

EDUCATION & TRAINING



EIGHT-PAGE FEATURE

Education and training opportunities

This week, the Yorke Peninsula Country Times has teamed with schools and colleges to shine a spotlight on the fantastic educational opportunities on offer.

With public and private schools, residential colleges and tertiary education, Yorke Peninsula and beyond has dedicated professionals working to ensure the next generation is ready to succeed.

The following stories provide a glimpse into what life is like at our preschools, primary and high schools, and the huge variety of opportunities they offer.

By utilising hands-on learning to STEM-based projects, they are building life-long learners and creating caring schooling communities.

The brief rundown barely grazes the surface of the support and opportunities on offer to local students from their first day of preschool to high school graduation and beyond.

From the top of the peninsula to the bottom, and even further afield, students are in good hands.

Education and training can:

- Help you realise your true potential
- Sharpen critical skills
- Increase opportunities
- Give the capabilities for financial stability
- Support a developed society
- Give back to the community
- Blur geographical boundaries
- Promote equal opportunities
- Be a tool for empowerment

Words Grow Minds

A NEW podcast featuring expert insights into the critical early years of child development is now available, aiming to help parents give their children the best possible start in life.

The Words Grow Minds Parent Podcast is part of the broader Words Grow Minds public education campaign and is co-hosted by Kate Ellis, Raising Literacy Australia CEO and former Federal Minister for Early childhood and Childcare, Youth and Sport, alongside Adelaide journalist Amelia Mulcahy.

The podcast features interviews with leading national and international experts in early brain science, child psychology and toddler development.

Each episode breaks down the science behind a child's first three years — when up to 85 per cent of brain development occurs — and covers topics including screen time, communication, developmental milestones, meltdowns and risky play.

"The Words Grow Minds Parent Podcast is all about turning complex infant neuroscience into practical advice that busy parents can actually use," Kate Ellis says.

"It's about empowering parents without adding stress or guilt."

Launched by the South Australian Early Years Taskforce, the Words Grow Minds campaign is backed by findings

from the Royal Commission into Early Childhood.

The campaign has been running for over a year, promoting the importance of everyday activities such as talking, reading, playing and singing with babies and toddlers to lay the foundations for lifelong learning.

The podcast comes at a critical time for South Australian families. Data from the Australian Early Development Census shows that nearly one in four children in the state start school are developmentally vulnerable in at least one area of learning and development.

Amelia Mulcahy says the podcast is about making expert knowledge more accessible to time-poor parents.

"We speak with top researchers and practitioners, pulling out real-life tips and advice parents can listen to in the car, on a walk or whenever they have a spare moment," she says.

"As a mum myself, I know how valuable it is to feel seen, supported and informed."

Whether you're a new parent navigating sleepless nights or simply curious about what's happening in your baby's brain, Words Grow Minds offers reassurance, clarity and expert guidance — delivered in an honest, warm and relatable way.

The podcast is available on all major platforms.



DECODING DEVELOPMENT... Amelia Mulcahy and Kate Ellis, hosts of the Words Grow Minds Parent podcast, helping parents to decode early childhood development.
PHOTO: Gretl Watson-Blazewicz

Maitland Lutheran School flourishing into the future



TECHNOLOGY... Year 6 students Lucyanna, Jessie and Libby have been working with VEX GO robots as part of Maitland Lutheran School's digital technologies program. The robots are used by students across years 3 to 6 to develop coding, problem-solving, and teamwork skills.

Advertising Promotion

MAITLAND Lutheran School has introduced Learning Villages within its primary school.

A learning village comprises several classes, with teachers collaborating to create rich learning experiences, and learners collaborating within classes and across the village to build their learning.

"Each village has children of mixed ages across a two-year span," primary coordinator Darren Sanderson says.

"The year levels in each village have been chosen to align well with the Australian Curriculum.

