



COWELL
AREA
SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2026

NEWSLETTER

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DATES TO REMEMBER

TERM 3

WEEK 7

PAT Testing begins

PATC Block Week

3/9 - 7-10 Table Tennis, Pt Lincoln

4/9 - SAPSASA Track & Field

WEEK 8

PATC Block Week Multi Trades

7/9 - Dental Patrol Visits

8/9 - 9-10 Basketball, Pt Lincoln

10/9 - RU OK? Day

10/9 - Yr 10 Squash, Arno Bay

WEEK 9

Cert II Aquaculture Course

15/9 - MTA

18/9 - 11/12 Churros & Milkshake
Fundraiser

WEEK 10

Yr 10 Work Experience

25/9 - Last day of Term 3, school
finishes 2:20pm



PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

What a mixed bag of weather we have had over the last couple of weeks, with it starting to warm up.

Commiserations to the football and netball teams that lost on the weekend, but good luck to the netball teams that play in the Grand Finals this week at Rudall.

Last week we celebrated Book Week and SSO Week. Well done to all students who dressed up and participated in the parade. There were some very creative dress ups. Congratulations to the SRC for running the Movie Night last Friday, they did a great job running and organising the event.

Celebrating the Role of SSOs

Last week we formally recognised and valued the indispensable role our School Services Officers (SSOs) play in supporting every aspect of school life. Our SSOs are at the heart of our operations, working tirelessly behind the scenes and alongside staff, students, and families to ensure our school runs smoothly and students can thrive.

Supporting Teaching and Learning

SSOs provide vital assistance in the classroom, supporting teachers in delivering quality learning experiences. Whether helping to prepare resources, working with small groups of students, or providing targeted intervention and support, their contribution enhances the educational opportunities for all students.

Enabling a Positive School Environment

Beyond classrooms, SSOs are instrumental in creating an organised, welcoming, and inclusive environment. From managing school administration, maintaining records, assisting with enrolments and



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

Striving to prepare students for success at and beyond school by providing authentic learning opportunities that build their capacity to be responsible global citizens



PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

providing a friendly first point of contact in the front office, SSOs help ensure our school community feels connected and supported.

Helping Students Succeed

Many SSOs work one-on-one or in small groups with students who benefit from additional learning support. Through their patience, encouragement, and commitment, they help students grow in confidence, build new skills, and achieve personal goals.

A Team Effort

The work of our SSOs extends well beyond titles or job descriptions—they are problem solvers, caretakers, organisers, and trusted adults for our students. Our SSOs demonstrate daily commitment to our school values and contribute greatly to our positive culture.

On behalf of the staff, students and families at Cowell Area School, we thank our SSOs for their dedication and positive impact. Our school community would not be the same without you!



Wellbeing at the Core: Supporting Cognitive Engagement, Resilience and Persistence at Cowell Area School

At Cowell Area School, we recognise that student wellbeing is fundamental to success in learning and thriving at school. The Area of Impact of wellbeing is not just a priority—it underpins every aspect of our approach to teaching and learning.

Wellbeing as the Foundation

When students feel safe, supported and connected, they are more likely to engage actively with their learning and develop the skills required for lifelong success. Our school prioritises a positive culture where every student feels valued and encouraged.

Cognitive Engagement

Promoting deep thinking and authentic engagement is at the heart of our teaching practice. Teachers design learning experiences that spark curiosity, encourage problem-solving, and invite students to explore new concepts. We encourage students to take an active role in their learning, offering opportunities to choose tasks that align with their interests and abilities.

Building Resilience

At Cowell Area School, we help students develop resilience by guiding them through challenges and setbacks. We teach strategies for managing stress, persisting in the face of difficulty, and viewing mistakes as opportunities to learn. Resilience is built through supporting one another and recognising that learning is a journey that sometimes includes obstacles.

