



Muswellbrook High School

Newsletter 4

20th June 2011



Principal Report

Visitors to the school administration office often notice a framed picture hanging on the wall showing two photographs of Muswellbrook High School covered in snow. The photographs were taken on July 18, 1965, well before the many trees and other newer buildings obscured the view of 'The school on the hill'. On noticing this photograph, students usually respond with "Did it snow in Muswellbrook?" They then often wonder aloud whether it may happen again, and when?

**Muswellbrook
High School
Covered in snow**

—

18 July 1965



Whilst it has been a very cold start to the winter, perhaps it may be some time yet before we see a similar scene at Muswellbrook High School. However, our recent Athletics Carnival was held in frigid conditions at Weereman Field. Fortunately, the rain held off between 9:00am and 3:30pm allowing all events bar the High Jump to be contested.

Half-Yearly Reports

Students have all completed their Half-Yearly examinations and are busy completing units of work as the end of term draws near. Year 11 and 12 students have now received their Half-Yearly reports with students in Years 7-10 set to receive theirs on Thursday 30 June, 2011. I have been impressed with the results achieved by our senior students thus far. There are some remarkable individual and class performances but also considerable room for further improvement for many students.

Year 12 Student Interviews

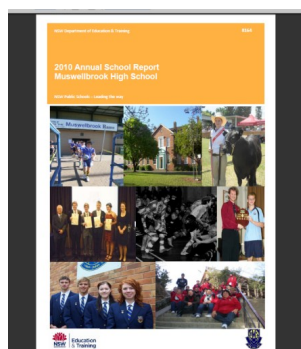
Careers Teacher, Tony Borg and I have been busy interviewing Year 12 Students over the last few weeks. The purpose of these interviews is to discuss the individual student's achievement in their recent report, outline strategies to further improve these results and work towards further study and vocational opportunities, post-HSC. The students are also given an analysis of their marks by Mr Borg who is able to demonstrate how their marks will influence their Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR). Overall, the Year 12 students have shown themselves to be a mature, likable and determined group of whom the school can be proud of.

New on the School Website

The screenshot shows the Muswellbrook High School website. The header is blue with the school name and tagline 'Striving for Excellence in a School that Cares.' Navigation links include HOME, OUR SCHOOL, CURRICULUM & ACTIVITIES, CARING FOR STUDENTS, NEWSLETTER, SCHOOL HISTORY, and SCHOOL UNIFORM. A 'Choose school year' dropdown is set to 7. A calendar section lists events: Starstruck (14-18 June 2011), Zone Athletics (15 June 2011), and Outward Bound (22 June 2011 - 28 June 2011). The 'LATEST NEWS' section features three articles: 'Education tax refund' (8 June 2011), 'Homework and multi-tasking', and 'Science help - top tips'.

Annual School Report 2010

The Annual School Report is a comprehensive summary of the school's achievements in 2010. Produced by staff, students and community, this report gives a detailed and balanced outline of the school's academic, sporting, cultural and extra-curricular performance. The report also contains detailed information on school planning and the results of the communication survey undertaken earlier in the year. To read this report, click on the link below.



<http://www.muswellbro-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/sws/view/2525.node>

Trades Training Centre



Even though we have fallen slightly behind schedule I am reliably informed that our new trade facilities **should** be ready by the beginning of Term 3. Photographs of the progress of these facilities can be viewed by following the link below.

<http://www.muswellbro-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/sws/view/1670738.node>

Team of 1953



Keith Crossley is our first contributor to the new History section of the school website. Keith, a member of the school's legendary team of '53, has penned an entertaining and informative account of the University Shield team's journey through the competition in 1953, culminating in an historic victory. Through his article he provides a wonderful snapshot of the students, teachers and school, at this time. Click on the link below to read this amazing story.

<http://www.muswellbro-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/sws/view/1670812.node>

Year 6 2012 Information Day

Thank you the Year 6 students and parents who attended our recent Year 6 2012 Information Day. Students were able to select three mini-lessons which they participated in whilst parents attended an information session in the school library. I took this opportunity to speak to prospective parents about the developing positive culture of the school and to draw their attention to the fantastic student achievement within the school over the last four years, as well as the plans for the future of the school. Congratulations to our school transition co-ordinator, Sharon Kirkwood, and Year 7 Adviser 2012, Amber Dean, for their organisation of the event.

Gareth Erskine
Principal

Deputy Principal Report

Student reports are currently being finalised whilst Year 11 and 12 have already had them issued. It is pleasing to read about the successes of our students in their classes. Teachers continue to describe the commitment to learning of most students in their classes. Please make sure that you read your student's report carefully and discuss the many areas of their learning at home. It is always important to let the students know that you are interested in their learning.

