

Principal's Message

Ms Das Neves

I am delighted to have been appointed Principal of Girraween High School. I want to thank all the students, staff and parents who have welcomed me so warmly to the school.

I have most recently been Deputy Principal at Hornsby Girls High School and prior to that spent some time at Manly Selective and Freshwater High Schools as Deputy Principal. I have a strong commitment to selective co-education and believe that schools like Girraween are able to offer wonderful opportunities to students. I have a particular interest in ensuring that every student in our school is not only able to reach their academic potential but also to develop as a whole, well rounded person so that they can operate as effective global citizens and take up their role as leaders in many fields.

On my first day at Girraween, I asked staff to put on paper what they were most proud of about their school. Without exception they wrote about the students - their successes, their hard work, their friendliness, their attitude and their tolerance and supportiveness of each other. I have taken the opportunity to meet with the Student Representative Council and the Prefects and they too have also spoken to me about the wonderful things that happen at Girraween. It has been obvious to me after only a couple of weeks that the staff work very hard to provide great opportunities inside and outside the classroom.

Road Safety Issues - Student Accident

Unfortunately the start of the term was marred by a serious accident. One of our students was knocked down by a car while crossing Gilba Road after school and needed to be transported to Westmead Children's Hospital. Fortunately, his injuries proved not to be life threatening. I urge all parents to talk to their children about taking care in this area and using the pedestrian safety areas when crossing Gilba Road. I remind all parents to observe ALL road usage signs on Gilba Road and in the bus bay and to use extreme caution in the area. I ask parents to avoid driving into the bus bay and staff/student car parks between 8am and 9am, and between 2:45pm and 3:30pm. I have written to Holroyd Council asking it to expedite the pedestrian crossing proposed for Gilba Road and I have requested further ranger patrols in the area.

Continued on next page

Year 12 Parent / Teacher Night

TUESDAY 15TH MAY

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

May

Week 4B

Education Week

- 14 12 UTS Presentation
11 Modern History Test
10 Maths Test 2 Part A
8 Science Test
- 15 12 Parent/Teacher Night
- 16 12 Sydney Uni Presentation
UTS Women in Engineering Day
11 Ancient History Assessment
10 Maths Test 2 Part B
Shakespeare Night
- 17 12 Geography Excursion
11/12 Business Studies Competition
- 18 12 Geography Excursion
10 Science Excursion to Sydney Uni
7 Immunisation

Week 5A

- 21 12 UWS Presentation
9 History Exam
- 22 7 Science Test
- 23 GHS Athletics Carnival
P&C Meeting 7:30pm in Common Room
- 24 Zone Cross Country
- 25 12 Maths Extn 1 Task
11 Economics Task

Week 6B

- 28 KPMC Accounting Presentation
- 29 7 Maths Test 2
- 30 12 Legal Studies Essay
12 IPT Research Project due
- 31 12 English Extn 1 Task
- 31 - 3 Duke of Ed Gold Practice Hike

June

- 1 8 Science Reptiles Incursion
7 Geography Excursion to Blue Mountains

Week 7A

- 4 12 English Extn 2 3rd draft due
10/11/12 Girls Immunisation
- 6 10/12 Careers Expo
7 English Excursion to Riverside
- 7 - 8 Zone Athletics Carnival

Week 8B

- 11 Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
- 12 12 Maths Extn 2 Task
11 Legal Studies Oral Task
June Newsletter Cut-off
- 14 12 English Module B
11 Maths Task
- 15 Regional Cross Country
12 Maths Task
11 English Extn Task

P&C Association

I have been pleased to be able to meet with Mr Peter Rose, the new President of the P&C, and to begin discussing priorities for areas of support for our school. Schools are most effective when there is a real and deep partnership with parents. I look forward to meeting many parents at the next P&C meeting on **Wednesday May 23rd at 7.30 PM** in the Staff Common Room. I urge everyone to attend.

Improvements to the Assembly Area

The Assets Management Unit of the Department of Education and Training visited last week and progress has been made in completing planning for the refurbishment of the assembly area using Investing in Our Schools funding. This will involve concreting of the tiered area and work to divert storm water away, so as to prevent mud and debris washing onto the assembly quadrangle. At the same time, the tiers in the Art quadrangle will also be replaced with concrete. When this is completed, the Assets Management Unit will be able to landscape both areas to provide a much more pleasant area for students.

Special Awards for 2006 HSC Students

Kunal Sharma, a former student of Ancient History at Girraween High School, has been nominated for an Athena Award for Excellence in Hellenic Studies in the 2006 Higher School Certificate. Congratulations to Kunal and to Ms Kwiet for this outstanding achievement!

