



### Diary Dates

P&C AGM

Tuesday, 15th March

7:30pm - ILC

#### This Issue

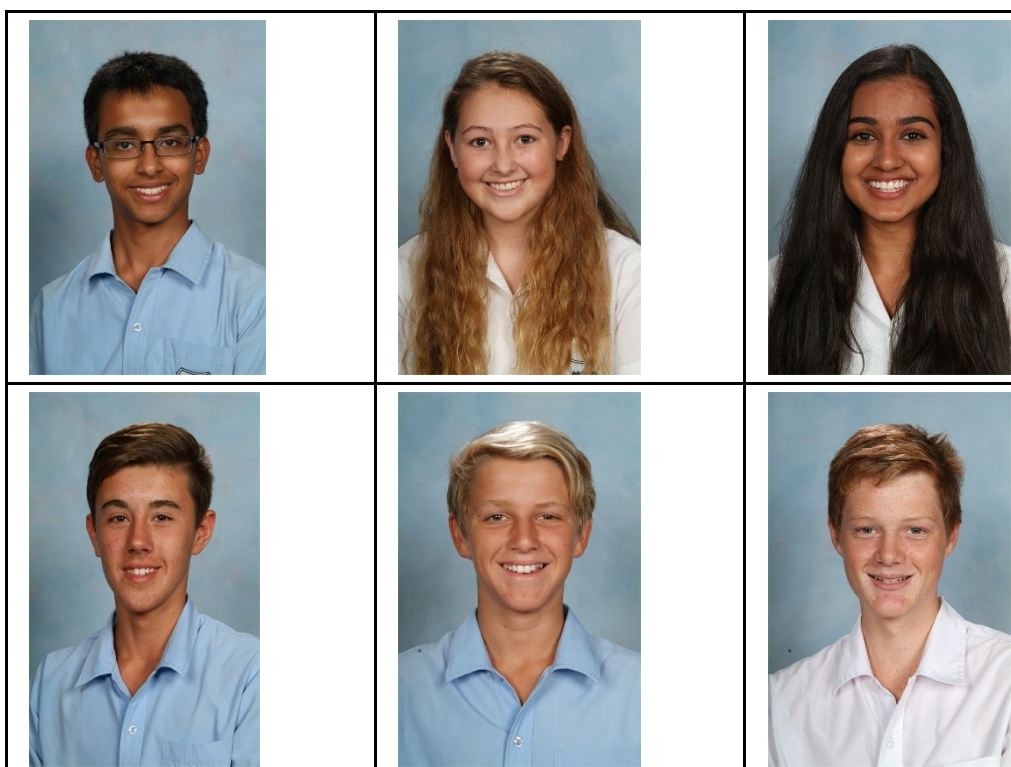
- P1 Principal
- P3 Deputy Principal
- P4 English
- P5 Mooz Paper
- P16 Social Science
- P20 Careers
- P29 CAPA
- P35 Support
- P37 Year 7 Camp
- P38 Sport
- P39 PDHPE

### Sharvil Kesarwani

Congratulations to Sharvil who has been invited by the Australian Mathematical Olympiad Committee (AMOC), to represent Merewether High School at this year's AMOC Selection School. The School will be held at Robert Menzies College, Macquarie University in Sydney from Sunday 10 April to Tuesday 19 April 2016. Twenty-six students from across Australia will be attending the School. The invitation is a particular honour as the main purpose of the Selection School will be to select the six members of the Australian Team to compete at the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) to be held Hong Kong from 6 to 16 July 2016. The six members of the team will be chosen from senior students at the Selection School. Even though Sharvil is in Year 9 he has been selected as a senior member attending the School and therefore is in the running for the Australian team. An outstanding honour which we congratulate him on.

#### Dates to Remember

- 08/03 Year 11 PLG
- 15/03 Year 12 PLG
- 15/03 P&C AGM
- 22/03 Year 7 PLG
- 29/03 — 08/04 Year 12 Mid Course Examinations





### **NSW Youth Parliament**

Congratulations to Abby Butler and Samyuktha Sethumadhavan who are representing Merewether High School as members of the NSW Youth Parliament 2016. This is a great honour and gives our students the opportunity to debate current issues, especially those affecting the youth of today. Abby and Sammy have the opportunity through this forum to put their views forward and to have the NSW Parliament consider these opinions.

### **NSWCHS Water Polo teams**

Matthew Humby, Mitchell Robinson and Brendan Ward have been afforded the honour of being named in the New South Wales Combined High Schools' Water Polo teams to contest the New South Wales All-Schools carnival to be held in Sydney on the 7 March. We wish the boys the best of luck at this carnival. Matthew and Mitchell have subsequently been named in the NSW All-Schools team to contest the Australian Championships to be held in Canberra later in the year.

### **Terms 2 and 3 School Development Day Variations**

Our Term 2 and Term 3 School Development Days will be varied this year to support staff in the completion of the Certificate of Gifted Education through the University of New South Wales. The course will be presented by lecturers, from UNSW here at Merewether High. Due to the availability of the UNSW lecturers a variation to our Term 2 and Term 3 SDDs for 2016 is required.

The following variation in Term 2 will occur:

- All students return Tuesday 26 April, Day 1 Term 2
- Term 2 SDD moves to Wednesday 4 May (Week 2, Term 2)

The variation for Term 3 is:

- All students return Monday 18 July, Day 1 Term 3
- Term 3 SDD moves to Wednesday 27 July (Week 2, Term 3)

All staff will work from 8:00am to 5:00pm each day to complete the Certificate of Gifted Education.

### **Athletics and Swimming**

Congratulations to our zone and regional swimmers who performed extremely well with the school again taking out the Zone Championship for the twentieth year in a row and a number of swimmers selected to represent Hunter at the State Championships to be held in Sydney from the 3 – 5 April. Our school Athletics Carnival this year saw record participation levels. Students are to be commended on the way they presented themselves on the day and their willingness to be involved.

### **The *Tell Them from Me* student feedback survey**

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

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

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them.



Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them from Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March**. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

### **P&C AGM**

The Merewether High School P&C AGM will be held on Tuesday 15 March 2016 in the Independent Learning Centre commencing at 7:30pm.

### **A message from Merewether High School P&C**

If you are interested in purchasing an Entertainment Book, please consider buying one from MHS P&C. 20% of every membership sold contributes to our fundraising. If you choose hard copy, books available for pick up from Merewether High School Canteen, after April 1st. Digital versions of the book will also be downloadable from 1st April 2016. The online order page is - [www.entbook.com.au/3466u6](http://www.entbook.com.au/3466u6) Alternatively, you can purchase a book with cash, after April 1st, in the canteen. For more information, contact Denise Lyons on

Term 1 is racing past and the variety of daily activities which feature academic, sporting and cultural experiences gives our school a vibrant feel! As Miss Harvey and I move around the school, it is clear students are actively engaged in classroom learning and staff are establishing challenging learning environments. All year groups have some new challenges; Year 12 focused on their Mid Course Examinations, Year 11 absorbed in their new preliminary courses, Year 10 exploring their accelerated course, Years 9 and 8 enjoying their elective choices whilst for Year 7 it is all new!

Two highly successful carnivals have punctuated our first six weeks with great participation and spirit. Enthusiasm is contagious and mark these as days to remember! With trials for sporting teams, excursions, music ensembles, Valentine's Day activities and a futsal competition, there is lots going on. I have been particularly impressed with the efforts of the whole school in assisting our new Year 7 students to transition to Merewether High. On many occasions I have seen older students helping with directions, organisational tips and general support; these efforts have not gone un-noticed with many students and their parents commenting at the recent Year 7 BBQ on how supported they feel!

With a new year begins a new schedule of assessments of learning and assessments for learning. All Year groups have been provided with a hard copy of their assessment calendar for the year (these are also posted electronically on our School Website under the Curriculum and Activities tab). The schedules outlined the planned week for assessments to occur and allow for families and students to do advanced planning and organisation. We have encouraged students to transfer the dates of their assessment tasks to their diaries and an additional reminder to be on the lookout for a notification two weeks before the task. To further support students with assessment, staff are tightly scaffolding the requirements of each task and we are making planning tools available for students for approaching a task.

Miss Harvey and I continue to offer Parent Learning Groups for all year on Tuesday mornings in the Learning Centre. These are a great opportunity for parents to gain additional insight into processes in the school, Key Learning Area focus sessions and initiatives to support their children. All presentations are posted on the school website for parents to access and we ask if there are any areas of interest parents would like us to include, please contact us by phone or email. We thank families for their ongoing support in these and all aspects of our bust life here at Merewether High.

Tony Southward



### English

All students in Years 7 – 10 should now have been issued notification of the first of their assessment tasks. These assessment notifications are also available on the MHS Moodle and have been emailed to students. Students needing clarification regarding the task requirements should speak to their class teacher.

Year 12 should be focusing on preparing for their Mid Course Examinations. The Advanced and Standard English paper will examine the Area of Study – Discovery. When revising the Area of Study, students should familiarise themselves with the notes that were distributed at the Karen Yager tutorial at the end of last year. These notes offered a number of practice questions, valuable study tips and exam strategies for the Area of Study paper. In addition to this, students should utilise the BOSTES website and the MHS Moodle to familiarise themselves with the format of past papers and the markers' comments. We would encourage all students to complete a range of practice questions when preparing for this examination.

