



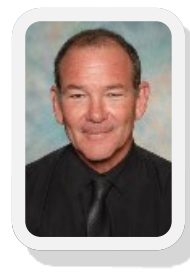
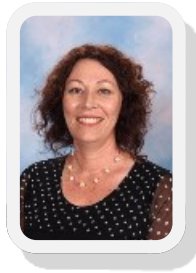
Muswellbrook High School



"Striving for excellence in a school that cares"

NEWSLETTER 2

24 March 2017



Principals Report

Although we all know that winning is not everything, it is great to be a part of a winning team! It is with great pleasure that I briefly touch on the winning nature of our students across a variety of areas. Congratulations to the following for achieving success in their chosen competitions:

Robotics The success of the Carbon Crusaders 6061 has been nothing short of transformational! The Team of six students have earned their place in the FLR World Championships to compete in Houston USA. This is an outstanding achievement. The support of the local community has been phenomenal and makes me feel very proud to be a part of such a generous community. Please see a more detailed report in our newsletter. On behalf of Muswellbrook HS, I would like to pass on my congratulations to the team for making it thus far, thank our generous community for rallying behind the students and to wish them all the best as they compete in April. No doubt, we will be watching the MHS Official Face Book site for updates!

Youth Lions of the Year competition. What a privilege it was to join with students and their families at the regional Lions Youth of the Year Competition at the Muswellbrook Worker's Club. Our talented (and brave) students – Lara Collins, Imogen O'Leary, Blake Shackleton competed against students from SJA and Dunedoo Central School. Imogen will now move onto the next level – competing on the Central Coast at the Regional level.

The 2017 **Swimming Carnival** was also a great success and a fun day away from the traditional learning in the classroom. Unfortunately, student attendance was lower than usual this year. Carnivals are compulsory days and it is always a great day of competition and getting to know one another in a different setting. I encourage students and parents to support our carnivals. Thank you to the PD/H/PE faculty, in particular Ms Debbie Pitt and Miss Rikki Moore, for their organisation of this event.

Congratulations to **Paterson** for their overall victory this year. Our record breaker, Joel Hartin, deserves special mention for his efforts. His time of 31.65 in the 17+ years boys 50m Backstroke, defeated the record previously held by G. Harris in 1970 (time 33.70).

Joel's time of 35.20 in the 17+ years boys 50m Breaststroke, was previously held by A. Serhan in 1984 (time 38.55).

The successful **Cross Country** event this year was largely due to the efforts of Mr Luke Doust and the PD/H/PE department. It was made even more relaxed by the sound efforts of the Music Department, combining to make it a fun, but competitive, atmosphere. It is wonderful to see students shine in this arena, making the most of their skill and talent.

Muswellbrook HS celebrated **Harmony Day** this year with what can be described as a fun whole school assembly. Students and teachers proudly displayed their ethnic origins, demonstrating the value of diversity and all that makes being 'Australian' great.

Our **Girls Academy**, ably coordinated by Elizabeth Howard and Kylie Honor, have had a positive start at Muswellbrook HS. These co-ordinators are passionate about our girls and are committed to making a difference in their lives.

Young Mob Upper Hunter Pilot Program has commenced this Term. Under the tuition of Mr Waylon Boney and Mrs Jenny Campbell, select ATSI students will undertake a leadership program that focuses on; pride in culture, respect for self and others and readiness for opportunity.

Polly Farmer Foundation Compact Signing took place this Term. April Bott welcomed some new Yr. 7 students into the enrichment program. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to continue being supported in their learning journey.

Positive Education Schools Australia

Talk about being a proud Principal! I travelled with *Where There's a Will Foundation* to participate in the student leader's Appreciative Summit, held at St Peter's College, Adelaide. Georgia Gal, Blake Shackleton, Brydie Cullen and Marcus Morris were outstanding ambassadors of our school. Muswellbrook H S will host an **Upper Hunter Community Appreciative Summit** in May. This will be an opportunity to generate some wonderful ideas on how we can support our young people to value themselves, be resilient and to flourish.

Changes to NAPLAN / HSC requirements. A letter will shortly be sent home to all students of Yr. 9. In 2020, students will need to meet a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to qualify for a Higher School Certificate. It is important to know that not all students are expected to achieve a Band 8 in their Year 9 NAPLAN tests this year. Students will not be stopped from getting the HSC on the basis of their Yr. 9 NAPLAN results. However, it is expected that their literacy and numeracy skills will continue to develop and it is expected that they will meet the standard either by the end of Year 10, Year 11 or Year 12. Students will have opportunity to take online tests up to twice a year. Naturally, it is extremely important that our students take the NAPLAN tests seriously and achieve this best.

2017 NAPLAN will take place on the 9th – 11th May.

Term 2 Staff Development Day is to be held on the 24th April. I am looking forward to partnering with Scone HS and Scone PS to introduce Prof. John Hattie's *Visible Learning* into our schools. Staff will be immersed in research on this day. We will then continue throughout the year to work in teams, to reflect upon our own teaching practices.

Community Engagement Project

Personnel from the Department of Education will be working with focus groups from the High School and the partner Primary Schools. The aim is to obtain an understand our community's perception of Muswellbrook HS and how we can capitalise on what is working well and make adjustments to areas that aren't working so well. I would like to thank the families who have been involved so far and the Primary Schools for their time and input. I trust over time the recommendations will be acted upon and therefore make Muswellbrook HS an even better place to be.

Deputy Principals Report

Students have been exceptional with their uniform at the commencement of the year, however, as the weather starts to cool we are starting to see a variety of jumpers arriving at school. Please be aware there is a strict policy of wearing the appropriate clothing. Hoods, colours other than navy blue and jumpers with text on them are not permitted. Students will be asked to go to the library and swap their incorrect clothing item with the correct school uniform. We encourage families to support the school in maintaining our excellent record and look of a strong and proud school community.

