



# Muswellbrook High School

## Newsletter 6

12th September 2011



### *Principal Report*

In the words of cricket commentator Bill Lawry "It's all happening here" at Muswellbrook High School. Our U/13's 7-a-side Rugby League and Futsal Teams are State Champions, the CAPA showcase 'Out of the box' was an outstanding success, we have livestock on-site, school improvement projects happening left, right and centre and Year 12 are only a few weeks away from completing their studies. There has also been a bit of teaching going on as well!

### *Athletes with a Disability State Futsal Champions*

Students from Muswellbrook High School travelled to Penrith in August to compete in the Athletes with a Disability State Futsal Championships. Under the guidance of coach Michael Sneesby and Special Education teacher Rachel Murphy the students successfully competed in all round robin games, then won a gripping finals match to emerge as NSW State Champions. Thank you to the Coal and Allied for their support of the team through the sponsorship of their uniform, travel and accommodation costs.



### *U/13's Captain's Cup 7-a-side Rugby League State Champions*

The U/13's Rugby League team were invited to compete as representatives of the Hunter on behalf of the Newcastle Knights in the Captain's Cup Rugby League 7-a-side State Championships. In the words of coach Mr McKinlay "we smashed them all" with convincing victories in all games played against teams competing from Sydney and around the state. A highlight for students (and some of the parents) was meeting famous players from the NRL teams who attended the event. Well done boys on an outstanding year so far representing Muswellbrook High School!



## *Thank you to the P&C*

The Muswellbrook High School P&C has very generously donated \$10 000 to the school for a much needed upgrade of the MPC and driveway area. The money will be used to install flood lighting on the MPC, install new signage, paint lines in the carpark, lay turf at the back of the MPC and entrance to the administration building, install fencing and seating at the rear of the MPC and to plant gardens and hedges. This project will help improve safety for staff, students and visitors, give our school entrance a significant improvement in appearance and enhance our management of visitors on-site.



## *James Bagley*

Congratulations to James Bagley who was successful in his application for the Mitsui scholarship. James will travel to Japan later this year, attending a number of camps, before being billeted by a host family, returning early in Term 1, 2012. He follows in the footsteps of his sister, Year 12 student Nicole Bagley, who was a former successful scholarship holder. James also recently made a very generous contribution to the Home Group coin line fundraising initiative as well as receiving a Diamond certificate at this week's assembly.

## *Trades Training Centre*

I must have reported five different dates for completion for our new Trades Training Centre facilities in our school newsletter this year. I note that we are now eight weeks past the original date of completion. However, the photographs below give the strongest indication yet that we are very close to handover. If you look closely you can see copious amounts of cleaning products and spray bottles on top of the benches. The outdoor cafe has also been setup with MHS signage. Whilst Scone HS, Merriwa CS and our students will soon use our new facilities, the official opening of the Upper Hunter Trade Training Centre has been pushed back to 2012 as one of our partner schools, Scone Grammar, is yet to begin their construction.





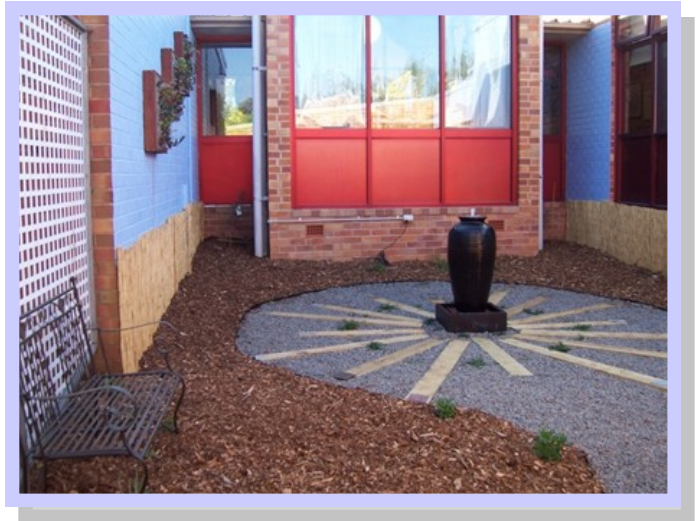
## *Memorial Garden*

After three years in the planning, we now boast a beautiful memorial garden behind the school administration building. Prior to this, students and staff who had passed away in-situ were commemorated by a plaque on a block laid in the lawns of the school grounds. Over time these plaques have deteriorated and trees planted in remembrance have died, so a decision was made to consolidate all of these plaques into a new, central area.

