

Principal's Message

Ms Das Neves

Parent Teacher Nights

It has been a busy month. I was delighted to meet a number of parents at the very successful Year 12 Parent Teacher Night in May and look forward to meeting many more at the Year 10 & 11 Parent Teacher Night on 18th June. I urge all parents to try to attend such events to meet teachers and discuss your child's progress. Many studies have shown that students are most successful when parents maintain an ongoing partnership with the school. The Parent Teacher Night for Years 8 and 9 is on 19th July and for Year 7 on the 24th July.

New Flags

The school was visited at a morning assembly by Julia Owens, Federal Member for Parramatta, who presented us with new Australian, Aboriginal, and Torres Strait Islander flags to fly on appropriate occasions. She spoke to the students about the important role they have to play in the democratic process and the significance of their vote and urged all students who are 17 and over to enrol. The school has followed this up by distributing Enrol To Vote Week material to senior students.

Shakespeare Night

I was privileged to attend a memorable Shakespeare Evening on 16th May where I witnessed some truly outstanding performances. Two groups have now been selected to compete in the Regional Shakespeare Festival and we wish them well in this. Special thanks should go to Mr Cinquetti and Mr Henretty and all the English teachers who have made Shakespeare come alive for students. Congratulations to all who participated.

Safe Schools Program

Congratulations to Ms Walker who has been successful in gaining a \$2000 grant for Girraween from the Safe Schools Program. This money will be used to provide resources to revise and refine our current Anti-Bullying Program.

Continued on next page

**Year 10/11
Parent / Teacher Night**

MONDAY 18TH JUNE
from 3:00 – 6:30pm

In the Library and Staff Common Room
Please remind your child to book an
appointment with their teachers.

Coming Events

June

Week 9A

- 18 12 Modern History Essay Task
11 Business Studies Task
10/11 Parent Teacher Night
10G/W Geography RAP Task
- 18 - 20 11 Ancient History Oral Task
- 19 ICAS English Test
- 20 12 Japanese Task
10 Careers Seminar
9 Geography Excursion
- 20 - 21 12 Ancient History Oral Task
- 21 12 Japanese Task
12 PDHPE Task
12 Recognition Assembly
11 Maths Extn Task
- 22 12 Geography Skills Task
10R/N Geography RAP Task
8 Geography Excursion

Week 10B

- 25 12 English Extn2 Completed Journal
12 English Extn2 Major Work Appraisal
8 English Task
July Newsletter cut-off
- 25 - 26 12 Legal Studies Oral Task
- 26 11 PDHPE Task
- 27 12 Business Studies Task
11 English Task
8 Medieval Day
P&C Meeting 7:30pm in Common Room
- 28 12 Economics Task
11 Recognition Assembly P4
10 Recognition Assembly P2
- 29 Talent Quest
Last Day Term 2

TERM 3
July

Week 1A

- 16 School Development Day - No classes
- 19 8/9 Parent/Teacher Night
8G/W French Incursion
- 20 CHS Cross Country
8 English Task due

**The 2006 Annual School Report is now available.
Copies can be collected from the school office at
anytime by students or parents. It can also be
downloaded from the school's website.**

Use of the Internet

I have been speaking with groups of students in recent weeks about appropriate use of the internet. Some students do not realise that making unkind or disparaging remarks about other students in chat rooms, forums and messaging services may be construed as cyber-bullying and may also be breaking the law. Please take the opportunity to discuss these issues with your child. See the *Community News* section later in this bulletin for some helpful hints for parents about monitoring internet use.

Contributions and Fees

Many thanks to all those parents who have made tax free donations to the schools Library Fund this term. This money will be used to provide a much needed upgrade and expansion in library resources and also support increased availability of technology for senior students in the library.

I would like to thank the many parents who have paid fees for 2007. I would request that those who have not done so as yet could please make the effort to meet outstanding fees before the end of the term. Anyone who has a financial difficulty meeting fee requests should contact the Principal confidentially either in writing or by phone.

I have outlined the purpose of the fees so that you have an understanding of the uses to which they are put.

Voluntary General School Contribution: Funds raised from the Voluntary General School Contribution are used to supplement the educational resources and programs implemented in the school. While the payment of the General Contribution is voluntary, such contributions significantly enhance the resources, such as textbooks and equipment, that the school is able to provide. Excellent education requires excellent resources and we attempt to provide the best for our students as they move through high school.

Subject fees: It is necessary for schools to charge subject fees to cover the cost of materials and resources used by students in the study of some subjects. These payments supplement government funding for essential work booklets, consumables (for example in art classes) and other items without which course requirements could not be satisfactorily fulfilled to the level expected at a selective high school.

Sports Fees: Sport is compulsory for all students up to year 11 and the school endeavours to have students experience a variety of sports across their time at school. Sports fees cover buses and the use of outside venues, carnival buses and carnival venue hire, minor equipment and where relevant the hire of outside instructors.

Competition Entry Fees: This covers the entry fees for events such as the English, Maths and Science Competitions. Students receive a report from each of these competitions.

Technology Access Fee: This pays for students' printing from the computers and the provision of consumables such as ink and paper and contributes to updating technology access (eg Wireless Points in various areas).

