sincerely thank Kahlia for her commitment, leadership, and the genuine difference she has made.



Idris Harries has been an exceptional and inspiring Instrumental Music teacher over the past 9 years, sharing his immense talent and passion for music with our students.

Through his leadership, the program has flourished, delivering outstanding performances and enriching our school's cultural life. Idris's kindness, creativity, and dedication have left our school well positioned into the future.

We thank him sincerely and wish him all the best.



Jacqui Watson has been a highly dedicated teacher over the past 8 years, inspiring students through engaging and practical approaches to Humanities and Legal Studies.

Her commitment and passion have strengthened the program for future learners.

We thank Jacqui for her passion and contribution.



Heading to maternity leave and ending her contact in 2025, Jess Dray has provided outstanding leadership as Acting Head of Department – Transition and Pathways, guiding middle years and senior students toward their post-school futures.

Always supportive and student-focused, Jess's care, effort, and devotion have made

a real difference.

We sincerely thank her for her dedication and impact on our young people.

We wish our teachers Karen Freemantle and Dakota Hadley all the best as they commence their year of leave in 2026 and thank them for their service to our school.

Thank you to our school community

As another school year comes to a close, I want to extend my sincere thanks to our wonderful school community for playing a vital role in making 2025 a successful and rewarding year at Proserpine State High School. The opportunities our students have had to showcase their exceptional talents and skills across diverse fields have been truly impressive. Our school shares great pride in every student's individual achievements.

Our graduating Year 12 students demonstrate the outstanding young adults nurtured by our school, ready to contribute positively to the wider community. Their success is a testament to the strong foundations built through the efforts of our school, families, and community partners.

We firmly believe in the value of strong family partnerships and are excited to further engage with parents and carers in the coming year. Through both new initiatives and existing

programs, we aim to strengthen these connections, ensuring the best possible support for our students' growth and success.

Thank you to our students, staff, parents, volunteers, local businesses, and industry partners for your dedication and contributions this year. Together, we create incredible learning experiences and outcomes for all students at Proserpine State High School. Wishing everyone a safe, restful, and enjoyable holiday season!



Don

Mr Don McDermid
Principal

principal@proserpineshs.eq.edu.au

From Our Year Level Coordinators

Year 8s inspired at James Cook University Excursion

On Friday, 28th November 25 Year 8 students travelled to James Cook University, Townsville to take part in the Year 8 Unix experience. The Year 8s were given a tour of the campus and were invited to take part in activities hosted by various faculties to help students to identify future ambitions. Two of the highlights from the students: the delicious food and the practical session facilitated by the health faculty (physiotherapy/exercise physiology). A big thank you to Tom Lee and Lucy Schaeche-Priestley for accompanying the students to Townsville.



Raylene

Ms Raylene Rasmussen
Year 8 Coordinator
rasm2@eq.edu.au

From Our Classrooms

Logistics session with Minerals and Energy Academy

Twenty-seven of our Year 7 and 8 students participated in our school's very first QMEA (Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy) incursion. During the session, students explored the full logistics journey of mining our natural resources — from pit to port.

Through interactive presentations, students learned about the scale of modern mining operations, working with large machinery, real-world data, and big numbers, while developing their teamwork and problem-solving skills. Each group

collaborated to create and share the unique story of 'their' resource, demonstrating an impressive understanding of how resources are extracted, transported and delivered for use around the world.

The incursion provided an engaging insight into real-world industry practices and highlighted the importance of STEM skills in Australia's resources sector.



Great Barrier Reef trip enhances curriculum learning



On Friday 28th November our Year 11 Aquatic Practices and Marine Science classes travelled to the Great Barrier Reef with Cruise Whitsundays. The experience enhanced curriculum delivered to both classes throughout the year, and students and staff were grateful to have favourable weather conditions to finish the year on a high.

Thank you to the Queensland Government's Great Barrier Reef Education Experience Program that subsidised the cost of the excursion for our families.

Ecological sampling leads to enhanced scientific enquiry

Our Year 11 Biology students recently participated in a highly successful field study at Coral Beach. The excursion was designed to deepen our students' understanding of ecological sampling techniques and the complex interactions within natural environments. The authentic, hands-on excursion challenged our students to apply the scientific inquiry skills they have learnt this term in a real-world setting.

Students were divided into two groups, each focusing on a different ecological investigation.

The first group conducted stratified sampling of lichen across three clearly defined regions. This method allowed students to compare lichen abundance and distribution between distinct microhabitats, supporting their understanding of how environmental factors influence species presence.

The second group completed a quadrat-based ecological survey across three clearly defined regions, investigating light intensity, temperature, and humidity, alongside the number and types of organisms present within each quadrat. This group investigated how abiotic and biotic factors influence a community. Students demonstrated enthusiasm and remained highly engaged despite the warm conditions.

Sunflowers brighten our day and outdoor space

Our school garden has come to life with a stunning display of sunflowers, proudly grown by a group of our dedicated students. What began as a simple hands-on activity quickly blossomed into a vibrant project that reflects their curiosity, dedication, and growing passion for learning.



Throughout the term, students have nurtured their plants from seedlings to full bloom, gaining practical skills and a deeper understanding of the growing process. Their hard work has transformed our garden into a cheerful, welcoming space that continues to brighten the day of everyone who passes by.

The sunflowers have not only sparked joy among our students but have also become a favourite sight for staff and visitors to our school. This project has highlighted the pride our young people take in their learning and the positive impact of engaging, real-world experiences in Agriculture.

Sports News

Ben selected to represent state at Cricket

Congratulations to our students Emerson Baker, Oliver Dibben and Benjamin Hope who represented our region at the State Cricket Trials in Rockhampton on the weekend.

