# WOONONA

HIGH SCHOOL EXCELLENCE INNOVATION SUCCESS



# Newsletter

ISSUE No. 20 14 December 2015



# Orientation Day 2015



# Merry Chrístmas

**DELIVERING EXCELLENCE, INNOVATION, OPPORTUNITY AND SUCCESS** 

#### **PRINCIPALS MESSAGE**

#### **Presentation Night 2015**

It never ceases to amaze me the depth and breadth of talent within our student body at WHS. In every newsletter we celebrate student and staff achievements but last night we had our annual school presentation evening and it was fantastic to see so many students recognised for their academic, leadership, volunteering, creative and performing arts and sporting achievements. Congratulations to all award recipients. A large parent and community audience enjoyed the evening as did our special guests, all of whom asked to be invited back.

#### Variety Night

2015 Variety night was held on Tuesday evening, what a great night with students entertaining a captive audience with an array of musical, dance and drama performance items. More on this further in the newsletter.



#### **SRC Xmas Fundraiser**

A reminder that the Student Representative Council are collecting donations of tinned foods and non perishables for distribution to families in need at Christmas time. Donations can still be made early next week, I encourage all families to make



at least one donation in support of this wonderful initiative of the students of this school to give back to their community.

A huge thank you to those many families who have already donated gifts and food, it is a wonderful indication of the generosity and community spirit of our students, well done everyone.

#### HSC Results 2015

With confidence I look forward to Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December when the NSW Board of Studies releases this year Higher School Certificate results. I wish them all the best and look forward to reporting on their success in our first newsletter of 2016. I would like to remind all Year 12 students of our "sharing our successes" morning tea on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am.

#### **School Canteen**

A reminder from our canteen ladies. The canteen will not be open after Friday 11 December. Many students will be out of school on activities but for those here at school they will need to bring lunch, recess and drinks.





DON'T FORGET—Like us on Tacebook

#### DATE

Mon 14—16 Dec Wed 16 Dec Wed 16 Dec Thur 17 Dec

# EVENT

Student Activities Week HSC Results to students Last day for students for 2015 ATAR Morning Tea



Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Term 1, 2016 starts on January 28 for students in Years 7, 11 and 12. All other students return on Fríday 29 January.

Have a great holiday and we will see everyone in 2016.

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#### **PRESENTATION EVENING 2015**

Woonona High School held its annual Presentation Evening on Thursday 10 December.

It was a night for parents, students and staff to come together to celebrate student achievement in 2015. The ceremony recognised excellence in academic and sporting arenas as well as celebrating student leadership and community and school service..

The evening was very well supported by parents and carers with the hall full of happy faces as they watched their children receive awards for their hard work and dedication during 2015. There were musical interludes as well as a slide show featuring some of the highlights for the year.

Congratulations to all students who were recognised for their efforts.

Some of our major winners of the evening included:

Woonona High School Medal presented to Brenna Petrol. This award is the highest accolade presented to a student. It covers academic, leadership and community excellence.

The J.N. Webster Award for service to the school was presented to our school captains for 2015 igh School Elleigh Price and Brody O'Brien and the Woonona Lions Club Trophy for Service to the School was presented to our Vice Captains, 2015, Cello Mahon and Tim Pollock as well as our SRC Secretary Brenna Petrolo.

The award for greatest contribution to the school, the A.J. Jenkins trophy was presented to Year 11 student, Amelia McPherson. Our Year 10 student Bronte Petrolo was presented the G.M. Doyle Award and the Rotary Club prize for the greatest contribution to the school by a junior student.

Other awards included:

The Caltex Medal for the Best All-rounder: Joshua Bate, Year 11

The Member for Cunningham Trophy (Making a significant Contribution to the School and the Community): Taylah Carter

The Reuben F Scarf Award (Recognition of Consistent Effort and the Desire to the School Improve): Brittaney Shepherd

The Australian Defence Force Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Awards: Elleigh Price (Year 12) and Connor Johnson (Year10)

There were many more well deserved awards presented on the night, unfortunately far too many to mention here. If you would like a copy of the program which lists all award recipients, please contact the front office.











These are just a small sample of the fantastic photos that were taken on the night (see our face book page for more). It's always fun to look through the photos of special events and they do make the newsletter interesting. Thankyou Mrs Lisa Armstrong for all these great photos and for all the others that you and Mr Hoole have supplied for the newsletter this year. It is much appreciated!

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### **PASS THE FABULON!**

There is a tremendous amount of work that goes into our annual Presentation Evening.

