



# Muswellbrook High School

## Newsletter 1

3rd March 2011



### *Principal Report*

I was fortunate to receive the good news that I had been promoted to the position of Principal of Muswellbrook High School on the very last day of the school year following the retirement of long serving former Principal Peter Crick. It is a great honour to lead the school and school community that I have been part of for the last six years. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the many people who offered their support during the application process.

I am looking forward to leading Muswellbrook High School in a new and positive direction. In my time at the school I have listened to constructive comments and criticisms from students, parents and community and I believe that there is a clear message that we need to improve our overall standards and expectations for student achievement, uniform and behaviour. Furthermore, the improvement of the appearance and condition of the school grounds and buildings will be a top priority to ensure students have a quality learning environment.

I want the Muswellbrook Community to be proud of its local school. In 2010 Muswellbrook High School again achieved the best HSC Band 6 results in the Upper Hunter and outstanding results in sporting and agricultural competitions. The school has a supportive, talented and capable staff who are achieving fantastic outcomes for students both in and out of the classroom. We have had a strong influx of new enrolments with our student population now standing at 765. With the support of our parents and community the school can continue to build on these strengths and make Muswellbrook High School an even better school for our students.

### **Trades Training Centre**

On Monday 21 February 2011 work began on three new facilities for the school as part of the Upper Hunter Trades Training Centre consortium. At the end of the proposed 20 week construction phase the school will boast a state-of-the-art commercial kitchen, metal workshop and agricultural facility. Whilst there will be significant short term disruption to the running of the school the long term benefits of these quality facilities will be advantageous to all current and future students of the school. The record numbers of students undertaking study in Vocational Education courses will be well supported in achieving their competencies under industry standard conditions.

### **School Uniform**

As most people would be aware, we have had a strong focus on uniform from the beginning of the year. Since the implementation of our new uniform and policy two years ago we have worked closely with students and parents in ensuring that we maintain a consistent, high standard for appearance. However, student footwear has remained an ongoing issue. The NSW Department of Education policy requires students to wear leather, enclosed footwear for occupational health and safety reasons. Our school policy requires shoes to be black for uniformity. I am pleased to report that over 85% of students are now in the correct footwear and we are working to have all students compliant in the very near future. I would like to thank parents for their support in enforcing this standard.

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## All Stars Indigenous Youth Summit

Many families would have taken a great interest in the NRL All Stars game against the Indigenous All Stars a couple of weeks ago, none more so than the Edwards family whose son Logan represented Muswellbrook High School at the All Stars Indigenous Summit. Logan joined 115 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island students from all over Australia at the summit which aimed to develop leadership skills and ability. Highlights for Logan included meeting and spending time with all of the top Rugby League players and walking out onto Skilled Park before kickoff in front of a huge crowd. Muswellbrook students in years 9-12 will also soon be able to take part in the 100% Knights Indigenous Mentoring program which is due to start at the school in March.

Mr Gareth Erskine

Principal

## *Deputy Principal Report*

### Communications

Welcome to 2011.

One of our major goals this year is to further improve our communication with you. To assist us in this, we have developed several strategies that you should be able to use. You will notice that on the back of this newsletter a section asking you for your most up to date contact information.

It is critical that you ensure that this is completed and returned to E Block Administration as soon as possible.

We use many methods of communicating information to you.

### School Uniform

It is very pleasing to see a large change in the way students are wearing the correct uniform. Thank you to all parents who have been working with us on the footwear, we will continue to work with you to ensure all students are wearing safe shoes that comply with our uniform policy. Please do not hesitate to phone the school to discuss any matter regarding uniform.

### Important information

Please find information regarding SMS Text Messages, Emails, Millennium & the School Website on the back page of this Newsletter.

Mr Brian Drewe

Deputy Principal



## Music

Ensembles are up and running for 2011 and students are busily preparing for performance events.

