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## Coming Events

Wed 21/9  
 Year 12 Formal

Fri 23/9  
 Year 12 Formal  
 Assembly



Merewether High Support Unit

## Diary Dates

Tue 20/9 P&C Meeting  
 Tue 20/9 DEA Meeting  
 Wed 12/10 HSC Exams

## Principal's Report

Dear Parents

Our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual *POSH Concert* at the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music was held on Tuesday 30 August with a program packed full of amazing talent by our music students. The concert provided our Year 12 students with an excellent opportunity to practice their HSC performances before their final practical exam. Those of you who attended the concert will agree with me when I say that the standard of our students' performances was outstanding. Congratulations to all the students who performed on the night and a huge thank you to the music staff who organised the evening.

It was very pleasing to see so many Year 10 students and their parents at our *Course Selection Information Evening* on Tuesday 23 August. A comprehensive presentation of important points enhanced understanding of the senior curriculum. Students and parents also had the opportunity to ask staff questions regarding the various senior courses that will be offered at Merewether High for 2012. It was most enjoyable to meet with parents and hear how the plans that were being formalised for their HSC pattern of study.

We also had many in attendance at our recent Year 8 *Parent and Student Information Night* on Wednesday 31 August. Mrs Reilly delivered valuable information about the Stage 5 curriculum so that students could develop an understanding of the important years ahead. Again, parents had the opportunity to talk to members of the teaching staff to ensure that they had sufficient details about their child's future courses and electives.

The Year 11 *Parent and Student Information Night* on Wednesday 14 September provided opportunity to raise awareness of HSC programs and options through a comprehensive presentation of course requirements. For those parents who were unable to attend, the Powerpoint file will be emailed to Year 11 parents. As always, parents are requested to make contact with the school if there are any questions relating to programs/courses offered.

In recent weeks Year 7 and Year 8 students have been involved in *Board Meetings* during which students talk about their progress in their courses and reflect on their learning. Staff involved report the pleasure they experience in



witnessing students presenting their work and discussing in a very mature manner their strengths and areas for development in relation to their academic studies.

Our Year 12 students have now completed their trial HSC examinations and the remaining week of this term will be vital for completing course content and final revision. I have reminded all students that their effective organisation and planning in the lead up to the HSC are essential to maximise their outcomes and minimise their stress levels.

Our formal Year 12 Farewell Assembly will be held on Friday 23 September commencing at 11:00am. Parents of Year 12 students are reminded to put this date in their diaries so that they can be present at this important occasion.

In recent weeks I have reminded all students of the important role each has in promoting the values of MHS and bringing credit and pride to themselves, their peers, their family and their school. I feel very proud of the manner in which the vast majority of students conduct themselves whether it is within the school, moving to and from school, as student representatives at various activities in the broader community, etc. The ambassadorial role each plays is invaluable. In this regard, I am extremely proud of the approach taken by Year 12 to their final weeks of school. At this time in the school year, we frequently hear of foolish and irresponsible actions by senior students at various schools across the State. We have reminded Year 12 of the esteem in which they are held within the school and the respect that has been developed over their years at MHS. The school has set boundaries in terms of expectations and we seek parental support at this time in encouraging and supporting the positive contributions of each and every student. In this way, we will have a conclusion to the term that is rewarding for all concerned.

As this will be my final report in the role of acting principal, may I also take this opportunity to thank students, staff and parents for the support that has been received. No principal could ever expect greater encouragement than that which I have been offered. I am very humbled by these actions.

**Graeme Muddle**  
**Acting Principal**

**Congratulations** to Elyse Hudson on being selected to receive a 2011 Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement. This is a great honour for Elyse and for MHS. The presentation ceremony was held on Monday 12 September 2011 in Sydney.



### **DER Laptop Upgrades**

The DER laptops have proven to be a valuable learning aid for many of our students, providing additional internet access and enrichment opportunities to improve the quality of learning. Throughout the implementation of the program there has been a need for continual upgrade to keep the initial laptops current with new devices and ensure the long term integrity of both hardware and software, this involves returning the laptops to our TSO (Technical Service Officer) at various times.

The school has endeavoured to make this process as efficient as possible and has provided notification of the latest upgrade to students and parents via email, daily notices, reminder slips and classroom visits. At this point a significant number of students in Year 11 have not taken the opportunity to complete the latest upgrade and there is a concern that this failure will lead to reduced efficiency and additional costs (not met by DET) in keeping the laptop viable.

