



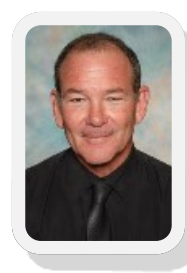
Muswellbrook High School



"Striving for excellence in a school that cares"

NEWSLETTER 9

21st September 2016



Principals Report

Thank you

A special thank you to our Yr 12 SRC Leadership Team: Lara Cutrupi, Brock Mathews, Kylie O'Connor, Stephen Davis, Teegan Betteridge and Perry Franks. They have been outstanding leaders who have risen to every opportunity presented to them with passion and commitment and have always represented our school to the highest standard. On behalf of the staff and students, I would like to publicly acknowledge the SRC Leadership Team for building on our positive school culture and making Muswellbrook HS an even better place to be.

Thank you also to Mrs. Samantha Wass for being an ever present advocate and promoter of Yr. 12 in her role as assistant Year Advisor and then Year Advisor this year when Ms. Tracey Henderson accepted a position in Sydney.

Thank you also to Mrs. Rachel Kable for her pioneering and innovative role as the Senior Prep Room Coordinator. Rachel, who describes herself as Yr. 12's 'School Mum', has Yr. 12 on task and organised and, hence they are in the best possible position to complete their HSC exams.

Year 12 Formal, Farewell Assembly and HSC

The formal event of the year will take place on Tuesday 20th September at the RSL Club. It is always a great evening and no doubt it will hold special memories for our graduating Yr. 12 students.

I am looking forward to acknowledging our Yr. 12 students at the upcoming Farewell Assembly on Thursday 22nd September. Our Yr. 12 students have been positive leaders of our school and it will be a bitter sweet moment to have our final whole school assembly with them.

On behalf of the staff and students, I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of them best wishes for the upcoming HSC exams.

2017 SRC Leadership Team

It is with great pleasure that I announce the incoming SRC Leadership Team for 2017:

Captains	Georgia Gal and Blake Shackleton
Vice Captains	Imogen O'Leary and Jarrod Watts
Prefects	Brydie Parker and Talesin Court-Kriesch

I look forward to working with the new leadership team and I am keen to witness the direction in which they would like to take Muswellbrook High School.

The high calibre of students who put themselves forward for leadership positions, made the task of selecting only six students a very difficult one. I am extremely proud of each and every one for their willingness to be a school leader.

Thank you to Mrs. Byrnes, SRC coordinator and Ms. Debbie Pitt, Yr. 11 Year Advisor for their preparation and support.

Generous Community Support

Muswellbrook HS is extremely fortunate to have the support of the community. Bengalla Mining Company have supported our students wishing to pursue University options since 2001 with generous scholarships. Their ongoing support of our young people is greatly appreciated. As you would well be aware, rural students have a greater financial burden than their city counterparts when it comes to accessing University studies, largely because they need to live away from home.

Glencore Coal Assets Australia have also offered generous scholarships to students this year. Recipients of scholarships will be announced at the Yr. 12 Farewell Assembly.

The Upper Hunter Education Fund (UHEF) continues to support HSC students in our area, since 2008. UHEF is holding a free HSC Study Camp in these upcoming holidays:

SJA	Monday 26 th September
MHS	Tuesday 27 th September and
St Catherine's Singleton	Wednesday 28 th September.

A number of tutors who have completed their HSC in the past two years will be on hand to cover English (all levels), Maths (all levels), Histories, Legal Studies, Economics, Chemistry, Biology, PDHPE, Art, Drama, Physics and general exam technique. Please contact Mrs. Rachel Kable for further information. It would be great to see a large number of Muswellbrook HS students taking advantage of their support. I know that many teachers are also holding their own class study sessions during the holidays. Once again, this highlights the dedicated staff at our school.

Anti-Racism Contact Officers

Muswellbrook HS *rejects all forms of racism and is committed to the elimination of racial discrimination.*

We have two anti-Racism Officers (ARCOs) in our school, Ms. Narelle Smith and Ms. Bronwyn Tier, who have been specially trained to deal with known incidents of racism.

The role of the ARCO is to:

1. receive the suggestion, complaint or allegation regarding racism
2. assist the complainant to write the complaint, if required
3. advise the complainant of their rights and the process to be followed in lodging a complaint
4. refer the complaint to a member of the school executive who will be responsible for resolving the complaint.