All new members are welcome to join these ensembles and can speak to Mrs Martin in CAPA for more information.

Concert band instruments and rehearsal books can be hired from Mrs Martin in CAPA.

### Ensemble rehearsal times:

Vocal group rehearses on a Tuesday at 8:15am in C25.

Concert Band rehearses on a Wednesday at 8:15am in C25.

Look forward to seeing you there.



## SRC Report

The SRC would like to welcome everybody back from the Summer holidays. We hope you had an enjoyable break. The SRC have a positive outlook for 2011 with our Annual General Meeting planned to be held in week 8.

Already this year the SRC held a Valentine's Day fundraiser selling chocolates and flowers to students to be delivered in roll call. Students were able to buy their friends, partners and favourite teachers a small gift to show their appreciation towards them.

Elections for year 7, 2011 SRC representatives were held during week 5 ready just in time for school photos.

Fortnightly SRC meetings will be held on Friday morning's week A at 8:40am in the Neate Theatre. All SRC representatives (year 7 to 12) are expected to attend, and any other Muswellbrook High School student is welcome to attend to submit any ideas or concerns they may be having.

We look forward to a successful schooling year in 2011.

Miss Sharon Freeman

## Uniform Shop Report

A big THANK YOU to Jenni Bullivant, Rana Guest and Stasia Gill for volunteering at the uniform shop for the three weeks of 'Back to School'. Your generosity meant that the waiting time was minimal.

While the shop is currently well stocked with winter clothing, I recommend new students purchase before the rush as supplies are ordered well in advance. We have trackpants, jackets, knitted jumpers, fleecy jumpers and scarves. All these items can be worn everyday and are unisex.

Monogrammed football shorts and socks are also available.

### Hours

Tuesday 7.30 – 11.30am

Thursday 12-4pm

Cash, EFT-POS or Cheques (made out to Daylight Sportswear welcome.)

Mobile Phone: 0439 118 033 (Pre-paid)

Vanessa



# *Head Teacher Administration Report*

## **Student Attendance 2011**

Together with a focus on uniforms and discipline Muswellbrook High School will be implementing a strong policy on student attendance. Some new measures have already been put in place including the introduction of Home Groups, period-by-period electronic roll marking and a more efficient control and reporting of whole day absences and trancies.

**Home Groups** commence at 9am each morning. Your child is to move to their Home Room as soon as the bell to start the day rings to have their roll marked prior to 9:05am. If your child arrives after 9:05am they must report to E-Block (Student Administration) to sign in late. An accompanying note from their parent/guardian should verify the lateness. However, where a note is not received your child will bring a late slip home to be signed and returned to their Home Room teacher the following day. Home Groups continue until 9:15am and will include further literacy and numeracy programs as well as provide your child with key information pertaining to school activities.

**Period-by-Period Electronic Roll Marking** has been implemented with a very positive effect this term. While it is only in its infancy some useful data has been revealed. The main benefit of teachers marking their roll electronically each lesson is the capacity to monitor student attendance in a timely fashion. As Head Teacher Administration, I am now able to identify if your child is truanting a class as that class is occurring which will allow for prompt follow up and communication with parents/guardians.

**Whole Day and Partial Attendance** remains a priority at Muswellbrook High School. It is essential your child attends every lesson, everyday to maximise their learning experience. At times, they may be too sick for school or have a serious family matter to attend to, however, these should be kept to a minimum. Additionally, doctor or dentist appointments may only be available in school hours, and while we advise against this, we understand this may not be avoidable, at all times. In these instances your child is expected to bring a dated and signed note to E-Block to receive a partial slip if they need leave for part of the school day, OR to substantiate an absence from the previous day. Without this notification the absence will be recorded as unjustified. Students are not to request leave from school for working commitments, birthdays, shopping, sleeping in, routine check-ups (eg. haircuts) or minor family events.

