



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
Phone: 07 4945 0111



14th October 2025

Thursday 30th October - Year 11 Hospitality High Tea event

Friday 31st October - World Staff Day

Date Claimers

Week 2

Monday 13th - Friday 17th October - Mental Health Week

Thursday 16th October - White Card Course, Year 12 Arts Showcase Evening

Week 3

Monday 20th October - Final Year 12 whole school Parade, 2025 House Cup winner announced, Year 12 Safer Schoolies Education Session

Tuesday 21st October - Farewell Care Bears (extended Care Group), Arts Gala workshop rehearsal

Wednesday 22nd October - Year 7 & 8 assessment dates published, final Year 12 Parade, Australian Defence Force visit, P&C Association Meeting

Thursday 23rd October - Junior Volleyball Schools Cup

Friday 24th October - Junior Volleyball Schools Cup, Arts Gala Showcase evening

Week 4

Monday 27th October - Tuesday 18th November - Year 12 Assessment Block

Monday 27th October - Junior Volleyball Schools Cup, Year 10 Early Childhood daycare visit

Tuesday 28th October - NDIS FEROS Care visit, Newsletter due out

Wednesday 29th October - Junior School Parade, Whitsunday Futsal Competition

Principal Perspective

Welcome back everyone to what will be another extremely busy term ahead. My best wishes go to our Year 12 students as they enter the closing weeks of their schooling, working hard to complete their final assessment tasks and achieve their full potential.

Our students have made a positive start to the term across all year levels, which is very pleasing.

Mental Health Week



This week, we have organised a range of activities for both students and staff during Care Group and lunch breaks in recognition of Queensland Mental Health Week. The week will culminate on Friday with a live music performance by our Instrumental Music Students and

stalls hosted by our student clubs and groups.

Our initiatives align with this year's theme, "Connect for Mental Health," which emphasises fostering wellbeing through four key areas: connecting with oneself, with the community, with others, and with nature.

Connect with self: Take care of yourself, do something you enjoy, make healthy choices, and seek help when needed.

Connect with community: Create supportive and inclusive environments, look after one another, and connect with culture. Show kindness and reach out to those who may be struggling.

Connect with others: Foster relationships with loved ones, friends, family, and mob. Spend time with others and make meaningful connections.

Connect with nature: Take a break from technology, spend time outdoors, embrace mindfulness, and care for the world around you.

I look forward to seeing our students continue to engage in a range of activities this week that encourage positive mental health and the simple steps we can each take to improve our daily lives.

Attendance

I have challenged students this term to focus on improving attendance. As I have written to families earlier this year, our whole-school attendance is currently not at a level that enables students to achieve their best. Close attention needs to be placed on prioritising every day in the classroom and reducing unauthorised absences.

On the other hand, our school has recognised students and Care Groups with high attendance. We celebrated those who achieved our school target of 95% attendance and above throughout Term 3 with rewards and recognition. Our attendance policy aims to support and encourage students to reach their attendance goals across the school year.

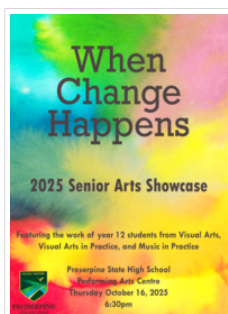
We are grateful to our school P&C Association for their generous support of these initiatives through financial contributions towards rewards for our students.

Join us this Thursday at our Senior Arts Showcase

Our talented Senior Arts students will transform our Performing Arts Centre this Thursday, 16 October, with their creative pieces on display at our annual Senior Arts Showcase.

Throughout the evening, our school community will be treated to spectacular creativity from our Visual Art, Visual Arts in Practice, and Music in Practice students. Many of the artworks will be available for purchase and we ask attendees to vote on their favourite piece in the exhibition.

We invite the community to join us in celebrating our students' incredible hard work, with the evening starting at 6:30pm. Light refreshments will be available for purchase.



Inter-School Debating Final



Proserpine State High School debaters have once again demonstrated their exceptional talent and teamwork, taking out first place in both the Junior and Senior Divisions at the final Inter-School Debating Competition last week.