Vanessa Smith, a member of our school P&C, has led a determined pursuit for the creation of a space of quiet reflection, worthy of the memory these students and staff. A number of people need to be thanked for their enormous contribution to this project:

- Vanessa Smith for her tireless efforts in seeing the project through to its completion.
- Teacher, Cheryl Ham, for her countless hours in the design of the area, work in preparation of the site and co-ordination of the student gardening club in constructing and maintaining the garden.
- Both Vanessa and Cheryl's husbands, Tony and Warren, who were 'volunteered' into assisting and made major contributions with their time.
- Teacher, Carla Walsh, for her research undertaken for the project and assistance in liaising with key stakeholders.
- The staff of Bunnings Warehouse Maitland for their work in preparation and construction of the garden, as well as plants and landscaping materials.
- Bloom's Irrigation for their donation of irrigation materials required for the project.

Whilst there are still a few more finishing touches still to occur, please feel free to visit this area next time you visit the school.



## *Livestock return to Muswellbrook High School*



Most people familiar with the school are aware that we have an off-site agricultural facility. Many people are also aware that the school once housed livestock on-site over 15 years ago. With the support of Mt Arthur Coal, we are now fencing a large area on the eastern side of the school to return livestock to the school to support students in Years 7-12 who are studying Agriculture and Primary Industries. The sheep are also pretty handy lawnmowers which will save our Grounds Assistant a great deal of time mowing the hill area. Long-term we are hopeful of expanding this area to include fruit and vegetable production, as well as cattle, sheep and chickens.

Gareth Erskine  
Principal

## *Deputy Principal Report*

Muswellbrook High School offers many wonderful opportunities to our students, through a range of subjects and extra curricular activities. The staff provides the majority of these experiences through their training and expertise. A new Technology Committee has been organised with the intention of sourcing the skill and knowledge a number of our staff members have of a variety of software and hardware. The intention is to encourage collegial training and support to enhance opportunities available to students. The possibilities discussed include a new school web site, filmmaking, developing interactive applications, smartboard training, developing training CD's for both hardware and all available software. The list is endless and it appears we have a wealth of knowledge across all faculties. Bringing this reserve of information together, should utilise the potential of the software available to NSW's school and add to the engagement of teenagers of today's high tech environment.

Finally, as the weather begins to get warmer, it is important to note that the school uniform has not changed since the beginning of the year. Many students try to reinterpret what they think is acceptable, however, I would ask that parents support the school by purchasing full black leather shoes and ensure their students wear the school uniform.

**Mr Scott Copland**  
Deputy Principal

## *Year 11 Gulgong Excursion*

As part of the syllabus requirements, the Year 11 Senior Science and Biology classes travelled to Gulgong and visited The Drip and Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of August. This was an overnight excursion where students conducted environmental studies on the environment and waterways. The activities were well organised and conducted by The Red Hill Environmental Centre, whom also provided accommodation for the group in recently renovated dormitories. We dined in town at a local Bistro and were entertained by some original music from local musician Bob Campbell. The group enjoyed their trip, and gained valuable educational tools and learning from experienced environmentalists.

**Coral Elliott**  
Science Teacher

**Josh Upton**

Doing a  
Turbidity  
Test



**Year 11 listening to stories in a cave**

## Attendance

This year is flying by and it is exciting to have reached the one year milestone here at Muswellbrook High School. During this time I have learned many things about the attendance patterns of students in the town and spoken to many parents as well as organisations about certain issues with their children.

The increase of the leaving age to 17 has had a significant bearing on a number of students and has resulted in a number of local businesses becoming very popular as destinations for employment for students who have turned 17 or completed their School Certificate. Students who have not met either of these requirements must attend school.

Partial absences have reduced in recent terms, which is positive to see appointments with doctors and dentists and other unjustified reasons now occurring outside school hours. The change to partials from sport has enhanced our image in the community as well as our duty of care during school hours (to 3:30pm).

