



# NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 08  
18 March 2020

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The Newsletter is designed to offer an information service to the parents of Wedderburn College students and local people interested in Education.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers and Friends of Wedderburn College

### School Council Elections

School Council elections for 2020 are complete and office bearers have been elected. Congratulations to the following parents who will generously fill these roles:

President: Carolyn Stephenson  
Vice President: Deanne Caserta  
Treasurer: Lorraine Jackson

### Garden & Grounds

We have made excellent progress with our front landscaping which is nearing completion. We look forward to enjoying this inviting green space in the near future, and hope that all members of our school community will share in this aspect of our school pride.

### School Operations

At Wedderburn College, we are continuing to deliver our learning program as usual, consistent with advice from the Government, in light of the COVID-19. Our staff are dedicated professionals who are working hard to maintain continuity of learning and predictability for our students during these uncertain times. If a school closure were announced for an extended period at any time in the coming weeks or months, our staff are ready and prepared to ensure learning continues. More information will be circulated about this if it becomes necessary.

Some government advice does impact upon our planned calendar of events. These include:

- All camps from Tuesday March 17 must be postponed or cancelled. For planning purposes, this will likely include all Term two camps (this is still to be confirmed and will be notified asap).
- All excursions outside the school for purposes such as visits to cultural institutions, art galleries, theatres and sporting events or facilities (other than those local facilities regularly used by the school) from Tuesday March 17 must be postponed or cancelled.
- Residential Aged Care visits must be cancelled, including work placements
- If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 then school closure would occur for one or two days

### What does this mean for Wedderburn College until further notice?

- The School continues to operate daily as normal
- Cleaning processes and procedures have been intensified
- Education on good hygiene and respect for others continues
- The Year 8 and Year 11 Camps are in question, and a date later in the year is being investigated - TBC
- The Deb has been postponed - please see attached letter. Since this was sent, the number has reduced to 100.
- Whole school assemblies will not be conducted

- Parent Teacher Interviews early next Term will be proceeding at this stage until further information comes to light, but they will be spread out across the school
- The North Central Trade Training Centre is still operating as normal - TAFE and VET classes
- The Loddon Mallee Swimming event scheduled for Thursday 19 March will not be running
- The scheduled School ANZAC Day assembly will not proceed on Friday 24 April
- The Year 7 Parent Information Evening on 5 May will not proceed
- Other events cancelled or postponed in Term 2 will be notified
- Recommended cleanliness and hygiene practices are being reinforced to all students and staff, and social distancing where possible

### **Classes**

In the event of a closure, Wedderburn College has planned for the following:

All parties (students, staff and parents) will be informed of their responsibilities and reminded that this is not a holiday.

- Foundation - Year 4 students will be provided with hard copy materials focusing on reading, writing and numeracy, and contact will be maintained with parents through Compass, phone calls and email.
- Year 5 - 10 students will be provided with work from a modified curriculum to suit self-directed and remote learning. This may be communicated via email or Compass, including Maths Pathways. Teachers will communicate regularly with students through Compass, and other modes
- Year 11 & 12 VCE and VCAL students will be expected to complete set work provided by their subject teachers that is communicated via email and on Compass, and assessment may continue as planned.

### **Approved Absence**

The current advice we are receiving from the Government is that school closure is not an effective public health intervention at this stage, and that the majority of children are not considered at-risk. The DET has advised that the absence of any child kept home by parents arising from their concern, would be approved. However, it must be understood that the school cannot provide both face-to-face learning AND online/remote learning at the same time in any large numbers. All of our school staff are adults, and their health and wellbeing also needs to be safeguarded.

If your child is sick, please do not send them to school.

Please inform the school immediately if:

- Your student is a confirmed case of novel coronavirus
- Your student has been in close contact with a confirmed case of novel coronavirus in the past 14 days.

The same advice applies to any impacted staff. A close contact is someone who has been identified by health authorities as having at least 15 minutes face-to-face contact or the sharing of a closed space for more than two hours with a confirmed case.

### **Compass - *official communication channel***

If you are not currently able to access Compass - our online communication method - please contact the office immediately to arrange this.

