



GRAFTON PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 WEEK 4 – FRIDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2025

Address : 86 Queen Street, Grafton NSW 2460

Phone: Primary - 02 6642 1000 Infants - 02 6642 2286

Email: grafton-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Website

<https://grafton-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/GraftonPublicSchool>

Upcoming Events

25 th February	Meet and Greet Infants Campus and Primary Campus
3 rd March	Leaders Induction Ceremony and Hall Opening
11 th & 12 th March	School Photos

Meet and Greet

Parents are asked to meet under the large shelters first and will then be shown to classrooms.

Tuesday 25th February
Infants Campus 5pm till 5.30pm
Primary Campus 5.30pm till 6pm

This is a very informal occasion which gives you the chance to meet your child's teacher and see where their classroom is. Even if you can only pop in for 10 minutes, we would love to say hello. Individual parent/teacher discussions will be held later in the term.

We hope to see you there.

GPS BREAKFAST CLUB



Commencing Week 5!

Infants & Primary Campus

Every Tuesday and Thursday



The students and staff at Grafton Public School invite you to...

**The official opening
of our newly renovated hall**
Monday, 3rd March at 11.30am

The assembly will comprise of a short ribbon cutting ceremony followed by the induction of our school leaders for 2025.

All welcome!

Relieving Principal's Report

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

As we continue to embrace the new school year, I am excited to share some highlights and upcoming events.

Firstly, I want to extend my congratulations to all our students who participated in the recent GPS Competitive Swimming Carnival. It was fantastic to see our students showcase their skills and sportsmanship. A special shout out to those who achieved personal bests and made it through to the Clarence District Swimming Carnival.

We had nearly 100 students audition for positions for our junior and senior dance ensemble tryouts, which speaks volumes about the talent and enthusiasm within our school. Congratulations to all who had a go and to those who made it into the ensembles. We look forward to seeing your creativity and passion shine in the upcoming performances.

Recently, our school community participated in the 'Safe On Socials' program, which provided valuable insights into ensuring our students' safety in the digital world. The sessions were well-received by students and staff alike, emphasising the importance of responsible online behaviour and equipping our community with the tools to navigate social media safely. We believe that fostering a safe online environment is crucial for our students' well-being and we are committed to promoting positive digital citizenship.

I would also like to remind all parents about our upcoming "Meet and Greet the Teacher" session, scheduled for Tuesday, 25th February. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to connect with our teaching staff, learn more about our school and engage in meaningful conversations about your child's education. I strongly encourage all parents to attend and take part in this important event. Please note this is not a parent/teacher interview. Parent/teacher interviews will be held later in the term.

Have a great weekend!

Warm regards,
Nick Campbell
Relieving Principal

Grafton Public School P&C – Note from the President

A big welcome to 2025 on behalf of the P&C.

Our first meeting of the year was held on Tuesday, 11th February at the Infants Campus. P&C meetings are a great opportunity to learn about what's happening at Grafton Public School and to have input on how we can make our school community strong and supportive. At Tuesday's meeting we covered:

- The upcoming opening of the new school hall
- The new Berry Street Education Model being implemented by teachers
- School swimming carnival
- Staffing changes for 2025; and
- Planning for our major fundraiser of 2025 - a Trivia Night on Saturday, 14 June at GDSC
- save the date!

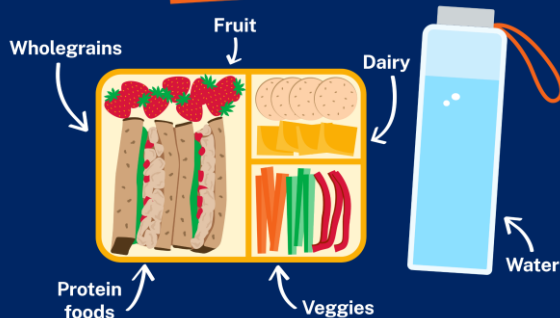
At our next meeting we'll be discussing potential school improvement projects the P&C can help fund; sourcing donations for our Easter raffle; our Trivia Night and determining a new policy for how we provide sports grants. These grants provide financial support to families of students travelling for sporting or academic events. Going forward these grants will likely be done by application - more details to come.