Robert Boncardo and Shivansh Kochhar, as a result of their 2006 HSC, have been awarded University of Sydney Scholarships. Congratulations to these two students!

Parent Teacher Night

We look forward to seeing all Year 12 Parents at the **Parent Teacher Night on Tuesday 15th May**. Teachers will be able to give parents information on results in the Half Yearly Examinations and will be able to talk to parents about how they can best support their children to maximise their marks and to refine their academic performance. This is a most important time as HSC students consolidate their learning and their work on major HSC projects. Your ability to support your child will be enhanced if you have a clear picture of their needs at this time. Please try to make the time to attend. Appointments should be made for you by your child with each teacher. The Careers Adviser, Mrs Yohanna and the Year Adviser, Mrs Birrell will also be available to discuss any issues of concern.

SRC News

Julia Korolkova

Four students from Girraween High School have been selected as part of a delegation to go to the University of NSW to demonstrate their public speaking skills to undergraduate students.

These students are Sherif Alam, Zenia Starr, Ivan Lubric and Tiffany Lanzing.

Girraween High School is very proud of these students and we wish them the best of luck in presenting their speeches. The Youth Leadership Program in which they are participating covers a large range of content including impromptu speaking, speech organisation, language, voice and manner.

The program will provide students with great exposure and excellent experience in sharing their skills.

Co-ordinator's Message

Mrs Sharp

The 2007 etcetera team

Editors

Nathalie Vo (11)

Shristi Yadav (10)

Photojournalists

Mahdu Edirisinghege (7)

Priya Singh(7)

Justin Teo (8)

Carmen Lau (8)

Sana Ahmed(9)

Tiffany Lanzing (9)

Sowmya Bysani (10)

Ryan Tam (10)

Anthony Yeoh (11)

Wilson Lu (11)

Julia Korolkova (12)

Dominique Gagarin (12)

Web & Graphic Designers

Melani Mahendran (10)

Georgina Luhur (11)

John Ranola (10)

Thuwaarahan Nadesan (11)

The closing date for the June edition of etcetera is Tuesday 12th 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/may07.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 names are 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.

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

Shakespeare Day

Sana Ahmed

Shakespeare Day:

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose, by any other name would still smell as sweet".

If the above sentence did not deter you from reading this article, congratulations, see how you fare with the text below.

Shakespeare Day was held on Thursday 26th of April. So you're probably thinking Shakespeare + Romeo and Juliet = Total Yawnfest. Not so. In fact, a little dash of soundtrack music, a pinch of innovation and a large helping of humour made for a really great day. Honest.

Selected English classes from Years 8-10 gave their all in performing on the day. Year 8 English presented their acts in Period one, Year 9 English in period 2, Year 9 Drama in period 3 and Year 10 performed for the rest of the day. Most people dressed in black, but groups also dressed in costume and uniform. Presentation was loud and clear, and a lot of expression was put in by the actors so it was most convincing. Some occasional cheekiness and jokes put the audience in tears - tears of laughter, that is, as the actors combined original ideas with the traditional Shakespearean language.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and competition wasn't even in the air; many groups did it for fun. "I don't get nervous that easily, it doesn't bother me, but if I'm around people who are nervous, I'll end up nervous! Otherwise I don't care, I'm having fun!" said an actress, Kasia Marciszewski, on performing before her act was on. After her group performed, Tiffany Lanzing said, "It was a brilliant experience and lots of fun. It helped our confidence; it really raised it up".

Thanks to everyone for the courage to get up on stage, and the audience for being so polite. We hope to have as much success next year!

URGENT – Host families needed

We have 60 students from Germany, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Holland and Brazil still waiting anxiously to hear about their Australian Host family.

They will arrive in July for a few months and go to High School. We are looking for open-hearted families to host these enthusiastic teenagers.

Hosting an exchange student really is a great way to expand your family's horizons and make a friend for life. Unlike having a boarder, the student participates as one of the family, including helping with household chores, following house rules, and joining in the fun.

For more information please call Southern Cross Cultural Exchange on **1800 500 501**

May P&C Meeting General Meeting

The next P&C meeting will be held on
WEDNESDAY 23rd MAY 2007

From 7.30 pm

In the Staff Common Room

COME ALONG AND MEET OUR NEW
PRINCIPAL

**DISCUSS ISSUES THAT AFFECT OUR
SCHOOL**

- TRAFFIC ISSUES
- CANTEEN DEVELOPMENTS
- IMPROVING AMENITIES AT THE SCHOOL
- FUND RAISING

**WE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO SEE YOU
AND SHARE A TEA OR COFFEE**

**PETER ROSE
PRESIDENT**

What a legend!