Successful Vaccinations

All of Year 7 received their vaccinations this term and Year 10, 11 and 12 girls were offered the free HPV vaccinations. These went very smoothly and I would like to thank all students for their sensible attitude to the process and to Ms Earp for her management of this very worthwhile program.

Congratulations

Congratulations to all students who have been wearing their uniform so well. I have had several comments from visitors to the school about the standard of uniform and the pride with which it is worn.

Happy Holiday

As this is the last newsletter for the term let me wish all students and their families a safe and happy holiday. Monday 16th July is a School Development Day. The staff will be working on aspects of Gifted and Talented Education in the light of recent research in this area and reviewing this vital feature of our school. Students resume school on Tuesday 17th July.

Co-ordinator's Message

Mrs Sharp

The 2007 etcetera team

Editors

Nathalie Vo (11)

Shristi Yadav (10)

Photojournalists

Mahdu Edirisinghege (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 June edition of etcetera is Monday 25th June.

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/june07.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 with "Email Newsletter" as the subject.

All students need to have parental permission before their name is published in *etcetera*. If you have not completed a parental permission form, please ask your child to collect one from the Science staffroom, complete it and return it to Mrs Sharp in the Science staffroom. Unfortunately, some students who have not returned this form have had their names omitted from this edition.

Warning: This is not a get rich quick story!

On the 31st of May, a group of about 20 people went on the Gold Hike. For those of you who want to get rich quick, this story is not for you. The kind of Gold hike that I'm talking about is the Duke of Ed Gold Practice Hike.

The students and accompanying teachers made their way to Pendle Hill Station and took a train to Wondabyne Station. There, the journey began for the group. They journeyed through many different terrains such as rainforests, mountain hills and mud (!) until we reached Yaramalong.

Crossing over to one of the hikers, we get a little insight on the trip. I spoke to Daniel from Year 11:

So Daniel, was it a good experience? If so why?

Yes it was a good experience because we learnt how to survive and cope without modern technology like showers, heaters, and other electronic appliances. We had good fun and also we got to miss two days of school. Hehe.



The journey up the mountain proved very hard.

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 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 by anyone on the Internet.

Community News

Opportunity to audition for The Australian Ballet School

25 - 29 June (Sydney)

To register your interest please contact The Australian Ballet School on (03) 9669 2807 or download an application pack from www.australianballetschool.com.au

Free Adult TAFE Literacy Course

Enrolments close 25th June

This course is aimed at adults who want to improve their literacy and numeracy skills for personal reasons, for further study or for seeking work. Subjects studied include Reading, Writing, Spelling, Basic Computing and Basic Maths.

For more information contact the Course Information Officer on 9208 1836

Information Evening about ICE (methamphetamine)

Organised by Father Chris Riley's *Youth Off The Streets*
Wednesday 20th June at 7pm

Dunlea Centre
102 Kenyons Rd

Merrylands

RSVP Monday 18th June to Amelia on 8332 5009 or

ameliap@youthoffthestreets.com.au

Light supper will be served

Single With Children

Provide fun and exciting social activities every week for single parents and their children.

Call 1300 300 496 or visit www.singlewithchildren.com.au for more information.

Use of the Internet and chatrooms - Kid's Helpline

'Who's chatting to your kids?' information leaflet on safety and your child's use of Internet chatrooms.

Download the leaflet from

www.girraween-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/whatsnew/downloads/chatrooms.pdf

Head lice

Recently an outbreak of head lice has been discovered in this area and the school recommends that each child's hair be examined thoroughly. When treated correctly, the problem of head lice can be overcome safely and simply.

Symptoms

Head lice can be suspected when there is intense itching and scratching of the scalp and the back of the neck.

What to do?

If you do find signs of head lice on your child, do not panic as it is not a sign of uncleanliness or neglect. There are a number of simple and effective treatments available from your local chemist.

If one member of your family has head lice, all members should be treated to avoid cross contamination. All combs, brushes, hats and bed linen should be washed in hot water and dried in the sun.

If you require any additional information, you should contact your local Pharmacy.

On May 10th 2007 a group of students embarked on a grand adventure, AKA- Duke of Ed! We arrived at Somerset at 7pm and began the most tiresome part of the adventure - route planning. It was so time consuming that we missed out on supper. The next morning we arose to foggy surroundings and began packing our rucksacks, which is hell at 7 o'clock in the morning. We then had our traditional breakfast of pancakes and cereal and prepared for our long hard day.

After a comparatively easy fire trail, we were faced with a massive gully. We spent several hours struggling down the steep slope and came across a few minor mishaps - one such example was a gigantic tree smashing into Katrin's head. After that slight catastrophe, we continued down the slope until we reached a heavenly sight. A few streams of sunlight were breaking through the dense canopy overhanging a miniature creek. After our lunch refreshments and a pee trip, we continued on what was referred to as a baby knoll by Nivi, but by the time we got to the top, it was commonly referred to as "The Mother of all Knolls!" The walking after this was pretty flat (but long) and eventually led us to our campsite. We got to the campsite first, even though we left second, because apparently the other group got lost.

On the second day, we combined hiking and canoeing. We hiked first for a few hours and followed a similar track to the bronze trip. After the hiking, we then waited at Ricky's Gate where 2 vans came to pick us up and drop us at canoeing. We then had a big lunch and prepared for canoeing. In the first ten minutes it was obvious that our chosen partnerships were not very successful - evidenced by some canoes lagging behind and going around in circles.