Students in Years 11 and 12 are required to purchase their own texts for study in English. Teachers of Year 11 will outline the texts that students need to purchase to complete the study of their set modules. Year 11 students may choose to purchase hard copies or eBooks to download onto their BYOD. All students in Year 11 should ensure that they have a copy of their first text, *Fahrenheit 451* by week 9 of this term.

In the past we have had a range of successes with debating and public speaking. We are pleased with the high levels of interest shown in the debating and public speaking programs being offered at MHS and we are looking forward to another highly successful year of involvement in a range of competitions. Information regarding debating and public speaking is distributed through email and daily notices. Students should ensure they check their email regularly so that they are aware of any training workshops, team meetings and upcoming competitions.

Ms Martinez is continuing to coordinate students' involvement in writing competitions throughout 2016. Information on a range of writing competitions is distributed via email to students. We actively encourage all students to participate in writing competitions as a way to further extend and develop their skills in writing.

Please remember, **if you enter a competition, send Ms Martinez an email or see her in the staff room** so that we can acknowledge and track your participation and progress.

Esme Corney (HT English)



### Merewether Student Bulletin March

#### **Cupid Comes to Merewether**

*Teza Sankoorikal, Year 9*

The 14<sup>th</sup> of February saw Merewether High School celebrate one of its most exciting events on the school calendar; Valentine's Day - a beautiful occasion that speaks out for love and romance. This year has surely been one of the best. The SRC (Student Representative Council) helped spread the love, selling chocolate roses and lollipops where students could send messages to a best friend or a special someone.

"We have lovely students who are always keen to participate in and support SRC events and the SRC are always fun loving, organized and keen to add to our positive school spirit," says SRC Coordinator Mrs Allen. All in all, Valentine's Day 2016 at Merewether High was absolutely exquisite!



#### **Social Justice Group 2016**

The Merewether Social Justice Group was excited to start off 2016, beginning meetings straight away. Run by Abby Butler of Year 12, the group is made up of students from all years who meet up regularly to discuss current issues and plan fundraisers. So far, we have planned events to take place for International Women's Day, (which will include a female staff appreciation morning tea and an equality-focused friendly handball competition), thought up many great ideas for this year's Social Justice fundraiser, which will likely have a focus on mental health, and of course, discussed relevant social justice issues.

The Merewether Social Justice group is a great way to meet people in other years, as well as discuss and learn about current social justice issues. It is highly enjoyed by all who attend, and new members are always welcome!

Zoë Davis, Year 9.



### The MHS Enviro Group is Back

At the 2015 UN Climate Conference, world leaders negotiated the Paris Agreement, deciding on two main commitments: reducing carbon outputs and working to keep Global Warming “to well below 2°C”. News of this progressive agreement quickly spread to Merewether High School and inspired the revival of the MHS Environmental Group!

In 2016 we will be working on a number of initiatives focusing on increasing the sustainability of the school and local community. We plan on introducing recycling bins in staffrooms, working with leading youth climate organisations, organising a speaker for Green Day and supporting Earth Hour. Though our work is just a drop in the ocean, it is important to educate, empower and embolden our generation, on whom lies the onus of climate change.

SO get inspired, get enthused and get involved! The MHS Enviro Group is back and determined to make an impact!



### Open Girl's Volleyball Gala Day

*Clare Hobden, Year 12*

On the 25th February the open girls' volleyball team headed over to the Hunter Basketball Stadium for the Newcastle Zone Volleyball Gala Day.

A forfeit from the Kotara High team gave the MHS girls plenty of time to warm up for a testing match against Great Lakes, a team with an impressive volleyball reputation.

The girls fought hard in the first set, just getting pipped at the post with a score of 26-24 to Great Lakes. In the second set the team demonstrated immense determination and enthusiasm, leading them to a 25-18 win that allowed them a second chance at victory going into the tiebreaker. Both teams showcased some incredible volleyball in the last set, with Great Lakes just pulling off a 15-12 win that took them to the next round.

Though the MHS team didn't win the match, they proved victorious through their sportsmanship and vast improvement of volleyball skills, earning them some well-deserved post-match frozen cokes.

A huge thanks to Mr Bailey for organising the team and being an excellent coach, bring on Merewether High School Girl's Volleyball 2017.



### **Girl's Self Defence Classes Kick into Action**

*Adelaide Bragias, Year 12*

On the 17th of February, thirty girls waited near the P.E. Cola, ready to be transformed by Darren Fleming (a trained fitness instructor) into empowered, fierce ladies through his Self Defence program. This initiative, in collaboration with MHS, aims to assist groups of girls with both self-confidence and fitness – teaching them boxing techniques and other tips in a supportive and friendly environment.

The girls worked powerfully in their first lesson, already developing a strong team dynamic and challenging themselves to improve their skills. The group was taught proper stances, punching, and form with only a few small blunders on the way. Each girl left smiling, albeit a tad tired - equally as pumped for the next session, now that they had tackled the basics. Due to the high interest in the program expressed by the female student body, plans for additional lessons in Term 2 are currently being considered.

### **NSW Debating Workshop**

*Alyssa Wharton, Year 7*

If you like arguing, debating is for you. On the 28th February the annual NSW Debating Workshop was held at Sydney Girls High School. Students at the workshop were able to watch a debate undertaken by some of the best debaters in the state. Here they learned valuable skills, such as how to construct a valid argument, rebut an argument and how to think on the spot. Many students attended from all over NSW, including Sammy Seth from Year 11.

“For me the highlight was the demo debate and talking to some of the highest skilled debaters in the state”, says Sammy Seth.

The second phase of the workshop briefed the students in particular topics that may arise in debates, and how to form an effective argument. The Economics workshop gave Sammy a solid understanding of strategies to oppose a proposed Economic policy.

The workshop is recommended for Years 9 and above, in preparation for the upcoming Premier's Debating Challenge.



### **Merewether goes to Matilda!**

*Andrew Brassington, Year 10*



Merewether High School CAPA students absolutely packed full a Sid Fogg's coach on Wednesday February 17 as they travelled down to Sydney to see the musical 'Matilda' at the Lyric Theatre.

'Matilda' was written by the lyrical genius that is Tim Minchin and the students caught it at the end of its Sydney run before it travels to Melbourne in the near future.



The show exceeded many people's expectations. It featured some outstanding choreography and some killer songs (including an 80s power ballad complete with a disco ball sung by Miss Trunchbull, who was actually played by a man!)

After the interval Mr Wormwood came out to sing a song about something he loves very dearly, television! And advised the audience to make sure the never read a disgusting book again. Towards the end the Russian mafia even made an appearance.

For the finale the entire cast rode scooters across the stage whilst singing one of the most popular songs.

As the bus of students headed back towards Newcastle everyone couldn't stop talking about how great the experience was.

### **Starstruck back again for 2016**

*Cara Rixon, Year 12*

StarStruck has found its way to Merewether again for 2016. The selection process for the dance group began early in Term 1 in preparation for the production. With over thirty students from across all years, it was a tough decision for Ms Jenkins and Ms Scollay to choose the final sixteen!

There were rehearsals held over the course of a few weeks before each year group was asked to individually audition. After the difficult choice selecting the team, there were further rehearsals held before an audition tape was filmed. On Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> of February, it was sent to the StarStruck team for judgement.

In a few weeks, the group will hear back from the organisers about routine allocations and official practices will begin in preparation for the June performance. With 2016's theme of "Our Heroes", it's sure to be just as successful as last year!



### **Team MHS Swims on to State**

*Jacob Gamble, Year 11*

The Merewether High School swimming team is renowned for its winning streak, and 2016 was no exception. MHS claimed victory as the highest scoring school at the City Zone carnival for nearly the 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, a reflection of the hard work and dedication put in by all our swimmers.

"It's really fun to compete against each other and against other schools," says State CHS swimmer Elke Wallace-Smith .





The Regional carnival was equally successful, with Merewether High emerging as the highest scoring school again. Competitors Bailey Proud and Charlie Hawkins also broke multiple records at the School, Zone and Regional levels.

The vast majority of relay teams advanced to State, including the prestigious 12 x 50m freestyle mixed relay, a knock-out event in which only one team proceeds to the next level.

“Last year we got a silver medal at State [in the 12 x 50m] so we are hoping to beat that this year,” says Elke.

Congratulations to the Merewether High School swim team, and we wish you the best of luck at State!

### **An Athletics Carnival to Remember**

*Dale Anderson and Connor Westbury, Year 9*

The MHS Athletics Carnival took place at Glendale Sports Centre on the 29th of February, for a day of excellent sporting success and fun. There were many fast runners, long throwers and high jumpers and even more non-competitive students racking up participation points for each of their houses. The top competitors of each year group were successful in proceeding to the zone athletics carnival.

