



OAKBANK
SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER



Inside:

*Official
opening of our
Cybersecurity
Suite*

*The rhythm
of transition
to Primary school*

*Year 7
Adventure
Camp*

Connection | Respect | Responsibility



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

TERM

2

WEEK

6

JUNE 2025



OAKBANK SCHOOL Upcoming Dates

Please check our Daymap Connect calendar for further dates & ammendments.

Key dates Term 2

WEEK 06	02 MON	Dental for Schools Visit Mon 01 June + Tue 02 June
	06 FRI	Student Free Day Friday 06 June
WEEK 07	09 MON	Public Holiday Monday 09 June King's Birthday
	11 WED	Year 10 Immunisations Wednesday 11 June
WEEK 08	18 WED	Governing Council Meeting Wednesday 18 June



Government of South Australia
Department for Education



oakbank.daymap.net/daymap



oakbank.daymap.net/daymapconnect

Having problems with Daymap? Call us or try our guides on oakbank.sa.edu.au/guides

From the Principal

Dear Parents & Caregivers,

Openings & beginnings

It's exciting to see that our \$15.9 million upgrade has finally started to see some action this term.



"Cyberspace" cybersecurity suite opening

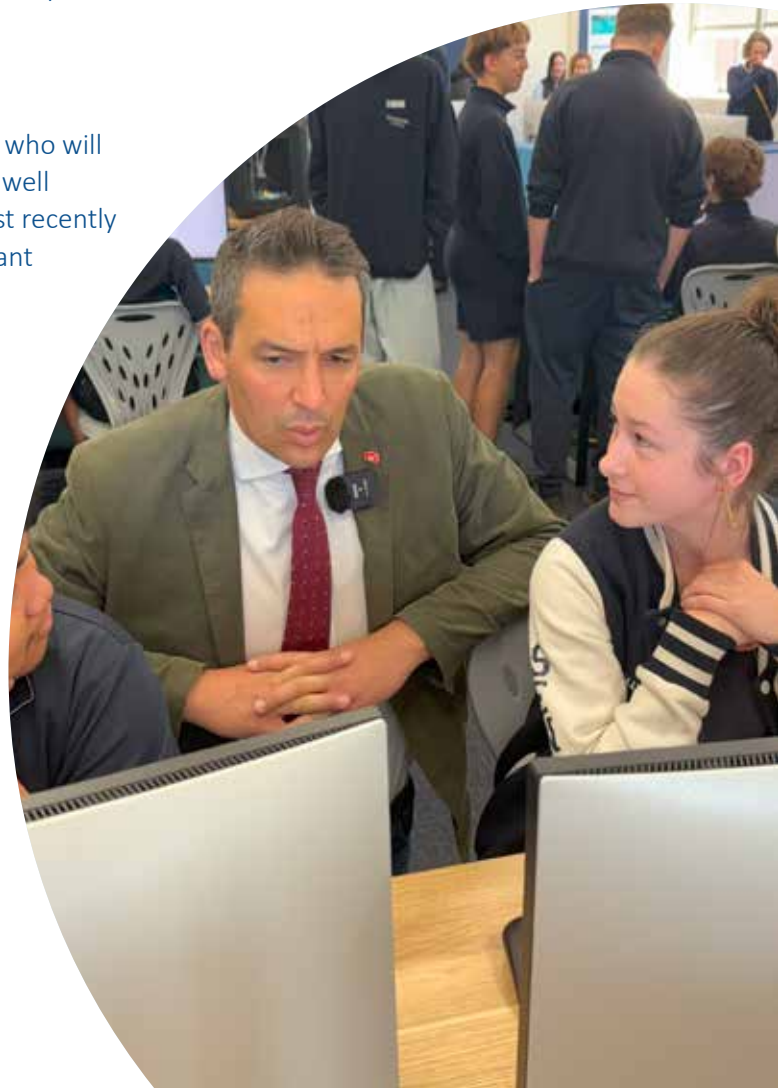
On 26 May, the Honourable Blair Boyer MP, Minister for Education, Training and Skills opened our Cybersecurity Suite, a state-of-the-art facility for digital technologies. Local member for Kavel, the Honourable Dan Cregan MP, Mount Barker District Council Mayor Mr David Leach, other special guests and many leaders in education and industry joined us in celebrating the opening of this great resource for our school. This will provide our students opportunities to go directly into the cybersecurity industry as well as direct entry into university courses. Students across years 7-12 are now learning in this new facility.

