



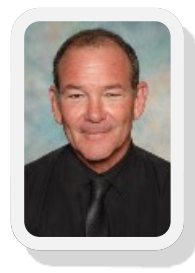
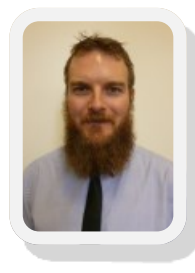
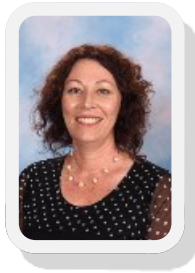
# Muswellbrook High School



*"Striving for excellence in a school that cares"*

**NEWSLETTER 5**

**13/06/2017**



## Principals Report

Muswellbrook HS students have achieved outstanding success at the Local, State and International platforms, across a variety of disciplines.

This special newsletter is about acknowledging that success. Thank you to the dedicated parents, community members and staff who provide opportunities for our young people to shine.

*Acknowledgement of error.* Unfortunately, the promised article about the Robotics excursion was omitted in the latest newsletter. Please accept my apology and note that the article is in this edition.

## Wonderful Community Involvement

Our very generous community have once again provided exceptional opportunities for our students. With the aid of grants from Bengalla Mine, Muswellbrook Shire Council and NSW Government Science and Engineering as well as sponsorship from community members, parents and local organisations, a team of six students and Robotics Team coach Mrs Katrina Byrnes travelled to USA to complete in the World Robotics Championships. There is a more detailed article in the newsletter.

## Invitation to the ProBL (Problem Based Learning) Exhibition

Parents and community members are invited to the inaugural Year 7 ProBL Exhibition of student works. This will take place in D Block on the 22 June 2017 from 4 pm – 6 pm. We would love to see you there and to acknowledge the hard work of our students.

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## **Deputy Principals Report—Scott Copland**

We are almost halfway through the year and our ProBL students are about to exhibit some of their amazing tasks completed this year. For those who are unaware of what exactly ProBL is, it is a teaching and learning program where students are provided everyday problems, which fit into a number of Syllabus Outcomes. The students will tackle a problem, develop solutions within groups or as individuals, and present their results to an audience. The task may incorporate a range of subjects e.g. English and HSIE, Maths and Science and will provide a unique and engaging way of developing young enquiring minds.

Year 7 students involved in ProBL will be presenting their tasks on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June in the school library. The exhibition will run from 4pm until 6pm and is open to parents and interested public members. Please come along and enjoy looking at the efforts of our Year 7 students.

As the weather gets extremely cold it is important for the school to maintain its excellent record of wearing uniform while ensuring the students are warm. Please remember the uniform shop is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays to purchase items. During winter, we often have students arrive at school with “hoodies”. These jumpers are swapped for proper uniform jumpers, however, this does not address the fact the students heads may be cold. Muswellbrook High School changed it’s policy on beanies and they have now become part of the uniform. We encourage students to purchase a school beanie from the uniform shop, however, if this is not possible, I would ask that the beanies purchased are the same colour as the school’s dark blue.

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### **Robotics: Houston Tour – FIRST Robotics World Championships**

Our team travelled to Houston USA in the second week of the April school holidays. The flight was long, just over 15 hours from Sydney to Dallas. Then a connecting flight to Houston.

We spent two days recovering from jet lag and sightseeing with tours to NASA and a baseball game. Highlights were discovering Houston’s amazing underground tunnel system that was a subway system, transformed into a myriad of shops, eateries and walkway networks between buildings in the Uptown business area.

The three days of World competition games was tough, with many great and inspiring teams competing well. During the first day of qualifying matches we moved up to 8<sup>th</sup> ranking out of 65 teams. The second day we moved up to 7<sup>th</sup> ranking which was an awesome effort by the team, even when things were starting to go wrong with the robot. One match saw our entire alliance of three teams encounter lost wifi connections (communication) to our robots and subsequently, we lost the match. From there we were plagued with more robot troubles and the team struggled to gain the momentum to climb back, from our low position of 42. Unfortunately, we missed out being chosen as an alliance team for the playoffs. However, the team learnt a lot about competing at Championship level. Our students discovered Worlds is hard work, the pressure is huge and being resilient when things go wrong is what can make the difference in a team’s morale. We also learnt a lot about other teams, met many new friends and found inspiration for our next robot design with many amazing robots.

