



FIGTREE HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT BULLETIN

Term 2 Week 6 5th June, 2014

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School Events

Week 6 (A)	Beginning Monday 2 nd June
2.6.14	- Homework Centre continues 3:00-4:00pm
3.6.14	- U14 and 15yrs Rugby League Competition - NAIDOC Week Public Speaking and Debating
4.6.14	- Regional Tennis Championships - Open Girls Soccer Knockout Game
5.6.14	- Year 12 Fundraising – Pyjama Mufti Day and Cake stall - Parent/Teacher Afternoon 2:30pm – 7:30pm Years 8, 11 and 12
6.6.14	- Scripture for 7B, 7E and 7T - Macbeth performance for Year 10
Week 7 (B)	Beginning Monday 9 th June
10.6.14	- Academic Challenge and Excellence program Showcase in school Library 9:00am - Yr 11 Visual Arts Excursion
11.6.14	- Yr 12 Advanced English Excursion
12.6.14	- Figtree's Got Talent – Talent Quest Final - Parent/Teacher afternoon booking sheets for Yrs 7, 9 and 10 distributed - Mountain Bike Championships
13.6.14	- Year 7 Scripture – 7M, 7N, 7O
14.6.14	- Global Enterprise Challenge in FHS Auditorium
Week 8 (A)	Beginning Monday 16 th June
16.6.14	- Yr 7 Students and Yr 9 Boys vaccinations - Year 12 Business Studies Excursion
17.6.14	- Year 12 Fundraising BBQ
18.6.14	- Year 12 Economics Excursion
20.6.14	- Year 7 Scripture – 7B, 7E, 7T - Zone Athletics Carnival at Beaton Park

PBS VALUES

Week 7: SAFETY

Play approved games only in the playground

Week 8: LEARNING

Move quickly back to the classroom at the end of the break

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

There are several parent/teacher information evenings scheduled for 5th June - Years 8, 11 and 12 and 26th June - Years 7, 9 and 10. I look forward to seeing you on these evenings.

The school athletics carnival was a great success. Many students will be competing in the Zone athletics carnival later this term.

The Quality Teaching Committee are formulating an ongoing plan for the continuation of the implementation of A Learning And Response Matrix (ALARM) and the Quality Teaching Framework: Teacher Instructional Rounds in Semester 2.

The Teaching English Language Learners (TELL) Course has 12 participants from various schools. It consists of 6 Modules. Each module is 2 hours in duration. The modules are presented after school hours on a fortnightly basis. The school coordinator is the English As A Second Language Teacher (ESL), Mrs Evia Kyriacou.

Currently, the Talent Quest Heats are being held during the lunch breaks in the auditorium.

The Homework Centre operates each Monday afternoon from 3pm-4pm in the library. There is voluntary teacher supervision.

The Academic Challenge and Excellence (ACE) Program has been very successful and the students are making steady progress on their projects.

Figtree HS hosted the NAIDOC Public Speaking and Debating Competition on Tuesday 3 June. The Figtree HS debating team won their first round. The overall winner was the Bulli HS team.

Thank you.

Carol Marshman

Principal

Figtree High School's Core Values:

Respect, Safety and Learning

A focus on Learning

Our first Parent/Teacher Afternoon for parents/carers of students in Years 8, 11 and 12 will be held today, Thursday 5th June from 2:30pm – 7:30pm in the school Auditorium. The purpose of these meetings are to discuss your child's half yearly report, their learning achievement and any areas for further development. These meetings can provide you with the opportunity to ask questions or seek clarification about how your child is performing in each of their subjects.

The booking forms which were distributed last week, have enabled parents/carers to make their appointments online again this year which has provided the opportunity for parents/carers to see their child's teachers during a suitable time period during the afternoon/evening.

Following feedback from previous parent teacher evenings, each teacher meeting has been scheduled for 7 minutes. We ask parents to try to stick to their allocated times. Should you require more time to discuss your child's learning, you can make arrangements with a teacher to continue the meeting at an alternative time.