Justin Teo

As most of us know, Legend Fan was hit by a four-wheel drive on the first day of school this term. We caught up with him to find out just what happened.

Legend, can you tell us what happened on the 22nd of April?

Well, as I had finished saying goodbye to my friends, I hurriedly crossed the road without looking and got hit by the car.

How serious was your accident?

Actually, it wasn't very bad because the damage was external and luckily none of my bones were broken.

How long were you in the hospital for?

Since it wasn't very major I was out in 4 hours since I was admitted at 3:30pm and checked out at 7:30pm.

What have you learned from this experience?

I have learnt that next time I should ALWAYS take care when I'm crossing the road and that I should look out for cars no matter how much I'm rushing.

Bad Hair Day

Tiffany Lanzing

On the 16th of March, members of the Girraween High community prepared for an event created to raise funds for the Leukaemia Foundation, World's Greatest Shave.

Most students came to school with their hair already sprayed a vivid colour, in an unusual, wacky hairstyle, with some even wearing wigs! Students had the opportunity to have their hair done at school for a small price.



Mr Menkes' Mo goes off!

Students and staff had generously donated throughout the week leading up to the event, hoping to reach certain goals, the highest of which resulted in Mr Menkes' moustache being shaved off!



Busy day at the World's Greatest Shave

At the end of the day we had raised almost \$2000! Thank you to Mrs Michels for her part in organising the day, and everyone who donated. Your money will be greatly appreciated and does make a difference.

Ancient History's Big Day Out

*By Michelle Hwang,
Lois Cho and Clare McKenna*

On the 29th of March 2007 (last term), Year 11 Ancient History went on an excursion to the Museum of Ancient Cultures at Macquarie University.

We all arrived at Parramatta Station at 8.45, except Mrs Kwiet, who was ten minutes late. We then purchased our tickets and went on a long but very musical bus trip to the University.

As soon as we arrived, we walked through the University and found the Museum. It was impressive and really cold. Ms Ayer led us to a small room and showed us a power point presentation on archaeology. Jasper outdid himself answering Ms Ayer's questions with flair.

After a short recess break and an unsuccessful search for food, we toured the museum. There were ancient coins, vases, jewellery, coffins and a mummified body. Several students (Clare and Michelle) were too freaked out to look at the mummy and her face. We did however find out that she was ginger (like Zoë and Dylan who were too upset to hear of the fate of their people).

The highlight of the day was the hands-on session, where we donned white gloves and handled ancient objects. We had to guess what they were, working out which one was a brooch, lamp and hair pin. The nicest artefact was a silver Athenian coin with an owl on it. It was very pretty and Priya attempted to steal it!

After lunch we were dismissed to travel home independently. Most of us caught the bus to Parramatta with Ms Kwiet, who collected phone numbers and gossip stories. It was a great day out, really informative and interesting.

Thanks to Mr Stormont and Ms Kwiet for organising the excursion and to Macquarie University, in particular Ms Ayer, for this great opportunity.



**Ancient athlete and trainer
artefact**

Year 10's Visit Captain Cook's landing site

Sowmya Bysani

On Friday 23 March 2007, Year 10 paid a visit to the legendary Botany Bay. On this rather warm morning, the buses were loaded with Year 10s buzzing with excitement looking forward to a day away from school.

My group first went to a narrow and sandy Silver Beach where a plane can be heard every five minutes. One student claimed to have counted about fifteen noisy planes in the total time we were there. We witnessed a remarkable scatter of broken and whole white empty shells and plastic-like jelly fish on the shore. At Silver Beach, we even saw the Caltex oil refinery jutting out into the sea spoiling the peaceful, serene image of the blue sea. It was an interesting experience to measure the width of the beach and length of a compartment using our one-metre strides. One group got the exact measurement using strides as Mr. Scarpinato who used the measuring tape. Incredible!

Then we went for a walk through the vegetation nearby. The image was picturesque. Then it was lunch time. The other Year 10 group joined us and we enjoyed lunch by the sea and looking out at the silhouette of Sydney.

Afterwards, we went to Cronulla Beach with a brief stop in between. At Cronulla Beach, students found pleasure sitting on the seawall whilst listening to the Mr. Scarpinato and Mrs. Payne. Some even decided to run down the seawall. We studied the features of the seawall and the beach itself. Plus there were plenty of plants to draw and observe in the sand.



