



Date Claimers

- May
- 11—12 Yr 4 Camp KOEC
 - 13 Macktown Showdown Basketball
 - 14 Mackay SHS Parent Info Sessions—4pm or 5pm
 - 15 National Walk Safely to School Day & Free Dress Day
 - 21 Under 8's Day 9:15am to 10:45 am at WSS
 - 25 Fanfare Concert Band—Mackay North SHS
 - 29 Starlab Incursion Yr2, Yr5, Yr6

- June
- 3 Senior Athletics Day—WSS
 - 5 Whole School Athletics Carnival at Wests
 - 10 Yr 4 Beginner Megaband—Marian SS
 - 10 2027 Prep Tour & Information Afternoon @ 3:30pm

Spotlight

Class Term 2
Newsletters are now available— <https://walkerstonss.eq.edu.au/curriculum/teaching-and-learning>

General Information

- Office Hours 8am—3.30pm
- Parade Every Monday at 9am
- PCYC After School Care 4942 3296
- Absence Line: 4959 4366
- [QParents Parent Portal](#)

School Values:

“Every student growing to their potential.
Strong routines create strong learning environments.”



Principal's Report—
Mrs Jacinta Wimmer
A Strong Start to Term 2

We have had a wonderful start to Term 2 at Walkerston State School, with our students embracing learning opportunities, community events and leadership experiences across the first three weeks of the term.

A highlight of the beginning of the term was our attendance at the Walkerston and Pleystowe ANZAC Day March and Commemoration Ceremony. We were incredibly proud of the respectful manner in which our students represented our school and community. Their participation demonstrated the values of respect, service and gratitude as we honoured those who have served our country. Thank you to the families and staff who supported this important community event.



Another exciting milestone this term was the very first performance by our WSS Dance Club on parade. Our students performed with confidence, enthusiasm and pride, and it was wonderful to see their hard work and commitment showcased in front of the school community. We look forward to watching the club continue to grow throughout the year with the guided hand of Ms Thompson.



Our Year 1 students also proudly showcased their creativity and learning through their Year One Art Gallery. The display highlighted the incredible imagination, effort and artistic talents of our students and provided a wonderful opportunity for families and peers to celebrate their achievements.



Community connection has remained a strong focus this term, with our Mother's Day Picnic under the trees providing a beautiful opportunity for families to spend time together at school. It was fantastic to see so many parents, carers and family members enjoying lunch with students and connecting with one another in such a positive atmosphere. A special thank you to everyone who attended

(Continued on page 2)

and helped make the event so special for our wonderful 'mothers and others'.

Our Prep students also enjoyed a special morning, creating meaningful opportunities to celebrate the important people in their lives. These moments are incredibly valuable in helping strengthen the connection between home and school while creating lasting memories for our youngest learners. To all our WSS 'mothers and others' we hope you enjoyed your special day and know we are here to support you as mothers however we can. **"Life doesn't come with a manual. It comes with a mother."**



A huge thank you also goes to our wonderful P&C Association for their amazing Mother's Day Stall. Opportunities such as these create special memories for students and families, and we greatly appreciate the time and effort our volunteers contribute to supporting our school community.

Inside classrooms, students have quickly settled back into routines and continued engaging in explicit teaching and learning aligned to the Australian Curriculum. Teachers have maintained a strong focus on high expectations, positive classroom culture and supporting every student to grow both academically and socially. Across the school, students have continued learning and practising our core values of **Kindness, Safety and Learning** through explicit lessons and daily interactions.

It has also been wonderful to see students enthusiastically participating in our Term 2, Friday afternoon, House Spirit Clubs and extra-curricular opportunities. These experiences continue to build belonging, confidence and positive peer connections

across year levels.

Looking ahead, we are excited for several important events and opportunities over the coming weeks. Our Year 4 students will attend camp at Kinchant Dam this week, where they will further develop teamwork, independence and resilience through a range of outdoor learning experiences. We also look forward to our Under 8's Community Morning, celebrating the importance of play, early childhood learning and community connection.

Students and families are encouraged to participate in Walk Safely to School Day this Friday, promoting healthy lifestyles, road safety awareness and active travel habits. Senior students will also begin transition visits with both Mirani State High School and Mackay State High School as they prepare for the next stage of their educational journey.

Our next P&C Meeting will be held on Wednesday of Week 6, 27 May, and we warmly welcome any parents or community members who would like to become involved in supporting our school. This year is the year of the 'School Fair' and many hands make lightwork. The more helpers we have the more amazing our fair will be!