"Each class continues to have students of mixed abilities and a core class teacher to guide their learning, care for their wellbeing and be the primary point of home/school communication."

The benefits of village learning include:

- Teachers leveraging one another's strengths
- Broadening opportunities for students to connect and collaborate
- Increased flexibility in student groupings at different times to target learning needs, shared interests or common goals
- Stronger development of 'human skills' promoting better wellbeing: cooperation, empathy, communication, problem solving and resilience
- A two-year span of villages means that, in alternate years, each learner will have the opportunity to grow as an 'apprentice' and as a 'mentor' within their learning village.

The learning villages have been built around six key philosophies:

1. Valuing the Individual

Valuing learners as unique creations and delivering learning experiences in a way that is responsive to their individual needs.

2. Purposeful Learning

Learning is purposeful and learning experiences are created in a way that supports the intended outcomes for students, promoting deep, authentic learning and awakening a sense of wonder within each learner.

3. Growing the Whole Person

Nurturing learners in a way that values and fosters their physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual wellbeing.

4. Collaborative and Relational

Facilitating opportunities for students and staff to work and serve together with purpose.

5. Learner Agency

Learners are encouraged and supported to grow into using their voices, making choices, having ownership and taking responsibility as members of the school and wider communities.

6. Growing Together

A growth mindset and culture of grace are intentionally cultivated in the school community, recognising that each of us is on a lifelong journey towards realising our God-given potential.

"Students are already benefiting enormously from learning as part of their villages and we look forward to building on this success together into the future," Mr Sanderson said.

Contact the school for a tour today.



Maitland

Lutheran School

FOUNDATION TO YEAR 12

Enriching Education – Embracing Community



Providing vibrant Christ-centred education in a rich learning environment



WHY CHOOSE US?

- Foundation to Year 12 schooling
- Vibrant Christ-centred education in a safe and caring environment
- Outstanding facilities including a new Senior School precinct
- Staff work in partnership with families
- A rigorous and challenging curriculum catering for students' individual needs, abilities and interests
- Individualised learning within our Junior Primary and Primary Village structure
- Christian Studies giving children a spiritual perspective which generates clarity and hope as they attempt to understand the world and their place in it
- The Rite Journey Program at both Year 9 and Year 12 assists students in the transition from childhood to adulthood, strengthening connections with their parents and building self-awareness
- A dynamic music and instrumental program including Recorder at Year 3, Primary Choir starting at Year 4, instrumental lessons and involvement in band at Year 5, then a variety of vocal and instrumental ensembles and rock band opportunities and competitions
- Successful sporting teams in a large variety of competitions including interschool, SAPSASA and SSSSA events
- A growth mindset and culture of grace is intentionally cultivated in the school community
- Wide variety of face-to-face subjects offered to senior secondary students
- SACE, VET and School Based Apprenticeship options
- Bus services through Ardrossan, Curramulka, Edithburgh, Yorketown, Minlaton, Point Turton, Warooka, Stansbury, Moonta and Port Hughes



23 Clinton Road, Maitland 8832 2288 info@mls.sa.edu.au

Celebrating 25 years of excellence — the future is bright at Harvest

Advertising promotion

AS Harvest Christian College in Kadina celebrates its 25th anniversary, it's an exciting time to be part of this thriving school community.

With a strong history of nurturing young minds, shaping compassionate hearts and preparing students for life beyond the classroom, the College continues to grow, offering modern facilities, innovative programs and a foundation grounded in Christian values.

The College stands out in the region with a wide range of facilities that support both academic and practical, hands-on learning.

Students enjoy access to an AFL-sized oval, sports stadium, modern automotive workshop, fully equipped science laboratories and an inspiring performing arts centre.

These are more than just buildings — they are dynamic learning spaces where students are encouraged to explore their God-given talents and use them with purpose.

As the College marks this milestone year, it is proud to introduce several new initiatives that reflect its commitment to excellence and service.

