

# Gunnedah High School Newsletter



**Excellence  
and  
innovation  
in an  
unique and  
caring  
school**



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**WHITEHAVEN COAL**

**Issue 19**

**29.11.2010**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our newsletter.

This fortnight has been extremely busy for us at school. We have completed our schools Situational Analysis, Financial Recourse Planning Tool, School Improvement Plan for 2011 and completed our 2011 School Budget. I am pleased to report that we have some innovative programs and initiatives that will continue to move our school forward through 2011. I would like to thank all staff both teaching and SASS who assisted in the development of these very important documents, but in particular the three Deputy Principals and our two SAM's for their massive contribution.

Last Thursday was a wonderful day for our school with the official opening of our new gym and food technology Kitchen. It was great to have a number of very special guest's join our assembly and for Mr Peter Draper MP to officially open our facilities.

Our School Education Director visited the school on Monday as part of my Principal's performance review. Miss Dufty wished to extend her congratulations to all students and staff for the great things that have happened at our school over the course of 2010. She was highly praising of some of the achievements from our students and was very impressed with the enthusiasm shown by our staff in

the Digital Education Revolution implementation. Miss Dufty also confirmed that Mr Murray Borham will relieve as Principal in 2011 in my absence. I am sure the community will fully support Mr Borham and my congratulations to him.

I would like to bring two issues to the attention of parents and students. Firstly, we worked hard to have shorts introduced into our uniform for our girls. It is disappointing to see so many of our girls not wear our school shorts or rolling them up so that they are very short. It is not our uniform, nor the look that we wish to portray to the community. Please wear our designated shorts. Secondly, many students are still wearing the soft canvas slip on shoes to school. This is not appropriate footwear for school and I am concerned that an injury will occur. We have not insisted on black leather shoes as some schools do. We have tried to accommodate our students by letting them wear joggers as appropriate footwear. These soft canvas slip-on shoes will be banned in 2011 and I would like to ask all students, parents and carers to support the school in this decision.

Until our next newsletter.  
Mr Rod Jones  
Principal

**GHS invites all students in Year 6  
and Parents or Carers to the  
Year 6 Orientation Day**  
**WHEN: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010**  
**1.00pm-3.00pm**  
**WHERE: Gunnedah High School Hall**



**Years 7, 8 & 9 Presentation Evening**  
**on**  
**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2010**  
**in**  
**School Gymnasium @ 7pm**  
**Full School Uniform must be worn**  
**Invitations will be sent out with reports to parents of**  
**students who will be receiving awards.**  
**All students, parents and community members are**  
**welcome to attend.**



**Years 10 & 11 Presentation Evening**  
**on**  
**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2010**  
**in**  
**School Gymnasium @ 7pm**  
**Full School Uniform must be worn**  
**Invitations will be sent out with reports to parents of**  
**students who will be receiving awards.**  
**All students, parents and community members are**  
**welcome to attend.**

### **Over \$3 million of new facilities officially opened at Gunnedah High School:**



Independent State MP, Peter Draper, has praised the determination of the Gunnedah High School community to improve facilities at the school, when he officially opened the campuses' new gymnasium and food technology kitchen on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

"These two projects were entirely funded by the State Government under the Building Better Schools program at a total cost of over \$3 million," Mr Draper said. "Both the school community, and the broader Gunnedah community wrote many letters supporting the campaign to build a new gymnasium/hall facility, which helped to convince the Government of the need for this facility, which I am told is now being used as a blue print for other such buildings around NSW. Importantly, the project was driven from the grass-roots, and this hands on involvement delivered a complex that the whole school community can be very proud of," he said.

Mr Draper said the new gym with change rooms, showers and toilets, storeroom, and first aid room cost \$2,419,482, while another \$606,474 was invested to refurbish the food technology area with a light commercial kitchen and pantry.



"The new hall/gymnasium will add a new dimension to your physical education, build on your sporting success, as well as acting as a venue for other activities, including providing a resource that the whole community can enjoy," he told the school assembly. "As well as being a great teaching and learning space, the kitchen provides students with every opportunity for both educational success and improved opportunities for entering the increasingly popular hospitality industry at the end of your secondary studies," he continued.

Mr Draper congratulated students for regularly representing their school in a variety of academic, sporting and cultural pursuits and for success achieved at regional and state level. "Gunnedah High has been recognized at a state level for its excellent outcomes for Aboriginal students through the awarding of the Nanga Mia Award to two students and recognition as an outstanding school for Aboriginal students," he continued. "These new facilities will further increase the capacity of Gunnedah High School to provide the high level of

education it has built a reputation for, and I congratulate Gunnedah High Principal, Rod Jones, the teachers, students and wider Gunnedah district community for the great fight you put up to make this \$3 million investment a reality," Mr Draper concluded.

