



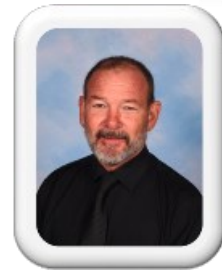
Muswellbrook High School



"Striving for excellence in a school that cares"

NEWSLETTER

15/12/2017



Principals Report

Principal's Report

What a productive end to a great year:

Upper Hunter Liquor Accord

The annual Upper Hunter Liquor Accord, sponsored and presented by the Muswellbrook RSL, was hosted at Muswellbrook HS on the 16 November. Our year 11 students were joined by students from Merriwa Central School, St Joseph's School Aberdeen and Scone High School to learn about the impact drugs, alcohol, gambling, road collisions and risky decision making can have on a persons' life. Former Parammatta Eels rugby league great, Nathan Hindmarsh, returned to Muswellbrook once again to participate and present. Many thanks to Daryl Egan for continuing to bring this fantastic presentation to us year after year.

Crash Scene

This year the community services came together to re-enact a car crash scene on the grounds of the high school. Yr. 11 students provided an audience and the outgoing Yr. 12 drama students returned to the school to participate in the re-enactment. The police, ambulance and the fire brigade personnel generously gave of their time to run through a real life scenario. Whilst the material was extremely confronting, its purpose was to not 'sugar coat' the harsh reality of the impact of car accidents on the lives of loved ones. School psychologists were on site to provide additional support to students if required. If these sober messages saves just one person's life, then we consider this activity extremely worthwhile. Thank you to the Upper Hunter community for your care and concern for our young people.

Lioness Youth of the Year Quest

It is always a wonderful evening for a proud Principal at the Youth of the Year Quest, a public speaking competition. Thank you to Mrs Kay Sokulsky, Head Teacher English, for her encouragement and preparation of entrants. Kay is passionate about many things involving English, but her determination to provide students with the skills to have a 'voice' is particularly strong. Congratulations to students Liam Barnes, Sarah Shelford and Rhyllie Pereira for participating in the Muswellbrook Lioness Youth of the Year Quest on 15 November. Congratulations to all entrants and especially to Rhyllie who was the winner of both the Overall Quest and the Public Speaking.



Yr. 5 Transition days and Yr. 7 2018 Orientation Day

It is always exciting to see our Year 5 and 6 students visiting their high school throughout the transition days.

It provides students an opportunity to see their siblings and friends at high school, make some connections with other students from other schools and become familiar with the layout and facilities we have to offer them for their future educational needs. Year 5 students from Martindale, Denman and Muswellbrook South Public Schools visited our school on 5 November to experience some PE, Music and a trip to the School Farm. Our students are also always ready, willing and able to have a leadership role in assisting students to become familiar with the high school.

Girls' Academy official launch and awards night was held on 6 December. Please seek further information about this inaugural event in the Newsletter. Congratulations to Girls Academy for a great year of support for our students and congratulations to all Award recipients.

SRC Induction and 2018 planning day

Our outgoing SRC representatives were acknowledged and thanked for their dedication and hard work this year in making Muswellbrook HS a positive place for students and for providing the 'student voice' at the whole school assembly on 21 November. The Wollemi Director, Mr Mark Young was present and he inducted the incoming 2018 SRC representatives. Ms Jin Jung and Mr Rod Glase are the 2018 - 2019 staff coordinators for SRC. A huge thank you to Mrs Kat Byrnes and Mrs Samantha Fragar for their commitment to SRC this year. Working with SRC students, to encourage and develop leadership qualities and skills is always a great privilege.

The SRC planning day took place on 24 November. A special thank you to Ms Lindy Hunt, recently retired Principal of Scone High School for her support and involvement in this day. Ms Hunt is working with the **Where There's A Will Foundation** to foster and develop student leadership.

Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music thanks

Muswellbrook Hs Creative and Performing Arts faculty are highly visible in our community. They are integral in supporting many community events. This provides our students with great exposure to real life experiences and enables their talents to be showcased to a wider audience. It was with great delight that I presented students, Jack Hayes and Nicolas Walsh, with UHCM Director's Awards as a token of thanks for their participation in the sound technical and lighting team, enabling the smooth running of their concert, recently held in Muswellbrook.

Thanks to Bengalla Mining company

For yet another year, Bengalla have generously agreed to sponsor the cost of student diaries for ALL of our students next year! Thank you for this generous donation, which offsets the costs to our parents. The diaries not only support students to be organised and well prepared for their busy school lives, they hold a wealth of information about our school practices. It is wonderful to be a part of such a generous community who believe in supporting future opportunities for our young people.

Overseas Opportunities for students

Safe travel and best wishes for our staff and students travelling overseas during the holidays to our sister school in Japan, Sayama Seiryō School and G'Day USA. Wishing you many lifelong, happy memories.

The Japan trip departs on 5 January and returns 24 January 2018. G'Day USA departs 29/12 and returns 17.1.2018.

2018 Dates to remember:

Staff development day Monday 29 January 2018 will be held at Muswellbrook RSL. We will join with other schools in the Upper Hunter to undertake professional learning in Visible Wellbeing.

Yr. 7 and Yr. 12 only to attend school on Tuesday 30 January. Whole school returns on Wednesday 31 January.

Merry Christmas to all!

Thank you to the many dedicated staff for their professionalism and commitment to assisting students in their learning this year. We farewell some long standing staff members as they enter into the next phase of their lives, retirement. Thank you Mr Lawrence Holdsworth and Mr David Cummings! You will be greatly missed by staff and students. Thank you for your contribution to Muswellbrook HS. Best wishes for many, many happy days in a relaxed mode. It is well deserved.

Merry Christmas and thank you to our parents – thank you for your ongoing support. Enjoy the summer holidays and I look forward to working alongside you in 2018.