Indy

We are extremely fortunate to have the unique presence of a Therapy Dog in our school, 'Indy'. Indy is a gorgeous golden retriever who is owned by Mrs. Toni Boney, our School Liaison Support Officer. It has been well documented that animals in schools support the promotion of health, well-being and normal development in children; improve the quality of life as a tool for socialising, relaxation and communication; help to reduce stress and anxiety – *a dog provides a non-judgmental acceptance of the student.*

Indy will be a regular attendee at our school and is already in demand by staff and students to visit their classroom. Whilst we currently have no students registered as being allergic to dogs, if your child has an allergy to dogs, please contact the school.

SDD afternoon

The staff at Muswellbrook HS have decided to have a variation from the scheduled last two days of Staff Development Days in Term 4. This means that we will all finish the year on the same day, the 16th of December. To accommodate this change, staff have opted to hold an afternoon session of teacher professional development Week 7 of each Term.

On Wednesday, 31st August, we were treated to a guest speaker, Aboriginal Educator, Mr. Luke Pearson. Luke's presentation was interactive and engaging. His knowledge of current Aboriginal issues certainly gave us all an opportunity to reflect and build on our current knowledge base. Luke has given a TED X talk on Indigenous X if you are interested to find out more.

Energy Drinks Ban

There is quite a lot of research to put enough doubt in my mind as to the health risks of energy drinks. If students are found to have them in their possession, they will be confiscated until the end of the day.

Ms Elizabeth Bate
Principal

Deputy Principals Report

Survey Time Again

You will find below some information about the Tell Them From Me survey for parents and community. It is very important that you complete this survey to assist us to improve on our relationship with our community and also to let us know of your thoughts on education at MHS.

Please take a little time to complete the survey using this link:

www.tellthemfromme.com/mbkhigh

If you have any further questions please call and talk to me. I am only too happy to discuss any issues raised in the survey with you.

Mr Brian Drewe
Deputy Principal



Tell Them From Me parent survey

Frequently Asked Questions (parents and carers)

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

1. What is the Partners in Learning parent survey?

The Partners in Learning parent survey is part of the *Tell Them From Me* suite of surveys on student engagement. The parent survey helps to clarify and strengthen the important relationship between parent and school.

The survey is designed to measure, assess and report insights from the parent point of view at the school and system levels. The focus of this NSW survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

2. What kind of questions will the survey ask?

The survey questions aim at understanding parents' perspectives on their child's experience at school, including teaching, communication and the school's support of learning and behaviour. The survey also aims to understand parents' perspectives on activities and practices at home related to their child's learning.

The survey will ask parents questions about:

Parents feel welcome	Parents are informed	Parents support learning at home	Parents participation at school
School supports positive behaviour	Safety	Inclusion	School supports learning

3. How have schools been selected to take part?

The survey is open to all NSW government schools at no cost to them. Your school has decided to participate.

4. How will taking part in this survey benefit my child's school?

The parent survey provides school principals and school leaders with parents' perspectives on their school as well as learning at home. Communication between parents and staff, activities and practices at home, and parent views on the school's support of learning and behaviour help build an accurate and timely picture that schools can use for practical improvements.

Data collected from the survey responses are quickly compiled into reports for school leaders. Principals can then use this information to help them identify emerging issues and plan for school improvement.

5. How does the parent survey relate to the student survey?

The parent survey is complementary to the *Tell Them From Me* student survey that your child may have been asked to complete. These surveys are offered (along with a teacher survey) to ensure schools can capture the views of students, teachers and parents.

For more detail on each of the surveys, see the survey website: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/>

6. What do I need to do to participate in the survey?

The survey typically takes 15 minutes and is conducted entirely online through a secure website operated by the survey developers, *The Learning Bar*. You will be provided with a link to complete the survey at home or your school may make computers available so that you can complete the survey during school hours.

Police Station Tour

On Friday 2nd September, the Support students attended an excursion to the Muswellbrook Police Station. Support students have been studying 'True Crime' in their English classes this term and were given an opportunity to extend their learning beyond the classroom. Students learnt all about the different spaces in the police station and various police equipment. They explored the Charge Room, Overnight Cells, an Interrogation Room, and they were even able to look inside the Mobile Police Station! Students got to try on Raid Equipment, Handcuffs, and discussed some of the general duties of a Police Officer!

The Support Unit would like to send a huge thank you to Senior Constable Sheree Gray from the Muswellbrook Police Station for showing us around and sharing all of her knowledge during our tour of the Police Station!