**Noel Glover**  
**Relieving Deputy Principal**

### **Return of Absence Notes**

Students should bring in an absence note within 3 days of their return to school. If this is not done a reminder note is mailed home. This note must be returned to their roll teacher or handed in to the office within a week at the latest. After this time a hard copy of the rolls is printed as the official legal document and by law no changes can be made to this document. So, if no explanation is provided within these time limits the absence will be recorded as unexplained and this cannot be changed even if a note is provided at a later date, unless it can be proven that a clerical error was made.

**Ed Kelty**  
**HT Administration**

## **ENGLISH**

### **PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE**

The Premier's Reading Challenge is now closed. Students were advised to complete their logs by 29 August for verification. Certificates of participation should arrive next term. Congratulations to all our participants.

### **ICAS COMPETITIONS**

The University of NSW ICAS Spelling and Writing competition results have arrived and participants have received their certificates. The Spelling Competition is open to Year 7 students only. Congratulations to: Alicia Law, Maddelene Gifford, Callum Hirst, Jack McCombe and Tom Su who have all achieved Distinction awards.

The Writing Competition is open to students in Years 7 to 12. Congratulations to: Abbey McPherson (Year 7) for achieving a High Distinction award and to the following students who achieved Distinction awards: Zar Chavla (Year 7), Lachlan Patey (Year 8).

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Reid Butler who won this year's Sydney Morning Herald Young Writer of the Year Award. This is an outstanding achievement for Reid who has now won the competition two years running.



# Newcastle Jazz Festival

Senior Jazz has once again excelled in the local community; their performance at the Newcastle Jazz Festival on Sunday 28 August was simply wonderful! What an amazing quality of students and musicians we produce at Merewether High School.

It has taken many years, but the ensemble has reached an incredibly high standard with a very tight sound, and the band received many positive comments and compliments at the conclusion of the performance.



The band played a mix of old and new jazz charts and Year 12 student Hugh Lightbody was a featured artist, performing his HSC piece "High Maintenance". (Well done Hugh!)

It is with great sadness that we farewell our Year 12 students: Hugh Lightbody (kit), Brennan Fell (bass), Rees Carman (trumpet), Shaun Chambers (trombone), Beau Evans (sax) and Ben Fraser (clarinet). This was their last ever gig and what a gig it was! Thank you one and all for your incredible talent and commitment over the years – you truly will be missed.

I would also like to take this opportunity to formally welcome on board some amazing young MHS talent. It was the first ever professional performance for new members Brodie McFarlane (clarinet), Kirsty Dale (keys), Josh Docker (guitar), Reuben Ryan (bass) and Sam Docker (kit). All students did brilliantly for their first time, and I can't wait to see how they develop in years to come.

Keep up the amazing quality of musicianship MHS Senior Jazz!

**Rebekah McClure**  
**Music Staff**



## TARONGA ZOO – GERMAN IMMERSION DAY

At the end of term 2 our Year 8 German language students spent a day at Taronga Zoo, accompanied by Ms Raby, Mrs Allen, Ms Henderson and Anja Schmalhausen, our German Language Teaching Assistant.

The students participated in a special German Language Immersion Program, organised by the Goethe Institute in Sydney.

In spite of the inclement weather (it rained all day!!!), the day was definitely a huge success!

Our students enjoyed bilingual instruction on native animals in the zoo's education centre. They asked and answered questions about the animals in German, witnessed an amazing bird show and completed a treasure hunt.....*all in German!*



Even the giraffes took pity on the zebras and shared their shelter in the torrential downpour



Year 8 students were taught about Australian native animals in German

A big thank you to staff who accompanied the students on their excursion and to the rangers at Taronga Zoo and the Goethe Institute for organising such an amazing day.

**Carole Raby**  
German Teacher

## Support Unit News

### Camp to Point Wolstoncroft

Students from Merewether High School joined 50 students from across the Hunter at a three day camp. Students arrived on an overcast morning at Point Wolstoncroft on Wednesday 17 August and stayed until Friday 19 August 2011. Students attended from Cardiff, Cessnock, Francis Greenway, Hunter River Community School, Maitland and Tomaree High Schools.

The first activity after lunch was canoeing – in the rain – but that was no problem with many students filling their canoes with water both accidentally and on purpose. The next day was full activities – low ropes, high ropes, the giant swing, archery and cycling. On Friday everyone had the rooms all packed up before breakfast. After breakfast there was souvenir shopping followed by activities including boomerang throwing and rock wall climbing. The night activities were a huge hit with some very competitive participants.