Relaxin' while studying at Cronulla Beach

Overall it was a fun and exciting but hot day. On behalf of Year 10, I would like to thank Mrs. Payne for organising the excursion and thank Mr. Scarpinato, Mrs. Birrell, and Mrs. Datt for supervising us on the excursion.

Harmony Day

Priya Singh

Where can you find sushi from Japan, spring rolls and noodles from China, samosas from India and pavlova from Australia all in the same room? Probably at an international food convention. But throw in a mob of Year 7 students and their parents, plus a bunch of teachers and you can have only one possible explanation: Year 7 Harmony night.

On Tuesday 20th February, Girraween High held its second annual Harmony night. The night commenced at 6:15. Students and their parents enjoyed the broad banquet of international delights. Cakes, biscuits, pastries, rolls, noodles and rice, among other things, were enjoyed by all.

After a feed, some parents decided to socialise with other parents. Harmony night also allowed parents an opportunity to ask their child's teacher how their progress was going.



The magnificent multicultural feast



Year 7's enjoying Harmony Day

Commotion at the Year 11 'Physics in Motion' excursion

*Thuwaarahan Nadesan
Georgina Luhur*

On Wednesday 28th March in term one, Year 11 Physics students ventured off to a 'Physics in motion' excursion held at Blacktown TAFE in Quakers Hill. We were accompanied by Mr Foster, Dr Masens, Ms Killen and our animated excursion coordinator Ian, who introduced himself upon our arrival.

We gathered in a lecture room, which was not difficult to find, but our sheer excitement was attested to when many of us found ourselves in the entirely wrong place. Luckily however, we did locate the lecture room we were searching for, and inside we took our seats.

After the arrival of more budding physicists from another school (who unfortunately had to stand up during the following presentation for we had taken up the majority of the seats), Ian began his presentation which took us through our worksheets. Not many students appreciated the fact that work had to be done, but the intricate formulae we had learnt in class did assist us in completing it.

Some of us were allowed to use highly-radioactive radar guns - these are used to measure the instantaneous speed of a vehicle (used by policemen on road patrol), but even more invigorating, nearly all of us had a ride in one of the vehicles. This was essential for our understanding of topics such as how terrain effects the braking of a car - we all know that it is extremely dangerous to drive at top speeds in the rain or on a wet road. Ian's rollercoaster ride in the S14 Silvia left us open-mouthed but many of us agreed that the highlight was the radical Nissan Patrol and its demonstrations of what happens when you don't wear your seat belts.

The deadly duo of rides eventually came to a stop and soon we were back in the lecture room with Ian. This time however we watched excerpts of reckless driving from around the world. While most of us found them entertaining we also acknowledged the dangers of driving. One of the most haunting excerpts taught us not to leave your arm outside the car or off the steering wheel when driving because that's where it ends up after a collision.

We were sure to keep sun-safe during the day as Ian provided us with sunscreen, and we all took the chance to nip a cup of water from the cooler - which did run out very quickly, so a few of us took the option of a cup of ice. We made our way into as much shade as possible to escape the sun blaring high in the sky, with only people's shadows keeping us sheltered from the heat. With cups of ice proving hopeless, a few of us made our way to the foyer to purchase snacks and drinks, and other lucky students spotted a café in another part of the campus where they bought a delicious lunch.

Soon the buses arrived to pick us up and Ian bid us farewell as he and Nash (his assistant) provided each of us with a show bag of goodies. Nevertheless, the principal factor was that we left that afternoon with our noggins full of safe driving techniques applied from our own knowledge of physics.

Careers Seminar

Sowmya Bysani

On Monday 19 March 2007, Robert Boncardo, 2006 GHS graduate, gave Year 10 a talk as a guest speaker. The seminar commenced with Robert commenting on how "cool" university is and how expensive life gets after leaving high school.

Then Robert gave us a talk on how important it is to be involved in everything both at school and in the community. He suggested being involved in sport, music, be part of the Chess Club, debating etc. and doing voluntary stuff in the community. He said "These extra-curricular activities will help you get a scholarship."



Seminar's a success

He told us to pick subjects we enjoy and are interested in and in this way we will perform much better in our subjects and in turn the HSC. In addition, Robert also advised us to "do our best" in high school and this hard work will be rewarded in the future. The talk ended with him recommending we do not take karate for work experience like he did!