It was a great day but in the end there could only be one winner, that being Norris house with 3867 points, followed by Richards with 3812 points, then Jenson with 3800 points, with Baartz bringing up the rear with 3645 points.

For those that attended the carnival and are completing the leadership passport, you can get your leadership passport signed off your year advisor or Mrs Abbo!



### **Pi Day**

*Kate Edwards, Year 10*

It's that time of year again. The Maths faculty is abuzz with excitement - especially Ms Jenkins as she took to the lectern at the Thursday assembly to deliver a pun-laced speech on everyone's favourite irrational number. That's right: Merewether's third annual Pi Day is nearly here!

The initiative was sparked by Ms Jenkins' arrival in 2013.

“It's a great way to celebrate Maths,” she says of the event. She had celebrated Pi Day at university, and decided to implement the holiday at Merewether due to our love of “getting into nerdy things”.

This year's celebrations include food stalls, pie-throwing, games, the Pie Eating Competition, Pi Hunt, and the much-anticipated Pi Recital. There will also be a new event - the Bake-Off. Pies are baked in advance, and will be judged by Ms Harvey and Mrs McCudden.

The Pi Team are working hard in preparation for the big day





### **Mr Carol Excited to Join MHS**

*Nevenya Cameron, Year 9*

There are many fresh faces around school this year at MHS, including new science teacher Mr Carol, who said he was excited to be starting here.

“I knew the demands were quite high [for the students],” he said, when asked of his expectations of Merewether. His favourite aspect of teaching at MHS is the eagerness and curiosity of the students. “Everyone’s keen to learn,” he said.

Mr Carol previously worked at Lake Macquarie High School. He was in university when he was inspired to become a science teacher.

“I was offered a tutoring job,” he said. When he gained this job, he loved it. Additionally, he held a strong passion for science, so the two were a perfect combination!

Mr Carol describes the students’ interest in learning as “refreshing”. We are so pleased to have Mr Carol working with the students of MHS!



### Welcome to 2016

*Bernadette Callaghan, Year 12*

Welcome to the start of a new year, and the start of a bigger and better student bulletin! Following our first meeting of the year, and a publicity stunt at Thursday's assembly, we're excited to welcome a slew of new journalists to our team. Throughout the year our team will endeavor to bring you the news relevant to you in the most engaging way possible, on a monthly basis. In our group we place a strong emphasis on peer marking and feedback, so for each article written our team will work together to polish the piece and bring it up to a professional standard. We strive to present our journalists with opportunities to further their skills, from excursions to major news outlets to communication with former students and team members. From all of us at the Merewether Student Bulletin, we hope you enjoy the year.

### The Beginning of the End

*Cara Rixon, Year 12*

While half of the school had their first day on Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup>, and the other half on the 28<sup>th</sup>, the start of school for year 12 really began on Day 1 of Term 4, 2015. But it didn't sink in until that Thursday – it's the beginning of the end. It's the final year of high school, the last twelve months of compulsory schooling and the culmination of 13 years of learning. It all ends with HSC, a relentless month of stressful exams that looms over the student body's heads.

With many of the first assessments over, and mid course exams seeming far away at the end of the term (although they're definitely closer than they appear), this is the time to catch up on all the work that was supposed to be completed (but wasn't) over the Christmas holidays. Hopefully the (relatively) relaxed feeling that seems to be common sticks around, and with the careful balance of study and fun, everyone will be able to survive Year 12.





### **Olivia Stanley achieves high in History Extension**

*Jacob Gamble, Year 11*

Former Year 12 student Olivia Stanley has won a monetary prize in the Extension History Essay Prize Competition run by the History Teacher's Association of NSW. Her major work titled "History, Memory and Politics: Remembering the Vietnam War" placed second in the "American Studies" category.

"I was both stunned and ecstatic, as I put a massive amount of work and brainpower into my project," Olivia says modestly, "To have it recognised on a state wide level, especially considering the high calibre of students was very rewarding."

History Extension can be elected by students after the completion of Preliminary Modern or Ancient History. The major work consists of a 2500 word historical investigation, occupying 40% of the course time. The course appealed to Olivia due to its unique structure.

"The learning was very self-directed, giving you the freedom to branch off and explore ideas you were fascinated by without being bound by a strict syllabus of content."

Olivia will be attending a "History High Achievers" awards ceremony in March before continuing her studies in Communications and International Studies at UTS.

### **Toby Morgan takes on role of School Captain**

*William Clifton, Year 12*

In 2011, Merewether High School took on its 22nd cohort of year sevens who gained admission via academic selection. Among them, Toby Morgan, a bright faced bowl cut clad lad who would go on to come fifth in the state in accelerated HSC Biology and secure school captain for 2016.

Toby was born in 1998 in Catherine, south of Darwin and attended Jingili Primary School for a few years. His family then spent three years in Ireland. He returned to Australia in 2009 and spent the remainder of primary school at Hamilton South.

While maintaining exemplar grades in high school, Toby would involve himself in a number of extracurricular activities such as clarinet, cricket, drama and the Duke of Edinburgh program.

In Year 7, Toby topped the year in science. Whilst he said this seems like a small thing today, it was really a foreshadowing of the passion he would develop in that area - "In Year 7, I had this great teacher, Ms Penson .... she was really the start of my passion for science."





### Battle of the House Captains begins for 2016

*Ethan Floyd, Year 7*

Roll out the carpet, roll out the mat, here come the 2016 House Captains! Voted upon by the student population, the 2016 House Captains are ready to lead their houses to victory this year.

"I'm very optimistic about Baartz's outcome for 2016" said the Baartz's house captain, "it would be really nice to bring Baartz back on top!"

Obviously, it is a great honour to be given the title of House Captain, and this year's captains were very excited to receive this important role.

"I was very proud to be given the role. There were so many other boys going up for the spot," said the Richards House Captain.

"...really excited. It was amazing. I love sports and so I was really happy to get the spot" says Clare, Jensen House Captain, when asked what her reaction was to receiving the role.

The Baartz house captains are very optimistic for Baartz's outcome for this year.

"Baartz is definitely on the rise this year. The Spirit Cup is something we certainly want to work towards. Also participation will be another one of our focus points".

So well done 2016 House Captains. Congratulations!

*From left to right: Griffin Del Caro and Eloise Callingham (Baartz House Captains); Nicholas Sonntag and Casey Smith (Richards House Captains); Jaimee Lieschke and Zachary Nickel (Norris House Captains); Clare Hobden and*



### Girl's Mentoring

*Rizina Yadav, Year 11*

The Girl's Mentoring initiative, organised by Mrs. Rosser has taken a great start for 2016! A brainstorming and collaboration session was held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February, with Mrs. Rosser and the girl mentors discussing various ideas. Nearly 30 students from Year 11 turned up to support the initiative and offer their thoughts.

The aim of the program is multifaceted. It aims to both develop the leadership skills of Year 11 girls and empower them to run workshops for a targeted audience of Years 7 to 10. Years 7 to 10 girls will hopefully learn a lot from the program and can use it as an opportunity to form friendships, de-stress and every once in a while do something different with their lunchtimes.



Some draft ideas for the workshops are mindful colouring in, relaxation, origami, fun games, meditation and Zumba. We hope lots of girls get involved and make the most of the initiative!



### Swimming Carnival makes a splash

*Teza Sankoorikal, Year 9*

An absolutely fantastic way to start off a busy new school year. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February Merewether High School had their annual swimming carnival at Lambton pool! The swimming carnival is one of the greatest events in the school year as it really encourages school involvement and spirit, while providing a fun day for students to not only compete in many races but to more importantly, get involved in school activities.



Bianka Arun-Raj, a student from Year 9 says 'I think that the swimming carnival this year was amazing! Our swimming carnivals always give so much opportunities for all types of swimmers to take part in it. I hope it will remain as enthusiastic for the years to come.'

As students are divided in to 4 houses (Richards, Barts, Jenson and Norris) competition rises. From loud chants to extreme cheering, all students showed their House pride by trying to earn as many points as possible to get their house to the top and achieve ultimate victory. The whole environment around the pool was filled with colourful banners, posters, balloons and mascots representing each house. The day finished off with one of the longest awaited events... the relay. With enthusiastic students cheering at the top of their lungs, all swimmers really put on a show and represented the whole house. All in all, the MHS's Swimming carnival turned out to be an absolutely wonderful event and is definitely a highlight of the year so far!

### MHS Skoolbag App

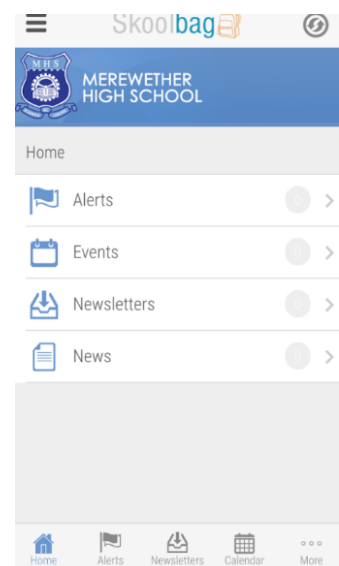
*Annabelle Miller, Year 7*

If you ever need important information, forget about looking through endless amounts of notes and papers- all is revealed in the new Merewether High School Skoolbag app!