### **Care, Compassion & Sense of Community**

Our school is a caring community. At each turn we are trying to be kind and helpful to others and think beyond our own immediate needs; to consider the needs of those who are elderly, lonely or vulnerable - as antidote to the fear, panic and individualism that has been on display in our society. Our students are developing skills in navigating through uncertainty and building their resilience to be adaptive, flexible and generous in the face of challenges or change. These are great life lessons, and I acknowledge the adults in our school and community who are being excellent role models to students by showing that we each hold the choice to perceive these challenges as opportunities to learn, instead of problems to be endured. We are all in this together.

**Last Day of Term-World's Greatest Shave and Casual Clothes Day**

A number of our VCAL students are raising money for the fight against blood cancer. A number of staff and students will shave their hair to raise money for the fight against blood cancer. This will take place at 1.00PM on the last day of term. Friday 27 March, last day of term is casual clothes day. Students are asked to make a gold coin donation which will also go to raising money for the "World's Greatest Shave."

**BBQ Lunch-Last day of Term**

In conjunction with Shave for a Cure and Casual Clothes Day, we are conducting a BBQ to raise further money for Shave for a Cure. Students will need a gold coin donation to purchase a sausage or hamburger or both.

**Dismissal**

Parents are reminded that students will be dismissed from school at 2.30pm next Friday. I wish all families a happy and safe holiday.

**Ms Rachel Lechmere, Principal**



(Distributed on 16 March 2020 before advice regarding 100 people)

### Notice regarding Wedderburn College Debutante Ball - Copy

The impact of COVID -19 on organised events is being felt all around our local and global communities. As you would be aware, the Commonwealth Government has announced that mass gatherings of more than five hundred people are now prohibited and this applies to any school event that... *"involves attendance by community members who are not students or staff (where staff includes support staff) and where total attendance will exceed five hundred."* While the upcoming Wedderburn College Debutante Ball is not attended by that number of people, it does involve attendance from a large cross-section of the community, including the elderly and sick in a tightly packed venue where close personal contact is prolonged and students and volunteers are in close personal contact throughout the preparation phase. In addition, it is not consistent with advice to adopt a *pro-active, harm minimisation approach* to dealing with the COVID-19. This is recommended because of the significant impact that the virus may have on our community.

At this point, it would be possible for planning for the Deb to proceed as normal, and for us to re-evaluate each week, depending on the spread and impact of the virus. However, with every passing week the planning gets more detailed, excitement grows, more money is spent, more time is given to practice and preparation, all while uncertainty as to whether the event will even go ahead, remains. Therefore, it would be eminently more disappointing to delay any decision. As we have seen locally, many volunteers and community groups who have generously given their time in organising and planning events for months are understandably, very disappointed.

In light of this uncertainty, it is prudent to act consistently with the advice to adopt a *pro-active, harm minimisation approach to the COVID-19 virus*.

The decisions taken have been done so with the most vulnerable in our community at the forefront of our minds. We have a responsibility to do whatever we can to minimise the impact of the virus on them, and it is appropriate in this situation that their needs be placed above our own. Therefore, in consultation with **Mrs Kylie Cunningham**, President of the Parents Association and the Year 11 students, the following decisions have been taken:

1. The Deb on 29 May 2020 will not proceed as planned, but will be tentatively postponed.
2. The Deb may be postponed until 11 September 2020.
3. A decision about whether the Deb will proceed on 11 September 2020, with or without program adjustments, will be made and communicated to all by 19 June 2020.
4. Come June, if circumstances dictate that the Deb cannot be held on 11 September, 2020, the Parents Association will be asked to consider two events, or a combined event, in 2021.

I thank everyone for their patience and understanding at this time, and trust, as we all do, that there will be a quick end to the pandemic and resumption of 'business as usual'. I also thank all members of the Parents Association, parents and students for the work that has already been undertaken.

Ms Rachel Lechmere  
Principal

## **FOUNDATION/1**

In the last two weeks of Maths, we have been investigating efficient ways of counting. **Mrs Tanya Chalmers** brought in a picture of all the tiny tomatoes she had picked and we got to make groups of ten to work out how many there were. This proved a lot more efficient than counting them individually and trying to keep track of the count. There were 7 tens and 8 ones. 78 tomatoes! She also brought in a container of her black spiky caterpillars but we were very happy to just estimate how many of these creatures had stripped her eucalyptus trees bare! This week, **Mrs McKenzie** brought in some of her apples from her tree to compare with **Mrs Tanya Chalmer's** one apple. We put them in order from smallest to biggest. Come in and have a look. On Friday, we hope to cut this BIG apple up. I'm sure there will be enough for all the F-6 children!!! On Friday, our class will be having a lunch order. Order forms are in your child's diary. This order is limited to two items, a lunch item and a drink (no milk shakes). Along with another class, we had the most children in one class attending and participating in the Swimming Sports. A great effort and start to your child's educational journey.

