



Muswellbrook High School

Newsletter 7

19th December 2014



Principal Report



Seasons Greetings to all our staff and families and best wishes for a happy and safe Christmas!

Thank you to the Muswellbrook school community for three fabulous Terms. I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the hard working, dedicated staff of MHS, students and the P & C and to thank them for their welcome and support this year, my first year as Principal.

I am delighted to be leading such a positive and powerful school, a school with traditional country values - a school that lives up to its motto - *'striving for excellence in a school that cares'*.

I trust you will enjoy reading about some of the school's highlights this Term in this Newsletter edition.

Thank you Muswellbrook Community

This Term has provided me with opportunities to get to know some of the wider Muswellbrook community. I am overwhelmed by the friendliness and generosity of our town. On behalf of the students of MHS, **thank you:**

Lions Club for your donation of a life supporting epipen. On behalf of the parents who know all too well the dangers of anaphylaxis, thank you for ensuring a safe learning environment for all.

Lioness Club for providing a leadership opportunity for our student leaders at the recent Lioness youth of the Year quest.

Muswellbrook Shire Council for the donation of six very large pebble crete pots that once adorned the main street. Our amazing 'artist in residence', *Leanne Ward*, has begun the transformation of these pots with her creative mosaics.

Tutt Bryant Heavy Lift & Shift generously transporting the pots from the Council site to our school site for free. Thank you Mr Chris Crandell, Mr Peter Holt, Mr Cameron Savage and Mr Rhys Kavanagh.



DEC Tree Removal and Trimming

You may also have noticed some tree trimming and removal in our school grounds. This has been a decision made by the Department of Education and Communities to remove potentially dangerous trees. Whilst the removal of trees was not undertaken lightly, it will provide an opportunity in 2015 to replant natives in some strategic locations.

Hard Work Recognised

Congratulations to all awardees at the Annual Presentation Evening. The evening was very well attended and led expertly by our wonderful student captains. Thank you to our community sponsors for your generosity in making the acknowledgments happen.

It was a delight to have some former MHS students present awards and for them to share a small part of their journey. It demonstrated clearly to me the tremendous pride students have for MHS.

Thank you to the following young people for taking the time to celebrate with us;

Hannah Rivers, Nathan Pengelly, Hannah Baum, Luke Marshall, Alex Hirst, Nicole Thompson, Ryan Chillingworth and Jamie Watts.

HSC Congratulations!

Congratulations to our amazing HSC students! We are delighted with the high level of results this year with not only the seven results of ninety or over but with thirty results of 86 or over and 65 results of 80 or over which really shows the class of 2014 has been a very high calibre group.

Jake Cronin 97% in Music, John Langley 91% in PDHPE, Connor Graham 96% in English Extension 2, Jordi Adam-Smith 93% in Music, Shiona Suzuki 93% in Japanese Continuers, Kyle Burgess 94% in Music and Damon Jones 92% in Music.

I am very pleased for the students, the community, their families and their teachers.

We are proud of you!

TERM DATES 2015

TERM 1 DATES

27 January 2015 (Staff only)
28 January 2015 (Yr 7 & Yr 12 only)
29 January (All school) to 2 April 2015

TERM 2 DATES

20 April 2015 (staff only)
21 April to 26 June 2015 (Students)

TERM 3 DATES

13 July 2015 (Staff only)
14 July to 18 September 2015 (Students)

TERM 4 DATES

6 October to 16 December 2015 (Students)
17 December (Staff only)
18 December (Staff only)

Congratulations to all awardees. I am very proud of you all. A special mention to the consistently hard working students who achieved:

DUX of Yr. 7	Meg Rankin
DUX of Yr. 8	Rachel Korman
DUX of Yr. 9	Imogen O'Leary and Lara Collins
DUX of Yr. 10	Montana Gageler
DUX of Yr. 11	Elizabeth Symington
HSC DUX, 2013	Sarah Gurr