### Bags of Hope for Cambodian Children:

Students, who would like to donate their old school backpacks and bags at the end of the 2010 school year, can drop them into the special collection bag with Mrs Hertslet in C8, in the last days of Term 4. The bags/backpacks will then be packed with books and stationery and shipped to Cambodia, to be distributed around the country to needy school children in time for the commencement of their school year in March 2011. For more information, keep your eye on the daily notices or contact Mrs Hertslet in C8.

### TAS Coffee Shop: Now open for business

Trading Hours:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 8.00 – 8.45am.

Opening Specials: Your choice of Hot Chocolate, Cappuccino, Latte, Macchiato, Doppio & Moccha with your choice of Soy, Skim or Full Cream milk @ only \$3.50 per cup. Provide your own mug and it's only \$3.00 per cup.

### Whitehaven Coal Mining Ltd:



The Gunnedah High School would like to take this opportunity to thank Whitehaven Coal for their valued sponsorship support that will enable the GHS to continue distributing our fortnightly newsletter by post. Whitehaven Coal Executive Director Allan Davies and Community Liaison Officer Tim Muldoon recently visited the school to meet with GHS Principal Rod Jones and Community Liaison Officer Ray McCoy to finalise the sponsorship.

Mr Jones said, "The new format of sending the newsletter by post over the past two years had been greatly appreciated by parents and carers, who could now easily access messages and other information from the school, but it had proven to be a very costly exercise for the school." He continued, "We really appreciate this sponsorship from Whitehaven Coal, as the newsletter is a great way of promoting

activities and meetings at the school, as well as the achievements of students and staff to the wider community."

The newsletter is also available from the Gunnedah and Civic Newsagencies and the Gunnedah Library.

### Reading Challenge:

The Term 3 GHS Reading Challenge has been concluded and the achievers in Years 7 and 8 have been presented with their awards.

Participation from Year 7 students was disappointing overall but congratulations to the following girls who rose to the challenge and achieved award levels: Nicola Bruce (Bravo Level), Kassidy Lamey, Sophie Suter and Brianna Watson (all achieved Honour level).

Participation from Ms Holdom's Yr 8 Bastille was simply awesome. Every student in the class participated with an amazing total of 149 books read in the term's challenge period. Winners were:

**Star level:** Courtney Brandon, Justin Carter, Adam Curgenvan, Luke Curgenvan, Amelia Gallagher, Matt Hassan, Sarah Jamieson, Breanna Jones, Alex Koenig, Ali Korn, Hannah Langdon, Kih McDonald, Kim Wilkinson and Reanna Hill. Special mention also to Mollie Affleck and Katie Norsworthy for their achievement.

**Bravo level:** Krystal Lynch and Matthew Martin.

**Honour level:** Sarah Clark, Tonisha Constable, Alannah Murray, Benj Porter, Jasper Squire, Luke Thomson and Ramona Wynne.



### Under 14 Boys Cricket:



On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, the Under 14 boy's cricket team easily defeated Coonabarabran High School by 8 wickets in Round 3 of the Coleman Shield Knockout. Coonabarabran won the toss and batted but from then onwards it was Gunnedah who owned the match.

Keegan Lane got the team off to the best possible start, taking a 'clean bowled' wicket with the very first ball of the day. Gunnedah's other opening bowler, Tyrel Kruse, also took a wicket in his first over, to provide GHS with the early ascendancy. After a fantastic opening spell, Keegan and Tyrel had left Coonabarabran reeling at 4/13.

After Co-captain Justin Carter took middle stump, Coonabarabran were in deep trouble at 5/15, but as they started to rebuild their innings, Jack Grosser's straight bowling broke the mini-partnership to once again put GHS on the front foot. Sharp work from Matt Hassan in the field produced a run out, before Luke Curgenvin and Josh Day cleaned up the tail with some smart bowling. The small total of 66 had some of the Gunnedah team licking their lips on home turf, but they had the experience to realise that small totals are often the most difficult to run down.

The run chase got off to an eventful start, with Luke in a positive mood, hitting a run-a-ball 6 before skying a ball to fine leg, all in the first over. Kih McDonald was promoted to the unfamiliar role as opening batsman and looked solid, before also hitting a catch early, to leave Gunnedah at a slightly shaky 2/18.

Enter Co-captain Blake Small, who smashed all comers to the shorter square boundaries in a fine innings of 49 not out, including 5 boundaries and 2 huge sixes. Sam Lumby was as reliable as ever in defence, playing some classy shots in a fine support role. However, both boys were lucky to survive missed catching opportunities from Coonabarabran in the field.