Please feel free to come along to the next meeting on Tuesday, 11 March at 5:30pm in the Library on the Primary Campus. Kids welcome!

Please email P&C Secretary, Bec Milligan, on gpspandcsecretary@gmail.com if you need more information.

Duncan McKimm
Grafton Public P&C President

What to pack in your child's lunchbox



Healthy Eating
Active Living



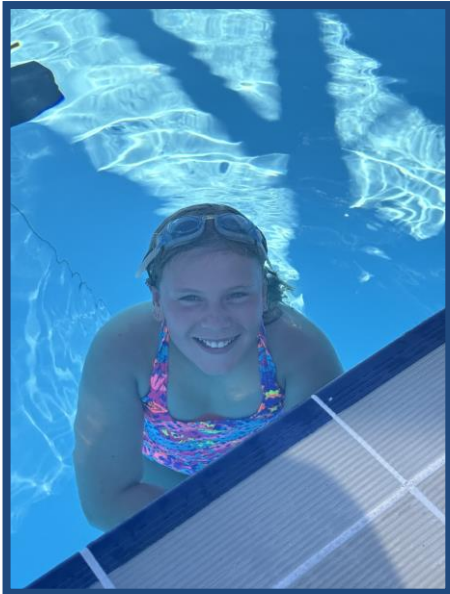
Make water their choice

Tips to help children drink more water:

- Pack a bottle of water with your child's lunch
- Take a refillable bottle of water when you go out
- Keep water in the fridge so it's easy to grab a cold drink
- Give children a water bottle when they play sport
- Serve water for everyone at mealtimes
- Show children that you enjoy drinking water



GPS SWIMMING CARNIVAL RESULTS



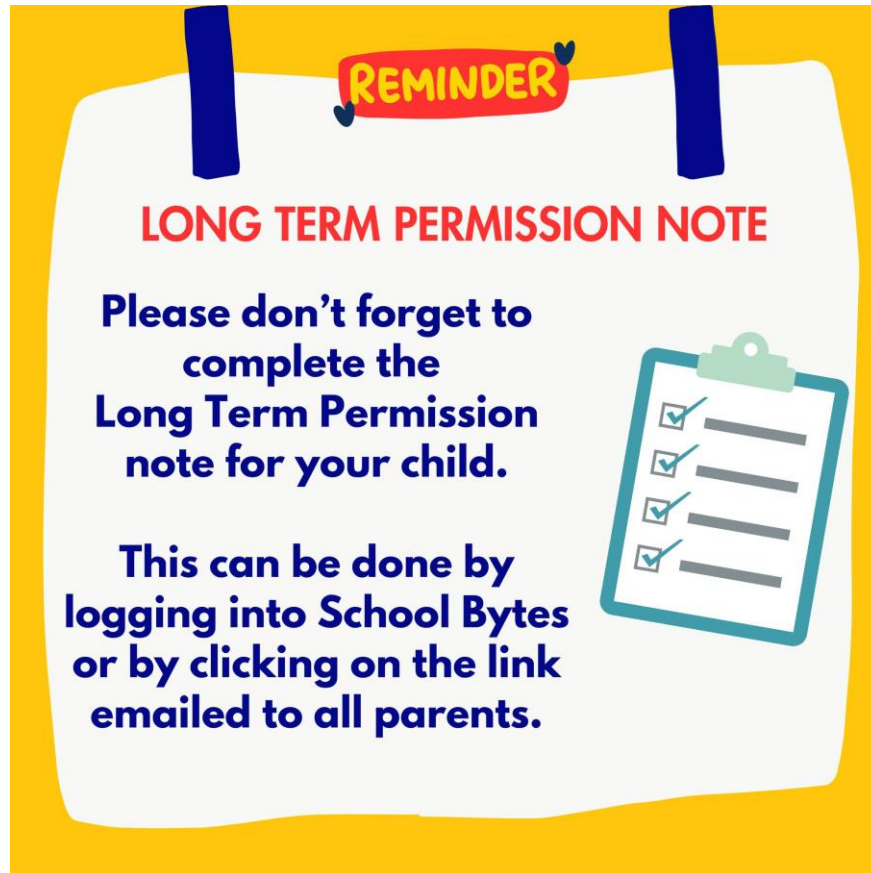
Our GPS Swimming Carnival was held on Monday for competitors only at the new Grafton Olympic Pool. What a fabulous venue, we can't wait until next year when we can take all the students down for a traditional carnival.