The school app that has been in the developing stages for a little while now was recently released for the parents and students of Merewether High. One of its many useful features is that it highlights and alerts you to the events and activities during that week including cancelations and weather warnings.

Another great feature is the ability to choose what classes you get notifications for, so if you're in Year 7 you won't be getting Year 12 University updates.

Merewether High School's new Skoolbag app is now available on all Apple and Android devices, making it easier to find events, documents, newsletters, school and news.





### **The Year 7 Barbeque Was Smokin'!**

*Annabelle Miller, Year 7*

The Year 7 Barbeque, held on Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup>, was a chance for parents, teachers and students to meet and mingle, and to talk about the year ahead. Especially for first time parents of MHS students it was a welcome into the Merewether High community.

During the event, parents had the opportunity to introduce themselves to teachers and find out the curriculum for the year. It also gave the new Year 7 students an excuse to socialise and meet fellow classmates outside of school hours.

The SRC did a great job organizing this event, including providing sausages and drinks to the families present. They furnished the event with happiness, helpfulness and smiles all round, creating a warm, friendly atmosphere.

All in all, the year seven BBQ was a hit and everyone involved had a great time. What a great, fun and informative start to Year 7 2016!

### **School Dance**

*Brooke Candy, Year 9*

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, Merewether High School held its bi-annual school dance; and what a night it was! The theme was - 'Thrift Shop', meaning students dressed in clothes sourced from cheap outlets.

This theme; with all others was decided by the SRC and follows similar creative themes of "When I Grow Up..", "Beauty and the Geek" and BC (Before Christ). With a blur of colourful feather boas, vintage dresses, fur coats and other bargain-buys, well-dressed was definitely an understatement. For the 3 hours that it lasted, the DJ blasted music from the 80's, 90's and today, tending to even the pickiest of music taste.

It was safe to say that everyone had a great night.

All of this couldn't have been possible however without the help of Mrs Allen and the SRC who organised everything from the ticket designs to the food and DJ. With the huge success of this dance, there's no doubt that the next one will be highly anticipated





## Social Science

Term 1 is well under way with all students engaged in a busy program of school based activities and a variety of opportunities for extension and extra-curricular activities. Our HSC students have just completed their second assessment task and will now focus their efforts on preparing for the upcoming Mid- Course exams in weeks 10 and 11. Year 11 students including the new accelerated Year 10 cohort in Legal Studies and Business Studies are completing the foundation work for the preliminary course in preparation for their first assessment task later this term. Our senior students are encouraged to complete practice questions and submit these to their class teacher to gain essential feedback to ensure they are able to refine their exam technique and seek clarification of concepts on their related area of study.

## Opportunities for Gifted & Talented Students

The Social Science faculty has a strong record of providing enrichment and extension opportunities for students studying our subjects. The following activities are available for students to be involved in:

**MHS Environment Group:** This group has been formed by two of our senior leaders Jacob Gamble and Rizina Yadhav. They plan to focus on enhancing the school environment and becoming involved in a host of community activities that seek to develop sustainable communities. Upcoming events include Clean Up Australia Day, Earth Hour and Climate Cam.

**Social Science Digital Media Team:** This new team will be formed to provide students with digital media skills the opportunity to develop leadership and organisational skills in producing media articles and films for a range of Social Science activities.

## Current competitions:

The National Geographic Channel (**Australian Geography Competition 2016**) will be held during Week 4 of Term 2. The competition is compulsory for Years 9 and 10. Students in Years 7 and 8 who would like to take up the challenge of doing the Competition will be able to do so. Geography teachers will be discussing this upcoming Competition in class time.

The **ASX Share Market Game** will get underway in early March 2016. Students in Year 9 Commerce will test their financial skills in this competition. The students are in the process of spending up to \$50 000 on shares in Australia's leading public companies. This is part of the study of Personal Finance and Investment. The game runs for 10 weeks and although very difficult to win, it provides students with an excellent insight into the issues associated with investing.

**NAB \$20 Boss** is a new initiative the faculty will become involved in related to Year 9 Commerce and Running a Business. This challenge will commence in Term 2.

The **Mock Trial Competition** is underway for 2016 under the guidance of Mrs. Tonks. Mr Evers continues to mentor the team with the first trial on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March.





### Preliminary Business Studies

Slice Gourmet Pizza Adamstown is opening their business to MHS Preliminary Business Studies students on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March. This will allow students to apply their concept knowledge of the nature and function of small business to this actual business. Students will benefit by extending their learning and understanding in a case study situation.

Students are also working on their entrepreneurial ideas for participation in this year's University of Newcastle Business Plan competition. Students are asked to develop a business plan for a hypothetical, innovative business. They are able to work as individuals or groups of up to four students



**Junior Geography Fieldwork:**

**Year 7 Geography** students are involved in mandatory fieldwork to Blackbutt in Week 9 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March and will then be able to enter our **Photographic Competition** from the day.

**Year 10 Geography** students will be completing their fieldwork on Coastal management in Week 10 on the 29th March with guest speakers Dr Rip (Rob Brander) travelling up from University of NSW to speak to students about coastal geomorphology along with Brad Warren from Oceanwatch Australia.

The **Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA)** Competition will take place in May 2016. Mrs. Burnett will be organising this extra curricula activity.

The **UNSW Business School Australian Economics and Business Studies Competition** will be held in May. All Economics and Business Studies students are involved in this competition.

YEAR 8 ELECTIVE COMMERCE

Semester 1 has been a busy start to the Year 8 Elective Commerce course with a full class of 30 students working productively to build their skills in the consumer world. The students have already shown their entrepreneurial flair through their creative ideas in their first task of deciding how they could in 6 hours take \$500 and double their money. The variety of ideas on what to do and how they would do it demonstrated student's ability to think outside the box to achieve success. The first topic being studied in the subject is "Consumer Choice". Students have learnt about a variety of areas from the history of currency to specialisation in the workplace to how and why consumers make their choices. Consumer protection remedies have also been studied, with students researching organisations that protect buyers with modern day scams and safety recalls on products. However, the most challenging activity to date in Commerce has been the student bartering task. This activity involved students bringing in a product of up the value of \$4 in which they needed to demonstrate the past commercial practices of bartering with another person. Students challenged themselves to make a swap which would see them gain a product from another student which they really wanted in return. The students thoroughly enjoyed the task with several of them gaining greater success than others.

Rachael Tonks



**YEAR 11 PRELIMINARY HSC GEOGRAPHY**

The Year 11 Geography students for 2016 have made an enthusiastic and hardworking start to their Preliminary HSC course. The syllabus content has seen students studying the topic “Biophysical Interactions” and has focused on the Atmosphere and its role in the environment. The class have worked hard on learning essential content, however, have also experimented with some of the concepts being taught as part of the topic. Students have completed an experiment on the Coriolis Effect and have ventured outside to test weather conditions with the use of equipment such as the Hygrometer, Beaufort scale, cloud identification techniques and by visual observations. Thank you to Mrs Walsh in the Science faculty for helping us out with some equipment for our school based fieldwork, and look out for an upcoming report from the Year 11 Geography students who will soon be visiting the Blue Mountains to undertake further fieldwork to support the Preliminary HSC Course.

Rachael Tonks





### MHS CAREERS Newsletter

Below you will find information on a wide range of careers related topics. Please note that all dates should be checked on the relevant websites and all event/course related information is relayed from external sources and is not endorsed by Merewether High School.

For more information about any of the topics below students from Years 9-12 should either follow the links provided or visit the careers office and speak to Mrs Abbo. [Levina.abbo@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Levina.abbo@det.nsw.edu.au)

Things that happened in careers over the last month at Merewether High School

#### Students Returning to MHS to Pass on their Wisdom

Early Term 1 we Patrick Hartsuyker returned to MHS to say hello and pass on some wisdom about his transition to university. Patrick commenced his undergraduate medical degree at James Cook University in 2015 and had some wonderful advice to share with some of the Year 12 boys that were lucky enough to see Patrick during his brief visit.

Pictured below with Patrick from left to right: Year 12 students, Maurice Bechelli, Zac Nickel and Toby Morgan.

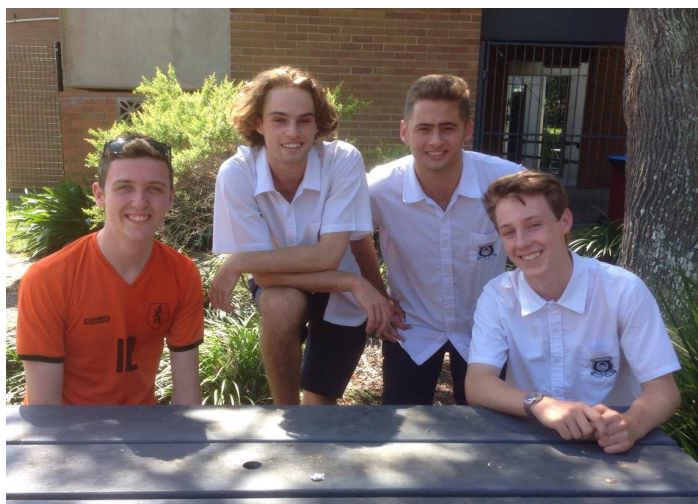
#### ANU Tuckwell Scholarship Information Session

It is always a pleasure to accompany MHS students on excursions and this event was no exception. In early February 5 Year 12 Students and myself travelled to Parramatta to learn more about the application process for the prestigious ANU Tuckwell Scholarship. While a long day of travel it was certainly worthwhile hearing from a current scholar about her process of application and her experiences as a recipient. In addition the students heard from the Dean in charge of the scholarship program and a parent of a recipient which provided a greater understanding of the significance of being a Tuckwell scholar.