Attendance

Just a reminder that when your child is absent from school, if you could either send a SMS message before 10am on the day OR reply to the text message on the day OR phone the school OR send a note in on the next school day.

Communication

I have set up all families to have access to the school's Parent and Student Portal called 'Millennium'.

At this point in the year you can see any assessment tasks that have been completed and also the student reports will be made available on the day they are issued to students.

Go to this address: <https://www.millenniumschoools.net.au/portal> and follow the links. This will send you an email with your username and password.

Brian Drewe
Deputy Principal

Lote Report

Japanese Disaster Fundraising.

Back in March you will remember there was a huge earthquake off the east coast of Japan causing a devastating tsunami which killed approx 40,000 people. My Year 9 elective class decided it would be a good idea to do some fundraising for the victims. We sold chicken kebabs and icecream cones for lunch here at school, held a huge easter raffle and had a cake stall at Parent teacher interviews. We raised \$1005 with your help and we would like to thank everyone that supported us with donations or supported the activities we held. I have sent the money to Mrs Nakagawa at our sister school and she has sent it on to where it will be most needed. The students who worked hard for these events were, James Bagley, Emma Blain, Krystal Bowman, Grace Capitaine, James Carey, Joshua Daniel, Ashleigh Farrell, India Finney, Talisa Hederson, Malcolm Leffler, Sarah Payton, Bayley Sullivan and Shiona Suzuki.

Unfortunately, due to uncertainty and hardship caused by the earthquake our sister school, Sayama Seiryō Senior High School, is unable to visit us here in Muswellbrook this year. Hopefully, we will visit them in Japan in April 2012 and they will return to us in July.

Black Coal Ball

Every year in Muswellbrook a Black Coal Ball is held to raise funds for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter. There is a different theme for the ball every year. This year the theme was Japan. Year 9 elective Japanese students helped to make origami cranes and Cherry blossom trees, (Also helped by some great Year7 students) to decorate the room. Finally, on the night the students performed a traditional Japanese Tea ceremony assisted by our great friend Mrs Rumiko Sasaki. The students were dressed in kimonos, the traditional Japanese clothing. They looked fantastic and performed beautifully.



The performers were: Mrs Rumiko Sasaki, Ashleigh Farrell, James Bagley, Talisa Henderson, Grace Capitaine, Emma Blain, Sarah Payton and Shiona Suzuki.



Healthy Schools, Healthy Futures Program

The Healthy Schools, Healthy Futures (HSHF) program is joint initiative between Department of Education and Training, Catholic Schools and Hunter New England Health. One of the goals of the program is to increase the resilience (including the personal skills and traits, positive influences in young person's environment) characteristics of our students and to improve their health and wellbeing.

Our school has been selected among thirty two high schools from across the New England, Hunter/Central Coast and North Coast regions to participate in this study that will run in our school for four years. If you have a child in Years 7 - 10 you will shortly receive some information in the mail asking for your written consent for your child to participate in the student survey part of the study. You will also be invited to complete a parent survey.

If you have any other questions about this program or about yours or your child's participation in this study please contact Megan Freund the Healthy Schools, Healthy Futures Program Manager on (02) 4924 6499.

PE Report

Term 2 has been another busy term in the PDHPE department. We have recently started our Hunter Life Education Lessons which deliver information to students in years 7-10 about the dangers and consequences of drug use for individuals and communities. It is hoped that each student in years 7-10 will participate in two lessons provided by Hunter Life Education and gain some valuable skills for the future.

The year 10 Dance Assessment is on again this year taking place on Thursday 23rd June in the MPC. Students in year 10 have been choreographing and rehearsing their compositions in anticipation for another set of fine performances. Students in year 9 will be observing and gaining ideas for their own presentations in 2012. Parents have also been invited to attend the dance performance.

During Thursday sport in Term 2, year 7 have been practicing their skipping skills in preparation for the 'Jump Rope for Heart' jump off day on Thursday 30th June. Students have been issued with sponsorship forms and are asked to ensure these are returned with or without funds raised. The most convenient way to fundraise is to donate online. Details for this are provided on the sponsorship request form.