After our partner swaps, we went pretty well and got to the campsite at around 4pm. Here we set up our tents again and some of us went back to the river to have a swim. The river was freezing but gave us a chance to get clean. When we swam out further there was a lot of seaweed, which we only figured out when we got tangled in it. Once it got darker we all ran out to the fire to dry. We then spent the rest of the night eating and playing a massive Chinese Whispers game which always seemed to get ruined by Mr Cameron. We then talked for the rest of the night and woke up again to do it all over again.

The next day was a half day which involved canoeing. We moved pretty fast even though we were splashing and rowing in zigzags. Later on, seeing a perfectly positioned spider web, Mr Cameron felt the need to direct Jeremy into it, but his plan backfired when both of them ended up capsizing into the river. After that little kaffuffle, we continued downstream, arms killing us, until we reached base camp. Because we reached base camp a good one hour earlier than scheduled, most of us finished eating the rest of our food and our route planning.

The Silver practice hike was a great experience for all of us and we are all looking forward to the next one!

The SRC would like to thank all the students who helped out with the Jelly day that was held on the 10th of May. The fundraiser was organised to raise money for the Chris Riley's *Youth off the Streets Foundation* and *Fred Hollows Foundation*. The SRC would also like to thank all the people who bought jelly and ice cream on the day. Through the extensive support of all the students, we were able to raise over \$400 for these charities.

Chris Riley opened the *Youth off the Streets* organisation in 1991, which is a community group working for young people who are chronically homeless, drug dependent and recovering from abuse. The organisation provides care for young people still living on the streets with food vans, youth refuge and outreach programs. There is also an innovative drug and alcohol program specifically designed for young people.

The Fred Hollows Foundation is a not-for-profit, community-based, non-government development aid organisation. The Foundation was launched in Sydney, Australia on 3 September 1992, just five months before Professor Fred Hollows passed away. The Foundation works internationally on comprehensive quality eye care, with a focus on cataract. In Australia, The Foundation facilitates a community development program with Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory.

The SRC will be having more fundraisers during the term to raise money for Girrafest. Girrafest is a community celebration of the achievements of the school and students, in the form of a fair. The SRC are hoping to have Girrafest during term three and your support is essential for us to have the best festival possible.

June P&C meeting

WEDNESDAY 27th JUNE 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.

At the next meeting we will be discussing:

- School landscaping
- Water saving projects
- Road safety and traffic issues
- Any other issues that affect the school

Come along and have your say!

Debate Against Hills Sports High

Sana Ahmed

Alright, so we had to admit we were quite nervous. But it was the first debate of the year! And everyone knows that the first debates are always the hardest. Anyway, enough on that. On Wednesday the 16th of May, around period four, the Year 9 debating team, Sonali Raina, Ruben Chandromohen, Guy Marsh and myself were all sitting in the back of Mrs Turk's car on our way to debate the Year 9 debating team at Hills Sports High School. Naturally, it was an impromptu debate where we only got one hour to prepare for our speeches. After mutually agreeing on one topic out of three choices, that Newspapers are more powerful than TV, with Hills Sports High being affirmative, we were sent to a room to prepare.

Hills Sports High had interesting points, however it was their failure to elaborate that lowered their score. Our speakers, Ruben as first, Sonali as second and myself as third (and let's not forget our team advisor, Guy) were clear, concise and knocked down the other team's case in one hit. So in short, we rocked!

A short time later, after all six speakers had spoken and the two team advisers had worn out their brains with ideas, the adjudicator announced the winner. I am happy to inform you all that we won, and are now expecting our next debate in June. And the lamingtons, caramel slices, mini jam cakes and juice they provided us with were delicious too.

Thanks to Hills Sports High for having us and supplying us with delicious junk food, to Sonali for stepping in when our original first speaker had to drop out because of an injured knee and finally to Mr P - what would we do without you! Thanks for taking us to and from Hills Sport so we didn't have to catch a smelly old bus. We love you sir!

Watch the next issue for more information about the Year 9 debating team.

Landscaping

The P&C are keen to improve the look of GHS by doing some landscaping work.

If anyone has landscaping skills and is interested in helping out, please contact Peter Rose on 0407939156 or at prose@hotkey.net.au

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.

2nd Hand Uniform Shop



**Operating every
Thursday Week B
from 8 – 9am
during Terms 2 & 3.**

Contact Karen Capizzi at

kcapizzi@westnet.com.au

for further information.

**Items will be priced according to
condition.**

Newsletter Team Profiles

Sowmya Bysani

Occupation: Photojournalist
Favourite part of the newsletter: Everything
Favourite part of the school: Art Quad
Favourite teacher: No comment
Favourite subject: I like them all

Ryan Tam

Occupation: Photojournalist
Favourite part of the newsletter: Writing it
Favourite part of the school: The [Where the Year 10's hang out] basketball courts
Favourite teacher: I don't have a favourite teacher!!
Favourite subject: Maths... Nah, I don't have a favourite subject

Tiffany Lanzing

Occupation: Photojournalist
Favourite part of the newsletter: Interviews. People are interesting
Favourite part of the school: The Drama room
Favourite teacher: Do I have to say? Mr Cinquetti I guess.
Favourite subject: Drama of course!