There were some sensational results.

Champion House: Lobban
Champion Relay House: Notaras
Junior Champions: Edie and Wyatt
11 Year Champions: Millie and Travis
Senior Champions: Elliana and Carson
MC Champion: Charlie
Swimmers of the Carnival: Elliana and Carson



Important Messages



A graphic of a white note pinned to a yellow background with two blue clips. At the top center is a red banner with the word "REMINDER" in yellow. Below it, the text "LONG TERM PERMISSION NOTE" is written in red. The main text is in blue, and there is an illustration of a clipboard with a checklist on the right side.

REMINDER

LONG TERM PERMISSION NOTE

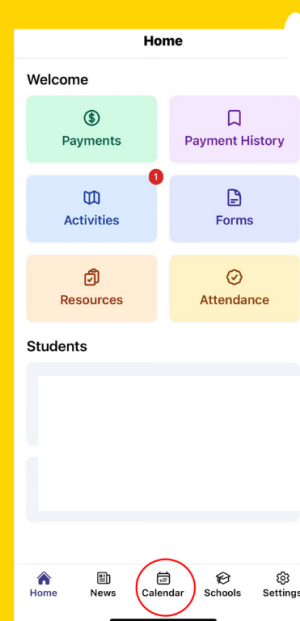
Please don't forget to complete the Long Term Permission note for your child.

This can be done by logging into School Bytes or by clicking on the link emailed to all parents.



School Bytes Update

**Please note:
Parents are able to
now access the
School Calendar on
the School Bytes
Parent Portal**



NAPLAN 2025

Attention - Parents and Carers of Year 3 and Year 5 students,

The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a point in time assessment of literacy and numeracy skills. Each year students in Years 3 and 5 participate in tests for writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

NAPLAN tests are just one part of our school learning assessment program and questions are primarily based on knowledge, understanding and skills gained from the prior year of schooling. In preparation for NAPLAN 2025, our school will undertake activities to help students to become familiar with the format and functionality of the online tests. These activities are not an assessment of student ability and will not be marked.

Students and parents can access the public demonstration site - <https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site> to familiarise themselves with NAPLAN and the types of questions and tools available. Excessive preparation for NAPLAN is not required nor recommended.

It is important to understand that this is a point in time assessment of literacy and numeracy skills and that your child's classroom teacher is assisting and supporting them in readiness for NAPLAN.

We would like to remind you that it is important that students attend school and are on time on the scheduled assessment dates unless they are suffering from illness or injury.

Students will be participating in assessments on the following dates

Wednesday 12th March Morning Session - *Writing* Year 3 and Year 5
Monday 17th March Morning Session - *Reading* Year 3 and Year 5
Tuesday 18th March Morning Session - *Conventions of Language* Year 3 and Year 5
Wednesday 19th March Morning Session *Numeracy* Year 3 and Year 5

If you have any questions regarding NAPLAN, please contact your child's classroom teacher.

Important Messages



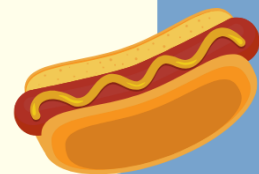
Canteen News

Our canteen is open on Wed/Thurs/Fri

Due to the change in circumstances for some of her usual helpers, Jodie, our canteen supervisor, is seeking volunteer helpers this year. If you would like to volunteer in our canteen, please give your name to the office and we will pass it on.

For the next couple of weeks until helpers get sorted, the Infants Canteen will be orders only, with no across the counter serving.

To order at our canteen, please either create an online order through quickcliq.com.au, order in person at the canteen before the morning bell (Primary) or if at Infants, please send in your order in an envelope and pop it in the letter box near the canteen counter.