Year 7 have also had a great start to the year getting to know each other and meeting new friends from around the district. The Snake Pit playground has always been a great way to have students mix and get to know each other, however, this year with the large number of Year 7 enrolments we have allowed students to venture out into the playground. Any student who wishes to kick or throw a ball will now be able to go out onto the back oval. Those who wish to sit with their friends or play handball will remain in the Snake Pit area.

While there are always a few concerns for students when commencing high school, the 2017 Year 7 cohort, as a group, have voiced their excitement and satisfaction at being at Muswellbrook High School and are enjoying the various academic and extracurricular activities on offer.

S.Copland

Whooping cough information for schools

There is an outbreak of whooping cough (pertussis) in NSW, mainly affecting school-aged children.

Coughing spreads the infection to others nearby. Whooping cough can spread to anyone at home, including younger brothers and sisters. Whooping cough can be especially dangerous for babies.

Whooping cough starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. The infection can occur even in fully-vaccinated children. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and may be worse at night.

- Children with these symptoms should see a doctor.
- If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough in your school-aged child, please let the school know and keep your child at home until they have taken 5 days of antibiotics. Keep coughing children away from babies.

Whooping cough vaccines give good protection against infection but immunity fades with time. Check that all your children are up to date with their vaccines, due at 6 weeks, 4 months, 6 months, 4 years and 12 years of age (offered to all Year 7 students through the NSW school-based vaccination program). A booster is also recommended at 18 months of age.

A booster dose of vaccine is also recommended for adults that are in contact with young children, such as school staff and parents. Pregnant women are recommended to have a booster dose during each pregnancy and this is funded by NSW Health. Those who are new parents or carers of babies should consult their general practitioner about appropriate immunisation.

Your local public health unit can provide advice about whooping cough on 1300 066 055 or visit the NSW Health website for [information for childcare and schools about whooping cough](#).



Brad Hazzard
Minister for Health
Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 6 February 2017

MENINGOCOCCAL W PROTECTION FOR NSW TEENS

The NSW Government will fund a new school-based meningococcal vaccination program for all Year 11 and 12 students to combat the rise in the W strain of this potentially fatal disease, Minister for Health Brad Hazzard announced today.

“This week I made clear to senior health officials that the NSW Government would do whatever possible to protect our young people against Meningococcal W and other strains,” Mr Hazzard said.

“The NSW Government is now allocating \$9 million for this vaccination program in its first year, which will see 180,000 vulnerable teenagers in all high schools eligible to be vaccinated.”

The NSW Meningococcal W Response Program will target 17 and 18 year olds this year, as immunisation experts advise that this age group is particularly at risk because of their physical closeness with peers (e.g. kissing, coughing, sneezing).

Meningococcal W has become a prominent strain nationally and in NSW, with the state’s notifications almost tripling since 2015. Over the last 10 years, the W strain has had an eight per cent mortality rate compared with a four per cent rate for other strains.

The program will start in Term Two, and be expanded to cover other upper high school students in subsequent years.

If any Year 11 and 12 students miss out on the vaccine at school, they will be able to get the vaccine for free from their GP later in the year.

Under the program teenagers will receive a four-antigen vaccine, which provides protection against the A, C, W and Y strains.

The NSW Government takes the risks posed by meningococcal disease very seriously and will continue to monitor international responses and advice and work with the Commonwealth Government on the national response.

For more information go to <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/meningococcal-w.aspx> or call your local Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055.

Senior Student Immunisations

Regarding the media release (above/below) all Year 11 and Year 12 students will be receiving vaccinations early Term 2 giving them protection against the potentially fatal disease, meningococcal. Students will receive more information, including the date, ASAP.

Thanks Miss Salley Bowe

Open Day

Confirmed with all Primary Schools - Wednesday 5th April (Week 10). Lock it in! ALL WELCOME

Jason Foy

We have made FIRST Robotics Competition history in Australia!

During 13-15th March our robotics students competed in the FIRST Robotics Competition in Sydney at the Southern Cross regional event. Our small team of 7 students (Carbon Crusaders team 6061) successfully competed placing 3rd at the end of qualifying rounds. As a captain team we picked Macquarie Uni (Thunder Down Under) and a Taiwanese team (Taiwan First Girls High School) as a team alliance.

We worked very well together going through quarter finals, semi finals and then finals. We were up against a very strong alliance team consisting of Barker College (Barker Redbacks), a team from Brazil (The Brazilian Trailblazers) and Condobolin High School (a rookie, first year team). During our finals match there was a restart, although our team powered on and put up a brilliant fight. At the end of the match we were 7 points behind and received a penalty.

Final 2 Southern Cross Regional	
Red Alliance 1 4613-1772-6523	Blue Alliance 2 6061-3132-6191
Auto Mobility 15	Auto Mobility 15
Pressure 28	Pressure 21
Rotor 140	Rotor 140
Ready for Takeoff 150	Ready for Takeoff 150
Blue Penalty 50	Red Penalty 0
WINNER! 383	326



FIRST® Robotics Competition update: Carbon Crusaders 6061, cont'd

While the other alliance won, we were very proud of our efforts. Our team is also a first year team and to get to the finals as a Captain alliance team we were awarded the Wild Card to Houston USA for the FRC World Championships. This achievement is history making for FIRST Australia as we are the first rural school to have placed so high and get to finals. We also won a Quality Award for networking with our wider community local businesses that helped fund and provide resources to build our competitive robot called FANG.



Now we are seeking public support to help fund our tour to World Championships where 72 other teams from around the world will be competing during the April school holidays. If you can support, no donation is too big or small, we would appreciate any funds you can provide.

Please contact our administration staff at the school who will be happy to provide banking details to support our venture. Alternatively you may like to attend our movie fundraising night at Muswellbrook Cinemas. Stay tuned to our school Facebook page for event details.

Katrina Byrnes
Robotics Coach

Muswellbrook High School Swimming Carnival

The 2017 Muswellbrook High School Swimming Carnival was held on Friday the 3rd of February at the Muswellbrook Aquatic Centre. It was pleasing to see so many students engaging in House Spirit and wearing clothing and costumes to support their house. The day started with many of the senior students participating in a Year 12 Boat Relay, requiring them to swim 50m as a team on a flotation device. The weather was steamy so student sun protection was excellent, with extra shades made available from the school and swimming club, many students accepting sunscreen from supervising staff to protect their skin, and rehydrating all day with water. The Year 12 Biology class ran a bake stall, so students could replenish their energy for their next race with some delicious treats, money raised goes toward their excursion later to come this year.