Architects appointed

Cox Architecture have been announced as the firm who will be working with us on the upgrades. They are very well experienced in working with schools, including most recently the Adelaide Botanic High School build and significant upgrades at Murray Bridge High.

The architects have had a site visit to meet with leadership. Using this discussion and the project brief, developed with input from staff, students and governing council members, they will now put together a concept plan. You can explore their work at coxarchitecture.com.au.

The upgrade progress from here will go through a 5-step process from project commencement to final build. Whilst we will be able to enjoy milestones along the way as parts of the build open, the final completion date has been set as Term 1 2028. This completion date will coincide with our 90th birthday celebrations. It will be lovely to celebrate our strong community history and a dynamic and innovative future of Oakbank School at the same time.





Staffing changes

We have been very pleased to welcome **Maddy Abfalter** as the Year 5/6 class teacher. She will be staying with us for the remainder of the year.

John Clayton also joined us in late Term 1 as Groundsperson. He is doing a stellar job ensuring our grounds look amazing. He hails from 30 years at Cleland National Park and brings a wealth of experience.

Sophie Button joins us as part of the Work while you Study program. She is training to become a teacher and has joined us as a student support SSO this term. Sophie brings a diversity of experience to the role, from being a local wine maker to the curator of complex art shows.

Shane Wissell remains on leave and **Thomas Smart** has been able to capably teach these HPE classes this term. Unfortunately, Thomas is not available for the last few weeks of term. The teacher shortage in SA is impacting our ability to find short-term contract teachers in HPE, however Bob Buxton and Tori Kaesler have programs ready for these HPE classes for the remainder of this term.

We are pleased to announce that our teaching staff will remain stable for the rest of 2025.



Site Learning Plan

Strategic Direction: Designing and implementing learning and systems to support effective learners.

All aspects of our Improvement plan are progressing well.

1. Our Pivotal Purpose – Defining what we do and why

All staff, Student Leadership Council students and Governing Council members have contributed to constructing a purpose statement to help guide us in our future direction. This purpose statement defines who we are and why we are here and will help us make effective decisions.

“ Our Purpose

At Oakbank School we see and value every child. We empower our students to thrive by connecting them with real-world learning experiences, enhancing their personal character, intellectual curiosity and academic confidence. We provide a foundation for all students to achieve a fulfilling and purpose-driven future. When Oakbank students thrive, so does our community!



See our **Site Plan Summary** on the next page for further details.

2. Prototyping and Playing - Diving into the new SA Curriculum

Teaching staff have been working on enhancing curiosity in the curriculum in line with developing effective learners.

Our pupil free days this year, including the most recent one on 6 June, have all had a focus on curriculum and pedagogy (meaning what we teach and how we teach it). Staff are focussed on designing curriculum that enhances intellectual curiosity.

3. Persistence and Perseverance – developing dispositions to support effective learners

All staff have completed refresher professional development from Berry Street and leaders who had not done the 4 days of training have completed their first 2 days.

The Wellbeing leaders have been working with staff on ways to increase students' strategies in self and co-regulation. The Wellbeing team have made videos for staff to use in class with their students. Students appreciate being introduced to a range of strategies to enable them to work out what works for them. Students can practice these regulation strategies at home also.



Long Service Leave

Finally, I will be taking some long service leave for the remainder of term 2. I am very confident that **Heath Perrott**, who will step into the acting principal role, will continue to lead our school effectively. **Bob Buxton** will step into the Deputy Principal role during this time, and **Dave Binney** will come into the secondary leadership team with a focus on year 11/12.

