



Muswellbrook High School

Newsletter 3

8th May 2015



Principal Report

At the staff development day this Term, our school held a half-day workshop on Lesson Observations and Classroom Walk Throughs, presented by Gerard Alford from ITC Publications.

These two initiatives are designed to give regular feedback to our teachers in order to enhance the quality of our teaching and showcase the excellent teachers we have at our school. Discussions around these two programs have recently come to the fore of the Australian education agenda. After attending one of the first workshops of its

kind, our school is in an excellent position to move forward and explore these initiatives together to strengthen our community.

The main message of this workshop was that Classroom Walk Throughs and Lesson Observations, whilst different to each other, share the common goal of enhancing student outcomes in every classroom. These techniques are not employed for the sole purpose of evaluating teachers, but are intended to encourage growth, instigate positive discussions between staff members and enhance the quality of our classroom practice.

I am excited about the opportunity to explore these ideas further within our school community.

ANZAC DAY Commemorations

Our ANZAC Assembly provided an opportunity for the whole school to reflect on the sombre occasion to mark one hundred years since Australian and New Zealand Diggers landed in Gallipoli to battle in the First World War.



I would like to thank the following people: Mr Greg Cole for his attendance at our assembly and for his unwavering support of Muswellbrook High School, guest speaker Mrs Duck, who shared a recount of her recent school trip to Turkey and reflection on the experiences that fallen troops and their friends and families would have endured; our talented school band and vocal ensembles who paid fitting tribute to our ANZAC veterans with a number of musical items; school captains Bayley Carter and Taylah King who lead the assembly with dignity and respect and Mrs Kylie Kelly for her outstanding organisation of the assembly.

We also look forward to hearing from Cody Risby, a current Year 11 student who is at Gallipoli for the 100 year commemoration, representing both Muswellbrook High School and NSW as part of the ANZAC Study Tour. Please read Cody's update further in our Newsletter.

My heart swelled with great pride as I marched alongside our students and staff at both the Muswellbrook and Denman town marches at the ANZAC Day commemorations. It was tremendous to see so many Muswellbrook High School students walk together in this act of remembrance - thank you.



ANZAC
DAY



Important dates ahead

Our Year 12 students completed their half yearly exams. They will have received results and some valuable feedback that will set them in the right direction in this final stage of their Higher School Certificate. The rest of the school will be focusing on half yearly assessments. These are held in the following weeks:

- Years 7 to 10 in week 5 (commencing 18th May)
- Year 11 assessment week (commencing 4th May)
- The NAPLAN exams commence for Years 7 and 9 on Tuesday 12th May 2015

Farewell and thank you

It is with the deepest regret that I announce the resignation of our Mrs Mel Powell, Aboriginal Education worker. Mel has put her heart and soul into supporting our Aboriginal students as well as their families over the past seven and a half years at Muswellbrook High School. Mel has strongly contributed to the positive and welcoming 'vibe' of our school and she is greatly missed. Best wishes are sent Mel's way for her new career move.

Welcome to new staff

It is wonderful to see the return of Mrs Amber Gallagher to our school on a part time basis after her maternity leave. Welcome also to Ms Samantha Pope in her role as long term casual for Terms 2 and 3. Samantha's teaching background is Music. Her professionalism and passion for teaching is evident.

Ms April Bott and Ms Fiona Murray have commenced their new role, sharing The Graham (Polly) Farmer Foundation Coordinator position. They have completed their induction and are exceptionally keen to build on the wonderful work that Debbie Douglass has left behind. Through the dedicated work of the tutors and students, the Enrichment Centre achieves excellent results for our Aboriginal students.

One year anniversary

This Term marks the first anniversary of my appointment to Muswellbrook High School and I grow more and more grateful for this opportunity every day. It is a joy to spend time getting to know our students, who demonstrate respect and courtesy daily.

It is a privilege to work alongside such committed and dedicated staff who share this common vision:

'As a progressive educational community, we are committed to inspire and challenge students to achieve individual success in preparation for effective participation in a changing world'.

Principal
Ms Elizabeth Bate

A report from Cody

Our ANZAC Centenary Student Tour is finally underway! The farewell breakfast at Hunter Valley Grammar School was emotional, saying goodbye to family and the RSL representatives. It felt good to be finally leaving on this very important pilgrimage.

It was also nice to say thank you to the many people who have supported us, including the Hunter Valley RSL sub-branches who have done all the hard work to get us here. We acknowledged all the organisations who supported us and particularly our families and our school. A special thanks to my school for the donations of time and money that have helped me to be part of this trip.