Our newly elected Sporting Leadership team for 2017 is as follows:

Paterson

Captains: Emmanuel Sithole & Molly Ruttley

Vice-Captains: Bailey Taylor & Maddison Williams

Page

Captains: Griffin Hughes & Georgia Lewis

Vice-Captains: Jayden Parker & Mikayla Mell

Goulburn

Captains: Brodie Collins & Ashlea Deller

Vice-Captains: Paul Dengate & Amber Collard

Hunter

Captains: Ben Henry & Natasha Hall

Co-Vice-Captains: Joel Hartin/Reyde Hennessy & Caitlin Fraser/Hannah Hill

Muswellbrook High School Swimming Carnival, cont'd

Many students participated on the day in a range of swimming events. Congratulations in particular to the Age Champions, who are as follows:

12 Years: Zahli Woolnough & Regan Spicer

13 Years: Imogen Owen & Gabriel Sinclair

14 Years: Emily Snape & Zane Hartin

15 Years: Nadia Owen & Ethan Quinn

16 Years: Jacinta Ballard & Owen Barry

17+ Years: Hannah Hill & Joel Hartin



Our sporting houses were represented strongly in the relays and this year also saw a repeat of last years' new event aimed at increasing carnival participation – "The Hot Lap Lanes". The Hot Lap Lanes occurred over a ten-minute time period in the middle of the day, giving the opportunity to participate to the highest number of students. Each house group was given two lanes of the pool – an up lane and a down lane, and in the ten-minute time period needed to get as many members of their house swimming laps for points as they could. One length of the pool equalled one point and our House Captains did an outstanding job of leading their teams through this event, policing entry and exit of the pool to ensure the students participating in the event were safe and sound. The event was made a 'breaststroke only' event this year, to minimise splashing and maximise vision, keeping students safe and sound. From a staff perspective it was FANTASTIC to see nearly every single student who attended the carnival lining up to enter the hot laps, and swimming multiple laps without stopping. Footage of this event can be viewed on the Muswellbrook High School Official Facebook page. The event saw each house gain multiple hundreds of points for their house.

The results at the end of the day were as follows:

Paterson – 562 points

Hunter – 510 points

Page – 486 points

Goulburn – 341 points

Congratulations to all students who raced in events. The first two students in every event were invited to swim at the Zone Carnival which was held at Muswellbrook Aquatic centre on the 15th February. At Zone level our students compete against the best from the Upper Hunter – Scone High, Singleton High and Merriwa. We had excellent representation at this carnival and many thanks to Miss French's Year 11 SFR students – Micah-Rose Garland-Boney, Jacob Button, Joshua Cooper, Lachlan McLean and Ryan Hill who came along and helped out all day in the heat with timekeeping, set up and pack up. These students showed responsibility and cooperation and were a credit to Muswellbrook High School.

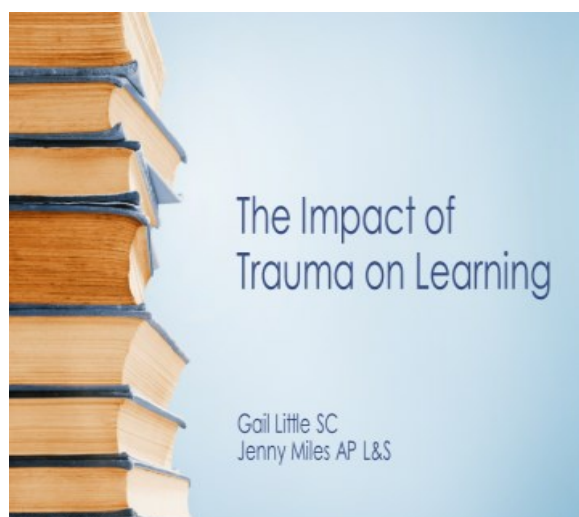


Professional Learning across MHS

All Teachers and School Learning Support Officers completed at least one module of the e-learning lessons on the ***Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA)***, with a focus on the ***Disability Standards for Education 2005 (the Standards)***.

This package of e-learning lessons was developed by the University of Canberra to support schools' ability to understand their obligations in responding to the individual learning and support needs of every student with disability and additional learning needs.

This training is highly relevant to the annual ***National Consistent Collection of data – School Students with Disability (NCCD)***. Further information regarding the NCCD is outlined in this month's newsletter.



Tuesday, Week 5, 41 staff members attended an after-school information session in The Learning Centre, organised by the Learning Support TEAM. The session focus was the ***Impact of Trauma on Student Learning***, presented by one of our School Counsellors, Gail Little and Regional Assistance Principal Learning Support, Jenny Miles.

The impact of TRAUMA on students' LEARNING is such an enormous topic, yet both our presenters provided information and relevant research to start our collective understanding.

Sharon Young – HT Learning Support

Problem Based Learning – 7V

The ProBL classes have started the year in a positive manner engaging in some exciting learning activities and very much enjoying their new learning space. The classrooms have been designed to facilitate collaboration and foster a sense of ownership and belonging for the students and will be a great space to exhibit their learning and final products at various points throughout the year.

Projects have ranged in scope and duration but all are underpinned by a significant and real world problem that students investigate. This term, in a range of subject areas, we have focused on developing skills that support the problem solving process – including effective research methods, time management and task delegation, collaboration, creative thinking, and organisational skills.

In English, 7V started the year exploring identity through the question, ‘Who do you think you are?’ and focused on how we can use creative texts to represent who we are and what is important to us. Students became photographers and were inspired by an expert workshop by Mrs Frager, from our CAPA faculty, who explained visual composition to the students and gave them some helpful advice to guide their photography. The task also had a literacy focus as students were required to compose both a factual and descriptive paragraph based on two of their photographs. This involved discussions about effective sentence and paragraph construction, as well as an exploration of language and its appropriateness for different styles of writing. There are some great examples of student work below.

