

## Principal's Message

*Mr Holden*

### **Girraween High School Nominated for a National Literacy Award**

Term 2 has started with a rush. I received an email informing me that our school has been nominated for a National Literacy and Numeracy Week 2006 Excellence Award. These awards are open to both public and private schools.

The nomination was made by the Western Sydney Regional Literacy and Numeracy Awards Committee. Our performance in ELLA has been excellent with many students showing growth in their performance well above the state average and well above the growth achieved in other selective schools.

Our annual Literacy Day and our participation in the Premier's Reading Challenge, where we were second in the state, all contributed to our students realising how important to learning and achievement advanced literacy skills are.

This nomination recognised the outstanding results achieved by our literacy program in Years 7 and 8. Award winners will be announced later this year.

### **Anzac Military Tattoo**

Congratulations to Katrina Smith and Jasmine Tan who played in the band at the Anzac Military Tattoo which was held at the Sydney Superdome over the Anzac weekend.

### **Success for Boys**

Our school has received a grant for \$10000 to develop and implement programs to improve the academic performance of some of our boys. Overall our male students do well in the HSC but there are some boys who need special assistance developing skills in organisation and study.

On the School Development Day held on May 1 Chris Curran an educational consultant led the staff in workshops relating to the program.

### **New Year 12 Advisers**

As a result of Mr Tracy being promoted to Head Teacher Science at Sydney Distance Education Mrs Michels and Mrs Walker will share the Year 12 Year Advisers position for the rest of 2006.

### **P & C Meeting**

Don't forget the P&C meets on May 24 at 7:30pm in the common room. All are welcome.

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## Calendar of Events

### **May**

**15** Y8 Maths Mentals Test, Y9/10 Maths Test A

**16** Y12 Parent/Teacher Interviews

**17** Y8 Maths Test, Y9/10 Maths Test B

**18** Zone Cross Country, Y11/12 Economics Competition

**22** Y9 Science Test

**24** Athletics Carnival, P&C Meeting

**25** Y11 Geography Excursion, Y11/12 Business Studies Competition

**31** Y8 Science Incursion, Strategic Planning Conference

### **June**

**1** Y9/10/11 Drama Excursion

**3** Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Practice Hike

**7** Y12 West Sydney Careers Expo

**8** Zone Athletics Day 2, Y10 West Sydney Careers Expo

**15** English Competition, Y7 English Excursion

**16** Regional Cross Country

## Welcome to Etcetera

Welcome to etcetera, the new student-run newsletter for Girraween High School.

The objective in re-vamping the school newsletter is to give it a bright new look and provide students with a forum to showcase their leadership, teamwork and creative skills. We aim to not only inform and entertain but also celebrate the achievements of students and staff.

It was a difficult task for the fledgling newsletter team to decide on the name of our new publication; there were many creative and ingenious contributions. We would like to thank everyone who suggested names and congratulate Georgina Luhur in Year 10 for being the successful entrant.

etcetera will be published twice a term and we are keen to include information suggested by all members of the school community, so please contact anyone on the newsletter team with your articles, ideas for articles or advertisements. Feedback on all aspects of the newsletter is also welcome.

***The closing date for submissions to the June newsletter is Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June.***

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/may06.pdf](http://www.girraween-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/whatsnew/newsletters/may06.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 [girraween-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:girraween-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au) with "Email Newsletter" as the subject.

We hope you enjoy reading the first edition of etcetera.

### *The etcetera team*

#### **Editors**

Michelle Mak (11)  
Chinmay Pathak (10)

#### **Photojournalists**

Kim Aguanta (9)  
Ruben Chandramohan (8)  
Connor Hogg (7)  
Mahsa Javam (8)  
Lilian Leong (10)  
Melani Mahendran (9)  
Pallavi Malladi (7)  
Indhuja Paramanathan (12)  
Varshanah Thivagarupan (9)  
Candy Wong (12)  
Anthony Yeoh (10)

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

Nikita Bandaru (12)  
Georgina Luhur (10)  
Kiah Morante (7)  
John Ranola (9)

#### **Co-ordinators**

Mrs Sharp  
Mr Stormont

## Year 10 Conquer Cronulla

*Anthony Yeoh  
Lilian Leong*

On Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> of March Year 10 embarked on their yearly Geography excursion to Cronulla and Botany Bay to observe the coastal management in these areas. Five teachers accompanied our quest, Ms. Birrell, Ms. Datt, Ms. Payne, Ms. Rhodes and Mr. Scarpinato.