Current House points as of:

08/05/2007

Chappel - 150

Newcombe - 133

Mckay - 121

Fraser - 116

Congratulations to the following Year 7 students who have been selected by their peers to be **House Leaders**:

Chappell House: Peter Graham, Morgan Biddle

Fraser House: Ajay Parmar, Nana Wickramatileke

Newcombe House: Andrew Lee, Dominique Fadera

McKay House: Ajay Prakash, Portia Zhang



Final cooking practical

By Justin Teo

On the 22nd of March, 8WN3's culinary skills were displayed as their final cooking practical stared them in the eye. Artistic skills of table display and food arrangement were required to be used to their full potential if each group wanted to receive full marks.



Tantalizing treats

The foods ranged from a classic 'Bacon and Egg Breakfast' to confectionery pizzas and traditional dishes such as rice. As the period neared the end, groups rushed and there were panicked movements all over the kitchen floor. Groups hurried to clean their bays and some of the luckier ones sat back and chowed down on their creations. One group was lucky enough to have non-alcoholic grape wine.



Mouth-watering meals on the menu

In the end, all groups finished on time and each group left with a smile of satisfaction. The aroma in the kitchen was magnificent and that was probably one of the best periods ever!

Baked Trout With Steamed New Potatoes

Serves 4

Ingredients for The Meal

4 trout [ask for them to be cleaned and gutted when you buy them]
450g small new potatoes
30g butter
15g chopped parsley

Ingredients For the Sauce

2 tablespoons olive oil
2 finely sliced onions
3 sticks finely sliced celery
2 cloves crushed garlic
1/2 teaspoon thyme [and/or parsley]
15g dill [optional]

Method

- 1 Set the oven to pre-heat to 200°C. Cut out four pieces of foil large enough to hold one fish each.
- 2 Wash the fishes thoroughly under cold water and set aside.
- 3 Heat the oil gently in a saucepan and add the sliced onion, celery, garlic, thyme [and dill or parsley if you are using it]. Cook over moderate heat, stirring with a wooden spoon until golden brown.
- 4 Spoon a layer of the onion and celery sauce onto each piece of baking foil. Lay a trout over the top and spoon a generous portion of the sauce over it. Wrap the foil over the fish and vegetables to make sealed packages. Place these on a baking tray and cook in the pre-heated oven for 30 minutes.
- 5 While the fish is cooking, wash and steam [or boil] the potatoes. Very small new potatoes need only 7-10 minutes cooking. Larger ones may need 15-20 minutes. They're ready when you can easily slide a sharp knife into the centre of one.
- 6 Finely chop a small bunch of parsley.
- 7 Tip the cooked potatoes into a warmed serving bowl, dollop on a generous chunk of butter, and sprinkle the parsley and salt on top. Cover with a lid and allow the butter to melt. Remove lid and stir so all the potatoes are coated in delicious butteriness.
- 8 Remove the fish from the oven, unwrap each one on a plate to catch the juices, and serve with some potatoes.

Experience takes the reins: Girraween's new Principal

Wilson Lu

With the retirement of former Principal, Mr Holden, Girraween High has welcomed the arrival of a true veteran of education, Ms. Das Neves, whose wealth of practice is certain to do this school credit.

In an interview with *etcetera*, Ms. Das Neves reveals both competence and zest.

Q-What other schools have you worked at, before Girraween?

I've worked at quite a number of different schools, I began my teaching career in the country at Wade High School in Griffith. I then moved to the city and I was quite a long time at Asquith Boys High School, I then went to Seven Hills as a Head teacher for five years. I then moved to Ku-ring-gai Creative Arts School and from there I went as Deputy Principal to the Northern Beaches and I was at Freshwater High School and Manly Selective. Then I went as Deputy to Hornsby Girls where I was for the past four years.

Q- Could you tell us your teaching area and how you came to choose it?

My teaching area is History...three of my sisters were archaeologists, so there is certainly a bit of History in the family and I always enjoyed it even from school, so when I went to University I took it up and I had a teaching scholarship, so I became a History Teacher.

Q- What is your impression of Girraween so far?

My impression is that it's a very friendly school where the students are not just focused on their work but focused on a whole range of extra-curricular activities, which is really good, and that it's doing a really great job and I can see the really good directions it's heading in.

Q- What do you think is the best thing about our school?

I think the friendly staff and the students... and the sense of commitment

Q- What are your aspirations in your new position?

My aspirations are to really look at what is good about Girraween and develop those aspects of it. With students, I think maintaining academic standards and working with teachers and students about that, is most important. In terms of extra-curricular activities I want to work on developing student leadership opportunities right from Year Seven to Year Twelve.

Q- Do you have any favourite past-times you'd like to share?

I like to read, I like to walk, in the last couple of years I've started taking on some new things, the year before last I went and learnt a musical instrument...I can't say that it lasted very long but I did try... and last year I did some mosaic work which I really enjoyed and I'd like to go back to that.