Sana Ahmed

"She shivered in the cold. It seemed like a good idea before. She thought it would be pretty easy to find a job to support her baby. She was a clever girl, although her family was not. With drug addicted parents and an alcoholic brother, there were times when she just wanted to run, to get away. So, one night, having finally had enough of her family, she left. She knew her boyfriend would support her, he always did. And he too, had abusive parents. But it was hard for him to get a job because of his age. She wrapped her tattered scarf around her baby more tightly, wondering if she would ever be able to get a job at sixteen. She had dropped at least ten kilograms since having the baby; food was so hard to come by these days. She looked out into the darkness and wondered where her boyfriend was, and whether he would come back tonight. She wondered if there was any hope out there at all."

Sadly, this girl's story is not uncommon in Australia. There are many teenagers who will be out there in the cold tonight, sleeping rough. The fact that there are so many kids who never should have been forced to live a street life highlights the fact that we're so lucky. We have a roof over our heads, food and water and parents who love us. There are so many teens who don't have this. But, fortunately, we can help make a change. This is where the Exodus Foundation comes in. The Exodus Foundation helps feed about 4000 teenagers every day. But they need support and help to give out food. Girraween High School has agreed to participate in a food drive - where everyone can bring in at least one non-perishable food item, whether it be a can of fruit salad, a packet of biscuits or a box of tea. This will be donated to the Exodus Foundation who will then feed kids out on the streets so they can get at least one hot meal a day. If we could all bring in at least one item we would be able to donate over 750 items to the Exodus Foundation! So if you have any food that is non-perishable that would be suitable to give to children, please support the Exodus Foundation and give generously. The food will be collected at the library, from where it will be sent off the the Foundation. Your support is much needed.

Five Minutes With Mr Hurley

Could this be true? Could a new species of Maths teacher be slowly emerging from the depths of university? It could! Mr Hurley, our new Victorian maths teacher is a teacher like no other. He is into music, sport, works out at the gym and has a sense of humour! Could this actually be possible? It seems that this new breed of Maths teacher is quietly and stealthily growing stronger and more powerful. But you know what, I think you'll like it!

Etc.: Where did you work before you came to Girraween?

Mr H: Okay, I worked at Narooma High School, which is down on the South Coast of New South Wales. I worked there for ten years. And before that, I worked at a place called Hay and I taught there for six years.

What is your impression of Girraween High School so far?

Very, very nice; lovely kids. You guys don't know what it's like out there [at other schools]. Lovely kids, absolutely lovely place to be.

If you weren't a maths teacher, what would you be & why?

I am a musician, if I had more talent, I'd like to be a professional musician. What else if I wasn't a maths teacher? I'd love to be an athlete but the good Lord didn't give me that sort of ability.

What instrument do you play?

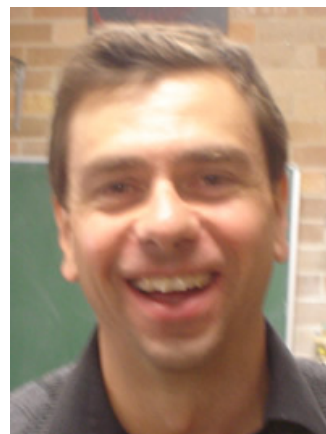
Piano.

What grade?

Beyond grades, I studied it at Uni; I'm actually qualified to teach it.

Are there any parts of Maths you are particularly interested in?

Yep, pure Maths, higher calculus I absolutely love and a lot of the harder number theory stuff really interests me a lot.



Describe yourself in three words. Show-off, smart, (ok, everybody puke now) and... likeable.

Are you a cat person or a dog person? Very much a cat person.

Lord of the Rings or Harry Potter? Oooh, Lord of the Rings or Harry Potter? I don't know where this one's going... probably Lord of the Rings.

AFL, NRL or soccer? I was born and raised in Victoria, I'm an AFL person. I like AFL and I was born and raised with AFL.

Favourite food? That's actually a hard one... probably a really nice lasagna.

Favourite book? That's hard.

I hope you don't say the Maths textbook! [Laughs] Patel's four-unit text, chapter two! Ahh... favourite book, that's quite a hard one it varies... I like quite a lot of non-fiction stuff too, so if I had to pick a fiction one I'd be picking the Terry Pratchett books, because they're very, very funny and because they've also got quite a lot of humour and normal stuff in them.

Favourite movie? There's a hard one... sometimes, depends on what I like, I've got a lot of them, sometimes the Rocky movies if I wanna get inspired, (even if he can't speak) sometimes something like Dead Poet's Society or Lean On Me or particularly, my favourite teacher one is called Stand and Deliver, it's about a Mexican guy who is a Maths teacher who manages to lift this really ordinary high school to be the best in the country... They're some of my favourites

Very inspirational movies. Your favourite sport's team?

AFL, North Melbourne kangaroos.

Any hobbies? Play the piano, I swim, I swim in a master squad, I lift weights regularly, I go to the gym.

And last question, any advice for students hoping to do well in your class?

Study very, very hard, look at all the summaries, make summaries yourself and bring it to me to correct.