Deputy Principals Report—Scott Copland

As this is the last newsletter for the year, I would firstly like to wish all our high school community a very safe and merry Christmas period. The year has flown and already we are looking at day one, 2018. The new school year starts on Tuesday, 30th January for Years 7 and 12, with the remainder of the school starting on Wednesday, 31st January. As this is a very busy time for everyone, I wanted to make sure it was clear when the Uniform Shop would be open for business, to allow time to plan your purchases if required. The shop will be open on Wednesday 24th January and Thursday the 25th January the week prior to school commencing. It will again be open on Monday 29th January and Tuesday 30th January. The operating hours for the shop will be 8am until 2pm.

The Muswellbrook High School Uniform is something we wish students to wear with pride and therefore we encourage all parents to support our efforts to have students in full school uniform. A uniform helps teachers, students and parents identify where a student belongs and in a playground it becomes very obvious for teachers if someone is on the grounds that shouldn't be there. Having a school uniform also discourages the idea of fashion being a source of anxiety in the mornings before coming to school.

Black leather shoes are a part of the school uniform and often students push the boundaries of the type of shoes they can wear. Parents are often convinced it's "OK" to arrive at school with an expensive pair of black shoes with white soles and coloured stripes down the side. This would not be uniform and would have their child receive a slip for being out of uniform.

I have been informed, that there are a number of locations where shoes can be purchased around town and in Singleton. Some of these locations are the Surf Shop and Farram's in Muswellbrook, Johnston's and Spendless in Singleton and the Sports Store and Farram's in Scone. There are also a number of online shopping outlets such as Paul's Warehouse. I would ask that all parents support the school by ensuring their son or daughter purchases leather shoes, which are all black as in the rugby team.

Have a great break!



2018 Osborn's Bus passes will be ready for collection from Monday 22nd January

Collection times will be from 9am-3.30pm

You will need to submit a **new application** if you are:

- applying for a school travel pass for the first time

Requesting an additional pass as a result of a new shared parental responsibility situation (e.g. joint custody).

<https://ssts-apply.transport.nsw.gov.au/ApplySSTS/ApplySSTS.html>

You will need to **re-apply or update your details** if the student has a current free school travel pass and:

- The student is changing school or campus
- The student has changed address
- The student has repeated a year

You've received an expiry notification.

<https://ssts-apply.transport.nsw.gov.au/ApplySSTS/UpdateEntitlement.html>

This is a reminder regarding the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) and students progressing from year 2 to 3 and year 6 to 7.

We have made some improvements to our system which now means that students who are progressing to year 3 and year 7 do not need to reapply if they meet the following three conditions:

- are continuing at the same school
- are residing at the same address
- have not been sent an expiry notification from Transport for NSW.

The system has automatically validated a student's ongoing eligibility if they're at the same school and progressing to year 3 and year 7. Where a student met the new eligibility the system has updated their entitlement and card. If they didn't meet the new eligibility, they would have been sent an expiry notification.

If students need to update any information or reapply, they should go online to <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/updateDetails>.

Applications need to be submitted before 31 December 2017 to ensure students' entitlements are updated and their current card is not cancelled. If their application is submitted after 31 December 2017, the system will automatically cancel their card and a new one will need to be issued.

Students in the Opal network applying for an SSTS or Term Bus Pass entitlement for the first time will receive their card at their nominated postal address. Cards will be mailed out during the 3rd week of January 2018.

Students residing in Rural and Regional (R&R) areas should receive their new travel pass at the commencement of the new school year in 2018. **Note:** some R&R operators do not issue travel passes. Students should check with their operator for more information.





MUSWELLBROOK HIGH
SCHOOL
IS A
VISIBLE LEARNING SCHOOL



‘When teachers see learning through the eyes
of the student and students see themselves as their own teachers.’

Visible Learning^{plus} is a professional development program for school leaders and teachers that explores how evidence can be used to create innovation in the learning environment.

The work is focused on Professor John Hattie’s meta-analysis and the principles of visible learning and visible teaching.

Muswellbrook High School’s ultimate aim is to improve student engagement and interest in the learning process and ultimately assist them to become independent learners who make academic progress towards challenging, yet achievable goals.

What is Visible learning?

✓ A way of thinking about teaching and learning	✗ A checklist to be completed
✓ A ‘one size fits one’ approach	✗ A ‘one size fits all’ approach
✓ Evidence and impact data driven	✗ Anecdotal and unsubstantiated



@ChrisSullivanNZ

Timeframe for Improvement

School systems are complex organisations that vary in size and shape. The Visible Learning^{plus} Collaborative Impact Program, when implemented with fidelity, has been proven to produce both immediate and long-term improvement. The program’s flexible framework can be customised based on a school’s needs and goals.



As you can see this is a slow process, but as the old adage goes, 'If its worth doing, it's worth doing right.' At Muswellbrook High School we believe that your child's education is worth getting right. Over the next 3 years we aim to build on this process for you and with you, every step of the way.

2017 has seen us begin this process through a lot of testing and surveys. We have asked the students to have a say about their learning and the teachers and we will also be asking you for your feedback from time to time. We would also encourage you to talk to you children and their teachers about what is happening at the school. We have begun by building a consistent language that soon, we hope, everyone will know, understand and use.

FOCUS – (Or objective) for a lesson or series of lessons and is a statement which describes clearly what the teacher wants the students to. know. understand; and be able to do.

SUCCESS CRITERIA - are the standards by which the lesson/work be judged at the end to decide whether or not it has been achieved/reached in the eyes of the class.

