

## Principal's Message

*Ms Das Neves*

### Parent Teacher Nights

It has been a very busy start to the term. It was very pleasing to see so many Year 7 Parents at the Parent Teacher Evening in Week 2. Please remember that if you have any queries or concerns at any time about your child's progress you can ring the Student Adviser or leave a message for any of your child's teachers to contact you.

### Recognition Assemblies

Our Recognition Assemblies for Years 7, 8, and 9 were held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August in the Gymnasium. It was wonderful to see so many different students achieving. Almost half of all students received an achievement or encouragement award at the presentations. I spoke to the students about the importance of all aspects of their schooling, not just the academic, and the value that Girraween places on a broad education to prepare students for the choices they will face in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. They will embrace careers that we have not yet dreamt of. I was very pleased to meet some of the many parents who were able to attend to support their children.

### Subject Selection

Year 10 is in the midst of subject selection for their HSC years. There was a very good attendance at the HSC Information Evening on 31st July. Year 10 are being guided through a thorough process to ensure they make the best and most relevant decisions based on their individual needs and circumstances.

*Continued on next page*

## GIRRAWEEN HIGH SCHOOL

### Proudly Presents...



### **AN EXUBERANT ROCK MUSICAL!**

**DATES: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August**

**TIME: Shows will start at 7:30 pm in the gym and finish at 9:30 pm.**

**TICKETS: \$12 for adults, \$8 for students, \$35 for a family of four are now available from the From Office. They are certain to run out, so get your tickets today!**

## Coming Events

### August

#### Week 5A

- 13-17 12 Trial HSC
- 14 8 Parent Night in Library
- 15 11 Japanese Task
- 16 10 Interview Subject Selection  
9 Maths Test 3 Part A
- 17 9 Maths Test 3 Part B  
8 Geography Excursion

#### Week 6B

- 20 11 Ancient History Investigation
- 21 7 Maths Test 3
- 22 Physics Olympiad  
Musical Evening Performance  
P&C Meeting in Common Room 7:30pm
- 23 Musical Evening Performance  
Sports Photos
- 24 10 Science Practical Task

#### Week 7A

- 27 11G English Extn 1 Task
- 29 Biology Olympiad  
11 English Extn 1 Task  
11 Studies of Religion Orals  
8 Science Major Investigation due  
8N Japanese Excursion
- 30 11 Maths Extn Task
- 31 11 English Writing Task  
11 Studies of Religion Orals  
8R Japanese Excursion

### September

#### Week 8B

- 3 12 History Extn Project due  
11 Legal Studies Research  
8 Gala Day
- 4-7 CHS Athletics
- 5 CHS Athletics  
Chemistry Olympiad  
10/11/12 UTS IT Info Day  
11 Studies of Religion Orals
- 6 Girrafest
- 7 APEC Public Holiday

#### Week 9A

- 10 10/11/12 Girls Immunisation  
September Newsletter cut-off
- 11 7 Science Practical Task  
Interschool Comp vs Mitchell HS
- 12 11 Modern History Task
- 13 Senior Leadership Induction Ceremony
- 14 10 Geography Test

# August P&C meeting

**WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> AUGUST 2007**

**From 7.30 pm**

**In the Staff Common Room**

**Come along to the P & C meeting and  
take part in what's happening  
around your school.**

**Everybody is very welcome and the  
meeting is followed by tea and  
coffee at around 9pm.**

## New School Captains

It was wonderful to hear the mature and accomplished speeches of the Year 11 students who nominated for the position of School Captains for 2008. Every one of them was a worthy candidate and has the qualities to be successful and effective. These young people are prepared to serve others at a very busy time in their lives. This depth of leadership is a wonderful asset to the school. All candidates are to be congratulated for putting themselves forward.

Congratulations to these students who have been elected by their peers:

**School Captains: Ana Suvajlo and Jamiel Virata**  
**School Vice-Captains: Ai-My Le and Ivan Luburic**

There will be more leadership opportunities available, as Prefects, House Leaders and SRC Representatives are elected.

