



HELENSVALE STATE HIGH enewsletter

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9 August 2024

**Our School Values –
I am RESPECTFUL
I am RESPONSIBLE
I am RESILIENT**

Click here for more information and to see the event calendar

<https://helensvaleshs.eq.edu.au/Calendarandnews/Eventscalendar/Pages/Eventscalendar.aspx>

From the Principal

Dear Helensvale State High School Community

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our new house names, colours and Heads of House for 2025.

For those that have been following us on Facebook,

through our daily story telling we have been building up for The Big Reveal. For those who do not engage on Facebook, the journey, as well as the final announcement is documented below.

The Big Reveal

It all began in 2020. As 'One Community', we recognised the need for a school mascot – a mascot that would build a sense of belonging and school spirit. A mascot that we could truly connect with. In the 'Vale spirit, we listened to staff and student voice.

Were we going to be the Helensvale Hammerheads, the Helensvale Raptors, the Vale Vipers, the Helensvale Hunters or the Home of the Hawks? Our votes landed on the Hawk.

In 2021 the logo was designed and the story behind the Hawk was written.

In 2022 we enlisted a very talented, ex-student, Emma Dillon-Lee to design a costume which would bring the Hawk to life.

The making of the Hawk costume, as well as a plushie toy version, took a bit of back and forth in 2023. We needed to

get it right. The Hawk's first appearance was at the commencement of the 2024 school year and we haven't looked back since.

The Hawk is often seen at events, greeting visitors and wandering around the school. The Hawk always brings a smile to people's faces.

[Click here to view more information](https://helensvaleshs.eq.edu.au/Videos/hawk-and-dancers/EverybodyDanceNow.mp4)

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In 2023 another significant change in the life at the 'Vale occurred.

We shifted to Learning Communities which included a review of our House system.

Whilst we are proud of our sporting alumni, which our houses are currently named after, the spirit of the Hawk recognises that we are proud of all of our students and their individual achievements – big or small.

Our high achieving alumni have excelled in a broad range of fields, locally, nationally and globally. We have doctors, engineers, entrepreneurs. We have those that have excelled in the arts and in media, technology and vocational pursuits, news readers, lawyers, teachers and of course our sporting heroes, just to name a few. These legacies serve as inspiration to our students because like them, these alumni built their foundation at Helensvale State High School. It was from here they spread their wings and launched onto the pathway that led to the dizzying heights of their success.

Our new house structure is designed to build a learning environment that is inclusive of all, a learning environment that is underpinned by a strong sense of belonging, that recognises the interests, skills and qualities that all students require for success during their time here and beyond.

Together, we are creating a learning environment that supports and empowers students to soar towards their chosen career paths. The concept of our students taking flight, as confident, mature young citizens ready to make their mark on the world, inspired our school mascot, the Hawk.

This year staff, students and community members collaborated on what our house structure might look like in 2025.

There were 6 possible names: Colours, Constellations, Kombumerri Dreaming, Mythical Hawks, Local Parks and Yugambah Elements. After extensive consultation we are now ready to make the final announcements. The top three, in no particular order, are Constellations, Mythical Hawks and Colours.

The moment you have been waiting for. The big reveal is here.

[Click here to view the Big Reveal](https://helensvaleshs.eq.edu.au/Videos/2024TheBigReveal/2024TheBigReveal.mp4)

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School Opinion Survey

This year's School Opinion Survey runs from 22 July to 16 August 2024. Parents, caregivers and students are encouraged to participate. Your insights will help us know what our school does well and how we can improve. Participants will be emailed a link to access the survey the week before it opens. Survey responses are confidential. The survey usually takes less than 10 minutes to complete. More information can be found on the [School Opinion Survey webpage](#) or by contacting the school.



Please stay safe and look after yourself and your families as we are in the midst of flu season.

Yours truly

Karen Lindsay

Executive Principal

Helensvale State High School

Football Achievement

Helensvale SHS is extremely proud to acknowledge Zara Boyd for her recent selection in Northern Ireland Women's U19 squad. Zara featured prominently at right back, with the game against Hungary finishing as a 1-1 draw.

Zara, current Year 11 Football Academy student at Helensvale SHS, is an integral member of our Senior Girls Schools Premier League squad and has been on the path to elite football for many years.

Congratulations Zara on your recognition at this level! This is a well-deserved accolade and surely a glimpse into what the future has in store for you.

[#HSHSFootball](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS 2024
NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK!

CHIA PETS CS02 **MON 12/8**

TUES 13/8 **NATURE SURVEY CB06** **WITH DR BRIDIE SCHULTZ!**

WHALE SNOT CS02 **THUR 15/8**

FRI 16/8 **SLIME! CS02**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL:
STEM@HELENSVALESHS.EQ.EDU.AU

Interschool STEM Competition

We have two teams in the upcoming Interschool STEM Competition. Both teams have been meeting and building their boats in preparation for the race day in Week 7.