At Botany Bay, students were given the opportunity to observe the 'groynes' which are basically perpendicular walls constructed along the beach to stop the erosion. We also learnt a few things about industry located around Botany Bay and found that three airport runways had been constructed not far from where we were observing the groynes, so whilst the teachers were attempting to explain the coastal erosion needs, they were constantly interrupted by planes taking off. We ate, it rained and after that we took off heading down to our next destination.

Once at Cronulla we saw the sea wall, also constructed to keep out erosion. The sea wall consisted of 'seabees' which were holes within the interlocking hexagonal units that made up the wall which were designed to reduce the velocity of waves.



The students found the Seabees very amusing.

Also, due to the very strong winds present, seagulls were seen being blown sideways instead of flying mad like usual. This brought a hysterical moment to the odd few.

Through this excursion, students were taught the importance of coastal management to the maintenance of prominent beaches, and how industrial development can severely affect the existing ecosystems. We were also given the chance to see how much of a difference proper management of the beaches can make. The excursion also gave students a first hand experience of what is in the textbooks and on the series of videos watched in class.

Overall it was a pretty awesome excursion and I can safely say we weren't too troublesome. Right? Mission Accomplished Year 10. You did your school proud.

## Ve Vant To Suck Your Blood!

*Kim Aguanta*

Extra blood weighing you down? Can't seem to cut yourself WITHOUT bleeding? Then come one, come all to the Blood Bank's 'Vampire Program'. Here, the lovely staff will suck all that excess right out of you! And we mean that literally! Okay, not really, but the Blood Bank does need blood pretty badly!

Every Friday, a group of 5-6 students and one teacher travel by bus to the Blood Bank. And who knows, maybe you'll be one of them this Friday!



Victor is happy to donate blood

Last year only 40 people from Girraween High School committed to donating blood! 40 out of a possible 720 people! This year our school is going for 100 people by the 30<sup>th</sup> of June. So far the bar has risen to 50 people (the 50<sup>th</sup> person being Mr. Tracy, we miss you already!). Not too bad, but I KNOW that this school can do much better than that! If your friend has just turned 16, tell me, what better present than a trip to the Blood Bank? Comfortable beds, wonderful staff and FREE FOOD, such as milkshakes & chocolate! Not to mention a charming bus ride down to Parramatta or Penrith and you'll be helping a lot of sick people who need your blood. What else could you ask for?

But don't even THINK that since you're under age you can't contribute! You can always inform your parents about this program. They can simply visit the Blood Bank, state that the contribution is from Girraween High School and they could save a life!

So remember! If you're 16 or over, weigh 50 kilos or more and have parent consent, then ask Mr. Howard for more information.

## Past Students – Where Are They Now?

*Lilian Leong*

Over the years, Girraween High School has seen many students graduate. A lot of you may wonder what happens to these students after they graduate. Well, two of these past students were Anna and Margaret Sarlej, and here is an insight on where they are at the moment.

Anna Sarlej graduated from Girraween in 2005. At the moment, she is attending the University of NSW and doing a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Education (in secondary education). Her degree is a 4 year course (5 with honours) and she is majoring in English and History. As a part of her course, she sometimes actually teaches year 4 students at primary schools.

Outside school, Anna takes part in many clubs such as an environmental club, a bushwalking/rock climbing club and many others. She insists that she was pressured into joining. She is also on the social volleyball team and has taken up a Latin dancing course.

Anna says that she is finding university very different from high school, though she has only been attending for 5 weeks. She finds that she has a lot more freedom, and in her case, less hours of schooling. According to Anna, the main difference is that it is a lot harder to find a stable group of friends, as everyone has different schedules and the people you meet only see you every now and again. Despite this, Anna says that she is happy to choose university over high school any day.