## Competitions

There have been wonderful results, outlined later in this newsletter, from the University of NSW International Assessment for Schools Science Competition and the National Geographic Geography Competition. Congratulations to all students who participated. In the last couple of weeks large numbers of students have been involved in the Australian Maths Competition, the Australian National Chemistry Quiz and the ACER Language Competitions. These are very valuable experiences which extend our able students and are built into our programs for extension.

## Trial Higher School Certificate

This began on the 6th August for all our HSC candidates. I spoke to Year 12 immediately before this and reminded them that with the assistance of their teachers they can improve their exam marks significantly in the 6 weeks following the Trial. This is a vital time for consolidation and students should attend every lesson. I also reminded them that the performance of the whole group is very important in ensuring they are able to maximise overall marks. Please ensure your son or daughter understands these points.

## Excursions

A big thank you to Mr Sarlej, Ms Kwiet, Ms Walker, Mr Cameron, Mr Henretty and Ms Stuart who took a large group of Year 11 Students to Jindabyne for three days last week. Likewise, thanks to Mr Kaplinski, Ms Thomas, Mr Kettels and Ms Pointer who took Year 10 to Canberra for two days as part of their Mandatory History studies. These excursions are not possible without the goodwill of teachers who give up their own time unpaid, and leave their families, in order to give students these special experiences. Congratulations to students on their demeanour and behaviour while on these excursions.

## Year 8 Parent Evening 14<sup>th</sup> August, 7.15 pm

A reminder that this event, sponsored by the P&C, is a valuable opportunity to learn about the issues facing students in a Selective High School and will provide advice for parents and information about subject choices in Year 9. We would like to welcome as many Year 8 parents as possible.

## Co-ordinator's Message

*Mrs Sharp*

### *The 2007 etcetera team*

#### **Editors**

Nathalie Vo (11)

Srishti Yadav (10)

#### **Photojournalists**

Madhu Edirisinghe (7)

Sowmya Bysani (10)

Priya Singh (7)

Ryan Tam (10)

Justin Teo (8)

Anthony Yeoh (11)

Carmen Lau (8)

Wilson Lu (11)

Sana Ahmed (9)

Julia Korolkova (12)

Tiffany Lanzing (9)

Dominique Gagarin (12)

#### **Web & Graphic Designers**

Melani Mahendran (10)

John Ranola (10)

Georgina Luhur (11)

Thuwaarahan Nadesan (11)

### *The closing date for the September edition of etcetera is Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September.*

*etcetera* is always happy to include articles and advertisements - please see one of the Newsletter team if you're interested in contributing. We really appreciate the contributions staff, students and parents make to *etcetera* - thanks to everyone who contributed this month.

If you have received a paper copy of the newsletter and would like to view it in all its colourful glory, it can be downloaded from [www.girraween-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/whatsnew/newsletters/aug07.pdf](http://www.girraween-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/whatsnew/newsletters/aug07.pdf)

If you would prefer to be emailed a notice when the latest newsletter can be downloaded rather than receive a paper copy, please email your name and your child's name to [newsletter@girraween-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](mailto:newsletter@girraween-h.schools.nsw.edu.au) with "Email Newsletter" as the subject.

# 2007 Australian Geography Competition (AGC)

*Mrs Payne - AGC Co-ordinator*

Congratulations to the 350 geographers from Girraween High School who challenged their geographical skills and knowledge in the annual National Geographic Channel Australian Geography Competition earlier this year.

With the geographical issues of global warming and sustainable environments on their minds, approximately 86,000 entries were received from nearly 800 schools nationwide. Girraweeners performed admirably with 74 High Distinctions, 39 Distinctions and 96 Credits.

In the Junior section of the competition, Connor Hogg and Manbir excelled, finishing in the top 3.5% of Australia.

In the Intermediate section there were a number of standouts. Simon Graham finished equal 71<sup>st</sup> and in the top 0.3% of Australia. In a competition which always seems to be dominated by boys, it is wonderful to see Sarika Pandaya achieve a High Distinction, finishing equal 113<sup>th</sup> and in the top 0.4% of Australia, along with Stephen. Other commendable efforts in this section included Keith Leung, Conan Huang, Kane Kersaitis, Dylan Simmer and Jarrod Waterlow.

24 students entered the senior section with 6 of them gaining a High Distinction. They were Jake, John Lingad, Andrew Hudson, Micky Saxena, Dylan and Sarah Stanton.

