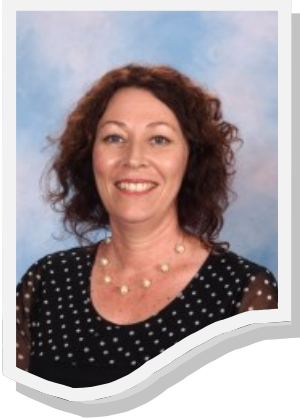




Muswellbrook High School

Newsletter 4

12th June 2015



Principal Report

NAPLAN testing and results

I am so proud of the effort and behaviour of our Yr. 7 and Yr. 9 students who sat for the NAPLAN tests. One million Australian students took part in the National tests over three days.

This is the second year that students have sat for the NAPLAN tests under much less confronting conditions in classrooms rather than the MPC. Although this meant some disruption to the remainder of the school, our students were flexible and coped with the room changes to normal classrooms very well.

Thank you to the wonderful staff who administered the tests and supported our students to do their best. Of particular note was the number of students who were supported to complete their tests in the Student Learning Centre, B20. 54 students had their particular learning needs catered for by the Learning and Support personnel, coordinated by Mrs Sharon Young.

According to the latest news, the NAPLAN summary information will be made available to schools on July 31, which is earlier this year than usual. After this date, parents will receive individual reports.

I am excited to announce that we will use the NAPLAN results in conjunction with where our students are placed on the Literacy Continuum. This will provide all teachers with a one page overview or plan of where each of their students are placed, what they did well, where they can improve and specific strategies to assist students to improve. This brilliant tool was the brainchild of Mrs Kay Sokulsky and Ms Tracy Henderson in conjunction with the Literacy Team. This new tool will result in more targeted support and intervention and more individualised reporting to parents.

School Plan - available on website

I am very pleased to announce that an overview of the MHS School Plan 2015 - 2017 is available for all to view on our website. This new model of the planning tool allows the whole school to articulate our vision statement and explain the three strategic directions we are committed to. I encourage you to be involved and have a look. If you have further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

TTFM student survey results

At the end of Term 1, Mr Grant Herbert randomly selected students from across all year groups to participate in this survey. The *Tell Them From Me* student survey provides school principals and school leaders with insight into student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practices at their school, from the perspective of students. The survey asks a range of things from participation in sports to positive teacher-student relations. To date, over 200 schools have taken part in these surveys. A snap shot of the results are below:

Below average ratings

Student truancy rate

Average ratings

Participation in school sports – 45%

Participation in extracurricular activities – 22%

Above average ratings

Students with a positive sense of belonging (up 7% on average norms – Years 7-9 highest)

Students with positive relationships (up 6% on norms)

Students that value schooling outcomes (14% above norms)

Motivation and interest rates are above norms

Students rate their effort above norms

Students feel they have someone at school that consistently provides encouragement and can be turned to for advice

Students feel teachers are responsive to their needs, and encourage independence with a democratic approach

Students understand these and teachers maintain high expectations, staff emphasise expectations for success all rated higher than average

Students plan to go to university (54% compared to average of 38%)

Tell Them From Me parent/carers survey opportunity

We are very interested to know your thoughts about how we can further support the learning needs of your children. There will be an opportunity for parents/carers to complete the online survey in Term 3. It usually takes about 30 minutes.

The *Partners in Learning* parent survey is for parents and carers of school students. It is designed to clarify and strengthen the important relationship between parents/carers and school by gaining insights into parent/carer and staff communication, activities and practices at home, and parent/carer voices regarding school support of learning and behaviour.

The survey results help to build an accurate and timely picture that schools can use for practical improvements. It complements the student and teacher surveys.

Further details about this survey will be placed on our website and Official Facebook page.

Year 12 Careers interviews

It has been an absolute privilege to spend some time with every Yr 12 student over the past couple of weeks, as part of Mr Tony Borg's career interviews. I am delighted to spend some quality time discussing how each student has performed in the most recent half yearly exams, where their interests and skills lie and how we can assist them to make the most of their time remaining at school.

The Yr 12 Career interviews are fast becoming a highlight of my year. I appreciate the personal knowledge Tony Borg has of each student and the way in which he can get them to 'spark' when he taps into their diverse range of talents.

Our Yr 12 leaders are optimistic about the wide range of opportunities available to them at MHS and always speak highly of the staff who are more than happy to support them to realise their dreams.

MPC, Neate Theatre and Library technology upgrades

Upon return to school in Term 3, students will notice some technology upgrades to our three most utilised common spaces; the MPC, Neate Theatre and the Library. Using existing technology and with the purchase of new screens and projectors, each space will better accommodate the audio visual needs of our school. One of our strategic directions is to cater for the 21st Century Learner and the much needed upgrade will provide an environment that fosters this development. Coupled with wireless technology in all areas of the school, including the MPC and the introduction of BYOD, we are well on our way.

Cody Risby's return

It is a delight to speak with Cody about his amazing travels to Gallipoli to mark the 100 years Commemoration.