This program is a long term investment by the staff at Muswellbrook High School in your child's future. The Leadership Team who are driving this program consists of:

Principal:	E Bate	Head Teacher HSIE:	K Kelly
Coach:	L Duck	Head Teacher TAS (Relieving):	K Byrnes
English:	M Lillyst	Deputy (Relieving):	D O'Hara

Please contact us if you would like to know more about J Hattie's research and the Collaborative Impact Program or access the following sites:

<http://visiblelearningplus.com/partners/corwin-australia>

<https://visible-learning.org/john-hattie/>



UPPER HUNTER LIQUOR ACCORD & RESCUE EDUCATION AFTERNOON

On Thursday November 16th, our Year 11 cohort attended the annual Upper Hunter Liquor Accord presentation, sponsored and presented by the Muswellbrook RSL Club. The RSL's Daryl Egan led a team of emergency service officers, employees of St Helier's correctional centre, recovered drug and alcohol addicts and Parramatta Eels star Nathan Hindmarsh, who educated the students on the importance of healthy living, the dangers of drug and gambling addiction and safety on our roads. Muswellbrook High School hosted the event with Year 11 students from Scone High School, Scone Grammar School, Merriwa High School and St Joseph's Aberdeen.

After a sausage sizzle lunch, our local emergency services took the reins and led the students in a simulated car accident scene. The students were involved in a discussion about causes of accidents and how to respond, before listening to a pre-recorded 'scenario' of young people leaving a party and driving home when they should not have. The recording ends with an accident, which we had set up out the back of the school. With cooperation from the smash repairs, the emergency services had set up a simulated car accident out the back of the school, and the students gathered around to see what actually happens when an accident occurs. This included the excellent dramatic skills of three of our Year 12 students, Ben Henry, Liam Davies and Alex Rose, who played the "casualties" in the accident scenario. The audience was treated to the arrival of emergency services (with sirens included!) and observed the ambulance service, fire and rescue service and police, in full uniform and protective gear acting as they would for a real life accident scene. This included the fire and rescue service using the "jaws of life" to "cut out" one of the casualties from the vehicle.

An extremely interesting and relevant presentation, which received great feedback from the students. While it was happening, spokespeople from each service explained what was happening and what the students should do if they are first on the scene of an accident. Many thanks to Daryl Egan from the RSL and his presenters for the morning Upper Hunter Liquor Accord session, many thanks to Sheree Gray from the Police and Luke Simpson from Muswellbrook Fire and Rescue for all your organisation of this very worthwhile education experience.

Debbie Vardanega
Organising Teacher



www.muswellbrookhighcareers.com

I've put together a new website.

UAC/VTAC/QTAC

VET

It's a "One Stop Shop" for everything you
need with Career Planning and help.

LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

CHECK IT OUT NOW!

WORK EXPERIENCE

Mrs McDonald

Careers Advisor

DO AN INTERESTS TEST

FIND A JOB

CHOOSE A UNIVERSITY

GAP YEAR

CREATE A RESUME

DEFENCE CAREERS

YOUTH ALLOWANCE



THE BEST WAY TO PREDICT THE FUTURE IS TO CREATE IT

Hunter Representative Sports Trials – Changes as of 2018

In previous years, Hunter Rep Trials were organised through a handbook that was sent to me at school, straight from Hunter School Sport Association. Starting in 2018, this will be changing.

Any students who wish to trial for Hunter Representative Teams will need to follow the instructions below. This will require the student seeking out the trial and paperwork from the Hunter School Sport website, and then coming with this to me, for further assistance.

Please note: Many of the Hunter Representative teams are OPEN DIVISION, and your child will be trialling against students who are the best in their field, mostly of senior ages, from right across the Hunter. For this reason, it is advisable that only students in grades 10-12 trial, unless an age division is specified. Younger students have made Open teams in the past, but this is very rare. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me at your convenience. Please also note that **ONLY STUDENTS WHO HAVE REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL** in their sport of choice are generally permitted to trial for Hunter Representatives.

If your child is unsure if this applies to them or if they should trial, they can come and chat to me at any time. If they do decide to trial, follow the instructions below, which involves printing the nomination form and bringing it to both Principal Elizabeth Bate and myself, CHS Sport Coordinator, to sign and send off.

Finally, U15s Rugby League trials run slightly different. The trials are held here in Muswellbrook during a gala day between all schools in the Upper Hunter. If your child would like to trial for this team, they are advised to put their name down next year to play at this event, with Mr McKinlay.

Following is the procedure for trials as per Hunter School Sport Association instructions. There is also a table of events that will take place throughout the 2018 year and instructions on how your child can nominate to trial. If your child is someone who usually trials or would like to trial for a Hunter Representative Team in 2018, please peruse this information and feel free to give me a call at school (6543 1033) or by email (deborah.pitt7@det.nsw.edu.au) with any questions that may arise.

Debbie Vardanega
CHS Sport Coordinator



2018 HUNTER SPORT TRIALS

Students who wish to trial for any of the teams listed below **MUST** follow the following procedure:

Note the date of the trial and then go to the [website nominated](#) on the information sheet to gain details and other information.

Complete the consent form online, then print, and return it to your school Principal and sport coordinator to sign.

YOU ARE NOT PERMITTED TO ATTEND ANY TRIAL unless you have **SCHOOL PERMISSION**. If you turn up at the trial without school permission, you will be sent **BACK TO SCHOOL**.

Once the Sport Coordinator has your permission note, they will seek the advice of both the Convener and School Coaches as to your eligibility to attend Trials. Students that are too young or are not of the standard or calibre of a Hunter team cannot attend Trials.

Once the Sport Coordinator signs off on your attendance then you take the completed permission note to the trial.

NOTE that no transport or direct supervision is supplied by your High School.