A tremendous effort from all of our geographers who still see Geography as relevant and important in today's society.

## Senior Students Explore their Careers

*By Anthony Yeoh*

On Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> of July, 2007, a group of Year 11 and 12 students interested in future career opportunities took a visit to the University of Western Sydney, Campbelltown for the annual UWS Career's Excursion.

Accompanied by passionate career's adviser Ms. Youhanna and our excited Year adviser, Ms. Kwiet, the buses departed Girraween at 9am and reached the campus at about 10am. There were many other schools visiting who also seemed eager to find out more about all the potential professions. From here, we received our coloured armbands (which many students were amused by) and schedules, after which we broke up into our designated groups. The specific areas we went off to included Law, Medicine & Health, Arts & Humanities, Science, Business, Engineering, Computing and Accounting where many workshops were displayed to us. We also received gift bags which included handbooks on specific occupational paths and scholarships and detailed information on courses, but the main question that arose was over who got "Honey Soy Chicken" or "Original" flavoured chips.

## ADVERTISING

*etcetera* is now selling advertising space. If you would like to place an ad in our newsletter, please email [newsletter@girraween-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](mailto:newsletter@girraween-h.schools.nsw.edu.au) with your information before the cut-off date shown above.

Prices: 4cm x 7cm (business card size) - \$10  
Quarter page - \$15  
Half page - \$25  
Full page - \$50  
Classifieds - 50c per word

*etcetera* is delivered 10 times yearly to all students attending Girraween High School and is available for viewing on our website.

The campus was massive and had many buildings, cafeterias and fields where we saw many university scholars busy studying and relaxing. It was overwhelming to think that we would soon be in their position in a few years time, and made us feel possessive of the time we had left in high school. The majority of students went to the Arts & Humanities sector where pupils learnt about Police work, Creative and Communicative Media, Forensic Psychology, Education and how to make a difference in the world through important issues such as poverty.

It was a real eye opener as we all busily wrote notes on what interested us and asked questions of the lecturers who were happy to help. There were also many cheerful volunteers in orange who seemed enthusiastic to guide us to our correct destinations in case we got lost. During our lunch break, many students enjoyed the music and entertainment provided by DJ's and enjoyed the food and facilities including pool, table tennis and many chill out lounges.

At 2pm it was time for us to leave, and we were all disappointed that the day had gone by very quickly as we had learnt so much from the expo. On the bus ride back, we all traded light bulbs, rocks, puzzles and love heart figurines (don't ask), but most of all questioned each other on the day's insightful experience into our upcoming years. In the end, it was a fantastic learning experience where many students expanded their career horizons and found much needed knowledge for what they would be studying in the future.

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## National Leadership Camp Report

*Sarah Rashid  
Sherif Alam*

### Day One & Two (10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> July)

The bus was waiting, the luggage loaded, and on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July, two students from Girraween High School embarked on a journey of change. We were on the way to the National Leadership Camp - a premier leadership training program for Young Australians. Each year it brings together up to 200 students nationwide. We were privileged to attend NLC 2007 from 10<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> July at Collaroy Beach Conference Centre.

Upon arrival, we tuned into the first leadership talk on "Agents of Change" from Bec Heinrich and Tina Cameron, co-directors of "Rising Generations" and organisers of NLC 2007. They introduced the Five Commandments of Leadership: Vision, Values, Passion, Resilience & Service. Their message was loud and clear - We are to be Agents of Change!

Afterwards we separated into "Tribal Councils." On Days One and Two our "Tribal Challenges" were "Can we conquer Bob?" and "Rising Generation Olympics." Both challenges involved team spirit, support and cooperation with coin tosses, wheelbarrow races, pass-the-hoop, and frog leap stunts.

Following each exhausting "Tribal Challenge" was a series of leadership talks by Jason Smith (Captain Sydney Kings basketball team), Mike Baird (Manly MP) and Peter Irvine (Australian Franchise Owner Gloria Jeans). They were leaders of different lives, but they all believed that leaders require determination, honesty, integrity, innovation, passion, personal sacrifice and risk taking to be the change they want to see in the world.