Some advice given to students on the day included : "You have to be in it to win it" and Abby (current recipient) highlighted that you do not have to be the top scholar to be successful. Being a part of this process also leads to other opportunities for scholarships so students so consider applying if they are certain ANU if for them and they have a predicted ATAR (including bonus points) above 95.

For More information about the Tuckwell Scholarship visit the website <http://tuckwell.anu.edu.au/>

Good luck to all students wishing to put in applications for this years scholarship. Pictured from left to right; Levi Grondin, Tom Su, Aymon Wuolanne, Abbey (Tuckwell Scholar), Abby Butler, Brooke Farr.





Australian  
National  
University

TUCKWELL  
SCHOLARSHIP

## This is no ordinary scholarship

Receiving a Tuckwell Scholarship is not just about your intellect. It is about your desire and determination to use your natural abilities, if given the opportunity, to realise your full potential so that you can make a difference in the world.

The Tuckwell Scholarship program has a focus on giving back to Australia. It is the only one of its kind that nurtures Scholars to fulfil their wider ambitions over and above the pursuit of an undergraduate degree.

### Key dates to apply for the 2017 Tuckwell Scholarships

Applications open: 29 February 2016

Applications due: 3pm (AEDT) 23 March 2016

Teacher Referee form due: 3pm (AEDT) 23 March 2016





16 female students from Years 10, 11 and 12 found a lovely way to celebrate International Women's Day this year attending the Women In Leadership Roles in the Australian Defence Force High Tea held at the Crown Plaza in Newcastle. Throughout the morning we were addressed by a range of very clever female role models who have forged strong leadership



### Business Cadetships

Applications for the Business Cadetships Program open on 7 March and close on 11 May. Year 12 students apply online at <http://www.businesscadetships.com.au> Under the program, UBS will continue to offer cadetship opportunities across the firm. Applications for the Engineering & Technology Cadetships (ETCAD) Program will open on 26 April.



UMAT REGISTRATIONS OPEN NOW Register by 3 June  
For dentistry and health science undergraduate level entry.  
Testing on 27 July <https://umat.acer.edu.au/>



### OPEN DAYS

Events for students to register and attend themselves.

For More dates:

<http://www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au/Open-days#.VsZ1vPnvOUk>

University of Newcastle Walking Tour 8 & 15 April

Come and experience what University is like.

<https://www.newcastle.edu.au/future-students/study-at-uon/key-dates>

Western Sydney University Campus Experience (Campbelltown Campus) 12th April. 3pm

Come and experience what University is like.

[https://logincms.uws.edu.au/future/future\\_students\\_home/events\\_at\\_uws/campus\\_experience](https://logincms.uws.edu.au/future/future_students_home/events_at_uws/campus_experience)

The University of Melbourne would like to invite your students to attend our Information Day for interstate students and their families at our Parkville campus on Monday 11 April, 9:00am – 4:30pm.

#### EVENT DETAILS

Date: Monday 11 April 2016

Location: University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria 3010

REGISTER NOW <http://go.unimelb.edu.au/fq2a>

Lois Carlton Recruitment Relationship Manager [lcarlton@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:lcarlton@unimelb.edu.au)

**BASAIR AVIATION COLLEGE**

## AVIATION OPEN DAY

**@SYDNEY AVIATORS** SUNDAY 13TH MARCH  
Hangar 276 Airport Avenue, Bankstown Airport, NSW 2200 8.30AM - 4.00PM

Sydney Aviators and Basair Aviation College are joining forces for one BIG Open Day

**JOIN US FOR**

- Tour of the Campus
- Complimentary BBQ lunch
- Guest speakers
- Aviation presentation
- Career advice
- Discounted TIFs
- Drone Presentations

30 minutes Trial Instructional Flight	\$120.00
1 hour Trial Instructional Flight	\$240.00

**CONTACT SYDNEY AVIATORS TODAY**

- ☎ 02 9793 8900
- ✉ [sydneyaviators.com.au](mailto:sydneyaviators.com.au)
- ✉ [fly@sydneyaviators.com.au](mailto:fly@sydneyaviators.com.au)
- 📘 [facebook.com/SydneyAviators](https://www.facebook.com/SydneyAviators)
- 🌐 [linkedin.com/company/6589318](https://www.linkedin.com/company/6589318)

**CONTACT BASAIR TODAY**

- ☎ 02 9791 0111
- ✉ [basair.edu.au](mailto:basair.edu.au)
- ✉ [fly@basair.edu.au](mailto:fly@basair.edu.au)
- 📘 [facebook.com/BasairAviationCollege](https://www.facebook.com/BasairAviationCollege)
- 🌐 [linkedin.com/edu/basair-aviation-college-361006](https://www.linkedin.com/edu/basair-aviation-college-361006)

University of Western Sydney [http://www.westernsydney.edu.au/future/future\\_students\\_home/events\\_at\\_uws/campus\\_experience#when](http://www.westernsydney.edu.au/future/future_students_home/events_at_uws/campus_experience#when)



### New Volunteering Opportunities

Volunteering Opportunities Cancer Council

March 13<sup>th</sup> - Loop the Lake Cycle Ride

Location – Speers Point Park

A family fun cycle around Lake Macquarie with the Rotary Club of Warners Bay. Raising funds for Cancer Council.

- Start/Finish site volunteers – Selling raffle tickets, staffing Cancer Council marquee and giving out sunscreen.
- Volunteer driving marshals – Support vehicles which patrol a sector of the course and provide support to riders who need assistance. A Cancer Council car will be provided along with event signage and safety lights.

Contact – Lauren Dale 4923 0727 or [laurend@nswcc.org.au](mailto:laurend@nswcc.org.au)



April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> – Coal Festival

Location - Muswellbrook

Volunteers needed to sell raffle tickets, 100s boards and collect donations.

Contact Pausha Prigent on 6572 5402

or [pausha.prigent@nswcc.org.au](mailto:pausha.prigent@nswcc.org.au)

April 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> – Tuff Truck Challenge

Location - Milbrodale

Volunteers needed to assist event organisers, sell raffle tickets, 100s boards and collect donations. Camping grounds are allocated. Own camping gear is essential.

Contact Pausha Prigent on 6572 5402 or [pausha.prigent@nswcc.org.au](mailto:pausha.prigent@nswcc.org.au)

St Johns Ambulance Cadets

This is an excellent opportunity for those interested in health careers.

Please click here (<http://cadets.stjohn.org.au>) for information on the St John Cadet & Junior program information and below for local Division contacts:

Adamstown Cadets	Milan Stenek	0431 088 467	meets Thursdays from 6:30 PM at St John Branch 1b Court St Adamstown
Lake Macquarie Cadets	Damian Wardrope	0408 475 604	meets Mondays from 6:30 PM at St John hall, James St Warners Bay
Maitland Cadets	John Comyns	0418 566 889	meets Mondays from 6:30 PM at Cinema Complex, Ken Tubman Dr Maitland
Mt Sugarloaf Cadets	Scott Roach	0437 417 585	meets Wednesdays from 7:00 PM at Edgeworth Neighbourhood Centre Cnr Main & Minmi Rds Edgeworth





**Basket Brigade Newcastle Branch**

The Newcastle Basket Brigade is part of a national not-for-profit organisation called Magic Moments Foundation of Australia. It was in existence in previous years. It went quiet for a few and in 2014, a small group of

eager volunteers decided to rekindle the group just 4 weeks before Christmas. In the space of 3 weeks, they formed a Committee of 13 people and 35 volunteers, assisting in surpassing their goal of 100 baskets. <http://www.magicmoments.org.au/nsw-newcastle-basket-brigade/>

**School Canteen**

If you have time to spare and you would like to volunteer in the school canteen on a regular basis please see Mrs Abbo to register and receive a clearance.

[Evatt NSW Debating and Political Diplomacy](https://unyouth.org.au/event/evatt-nsw/)  
Years 9 to 12 recreate the UN Security Council.  
<https://unyouth.org.au/event/evatt-nsw/>

**LEADERSHIP CAMPS**

<http://gripleadership.com.au/content/grip-national-leadership-camp/gjix4>

<https://unyouth.org.au/event/nswconference/>





**SCIENCE EVENTS**

<http://www.ansto.gov.au/Events/Eventsandresources/>

**NYSF2017 National Youth Science Forum**

Opens 1 March 2016 - For year 11 science students keen to learn more about tertiary study and career options. Applications to attend go to [www.nysf.edu.au](http://www.nysf.edu.au) to learn more about this transformative summer holiday program for students entering year 12. Mr Smith has details on a sponsorship if you require one.