On another note, her sister Margaret is also a Girraween graduate in 2002. She too is attending the University of NSW, studying computer science under a Co-op scholarship. As a part of this scholarship, she is required to work in IBM. Her course basically involves computer programming with some math and computer hardware. With her job, she is in UNIX Security for Westpac, so she basically manages the security on all their systems and provides support to users who are having security related problems.

Margaret also plays volleyball for both her university and her club along with Traditional Polish Folk dancing.

In her opinion, Uni is very different to high school and work is very different from Uni. Margaret gets a lot more freedom, but apparently has a lot less time. However, she does say that it's been a while since she left school, so she is used to it.

Thank you to Anna and Margaret for taking the time to answer the questions asked, and good luck in your future.

### REMINDER!

**Has your child handed in their permission slip to be mentioned in the school newsletter or site? Some students had to be excluded in this issue as they do not have parental consent to be mentioned in the school newsletter or on the school website. Download the permission slip from [www.girraween-h.school.nsw.edu.au/whatsnew/downloads/publishingpermission.pdf](http://www.girraween-h.school.nsw.edu.au/whatsnew/downloads/publishingpermission.pdf)**

## Hisai Student Exchange Program

*Nikita Bandaru and Candy Wong*

In March this year Girraween High School demonstrated its hospitality and enthusiasm to learn more about different cultures by hosting nine students from our sister school, Hisai High School from Hisai, Mie Prefecture in Japan. They were accompanied by Ms. Sugiyama, who has visited the school on exchange trips in the past.

The students were greeted at the airport by their excited host students and attended their first day at an Australian high school the following day. In their two weeks, they were taken to many different places to show the diversity of Australian culture, from patting animals in Featherdale Wildlife Park to climbing the Harbour Bridge.



Students from Hisai at Featherdale Wildlife Park

They also joined classes at Girraween to experience a typical day at school in Australia, where they joined in on the class activities and made many friends.

On an excursion to Canberra they visited the war memorial, Mt. Ainslie, Parliament House and the National Museum.

When asked what she thought of Australia, one of the students replied, "I love Australia. Everyone is very nice... Manly was fun. I like the sun here...Australia is very different to Japan."

After a tearful goodbye, the Japanese students left with pleasant memories of Australia and of everyone they met. A big thank you to Ms Stuart and Ms Akutsu for organising another successful and enjoyable student exchange and to all the teachers who accompanied the students on their excursions!



Hisai High and Girraween High students at Manly Beach

## Strategic Planning Conference

As a step in the development of the school's Strategic Plan for 2007–2009, students, staff and parents/guardians have been consulted in regards to the values they thought should be important at Girraween High School. The Steering Committee Workshop on Thursday 16 March 2006 along with feedback from staff, student and parent representatives were used to develop the Core Values of the school. The Core Values have been now been refined and finalised:

### Girraween High School Core Values

The school community encompassing students, staff and parents will strive to uphold the following values.

1. Girraween High School instils, develops and promotes academic excellence and independent, life-long learning. It maintains high expectations to enable all students to develop to their full potential.
2. Teachers at Girraween High School are dedicated and caring professionals who strive to challenge their students through engaging educational experiences. Girraween High School is recognised as a leader in Gifted and Talented education.
3. All members of the Girraween High School community take pride in its appearance, reputation and achievements.
4. Girraween High School offers all students the opportunity to pursue a holistic education that is motivating, creative and challenging.
5. Girraween High School provides opportunities for student leadership and strives to produce responsible citizens who contribute to their community.
6. Girraween High School celebrates cultural diversity, fosters tolerance and respects the rights of others.
7. Girraween High School maintains an open dialogue between the school and all community members.
8. Girraween High School recognises the importance of a safe, sustainable and well resourced learning environment and the need to maintain these facilities.
9. Girraween High School builds positive relationships by caring for the individual, through demonstrating empathy and by acting with compassion.

By now all parents should have received an invitation to the Strategic Planning Conference scheduled for **Wednesday May 31st 2006**.

Parents are reminded that RSVP s for the conference were due back at school by Friday 12th May so that arrangements for the conference can be finalised. If you are interested in attending and have not returned an RSVP, please contact Ms Harman as soon as possible.