The agriculture department is growing, with a new purpose-built facility that strengthens the focus on sheep and agronomy.

These upgrades will equip students with the practical skills and knowledge they need to thrive in one of Australia's key industries.

The technical studies program is growing to meet strong student interest and industry demand.

Expanded welding facilities will feature more

bays so students can build real-world skills in a safe, professional setting.

The much-anticipated library rebuild will be completed this term, transforming the space into a modern, flexible learning hub at the heart of the Harvest Christian College's academic community.

Tyson Hartley, head of primary and agricultural studies teacher, says the developments reflect the school's commitment to providing high-quality, future-focused education.

"We believe in empowering every student to discover their strengths and pursue their goals," Mr Hartley says.

"Whether on the sporting field, in the workshop, on stage or in the science labs, we are deeply committed to providing a learning journey that upholds the values of kindness, respect, perseverance and faith."

As Harvest celebrates 25 years of growth, achievement and community spirit, the school looks ahead with optimism.

The future is bright and families, future students and community members are warmly invited to be part of it.

Harvest invites prospective families to its upcoming school tour at 9.30am on Wednesday, May 21.

"Come and experience firsthand the opportunities, energy, and excellence that define our College," principal Peter Ayoub says.

"Don't miss the chance to see what makes our school so special!"

Bookings are encouraged.



BRIGHT FUTURE... Harvest Christian College student Edward meets one of the college's sheep, part of the expanded agriculture studies program.



YOU'RE INVITED!
**SCHOOL
TOUR**

21 May | *Foundation - Year 12*

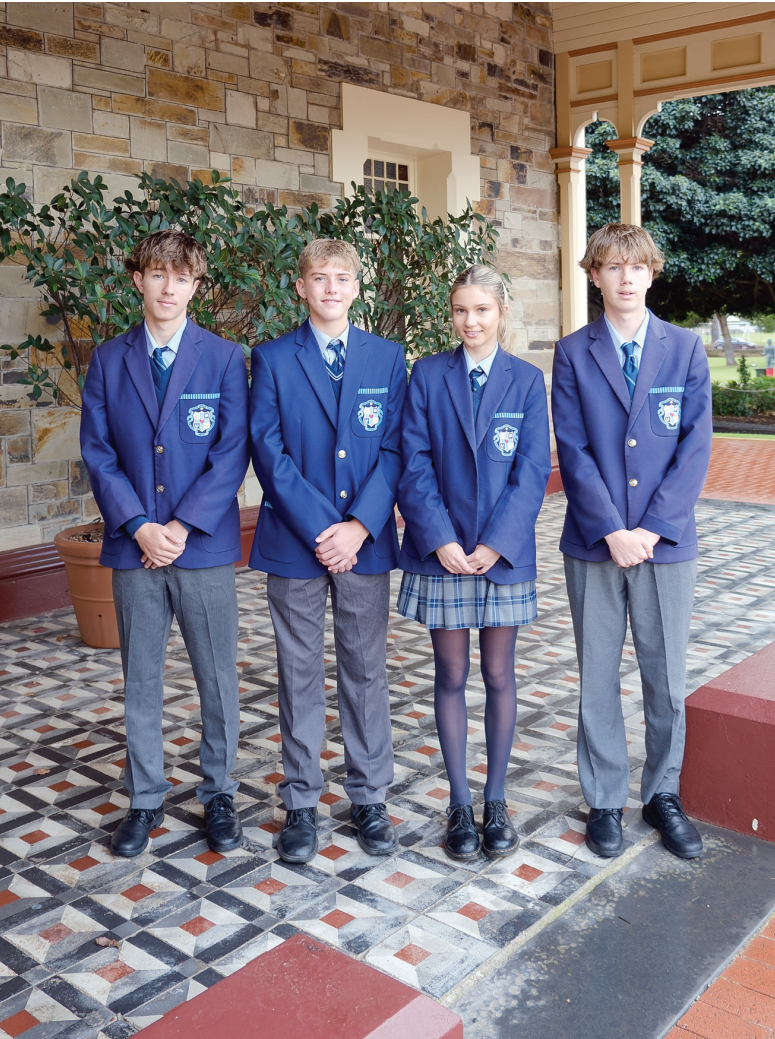
**BOOK
NOW**

harvest.sa.edu.au



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OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Educating hearts and minds



OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH... Nate Freeman, Jake Mildren, Marley Zilm-Smith and Rylan Freeman, from Yorke Peninsula, all board at Sacred Heart College.

Advertising promotion

SACRED Heart College has been a home away from home for boarding students from across Australia since 1905.

For over 25 years, the college has offered co-educational boarding and prides itself on providing a positive and safe experience for all boarders, where family spirit is a hallmark of success.

Located in the beachside suburb of Somerton Park, the college is just a short walk from the beach and Glenelg, with up to 130 boarders calling it home.

The purpose-built boarding house features state-of-the-art living arrangements and is designed to provide a homely atmosphere for students.

"The college boasts outstanding facilities and provides each student with excellent opportunities to be successful and achieve their best," Sacred Heart's director of boarding says.

"As a community we have a strong academic focus but also aim to provide our boarders with opportunities they may not get back home.

"These opportunities extend beyond the academic and pastoral realm, ensuring each boarder in our care enjoys a wholesome and fulfilling experience."

The college has a strong community focus and aims to provide boarders with a holistic education and community living experience that caters to all.

"Wellbeing is central to all we do, and our goal is to provide each boarder in our care with an important set of life skills that will benefit them during their schooling and boarding journey, and in the many years that follow," the director of boarding says.

"We take great joy in seeing our boarders flourish here as part of our Sacred Heart College boarding family and have a loyal and passionate old scholar network which is a strong presence within our community, well beyond their time here at the college."

For further information, visit www.shc.sa.edu.au, or contact (08) 8350 2559 or email boarding@shc.sa.edu.au.

What Sacred Heart's boarders say

Marley Zilm-Smith — year 11, Maitland:

"The Sacred Heart College community has provided me with so many different opportunities to grow both personally and academically.

"Sacred Heart encourages every student to reach their full potential while also providing a supportive and welcoming environment.

"The sporting community is a big part of life at Sacred Heart, helping students grow in confidence, push their limits and understand the importance of commitment."

Nate Freeman — year 11, Moonta Bay:

"Sacred Heart College provides great opportunities for growth through sport, leadership and friendships.

"Boarding life helps students develop independence, resilience and a strong sense of community.

"It encourages involvement, promotes an active lifestyle and creates lifelong memories within a supportive environment."

Rylan Freeman — year 11, Moonta Bay:

"The Sacred Heart College community has provided many opportunities, such as academic support with access to dedicated tutors, sporting involvement that allows us to train and compete against other schools alongside mates, and the chance to build long-lasting friendships.

"The boarding community is a great way to form lifelong friendships and unforgettable memories."

Jake Mildren, year 9, Mundoorra:

"During my time here at Sacred Heart I have made lots of new friendships with other boarders and also the day students.

"It has allowed me to grow and develop in many different ways from academics to extracurricular activities and school sports.

"Here at Sacred Heart I have been able to grow personally while also having support from the whole Sacred Heart Community at my 'home away from home'."



SACRED
HEART
COLLEGE

Sacred Heart is a place of welcome, hospitality, family spirit and student achievement, both within and outside of the classroom.

As a co-educational secondary college for Years 7–12, with boarding accommodation and care from Year 9, Sacred Heart College is a community connected by a love of learning and service to others, where your sons and daughters will grow Courageous Hearts.



Scan the QR code to learn more about boarding at Sacred Heart College.

Small school, big heart: St Columba's leads with learning and love

Advertising promotion

ST Columba's Memorial School in Yorketown continues to shine as a leading provider of Catholic primary education on Yorke Peninsula.