Persistence in Practice

Persistence is the determination to keep going, even when tasks are challenging. We support our students by breaking tasks into manageable steps, celebrating progress, and providing constructive feedback. This approach helps students to stay motivated and develop the confidence to tackle new and complex challenges.

As a community, we are proud of our focus on wellbeing, cognitive engagement, resilience, and persistence. Working together, we will continue to nurture confident, capable learners who are prepared for the future.





PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Understanding PAT Testing: Supporting Student Growth at Cowell Area School

We are committed to providing every student with the opportunity to achieve their personal best. One important tool that supports our commitment to quality teaching and learning is PAT (Progressive Achievement Tests) testing.

What is PAT Testing?

PAT tests are standardised online assessments designed to measure students' skills and understanding in areas such as reading comprehension and mathematics. These tests are carefully developed to provide consistent and reliable information about students' progress over time.

Why is PAT Testing Important?

PAT testing helps teachers gain valuable insights into each student's strengths and areas for growth. With this data, teachers can tailor their teaching to better meet the individual needs of their students. This means students receive the right level of challenge and support to help them move forward in their learning.

How does PAT Support Teaching and Learning?

- **Informs Planning:** Teachers use PAT results alongside classroom assessments to plan lessons and interventions.
- **Tracks Progress:** PAT data allows us to monitor learning growth from year to year, celebrating improvements and identifying where extra support is needed.
- **Empowers Students:** Sharing results with students empowers them to set goals for improvement and take ownership of their learning journey.

A Tool for Conversations

PAT data is also a great starting point for conversations between teachers, students, and families. It helps everyone understand how students are progressing and where they might need additional help or extension.

Our Commitment to Improvement

At Cowell Area School, we use PAT testing as just one part of our comprehensive assessment approach. We believe in looking at the whole child and celebrate all types of growth and achievement.

If you have any questions about PAT testing or would like to discuss your child's progress, please contact your child's teacher or our school office.

Stephenie Herbert,
PRINCIPAL



Corbin made a chainmail vest out of ring pulls from cans. He started making the vest at home and then brought it into Art class, showing his classmates how to chainmail. He also taught the Year 2/3 class about something he loves, before strutting his stuff and winning second place for the Peoples Choice at Artyculture at the recent Eyre Peninsula Field Days. Well done Corbin!





SCHOOL NEWS



DECLAN Crabb

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Constable Declan Crabb attended Cowell Area School from Reception to Year 12 and graduated in 2019.

He graduated into a traineeship in Business Administration with the District Council for Franklin Harbour, moved on to work for the family business as an administrator, but had always dreamed of being a police officer. Despite being knocked back on his first application in this highly competitive and sought-after training program, Declan persevered and was called back to join the force in 2022.

He completed a nine month training course at the Fort Largs Police Academy and his first posting was Whyalla.

Today, he is a familiar face in Cowell as an extension of his work from Whyalla.

"My advice to students is to keep trying. If you're told you won't be successful don't get disheartened. You define your own success, and with hard work and resilience you can always find a way."

If you would like to tell us 'Where are they now?' - please email a recent photograph of your profiled person at work to Kylie.McFarlane536@schools.sa.edu.au including the following information: name, career and current role, time at Cowell Area School, school to employment pathway and one piece of advice for students at Cowell Area School.

COMING SOON

On-site dental care for students during school hours.

What's included?

- ✓ Dental check-up
- ✓ Preventive oral health treatment
- ✓ Oral health education
- ✓ Report provided to parents/guardians



DENTAL PATROL

CONSENT REQUIRED

Scan the Code to fill the online consent form



OR

Prefer a paper form?
Hard copy consent forms have been sent home and can be returned to the school office.

Cowell School/Community Swimming Pool

Annual General Meeting

Will be held Thursday 10th September

3:45pm in the Library

All welcome

Enquiries to Kylie McFarlane at the school 86292150



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

RILEY BARRETT



Riley Barrett began at Cowell Area School in Year 2 and is now completing Year 12. His favourite subjects have always been History and Science and he is now working towards an education degree.