It was a successful camp and everyone is looking forward to the combined camp in November 2012 to Coffs Harbour.

**Denise Hughes**  
Class Teacher



*Georgina and Sophie are paddling with friends*



*Lizzie is climbing the rock wall to ring the bell at the top*



*Veronica and Emma out on the lake with their friends*



*Andrew abseiling down the rock wall after reaching the top*



*Emma, Veronica, Katelyn, Lizzie and a friend waiting to commence the low ropes course*





*Georgina faced the challenge of the high ropes course and completed it*





## Information for Students Re: YOUNG ENDEAVOUR YOUTH SCHEME As supplied by Young Endeavour

Australia's national sail training ship *Young Endeavour* is now accepting applications for youth to join eleven day voyages departing between January and June 2012. Young Australians aged 16 to 23 can apply for the ballot at [www.youngendeavour.gov.au](http://www.youngendeavour.gov.au) until 30 September 2011. No sailing experience is required.

A voyage in *Young Endeavour* is an amazing experience, and a unique opportunity for youth to develop teamwork and leadership skills through a world recognised organisation. The current ballot includes voyages along the eastern coast of Australia, which will be crewed by youth from around the country.

During each voyage youth crew learn the skills to successfully sail a square rigged ship. They climb the 30 metre mast, set and furl sails, and maintain a 24 hour watch on the bridge. They also learn to navigate, take the helm, keep lookout and help the chef in the ship's galley. Once they have learned these skills, each youth crew will take command of *Young Endeavour* for 24 hours, and on their last day at sea will host a local group of youth with special needs, sharing their new found knowledge and experiences.

18 year old Hannah Richards of Blackburn, Victoria completed a voyage from Hobart to Sydney in February, and says it was one of the best things she has ever done. "*Young Endeavour* pushes you outside your comfort zone. It challenges your expectations and teaches you about your own strengths," says Hannah. "I met new friends from all around Australia and now constantly recommend a voyage in *Young Endeavour*."

17 year old Errol Zanos travelled all the way from Wagait Beach in the Northern Territory to join the youth crew and sail *Young Endeavour* into Sydney in July. He applied after hearing about a mate's amazing adventure, and says, "I will always remember climbing aloft at night and furling the sails. As well as learning how to sail a tall ship, my time aboard *Young Endeavour* has improved my teamwork skills and my self esteem."

Since 1988 the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme, in partnership with the Royal Australian Navy, has provided challenging training voyages for over 11,000 young Australians in the tall ship *Young Endeavour*. The specially designed program delivered aboard the ship increases the youth crew's self awareness, develops teamwork and leadership skills, and fosters a strong sense of community spirit.





**\*School Uniforms**

**\*\* TAX**

**DEDUCTIBLE**

**from 1. July 2011**

\* Only the "Approved" school uniform, available from the school shop, is tax deductible.

\*\* From 1. July 2011, 50% of the cost of the "Approved" school uniform will now be included in education expenses up to a maximum of \$1558.00 P.A.

This applies to all persons eligible for family tax benefit(Part A).

amounts from the Commissioner's discretionary power regarding the application of payments, credits and RBA surpluses against tax debts.

Schedule 6 contains no application provision, although according to the table in clause 2 to the Bill, Schedule 6 commences on 1 July 2011.

AMENDMENT DATED 23/2/2011

## Schedule 7—Education expenses tax offset (uniforms)

### Background

The Rudd Government announced the Education Tax Refund on 18 October 2007 as part of its *Tax Plan for Australia's Future*.<sup>44</sup> On 13 July 2010 Prime Minister Gillard announced that the refund would be expanded to include the cost of school uniforms.<sup>45</sup>

Under the Education Tax Refund eligible parents can currently claim a 50 per cent refund for up to \$780 of education expenses for primary school children (a refund of up to \$390) and up to \$1558 for secondary school children (a refund of up to \$779).<sup>46</sup> Subsection 61-640(4) of the ITAA 1997 contains a table listing claimable items, which includes computers, home internet, textbooks and trade tools for secondary school trade courses.<sup>47</sup> Under section 61-620 of that Act, only persons eligible for Family Tax Benefit (Part A)<sup>48</sup> are eligible for the Education Tax Refund.

### Main provisions

Item 1 of the Schedule 7 adds a new table item 7 at the end of the table in subsection 61-640(4), to allow a deduction for the cost of clothing and footwear that is required or approved by a school as its school uniform.

Item 2 applies the amendment to expenses incurred on or after 1 July 2011.