Girraween's new principal Ms Das Neves

Q-Could you tell us four of your favourite things?

Well, my favourite types of things are relaxing with my family, I like reading...though I don't get much time at the moment, these days I have to read rather boring books so I won't stay up all night reading them, I need something that'll just put me to sleep. I like walking, I walk quite a lot...and the other thing I like are holidays of course!

Q- If you were a crayon, what colour would you be and why?

Probably green, I think, because that's a nice peaceful colour but lively, it's a symbol of life.

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.

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.

Year 7 Camp

Morgan Biddle

Day 1

On Monday 5th February, Year 7 and the Year 11 Peer Support Leaders showed up at school far too early in the morning - 7.15 am! "Why?" you may ask? Because we had our Year 7 camp.

We were meant to leave on the buses at 7.30am but due to an anonymous late student (you know who you are), we ended up going at around 8.00. We arrived at the dock at about 9.15 am. The trip was pretty uneventful, but we got to talk to some strangers and get to know our friends a bit better. We arrived at Broken Bay, put our bags in the back of a Ute and walked up to the hall. One of the instructors told us the camp rules and meal times. We were then split into our lodge groups: I was in Kookaburra. We made our way to the lodges and unpacked before lunch at 12.00. For lunch we had salad rolls with our choice of Devon, corned beef or chicken.

After lunch, we had free time. Some people chose to swim in the pool, which apparently was extremely salty because the water is pumped up from the beach. Other people played volleyball, soccer or cricket.

Soon after, we were split into our activity groups. My instructor was Nathan and our first activity was pool games. We swam around a bit and then Nathan threw in some tennis balls for people to retrieve. Then he arranged some other games. After that we went to the archery range. I got one arrow in the outer red circle, but the rest missed the target completely.

We had more free time before dinner, where we had fish and chips and jelly and fruit. After dinner we had a county fair, where we ran different stalls with our peer support groups. Instead of using notes and coins, we used milk bottle tops and other bits and bobs. My peer support group ran the Secret Messages stall, where people could pay for a secret message to be sent to the person of their choice.

We went back to our lodges and got ready for bed. Our lodge told jokes and scary stories until lights out at 10:00p.m.

DAY 2

The next morning we awoke to the lovely (and quite annoying) sound of kookaburras laughing (probably at us). My lodge was on Mess Hall Duty (lucky us!), so we headed down to the hall early to set up for breakfast. Breakfast

was hash browns, cereal and toast. The people on Mess Hall Duty cleaned the tables, stacked the chairs and mopped the floor.

Then we went to the assembly area and got into our activity groups. My group had Initiatives, in which we formed groups and attempted different tasks - for example, building a tower out of crates and getting our entire team to the other side of a giant spider web made out of ropes.

We then had lunch, free time and then it was back to the assembly area for our afternoon activity. My group's activity was scheduled to be kayaking and surf skiing, but due to heaps of bluebottles in the bay (and one of the Year 11s getting stung), we had a marine walk across the beach and over the rocks. Then we went fishing off the wharf. I almost caught a leather jacket, but instead my fish decided to eat the bait plus the hook (smart fish). Then, one of the boys caught a fish, but it was too small, so he threw it back (without kissing it). Soon after that we walked back to our lodges and you guessed it, more free time.

For dinner we had roast beef & veggies followed by custard cream and peaches. Then we went down to the rec hall and Nathan (one of the instructors) organised a heap of fun games. Then we had chocolate milk and cookies for supper. After that, the rest of the night was pretty much the same as the night before; jokes, scary stories and sleep.

DAY 3

Once again we awoke to the beautiful (but still irritating) laugh of kookaburras. We had to pack our bags and take them down to the hall, all before breakfast. Then we went to the assembly area for our last activity of the camp, the High Ropes (finally!). There were two levels of the High Ropes. The lower level was freaky enough for me (freaky but fun). After you had completed the course, you made your way to the ground, via the Flying Fox! It was so much fun I wanted to do it again, but unfortunately, we only got one turn each.

After that, we made our way back to the hall for lunch, chicken and salad rolls (YUM!). Then we walked down to the wharf, said 'goodbye' to the instructors and jumped onto the ferry. We had another uneventful but relaxing trip. We arrived at the dock, but it was on the road again for us. Back on the bus, all the way back to Girraween High (couldn't we have stopped at McDonald's?).

The Year 7 camp was the most fun in high school yet. If I had the chance to do it again, I definitely would (minus the bluebottles).

Interesting Facts

Justin Teo

Napoleon made his battle plans in a sandbox.

