



American Tea FAQs

What is the history of the name?

The Shorter Oxford Dictionary defines an American Tea as “ a social function to raise funds, to which guests contribute by bringing or buying food and drink.” The origins of the Shore American Tea event started on 16th November 1936, under the auspice of “bring a gift, buy a gift” organised by the Ladies Committee at Shore. The following year a garden fete was held, however still called the American Tea, with the boys from the school conducting tours of the school buildings and the view from the tower. It has been held annually ever since, changing through the war years to provide funds to the war effort, and then in subsequent years contributing to the War Memorial Hall Fund, building of the library in the 1950’s and ever since supporting the education of boys at Shore with equipment, bursaries, and improved facilities.

Are there any extra events held on this day?

There is a Year 10 Father and Son Breakfast held from 7.30am – 8.30 am in the Hall Quadrangle.
There is a Grandparents Morning Tea held from 10.00am – 11.00 am in the Dining Hall
The School Band plays at intervals throughout the day.

Do the boys have any time out from class to attend?

Each year group is given a set amount of time, usually 1 period to come out of class and enjoy the stalls. These times are advertised closer to the time depending on class schedules. Boys are also free to enjoy the stalls at both recess and lunchtime.

What is the Grandparents Morning Tea?

This event is held in the school Dining Hall to celebrate all the Grandparents in the school and is attended by the Headmaster Dr Wright. It is open to all Grandparents at the school. The Year 7 boys are invited to attend with their Grandparents if they wish. It is a pre-booked event that sells out quickly as we have limited seats available. It is advised to book early. Booking details are published in the Shore Weekly Record.

What food is available on the day?

There are many dining stalls with a variety of dining options. These include a BBQ, Asian Food Stall with Fried Rice, Noodles etc, Oyster Bar, Undercroft Café selling sandwiches, soups, salads, and Devonshire Teas, Fruit Salad stall, International Food stall with Chicken Satay, Thai Beef Salad, Samosas etc, The Chapel Lawn and Hall Quadrangle have tables and chairs with umbrellas to provide shade.
Also available are Drinks, Hot Chips, Sweets, Cakes, Snow Cones, and Fairy Floss.

How can I be more involved in the day?

All school parents are encouraged to be involved. During the year there are many events that help to raise funds towards stalls at the American Tea. These include the Mother’s Day Stall, Movie night, Gourmet and Sweets cooking days, and Tennis day. At the American Tea you can work on a stall for an hour or two, or you can offer to run one of the many stalls and recruit your friends to help on the day. Or alternatively you can just come along, spend some time shopping and enjoy lunch on the Chapel Lawn or the Quadrangle. There will be links available through the Shore Weekly Record and Shore Association Weekly to sign up and help out before and on the day.

You can contact one of the American Tea Convenor’s:
Felix Henschman 0435 803 101 Sally McLennan 0412 338 383

When is it held?

In 2017, it will be on Friday 8th September

What time is it held?

The hours for the American Tea are 9am – 3 pm.

Where is it held?

The North Sydney Campus hold the American Tea in the Senior School grounds. The Prep boys come over to the Senior School to participate. There are stalls on the Chapel Lawn, in War Memorial Hall, the Oval, the Quadrangle, Graythwaite lawns, the Hawkins Foyer and the Undercroft. The HSC art works are on display in the MAC at the Prep. School.

The Northbridge Campus (K-2) hold their American Tea on the same day and their stalls are in the school grounds and on the Northbridge Oval.

Who can attend the American Tea?

The American Tea is open to all family and friends of the Shore School Community. The event is held on a working school day so the boys are attending classes as per their usual routine. However, all family including siblings are welcome to come along and enjoy the day.

How do I get there? Is there parking available?

There is no parking available at the school. There is metered parking in North Sydney Council areas. Shore run a complimentary shuttle bus service from the Northbridge playing fields, where free parking is available.

What type of stalls are there?

There are over 60 stalls on the day. There are 5 main types of stalls: a variety of food stalls; rides and activities for the boys (and parents should they wish); stalls run by the school selling second hand books, toys, games, clothes etc; a large garden stall and a range of shopping stalls held by external stall holders.

Is there a service for Parcel Pick-up?

We offer a service where any purchases you make throughout the day will be held at a central location so that you can enjoy your day without having to carry your purchases with you. You just collect them near the gate as you depart from the school.

Can I pre-order anything for collection?

We offer a range of products that can be pre-ordered through a web link that can be collected on the day. These include; Christmas Cakes & Puddings, Gourmet Frozen Meals, and Sweets.