Arguably the most inspiring session was "The Panel." We were divided into groups according to gender and given the opportunity to openly reveal our personal joys and tragedies. Both the mentors and students shared their experiences of personal hardships through crime, drugs, family breakup and relationship problems. When the session came to a close, we left for supper feeling a greater appreciation for our privileged upbringings.

### Day Three & Four (12<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> July)

Day 3 began with a thundering at our doors at 5:30am as the mentors screamed "GET OUT - IT'S TIME FOR BOOT CAMP!" We warmed up doing laps of the oval, then a 5 kilometre run - along the beach to the tip of a headland. It didn't end there. The speakers of the day were Robyn Moore (Voice actor for Blinky Bill and characters from Skippy & Flipper) and Brett Murray (Director of DareOPS), who inspiring us with their recounts of change.

In Tribal Council time we prepared for "Songfest" and for our "NLC Revue" performances. NLC Revue came and went (we wore our best clothes) and then it was time for Songfest.

Each tribe sang and bribed the judges for points, and the winners were announced, we had a surprise disco. The night ended for most people at around 4 a.m. as we wrote "fuzzy-wuzzy" good-bye notes for everyone.

On the last day we packed up and said farewell. After a final tribal council meeting, the last words were spoken in the conference room - camp ended where it had started. People were called to speak one at a time and for the whole hour everyone was crying. And that's where we parted. People got on buses to the Airport or Central Station. On the bus were the same people as the bus ride to NLC except on the return trip, we knew each other a whole lot better and we knew that one person can change the world. You have to start to change the world, you have to "Be the change you want to see in the world" - Mahatma Ghandi.

NLC was an experience beyond comprehension; indescribable and unbelievably life-changing. This review doesn't do justice to a camp worth a book full of memories, but we hope you can make a change in the world around you. Every little bit counts.

## Drama Excursion

*Tiffany Lanzing*

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> of July, Years 9 & 10 Drama students travelled to the Sydney Opera House in the city to watch the play "Dr Egg and the Man with No Ear".

After a tragic accident involving a dog & a bike, a man is left with only one ear. He becomes depressed and it is up to his only daughter to attempt to make him happy.

The play, produced by Jessica Wilson and based on an original story by Catherine Fargher, is an exciting tale exploring the moral & ethical dilemmas in society, surrounding scientific research to do with health & fertility.

The play used different techniques including stop motion animation, puppetry & music to tell the story.

On behalf of the students involved, I'd like to thank Mr Cinquetti & Mr Henretty for organising & accompanying us on this excursion.

### **Student Assistance**

**The school has funds to help families experiencing financial difficulty to pay for school uniforms, excursions, fees, etc. If you need financial help, please contact the Principal.**

Mrs Harman

## Science In the City Excursion

Year 9 Science In the City Excursion was an amazing experience for all. Student and staff had a most informative and enlightening time. Thank you to Mr Foster who organized the excursion and to the staff Mrs Killen, Dr Masens and Mrs Sharp, for making the day a success.

## Chemistry Quiz

Students have now all completed their Chemistry Quiz. Thank you to Ms Sharp for organizing the competition. Students can collect their copy of the Quiz from the science prep room before the end of Week 7.

**Congratulations to the two teams who have made it through to the National Titration Competition to be held on September 15. Good luck and happy titrating!**

## International Competitions and Assessments For Schools (ICAS) - Science

In early May all students from Year 7 to 10 participated in the Science International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). This competition is conducted in Australia and 12 other countries.

Once again Girraween students demonstrated outstanding results with a total of 22 High Distinctions, 148 Distinctions & 198 Credits.

Some students have not collected their certificates as they have not paid for the competition. All students should pay and bring their receipt to Ms Harman to receive their assessment and certificate.

The following students were awarded High Distinctions, which places them in the top 1% of the state:

### Year 7

Dougal Dobie  
Michael Finch  
Nicola Gibson  
Joseph Hidajat  
Siddharth Kulkarni  
Teresa Sung

### Year 8

Ashley Creighton  
Tracey Lau

### Year 9

Akashdeep Boparai  
Kathryn Brackenbury  
Taylor Cox  
Karan  
Henry Su  
+ 1 student not paid

### Year 10

Chris Chow  
Kane Kersaitis  
Emma Michaels  
*Not permitted to publish name*  
Dylan Simmer  
Kamal Singh  
Varshanah Thivagarupan  
Anthony Wakulicz

## Some upcoming events in Science:

### Year 7-10

- Please pay for competition if you have not done so already.