## Robotics: Houston Tour – FIRST Robotics World Championships—cont'd



## Robotics: Houston Tour – FIRST Robotics World Championships—cont'd

*On the last day we stayed on to cheer on other Australian teams that made it to playoffs on the final day before a little last minute shopping at the Galleria. Travelling to the World Championships would not have been possible for all of our student team if it wasn't for the kind and generous community we have in the Muswellbrook area. Thank you to all community groups, small businesses and general public of Muswellbrook for donating funds to help our team travel. The highs and lows we experienced, the amazing food (its all big in Texas) and the experience of touring around Houston will stay with all of us, for a lifetime! Thank you to Carolyn Worth for taking over 900 photos of everything that I am still trying to find time to get through! Another thank you to Chris Nichols, for his awesome work as team driving coach at Worlds.*



**Mrs Katrina Byrnes**  
**Robotics Coach**

## Careers News

Local industries and businesses came out in force to assist our students last week with our annual Muswellbrook High School Careers Day. We hosted over 20 exhibitors from a range of industries with representatives offering their time to assist our students in advising them about career pathways and employment opportunities across a wide range of fields. The feedback from both our students and employers about the many opportunities available to school leavers was very positive, with many of our students now pursuing employment across a variety of areas which were represented on the day. We also had three guest speakers on the day, with speakers from AGL Macquarie, Glencore and Muswellbrook Shire Council. The hints and tips they provided our students are invaluable to any job seeker today, given our connectivity to social media and technology.

We have also been lucky to have had Bengalla representatives come and speak to our students regarding the release of their annual Apprenticeship Program. Interested students were provided the opportunity to gain an insight into life as an employee at Bengalla and the opportunities provided as well as information regarding the recruitment process.

We have some special activities planned for the end of June with Back to the Brook on the 23rd June, where past students are invited back to talk with our senior students. There will also be an excursion to the University of Newcastle on 29th June. Details for both events will be sent out shortly.



## CAPA—Eisteddfod

On Friday May 26<sup>th</sup>, students from Muswellbrook High Schools Vocal Ensemble, competed in the Annual Upper Hunter Eisteddfod, Schools Choral Division.

This event was held at St James Primary School and had students competing from schools in the Upper Hunter all the way down to Newcastle.

We competed in four sections on the day and placed 1<sup>st</sup> in own choice, 1<sup>st</sup> in Musical Theatre, 1<sup>st</sup> in Local Schools contrasting songs and 2<sup>nd</sup> in contrasting songs.

The students did a wonderful job and are very proud of their results.

Mrs Laura Martin

Music Teacher

Vocal Ensemble Director



## CAPA—cont'd

# Muswellbrook & Upper Hunter Eisteddfod 2017 School Bands Division

Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of May saw Mr Foy and Miss Pope take five of our ensembles to compete in the School Bands Division of the 2017 Muswellbrook & Upper Hunter Eisteddfod. Our students presented 7 different items in 4 different categories and achieved outstanding results, on the day.



**Concert Band – 1<sup>st</sup> Place**



**Stage Band – 1<sup>st</sup> Place**



**Guitar Ensemble - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place**



**Forever Falling – 1<sup>st</sup> Place**



**Butter Wounds – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

## PDHPE & SPORT

### Rugby League Report

#### U13's

It's been a great first year of rugby league for the players in the U13's rugby league team. The boys played in the Knights Knockout in Singleton against some talented Upper Hunter sides. The team started out strong with a win against St. Joseph's Lochinvar 30-0. It was an excellent overall game with many strong runs and effective defence. Against local rivals St. Joseph's Aberdeen, Muswellbrook High School enjoyed a healthy lead 16-8 with ten minutes to go. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, the boys lost a close one 18-16. There was a final game against Singleton High school and despite some excellent play, Muswellbrook High School lost 22-12. It was a great start to their rugby league experience at a high school level and we look forward to seeing them develop over the upcoming years.



#### U14's

The team recently competed in the Knight Knockout at Muswellbrook's Olympic Park. Unfortunately, due to some late withdrawals the team competed short-handed with only 12 players available for the entire day. Despite this set back Muswellbrook High School battled strongly and had a commendable performance vs Singleton High School, losing 22-10. Our next game was against a strong St. Joseph's side who outscored us 28-4. Despite being short-handed all day, Muswellbrook High School found enough energy to win strongly against Scone High School in their last game. Excellent will and determination finished a great day of football. The boys finished up winning 26-10. A great big thanks to some of our Year 7 boys who backed up the team when numbers were short.