Miss Mainey
Special Education Teacher



New Oven for Silver!!

The Support Unit has been lucky enough to receive a grant from Bengalla to replace our current oven in our kitchen in the Silver Classroom. This is fantastic news as our oven leaves a crispy, over cooked, burnt look and therefore we have been forced to find other alternatives to use in our cooking lessons.

One of our main focuses in our Silver class is to teach our students a range of different life skills. Two of the most important life skills are learning to cook and learning about the importance of healthy food choices. There are many benefits to incorporating a cooking program into our students' learning including the opportunity to further develop their independent living skills. Students also find great enjoyment whilst participating in our cooking lessons.

The Silver Class would like to give an enormous thank you to Bengalla for their generous donation for the purchase and installation of the oven!

We would also like to thank Betta Electrical for supplying us with the oven and RMS for the installation.

LOOK OUT MASTER CHEF...



Madeline and Darcy are pictured above with their Honey Soy Chicken Legs and Fried Rice cooked in the Silver classroom.

Silver students Sarah, Caitlin, Britney and Madeline are pictured to the right with the new oven.



Chess Club News - Chess Coaching Day

On August 22nd the MHS Chess Club held our inaugural chess coaching day. 25 students from two local primary schools, Muswellbrook Public School and South Muswellbrook, as well as the boys from MHS were totally captivated by the Sydney Academy of Chess guru Bevan Cloustan. The students were engaged for the day learning chess moves, solving chess puzzles and playing matches. They all much appreciated the hot BBQ lunch cooked by our librarian Mrs Cullen. The day culminated in Bevan playing (and beating) all 8 MHS students simultaneously.

All students went home happy with many new strategies and skills learnt. Thanks to Bengalla for making the day possible due to their generous sponsorship.



Chess Semi-Finals

The day after the Chess Coaching Day, the MHS Chess team competed in the Semi-Finals of the Sydney Academy of Chess Interschool Tournament held in our MPC.

There were over 60 students from primary and secondary schools as far away as Port Macquarie, Inverell and Gunnedah.

All students played very well against the tough competition and MHS placed 4th overall. The boys were happy that they got to play 7 games each and use some of their newly learnt strategies from the Coaching Day.



The first ever MHS student to participate in a Japanese speaking contest

By Bronwyn Tier, Japanese Teacher

On Saturday 10th September, Year 9 student Meg Rankin participated in the NSW State Final Japanese Language Speech Contest held at Macquarie University in Sydney. Meg wrote a 1 ½ minute speech in Japanese on one of the prescribed themes "A letter to myself from the future". In her division there were 37 other students who ranged from year 8 to year 12. Meg gave her speech flawlessly and impressed the audience with her confidence and pronunciation. A very proud moment for a Japanese teacher indeed. Meg was also interviewed by a SBS reporter. The podcast of all the speeches will be broadcast on SBS



Year 8 Project Based Learning

Year 8 English 4 have spent a lot of time completing a project based on their novel, *Trash*. *Trash* is the story of three boys who work on a dumpsite, until they find a clue to a treasure, and have to race against corrupt police and politicians to solve the mystery.

The characters of the story are child labourers, which means they are forced to work long hours in dangerous conditions in order to survive. It is estimated that there are 168 million child labourers in the world.

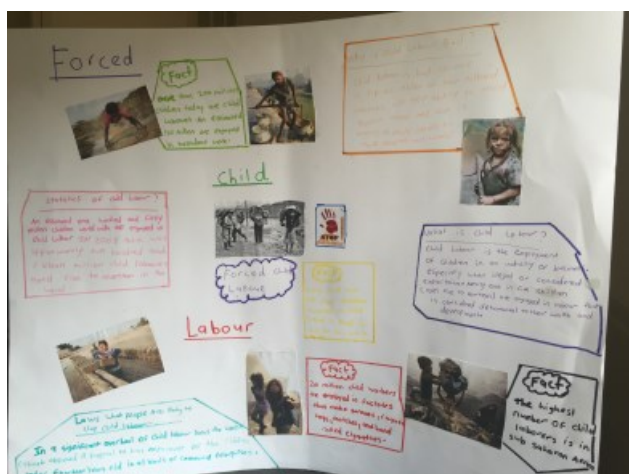
Year 8 had to work in groups to research information and statistics on child labour, and come up with a project that expressed that information. They were allowed to choose any format for the project that they wanted. Some of the project formats that were chosen were posters, digital presentations, dioramas, newspaper reports and games.