We recently held the Muswellbrook High School Athletics Carnival in some challenging conditions. Overall, the House champion battle came down to the high jump event which was held at school due to the conditions on the day. The final point scores are as follows:

1st Paterson:	756 points
2nd Goulburn:	741 points
3rd Hunter:	670 points
4th Page:	622 points

The 2011 Muswellbrook High School Athletics Age Champions are:

Boys	Girls
12 Years Boys: Blake Smith	12 Years Girls: Caitlyn Henderson
13 Years Boys: Bradley Collett	13 Years Girls: Cody Wright
14 Years Boys: Kyle Robertson	14 Years Girls: Lauren Beatty
15 Years Boys: Beaudan Dixon	15 Years Girls: Megan Doran
16 Years Boys: James Neverov	16 Years Girls: Georgia Harris
17+ Years Boys: Ryan Chillingworth	17+ Years Girls: Kylie Saunders

A reminder to parents and students that all students are expected to bring and change into their full sports uniform consisting of **yellow polo shirt, navy shorts/track pants and appropriate joggers** for both PDHPE practical classes as well as sport afternoons. Students are allowed to drop off their shoes in the morning at the PDHPE staffroom until they have sport/practical classes and may pick up their shoes at the end of the day.

Grant Herbert
Head Teacher PDHPE

Laptop Latest

The year 11 red laptops are undergoing an upgrade and students are without their laptops for a few days. These laptops had a hinge problem that caused cracking of the plastic lid. All laptops are being fitted with new hinges and new lid and base covers. At this time, the software is being refreshed to the latest versions such as Office 2010 and Adobe Suite.

The laptops will become fully owned by students when they leave after the Year 12 Higher School Certificate, as long as their allocated laptop has not suffered unrepaired damage. If students leave prior to this time then the laptop must be returned to school.

Over the next few weeks students will see their student portal change with a new look, enhanced features and a new URL.

On 14 June 2011 Year 9 students will receive their new student portal. Year 9 will be followed by Year 10, Years 7 and 8, then TAFE. Years 11 and 12, will follow early in term 3.

From 14 June 2011 all school students will access their student portal, from home and at school, from a new URL: <http://student.det.nsw.edu.au>, whether or not they have access to the new student portal. Students will be able to search, access and organise information for school tasks via their student portal on computers used at home or at school, at any time. The new student portal will have timetable and calendar portlets for students to add their own details. Students will also be able make their portal look the way they want by changing the colour scheme and rearranging, opening or closing portlets.

Hilton Ariel
Technology Support Officer



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.

Email – We are now emailing the school newsletter. If you know of families that are not receiving it please have them contact the school and supply us with their email address.

Websites – <http://www.muswellbro-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/sws/view/150506.node> 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 – <https://www.millenniumschoools.net.au/portal> 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, an email has been sent to their portal email address outlining how to access this site.

Parents that have an email address with us should of received a family login via an email already. If you are experiencing problems please contact the school on 02 65413033.

Careers Report

Uni Crawl , Six Universities in Thirty Six Hours.

Uni Crawl took place on the last few days of last term and involved Year 11 and 12 students visiting six universities in thirty six hours. Some of the most prestigious universities in Australia were involved in Uni Crawl, including the University of Technology Sydney, Sydney University, The University of New South Wales, Wollongong, an amazing race at Macquarie University and Newcastle University Central Coast Campus.



Sydney University

Uni Crawl 2011

THIS TERM AT GLANCE

- The University of New England, Armidale, Schools Open Day ran on May 6 for Yr 11 and 12.
- On May 12, five students graduated from the Plan It Youth Mentoring Program, thank you Mentors.
- Apprenticeship presentations have run from Mt Arthur Coal on May 24, Bengalla Mining on June 7 and X Strata Coal on June 15.
- Twenty Five year 10 students attended Try A Trade at the Stan Theiss Centre in Muswellbrook.
- Fifteen students were invited on an extensive industry tour of Mt Arthur Coal on Friday June 10.
- An Introduction to Hairdressing has run thanks to TAFE Outreach over nine Wednesdays this term.
- Wollatuka, Newcastle University, will host an excursion for indigenous Year 10 students on June 16.
- Back to the Brook will run on Tuesday June 28. Please advise all recent ex students.
- Newcastle University Open Day for schools will run for Year 11 and 12 on Thursday June 30.



Ashley Frankland, Molly Miller, Amy Pickersgill and Brianna Waters receive a tour of some of the biggest vehicles used out Mt Arthur Coal on Friday June 10.



Stephanie Hallett is one of eighteen students who attend a TAFE Outreach Hairdressing program that runs over nine Wednesdays



Back to the Brook

Calling all ex-students

June 28, Tuesday

An assembly from 9am, then meet this year's Year 12, followed by Morning Tea with Teachers and an option to visit your old primary school later the same day.



Where are they now??

The day is designed to fit in with university holiday breaks, so we hope to see large numbers from the HSC class of 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007 but all ex students are welcome. Please RSVP anthony.borg@det.nsw.edu.au.