#### U15's

It was a tough ask competing against two of the better teams in the state, however, the Muswellbrook High School 15's rugby league team battled strongly at Cook Park in Singleton. They came up against a strong St. Joseph's Aberdeen side who dominated play early and didn't let up. The boys haven't played much together and some late inclusions meant that it took a while for the boys to hit their straps. Unfortunately, St. Joseph's did run away with the match and win comfortably. In their last game against Singleton, Muswellbrook High School did manage to get on the score sheet, however, being down on players and experience meant that Singleton proved too strong on the day. Many thanks to our supportive parents who drove and helped on the day.

#### U16's

The under 16's experienced a 'Hunter trials' style game recently at Olympic Park in Muswellbrook. With many students unable to attend, Muswellbrook High School fielded a combined side with Singleton High School to compete against a very strong Singleton U16's side. The day was an opportunity for different rugby league schools to play together and develop their skills. There was no score kept on the day but rugby league was definitely the winner with lots of big hits and slick tries. Many thanks to our parent and community volunteers who ran the canteen and set up the fields.





## BOYS U14's, U16's, 17's+ FUTSAL

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 3 teams travelled to Maitland Indoor Basketball Stadium to compete in the Hunter Valley Region Futsal Tournament.

All teams played a number of games throughout the day against teams from the Hunter Valley area. Unfortunately none of the teams made it through the semi finals, however we had a few wins and draws throughout the tournament.

All the boys demonstrated great teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the day and should be very proud of their efforts and level of participation! There are some photos of the boys in action below, thanks to Sheri Court-Kriesch!

Appreciation also goes out to our supportive school families who travelled to Maitland for the day to transport and support the teams.



## 2017 Muswellbrook High School Athletics Carnival

On the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017 the annual Muswellbrook High Athletics Carnival was held at Weeramem Field in Muswellbrook. Rain threatened to dampen spirits in the early morning but fortunately for all, the sun shone through making it a perfect day for the students who all participated with great enthusiasm.

The age champions on the day were as follows.

Age	Female	Male
12	Jessica Foreman	Cayden Gray
13	Emily Chapman	Brody Perry
14	Ashley Halliwell	Brad Aylett
15	Taylah-Jane Anderson	Jack Mullane
16	Jaide Cutrupi	Oscar Bates
17+	Hannah Hill	Ty Watson



We also had four records broken on the day. All four of these records were broken by Brody Perry (Yr7) who is definitely a talented athlete, and a name to remember in the future.

Name	Event	Record
Brody Perry	13 years boys 100m	12.83
Brody Perry	13 years boys 200m	25.04
Brody Perry	13 years boys high jump	1.6m
Brody Perry	13 years boys long jump	5.21m

## 2017 Muswellbrook High School Athletics Carnival - cont'd

The House point Score at the end of the day can be seen below with Hunter the winners on the day.

Page	470
Goulburn	569
Paterson	599
Hunter	689

Students who came first and second in each event will now compete at the upcoming Zone carnival on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June. We wish them the very best of luck.



Miss Bowe - Carnival  
Organiser

## Outward Bound 2017

On 27<sup>th</sup> May 2017 three of our MHS girls, (Jasmine Cain, Alannah Miller and Kate Rowlands) travelled on a bus for 10 hours towards the Tweed Valley for the annual Upper Hunter, Youth Leadership, Outward Bound program.



Upon arrival, Kate, our only Year 9 student, was whisked away to start her 6 day expedition, which included canoeing, abseiling and hiking for over 50kms with everything needed for the week on her back. They rode mountain bikes for approximately 15km over rocky terrain and through mud, they climbed 10m up a tall tree called Big Ben which over looked a cliff, and they completed hours of environmental service that included creating spaces for people to come.

Jasmine and Alannah, along with all other Year 10 students, stayed 2 nights at base camp and participated in a leadership program run by a retired Outward Bound manager. On their 3<sup>rd</sup> day they had a 2.30am wake-up, so they could hike up Mt Warning and see the sunrise from the peak. This was particularly special as Mt Warning is the first place in Australia to receive the sun's rays each morning. After the 9km round trip, they were bussed approximately 50kms away and had the next 4 days to hike, canoe and abseil their way back, all the time carrying everything they may need on their backs.



Although accompanied by experienced Outward Bound instructors, these adults only stepped in when they needed to. Students were expected to navigate from camp ground to camp ground, set up and pack up camps, cook all meals and lead the group at a pace all could comfortably keep up with. They, along with their group members, were required to work as a team to set and achieve goals all week, from what time they would wake up in the morning to how far they would hike that day and where they would camp that night.



## Outward Bound 2017

Although the activities sound like punishing hard work and not so much fun, the girls gave 100% to everything they did and made some very strong friendships which will be sure to last a long time. They learnt so many teamwork, leadership, life and survival skills on a world renowned program.

