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### Coming Events

#### Friday 14th

Y11 Presentation Assembly  
11:00am MPC

#### Monday 17th

Y10 Presentation Assembly  
11:00am-MPC

Y9 Presentation Assembly  
1:30pm-MPC

#### Tuesday 18th

Y8 Presentation Assembly  
11:00am - MPC

Y7 Presentation Assembly  
1:30pm - MPC

#### Wednesday 19th

HSC results available

Presentation Day  
Whole School - 11:00am  
MPC

Last day of school for  
Years 7-11 students

#### Friday 21st

Y12 BBQ Lunch 11:30am



### Diary Dates

**Presentation Day-19th**  
December 11:00am

**HSC Results available-19th**  
December

## Principal's Report

As the 2012 school year draws to a close, I would like to take the opportunity, on behalf of the staff of Merewether High to thank everyone for an outstanding year and wish our students and parents a very restful and safe holiday and a merry Christmas. To each and every one of you, who makes up our school community, thank you for your continued support of the school throughout the year.

To those families who leave us, thank you for the years of involvement and support, stay in touch and let us know of the continued successes of our students.

In the past month since our last bulletin many activities have been completed by students and staff. The following are but just a few of those events.

**Hunter Blues Presentation** – three of our students received awards this year at the Hunter Blues Awards. Estelle Hughes received a Hunter Blue for Hockey and the 2013 Premier's Sporting Challenge Scholarship, Julia Barton received a Hunter Sports Award for Water Polo and Cameron Davy a Hunter Blue for Water Polo.



**Year 10 Portfolio Presentations, Year 7 and 8 Board Meetings** – students have participated in interviews where they have discussed the learning processes they have experienced while completing their studies. These presentations provide students practice in an interview situation and also the opportunity to reflect on the way they learn, the areas that work well and the areas they need to develop.

**All My Own Work** – all students commencing Year 11 in 2013 have completed the Board of Studies mandatory course. The program ensures students understand their responsibilities in relation to plagiarism before they commence their studies for the Preliminary Higher School Certificate.

**Yearly Exams** – all year groups have completed yearly examinations both in class and as a year group. The preparation and commitment to these exams by students was outstanding and all students are to be congratulated on the way they conducted themselves throughout the exams.



**Sports Presentation Assembly** – this was held two weeks ago and was a fitting celebration of the outstanding feats and results of our sportspeople and also a tribute to the entire school's contribution to sport throughout the year. Our special guest on the day was former student and London Olympics gold medallist Iain Jensen. One of our school houses has been renamed in honour of Iain and his results on the world stage.

**Prefects' Investiture** – our captains and prefects were inducted into their roles on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. The prefects and their parents joined Mr Muddle, Mrs Gilbertson and me for lunch to celebrate their induction.

**Leadership Conference** – our School Captains and Prefects attended the annual conference held in Sydney. The conference was attended by 3500 students from across New South Wales where future leaders have the opportunity to hear from inspirational speakers presenting their experiences in leadership. This was an opportunity for our leaders to reflect on their own leadership styles.

**ESSA Exam** – Year 8 completed the state wide exam online. Results from the testing will be available early next year. ESSA is similar to the national literacy and numeracy testing that occurs in May of each year for our Year 7 and 9 students. ESSA is a test of Science ability and allows us to see how our students perform in comparison to students across the state.

**Technology in Learning Training for all staff** – all staff have participated in this training throughout the term to develop and hone skills in the use of technology in learning.

The end of year brings some changes in staff for 2013. Mr Phillips from Science retires after many years of service to education. Mr Phillips' contribution to the school has not just been in the classroom but also on the sporting field. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Phillips for his service to Merewether High and the efforts he has made to provide a quality learning environment for his students.

Throughout next week we will take the time to celebrate the many successes of our students this year. Our celebrations culminate on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December with our Annual Presentation Day Assembly commencing at 11.00am. The P&C will provide morning tea after the assembly in the Learning Centre. Please come along and join us in celebrating the outstanding efforts of our students.

**Christine Rippon**  
Principal





## English

### Big Day Out

Gathering at Broadmeadow station at 6am Wednesday morning, all the Year 12 students who attended the "Big Day Out" for English knew it really was going to be a *big* day out. We caught the train to Central station in Sydney allowing many of us to catch up on much needed sleep or chat with friends. Our arrival was followed by a hasty power walk through the Sydney CBD to the Wesley Conference Centre in Pitt St where our first lecture began at 9am.

