



Diary Dates

P&C Meeting
Tuesday 18/10
7:00pm - ILC

This Issue

- P1 Principal
- P1 Captains & Prefects
- P2 Student Bulletin
- P6 Hospitality
- P8 Duke of Ed

Dates to Remember

13/10 HSC Commences

26-28/10 Urban Challenge Year 9

7/11 Year 7-10 Exams Commence

9/11 HSC Concludes

Welcome back to Term 4. This term is already shaping up to being a very busy one with HSC exams, exams for Years 7-10 and Year 11 commencing their HSC studies, completing their accelerated HSC exam and first assessment tasks in their other courses. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Year 12 and Year 11 good luck in their HSC exams which commenced Thursday 13th October.

Congratulations to our captains and prefects for 2017. Our captains elect are Sam McIntyre and Priya Vakil, the vice-captains elect are Jacob Gamble and Georgina Brindley. Prefects: Luke Barron, Davis Harrara, Grace Harvey, Gavin Hays, Lizzie Mee, Callum Melville, Maddie Melville, Campbell Moore, Lauren Moore, Sammy Sethumadhaven, Cameron Shaw-Carmody, Tom Suters, Zephan Thambar, Gabby Walker, Rachel Vakil and Hailin Zhao.

During the last two weeks of Term 4 an upgrade of the school canteen preparation area will be undertaken. This upgrade is being funded by the P&C using P&C funds and the donations made by our parents to the School Building Fund. The upgrade will cost approximately \$140,000. There will be a disruption to the operation of the canteen for the last two weeks of term. We are currently planning how we will operate a limited service during those weeks and more information will be available in the next bulletin in November.

Congratulations to all recipients of awards at the Sports Presentation Assembly held in the last week of Term 3. Due to the State Athletics carnival being held late in Term 3 we were unable to formally acknowledge the following students who won medals at the carnival.

- Milly Stephenson – won gold in the 13 years 100 and 200 metre sprints
- Sarah Pickering – 13 years 800 metres- silver, and bronze in the 14 years 1500 metres
- Miles Petersen – bronze 400m 17+ years
- Zax DeVenny – bronze 200m 15 years

Congratulations also to:

- Sahrvil Kesarwani who won a gold medal in the Australian Mathematics Olympiad competition
- Zack Schofield who has been selected to be a delegate on the 2017 Young Diplomat Tour to Europe in January
- Xin Yuan Yang – selected in the state Badminton team and contested the Australian Under 15s Championships in the Northern Territory last holidays
- Nirmanee Rathnayaka of Year 11 who has been selected to receive a highly commended award as part of the 2016 Ministers Awards for Excellence in Student Achievement – Community Languages Schools

Captains and Prefects

To you Merewether High School,

The teachers, parents and - most importantly - the extraordinary students, we give our immense and humble gratitude for this opportunity to lead as Captains for 2017. We promise to lead you to the absolute best of our ability, returning to a wonderful school community so much of what it has given us in the past years.

We appreciate the trust and faith you have in us and hope to return it tenfold with effort and inspiration throughout the year eagerly awaiting. Having such big shoes to fill, it is appropriate that we have a big year to fill them up with - old school values are stepping aside, current prefecture is stepping up and new students are expectantly stepping in.

We are very much looking forward to working alongside our passionate Vice Captains and Prefects, and thankfully with the Executives and school community supporting us, we couldn't be in safer hands. In every faculty and year group we are dedicated to encouraging and carrying the Merewether mantle of integrity, diversity and excellence. Merewether is lengthening its belt for an annual growth spurt and rolling up its sleeves for a booster shot of school spirit.

So you have permission to be excited, because we graciously are.

~ *Samuel McIntyre and Priya Vakil, Captains 2017*

Dear students, staff and parents of Merewether,
As your Vice Captains for 2017, we cannot express how thankful we are to the students and staff of Merewether High for giving us the opportunity to be a part of such a wonderful leadership team. We embrace this role with open arms, and are excited to be working alongside the prefect body and supporting Sam and Priya in giving back to this school that has provided us with so many opportunities over the past 5 years.