Farewell To Staff

As the school year draws to a close, it is with regret that we are farewelling some outstanding staff members.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank them and to wish them all the best in their future endeavours:

Mrs Kristen Strachan is taking a promotional position as HT Special Education at Singleton HS, Mrs Deb Douglass, Graham Polly Farmer Foundation coordinator will leave Muswellbrook to take up a position in WA, Mrs Beth Ripley (TAS, Hospitality teacher) is relocating to Tamworth area, Ms Sally Reichel (Maths teacher and GA) will take up a permanent position at Narrabri HS. Whilst Mrs Sharon Turner (ED teacher) is not leaving us, she has worked with our school for most of this year and will return to a day to day casual position.

2015 School Direction

The three core strategic directions chosen for our 2015 - 17 management plan are:

- *Literacy for the 21st Century Learner*
- *Excellent teachers*
- *Quality partnerships.*

These directions were formed from feedback conducted from surveys over the past three terms with parents, staff and students. The things that we already do well at MHS include: senior education, curriculum diversity choice for students, pastoral care and inclusivity of all students, uniform, and communication to parents via Millennium.

The feedback showed the following products and practices that you would like to see at MHS in 5 years time: improved attendance, improved external exam results towards above State average (HSC and NAPLAN), improved school pride and community reputation, engaged students in their learning, high expectations and greater use of technology.

I look forward to working with the whole school community to develop our plan further and implementing some exciting new strategies.

2015 Junior SRC

We had a good number of interested students who put their name forward for a leadership role, particularly from Year 7 and 8, which was nice to see. Congratulations to the following students:

Year 8 2015

Emily Bishop Boston Gageler
Jaide Cutrupi Nathan Wilton

Year 9 2015

Brydie Cullen Joel Hartin
Katie Van Vliet Marcus Morris

Year 10 2015

Brydie Parker Blake Shackleton
Georgina Rowlands Bailey Graham

Ms Elizabeth Bate
Principal

Deputy Principal Report

As Deputy Principal and a Visual Arts teacher at Muswellbrook High School, I enjoy the many and varied opportunities that I have each day to interact with students and their families. Our school is a great place to come to each day.

This year I have witnessed a terrific team of enthusiastic, dedicated professional teachers, support our students, who are a constant source of inspiration as they strive for success in academic, sporting, creative and performing arts and many other pursuits. I'm regularly inspired by news of student achievements as well as the many students who serve the community in various ways.

2015 will have a number of challenges as the economy upheavals impact upon our community. Now more than ever it is essential our students are provided every opportunity to complete their education to the highest standard they are capable. The number of support programs MHS provides in literacy, the senior after school tutorial centre, the new Learning Centre and career guidance are all opportunities the school provides to support the learning of individual students. I encourage all students to access learning support in whichever form they require.

A Christmas message from the Deputy would not be complete without a mention of uniform. I remember when MHS was visited by Principals from the Hunter Region. A number of them commented on our uniform, stating that they wished their school could look as good. To maintain this excellence it requires both the school, students and parents working together to ensure we can be proud of how we look and are perceived within the community. School hats have been available from 2014 and we encourage all students to purchase this uniform item. With the extreme conditions of the Australian sun and the constant reminders of the consequences and effects, the school hat is a must to protect faces while in the playground.

I would like to wish all our MHS community all the best for the festive season and a safe and enjoyable holiday. See you all back in black (leather shoes) in 2015.

**Deputy Principal
Mr Scott Copland**

Blye Durham—World Education Program

Blye is travelling to a town called 'Ferndale' in Washington State, USA.

Blye flies out on January 20 and comes home June 29 2014, so she will be back Term 3.

Ferndale is on the West Coast of America, right at the top, quite close to the Canadian border. She is going to be living with the Keyes family, which she has been in contact with via email. Blye will be attending Ferndale High School as a sophomore and will have the opportunity to travel to Canada twice a week with her family if she chooses to. Blye will be leaving Australia in the middle of Summer and arriving in USA in the middle of their winter.