Citizen Science Project

National Science Week

National Science Week is fast approaching. The STEM Ambassadors have been working tirelessly to bring a host of activities at lunch and to the classrooms.

citizen science

noun

1. The collection and analysis of data relating to the natural world by members of the general public, typically as part of a collaborative project with professional scientists.

Our Griffith University STEM Ambassadors: Mariya, Xixi, Sarah and Jamie, have been working to design a Citizen Science Project within our school. They have been working with knowledgeable staff, and experts from beyond our school gates to bring together the HSHS Biodiversity Project. You can find and join this project on iNaturalist:

[Click here to view more information](https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/helensvale-shs-biodiversity-project)

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/helensvale-shs-biodiversity-project>

Join student citizen scientists as they conduct a biodiversity survey of the school to determine next steps in our project journey.



HSHS Biodiversity Project

University Trip – Southern Cross

Last term, the Honours Students went to Southern Cross University, in Coolangatta. It was there that they saw the health science labs and participated in some hands-on activities run by a team of expert lecturers. They had some quiet time in the library, and also saw what else the campus has to offer in the way of courses.

Elevate Parent Webinars

The Elevate Parent Webinars are a great resource to know how and what you can do to support your

high achieving student. The webinars will help you reinforce what is being learned at school in their workshops.

A New Chapter for Helensvale and a Job Opportunity

In an exciting new chapter for Helensvale State High School, we will be establishing a supportive community of alumni (past students) to help and inspire our current students.

We've enlisted the help of a not-for-profit organisation called Ourschool, to start building Helensvale's alumni network and program. Ourschool specialises in helping state schools grow alumni programs.

Ourschool will employ an Alumni Program Coordinator to run our new alumni program.

If you know someone who may be interested in applying for this new position, see the details provided by Ourschool below about how to apply:

Are you looking for a meaningful, creative, community-building job?

Ourschool is a not-for-profit organisation that helps state high schools establish and build alumni networks to benefit a school's students and a school's community.

Ourschool is seeking to employ an Alumni Program Coordinator to establish an alumni program at Helensvale State High School, starting in Term 4, 2024:

Part-time role - two consecutive days per week. Hours 9am-3.30pm.

Paid annual leave includes the school holidays.

Location: Helensvale State High School

The Alumni Program Coordinator will work closely with the school's leadership team and teachers to deliver the Ourschool alumni program at the school.

The focus of the work is involving alumni in career

pathway sessions for current students and other curriculum-related activities. This role does not involve organising reunions for past students.

To find out more about this opportunity, click the following link to see the job advertised on the Ethical Jobs website:

Click here to view more information

<https://www.ethicaljobs.com.au/members/Ourschool/alumni-program-coordinator-2>

For more information about Ourschool visit the website:

Click here to view more information

<https://ourschool.net.au/>



Do you want a role that's joyful,
positive and makes a difference?

ALUMNI PROGRAM COORDINATOR

- A TWO DAY POSITION AT ONE OF OUR PARTNER SCHOOLS, HELENSVALE STATE HIGH SCHOOL
- FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT:
[HTTPS://WWW.ETHICALJOBS.COM.AU/MEMBERS/OURSCHOOL/ALUMNI-PROGRAM-COORDINATOR-2](https://www.ethicaljobs.com.au/members/ourschool/alumni-program-coordinator-2)



Cyberbullying Help

What would you do if your child was being cyberbullied?

According to research by the [eSafety Commissioner](#), 1 in 5 young people experience cyberbullying and online abuse and 55% seek help from their parents/carers.

Our free training is available online and has been designed to be completed on a range of internet ready devices, including smart phones.

Click here to view more information

<https://parentline.com.au/cyberbullying>

Link and Launch

Finishing Year 12 can be both scary and exciting. Our Link and Launch service can help you transition into study, training or work. Call Elaine at 0401 127 905 to organise a catch up - email: ebran61@eq.edu.au. Or visit her 2nd Floor Karangbah

Support Staff

As part of our Learning and Well-being framework, we have created a Well-being Hub for students and parents, which can be accessed through the Helensvale State High School webpage. The hub includes links to other websites and apps which can help to support student well-being, as well as provide information on career pathways. To access these 'well-being hubs' click on the icons below or go to the HSHS website.

Click here to view more information

Acknowledgment of Country

Helensvale State High School as **one community**, acknowledges the Kombumerri Peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our school is built. We respect their long history, ancestry and culture. We pay our respects to the Elders, past, present and emerging for they carry the memories and traditions of past times.

We would also like to extend our acknowledgment to other First Nations Peoples: those hailing from the Torres Strait Islands and those belonging to other Aboriginal Language Groups.

We acknowledge the strength and **resilience** of Kombumerri peoples. We **respect** their enduring connection to the local wetlands and the cultural **responsibility** they uphold to preserve wildlife. Together, we go forward, learning in the spirit of these values.