<https://www.be.unsw.edu.au/events/1-day-workshops-high-school-students-%E2%80%93-year-10-11-12>

The poster features the ANSTO logo and the text 'Discover yourself at ANSTO' and '15 years + Careers Q&A tour'. It includes a photograph of a man in a white hard hat and a woman in a lab coat working in a laboratory setting. A green diagonal banner in the top right corner reads 'Carers Event'. At the bottom, it provides the date and time: 'Thursday April 21, 10-1pm at the ANSTO Discovery Centre, Lucas Heights' and contact information: 'Call 02 9717 3090 or email [tours@ansto.gov.au](mailto:tours@ansto.gov.au) for more information'.



**How to apply for  
the NYSF 2017**

**Three easy steps**

Step 1 Find a Rotary Club

Step 2 Register online

Step 3 Submit the application

[Click here for more information](#)



UNSW Engineering Mechanics by Experiment, Analysis and Design 18 April

This free online course, four hours per week for seven weeks.

<https://www.engineering.unsw.edu.au/all-events/free-online-course-through-engineers-eyes-engineering-mechanics-by-experiment-analysis>

### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

All relevant documents have been emailed to all of year 10,11 and 12. Please read these first. J Also not all programs are running the present. I have left them in here so that you are aware they exist and can research their program running times.

Health Inspiration Program 16 to 20 May 17 to 21 October

Applications for the Health Inspiration Program at Nepean Hospital Campus are open from 21 March until the 1 April . The program aims to provide realistic work experience for students interested in a career working in a hospital. <http://www.nbmlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/health-inspirations/health-inspirations>

Merewether Applicants: Note: this is in Sydney and you will need accommodation so talk to your parents first.

You need to find the applications and apply, then once you have been offered a placement we will complete the rest of the documentation after that.

2016 Go4IT Work Experience Program 7 to 11 March

Girls interested in IT do five days IT interactive learning.

[http://www.tcs.com/about/corp\\_responsibility/corporate-social-responsibility/Pages/TCS-Go4IT-work-experience-program-girls-IT.aspx](http://www.tcs.com/about/corp_responsibility/corporate-social-responsibility/Pages/TCS-Go4IT-work-experience-program-girls-IT.aspx)

SCIENCE - ANSTO above do offer work experience programs also. There is a brochure outside my office if you are interested.

Whitehouse Institute of Design, Australia offers on-campus work experience for design/education orientated Year 10 students. The week at Whitehouse would provide the opportunity for students to watch and learn about photo shoots , sit in on illustration and design classes and workshops as well as experience some of the core administration tasks in a design college such as graphic design for advertising, social media management and reception duties. Contact 1300 551 433

Work experience in the cotton industry chose a career that feeds and clothes the world - Cotton Australia can facilitate work experience requests from teachers and students who are interested in gaining experience with cotton growers, members or affiliates. Cotton is grown in the inland regions of NSW and central and southern QLD. Visit <http://cottonaustralia.com.au> or email [lanim@cotton.org.au](mailto:lanim@cotton.org.au) for more information.

CSIRO Work Experience Years 10 to 12 have experience of core research.

<http://www.csiro.au/org/Work-Experience-Overview.aspx>

Land Surveying opportunities Students looking for work experience with a surveying firm can register at <http://www.alifewithoutlimits.com.au/student-work-experience/secondary-students/>. We will liaise with local firms to help source placements where capacity is available. Students with a strong aptitude in Maths, an interest in Geography, IT and the Environment are encouraged to apply. Places are limited.



designed for students in Years 10, 11 and 12 who are considering a career in animation, games or visual effects. Students spend the week in a mini studio where they create a small game or film while learning some core skills along the way. To register, head to [www.aie.edu.au/workexperience](http://www.aie.edu.au/workexperience)

Work Experience with Fire and Rescue NSW  
Years 10 to 12 at the State Training College, Alexandria.  
Develop employment related skills and knowledge of this industry.  
Contact: 02 9318 4399 or [workexperience@fire.nsw.gov.au](mailto:workexperience@fire.nsw.gov.au)  
<http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=764>

### COMPETITIONS

QUT Blueshift Business Case Competition Closes 15 April  
A business case competition on a problem faced by a real business. Each team you have four weeks to submit a solution.  
Register now: <https://www.qut.edu.au/business/courses-and-study/secondary-schools-guide/blueshift>

NAIDOC Poster Competition Closes 21 March  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists aged 13 submit an artwork with winning piece will be used to promote NAIDOC week. Win \$5000. Theme is 'Song lines: The living narrative of our nation'.  
<http://www.naidoc.org.au/2016-national-naidoc-poster-competition-entry-form>

Big Science Competition - To do hardcopy register by 20 April Online registrations close 13 May  
Years 7 to 12 fun science challenge.

### Year 7 Peer Support Program

Our Year 7 students began the Peer Support Program 'Facing Our Challenges' in Week 4. Under the guidance of their Year 10 mentors, students will work through a variety of activities. These activities will assist students to:

- practise positive self-talk
- develop an optimistic attitude
- develop effective coping strategies
- show empathy towards self and others
- persevere in new and challenging situations
- develop resilience

The program is divided into eight sessions, and will run until the end of Term 1. So far, students have participated in activities that focus on the need to consider the feelings of others and appreciate different points of view, the influence that an optimistic attitude and positive self-talk can have on our feelings, and the importance of perseverance to success.

At the completion of the program, Year 7 students will be asked to complete a survey to assess the success of 'Facing Our Challenges'. If you have any questions regarding Peer Support, please contact Ms Howlett, either through the Office on 4969 3855 or via email at [Clare.Howlett@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Clare.Howlett@det.nsw.edu.au)

<https://www.asi.edu.au/programs/big-science-competition/>

### CAPA Bulletin – March 2016

The CAPA faculty has had a whirlwind start to the year, with fantastic excursions to Sydney and enrichment opportunities for our visual and performing artists.

### MUSIC

#### Matilda

On 17<sup>th</sup> March, 61 very keen students boarded a bus to Sydney to see *Matilda*! We had lunch at Darling Harbour followed by a short walk down to Sydney's Lyric Theatre. After the obligatory photo session we headed into the theatre to see the show. *Matilda* is the captivating musical masterpiece from the Royal Shakespeare Company. The original music was written by the very talented Tim Minchin. An amazing musical experience was had by all.



#### Encore

Year 11 and 12 Music Elective students travelled by train on 22<sup>nd</sup> February to the Sydney Opera House to see "Encore". Encore is a concert showcasing the best of the best HSC performances from the previous year. This year was a standout concert with incredibly high quality performances. This showcase is a wonderful opportunity to experience the high calibre of talent around the state.



**Senior Music Showcase at Lizottes**

This event will showcase Merewether High School's HSC and Preliminary HSC Music students. It is a fantastic evening with outstanding music and a wonderful menu. Come along and support our very talented students and enjoy a night out. Tickets are now available directly from the Lizotte's website.

**VISUAL ARTS**

**Artist in Residence**

On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March, Rachel Milne, a professional artist will be participating in an Artist in Residence workshop where she will work with Year 10 and 11 Visual Arts students focusing on the human figure as subject matter for art. Rachel is a renowned local, national and international artist, exhibiting both here and overseas. We look forward to the rich experiences Rachel has to offer our art students.

*One of Rachel Milne's interior paintings*





### Artexpress Success

Congratulations to Nicola de Jong, whose HSC artwork 'Shadows Remain' was selected for exhibition in Artexpress – the showcase of excellence in Visual Arts held each year in galleries across NSW. Nicola's work is currently on show in Sydney's Hazelhurst Gallery. The work explores circular forms and their shadows in both two dimensional and three dimensional forms and is dynamic and experimental. Congratulations Nicola on this outstanding achievement!

We also look forward to seeing Mia Stamenkovski's work 'The Long Goodbye' as part of Artexpress at Maitland Regional Art Gallery later in the year.



### Meet the Music

We attended our first Meet the Music Concert at Sydney Opera House for 2016 on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. This concert performed by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra presented the Scheherazade story through the music of Rimsky-Korsakov and John Adams. Amazing violin solos and musicality was on offer to those who attended. The next concert is 28<sup>th</sup> April. This concert will showcase the music of Nigel Westlake through the soundtrack for 'Babe'. The concert has been titled "Babe – Pig at the Symphony". Tickets are still available for this concert. All elective music students and MHS ensemble students are encouraged to attend.



### **Luna Park**

Luna Park once again became the venue for a fantastic Visual Arts excursion on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February for our Year 8 students. This site is the location of one of Sydney's most historic and important icons and imbued with a rich history both on a cultural and artistic level. Students study its legacy in class by looking at the history of Luna Park from foundation, through WW2 and its role as entertainment for a nation at war, to the tragic Ghost Train fire, property development plans, disrepair for 18 years and eventual revitalisation by the 'Friends of Luna Park' led by artist Martin Sharp.