The program is WEP - World Education Program.

**Deputy Principal
Mr Brian Drewe**



*Merry
Christmas*



P&C REPORT

*The Muswellbrook High School P&C Association would like to
thank*

all staff, students and your families and the wider school community,

for your hard work and dedication throughout the Year

and

*wish you all a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and
a Safe and Enjoyable Holiday*



English Faculty Report

As always it seems incredible to comprehend that yet another year has passed in English. It has certainly been a busy one.

Of particular note, recently, Mrs Wass and 7P composed some wonderful original stories in their 'Children's Book Project' presented at the Opportunity Class Evening in the MPC.

The staff have undergone several training sessions to develop skills to assist in the implementation of the new Australian Curriculum. Years 7 and 9 transitioned successfully, this year, and will be joined by Years 8 and 10 in 2015.

The new HSC Discovery concept for the Area of Study has also kept Year 12 and their teachers actively engaged and challenged, this term. A positive reminder that some of our highest and most rewarding achievement comes, when we are required to test our limits. Year 12 are reminded that regular judicious revision and study, over time, are a good way to moderate the stresses of senior English.

Working closely to integrate literacy and re-emphasise reading comprehension and grammar throughout our programs has led to some pleasing student advancement in attaining these outcomes. Under the auspices of Literacy Week celebrations our dedicated students and staff took part in a 'Favourite Book Character' parade and the 'Get Caught Reading' photo campaign, both of which were well received and much enjoyed.

We have also recently commenced a training schedule to re-establish debating at Muswellbrook High School. Twenty students from Years 7-10 participated in a virtual classroom link viewing the 2014 Premier's Debating Challenge Final. We have entered in competitions for next year and, along with our Public Speaking Competition and planned Eisteddfod participation have plenty scheduled for our creative students to look forward to.

The Lioness Youth of the Year Quest was held on Wednesday, November 19th and ended with Elizabeth Symington, Year 11, as the overall winner and Stephen Davis, Year 10, as Public Speaking Champion. Congratulations to all students: Perry Franks and Bailey Carter who capably represented our school at this prestigious event.

On behalf of the English Faculty, we would like to wish all our students and their families a happy, safe and restful holiday period. We look forward to sharing new and exciting learning opportunities in 2015.



English brainstorming for Discovery and the new Australian Curriculum



7P "Wait a minute, Miss. We're reading!"



7P Children's Picture Book Project finished products at the book launch



2014 Lioness Youth of the Year Quest participants

Bell Shakespeare Masterclass

On Wednesday 19th November a small group of Drama and Theatre Sports students were lucky enough to attend a masterclass by a professional actor from the Bell Shakespeare Company. The class began with a fun warmup, which got the students thinking and then they were into the nitty gritty.

The masterclass was based on Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" which was familiar to many of the students. Each student was given a particular quote which they delivered to the group, this helped to break down the barrier of the language and recapped the tragic story of the 'star crossed lovers'. The class was then divided into groups. Each group was given a character and were to tell the journey this character takes in the play, from a practical point of view. Some interesting scenes were created and presented to the whole group.

The students enjoyed the session and were made aware that performing Shakespeare doesn't have to be a scary experience. The masterclass was funded by Arts Upper Hunter and we appreciate the support they have given us at Muswellbrook High School.



National Literacy Week Celebrations

National Literacy and Numeracy Week is celebrated in August each year by schools around Australia. The week aims to celebrate learning and raise awareness of the importance of reading, writing and mathematics skills. This year as part of this national celebration Muswellbrook High School launched our own activities, during Week 3 of Term 3, with a focus on literacy and the value of reading.

During the week, Year 10 and 11 mentors were paired with Year 7 and 8 Home Groups to play a number of literacy games. Games included Scattergories, Synonym Bingo and Word Scramble. The activities aimed to develop students' vocabulary and improve spelling and grammar skills, in a relaxed and supportive environment. It was wonderful to see the junior students positively engage in the activities and the senior students did an excellent job encouraging their participation.