Our students competed against Bowen State High School and St Catherine's Catholic College, debating a range of thought-provoking topics including artificial intelligence, reducing blood alcohol driving limits, and Australia's relationship with America. Students impressed adjudicators with their critical thinking, persuasive arguments, and confidence at the podium.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all schools for contributing to such a fantastic year of debating and thank our Teachers Ms Foot, Miss Whish and Mr Casey for their support of our students in honing their debating skills across a variety of engaging events.



Don

Mr Don McDermid
Principal

principal@proserpineshs.eq.edu.au

From Our Year Level Coordinators

Year 12 Formal tickets on sale now!

Formal tickets are on sale now at our Administration Office. Year 12 families have been emailed information regarding the price and eligibility to attend this year's Formal.

Pre-order your Formal photography today!

Tropix Photography will be our official photographer at this year's Year 12 Formal on Wednesday 19th November at the Shute Harbour Marina Terminal.

Formal photos can be pre-purchased from Tropix Photography by clicking this link.





Erin

Mrs Erin Jarred
Year 12 Coordinator
ejarr23@eq.edu.au

From Our Head of Departments

2026 Next Step Year 12 Completers survey

Year 12 students, please check that your contact details are correct in your learning account with the QCAA student portal.

In March 2026, you will receive a letter from the Minister for Education and The Arts inviting you to participate in the Next Step Year 12 Completers survey, following up on your activities after graduating. You may also receive an email or phone call from the Queensland Government Statistician's Office. Your feedback helps our school improve services for future students, and you can win a laptop for participating. For more information visit www.qld.gov.au/nextstep.



IM students set to shine on stage at Arts Gala

On Friday 24th October, our Instrumental Music students will perform at the annual Arts Gala Concert.

We are proud to host this event that showcases the immense talents of students across all three local state schools, ranging from budding young musicians in the early primary years to seasoned performers in late senior secondary.

Students will also take to the stage to perform together as part of ensemble music acts, so be sure to cheer them on!

The Arts Gala Night will be held in our Performing Arts Centre, with doors opening at 6pm for a 6:30pm start.

Snacks will be available for purchase at the door. We look forward to seeing you there!



Jenny

Mrs Jenny Napier
Head of Department
The Arts
inapi7@eq.edu.au

From Our Classrooms

Year 9 Design Tech skills put to the test

Our Year 9 Design Technologies class have started the term completing their skill testers. Students self-designed the wire mechanism and put their skills to good use making circuits, shaping acrylic and soldering parts.



Jack's parents share life and law changing story

Last week we were honoured to have Brett and Belinda Beasley, and their team of police officers, from the Jack Beasley Foundation, attend our school to present their educational program 'One Moment'.

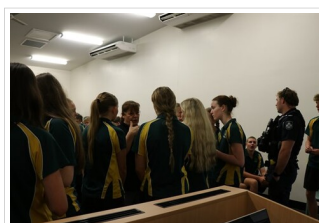


Brett and Belinda's son, Jack, was murdered in Surfers Paradise in 2019 at the age of 17 by a group of teenagers who stabbed him. Since then, Brett and Belinda, have worked tirelessly to introduce and change laws in relation to knife crime and to use their voices to raise awareness of it in our communities. Jack's Law has now been adapted in other states in Australia and is being modelled in countries overseas.

The Beasley's presence at our school will be everlasting. Their story was raw and powerful, exposing our students to real life community issues reminding them of the power our voices have in pushing for positive changes in our society.

During the program, students were also shown real-life body cam footage of weapons being found on people in public places, and they were able to test out the wands that police use in their search operations.

We look forward to welcoming the Beasley's back next year when our Legal Studies students investigate Jack's Law as part of their criminal law units.



Empowering students to make positive road choices

On Monday, our Year 11 students had the privilege of hearing from Melissa McGuinness, founder of the award-winning YOU CHOOSE – Youth Road Safety program.



YOU CHOOSE is Australia's youth-led mission to change driving culture and empower young people to make positive choices as drivers and passengers. The program, which won the Australian Road Safety Award for school programs, delivers a powerful message about accountability, responsibility, and leadership on our roads.



Melissa's story and message have reached more than 250,000 teenagers across Australia since the program's inception in 2017. Together with her husband Peter, Melissa founded YOU CHOOSE after the tragic loss of their 18-year-old son, Jordan, whose driving decisions caused the deaths of four innocent young people, including his

own. From this unimaginable tragedy, the McGuinness family has created a national movement for change.