**SMS, Email and Written Communication** will be our main forms of keeping you up-to-date about your child. Each day we send an SMS to all parents/guardians who have a child absent from school or have arrived later than 9:05am. Truancy text messages will also commence this week. We encourage you to update your details using the form included in this newsletter to receive the latest information about your child and events at the school. Either send it with your child, post or email any changes to the school as soon as possible.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance please don't hesitate in contacting either myself or their Year Advisor for any further information.

Nick Mulvihill  
Head Teacher Administration

## *Reminder re : Bus Zones*

Parents are advised of new parking restrictions that are in place around the school. On behalf of the Muswellbrook Council Ranger and local bus companies we ask that parents are aware of bus zones and avoid parking in these areas. Offenders will be liable for fines and legal action if an accident occurs.





## Open Boys Volleyball

Our first sporting team for the year went to Newcastle on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February to compete in the Open Boys Volleyball Tournament. After finishing runners-up in the Hunter last year and qualifying for the CHS state knockout, the team went away with high expectations and a huge amount of enthusiasm.

Their first match was against Lake Munmorah High. They went down in the first set 21-25, before winning the second sets 25-16 and 25-21. The fourth set was a thriller, with numerous set and match points taking place before the boys were successful in closing the match out by winning 34-32.

Their quarter final match saw them up against Lambton High. Despite Lambton being a very tall team the Muswellbrook boys were able to overcome this with their developed skills winning the match in straight sets, 25-17, 25-17, 25-23.

This saw the boys qualify for the semi finals against Merewether High. They got off to a slow start but came back to be only down 7-9 in the first set, before the venue began leaking amidst a massive storm. The match had to be postponed and will be replayed at a later date. This will give the team valuable time to practice and develop tactics to play the highly skilled and very tall Merewether team.



## New Laptops



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***Reece Nicolson,  
Shea Wilson and  
Jye Truscott are  
checking out the new  
laptops.***

*Lenovo laptops, coloured  
green, will be allocated to  
all Year 9 students later  
this month.*

## *"On Stage" Excursion 2011*

On Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, nineteen of our students travelled to the Seymour Theatre in Sydney to see 'On Stage'. This is a showcase of the best HSC group and individual performances from 2010. It was particularly exciting for us this year due to the success of one of our Year 12 students, Billie Scott, who was selected to be part of this prestigious event.

All students were thoroughly engaged by the performances and thrilled to see someone they knew who was experiencing what it was like to perform his piece professionally for a week, to audiences of over 800 per show.

Certainly the experience was well worth the hours of travel and served to inspire the students to work hard on their own Drama projects and performances in the future.

**Mrs K. Sokulsky/Mrs. D. Hogan**



## *Encore Excursion*

On Monday February 7<sup>th</sup> students from Muswellbrook High School travelled to Sydney to attend the Encore Excursion.

They viewed a large number of talented performers showcasing their elective pieces, all of which highlighted the level required to achieve a band 6 in HSC performance.

Students enjoyed listening to a variety of instruments and styles and found many of these exciting performances useful for their own research and study.

**Mrs Martin**



John Llewellyn, Jeremy Eustace, Lucinda Hermon, Lucas Jones, Joel Whaley, Mitchell Scriven, Dylan Harrington, Kyle Doran, Jason Elphick, Nicole Bagley, Ebony Finch, Sarah Shorter, Kimberlee Claydon, William Moore, Cassandra Pickham, Josh Whyburn, Taya Elphinstone, Grace Rodham, Gabrielle Fitzgerald.

Sarah Shorter, Kimberlee Claydon, Ebony Finch, Nicole Bagley





## *Peer Support*

This term Year 7 students will participate in a Peer Support program, with Year 10 students acting as the Peer Leaders. The program will run one or two periods a week for the rest of this term and will assist the Year 7 students in their Transition to High School. Peer Support utilises the potential of the Year 10 students to befriend, respect and support their peers at school. Within the school it fosters communication and friendship between older and younger students and student's of the same age.