As part of the Visual Arts program students get to experience firsthand the artworks by Art Barton as well as Sharp's laughing clown face entrance, Coney Island with its original pre-war features and of course the rides and fun on offer to the people. Students sketched, photographed and documented their experience in their VADs, ready to cre-





FUN AT LUNA PARK



March  
2016

Merewether High School Bulletin





### Year 7 Peer Support Program

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### Sailability

We catch the 350 bus from Broadmeadow to Sailing at Belmont on Thursdays Week B. We walk from the Pacific Highway down Evans Street to the sailing club. Everyone changes into sailing clothes, putting on a hat and sun-screen. All sailors wear a life jacket (PFD). Lizzie sails with Linda, a volunteer, and she helps with the steering ropes.

It was Jake's first time sailing and he pulls the ropes up and down as the volunteer instructs.

Emily, Billy and Sophie sail with volunteers around the buoys.

Malcom is a solo sailor but he took Lawrence with him and they followed boats around the markers. After lunch we walk to Belmont shops and travel back to Broadmeadow on the #350.





### Year 7 camp

The Year 7 camp was held at Morisset from Wednesday to Friday last week. One hundred and seventy six students and nine teachers were involved in a range of outdoor activities. Canoeing was a favourite activity along with mud world. Students were encouraged to try all activities with many pushing themselves and getting out of their comfort zone. A new initiative at the camp was the tidy room competition! After much consideration and several room inspections one group of boys (dorm E room 3) and five girls rooms (dorm A rooms 1 and 2, and dorm B rooms 4, 5 and 6) won with the most amazing clean and tidy rooms ever seen on a camp. Prizes for these students will be given out at our next year meeting. Students had eight activities over the three days as well as an activity each night, needless to say we were all exhausted by the time we returned on Friday afternoon.

Mrs Scollay and I would like to thank the staff who gave up their time to come to camp; Mr Gibb, Mr Rice, Mr Morrissey, Mrs Gilbertson, Ms Brooks, Mr Bell and Mr Southward.



Louise Greenland  
Year Adviser.





# SPORT

### CONGRATULATIONS

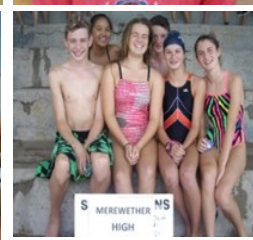
..... to all students for their enthusiasm and high participation rates at both the annual swimming and athletics carnivals. Your involvement and sportsmanship ensured that both events were extremely successful.

### SWIMMING CARNIVAL

A special mention goes to Bailey Proud and Charlie Hawke who broke three MHS swimming records each.

*MHS Swimming Age Champions are:*

Aidan Knipe	12 Years	Samantha Keogh
Aidan Mulder	13 Years	Ruby Browne
Charlie Hawke	14 Years	Katy McMahon
Matt Humby	15 Years	Leah Dove
Bailey Proud	16 Years	Georgina Brindley
Nic Sonntag	17 Years	Chloe Bell



### Swimming Representative Honours

55 students represented the school at the Zone Swimming Carnival and Merewether HS continued their long running success in the pool when they were crowned City Zone Champions for the 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. Samantha Keogh, Charlie Hawke, Marley Flint and Bailey Proud were named as City Zone Age Champions for their respective ages and 36 individual students and 16 relay teams were selected to swim at the Regional Carnival held last week. Ruby Browne, Marley Flint, Charlie Hawke, Samantha Keogh, Crystal Lang-Piason, Aidan Mulder, Bailey Proud, Mitch Robinson, Owen Small, Nic Sonntag and Callan Wainwright and 12 MHS relay teams have made it to the CHS Championships, to be held at Homebush Aquatic Centre on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> of April. 'Good Luck' to all swimmers.

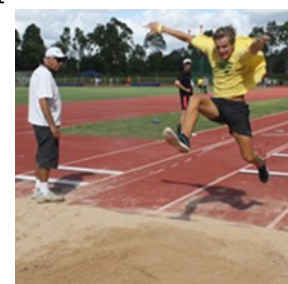
### ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

The warm weather did not deter students from participating in the recent athletics carnival. The high level of involvement and leadership demonstrated by the House Captains and senior students led to high participation rates in all events. Richards House scored the most 'participation points' but they were narrowly beaten by Norris House in the overall point score. The City Zone Carnival will be held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May and the school team will be announced later this term.

*MHS Athletics Age Champions are:*

12 Years – Aidan Knipe & Samantha Keogh  
 14 Years – Louis Stibbard & Lara Van Dorssen  
 16 years – James Lieschke & Maddi Melville

13 Years – Kyle Cochrane & Ruby Browne  
 15 Years – Kaiya King & Jade Hunter  
 17 Years – Tom Davies & Gabbie Loades



## PDHPE ACTIVITIES



### DIABETES FACT

**280 Australians develop Diabetes every day.**

**That equates to one every five minutes.**

### FUTSAL ACTION HOTTING UP!

The Hall each lunchtime has been an absolute hot bed of action as over 40 teams have been battling it out to see who will walk away with the Trophies. After the first round of matches the Girls competition is down to the last 4, with the unusually named 'Equals C' seeming to be the favourites. It was unfortunate to see both the Year 12 and Year 11 Girls teams defeated but as they say 'that's the way it goes'. The Boys division is living up to the hype of previous years with a number of top class games already being contested. Besides the odd upset the usual suspects are through to the later rounds inclusive of three highly talented and competitive Year 12 teams that must be favourites for the title. The winners this year will be the first winners of the Perpetual Futsal Cup for both Boys and Girls. Action from some of the games is highlighted on this page.



### 7 MINUTE FITNESS

What is this? Ask your son or daughter as MHS PE has now taken on this world wide craze and have introduced it into the start of each and every practical PE class. Not only has it been warmly received by students, other schools have already sat up and taken notice and tried to steal our idea. Just another example of Merewether High leading the way and a message for those other schools 'right at the moment it is our idea and we are not sharing'.



### HEALTH TASKS EXPLAINED

Parents will know from looking at their child's Assessment Schedules for PE that there has been a dramatic shift in our approach to their implementation. The Faculty fully realises that there are any number of students with different preferred ways of presenting their work. So for each Junior Course in 2016 students will be able to choose from a number of alternatives, each one targeting a slightly different part of the learnt content and each one presented in a slightly different way. All options are equal in rigour so all students will be undertaking the same amount of work irrespective of which of the three they choose. We are excited about the quality of work that will come out of this change and will ensure we highlight some of them in future Bulletins.

# March

## Merewether High School Bulletin



# 2016



### KIA ORA Bro!

After many months of juggling changing arrangements, and with a big thank you to Mrs Rippon for helping us with the approval, it looks like fingers crossed that the Sports Science New Zealand Excursion is all set to jet-off on the first day of the September school holidays. We have been give approval to continue the planning so hopefully in just over 7 months we will all be in our 'jindles' eating 'fush and chaps' as we wonder at the natural landscape in Rotorua. A large group of 45 students are set to undertake a fantastic five days full of team building, physical activity as well as culture and relaxation pursuits in the 'land of the long white cloud'. This excursion is the first of its type our Faculty has run and it builds on the work done in class in terms of Australian and International Sport, the cultural significance of sport around the world as well as old fashioned fun and adventure. At the very least the students needing to look after their own washing and in many instances cooking of meals are sure to return them to Australia as more well rounded, and in many cases, handier to have around the house, individuals.



### Our PE classes go FIVE STAR!

Amongst the raft of changes we have made in 2016 one of the most meaningful is our reworking of our PE athletics Program. This year all students in the Junior years will be competing for a Level Award, ranking their Athletic prowess on a scale of one star through to five star. We believe this to be a much better system as it rewards students with more points irrespective of the size of the improvement they show form one trial to another. It is common to see students repeating Shotput or Discus throws because they know that even a 1 or 2 cm improvement will see them score more points and potentially qualify for a higher award. The scoring system is also aged based meaning that students of different ages all have an equal chance for securing the higher Star ratings.

### ATLAS & NEAT retest!

It is well known within our school community as to the tremendous success of the ATLAS and NEAT programs that were piloted with a number of students from Year 9 last year. The final day of testing will take place early in Term 2 where researchers will compile the data that we all hope will be substantial enough for the Government to take on the program and fund it throughout NSW Schools. If it works out that way we are all very proud that Merewether High played such as significant part in helping students throughout the state in achieving HEALTH LITERACY!

### DID YOU REALISE?

Health Education for all students is doing its job! In the most recent survey conducted in this country it was found that less than 10% of people in the 15-19 years age group had ever had a puff on a cigarette.