## Trivia Competition

Excitement stirred as hundreds of Girraweeners filled the school hall to watch the first ever Trivia Quiz-Off between the Houses. The competitive spirit was most definitely in the air, and even on the walls for houses such as Newcombe with their bright, bold banners. Each house team donned their house colours, mascots in hands, outfit complete with knitted eyebrows. All of them put in a tremendous effort, and some of the teachers showed that they could belt out a tune or two. After a brainy struggle, Fraser rose to victory-congratulations! So the final score tally was: Chappell - 55, McKay - 57, Newcombe - 61, and Fraser on 70. We raised a fabulous amount of just over \$300 for our sponsored child, so a big thankyou to all who attended, especially Ms Kwiet who made it all possible!



The McKay team hard at work

## Harmony Day

*Pallavi Malladi*

On 21<sup>st</sup> March around 200 parents, teachers and students gathered in school hall to meet each other. The night was hosted by the Prefects and the SRC. Everyone contributed a platter of food to make an exquisite feast for all. "We love the food!" was the reaction from all the students at the night. "We enjoyed meeting our son/daughter's teachers" responded the parents.

Overall the night was a highlight for all, enjoyed both by the teachers and the parents.

A sincere thank you to Ms Harman for organising the night.



Mr Kaplinski meets a student's parent

# 2ND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

Open Every Thursday Week B

8:15 – 9:30 am

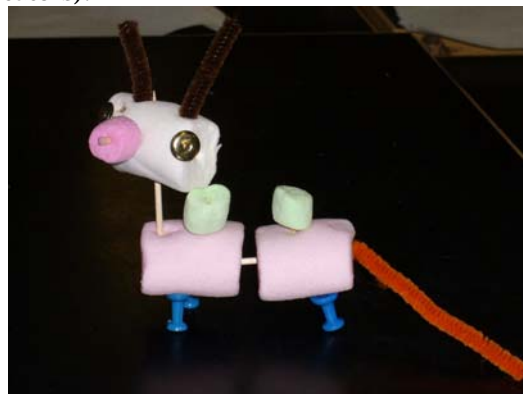
For further details contact:

Therese\_vo@hotmail.com

## In the Classroom – Raising Reebops

*Kunal Sharma*

On Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> of March, 2006, Year 12 Biology had a go at creating their own organism: the Reebop. A mighty being made of marshmallows, with thumbtacks for the eyes, the Reebop simulated meiosis. The parent chromosomes underwent meiosis to produce distinctive offspring. Everyone's Reebop was unique in appearance. It appeared that some had undergone mutation (such as having marshmallows for eyes) while others were just unlucky in their appearances (not to say that this was a reflection on their creators).



One of the Reebops created by the Year 12 Biology class

With some Reebops losing their eyes, while others lost their entire body segments (made of oh, so delicious marshmallows), we had a great time altogether (whilst learning about the independent assortment of chromosomes!)

We'd like to thank Mrs Drury and Ms Taylor for an awesome Biology lesson.

## School Development Day 1st May 2006

*Mrs Casey*

Girraween High School has received funding from the federal government under the Success for Boys program. This funding must be used for staff development and the development of school-based projects aimed at improving the learning outcomes for boys.

On Monday 1st May, on the School Development Day, all staff underwent the first phase of the professional development program. This was successful in raising awareness about boys' education issues and canvassing interested staff for school-based projects.

## Faculty News

### Science News

*Ms Harman*

All science students 7-10 have completed their Science Competition. There is an enormous amount of work involved in the organisation of such an event and so thank you very much to Ms Sharp, Ms Drury and Mr Tracy for the smooth running of the competition.

Students can collect their question booklets from the science staffroom or their science teacher by the end of May; otherwise the booklets will be thrown out.