2014 also saw the launch of our Character Book Parade – an activity that we hope to make bigger and better next year! 22 students dressed up as a favourite book character and took part in the parade. It was fantastic to see so many students get involved, either as a participant, audience member or judge. There were a wide range of costumes, including characters from Harry Potter, Alice in Wonderland and The Book Thief. Choosing a winner was difficult with so many excellent costumes. Congratulations to Jolie Mackeller (Year 7) who received first place for her Mad Hatter costume and Rebecca Hogan (Year 9) who received the second place award for her portrayal of Liesel Meminger from The Book Thief.

Finally, we also ran a Get Caught Reading competition where staff and students had their photo taken with their favourite book or a book they were currently reading. As you can see by the examples there were some creative entries and it was lovely to see so many people sharing their favourite stories and love of reading.

Next year we hope to build on the above activities to continue to promote and encourage the development of students' literacy skills.



Molly Smith, Year 7 – Little Red Riding Hood



Ms Bate, Bayley Carter (Year 12) and Miss Murphy – Judging

Get Caught Reading -

Caitlin Mackie, Kate Symington and Elizabeth Symington, Year 12



Get Caught Reading - Ms Tier and Mrs Bailey



Get Caught Reading—

"What you Tolkien about?"
Lara Collins and Imogen O'Leary, Year 9



Get Caught Reading - Mr Mulvihill



MUNA

Rotary Model United Nations Assembly or MUNA is all about building bridges of goodwill for world peace and understanding in the minds of our youth. MUNA challenges our youth to respect and tolerate differences of race, religion and nationalism whilst retaining their own individualism and the best of their national traditions.

The Rotary District 9670 Model United Assembly was held in Muswellbrook on 23 and 24 May 2014. Schools throughout our district, from Mudgee, Narromine and Merriwa right through to Swansea, Lambton and Newcastle, were represented by students who selected a country to represent in the Assembly. Nations from each continent were present, including Poland, the UK, Egypt, Iran, South Sudan, the US, China and Indonesia. The Muswellbrook High School team, Elizabeth Symington and Josie Whitten from Year 11, chose to represent the United Kingdom in the 2014 Assembly.

Proceedings commenced on Friday evening at The John Hunter Motel, which was the venue for the MUNA Dinner and, afterwards, for a time of team meetings and tactical alignment. Rather than a guest speaker, this year each of the student teams introduced themselves and presented an overview of their nation, its culture, government and politics and economy. As well as providing entertainment for the Rotary Club guests and teachers, it was a great opportunity for the students to build their confidence prior to the Assembly.

The MUNA debate was held at the Muswellbrook Council Chambers on Saturday 24 May. Muswellbrook Deputy Mayor, Malcolm Ogg welcomed the team members and their counsellors plus other supporters to the council chambers. Afterwards, the twenty student teams debated a variety of resolutions, covering such diverse topics as the conflict between Palestine and Israel, terrorism, human rights abuses, the situation in Syria, as well as, environmental issues regarding food and water security and other international concerns like internet censorship. Elizabeth and Josie were required to prepare responses to these resolutions from the point of view of their chosen country, the UK. In this way, they were able to develop a deeper understanding of global issues and the impact of these on a developed nation, and world leader, like the UK. They performed admirably, showcasing talented debating skills and diplomacy!

Congratulations to the team from Hunter School of Performing Arts who, representing Cuba, have been chosen to represent our Rotary District in Canberra.

Ms Tracey Henderson
English Teacher





UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop will close 16th December and re-open 20th January. The 'Back to School' special opening hours are on the new 2015 flyer which is available now at the uniform shop or attached to the school website. Yr 7 will find a copy in their Orientation Packs.

The online ordering system is now available. Follow the links from the school website. Phone orders are also welcome.

School Term Hours

Tuesday 7.30 – 11.30am

Thursday 12-4pm

CASH or EFT-POS

Mobile Phone: 0439 118 033

(only turned on during opening hours)

Happy Holidays!

