



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

This term, Year 9 students will be undertaking a program that seeks to draw together their studies across Science, Mathematics, English, HASS, Religious Education and Visual Arts. The project aims to give students the opportunity to develop their skills in these areas within a practical and applied context. Faculty leaders in these subject areas have been working closely to ensure that our Year 9 students take part in a learning experience that addresses essential components of the Australian Curriculum, including Cross Curricula Priorities and a range of General Capabilities, and enables them to connect with our Whyalla Community in a personally valuable way. We have been working in partnership with the Whyalla Friends of the Mangroves group leader and UniSA representative Sandra Walsh, and Kate Brocklehurst and Greg Kerr from the DEWNR in order to design a program which not only offers our students a valuable experience, but also contributes important research for the local environment here in Whyalla.

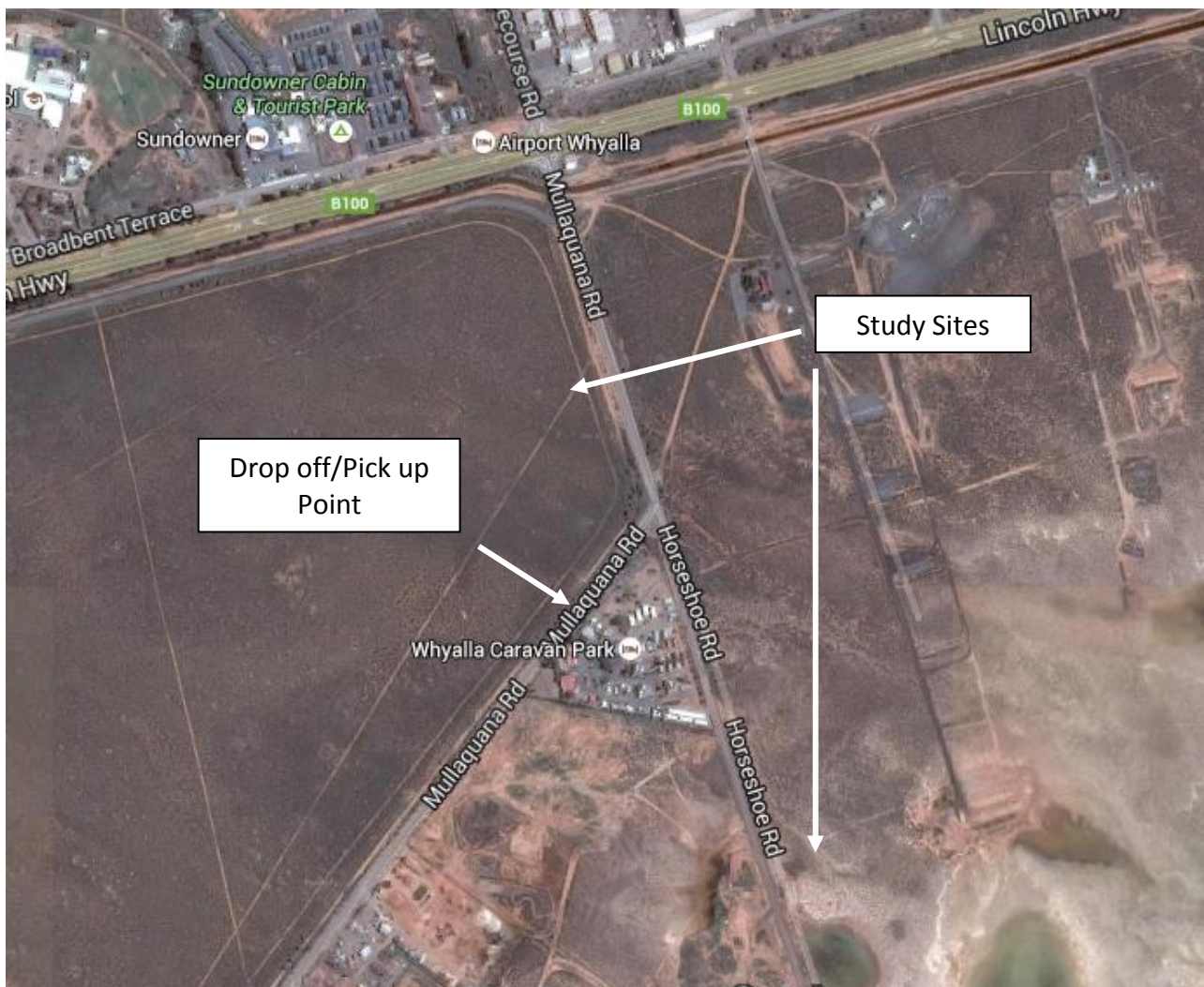
On Wednesday, May 18, Year 9 students will travel to the Whyalla Caravan Park on Mullaquana Road, where they will carry out an ecological sampling procedure to gather data on the health of the salt marsh system, focusing on the impact of human use in the area. They will bring this data back to school and use Mathematics lessons to analyse and look for significant patterns in their data. Through studies in English and HASS, students will evaluate public awareness and opinions on the saltmarsh and Whyalla foreshore, looking at the specific government processes involved in legislation surrounding the use of a natural environment. With the involvement of our APRIM, Mr Bernie Miexner, students will take part in an EcoSpirituality session, reflecting upon the value of the natural environment in our spiritual lives and mental health.