### Year 8

- Major Scientific Investigations due Wednesday August 29

### Year 9

- Major Scientific Investigations due Tuesday 16 October
- Accelerants- Year 10 Prac Exam 2 Friday 24 August

### Year 10

- Prac Exam 2 Friday 24 August

## Competitions and other Interesting Events

- *UNSW - Students interested in studying Science at university in 2008 & 2009 there is survey <http://surveys.ipsos-or.com/wix/p60204328.aspx> that should only take about 10 minutes*
- *Minerals related careers dinner.* Monday 13 August. See Ms Harman if you are interested
- *Young Scientist 2007.* Complete a scientific investigation. Prizes include Young Scientist of the Year, Cash prizes. Entries close 31 August 2007. [www.stansw.asn.au](http://www.stansw.asn.au)
- *Space Mail Competition, Young Astronauts Australia* (chance to attend NASA) : [www.yassa.com.au](http://www.yassa.com.au)
- *Eureka Peoples Choice Award.* Vote for your favourite scientist [www.autstralianmuseum.net.au/eureka/vote/](http://www.autstralianmuseum.net.au/eureka/vote/). Voting opens on 27 July and closes at midnight 19 August 2007.
- *Siemens Science Experience:* a 3 day hands on science program conducted in Australian Universities in 2007/2008 for students entering Year 10 in 2008. See link for more details *Linnaeus Tercentenary 2007 Secondary Schools Competition:* For students in Australia and Sweden who are at least 15 Years of age. Students will be required to produce a Digital Essay that demonstrates their understanding of the term "discovery" as used by scientists. Digital essay will be comprised of digital photos and/or digital film clips, with accompanying text, and should combine to tell a story. Closing date Monday 1 October 2007
- *Invertebrate Photography Competition.* [www.amonline.net.au/up-close/](http://www.amonline.net.au/up-close/). Closing date Friday 31 August 2007

See Ms Harman for more details if you are interested

## Interesting Facts

The youngest Pope was 11 years old.

Iceland consumes more Coca-Cola per capita than any other nation.

First novel ever written on a typewriter: "Tom Sawyer."

## Recycle Your Old Mobile Phones at our School!

Send your old mobile phones to the Front Office at Girraween High School. Only 3% of Australia's old mobiles are currently recycled. It is estimated that 16 million are lying around in our homes and workplaces. These phones are toxic to the environment and so shouldn't be thrown away in the garbage bin.

You can help out our school by bringing in old mobile phones, in any condition. We will receive \$5 for each phone to help raise funds for school projects. If our whole school community asked friends, relatives and work mates we could raise thousands of dollars for our school as well as helping the environment.

**So set up a box in your workplace to collect them and start searching for your disused or broken mobile phones now!**

## Global Warming

*Thuwaarahan Nadesan*

Even though it's hard to feel the Earth warming up with Sydney having experienced its coldest July temperatures in nearly 20 years, global warming is affecting the Earth! But don't worry, join forces with your community and start by checking out these websites; you'll be saving Earth in no time at all:

- Each time you search anything at the [www.sensis.com.au](http://www.sensis.com.au) homepage you'll help remove 50 grams of CO2 from our atmosphere. How easy is that? Tell everyone about it and start searching.
- [www.greenhouse.gov.au](http://www.greenhouse.gov.au) - check out 'Cool it' where you can get started straight away around the house, school and work
- [www.yourhome.gov.au](http://www.yourhome.gov.au) - save energy and save money around and about your house while reading some articles from the *Sanctuary* mag and 'Consumer Guide'
- [www.acfonline.org.au](http://www.acfonline.org.au) - be inspired and help a achieve a healthy environment for all Australians while also keeping up with the latest headlines, be sure to learn about how much of Australia your consuming by finding the *Consumption Atlas* link
- [www.envirosaver.com.au](http://www.envirosaver.com.au) - book a free energy audit and receive a free assessment and installation of energy saving products
- [www.abc.net.au/water/](http://www.abc.net.au/water/) - ABC's site provides a comprehensive collection of resources and keeps you updated on one of our most valuable assets
- <http://www.nsw.gov.au/water.asp> - keep up with water issues in NSW
- <http://www.livingthing.net.au/> - Great up-to-date resources with didactic survey results from "Who cares"
- <http://www.recyclingnearlyou.com.au/> - If you got junk around the house you're not sure it can be placed in your recycling bin then visit this quick and easy site and start recycling
- <http://www.planetark.com.au/> - Planet Ark runs a number of environmental campaigns and initiatives for budding environmentalists so lend a hand whenever you can