Lee Knight | Principal



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Our Strategic Direction

Designing and implementing learning and systems to develop effective learners

2025 Site Learning Plan Summary



Connection | Respect | Responsibility

1

Our Pivotal Purpose

Defining what we do and why

Led by Principal with Executive leaders

- 1.1** To clearly define the purpose of Oakbank School.
- 1.2** To engage with staff, students and families in defining the purpose.
- 1.3** To align our purpose with the DfE purpose of public education.
- 1.4** To align our systems, processes and policies with our purpose and values.

2

Prototyping & Playing

Diving into the new SA Curriculum

Led by Deputy, with Secondary and Primary Assistant Principal and Area of Study leaders

- 2.1** To strengthen each teacher's high-quality delivery of the curriculum.
- 2.2** To support teachers to design learning which helps their learners make connections between past information and/or experiences and new knowledge, incorporating authentic/real world learning opportunities.
- 2.3** To support teachers to strengthen students' writing in all curriculum areas, aligned with the new SA curriculum

3

Persistence & Perseverance

Developing dispositions to support effective learners

Led by Assistant Principals with Wellbeing and Learning Culture Leaders

- 3.1** To develop learners who know what to do when they don't know what to do and to persevere when faced with new or more complex learning situations.
- 3.2** To support learners to understand and manage their behaviour and reactions to their environment.
- 3.3** To support learners with additional needs to have the capacity and strategies to cope with day-to-day challenges.



OAKBANK
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Student Leadership Council

The Student Leadership Council (SLC) consists of a group of students in primary and secondary school that provide a voice for our students around matters of importance relating to learning, the school environment and our school values of connection, respect and responsibility.

Connection | Respect | Responsibility

Our SLC Members shared some of what they were passionate about in regards to student representation.

Secondary Student Leaders



Ava Smith

President

"I joined the SLC to make changes that will benefit students and give them a voice by expressing my own and others' opinions."



Caleb Norman

President

"SLC is a great way for students to communicate what needs to be changed, what we can add and how to improve the school."



Hamish Butler

Vice President

"I joined the SLC to build leadership skills and to allow others to follow suit in school values. I want to create a better perspective by allowing students to have a say in areas of the school."



Angus Green

Vice President

"I want to be able to help others have a voice"



Jahrell Ackary

"I wanted to join SLC so that I could help get other people's opinions noticed. The school needs an SLC so that students are able to voice their ideas and have it matter."



Isaiah Pridham

"I wanted to be a part of the SLC to voice the opinions of people who are scared to speak up. Decisions that directly affect students should have a voice from the students themselves and the SLC is a great way to do this."



Lizzie MacPherson

"I want to be able to give my opinion to the school and be a part of the decision process. It is important to be able to let students have a say."



Delilah Gillespie

"I decided to join the SLC because I wanted all my classmates to feel like their voices were being heard. I want to make a lasting impact that improves my school and year level's wellbeing."



Bailey Jones

"Oakbank needs the voice and opinions of students, so I joined SLC to be that voice and to help make changes."



Jasmin Chapman

"The SLC gives me an opportunity to show leadership and help the school."



Thomas Nicholls

"I wanted to join the SLC so I could represent my classmates and the school."



Hunter Old

"SLC gives me the chance to show and improve my leadership skills."



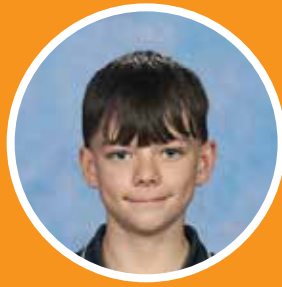
Primary Student Leaders



Addison Hocking

President

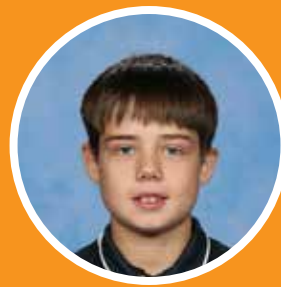
"The SLC teaches children to be responsible and how to work together and be a team. I wanted to be a part of it because I like helping people and making the school safe and fun."