As technology continues to play an increasing role in our daily lives, we encourage families to regularly monitor and balance children's screen time at home. While technology can provide valuable opportunities for learning and creativity, excessive recreational screen use can impact sleep, concentration, emotional regulation, social interaction and physical activity. At Walkerston State School, we continue to promote healthy lifestyles, positive relationships and active engagement both inside and outside the classroom. Encouraging regular outdoor play, family conversations, reading and consistent routines can make a significant difference to children's wellbeing and readiness for learning. Working together as a school and home partnership helps support students to develop healthy habits for both learning and life. It is something all families are facing and trying to deal with, so please don't hesitate to reach out for support.

Thank you to our staff, students and families for the positive and supportive start to the term. Walkerston State School continues to thrive because of the strong partnership between our amazing school and it's equally amazing community.

We all belong and together we grow.

Have a great week

Take Care, **Jacinta**

WALKERSTON STATE SCHOOL

Engagement

Engagement and Wellbeing at Walkerston State School

At Walkerston State School, our 2026 priorities continue to focus on high educational achievement and belonging and engagement for all students, guided by our vision:

"We all belong and together we grow."

As part of our **Whole School Engagement focus**, classrooms across the school are implementing strategies informed by the Berry Street Education Model to support student wellbeing, engagement and readiness to learn.

These practices form part of our proactive, whole-school approach to creating safe, inclusive and supportive learning environments where every student can thrive.

Welcome Circles

Welcome Circles are short, structured routines implemented **at the start of the school day or at the beginning of a learning session**. They help students feel safe, connected and ready to learn while strengthening positive classroom relationships and emotional regulation.

Welcome Circles sit within our **Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)** as a **Tier 1 universal support**, helping to reduce barriers to learning and promote positive engagement for all students.

Each Welcome Circle includes:

- **Greeting / Check-in** – Building wellbeing, connection and positive classroom communities
- **Values** – Reinforcing shared school values and a sense of belonging
- **Expectations** – Supporting safe, respectful and inclusive learning environments
- **Announcements** – Helping students feel informed and prepared
- **Positive Primer** – Activities that support engaged, creative and flexible thinking
- **What Went Well** – Encouraging reflection, optimism and resilience

These consistent routines help students transition successfully into learning and foster a strong sense of belonging across the school.



Brain Breaks and Emotional Regulation

Teachers are also implementing **Brain Breaks** throughout the day to support student focus, emotional regulation and learning stamina.

Brain Breaks are short, purposeful activities such as movement, breathing exercises, stretching, mindfulness or connection activities that help students reset and re-engage with learning.

These strategies align with the **Zones of Regulation**, supporting students to recognise emotions, understand how they are feeling and use strategies to regulate themselves effectively.

Brain Breaks support students to:

- Maintain focus and concentration
- Develop emotional awareness and self-regulation skills
- Reduce stress and frustration
- Improve engagement and positive behaviour for learning
- Build resilience and readiness to learn

Supporting Every Learner

Together, Welcome Circles and Brain Breaks strengthen our school's commitment to engagement, wellbeing and inclusion. These proactive practices support students socially, emotionally and academically while helping to reduce barriers to learning.

By embedding consistent routines and regulation strategies across classrooms, Walkerston State School continues to create learning environments where students feel connected, supported and ready to succeed.

Because at Walkerston State School, **we all belong and together we grow.**

WALKERSTON STATE SCHOOL Engagement

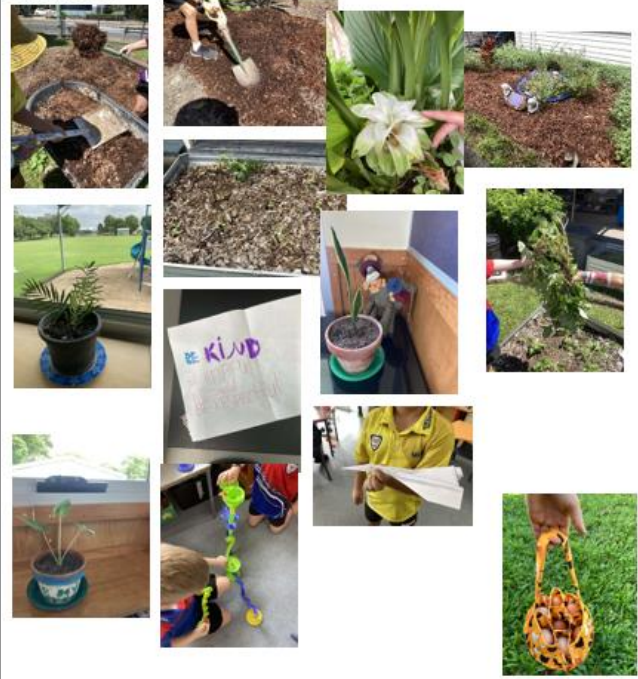
Chaplaincy Report

Chaplain:	Judy Anne Dalrymple
Date:	27/3/26
School:	Walkerston State School



Last month...