**Mrs Tanya Chalmers, Teacher**

## **YEAR 2/3**

In Maths, we have been working on reading, writing and making three and four digit numbers. Some of us can even read five-digit numbers! We have started a new class novel called "Frankie Fish". Thank you to Zavier for bringing it to school, it is very funny and we love it! Our sentence writing is improving as we make sure it always has the correct punctuation, makes sense and has neat writing.

We are excellent at washing our hands regularly and sneezing/coughing into our elbows. Stay healthy and safe everyone.

**Mrs Deirdre McKenzie, Teacher**

## **YEAR 3/4**

We have enjoyed the final weeks as we come toward the end of term. Students have enjoyed writing the Narrative story about 'Tripping Around Aus!' as it ties into our Inquiry topic of learning about the geography of Australia. During Maths time we have been learning about the topic of Time and have seen some excellent progress where students can now understand half past, quarter to/quarter past and for some students reading to the minute. We have enjoyed the tough challenges set our way and enjoyed working out the problem solving tasks such as "If" the time is now 11am, what will the time be in 3 and a quarter hours?

It was great to see so many students go home and practice the map of Australia to prepare for their assessment task on labelling the States/Territories/Capital cities and features such as natural/human/indigenous features in our country.

It's a shame that the Hockey Roadshow was cancelled as we were all looking forward to the fun day. We have been eager to assist in the Burn Bank and help out on our weekly jobs. Well done to the whole class for their great work.

**Ms Jessica Higgins, Teacher**

## **YEAR 5/6**

The Grade 5/6 class have had another excellent fortnight of learning! Learning our Times Tables is still a priority, and we have been focusing on factors and multiples. To encourage your child to learn their times tables, you can ask them to sing them to you, just as we do as a whole class. Congratulations to Amelia, earning a Maths Pathways growth percentage of 367% this fortnight.

In English, we are still working on Persuasive Language and have begun writing speeches. Students have been given the prompt 'Today's Children, Tomorrow's Future', with many choosing to write about the importance of children having access to clean drinking water and to have the opportunity to receive an education. We really look forward to the students presenting their ideas on these topics. In Music, we are currently working on creating our own musical instruments out of recycled objects. We look forward to making music with our creations! Please encourage students to collect recyclable objects to use. Our Inquiry topic is 'Adaptations' and we are looking at how creatures have evolved over time.

We hope that everyone has a safe holiday, with lots of reading!

**Mrs Annita Steel and Mrs Maddi Postle**

## **SENIOR ADVOCACY**

I would like to focus this fortnight's newsletter on some practical tips for stress management and supporting our students while they are completing their final years of secondary school.

### **Take the time to plan**

- Prepare a study plan and goals for each day / week. Make sure it's balanced with other important things in your life - that way it will be easier to stick to.
- Talk to your employers early to let them know you need to limit your shifts / hours while studying.
- Create a study space that is comfortable, quiet, well lit, organised, and has no distractions nearby, such as a TV, phone, people talking, etc.
- Make sure you have everything you need for each study session as this helps to feel more confident and organised.

### **Look after yourself**

- Self-care is especially important when you have a big demand in your life - that way you have the energy to commit to what you need to accomplish.
- Build activities you enjoy and that bring your stress levels down into your study plan, such as sport, spending time with friends, internet, etc.
- Don't get hungry before or while studying. Grab nutritional snacks that keep you going, such as fruit/nuts/dairy, etc.
- Remember to get some exercise every day as this helps you to keep focused and energetic.

### **Rest when you need to**

- Work out what times of day you have the most energy and plan to study then.
- Don't study more than 40-60 mins without a short break. Even a 5 minute break will help. A glass of water helps too!
- When you have a break do something physical or fun, such as go for a short run or play with a pet.
- Try to keep your focus on school and exams rather than other stuff happening in your life; you don't need this extra worry around relationships, friendships etc. right now.
- Relaxation is important, especially before bed, to slow the brain activity down. Try some slow, deep breathing, a shower or a bath, herbal tea etc.