It is clear to see that Cody has been personally and emotionally challenged by his time away from family and Australia. It is not a clichéd understatement to say he has been transformed - who wouldn't after such an event! Cody has agreed to share his diary journals with us all and he will present to some Yr 7 classes, to fulfil his personal promise to not let the ANZAC spirit lose impetus in Australia.

MUNA

I had the pleasure of recently attending the Muswellbrook Rotary District 9670 Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA).

Two teams from MHS were sponsored by Muswellbrook Rotary Club: Meagan Coombes and Brittany Ingold representing Greece and Owen McLeod and Perry Franks representing China.

Nineteen schools in the Hunter participated over the Friday and Saturday—with much plotting, scheming and aligning between countries! Thank you to Ms Henderson for her leadership in preparing the teams.



Enrichment Centre Compact signing

It was wonderful to see so many students and their parents at the recent Polly Farmer Foundation Enrichment Centre's Compact Signing. It was an opportunity for all partners and stakeholders to commit to the agreed expectations of the program.

With new Co-ordinators, Ms Fiona Murray and Ms April Bott, the student numbers have swelled to 33. The atmosphere is welcoming and very positive. Congratulations to all!

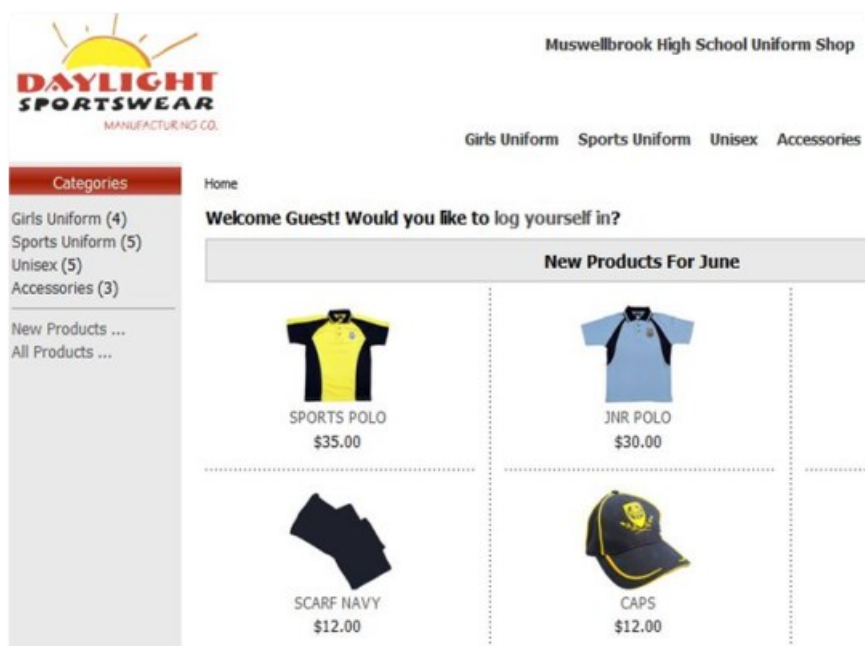
Ms E Bate
Principal

Uniform Shop



All the information regarding our uniform is attached to the school website including a link to the online shop. While the shop site is fairly basic it should make it easier for busy families. You can use either PayPal or Credit Card and the next time the shop is open I will have your purchase ready for collection by the student. We can confirm sizing and if necessary swap it before they leave the shop. If it hasn't been picked up after a week, I'll drop it over to the office.

Alternatively you can purchase uniforms by phone using your Credit Card. If you are unsure of the sizing have your student come by the shop and try the uniform on beforehand.



On the subject of sizing, I highly recommend students come in with their parent or guardian if you are buying something you haven't had before or unsure of size. Our sizing is unisex and isn't the same as leisure clothing or other schools who may have a different supplier. It will help keep the waiting time for others down too!

Happy Holidays...

Vanessa

Deputy Report

Term 2 has returned with a chill in the air, strong winds and rain. As we continue to watch the temperature drop, a reminder that student's must be in full school uniform, at all times. If for whatever reason they are unable to wear their uniform that day. They must bring a note from home stating the reason and see myself in E block before 9 am. A compromise may be met if a note is produced otherwise they will be asked to visit the library where they will change into a clean school uniform that they will wear for the day. The piece of uniform which is not school uniform will be kept and returned to them at the conclusion of the day. Failure to bring a note to school will result in the school issuing a detention to be completed at lunch time of that day. Having said that I would like to congratulate our student's on their uniform. They wear it proudly and look amazing to visiting guests at our school, especially at whole school assemblies.

Just another friendly reminder to ensure you are NOT picking up or dropping your son or daughter up across from the bus stop. The road is congested with both cars and buses and we would hate for an accident to happen. I encourage you to pick your child up at the back of the school near Hill Street.

Just some quotes from our student body.

"Why do you like being a part of Muswellbrook High School?"