Melissa is the 2020 Gold Coast Woman of the Year, a two-time Queensland Australian of the Year finalist (2021 and 2022), and was most recently awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the 2025 Australia Day Honours for her outstanding service to road safety and youth education.

The YOU CHOOSE presentation invited our students to deeply reflect on the connections between their intentions, choices, actions, and the people they love. Through honest storytelling and practical guidance, Melissa encouraged students to take ownership of their decisions and to look out for one another in "moments that matter."

Thank you Melissa for bravely sharing your story with us.

Sports News

Nick selected for International Tour to Brazil



Our Year 9 student Nick Philipson competed at the National School Futsal Championships in Brisbane last month. Nick made selection to compete at the event after taking part in the Regional School Futsal Titles earlier this year. Nick impressed scouts at the Futsal Championships and was selected as an All Star of the tournament and will represent

Australia on an International Tour in Brazil next year. He said it was great to be selected.

The following week Nick represented our school at the 2025 Futsal Queensland State Titles on the Gold Coast. It was the first time he has been selected to play at the State Titles that brought together more than 1000 young players from across Queensland. Nick played goalkeeper for the NQ team who placed ninth out of 10 teams.

Well done Nick!

Outside the Classroom

Leos give back through artistic community project

Our Whitsunday Leos Club members and volunteers have been donating their time and creativity over the past month to paint 'kindness' benches at the Proserpine Community Centre.

The project strengthened the bond between club members as they worked together to complete the project while having fun. We're sure the benches will be a bright new addition for visitors at the centre - be sure to pop down and try them out.

Well done to all of our Leos for giving back to this fantastic community project! Thank you to the lovely ladies at the Proserpine Community Centre for their support and hospitality towards our students, as well as Proserpine Lions Club member and Leos Advisor Jane Bettridge for her unwavering support of our students.



Students finish the Debating year on a high

Proserpine State High School debaters have once again showcased their exceptional talent and teamwork, taking out first place in both the Junior and Senior Divisions at the final Inter-school Debating Competition last Wednesday.

It was fantastic to see the excitement and camaraderie among all competitors, with strong friendships now formed between students from the three schools, Bowen State High School and St Catherine's Catholic College, building a sense of friendly rivalry that makes each competition even more engaging. We send our deepest gratitude to all schools for contributing to such a fantastic year of debating.

As the season wraps up, our students are now looking forward to our Teacher vs Student Debates that start next week and run throughout the rest of the term, and are always a crowd favourite.

Any students interested in joining our school Gavel Club are warmly invited to come along to A2 classroom on Thursdays at lunchtime to see what it's all about.



Young Researchers inspired at State Library Program



On the recent school holidays, our Teacher Lucy Schaeche-Priestley and students Tiarne Watson and Millie Groom took part in the Queensland State Library Young Researchers Program. During the week, they worked with the Schools Engagement Team at the State Library, developing their skills in inquiry-based research and touring the repository where more than three

million artefacts are stored.

Our students utilised the library's resources to research their own inquiry question reflecting every student's individual passion and exploring real historical collections and learned how to handle and analyse original materials from the John Oxley Library. Miss Schaeche-Priestley's personal favourite item was the first recipe book published in Australia. Being given the opportunity to hold these pieces of history contributed to the 'once in a lifetime' nature of this trip.

Beyond the days at the library, the group also visited the Anzac Square Memorial Gallery, the Queensland Museum, and the QUT campus, gaining valuable insights into Queensland's cultural and educational institutions. However, the best part of the trip was the after-hours events. Evenings were filled with unique experiences such as the Skylore Drone Show, Afterglow at the Botanic Gardens, and a live performance at the Brisbane Powerhouse, walking through Southbank.

The trip ended with our students sharing their presentations at the State Library, with staff, donors, and guests. This moment brought tears to the eyes of the elderly donors - Caroline and Keith Hamilton.

This program not only strengthened our students' research skills but also gave them an unforgettable opportunity to experience life as young scholars and to represent our school with pride. This trip highlighted the importance of taking every opportunity school throw at you, you never know what might change your life!



Tiarne attends function at Government House



Our Year 11 student Tiarne Watson attended the National Youth Science Forum reception at Government House during the school holidays. Tiarne had the honour of meeting the Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency Dr Jeannette Young, and Professor Graeme Nimmo, who encouraged youth, in particular women, to pursue pathways involving STEM.