The Year 10 students participated in a full day of training on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February, where they learnt about being an effective leader, and participated in the activities and sessions that they will run with the Year 7 students.

This should be a rewarding experience for both the Year 10 and Year 7 students.

Pictured below are pictures of the Year 10's participating in their training.

**S. Freeman**  
Peer Support Coordinator



**The HSC honour roll** (over 90 in a HSC subject, listed in the HSC honour roll in national papers)

**The Fantastic Four** (top four ATARs over 90)



**Ben McLean**  
DUX  
3 Band 6s  
Mathematics  
and Chemical  
Engineering



**Andrew Woolley**  
Almost Dux  
Band 6 Biology  
Outstanding marks  
in 5 subjects  
Science Double



**Stephen Langley**  
Two Band 6s  
4<sup>th</sup> in state Food Tech  
Physiotherapy



**Caitlan Connolly**  
Two Band 6s  
ATAR over 90  
Occupational Therapy

**The HSC honour roll** (over 90 in a HSC subject, listed in the HSC honour roll in national papers)



**Ryan Case**  
Music 1  
Southern Cross Uni-  
versity Music and  
Education



**Caitlan Connolly**  
PDHPE  
CAFS  
Newcastle University  
Occ. Therapy



**Bradley Cini**  
Mathematics  
Wollongong Uni.  
Mechanical  
Engineering



**Tiffany Hope**  
General Maths  
Newcastle University  
Primary  
Teaching 2012



**Stephen Langley**  
Food Technology  
PDHPE  
Newcastle University  
Physiotherapy



**Beth Logan**  
PDHPE  
Canberra University  
Exercise Science  
and Management



**Ben McLean**  
Chemistry  
Mathematics  
PDHPE  
Chemical Engineer-  
ing and  
Maths



**Lucy McLeod**  
English Ext. 2  
Newcastle University  
Communications  
Journalism







**Sophie Milwain**  
Music 1  
Southern Cross Uni-  
versity  
Business


















**Katelyn Nougher**  
Senior Science  
PDHPE  
University of Western  
Sydney  
Business and Com-  
merce



				
Alexander Tuckey Mathematics Wollongong Uni. Engineering	Marc Ward Music 1 Southern Cross Uni- versity Music and Education	Andrew Woolley Biology University of New England Science Double	Dominic White Electrotechnology Tafe VET Apprentice Mt Arthur	

## Class of 2010, Where are they now?

				
Ellie Adam Office Admin. Trainee Deferred Business UN	Katlyn Barker UNE Criminology	Bradley Bastick Casual Work Hospitality	Jordan Betteridge Newcastle University Nursing	Rebecca Blain UNE Criminology
				
Daley Boney Apprentice Muswellbrook Coal	Ashlee Bowditch UNE Criminology 2012	Tamika Bowditch UNE B Arts Theatre 2012	Lucinda Claydon UNE B Arts 2012	Jessica Corbett Casual Work Bathurst
				
Andrew Coster Apprentice Muswellbrook Coal	Ethan Smith Part time Employment	Jessica Crozier Hospitality	Cassandra Darcy-Brown Equine Studies Scone TAFE	Mitchell Douglas Media and Screen Studies Newcastle TAFE



Hayley Doyle  
Casual Hospitality



Meisha Fawcett  
University Bridging  
Course



Teagan Gardiner  
Casual Office Work



Christie Gardner



Ashleigh Garland  
Tafe Childcare



Lisa Google  
Art and Education  
Southern Cross Uni.



Bianca Hemmings  
Paint Supplies  
Emerald Qld



Zach Hermon  
Apprentice  
Energy Aust.



