

Clippings

Newsletter for Treetops



UPCOMING DATES

EDITION 163

9th December - 30th January

School Holidays

Monday 16th January

School Office Re-opens

Tuesday 31st January

First Day of Term 1 for Students



From the Principal

Dear Treetops Community,

At Treetops we have very little staff turnover, so it is unusual for me to communicate changes for next year.

- Emma Moore, who teaches from Children's House to Year 10, is taking a one-year leave of absence.
- Towards the middle of Term 2 our Karri teacher, Katie Simpson, will be leaving Treetops to undertake a two-year Montessori Masters course in Spain.

Planning for these changes in staffing has been an interesting exercise, especially for Emma who has such a complicated teaching role. I am pleased to announce that we have two new teachers joining us next year:

- Caitlin Morey will be joining us as our new Marri (Year 3/4) teacher and will also be working one day a week in Children's House. Caitlin will be supported in Marri by Daniel Beebe who will cover the class whilst she is in Children's House. Hylton Hayes, our current Marri teacher, will be team-teaching with Katie Simpson in Karri, becoming the class teacher during Term 1. Hylton will also be delivering enquiry-based learning opportunities for students in Year 7 through to 10. As Hylton transitions to being the Karri teacher, Katie Simpson will become increasingly involved in delivering our Primary learning enrichment programmes.
- Selene Van Der Steen will be joining us as a Secondary teacher and will be teaching Years 7 to 10 Health, Physical Education, and Technologies (Digital).

Caitlin and Selene bring a host of new capacities to Treetops, and we are looking forward to working with them in 2023.

Over the break we will be completing some maintenance works, some of which are interesting and others much less so. The Children's House playground will be significantly upgraded, and our basketball 'court' resurfaced. Less interestingly, our lower ATU unit (sewerage system) will be replaced with a higher capacity and more robust unit.

I would like to thank you all for your support in what has been a very successful year for Treetops. I hope you have a lovely Christmas and enjoy time together as families.

Stuart Harris



School Holiday Office Hours

Monday 12th December - Friday 16th December
Open 9am - 3pm

Monday 19th December - Friday 13th January
Closed

Monday 16th January - Monday 30th January
Open 9am - 3pm

Should you need to contact us during the period that we are closed, please email office@treetops.wa.edu.au and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Secondary School



Year 12 Graduates

Taylor

As our only International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) candidate, Taylor has shown some incredible tenacity and perseverance through challenges over these past two years. Taylor is an intelligent, compassionate young adult who will no doubt achieve the goals she has set for herself.

Since arriving at Treetops in Year 6, Taylor has always set extremely high standards for herself, notably the completion of the Diploma Programme.

Taylor has been able to pursue these interests and develop her organisational skills further as part of the CAS programme.

This requirement as part of the IBDP is 150 hours of creativity, activity and service hours. She has completed many projects including a photography portfolio, bush-walking routine, and various other community events. Her most comprehensive project was leading a group of students in a weeding and rehabilitation project in the Darlington area.

After a year “off” in which Taylor will be enjoying supporting and caring for a recent new arrival to the family, Taylor will be pursuing further education in the Film industry. Part of what led Taylor to considering this pathway was the fact that Taylor was our first candidate to take Film as the Group 6 (Arts) course online. She always received exemplary feedback from her instructor and even completed her Extended Essay, “To What Extent is Gender Fairly Represented in Contemporary Film Making?” in the subject.

Taylor’s exam result will be out in January and, on behalf of all the teachers and staff, we wish you the best of luck.



Emily

Emily joined us at Treetops in Year 4 and has grown so much during her time at Treetops. Her friendly, down to Earth nature and her overall kindness has always shone though. Her magnetic personality (much like the magnets she stuck to the High School ceilings) allows her to work alongside anyone.

As her Science teacher, for many of the past years I was always amazed by both her interest and enthusiasm in the environment around her. She was willing to get her hands dirty as well as to help those around her take part as well. She seemed to really want to understand how the world works and how to make it a better place for all its inhabitants (not just people!)