Roman Emperor Caligula made his horse a senator.

The green stuff on the occasional freak potato chip is chlorophyll.

*Ms Harman
Science -Agriculture Head Teacher*

After a very busy Term 1 we are looking forward to Term 2 (which happens to look even busier!!!).

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 Drury and Ms Killen for organising the event.

Students can collect their question booklets from the science staffroom or their science teacher between Week 5 and Week 7 of this term (otherwise the booklets will be thrown out).

Late in Term 1 we received our Essential Secondary Science Assessment (ESSA) results that Year 8 2006 undertook in Term 4 last year. This was a pilot programme in which 370 government schools and 82 non-government schools completed the assessment. It is a mandatory test for all students from this year on.

All Year 9 2007 parents should have received, late in Term 1, a detailed analysis of the assessment. If you have not received this notification please contact me.

Below is a comparison of our Band 6 (90% and above) results with that of the state and also the other selective high schools.

Group	% in Band 6
Girraween High	26
State	2
Other selective high schools	24

The results were outstanding and we are very proud of our students' achievements. Congratulations to all, including the hard working science teachers!!!

Some upcoming events in Science:

Years 7 - 10

- *Please pay your competition money (if you haven't already done so) as it is a part of your assessment.*
- *Science Competition Thursday 10 May*

Year 7

- Assignment 2 due Tuesday 8 May
- Test 1 Tuesday 22 May

Year 8

- Assignment 2 due Tuesday 8 May
- Test 1 Monday 14 May
- Reptiles Incursion Friday 1 June payment due Friday 18 May
- Assignment 3 due 19 June

Year 9

- Test 1 Friday 11 May
- Assignment 2 due Tuesday 15 May

Year 10

- Accelerants- please pay for Chemistry Quiz

Year 11

- Physics Task 2 Monday 30 April
- Biology Task 2 Wednesday 2 May
- Chemistry Task 2 Tuesday 8 May

Year 11 and 12

- Chemistry- please pay for Chemistry Quiz
- Year 11 Accelerants and Year 12 Chemistry - Titration Competition please pay entry fee

Competitions and other Interesting Events

- Biology and chemistry Olympiad training at University of Sydney
www.science.usyd.edu.au/school/olympiad
- *Geologi* short film competition. A short film competition with an "Earth Science" theme. Years 7-12. Individual or group entry. Registration by Tue 31 July
- Year 8 Talented Students Forensic Science
www.forensiccamps.com

See Ms Harman for more details if you are interested

From the careers desk:

*Mrs. Eman Youhanna
Careers Adviser*

A warm welcome to term two. I hope you all had a lovely break.

Many Year 12 students are now seeking university information. This is great to see, as it gives them time to make informed decisions.

I have attended a number of "Careers Adviser's Days" at USYD, UNSW, UTS, MQ and UWS. These seminars are valuable sources of information. I will pass much of this information on in the next few months via the Careers Newsletter. Although these days take me out of school, it is imperative to get feedback from universities to help each current Year 12 cohort.

Year 10, 11 and 12 have received their fourth issue of the "Careers Newsletter". This is my main communication tool with senior students, providing a large amount of information about post-school options. Please ask your son or daughter for their copy and have a look.

Week two this term saw a couple of presentations during lunch time from UNSW Co-Op Scholarships and MQ. More will come throughout the term. Please check the Careers Newsletter for the dates and encourage you son/daughter to attend to extend their career options.

A representative from Young Achievement Australia spoke to Year 11 last term about their program. So far 10 Year 11 students have registered with them. Please encourage your Year 11 son/daughter to join before 15th May, 2007. This program inspires them to foster qualities of leadership, innovation, career planning, team building, employability skills, management, commercialisation and entrepreneurial spirit through various enterprise initiatives. These qualities are essential to apply for scholarships or cadetships.

Year 10 students will be issued with their work experience forms in the next two weeks to enable them to find placements.

Please feel free to call me about anything in relation to your child's post-school options.

Sydney West basketball article in the *Penrith Press* 4th April 2007

Basketball

Penrith junior rated most valuable player

SIX players from the Penrith and Lower Blue Mountains districts were members of the Sydney West Boys Basketball team which competed in the NSW Combined High Schools Championships last week at Sutherland.

Sydney West finished the championships in third spot behind Sydney South West and Sydney East. Penrith junior representative Andrew Watson from Winmalee High School took out the most valuable player award among the Sydney West team.

Penrith Youth League giant Angus of Blaxland High was outstanding throughout the championships and was subsequently chosen in the Combined NSWCHS team.