To start, teachers must nominate for special awards, put in all their marks for placings in subjects, and someone must coordinate all the information so that our prize winners can be selected.

Not only are their certificates to be printed, signed and laminated, programs to be printed and proofed, slide shows to be created and flowers to be sorted. Trophies have to engraved, run sheets and musical items must be organised, special guests have to be invited and then there are the practice runs where timings and speeches are perfected.

All this has to be coordinated and made perfect for the night so that we can honour our students who have excelled and succeeded in style.

On Thursday morning, a trip to the hall to deliver some extra certificates saw a flurry of activity. There were student representatives practicing their speeches on stage, Ms Watt and Ms Matthews deep in discussion about the introduction of guests, Miss Sharp was organising some musical items and then there was Ms Wall over in the corner ironing table cloths (whilst giving instructions—lots of multi tasking happens at our school). Yes, Ms Wall expects perfection, and everyone knows that it's wise to deliver but she is always ready to step in and make sure our school is presented in a positive and perfect way no matter what the task.

Well done to ALL involved with the preparations for Presentation Night, it was a successful and fitting way to end 2015.



#### **OUR TALENTED MUSICIANS**



Woonona High School can boast some very talented musicians. Not only do they entertain us on Variety Night and in the school musical, they are also called upon to entertain us at various times during special assemblies. They do a fantastic job and certainly make assemblies entertaining and memorable.

#### **ORIENTATION DAY**



We were very excited to host the new Year 7, 2016 cohort at Woonona High School on Thursday 3rd December. The day began with a short introduction by Ms Steele, Ms Wall, Mr Rayner, Ms Watt and Ms Coote. Students were then placed in class groups and peer support groups consecutively. Following this, they were escorted around the school by their Peer Support leaders and hunted around for letters which spelt out a secret message.

After a short recess break, each class group were timetabled into sample lessons which ranged from Music and English, to Cooking and Art. The teachers provided fun and engaging lessons which reflect those of our current High School curriculum. Mr Rayner and Mr De Main cooked up a BBQ lunch for the students which was prepared for by our canteen staff and Ms Mete. The afternoon finished up with a group challenge. In their Peer Support groups with guidance from Miss Potter and Ms Steele, students had to create a costume made from newspaper and masking tape. Under strict time restrictions and pressure from other teams, the students created some very interesting and humorous costumes and completed a catwalk parade to displayed their creations!

A closing word from Ms Wall identified if the students had completed their 'homework' which was set in the morning. The key message was getting to know someone from another school and find out what they like to do in their free time. Luckily, all students who were chosen to speak had completed this.

A wonderful day had by all, lovely weather and lots of smiling faces as they departed their first 'taster day' as a High School student. I wish to thank all staff involved in the organisation of our 2015 Orientation Day. A huge amount of time and effort went into coordinating this day and it cannot be executed single handed. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you all back in Term 1, 2016!

Z. Steele (PDHPE Teacher and Year 7 2016 Year Adviser)



#### PEER SUPPORT

Over four consecutive days, over 50 Year 9 students participated in the Peer Support training program. Under the guidance of Ms Pryor and Mr De Main, the students were involved in activities which improved their communication and cooperation skills. Furthermore, the key skills for effective leadership were of high importance. The training the students received will enable them to participate in Peer Support mentoring in 2016, where they will receive a group of 6-7 Year 7 students. Over the first 6 months of the year, the Year 9 students will mentor the Year 7 students and create positive relationships among the groups. This connection among the peers creates greater unity within the school environment as a result. The Peer Support leaders met their prospective groups on Orientation Day, where they assisted these students with becoming familiar with the school grounds and making them feel confident in a classroom context. It was a pleasure to see the students 'step up' and take the lead in many situations throughout the day!



On Friday 4th December, Ms Pryor, Ms Mellor, and Mr Wilson accompanied the Peer Support students to Stanwell Tops Recreation Centre. The purpose of this excursion was to concrete the skills created in the training days and to continue to improve leadership skills among the groups. Activities included "Survivor" based challenges: crossing a river only using planks; spider web challenges and balancing challenges. We finished the day with the GIANT SWING - one of which was approximately 30m high. This was a fun way to complete the day as all students encouraged one another to face some fear of heights. All three teachers who attended the excursion were so impressed by the behaviour of the students. They even gave three cheers to the bus driver on the way home. We are very excited to see the leadership skills develop in the coming year. Z. Pryor (PDHPE Teacher and Year 7, 2016, Year Adviser)





### WOO TOWN FUNK—VARIETY NIGHT 2015



"Woo Town Funk" was the theme for Variety Night, our annual showcase of Creative and Performing Arts. The concert is always a highlight on the calendar and 2015 was no exception, with over 50 students from Year 7-12 involved in a variety of entertaining music, dance and drama items. Preparations for this year's show began in Week 8 with a 3 day workshop held at the Wollongong Conservatorium of Music, and it was amazing to see so many items come together in such a short time.