Year 7

"The best part of coming to MHS is the teachers, they are always friendly and nice and always willing to help us"

"High school is much better than primary school because we like going to difference periods with lots of different teachers and we learn more in depth information in our subjects"

"The canteen is amazing"

Year 9

"The teachers are fabulous because they really care about us"

"Lots of different opportunities for sport and electives"

"Our school looks good, especially the new mosaic pots and letters around the school"

"Good food in the canteen"

Year 11

"We feel one in the school environment, it's a big school but the teachers care about us"

"Teachers are interactive and always willing to give up their own time to help us out"

"Good selection of courses and opportunities"

"The canteen goes alright, but we do like 3.30pm on a Friday and wearing our black shoes he he"

So again, I say thank you for your support whilst sitting in the Deputy chair Term 2. It has been a busy term and a great learning curve. I will be handing back the reigns to Scott Copland in Week 9.

Narelle Smith
Relieving Deputy Principal

Cody Risby's Anzac Report

Finally back in Australia. Here is part two of my journey.

Once we docked in Istanbul, we were straight off the boat to discover so many sights sounds and smells, of a country that shares so many memories with our own. The people of Turkey are humbled by the fact so many Australians come to discover and pay respect to their fallen soldiers and our own. They really do love Aussies and we were welcomed with open arms. Touring around Istanbul we got to see the Blue Mosque, Grand Bazaar and several other places of interest.

After a couple of days touring Istanbul we cruised back up the Dardanelles and docked at Channakle. Once allowed off in Channakle we started our Anzac battlefields tours. We toured Commonwealth Gravesites, including Lone Pine and The Nek. While at the Gravesites we laid poppies and held services at graves of some of the ancestors of my tour mates.

We also went on a day tour of the city of Troy, where we toured the ruins and saw the wooden horse of Troy.

Anzac Day had arrived, we had to get an early start leaving the ship at 12am, to make sure we made the ceremony in time. Our Anzac Day service was held on the beaches of the city of Gallipoli, this was also where Surf Life Saving Australia had their life boats beach at dawn. The noise of the boats rowing in with the waves lapping the sides of the boats, made our experience even more touching. There were lots of tears shed by all. A student on the tour helped conduct the service and laid the wreaths we had brought from Australia. The mayor of Gelibolli (Turkish spelling for Gallipoli) conducted the service with an interpreter and a retired Australian Army veteran. After a long day reflecting we headed back to the boat to start our journey home.

The next few days were spent on the boat sailing back to Istanbul. We also attended The Gallipoli 100 year Anniversary Ball arranged by the tour organisers. It was held in the Lutfi Kirdar Convention and Exhibition Centre, Istanbul. All the dance practice came in handy. The music for the event was provided by Barker College. Everybody on the boat attended as it was our final organised activity.

The ship headed to Venice from Istanbul for the long trip home starting with a flight from Venice to Rome, then Rome to Abu Dhabi, and finally Abu Dhabi to Sydney. After two days travelling we had made it home.

Reflecting on this life changing experience has made me realise even more the sacrifices our military forces past, present and future make everyday. We should all feel proud of our fallen soldiers and pay them respect on each Anzac Day every year by attending Anzac Day marches and memorial services to help the Anzac Spirit live on. "Lest we Forget"

Cody Risby
Year 11 Student



Singleton Horse Sports

On the 22 May, after heavy rain over night, Singleton Horse Sports went ahead under dark skies. Georgina and Kate Rowlands attended with 180 other students from around the Hunter Valley. They started to the day with their Hack classes which saw Kate finishing 4th and Georgina 5th. They then went in for their rider class and Georgina finished 4th and Kate won her rider. The pleasure Hack took place while the rain tumbled down and Kate won her class.

With heavy rain falling the committee decided to cancel the day. They had a presentation for point score with only 3 classes completed which saw Kate tie with another rider to obtain the highest point score for 13yr olds.



Swans Shield Open Boys AFL

On the 14th May students made their way down to Feighan Oval, Warners Bay to compete in the 2015 Swans Shield Opens Boys AFL Gala Day. It was the first time Muswellbrook High had competed in this competition. Due to the high number of schools in the competition the normally 2 game round robin format was changed to a knockout competition.

We were lucky (or unlucky) enough to get a bye in round One and progress straight through to the quarter finals. In the Quarter Final we faced off against Merewether High with the winner progressing through to the Semi Final. After a slow start the boys began to work together, getting points on the board and producing a number of good tackles. They continued to improve in the second half, defending well and getting more points on the board.

Unfortunately it wasn't enough and Merewether High came out as the winners and progressed through to the Semi-Finals. It was a good first hit out as Muswellbrook High's first attempt at this competition and the boys are keen to give it another go next year.

Mr O'Hara



Year 11 Biology and Senior Science Trip to Gulgong

35 students and 3 teachers set off for Gulgong on Tuesday 19th May. On the way we stopped at Battery Rock Formation for a quick geology lesson. Then on to Merriwa for morning tea. We arrived at “The Drip” at midday and began our studies of the local environment. Map reading, geology, water testing, and bushwalking followed. We walked into “The Drip” to witness a wonderful natural rocky outcrop with water dripping from between the layers of rock. This fabulous place has just been preserved for all to see by becoming part of a natural park which has been saved from mining. From here to “Hands on Rock”, an amazing indigenous special place.