Je Suis Faim!

“Je voudrais un croque monsieur, s'il vous plaît”
English translation: “I would like a croque monsieur, please”

So what is a croque monsieur? It is a delicious, exquisite, French delicacy: cheese and ham on toast. But wait; no! Before you start to ridicule the simplicity of this dish, there is a special way to cook it. For those of you who would like to make this at home, there is a easy-to-follow recipe included for your benefit, with a croque madame, or a variation as well.

Monday 28th May was the day Year 9 and 11 French classes made croque monsieurs and madames. Although the toast, cheese and ham were burnt, the French students enjoyed to opportunity to mix with French food culture. There was even an educational outlook on the day. Yashutosh Joshi said, “...We get to eat the stuff of different cultures”, while Courteny Biddle said, “We get to experience French cuisine and become more acquainted with French culture”. Certainly it proved a great day for all the students studying French and the promise of more French cooking in the future was definitely very enticing. Watch this space for more French recipes!

Croque Monsieur/Madame (Serves 1)

Ingredients

- Butter
- 2 slices bread
- 2 slices cheese or
- ¼ cup of your favorite cheese
- 2 slices ham
- 1 egg (for croque madame)

Method

- 1) Preheat an oven or a grill to 180°C.
- 2) Butter the two slices of bread thinly on one side.
- 3) Place one slice of cheese on each slice of bread, or divide the ¼ cup of cheese evenly between the two slices.
- 4) Put one ham slice on each slice of bread or omit for vegetarian version.
- 5) Stack the two slices of bread, one on top of the other, so that one slice has the cheese and ham covered by bread and the other slice has the cheese and ham on top. (Note: It shouldn't resemble a sandwich).
- 6) Put the croque monsieur in the oven or grill and bake/grill until golden brown. (Watch it carefully as it burns easily.)
- 7) Enjoy!

For Croque Madame

- 1) Follow steps for croque monsieur until step 5
- 2) Fry or poach egg until just cooked
- 3) Place egg on top slice, on top of ham and cheese
- 4) Bake/grill until egg is golden brown and cheese is melted.
- 5) Eat while hot!

Chocolate Meringues

1. Heat the oven to 140C. Line two baking trays with greaseproof paper.
2. Place 3 egg whites and a pinch of salt in the bowl of an electric mixer with a whisk attachment. Whisk on a low speed for 1 minute, then increase the speed to medium and whisk for another 2-3 minutes, or until the egg whites form stiff peaks.
3. Then, while continuing to whisk, gradually add the sugar a tablespoon at a time, until the mixture is stiff and glossy - this may take 5-10 minutes.
4. Fold 1 tbs sifted cocoa powder through the meringue mixture.
5. Using a large, metal spoon, place freeform shapes on to the prepared baking trays.
6. Bake for 30-40 minutes, or until the meringues are pale and dry. Turn off the oven and allow the meringues to cool in the oven with the door slightly ajar.



Careers Expo: It Can Change Your Life

Ryan Tam

The University of Western Sydney Careers Expo brought Year 10 and 12 students together to explore possibilities in the future, after the completion of school. Apart from Girraween students, the Careers Expo hosted a range of different schools and different students eager to gain more insight into their future careers.

Upon arrival, all students were led into the university auditorium where they were given a presentation from a speaker. The speaker shared his Year 11 high school life where he was achieving grades as low as 28% before revealing to the audience that at the Career's Expo, he found a job he wanted to do. The Careers Expo had changed his life; it gave him a goal.

Following the presentation, students were taken to the EA Building where many Universities and Institutions had set up stands for students to enquire about careers which they were interested in. Most students were able to find a stand which catered towards their interests and their dream careers. At each of the many stands within the building, representatives from each university, institution or organisation were present to answer questions any student may have had about a career in certain areas.

After about an hour or so, students were assembled outside the EA building before boarding the buses and heading back to school, reinvigorated and with new knowledge about careers they wished to pursue in the future.

Tournament of Minds: Challenging The World

*Mr Kaplinski
(Tournament of Minds Facilitator)*

During the last few years, students from Girraween have participated in the annual Tournament of Minds inter-school competition at the University of Western Sydney, a prestigious problem-solving program adjudicated by university academics. The program involves our students engaging in working together in groups of seven spread throughout the year levels and solving demanding, open-ended challenges from the disciplines of Language/Literature, Maths/Engineering and Social Sciences. For two months, our teams meet at lunchtimes preparing the solution to a long-term hypothetical problem which is then presented in dramatic format at the university. This is an opportunity for students with a passion for learning and problem-solving to demonstrate their skills and talents in an exciting, vibrant and public way. It is also part of the school's commitment to cater for our more gifted and talented students by providing them with a sophisticated educational opportunity, helping them develop their potential and skills.

The benefits include exposing our students to a tertiary experience, fostering co-operative learning and team work, encouraging creative and divergent thinking and stimulating a spirit of inquiry, a love of learning and academic excellence. We are proud to be associated with this unique learning experience and would like to congratulate the following students. They were selected after a month of demanding try-outs of having to solve spontaneous hypothetical problems.