Across many subjects she often demonstrated her “stick-with-it-ness”, as in the completion of finishing Maths homework sets or sticking through early drafts of Art projects to a fully realised piece of art.

As part of her completion of the WACE General Studies Programme, she undertook a certificate in Equestrian Studies, or as we affectionately referred to it as, the endorsed horse course. For many years, Emily and her love of horses was so clearly linked, including her being a mother to a homeless calf.

Emily is currently working as a barista as she saves up to travel as soon as she can.



Georgia

Georgia, our newbie, joined us for Semester 2 of Year 11. Although a relatively short time with us at Treetops, she has most definitely left her mark on the school, including some post-its still floating around the Principal’s office.

You are an inquisitive and independent student who thrives on challenges. When you set your mind to a task, like a tough Maths problem, you thrive. It’s never easy to find yourself in a new environment, and you have shown strength through many obstacles over the past 18 months. Georgia, you have a strong determination to achieve your goals and we wish you every success in your future career.



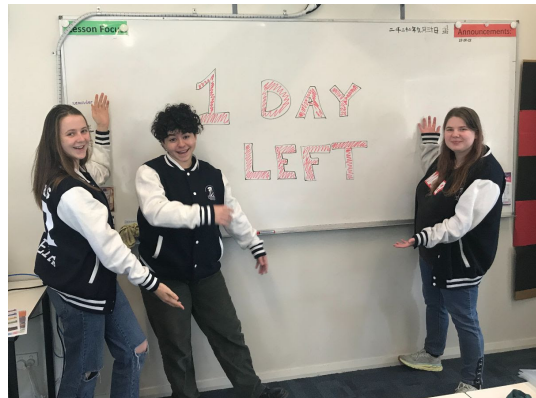
Rachel

Rachel, our prolific writer, has been at Treetops since Year 3. She has an incredible attention to detail and a dry humour that always kept us on our toes. She is both extremely logical and incredibly creative. She has created the most interesting and well-developed characters and narratives, and seems to have no end of ideas. Seemingly even more ideas than all the origami butterflies once fluttering around in our Wandoo classroom.

Rachel has set some lofty goals for herself and is steadfast in their completion. Her confidence in her depth of knowledge will certainly be of great benefit in her future life. Rachel's thoughtful nature and ability to look at the big picture has left her well-respected amongst her peers. Rachel plans to continue her writing. All the best Rachel.



Congratulations to you all on completing your Secondary education here at Treetops. Hopefully we have helped in preparing you as an individual. Now go on and make your "world of difference". Kim Steimer



Years 9-11 Camp

On the first day of camp we went to AQWA, the first thing we did was go scuba diving in a tank full of fish, stingrays and sharks. Everyone ended up giving it a go, no matter how nervous they were. On the second day we had a speaker from Zero2Hero, an organization that focuses on youth mental health. We discussed the four types of mind; the doer, thinker, socialiser and relator, and how they relate to each other which was very interesting. We also got a chance to swim in the ocean! On the final day we did archery and kayaking. The archery was very fun as it was slightly competitive however everyone was really supportive even if you weren't the best so it was really enjoyable.

Marek, Year 11 Student





Years 6-8 Camp

What a fun camp! Some highlights included charades, catapult-building, spotlight, swimming in the dam, and of course abseiling (Year 7&8). On the last day we completed a short reflection and here are some student comments/advice:

- "Go to camp, it's fun!" - Jules
- "My favourite thing was before going to bed everyone was laughing" - April
- "It's good, relaxing and a 3-day holiday with friends" - Phoenix
- "I had a lot of fun and tried lots of new things. I learnt things I didn't know." - Rhian
- "My favourite part of camp was walking in the bush and having fun with my friends" - Livia
- Advice: "Listen to older students' ideas" - Izzy R
- "We worked well together in the team-building activity and I was proud of that." - Grace
- "Do the crate-climb, it's worth it!" - Monique
- "The food was really good and the dorms were a happy, comforting, homey place" - unknown
- "If you face your fears, succeeding or not it still counts as bravery." - Juan
- "I did the vertical climb and faced my fear of heights" - Izzy M