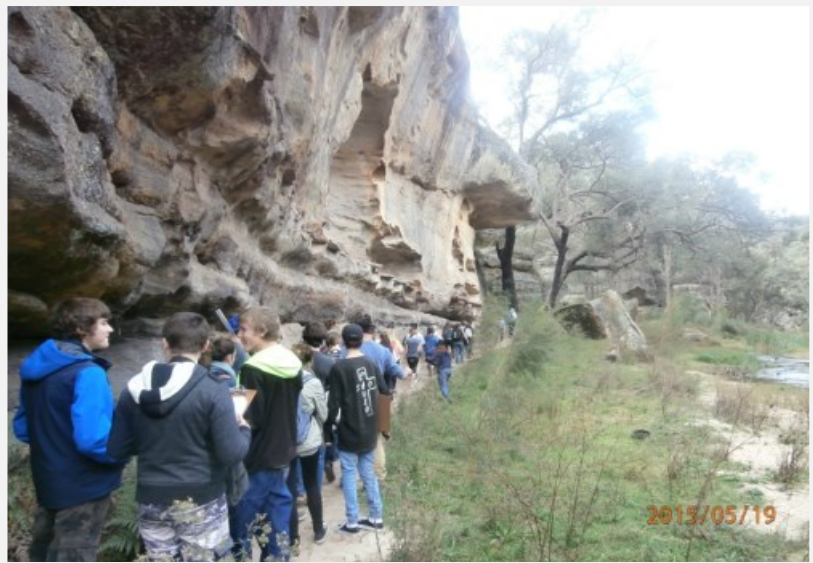


Katie Mann and Teegan Betteridge testing the pH of the stream



Elise Hagan testing water salinity





We continued on to Gulgong to our accommodation at the Redhill Environmental Education Centre

After dinner we were entertained by Bob and some of our “talented” students





On Wednesday after breakfast and packing our lunch (how many biscuits did Judd pack??) we were off to Munghorn Gap National Park. Here we learned about a dry sclerophyll forest by taking measurements of the abiotic features and climbing up and down steep slopes many times. (Some of the measurements, particularly with the trundle wheel were not very accurate but certainly entertaining, Lara)



There had been an amazing storm overnight but we were lucky to escape the rain with only the occasional sprinkle and moments of sunshine throughout the day. (Hence the coats) Everyone had a great time. Lots was learned about the environment, the interrelationships and adaptations within ecosystems and the effect of humans on the ecosystems.

A special thank you to Mr Bellotti, Miss Sturtridge and all the wonderful students who were a pleasure to take away and work with. I look forward to the Year 12 Biology and Senior Science excursion to the museums and zoo in Sydney, next year.

Outward Bound 2015

The students and I (Mr Elliott) had a very successful week at Outward Bound. We started with a walk straight up a mountain for 4 km it was the hardest walk I have ever done and for the students. They called this a warm up for the week ahead. They weren't joking, we covered about 45km of harsh terrain. This was character building for the students and they learnt what it was like to be a leader. The students took turns at leading the group to the correct destination which was teaching them map reading, responsibility and leadership.

There were also activities along the way like abseiling, camping, canoeing and roping activities. The students really enjoyed themselves socialising with each other and challenging themselves. The leaders of the groups were really good at encouraging the students to get out of their comfort zones and do things they wouldn't normally do.

Overall the students really enjoyed themselves and benefitted from learning to become future leaders. I would recommend any student or teacher complete the course, just from my own experience. The course was excellent in building character and encouraging you to go above and beyond your limits.

Scott Elliott



Science Report

Science Future Excursions. (See Mrs Bailey or your Science teacher for further information)

Term 2 Week 9.

Snaketails for Year 7 and 8 on Monday the 15th June. Year 7 period 1 and 2, Year 8 period 3 and 4. Cost \$7

The Science and Engineering Challenge for Year 9 and 10. Wednesday 17th June. (Basketball stadium - no cost)

The Science and Engineering Challenge for Year 11. Our students act as guides, markers and helpers for the primary school activity day. Basketball stadium - no cost.

Mrs Bailey
Head Teacher

LOTE News

Our sister school from Sayama Seiryō Senior High School will be arriving on Thursday the 23rd July, Week 2 Term 3. We are NOW seeking families to host these students. Ours is a very unique relationship with no other school in NSW hosting or spending so much time in Homestay. We have worked hard to develop this relationship over the last 20 years and we need your help to continue it. Please consider hosting a student from Japan. It will be very rewarding and Ms Tier and I are always available for assistance.

We shall be visiting Sayama Seiryō when we next travel to Japan in April, 2016. We have begun planning for this so if your child is interested please contact us. Those students considering going to Japan should think about hosting as you would know someone in Japan before you got there. You may even be able to stay with the person who stayed with you.