We hope that we can work towards creating a more diverse and inclusive school community between and across year groups while encouraging an even stronger school spirit. From Year 7 right up to Year 12, we hope to inspire students to foster new friendships and continue to bring life to this school, just as the prefects before us have done.

The introduction of our new school values - integrity, diversity and excellence - is just one of many actions to come that we hope will create an even better school. We look forward to a fun and fantastic year!

~ *Georgina Brindley and Jacob Gamble, Vice Captains 2017*

Starstruck

Maya Cox and Zara Kelly, Year 7

Star struck this year was yet again an amazing performance, with the theme; 'Our Heroes.' There were four shows from the 14th to the 18th of June, some of these late at night. Our school put in an outstanding effort, going to many rehearsals prior to the shows, which required dedication and time off school. Starstruck gave the opportunity for the best of Merewether High's singers, dancers, instrumentalists and soloists to showcase their skills. Merewether High School is very grateful to have such committed teachers who are happy to put in time to help their students.

After watching Starstruck this year 'our heroes' were definitely the performers, teachers and parents who helped to make it possible for Merewether High School to participate. Congratulations to everyone who put in 100% effort!



Our dancers this year in (left) The World Turned Upside Down and (right)

Don't Nobody Bring Me No Bad News.

The Young Endeavour

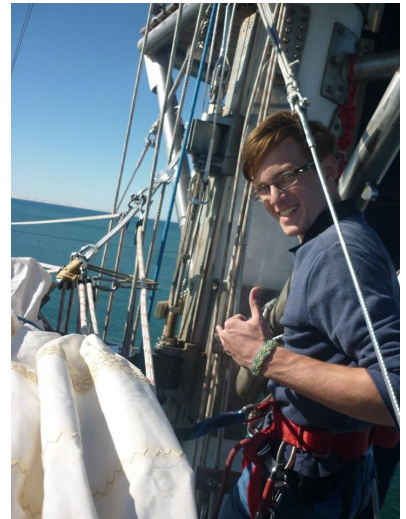
Alyssa Wharton, Year 7

How would you like to go on a 11 day sailing trip, meeting friends and learning about leadership skills? The Young Endeavour Youth Scheme is a program run by the Royal Australian Navy in which 25 young people between the ages of 16-23 embark on a 480 km journey that began in Sydney, then to Jervis Bay, back to Sydney, Broken Bay and then finally to Newcastle docking at Queens Wharf. Zack Schofield of Year 11 was lucky to be a member of the crew on this amazing leadership course.



“The voyage was probably the most fun I’ve ever had,” says Zack, “My favourite part of the journey were the morning briefs, consisting of various sea stories that always seemed a bit outlandish.”

Zack strongly recommends everyone should sign up, experienced or not.



Wonderful Weather in Merewether

Gabriel Clifton, Year 12

Recently, if you looked up when you were not inside, you will have noticed a wonderful, pure blue haze above you. That is known as the sky, and recently, it’s been lovely. In Newcastle, Merewether and most of the East Australian coast, the weather in recent times has had a propensity towards clarity and clearness that almost seems to reflect the clarity and clearness of all Merewether students.

And as Spring begins, a reminder to Merewether students to cherish the weather, cherish each other, and to be vigilant of rule-breaking, antisocial activity among the departing students of Year 12.

Wellbeing Week - The stress relief Year 12 needed

Cara Rixon, Year 12

To relieve some of the stress from Year 12’s final weeks, the prefects organised a ‘Wellbeing Week’. With coffee, tea and biscuits available in the Independent Learning Centre from Monday through to Friday and a gourmet breakfast on Tuesday morning prepared by the executive staff, it was almost easy to forget the arduous weeks ahead. The week ended in high spirits and motivation with the ‘warm and fuzzies’ – notes written by the year to all of their peers discussing how important they were to each other. Given out during Friday lunch by the prefects, and accompanied by a picnic on the grass and classic tunes such as the iconic ‘We’re All in This Together’ from High School Musical, the week culminated in a supportive and happy community spirit within the year, who was now ready to face trials. Thanks to the prefects and the executive for organising a fantastic event.