Important Messages



**SCHOOL PHOTOS
TUESDAY 11TH AND
WEDNESDAY 12TH
MARCH.**

Order envelopes have arrived and will be sent home over the next couple of days.

Sibling photos will be taken before school on Tuesday 11th. Sibling order envelopes are available from the office and are handed in when the photo is taken.



**Year 5
Surf School**

26th March & 2nd April

Please log into School Bytes to advise if your child is attending and make payment by 24th March

Important Messages

PARENT HELPERS NEEDED!

INFANTS CAMPUS
YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2



We are looking for some helpers in our Year 1 and Year 2 classrooms to assist us in supporting students with reading/tricky words. We would appreciate any time parents or grandparents can give!

An Expression of Interest form has been sent home with Stage 1 students.

Please note: Helpers will need a current Working with Children Check. This process is free for volunteers.

THE STAGE 1 TEAM



YEAR 6 SHIRT ORDERS

We are now taking orders for the Year 6 shirts.

Parents and carers of Year 6 students are asked to please check School Bytes for more details on how to order and pay.



 School Bytes
Parent App



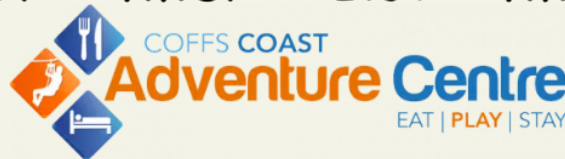
 Download on the
App Store

 GET IT ON
Google Play

2025 Year 4 Excursion

19TH MARCH - 21ST MARCH

REMINDER



- Payment is due by Friday 7th March.
- Please ensure all consent and medical forms are done online by the end of this month (link below). No paper forms are available, these must be done online.

COFFS COAST ADVENTURE CENTRE

ONLINE FORMS DUE BY
FRIDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2025

*DON'T
miss it!*

Please refer to the link to the camp portal in the latest camp email from the school or

<https://book.venue.life/ccac/register/3141-grafton-public-school-year-4-camp>





Compulsory school attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my Legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age of 17 years. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the NSW Education and Standards Authority for home schooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The Importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.

My child won't go to school what should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The NSW Department of Education recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...



More information

Further Information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's Policy Library AND The Department's Attendance Matters Website

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's Wellbeing and Learning website

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on **131 450**. You will not be charged for this service.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

GRAFTON LOCAL AECG



The 2024 Local Grafton Executive committee would like to acknowledge the tradition owners of the land which we work, live and dream.

What is the AECG?

The NSW AECG is a not for profit Aboriginal organisation that provides advice on all matters relevant to education. This advice represents the Aboriginal community viewpoint so it is essential that local voices are heard.

What do we do?

The Local Grafton AECG provides critical advice and support to school principals and their teams. All members of the community are welcome and Aboriginal adults (18 years and older) may vote and hold office bearers' positions.

How do you have a voice?

We encourage you to consider attending the Grafton Local AECG Meetings and become a member to learn more about what is happening in our schools, and to provide input and advice to support school improvement and your child's education.

General meeting

4pm 24 February 2025

South Grafton High School Library

Tyson Street, South Grafton

Please contact one of our local reps for more information or questions and/or email us on graftonlocalaecg@gmail.com

Lisa Laurie - President

Tara Chevalley - Vice President

Shonelle Pholi - Treasurer

Taya Wear - Secretary

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Tell us where safer crossings are needed to support kids walking and riding to schools in Grafton. The survey has been re-opened and gives a chance for parents to have a say. Please respond by February 24th. This survey is for parents, secondary school students and teachers going to schools in Grafton, to inform the design of future crossings. The surveys has been developed by Clarence Valley Council's consultant for this project, Sidelines Traffic. No personal information is requested.

[Link to survey](#)



Tell use where safer crossings are needed to support kids walking and riding to schools in Grafton

COMMUNITY NOTICES



Clarence Pastoral & Agricultural Society Ltd GRAFTON SHOW

Friday 9th & Saturday 10th, May 2025

Applications are now open for the 2025 Young Woman and Associated Competitions

Applications can be downloaded from our website:
www.graftonshow.com.au

Categories are:

Young Woman – 18 years to less than 26 years as of 1 May in the year of the State Final to be held at the Sydney Royal Easter Show in early April.