Well done to the following students who will make up the two teams which we will field against schools from throughout New South Wales:

Year 7: Thet Win, Priya Singh, Vandana Raghunandan, Michael Finch
Year 8: Amy Mulcahy, Daniel Li
Year 9: Sana Ahmed, Anusha Matta
Year 10: Sowmya Bysani, Leo Nelson, Stewart Rynn, Kane Kersaitis, Chiranjeev Narula, Swapnil Mindhe

Year Seven Riverside Excursion

Mahdu Edirisinghege

The theatre goes black...
The spot light turns on...

On Wednesday, 6th of June Year 7 went to Riverside theater to see a production called, "The Bamboo Flute". The story was about a boy who has a passion for music, but once his family became poor, they were forced to sell their piano. As he carves his own flute out of bamboo he brings music and joy back in to his family.

This was an amazing experience for the Year 7 students. As well as learning something new, we all had a great time.

Cross Country Carnival

Sowmya Bysani

Three, two, one and run, Run and RUN!!!

On Friday 4th May, the entire school was buzzing with excitement - it was the cross country carnival. The postponed carnival took place in school from period three onwards. This was because of rain and bike path construction at the Nurraging Reserve.

The carnival started off with the 12 year old boys running four kilometers followed by the 12 year old girls doing three k's around the school. As the day progressed, different age groups ran the course and the final race of the day was the 17 year old boys. As the participants approached the finishing line, a burst of applause and cheering erupted with each house urging its members to win!!!

While the races were on, Years 9 to 12 had the shade of the bottom oval whilst years 7 and 8 amused themselves in the art quad. There were sporting activities available for onlookers at the bottom oval. People could play ball games and many other games as well. Fun!

There were drinks and sausage sizzle at the carnival for people to enjoy. The results of the carnival were Fraser came last, followed by Chappell and McKay. So Newcombe won!!!

The next P&C meeting will be held on

Wednesday, June 27 at 7.30 pm

in the staff common room.

Shakespeare Night

Tiffany Lanzing

'Romeo is banished'. This phrase has clung to me like tinea to the foot for the past few weeks. Why, you might ask? Well, I am here to give you a personal account of Girra's tribute to the Bard himself, Shakespeare Night.

On the night of May 16th, students in Drama and English classes from Years 8-10 performed scenes from various Shakespeare plays, including *Macbeth* & *Romeo and Juliet*.

Playing Juliet, I was part of a Year 9 Drama performance. As my group was one of the last to perform, I had a long time to be nervous about completing the task at hand.

I was terrified of getting stage fright and forgetting my lines, thus letting down my group, my class and most importantly, myself.

Once I was onstage though, as the lights fell upon me, all my fears and concerns disappeared, and although my performance was not as perfect as I'd have liked it to have been, I was proud of myself for accomplishing what I did.

I'd like to congratulate all the participants on the night for their wonderful performances. Thank you also to Mr Cinquetti, Mr Henretty & everyone else who put in all their time and effort over the past weeks to make this marvellous display of Girraween's dramatic talent!

Year Seven Geography Excursion: Blue Mountains

Priya Singh

On Friday the 1st of June, Mr Scarpinato, Ms Birell and Ms Datt accompanied Year 7 to the Blue Mountains. Besides being a day when we were allowed to wear mufti, the whole point of this trip was to supplement our Geography topic, *Mountains*. It was quite a long bus trip, but we managed to get there without any *major* dramas.

The first place we went to was *The Edge* cinema complex where we watched a documentary about the Blue Mountains and why they're so unique. This was very educational, despite the fact that the sudden loud noises and movements in the movie scared some students silly.

We then departed for the Blue Mountains Tourist site. Once there 7C and 7N (go Newcombe) went to the Scenic Railway, while 7F and 7M went to Echo Point.

The scenic railway is like a mini-rollercoaster, but on a much shorter track and with no sudden heart-stopping turns. It was, however, extremely steep.

After the Scenic Railway, our group walked along the Rainforest Boardwalk and listened to Mr Scarpinato, who tried his best to talk to us over the voices of the informative plastic miners who would talk every time someone pressed the red cue button.

This walk and talk was followed by a ride on the Cableway, which was a bit like the glass elevator from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* but larger. The cableway is suspended high in the sky by huge cables. Travelling in the Cableway enabled us to get a bird's eye view of the whole mountain landscape.

Lunch followed this, and the girls at my table had an amusing time getting acquainted with a hungry toddler who took a bit of a liking to Sinthuja.

When lunch was over, the two groups switched, and Newcombe and Chappell made their way to Echo Point. Here Mr Scarpinato told us about the legend behind the formation of the Three Sisters. We also had to sketch the Three Sisters, Mt Solitary and Jamison Valley. Before long, it was time to get back onto the bus and return to (annoyed grunt) school.

Overall, it was an excellent educational excursion which we all enjoyed, despite the fact that we had to fill in worksheets all through the day.



A great mountain view

Holroyd Environmental Expo

Mrs Drury

On Thursday 31st May, I had the pleasure and privilege to take the following Year 9 students to the Environmental Expo at Central Gardens, Merrylands:

Lucy
Kevin
Chloe Pak
Prem
Justin Wang

Girraween High School was one of two local high schools to be invited to present workshops at the Holroyd Council Environmental Expo. Our students ran 5 water testing workshops, each for 20 local primary school students. There were 3 different water samples: one clean water, one acidic and one which was dirty and salty. (The primary students of course didn't know which sample was acidic, salty etc.) The primary students, under expert guidance, conducted pH, turbidity, salinity and temperature tests on each of the 3 water samples. At the conclusion of each workshop the primary students decided which of the 3 water samples would be suitable for drinking.