All of 8 English 4 worked exceptionally well and produced some fantastic finished projects. They should be extremely proud of their work.

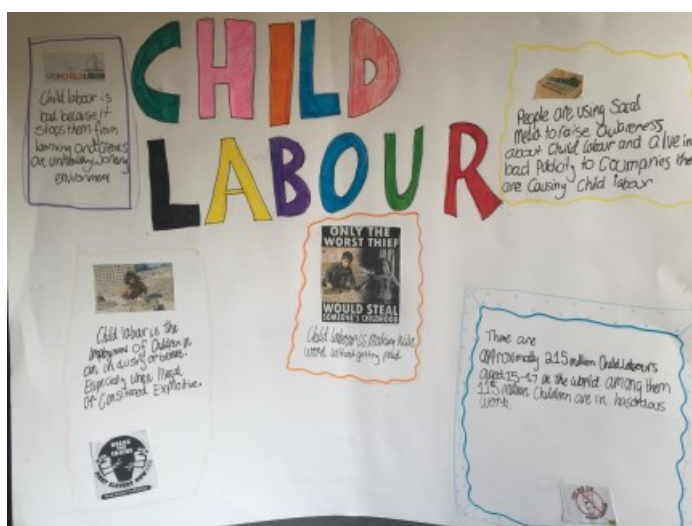
Miss Turnbull
English Teacher



Diorama by Maddison Hoad, Abby-Rose Reynolds, and Bonnie Foy-O'Meley



Poster by Daneka Kennedy and Eboni Phillips



Poster by Alex Thompson and Henry Wolters



Diorama by Jackson Collins, Satori Edwards, and Zach Thompson

The Archibull Prize



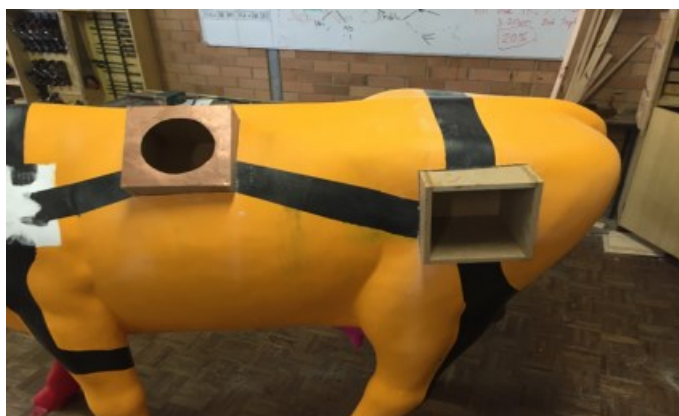
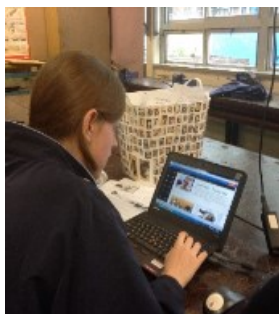
This Semester, our YR 7 DT02- Enrichment class has been busy working on their “Archibull Prize” entry for 2016. They have been examining the Beef Industry and researching issues such as climate change and food waste. Students have enjoyed working on this project based task and have created an interesting and interactive entry based around their studies in “Electronics” and “Food waste”.

We were also visited by Tim Eyes – a young farmer, who spoke to us about his life /job in the beef industry and discussed careers in the agricultural industry.

If you are interested in learning more about our Archibull journey, please check out our BLOG at: mussyhigharchibull.weebly.com

Well done Year 7DT02- you all deserve a pat on the back.

Mrs Green
TAS Teacher



Robotics

Our Robotics Sport team of students have been working with Lego EV3 Robots this term. Students have been learning about robotics and programming with the aim of competing in the FIRST Australia Lego League (FLL) Animal Allies Challenge for 2016. Since receiving our competition modules and challenge mat, students have finished building all the modules and are currently compiling programs to compete in the competition in November. Playing with Lego is loads of fun! However, there are critical thinking skills being developed as students are learning Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) concepts while problem solving and collaborating as a team to get their robot around various parts of the competition table to complete set challenges. Next term we will continue Robotics for sport and aim to start some fundraising to help us get to the regional competition in Sydney in November. We hope you will support us!