Their work will culminate in an evening of presentations at the college, where students will present their findings in the format of a political campaign showcase. Work produced during the course of the Salt Marsh Project will be on display and the evening will be a celebration of student effort and achievement. The evening will take place in Week 10, and families will be warmly invited to attend. Further information on this night will be forthcoming via the College Newsletter and Website.

Assessment of student work will happen within individual subject areas. Students will be required to

submit individual components of their project to their relevant subject teachers, who will assess and grade student work against their subject specific assessment criteria.

To begin this project, the excursion to a significant site of salt marsh in Whyalla will occur on May 18 (Wednesday Week 3). Students will need to arrive at the Whyalla Caravan Park entry on Mullaquana Road at 8.30am, when attendance will be taken. Students will be dismissed from the same point at 3.00pm, and may either walk/ride home or be picked up by a parent/caregiver (or another designated adult). Should students need to return to school for whatever reason, staff will be available to provide transport. Please see the attached map as a reference.



Students will need to wear P.E. uniform on the day, including their **hats**. Students will need to bring:

- Their recess, lunch and drink bottle.



- A pen for writing.

The timetable of events is detailed below:

8.30am – students are dropped off at the caravan park entrance.

8.45am – roll is taken and attendance finalized. Students will be briefed by teachers about safety and procedures on the day.

9.00am – students begin session 1

10.30am – recess break

11.00am – students begin session 2

12.30pm – lunch break

1.00pm – students begin session 3

2.30pm – students gather at assembly point for final briefing and cleanup

3.00pm – students picked up from caravan park entrance.

Please complete and return the following form as permission for your child to attend the field trip detailed above. Should you require further information on this excursion or anything about the Salt Marsh Project, please do not hesitate to contact myself or any other faculty coordinator at the college on (08) 8645 8568.

Kind regards,

Ms Lydia Line
Science Faculty Coordinator



I, _____, give permission for my son/daughter,

_____ to attend the excursion to the Whyalla Salt Marsh study site on May 18 (Wednesday, Week 3). They will:

- Walk/ride home from the caravan park at 3.00pm
- Be picked up from the caravan park at 3.00 (parent contact number: _____)
- Travel home by car with a friend and their parent from the foreshore:

Name of friend: _____

Name of parent and contact number: _____

- Need to travel back to the college with staff

Signed: _____

Date: _____

In the event of inclement weather, students will need to attend school as per usual, and the field trip will be rescheduled. Staff will endeavour to make this decision by the afternoon of Tuesday May 17 and let the students know in afternoon care group. Please contact the college on the day should you be unsure/concerned about weather conditions.