Merewether High: Year 12's Final Term

Adelaide Bragias, Year 12

It's almost time for arguably the best Year 12 cohort Merewether has ever seen, to pack up and say goodbye to Merewether High for the last time.

With HSC completion so close, the surreal emotions of anticipation, relief, and an inkling of hesitation have begun to buzz throughout the cohort.

The last few weeks of schooling are packed full of memorable events, however, with Slave Day, as well as the event-of-the-year, the Year 12 Formal, helping take their minds off the (impending doom that is the) HSC.

For many of the Year 12 students, since their early days at MHS in 2010, this journey has been a transformative one, shaping each individual into almost-adults ready-ish to take on the world. Goodbye Merewether High, and thanks for being so good to us all despite our continual shenanigans.



Seniors at Sydney Uni

Andrew Brassington, Year 10

On July 29 a busload of Year 10, 11 and 12 students made their way down the coast to Sydney University, to explore the range of courses on offer, and take a look at the iconic grounds of Sydney Uni.

It was a sunny day but there was still a slight chill in the air. This was echoed in the glorious antique architecture scattered across the university's grounds. Some buildings were as old as the late 1800s, but some were so new they were still being built!

We were split into three groups and given guided tours. At lunch we were left on our own to roam the grounds and explore. Sydney was a mecca for users of the popular game 'Pokemon Go', so it was then that all the phones came out and a number of Pikachu's were caught.

The rest of the day was spent exploring Saint Andrew's College where many university students reside. We were shown the different wings and levels including all the old Chapel-like rooms with stained glass windows that had libraries containing hundreds of musty old books.

Overall the trip was an insightful experience, students gained a wealth of knowledge towards choosing pathways for their future. Thanks Mrs Abbo for organising and supervising the day!





Youth Parliament

Sammy Seth, Year 11

The youth of today are challenging the notions of apathy and gratuitous predispositions which threaten to burden them years into the future. That's why it's nothing short of remarkable to see 150 motivated and passionate students from around New South Wales, give up their July holidays to debate issues of not only societal, but of specifically youth importance at NSW parliament house.

Abby Butler and I (Sammy Seth), were both elected into the executive leadership roles of Youth Premier and Youth Leader of the Government respectively. We spent the week debating bills and reports in the presence of MPs, running party meetings, and forming relations we'd never forget.

Abby's committee constructed a detailed bill to address and improve mental health within the workplace while my committee formulated a report to increase the participation and retention rate of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). My highlight from the long week was debating my own petition to open intensive English centers in regional NSW. After rigorous discussion, personal stories and strong support, my petition was passed with unanimous support from the entire chamber.

I strongly urge anyone who will be in Years 10-12 in 2017 to seize this opportunity to make a difference and apply for the YMCA NSW Youth Parliament.



That's the way it's gonna be little darlin'

Bernadette Callaghan, Year 12

August 30th, 2016 – At approximately 6:30pm on the comfortable Tuesday night, the Bensley Hall was flooded by double denim, flares, and unprecedented levels of body glitter. 'Twas the night of decades past, and students presented themselves accordingly in order to celebrate forty glorious years of Merewether High School history. The dance, held by the SRC, was the final school dance of this year, and therefore the last dance for the outgoing Year Twelve students. Many students from across the year groups gathered to dance away their troubles under the pulsing lights, to the steady rhythm of the tracks laid down by Advantage DJs. At the end of the night, Roshan Richardson took to the stage to engage the crowd in a heartfelt, if fleeting, rendition of Daryl Braithwaite's classic banger, "Horses". The iPhone torches came out, and emotions were running high. Then, with the flick of a switch, the lights in the hall came on, the magic was broken and the students were forced to face the harsh realities of school life once again. A huge thanks to all involved in the evening – it was a welcome respite from study stress.

From Paris to Passchendaele

Jacob Gamble, Year 11

During the July school holidays of 2016, 24 scholars from Years 10 and 11 from across NSW (including myself!) embarked on the Premier's ANZAC Memorial Scholarship. This trip saw many of the scholars reconnect with the ANZAC spirit and learn about the tragedy of World War 1.