Judging from the laughter around each water sample it wasn't only the primary school students who enjoyed the day.

Thanks Lucy, Kevin, Chloe, Prem and Justin for being such inspirational ambassadors for Girraween High School and for making my supervisory role so enjoyable.

Thanks must also go to Mrs Turner who liaised with the council organisers, prepared all of the equipment and whose expertise was greatly appreciated.



Young students watch with interest

Interesting Facts

Coca-Cola was originally green.
Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than for the U.S. treasury.
Men can read smaller print than women; women can hear better.

Computer Skills Competition

Mrs Jackaman

This year, 252 students participated in the Computer Skills Competition. The results were recently forwarded to the school. Girraween High School students performed well and achieved great results. The results were as follows:

- 89 students gained a Credit Certificate
- 69 students gained a Distinction Certificate
- 9 students gained a High Distinction Certificate

It is pleasing to note that there was a significant increase in the number of students who achieved Distinction Certificates in 2007, as compared to 42 students in 2006 (an increase of 64%). Congratulations to all the participants.

TAS Faculty
Ms D.Jackaman - Competition Co-ordinator

Science News

Mrs Harman

A very big thank you to Ms Thomas for stepping up into the role of Science Head Teacher during my absence. From all accounts she has done a wonderful job.

A reminder that students can collect their Science Competition question booklets from the Science staffroom or their Science teacher *before the end of this term* (otherwise the booklets will be thrown out).

The Reptile Incursion was once again a success. All Year 8 enjoyed seeing albino blue tongue lizards, an array of different snakes and not to forget Rosie the alligator. Thank you very much to Ms Drury and Ms Thomas for organising a most interesting incursion.

Some upcoming events in Science:

Year 7-10

- Chemistry Quiz for those who have paid on Thursday 26 July

Year 8

- Assignment 3 due 19 June
- Major Scientific Investigations Distributed Friday 22 June

Year 10

- Assignment 3 due Thursday 28 June
- Accelerants- Chemistry Quiz Thursday 26 July

Year 11 and 12

- Year 11 Accelerants and Year 12 Chemistry - Titration Competition Saturday 16 June
- Chemistry- Chemistry Quiz Thursday 26 July

Competitions and other Interesting Events

- Eureka Peoples Choice Award*: Vote for your favourite scientist
www.australianmuseum.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

www.girraween-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/whatsnew/downloads/sse.pdf

- 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/. Closing date Friday 31 August 2007

See Ms Harman for more details if you are interested

Read: Books of The Month

Here are some new books available to borrow in our school library.

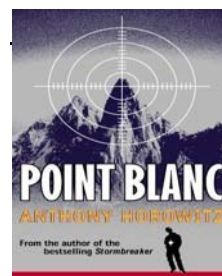


Uglies - Scott Westerfeld

Tally Youngblood is a girl impatiently awaiting her 16th birthday. Not for her licence, but so that she can undergo a special operation that will turn her pretty. But when Tally meets another girl yet to turn 16, Shay, her world is turned upside down. Because Shay isn't so sure about being pretty. And when she runs away,

Tally is forced by the authorities to make a horrible decision: find and turn Shay in or never turn pretty at all. What will she choose?

Uglies is available at the school library, 1 of 1 copy.



Point Blanc - Anthony Horowitz

This is the second instalment in the Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz. Now, Alex Rider is back and finding himself in a more dangerous situation than before. Forced by MI6 to act as a student at an expensive private school for criminal boys in the French Alps, Alex has near-death experiences up in the high, cold mountains. Where nobody can see, hear or find them. An action-packed book that fans of the *Stormbreaker* movie (the first book in this series) will enjoy.

Point Blanc is available at the school library, 1 of 1 copy.

Some Notes For Parents To Assist Senior Students With Their Exam Preparation

Ms Das Neves

The Women's College Leadership Seminar

Katherine Bowra
Amanda Lee
Lilian Leong

HSC Dates

The 2007 Higher School Certificate timetable has been released and is available on the NSW Board of Studies website www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au.

Industrial Technology is the first exam on October 18 and Business Services the last one on November 13. The mandatory English exams are on October 19 and October 22.

Online support for senior students

NSW HSC Online provides web-based support for students studying for the Higher School Certificate. It includes study materials and interactive activities based on the syllabus for each HSC subject. HSC Online is at <http://hsc.csu.edu.au/>

Top 10 Studying Tips

Your child's study techniques can be improved by encouraging them to:

1. Establish a routine
2. Create a study environment
3. Set a timetable
4. Drink plenty of water and eat healthy foods
5. Reward themselves for studying
6. Have variety in their study program
7. Avoid interruptions to concentration
8. Test themselves on what they have studied
9. Don't panic at exam time
10. Ask their teachers for guidance.

Setting Priorities and Time Management

Setting priorities and time management are important for your child's personal development. Encourage your child to:

1. Create a daily 'to do' list
2. List goals and set priorities
3. Do 'A's' first (Most important things)
4. Do it now
5. Ask themselves "What is the best use of my time right now?"
6. Be realistic - new habits take time to develop. Reward themselves for small steps of progress towards their goals each week.