Kim, Paul, Mary, Emma and Stimothy (camp pet rock)



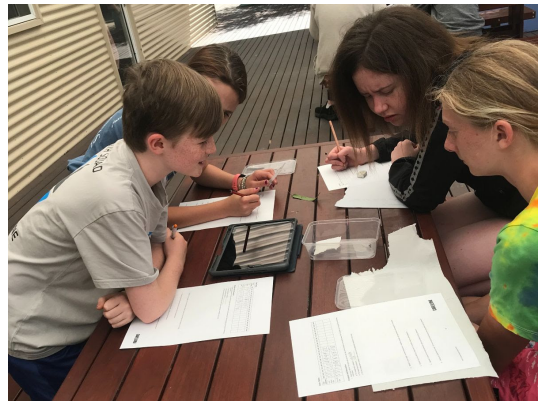




Year 6 Transition Day

In Science on Transition Day, we took advantage of the golden opportunity of the local slater population losing their home (sad for them, great for us budding scientists!), to test animal behaviour. Our transition groups worked together to see if the slaters preferred dry or wet environments. They also used their graphing prowess to analyse trends across the group. Results: No surprises here, the slaters liked the moisture (although they seemed most determined to sneak under the filter paper for a dark, cosy home).

Kim Steimer



Primary School



Years 3-5 Camp

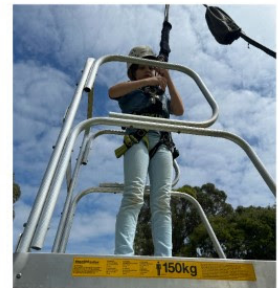
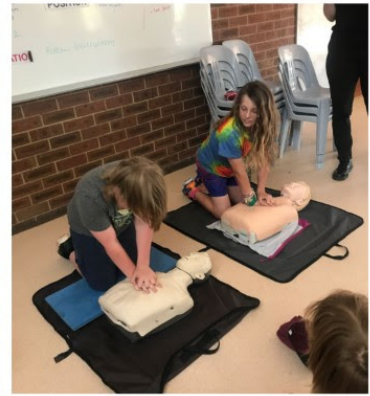
The Primary school camp was a great success! Camp is all about building skills outside the standard classroom setting. Our students made us proud in displaying the respect, resilience, and enthusiasm that is indicative of Treetops students.

Camp activities included First Aid Basics, icebreaker games, archery, a quiz night, searching for a lost pilot, and Year 5 crate challenge.

A highlight for many students was swimming at the beach with their friends, and playing spotlight. During the flying fox activity, every student challenged themselves to their own level. It was great to see students encouraging each other in such a respectful way.

Thank you to our staff whose patience and dedication enable us to be able to run successful camps. And a big thank you to parents, for trusting us with your children.

Sharon Crossman



Karri

Karri's Term 4 has been filled to the brim with finishing off projects, exciting events like camp and our War on Waste, the Year 6s transitioning into Secondary school, and completing our learning and assessment tasks for the year. It has been busy but exciting!

One of our big projects for the students this term was creating our own class magazine! This involved a great deal of planning, writing, and editing. Each student submitted at least one competent to form part of the magazine. We included informative articles, as well as fun colouring pages and activities. We also ran a Primary school-wide poster competition and the winning submissions can be seen towards the back of the magazine. I would like to commend students for their efforts, particularly those who went above and beyond to put the final touches on the magazine, and ensure it was completed by the deadline. Each primary student will have received a copy to take home for the summer holidays.

To all of the Treetops community, have a wonderful holiday and festive season, and I look forward to seeing everyone back next year after a well-earned break!