Our first session was *Hamlet* featuring speakers such as Professor Ronan McDonald, director David Berthold and Lindsay Farris (an actor who has played Hamlet on many occasions). Even though we do not study *Hamlet* until next year, the lectures provided a comprehensive overview of the themes of the play as well as some interesting points to consider when analysing the text. David Berthold and Lindsay Farris also demonstrated some useful techniques to help connect with the characters and themes in the play. The second session focused on our Area of Study concept, Belonging. An author, Danny Katz, shared some of his hilarious pieces about traumatic run-ins with "Embarrassing bodies" and souvenir wristbands that develop a mind of their own. Katz introduced new ways to approach creative writing for belonging that many of us had never considered. Chris Fleming gave a very informed piece on belonging within *Romulus my Father*, explaining many of the concepts accurately and in great depth. Most of those who attended would agree he was the most educational of all the speakers as we are also currently studying *Romulus my Father*.

After a short lunch break, the *Frankenstein* and *Blade Runner* session began, examining many aspects of the texts such as what monsters philosophically represent, what it means to be human and the influence of Romanticism and Individualism. The final lecture analysed poems from Ted Hughes' *Birthday Letters* and how conflicting perspectives between the characters are illustrated through a variety of techniques.

The conference was finished but the day was far from over. A sugar hit of chips and lollies got us back to the train station and on to Newcastle, arriving home at around 6:30pm. Although we were all exhausted by the end of it, the day was very enjoyable and useful in establishing a foundation of knowledge for all our Year 12 texts. On behalf of all who attended I'd like to thank Ms Davis and Ms Corney for organising the trip, we had a great time and I'd encourage the current Year 10's to attend next year's conference.

**Rachael Long**  
MHS Student





## SOCIAL SCIENCE

### AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

In keeping with the selective nature of Merewether High School, the Social Science Faculty is pleased to announce its AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE. We appreciate the generous assistance of the leading organisations listed below. They obviously hold our students and their education in very high regard.



ECONOMICS Year 12	\$200	
BUSINESS STUDIES YEAR 12	\$200	
LEGAL STUDIES Year 12	\$200	<b>Michael Evers &amp; Co</b>
GEOGRAPHY Year 12	\$200	
ECONOMICS Year 11	\$200	
BUSINESS STUDIES Year 11	\$200	
LEGAL STUDIES Year 11	\$100	
GEOGRAPHY Year 11	\$100	
COMMERCE Year 10	\$100	<b>CommonwealthBank</b>
GEOGRAPHY Year 10	\$100	
COMMERCE Year 9	\$100	
GEOGRAPHY Year 9	\$100	
GEOGRAPHY Year 9 Elective	\$50	



## University of Newcastle Business Planning Challenge

Four of the school's Business Studies students have won a business planning competition conducted by the University of Newcastle.

The team members are Cameron Allan, Vehayana Janu, Oran Krynda and Betrice Walker.

The students were part of a team that has been developing the winning entry for the past 2 years. It all began as part of their studies in Commerce and was refined this year in Business Studies, a subject in which the students are accelerating their HSC studies to complete the course one year earlier than their cohort group.

The Business Plan Challenge is an annual competition open to students studying Business Studies in Year 11. This year over 250 students entered the competition and just 4 entries were selected as finalists to present their plan to the judging panel at the University. The Merewether team developed an idea for a consultancy and installation business called ECO Energy. The business focused on providing advice and installation of energy efficient components in households and businesses. A particular strength of their plan was the marketing strategies which had a social media focus.

The team members each received \$500 and the chance of a \$2000 scholarship towards study at the University of Newcastle. The team also won \$1000 for their school. Team members would like to thank Mrs West and Mr Berry for their guidance in developing their winning entry.



## YLTW Conference

YOUth LEADing the World was an environmental conference where groups of students congregating in 50 destinations worldwide simultaneously on November 27-29 met to come up with some solutions to environmental problems. The focus was on how we could reduce our ecological footprint. The ten students from MHS who attended the conference were Teya Duncan, Zane Butler, Emily Worthington, Freya Dastoor, Jacqueline Smith, Sam Parker, Jonathon Clifford, Braeden Abbott, David Schmidt and Ben Homer.