Mrs Katrina Byrnes

2016 MHS Staff Olympics

On the 25th August we held the third annual Muswellbrook High School Staff Olympics. The event is designed to promote staff wellbeing and school spirit. This year we were lucky enough to have the Muswellbrook PCYC allow us to use their Bubble Soccer equipment. Each faculty competed in a knockout competition to see which team would take home the trophy. The staff ran, bounced and laughed their way through several games before the CAPA faculty took on the PDHPE staff in the Grand Final. The game was extremely intense, with CAPA determined to maintain their hold on the staff trophy, however by the end of the game PDHPE proved too skilled (or forceful) and finished as the 2016 Champions. Staff then enjoyed a BBQ dinner, cooked by Mrs Bailey and Mrs Doyle before the trophy was presented by Mr Drewe.

Huge thanks to the Muswellbrook PCYC for the donation of their equipment and also to Mr Doust who was the umpire on the night. We now look forward to the event in 2017.

Mrs Kable- Event Organiser



OPEN BOYS TOUCH FOOTBALL – STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS (NSW)

On Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th August, the Open Boys Touch Football Team stayed at Bateau Bay to play in the State Championships tournament.

A first round loss against a tough Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College team delivered an early blow, however the team came out and played hard. They secured 3 wins against the other teams in their pool (Endeavour Sports, Blaxland and Wade High Schools), and the final games of the day saw them end up in a 3-way tie, for first in their pool, with TLSC and Endeavour Sports High. TLSC went straight through based on for and against, however, even though we had the higher for and against, we needed to play Endeavour in a drop-off to decide who would progress into the Semi finals on Day 2.

Unfortunately, the calls didn't go Muswellbrook's way and Endeavour progressed through to the Semi Finals. The boys played off for 5th and 6th position on day 2, being defeated by Callaghan College by 1 try to get 6th place in the State.

While it was disappointing not to progress through to the semi finals, all the boys should be extremely proud of their achievements throughout the competition. They kept building on their performances and I am sure they will still be a force to be reckoned with next year!

Miss French
Head Teacher of PDHPE



OPEN BOYS TOUCH FOOTBALL TEAM:

Bailey Taylor, Jarrod Watts, Jason McKay, John Page, Blake Shackleton,
Jacob Button

Jake Bartush, Joel Barner, Paul Dengate, Kane Cubillo, Steven Dengate,
Zaine Stewart, Thomas Bianco

Coach: Miss French

Year 11 Ski Trip

In Week 4 of this Term Mr Drewe, Miss French & I took a group of fantastic Year 11 students to the snow. It was a very early start with a 6am departure from Muswellbrook High School, although nothing some early morning coffees from the coffee stop along the expressway could not fix! After an exciting night of minimal sleep, the students were up early again for breakfast before heading out of Jindabyne to the Thredbo mountains. The first bus trip out was very exciting as many students had not seen snow before. The students went straight into their lessons and we were very surprised and pleased with how quickly many of them picked up the skill of snowboarding and with no fear whatsoever! After a bluebird first day on the slopes, dinner and snooker, the students slept well on night two!

The next two days provided much more challenging conditions, with cloud cover and high winds leaving the mountain very icy. The students took this challenge in their stride and continued to increase their skills and abilities, and quickly! Day two saw many tender tail bones, bumps and bruises, which dinner and a swim in the indoor pool straightened out!

Unfortunately the conditions did not improve on the final day, but after their last lesson the teachers enjoyed a trip down the mountain with some of the students who had picked up their skills. A trip through the "Playground" track saw me end up upside down and face first in the snow under a tree – oops!

The bus trip home was much quieter than the way there, despite the RnB Fridays tunes pumping on the stereo. Many thanks to Rover coaches for the smooth sailing transport each day and also to Mr Drewe and Miss French for accompanying me on the trip. The students were a credit to Muswellbrook High School in their positive behaviour and spirits, and we were very pleased with the degree of resilience and determination the students showed in learning the new skill of snowboarding. They never gave up and the respect they showed to their instructors and people they met was something to be proud of! We look forward to doing it all again next year – the Year 11 snow trip is a fantastic reward for students with good attendance and work completion levels, during which time they get to put concepts they learn in PDHPE faculty subjects into practice. Well done Year 11 2016!

Miss Pitt
PDHPE Teacher



SRC Term 3 wrap up

SRC have been very busy the last few weeks. We sold chocolates and have been collecting coins for our Annual Coin Line to raise funds for Westpac Helicopter Rescue Service. Mitchell Kemp is congratulated for selling the most boxes of chocolates. He managed to sell 5 boxes in total, well done Mitchell!!