Riley has had a long-standing leadership role in the school as a member of the SRC throughout middle school and high school and was on the Exec team as treasurer in 2025, choosing to step down in 2026 to concentrate on his studies.

“While a lot of my friends chose a trade pathway and took on school-based-apprenticeships in Year 12, I knew that I wanted to complete Year 12 and go to university to become a teacher,” he said.

“There are so many options for us to consider coming out of school that it’s hard to commit to one thing, it can feel like you’re limiting yourself and cutting off other opportunities. But if you’re feeling that way, I suggest you talk to as many people as you can. Get the perspectives of people who have experience or are in your industry you’re interested in.”

Riley has enjoyed learning and living in Cowell.

“The best thing about Cowell Area School is the community - I’ve felt supported. Living in a small town means everyone knows everyone, most people are friendly, and that has made my schooling positive. I think, because of that, people have been able to give me better advice because they’ve had similar experiences.”

While Riley has enjoyed his learning experiences, sports days and camps are some of his favourite memories.

“Those things help to build that community and I loved the good memories. The camps can be a refreshing break from the classroom, but they also gave me lots of insights into future prospects. Sports Day and Swimming Carnival are a day where you can show your leadership skills and cooperation, working with a team, which I like, trying to help everyone out and making sure everyone has a great day.”

Riley’s decision to do an ATAR course and become a teacher came late in his pathways planning, and he had to make some tough decisions along the way. He picked up new subjects, including Biology, and chose to do a Maths at the Year 12 level, along with the compulsory AIF, Health & PE and Food & Hospitality.

“For anyone coming into Year 12, I think about advice I was given by one of my Year 12s, Connor; Teachers are just there to help you, and if you are nice and show them respect they’ll show you respect back. It makes everyone’s life easier and it’s just the right thing to do.”

Looking forward 10 years, Riley plans to be teaching in country schools.

“I’ll be a teacher working in high schools, helping kids have a positive school experience and make sure they can get the most out of their time there.

He wants to be remembered for being a kind and funny person who treated people with respect.



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ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP CONVENTION



In Adelaide we went to a citizenship convention with other schools from the state. We learnt about democracy and what it takes to be an active citizen along with how the voting system works. We had to put ourselves in different situations where our voices are important to what happens within the community. We were given a scenario of a company wanting to expand their factory and had to look at the different points of view and voices of the town to help guide our decision on whether this development should go ahead or not. – Shelby

Hosted by Tony Armstrong, students experienced a dynamic and interactive program featuring:

- presentations on democracy, youth voice and civic participation
- interactive sessions exploring AI, misinformation and disinformation, and how to navigate today's information landscape
- youth-led workshops focusing on respectful dialogue, collaboration and deliberative decision-making through scenario-based activities
- the opportunity to vote in an election experience supported by the Electoral Commission of South Australia, using a formal preferential ballot
- Lunch with Legends and Leaders, where students connected with inspiring Australians from politics, media, the arts, sport and community life



Highlights and Experiences:

- Going on a plane for the first time
- 'Beating the Buffet' – the trick is (apparently) to alternate between main and dessert courses
- Morning walk through the Botanic Gardens
- Going to Adelaide Oval
- Talking to Lucy Hood MP about issues facing rural Australians
- Thinking about what we would change if we were Prime Minister
- Listening to Young South Australian of the Year: Amber Brock-Fabel – Founder, South Australian Youth Forum



In Adelaide, we went to the all-you-can-eat buffet, and we beat the buffet. The next day, we went to the active citizenship program, where I learned what it means to be an active citizen and met some new people from schools and businesses around Australia. We had a good time at Adelaide Oval. – Kalan



Through the Convention, young people will engage in learning to...