For the remainder of the term students will become filmmakers in English as they construct instructional films to be used as part of the school’s transition process answering the question, ‘How do I survive the first week of high school?’

DISCOVER:

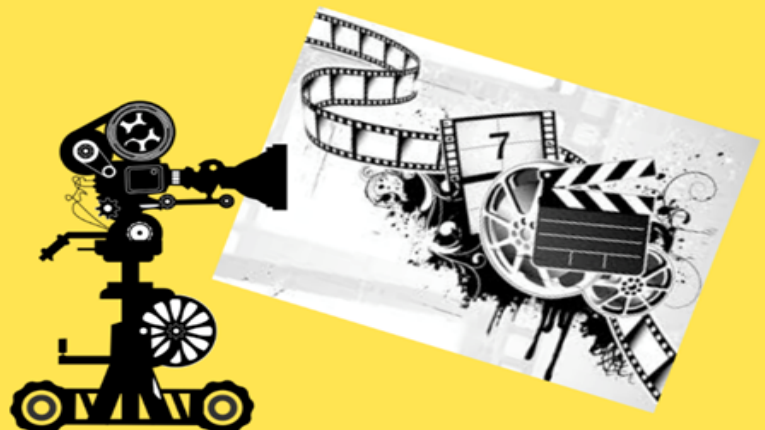
- What problems may arise when transitioning to high school
- The strategies that could be used for dealing with stressful situations
- The essential information Year 7 students need when transitioning to high school - What would students like to know? What would teachers like them to know? What do you wish you knew?
- How film techniques are used by composers to convey meaning
- How to use filmmaking software to construct a short film
- How to engage the target audience and ensure the product meets their needs
- How to compose an effective persuasive text

CREATE:

- A mini-informative film that focuses on one area of 'essential information' for Year 7 students transitioning to high school
- A persuasive text promoting high school to younger students.

SHARE:

- With future Year 7 students and parents as part of Muswellbrook High School's Transition Program

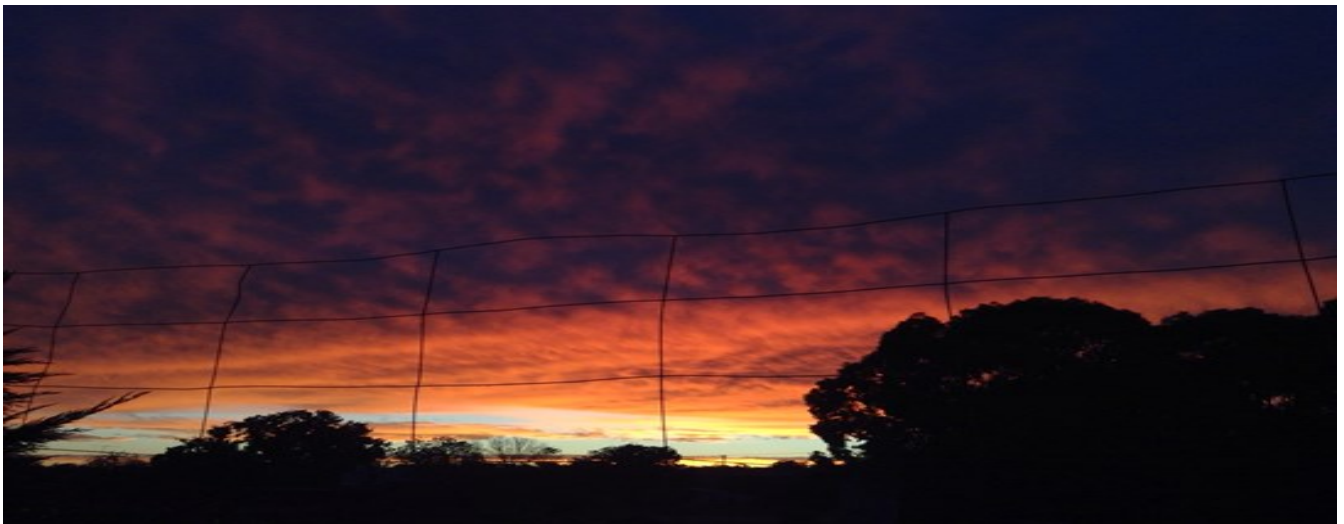


In TAS students have been designing a logo for ProBL and have started their Food Design Project – this is outlined below.



We look forward to sharing student learning with you at our showcase evening, later this year.

Samantha Wass



The sunset's glow is like silk being pulled across the sky. Blues, golds and reds, creating a turning pattern like a turtle shell. It is as if a dragon was blowing hot blue flames over the sky, casting a deep black silhouette over my gentle garden. – Jasmine Bellotti, 7V