Jesse Nicholls

President

"I wanted to help everyone at school by showing responsibility and being a good role model"



Logan Edwards

Vice President

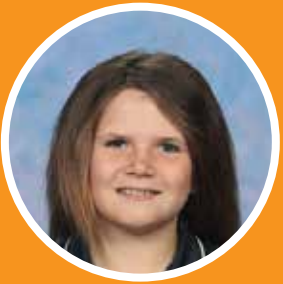
"I wanted to be on the SLC because I am a good role model and am responsible. I want to help people."



Lewis Kleeman

Vice President

"I am good at brainstorming ideas and am a good leader. This is why I want to be part of the SLC and help Oakbank get better."



Eliza Hughes

"I like taking care of my class and being kind, so I thought the SLC would be great. One of my goals, while on the SLC, will be to start a kindness club."



Louis Sultana

"I want to be able to help people and be caring and a good way to do this is being part of the SLC"



Sophia Howarth

"I joined the SLC so I can give ideas and help people."



Henry Sultana

"I am good at being a leader and thought it would be fun. SLC is a chance to give ideas to the school. I would like a school rule to say, "Stay away from trees on windy days."



Theodore Skordos

"I joined the SLC to make the school a better place. I want to ask people for their ideas and pass on these to the school."



Daisy Sultana

"Being on the SLC means we can be leaders. One of my ideas for this year is to make a club to stop the littering at our school."

Exploring
*the rhythm
of language!*





The rythm of a successful transition to Primary School



Oakbank School's Assistant Principal Karalyn Jones and reception and year 1 teacher Natasha Cairns have been fortunate to be a part of a transition project aiming to improve the transition process between early years learning and school.

'Students who feel engaged in school achieve better outcomes and stay at school for longer.' (AERO 2022). The complexities associated with moving from an Early Years site to a school, with less familiar surroundings, can be challenging for our newest and youngest students. With this in mind it is invaluable to develop networks and create links for children, and what better way to do it than through music!

The Music Strategy project has provided practical ways to embrace rhyme and

rhythm and enhance student outcomes in literacy whilst linking directly with our local kindergarten - Oakbank Kindy.

"Rhythm is a very important part of music and language... kids who are good at following a beat have brain responses to rhythm in sound who have better language skills." (Dr. Nina Kraus)

High engagement levels have been observed in our reception and year 1 "busy bees" with nursery rhymes; read, spoken, sung and improvised. The language development of the students in the class is improving with a greater spread of students being able to provide rhyming words while articulating the difference between real and made-up words. Reading with 1:1 correspondence and hearing the syllables in words is also improving as students, unbeknown to them, are practicing and developing sound active listening skills in the process.

If you're ever up for a sing-a-long please feel free to come and join our class!

Natasha Cairns | R/1 Teacher

“Rhythm is a very important part of music and language... kids who are good at following a beat have brain responses to rhythm in sound who have better language skills.”

Dr. Nina Kraus



Celebrating
Student Life



Year 7 Adare Adventure Camp

The year sevens went on an adventure camp at Adare in Victor Harbor. They took a bus to get there then went to a park near the beach. After they walked back to the camp, that's when the fun began...

“ The instructor told us about this challenge where you do activities to get points and the tribe that won would get a special treat. There were three tribes. I was in tribe 1. We named our team "Lebron games", tribe 2 named theirs "Loconuts" and tribe 3 ran out of time, so the instructor decided for them. They were called "Chips at the bottom of the bag". Everyday the points were close but my team was always in front by lots.

When it came to the final chance the Loconuts took the lead and won the prize. We did lots of activities including the amazing race - an activity where we had to go around the campsite to find out the answers to the questions. There were lots more fun activities as well.

The food was amazing and I would definitely say it was one of my favorite camps.