Mrs Bailey
Head Teacher LOTE/science



Singleton Beef & Land Management Association - Singleton Junior Judging Competition 2015

This competition started in 1993, and has been successfully running annually for the last 23 years. Muswellbrook High School has been a strong supporter. Mr.T has organised and supervised this valuable educational excursion from the very start, we have sent a team of over 25 students (and even 45 one year), to compete for the last 23 years!

On Friday the May 8, 31 keen and enthusiastic students travelled to Singleton on the 6.15am train to compete in this annual competition. The day started with a brisk walk to McDonald's to have breakfast. Mr Scott Elliott accompanied us for the day and was looking forward to sharing his expertise with cattle judging, and assisting Mr T with student supervision. After breakfast we walked to Singleton Showground.

Many schools in the Upper Hunter and Central Coast provide teams of students, a total of 270 students from 20 schools were ready to compete. Schools travelled from the north, Tamworth (Farrer Agricultural High School), the west (Coolah Central School), the east (Hunter River High School) and the south, Parramatta (The King's School) for the big day.

Students compete as individuals and are also placed in teams of three, where their individual scores are combined for a team score. Our school placed two teams in the senior competition (16-18yrs) with eight teams competing in the intermediate section (12-15yrs).



Students judged three classes of beef cattle, bulls, steers and heifers. The competition requires students to rank these three groups of cattle according to a set criteria, from 1st to 4th. There were 4 Steers, 4 Heifers and 4 Bulls. Students were also required to answer a set of 5 questions about each group. Each group of cattle were scored out of 100, (Ranking of animals out of 50 and group questions out of 50). Student selections were then allocated their scores out of 300.

Student groups were rotated around four workshops after the judging, while the judging panel and committee were adding up all the score cards and calculating all the scores. So they could work out which students were to give an additional oral presentation (speech). Students were involved in four main beef cattle related workshops and demonstrations, additional to their beef cattle judging. These included a "Fencing Equipment Display and Fencing Demonstration", "Bull Semen Collection and Semen Testing" looking at sperm motility under a microscope, "C.P.R. and First Aid Workshop" and "Stud Cattle Sire and Dam Selection". The workshops were very educational and were enjoyed by all, especially the "Upper Hunter Artificial Breeders" of Scone bull semen demonstration. Rachel Thompson was so interested, she discussed the possibility and costs of this company, organising and running a weekend "Artificial Inseminators Training Course" at Martindale in the future. I myself would be interested in doing this training, and will keep you posted on this possible development.

The committee completed their calculations and announced the students with the highest score cards, the top 5 students in each age category, Primary, Intermediate, Senior and Teams.

Each student then was asked to speak in front of 250 other students and 100 community and industry members. The speakers had to explain why they ranked a certain set of animals in a particular order. These student assessments were then compared with those of an experienced beef cattle judge (Over Judge) with the most accurate receiving more marks. They were allocated 100 marks for their speeches and were assessed by the Over Judge Mr Jim Mac Callum of Scone.

Three of our students were asked to speak, Lachlan Barnes, Elizabeth Mearrick in the Intermediate Section and Rachel Thompson in the Senior and Senior Teams Section. All three students were well presented, well dressed and spoke exceptionally well. Lachlan scoring 71 for his speech, bringing his total score out of 400 to 320. Elizabeth scoring 93 for her speech, bringing her total score out of 400 to 341. Rachel was speaking for her own individual score, and for her team (Brock Matthews and Madison Swan). She spoke exceptionally well scoring 98, the highest speech score of all competitors on the day. With Rachel's score of 98 it brought her total score out of 400 to 332.

The Presentation saw four of our students receive ribbons as placegetters.

Intermediate Section (12-15yrs.) : Individuals :- 1st Elizabeth Mearrick.

Senior Section (16-18yrs.) : Individuals :- 1st Rachel Thompson

Senior Section (16-18yrs.) : Teams :- 2nd Muswellbrook High School.

Senior Team members - Rachel Thompson, Madison Swan and Brock Matthews

Rachel also received an additional prize for scoring the highest in the oral presentation. Every one performed well on the day, with many of our students just missing out on placings. The experience they gained will greatly assist them in their next cattle judging competitions later this year.

As well as, educational cattle workshops held on the day there was another official competition, an Agricultural seed identification competition run by Kirkwood's Produce of Singleton. Unfortunately none of our students were successful enough to take home the \$50.00 cash prize this year.

Two steers provided by sponsors, Bulga Underground Operations and Glencore Coal were eligible to be won by the primary and secondary schools placing first in the competition. This is usually based on the average score for the number of students from your school that compete on the day.

The Singleton Beef & Land Management Association must be commended for running another excellent education experience for all students of the Hunter.