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

DISCOVER

LEARN: MORE ABOUT FOOD, NUTRITION AND HOW TO PREPARE, SERVE, MARKET AND SELL FOOD PRODUCTS

RESEARCH: COMPLETE SURVEYS, TO FIND OUT DATA ABOUT WHAT STUDENTS WANT AT MHS

IDEATE: GENERATE IDEAS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO FOOD ISSUES HERE AT MHS

CREATE

TRIAL: PROTOTYPES OF FOOD SUITABLE FOR SALE AND GAIN FEEDBACK

CHOOSE: FOOD PRODUCTS TO DEVELOP FOR SALE

REFINE & REFLECT: ON YOUR PRODUCT THROUGH FEEDBACK

CREATE: MAKE YOUR FOOD PRODUCT

SHARE

SHARE WITH YOUR AUDIENCE: SELL YOUR FOOD PRODUCTS AT A POP UP STALL AT THE CANTEEN

DOCUMENT: YOUR EVIDENCE OF WORK IN YOUR DESIGN FOLDER

EVALUATE: THE SUCCESS OF YOUR PROJECT



HOW CAN WE
AS STUDENTS
INFLUENCE
THE FOOD
AVAILABLE TO
US IN THE
SCHOOL
ENVIRONMENT

**Muswellbrook
High School**



CAREERS

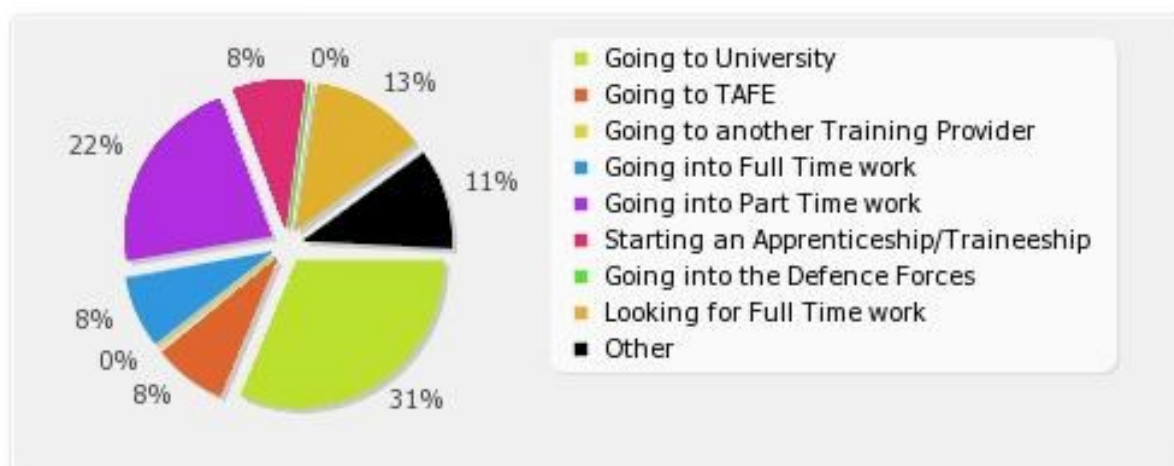
Senior Students received some very useful information regarding University pathways, this information was delivered in the University Roadshow. Our ACE Year 11 students completed their Whitecard, a very worthy qualification essential for many worksites including the entertainment industry. Another Whitecard course has been offered to all Year 10, Year 11 and 12 students, which will be delivered on the 22 March. Whilst our Year 10 students have had the opportunity to be in the 'working world' and complete a week's Work Experience.

If it were not for the support of the businesses listed below, our students would not have the opportunity to experience work in the many industries available to them.

AMP Control	Bengalla Mining Company Pty Ltd
CRJ Maintenance	Denman Children's Centre
Denman Public School	Gasoline Alley
Goodstart Early Learning	Home Timber and Hardware
Hunter New England (HNE) LHD	Justin Bulmer Farrier Services
MMS Engineering	Monadelphous Engineering
Mark Walmsley Accouting	The Mask Academy
Muswellbrook South Public School	Pet Medical
Rawson Container Services	Roger Moore Plumbing
The Barn Veterinary Services	Tillys Play and Development Centre
Zacks Automotive	

Our last years' HSC students have also been contacted, with regards to what pathways they have chosen now that they have left school. This was a very special task assigned to me, to speak to each 2016 HSC student from our school and discover what choices and decisions they have made to begin their adult life. Below is a graph indicating the breakdown of areas they have commenced, whether it be continuing their education, employment or seeking work, we wish them all the very best.

Muswellbrook High School 2016 HSC students – Post School Destination



If any student wishes to discuss career or training options or even just to look at what career choices they may like to venture down, they are to come to the Careers office and I would be very happy to assist them. Students will find careers information in relation to scholarships, workshops or educational opportunities outside my office door.

Mrs McDonald



“Striving for excellence in a school that cares”

Careers Cont'd

Friday 3rd March the University Roadshow came to Muswellbrook High School. The Roadshow is an information session presented by a small cluster of Universities, who come together to deliver current information to senior students about applying for University, the transition from school to university, course information, costs involved, accommodation and more.

It is an interactive presentation, involving students and allows for questions from students, with time permitted for further one - one discussion after the presentation.

All of our schools senior students attended the presentation, with many who had not previously considered university, asking questions and looking at pathways into university.

We would like to thank Charles Sturt University and Southern Cross University for delivering such an informative and interesting presentation to our students.



Senior Prep Room

Many Year 12 students have been completing assessment tasks over the last 2 weeks. Students are encouraged to seek my assistance with these tasks. I can assist by explaining the task and its requirements, assisting with researching or explaining how to maximise marks based on the marking scheme, proof reading students' responses and guiding ideas.

All students should make use of my assistance and the Senior Prep Room as much as possible. Any student who has outstanding tasks (N Awards) or who struggles to complete tasks at home is strongly encouraged to spend all "study period" in the Prep Room instead of starting late or going home early. If your student loses focus when they return home early in their study periods please encourage them to remain at school and utilise the available resources.

I have also witnessed students helping each other with extended responses (English and Modern History) and listened with interest to some heated debates about the characters in "Pride and Prejudice".

I would also encourage parents and guardians to come and speak with me at the Parent Teacher meetings or contact me at school to discuss how I can best support your Year 12 student.

Fiona Bailey

2 out of 3 ain't bad

March 3rd, 2017. Last week our boys put on a show against Scone high School. Scone held their own in the first quarter by scoring 8 points. However, our boys turned out to be too strong and won the game 48 – 12. This game was controlled by our big four basketballers this year; Talesin Court-Kriesch, Blake Shackleton, Daemon Bourk and Jake Bartush. Hannah Hill was able to support the team whenever needed as she used the opportunity to develop her coaching and management skills.

The team took this winning attitude to the Federation Centre in Maitland on Friday the 3rd of March step up against the best basketballers the Hunter region has to offer. In fantastic atmosphere our team, our regulars, Thomas Pickersgill, Kane Cubillo, Reyde Hennessy, Sam Englebrecht and Shi Lee made the most of each opportunity to represent Muswellbrook on the court. Our boys came away from the experience with one win and one loss. Mr Melling.



Muswellbrook High School Open Boys Basketball team 2017.