Bethany Hichens  
Newcastle U.2012  
Biomed Science



Ryan Hitch  
UNE  
Criminology



Sam Huggins  
Newcastle Uni.  
PE in 2012



Robert Hutt  
Casual in Food  
Industry



Jeffrey Irwin  
Casual, Hospitality



Estelle Johnson  
relocating



Sherryn Jones  
Working  
Local Restaurant



Kurstie Kelman Walsh  
Cleaning Work



Dimity Lane  
Vet Nursing, Scone  
TAFE



Amereeza Lategan  
Childcare Trainee  
Newcastle U. defer



Stephanie Liebeck  
UTS Communication



Tineika Low  
Captive Animals  
TAFE Kurri



Heidi Mainiey  
Fine Art & Education,  
Newcastle Uni.



Kristina Matthews  
Casual Vet Nurse  
Moving, Moree



Jamie-Lee McKee  
Overton House



Teleisha Miller  
Aged Care  
TAFE



Victoria Miller  
Casual Work  
Hospitality



Emma Millerd  
UNE  
Criminology



Casey Natty  
NAISDA  
Dance College

















Hannah Nebauer  
Hospitality Course  
Hamilton TAFE



Sofia O'Hara  
Real Estate Trainee  
Deferred Uni.



Simone Paine  
Moved to Maitland  
TAFE in admin & IT

				
Kate Pickham Nursing, Charles Sturt U. Bathurst	Virginia Reynolds Casual work TAFE 2012	Emma Risby Canberra University Media	Bryce Robertson Retail, moving to Wol- longong	Billie Scott Wollongong Uni. Acting & Drama
				
Taylor Scott Club Cricket Sydney & related employment	Hayley Sharp Newcastle Uni. Business	Katherine Smith Southern Cross Uni. Music Management	Sarah Stringer Hornsby TAFE	Tamyann Walters Vet Nursing Scone TAFE
				
Ashlee Ward Business Admin Traineeship	Maigan Ward Aged Care work	De-anna Wilson Moving to Wollongong	Sidney Symington Rural traineeship	

## Year 10 hit the ground running, Mock Interviews and Work Experience

Beginning on March 15 this term, Year 10 students will be involved in **Mock Interviews** with local employers. This means students will need to make the most of the few career lessons leading up to this to prepare as they will need to complete an application letter, resume, folio and bring an assignment and school report.



Amy Pickersgill, pictured left, was the highest scoring student in last year's mock interviews. Mikaela Callinan, right, received an excellent report from Work Experience at the Coffs Harbour Pet Porpoise Pool.



Year 10 students who have completed a work ready lesson and online safety and work ready tests can apply to do **work experience** in any non exam school week.

Year 11 and 12 students attended the '**Uni Roadshow**' featuring three regional universities Friday, 11 February and a number of university open days for seniors and industry information sessions for Year 9-12 will run this semester.

**Tony Borg**

**Careers**





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Text Number: **19910010**

*"Striving for excellence in a school that cares"*



## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**SMS text messaging** – Daily attendance of your child is sent to your family mobile number. If only one adult has a mobile then this will be used. This can also be used for important information regarding parent teacher meetings, issue of reports etc. The school SMS number is: **19910010**. Please add this as a contact in your mobile phone. You CANNOT phone this number, please phone using 65431033. You may send a text message at any time to this number to explain your child's absences. Please let us know if you have any problems with this texting service.

**Email** – We will be attempting to send this newsletter to as many people as possible via email. If you have an email in the family that you use regularly, please write this clearly on the form.

**Websites** – The school website holds a great deal of information and is a useful place for you to find out what is happening at school.

**Millennium** – We also have started using a website that contains all of your child's school information. This includes attendance, school reports, assessment tasks, timetables, behaviour information.

Students have a separate login to this site and they will be sent an email to their portal email address outlining how to access this site.

Families are able to see the whole family at a glance and need a family login. This will be sent to you via an email if you have one already and in several weeks if you have just added one.



## *Family Update Contact Details 2011*

Please detach this section & return to the School

Family: (Last Names): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Fathers Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Mothers Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Email Address for future Newsletters: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Information: \_\_\_\_\_