Katie Simpson



Marri

Marri has discussed our favourite events of the year and narrowed it down to 10 great activities:

10. In Term 4, Marri did a Titanic Crime Scene Investigation. Marri interrogated teachers around the school and then went back to their class and received intel. There were 3 people in each group. After interrogating the teacher, the students went back to Marri and saw a massive crime scene at the back of the class and investigated the trace evidence to solve the crime. It was incredibly fun getting to investigate the teachers and we had a great time.

-Aiden H, Alexis and Makayla

9. Marri entered a creative writing competition, judging which short story is the best. It was open to all of Australia, and we worked on it for weeks. Everyone created a mind map to plan our ideas, along with a draft and a final copy. It was fun getting to write creative stories.

-Emily & Indianna

8. The lost city of Atlantis was a city that has never been found and may even be mythical. We watched a two-series documentary and took notes for either pro or con for Atlantis being real. After we wrote a persuasive text debating if Atlantis was real or not using gathered evidence from the documentaries. It was an interesting investigation, and we enjoyed the experience.

-Aiden G and Marc

7. We researched and constructed artefacts based on famous places, people or events from history, we worked on them for a couple of weeks. We had lots of fun researching about the topics we built. After we finished, we had to perform an archaeological investigation and use the provided artefacts to figure out what the other groups had built. All the artefacts were from El Dorado, Robin Hood, Joan of Arc, Jason and the Argonauts, and lastly Tutankhamun.

-Sam and Marcus

6. During our time learning about units of measurement, we did the Potato Olympics, if you don't know what the Potato Olympics is, let me explain. The Potato Olympics is a competition between 5 opposing potato teams. We were given a potato and were allowed to draw on our potatoes with coloured markers. The games that the potatoes played were long roll, weight stack, big dive, try-to-not-splash dive, and a lot more. The potatoes could win bronze, silver, and gold medals too.

-Alex H and Giorgio



5. We learnt about Forces, we used helium filled balloons and tied string to them to perfectly balance them, once this was done, we could use static force to push or pull the balloons using something similar to the Jedi force. We also conducted a gravity experiment using paper helicopters to test how air resistance affects the speed of something falling.

-Eve

4. We will be talking about our rock-climbing excursion in Term 3. We drove to the Adrenaline Vault in the morning and got there at about morning tea. Then we got a safety demonstration. We did a test fall. Then we began to climb. It was FANTASTIC. We were allowed to climb in normal shoes at one point because other schools came too, and they ran out of special shoes.

-Lucia, Harry and Georgia

3. For dance, the song we were doing was 'Can't Stop the Feeling' and our dance teacher Jaimie taught us some dance moves and the final dance was based on our dance! And it was really fun! In drama, Marri and Karri did a play together. It was called 'Law and Order: Fairy Tale Unit.' In the play, there were Police, the three little pigs and the big bad wolf. It was a fun piece to be a part of.

-Alice and Zoey

2. We really enjoyed building our Minecraft society. Everyone was provided a small space as their property. We had jobs and made money to buy food and items. The class paid taxes, which went towards the town council who allocated where the money would go next. It was a good life experiment, and everybody had different strategies to succeed.

-Huxley and Finley

1. For camp the Year 3, 4 and 5 students were split into two groups. Each group did the same activity, but at different times. We did archery, ziplining, beach activities and many others. It was great fun being with everyone and we got to learn about each other during the icebreaker games. Our personal favourite activity was the dorm inspections. It was really funny.

-Alex C and Phoenix

It has been a great year in Marri and all the students can be proud of their achievements.

Hylton Hayes



Wattle

Term 4 has been busy in Wattle. After hatching the chicken eggs, an excursion to The Perth Hills Discovery Centre was enjoyed by everyone. Students engaged in their Wildlife Wonders and the Sense-ational Trail. Students learned that small invertebrate animals are as important, if not more, than larger vertebrate animals. During the Sense-ational Trail, students lost their sense of sight to navigate a path under and over a track through the bush.