New Teachers at Muswellbrook High School for 2017

Mr Spann

First job

Washing dishes and cleaning tables in a food court.

Are you a mountain, sea or river type of person?

Sea. I love to go fishing.

Best takeaway in Muswellbrook

Country Noodles in Campbell's Corner

Favourite TV show

House MD

Favourite season

Winter. I much prefer the cold.

Best book you have read

Interesting Times by Terry Pratchett

Do you prefer pens or pencils?

Pencils. I never got my pen licence in primary school.

Favourite all time movie

The Cornetto Trilogy

Can you sew a button on your own clothing?

Haven't had to since Yr8 textiles so probably not. I should learn how to.

Favourite sports team

North Queensland Cowboys

Where did you go to Primary School?

Kentville State School

Where did you attend High School?

Riverside High School and Launceston College

Mr Melling

1st job :

Washing dishes and cleaning tables in a food court.

Are you a mountain, sea or river type person?

Sea. I love to go fishing.

Best takeaway in Muswellbrook:

Country Noodles in Campbells Corner.

Favourite TV show:

House MD

Favourite season:

Winter. I much prefer the cold

Best book you have read? I

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Do you prefer pens or pencils?

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Favourite all time movie?

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Can you sew a button on your clothing?

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Favourite sports team?

North Queensland Cowboys

Where did you go to primary school?

Kentville State School

Where did you attend High School?

Riverside High School & Launceston College

FREE
PARENTS AND CARERS
MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE

It is with great pleasure that Muswellbrook High School has the opportunity to host a Parents and Carers Youth Mental Health First Aid Course. Upper Hunter Community Services has been successful in gaining a grant from NIB foundation to facilitate this course to the Muswellbrook community.

The MHFA course teaches adults how to assist adolescents who are developing a mental health problem or in a mental health crisis. Participants will learn about adolescent and the signs and symptoms of these mental health problems, where and how to get help and what sort of help has been shown by research to be effective.

This is a 14 hour course, which is scheduled to run Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd April at Muswellbrook High School, 9 am – 4 pm. Participants will receive a copy of the YMHFA Manual and a Certificate of Completion. The cost of the course normally retails at \$250 per person, however, due to the successful grant the course is FREE.

Any interested adult can attend, however, there are limited positions. If you are interested in completing the 2 day course please contact Narelle Smith (Head Teacher Wellbeing) at Muswellbrook High School to secure your position 65431033.



Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

(Term 1, 2017)

http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/images/TTFM_Student_Survey_FAQs_Parent_and_Carers_T12017.pdf

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au>

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 13 March and 7 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Wednesday 22nd March 2017. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>.

Mr Brian Drewe

Deputy Principal



*Local Schools Band
and Vocal Workshop Day*

CONCERT

Wednesday 3rd May 2017
Muswellbrook High School MPC
Concert starts at 6pm
\$5 per person or \$15 per family
BBQ available from 5:15pm

*Come and see performances by local
Primary and Secondary Students
All family and friends welcome*





**Nationally Consistent
Collection of Data**
School Students with Disability



Information for parents and carers

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (the national data collection) is an annual collection that counts the number of school students with disability and the level of reasonable educational adjustment they are provided with.

The national data collection counts students who have been identified by a school team as receiving an adjustment to address a disability under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (the DDA). The DDA can be accessed from the ComLaw website at www.comlaw.gov.au.

what is the benefit for my child?

The aim of the national data collection is to collect quality information about school students with disability in Australia.

This information will help teachers, principals, education authorities and families to better support students with disability to take part in school on the same basis as students without disability.

The national data collection is an opportunity for schools to review their learning and support systems and processes to continually improve education outcomes for their students with disability.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

All schools across Australia collect information about students with disability. But the type of information currently collected varies between each state and territory and across government, Catholic and independent school sectors.

When undertaking the national data collection, every school in Australia will use the same method to collect information. Therefore, a government school in suburban Sydney will collect and submit data in the same way as a Catholic school in country Victoria and an independent school in the Northern Territory.

The information provided through the national data collection will enable all Australian governments to improve target support and resources to benefit students with disability.

WHAT ARE SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO DO FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY?

All students are entitled to a quality learning experience at school.

Schools are required to make reasonable adjustments, where needed, to assist students with disability to access and participate in education free from discrimination and on the same basis as other students.

These responsibilities are outlined in the DDA and the Disability Standards for Education 2005 (the Standards). The Standards require educators, students, parents and others (e.g. allied health professionals) to work together so that students with disability can participate in education. The Standards can be accessed via the ComLaw website at www.comlaw.gov.au.

WHAT IS A REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT?

A reasonable adjustment is a measure or action taken to help a student with disability access and participate in education on the same basis as students without disability. Reasonable adjustments reflect the assessed individual needs of the student, and are provided in consultation with the student and/or their parents and carers. Reasonable adjustments can be made across the whole school setting (e.g. ramps into school buildings), in the classroom (such as adapting class lessons) and at an individual student level (e.g. extra tuition for a student with learning difficulties).

What information will be collected?

Every year your child's school will collect the following information for each student with a disability:

- the student's level of education (i.e. primary or secondary)
- the student's level of adjustment
- the student's broad type of disability.

The information collected by schools will be provided to all governments to inform policy and programme improvement for students with disability.

WHO WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

The definition of disability for the national data collection is based on the broad definition under the DDA.

For the purposes of the national data collection, students with learning difficulties such as dyslexia or auditory processing disorder as well as chronic health conditions like epilepsy, diabetes or asthma, that require active monitoring by the school, may be included.

Who will collect information FOR THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

Teachers and school staff will count the number of students with disability in their school and the level of reasonable adjustment they are provided based on:

- consultation with parents and carers in the course of determining and providing reasonable adjustments
- the school team's observations and professional judgments
- any medical or other professional diagnosis
- other relevant information.

School principals are responsible for ensuring the information identified about each student is accurate.

How will my child's privacy be protected?

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all students and their families is essential. Personal details such as student names or other identifying information will not be provided to local or federal education authorities.

Further information about privacy is available from www.education.gov.au/notices.

