

# the ponds high Gazette

issue seven



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Our new members have been  
chosen!! Thank you to all who  
applied!

## Important dates

**16** | Write a  
Aug | book in a  
day

**26** | Year 9  
June | Camp



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**02** June | Celebrating  
Success



# Biology Excursion

## Year 11 LongNeck Lagoon Biology excursion

On August 8th and 9th, the Year 11 Biology classes participated in an excursion to Longneck Lagoon at Scheyville National Park to study the effects of the environment on the Green and Golden Bell Frog. Longneck Lagoon is a thriving wetland habitat characterised by freshwater reed beds and diverse aquatic vegetation. The wetland is surrounded by lush bushland and woodland, contributing to a diverse ecosystem comprising both aquatic and terrestrial environments.



The green and golden bell frog, also named the green bell frog, green and golden swamp frog and green frog, is a species of ground-dwelling tree frog native to eastern Australia.

During the excursion, students conducted various experiments in the terrestrial environment, including testing soil pH, soil temperature, light intensity, air moisture, and leaf litter density.

For instance, leaf litter density was measured to determine the amount of carbon, nitrates, and other nutrients re-entering the soil. In the aquatic environment, students assessed parameters such as salinity levels, temperature, pH, biological indicators, and ammonia levels. For example, biological indicators were tested to evaluate the health of the aquatic ecosystem and to check for the presence of predatory fish.

Students investigated the interrelationships of organisms with their environment and experimented range of fieldwork methodologies, for their term 3 excursion based of module 2 and 3.





# Duke Of Ed

**Welcome to our 2024-2025 Leadership team!**

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is an internationally recognised program for young people to develop essential skills and encourages community engagement for future opportunities. The program displays its benefits in many ways across the three levels offered: Bronze, Silver and Gold. To qualify for the bronze-level award, you must complete a physical recreation goal, a community service goal, a skill and an adventurous journey. Two activities of your choice for three months and one for six, while you complete your adventurous journey over three days camping in the bush.

Recently, students participating in the bronze level adventurous journey, set off to Upper Colo to take part in their three-day hike up the mountain range. Across grueling tracks and steep hills, the students participating took part in new experiences away from the confines of their phones. This allowed them to flourish in the bush as they learned new things such as navigating, building tents and many more, to build their survival skills. I, myself took part in this journey. I found it extremely difficult as I had never participated in something like this before, but I realised its enriching qualities towards the end. The two teams certainly became much closer and learned the importance of teamwork by being put in challenging situations where they had to rely on each other's help to climb the terrain. They roasted marshmallows by the campfire and enjoyed their dinners together, while conversation was struck at the campsites as well as the hike itself. The first day began as a practice hike where everyone was first exposed to the conditions, they would be facing the following day and the uneven land that they had to cross the following day. As the second day approached, students prepared for a six-hour-long hike to their second campsite which, posed a challenge for some such as me, yet still motivated us all to reach our point while admiring the picturesque landscapes along the way. We took turns navigating the bush by ourselves as we had learned that skill on the practice hike.



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Through this, they learned to climb rocks and narrower trails to reach their destination. Teamwork blossomed in full form on the final day of the hike when the teams set out to climb the steepest part of their trail. Songs were sung to keep up motivation on Team 1's trail, and group chants on Team 2 to keep a positive attitude. The hiking trails soon dwindled, and the end was near. Vans were sent to take everyone back to base at Somerset at the end of the hike where relaxation was finally possible.

Despite the cold nights and the rocky hills, the end of the hike brought appreciation for life to many students. They went around in circles discussing what they had learned and even played UNO to complete the day. Even after the unpacking and repacking of our 13kg rucksacks, many still felt the greater impact this trip had on them positively. After it all, we learned to keep optimism high even in the seemingly toughest situations and built camaraderie that only experiences such as this can bring.





# Ponds Sport Carnival

The Pond athletics carnival + the LEO's Club

The 13th of August was The Ponds annual Sport Carnival. Yr 9-10 students of the LEO's club were given the opportunity to experience and assist students in The Ponds with their Sport carnival.

Despite the cloudy weather and cold temperatures the day was full with excitement as the students participated in the various events and cheered on their peer collecting points for their house colours.