Date	Team	Date	Team
Term 1		Term 2	
February 9	Girls Volleyball	May 25	Lawn Bowls
February 22	Boys Volleyball	June 14	WAG/MAG/RG Gymnastics
February 26	Golf	June 26	Boys Tennis
February 27	Diving	July 3	Girls Tennis
March 1	Boy/Girls Touch U/16s	July 3	Orienteering
March 7	Boys Basketball	July 5	Trampoline Sports
March 8	Girls Football	Term 3	
March 13	Boys AFL U/15s	August 7	Mountain Biking
March 13	Girls Basketball	September 26	Boys Cricket
March 14	Boys Football	Term 4	
March 15	Boys/Girls Water Polo	November 20	Girls Softball
March 16	Netball	November 20	Boys Softball
March 21	Rugby League 15's and Opens	November 29	Girls Cricket
March 26	Squash	December 11	Boys Baseball
March 28	Rugby Union		
March 29	Boy/Girls Touch U/16s Opens		
April 4	Boys/Girls Hockey		
July 3	Orienteering		
July 5	Trampoline Sports		

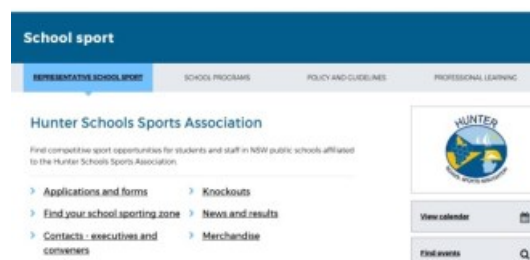
Trial dates and time printed on this form are subject to change, please refer to the Hunter School Sport website for the most up to date information

HOW TO APPLY TO ATTEND A HUNTER REGION TRIAL

There is a new School Sport Website and all information regarding Hunter trials has been up loaded. The web address is:

<https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/sport/Hunter>

This takes you to the Hunter Sports Website



Click on the sport you are interested trialling for on the right hand side under the Hunter logo **<Find event>**
Type in the event that you are wishing to trial for and click on the event. Dialogue box with the information comes up, click on the **<more info>** tab on the bottom right

Takes you to the specific information,
click on the **<+ symbol>** next to Additional information
Scroll down to the consent form.
Click on **<consent form>**, complete it in full, print and then return it to your School Sport Coordinator/Principal to sign and record.

Take it with you on the day of the trial, hand to the Convener/Manager running the trial.

Annual Special Education Christmas Lunch!

On Thursday the 7th of December, Muswellbrook High School's Special Education Unit held their Annual Special Education Christmas Lunch. We catered for approximately 60 staff and students and enjoyed a feast of ham, roast chicken, and roast vegetables. For dessert, we were spoilt with a choice between an Apple Pie with ice cream or a Pavlova with fresh cream and berries.

We wouldn't be able to hold this special event each year without the generous donations from some of our local businesses! We would like to say a huge thank you to The Reject Shop Muswellbrook, Woolworths Muswellbrook, Coles Muswellbrook, The Chop Shop Butchery, Supa IGA Muswellbrook, and Variety, The Children's Charity for their donation.



Gold in Review.

2017 saw Gold students move from students to young adults. The increase in confidence and independence was great to see. Even after a teacher change, then an SLSO change, then a new student, Gold continued on strong and had an amazing end to 2017.

This year saw students taking their food tech skills home to help with cooking, it saw library borrowing become a weekly event, there was independent creation of shopping lists and shopping costs, and let's not forget the full scale planning that students did independently after their idea to host an 'end of term' and 'Halloween' parties.

Gold class had a slightly turbulent year with change of leadership and still came out working together, acting as a team and supporting each other. For such a diverse group of individual students this is a tremendous accomplishment. It was a pleasure to transfer into Gold this year and I look forward to them impressing me with their accomplishments in 2018.

Mr Incze

Mr Incze's Special Education Gold Coast trip recap.

The Gold Coast trip kicked off with an incredibly long drive. Over 11 hours of travel to reach our sun kissed, adventure riddled, beach side accommodation. The 'ohh's and 'awwww's as we drove past high rise buildings and the beautiful beaches of the Gold Coast highway indicated that this was the right place for Mussy High students to be!

Day 2 sorted the adventurous from the scared. A day of roller coasters, rides, meet and greets and photo opportunities. Although Mr Incze was easily the most scared, closing his eyes for the whole ride he went on, Mrs Duffle and Dan Brash represented the staff with fearless joy while leading courageous students on all the rides they could stomach.

Day 3 saw Muswellbrook High strut their stuff on the beautiful off shore breaks of the Gold Coast beach as we embarked on surfing lessons in the morning. Everybody took to the waves and found their preference of surfing or body boarding. Before we could make the locals look bad it was off to lunch at Pacific Fair, the largest shopping centre north of Muswellbrook Marketplace. After being dazzled by the vast amount of shopping opportunities and spectacular lunch options, we donned our best fancy clothes and headed out to dinner at the Outback Spectacular – The Story of The Light Horsemen!

Day 4 again was packed with adventure. We started the day off canoeing around the lake and relaxing on a small sandy inlet. Well, the ones who could make it there without tipping or sinking enjoyed it. Then it was time for the test of nerves and courage that was the Giant Swing!! With almost everyone attempting this free falling rope swing it was clear that Muswellbrook High Students have no fear and are always willing to have a crack at whatever is in front of them. The evening was spent relaxing in the pool and recapping the crazy few days we had spent in this new land of adventures, everyone knowing full well what we were in for tomorrow.

Day 5 All aboard!!!

We boarded the bus and embarked on our long return journey. On the positive side we made excellent time and made the most of our bus trip trying to find things for William Roach to enjoy on his birthday. Upon arrival back at Muswellbrook, parents greeted their children and were bombarded with tales of adventure and accomplishments, and just a few 'can we go back to Gold Coast' requests.

By 9.00pm all staff members finally got home. By 9.01pm, all staff were sound asleep J

This was an amazing trip and full of opportunities for the students to explore, enjoy and practice all they had learned this year. I feel privileged to have been a part of it, even if I was the biggest chicken on the trip. In Special Education, we work hard and we relish the opportunities to show off our skills. For 2018, I genuinely



2017 in the Silver Classroom!