Over the 3 days we discussed many environmental issues including 5 major concerns which were:

1. Overpopulation
2. Destruction of Habitat
3. Melting of Polar Regions
4. Water Pollution
5. Health Concerns from Industry/Mining

After discussing these environmental issues we then got into groups and came up with some action plans to help us to reduce our impact on the environment. Some action plans related to renewable energy, reducing energy production, better transport systems and to stop destroying natural habitats.

After discussing these action plans on how to help the environment, we gave a presentation to the public about environmental issues and our action plans to convince them to be more environmentally friendly.

Over the 3 days we learnt lots, and now have many strategies to help save the environment and reduce our personal impact. We would like to thank Mrs Donnelly for giving us this great opportunity and Oz Green and YLTW for running the conference.

**Ben Homer**  
MHS Student



## Hospitality



2013 has been a busy year for our Hospitality students. They have catered for a variety of functions, including World Girls' Day earlier this term, completed 35 hours of mandatory work placement, become skilled baristas by completing a coffee course, enjoyed excursions, and supported charities.

The catering initiative for OzHarvest was a fabulous success, and 2 coffee shops held by our seven Year 12 students raised \$424.70 for "Robin's Nest".

In more recent news, during weeks 7 and 8 of this term, our fifteen Year 11 Hospitality students held 2 coffee shops to raise money for "beyondblue". "Beyondblue" is a national, independent, not-for-profit organisation working to address issues associated with depression, anxiety and related disorders in Australia.

Due to the overwhelming support by the students and staff of Merewether High and the incredibly hard working Hospitality students, a grand total of \$925.55 was donated to "beyondblue".

I am extremely proud of each student for their initiative and commitment displayed during our latest charity fundraiser and the students are very proud of their achievement and the fact they are able to donate this impressive amount to "beyondblue".

**Wendy Rosser**  
Hospitality Teacher





## PDHPE

### **Year 7 Swim, Save, Survive Program**

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November Year 7 students participated in a Swim, Save, Survive Program at Charlestown Pool (girls) and Mayfield Pool (boys).

Students were grouped according to their swimming ability and participated in swimming, lifesaving and survival skills under the leadership and instruction of Year 10 PASS students. The activities included survival swimming strokes, entries and exits, dry rescues, underwater search and resuscitation.

Year 7 are congratulated on their high level of commitment when completing the program, especially during the very strenuous clothed swim. Year 10 PASS students are congratulated for their enthusiasm, maturity and responsible attitude displayed as they undertook their role as instructors.

We would also like to thank the pool staff for their support and assistance over the two days.

### **Year Assemblies**

Parents and students are reminded of the following dates for Year Assemblies to be held in the Bensley Hall:

Year 11 Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December commencing at 11.00am;  
Year 10 Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December commencing at 11.00am;  
Year 9 Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December commencing at 1.30pm;  
Year 8 Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December commencing at 11.00am;  
Year 7 Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December commencing at 1.30pm.

Parents and guests are advised to arrive at least five minutes before the commencement time of the assembly. Students are reminded that full school uniform must be worn.

### **Year 10 Crossroads and All My Own Work Programs**

Year 10 students are reminded to attend the mandatory Crossroads and All My Own Work programs on their respective days as follows: 10 B C E – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December and 10 G M N – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

Students are required to report to roll call and then to their designated venue as per the organisation sheet posted on the PDHPE noticeboard. Rolls will be marked throughout each day and full MHS uniform must be worn.

Please see Ms Morrison if you have any questions about the Crossroads program or Mr Glover for information regarding All My Own Work.





## Year 10 Volunteering

The Year 10 Volunteering program has been a huge success again this year. The students were engaged in a variety of activities over the four days. A large group of students went to the Hunter Wetlands and mulched, weeded and planted. Ronald McDonald House had a group helping in the house. Eight students were with John Hunter Hospital Sites Carers (the pink ladies), many students returned to their old primary schools. The feedback from the host organisations has been overwhelmingly positive, many places wanted to keep the students!