Ella Partridge

“ We did lots of activities, including one called the flying kiwi. You were hooked up on a full-body harness, the people in your tribe would pull a rope and that would make you go flying up in the air. It was really fun. One of the activities was a water obstacle. All three tribes went up against each other. There were a lot of obstacles you had to pass through and everyone was getting wet. Out of the whole competition, the Loconuts won.

The food was good. We had two dinners, two lunches and two breakfasts and we had some deserts which were good to. When we were going home everyone was really tired and sleepy. The bus was nice. It was a coach bus. It had a toilet and foot rests and you could move your seat back.

Ella Walters

“

When we got to camp back from the playground, we started doing activities which got you bonus points. Then we did proper activities.

There were three groups: "Lebron Games", "Loconuts" and "Chips at the Bottom of the Bag". We all did the water obstacle all together. At the start, we had to get water out of a bucket, throw it down the line and fill up a bucket at the end. Then we used a sponge to army crawl under a net and fill up a small bucket. After that, we picked the small bucket up by a rope and ran up to a spot to pour the water into. Next, we all run back down to a spot that was a lava circle. You couldn't go in the circle and had to use a stick to get all the keys to open a chest. Once we got all the keys, we used them to open a chest but there were only 4 locks to open and around 8 keys.

When we opened the chest there was a puzzle in it. One person was blind folded and only that person could touch the pieces. The other team mates had to use their voices to help guide the person that was blind folded and finish the puzzle. In the water race the Loconuts came first then their team helped other teams. In second place was the Lebron Games. Then in third place was Chips at the Bottom of the Bag but they were only a couple seconds behind.

”

Charlize Havriluk



**DO IT
FOR
Dolly
DAY '25**



Do it for Dolly Day Fundraiser

On 6 May, Oakbank School turned blue for "Do it for Dolly Day". This day was acknowledged and lead by one of our year 10 students, who wrote a proposal to leadership so that we could fundraise for this amazing foundation.

Leading up to the day, all Connect and Primary classes concentrated on how to show kindness, what bullying is and what to do if you see or are being bullied. Funds raised by Dolly's Dream go towards educating young people on these topics. The primary classes participated in a webinar about kindness presented by the foundation.

It was so wonderful to see so many people wearing blue, with even work Do it For Dolly attire! There were activities in the primary area (blue hairspray, blue nail polish, chalk drawing, bubbles and blue butterflies painted on hands). The R/1 class also listened to a book that one of our students wrote about bullying and kindness. In break 2, there were sausages, cupcakes and cookies to buy and they sold out in a flash!

Oakbank has raised approximately \$1,950 for Dolly's Dream! This is a huge achievement and we are so grateful to everyone who donated and acknowledged the day. Donations can still be received up until 30 June.

Finally, this successful day could not have been organised and acknowledged if it was not for the Do it For Dolly Committee and the people who donated their time to bake cupcakes, cookies and help with the activities! The amount of leadership, teamwork and organisation was wonderful to see.



A big thank you to the following people:

Katie Hudson	Holly Sleep
Maddi Bachelor	Hannah Jolly
Lucy Flavell	Matthew Hudson
Jessamie West	Alex Ashby
Tahlia Jarman	Jett Jarman
Jeane Jarman	Nathaniel Brookes
Daniela Featherstone	Sahara Oldfield
Mia Bourke	

Amazing effort everybody!

Jasmin Ferraro | Wellbeing Leader





Sports *Updates*



SAPSASA Hills District Athletics Carnival

On Thursday 3 April a group of our Year 4–6 students proudly represented our school at the SAPSASA Hills District Athletics Carnival, held at Cornerstone College.

Despite the gloomy weather and a few events being cancelled due to the conditions, our students approached the day with positive attitudes, resilience, and determination.

From sprints and relays to field events, those who were able to compete gave it their all and showed great sportsmanship throughout the day. It was wonderful to see our students encouraging each other, trying their best, and displaying the values that make our school community so special.