Our target for the next three years will be to reach 90% daily attendance and we will soon be reviewing our Attendance Policy and Procedures. To help us achieve this we ask you read and understand the following excerpt from the Department of Education and Communities regarding student attendance expectations.

A condition of enrolment at any Public School in NSW is that your child **MUST** attend school every day. A small number of absences may be justified if your child:

- has to go to a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (eg a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

If your child has to be absent from school, it is important to tell the school and provide a reason for your child's absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may:

- send a note, fax or email to the school
- telephone or send an SMS to the school, or
- visit the school.

**All absences must be explained to the school within seven (7) days of the absence.**

The principal of the school has the right to question parents' or carers' requests for their child to be absent from school. The principal may also question any explanation given for a child's absence from school.

**Partial attendance will only be justified for the above reasons.**

Students who require partial attendance **MUST** bring a signed note clearly detailing the reason for their partial absence to E-Block prior to roll call and receive a partial absence pass.

- The following reasons are NOT considered as justified absence:
- Birthdays
- Shopping
- minding other children
- routine check ups or care such as hair cuts
- minor family events
- sleeping in.

Medical and other health appointments for your child should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.

Students with regular attendance issues may be referred to the Home School Liaison Officer or Aboriginal Student Liaison Officer to develop a program for support. **Continued attendance issues can lead to prosecution of the parent/caregiver.**

Mr. N. Mulvihill  
Head Teacher Administration

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## 2011 Young Drivers Expo

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of August 2011, thirty six Year Eleven students travelled to Tamworth to participate in the 2011 Young Drivers Expo. The Expo aims to raise road safety awareness of Year 11 students, at a critical time in their lives, when they are about to get behind the wheel with either L or P plates.

The day began with the students observing a typical accident scene involving teenagers, with emergency services on site.

The students were then addressed by Brett Orman and Arley Black from the Brad Hillier Foundation. They spoke about their personal experience losing a loved one in a tragic car accident and the effects on the lives of those left behind after such a disaster.

The students then rotated through a number of workshops covering Collision Causes, RTA laws, Living with Brain Injury, Heavy Vehicles and Drugs and Alcohol.

After a short lunchbreak, the group then moved outside to observe a practical experiment which demonstrated braking distances in dry and wet surfaces and the effect speed can have on cornering.

The day was entertaining, informative and thought provoking for both staff and students. The Expo acted as a significant reminder to all to make good choices and be very careful on the roads.

**Miss Rachel Murphy**  
**Year 11 Advisor**



## *P & C REPORT*

It is good to see all the hard work being done to upgrade our school environment, including the Memorial Garden, the building of the Trade Training Centre, the upgrade of the School Farm, the improvements around K Block and more. Many thanks to everyone involved in all these projects.

At our August meeting we decided to donate \$10 000.00 to contribute to the upgrading and beautification of the main driveway, the southern side of the hall and surrounding areas to include turf, signage, lighting, seating and plants. We look forward to seeing the results.

At this time of the year, our year 12 students are preparing to leave Muswellbrook High School and are busy getting ready for their final HSC exams and planning what they will do next.

The P&C Association would like to congratulate all of them for completing Year 12 and for the many contributions they have made to MHS in the classroom, on the sporting field, on the stage, in the agricultural ring, around the school and in the Muswellbrook community.

**CONGRATULATIONS YEAR 12, 2011**

**VERY BEST WISHES FOR SUCCESS IN YOUR HSC EXAMS AND FOR YOUR FUTURE**

**From the MHS P&C Association**

## *Muswellbrook Enrichment Centre*

We have again had the privilege of welcoming Michael Leslie to the Enrichment Centre and MHS for the week Monday 15 August to Friday 19 August. Michael, an Aboriginal man originally from Moree, has a wealth of experience in the performing arts including living and dancing in New York for 7 years. In 2010 he was awarded the Red Ochre for Lifelong Contribution to the Performing Arts and in January this year was recognised at the 23<sup>rd</sup> International Association for Blacks in Dance as the 2011 Unsung Hero at a ceremony in Los Angeles.

Michael teaches and inspires students to gain self-respect and pride through the Arts, and helps them overcome self-defeating attitudes and barriers that prevent them from reaching their true potential.