I am extremely proud of them, the way they conducted themselves and of what they achieved. Well done girls!!

A big thank-you to Coal & Allied for giving each of our girls some form of sponsorship. Without you, this amazing program would not be achievable.

Sally Bowe.

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## Hunter Representative Success!

Each year students in our school who are extremely talented in their sport have the opportunity to trial to become a Hunter Region Representative. They compete against students from all over the Hunter region, both Upper and Lower areas, for this honour. Successful students get to continue on to further carnivals and competitions at that level, and have the opportunity to be selected as a NSW Representative. So far this year, seven of our students have been selected as Hunter Representatives in their chosen sport.

Congratulations to the following students on their selection at Hunter Rep Level:

Bailey Taylor – Touch Football  
Fletcher Baker – Rugby League  
Brock Greacen – Rugby League  
Natasha Hall – Touch Football  
Ashtyn Quinn – Cross Country  
Zahli Woolnough – Swimming  
Brydie Parker – Touch Football

Emmanuel Sithole, a student who has been selected in Hunter Rep for Rugby League in previous years, unfortunately missed out this year. However, he was selected into the President's side – a team of 'wild card' style entries, who are able to move forward and trial as a separate team alongside the Hunter Rep team for NSW selection. This is still a great honour and testament to Emmanuel's skill level, although unfortunately due to injury he had to withdraw.

We are proud of our students success and wish them well moving forward. Later this year we have many students trialling for the Hunter Representative Cricket sides, and we wish them luck.

Pictured: Back L-R Bailey Taylor, Fletcher Baker, Emmanuel Sithole, Brock Greacen  
Front L-R Natasha Hall, Ashtyn Quinn, Zahli Woolnough, Brydie Parker



## PDHPE & SPORT

### Girls Bill Turner Trophy Rounds 2+3

Our Under 15's Girls Bill Turner Trophy played their second and third round games at a gala day on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May at Metford.

The competition attracts teams from all schools across NSW, with Muswellbrook playing ASC St Peters in their first game. The team fought hard to defend and attack, however couldn't hold out the opposition from putting some goals on the scoreboard.

With a big day of soccer, the girls also came up against Singleton and Rutherford High Schools in their next games. Managing to score a few goals, the team unfortunately lost these games as well, but not before they were able to show their determination and perseverance on the field!

With quite a few Year 7 girls in the team, I'm sure they will continue developing over the next few years and get some good results.

Thank you to the parents who assisted with travel and supporting the girls throughout the day – these things are not possible without your help!



## PDHPE & SPORT

### Boys Round 2 Bill Turner Cup

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May the Under 15's Boys Bill Turner Cup team travelled to Metford to play Maitland Grossmann in the second round of the tournament.

Down to a 13-man squad, the team had 2 substitutes to last them the game. The Muswellbrook boys played a solid game, with Atticus and Callum scoring a goal each. The team defended well, against a solid attacking Maitland Grossmann outfit and they did well to hold them at 5 goals.

Unfortunately the loss puts them out of the competition, however they should be very proud of their efforts in both games! Thank you to the parents who transported the boys to and from the venue and supported them from the sidelines.



*Watoto*

# Signs & Wonders

**FREE CONCERT**

A VIBRANT WORSHIP EXPERIENCE  
THE SOUND OF A TRANSFORMED GENERATION  
BY A FAMILY OF ORPHANS  
FROM UGANDA

**WHEN**

**28th June 2017 6pm.**

**WHERE**

**Scone High School MPU**

Gundy Rd

Scone.

WATOTO CHURCH AT WORK  
WATOTO.COM







# MUSWELLBROOK RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB INCORPORATED

P.O. Box 356, MUSWELLBROOK 2333



## Muswellbrook Rugby Union Club - Juniors 2018

The Muswellbrook Rugby Union Club is aiming to re-establish our junior club in 2018. The club would like to hear from interested players and parents to help us get our juniors back on the field in 2018. The club would like to enter teams in the Hunter Junior Rugby Competition which caters for age groups from U7's to U17's.

The Hunter Junior Rugby Competition plays games on Saturdays and consists of teams from Singleton, Pokolbin, Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Medowie & Nelson Bay.

We are looking for coaches, managers, players & committee members to re-establish the Junior Club.

If you or your child is interested in playing/coaching Junior Rugby Union in 2018 or you need more information, please contact us.

[muswellbrookrugbyunion@gmail.com](mailto:muswellbrookrugbyunion@gmail.com) or

Greg Buckley – President 0427 878910

# Important Information

**Facebook**— [facebook.com/mbkhigh](https://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](http://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