Highlights included the opening number "Downtown" which saw the whole cast of the show up on stage, singing, rapping and dancing to the live band and our funky Moped (thank you to the Charlesworth family for letting us borrow the scooter!); and "Can I Get A Moment?" which saw the talents of our dance ensemble combine with our vocalists. "Turning Tables" was also a standout as our students sang, played the grand piano and danced along with a live string quartet. The string quartet then remained on stage to accompany a rock group in "I Write Sins Not Tragedies," which was also a HSC assessment task.

Our Junior Band opened the second Act with a few catchy songs before handing over to the Woonona Community of Schools Primary Band for their debut performance. Overall, it was a fantastic night demonstrating our wonderful breadth of talent.























### THIRROUL DISABLED SURFERS DAY



A number of Woonona High students and teachers joined forces to take part in the disabled surfers day which was held at Thirroul on Saturday 5th December. All participants worked together in the pool before venturing out to the surf. We made some new friends on the day and most of us look forward to seeing them again next year at the same event. It was great to have Ms Wall come along and add her moral support. Next year we hope to get some actual surfing photos to show off how much fun it is. Students who participated were Jenna Montgomery, Kyla Cornwell, Julia Tovey, Kiahni Scott, Caleb Walker, Stuart Logan, Callum Sweeney. Nick Logan and Robert Cornwell were parents who jumped in and helped out as well as Woonona High Teachers Shae Arazny, Nathan Mucci and myself.

Rod Landy



#### THIS WEEK AT ASSEMBLY



A representative from the White Ribbon organisation came to Woonona High School to be presented with a cheque for \$500.

The money was raised during our White Ribbon campaign where a car wash, lunchtime BBQ and cake stall was held to raise important funds that will help keep the organisation operational.

The cheque was presented by Ms Gail Mellor (HSIE Teacher) who was responsible for the organisation of our White Ribbon assembly and fund raising cake stall.





This week at assembly we farewelled two of our popular staff members who will not be returning to Woonona High School in 2016. Mr Cameron Reynolds and Mr Thomas Pearson are both leaving us this year.

Mr Reynolds has been at Woonona High School for just over 2 years He is a Mathematics Teacher and also looked after sport this year while Mrs Sim was on leave. He was a keen advocate for "Wear it Purple" day, inspiring us all to support this worthy cause. Cameron will be teaching at Liverpool Boys High School next year. We wish him well and hope that one day he might return to Woonona High.

Mr Tom Pearson came to Woonona High School at the beginning of Term 2, 2015. He was our school Chaplain and was responsible for several of our welfare based programs as well as keeping the popular "Toast Club" running. The toast Club is held on Tuesdays during lunch break and Thursdays at recess and is enjoyed by many students.

We wish Tom all the best in his new adventures.



During our quad assembly this week , Mrs Patricia Roddis presented certificates to students for excellent participation in the Accelerated Reader program. For a further report see page 19 of this issue.

#### **CORRIMAL COUGARS MURAL**









St George Illawarra Dragons centre Dylan Farrell was amongst the guests in attendance at the unveiling of a unique initiative involving local indigenous artists and school children at Corrimal Cougars Rugby League Club on Monday 30 November.

In the planning for many months, the spectacular mural reflects the local area and the Cougars club, through the eyes of the local indigenous community.

Local indigenous artist, Zachary Bennett-Brook, (and regular visitor to Woonona High School) directed the project and was assisted in mentoring students at Corrimal and Woonona High Schools who have contributed to the project by teachers Paul Zubovic (Woonona High School) and Joel Foster (Corrimal High School).

Zac visited Woonona High on Monday 26th November and spent the day helping our students with their art work.

Corrimal Cougars President Dave Adams was excited to see this initiative reach its unveiling.

Well done to all our indigenous student involved in the mural.

#### **RAISING MONEY FOR NEPAL**



During this term Woonona High School has held several fundraisers to raise money for the people of Nepal.