### Year 10 Students at the Hunter Wetlands



### Envirothon Report

On the 31<sup>st</sup> October, four Year 12 students, namely Connor Buckley, Pratchi Tewari, Tully Hambridge and Amber Wilson participated in the Envirothon competition at the Hunter Wetlands Centre. Envirothon is a fieldwork competition for senior Geography students involving a day of environmental activities relating to flora and fauna, indigenous culture, water testing and mapping activities. Merewether High was awarded equal first place in the competition, with the students being awarded canoeing and Segway vouchers. Congratulations to the students for their outstanding performance.







## Year 10 and Year 11 German



**Guten Appetit !**

German students from Years 10 and 11 enjoyed a 'foodie' excursion to **Oma's Kitchen** in Newcastle.

What a fantastic experience! The owners of the German food restaurant made us very welcome and we were even served by 2 German waiters who took our orders in German!

Students sampled a range of German culinary delights, including Goulash and Dumplings, Quark Patties, Pork meatballs, Bratwurst and Sauerkraut and much more!

To make the occasion even more authentic many of the students dressed for the occasion and looked amazing in their genuine Lederhosen and Dirndls.

## Year 9 German

In 2012 Year 9 German students entered the Modern Languages Teachers' Association Short Film Competition. The students had to write and make a 2 minute film in German. It also had to include English subtitles.

The film followed the format of the Tropfest competition. The theme was 'A Big Mistake' and they had to include a newspaper somewhere in the film.

The students had a great time making the film, and it was a great learning experience. They took on various roles in the production of the film, including writing the script, directing, filming, producing and editing.



**Year 9 German students show off their MLTA certificates**

The good news was that our film was actually shortlisted and was shown to an audience at the Awards Screening at the Parliament House Theatre in Sydney in early November. Unfortunately we did not win first prize, but our students were runners up and have received Merit Awards for their film.



## YEAR 8 FRENCH



**Bûche de Noël** is a traditional dessert served near Christmas in France. The traditional *bûche* is made from sponge cake, generally baked in a large, shallow Swiss roll pan, frosted, rolled to form a cylinder, and frosted again on the outside.

Bûches are often served with a portion of one end of the cake cut off and set on top of the cake or protruding from its side to resemble a chopped off branch, and bark-like texture is often produced in the buttercream for further realism. This is often done by dragging a fork through the icing. The cakes are often decorated with powdered sugar to resemble snow, tree branches, fresh berries and mushrooms.

Year 8 French students produced their own versions of the cake using whipped cream and lolly decorations. The general consensus seemed to be that it was tastier than fruit cake.



*JOYEUX  
NOËL*



*MERRI  
KURISUMASU*





## Prefect Leadership Day



On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November, our prefects, Mrs Rippon and Ms Gilbertson travelled down to Sydney for the Halogen Foundation's National Young Leaders' Day. The National Young Leaders' Day is an annual event founded in 1997 to develop strong leadership values amongst young Australians. The program consists of keynote talks, multi media presentations and interactive learning meant to

inspire and motivate young people to lead themselves and others well.

This year's keynote speakers included scientist, radio presenter and passionate climate change advocate Karl Kruszelnicki and Ozharvest founder and visionary Ronni Kahn. All highlighted determination, focus and persistence as integral to leadership as well as working as a team rather than from the front. All students enjoyed the day immensely and came away brimming with enthusiasm and eager to make a difference back at Merewether High School.



## Year 12 Visual Arts Study Day

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November, Ms Gilbertson and Year 12 Visual Arts students attended the Visual Arts Study Day down at the Art Gallery of NSW. The day consisted of workshops in how to respond to HSC questions, with a special focus on the artworks that were on display in the gallery as inspiration. All students found the day informative and interesting, giving them confidence in the theory component of the course. Some challenging artworks were analysed, such as a specially built "house" which contained many crime scenes as art and a prostrate clown with evil intentions.





## EVENT DIARY

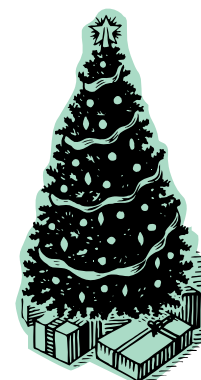
	DECEMBER
<b>Fri 14/12</b>	Y10 Crossroads - All My Own Work Y11 Presentation Assembly -11:00am
<b>Mon 17/12</b>	Y10 Presentation Assembly -11:00am-MPC Y9 Presentation Assembly – 1:30pm-MPC
<b>Tue 18/12</b>	Y8 Presentation Assembly - 11:00am - MPC Y7 Presentation Assembly - 1:30pm - MPC
<b>Wed 19/12</b>	HSC results available Presentation Day - Whole School - 11:00am - MPC Last day of school for Years 7-11 students
<b>Thu 20/12</b>	School Development Day (SDD)
<b>Fri 21/12</b>	Last day, Term 4 - SDD Y12 BBQ Lunch 11:30am

We wish all of the students and their families a very happy & safe Christmas break.