General overview:



Out and About with Chappy

The end of term 1 has been action packed!

- Gardening, mulching weeding. Some sunflowers are growing well, and I love seeing the students excited each week as they check their progress. We have also added some lovely plants to our Wellbeing room.
- Lunch times have been filled with block building, making bookmarks and some origami. The claws, paper planes and bunnies were very impressive.
- I was given a cool little egg basket!
- Cooking has been a lot of fun and tasty! It has also been great watching students learn new skills. Date and walnut brownie, strawberry cake, cupcakes, sushi, pikelets and banana bread.
- We have started preparations for our scare crow; the piece of plywood is the back view of a horse that our scare crow will sit on
- Another highlight was students bringing me mini sunflowers
- We made a Congratulations banner for Mr. Hurley that all the older students signed, I loved hearing all the great comments and memories as they did this.



WALKERSTON STATE SCHOOL Engagement

Artemis Space Project

Tuesday, 28 April, Mr Stephen Vassallo visited 5/6S's classroom to expand on student's understanding of the recent news event – Artemis 2, which was NASA's first crewed mission to the moon in over 50 years.

Through a slideshow and opportunities to ask many questions, the students learnt that the Artemis project will be completed in various stages with the aim of returning humans to the moon. Artemis's first mission was in 2022 with a lunar flyby that was uncrewed. Artemis 2 occurred during the Easter holidays with a successful 10-day flight. In 2027, Artemis 3 will be an orbital test mission with no landing, with hopefully in 2028, there will be the first crewed lunar landing for Artemis 4. In 2029, Artemis 5's mission is to sustain lunar missions with lunar infrastructure being established in 2030 + known as Artemis 6. Mr Vassallo answered all student's questions on this topic clearly and comprehensively.

To conclude today's class visit, the students enjoyed immensely Mr Vassallo showing the student's a physics-based simulator called Universe Sandbox. The student's watched a banana being placed in the solar system and the effects this object had on the orbital path of the planets. If that was not interesting enough, taking the sun out of the Solar System or adding another Earth anywhere in Space certainly got the student's attention.

Thank you, Mr Vassallo for allowing students to develop more space knowledge and to foster their curiosity.



Humans are returning to the Moon

Year 4 Camp

We wish all the best to our Year 4 students attending camp at Kinchant Dam Outdoor Education Centre from Monday 11 May to Tuesday 12 May.

This exciting experience provides students with a wonderful opportunity to discover school camp life close to home, without the need for long-distance travel. Throughout the camp, students will participate in activities designed to build teamwork, resilience, confidence and independence while creating lasting memories with their peers.

We know our Year 4 campers will represent our school with pride, demonstrate positive behaviour and embrace every challenge with enthusiasm. We look forward to hearing all about their adventures on their return!

Term 1 100% Attendance

During the first week of school, we celebrated students with outstanding attendance through a special sausage sizzle and certificate presentation — a well-deserved recognition of their fantastic commitment to learning.

Regular school attendance is so important as it supports students to build positive learning habits, strengthen friendships, and make the most of every learning opportunity.

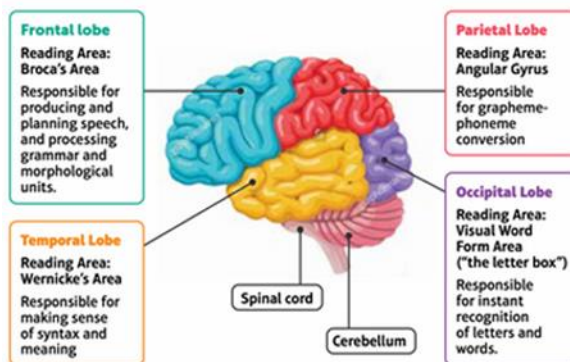
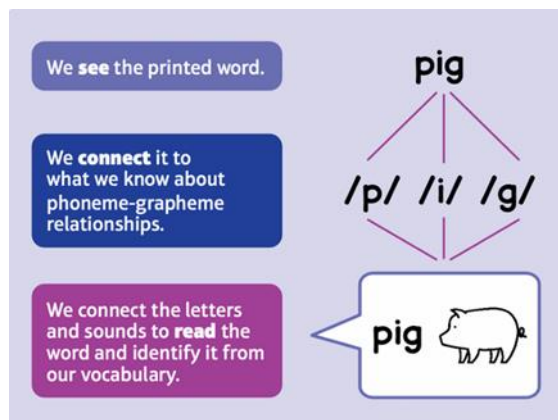
Well done to all students and families for supporting such positive engagement in school life.