Michael conducted workshops with Year 7 to 11 classes at Muswellbrook High School and also spent some time with primary school students at both MSPS and MPS. After school he worked with, and mentored students at the Muswellbrook Enrichment Centre.

**Debbie Douglass**



## *School Snow Trip*

On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> of August a group of Year 11 students met at the MHS bus bay and boarded the bus headed for Jindabyne for three days of skiing and snowboarding.

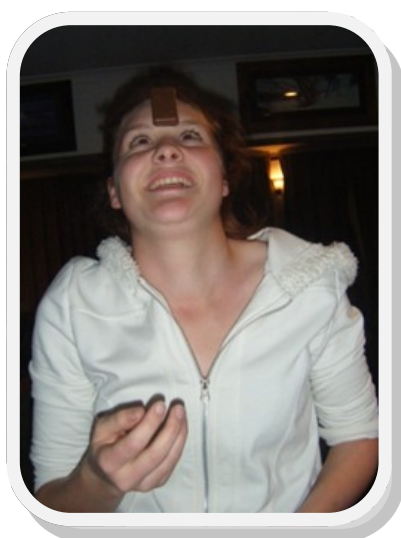
After a stop at Goulburn, where we saw the big Merino, we arrived at the Snowy Valley Resort and were kitted out in all our gear. We then settled into our rooms for an early night in preparation for our first day at the snow.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday were spent carving up the slopes. We started our days of with a two hour lesson where we learnt the basics. By 11am the students were ready to explore all the mountain had to offer and headed off into different directions, some stuck close to Friday Flats and others accompanied Mr McKinlay and Mr Drewe to test out some of the more challenging tracks. We also had some students participate in 'Mrs Kirkwood's Adventures which included lots of chair lifts and donuts.

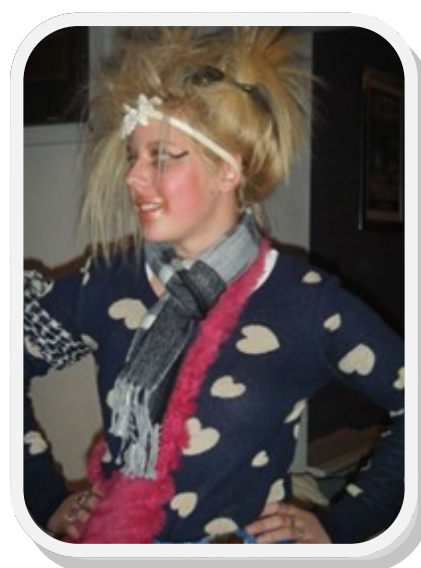
In the evenings the students participated in a range of activities including, a trivia/challenge night, pool competition, karaoke, WII and using the pool and spa.

We then headed home on Friday with sore quadriceps but big smiles on our faces. All student involved had a fantastic time and would highly recommend the trip to other students.

**Miss Rachel Murphy**  
**Year 11 Advisor**



Photos of the students enjoying night time activities





## CAPA Report



The CAPA Faculty has been extremely busy and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Mills, Mrs Sokulsky and Mrs Martin for their dedication to their Year 12 students. Many nights and weekends have been spent in the Visual Arts, Photography, Music and Drama rooms refining, consulting and completing their major works ready for mailing or performance. We wish all Year 12 students from 2011 best wishes and good luck for the HSC.

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August Ms Mistry, our new Music teacher accompanied eleven students to the Vietnam Memorial Garden on the New England Highway. This date is an important one to many men from Muswellbrook; it signifies the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, one of the worst fire fights Australian Soldiers were involved in during our ten year involvement in the Vietnam War.

Amy Canning, Rachel Cooper, Brock Farrell, Kyle Hilbig, Crystal Lacey, Lesa Nolan, Kylie O'Connor, Tyrell Roadley, Zoe Schultz, Cody Wright and Jordi-Kiarnah Adam-Smith performed a series of songs during the memorial service, including a beautiful hymn from Jordi-Kiarnah. There was a large contingent of veterans, including a group of Vietnamese men and women. The women later joined our vocal ensemble in a stirring rendition of 'Advance Australia Fair'.

The group were warmly thanked for their participation on a chilly August afternoon by all who attended, including representatives from many schools in the area.