### **Stay focused**

- When studying, switch your phone and email off to stop the distractions.
- Try to keep a focus on your health and wellbeing by not using things like drugs or alcohol; they can make it much harder to study.

### **Ask for help:**

- Ask teachers the best way to study for each subject; they have many years of experience they can share with you.
- Group study sessions with classmates can be a helpful and entertaining way of studying, but keep your focus on what you want to achieve with these sessions. These can also happen online through skype or other video conferencing apps
- Talk about what you are studying with family members and friends as this helps to retain the info more, especially names and dates, etc.

Please remember, our students have and will continue to have frequent communication with staff, have access to Edrolo (where appropriate) to support their studies as well as access to class resources and Learning Tasks through Compass and other online learning platforms. We will continue to be in contact with you regularly and will update you of any changes to classrooms and VCE/VCAL studies when we are informed.

At this present time it is most important that we continue to communicate, share our thoughts, stay on task and up to date with our schoolwork and assessments. Our fantastic school community is here to support each other each day.

Please look after each other and keep washing those hands.

**Mrs Lauren Barker, Senior Student Leader**

## COMPASS

Don't wait for the end of semester to view your child's progress. Log in to Compass and view teacher feedback and feed forward at any time by checking out your child's Learning Tasks. Children also receive regular (every 5 weeks) progress reports on their Organisation, Behaviour, Attitude to Learning and Work Completion. Learning Tasks and Reports can be found on your child's profile page.

## SPORTS NEWS

Many of the upcoming sporting events have been postponed or cancelled. It is hoped that Tennis Hot shots and Hockey Roadshow will be postponed to Term 4, but the Winter Sports have been cancelled.

**Mrs Carlie Turnbull and Mr Anthony Tatchell, Teachers**

## LIBRARY NEWS

Premier's Reading Challenge 2020 - at last! We had news this week that the VICPRC 2020 is ready to start. All students from Foundation to Year 10 will be registered by the school Library and have until the end of August to complete the Challenge. Foundation - Grade 2 students must read (or experience) 30 books (at least 20 from the set list). Grade 3-9 students must read 15 books (at least 10 from the set list). Year 10 students must read 15 books (at least 5 from the set list).



All the information is available online at the VICPRC2020 website including the extensive book lists. Please wait until you are given your Username and Password in Library classes before you try to access it.

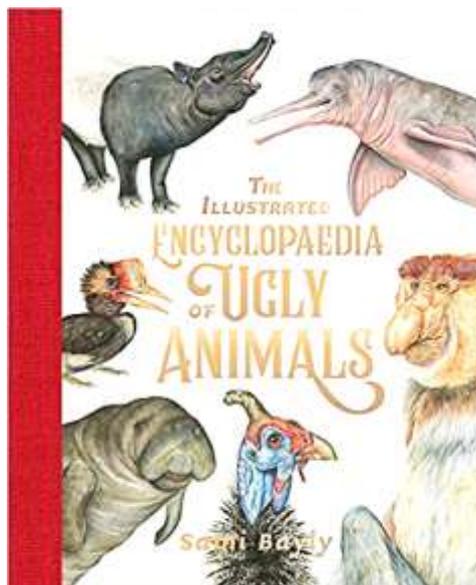
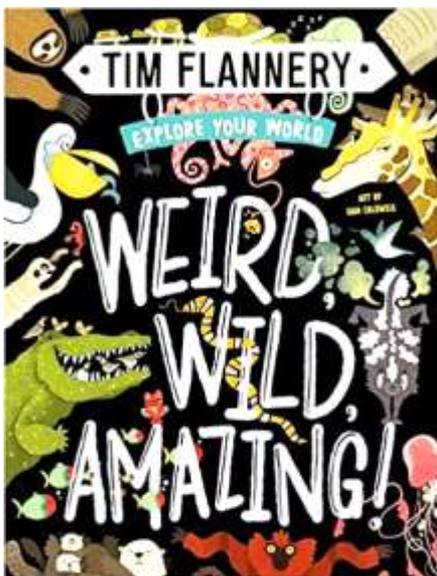
### New Books

The Children's Book Council has just released the list of "Notable Books" in the sections of the book awards 2020. This list of about 20 books have been judged the best published in Australia this past year. The short list of 5 books in each section will be selected from the Notables list. We have almost all the books on the long list already. Two books selected for the Eve Pownall Prize for Information Texts are:

#### "Weird, Wild, Amazing! : Explore your world." By Prof. Tim Flannery

This hardback, hefty book covers so many areas of our environment and answers so many weird questions as well as being a great book to browse through with spectacular illustrations.

