



# Muswellbrook High School

## Newsletter 3

13th May 2011



### *Principal Report*

#### **Welcome to Term 2**

There is a strong feeling of momentum in the school with plenty of positive achievements in Term 1 and the appointment of new staff to key roles. With a number of exciting developments taking place and teachers delivering quality educational and whole school programs with success, there is a good vibe in the place. This is an important term for our students and staff alike with half-yearly assessments and NAPLAN examinations and the writing of semester reports.

I would like to express my thanks to the hundreds of parents, staff and students who undertook the communication survey online. The feedback will be used to further improve how we do business here at Muswellbrook High School. I would also like to particularly thank the parents who took the time to provide additional feedback which is very welcome.

#### **Anzac Day**

Our school ANZAC Day assembly was held on Tuesday 5 April 2011 and featured a number of student musical and vocal performances, readings and presentations. The special guest speaker was Warrant Officer, Mr David Ilsley, from the Australian Army special forces unit. Mr Ilsley related his experiences in his service in touring Afghanistan and his message that we are very lucky to live in a safe, prosperous and democratic nation was received by a captivated audience. Many staff related the great pride that they felt during this service which is testament to the staff, members of the RSL and students involved. I would like to thank Miss Walsh for her coordination of this event which many long-time attendees declared as the best ever.

Our students also made significant contributions to the services held in Muswellbrook and Denman. Jordi Adam-Smith, John Davis and Joshua Davis delivered strong vocal performances in Muswellbrook and Sam Hume and Cassie Pickham conducted their duties as captains with aplomb. In Denman, Thomas Marshall and Gabrielle Fitzgerald (pictured) represented the school in laying a wreath and

taking part in the commemorative march. In both towns the school students and staff turned out in force in what were two moving and poignant ceremonies. I was particularly moved by a veteran in Denman who was in a wheelchair and when asked to stand for the singing of the national anthem, arose from his chair, supporting himself on wildly shaking arms for the duration of the anthem, refusing to be seated until requested by the MC.



## Trades Training Centre

After 9 weeks of construction, our facilities are starting to take shape, particularly in the hospitality area. Whilst this section is out-of-sight to staff and students, the foreman Jarrett King kindly provides us with photos of the work in progress. An important milestone was reached in the last two weeks at the Agriculture farm with the laying of cabling to the site and the bypass of an irrigation line around the building site. This will now allow the footings to be laid. Plans are progressing for the furnishings and equipment for each of the three facilities for the expected handover in Term 3.



## Solar Panels/Weather Station

We now have solar power being fed into our school grid thanks to the installation of panels on the library roof. This is a welcome support as the school power bills have risen steadily over the years with the air conditioning of every classroom coming at a significant cost. As an added bonus a monitoring station attached to the solar panels provides information onto the web regarding power generation and local weather conditions. The information can be accessed by following the link below.



<http://www.sunnyportal.com/Templates/PublicPageOverview.aspx?plant=cc8e1caf-980f-41f8-b8a2-bef236c31998&splang=en-US>

## Team of '53

The legendary 'Team of '53', the Muswellbrook High School Rugby League side that won the University Shield competition in 1953 held a reunion on Saturday 30 April, organised by Keith Crossley. As part of their reunion they visited the school and I was honoured to play host and guide. We ended the tour by reprising the famous team photograph that hangs in our school administration building. Here you can see the players resplendent in our modern school jerseys sitting in front of one of the team members framed blazer with the original team photograph in the top right corner. Whilst time has thinned their ranks their camaraderie and pride for their school has gone from strength to strength. Mr Crossley has kindly accepted an offer to write an historical piece on the team for our school website which will be published later in the year.





## Welcome to new staff

At the beginning of Term 2 we welcomed two new and important members of our permanent staff. Scott Copland has been appointed Deputy Principal, taking over the position I held formerly before taking on the Principal's role. Scott comes to Muswellbrook from Bulli High School where he was the Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts and brings an enormous wealth of experience and knowledge to his new role



Mr Scott Copland  
Deputy Principal

Bruce McLaren from Dubbo Senior Campus has been appointed as Hospitality Teacher, replacing Ruth Gal who was promoted to Head Teacher TAS at Scone High School. Bruce brings significant industry experience to his teaching having been a chef for many years. No doubt he will be looking forward to using the new commercial kitchen facilities when they become available later in the year. I would also like to congratulate Fiona Bailey on her appointment to the Head Teacher Science and Languages position. In her time at Muswellbrook High School Mrs Bailey has taught a range of subjects including Japanese, Science and Agriculture and will become a vital member of our school leadership group.



Mr Bruce McLaren  
Hospitality Teacher

Thank you to my fellow panel members Mel Powell, David Cummings and Jenni Bullivant from Muswellbrook High School and Joanne Cutler (Scone HS) and Elizabeth Bate (Singleton HS) for your time and input in selecting our new staff.