Our flight was over 30 hours long and felt even longer through the changing time zones. We spent our first two days in Venice which was amazing - I was so happy to be in such a famous city. The highlight for me from this part of our tour was seeing Venice at night with all its harbour lights. The boarding of our ship to Turkey, the MSC Opera, reminded me that this is the trip of a lifetime and how lucky I am to be here. We have cruised for 2 days down the Adriatic Sea, past the Greek Isles and we are now heading up into the Aegean Sea towards our ultimate destination of Gallipoli.

A highlight so far on board has been a talk by our hosts, Military History Tours on the landings at ANZAC. From this I learned that the whole campaign was a massive stuff up from the military leaders. The days ahead include docking at Istanbul, collecting more passengers and touring the ANZAC battlefields.

I am feeling that these experiences are going to change me in a personal way and grow my respect for those brave men, even more than before.

I will endeavour to keep you updated on my experiences at ANZAC.

Kind regards,
Cody Risby
Year 11 Student MHS

Enrichment Centre

We are back for Term 2 at the Muswellbrook Enrichment Centre. There are now two program coordinators- April Bott and Fiona Murray.

We are excited about having the opportunity to work in collaboration with Muswellbrook High School, students, staff and the school community. Aboriginal Education is highly valued in our community and schools and we are fortunate to share our experiences, knowledge and culture with all involved.

April will work Monday- Tuesday

Fiona will work Wednesday- Thursday

Both will work Friday mornings

We are extremely excited to begin down at the Enrichment Centre and hope to see all students reengaging with the program.

April Bott & Fiona Murray
The Graham (Polly) Farmer Foundation

Uniform Shop

Now is the time to start thinking about what your student may need.

The Uniform Shop has woollen and fleecy jumpers, jackets, track-pants, navy slacks (for the girls) and plain navy scarves.

Any combination can be worn.

More information can be found [on the school website.](#)

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)



winter warmth

Vanessa

Cross Country Report

On the 15th of March the annual school cross country was held at Olympic Park. This was a change of venue from Weeraman Fields. The change allowed a 'carnival' atmosphere and enabled the cross country to be split into a junior (3km) and senior (6km) race. This allowed students to watch and cheer on their siblings and friends from the grandstand whilst listening to some pump up music put over the PA by Jason Foy and his team of students. There were some outstanding individual performances with Jacinta Ballard taking out the junior race and Noa Durham the victor in the senior race. Be it our competitive runners, our fun runners or our walkers, everybody had a smile on their face and participated with eagerness and enjoyment. The top 6 in each age group qualified for the Zone carnival



Above: Some of our front runners

Below: Rehydrating after a tough run



Above: Eager to start the senior race

Below: Finish Line sprint!!!



Zone Cross Country

On Tuesday 31st of March, a bus load of 50 Muswellbrook High students set off to the Zone Upper Hunter Cross Country at Rose point park, Singleton. The students represented the school with pride and effort and again some outstanding individual performances were on show. Muswellbrook High had 4 age champions at zone being:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Ashley Halliwell – 12 Girls | - Makayla Liddell – 15 Girls |
| Jacinta Ballard – 14 Girls | - Noa Durham – 18 Boys |

Along with these age champions a total of 26 students qualified for the Regional Carnival to be held on Friday the 8th of May at Newcastle Jockeys Club, Broadmeadow. Congratulations to these qualifiers and we wish you the best of luck at the Hunter Regionals.

Luke Doust
MHS Cross Country Organiser



Soccer Report

Muswellbrook High School was represented by a number of soccer teams during the last few weeks of Term 1. These were the Open Boys, the u15 Boys Bill Turner Cup Team and the u15 Girls Bill Turner Trophy Team.

Open Boys:

The Open Boys team lead by Joel Barner from Year 11 had a home match to start their knockout competition against Mt View High School. The team had some strong soccer players including Joel Barner, Jessy Besford, James Lutgerink, Shawn Honeysett and Marcus Morris. Along with these soccer players a few of the Rugby League boys pitched in to help us field a team and did not look out of place with the round ball. The game started well and Muswellbrook had a host of chances before one was put away by Joel Barner to give us the lead. Our stand in goalie Anaru Komene got a little too rough in the box in contesting the ball and the referee awarded a penalty which Mt View put away. Half time score 1-1. The boys knew they were on top and it was only a matter of time in the second half before Cashlin Murray Mell pounced to put Muswellbrook ahead 2-1. A few minutes later Joel Barner who had dominated the midfield for the majority of the game took it upon himself to finish the game off by driving a devastating shot into the top corner. Job well done, 3-1 winners. Stand out performer for the day was Lochlan Paine as right back.