Vanessa

More information can be found on our school website under the 'Uniform' tab.

<http://www.muswellbro-h.schools.nsw.edu.au>

Note from the Library

Hello to all and The Season's Greetings. It is the time of year when we are anticipating a relaxing break and I wish you a safe and happy one. In the Library we are stocktaking resources and cleaning and tidying and we have noticed that a lot of these resources are still showing as borrowed. It would be appreciated if you could return all books and uniform borrowed and collect all clothes left in the Library uniform pool before the beginning of the holidays. The Library is looking amazing thanks to the new furniture we have been able to provide and is used continuously by our students. Senior Students are fantastic users and are studying hard even though they are near the end of Term One of their final year and our outgoing HSC students were very familiar with the resources the Library has to offer.

Mrs Patrica Cullen
Teacher Librarian



International Disability Day

On the 3rd of December, students from the Support classes were invited to celebrate International Disability Day with members from the community. It was a day filled with market stalls, Christmas celebrations, a fierce basketball match in wheelchairs, a sausage sizzle and even an appearance from Santa.

Thank you to Endeavor for the opportunity to attend this event, which was enjoyed by all. What a great opportunity for students from Muswellbrook High School to be a part of the Muswellbrook Community.

Ms Alex Skales
Support Class Teacher



Solar Boat Challenge 2014

Earlier this Term Yr 10 students from the Industrial Technology Electronics class competed in the Muswellbrook Shire Council's Solar Boat Challenge. This formed part of their Term 3 coursework. Students worked in groups of 3-4 to design, construct and race a boat that ran on solar energy. The students were part of the open class and raced against other schools from across the area. Unfortunately, it was an overcast day which caused many issues for our student's designs which had performed well on the previous sunny days. Luckily we had some spare larger panels which worked better in the cloudy conditions and we performed some on site modifications. The students had a good day, coming home with a Third and Fourth Place in the Opens Class and also taking out the Best Use of Recycled Materials section. We learnt a lot from this year's trying conditions, which will be put to good use when next year's enrichment class take on the 2015 Solar Boat Challenge as part of their Technology Mandatory coursework.

Mr O'Hara
Head Teacher TAS



Cody Risby making modifications



Riley Collins making modifications



Race Time

SRC - Grip Leadership Conference

On Thursday the 30th of October the Year 12 Leaders and several junior students attended the Grip Student Leadership Conference, a practical and interactive training conference for student leaders, at Newcastle Civic Theatre. The day involved various seminars and activities that explored what it takes to be a successful leader.

The speakers introduced many ideas that will help to improve our leadership skills. These included strategies to help build and maintain great team DNA to contribute to a successful and cohesive SRC group. We learnt that plans need to be made, goals need to be defined, and action needs to take place, in order to effectively lead others and maintain strong relationships with fellow leaders. The speakers presented these ideas in an engaging and fun way through the use of games and interactive teaching styles. One section which will be remembered is the Loud Noises segment which encouraged us to be loud and to have fun while working as a team. Some of the activities we did with 'the noise boys' included charades, a dance party and a team spelling bee.

Overall, the day gave our team some fantastic ideas and we now have numerous strategies to implement next year. The day helped to bring our team members together and also encouraged junior students to become interested in becoming a senior leader. The day inspired all the senior leaders, including myself, to purchase a badge with hopes of it continuing to motivate and inspire us to achieve the best we can as school leaders.

Elizabeth Symington (student)
Vice-Captain



Competitions

On Thursday 7th August, 61 students from Muswellbrook High School took part in the Australian Mathematics Competition. The competition is a valuable opportunity for our students to see how they measure up against hundreds of thousands of peers from over 40 countries. This year's results were very pleasing, especially by students from Year 7.

This year 23 of our students received Proficiency awards, 8 of our students received Credit awards and 1 received a Distinction.