A special congratulations to Ben, who captained the Northern Team, and was selected to represent Queensland in the Under 15s team at the Australian National Cricket Championships in Bunbury, Western Australia in February!

Great work Ben!



Outside the Classroom

Creative collaboration with primary school students



This week our Seagrass Theatre and Music students joined forces with talented students from Proserpine State School for an inspiring performing arts workshop.

Across singing, choreography and acting, our Performing Arts Centre was buzzing with creativity, teamwork and genuine joy as our students shared their skills with the eager junior students. It was a fantastic opportunity for them all to learn from one another, step outside their comfort zones and celebrate the magic of the arts together.

A huge thank you to our Seagrass students — along with a few of our wonderful graduates who returned to share their skills — and our staff for bringing this workshop to life. We love seeing our arts community thrive, and we're already looking forward to the next collaboration!

Industry

Link & Launch is here for you!

Finished Year 12 and need support to take the next step? Call or text our Link and Launch Coordinator Shelley Simpson on 0467 858 781 to make time for a chat. #linkandlaunch



Shelley

Ms Shelley Simpson
Link & Launch Coordinator
Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
ssimp208@eq.edu.au

Student Support Services Team

SchoolTV

Special Report: Surviving Christmas

As families around the world prepare to celebrate Christmas by decorating their homes, singing carols, buying gifts and planning feasts, often the true



meaning of Christmas can be lost due to the commercial exploitation of this time of year.

Many people see it as a joyous occasion to spend with family and friends, but for others it is viewed as a stressful and challenging time attributed by a combination of things such as financial pressures, relationship issues, and quite often, loneliness.

Should you, or a loved one, ever feel that the pressure of Christmas becomes too much, it is important to seek help. Reach out to a trusted friend, talk to your doctor or counsellor, or phone one of the many support organisations available to you 24/7.

Click the link to view your special report.

First Nations Student Opportunities

Pearl Duncan First Nations Teaching Scholarship

The Pearl Duncan First Nations Teaching Scholarship is now open for applications from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders across four categories of scholarship support:-

- Secondary school graduates.
- Postgraduate students.
- Department of Education employees.
- Post-school students.

Applications close at midnight on Friday, 12 December 2025. To apply, please click [this link](#).



Kelli

Mrs Kelli McDonald
Teacher Aide (First Nations)
kmcdo302@eq.edu.au

School News

P&C Association AGM and Meeting for 2026

All are welcome to attend our first Parents and Citizens' Association Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 25 February at 6:00pm in our Administration Office Conference Room. We look forward to seeing you there!

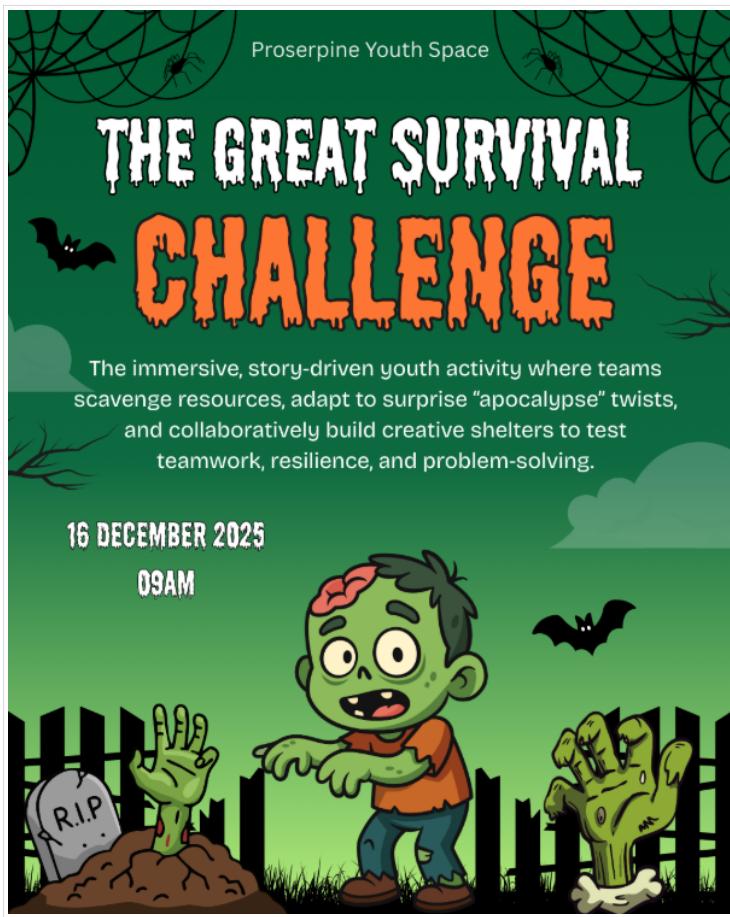
Back to school Uniform Store trading hours

https://proserpineshs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/10585/2026_back_to_school_trading_hours.pdf

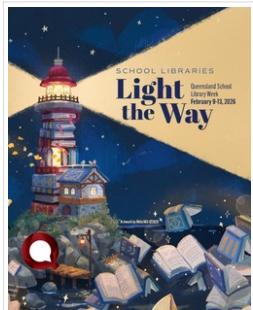
Community News

School Holiday fun at Proserpine Youth Space

https://proserpineshs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/10588/whitsundays_school_holiday_program.pdf



Queensland School Library Week competition



Queensland School Library Week (QSLW) is celebrated in February each year and provides us with an opportunity to showcase the excellent work of all qualified Teacher Librarians and library staff.

This year, our students are encouraged to produce a photo or artwork piece in the state-wide competition.

For more information about entering, click the following link -
<https://www.qsla.org.au/qslw>.

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