### Some Upcoming Events in Science

#### **Year 8**

*Reptiles Incursion* – Wed 31<sup>st</sup> May. Money & permission note due Wed 24<sup>th</sup> May

*Test 2* - Wed 14<sup>th</sup> June 2006

#### **Year 9**

*Year 9 Accelerants: Half Yearly* Mon 8<sup>th</sup> May (Year 10 Component)

*Test 1* - Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2006

#### **Year 10**

*Half Yearly*- Mon 8<sup>th</sup> May 2006

*Year 10 Accelerants* - Assessment Task 2 Mon 5<sup>th</sup> June 2006

#### **Year 11**

*Biology* - Assessment Task 2 - Mon 29<sup>th</sup> May 2006

*Chemistry* - Assessment Task 2 - Mon 5<sup>th</sup> June 2006  
Chemistry Quiz Money due

*Physics* - Assessment Task 2 - Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Jun 2006

### Competitions

- *Questacon Smart Moves Invention Convention – Ages 14-18 if you have an idea with potential for development in research &/or commercialisation- Applications due Fri 26<sup>th</sup> May 2006 more details on <http://smartmoves.questacon.edu.au>*
- *Talented Students Forensic science Camp- - Year 8 students only. Extremely challenging & complex problem solving involving forensics. Apply on [www.forensiccamps.com](http://www.forensiccamps.com)*
- *Siemens Science Experience - Year 9 students only. A three day hands-on science, engineering and technology program conducted in Australian Universities. Each program includes a wide variety of practical activities, and presentations by leading scientists & engineers. Application forms and details on [www.scienceexperience.com.au](http://www.scienceexperience.com.au)*
- *Australian Museum Eureka Prizes Peoples Choice Award- by voting for Australia's top scientist you could win computer software, book vouchers & magazine subscriptions. Vote online between 28<sup>th</sup> July & 20<sup>th</sup> August [www.amonline.net.au/eureka](http://www.amonline.net.au/eureka)*

### Australian Science Olympiad

For the first time in Australia, the story of the Australian Science Olympiad program will be showcased. BATTLE OF THE BAINS, a 4 part TV series premieres on June 15, 8pm on Catalyst, ABCTV. It follows the journey of the 2005 Australian Biology Team as they compete for the chance to bring home gold from the International Biology Olympiad in Beijing. Tune in to discover what it takes to compete with the brightest brains in the world.

### Agriculture News

*Mrs Taylor*

#### **Honey Time**

At the end of Term One the honey frames were removed from the Bee hives. The honey will be extracted by several Year 8, 9 and 10 students. This is a lengthy process and we are hoping to have it bottled and for sale very soon.



A honey bee

*A very special thankyou;*

All of this would not be possible without the help and advice of two wonderful volunteers from the **Parramatta Amateur Beekeeping Club**

Mr Dave Wilson and Mr Ron Irving.

These gentlemen gave up their time to remove the frames at no cost and Mr Wilson has provided endless advice and willingly shared his extensive knowledge in the preparation and process of obtaining the honey.

For any student or adult who might be interested in learning about amateur beekeeping, the Parramatta Amateur Beekeeping Club meet 7.30pm every second Wednesday evening of each month in the Agricultural Building (off Baker St) at James Ruse High School

For more details please contact the Club's secretary Dave Wilson at [drwilson@tpg.com.au](mailto:drwilson@tpg.com.au)

### English/Drama News

*Mahsa Javam*

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2005, it was Shakespeare Day. In period one year 9 drama performed magnificent plays of Romeo and Juliet. In period three year 8 performed the most outrageous plays of all. The performances of *A Midsummer Nights Dream* stood out the most for they were the funniest.

The rest of the day was filled with excellent performances by years 8, 9, 10 and 11. It was an extremely fun and successful day and we hope it continues for many years to come.

## Music News

*Mr Ropa*

Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding achievements!

**Belinda Smith**, Year 7 – Concert Band, Stage Band, Percussion Ensemble, Marching Band, Instrumental Ensemble (tutor)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Sydney Metropolitan Band Branch Solos Under 15 Novice Clarinet
- Marched with Castle Hill RSL Youth Band at ANZAC Day march in the city.

**Katrina Smith**, Year 12 - Concert Band, Stage Band, Percussion Ensemble, Marching Band, Instrumental Ensemble (conductor)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Sydney Metropolitan, Under 19 Clarinet
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, National Solos Competition, Junior Bass Clarinet
- Marched with the NSW DET Millennium Marching Band at the ANZAC Day march in the city.