U15 Boys:

Muswellbrook High School drew local rival St Josephs, Aberdeen in the first round of the Bill Turner Cup. The team, led by Marcus Morris was a young team predominately from Year 7 and came up against a Joeys team full of Year 9 boys that had a little bit too much pace and class on the day. St Josephs ran out 6-0 winners, however, the boys should hold their heads high as the majority of them will be able to play in this competition for the next two years and will develop into a very competitive side. Stand out performance was Tyler Morris in goals who pulled of some outstanding saves to keep the score line down.



U15 Girls:

In the most exciting game I have been involved at in my time at Muswellbrook High, the girls came up against Scone High School. The girls were punished for not coming out of the blocks quick enough and Scone scored directly off the kick off through some nice passing between their two forwards. This was the shock the girls needed however as they managed to refocus and get a foothold in the game. Natalie Smith scored two goals in quick succession to put Muswellbrook ahead before Tahnee Ward put the icing on the cake by placing a neat shot by the keeper to take us to half time with a 3-1 lead. Scones half time talk must have worked because they came out in the second half with real determination and vigour and quickly brought the score line level at 3-3. This was the way the scores would stay at the full time whistle. Extra time beckoned. Two ten minute half's of golden goal whereby as soon as a team scores they are the winner. Both teams had clear chances but no goals were scored and the dreaded penalty shootout loomed. 5 shooters from each team and the most scored wins. Despite having their shooting boots on during the game, the pressure and intensity of penalties got to our girls with each shot being saved by the keeper. Scone were composed enough to put 2 goals away which saw them progress 2-0 via penalties. The girls were exhausted but demonstrated sportsmanship and maturity and went and congratulated Scone on their win. Standout performer was Tahnee Ward who was involved in attack and defence and was an inspiring captain for the girls.



Well done to all the soccer teams and keep an eye out for the result of the next open boy's game and Indoor Soccer/Futsal coming up this term.

Luke Doust
Head Soccer Coach



Located at
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Muswellbrook NSW
2333
Phone: (02) 65434841
Fax: (02) 65425443
Email: yaw@ubys.org.au



Upper Hunter Youth Services Inc - Youth Centre MAY CALENDAR 2015

Open Wednesday-Fri 3pm -6pm
School Holidays Tuesday- Fri 11am-3pm

Free bus run provided every
afternoon

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|---------------------|---|---|--|-----|
| | | | | | 1 MEAL PLANNING Youth Choice | |
| | | 5 Homework Help | 6 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY Skipping Rope Activity | 7 Art Photography | 8 Craft Using our photos to make cards | |
| | | 12 Homework Help | 13 COMMUNITY AWARENESS Youth Talk on Domestic Violence | 14 TEAM WORK Touch football On the lawn | 15 MEAL PLANNING Budget and Costings | |
| | | 19 Homework Help | 20 COMMUNITY AWARENESS week | 21 LIFE SKILLS What are my Rights? | 22 PHYSICAL ACTIVI- TY Shooting Hoops | |
| | | 26 Homework Help | 27 TEAM BUILDING Welcoming new members | 28 TEAM WORK Soccer on the Lawn | 29 MEAL PLANNING What we learnt? | |

Royal Easter Show 2015 Steggles Meat Birds Pairs Competition

Mr T (Grant Taylor), Yr 11 Primary Industries, Yr 9 & 10 Elective Agriculture and 8DT06 all combined to care for and raise 16 Steggles Meat Chickens from a few days old through to 6 weeks. 2 Male (3.9kg each) and 2 Female (2.9 Kg each) were selected for competition.

Muswellbrook High competed against 104 other schools for the first time, coming out in front with a number of wins and \$1,680 in prize money.

- 2nd in the Meat Bird Pair, Commercial Male (Live)
- 3rd in the Champion Meat Bird Pair (Live)
- 1st in the Meat Bird Pair, Commercial Male - Carcase
- Best Meat Bird Pair, Commercial Carcase (With Trophy) (Champion)
- Awarded to the school that has competed to the highest standard in all three elements of the Commercial Competition: Meat Bird Pairs; Rearing Competition; Meat Bird Pair Commercial.