A big thank you goes to Miss Kerton for her support and supervision on the day. Her organisation and encouragement ensured that all students arrived at their events on time and felt confident to give it a go.

Well done to all of our athletes—you represented our school with pride, and we look forward to seeing many of you back on the track next year.



Student Spotlight: Back-to-Back Champion: Jesse Nicholls Jumps to Victory Again

A huge congratulations to Jesse Nicholls (pictured previous page), who has achieved an outstanding back-to-back victory in the High Jump at the SAPSASA Hills District Athletics Carnival!

After taking out first place in the 10-Year-Old Boys High Jump last year, Jesse returned stronger than ever to win the 11-Year-Old Boys High Jump this year—an incredible achievement that highlights his consistency, skill, and determination.

Although his event was unfortunately cancelled on the original carnival day in April due to poor weather, Jesse remained focused and committed. The event was

later rescheduled, and Jesse didn't let the delay stop him. With perseverance and a great attitude, he went on to clear a very impressive height and secure first place once again.

We are so proud of his efforts and thrilled to celebrate his success. Well done, Jesse—you're an inspiration to our school community!

Tori Kaesler
Health & PE Teacher



Secondary Athletics Championships

On Tuesday, 1 April, our year 7–12 students proudly represented our school at the Secondary Athletics Championships held at the SA Athletics Stadium. It was a fantastic day filled with determination, sportsmanship, and school spirit as our athletes competed in a range of track and field events.



All students demonstrated our school values of respect, connection, and responsibility throughout the day — cheering on their peers, trying their best in every event, and supporting one another with enthusiasm and pride. The energy on and off the track was incredible, and it was great to see our school community come together in such a positive way.

We achieved some amazing results, both individually and as a team, with many students reaching personal bests and making our school proud. A special congratulations goes to the following athletes who placed first in their events:

Harley Pokorra

14 & Under Javelin

Bailey Jones

14 & Under Shot Put and Discus

Ella Walters

14 & Under Javelin

Leroy Ashby

16 & Under Javelin

Kieran Welsh

Open Javelin

Patricia Gollan

Open Javelin and Discus (1st in both events!)

These outstanding achievements are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students in preparing for the day.

A huge thank you also goes to Mr Binney and Mr Perrott for their supervision, support, and for ensuring all students made it to their events on time. Your guidance and encouragement made a big difference!

Well done to everyone involved — you've done our school proud!

Tori Kaesler

Health & PE Teacher



Year 9/10 Boys Football

Friday of week 4 saw our year 9/10 boys, plus a couple of year 8 students head to Birdwood Oval, also known as "the Pringle" due to it's unusual shape. We played matches against Salisbury High School and Birdwood High School.



The first game against Salisbury was very competitive, we were in the game until the very end. Salisbury had a couple of strong players who managed to get loose and kick a couple of goals which was the difference in the end. In the absence of Josh Walters (ankle), Alex toiled hard in the ruck for 4 quarters. Cohen kicked a nice goal and used the ball well, Vejay also kicked an inspirational team-lifting snag.

Result: Salisbury by 36 points.



The second game against Birdwood was more one-sided, Birdwood have a football program and had clearly been playing as a team for a while. They were dominant out of the midfield and put our defense under a lot of pressure. Cohen, Alex, Jackson and Connor all worked hard and gave four quarters of strong effort despite the strong opposition.

Result: Birdwood by 119 points.

Thanks to **Pelayo, Hugo** and **Hamish** for running water and goal umpiring on the day.

Dave Binney
Coach

Dream Big Workshop & Parade

With a focus on The Arts, our primary students participated in a Dream Big workshop and parade to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Dream Big. With Mayfield Childcare joining us, almost 100 children walked along Onkaparinga Valley Road to the Johnston Memorial Park, wearing hand-made hats and shaking maracas.



“ Can we do it again tomorrow? ”
Zander

On arrival, a range of music related activities were on offer, including making music in Garage Band, singing songs, playing a giant piano and using boomwhackers to make sounds together. We also explored sounds in found objects and experimented with keeping a beat and playing a tune.