The group of us arrived in Paris for two days of sightseeing around memorable places including the Eiffel Tower, Les Invalides (the site of Napoleon's tomb), and the Palace of Versailles. We travelled on to the French countryside, and for the next ten days we were enriched in the history of WW1 with the guidance of historian Brad Minera, attending centenary commemorations, prominent war cemeteries, and museums. A real highlight was the "Life at the Front" experience where scholars and teachers alike dressed up as WW1 soldiers and re-enacted battle tactics, gas attacks and dealing with injuries. Sadly, I didn't survive the gas attack.





For me, the trip was quite an emotional experience that gave me the opportunity to reflect on the hardships faced by soldiers and the impacts of their deaths on their families.

As stated by a fellow history nerd I met on the trip, "It was an incredibly poignant experience; one that I will treasure for the rest of my life."

Alas, I returned home to my mundane life but this time with a new found appreciation of the soldiers who fought in WW1 and a determination to ensure the ANZAC spirit lives on. In the words of RSL Representative Jeff O'Brien, "It's about the stories that we don't hear, that we should remember."



Hospitality

Congratulations to all of our students who completed 35 hours of mandatory work placement at the end of Term 3. Employers and supervisors have been very impressed with the skills and enthusiasm shown by each student during their time in the Hospitality Industry. We would like to thank the following venues for their support of Merewether High Hospitality students.

The Locale
Café Fresh
Cannon Food Bar Espresso
Café Bon Oz
Caves Beachside Resort
Grill'd The Junction
Crowne Plaza Newcastle
Lotus Espresso Café
Iron Horse Inn
Kokomo

Kurri Kurri Bowling Club
Zinc
Stag and Hunter – Swill & Grill
The Icky Sticky Patisserie
Warners at the Bay
Café Salt
Longbench on Darby
Depz Restaurant



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Duke of Edinburgh Information Evening for students and parents

The Duke of Ed parent support group is holding an information evening to explain the Duke of Ed program for 2017.

Who should attend

Current Year 8 students and parents interested in completing the Bronze level award in Year 9 in 2017.

Current Year 9, 10 or 11 students and parents interested in completing Direct Silver or Direct Gold next year. Direct entry is for students who have not completed a Bronze or Silver award.

When

Tuesday 8th November 6.00-7.00pm.

Where

MHS

Independent Learning Centre

What is Duke of Ed

- Duke of Ed is a personal development program which involves components of volunteer service, physical fitness, skill, and adventurous journeys.

- The adventurous journey component at MHS involves an exciting and challenging bush walking program which enables candidates to learn navigation, bush craft & camping skills, team work, problem solving and first aid. Most of all candidates enjoy getting to know their peers in an environment outside school. It is also a great experience for the parents, as the parent group of the Bronze candidates coordinates and participates in the adventurous journeys, with support from the PSG.

More information

Duke of Ed [handbook](#) on the school website.

Duke of Ed Australia [website](#).

RSVP or enquiries

Tina Wilkie-Miskin

PSG President

Tina.wilkie@optusnet.com.au

4952 8804

0431 061195



Important Opal information from 1 August 2016

From 1 August, magnetic strip tickets (MSTs) will no longer be sold or accepted for travel within the Opal network. For easy access to public transport and lower fares, customers need to plan ahead and acquire the appropriate Opal card before 1 August 2016.

What other ticketing options will be available for customers from 1 August 2016?

Opal is the easiest and cheapest way to get around on public transport, but as a last resort, customers can buy an Adult or Child/Youth Opal single bus ticket on board bus services (excluding prepay services). These are single-use tickets only, valid for travel from the point of purchase.

Who is eligible to buy Child/Youth Opal Single Bus Ticket?

The eligibility criteria are the same as a Child/Youth Opal card:

- Children aged 4 – 15 years (inclusive)
- Full time NSW/ACT school students aged 16 years and older with a NSW Senior Secondary Student Concession card, issued by their school, as proof of entitlement.