If you have not received your booking form from your child, or have had problems making your bookings, please contact the school so that we can make arrangements for you to see your child's teachers.

The second Parent/Teacher afternoon will be held later this term on the 26th June for parents of students in Years 7, 9 and 10. The booking forms for this evening will be distributed to students next week on 12th June. Please contact the school if you are experiencing any problems with the online booking system.

I look forward to meeting parents and carers on these afternoons.

Ms Ellie Donovan
Deputy Principal

Health Information – Head Lice

There have been some recently reported cases of students with head lice. As such, it is important for parents to take the time to check their child's hair carefully for any signs of head lice or eggs (nits) and treat their child if they have the symptoms, to minimise the spread of head lice within the school community. Due to the lifecycle of head lice, re-treating your child after 7 days is necessary.

Head lice infestations are a common occurrence, anyone can catch head lice regardless of their age, sex, or how clean their hair is. Head lice move from one person's head to another via hair. They do not survive long when they are off a human head and head lice do not live on furniture, hats, bedding or carpet. Head lice have built up some resistance to head lice treatments.

The effective treatment of head lice involves daily combing of white hair conditioner using a fine tooth comb. Chemical treatments are available from supermarkets and chemists, but they can be quite costly. Removing lice and eggs from the hair is necessary to break the lifecycle.

Tips for parents in reducing the spread of head lice

It is best to choose a treatment that can be used over time. There is no single solution to eradication, only persistence.

- regularly check your children's hair
- teach older children to check their own hair
- tie back and braid long hair
- keep a fine tooth head lice comb in the bathroom and encourage all family members to use it when they wash their hair.

This information was sourced from NSW Health on the following link:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/headlice/Pages/biology.aspx>

Further information on effective treatment can be found at

<http://www.schooltoz.nsw.edu.au/en/wellbeing/health/removing-head-lice-and-nits>

English Faculty News

With the Australian Curriculum well underway, the English Faculty have been busy implementing the program to our Year 7 and 9 students. Both years have shown a keen interest with a variety of different texts and concepts being taught. Our Year 7 students are currently reading and analysing novels, such as *Blue Back*, *Trash* and the *Binna Binna Man*. They are also involved in the Premier's Reading Challenge, which has been a huge success. A number of our students are choosing to read more challenging novels. We are now currently working on our program for Years 8 and 10; which will be ready for implementation in 2015.

We have had a number of academic achievements in English this semester. In term 2, we had a group of students enter the **'Australian Writing Competition'**. This is an Australia wide competition open to all schools nationally. The competition received over 12000 entries. We had 38 students enter this competition and 9 of our entries were successful in gaining a position in the finals. **Mia Jordan** (Yr 9) and **Samuel Condon** (Yr 12) were selected into the next stage of the competition, gaining a place in the top 4 per cent of entries. These students are now going to have their work published in the Australian Anthology of Young Writers Australia. Congratulations to the following students whom we can now call 'published authors'.

Samuel Condon, Savannah Reali, Mia Jordan, Connor McEwan, Charlie Quinn, Yasemin Huseyin, Ben Kuzman, Emily Hanson and Luke Trowbridge. I would also like to thank **Mrs Bartlett** for organising the competition and to all the English Faculty for helping these students achieve such an accomplishment.

I am also proud of our Figtree High School debating team. These students, with the dedication of their teacher, **Ms Kokalevski**, have achieved excellent results. They have come away with two wins so far, one against Woonona High School and another win, due to a forfeit, from Nowra High School.

Congratulations to the following students:

Bradley Heino, Jelena Zaric, Mitchell Ivaneza, Samuel Condon, Jake Webster, Henry Heritage, Koe Bowmaker-Ksiazek and Cassandra Kelly.

Our junior team will be debating against Keira High School in the following week. I would like to wish these students all the very best on the day. I would also like to thank the teachers involved, **Ms Williams** and **Ms Kokalevski** for their training tips, advice and dedication to debating and public speaking.