Increase trust, hope and active participation in democracy



Build confidence to navigate disinformation and misinformation



Develop a deeper understanding of democratic processes

Year 2/3 Class

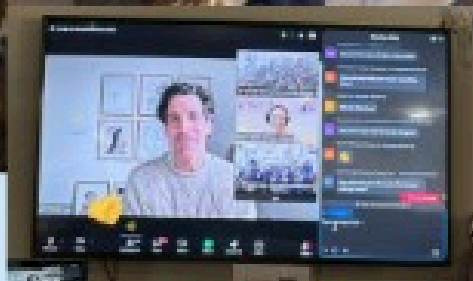
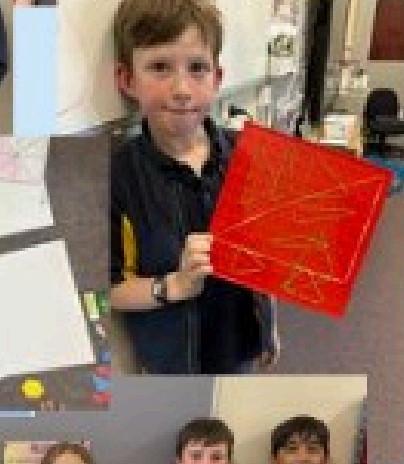
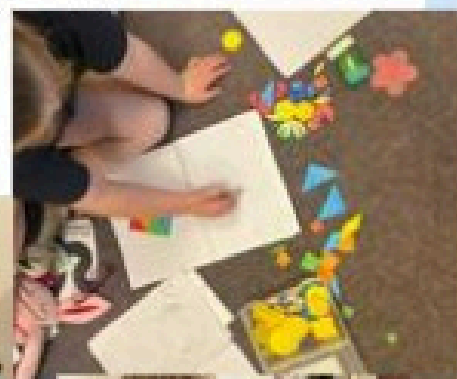
The year 2/3 class have had a very busy Term 3!

Last week we were lucky to attend author talks from Andy Lee and Matt Stanton as part of book week celebrations. Students learnt what inspired them to create their stories and illustrations.

In mathematics we have been exploring 2D and 3D shapes. We explored the properties of these shapes through a variety of hands on learning experiences including combining shapes to make new shapes, making 3D nets and going on a shape hunt.

In science we have been learning about the difference between living, non-living and once living things. We explored these concepts through a field walk and an investigation to determine if seeds are living or not.

Tayla Ames
Year 2/3 Teacher



Dental Assistant Traineeships

Earn While You Learn

Dear Schools

SA Dental is offering multiple 12-month dental assistant traineeships across the state commencing in January 2027. **Applications are open now and close Sunday 13 September 2026.**

The 12-month Traineeship contract includes on the job training in a SA Dental Clinic and attendance at TAFE where you will gain a Certificate 3 in Dental Assisting, whilst earning a salary.

These traineeships play a major role in developing quality Dental Assistants for the future oral health workforce – please note, these are not school-based traineeships.

For more information on the Dental Assistant Traineeship please visit:

www.dental.sa.gov.au/about/careers/dental-assistant-traineeships

Thank you in advance for sharing our traineeship information with your community.

SA Dental offers paid Dental Assistant Traineeships at our clinics across SA. Giving you the opportunity to earn while you learn, build real skills, and be part of a team improving the oral health of SA communities.

The traineeship program runs twice a year with applications opening January and July.



Discover traineeship details
and eligibility + more here

✉ Health.SADentalRecruitment@sa.gov.au



FUNDRAISING

CAS Year 11/12

CHURROS And MILKSHAKES



Term 3
Week 9
Friday
At Recess

ORDER
FORMS TO BE
GIVEN OUT

1 CHURRO = \$2
4 CHURROS = \$7

SMALL MILKSHAKE = \$1.50
LARGE MILKSHAKE = \$3

AQUACULTURE COME & TRY DAY

Cowell Area School hosted a Come 'n' Try Day for the Certificate II in Aquaculture, inviting students from 7-10 to learn more about the school's partnership with TAFE SA and potential pathways in marine sciences.