**HIGH JUMP**

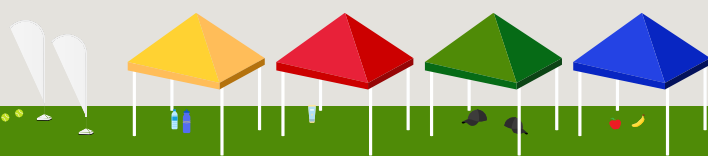


**Javelin**



**LEO members**

Much like The Ponds High aSchool's sport carnivals The Ponds took rotations all around the school for each event. The events included high jump, long jump, shot put, discus, javelin, hurdles, and sprinting. Overall, everyone who attended the Ponds Carnival had a great and enjoyable time





# Debating

## Premier's Debating Challenge

On Monday the 29th of July, the Year 7 and 8 debate teams competed in the Premier's Debating Challenge. The topic for the Year 7 team was that 'We should ban the use of paper in school' and were up against Glenwood High School. Unfortunately, the Ponds High school Year 7 team lost in an extremely close debate.

The Year 8 Team of the Ponds High School and Glenwood High School competed with the topic that 'Public transport should be free'. Unfortunately, the year TPHS 8 team also lost to Glenwood. Although the Year 7 and 8 debate teams lost, they tried extremely hard and are looking forward to becoming victorious in the upcoming rounds.

On 26th of July, Year 9 and 10 competed against each other in a debate with the topic, 'We should ban countries with poor human rights from competing at international sporting events.' Our affirmative team was the Year 9 team who unfortunately lost against our Year 10 negative team. The dedication and hard work that our students put into these debates is commendable - Keep up the good work!

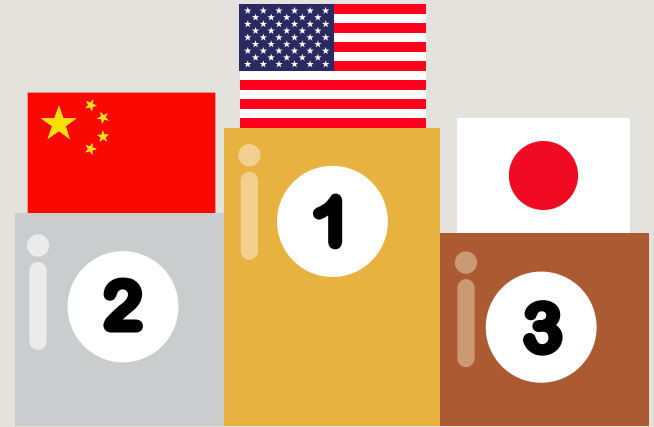


# OLYMPICS!



RECAP

The Paris Olympics is an international sporting event, which allows countries around the world to show their sporting abilities. Australia finished at 4th Place with 18 gold medals, 19 silver medals, and 16 bronze medals with a grand total of 53 medals. They broke their own record for winning the highest number of gold medals that they have ever won at an olympics. In the Paris Olympics 2024, Australia also managed to break the world record for the Track cycling pursuit.



RUNNERS UP:  
**4. AUSTRALIA**  
5. FRANCE



The Olympics began on 26th of July and ended on the 12th of July with Tom Cruise carrying the Olympic Flag all the way to LA, USA, where the next Olympics will be held in 2028. Many reports are stating that in the upcoming LA 2028 Olympics there will be new sports introduced such as flag football, softball/baseball, cricket, lacrosse and squash however these sports have not been confirmed to be added to the games.

We are also looking forward to the Paralympics occurring on 28th of August to 8th of September. The Paralympics are similar to the Olympics, however, they are for athletes that have a disability or an impairment. Overall, Australia has performed extremely well throughout these Olympics.

Can't wait until LA 28' !





# Activities

Welcome to our 2024-2025 Leadership team!

Find-a-Word|



E	X	E	H	V	M	W	D	A	X	F	S	L	D
P	F	X	N	Z	K	D	E	P	C	L	C	E	U
I	F	C	C	W	K	X	B	I	M	W	H	G	K
J	G	U	K	Q	B	D	A	L	V	E	O	A	E
K	O	R	Z	M	M	T	T	L	Y	E	O	L	O
V	L	S	K	M	P	V	I	X	S	K	L	S	F
O	D	I	X	B	S	W	N	B	C	O	C	T	E
L	Y	O	Q	K	R	Z	G	P	I	O	A	U	D
Y	C	N	U	S	M	O	O	N	E	P	R	D	T
M	J	W	W	V	I	D	N	Z	N	Z	N	I	A
P	S	L	B	W	O	L	J	Z	C	D	I	E	M
I	S	T	C	K	J	G	V	Z	E	L	V	S	J
C	B	I	O	L	O	G	Y	E	W	W	A	S	C
S	C	G	H	O	E	Z	Q	Y	R	E	L	T	Z

OLYMPICS  
GOLD  
SILVER  
BRONZE  
SCIENCE  
WEEK  
BIOLOGY  
EXCURSION  
LEGALSTUDIES  
SCHOOLCARNIVAL  
DEBATING  
DUKEOFED



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A decorative graphic element consisting of a stylized leaf and a small cluster of berries, positioned to the left of the word 'Gazette'.