Saving the earth couldn't be easier and it's these small steps which will hopefully solve our big problem. Don't keep these websites a secret, start spreading the word and help out the planet.

## Health Issues

### Gastroenteritis

There is viral gastroenteritis in the community at the moment.

Typically we experience a seasonal increase in winter. Please find below some tips from NSW Health to help stop the spread of gastroenteritis in schools and at home:

- Viral gastroenteritis is highly infectious and is most often spread through direct contact with an infected person
- Symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, fever, abdominal pain, headache, and muscle aches
- The most effective way to avoid gastroenteritis is to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and running water for 10 seconds before handling and eating food, and always wash your hands after using the toilet
- If you or your family contract gastroenteritis, it is very important for you to stay home from school or work
- If your work involves handling food or looking after children, do not return to work until 48 hours after symptoms have stopped

### Influenza

Advice is that if students have been diagnosed with influenza they should stay away from school and avoid contact with other people to prevent the spread of the illness.

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## It's Almost Birdie Time



Ladies and Gentlemen, the wait is over. The day is nigh. In less than 3 weeks, the Girraween High School performance of the musical *Bye Bye Birdie* will be unveiled at a glittering, star-studded premiere, the likes of which we have never seen before. *Bye Bye Birdie* is a fantastic musical full of exuberant characters and catchy songs.

The premiere takes place on Wednesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August, there will be an encore performance on Thursday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August and a special final show on Saturday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of August. All shows will start at 7:30 pm in the gym and finish at about 9:30 pm.

Tickets are now available from the From Office and offer great value for money - \$12 for adults, \$8 for students, \$35 for a family of four.



A few of the cast of *Bye Bye Birdie* contemplate their upcoming debut

The cast and crew of *Bye Bye Birdie* have put their heart and soul, their blood, sweat and tears and all that jazz into this show! Everyone should come along to support them. Where else would you see Nicholas Watts as a rock star, Olivia Lee as a Jewish mother, James McCabe with a middle parting, and Kim Aguanta as a ditzzy blonde? Only in these three shows!

So make sure you don't miss out and get your tickets today!

**TICKETS: \$12 for adults**

**\$8 for students**

**\$35 for a family of four**

**Now available from the From Office**

## First Debating Victories are wrought by Year 11 team juggernaut.

*Wilson Lu*

The Year 11 Debating Team, representing our very own Girraween High School in the state-wide Premier's Debating Challenge, has blasted through the first two rounds of the competition on the district level, and is poised to contend in the later stages of the event.

The team of Year 11 students have prevailed over two other contending schools in the round-robin style debates. They have publicly sported their laterally argumentative-savvy skills in delivering successes with topics of current affair contention very much relevant today. These include topics such as whether religion forms an inhibition to peace and whether the nature of reality television conventionalises an emphasis on "humanity's worst features".

For each round, topics such as those given above are chosen from a small listing provided to any two opposing teams, and are unseen to either before the formal initiation of the debate. A coin toss between the two teams determines which side, affirmative or negative, a team will debate for.

Each team is composed of a First Speaker, Second Speaker, Third Speaker, Fourth Speaker and a number of Reserves. Our Girraween Year Eleven Team feature Anchal K., Stefan S., Jamiel V., Jodie H., Ana S. and Marianne S. in those roles respectively.

Improvised argumentative skill, confidence, competent public speaking and communication skills are essential to effective debating.