Students from Cowell Area School and Whyalla Secondary College visited the Yumbah hatchery for a tour of the facilities with kingfish manager Francis Maguire, learning about the feeding, care and harvesting of kingfish in our own region.

The group then returned for a tour of the CAS facility with our own aquaculture manager Darren Fisher, and a course introduction with Brent Smith from TAFE. For some students, this was an obvious extension of their existing interests. Year 8 McKenna Arnold plans to study marine biology in the future and was keen to visit the Arno Bay hatchery for some first-hand experience.

"The visit has helped me identify opportunity along the way to become a marine scientist," she said. "I loved seeing all the little details that go into keeping the hatchery running. It definitely confirmed my interest in this field."

In contrast, Year 7 student Matthew Miklavec is still looking to identify a pathway and is now feeling 'excited' about opportunities in the field of aquaculture.

Year 9 Eli Henderson has always had a huge love of marine animals and environments and was excited to learn that he can begin his vocational training in Year 11 at Cowell Area School.

Cowell Area School is committed to giving students an early introduction to a range of career opportunities which we believe is an important foundation for future pathways choices and learning opportunities.

Applications are now open for the Certificate II in Aquaculture for Year 11 and 12 students in 2027. To learn more about the program please chat to Seonje Robst-Provis or Darren Fisher.



Tom Venning, MP
COWELL AREA SCHOOL COMMUNITY AWARD
Nomination Form 2026

Award details:

This award is open to staff, parents or community members who have 'gone the extra mile' dedicating and volunteering their time and skills for our school.

Nomination:

I, _____ would like to nominate _____ for
the Tom Venning MP Cowell Area School Community Award.

Brief description how the nominee has shown dedication and service to Cowell Area School:

Signed: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Please return this nomination from to Cowell Area School, 42 Story Road Cowell SA 5602
or Fax to 86292486 or email Kylie.McFarlane536@schools.sa.edu.au

By 4pm on Friday 11th September 2026



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LIBRARY NEWS

NEW RELEASES



Men's Mental Health Matters

Thursday 10th September

Join us at the Commercial Hotel for a great night. Enjoy dinner and hear from special guest speaker Marc Ryan, aka "The Beautiful Bogan", as he shares his story with his trademark honesty, humour and straight-talking style. Come along, enjoy a free meal, have a laugh and hear a story that might just make a difference.

Cowell Commercial Hotel
Main Street, Cowell

Dinner from 5pm to 7pm
Show starts at 7.15pm

Tickets include dinner -
Either Schnitzel or Cheese
Burger



This event is brought to you with the funding supporting of an Algal Bloom Mental Wellbeing Grant, provided by Preventative Health SA.

This is a free event.

RSVP is essential for catering.
Tickets available from the Council and the Library, or book via the QR code.



WHAT'S ON



Armchair Yoga

Every **Tuesday at 11am** with Lynda Turner on the big TV. \$10 per session.



Frustrated by technology?
Need help with your phone or laptop?
Don't know how to spot a scam email?



Help is here!

Book in for a one on one
with us. Appointments
available every
Wednesday morning.



Libraries
SA

Contact the library on
8629 2320 to book in.

Community Connect Crochet & Knitting

The library will be working with the local 'Yarnaholics' to assemble 20x20cm knitted squares to assist with a Community Christmas Project.
Beginner/skilled, knitters/crocheters welcome.
Wool supplied, welcome to bring your own needles.



Thursday 24th September - 10am



Introduction to CANVA

Wed 16th September @ 10:30am



Canva is a simple, easy-to-use online design tool. You can create posters, invitations, presentations, greeting cards, social media posts and much more — no design experience needed!



Storytime & Baby Bounce



Special event- Tuesday Sept 8th 9:45am

"Symphony of Stories" Rave Party

Wear your favourite colour to celebrate!

LIBRARY NEWS

SYMPHONY OF
STORIES

BOOK WEEK
2026