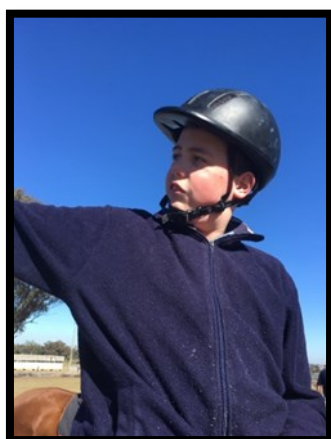
The students in Silver have been working very hard this year. We have been busy developing our literacy and numeracy skills. We have completed experiments in Science, become Master Chefs in the kitchen during Cooking lessons, gained a better understanding of ourselves and others in PDHPE, created masterpieces in Visual Art, and learnt lots about our country in History and Geography. Students have enjoyed participating in our weekly Sport sessions where they get to work as a team and build friendships with other members of the Special Education unit.

Many of our students participated in the Riding for the Disabled program where they went horse riding every Thursday during Term 3.

During Term 4, the Silver students have been working hard to create Christmas goodies to sell to staff and parents. The students have been making handmade soaps, reindeer food, Christmas cards, and wrapping paper. The funds we have raised will go towards purchasing resources for the Silver classroom.

Silver students were also involved in the Lifesaving program this term where they learnt skills about water safety and developed their confidence in swimming.

Mrs Heidi Court, Mrs Shelly Radcliffe and Ms Meg Haig would like to wish all students and their families a Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2018!



LIFESAVING REPORT 2017

The weather was gorgeous, the water was glistening and the students and staff were enthusiastic. A great three days were had by those students who attended the Annual mandatory Life saving at Muswellbrook Aquatic Centre. The whole point behind these three days is to make your child safe around water so that they may enjoy the delights of the water, which is such a large part of the Australian lifestyle.

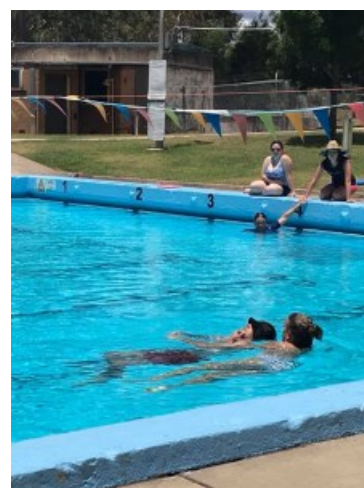
Although we were down in numbers, those that did attend had a great time. 90 students gained awards as a part of the Royal Life Saving Swim and Survive – Learn to Swim program. We had students who were very uneasy in the water swim confidently after a few days. This was achieved through the judicious use of differentiated programs and carefully selected teaching strategies. Each student is carefully nurtured so that they gain maximum benefits from the program.

25 students gained awards across the Bronze levels which encapsulates life saving techniques and is aimed at the stronger swimmers. Eight, Year 10 students gained their Instructor's qualifications and fourteen have been awarded the Muswellbrook High School Leadership Award. This enables students who may not have the necessary prerequisites for the Instructor's award, to still participate in this role.

A huge thank you to all the teachers who were involved in the three days, but especially to Mr Nougher who ran the CPR course in the Guide Hall, Mrs Farrell who taught everyone how to be Water Safe in the Tennis Club, Mrs Paulsen who educated everyone (including the staff) to be sun smart and Mrs Parker who supervised the trainee instructors. A large number of hours go into the organisation of these three days, however, it is tremendously rewarding when you see students reaching goals that they believed were beyond them and having fun doing so.

Mrs Leanne Duck

Organising teacher



Andrew "Fishtail" Fisher

Years 9,10 and 11 were lucky enough to have listened to guest speaker Andrew "Fishtail" Fisher.

A fast-paced, interactive and educational talk which challenged our students to think about how their actions and decisions can impact upon not only themselves but also their family and friends.

Accompanying Andrews presentation was also facts and statistics around smoking, drinking, drugs and safe driving.

Andrew brought along his replica racing ute for the students to see and interact around.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and hung around to chat with Andrew after his talk.

Narelle Smith

Head Teacher Wellbeing (RELIEVING)

RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY RESILIENCE



Girls in STEM

During Term 3 and 4, students have been working hard to complete their projects. The project ideas were suggested by Muswellbrook Council for students to work on issues that our community was facing. Some of these ideas involved researching the use of the Muscle Creek area, the amount of power (based on appliances) being used by households in Muswellbrook and the sharing of fruit tree locations in town. Each group worked to design surveys to gather data, put together ideas to solve an issue and pitched their result appropriate to target audiences. Students also put together a poster outlining their project ideas, data gathering methods and results.

On 1st November, 2017, Girls in STEM students held their presentation afternoon at University of Newcastle Innovation Centre in Muswellbrook. University of Newcastle academics, HunterWiSE staff members, mentors, family and friends of students and Muswellbrook High School teaching staffs attended the event to congratulate students for their amazing achievements. The judges from the University of Newcastle selected the winner – Bronte Collins, Hannah Franklin, Lydia Hume, Maddison Gill, Jessica Xia, who designed an app to gather information on power usage in households.

I would like to thank the team from HunterWiSE for giving students opportunity to be involved in a program to increase the awareness and involvement of female students in STEM. I also would like to congratulate students for the successful completion of the projects and their hard word in Semester 2.

Miss Jung



SRC Induction Assembly

On 21st of November 2017, the Student Representative Council members of 2018 were inducted during a special assembly. The Director of Public Schools NSW in Wollemi Network, Mr Mark Young, also attended the assembly as a special guest to welcome new members into the council.

The SRC of 2018 are:

Year 8	Captain	Imogen Owen	Jadon Chetty
	Vice-captain	Mathanghi Gajendran	Ben Halliwell
Year 9	Captain	Taya McIntyre	Mitchell Kemp
	Vice-captain	Jorja Boyd	Jye McManus
Year 10	Captain	Emily Mullane	Paddy McTaggart
	Vice-captain	Emily Jones	Brock Greacen
Year 11	Captain	Jacinta Ballard	Shaun-Patrick O'Donnell
	Vice-captain	Emily Bishop	Michael Crowfoot
	Prefect	Ella Watson	Anna Snewin
Year 12	Captain	Katie Van Vliet	Marcus Morris
	Vice-captain	Brydie Cullen	Joel Hartin
	Prefect	Jillian Armstrong	Rhylie Pereira

I would like to congratulate Mrs Byrnes, Mrs Fragar and all SRC members of 2017 for their hard work and looking forward to working with the new SRC members of 2018.