Tony Borg
Careers Advisor

P & C Committee Report

Our new Deputy Principal, Mr Scott Copland, attended our June meeting and we welcome him to our school. Mr Copland has come to MHS from Bulli High School and has told us how impressed he was with the commitment of our staff to students needing help after school.

Mr Erskine informed us about the numerous works in progress which will greatly improve the school environment for our students. These included the painting of an Aboriginal Mural on K Block and the planting of native and Aboriginal Bush Tucker Gardens giving the K Block area a facelift, the creation and building of a Memorial Garden at the back of the Administration Block and the soon to be completed Trade Training Centre.

The school is currently seeking funding for the construction of a new toilet block and any parents or community members with any ideas or suggestions are very welcome to contact Mr Erskine.

The P&C is also keen to get 4 shade/rain shelters for the school to use at Sports Carnivals and would welcome any ideas about this too.

Our next meeting will be in August. There will be **no meeting in July** because of the school holidays.

The P&C wishes everyone a happy, restful and safe holiday.

Canteen Report

URGENTLY NEEDED!

Volunteers are urgently needed to keep our canteen running.

Help is especially needed on Mondays & Fridays but you are welcome on any day, even if you could only spare a couple of hours your help will be most appreciated.

Please Contact: Stasia & Maree 02 65432699



Upper Hunter Aboriginal Education Pathway Awards.

On Wednesday 18th May Muswellbrook High School hosted the Upper Hunter Aboriginal Education Pathway Awards. These awards are in celebration of the success and achievement of Aboriginal students that completed their studies in Year 10 and Year 12 in 2010.

The evening also celebrates and recognises the achievements of people in the community who are committed to education and improving the outcomes for our students. We would like to congratulate Melisa Powell, Aboriginal Education Worker at MHS, on being presented with a major award for her work with the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group.



Muswellbrook Enrichment Centre

The Challenge and Leadership camp was held in Namadgi National Park, Tharwa, Canberra for eligible students in Year 7 – 9 from the Enrichment Centre from Tuesday 24th May to Tuesday 31st May 2011. The camp was education based with students participating in adventure activities to develop self-awareness, resilience and leadership skills. Students had the opportunity to take part in a variety of adventure activities such as expeditioning, rock climbing, abseiling... all tailored for them to realise their own strengths and potential and to raise self-confidence, in order to better handle future challenges they may face.

Enduring the cold weather and facing physical and emotional challenges, the students returned home with a strong understanding that they are capable of far more than they thought possible and a greater appreciation of the comforts of home!

For any enquiries about the Muswellbrook Enrichment Centre please contact Debbie Douglass 0447257851.



Debbie Douglas

Muswellbrook High School

NAIDOC Week Celebrations 2011



We invite parents, family, friends and community to
attend our NAIDOC Celebrations on:

Thursday 30th June @ 9am

We hope you can attend and share the celebration with us in the School Hall, followed by a morning tea.

Please contact Mel Powell on 6542 5061 if you are able to join us.

Agriculture Report

Muswellbrook High School supplied students to be Junior stewards at the Muswellbrook Show again this year. A few of those students were able to get away to compete in the Junior judging and parading competitions.

Luke Wilkinson came 3rd in Junior Judging, Ryan Symington gained a 3rd place in Parading and Matilda Miller came 2nd in the parading and 4th in the Junior Judging in the senior section. Well done to these students and thank you to all the students who acted as Junior stewards and assisted in many ways.

Singleton Land and Beef Management Schools Day

The next Junior Judging day was held in Singleton. 40 students were accompanied by Mr Taylor and Mr Erskine on the 6am train for a full day of judging classes, educational workshops and a seed identification competition. A very tired crew returned on the 6pm train. There were a number of personal bests on the day and many students were trying this activity for the first time.

We had great success with a 3rd place in the intermediate teams event with Jaaydn Cavanagh, Logan Edwards and Shaeleigh Doran and a 1st place for Chris Ebzery, Luke Wilkinson and Ryan Symington. These boys were also the Champion Secondary Team.

In the individual event Reece Carey gained a Highly Commended, Kaitlin Ann Roberts-Batty gained 3rd place and Ryan Symington gained a 2nd place.

Finally, in the Senior section Brianna Waters, Joshua Upton and Amy Pickersgill gained 3rd place in the teams event and Brianna Waters backed that up with a Highly Commended in the individual competition.



Wingham Beef Week

Our next adventure was to Wingham for Beef Week competitions. Mr Taylor, myself and 6 students set off to camp in tents at Wingham showground for the week with our 2 steers "Rocky" and "Bullwinkle". These steers were kindly lent to us by Mr and Mrs Riechel. They had been at the school farm since early March for us to teach them to lead and fatten them up for the competitions.