Nepal was rocked by devastating earthquakes in April followed by torrential monsoon rains. This left thousands of people homeless and without food. To this day there are many people living in makeshift housing without amenities or insulation from the elements.

Corrimal Rotary has strenuously supported the people of Nepal by raising money for housing, food and clothing. This week at assembly a cheque for the combined total of our fundraising efforts so far was presented to Corrimal Rotary representative (and ex Woonona High School employee) Mrs Jean Thompson. Jean explained that the money we had raised was to be spent on blankets for the people of Nepal as the impending sub zero temperatures that Nepal was about to experience would make life unbearable for many people.

The staff and students of Woonona High School supported all fundraising activities that Mrs Carmen Mete, Ms Jo Bolam and our SRC members held. These ranged from selling special treats at the canteen on numerous occasions and a "Change for Change" fundraiser that asked canteen patrons to donate their change from purchases.

Well done to all involved in organising, making and selling treats and to the students and staff who supported the fundraising efforts.

Our fund raising efforts for this important cause will be continuing.

#### **RED DAY FOR NEPAL**

Fundraising for "Food For Life: Nepal" went well last Friday. An assortment of red lollies were swooped up by students and \$63 was raised. This money will go to help fund Food For Life's program that aims to provide 1000 meals a day to Nepalese school children. This is one of a number of successful fundraising efforts for Nepal this year.



#### **NEPAL FUNDRAISING**

I wish to thank our entire school community for the support and help provided, for the dedication and willingness to help throughout 2015. Due to the strength and willingness to succeed throughout this year we have purchased windows and doors for various mountain schools, blankets for the orphanage, and we have donated to "Food for Life".

The school community has made a difference in the lives of the children of Nepal. Children will go to bed fed and nourished and ready to attend classes at school the next day.

It is wonderful as a community that we never ignore a cry for help and that we are attuned to the concerns of even the smallest individuals who struggle to survive.

Thankyou to Ms Wall for your strength and open minded thinking and your readiness to help, our fund raising would not have been as successful without your continued support.

A special thankyou to Mr Michael De Main for sharing his ideas and keeping me grounded. I also appreciate that through the newsletter I am able to advertise our fundraising activities and report on our successes. Thankyou to Julie Rinner for photographing and reporting on our events.

"Out of little things big things grow"

Wishing you all an enjoyable and safe Christmas.

With warm regards Carmen Mete (Food Technology Assistant)

The school would also like to thank Mrs Mete for her energy and enthusiasm in supporting of our students in their fundraising efforts. She inspires our students and is always available to help out. Well done Carmen.

### YEAR 10 CAKE MAKING



The Year 10 Food Technology class has been very busy and creative making decorated cakes.

First of all the class made chocolate cakes before setting about decorating with fondant icing. Fondant icing needs to be coloured and kneaded before being rolled and cut into shapes and used to decorate the cakes.

The designs that the class came up with were very creative with some of the boys borrowing sports logos for their designs.

All the cakes looked terrific and I'm sure they tasted even better.





### **10 MUSIC EXCURSION – "FAST FORWARD AND RECORD"**

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October, Year 10 Music students had the opportunity to visit the Australian Institute of Music in Sydney and attend the interactive workshop, "Fast Forward and Record." This workshop gave students an insight into the creative process of composing music for films, recording dialogue and creating sound effects. As Year 10 are currently studying Music and Technology, this workshop was particularly useful in inspiring their own creativity and helped them to prepare for the assessment of their film trailer music projects. As you can see in the pictures, some students were invited to the stage to assist with the recording and you can see Conor Johnson punching a cabbage to provide a sound effect for Brad Pitt on the screen. Thank you to Miss Kate Sharp for taking Year 10 on this excursion.











## WOONONA BULLI RSL SUPPORTS WHS

Once again Woonona Bulli RSL has supported Woonona High School by donating a range of gym equipment. Our school now has a well equipped gymnasium which is enjoyed by many students and teachers.

This year Woonona Bulli RSL has also donated money towards our new dance studio. The studio is well under way and will be enjoyed by our dance students next year.

The club also supports Presentation Night and major assemblies throughout the year by donating prizes and awards.

Thankyou WB RSL, your support of our school is every important to us.