After the presentation we said our goodbyes, vowing to catch up at Wingham Beef Week. We then headed to the Gowrie Street Mall for our traditional afternoon tea, cake and "Mother's Day" shopping. Shopping done we all made our way back to Singleton Railway Station for some team "Boot scooting" while we waited for our return train to Muswellbrook. All students were extremely well behaved and proved to be excellent ambassadors of our school.

Proudly yours in Agriculture
Mr T (Grant Taylor)



Glencore Gym Upgrade Grant

Early in 2015, the PDHPE faculty explored many options in trying to find some funding to enhance the facilities of our school gym. For the past few years, we have raised funds through our school carnivals and have been supported through the MHS P & C.

This year, however, we have been lucky to secure some much needed funds to supplement our approach to assisting our student's health and fitness. **Glencore Coal Assets Australia** has been wonderful in their support of this initiative by providing us with a grant of just over \$5500 – as part of their Junior Sports Development Program.

From this grant, we have purchased the following items – 1x treadmill, 1x indoor rower, 1x exercise bike, an Olympic barbell and over 330kg of weight plates and dumbbells. This equipment arrived this week and is currently been assembled in the school gym.

With this added equipment, we have set up a school gym sport on Wednesday afternoons and the 'School Gym' will now be open during lunch time and after school on both Wednesday's and Thursday's. Our reason for this is to offer students the opportunity and provide a facility where they can exercise in a comfortable environment and extend their fitness levels – by building strength and increasing their cardiorespiratory capacity. It is also provided for students who may not be able to afford a gym membership locally.

The MHS PDHPE faculty would like to express our gratitude to Glencore Coal Assets Australia, for their generous support of our school.

Stay tuned in the next newsletter for photos of our Gym in action.

GLENCORE

Open Boys Touch Football

2015 has brought some significant success in touch football. Currently, our Open Boys touch team are in preparation for the knockout section of the state tournament. We have 3 students who were selected in the open Boys Hunter team to participate at Coffs Harbour in the middle of June. The selected boys are **Jake Parker, Seaton Graham and Anaru Komene**. Good luck boys!

The opens team has played in two Hunter Region competitions and has enjoyed a successful run, to date. In the first round robin completion, MHS took on Francis Greenway (winning 3-2) then Rutherford Technology High (winning 7-2), followed by Maitland High (winning 7-2) and finally Singleton High (winning 5-4). This meant that the team had to travel to Newcastle for the Hunter top 8 tournament.

At the Top 8, MHS was drawn against Lambton High, where we ran out 9-1 winners. The team was through to the Hunter semi-final. A tough game was played and in the dying minutes, MHS narrowly defeated Taree High 4-3. The final had MHS playing a familiar team in Francis Greenway High. In the final, the boys worked hard and eased to a 3-1 win to be named as Hunter Champions.

From this win, we were drawn to travel to the Riverina region and to take on Wagga Wagga High – at Wagga. The team will be travelling down on Wednesday 24th June and playing an early 30 minute match on the 25th, before making the 7 hour trip home...hopefully with a position at the state knockout championship in August.

I would like to thank all of the parents who have supported the team by traveling to and from venues, it is much appreciated!



Zoo Snooze

On the 12th of May the Year 12 Biology and Senior Science classes began their adventure to Sydney, to visit the Disease Museum at UNSW, the Australian Museum and Taronga Zoo. We were accompanied by the fantastic teachers, Mrs Greenwood, Miss Sturtridge and Mr Watson on what would be a great experience for all involved.



After an early morning, leaving Muswellbrook at 6.30 am, we travelled to the University of New South Wales to explore the many types of diseases that can be contracted by the human body. After a quick session with the people who manage the museum, we roamed freely through the exhibits and viewed the largest collection of unhealthy organs in the world in order to fill out a worksheet that would help us with our course. An extensive knowledge about diseases was gained from examining the organs and participating in the workshop.

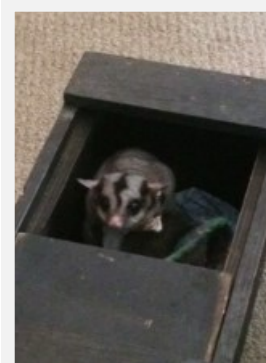
We then headed to the Australian Museum to learn about Australia's history. We saw models of Australia's Megafauna, including Giant Wombats and Kangaroos. After filling out worksheets regarding these megafauna we ventured out into other exhibits within the museum, where we saw dinosaur skeletons, a mummy and various minerals. After visiting the museum we walked to Circular Quay making a diversion through Martin Place, walking past the Lindt Café and Channel Seven Studios in an attempt to be on the news.



Arriving at Circular Quay we had a short wait to catch the ferry we needed to head across to the Zoo. The ferry ride was short but very entertaining, giving us a beautiful view of the city and a chance to express our excitement about heading to the Zoo. When we arrived at the Zoo we had our dinner and began our first activity. In this activity we interacted with a small tortoise, a carpet python and various other animals. After this first session we headed out on our night safari, where we had the zoo to ourselves. The keepers took us around the Zoo to many animal enclosures, including; the lions, the sun bears, the bongos and several other animals. It was very dark which meant we had to be careful and because the animals were sleeping we needed to be quiet. It was quite an interesting experience sneaking around the Zoo. We then had supper of fruit overlooking the city and headed to bed, where we slept in classrooms that had animal enclosures within them, including turtles, snakes and lizards.