Tiarne will be joined by fellow Year 11 student Danni Muller at the NYSF that will be held in Canberra in January. Thank you to the Rotary Club of Airlie Beach once again for your generous support of our students to attend the NYSF event.

Young sailors proudly represent the Whitsundays

Well done to our students Russell Harris, Connor Harris, Joshua King and Sarah Hart who competed at the Youth Sail Queensland Regatta in Yeppoon during the first week of the school holidays. The event brought together 215 competitors from across Queensland, racing in 11 different classes over three days of excellent sailing conditions.

Representing the Port Denison Sailing Club (Bowen), twins Russell and Connor Harris in Year 10 competed in the Formula Kite Foiling Class, while Joshua King, representing the Whitsunday Sailing Club, raced in the ILCA6 Laser Class, finishing in an impressive fourth place. Sarah also represented the Whitsunday Sailing Club in the Sabot Queensland State Championships and placed ninth out of 28 competitors.

The regatta served as the selection event for the Formula Kite Class for the 2025 Youth Sailing World Championships, which will be held in Portugal this December. Russell placed first in the Formula Kite Foiling Class and has been selected to represent Australia as part of the Australian Sailing Youth Team of 15, while Connor finished close behind in second place.

A huge congratulations to all three students on their exceptional performances and for proudly representing the Whitsunday region on the state and national stage!



Violet represents at nationals for baton twirling



Congratulations to our Year 7 student Violet Lemmon who proudly represented our region at the 2025 National Baton Twirling Championships in Rockhampton last weekend.

Violet competed in five individual disciplines within the junior division (ages 12–16) and achieved an impressive four podium finishes — earning three bronze medals and one silver. The event brought together more than 100 qualifying athletes from across Australia, showcasing an incredible level of talent and dedication. Well done, Violet!

Student Support Services Team

SchoolTV

SPECIAL REPORT: World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day is marked every year on October 10th as a reminder of the importance of mental health to our overall wellbeing. It is a day that encourages families, schools, workplaces and communities across the globe to start conversations, reduce stigma and highlight the support available for those who may be struggling.

Mental health challenges can affect anyone: children, teens, and adults alike. Recognising this helps us create more compassionate and supportive environments.

Parents and caregivers play a central role in shaping the mental health of their children. World Mental Health Day is an opportunity to pause and reflect on the pressures young people face in today's world and how we can best support them. Whether it's helping children find balance between school, technology, and rest; encouraging open conversations about feelings; or modelling healthy coping strategies ourselves - small steps at home can make a big difference.

By engaging with resources and discussions on this day, families can strengthen their understanding of mental health and contribute to a culture where seeking help is seen as a sign of strength, not weakness.

This Special Report highlights the importance of World Mental Health Day and offers practical suggestions for how your family can acknowledge and support it together.

Here is the link to your Special Report.



First Nations Student Opportunities

Indigenous Australian Engineering School (IAES)

Applications are now open for the Indigenous Australian Engineering School (IAES) program, hosted by UNSW Sydney Engineering between January 11th-17th, 2026. This one-week residential program is designed for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students who will be in Years 10, 11, or 12 in 2026.

Fully funded by UNSW and Engineering Aid Australia, the IAES program offers an immersive experience in engineering, including hands-on activities, insights into engineering careers, and an introduction to life on campus. Students will stay for six nights, with all travel, accommodation, and meals fully covered. In addition to the engineering experience, the program includes cultural, social, and peer activities.

Applications close: November 7, 2025 at 12:00 AM (midnight). Please apply by clicking this link.

https://proserpineshs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/10288/2026_iaes_brochure_unsw_1_.pdf

Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme

First Nations students who are looking at tertiary health studies in 2026, the Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme (PHMSS) is now open for applications. The scholarship is available to students studying across a diverse range of qualifications through vocational education and training and university.

The scholarship provides access to financial, cultural, mentoring, and other supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students studying in health, including access to up to \$15,000 per annum (full time) for the normal duration of the course. Applications are open until 30 October 2025. To apply please click this link.

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 and post-school students. Applications for the scholarship close at midnight on Friday, 12 December 2025. To apply, please click this link.