Junior Showgirl – 13 to 17 years of age.

Tween Showgirl – 8 to 12 years of age.

Man of the Land – 18 to 26 years of age.

Junior Man of the Land – 13 to 17 years of age.

Boy of the Barn – 8 to 12 years of age.



Applications Close 5pm Thursday 17th April 2025

Completed applications can be emailed to secretary@graftonshow.com.au or handed personally to the Show Secretary during Office Hours on Wednesday and Friday, 9.30 am to 2.30 pm.

For further information contact the Show Secretary on 66 4222 40 or 0482 176 587

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Grafton Hockey Association

COME AND TRY HOCKEY

FREE!

FUN



FITNESS



FRIENDS

4 WEEK PROGRAM

5-12 YEARS OLDS

WEDNESDAY 5:30PM-6:30PM

STARTING 19TH OF FEBRUARY TO 12TH MARCH

GHA
Inc.

Grafton Hockey Association

FREE!

COME AND TRY HOCKEY SESSIONS

If your child is new to hockey - COME AND TRY

If your child has played before - COME AND TRY

Shinpads and sticks are provided if needed

Mouthguards are required

ALL SKILL LEVELS WELCOME IN A FAMILY
FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

GHA
Inc.

FURTHER DETAILS: 0408 379 103

COMMUNITY NOTICES



Barbarians Hockey Club

Barbarians Hockey Club are looking for players for the upcoming season.

Age Groups are: Under **12s**, Under **14s** & Under **17s**.

All players welcome.

For more information, please contact **Rhonda Ryder** on **0407277308**.

OFFICIAL

COMMUNITY NOTICES

WELCOME

Junior Girls and Boys
Senior Women's and
Men's



SAILORS NEW AND EXISTING PLAYERS

WHETHER YOU'RE PICKING UP A STICK FOR THE FIRST TIME OR LOOKING FOR A COMPETITIVE TEAM, SAILORS HOCKEY CLUB HAS A PLACE FOR YOU. COME BE PART OF OUR AMAZING HOCKEY FAMILY IN 2025!



Call Sean 0481 192 179

sailorshockeygrafton@gmail.com

S&S Netball Club 2025

S&S Netball Club is a friendly, family-focused club where everyone is welcome, no matter your age or skill level. Whether you're just starting out or have been playing for years, we make sure everyone feels supported and part of the team. Come join us and be a part of our fun, welcoming community!

**Start Date -
5th April 2025**

**Age Groups -
8 to 10 years
11 to 12 years
Junior
Competition
Senior
Competition**



Registration
Link!

**Contact
INFO:**

Email: sands.netball@gmail.com

Phone: Bianca - 0411 266 968 Zaly - 0409 799 813

Facebook Page: S&S Netball Club

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Grafton Tigers AFL Club

JUNIOR TRAINING & SIGN UP DAY



Join us in 2025
Thursday 27th February
5PM

At the CRJC carpark
(opposite TEN PIN Bowling)

Teams we are looking to field this year

- UNDER 10s MIXED
- UNDER 12S MIXED
- UNDER 13S GIRLS
- UNDER 14S BOYS

A FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE WILL FOLLOW TRAINING.

<https://www.playhq.com/afl/register/d48680>

For more info contact Kel on 0401 508 694

Join our
football club!