Miss Jung



SRC Planning Day

The SRC of both 2017 and 2018 attended a planning day on 24th November to plan SRC activities for 2018. The day consisted of various activities to facilitate collaboration and cooperation between SRC members. In the morning, students participated in tasks to identify personal strengths of peers and themselves, and identified the role of SRC based on legacies of SRC 2017. Students also role-played based on their idea of a high-functioning SRC. Using results from these sessions, students selected and planned the SRC activities for the next year. SRC members would like to thank Ms Lindy Hunt for her guidance with our planning day.

Jadon Chetty and Shaun-Patrick O'Donnell



Year 7 Development Day – Newcastle

On 30th November and 1st and 2nd December, Year 7 students visited Newcastle as a part of their annual development days. This year, students had the privilege to be transported to and back from Newcastle on a bus.

Students began their day with a unique dining experience at Nagisa in Newcastle, where they were treated with delicious Japanese bento. They enjoyed their meals, trying out different food and flavours, some never tasted before. After lunch, students divided into two groups to visit Newcastle Museum and Asian grocery store on Hunter Street.

Newcastle Museum donned three distinctive exhibits – Supernova, Newcastle Story and Dinosaurs revolution. Students visited each exhibit to interact and learn information ranging from Science to Modern History of Newcastle and Paleontology.

Students also visited Asian grocery store on Hunter Street to explore different and exotic items that are found in this speciality store. They shopped for various candies and sweets, and were intrigued by sauces and products that they have never seen before. Those students, who made purchases were happy to share their treats with friends.

Students demonstrated excellent behaviours during the visit and we would like to thank everyone for their hard work in making the day possible.

Miss Jung





PASS CAMP 2017

In Week 1 of Term 4, Mr McKinlay and myself had the pleasure of accompanying 37 Year 9 and 10, PASS students to the Great Aussie Bush Camp, for three days. The weather was excellent, as was the behaviour of the students and a fantastic time was had by all!

Day 1 began with a detoured bus trip around Singleton (due to the infamous truck accident!) before arriving at Tea Gardens and enjoying lunch. Our afternoon activities included sailing lessons and beach activities at Jimmy's Beach, the water was crystal blue (although very cold!) and the sun was shining. Conditions were perfect for learning to sail and many student discovered a talent they did not know they already had! In the evening, the students were pitted against each other in a Year 9 vs. Year 10 challenge night. Challenges ranged from music trivia, to flexibility skills, to fasted feet and more. One of our awesome instructors closed the evening with a fire-twirling display, which was excellent.

On Day 2, students were split into groups to complete various challenging activities. These included a mud course, vertical climbing challenge and kayaking down the river. In the afternoon students were taken to the sand dunes to enjoy exploring the area, admiring the scenery and learning about the cultural significance of the site, before cooling off with an afternoon swim at Jimmy's Beach. That night, students faced their fears once more with the infamous giant swing before bed.

Our final day was spent attempting the team challenge high ropes course and the leap of faith – a 15m climb in which students then take a 'leap of faith', to jump off and catch a trapeze bar. Don't worry – students are required to wear full body harnesses and helmets, and all activities – even the terrifying ones – are perfectly safe! Students enjoyed a delicious lunch before piling onto the bus for a very quiet (and sleepy!) bus trip back to school.

PASS Camp is an excellent opportunity for students in Stage 5 who select the PASS elective, to bond with their peers and teachers and find personal growth through the learning and acquisition of new skills, and above all challenging their fears and overcoming them. Many thanks to Mr McKinlay for giving up his evenings to join me and the students on this camp, and many thanks to the excellent staff at Great Aussie Bush Camp. They do an outstanding job of organising activities for our students with great accommodation and food. I am sure memories were made that will last our students a lifetime! Looking forward to next year!

Mrs Vardanega





8/9 Mixed League Tag Gala Day

On the 24th of November, Miss French and I had the pleasure of taking three teams of Year 8 and Year 9 boys and girls to a League Tag Gala Day, organised by the NRL. The teams played four games each against other schools from around the Hunter. The Day was non-competitive, more about giving the students experience in a growing sport and the opportunity to mix with peers from other schools. Our teams were very successful and skilled and played hard. They demonstrated high levels of sportsmanship and teamwork and we were very, proud.

Many thanks to Daniel Swan and his team from the NRL. Daniel gives our school many opportunities to gain experience with League Tag and Rugby League in both girls and boys competitions, bringing many gala days and training workshops to Muswellbrook High School and the Upper Hunter. We are very grateful for this!

Mrs Vardanega



School Holiday Activities

January 2018				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
1 Jan MOOSH Hawaiian Day	2 Jan MOOSH Anything Goes Day	3 Jan MOOSH Corny Corn Day	4 Jan MOOSH Splash Splash Day	5 Jan MOOSH Local Cinema Day
8 Jan MOOSH Hawaiian Day 	9 Jan MOOSH Relaxation Day HPFC 10am to 12pm Garden Play	10 Jan MOOSH Creativity Day HPFC Eat the Rainbow 12pm	11 Jan MOOSH Rockin the 80s Day 	12 Jan MOOSH Newcastle Ocean Baths & Park HPFC Cooking 11am
15 Jan MOOSH Animalia Day 	16 Jan MOOSH Mad Hatter Day HPFC Arts 11am-1.00pm	17 Jan MOOSH Water Games Day 	18 Jan MOOSH Italian Day HPFC Cooking 11.30am	19 Jan MOOSH Thai for Lunch \$12
22 Jan MOOSH Creative & Cooking Day	23 Jan MOOSH Icky Sticky Goopy Day HPFC Fly a kite & Aussie BBQ at 11.30am	24 Jan MOOSH Disco Party Day 	25 Jan MOOSH Universal Studios Day 	26 Jan MOOSH

Muswellbrook Youth Centre offer lots of things for our teens. The Centre is opened from 11am to 3pm, Tues, Wed & Thursday from 2 January 2018 during school holidays, please ring 65434841 or visit www.hbys.org.au for information on what they are offering this holiday period.