NSW/ACT Senior Secondary Student Concession Card



School Student Photo ID's will no longer be accepted as from 1st August 2016.

Students 16 years and over must carry and show Senior Student Concession Card as shown.

See your School Administration for details.

Holders of this concession card are entitled to half-price fares and can apply for a Child/Youth Opal card.

Eligibility

You must be a school student aged 16 or over who is:

enrolled in a NSW or ACT secondary school or non-government secondary school, or registered with the Board of Studies as a full-time home-schooled or distance education (OTEN) secondary student.

International school students who meet the criteria also get the same entitlements.

What should I do if My School Opal Card is Lost or Stolen?

Report it [online](#) and order a replacement School Opal card and a fee may apply. By doing this, the old School Opal card will be cancelled and a new one will be mailed to the customer's preferred address within 5-7 days. While waiting for a replacement card, you should use a Child/Youth Opal card to travel if eligible.



COMFORTDELGRO CABCHARGE

ComfortDelGro Cabcharge Pty Ltd ABN 68116171432

Hunter Valley Buses

Phone 02 4935 7200 Fax 02 4966 8200

Address 6 Glenwood Drive Thornton NSW 2322

Post PO Box 3161, Thornton NSW 2322

Web www.cdcbus.com.au

Sydney Head Office

Phone 02 8889 7000 Fax 02 8889 7009

Address 29 Foundry Road, Seven Hills NSW 2147

Monday, 8 August 2016

Dear Principal,

RE: The use of Opal Cards on buses

I am writing to you as a school bus provider to and from your school with some concerns regarding the current use of Student Opal Cards.

One of the more significant changes created by the recent introduction of the Student Opal Card is the requirement for students to 'tap on' and 'tap off' when travelling to and from school on any school bus boarded in the course of their journey.

Opal data gathered by tap on and off is used to determine demand for bus services. If students don't tap on and off, lack of perceived patronage could lead to a review of the level of services provided to your school.

With this in mind, we seek your assistance in reminding your students that tapping on and off correctly is one of the conditions of using the Student Opal Card.

Some of possible methods of encouraging proper use of the Student Opal could include:

- Supervising teachers at boarding points could encourage students to have their Opal card ready prior to their bus arriving, eliminating delays in loading and allowing on time departure.
- Circulating relative information regarding the use of the Student Opal Card via School Newsletter may also highlight to parents, the importance of the proper use.
- A mention of this issue at School Assembly.

Any or all of the above will help provide a more efficient and streamlined service reflective of your school's needs.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and please contact us if you have any questions about any issues contained in this letter.

Regards,
Andrew Fogg

Regional Operations Manager

Hunter Valley Buses



Information for Students regarding School Travel

If provided with a School Opal card or school travel pass the student must comply with the [Student Codes of Conduct](#).

The School Opal card or school travel pass can only be used for approved travel on school days between the student's home and school or college between 6.30am and 7pm (6.30am and 9.30pm for TAFE students)

The Scheme does not cover travel to and from:

- before and after school care or child-minding premises
 - before and after school activities
 - school excursions
 - sports events
 - work experience
 - Vocational Education and Training (VET) at a location away from where the student is enrolled
- multi-campus high schools, weekend schools, pre-schools or mini-schools (except for full-time geographically isolated distance education students).

Ticketing and Concessions

Infrastructure and Services

Transport for NSW



Use public transport... plan your trip at transportnsw.info

Get on board with Opal at opal.com.au

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NSW SCHOOL VACCINATION PROGRAM 2016

The final vaccination date for 2016 will occur on Tuesday 18th October.

WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS MISSED A VACCINE

If your child has missed any vaccinations they will be offered any missed doses at the next clinic at their school.

WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS NOT RECEIVED ALL HPV VACCINES BEFORE THE END OF 2016.

Any year 7 student with missed doses of HPV vaccine can be caught up in 2017.

Additionally – any year 8 student who commenced HPV vaccination while in year 7 and are yet to finish all 3 doses of HPV (and who has not received any from their local doctor) can still receive these at the next clinic at their school.