When we awoke we packed up the classroom got ready and had breakfast. We then participated in another session the classroom, where we got to have a close experience with, another small tortoise, a ring-tailed possum, a quokka and various other animals. After this we headed to the Tasmanian devil enclosures and learnt about these animals and how they care for them from another Zoo keeper. We were then able to roam free around the Zoo where we got to see any animals we wanted to and watch whatever shows we liked, that were within the time period that we were there, some students were lucky enough to see the elephants being washed.

After exploring the Zoo we got back on the bus and headed home. This excursion provided us with many opportunities and things we will never forget, it even ignited within some of us the possibility of working within a Zoo, because of our close encounters with the animals.



Elizabeth Symington-Year 12 Biology Student



Located at
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PO Box 628
Muswellbrook NSW
2333
Phone: (02) 65434841
Fax: (02) 65425443
Email: kholman@uhys.org.au

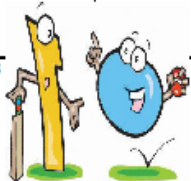



Upper Hunter Youth Services Inc - Youth Centre JUNE CALENDAR 2015

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	2	3 LIFE SKILLS Should I keep a Secret?	4 SELF ESTEEM Essential Hygiene Tips	5 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY Lawn Sports	
	8 	9	10 CREATIVE ARTS Making an Anti-Drug Poster	11 GROUP ACTIVITY Anti-Drug Poster continued	12 LIFE SKILLS Preparing afternoon tea	
	15 	16	17 COMMUNITY AWARENESS Talk On Drugs	18 COMMUNITY AWARENESS Drug Testing ? What Happens?	19 COMMUNITY AWARENESS Drug issues In Our Area.	
	22	23	24 LIFE SKILLS Quick Drug Quiz	25 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY French cricket on	26 GROUP ACTIVITY Making Kebabs	
29	30 Y.C open 11am-3pm		School Holidays			



**SOUTHERN
CROSS
CULTURAL
EXCHANGE**



BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS. EXPAND YOUR MIND. MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE.

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange is once again seeking volunteer host families to host international exchange students arriving in July 2015 for a stay of one term, one semester or two semesters. Many families in Australia enjoy hosting students from other countries whilst their own children are still in school in order to help their children develop a global perspective, make lifelong friendships and have fun learning about other cultures.

HAVE FUN, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, AND LEARN ABOUT ANOTHER CULTURE!

Volunteer to host an international high school student arriving into Australia in July '15 and you'll be amazed at the way this unique and rewarding opportunity helps your family to become closer, to understand themselves better and to see the world in a new light.

Carefully selected students will arrive in July for their 3, 5, or 10 month programs from France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Spain and Colombia. They will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money, and comprehensive insurance cover, all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. You choose the nationality, the gender, the duration and the interests of the student that you feel is the best match for your family. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, or call your local coordinator, Dianne on 0429406126 to request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!



234 ARMY CADET UNIT MAITLAND

Scobie Barracks Harvey Road Rutherford NSW 2320



RECRUIT INFORMATION – WANT TO JOIN.

▪ **INFORMATION:** on the Australian Army Cadets (AAC) organisation, including “who we are” and “what we do” can be found on the national ArmyCadets website. Information can also be found on requirements to enrol under the “How to Join” tab information for cadets at:

<http://www.armycadets.gov.au/how-to-join/information-for-cadets/>

▪ **234ACU Maitland** parades at Scobie Barracks in Rutherford (Cor New England Hwy & Harvey Rd).

You can see our unit details at the “Find a Unit” tab on the ArmyCadets national website or contact the unit directly at 234acu@armycadets.gov.au or mail to PO Box 234 East Maitland NSW 2323, or on the unit mobile 0438241213.

▪ **COMMITMENT:** Is required of at least 3 hours per week (Parade between 5.45pm to 8.45pm each Monday evening) during school terms, one weekend activity in terms 1, 2 & 3 and a 7 day field exercise per year. A parade card of dates for activities will be given to each cadet to keep track of cadet commitments.

▪ **CADETS:** come to the unit from across the Hunter region to parade each week, along with the greater part of the Maitland area. Cadets attend the unit from as far away as Scone, Muswellbrook, Singleton, Denman, Cessnock, Raymond Terrace and Lemon Tree Passage.

▪ **RECRUIT INFORMATION EVENINGS:**
Are held at Scobie Barracks on the first Monday in terms 1 and 3 commencing at 6.00pm until approx. 8.30pm. On this night enrolment forms will be handed out, a power point presentation will be shown and the recruits will be sized for their uniform. Please email the unit at 234acu@armycadets.gov.au or text to the unit mobile 0438241213 the name and age of the recruit to confirm your attendance at one of these evenings.