The Library has many things on offer for young and old, to find out what holiday fun can be found at your library, please ring 65431913.

PCYC also offer activities during the school holidays, however you need to pay a one off membership fee per year. For more information on what they offer, please ring 65411434.



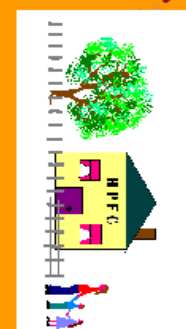
This service is proudly provided to you by:
Upper Hunter Community Services Inc.
CHERI Community Centre • Citi Bridge & Markets • Muswellbrook
Phone: 02 6543 5555 • www.uhc.org.au



This service is proudly provided to you by:
Upper Hunter Community Services Inc.
CHERI Community Centre • Citi Bridge & Markets • Muswellbrook
Phone: 02 6543 5555 • www.uhc.org.au



December 2017
What's the Goss



Hunter Park Family Centre

Hunter Park Family Centre

58 Wollombi Rd, Muswellbrook 65433566 hpfcc@uhs.org.au

HPFC offers many services and runs in house programs as well as programs that are based at other venues. Some of the services that we offer are:

- Supported Play/Lean Playgroup
- Homework Help Hour
- Parenting Programs
- Child & Family Nurse
- Community Events

In the New Year we will be offering extra services such as a Mums & Bubs Group, Rough Diamonds and Community Information Sessions.

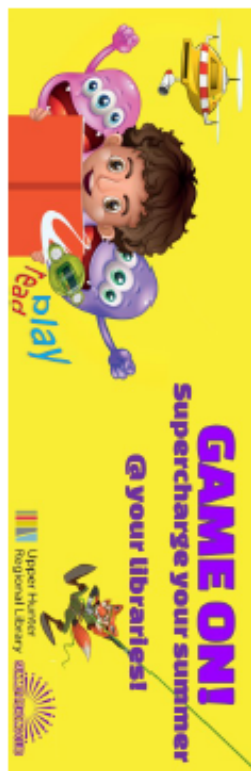
New Look HPFC

Come along and see the changes to Hunter Park Family Centre
Bengalla Mining Company chose our Centre for their Apprentice Community Project 2017

The HPFC precinct has been made larger due to a donation of adjacent land. This land will benefit us as we will be able to offer more services from HPFC. We would like to thank Bengalla for this as their apprentices have created an amazing space for us.

Bengalla has installed security cameras that record 24hrs, 7 days a week, so that we may protect Hunter Park Family Centre after hours.





Summer Reading Club 2017-18

Game On! Read and play to supercharge your summer. Lots in-store for everyone like our Library-opoly challenge, all new JD's world of magic show, do-it-yourself sunscreen and more. All events are free.

Registrations for our Summer Reading Club open from 1st December, 2017 and remain open until 19th January, 2018

Badge & Games Making

Friday, 5th January @ 11:30am, Denman

Monday, 15th January 2018 @ 11:30am, Muswellbrook



Pat Collis' Mini Workshop

Tuesday, 9th January 2018
@ 11:00am, Muswellbrook
@ DIY Sunscreen



3D VR Gaming Challenge @ Denman & Muswellbrook

Wednesday, 17th January @ 2:30pm



JD's 'All New' World of Magic Show

Friday, 19th January @ 11:00am, Muswellbrook
All SRP kids are welcome.

SRP GAME ON Party

Monday, 22nd January @ 11:30am,
Muswellbrook Library
Don't forget to wear your GAME ON t-shirt.

Upper Hunter Community Services Inc

Ph: 6542 3555

www.uhcs.org.au

Aboriginal Family Worker

Email: ahw@uhcs.org.au

Primary focus on assisting new parents and families with children aged 0 - 8 years. In a culturally appropriate way to enhance parents' skills to improve educational, social and health outcomes for their children.

Upper Hunter Family Support Service

Email: familysupport@uhcs.org.au

UHFSS offers assistance to families who may be experiencing difficulties. Support may include parenting education, court support, financial information, referral, home visiting, support letters, group work, and assistance with Centrelink and Dept of Housing.

Muswellbrook Neighbourhood Service

Email: mns@uhcs.org.au

MNS provides information, referral, advocacy and support. MNS provides emergency relief as per service guidelines and policy directives (eg food and electricity vouchers); No Interest Loans Scheme, needle and syringe exchange; computer access; and baby capsule and room hire.

Upper Hunter Youth Development Officer

Email: uhvdo@uhcs.org.au

The YDO provides support to existing youth services and has a role in identifying the needs of the youth sector and developing appropriate strategies. UHYDO aims to promote positive perceptions of young people in the community.

Community Capacity Building Project

Email: matkinson@uhcs.org.au

UHCS Community Capacity Building Project aims to identify & meet the needs within the community to build a strong, sustainable and resilient community. The CCB project is proudly funded by BHP Pt Arthur Coal.

The following projects are auspiced by Upper Hunter Community Services Inc. and are located externally from the QELI Community Centre.