In the end, Gunnedah was by far the better side on the day, with contributions from every player in a

satisfying all-round team performance. The boys will now play either Oxley or Farrer in what promises to be a tough away match.

A big thanks to all the parents who made the effort to come to school to enjoy the game and support the team. Special mention to Mr Paull, who provided, arguably, the highlight of the day with his Steve Irwin-like efforts, kindly removing a small pitch-invading brown snake, employing the skills learnt at a recent snake catching course beautifully.

### Score Summary by Super Coach Mr Christopher Hayden:

#### *Coonabarabran won the toss and elected to bat*

#### **Coonabarabran HS 66 (28 overs)**

- Keegan Lane 3/6 (4)
- Luke Curgenvin 2/8 (2)
- Justin Carter 1/4 (4)
- Tyrel Kruse 1/7 (4)
- Jack Grosser 1/8 (3)
- Josh Day 1/6 (2)

#### **Gunnedah HS 2/74 (15 overs)**

- Blake Small 49\*
- Sam Lumby 9\*
- Kih McDonald 9
- Luke Curgenvin 6

#### *Gunnedah HS won by 8 wicket*



### Year 10 First Aid Course

With their 2010 school year to finish on 9<sup>th</sup> December and the holiday season commencing soon, a group of Year 10 students sat for their First Aid certificates on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Under the guidance of Mrs Gail Hill, the students were educated and tested on all facets of first aid. Congratulations to all involved as you never know when it may save a life.

### 2010 School Term 4 Ends:

**Year 10: Final day at school is Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

**Year 7/8/9/11: Final day is Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

**2011 School Year Begins:**

**Year 7/11/12: Commence on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011.**

**Year 8/9/10: Commence on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011.**

**Term 1 ends on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011.**

### QuickSmart

2010 saw 40 students successfully complete the QuickSmart program, with literacy and numeracy packages being offered to selected Year 7 students. QuickSmart focuses on developing students' understanding and quick and immediate recall of basic academic facts.

The program runs for a period of 30 weeks, in which time the students attend 3 classes per week. A wide range of activities are hands on, as shown by the students enjoying making kitchen slime, as part of their Literacy Program.



### Aboriginal Language Classes:

GHS Aboriginal Education Officer (AEO) Mrs Helen Lickorish has organised special Aboriginal language classes, to be held in the GHS D Block Seminar Room, from Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November till Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010. Classes are as follows:

- GHS Students: Wednesdays 1.30-3.30pm.
- Parents/Carers/Community-members: Thursdays 1.30-3.30pm.

The classes will be conducted by Ms Suellyn Tighe, an experienced Gamilaray teacher. For more information, please contact Mrs Helen Lickorish or Mrs Anne Thomas in the Resource Room, or phone the main office on 6742 0155

### Youth Week 2011 in NSW Design Competition:

Entries are now being sought from students to design the poster and website for Youth Week 2011 in NSW. Organisers are looking for aspiring young designers to help create the look for the Youth Week 2011 in NSW website, posters and other promotional materials. The Youth Week Design Competition provides young people with the opportunity to showcase their talent as a designer and to win one thousand dollars (\$1,000). The winning poster design will be used to promote Youth Week 2011 throughout NSW in April 2011. Entries should be innovative, creative, and help spread the word about Youth Week. For an entry form and full terms and conditions, please visit the Youth Week in NSW website at: [www.youthweek.nsw.gov.au](http://www.youthweek.nsw.gov.au) Entries close 5pm, Monday 22 November 2010. If you have any questions regarding the competition please contact Helen Ahern, NSW Youth Week Coordinator by email at [youthweek@youthweek.nsw.gov.au](mailto:youthweek@youthweek.nsw.gov.au) Or by phone on 0292867243

### Design 2011 International Women's Day Poster:

Local MP, Peter Draper is encouraging the Gunnedah High School students to participate in the NSW Government's poster design competition, to help celebrate International Women's Day 2011 on March 8. "It is a day to celebrate the gains women have made over the years, and brings attention to the issues that they still face. Most of all, it's a day to recognise that women have made, and continue to make, a big difference," Mr Draper said.

Poster design entries close on 3 December 2010 and that more information and application forms are available at – [www.women.nsw.gov.au](http://www.women.nsw.gov.au) The top five placed entrants will have their posters uploaded onto the Office for Women's Policy website, [www.women.nsw.gov.au](http://www.women.nsw.gov.au).

The winner of the competition will receive \$500, plus \$1,000 will be granted to their school, while the winning entry will be used as the official NSW Government International Women's Day 2011 poster, and will be printed in the 2011 NSW Woman of the Year Honour Roll booklet. Gunnedah High School students are encouraged to participate in the International Women's Day poster competition and individuals and organisations are urged to nominate candidates for Woman of the Year to help celebrate the gains women have made over the years, and to learn more about the work that still needs to be done.