WALKERSTON STATE SCHOOL Achievement

READING - MAKING WORDS STICK

The letter sound skills serve as the glue that sticks the word in our memory, and the meaning of the word anchors it there.



Multiple regions of the brain connect so that we instantly recognise and map words

1. INTRODUCTION TO BLENDING SOUNDS

Blending is the process of putting individual sounds (phonemes) together to form a complete word. It is a foundational phonics skill that helps pupils learn how to read words smoothly.

Example:
/c/ + /a/ + /t/ → cat

2. WHAT IS BLENDING IN PHONICS?

Blending means joining sounds without stopping between them to say a word correctly.

Instead of saying:
/c/ ... /a/ ... /t/

We say:
cat (smoothly)

Why it is important:

- Helps pupils read new words easily
- Builds confidence in reading
- Improves spelling skills
- Develops phonemic awareness

3. TYPES OF BLENDING

A Oral Blending
Teacher says the sounds separately. Pupils listen and combine them.
Example: /d/ /o/ /g/ → dog

B Visual Blending
Pupils see letters and blend the sounds.
Example: b + e + n → ben

C Blending with Actions
Pupils use clapping or finger tapping for each sound.
Example: /s/ (clap) /u/ (clap) /n/ (clap) → sun

4. STEPS IN TEACHING BLENDING

Step 1 Teach Individual Sounds
Ensure pupils know letter sounds clearly.
Example: b → /b/, a → /a/, t → /t/

Step 2 Model the Blending
Teacher demonstrates how to blend.
Example: /b/ + /a/ + /t/ → bat

Step 3 Guided Practice
Teacher and pupils blend together.
Example: /m/ + /a/ + /n/ → man

Step 4 Independent Practice
Pupils try blending on their own with simple words.

5. EXAMPLES OF BLENDING SOUNDS

Sounds	Word Formed	Sounds	Word Formed
/c/ /a/ /t/	cat	/m/ /a/ /t/	mat
/p/ /e/ /n/	pen	/r/ /a/ /t/	rat
/s/ /i/ /t/	sit	/h/ /a/ /t/	hat
/d/ /o/ /g/	dog	/l/ /o/ /g/	log
/b/ /u/ /s/	bus	/f/ /u/ /n/	fun

6. BLENDING WITH DIGRAPHS AND VOWEL PAIRS

/sh/ + /i/ + /p/ → ship

/ch/ + /a/ + /t/ → chat

/b/ + /ee/ → bee

/c/ + /oa/ + /t/ → coat

Some sounds come as pairs but make one sound.

7. ACTIVITIES FOR PUPILS

A Sound Blending Drill
Teacher says sounds, pupils say the word.
/r/ /a/ /t/ → rat

B Jump and Blend
Place letters on the floor. Pupils jump from one letter to another while saying sounds, then blend.
c → a → t

C Missing Sound Game
c _ t → cat
d _ g → dog

D Flashcard Blending
Show letter cards quickly. Pupils blend and read aloud.
b u s

8. COMMON CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Challenge	Solution
Pupils say sounds separately	Encourage smooth, continuous blending
Difficulty remembering sounds	Practice regularly with flashcards
Slow blending	Use repetition and simple words
Confusing sounds	Revise letter sounds often

9. TIPS FOR TEACHERS

- Start with simple CVC words
- Use songs, rhymes and games
- Encourage daily practice
- Be patient and supportive
- Use real-life examples pupils can relate to

10. CONCLUSION

Blending sounds is a key step in learning to read. When pupils master blending, they can decode unfamiliar words, making reading easier and more enjoyable.

Orthographic Mapping – is the process by which the letters in the spelling of a word are bound to the sounds. Pronunciation of the word is the glue. Orthographic mapping is the key to fluent reading. The more we build students orthographic mapping, the more we increase their ability to understand what they read.