Finally this term, we had 'Bell Shakespeare Company' come to our school to perform 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'Hamlet'. All the students involved thoroughly enjoyed the performances and were particularly impressed with the delivery of both plays, delivered in a contemporary style. I believe it is important to expose the works of Shakespeare to all students at Figtree High School through not only the study of the plays in class but also through live performances. The next performance will feature 'Macbeth', which will be performed by the 'Young Australian Workshop Theatre', at our school in the coming week.

Ms Mintzas
Head Teacher English/Drama

Premier's Debating Challenge: Years 11 and 12

On Friday 28 March, the two senior debate teams began their campaign in the Premier's Debating Challenge. Figtree High School drew Woonona High School for their first and second rounds of the competition.

Our day began with Team B, consisting of **Bradley Heino, Jelena Zaric, Mitchell Ivaneza** and **Samuel Condon**, who argued the negative of the statement "We should ban private schools." After an hour filled with furious note-taking and argument building, the team emerged victorious. While the debate itself was very close, the adjudicator commented that Figtree's arguments



Brad, Sam, Mitchell and Jelena during their one hour preparation period

were far more persuasive and she had no choice but to agree. The day continued with Team A, consisting of **Jake Webster**, **Henry Heritage**, **Koe Bowmaker-Ksiazek** and **Cassandra Kelly**, who were also tasked with arguing the negative of the statement "We should ban violent video games." Unfortunately, Woonona High School won this round. This debate was also very close and the adjudicator was impressed with the level of vocabulary, excellent structure and well-constructed arguments of our team.



Jake, Koe, Henry and Cassandra before their debate

For the next round, Nowra High School did us a huge favour by forfeiting, delivering two technical wins for our teams.

Finally, both teams were required to debate each other for the third and final round. Their topic was

on politics, which allowed our teams to deliver a passionate and engaging debate. Figtree Team B came away victorious, winning Figtree High School a place at the Zone Debates in August.

Congratulations to all students involved!



Figtree High School Senior Debate Team

Girls Hockey

The girls hockey team played a knockout match against Kiama High School last week. The girls played exceptionally well and displayed great sportsmanship. **Emily McKinnon** our goalie saved some fantastic shots and **Kirra Somerville** was exceptional in defence. **Chloe Sheppard** (Year 12) who has played since Year 7 was solid in the middle of the field. While we did not win the match all the girls should be proud of their efforts.

Mrs Markham



Year 11 Hospitality “Kitchen Brigade”

Year 11 Hospitality students were finally able to show case their talents in the kitchen with their first catering event last week, when they catered for 80 people at the school carnival. Students were assisted by Mr Pfeffer and Mrs Parr and preparations were made for the event all week. The menu consisted of food including rustic chicken pie, soups, beef casserole and chocolate fudge slice. All students showed initiative and experienced for the first time the process of preparing, setting up and serving a function. A big thank you also goes to Mrs Smith, Mrs Jenkins, Mrs Wale, Mrs Leabeater and Mrs Goodall who assisted in making the function such a success.

Year 11 will now assist Year 12 hospitality in running the Coffee Bean Café. Lunch time take away specials will also be offered once a fortnight, this week being ham and cheese toasted Turkish rolls. We look forward to seeing the Kitchen Brigade grow in skill and confidence as the year continues.



REMINDER TO ALL PARENTS/CARERS

The staff car park is not to be used as a “drop off zone” for parents/carers during school hours. This is a safety issue for all staff and students.

Please do not park in the Emergency Access Area as this is reserved for the use of emergency vehicles only. Please do not park in the 2 car spaces marked with the Disabled symbol unless you have an authorised Disabled Parking Permit **for your child’s transport needs**. We would appreciate your cooperation in this matter.



I'M READY...

TO EXPLORE MY OPTIONS!