In HaSS, students created a Memory Box with layers of photos to represent the layers of memories created over the years. Students then brought in five items to discuss special events and changes which have occurred in their lifetime. The conversations between the students were quite magical.





To end the year, students enjoyed a Christmas Party. Thank you to all the families who supplied the delicious food. On that note, thank you to everyone who has supported Wattle over the year. Your support is very valuable to our classroom's day-to-day running. Thank you to those who supplied Special Lunch, did the laundry, brought flowers in, did a Parent Activity, came on excursions, shared knowledge, and offered supportive and affirmative words of thanks and support. Special thanks to Leith our class rep for the past 4 years. Thank you. Merry Christmas. Enjoy the holidays and enjoy your children. They are precious gifts! We will look forward to seeing everyone again in 2023!

Natalie Boyd-Ratcliff



Early Years



Children's House

Children's House worked hard to put on a performance for parents this year. They wanted to spread the Christmas joy, and for most students, this is stepping outside of their comfort zone. Thank you for your encouragement and I am sure you could see the pride on their faces when they finished!



The ability to feel confident and be comfortable speaking out in a group is not easy for many, especially those who are shy. Performance teaches children how to be assertive, how to be confident, and how to really put themselves out there when they are in a group setting. Learning to feel comfortable delivering lines and moving around the stage teaches children to be comfortable in their skin and to embrace situations that draw attention to them.

This can translate to confidence in so many aspects in life down the line, including participating more in school, having the ability to speak up when a social situation makes your child feel uncomfortable, and being a strong and collaborative student.

Merry Christmas to all our families – we look forward to seeing you in 2023!

Anene Lamb



Specialist Subjects



Art

After a very successful participation in the Darlington Arts Festival, the Art students extended themselves in several different creative directions this term.

All the students at Treetops recently had the opportunity to make a mosaic paver for the Darlington Community Garden which will be installed early next year. Emma supported the Primary students, while I worked with the Secondary students.





After the Secondary students completed their mosaic, they did hand-building and wheelwork with clay, taught each other skills, and produced some very interesting results.





Marri and Karri students continued their nature theme by doing outdoor studies of different shapes and textures from observation. After this, we discussed abstract vs. realistic art, and everything in between. Students then experimented with expressive pastels inspired by their earlier observation drawings.

Peter Zylstra





Japanese

Secondary students have ended the year on a high, researching, planning and making obento lunchboxes. This tied in well with our study of school for Years 7&8, and restaurants for Years 9&10.

There has been a noticeable improvement in the engagement and skills level of Marri and Karri students this year. This is partly due to now having Japanese twice-weekly, as is recommended by SCSA. Marri students excelled in their recognition of the hiragana script, which requires frequent repetition. Treetops is setting a high standard with our Languages program, enabling students to continue their study of Japanese from Early Childhood through to Senior Secondary.

In the younger years, we have had interesting discussions about Japanese New Year celebrations, comparing and contrasting them with Christmas. Students wrote New Year's cards to friends, and played traditional Japanese games.

Wishing everyone a safe and restful holiday break.

Sharon Crossman



Music

Thank you for a wonderful 2022 everyone! Across the year we have had a record number of students in private music lessons, the school rock band, taiko drumming, and vocal groups. We had 14 weeks of Dance and Drama in Terms 2 and 3, which culminated in our wonderful Performing Arts Night in September.

I'm so thankful for the tutors and teachers who made Music, Dance, and Drama happen this year. It was constant and unwavering dedication to our students and a love for their craft that made it all possible.

Thank you to our instrumental tutors, Raena, Aaron, Kiran, Talya and Tania who put so much into the progression of our Music students. The classroom Music Program is so much richer for having the tutors at our school each week.