Don't forget a Record of Vaccination is given to each student for each vaccination. Parents/guardians should ensure that this record is kept for future reference and should not assume that their child has been vaccinated if they do not receive this Record of Vaccination.

Any questions, visit the NSW Ministry of Health website at:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/schoolvaccination.aspx>



	OCTOBER
10/10	Yr 12 (2017) Learning Conference
11/10	Yr 11 Roadwhyz
11/10	Yr 7 (2018) Info Session – 4.00pm
12/10	Yr 7 (2017) Challenge Day-11.00am till 2.30pm
13/10	HSC Commences
18/10	P & C Meeting - ILC - 7.30pm
24/10	Yr 11 Reports issued
25/10	Yr 7 PLG
26/10	Yr 9 Urban Challenge
27/10	Yr 9 Urban Challenge
28/10	Yr 9 Urban Challenge
31/10	Yr 7-10 Blackout period commences
	NOVEMBER
1/11	Yr 8 PLG
7/11	Yr 7 - 10 Exams Commence
8/11	Yr 7 - 10 exams Yr 9 PLG
9/11	7 - 10 exams
10/11	Yr 7 - 10 Exams
11/11	Yr 7 - 10 Exams
14/11	Yr 7 - 10 Exams
15/11	P & C Meeting - ILC - 7.30pm Yr 7 - 10 Exams Yr 10 PLG
16/11	Yr 7 - 10 Exams
17/11	Yr 7 - 10 Exams overflow if needed
18/11	Prefects Investiture 11:00am
22/11	Yr 11 (12 2017) PLG
24/11	Yr 11 Assembly 11.00am
30/11	Yr 7 (2017) Orientation Day
	DECEMBER
12/12	Yr 10 Assembly - 9.15am Yr 9 Assembly - 11.00am
13/12	Yr 8 Assembly - 9.15am Yr 7 Assembly - 11.00am
15/12	Presentation Assembly - 10.30am
16/12	Yr 12 BBQ-11.00am

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The Uniform Shop

0401 725 885

merewetherhigh@alinta.com.au

Uniform Shop opening hours during school terms are:

Monday 8.00am – 12.00pm

Thursday 1.00pm – 3.30pm

The uniform shop can be contacted during these hours by phone or email:

Ph: 0401 725 885

merewetherhigh@alinta.com.au .

Merewether High School Sports Tour 2016

We wish to thank the following businesses for their generous support of the Merewether High Sports Tour through the donation of prizes and vouchers which will assist us in achieving our fundraising goals. Please support our supporters.

Associate Tour Sponsors



Wanderers Rugby Club



Morpeth Family
Medical Centre

Tour Supporters

Good Guys Kotara
 Kerry Phillips Great Events
 Genesis Fitness Club
 Charlestown Golf Club
 Chemmart The Junction
 Prestige Meats
 Earthquicks - Nelson Bay
 The Beauty Room
 Lush Living
 Hunter SSA
 Hunter Valley Martial Arts
 Sense of Being Massage
 Ocean Beauty Therapy
 Frames Promotional Products
 Springloaded Trampoline Park
 Fit and Fresh
 The School of Yak
 The Spinning Top
 Hair Society
 Star Nails & Waxing
 Justs Cuts
 Bunnings Kotara
 Hungerford Hill Vineyard
 Adamstown Fresh Meats
 Univeristy Rugby Club
 Baggas Pharmacy
 Big Boys

Woolworths
 Junction Fair Newsagency
 IMAX Theatre
 Ruby Skies
 Sanbah Surf Shop
 Babyshop - Adamstown
 Lizzottes
 Junction Pharmacy
 Pulse Climbing
 Monkey
 Earthscent
 Drift Bikes
 5th Avenue Hairdressing
 Jadore Hair
 Macquarie Physiotherapy
 Verve
 JetBuzz
 Bluestar Elements
 Lake Macquarie Rugby
 Massage & Accupuncture
 Southern Summer Rugby
 Silo Restaurant
 The Essential Ingredient
 Amcal Chemist - Westfield
 Pharmacy 4 Less - Kotara
 ITalk Travel
 Q's Books