We look forward to seeing you all in the new year!

From all of the staff at

Merewether High School.





## MEREWETHER HIGH SCHOOL ALINTA UNIFORM SHOP

### 2013 January Opening Hours



**The Uniform Shop**  
**0401 725 885**  
**Merewether\high@alinta.com.au**

### JANUARY SHOP OPENING TIMES

Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2013	8.00am – 3.00pm
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2013	8.00am – 1.00pm
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2013	8.00am – 1.00pm
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2013	8.00am – 10.00am

**Normal shop hours resume**  
**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013: 1.00pm – 3.30pm**

To help keep your trip to the Uniform Shop in January as short as possible, and to avoid long queues and delays, we recommend that January only be used for pick-ups. Please make your fitting appointments for December.

Uniform price list & online shopping available at:  
[www.alintaapparel.com.au](http://www.alintaapparel.com.au)



## WAVE KIDS CLUB

JAN 14-20 | 9-11:30AM

Lambton High School, Young Rd, Lambton.

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TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## SIDELINE CAFE

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## Creative Writing Workshops

for young writers

*Learn how to get started and how to keep going*

*Enjoy writing and reading brilliant stories*

Held at Hunter Writers Centre, 90 Hunter St, Newcastle.

11 – 12 year olds  
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013

13 – 14 year olds  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2013

15 – 16 year olds  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2013

10am – 2pm  
\$30

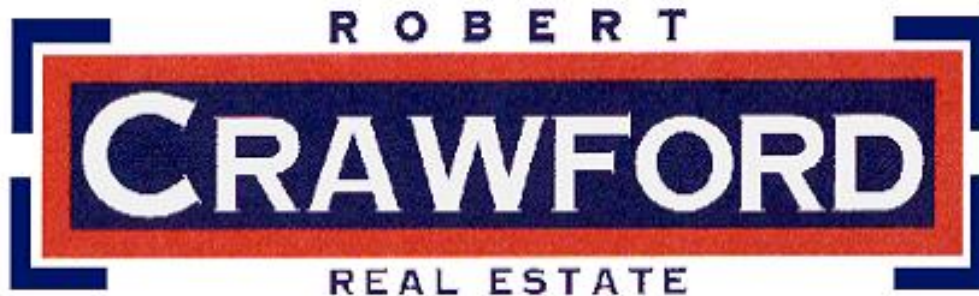
**Bookings Essential:** [hunterwriterscentre@gmail.com](mailto:hunterwriterscentre@gmail.com)



# Merewether High School

We wish to thank the following for their generous support of our 2012-13 Sports Tours

## Major Sponsor



## Supporting Sponsors



## Associate Sponsors

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- Ocean Beauty Therapy
- Cha Chaz @ The Junction
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- ANZ Hamilton
- Tip Top Bakeries
- Carla Sportswear
- Ric Woods Photography
- Newcastle City Holden
- Back to Bikes Wallsend

- Glen Geary Good Guys
- Sellers Quality Meats
- Chaddies on Regent
- Bunning's – Kotara
- Colin Chapman Real Estate
- The Junction Pharmacy
- Sushi Castle - Honeysuckle
- Port Stephens Parasailing
- Peppers Anchorage
- Empire Furniture
- Toronto Retravision
- Jeremy Dorricott-Samsung
- Kathy Docker–New Direction
- Purnells Trophies

- Vikas Ski Lodge – Jindabyne
- Exchange Hotel
- Scenic World-Blue Mountains
- Pulse Climbing
- Hamilton Rugby Club
- Q'S Books – Hamilton
- Amore Hair Design
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- Rebound Physiotherapy
- Darby Street Meats
- Frames Promotions



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**Amanda Murray**  
OFFICE MANAGER



**Madelyn Morris**  
PROPERTY MANAGER



**Kerry Robertson**  
PROPERTY MANAGER



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



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