Award winners were :

Credits :

Year 7 : Aaron Nolan, Meg Rankin, Jayk Rann, Shaun Wilkins

Year 8 : Joel Hartin, Marcus Morris, Sophie-Lee Richards

Year 9 : Damon Boeckx

Distinction :

Year 7 : Owen Barry

Marcus Morris was this year's recipient for the Prudence Award. This award is given for the most number of consecutive questions correct.

Marcus scored 11.

On Tuesday 12th August the 7P students took part in the ICAS Mathematics Competition (previously UNSW competition).

A number of students did well in this competition receiving Credits :

Owen Barry, Callan Harvey, Kaylub Howe, Elizabeth Merrick, Aaron Nolan, Meg Rankin

Jayk Rann excelled, achieving a High Distinction with a mark that placed him in the 99th percentile of all participants. Brilliant work Jayk!

H.S.C. Students—Best Wishes

Congratulations to Year 12 students for their HSC results. They worked hard in preparation for their Mathematics examinations, with a number turning up in their holidays for extra study sessions. It's been very satisfying watching these students grow in to fine young adults. We wish them well in their future endeavours and trust that they will keep in touch after their H.S.C. exams or call in from time to time to tell us what is happening in their lives.

Return of Textbooks

Could any students who have not yet returned their textbook do so on the first day back, especially Year 12 students as these textbooks are required now for the next Year 12. If you have a brother or sister who has left school and is still to return a textbook could you please remind them or bring it in for them.

Calculators for 2015

All students in Year 8 to 12 in 2015 will be expected to bring a scientific calculator to school each day. A Sharp EL531XH can be purchased from school for \$20 at the start of next year.

Year 7 will not be required to bring a calculator to class but will require one for the NAPLAN Numeracy tests in May.

Staff Changes for 2015

It is with sadness that we say farewell to Miss Sally Reichel, who has been with us for the last 3 years. She is off to Narrabri to teach and we wish her all the best on her new adventure.

We welcome back Mrs Parker to the Mathematics Faculty next year, returning from maternity leave.

We also welcome back Mr Lyons who will be taking Mr Morris's classes in Term 1 whilst he is on leave.

Mr David Cummings
Head Teacher Mathematics

Support Class Excursion to Sydney

On 18 November, students from the Support classes, accompanied by teachers and SLSO's embarked on a journey to Sydney. With bags packed and full of nervous excitement, we entered the busy roads of Sydney, set to make our mark! Day one we relaxed in our rooms for a little bit, then headed out for The Chinese Tea Gardens of Friendship.

Day Two we piled onto a bus, then the Manly Ferry and trekked across to the beach. There we saw an International Beach Volleyball Competition, heaps of blue bottles on the beach and even did a little retail therapy!

Day Three we again piled onto a bus, this time headed for the Opera House. We saw a performance entitled *I Bunyip* which used puppets and an Indigenous story teller to communicate how important it is to understand and acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories. Next, we saw the inner workings of the ABC studio and some even met Giggle, front the hit children's series, *Giggle and Hoot*. For our final night in the big smoke, we went to the Hard Rock Café and saw memorabilia from Rock and Roll icons of our time.

Thank you to Miss Smith, Miss Bertoss, Dan Brash, Riana Clarke and Leanne Hernando who attended the excursion and helped to fundraise earlier in the term. A special thank you to Macquarie Generation AGL for their generous assistance, who made it possible to take our students to Sydney and learn valuable, lifelong skills.

Have a happy and safe
Christmas
Ms Alex Skales



Year 9 Get Smart and Pit Stop Programs

On Wednesday the 12th November year 9 students were involved in some Welfare Programs.

The girls attended the Pit Stop program which is delivered by professionals from Community Health, with the main objectives to promote self-esteem, initiative and knowledge of female identity and anatomy.

The students attended several workshops dealing with a variety of topics including:

- Body Image and Self Esteem
- Sexting and Risk Taking
- Contraception
- Intercourse and its implications
- Pregnancy

The boys attended their very first Muswellbrook High School Pitstop program. The Pit Stop program Youth is an interactive 'road show' based on a mechanical concept likening the parts of the body to parts of a bicycle. It is a program to promote the idea of maintaining the body at an optimum performance level.