### Marching Band Rehearsal

On Thursday 11 May 2006, 90 students from **The Faculty of Music's Ensembles Program** combined to form the first **Girraween High School Marching Band**. Formed up on the top oval, marked with a 5m grid (in flour), the Marching Band learnt many techniques and fundamentals. Within an hour the band had taken their first steps (an 8 step box) and scared off workers in the surrounding industrial area with their amazing call to attention response "**Oi!**", which by the end of the rehearsal was measured by **4 echoes**. At one time, **standing at attention for 6 minutes** the **focus and discipline** shown by these students was **outstanding**. Well done! Our next rehearsal will be in one month's time on **Thursday 1 June 2006**.

### Aurora Festival –recorded by ABC Classic FM.

Congratulations to the following students who participated as members of the inaugural **Aurora Scratch Orchestra** in an amazing performance of **Terry Riley's Olson III** on Saturday 6 May at **The Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, Penrith** as part of the **2006 Aurora Festival**. The performance, recorded by **ABC Classic FM**, was linked to a workshop implemented at school earlier in Term 1. The performance included instrumentalists from across New South Wales including The RAAF Band, Australian Youth Orchestra, Penrith Symphony Orchestra, Girraween High School and State Schools Senior Singers. The performance was a result of students rehearsing in Penrith on Sunday afternoons with curator Warren Summers.

**Kim Aguanta**, Year 9 – Vocal Ensemble, State Schools Senior Singers

**Sharmaine Aguanta**, Year 11 – Vocal Ensemble  
**Anoj Jeyamoorthy**, Year 7 – Concert Band, Marching Band, Instrumental Ensemble

**Stuart Rynn**, Year 9 – Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble, Instrumental Ensemble, Marching Band

**Belinda Smith**, Year 8 - Concert Band, Stage Band, Percussion Ensemble, Marching Band, Instrumental Ensemble (tutor)

**Katrina Smith**, Year 12 - Concert Band, Stage Band, Percussion Ensemble, Marching Band, Instrumental Ensemble (conductor)

**Kiyara Soosapilla**, Year 7 – Instrumental Ensemble, Marching Band

**Bronwyn Wood**, Year 8 – Concert Band, Marching Band

### Instrumental Ensemble

*Katrina Smith*

Congratulations to members of the Instrumental Ensemble. These students have had their instruments for less than a term and already are able to sight read new music and play in tune with good tone! This is a fantastic accomplishment for such a new band. Well done! And thank you to our amazing tutors for their assistance with guiding and passing on their expertise to our new members!



Mr Ropa and students performing at the Aurora Festival



**GIRRAWEE HIGH SCHOOL  
2006 SWIMMING CARNIVAL  
RESULTS**

**OVERALL**

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>HOUSE</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
First	<b>CHAPPELL</b>	754 points
Second	<b>MCKAY</b>	720 points
Third	<b>NEWCOMBE</b>	498 points
Fourth	<b>FRASER</b>	417 points

<b>BOYS</b>		<b>Pts</b>	<b>GIRLS</b>	<b>Pts</b>
12 years			12 years	
Gold	Brendan Emery (CH)	58	Gold	Clarissa Minarto (FR) 70
Silver	Jason Ren (MK)	36	Silver	Carmer Lau (CH) 56
Bronze	Rajneil Prasad (FR)	32	Bronze	Saan-Chi Ramprakash (NW) 16
13 years			13 years	
Gold	Jason Addo (CH)	52	Gold	Sibel Er (NW) 62
Silver	Kiah Morante (CH)	37	Silver	Erica Tsang (NW) 54
			Bronze	Ashley Creighton (NW) 38
14 years			14 years	
Gold	Conan Huang (CH)	56	Gold	Karen Leung (MK) 70
Bronze	Adrian Lai (FR)	18	Silver	Jessica Chan (CH) 30
			Bronze	Chloe Pak (MK) 28
15 years			15 years	
Gold	Andrew Hudson (MK)	52	Gold	Rebecca Noble (CH) 70
16 years			Silver	Sarah Gillett (CH) 34
Gold	Steven Ngyuen (MK)	66	Bronze	Jodie Hervey (CH) 14
Silver	Mitchell McFarlane (MK)	54		
17+ years			16 years	
Gold	Dane Floyd (FR)	30	Gold	Clare Cholerton (CH) 68
Silver	Jason Tang (MK)	30	Silver	Rachel Lau (MK) 34
			Bronze	Karen Hooi (NW) 26
			17+ years	
			Silver	Joanna Connolly (MK) 36
			Bronze	Julia Korolkova (MK) 14