IS THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION COMPULSORY?

All education ministers agreed to full implementation of the national data collection from 2015. This means that all schools must now collect and submit information annually on the number of students with disability in their care and the level of adjustment provided to them.

Information about the arrangements that may apply to your school in relation to this data collection is available from your child's school principal and the relevant education authority.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your child's school if you have further questions about the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability.

You can also visit www.education.gov.au/nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability.

An e-learning resource about the Disability Standards for Education 2005 is freely available for the use of individuals, families and communities at <http://resource.dse.theeducationinstitute.edu.au/>.

Got a jumper?


Don't wait until it gets cold.

There are only a few weeks left of term
and the uniform shop will close for 3 weeks
due to Anzac Day, re-opening **Thursday 27th April**.
See the school website for further information.




Community News

JUNIOR Girls League Tag



COME ALONG & TRY LEAGUE TAG: Next Thursday the 9th of March we are hosting a 'Come & Try' session from 4.30pm to 5.30pm at Olympic Park for any girls wishing to play League Tag with the Muswellbrook Junior Rams this year. It's a great way for young girl's ages 10 through to 16 to keep fit, involve themselves in a local team sport and have fun with their friends. The event is FREE and will be run by our NRL Development Officers. Girls, bring your school mates along to give it a go - YOU WILL LOVE IT.



Rams 2017 Season


Muswellbrook PCYC is holding its next Safer Driver Course on Tuesday the 28th March.

This course is for learner drivers who have 50 hours in their log book. For more information

please call the PCYC on 65411434 or call in to pick up your pack.


2017 Youth Week is nearly here!

Check out these awesome Youth Week events that are happening in the Upper Hunter, Muswellbrook and Singleton!



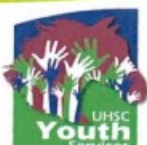
IN Y W NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK

BLOW-UP BONANZA



Friday, 21 April 2017
No. 2 Oval, Merriwa
3pm - 8pm

- Inflatable waterslides
 - Inflatable obstacles
 - Other inflatable challenges
 - **Outdoor Cinema in the evening**
- All Upper Hunter Shire families welcome!
 - Busses running from Scone & Murrurundi youth centres
 - Alcohol free event, BYO nibbles
 - For enquiries phone 0447 610 915, contact your local youth centre,  find us on facebook or go to UPPERHUNTER.NSW.GOV.AU



Youth Week 2017

31 March
to 9 April



Get involved, be heard,
make a difference!



YOUTHWEEK.NSW.GOV.AU

UPPERHUNTER.NSW.GOV.AU

@ Singleton Youth Venue

Youth Week Launch Party

It's party time at the Youth Venue! We've got the food, games, tunes, and good times to kick off Youth Week in style.

- Thursday April 6th
- 4pm - 7pm
- FREE

Movie Night on the Youth Lawn

Join us for a outdoor screening of *Jumanji* - chill out with friends and a flick, right here under the stars.

- Friday April 7th
- 6pm - 8pm
- FREE
- Food and drink available for purchase

Don't forget to like us on Facebook!
Singleton Youth Venue



Face up fears

Battle Zone

We're ready to lock n' load as we bring real, authentic Laser Tag to the Youth Venue!

- Saturday April 8th
- 10am - 1pm
- FREE

EMPOWER

100% Inspire
AUGH
Crested

31 March
to 9 April

Youth Week 2017

Get involved, be heard,
make a difference!



youthweeknsw

#youthareknsw

@youthareknsw



www.youthweek.nsw.gov.au

Youth Week 2017



31 March To 9 April

Have
Confidence

Laugh

Dream

Inspire

EMPOWER

Create

Be You

*Get involved, be heard,
make a difference!*

**UPPER HUNTER YOUTH SERVICES INC.
PRESENTS A FREE
CINEMA BY THE POOL
“Ghostbusters (2016)”**

Where & When

Muswellbrook Aquatic Centre
24 March 2017
7.00pm—10.30pm
FREE ENTRY

Activities

FREE entry into Aquatic Centre
FREE Movie “Ghostbusters”
BBQ Dinner— \$2.00 each
Drinks—\$1.00 each
Bring a chair and/or rug

Enquiries

Upper Hunter Youth Services Inc.
Located @ The Showground
Ph: 02 65434841
Website: www.uhys.org.au

Thank You to Our Sponsors & Volunteers

UH Youth Services BHP Billiton Muswellbrook Council Muswellbrook Aquatic Centre RMS Muswellbrook Bakers Delight—Muswellbrook Farm Fresh Meats—Muswellbrook Muswellbrook Signs PCYC—Muswellbrook Muswellbrook Police



**NO CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 10 YEARS WILL BE ALLOWED
ENTRY UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR CARER**





RANZSE BUNYA CAMP



This April after holidays come along and experience an adventure in student exchange to New Zealand. Spend 3 days with 2017 exchange students at Lake Burrendong on the weekend after the April school holidays includes fun activities and games, talking about how the trip has been so far. Get a taste for 2018.

BUNYA CAMP



Cost \$150

Transport assistance available

For more info email Gillian Weatherall
<gillianweatherall@gmail.com>

Friday 28th April — Sunday 30th April 2017



Lake Burrendong Sport & Recreation Camp

RSVP to our Rotary Australia/New Zealand Short Exchange taster

Rotary District 9670

[www.rotary9670.org.au/SitePage/rotary-australia-new-](http://www.rotary9670.org.au/SitePage/rotary-australia-new-zealand)



Batyr Parents Forum

"Starting a Conversation with your Teen"

batyr Parent Forums offer a range of perspectives on the topics of mental health and wellbeing of young people from a variety of experts and speakers. Through a young lived experience speaker and a Q&A session, Parents will walk away with a greater understanding of mental health and how they can improve the wellbeing of their children while at school.

The program:

- A batyr facilitator introduces where the Mental Health of young people currently sits on a national scale.
- Parents hear a personal story from a young batyr speaker on their lived experience of mental ill health, highlighting the signs their Parents looked out for and what support their Parents offered.