COMMUNITY NOTICES

COME & TRY JUNIOR RUGBY



**THURSDAY 20TH &
THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY**

5.15PM - 6PM

@ HAY ST RUGBY FIELDS



**AGES 6 & UP WELCOME
TO COME ALONG & TRY SOME
RUGBY SKILLS
THEN COOL OFF WITH A
ZOOPEE DOOPER**



**THERE WILL BE COMMITTEE MEMBERS
ON HAND TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS**



**REDMEN RUGBY
SINCE 1969**

COMMUNITY NOTICES



SUMMER TOUCH FOOTBALL

RUSHFORTH PARK

**SENIORS
MEN'S &
WOMEN'S**

When: Term 1, 2025

Start: Monday 3rd February

Where: Rushforth Park, South Grafton

How Much: GTA reduced registration

What's Covered:

- Round games and final
- Sportscover
- Clubhouse facilities
- Same fields every week

JUNIORS

Boys Yr 3/4

Boys Yr 5/6

Girls Primary



Register NOW

grafton.nswtouch.com.au/local/summer

COMMUNITY NOTICES

CONNECT KIDS

Connect Kids Club is a FREE after-school program for kids in K-6

Tuesdays • 3:30pm - 5pm
(during school term)

@ Connect Church Hall, Wharf St, South Grafton

games • food • craft • faith • fun

For more info, contact ...
Sonya O'Hara - 0416 212 534

• connectsgpc.org.au •



Get Active with Scouts!

Scouts welcomes children and young people from Kindy to Year 12, offering a safe and supportive environment where your child can make new friends, learn life skills and embark on new adventures!

Your local Scout Group is:

GRAFTON SCOUT GROUP

North St (Past MI Organics)

For more information visit

www.graftonscoutgroup.com.au

Or Email

brian.gallaher@nsw.scouts.com.au

5 to 11 Years Monday nights 5:30 to 7:00pm

11 to 17 Years Wednesday nights 6:00 to 8:00pm

COMMUNITY NOTICES



Share your world

Become a foster carer

It's the little things that matter most – like having a safe place to call home, someone you can smile with and the right support.

You can make an extraordinary difference in the life of a young person by sharing those ordinary, everyday moments.

We are looking for compassionate individuals, couples and families to become foster carers to provide a safe and supportive home for vulnerable children and young people. We'll support you 24/7 and provide all the training you need.

If you have a spare bedroom and time to share, we'd love to hear from you. Contact us today and be the positive change in a child's life!

1300 592 227

lwb.org.au/foster-care

**LIFE
WITHOUT
BARRIERS**



BreastScreen
NSW

Book your free
breast screen in

Grafton

August –
December 2024



In proud partnership with

Call 13 20 50

**Clarence Valley
Imaging**

137 Fitzroy Street

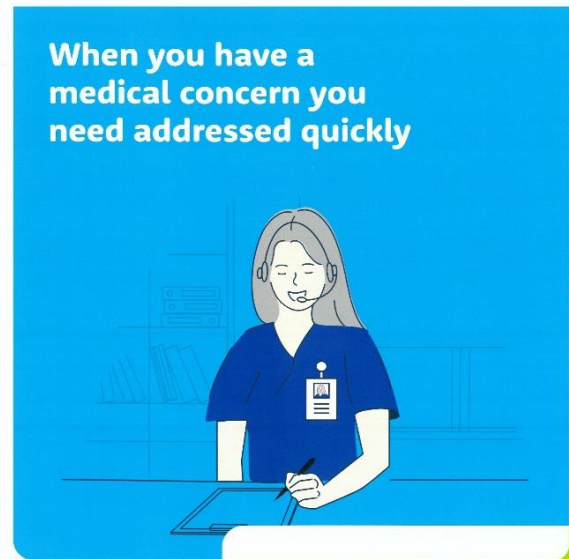
The recommended breast screening age for women is 50-74 years.
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are recommended to screen from age 40.

Book your free breast screen online at book.breastscreen.nsw.gov.au or call 13 20 50.



Artwork by Jaenerie Sarrin, 2022. BRS-0303-12.23 | BRS-0303-12.23

When you have a
medical concern you
need addressed quickly



Ask a nurse first

1800 198 888

Start a live chat
northcoasthealthconnect.org.au

Don't waste time waiting to be seen, let our registered nurses help you now. Our service is available 24/7 and we can connect you to a GP or pharmacist with a face-to-face or virtual appointment if needed.

Scan this code to easily add our phone number to your contacts

North Coast Health Connect is funded by Health North Coast through the North Coast PHN program and delivered by Aesop Health.

**North Coast
HEALTH
CONNECT**

**HEALTHY
NORTH COAST** phn