## Remediation of western hill area



During the school holidays I worked with Shaun Christian, our relieving General Assistant, on remediating the western hill area of the school. In this time we removed over 100 railway sleepers, 5 tonnes of cement, fence posts, wire and other vegetation and debris. Shaun made excellent use of his skills on a Bobcat in returning the hill to a safe and useable state. After working with me over the two days he suggested that I stick to my day job, advice I will certainly take onboard. The site is now ready to be fenced so that we can bring livestock back onto the school premises.

## Karl Bowd

Congratulations to Karl Bowd who won the Shane Ball 'Best up and coming talent in the Upper Hunter award' at the recent Denman Cricket Club Presentation Evening. Karl was an integral member of the Premiership winning A Grade team who defeated Scone in March. As part of this award he will attend the Bradman Academy in Bowral where he will receive expert coaching and guidance from a range of top level coaches and players.



**Mr Gareth Erskine**  
**Principal**



## *Parent Portal / Millennium*



# Do you want more details on your child's progress at school?

Go to the Parent Portal for Student Timetables, Attendance summary, School reports, Behaviour summary

*If you have an email address registered, you will have been sent a message with log-in details for our Millennium Parent Portal*

**So Register  
TODAY !!**

**6543 1033 or send in the reply**



**Please Call Mr Drewe if you have any questions**

**Muswellbrook High School**

**Year 6 Open Day**

**Monday May 23, 2011**

All Year 6 students and parents are invited to attend the annual Open Day for Year 6 Students at Muswellbrook High School on Monday 23 May commencing at 11:10am in the Multi-Purpose Centre. Students will be involved in three 25 minute mini lessons and will have a chance to meet many of the 2012 Year 7 teachers. Parents will have the opportunity to meet the Principal, members of staff, student leaders and P & C representatives as well as experience a virtual school tour.



## *Tocal Field Day*

On Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> April Mrs Bailey and 16 Year 11 Agriculture and Primary Industries students ventured down the highway in the “MacGen” bus to Tocal Field Days.

We participated in educational workshops including beef cuts, local weed identification and control, aquaculture, working sheepdogs, brumbies and piglet races. Not all workshops were totally serious!



Dean Olson holding a sea slug.



Crystal-Lea Turner holding a large sea snail



“ Beef cuts workshop”

We also visited a variety of information stalls and students collected pamphlets and information to be used in their courses. They were able to speak to various industry representatives and participate in the activities at each stall.



**OUR  
NEW  
FRIEND**



Tocal adventurers included Matilda Miller, Crystal Turner, Kelly-Anne Richards, Stephanie Haynes, Brianna Waters, Amanda Parker, Patrick Wilson, Ashleigh Cantor, Amy Pickersgill, Brittany Eustace, Brooke Swan, Megan Ebzery, Josh McCreery, Nathan Page and James Medhurst. Dean Olson was making a purchase at the time of the photo.

A great day was enjoyed by all. We would like to thank Macquarie Generation for the loan of their bus. It makes excursions for small groups much more affordable.

**Fiona Bailey**  
Head Teacher Science/lote



## CHS Sport Report

There have been a number of Muswellbrook High School sporting teams competing in the CHS knockouts.

The most successful teams have included;

- The **Open Boys Touch Football** team have defeated Hunter River High and West Wallsend High to see them make the top 8 in the Hunter. They will compete at Newcastle in the quarter finals on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May.
- The **Open Boys Volleyball** team have reached the semi-final of the Hunter knockout, after defeating Lake Munmorah High and Lambton High. They will be playing the semi-final against Merewether High on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May in an attempt to repeat their efforts from last year of qualifying for the State Final 16 Knockout in Sydney.
- The **Open Boys Cricket** team defeated Singleton High and Scone High to make it through to the third round which will be played in Term 4. The highlights of their matches was a 5 wicket haul from Karl Bowd against Singleton and Beaudan Dixon scoring a century against Scone.

Our **Rugby League** teams have also achieved considerable success this year.

The 14's Buckley Shield team won their opening round game against Scone 92-0. The University Shield Boys (Opens) won their game against Scone High 32-18. Both teams are continuing in their respective Knockout draws. The 13's Rugby League boys won the Group 21 Scone Gala Day. The boys beat St Joey's and Scone High to take out the title.

Our best team performance so far this year has been that of our **Boys Futsal** team.

They travelled to Maitland Basketball Stadium to compete in the 2011 Schools Futsal Championships. The competition pitted the team against schools from across the Hunter Valley including Singleton, Rutherford, Maitland, Dungog and Cessnock. The boys went through the group stage undefeated, finishing first in their group. They comprehensively beat Dungog 5-1 in the semi-final and then took the competition out with a hard-fought 5-4 win in the grand final over Rutherford.