Mr Grant Taylor

**At Muswellbrook High
School we are striving for
excellence with**



**How many Vivos have you
earnt today?**

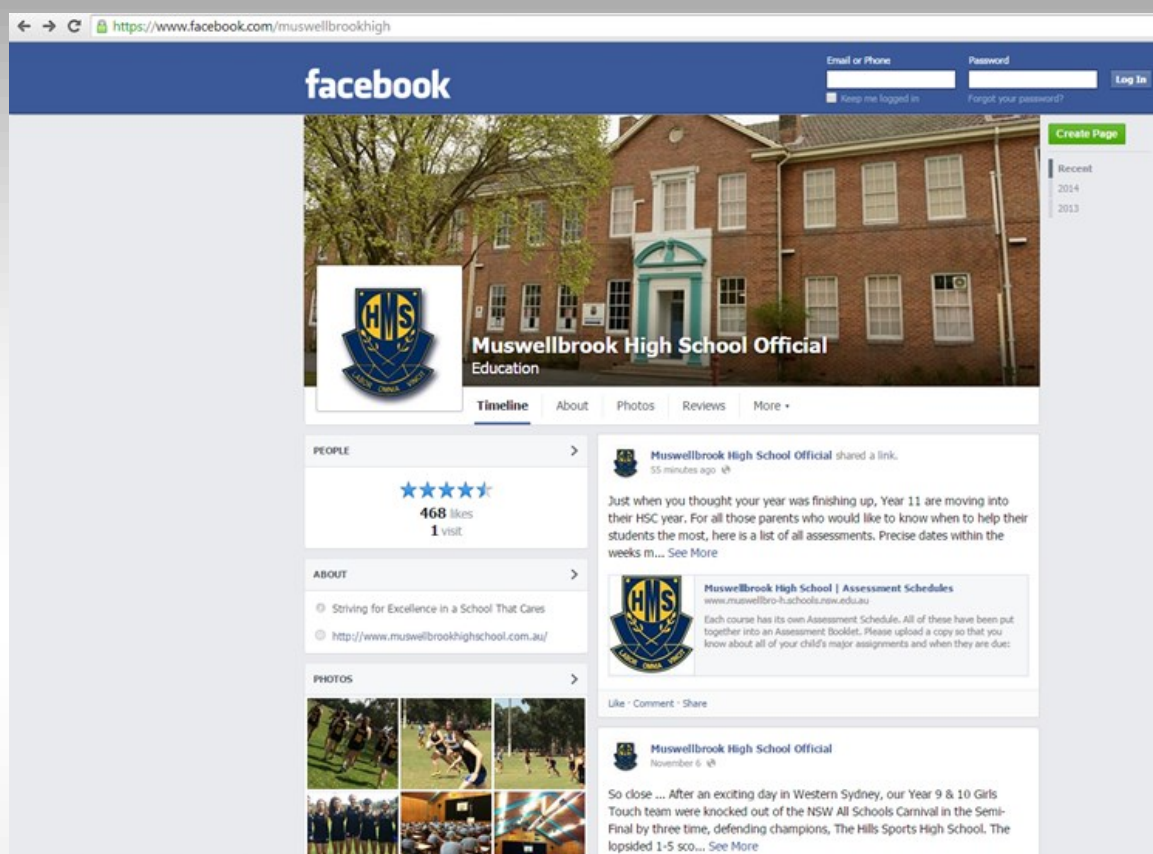
**Log on at
www.vivomiles.com.au
to find out!**



**KEEP
CALM
AND
EARN
VIVOS**



www.facebook.com/muswellbrookhigh



Muswellbrook High School—IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Facebook— [facebook.com/muswellbrookhigh](https://www.facebook.com/muswellbrookhigh) (Our Official Facebook Page)

SMS text messaging – Daily attendance of your child is sent to your family mobile number. This can also be used for important information regarding parent teacher meetings, issue of reports etc. The school SMS number is: **0427 016 460**. Please add this as a contact in your mobile phone. You CANNOT phone this number, please phone using 65431033. You may send a text message at any time to this number to explain your child's absences. Please let us know if you have any problems with this texting service.

Email – The school newsletter is distributed via email to as many families as possible, approximately twice a term. If you have an email address that you use regularly, please contact the school.

Websites – www.muswellbro-h.schools.nsw.edu.au. 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 - The Millennium website contains all of your child's school information. This includes attendance, school reports, assessment tasks, timetables, behaviour information.

Families are able to see the whole family at a glance with your private login. This will be sent to you via an email if you have one listed with us, if not please phone the office with a current email address.

Students can also access this site through a separate login.