44. K. Rude, S. Smith, W. Swan, *A tax plan for Australia's future – Labor's \$2.3 billion education tax refund*, Media statement, 18 October 2007, viewed 25 January 2011, [http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlinfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=id\\_per:cent3A\\_per:cent22media\\_per:cent2Fforestal\\_per:cent2F591510\\_per:cent22](http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlinfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=id_per:cent3A_per:cent22media_per:cent2Fforestal_per:cent2F591510_per:cent22).

45. J. Gillard (Prime Minister), *Gillard Government to ease school's costs with new tax refund for school uniforms*, joint press release, 13 July 2010, viewed 25 January 2011, [http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlinfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=id\\_per:cent3A\\_per:cent22media\\_per:cent2Fforestal\\_per:cent2F15380\\_per:cent22](http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlinfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=id_per:cent3A_per:cent22media_per:cent2Fforestal_per:cent2F15380_per:cent22).

46. The amount claimable is indexed under subdivision 960-M of the ITAA 1997.

47. For more detailed information about the operation of the Education Tax Refund, see: <http://www.ato.gov.au/inquiry/duels/content.asp?doc=/content/20166468.htm>

48. The Family Tax Benefit provisions are contained in the *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) Act 1995* and the *A New Tax System (Family Assistance) (Administration) Act 1995*.

**Warning:** All viewers of this digest are advised to visit the disclaimer appearing at the end of this document. The disclaimer sets out the status and purpose of the digest.

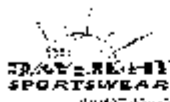
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- **Shop Stock Only**
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*Uniform Shop Special Opening Hours*

# Merewether High School

**TERM 3 2011**

**CONTACT NAME: Janette 0413650634**

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	<b>JULY</b>	
MONDAY	18th	12noon - 4:00pm
THURSDAY	21st	8:00am – 12noon
MONDAY	25th	<b>CLOSED</b>
THURSDAY	28th	8:00am – 12noon
SATURDAY	30th	8:00am – 12noon
	<b>AUGUST</b>	
MONDAY	1 <sup>st</sup>	12noon – 4:00pm
THURSDAY	4 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am – 12noon
MONDAY	8 <sup>th</sup>	12noon - 4:00pm
THURSDAY	11 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am – 12noon
MONDAY	15 <sup>th</sup>	12noon – 4:00pm
THURSDAY	18 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am – 12noon
MONDAY	22 <sup>nd</sup>	12noon – 4:00pm
THURSDAY	25 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am – 12noon
MONDAY	29th	12noon – 4:00pm
	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
THURSDAY	1 <sup>st</sup>	8:00am – 12noon
MONDAY	5 <sup>th</sup>	12noon – 4:00pm
THURSDAY	8 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am – 12noon
MONDAY	12 <sup>th</sup>	12noon – 4:00pm
THURSDAY	15 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am – 12noon
MONDAY	19 <sup>th</sup>	12noon – 4:00pm
THURSDAY	22 <sup>nd</sup>	8:00am – 12:00noon

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

## MEREWETHER HIGH SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Rec #: \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM	PRICE \$\$\$	SIZE	QTY	TOTAL Incl GST
<b>GIRLS</b>				
<i>Tartan 2 Pleat Skirts - Standard</i>	<b>\$48.50</b>			
<i>Tartan 2 Pleat Skirts - Long</i>	<b>\$48.50</b>			
<i>SNR White Blouses</i>	<b>\$27.00</b>			
<i>JNR Sky Blouses</i>	<b>\$27.00</b>			
<i>Navy Slacks</i>	<b>\$38.00</b>			
<i>Navy Shorts</i>	<b>\$35.00</b>			
<b>BOYS</b>				
<i>Beltloop Shorts</i>	<b>\$35.00</b>			
<i>Elastic Waist Shorts</i>	<b>\$35.00</b>			
<i>Beltloop Trousers</i>	<b>\$42.00</b>			
<i>JNR Sky Shirts</i>	<b>\$26.00</b>			
<i>SNR White Shirts</i>	<b>\$26.00</b>			
<b>UNISEX</b>				
<i>Wool Jumper</i>	<b>\$75.00</b>			
<i>School Jacket</i>	<b>\$65.00</b>			
<i>School Hat</i>	<b>\$15.00</b>			
<b>SPORT/PE</b>				
<i>Sports Polo</i>	<b>\$33.00</b>			
<i>Microfibre Track Pants</i>	<b>\$35.00</b>			
<i>Microfibre Sports Shorts Standard</i>	<b>\$25.00</b>			
<i>Microfibre Sports Shorts Super Sizes</i>	<b>\$25.00</b>			

TO PAY: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- CASH
- CHEQUE
- CREDIT CARD

PER .....