**Participation – 644 students**

## Blacktown Zone Swimming Results

Mr Wheatley

### Champion School – Girraween

Girraween has won the overall pointscore with 2045 points. The school won all of the pointscore divisions, except for coming second in the Junior Boys.

### Outstanding achievements

#### Zone Age Champions

**Brendan Emery (12 yrs)**

**Karen Leung (14 yrs)**

**Rebecca Noble (15 yrs)**

Others include;

Clarissa Minarto (12 yrs)

Erica Tsang (13 yrs)

Steven Nguyen (16 yrs)

Mitchell McFarlane (16 yrs)

Dane Floyd (17-19 yrs)

Tim Barton (17-19 yrs)

3<sup>rd</sup> Zone Age Champion

2<sup>nd</sup> Zone Age Champion

2<sup>nd</sup> Zone Age Champion

3<sup>rd</sup> Zone Age Champion

2<sup>nd</sup> Zone Age Champion

3<sup>rd</sup> Zone Age Champion

Well done to all competitors. Your school team spirit has yet again allowed us to win the carnival. This is the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year we have achieved this.

Our relay teams made a big difference. Congratulations should especially go to our Year 12 competitors, some of whom agreed to swim so that our school was represented in races.

## Sydney West Swimming Results

### Outstanding achievements

*Sydney West Age Champions Karen Leung came second in the 14 yrs Girls Age Championship, with 70 points. Rebecca Noble came 5<sup>th</sup> in the 15 yrs Age Championship with 57 points.*

Girraween came **10<sup>th</sup>** in the Sydney West Schools Pointscore. We have consistently been in the top ten for a number of years. Once again, congratulations to the team. It was particularly pleasing to see every relay team available. It did mean some competitors getting late notice to swim because of injury etc. Blacktown Zone came fourth in the carnival.

### CHS Swimming Results

Congratulations to **Karen Leung** who came 8<sup>th</sup> in the state in the 14 yrs 100m Breaststroke. Karen set herself the goal to be in the top 10 and she has achieved this. Although she was age champion last year in the Sydney West Carnival, she has improved on her ranking in this year's CHS Carnival.

## Cityrail Timetable

CityRail's newly developed timetable for the Eastern Suburbs and Illawarra and South Coast lines is due for introduction on 28 May 2006. The new timetable will reflect safer running times and improve the reliability of Sydney's metropolitan train services.

The new timetable has altered scheduled train operations across the CityRail network.

Copies of the new Eastern Suburbs & Illawarra timetable will be available at stations from 15 May 2006. All other altered commuter line timetables will also be available from stations from this date although as part of RailCorp's environmentally responsible culture we will encourage you to view timetable changes at:

<http://www.cityrail.info/news/timetable2006.jsp>. Posters will be displayed at stations to advise customers which services have been altered.

To ensure your children are aware of any alterations to their school transport needs, please encourage them to view the CityRail website or station posters.

## An Interview with Ms Blasche

Pallavi Malladi

At the start of the year, our school welcomed a number of new teachers. Ms Blasche, the new librarian, was one of the first to be interviewed...

### **How was your Transition to a new school?**

It was smooth and simple because of the wonderful staff and students.

### **What type of food do you like?**

I love eating Italian and Thai is my favourite.

### **Have you always wanted to be a librarian?**

Yes, since I was 18 I was a librarian.

### **What is your favourite novel?**

My favourite novel has to be...Dirt music.

### **What is your favourite music?**

I adore Van Morrison's and Sarah Brightman's music.

### **What three words sum up your personality?**

Happy, confident and thankful.