NOTE: Due to limited space, we ask that 1 parent/guardian attend with the child enrolling on the night.

▪ **RECRUITS:** Must be 12 years old in the year of enrolment, but not older than 17 years old. A parent/guardian must attend the recruit information evening to enrol a recruit.

▪ **ENROLMENT FORMS:** Can be downloaded from the ArmyCadets website, look under the “How to Join” tab then Information for Cadets and completed prior to attending the next recruitment information evening at the unit. (Copies of the forms will be available on the night, but you will need doctor's details, Medicare number, Medical details, Alternate contact person's details etc... to complete the forms).

▪ **FEES:** There is a once off joining fee of \$50, a term fee of \$50 per school term and an administration fee of \$70 (Refundable when all unit items have been returned to the unit). A light meal and drink is available on parade nights for a cost of \$3 per cadet. (The unit must be notified of any food allergies).

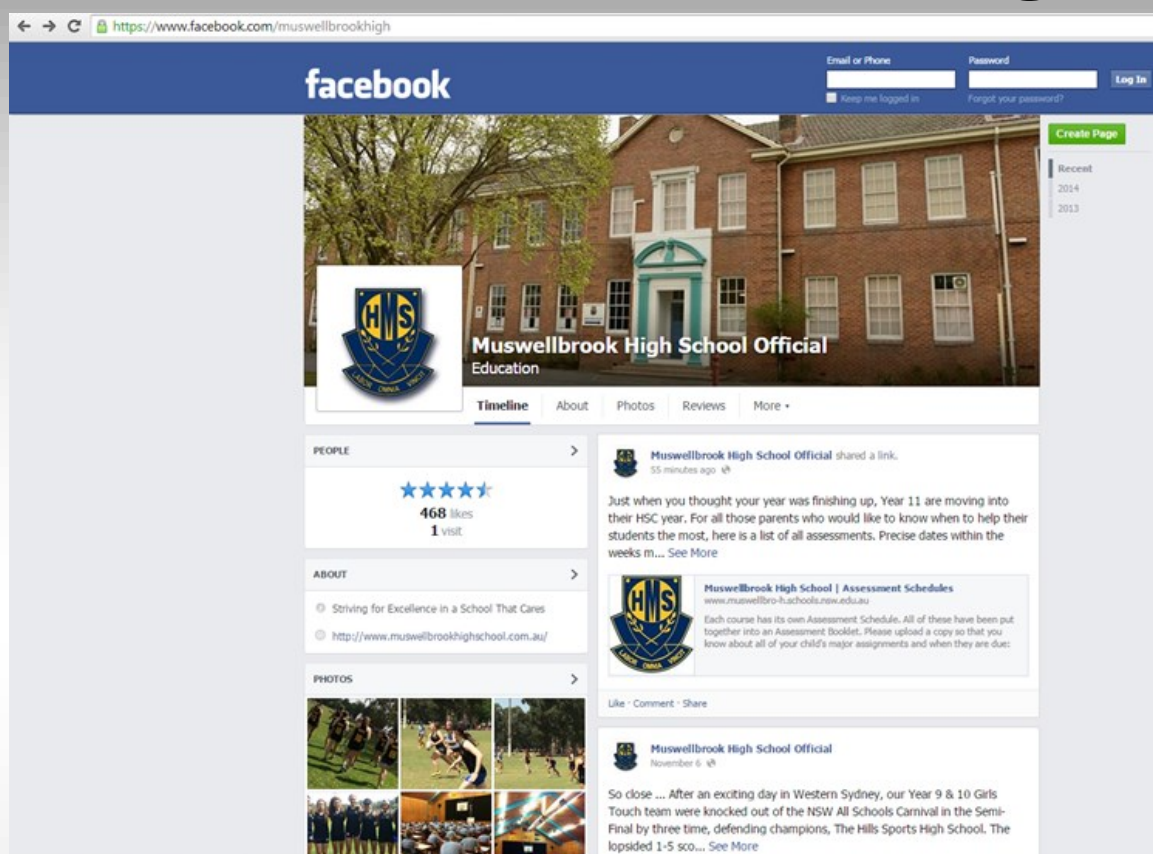
▪ **UNIT EQUIPMENT:** Is issued out to each cadet whilst they attend AAC activities on the basis that it is returned to the unit at the end of the activity or when they leave the unit. The Administration fee will NOT be refunded until all outstanding unit items have been returned. Uniform is exchanged as cadets grow or wear out due to fair wear and tear etc... at no cost.

▪ **DRESS & BEARING:** All cadets are expected to maintain a high standard of personal dress, appearance and bearing as per Army Standing Orders for Dress (ASOD). This policy covers length of hair, grooming, jewellery and how clothing is worn.

NEXT RECRUIT INFORMATION EVENING is on MONDAY 13th July at 6.00pm



www.facebook.com/mbkhigh



Muswellbrook High School—IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Facebook— [facebook.com/mbkhigh](https://www.facebook.com/mbkhigh) (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.