Rocky and Bullwinkle with Matilda Miller, Joshua Upton, Amy Pickersgill, Brianna Waters, Courtney Price, Georgia Miller and owner of the steers Mrs Jennifer Riechel.

There were 220 competitors so competition was really fierce. (However, the greatest competition for the week was for the 4 showers for the 120 teachers and students camping at the showground).

There were a number of educational workshops held throughout the day on the first day we were there. Brianna had to assist a local vet who was teaching us the intricacies of Artificial Insemination .





The next day was filled with Junior Judging and Parading competitions. We had 3 students called through to the finals. Courtney Price was called up for her first ever final and she looked great despite not securing a top 5 position. There were about 140 competitors in this section. In the senior section Amy Pickersgill and Matilda Miller both achieved final positions. Unfortunately, by this time, "Rocky" and "Bullwinkle" had decided it was all too much and refused to stand still in the parade line. The judge did remark on how well our students coped when the steers misbehaved.

Thursday was "Rocky" and "Bullwinkle's" turn to compete. Bullwinkle gained third place on the hoof. Students also competed in a Meat Appreciation competition that judges steers based on their ability to meet specifications for various markets, both domestic and export trade. This was the first time we had seen this sort of competition. That afternoon we said our goodbyes and the steers went over the road. Students then participated in a meat judging competition.

Three of our students had the opportunity to tour Wingham Abattoir with Mrs Bailey and Mr Taylor. This was a unique opportunity as abattoirs don't allow this anymore. It was a fascinating experience for them to finally see what we talk about in Agriculture classes.

Friday was judging on the hook and finally viewing of our carcasses for the students.



Georgia and Courtney



Joshua Upton viewing carcasses



Amy Pickersgill being interviewed for ABC radio



Amy Pickersgill was interviewed for ABC radio and has appeared on various reports of the Wingham events since.

Awards were given out after lunch. Matilda Miller received 2nd place in the encouragement award and Amy Pickersgill received a highly commended in the "Allrounders" competition.

Well done to everyone and thanks to these students for their great efforts and wonderful behaviour all week.

Uniform Shop Report

Price List	
Girls	
Junior or Senior Blouse	\$27.00
Tartan Skirt	\$48.50
Navy Stretch Slacks	\$39.00
Boys	
Grey Shorts	\$35.00
Unisex	
Knit Jumper	\$69.00
Jacket	\$65.00
Navy Scarf	\$12.00
Junior or Senior Polo	\$27.00
Sport/PE	
Microfibre Trackpants	\$35.00
Sports Polo	\$33.00
Sport Shorts	\$24.00
Footy Shorts	\$18.00
Footy Socks	\$8.50



Hours Tuesday 7.30 – 11.30am
Thursday 12 – 4pm

Cash, EFT-POS or cheques made out to 'Daylight Sportswear' are welcome.

Phone: 0439 118 033 (during opening hours)

Clothing Pool : Do you have any unwanted uniforms? Items in good condition can be left at the Uniform Shop or Office. Your donation will be gratefully received!

Vanessa Smith
Uniform Shop

2011 Term Dates

Term 1	Fri 28 Jan 2011	to	Fri 8 April 2011		51 days
Autumn Holidays	Mon 11 April 2011	to	Mon 25 April 2011		
Term 2	Tues 26 April 2011	to	Fri 1 July 2011		48 days
Winter Holidays	Mon 4 July 2011	to	Fri 15 July 2011		
Term 3	Mon 18 July 2011	to	Fri 23 Sept 2011		50 days
Spring Holidays	Mon 26 Sept 2011	to	Fri 7 Oct 2011		
Term 4	Mon 10 Oct 2011	to	Tue 20 Dec 2011		52 days
Summer Holidays 2011 – 2012		to	Thurs 26 Jan 2012		
<i>Number of school days : 201 Eastern Division 196 Western Division</i>					

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DID YOU KNOW?

Many nutritionists consider breakfast to be the most important meal of the day. It assists children's physical, mental and emotional development. Children who miss breakfast are less able to concentrate, are more prone to fidgeting and find learning difficult by mid-morning. Furthermore, there is evidence to suggest that children who miss out on a healthy breakfast are more likely to suffer from obesity later in life.

We have started a Breakfast Club Program at the Muswellbrook PCYC for local youth to attend before school where we will provide them with a healthy breakfast and nutrition education every day, Monday-Friday 7.00am-8.30am.

Also if there is anyone who would like to help with this program? Any queries can be answered by calling us on 65411434.

Thank you

Aaron
PCYC