Hunter Park Family Centre 58 Wollombi Rd, Muswellbrook Ph: 6543 3566

Muswellbrook Out of School Hours Care - MOOSH Phone/Fax 6541 3205

Bowman Park Community Centre, Skellatar St, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

TOYBOX - The Travelling Playgroup—Phone/Fax 6543 4877

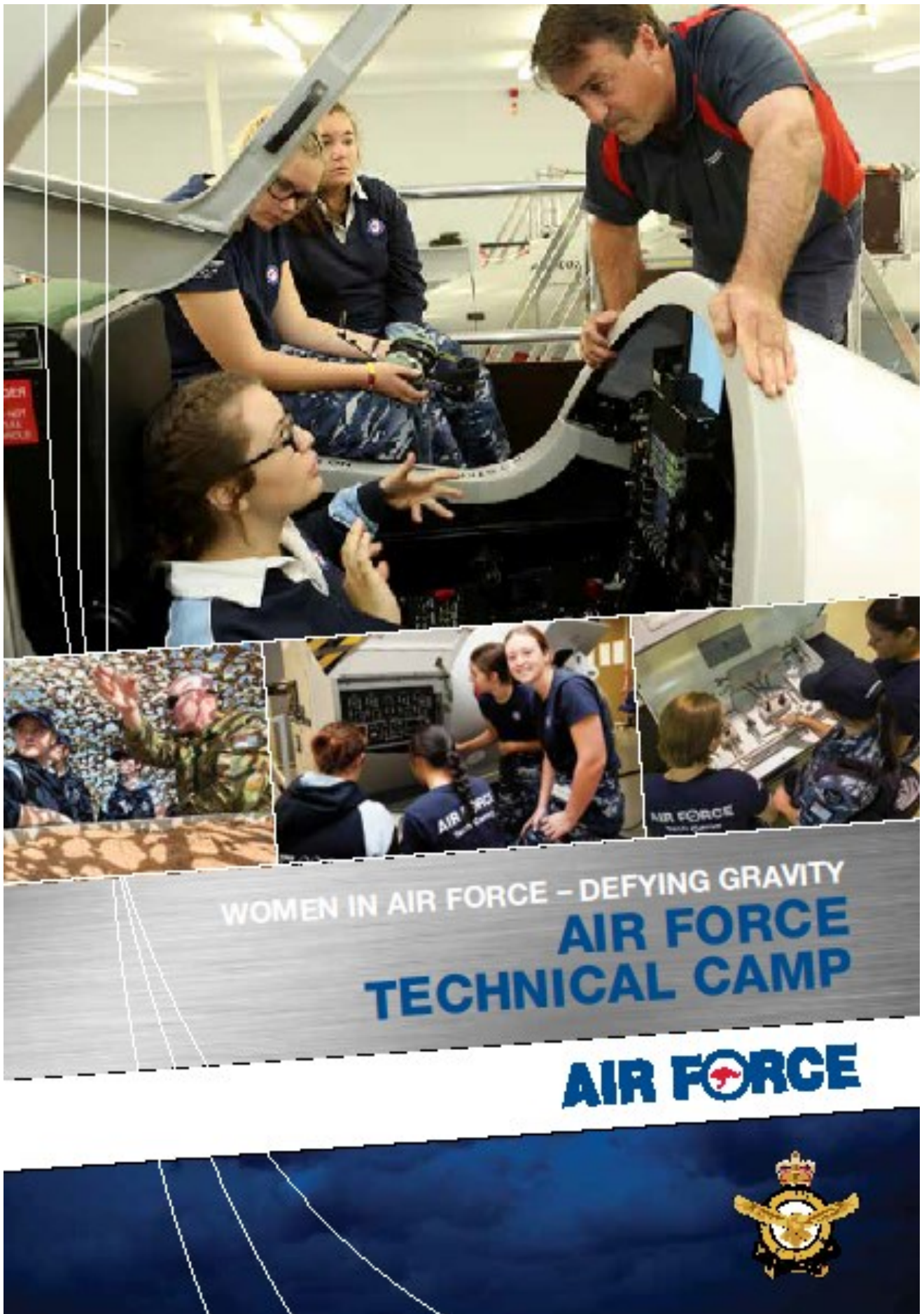
Bowman Park Community Centre, Skellatar St, Muswellbrook NSW 2333

The following services provide regular services from the QELI Community Centre.

Appointments can be made by contacting the following phone numbers:

Interrelate Counselling Services
Financial Counsellor C-Res—Local Buying Program
One Door Mental Health Carer's Advocate Family Relationship Centre







AIR FORCE TECHNICAL CAMP

Air Force is excited to offer young women aged between 16 to 24 the opportunity to experience Air Force technical and engineering careers.

Date: **20 - 23 Feb 18**

Location: **Wagga - NSW**

What you will get to do:

- Enjoy some hands on experience working on sophisticated Air Force equipment.
- An opportunity to engage and ask questions of Air Force women technicians.
- Experience Air Force life including living quarters, meals, training and some leadership activities.
- A chance to speak with Defence Force Recruiting regarding all opportunities for Air Force employment.

What you need:

- Parental permission if you are under 18 years old.
- An interest in Maths and Science related subjects.
- A willingness to extend yourself and experience things that some people will never get to do.
- An ability to commit to the full program.

How to apply:

At www.defence.gov.au/workexperience via the 'Current Work Experience Placements'



For information regarding women in Air Force visit:
[http://www.airforce.gov.au/under 'our people' > 'women in the air force'](http://www.airforce.gov.au/under%20our%20people%20women%20in%20the%20air%20force)

For further information in regard to Tech Camp please email:
AirForce.GenderPrograms@defence.gov.au

DECEMBER CALENDAR 2017



HUDSON
RIVER

1 TEAM BUILDING

<p>6 LIFE SKILLS Cooking some Christmas treats.</p>	<p>7 CREATIVE ART Making our own Christmas ball.</p>
--	---

**8 COMMUNITY
AWARENESS**
Human Rights Day
10/12/2017

14 LIFE SKILLS

15 GROUP ACTIVITY

**A game of Captain
ball on the lawn.**

Not falling into the comparison trap.

**Youthies Xmas
break up party.**

18	Free Choice 11am-3pm	19	Free Choice 11am-3pm
----	----------------------------	----	----------------------------

**Last day of Youth
Centre for 2017
11 am—3 pm**

Centre closed for



Youth Centre closed for
Christmas holidays.
We will re-open Tuesday
2nd January 2018
11am-3pm

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 2018

29th Jan 2018	Yrs 7 & 12 return
30th Jan 2018	Yrs 8–11 return