Students should not hesitate to ask for assistance from their teachers for any aspect of HSC preparation.

Current House Points

Newcombe is in the lead! Then Chappell, followed closely by McKay, and last but not least, Fraser.

CHAPPELL	263
FRASER	236
MCKAY	256
NEWCOMBE	292

The Women's College at Sydney University held a leadership seminar on the 25th of May. Three Year 11 students from Girraween had the privilege of attending and it was highly informative. Students from about 30 different schools were present. Many speakers were invited including past students, current students and the Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir.

Students invited to the seminar were lectured about the importance of superannuation, how to retain motivation to achieve goals and the importance of balancing studies with what we find fun. We were told by the Director of Counselling Services at the University of Sydney that even if we set ourselves a goal and fail to reach it, it was NOT a waste of time as we have STILL achieved something. Words of advice that should be taken by all.

Students of the Women's College, both former and current students, stressed to us that as much as it seems like it, the HSC does NOT determine the remainder of your life after school. While the HSC is important, we were told there will always be second chances.

Also, current students of the Women's College insisted that we could still succeed at university while enjoying other outside/sporting activities. According to one student, many told her she would not be able to maintain the needed average of 80% unless she studied continuously, it is actually not that difficult to maintain a high standard.

Other students currently residing at the Women's College showed us around the college, including their messy, unprepared rooms and the facilities such as the common room and the music rooms. Many of us learnt about college alarms the hard way, when they were set off by too-large groups taking too long to get through doors. None of us were actually aware that if the college doors were kept open too long, an alarm would sound.

An especially enjoyable part of the seminar was when past students Sophie Gulliver, Sara Saleg and Georgia McCaughan spoke to the students about their own experiences. All three young women were exceptionally accomplished and happy and it was truly heart-warming to see that there are women who have professions that they love and still have time for a social life.

Overall, the seminar was a very informative and enlightening experience and the people at the Women's College were very friendly. They also provided us with University packs which will prove to be very helpful in the future and also ensured there was no possibility we'd go hungry while we were there. We'd like to thank Ms Earp and Ms Kwiet for helping us attain such a rewarding experience.

Summary of Minutes of P&C Meeting: 28th March

Principal's Report

Mr Murty spoke about the work that is to be done on the assembly area, the power supply, road safety, uniforms and the *Investing in our Schools* grants. Mr Murty also reported on the Hisai school visit, Harmony day and bus timetables. A new Principal has been appointed. Ms Mary Ann Das Neves will commence term 2.

SRC News

Crazy Hair Day raised \$1 950 for leukaemia, Mufti day raised \$850 for the school production.

General Discussion

Desirability of having a school hall and strategies the P&C could use to lobby for one.

Vote: to continue running the canteen until the new Principal makes a decision.

Summary of Minutes of P&C Meeting: 23rd May

Principal's Report

Ms Mary Ann Das Neves spoke in self introduction, outlining her experience in selective education and pointing out the many benefits and stresses of selective schools. She described her plan to increase opportunities for student leadership in the school and to upgrade the physical environment of the school.

One big project will be revitalising the IT department and integrating IT more closely into the curriculum.

Ms Das Neves requested that the P&C resume responsibility for running the canteen.

The first Tuesday of term was marred by an accident on Gilba Road involving one of our students. The afternoon supervision policy has been revised and extra staff have been allocated to the afternoon shift. In addition, lobbying of Holroyd council, the RTA and our newly elected local member, Nathan Rees, has been started by Ms Das Neves and the P&C President.

SRC Report

Anna S spoke for the SRC.

Anna spoke of the two most recent fundraisers and the upcoming disco.

Members of the SRC are meeting with Ms Das Neves to review the girls' school uniform.

President's Report

The president Peter Rose welcomed the new Principal and reiterated the need for parents to take extreme care when picking up/ dropping off children from school.

Reported on meeting with Nathan Rees and efforts to get Holroyd council to fund a proper crossing at Gilba Road.

MOTION: that the P&C resume responsibility for the canteen. There was general discussion on the history of the canteen and the reasons behind the decisions made. The motion was carried by a majority.

General Business

General discussion on academic standards and HSC results.

Kwietz Kwiz

Despite my shameless attempts to fix last month's Kwiz so that the new Principal would win, Ms Das Neves did the decent thing and waited until a student had handed in the correct responses. It only took one day for Robert Slater of Year 9 to approach me with the answers. Well done, Robert! A fellow Year 9 student, Mahsa, was also successful, but a bit late! Here this month's Kwiz, which should be solved without searching the Net (Go on, it is possible, there was Life before Google).

1. Who wrote *Looking for Alibrand*?
2. What is the name of the underground Girraween High zine published for the first time last month?
3. What is *kulf*?
4. Who coaches the South Sydney Rabbitohs?
5. What is the capital city of Fiji?
6. Where do the Bananas in Pyjamas and the Teddies live?
7. What is *marlach*?
8. When and where was the Southern Cross first raised as a flag?
9. What is the name of Ms Pointer's gorgeous new niece?
10. If 'feline' means 'like a cat', what word means 'like a horse'?