- The program discusses how Parents can approach a conversation with their teen, including what works and what doesn't work from a young person's perspective. Parents are equipped with the same language that we introduce to the students in our school programs, using batyr's 5 tips to 'Look out, Listen up, Get talking, Reach out and Take charge'

- Parents will hear from a keynote speaker - a professional in the mental health space - who shares their experience and research. This presentation touches on the spectrum of mental health, issues facing society, and what solutions are available to encourage help-seeking rates in young people.

- A Q&A will be facilitated by batyr, with a panel of local mental health

professionals and a batyr speaker, to provide a range of perspectives for Parents.

- Finally, the program focus on what services and resources are available for young people and how Parents can utilise them to support their family.



"After hearing batyr's stories, it really helped me to understand my own son and get on his level" – Parent



batyr Australia Limited ☎
ABN: 61 152 932 737
www.batyr.com.au
Level 1, 74 Pitt Street, SYDNEY, NSW 2000

giving a voice to the
elephant in the room



giving a voice
to the elephant
in the room

A WHOLE COMMUNITY
EVENT FOR SINGLETON

PARENT FORUM

'STARTING A CONVERSATION WITH YOUR TEEN'

an information night for parents, carers
and community members on the mental
health and wellbeing of young people

WED 5 APRIL 5.30 - 7.30 PM

SINGLETON HIGH SCHOOL . ALL WELCOME
AFTERNOON TEA PROVIDED BY OUR HOSPITALITY FACULTY
PLEASE RSVP FOR CHILD CARE BY WEDNESDAY 29 MARCH

batyr Parent Forums offer a range of perspectives on mental health and wellbeing of young people from a variety of experts and speakers through a young lived experience speaker and a Q&A session, Parents will walk away with a greater understanding of mental health and how they can improve the wellbeing of their children while at school
you can read more at www.batyr.com.au/school-programs

spaces are LIMITED so RSVP reina.bielsastalker4@det.nsw.edu.au or call 6571 1199



BROUGHT TO YOU WITH THE PROUD SUPPORT OF THE ORGANISATIONS ABOVE

Wakagetti Indigenous Corporation & Gunni Thakun Cultural Association

presents



Annual Upper Hunter Men's Health Gathering
Weeraman Fields, Muswellbrook

Saturday 8th April 2017

Starts @ 2pm - 6pm

Corroboree: 6:00pm to 7:30pm

FREE
Entry



Cultural Activities

Special Guest Presenters

Men & Women's Learning Tents

Aboriginal Language Hub and more...

Catering on the Day:

Kangaroo, Emu & Possum Sliders

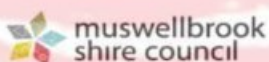
And Sausage Sizzle

Gold Coin Donation



Contact: Waylon - **0427 944 469** or Joel - **0411 490 714**

Catered by:



General Information



SCONE HOCKEY

COME & TRY DAYS

(EQUIPMENT PROVIDED FOR NEW PLAYERS TO TRY)

Bill Rose Sporting Complex

(on the training fields between the park and netball courts)

Wednesday 15th March 4:30pm – 5:30pm

Wednesday 22nd March 4:30pm – 5:30pm

Tuesday 28th March 4:30pm – 5:30pm

2017 Fee's:

U7s \$40.00 – U9s \$60.00 – U18s \$90.00 - Seniors \$160.00

Your fee is based on the age that you are on the 1st January

Competition

Commences

1st April 2017

Divisions

U9s (mixed)

U11s (mixed)

U17s (mixed)

Men's

Women's

Senior Team nominations will be emailed out and to be returned at the next general meeting on 7th March

All games played on Saturdays

General Information

Girls League Tag - fun, fitness & friendships.

The 2017 rugby league season is fast approaching and the Aberdeen Tigers are now taking registrations for the upcoming season in all 3 divisions of girls league tag **U12s, U14s & U16s** which kicks off on Saturday 1st April.

Registration can be done online via www.membership.sportstg.com - search for Aberdeen Junior Rugby League. Cost is \$80.

All registrations can be done online and training sessions will be commencing shortly. All girls league tag games will be played on a Friday evening. So grab a few friends and come join us for some fun.

For further information please contact Addie Parker on **0432 514 774**.

search for our facebook group

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search for our facebook group

Aberdeen Junior Rugby League



Bushwalking in the Upper Hunter

National Parks Association 60th Anniversary

Anyone who would like to get out with people who know the way and have access to some of the most stunning landscapes in Australia, you might like come on some of this years National Parks Association (NPA) 60th celebration walks.

Walking in the bush is great for your overall well-being and is a good social opportunity. People interested in coming on our walks are welcome to join as guests for a couple of walks and then, if you like it, join us! Typically our local walks are all day, up and down hill with some scrambling and are on the last Sunday of the month.

Contact Wendy Wales for more information about suitability, what to bring, and where to meet. email <wendy.wales1@det.nsw.edu.au>.

Mar-26	Towarri NP, Cedar Trail
Apr-30	Wallabadah Rock
May-28	Brushy Hill
Jun 10-12	Dunn's Swamp
Jun-25	Mt Royal NP
Jul-30	Baeami and convict trail, Milbrodale
Aug-27	Towarri NP - Middlebrook Creek
Sep-24	Doyles Ck/ Martindale
30 Sept-2 Oct	Barrington Carson Trail
Oct-29	Wollemi, Kerrabee

MUSWELLBROOK EAGLES 2017

REGISTRATIONS ARE STILL OPEN FOR THE LOCAL JUNIOR COMPETITION

Register now to avoid disappointment! Competition starts on the first weekend back in Term 2 (Saturday April 29th).

Follow the link when you log in to Myfootball club on the Northern NSW football site.

Jo Holt 0409 225 911

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.



Upcoming Events 2017

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 28 March 2017 | Catch up day for school photo's that were missed on 20th |
| 6 April 2017 | Zone Cross Country |
| 8 April 2017 | School holidays begin |
| 26 April 2017 | Term 2 resumes for ALL students |
| 2 May 2017 | Yr11 Gulgong Excursion (2 days) |