**SEMESTER 2
ENROLMENTS OPEN
ONLINE 14 JUNE**

**CHOICES DAY
INFO SESSIONS
@ WOLLONGONG
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INCLUDING COURSES AT
DAPTO, SHELLHARBOUR,
WOLLONGONG WEST
AND YALLAH

**SATURDAY
14 JUNE 2014
9AM TO 1PM**

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CONGRATULATIONS

Kelsey James, Year 10 was selected to be part of **PCANSW Junior State Mounted Games Squad 2014**. Mounted Games is an equestrian sport which involves fast paced games on horseback. The riders require a high degree of athletic ability, good riding skills, hand-to-eye coordination, a competitive spirit, and above all an ability to work together with their horse and other team members.

Kelsey trains with the State Squad one weekend a month at Londonderry or Bungendore, NSW. Squad try out for Nationals will be held in late July 2014 at Hawkesbury, NSW.

Five Flag Race



Change overs with other team members requires strong focus and coordination.



FIGTREE HIGH TALENT QUEST 2014

FINALS!!! – Thursday night, 12th June, 6:30pm.

It's on again! This is our student's opportunity to present their talent and showcase their style.

This year we have had 40 entries in our quest to find the best.

Heats started during lunchtimes on Tuesday 27th May and have run each lunchtime until 6th of June. The field is being reduced to approximately 20 acts who will perform for your entertainment on Thursday night 12th of June.

With the help of Haworth Music, Encore Music Studios, Main Street Studios, Skydive the Beach and Treehouse Production we will be offering some great prizes for performers and the audience.

Come along and support our talented students and encourage them to give their best for the heats also.

As usual, professional Audio, Lighting and Vision production will be provided by our Entertainment students.

Light refreshments, tea and coffee will be available.

Thanks to Haworth Music, our major sponsor for the Talent Quest.

Haworth

Korean Homestay Program 2014 - UPDATE

Sadly, we will not be travelling to Je Ju, Republic of Korea this year due to limited student interest in the return journey in September. Our program was highly successful in February with over 25 students participating in billeting a student, acting as a day billet or assisting with classes and special interest lessons.

Claim the Date:

Jeju National University Middle School will be visiting again in **August 2015** and we hope to take a return trip with students in **September 2015**.

Please consider adding this to your calendar of activities for your family in 2015.



Mrs Cathy Smith

Homestay Coordinator

Head Teacher TAS



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

HSC Resources to help your child

There are a range of resources on the **A-Z Schools** website to provide you with some tips and advice for supporting your child through the challenging months ahead in the lead up to the HSC Examination period in October. These are available from the following link:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/tips-for-surviving-the-hsc/hsc-resources-to-help-your-child>

Key Resources available on this site include:

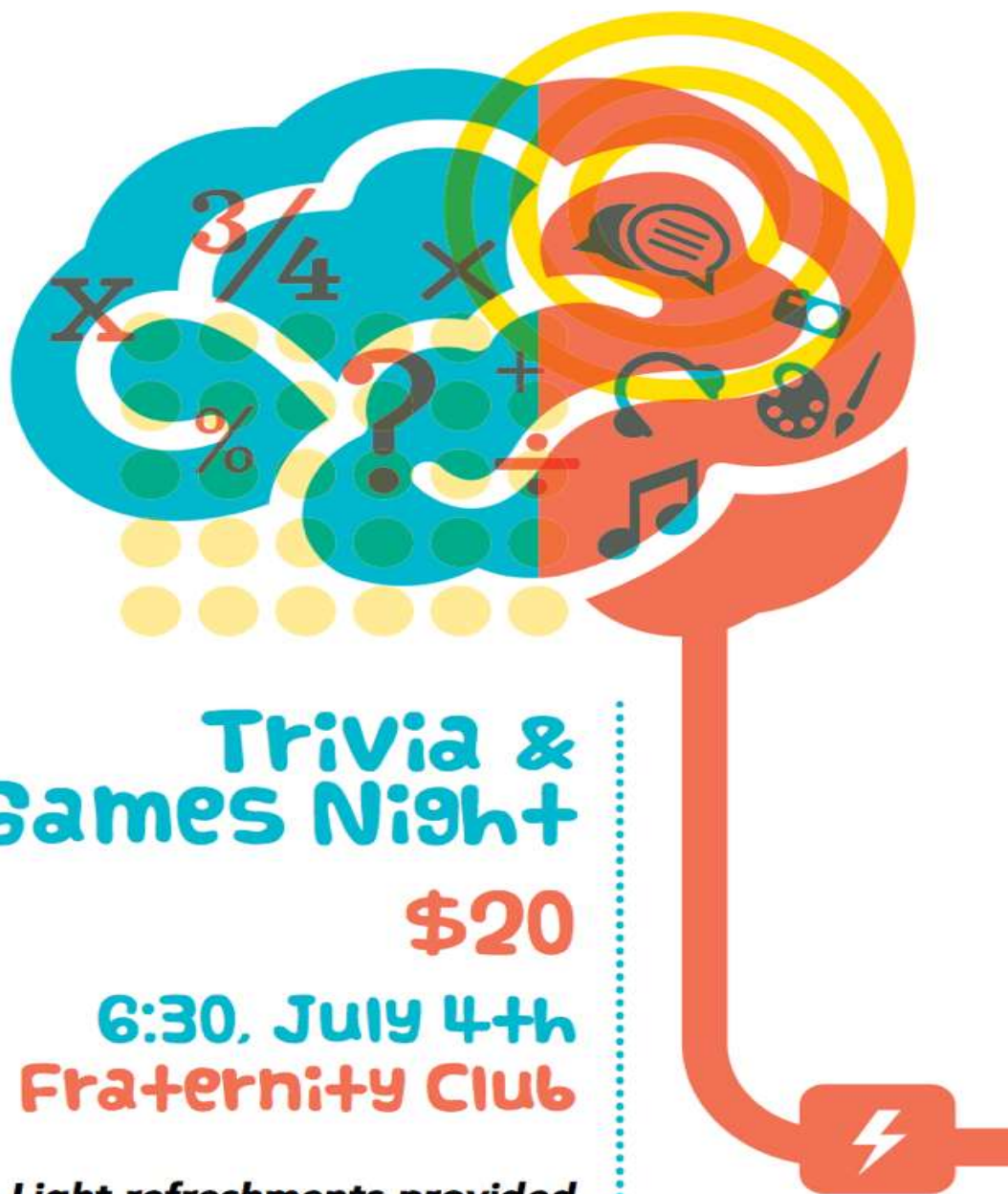
- A video on preparing for the HSC
- Managing Exam stress
- HSC Survival guide for the whole family
- Links to the BOSTES and HSC Online

Teenager's seeking more independence

Knowing how much freedom and responsibility to give your teenager is difficult, especially if they're your eldest or only child. To become capable adults, teenagers need to learn to make good decisions on their own and have opportunities to show you they can. The Raising Children Network website has a wealth of expert information and guidance for parents of teens and younger children. If your child is testing the boundaries and pushing for more independence, you may find the article '*Shifting responsibility to your child*' worth reading. Go to [www. bit.ly/1jCxKhe](http://www.bit.ly/1jCxKhe)

Study help for high school

It's often quite difficult for parents to assist their children with their high school homework and study. Even if we have professional experience in the subject area, children tend to find it difficult to take parental advice when it comes to school. (Don't feel bad, teachers' own children do exactly the same thing.) www.khanacademy.org is an excellent, not-for-profit website which may help your child study and revise tricky concepts in science, maths and the humanities.



Trivia & Games Night

\$20

6:30, July 4th
Fraternity Club

Light refreshments provided

*Raising money to send
Figtree High students
Savannah Reali and
Michael Valceski, to the
International Science
Forum in London*

To purchase tickets contact:

Paula: 0413 007 358

W: 42 712 652.

Suzy: 0402 863 046

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GALLERY

Design courtesy of
121 creative



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2013-2014 Family Energy Rebate

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Friday 13 June 2014

2 MINUTES TO FILL IN A FORM

<https://applications.fer.trade.nsw.gov.au/>

* eligibility criteria apply

**APPLY
ONLINE
NOW!**

WHAT IS THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?