2026 TAFE Queensland Scholarship Program

The 2026 TAFE Queensland Scholarship Program is now open for applications. These are open to all students, but there are additional opportunities for First Nations students, students with a disability, carers, students from disadvantaged backgrounds and athletes. Scholarships are awarded to people looking to change their lives and build lifelong careers. Scholarships can be used to pay for study-related costs such as course fees, travel expenses, childcare, uniforms, tools, books and other study materials. For more information, please click this link.

School News

School Dental Service - Book Today!

https://proserpineshs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/10278/proserpine_school_dental_service_flyer.pdf

2025 Student Resource Scheme Fees Due

This is a friendly reminder that Student Resource Scheme fees for 2025 are currently due. These fees contribute to the provision of essential educational resources that support your child's learning throughout the school year. Failure to have an established payment plan or fees up to date may affect access to these resources.

Please contact our Accounts Receivable Officer, Tanya Chapman - tchap192@eq.edu.au should you have any queries regarding your student's account.

Relief Cleaners Required

If you are interested in becoming a relief Cleaner with Proserpine State High School please email a copy of your resume to our Business Manager Nicole Jolley - njoll4@eq.edu.au.

Relief work could include two shifts per day (hours can range from 0500 to 0900 morning work then 1430 to 1800 afternoon work). Resumes may also be dropped into the school Administration Office.

Working with Children Blue Card and a Criminal History Check must be completed BEFORE employment commences. If further information is required, please phone the school on 4945 0110.

Join us for our NDIS Feros Care Information Session

https://proserpineshs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/10134/feros_flyer_proserpine_state_high_school.pdf



Tell us about why you picked a career in Education, and what your study/training journey has been?

I chose to study Primary Education because of the time I spent helping my little sister with her homework. Being able to teach and see her understand something new lit a spark in me. I knew then that I wanted to dedicate my life to helping young people learn and grow.

The journey to completing my degree had its highs and lows, but my little sister was always at the forefront of my mind, and I was determined to complete my degree for her and my family. **Best experience since graduating at Proserpine State High School?**

Completing my fourth-year teaching placement at Doomadgee State School. I was immersed in Indigenous culture and community and the experience deeply reaffirmed my passion for teaching.



Best advice for current Year 12 students?

Follow what lights a fire in you. Don't be afraid to take time figuring it out. What matters is that you find something you're passionate about. When you do, work hard, stay focused and back yourself every step of the way.

Favourite quote? Never give up.

Community News

Nominate for the 2026 STEM Girl Power Initiative

Express your interest to your school if you are a current Year 9 student or a teacher for the 2026 STEM Girl Power Program.

Up to 60 students will experience STEM careers firsthand at the STEM Girl Power Camp in Brisbane in May 2026.

Participants will also connect with industry experts and peers from across the state throughout the year. Visit the STEM Girl Power page to find out more and start your nomination.



Where Are They Now?



Where are they now? Jack Handley

What year did you graduate? 2019

What were your favourite subjects at Proserpine State High School? English, Maths B, Biology, Physics, Graphics and Woodwork.

Favourite

Proserpine State High School memory?

All the trips to Mackay playing Schoolboys Rugby League. These were unforgettable times with great mates and teachers.

Where did life take you after you graduated?

I took a gap year and worked at a cocktail bar, which was a great experience. A year later, I began studying Education at James Cook University.

What job position are you currently in?

I'm a Year 6 Classroom Teacher at North Shore State School.



National Youth Parliament 2026: apply now



Students aged 16-17 years in August 2026 should apply online before 21 November to participate in the National Youth Parliament which brings together 150 students, each representing one of Australia's federal electorates, for an immersive five-day experience in Canberra

free of charge.

It's a unique opportunity for them to engage directly in our democracy and learn about parliamentary processes, including how bills are drafted, debated and passed into law.

Dress to impress at Whitsunday Job Fair

https://proserpineshs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/10137/wcc_i2508_whit_job_fair_a4_flyer_3_.pdf

Final Police recruiting seminar coming up

The final Police recruiting seminar will be held at the Mackay PCYC on Friday October 17 at 5:30pm for any senior students interested in a career in the Police Force.

Enjoy getting out on the water with Sailing

https://proserpineshs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/10265/wsc_learn_to_sail_flyer_a4_.pdf

Are you eligible for Saver Plus program?

https://proserpineshs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/10127/2025_participant_information_session_flyer.pdf

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