Do zombie dolphins really exist?



#### The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Ugly Animals by Sami Bayly

This fascinating reference is full of the most incredible images and information about the not so photogenic animals around the world. They might not be so cute, but really significant in Earth's Biosphere.

**Miss Hilary MacKay and Mrs Joan Earl**

# SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORTS

## The SWPBS Scoop

DON'T FORGET TO BANK YOUR BUCKS  
AND BAG A BARGAIN!  
DID YOU KNOW THAT THE BURN BANK  
HAS A CRICKET BAT FOR 16 BUCKS?!

### CURRENT FOCUS: RESILIENCE

*Always in all areas*

#### WE ARE RESILIENT

I will...

- Accept when routines change
- Keep trying
- Focus on what I can control
- View situations positively
- Always keep a sense of humour
- Identify and manage my emotions
- Be a problem solver
- Build and look after friendships

### EASTER EGG DAY

Join in the Burn Buck  
celebration this  
Friday, 20th March.  
2 Easter Eggs  
for 1 Burn Buck!



WEDDERBURN  
COLLEGE

## Careers and Pathways

### Reminders

#### Latrobe University 2020 Experience Clever Workshops:

Melbourne (Easter School Holidays) – 3rd April

Bendigo (Winter School Holidays) – 8th July

[www.latrobe.edu.au/study/life/events/experience-clever](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/study/life/events/experience-clever)

#### Deakin University Step on Campus

1<sup>st</sup> April to the 9th April across all Deakin Campuses - Melbourne, Warrnambool and both Geelong campuses.

[www.deakin.edu.au/about-deakin/events/step-on-campus](http://www.deakin.edu.au/about-deakin/events/step-on-campus)



The ADF GAP year 2021 applications are now open.

Get an exciting 12-month taste of life in the Navy, Army or Air Force, and enjoy full job training, meaningful work and memorable experiences – plus much more after completing Year 12.

For further information visit:

[www.defencejobs.gov.au/students-and-education/gap-year/?page=1&perPage=21&query=](http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/students-and-education/gap-year/?page=1&perPage=21&query=)



The ConocoPhillips Science Experience is a fun 3 or 4 days of science activities designed for Year 9 and 10 students. Each program is designed to provide students who have an interest in science with an opportunity to engage in a wide range of fascinating science activities under the guidance of scientists who love their work.

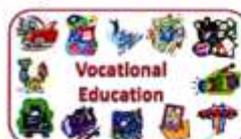
The program takes place in over thirty-five universities and tertiary institutions, within many different laboratories and lecture theatres (many are held during school holiday periods). Participants perform experiments in the laboratories, meet and hear senior lecturers in the lecture theatres, attend site visits and walk around and experience what it is like to be on the campus of a university or tertiary institution.

The program also provides information about further studies in science, technology and engineering. It highlights the wide range of careers that allow students to pursue their interest and abilities in the sciences.

For further information including location and dates please visit:

[www.scienceexperience.com.au/about-the-program](http://www.scienceexperience.com.au/about-the-program)

### What can you get from a VET Qualification?



#### Nationally recognised qualification

VET is a national system with qualifications that are recognised and can lead to employment anywhere in Australia.

#### Contribution towards VCE or VCAL

VET qualifications can contribute towards your VCE or VCAL.

#### Skills

##### Technical skills

Develop technical skills through specialised training for a specific job or industry.

##### Employability skills

Develop non-technical skills that can be applied across different jobs and industries. Skills include:

- communication
- teamwork
- problem solving
- initiative and enterprise
- planning and organising
- self-management
- learning
- technology

#### Knowledge

##### Specialised knowledge

Gain knowledge through specialised training to understand and perform specific workplace tasks.