Dear Member of the MHS Community,

You may be aware that Robert Crawford Real Estate is a major sponsor of the MIIS International Sports Tour in 2013.

My wife, Maria, and I are the directors of this family operated agency that has operated in the Newcastle area since 1995. I have been involved in real estate in this city since 1978 and have expert knowledge of the area.

We are proud to be able to support this major activity in a local school. We know that the Sports Tour will enhance the developmental experience of many students from MHS.

We would like to extend our support and professional services to members of the MHS community – parents, staff and supporters – in terms of what we do best.

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E: robert@robertcrawfordrealestate.com.au

Maria Crawford  
M: 0409 492 694  
E: maria@robertcrawfordrealestate.com.au

Website: [www.robertcrawfordrealestate.com.au](http://www.robertcrawfordrealestate.com.au)

Just let us know of your association with MIIS and we will organise to meet with you at a time and place at your convenience.

Yours sincerely

Robert Crawford  
Director/Licensed Real Estate Agent  
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## Associate Sponsors



## Supporting Sponsors







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 Brown Sugar @ Bay Views  
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 Port Stephens Parasailing  
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 Kingsgrove Sports Centre  
 Tree Top Adventure Park  
 Sesames Taste of Asia

Sterling Silver Castle  
 Honeybee – Newcastle  
 Sharpes City gardener  
 Chaddies on Regent  
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 Sweet Traditions  
 ISP – Glendale  
 Lotus Espresso  
 Del Peco – The Junction  
 The Junction Pharmacy  
 Sushi Castle - Honeysuckle  
 Temple Hairdressing  
 BBQ's Galore – Kotara  
 Jesmond Fruit Barn  
 Toronto Retravision  
 Jeremy Dorricott-Samsung  
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 Mary Ellen Hotel  
 Marilyn's Accent on Beauty  
 APK Woodfired Pizza  
 NSW Netball – Sydney Swifts  
 Fringe Hair  
 Café 23hundred  
 Frames Promotions  
 Fashion Fish Swimwear  
 Air Sports – Newcastle  
 Indigo Books – Newcastle  
 Step Into Life – Training  
 Hunter Wetlands centre  
 Customs House Hotel  
 Talulah – The Junction  
 Iron Bark Hill Vineyard



**Merewether High School  
 Rugby Programs  
 are  
 supported by  
 Hamilton Rugby Club**



*If looking for a strong and reliable junior or senior club who contributes to your school, consider playing with Hamilton Rugby Club*



<b>Thursday 8 September 2011 - 23 September 2011</b>	
<b>Thu 8/9</b>	NSWCHS Athletics @ Homebush - 1/3
<b>Fri 9/9</b>	NSWCHS Athletics @ Homebush - 2/3 Immunization - Year 10
<b>Sat 10/9</b>	NSWCHS Athletics @ Homebush - 3/3
<b>Mon 12/9</b>	Year 12 Eng Extension - Town Hall - 30 - 8:30-3:15
<b>Tue 13/9</b>	Year 7 Parent Learning Group - 9:00-10:30 - Learning Centre
<b>Wed 14/9</b>	Year 12 (2012) Information Evening - 7:00pm - MPC
<b>Thu 15/9</b>	Year 8 Board Meetings
<b>Fri 16/9</b>	Year 12 (2012) Course selections due Year 8 Board Meetings Bulletin on website
<b>Mon 19/9</b>	Year 11 Hospitality Work Placement - 1/5
<b>Tue 20/9</b>	Year 11 Hospitality Work Placement - 2/5 DEA meeting - 6:00pm - Library P & C meeting - 7:30pm - Library Trial SC tests - MPC Year 8 Board Meetings
<b>Wed 21/9</b>	Year 11 Hospitality Work Placement - 3/5 Year 12 reports issued Year 12 Formal - Jockey Club - 6:00pm
<b>Thu 22/9</b>	Year 11 Hospitality Work Placement - 4/5 Trial SC tests - MPC Year 12 Welfare Day
<b>Fri 23/9</b>	Year 11 Hospitality Work Placement - 5/5 Year 12 Formal Assembly - 11:00 - MPC Last day Term 3
<b>October</b>	
<b>Mon 10/10</b>	Day 1 Term 4 - all students return Year 12 courses commence
<b>Wed 12/10</b>	HSC exams commence - finish 18/11/11