**Leanne Duck**  
**Head Teacher CAPA**



## ***SOMETHING OUT OF THE BOX***

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September the CAPA Faculty presented 'Something Out of the Box'. This night showcased the amazing range and depth of talent that Muswellbrook High School harbours within our classrooms. All performers gave 110% of their time and energy and were warmly received by an appreciative audience.

A special thank you must go to Mrs Martin and Mrs Sokulsky for their tireless efforts during auditions, rehearsals and on the actual night. John Llewelyn, Sarah Gurr and James Bagley should be commended for their fantastic work with the sound system, which meant that we could hear and see our excellent singers and thespians. The three gorgeous MCs for the night, Laura Eade, Gabrielle Fitzgerald and Emma Dewhirst kept the acts rolling along. The backstage crew were willing assistants; Callum Stachan, Dylan Lacey, Jennifer Houlahan, Lenny Craft, Jake Barner and Hayden Dolgan-Fox.

The Hospitality classes under Mr Glase and Mr McLaren's tutelage prepared and served a delicious supper which was quickly snaffled by the hungry masses. The SRC, under Miss Dean gave succor to the thirsty crowd and quickly sold out of the cold drinks and potato chips. A big thank you to the teachers Mrs Paulsen, Miss Sturtridge, Mr Drewe, Mr Copland, Miss Wales and Mrs Bailey whose assistance ensured the smooth running of the evening.

Last, but certainly not least, a huge thank you to the performers on the night and the parents and friends who made up the audience. Muswellbrook High School appreciates the support from our local community and last night truly demonstrated what a great school we have in Muswellbrook.

**Mrs Leanne Duck**  
**Relieving HT CAPA**





## Canteen News

### **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



## Uniform Shop



### **UNIFORM SHOP**

#### **20% OFF STOCKTAKE SALE**

Last two weeks of Term 3  
(12<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept)

#### **Normal Opening Times**

Tuesday 7.30 – 11.30am

Thursday 12-4pm

Cash, EFT-POS or cheques made payable to  
'Daylight Sportswear' accepted

Mobile: 0439 118 033

*No rainchecks, holds, exchanges or refunds*

Vanessa

*(Best Wishes to Year 12 2011)*



## Community Notices

# MAITLAND TOUCH ASSOCIATION

## 2011 JUNIOR COMPETITION

### REGISTER NOW!

Our Junior Competition is starting soon, and more kids then ever want to play touch footy!  
Get Value for Money! TOUCH FOOTBALL IS ONE OF THE MOST LOW-COST SPORTS AROUND!  
It's low contact, open to both BOYS and GIRLS of all ages, and above all is FUN TO PLAY!

Divisions Available: Under 8's, 10's, 12's, 14's, 16's and 18's Boys and Girls Comps.

Cost: \$50 per child (flat rate) - No more to pay, and you get a complimentary playing shirt!

Played on Tuesday afternoon/early evenings. Comp starts Early October!

#### HOW TO REGISTER?

Attend one of our Registration Days and sign up a team of friends, or sign up as an individual!

There will be FOUR Registration Days, which will be held on

1. Tuesday 13 September 2011, from 4.00pm until 5.30pm - at Maitland Park Bowling Club
2. Thursday 15 September 2011, from 4.00pm until 5.30pm - at Maitland Park Bowling Club
3. Saturday 17 September 2011, from 10.00am until 2.00pm \* at Rebel Sports Maitland  
Register on the Saturday at Rebel, and Rebel Sport will give you a voucher to spend in store to use that day!
4. Tuesday 20 September 2011, from 4.00pm until 5.30pm - at Maitland Park Bowling Club

Get the complete registration kit from our website

**[www.maitlandtouch.com.au](http://www.maitlandtouch.com.au)**

OR Contact our office 9-5pm Monday to Friday on 0408 757 058 or email

[admin@maitlandtouch.com.au](mailto:admin@maitlandtouch.com.au)



**PLAY TOUCH FOOTY!**

### St Alban's Spring Fair and Flower Show

**Saturday 17th September in Church grounds, 9am –2pm.**

Flower displays, books, plants, craft, white elephant and cake stalls, lucky dip, tombola, chocolate wheel, face painting and lots more.

Morning tea and BBQ lunches available.

Eastern Spirit Dances and musical entertainment throughout the morning.

**Everyone welcome. All proceeds towards Missions.**