##### Industry knowledge

Learn how an industry works – see the big picture and learn how to progress your career.

##### Employment opportunities

VET can lead to full-time, part-time or casual employment opportunities. This flexibility may allow you to follow multiple interests at the same time – like employment, education and volunteering.

##### Financial outcomes

##### Earn while you learn

Apprenticeships and traineeships allow you to earn an income as you train, study and work.

##### Gain qualified employment to finance further studies

Once you receive a VET qualification you may be able to gain employment that can finance further studies – like a more advanced qualification.

##### Secure income

A VET qualification in an area with increasing job opportunities may provide you with a secure income.

##### Education pathways

VET can lead to TAFE or university – it is up to you and your goals.

For further information visit:

[www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/studentguides/getvet/Pages/Index.aspx](http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/studentguides/getvet/Pages/Index.aspx)

Lauren Barker  
Senior Student Leader

Sue Clay   
Careers and Pathways  
Email: [s.clay@ncllen.org.au](mailto:s.clay@ncllen.org.au)

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### UNIFORMS FOR SALE

Wedderburn College Parents Association sell SECOND HAND and NEW UNIFORMS to help raise funds for camps, books, excursions etc. These uniforms can be purchased from the Uniform Shop at the School, located on Chapel Street side of the school. (Building formally known as the HUB)

**Hours:** Thursday 3pm to 4pm

Friday 8.30am to 9.30am

Or phone **Kylie** on **0409 389 916** or **Jo** on **0407049268** to arrange another time.

#### RAMJAC Uniform Price List

SS Champion Polo Navy/Gold	\$24.00
LS Champion Polo Navy/Gold	\$26.00
Champion Jacket	\$40.00
Micro Fibre Shorts	\$30.00
Drill Shorts	\$30.00
Skirt with Skort	\$37.00
Microfiber Track pant -Kids	\$40.00
Microfiber Track pant -Adult	\$44.00
LS Tee with Logo	\$18.00
Padded Vest	\$45.00
Bonded Polar Fleece Vest	\$39.00
Bonded Polar Fleece Jacket	\$44.00
Polar Fleece ½ zip jumper	\$32-\$36
Wide Brimmed Hat	\$15.00
Bucket Hat	\$15.00
Beanie	\$15.00



\*\*\*\*\* Navy Socks Now Available\*\*\*\*\*

We have a wide variety of sizes to try on. Orders taken and paid for on the day via Cash or Credit Card and delivered to the School Uniform Shop the following week.

#### Second Hand Uniform Price List

Polar Fleece Jumpers	\$3.00
Navy Polo	\$2.00
Shorts	\$2.00
Track pants	\$2.00
Hats/Beanies	\$2.00
Dresses	\$5.00
P/F Vest & Full zip Jacket	\$5.00
Champion Jacket	\$5.00

Donations of unwanted or no longer needed uniforms are greatly appreciated. These can be dropped off to the front office or call or text **Kylie** on **0409 389 916** for other arrangements.

Wide variety of sizes to purchase on the day. Cash only.

New Dresses now Available \$55 each.

#### FOR SALE

School Magazine - Jumbunna 2019 - \$20.00ea. Limited number. Contact Front Office.

**World Oral Health Day  
March 20th**



**Tips for looking after your families teeth:**

- 1. Brush every morning and night:** Use fluoride toothpaste. Brush every tooth gently in circles for two minutes. Spit and do not rinse with water at the end.
- 2. Drink well:** Drink mainly tap water. Soft drink and juice have added sugar that are not good for your teeth.
- 3. Eat well:** Enjoy a wide variety of nutritious foods from all five food groups. Limit foods with added sugar. Healthy meals and snacks are important for healthy teeth.
- 4. Visit the dentist every year:** Visit the dentist at least once every year. They will check to make sure your teeth are growing properly and are clean.
- 5. Change your toothbrush often:** Get a new toothbrush every three months.

For more information visit: [https://www.worldoralhealthday.org/sites/default/files/assets/WHOHD20-fce-hhwe1\\_children-EN.pdf](https://www.worldoralhealthday.org/sites/default/files/assets/WHOHD20-fce-hhwe1_children-EN.pdf) OR <https://www.dhsv.org.au/dental-advice/general-dental-advice> Information from Northern District Community Health