WALKERSTON STATE SCHOOL Achievement

Term 2 Week 1—Positive Behaviour Shout Out Awards and thank you to Rebel for the \$500 voucher



Mirani State High School, English Extension Day



Hello! I am Georgia and I was selected by the Year 5/6 Teachers to attend a High School Transitioning event at Mirani State High School. On Wednesday 6th May, selected Year 6 students from Walkerston, Marian and Mirani Primary Schools participated in an English Extension Day. I learnt about the skill of persuasive devices and then prepared a persuasive speech for the Speech Competition that was held and judged at the end of the day. I was judged third overall. All Year 6 students who attended had a GREAT time and certainly showed in their writing and speech the persuasive techniques they learnt. I enjoyed my experience at High School and was proud to have been selected to attend this transitioning day.

Student of the Week Awards for **Week 1**, **Week 2** & **Week 3**

- Class PL**
Henry—For showing great listening and attention to your learning activities. Well done!
Carter—For your enthusiasm and amazing blending skills in our reading lessons. Fantastic work Carter!
Coby—For showing understanding of sentence meaning (who, do, what) while reading and viewing texts.
- Class 1M**
Kruze—For starting the term off strong with excellent focus and a positive attitude toward your learning.
- Class 2S**
Caleb—For a wonderful start to term 2 - being a safe, kind learner. Well done Caleb!
Eli—For being an engaged learner; confidently sharing ideas and demonstrating understanding. Great work
William—For being a learner, putting his best effort into writing tasks this week. Well done William!
- Class 2G**
Poppy—For outstanding effort and always showing respect and kindness. You are an asset to our class.
Sebastian—For displaying a solid work ethic and always being a positive learner.
- Class 3B**
Willow—For trying your best in everything you do. You have made amazing progress in all your learning areas
- Class 3G**
Franklin—For starting the term by placing effort into all tasks. Great first week Franklin!
Gabe—For having a great positive attitude towards his learning and placing effort into all activities.
Esme—For working positively and with effort on all class activities. Great job, Esme!
- Class 4F**
Dallas—For coming back from holidays ready to learn and be engaged in the classroom lessons.
Chelsea—For being a happy, kind and considerate member of our class. You always do your best and work hard.
Xander—For working hard at putting your hand up and participating. You are a valued class member.
- Class 56H**
Grace—For your consistent excellent behaviour and effort in class, well done Grace!
Dylan—For your excellent complex sentences and division skills, well done!
Rivah-Lea—For your excellent contributions to our wordreading lessons - you are a super speller!
- Class 56S**
Ayva—For doing further work in her own time to practise the Maths concept of multiples.
Esme—For participating in discussions, inputting rich vocabulary and prior knowledge of the topic.
Joshua—For listening attentively in class and engaging in class discussions.
- Class 56T**
William—For having an excellent start to the term. Well done!
Cooper—For a pleasing improvement in class.
Charlott—For always being an enthusiastic and industrious worker.



SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY JULY 31ST



Walkerston State P&C School Fair

5 - 9PM

Everyone Welcome

FOOD VENDORS CENT SALE

RIDES & STALLS FUN FOR ALL AGES!

Follow WSS & WSS P&C Facebook Page for further updates...

Walkerston State School Sports News

Sporting Schools

We're excited to share that over the next few weeks, our students will be getting active and building their skills through a series of lunchtime sporting activities!

These sessions will be led by local NRL and AFL Development Coaches, giving students a fantastic opportunity to learn from experienced professionals, try new skills, and enjoy being part of a team in a fun and supportive environment.

This program is proudly supported by the Federal Government's Sporting Schools grant, helping us promote health, wellbeing, and active lifestyles within our school community.

We can't wait to see our students getting involved and making the most of this great opportunity!

School Futsal Team

Our WSS Futsal Team had a great day yesterday and played with the 'scrubby' spirit to come away with two wins at the Whitsunday Futsal Titles! Congratulations to Dylan T and Dean W for making it through to the next level and representing North Queensland at nationals in Brisbane in September. A big thank you to Mr Maxwell and Mrs Bostock for your amazing support and effort with coaching the team.



🕒 School Sporting News 🕒

A huge congratulations to our Don Grobe boys on their fantastic win against Alligator Creek!

The team showed excellent teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship to come away with a strong **22-16 victory**.

Well done boys — we are proud of your effort and the way you represented our school!