**HEALTH EDUCATION = POSITIVE health behaviours**

It is interesting to note that of this 10% the figures indicate that more girls than boys smoke, and the worrying thing is that they do it as a weight control measure as they are concerned with body image. The PE department will be





March	
<b>Tues 15/3</b>	Year 12 PLG - LC - 8:45am - 10:30am P&C AGM - ILC - 7:30pm School Photos catch up day
<b>Thurs 17/3</b>	Year 11 Blue Mountains Fieldwork Excursion - day 1/2
<b>Fri 18/3</b>	Year 11 Blue Mountains Fieldwork Excursion - day 2/2
<b>Tues 22/3</b>	Year 7 Blackbutt Reserve Fieldwork Year 7 PLG - LC - 8:45am - 10:30am
<b>Fri 25/3</b>	Good Friday - No School
<b>Mon 28/3</b>	Easter Monday - No School
<b>Tues 29/3</b>	Year 12 Mid-Course Exams Commence Year 10 Fieldwork Excursion
<b>Wed 30/3</b>	Year 12 Mid-Course Exams
<b>Thurs 31/3</b>	Year 12 Mid-Course Exams
April	
<b>Fri 1/4</b>	Year 12 Mid-Course Exams
<b>Mon 4/4</b>	Year 12 Mid-Course Exams
<b>Tues 5/4</b>	Year 12 Mid-Course Exams
<b>Wed 6/4</b>	Year 12 Mid-Course Exams
<b>Thurs 7/4</b>	Year 12 Mid-Course Exams
<b>Fri 8/4</b>	Year 12 Mid-Course Exams Conclude End Term 1
<b>Mon 25/4</b>	ANZAC Day - No School
<b>Tues 26/4</b>	All Students return
<b>Thurs 28/4</b>	ANZAC Ceremony assembly - MPU UN Evatt Competition - Learning Centre - all day



MAY	
<b>Wed 4/5</b>	School Development Day - no students
<b>Tues 10/5</b>	Year 7 PLG - LC - 8:45am - 10:30am NAPLAN - Years 7 & 9
<b>Wed 11/5</b>	NAPLAN - Years 7 & 9
<b>Thurs 12/5</b>	NAPLAN - Years 7 & 9
<b>Fri 13/5</b>	NAPLAN - Years 7 & 9 - catch up
<b>Tues 17/5</b>	ICAS Digital Technologies Year 8 PLG - LC - 8:45am - 10:30am P&C Meeting - ILC - 7:30pm
<b>Tues 24/5</b>	Year 9 PLG - LC - 8:45am - 10:30am
<b>Tues 31/5</b>	ICAS Science - Years 7-10 Year 10 PLG - LC - 8:45am - 10:30am
JUNE	
<b>Tues 7/6</b>	Year 7 Vaccinations - LC Year 11 PLG - LC - 8:45am - 10:30am
<b>Mon 13/6</b>	ICAS Writing - this week
<b>Tues 14/6</b>	Year 12 PLG - LC - 8:45am - 10:30am
<b>Wed 15/6</b>	ICAS Spelling
<b>Tues 21/6</b>	Year 7 PLG - LC - 8:45am - 10:30am P&C Meeting - ILC - 7:30pm
<b>Thurs 30/6</b>	NAIDOC ASSEMBLY ROSA Assembly - Years 7, 9 & 11 - 11:00am ROSA Assembly - Years 8,10 & 12 - 1:30pm
JULY	
<b>Fri 1/7</b>	End Term 2
<b>Mon 18/7</b>	Students Return
<b>Tues 19/7</b>	Year 11 Jindabyne Camp - day 1/4
<b>Wed 20/7</b>	Year 11 Jindabyne Camp - day 2/4
<b>Thurs 21/7</b>	Year 7 - 2017 Tour and Information Session - 4:00pm Year 11 Jindabyne Camp - day 3/4
<b>Fri 22/7</b>	Year 11 Jindabyne Camp - day 4/4
<b>Monday 25/7</b>	Years 7 & 9 Parent Teacher Interviews
<b>Wed 27/7</b>	School Development Day—no students
<b>Wed 27/7</b>	Opportunity Class Placement test 8:00am - 1:00pm
<b>Thurs 28/7</b>	Australian Maths Comp



AUGUST	
<b>Mon 1/8</b>	Year 10 Reports Issued Year 12 Blackout period commences
<b>Tues 2/8</b>	ICAS English Year 7 - PLG - 8:45am - 10:30am - LC
<b>Thurs 4/8</b>	Years 8 & 10 Parent Teacher Interviews
<b>Mon 8/8</b>	Year 10 (2017) Information Evening - 4:30pm Year 11 (2017) Information Evening - 6:00pm
<b>Tues 9/8</b>	Year 8 (2017) Information Evening - 4:30pm Year 9 (2017) Information Evening - 5:30pm
<b>Mon 15/8</b>	Year 12 Trial HSC commence
<b>Tues 16/8</b>	ICAS Maths P&C Meeting - 7:30pm - ILC Year 12 Trial HSC
<b>Wed 17/8</b>	Year 12 Trial HSC
<b>Thurs 18/8</b>	Year 12 Trial HSC
<b>Fri 19/8</b>	Year 12 Trial HSC
<b>Mon 22/8</b>	Year 12 Trial HSC
<b>Tues 23/8</b>	Year 12 Trial HSC
<b>Wed 24/8</b>	Year 12 Trial HSC
<b>Thurs 25/8</b>	Year 12 Trial HSC
<b>Fri 26/8</b>	Year 12 Trial HSC concludes
<b>Mon 29/8</b>	Year 11 Blackout period commences
SEPTEMBER	
<b>Mon 5/9</b>	Year 11 Final Preliminary exams commence
<b>Tues 6/9</b>	Year 12 PLG - 8:45am - 10:30am - LC Year 12 Elevate Session Year 11 Final Preliminary exams
<b>Wed 7/9</b>	Year 11 Final Preliminary exams
<b>Thurs 8/9</b>	Year 11 Final Preliminary exams
<b>Fri 9/9</b>	Year 11 Final Preliminary exams
<b>Mon 12/9</b>	Year 11 Final Preliminary exams
<b>Tues 13/9</b>	Year 7 PLG - 8:45am - 10:30am - LC Year 11 Final Preliminary exams
<b>Wed 14/9</b>	Year 11 Final Preliminary exams
<b>Thurs 15/9</b>	Year 11 Final Preliminary exams
<b>Fri 16/9</b>	Year 11 Final Preliminary exams conclude
<b>Tues 20/9</b>	Year 12 (2017) Extension Course Info Session 4.30 pm P&C Meeting - ILC - 7:30pm
<b>Wed 21/9</b>	Year 12 Reports issued Sports Presentation Assembly 9.00am Year 12 Formal
<b>Fri 23/9</b>	Year 12 Presentation Assembly 9.30am End Term 3

# March 2016

## Merewether High School Bulletin



OCTOBER	
<b>Mon 10/10</b>	Year 12 (2017) Learning Conference
<b>Tues 11/10</b>	Year 11 Roadwhyz
<b>Wed 12/10</b>	Year 7 (2017) Info Session –4.00pm
<b>Thurs 13/10</b>	Year 7 (2016) Challenge Day-11.00am till 2.30pm
<b>Mon 17/10</b>	HSC Commences
<b>Tues 18/10</b>	P & C Meeting - ILC - 7.30pm
<b>Mon 24/10</b>	Year 11 Report issued
<b>Tues 25/10</b>	Year 7 PLG
<b>Wed 26/10</b>	Year 9 Urban Challenge
<b>Thurs 27/10</b>	Year 9 Urban Challenge
<b>Fri 28/10</b>	Year 9 Urban Challenge
<b>Mon 31/10</b>	Year 7—10 Blackout period commences
NOVEMBER	
<b>Tues 1/11</b>	Year 8 PLG
<b>Mon 7/11</b>	HSC Learning Centre 7 - 10 Exams Commence
<b>Tues 8/11</b>	HSC Learning Centre 7 - 10 exams Year 9 PLG
<b>Wed 9/11</b>	HSC Learning Centre 7 - 10 exams HSC concludes
<b>Thurs 10/11</b>	Year 7 - 10 Exams
<b>Fri 11/11</b>	Year 7 - 10 Exams
<b>Mon 14/11</b>	Year 7 - 10 Exams
<b>Tues 15/11</b>	P & C Meeting - ILC - 7.30pm Year 7 - 10 Exams Year 10 PLG
<b>Wed 16/11</b>	Year 7 - 10 Exams
<b>Thurs 17/11</b>	Year 7 - 10 Exams overflow if needed
<b>Fri 18/11</b>	Year 7 - 10 Exams overflow if needed
<b>Tues 22/11</b>	Year 11 (12 2017) PLG
<b>Fri 25/11</b>	Prefects Investiture 11.00am
<b>Wed 30/11</b>	Year 7 (2017) Orientation Day
DECEMBER	
<b>Mon 12/12</b>	Year 10 Assembly - 9.30am Year 9 Assembly - 11.15am
<b>Tues 13/12</b>	Year 8 Assembly - 9.30am Year 7 Assembly - 11.15am
<b>Wed 14/12</b>	Presentation Assembly - 10.30am
<b>Thurs 15/12</b>	Year 12 BBQ - 11.00am
<b>Fri 16/12</b>	Last Day of School

March  
2016

Merewether High School Bulletin



## The Uniform Shop

0401 725 885

[merewetherhigh@alinta.com.au](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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Wanderers Rugby Club



Morpeth Family  
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## *Tour Supporters*

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