Third Speaker Jamiel V. shares his experiences;

*"At first, I was really scared...but after doing these first two debates, its gotten my confidence up, and I actually eagerly anticipate going onto debating"*

Following an unscheduled drop-out by an opposing school, the team will duel James Ruse Agricultural in a coming epic confrontation of wills for a position in the district finals.



The Year 11 Debating team

# Medieval Day 2007

*Ashley Creighton and Rebecca Li*

Knights, princesses, jesters, kings and queens all gathered in the hall on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June staring blankly at one another. So, you may think that this is a daily occurrence at Girraween High, but it was actually Medieval Day, a day where Year 8 were given a task to dress up in a homemade outfit that would be found in medieval times.

As we entered the hall, knights in shining armour, shields and swords greeted us as well as a man in tights and his assistant in chain mail. The man's name was James Adams. He was very entertaining as he taught us all about the medieval period as well as about the ancient Greeks, Egyptians and Romans. As he cracked his hilarious one liners, he taught us about weaponry and war strategies of the ancient times. Every sword or shield he showed us had a story behind it and a reason for why it was designed that way. There was a lot of student involvement whilst he described the war strategies from that period. One of the best demonstrations was known as the "head butting". This was when two groups of eight Year 8's pushed each other like a scrum in rugby, demonstrating a type of battle in Ancient times.

Twice in his performance his assistants fought with the ancient swords and shields to show medieval combat, giving the students a visual idea of medieval combat.

At one point in the day Year 8 was allowed to touch the weapons and shields as well as wear chain mail. A lot of the artefacts were heavier than anybody expected and were usually great for defence. There was also a knight's statue that was completely covered in armour. It showed the students exactly what a knight would wear in the medieval period.

Some of the brave Year 8 students even went and tried on some real medieval clothes that the performers had brought with them. The Year 8 girls had really elaborate outfits with long dresses that have bold colours whereas some of the guys had really revealing tights and baggy shirts.

The day was very enjoyable and interesting and could not have been as much fun as it was if had not been organised by Mr. James Adams, his assistants and Mr Kaplinski. Thank you for such a wonderful day.



A knight in shining armour



Championship archer Carmen Lau

## Chess Champions

*Nathalie Vo*

The thought of even saying the word chess is enough to turn some people off - imagine having to play it every Friday afternoon for a whole term. Fortunately for our school, we have been blessed with five teams of four people who can not only say the word chess with a smile on their face, but to also play this strategically challenging sport (yes, chess is a sport!) with great joy.

The first of five Girraween Chess teams, Girraween A Junior included Shayan, Matthew Tang, Winston Li and Justin Teo. This team of talented Year 8 students played spectacularly until the very end but unfortunately lost the chance to compete in the Regional Final playoffs by a dismal half-point.

Girraween B Junior Chess Team comprised of five Year 7 students; Akhil Nanganath, Davanan Mahendrarvarman, Josh Acherman, Thile Somaratne and Kaanga. These boys displayed enormous promise in becoming great players and their enthusiasm for chess was evident through their play; sadly this enthusiasm was not enough to pull them into the Regional Finals playoffs.

Girraween A Intermediate Chess Team consisted of Shaun Ngoh, Stuart Rynn, Ankit Jagannath and Suhanthan Babeendram, all from Year 10. Although there were some outstanding plays from all members, they came 2<sup>nd</sup> in their round and sadly just missed the Regional Final playoffs.

Girraween B Intermediate Chess Team was represented by numerous eager Year 9 students including Micheal Murong,

*Continued on next page*

Karan, Raviteja Kannekanti, Akshay Patil, Prem, Sachin Sunderavadivel and Yoshutosh Joshi.

Although these guys played hard, their opponents played harder; yet they still managed to come 3<sup>rd</sup> in their round.

The most successful chess team out of the five would definitely be the Girraween Senior Chess Team. This team was declared Regional Winners for Western Sydney before they even played their last round because their score was deemed impossible for other schools to defeat due to the magnificent effort put in by the four team members Victor Teng, Luke, Arlen Huang and Nathalie Vo, all from Year 11. The Senior Chess Team cleared the Region with 25/28 point - 5 points higher than the next team below them (which just so happened to be our long term rival Baulkam Hills High School).