Students across preschool to Year 6 interacted, made connections and enjoyed making music together. Oakbank School offers a **Brass and Woodwind program** every Tuesday, with a specialist teacher, **Sarah Butler**. If your child wishes to learn a musical instrument, please contact **Karalyn Jones** directly. We are also so lucky to offer a **performing arts, dance and music specialist teacher** this year, **Steve Gallagher**.



“ It was fun because I think I can play the ukulele at home better now. ”
Theodore

“ I played the recorder. I was good at it. ”
Lorcan

Our Dream Big celebrations have further highlighted the benefits of The Arts.

Thank you to all staff and parent volunteers for supporting the celebrations.

Karalyn Jones | Assistant Principal Primary

OAKBANK SCHOOL
School & Community Information



**CROSS COUNTRY STARTS
MAY 4TH**

Enjoy Running? Join Hills LAC
Cross Country Season - May to July 2025
Register: www.salaa.org.au **Info:** info@hlac.org.au
Fun for Tiny Tots to U17 age groups, all abilities
Athletics Summer Season 2025/26 from Oct 2025
Sunday mornings at Heathfield HS

www.hlac.org.au

You're Invited!

IF YOU **LOVE TO SING**, COME & CHECK
OUT OUR POP COMMUNITY CHOIR
6.30-8.30PM EVERY WEDNESDAY
AT THE HAHNDORF MEMORIAL
INSTITUTE

NO AUDITIONS & NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
ALSO SINGING IN WALKERVILLE, GAWLER & PAYNEHAM

SOULSONGCHOIRS.COM.AU

CHOIR - BUT NOT AS YOU KNOW IT!

**FIRST
SESSION
FREE!**



ADELAIDE HILLS TIGERS RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB



MOUNT BARKER 5251

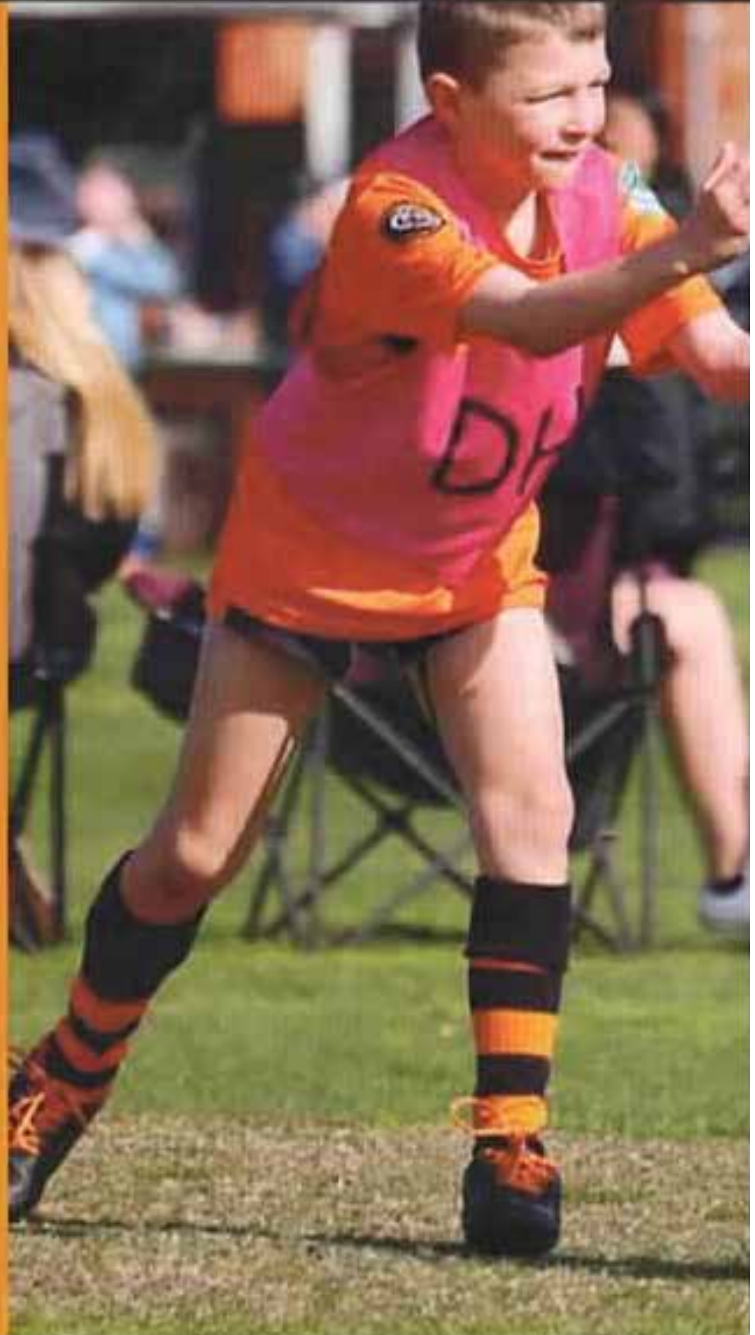
Do **YOU** want
to play Rugby
League?