Thank you to the classroom teachers, Natalie, Hylton, Katie, Kim and Kasey who made sure their students were in Dance and Drama each week, and to Paul, Suzanne, Peter, Emma and Sharon for their patience in having students out of their classes for instrumental lessons each week.

Thanks to Kerry, Helen, and Kate for their support and dedication to making Performing Arts Night a reality each year. The planning and programming of this event takes an entire team!

Our students have gone above and beyond in their resilience, bravery, and stamina this year. Our Performing Arts Programme has been full and rich because of our students and their willingness to learn!

I'm very much looking forward to 2023 with you all!

Mary Pollard



Physical Education

Sport in Term 4 at Treetops has been all about the skills of dodging, evading, trapping, and tagging. Dodging is a skill you will find in many team sports (football, soccer, basketball etc).

We have developed our own Treetops evasion game, by combining All-Over-Red-Rover, Rip Tag, and All-in-Rip Tag. A little like 'Grogga-Ball' developed last year by our Year 9 and 10 students. The as yet un-named sport has taken off, with students from Pre-Primary to Year 11 playing along. Team building activities are vital at all stages of life, but for children, the benefits can carry them through childhood and adulthood. Team building activities allow for opportunity for students to learn how to communicate with their peers. By working as a team, children develop important life skills like problem solving, listening, leadership, and creative thinking. Nurturing teamwork skills also develops higher levels of self confidence, self-esteem, empathy, and compassion.

Emma Moore



STEM

*What is a **diorama**?* The dictionary definition of diorama is "a scenic representation in which sculptured figures and lifelike details are displayed usually in miniature so as to blend indistinguishably with a realistic background." This definition seems exceedingly stringent when applied to the work created by the Year 7 and 8 students in both Mallee and Jarrah. Working in two separate groups sometimes had its drawbacks (when two people worked on the same piece on different days), but time ironed out any issues, and the result speaks for its self.



Students combined a HASS topic (medieval world), with a literacy, technology, and digital component, and created a medieval character on Google Sites. The character (created through research), was brought to life when students published their creations online.

The Diorama project was a way for students to demonstrate their learning of concepts. A much more exciting method of learning than the usual typed assignments we all produced at school!





The Wattle students were not far behind their older counterparts in terms of creativity and imagination. Wattle have worked tirelessly building what was initially The Three Pigs houses, now turned 'Australian Bush' homes, with hand-made air-dry clay bricks, and created some inspiring work in small groups.



Throughout Term 4 all students were involved in a collaborative project creating mosaic works of art for the Darlington Community Gardens. The tiles should be laid in the gardens early next year.

Emma Moore



Community News



Glen Forrest Christmas Gathering

Friday 23rd December

Glen Forrest Oval, Marnie Road

6.00pm - 9.00pm

Fun and Games, Rolf's Tug of War

Santa Arriving on a Firetruck

Enjoy singing Christmas Carols with Family and Friends

with Auslan Interpreter

Coffee, Cold Drinks, Icecream, Churros
Sausage Sizzle, Glowsticks & Battery Candles

Salvation Army Christmas Appeal

BYO picnic

No Dogs Please!



**THE CHIDLOW PROGRESS
ASSOCIATION PROUDLY PRESENTS**

CAROLS ON THE GREEN

SAT, 10TH DEC

FUN & FESTIVITIES FROM 5PM

**FREE FAMILY GAMES, FREE CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES
FOOD, MARKET STALLS, CAROLS, CHRISTMAS MUSIC
AND OF COURSE SANTA!**



Loving Home Wanted



Yam and Mr. D (beloved family pets) have been hand raised, but have now outgrown their home. They would like to go to a family home and graze.... They probably need a paddock or two.

If you can help, please speak to
Gwen - 0437 208 830



We are proud to have established a home away from home environment. Skooleez offers a place where children can grow into confident and resilient individuals.

Located onsite at Helena Valley Primary School, we provide quality Before and After School Care for students in Kindy to Year 6. Our Vacation Care program runs during the school holidays and on pupil free days.