## ACCELERATED READING PROGRAM



ccelerated The following students were awarded certificates for their excellent participation and results in the Accelerated Reading program. Aishah Muhammed, Brooklyn Younger, Olivia Vale, Jahra Tawhai-King, Jarod Inzinger, Brandon Burger, Addison Muslo, Benjamin King-Crank, Brett Dunning, Conner Gray





# **DEC Student Volunteering Awards**

Each year students in Year's 9 and 10 are given the opportunity to participate in the Department of Education's Student Volunteering Awards. In recognition of their achievements students are awarded certificates based on the number of hours they have volunteered. For 20 hours of volunteering students receive a Bronze certificate, a Silver for 40 hours, a Gold for sixty ,a Diamond for 80 hours and a Black Opal for 150 hours or more.

This year Woonona High received 102 certificates which were made up of 51 Bronze, 27 Silver, 12 Gold , 11 Diamond and 1 Black Opal.

Our Diamond and Black Opal recipients( pictured below) were Shantelle Hadfield, Tahnee Hottes, Joe Buckman, Adrian Dalmonte, Lachlan Vale, Brodie Petrolo, Lachlan Jones, Cooper Rostirolla, Nicholas Austin, Nicholas Cracknell.



Congratulations and well done to all students who earned certificates for the accelerated reading program and to our wonderful volunteers.

Ms Roddis



## Message for parents of students in years 7, 8 and 9, 2016.

Dear parents and Carers,

Thank you for the responses that you sent in with regards to your preferences to obtain a suitable laptop for your students. With these approximate numbers, I was able to approach computer retailers and ask for the best possible deals. Special thanks to Mrs Dugan (grandmother) who was happy to do some leg work as well.

Harvey Norman at Warrawong has offered this deal. Parents can access it directly through the store or may choose to deposit the funds at the school for a group purchase which will occur as indicated in late February. Either way the price will be the same.

The computer selected is the Lenovo G40/45. It has the following specifications:

AMD Quad Core processor 4 GB RAM 500 GB Hard Drive CD drive 4-6 hour battery life- dependent upon use Prices With - 2 year warranty- \$547 With - 3 year warranty- \$610

With - 4 year warranty- \$669

Please note that the prices include warranty for between 2-4 years which is extended from the regular 12 months. I hope this helps you make your decision in support of Bring Your Own Device at Woonona High School. If you choose to buy direct from the shop then please refer your purchase to Adam Clay. The contact number for him at Harvey Norman is 42238850. Please take a copy of our newsletter/ phone alert with you to purchase.

Kind Regards

Neil Brophy

Rel. Deputy Principal





Australian Government Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner

# How to report cyberbullying material



Report the cyberbullying material to the social media service

Collect evidence — copy URLs or take screenshots of the material

If the content is not removed within 48 hours...



Report it to www.esafety.gov.au/ cyberbullying-complaint



Block the person and talk to someone you trust

If you are in immediate danger, call Triple Zero (000).

If you need to talk to someone, visit Kids Helpline online or call them on 1800 55 1800, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

# **Community Noticeboard**



Modified Rules to suit different age groups. Competition runs for school term 1, 2016. Proposed Age groups - U/12/14/16. Team spots limited. Skills and Training Program Monday nights, places limited. enquiries: juniors@illwp.com f IllawarnsWatarpolo@Illawarnawatarpolo



t youth

Opportunities to gain scholarships to further improve swimming and surf skills.

Proficiency swim test including travel to & from Northern Stars indoor pool.

nch is provided. Places are limited. B

# Woonona Boardriders Junior Summer Sessions

#### You are invited to our Woonona Boardriders junior open days over summer

#### FREE surf sessions open to Girls and Boys from any level of ability:

- Beginners: Learning the fundamentals of surfing, right through to standing up on a wave
- Intermediate: Catching a green face wave, bottom turns, duckdiving

Friday 8 Jan 2016 For more information contact Trish

on 4285 3055 or Paula 0458 205 002 or contact your local school office.

bellambi

Little Rippers (Advanced): There'll be judged heats for Under 14, and Under 16

Dates	Round 2:	Sunday 29th November	
	Round 3:	Sunday 20th December (Juniors only round)	
	Round 4:	Sunday 31st January (also rego day for anyone who wants to join for the full 2016 year)	
	Round 5:	Sunday 28th February	
	Come along to any or all of these dates		
Time	Sign on at 7.30am for an 8am start (we will finish juniors around 9.30am)		
Place	Woonona	Woonona Beach or North Side, depending on conditions, look for the Woonona Boardriders tent	
f		e any questions, we can be contacted on Facebook @ <b>Woonona Boardriders</b> call Lucas (0418 589402) or Paul (0407 263308)	





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Woonona

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