Special mention goes to Shayan (Yr 8), Luke (Yr 11) and Nat (Yr 11) who went undefeated throughout the season, and Mathew (Yr 8), Winston (Yr 8), Stuart (Yr 10), Ankit (Yr 10) and Victor (Yr 11) who only lost one point out of seven. To those who missed out on the Regional Playoffs; better luck next year guys. And to those who made it; keep up the good work.

Start practising hard for next year's Chess Competition, see Mr. Howard for more details if you are interested in representing our school, or even better - pay a visit to our Chess Club during lunches in Room 1. Special thanks to all staff who gave up their time on Friday afternoons to supervise and/or drive our teams to and from different

schools, including: Mr. Sharma, Ms. Michels, Ms. McPherson, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Wood, Mr. Menkes and Ms. Blasche, but most of all Mr. Howard our chess coordinator who made sure that we all got home safely and in one piece. Thank you, we couldn't have done it without your help.

## State Girls Chess Teams Championship

*Nathalie Vo*

What better way to start the month then to compete in an all girls Open Chess Tournament. On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August, Amy Mulcahy, Carmen Lau, Suzanne Peters and Pallavi Malladi went to the Latvian Club in Strathfield to compete in what they thought was going to be a competition consisting of just their age group. Unfortunately this competition was canceled due to the lack of teams competing, and not wanting to go home empty handed, the girls decided to try their luck in the Open Girls competition. They were off to a good start winning 4-0 against Ascham School Chess Team, sadly they lost in the next round against Strathfield Girls High.

School Chess Team 1.5-2.5. What a tremendous effort from Amy, Carmen, Suzanne and Palavi - considering this was an open competition and our Girraween High School Chess Team comprised of only Year 8 students. Well done girls! Special thanks to Mr. Howard who constantly works so hard to promote our schools' involvement in chess and to Mr. Malladi who helped with the transport and supervising.

# Anthony's Minibus Services Pty. Ltd.

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We'd like to offer a special type of transport service to students (and their parents) of Girraween High. We can pick-up your sons/daughters to school in the morning and drop them off at home in the afternoon. We provide professional drivers and new vehicles.

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This service will commence at the beginning of next year. If interested, please sign up as soon as possible as only limited places are on offer.

Any enquiries? Please call Anthony on 0418 407 286 or Louis on 0402 370 386.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Hand Uniform Shop



**Operating every  
Thursday Week B  
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**Items will be priced according to  
condition.**

## Mentors Needed

**Sam is a 14-year-old boy, with a mild intellectual disability, who lives in a house run by Marist Youth Care in the western suburbs of Sydney. Sam attends his local high school, where he struggles to keep up with his classmates. He needs a Mentor to help him with his reading and to support him through the difficult time of adolescence.**

**What is a Mentor? A mentor is a guide, a friend, a listener and a role model.**

**As a Volunteer Mentor, with Marist Youth Care, you could share your skills, attitudes and values with Sam. As a regular visitor, you could be a constant in Sam's disruptive life. If you feel that you could commit just one hour a week of your time to make a difference in Sam's life, or if you would like more information about the work of Marist Youth Care, please give me a call.**



**Janice Williams  
Volunteers Coordinator  
31 Darcy Road  
WESTMEAD NSW 2145  
Ph: 9635 5699 Ext: 0181  
[janicew@maristyc.com.au](mailto:janicew@maristyc.com.au)  
[www.maristyc.com.au](http://www.maristyc.com.au)**

# Kwietz Kwiz

The entire school must be completely focused on the upcoming musical, because no current student approached me with the answers. However I can always rely on Chris Bowra to get them right! I hope that everyone can answer this month's Kwiz and attend the premiere of *Bye Bye Birdie*, a fantastic musical which will be the highlight of the Girraween cultural season. See you there and good luck to the cast!

1. What current movie is about the abolition of slavery?
2. What is the original name of the kiwi fruit?
3. What is the capital of Tonga?
4. What are the names of Harry and Ginny's children?
5. How many pairs of twins are there at Girraween High School?
6. What is Albert's mother's name in *Bye Bye Birdie*?
7. Which All Blacks Player was voted New Zealand's Sexiest Man in 2006?
8. Who is famous for the quote "Cogito, ergo sum"?
9. What does it mean?
10. What is the Alhambra?