The team will now play in the State Futsal Championships later in the year where they will play against the top teams in the state. The team comprised of Jake Barner, Beaudan Dixon, Thomas Harris, Liam King, Jesse Legge, Jayden McCarthy





- The **Open Boys Basketball** team struggled after losing 4 members of the team that won the Hunter Championships last year. They tried hard but went down to Maitland High School in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round and Kotara High in the consolation round.
- The **Open Girls Basketball** convincingly defeated Cessnock High in their first round before going down to Merewether High.
- The **Open Girls Volleyball** team defeated Cessnock High in the first round 25-14, 25-20 before losing in a close 3 setter to Swansea High 25-7, 20-25, 11-15
- The **Open Girls Touch Football** team defeated Dungog High before losing to Singleton High
- The **Open Girls Netball** team played a round robin day with Scone High and Singleton High with the winning school advancing to the Hunter Final 16. The girls beat Scone High before losing to Singleton High.

There are a number of teams competing in knockouts in the coming term. These include the Lawn Bowls team, Open Boys Netball, Open Boys Hockey and AFL. Rugby League also has a number of competitions coming up including the Knights Knockout on 20th May for 13's and 15's, 10th June for 14's and 16's. The Tamworth Peel Carnival will also be played later this term.

We have also had a number of individual athletes achieve at a high level by being named a Hunter Representative for their respective sport. These students are;

**John Langley**-Open Boys Hockey

**Emily Huggins**- Open Girls Basketball and Open Girls Volleyball

**Jake Parker**- U16 Boys Touch Football

**Jason Carter**- AWD Swimming

**James Medhurst**- AWD Swimming

Congratulations to all these teams and students for their great efforts on the sporting field.

**Mrs Sharon Kirkwood**  
**CHS Sport Coordinator**

## *Deputy Principal Report*

Firstly, I would like to thank both students and staff who have made my transition to Muswellbrook High School a very pleasant experience. The friendly and supportive manner of everyone has been appreciated and makes me believe it has been a great decision moving to the country.

As a new member of staff, my initial thoughts of Muswellbrook High School are that it is a highly successful comprehensive school in many different aspects. The school uniform proudly identifies our students within the local community, which is the first impression I had of the school. I found it difficult to find any student out of uniform, which is an outstanding effort by both students and staff. It is something which I endeavour to maintain. The cold weather is upon us now and I would like to remind parents to visit the uniform shop and make their winter clothing purchases.

The 2011 NAPLAN tests (National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy) will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of week three (10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> May). The annual assessment is a common national testing program in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Numeracy. Students in Year 7 and 9 received exam timetables and information booklets on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Please ask your child to see this information if they haven't already presented it to you. Testing is compulsory with the results providing feedback of your child's educational development in both English and Mathematics.

**Mr Scott Copland**  
**Deputy Principal**

## *SRC Report*

At the end of Term 1, the SRC held an out of uniform day to fund raise money for our sponsored child Fernando from Chile. We successfully raised \$570 which will go to World Vision to help Fernando for another year.

To start the term, Muswellbrook High SRC students marched in both the Muswellbrook and Denman Anzac Services. We would like to thank all students who participated on the day for showing their respect and support.

The Stuart house donation drive 2011 is currently being held. Students are able to collect an envelope from the PE staff room, fill it out and return it with their \$2 donation for the chance to win a \$4,000 holiday to a destination of your choice. All entries must be returned by the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

**Amber Dean**  
**SRC Co-ordinator**

## *Uniform Shop Report*



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. I recommend students come in and try on for sizing as not all items in the shop are made by Daylight. All these items can be worn everyday and are unisex.

'MBK' footy shorts and socks are also available.

### **Hours**

Tuesday 7.30am – 11.30am

Thursday 12noon – 4pm

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

Price List	
Junior or Senior Blouse	\$27.00
Junior or Senior Polo	\$27.00
Tartan Skirt	\$48.50
Girls Stretch Slacks	\$39.00
Girls Dress Shorts	\$35.00
Boys Shorts	\$35.00
Wool Jumper	\$69.00
Fleecy Jumper	\$36.00
School Jacket	\$65.00
Track Pants	\$35.00
Sport Shorts	\$24.00
Sports Polo	\$33.00
Navy Scarf	\$12.00
Football Shorts	\$18.00
Football Socks	\$ 8.50

## *Borrowed Uniforms*

If your student has borrowed an item of school uniform clothing from the school library, could you please **return it PROMPTLY** and ask your student to collect their clothing from the library in exchange. Clothing left in the library for more than one school term will be donated to charity.

**Mrs Trish Cullen**  
**Librarian**