We aim to have the total amounts for each year group calculated by the end of this week. The winning year group that has donated and raised the most money will be invited to a Pizza Party with the SRC that will be held next Monday. SRC would like to thank all students that have donated to our coin line fundraiser. In total this term we have raised well over \$1000 from these two initiatives.

We hope to raise much more with our Trivia night next term on Thursday 27th October 2016. Tickets are on sale at the front office \$10 each or \$50 for a table up to 10 people.



Our School Vice Captains Kylie and Stephen were interviewed by local radio station Power FM 98.1 at the annual Westpac Helicopter Rescue Black Coal Cup event. Both Kylie and Stephen highlighted the fact that this is the 17th year Muswellbrook High has participated, and raised over \$40,000 for this very important service that plays an integral part in our community. Students from Support classes, Gold, Bronze and Silver all joined in the fun, learning about helicopters and having photos taken with Newcastle Knights rugby league players who were happy to sign autographs!



With the end of year here for our Year 12 senior SRC students, we wish Lara, Brock, Kylie, Stephen, Teegan and Perry the very best for their upcoming HSC examinations. On behalf of the SRC, thank you for all the time and work you have put into the SRC throughout 2016. We hope you all enjoy the formal and wish you the very best for all future pursuits.

Mrs Katrina Byrnes

Athletics

The next athletics season is starting the first Friday back to school in term 4, 14th October 2016 for the Muswellbrook Amateur Athletics Club.

We are having a come and try night on 23rd September, this week a discount will be offered to all registrations received. With the discount on offer all juniors are \$20 and \$30 for a senior. The first night of the season (14 October 2016) the full registration fee will be charged. Full registration fee for the first season night will be juniors \$40 and seniors \$60.

Athletics is held every Friday night during the school term commencing at 6pm. Every age group will have at least 2 running events, 1 throwing event and 1 jumping event each night. This is only on average. If you would like more information give Jim a ring on 0400558644.

Thank You

The Science Department would like to acknowledge the generosity of Muswellbrook Forest Nursery and Muswellbrook Landscape Supplies for donating sand, soil and trays for an experiment where the Year 9 students propagate seeds.

Mrs Kelly & Mrs Farrell from HSIE would like to thank Muswellbrook Fire Brigade for taking time out to visit the school's Stage 5 Retail Services class and ACE Program. They went through the different types of extinguishers and their uses, how to use a fire blanket and other fire precautions, as well as explaining their role in the community.



Positive Behaviour for Learning

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Winners of the \$50 Big W gift vouchers:

Term —3

Week 3: Damian Andrews

Week 4: Drew McCandless

Week 5: Flynn Dolgan-Fox

Week 6: Aiden Butchard

Week 7: Melody Datson

Week 8: Joel Hartin

Week 9: Georgia Rohrich

The office at Muswellbrook High School now has **Eftpos** facilities available for payment of fees and excursions.

Sorry no cash out!





Muswellbrook High School UNIFORM SHOP



Last two weeks of Term 3

22nd September 2016

Normal Shop Hours: Tues 7.30-11.30am and Thurs 12-4pm

Shop Stock Only
No Rainchecks
No Exchanges
No Refunds
No Laybys

REDUCED TO CLEAR
Some **Wool Knit Jumpers**
(Not as soft as current
stock)
\$30

Start thinking about a good life

- **Hear** about changes to the disability support system and what it will mean for you
- **Talk** about planning and things to consider for your life
- **See** what some people are already doing.



Lunch will be provided.

My Choice Matters workshops are fully accessible.

my choice matters
NSW Consumer Development Fund

Living Life
My Way

Get More Skills



MUSWELLBROOK WORKSHOP
Thursday 22nd September

10.00am - 2.00pm

Muswellbrook Workers Club
15 Sydney St,
Muswellbrook, NSW 2333

For people with disability, their families and carers. Registration essential. Get in touch if you have any support or dietary needs.

To Register



1800 144 653



info@mychoicematters.org.au



www.mychoicematters.org.au

To Connect



/mychoicematters



@mcmnsw

Find out more

Head to www.mychoicematters.org.au

Important Information

Facebook— 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.



Upcoming Events

22nd September	Yr 12 Farewell Assembly
23rd September	Singleton Show Cattle Judging
24th September	Spring Holidays Commence
10th October	Staff and Students return to school

“Have a safe and Happy Holiday”