Upcoming School Athletics Carnival

Our annual Athletics Carnival will be held across two exciting days this term. Families are warmly invited to attend and support our students at all events.

Wednesday 3rd June at school

Competitive field events for students born in **2016, 2015 and 2014** will be conducted at school:

- High Jump
- Long Jump
- 800m

Friday 5th June – Wests League Grounds

Our whole-school Athletics Carnival will be held at the Wests Leagues Grounds.

Important information for families:

- Students are to remain in their designated house areas/tents and are not to sit with parents during both days.
- The P&C will be running the canteen on Friday from Wests Leagues Club. There will be no pre-orders for this day, with a special menu to be released prior to the carnival.
- Scheduled event times will be provided shortly are a guide only, these may change throughout the day.

We look forward to two fantastic days of participation, sportsmanship, and house spirit! 🏆

Yours in Sport, Ben & Noel

WALKERSTON STATE SCHOOL



WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY & FREE DRESS DAY

FRIDAY 15TH MAY
SKATE PARK KELLYS ROAD
8:15AM

LET'S WALK TOGETHER SAFELY



Students can meet staff at the Skate Park on Kelly's Road to walk safely to school together



FREE DRESS DAY
WEAR YELLOW FOR ROAD SAFETY WEEK
GOLD COIN DONATION TO STUDENT COUNCIL

WALKERSTON UNDER 8'S DAY COMMUNITY EVENT

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF PLAY

21 MAY 2026

In 2026, we will proudly celebrate 70 years of Under Eights Week. This milestone year offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect on generations of learning, laughter, creativity, and play. We are excited to explore how play has evolved over time and to celebrate alongside children, families, educators, and the wider community.

Event Details:

- Date – Thursday 21st May
- Time – 9:15 – 10:45
- Venue – Walkerston State School Oval

Thank you to the following groups for supporting the Under 8's day event:-

- Woolworths Walkerston
- Walkerston State School P&C Association
- Mackay Regional Council Library
- Poppys Pizza Place
- Valley Vet Walkerston
- Qld Police – Policeman Sam (our adopt-a-cop)
- Walkerston Pharmacy
- Mackay NRL
- AFL – Eastern Swans AFC
- Soccer – FC Whitsunday Coast
- Mackay SHS Early Childhood Students – facepainting
- PCYC Walkerston Fun Squad
- Wire Bird Coffee Van
- Walkerston Fire Station



GIRLS ONLY SMASH SERIES IS HERE!

A NEW fun-filled, all action, 60 minute way to enjoy cricket with friends!



- Games are 60 minutes & done
- No protective equipment required.
- Central location.
- Just turn up and play!



Location : Harrup Park
Day & Time : Mondays 4:00pm - 5:30pm
Date : 11th May - 1st June (4 weeks)
Who : Girls 9-15yrs
Cost: \$25



Scan here to register

For all inquiries contact
melinda.dwyer@qldcricket.com.au
mob. 0424599722



Mackay SHS

PARENT INFORMATION SESSION Year 7 2027

Our friendly team will be visiting your school to share all the great opportunities waiting for your child at Mackay SHS!



Walkerston State School
Thursday 14th May 2026 @ 4.00pm - 5.00pm

Struggling

with your **child and family's** screen time habits?



Researchers from The University of Queensland are evaluating an online seminar sharing some strategies for parents to build healthy screen time habits in their children.

If you have a child between 5 and 12 years, we would love you to join our upcoming seminars. You will need to complete a short survey to enrol. To participate, please visit:



<https://exp.psy.uq.edu.au/screens>



UQ Human Research Ethics Approval: 2025/HE002529

Struggling

with your **child and family's** screen time habits?

Researchers from The University of Queensland are evaluating an online seminar sharing some strategies for parents to build healthy screen time habits in their children.

If you have a child between 5 and 12 years, we would love you to join our upcoming seminars. You will need to complete a short survey to enrol. To find out more or to participate, please visit:

<https://exp.psy.uq.edu.au/screens>



UQ Human Research Ethics Approval: 2025/HE002529

School Dental Service

The School Dental Van has arrived at Walkerston State School and will be taking bookings from 18th May 2026.

Mackay Hospital and Health Service

School Dental Service

Free dental treatment to all students from Prep to Year 10

All you need is:
• Medicare card
• Be enrolled in a school (public, private, distance education or home school).

We offer check ups, general dentistry and emergency appointments

Call to book an appointment
4885 6444