With nearly 70 years of history, the school proudly upholds the values of the Sisters of St Joseph, offering a nurturing, inclusive environment where every student is known, valued and encouraged to thrive.

As one of only two Catholic primary schools in the region, St Columba's currently educates 87 students and offers four private bus services, ensuring accessible enrolment from surrounding towns such as Stansbury, Port Vincent and Minlaton, and nearby rural areas.

"Our mission has always been to ensure every child has access to quality learning and life-enriching opportunities," principal Luke Buchanan says.

St Columba's blends tradition with innovation through modern classrooms, a fully resourced library, dedicated learning areas, and large outdoor play and sporting facilities.

Specialist subjects including performing arts, music, health, and physical education are taught weekly, complementing a strong academic curriculum.

A whole-school focus on literacy is supported through highly effective intervention programs and the implementation of InitialLit across year levels.

Small class sizes and caring, dedicated staff enable tailored learning and meaningful student support.

The school's holistic approach extends beyond the classroom, offering a wide range of co-curricular opportunities: excursions, overnight camps, environmental sustainability



LITERACY... Isabelle, Madelyn and Zander work on segmenting during their InitialLit Literacy morning program.

initiatives, cultural days and biennial whole-school productions — this year featuring Alice in Wonderland.

Rooted in its Josephite heritage and Catholic values, St Columba's fosters a strong sense of belonging, service and spiritual growth.

Students are empowered to learn and flourish, growing into compassionate, capable individuals ready to make a difference.

Discover a school where faith, learning, and community come together — discover St Columba's Memorial School.

Sparkling curiosity at Ardrossan

Advertising promotion

ARDROSSAN Area School is continuing its inspiring journey to develop effective learners through an explicit focus on dispositions and capabilities.

Central to this initiative is the cultivation of curiosity — a key capability that promises to transform the educational experience for students.

Ardrossan Area School principal Margaret Roads says, during term 1, Ardrossan Area School dedicated its efforts to fostering curiosity among the students and staff.

"A pivotal moment was a recent student free day led by Future Anything chief executive Nicole Dyson," Mrs Roads says.

"Nicole's expertise guided staff in planning innovative units of work for term 2 that had a strong emphasis on nurturing curiosity.

"Her insights enhanced understandings of the curriculum and provided staff with pedagogical tools to inspire students and their inquisitive minds while also encouraging a culture of exploration and discovery."

Mrs Roads says the success of this initiative is further highlighted by engaging student workshops hosted by Ms Dyson.

"Ms Dyson worked with the years 3 to 9 students in collaborative sessions where they explored ideas to enhance belonging and connection for years 3 to 6 and wellbeing and resilience for years 7 to 9," she says.

"The workshops ignited curiosity and fostered a sense of community and personal growth among our students.

"Ardrossan Area School has embraced the Future Anything Capability Framework:



WINNERS... Winners of the years 7-9 challenge Mark, Archie, Lucas, Jayde and Peta with Future Anything chief executive Nicole Dyson.

curiosity, creative thinking, critical thinking, communication, action and agility."

The comprehensive framework also aligns with Ardrossan Area School's vision to develop learners that will be prepared to navigate the complexities of the modern world.

Mrs Roads says the excitement surrounding the initiative is evident and Ardrossan Area School eagerly anticipates the positive impact it will have on students and the wider school community.

"By prioritising curiosity, Ardrossan Area School is enhancing academic achievement and empowering students to become lifelong learners," she says.

"As we continue this journey, we remain committed to fostering an environment where curiosity thrives and every student is encouraged to explore, question and innovate."

If you would like to know more about this exciting work and what Ardrossan Area School offers for your family, contact the school on 8837 3025 for a personal school tour.