Angus will compete with CHS in the Combined High Schools Championships later this year where the CHS team will face Combined Catholic Colleges and Combined Independent Schools at a date and venue yet to be announced.

Last Friday, Winmalee High School (Boys) and Blaxland High School (Girls) won their respective Secondary Schools Open Knockout Championships at the Penrith Sports Stadium and will represent the district at the NSW Finals in Terrigal in June.

The full Sydney West team is Ryan and Andrew (Winmalee HS), Zac and Angus (Blaxland HS), Xavier and Martin (Penrith HS), Div, Scott and Matthew (Kellyville HS), Dean Powell (Girraween HS), manager-coach Jeff (Penrith HS).

An Eggcellent day at the Easter show

Ryan Tam

On Thursday 5th April, the Year 9 and 10 Food Technology classes paid a visit to the Sydney Royal Easter Show, the largest annual staged event in Australia

All the students met Ms. Jackaman at Pendle Hill train station for the 9 o' clock train to Lidcombe, where we switched trains for the special Olympic Park train service.



The rides at the Easter Show

Upon arrival, the Easter Show was already well and truly alive with students from many different schools and members of the public varying in age. After a brief discussion regarding meeting points and times, both Food Technology classes were released upon the park.

Students ventured all over the park, exploring the large variety of stores, stands and pavilions, catering for people with all sorts of interests, from agriculture to fashion to skateboarders.

For those interested in cute animals, the Dairy Farmer's Farmyard & Animal Nursery was open; displaying some of the show's many animals. The Farmland experience was set up to educate people about their favourite farm animals with a hands-on experience. Not to mention a complimentary chocolate at the conclusion.

The Food Farm was an exhibit which followed the process of food production from the farm to the table. Chicken Hatching displays never ceased to amaze the endless amounts of audiences as did the cooking demonstrations which entertained as well as educated.

Needless to say, the Showbag pavilion brought countless visitors (as always), spending up big to take home a part of the show. With over 300 different showbags to choose from, there was a bag for everyone.

All students were required to visit the Woolworth's Food Dome as part of the day to answer a series of questions regarding food stalls, and contributions by different districts in the food exhibit. There were also cooking demonstrations and food samples; most memorably the Chili sauce stand, where visitors were allowed to sample different chili sauces. A few members of the year 10 Food Technology class were disappointed at the removal of the Nesquik Milk Stand from last year's show.

At 1:30, underneath the Olympic Park Overflow, Ms. Jackaman and a few tired students began their trip home after a long day.

The Year 9 & 10 Food Technology classes would like to thank Ms. Jackaman for her time and effort in planning the excursion and giving us the opportunity for a unique learning experience. It was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by all the students.



Food technology class at the Show

Easter Celebrations

Ms Blaschke

Every year, at Easter and at Christmas, the library staff provides Morning Tea for our library monitors as a big Thank You for the hard work they do throughout the year. This Easter was no exception and a fun time was had by all.

Kobika Manimaaran

On the 4th of April, library monitors gathered for an Easter Morning tea. Whilst everyone else was chewing on their apples and health food products, we were enjoying ourselves eating Easter Eggs, Hot-Cross Buns, Chips and drinking cordial. This was a generous contribution to the literates of our school. We would like to thank the library staff for providing us with such "yummy" food.



Library Monitors' Easter Morning Tea

Social Sciences Faculty

Mr Scarpinato

Congratulations to Candy Wong an Economics student from last years HSC. Candy is the recipient of the University of Sydney Access Scholarship which will be awarded at the Faculty of Economics and Business Scholarships Dinner.

Kwietz Kwiz

Stop the Press

It's a tie! Rebecca Li (Year 8) and Chris Bowra (HSC 2006) both approached me with the correct answers - one in person and one electronically - so I'm announcing them joint winners. Mr Howard was worried when I described him as uxorious (March Kwiz Question 4), but reassured when told that it meant "excessively fond of one's wife". Here the Kwiz for this month: You may notice a slight bias towards particular questions. Ready, Girra, go...

1. What is the name of the new Principal of Girraween High School?
2. Which team won the UEFA Champions League in 2004?
3. In Ireland, what is the *Dai*?
4. Who sang "it's a marvellous night for a moondance"?
5. What language is spoken in Brazil?
6. Which player won the Golden Boot Award in the 1966 World Cup?
7. To which playwright does the adjective Shavian refer?
8. If you ordered *Madeira*, *por favor*, what would you get?
9. What can be *marginata* or *obliqua* or *saligna*?
10. In what Sydney suburbs did the battle of Vinegar Hill take place?