Pit Stop for Youth is designed for 13-16 year old males. The aim of the program is to reduce risk-taking behaviours before they become an issue whilst increasing young men's knowledge of available health services in the local government area specifically for young men.

We would like to thank Community Health and in particular Jodie Duffell for the ongoing partnership to keep these fantastic programs running in our school.

Miss Murphy
Head Teacher Welfare



Aboriginal Education



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Aboriginal people and pay our respect to the elders both past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal Australia.

We must always remember that under the concrete and asphalt this land is was and always will be traditional Aboriginal land.

Believing we can walk together to a better future, we meet today, taking it on.

Year 6 Aboriginal student's transition program.

Muswellbrook High School had the privilege of hosting the upcoming year 6 Aboriginal students from Muswellbrook Public School and Muswellbrook South Public School. This was a great opportunity to meet and greet the students and a chance to have a chat and get to know these Aboriginal students before they head to high school next year.

I look forward to working together and seeing all the new students in 2015.

Young Entrepreneurs Program

Muswellbrook High School has been lucky to be chosen as the pilot school for the Young Entrepreneur's Program. Aboriginal students in Year 10 have had the opportunity to be part of a business program; this gave the students a basic knowledge and experience in small business management.



Young Entrepreneurs Program has had a very positive impact on the students that have been involved. They have engaged in a program that has helped them build their knowledge, skills and confidence.

The students have been guided, mentored and taught the ins and outs of developing a business. Students found this project interesting and engaging. Working collaboratively they developed a micro-business of the "Cake-In-A-Cup" project.

The program has been a great success and we would like to THANK the Wanaruah Lands Council, Kate Wood-Pahru, Dylan Dwyer and the mentors for their guidance and support throughout this program.

Congratulations to the six students who completed the Young Entrepreneurs Program.

Bianca Ford-Hrbek, Jordan Riley, Matthew Rose, Thomas Chambers (Absent: Georgeana Atkinson and Sky Tommerup)



Farewell Debbie Douglass – Co-ordinator of the Muswellbrook Graham Polly Farmer Enrichment Centre.

I would like to take this opportunity to THANK a wonderful work colleague that I have been working with for the past 5 years. We say a huge THANK YOU to Debbie Douglass, your passion for and dedication to the Muswellbrook Enrichment Centre is outstanding and the support and inspiration you have given the students at Muswellbrook High School has been impeccable. You are an inspiring woman and have made a positive impact on the school and within the community and we are very admiral for that.

It has been a privilege and honour to have had the opportunity to work with you. You are an amazing, empowering women that brings the best out in everyone. THANK YOU and wishing you the best in the next part of your journey Debbie.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year 2015



*Melisa Powell
Aboriginal Education Worker
(02) 6543 1033*

Year 7 Development Days - Newcastle Trip

Students enjoyed their visit to the Asian Grocery shop on Hunter St in Newcastle. They wondered at the odd looking concoctions and the weird sounding names and weren't always sure what they were buying. Students purchased an array of fancy items, chopsticks and a variety of Asian food delights to eat on the train on the way home.

Then we walked to the "Nagisa" Japanese Restaurant. Students ate sushi, gyoza (pork dumpling), edamame (soybeans in their pods), tempura (battered and fried vegetables and prawns), gomae (beans and spinach with a sesame sauce), takoyaki (octopus balls), steamed rice and udon (buckwheat noodles).



Ms Tier and I were very pleased to see students trying everything. They were often pleasantly surprised by the taste. After a desert of green tea or black sesame icecream we went to the Newcastle Museum

Everyone especially enjoyed the “Supernova” section where they played Science games, solved puzzles, lifted a car and tested many skills.

Student also visited the many exhibitions and climbed aboard an old tram.