New enrolments welcome

Individualised tours available

Come and
see what it
feels like at
SCMS



In All Things Love
Raising Hearts and Minds

St Columba's Memorial School

55 Warooka Road, Yorketown | 8852 7700

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ARDROSSAN AREA SCHOOL

RESPECT. CREATIVITY. EXCELLENCE



An integral part of our community | Future focused curriculum | Quality teaching and learning
R-12 Education | Small class sizes | Strong links with Ardrossan & Districts Community Kindergarten
Excellent facilities | Nature Play | Extensive outdoor learning & play spaces

Call to book a personal tour with our Principal, Margaret Roads, to discover what Ardrossan Area School has to offer your family.

your child | your school | your community



Government of South Australia
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NEXT GENERATION... St Mark's fosters the development of community-minded young people, with ample service opportunities for students

Live, learn, and thrive at St Mark's

Advertising promotion

MOVING to Adelaide for university is both an exciting and challenging time for young people. For 100 years, St Mark's College has helped ease the transition, providing an environment where students can live, learn and thrive while they study.

"St Mark's is a university residential college for students going to the University of Adelaide, the University of South Australia, and Flinders University," Head of College, Professor Don Markwell AM says.

When the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia merge in 2026, the College will accept students attending Adelaide University.

Nestled in the parklands of North Adelaide, St Mark's is within easy walking distance of the city's campuses, public transport and the many venues that make living in Adelaide exciting.

But St Mark's is so much more than just student accommodation. In addition to a private and furnished room, all meals, utilities and first-rate facilities, such as a library and a gym, students also benefit from an incredibly supportive environment.

"Our team of over 50 tutors, and academic skills workshops help students excel in their studies," he says.

"We also have a wellbeing team who provide one-on-one support, group activities, and training to help students look after their mental and physical health."

Rounding out the St Mark's experience is a vibrant program of cultural, sporting, social and other activities.

The College also offers several forms of financial assistance, recognising the important role of scholarships in creating transformative opportunities for students.

"Each year, we award more than \$500,000 in scholarships, prizes, bursaries, and other financial assistance to students, many of whom are from regional areas," he said.

"This reduces financial pressure on the student and their family, and instead allows them to focus on their studies and other opportunities for growth."

The St Mark's team is happy to show you around any time, or you can also visit the College's 2025 Open House, which will be held 10am to 4pm on Saturday, May 24.

Learn more at stmarkscollege.com.au.

Relationships underpin Stansbury Primary School

Advertising promotion

RELATIONSHIPS are a core part of what makes Stansbury Primary School special.

They are valued as a crucial element of fostering a positive and supportive learning environment, and enhancing students' wellbeing, motivation and academic growth.

Principal Amanda Narrowway says SPS teachers and support workers respond to each student's readiness, interests and abilities.

"Our small class numbers allow for personalised learning and care, where educators have opportunities to work with children either in small groups or one-on-one," she says.

"We love this about being a small school — through our strong relationships, we know the children inside and out and we can ensure every learner receives instruction or care at their point of need."

Another positive of the school's size is that all students attend an annual camp together.

"It offers students a chance to develop skills, experience new things, and create lasting memories," Ms Narrowway says.

"The camp provides a unique learning experience outside the classroom, fostering teamwork, resilience, and independence among our students."

SPS's relationship with the broader community also plays a significant role in their learning.

"Our door is always open, and we love having visitors share their knowledge and skills with us," Ms Narrowway says.

COMMUNITY... Stansbury Primary School students love visiting volunteer Wendy Rushbrook's garden, and using her knowledge and practices to support their own school garden and sustainability efforts.

"Our younger students are out and about in the community weekly, exploring points of interest, the algae bloom being the recent topic of conversation and inquiry.

"We are lucky to have the flexibility and capacity to link these authentic learning experiences to the curriculum and let them take us where it leads."

Extracurricular activities are also thriving, with SPS recently acquiring a 12-seater bus, which is also used to provide safe and reliable transportation for families who travel a distance to school.