EVERYONE IS WELCOME
JUNIOR
TEAMS AVAILABLE

JOIN NOW



CONTACT:
Club Contact
Nicole Black
0407 759 904
ahtigerspres@gmail.com





Is this your daughter?

Look no further than the **Australian Girls Choir** because we encourage, challenge and inspire girls as they learn to **sing**, **dance** and **perform**.

Girls blossom as members of the AGC, both on and off the stage. Your daughter will develop confidence, self-esteem, public speaking and presentation skills, all while gaining friendships that will last a lifetime.

Our senior performers have shared the stage with a long list of artists including Hugh Jackman and Kylie Minogue and have performed at dazzling events including the Australian Open, Prime Minister's Olympic Dinner, Carols by Candlelight and Carols in the Domain. We're proud to have represented Qantas in the iconic 'I Still Call Australia Home' advertising campaigns for 26 years.

Now accepting enrolments for our rehearsal venues in Glenelg, Glen Osmond and Walkerville.



 **QANTAS**

JOIN US AT OUR **JUNE** OPEN DAY

Register now at ausgirlschoir.com.au/joinagc or phone 08 8271 1622



AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS





OAKBANK
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Applied for
School Card?
Want free*
access to a
student laptop?

Is your
student laptop
struggling?
Running slow
or broken?

School card
families can now
access a modern
laptop for **free**!

*Secondary
school students
must have a suitable
laptop, charged &
ready to learn.*

A free* laptop?

From 2025 Oakbank School, in partnership with the Department for Education School Device Program, offers families who apply for and are eligible for School Card free* access to a laptop device for the school year for secondary (years 7 - 12) students.

Devices remain the property of Oakbank School and are returned at the end of the loan period.

How do I apply?

- 1 Apply for School Card
sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard
- 2 Fill out a Laptop Access Scheme (LAS) Device Agreement Form at
oakbank.sa.edu.au/byod
- 3 Pay the \$100 refundable deposit*
- 4 Collect and set up your laptop from Oakbank School IT Services.

Other options:

See our BYOD Handbook at
oakbank.sa.edu.au/byod for details

- 1 Purchase a Recommended Laptop from LWT
- 2 Purchase or bring a laptop that meets our minimum requirements
- 3 Emergency Day Loan & Special Circumstances (SCL) Short & Long-term loans*

When the unforeseen happens, limited numbers of day, short or long-term loan* laptops are available on application for special circumstances or during repairs.

* Refundable deposits apply of \$100 (LAS, SCL Long Term) & \$50 (SCL Short Term). See loan applications for full details.

Need help? Have questions?

oakbank.sa.edu.au/byod
8398 7200
dl.0762.icthelp@schools.sa.edu.au



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Department for Education