In 2023 Skooleez extends a warm welcome to students from Treetops Montessori School with a dedicated bus service each morning and afternoon.

ENQUIRE TODAY!

0407 045 777

www.skooleez.com.au

hello@skooleez.com.au





JANUARY 2023 SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES FOR AGES 7-18 YEARS

GIDGEGANNUP

JANUARY

10

9:30-12:30

MAD SCIENTIST BAKING DAY

AT CWA GIDGEGANNUP

Bake up a storm experimenting with different cookie mixes and decorations. Create a hidden message for friends with invisible ink an experiment with ooblek.

JANUARY

11

9:30-12:30

PAINT A MASTERPIECE

AT GIDGEGANNUP HALL

Come along and paint your own masterpiece with Tay from Meraki Boho. Learn how to blend and mix colours properly and develop your skills as an artist.

JANUARY

12

5:00-7:00

YOUTH POP UP ZONE

PERCY CULLEN OVAL

Come down and join us at the pop up youth space for a game of pool, play a board game or meet new people. Followed by a Community Movie Night on the oval at 7:30. For 10 to 18 years.

JANUARY

19

4:30-7:00

GUIDED NATURE WALK

GIDGEGANNUP RESERVE @ PERCY CULLEN OVAL

Join us at Gidgegannup Reserve for a guided bushwalk and learn all about the native flora and fauna in Gidgegannup.

JANUARY

17

9:30-12:30

CHINESE NEW YEAR WITH THE CWA

Join the CWA learn about Chinese New year in the year of the rabbit. Enjoy some food & craft activities.

For information and to book for Chinese New Year with CWA please contact Terrianne on terrianne_mcdonald@yahoo.com.au or 0435 394 157

For more information or to register please contact either:
Toyah Worsley on 9207 8653 or toyah.worsley@swan.wa.gov.au
Rebecca Naisbitt on 0418 922 927 or rebecca.naisbitt@swan.wa.gov.au



Government of Western Australia
Department of Communities

The Wooroloo Bushfire Community Recovery & Outreach Program is jointly funded through the
Commonwealth State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements



Australian
Red Cross





We have been notified that Main Roads will be replacing the Scott Street Bridge, in Helena Valley, next year. This work is being undertaken on behalf of the Shire of Mundaring. It is expected to get underway in February 2023 and take approximately six months to complete. There are likely to be delays at peak periods, especially school drop off and pick up times. For more information about this project, and to subscribe for updates, please visit <https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/community-environment/local-road-improvements/>.

WE CAN BEAT IT IF WE DON'T FEED IT

Q DON'T FEED THE FILL



Over the school holidays, save your containers and bring them to school in Term 1. Treetops has two green Containers for Change bins located out the front of the admin building. All eligible containers placed in our bins will be sorted, processed, and sold to approved recyclers. Every time you return your containers, you are guaranteeing your containers won't go to landfill, and it doubles as a fundraiser for the school!

If you prefer to drop off your containers straight to the shire depot, you can quote the school's scheme ID: C10242770.

See here for more information: <https://www.containersforchange.com.au/wa/faqs>

VacSwim Enrolments Now Open

Primary school

Enrolments are now open for VacSwim swimming lessons during the summer school holidays. VacSwim offers fun lessons at beach or pool locations. They are a great school holiday activity and they teach valuable safety skills to help keep your child safe in the water. Enrol at education.wa.edu.au/vacswim

Secondary school

If your child has turned 14 years old, or will be turning 14 years in the same calendar year of the course, you can enrol them in VacSwim so they can get their Bronze Medallion during the summer school holidays. They'll learn advanced survival, rescue and resuscitation skills to help keep them and others safe in the water. Enrol now at education.wa.edu.au/vacswim



Department of
Education

Shaping the future

VacSwim enrolments now open

Help keep your child safe in the water.
Enrol now for the summer 2023 school holidays.

education.wa.edu.au/vacswim