SPS is proud to value every member of its community, and it doesn't go unnoticed.

"SPS educators not only have strong relationships with the children, but the families as well — the whole town actually," volunteer Eleanor Parkes says.



MORE THAN STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

- Academic support
- Wellbeing support
- Close to universities
- Scholarships available

Moving to Adelaide for university?

St Mark's is a vibrant and welcoming residential academic community where you can live, learn, and thrive while you study.

Apply now for 2026 at stmarkscollege.com.au

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PRINCIPAL TOURS AVAILABLE

Come and view our fantastic facilities, friendly staff, classrooms and individualised learning programs, at a time of your convenience

PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL 8852 4286



BRAINCHILD... George the Farmer with his creator Simone Kain.

Book Week welcomes George the Farmer

CHILDREN across Australia will once again be treated to tales from the farm, thanks to a renewed partnership between Rabobank's Rabo Community Fund and educational brand George the Farmer.

Now in its fourth year, the collaboration will give 72 schools, early learning centres and childcare providers each a set of 14 George the Farmer picture books to mark Children's Book Week, August 16 to 23.

The George the Farmer brand, founded by regional South Australian Simone Kain, began as an app in 2015 and has since grown into a multi-platform educational resource.

Its content, covering topics from wheat and wool to farm safety and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and maths) subjects, has reached more than 660,000 Australian children.

"In a survey last year, 98 per cent of users reported an increase in knowledge about food and fibre after interacting with the material, and 100 per cent said

it encouraged a love of reading and learning," Ms Kain says.

She says the George the Farmer team is helping to educate and inspire the next generation — the future leaders, big thinkers, innovators, makers, fixers, creatives, teachers, policy makers and farmers.

"Every year, we receive photos of enthusiastic children dressing up as George and Ruby Farmer for their school Book Week parades.

"The Rabobank partnership promotes agricultural literacy, which will not only educate many children but also hopefully inspire them to pursue careers in agriculture."

The competition to win a book set closes Sunday, June 15; entries can be submitted via the Rabobank website.

Winning institutions will receive their books in time for Children's Book Week celebrations.

Walk to School Safely Day

PRIMARY school aged children across Australia will make important steps towards a healthier future by participating in National Walk Safely to School Day on Friday, May 16, and it's not too late to get involved.

Championed by the Pedestrian Council Australia, the initiative aims to raise awareness of the health, road safety, transport and environmental benefits that regular walking, or alternative active transport (especially to and from school) can provide for the long-term wellbeing of our children.

Apart from the physical benefits, regular walking also has a favourable impact on children's cognitive and academic performance.

Walk Safely to School Day also encourages positive environmental action, better use of public transport with reduced car dependency, and encourages parents and carers to walk more, reducing dangerous traffic congestion around schools.

Harold Scruby, CEO of the Pedestrian Council of Australia said, until they are 10, children must always hold the hand of an adult when crossing the road.



INITIATIVE... Callen, Laura and Grace Bald walk safely to school last year.

HEALTHY LUNCHBOX BUILDER

FOOD can keep our immune systems strong and reduce the risk of developing serious health conditions such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, some cancers and osteoporosis.

It can help improve concentration when it comes to learning, as well as keep our teeth and gums healthy.

A healthy and balanced diet can also reduce stress and help maintain mental health and wellbeing.

This is why it is so important to pack a healthy lunchbox, whether it be for your children or yourself.

A healthy lunchbox contains breads and cereals, vegetables and salads, meat and alternatives, dairy, fruit and water.

For healthy lunchbox ideas go to healthylunchbox.com.au/builder/.



St Mary MacKillop School, Wallaroo

R-9 CATHOLIC EDUCATION ON THE COPPER COAST



Reception mid-year intake enrolment enquiries welcome



Free tuition for term 2 and 3, for 2025 mid-year Reception enrolments

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NEWSPAPER