### **Any advice for Girraween students?**

Yes, follow your dreams.

### **And for the final question, how were the staff and students when you came?**

The teachers were really friendly and so were all the students of this wonderful school.

## REMINDER!

**The next P&C meeting meets on May 24 at 7:30pm in the common room. All are welcome.**

## An Interview with Mr Henretty

Anthony Yeoh

In this interview, we learn more about Mr Henretty, the newest addition to the English faculty.

### **Hey sir, welcome to the interview. How has your transition to GHS been?**

Hi Anthony, it's great to be here. Good question; it has been very smooth; the students are very receptive and have plenty of potential. The staff have been very co-operative and helpful.

### **So why don't you tell us a bit about yourself?**

Well I have a love for English and reading. I enjoy satire in novels, animation television and comedy in film.

### **Okay so tell us the truth – how old are you really?**

Well, young enough to have been a fan of Astroboy.

### **So in your short life then where has fate taken you?**

I don't believe in fate and despise the idea. I find it rather insulting, I believe in responsibility!

### **Well then how about your history?**

I've always played and watched Aussie Rules and cricket and I've taught at Merrylands High School in the past.

### **Any favourite students and teachers you've learned to love? C'mon give us some names.**

I'll just say anybody that's a well-rounded individual, has a sense of humour and is well-read.

### **What have you always wanted to be?**

I've always wanted to be a teacher, particularly in English. At various times in my life, I've wanted to be either a firefighter or an author.

### **Okay so what is your favourite food?**

I'm a sugar junkie. I eat way too many lollies. Sugar is very important. I also love Asian food, particularly Cambodian cuisine.

### **So what would be your favourite novel and type of music?**

Well my favourite novel is definitely *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. I have a fascination with Jay Gatz because of his flaws and charisma. With music I listen to the oldies, ranging from Mozart to the bad music of the early 90's.

### **For my next question, tell me 3 words that would sum up who you are.**

Well I really don't know, I've never thought about that. What do you think? Tall, articulate and passionate.

### **So does that explain why you're quite expressive in your teaching?**

Yes. I also speak in a disjointed way and speak with my hands too much.

### **Lastly, what is your final advice for the students of Girra?**

Well, enjoy reading, laugh and read more.

## Duke of Edinburgh – Gold Practice Hike

Gimo Laxmana

It all began on a chilly April night. We would all painfully re-learn the art of setting up tents, and sleeping in uncomfortable, wet and cold conditions without pillows and mattresses. We would also come to remember that staying remotely hygienic is an option in the bush. To those who are considering doing Duke of Ed, be warned that it involves lots of carrying 18kg and heavier packs, wearing the same set of underwear for at least two days and separation from fancy things like your PSP and your iPod.

The first two days were fairly unremarkable, as we re-crossed tracks that we've come to know well in Bronze and Silver hikes. We hiked across endless fire trails, down sodden gullies and up perpetual hillsides. The second day was probably the worst. It involved plenty of hiking up vertical inclines, and the midday heat really got us. That particular night was concluded with a lengthy debate on whether the group should travel to Base via the Colo riverbed, or follow what we had originally planned and go back up the mountain and backtrack the ridges and fire trails.



5 km in on the first day and fatigued already – let's go home!

In my opinion, the third day was the best. Even those who had initially voted against traveling via the river were pleasantly surprised by the day's easiness. We were permitted to walk across the river without shoes on, and it was really awesome to walk flat ground *and* with light packs. It also was hilarious watching some of us step in seemingly unremarkable sand and then see them suddenly disappear up to their upper thighs. Conversely, we were disheartened to see upriver that cows had been relieving themselves in the Colo River since we used it as our premier water source. It also took some tricky footwork to ensure you didn't get your feet stuck in the muck too!

We took down the fourth day really well. In fact, the staff at Somerset said we set a record in getting that particular stretch done - it was something like an hour or two in advance. The only thing we had to complain about was the general lack of food. I speak for most of the boys when I say this: you can never bring enough food. Don't bother bringing a second pair of boxers - shove another ziplock bag of trail mix in your pack instead.

Thanks to everyone who came along!