The Family Energy Rebate helps to cover the costs of energy bills for NSW households with dependent children. In 2013 – 2014 the rebate gives:

- A \$125 credit against electricity bills for eligible applicants who receive electricity from an electricity retailer.
- A \$137.50 direct payment to nominated bank accounts for eligible applicants who live in a caravan or mobile home park and receive electricity from the park operator.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?

To be eligible you **MUST**:

- Be eligible for Family Tax Benefit A or B during 2012- 2013 and have received a relevant payment; and
- Be the primary account holder of an electricity retailer, OR a long-term resident of a caravan or mobile park home, whose name appears on the electricity bills supplied by the park operator.

YOU CHOOSE HOW YOU WANT TO APPLY FOR THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE

- **ONLINE** – it takes a few minutes to submit and processing starts immediately.
- **PAPER** – download a form from the website, complete and submit by email, fax or post.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

PHONE Service NSW 13 77 88

EMAIL fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au

WEB www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/info/familyenergyrebate



CITYLIFE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

PRESENTS

A WORKSHOP WITH SARAH HUNSTEAD from CPR Kids. Author of:

A Life. A Finger. A Pea Up A Nose. A practical guide to baby
and child First Aid

Sarah formed CPR KiDS in 2012 – a baby and child specific
First Aid training provider. She teaches families and carers the
invaluable skills they hope they never need: to save their
child's life. Sarah will be addressing childhood and first aid
with children with ADHD and other associated disabilities.

WHEN: Tuesday 17th June

TIME: 7:00pm-9:00pm

WHERE: Citylife Church

2/129 Jardine St (west end)

Fairy Meadow 2519

Information: 0242844414 Office

0413048453 Jill

0401012928 Amy

0401246765 Joanne

SOUTHERN CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Experience the world — with the help and expertise of Australia's most trusted not-for-profit student exchange organisation. Across 3 decades, Southern Cross Cultural Exchange has facilitated cultural exchange programs for 16,700 students between Australia and more than 20 countries.

CULTURAL / LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAMS

Students in Years 9 to 12 who wish to gain maximum improvement in language and cultural awareness should join one of the following S.C.C.E. programs to:

**FRANCE U.S.A. GERMANY ITALY SPAIN DENMARK
SWEDEN FINLAND NORWAY HOLLAND IRELAND ENGLAND
JAPAN CHINA MEXICO ARGENTINA**

All programs include:

- Professional support both in Australia & overseas, available 24/7
- Placement with carefully screened, voluntary host family (1 student per family)
- Placement in local school (attendance compulsory)
- Extensive on-the-ground support network available in all host communities
- Professional selection process
- Pre-departure orientation and preparation
- Expert advice on cultural differences & adjustments
- International & domestic group transportation (return) from Sydney to host community on the best international carriers
- Dedicated travel insurance including unlimited medical cover
- Australian & overseas airport taxes & GST

****INFORMATION SESSION DETAILS OVER PAGE****

"My Local Coordinator contacted me regularly. She was very lovely and helpful."
- Kiralee, Wollongong



"I had such an amazing Host Family. They were so supportive & made me feel at home. I was well prepared by S.C.C.E & my French improved so much."
- Christine, Gosford

1800 500 501 www.scce.com.au scceaust@scce.com.au

SAVE THE DATE

TAFE Illawarra Taste of TAFE

Taste of TAFE gives students
a hands on glimpse of what
TAFE Illawarra has to offer

Wednesday 6 August

Wollongong and
Shellharbour Campuses

More details to follow soon



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- music tuition and instrument hire.

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card,
are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your
partner) and have a child at school or study yourself.

Contact Lindi Jamieson-Brown, your local
Saver Plus Worker: (02) 4254 4505 / 0427 439 234
or lindi.jamieson-brown@thesmithfamily.com.au

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered
in Illawarra and Wollongong by The Smith Family.
The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.



Parents' guide to preparing for HSC stress with psychologist Erica Day

Wednesday 25th June

@ 6pm

Corrimal District Library

Bookings Essential

For further information and bookings please contact

Corrimal Library on 4227 8179