On Friday the restaurant was not able to accommodate us so we collected our Japanese lunchboxes from “Sushi Castle” and sat near the museum to eat. Friday’s menu had a few different options. Chikin katus (chicken cutlet), Korokke (vegetable croquet), edamae, takoyaki, sushi, udon, and chips. An addition I definitely did not order.

As the students from this group missed the restaurant experience they were given an entertaining guided tour of the museum and were able to experience the “Permian Monsters” exhibition.



Digging for monsters



Some future models??



Mrs Bailey
Head Teacher Science/Lote

Year 7 Development Days - Washpools

Year 7 spent a fun filled day exploring the 'Washpools' around the picnic area. The students spent the day rotating between three different activities;

- Miss Sturtridge had the students delving into ponds to discover water life and find creatures to assess the health of the stream.
- Mr Faunt took students on a bird watching adventure
- Mrs Greenwood allowed students to study biotic and abiotic features of the environment and sent students on a scavenger hunt.

A big thank you to our trusty bus driver, Ross, who told stories of 'The Wingen maid', 'Drop Bears' and with the aide of the students allowed us to safely navigate through creek crossings and gates. It really helped when the students stood for bumps/creek crossings and moved to the centre of the bus to get through the gate!!!

Mrs Greenwood
Science Teacher



Muswellbrook Junior Rams 2015 Season

Hi Everyone - Registration is now open for Muswellbrook Junior Rams 2015 season!

After having such a fabulous season in 2014 the committee would like to offer Early Bird prices to those of you who register before January 31st 2015.

The Early Bird Prices are: 1st Child \$65 - 2nd Child \$65 - 3rd Child \$55 - 4th and subsequent children are free.

This price includes your sports insurance for 2015, club shorts and socks for re-registration, and shirt, shorts & socks for new rego....

Once February the 1st hits the prices will be: 1st Child \$85 - 2nd Child \$75 - 3rd Child \$65 - 4th and subsequent children are free.

PLEASE NOTE: Early Bird Fees are only for those people paying BEFORE February 1st. After this time you will be charged at the normal rate even if you have completed the registration online before this time without paying.

When registering click the link below. This will take you straight to the registration form. Once there you will need to select either Option 1 - You need to have your username and password OR Option 2 where you request them and they will be emailed automatically to you.

If you chose Option 2 and you do not receive an email with the details, your email address in the database could be incorrect. Please email me so I can check it and if need be change your email in the database so you can receive them. This also means they will not receive this email so please be sure to check with your team mates to make sure they have received this!!

If you are registering more than 1 child, please make sure you select the amount right at the beginning so it can total the amount correctly for you.

Even if you are not paying straight away you need to as it will show the wrong amount as outstanding. If you wish to only pay for 1 child at a time to help with finances please register ALL the children online together, then contact me to make cash payments so you can still benefit from the multiple discounts. If you have any troubles registering please either contact me via email bbo55y@hotmail.com or via text/call on 0428 580 355. If I don't answer the phone please leave your name, number and what your having trouble with so when I ring you I can have the information in front of me and save you time, and it's also nice to know who I'm calling back!

I will still be having some registration days down at Olympic Park in February where I will have access to the internet so you can register. Keep an eye out on our website for more information about these days. Our season is set to start in April 2015.

Link for Registering:

<https://reg.sportingpulse.com/v6/regofrm.cgi...>

Regards - Bronwyn Pettit
MDJRLFC Treasurer/Registrar - 0428 580 355





www.facebook.com/muswellbrookhigh

A screenshot of the Facebook page for Muswellbrook High School. The page header shows the Facebook logo and login fields. The main content area features a large photo of the school building, the school crest, and the name 'Muswellbrook High School Official Education'. Below this, there are navigation tabs for 'Timeline', 'About', 'Photos', 'Reviews', and 'More'. The 'Timeline' tab is active, showing a post from 'Muswellbrook High School Official' shared 55 minutes ago. The post includes a link to an assessment schedule and a text update about Year 11 students moving to their HSC year. There are also photos of students at the bottom of the page.