### Year 10 School Certificate Learning Portfolio Interviews:

Year 10 students recently undertook their SCLP interviews, facing a panel of staff, community members and Year 9 students. While a number of students battled with nerves, most agreed that the process was a valuable learning experience.



Throughout Year 10, students have collected a portfolio of material to document the skills they have developed that make them employable. Materials include a résumé, assessments, work experience reports and certificates. Highlighting achievements to the panel saw many creative student presentations. Miss Easthorpe was particularly impressed with Shane Davis who documented his work in his spare time to fit out his ute with technology, including a gaming console. Millie Pease dazzled her panel with her artistic ability.



Community panel members came from a diverse range of backgrounds including business managers and employment agency representatives. They were impressed with the efforts of students and were keen to sing the praises of the interviews. Their past experiences with young people when first seeking

employment has highlighted the need for interview preparation. Students need a range of skills including correct dress, body language and communication. Program coordinator, Mr Snowden said, "We all find it difficult to talk ourselves up. These interviews are a small step in building the confidence and the ability for our students to market themselves in the job market."



Another central focus of the program is for students to realise that the work they do for their School Certificate is building 'real world' skills. Students had to consider the tasks they undertook and evaluate which Employment Related Skills they were developing by completing the task.



Year 9 students played a vital role in the interviews. They assisted with being on interview panels giving administrative support, greeting interviewees, printing interview reports and providing hospitality. They did an amazing job and have given themselves a valuable insight into how the program works. This is particularly helpful to them as current Year 9 students will undertake an expanded program in 2011

### After School Tutoring Program

The after school Tutoring Program is finished for the year and will recommence in Week 3 Term 1-2011.

This program has grown in popularity since its inception and we encourage all students to consider taking advantage of the opportunity to seek assistance with their assessments and learning.

### Year 12-2010 MAJOR AWARDS

|                   |            |  |                                 |
|-------------------|------------|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>BAKER</b>      | Matthew    | Pierre de Coubertin Award                      |                                 |
| <b>BAKER</b>      | Matthew    | Jeffrey Belling Memorial Award                 | Citizenship-Boy                 |
| <b>BILLINGHAM</b> | Arthur     | Joe Grosser Award                              | Leadership                      |
| <b>BILLINGHAM</b> | Arthur     | University NSW Award                           | Academic Achievement            |
| <b>BILLINGHAM</b> | Arthur     | Consistent Attendance Award                    |                                 |
| <b>BILLINGHAM</b> | Arthur     | Elgin Street Surgery Award                     | Achievement-Boy                 |
| <b>DONNELLY</b>   | Paige      | The University of Newcastle Award              | Excellence                      |
| <b>DONNELLY</b>   | Paige      | Joe Grosser Award                              | Leadership                      |
| <b>HALIVAH</b>    | Olivia     | New England Region VET Course Award            |                                 |
| <b>HOBDEN</b>     | Kristopher | Consistent Attendance Award                    |                                 |
| <b>HOWARD</b>     | Carly      | Elgin Street Surgery Award                     | Achievement-Girl                |
| <b>HOWARD</b>     | Carly      | University New England Vice-Chancellor's Prize | Excellence                      |
| <b>KORN</b>       | Dannielle  | David Belling Memorial Award                   | Citizenship-Girl                |
| <b>KORN</b>       | Dannielle  | Commonwealth Bank Award                        | Leadership & Service            |
| <b>KORN</b>       | Dannielle  | Australian Defence Forces Award                | Long Tan                        |
| <b>KORN</b>       | Dannielle  | Positive Behaviour Award                       |                                 |
| <b>McCORMACK</b>  | Boyd       | Lions Club Award                               | Consistency-Boy                 |
| <b>PATERSON</b>   | Craig      | TVET TAFE Award                                |                                 |
| <b>SCHUBERT</b>   | Samuel     | Commonwealth Bank Award                        | Leadership & Service            |
| <b>SCHUBERT</b>   | Samuel     | Positive Behaviour Award                       |                                 |
| <b>SILVER</b>     | Peta Leigh | McDonald's Award                               | Service to the School Community |
| <b>SILVER</b>     | Peta Leigh | Barbara Jepson & Ian Johnson Memorial Award    | Application & Effort            |
| <b>STANLEY</b>    | Patsy      | Reuben F Scarf Award                           | Commitment                      |
| <b>TABER</b>      | Veronica   | Lions Club Award                               | Consistency-Girl                |
| <b>WILKINSON</b>  | Ashleigh   | Gunnedah Christian Bookshop Award              | Christian Leadership            |
| <b>WOODHEAD</b>   | Madeline   | Caltex Award                                   | Best All Rounder                |

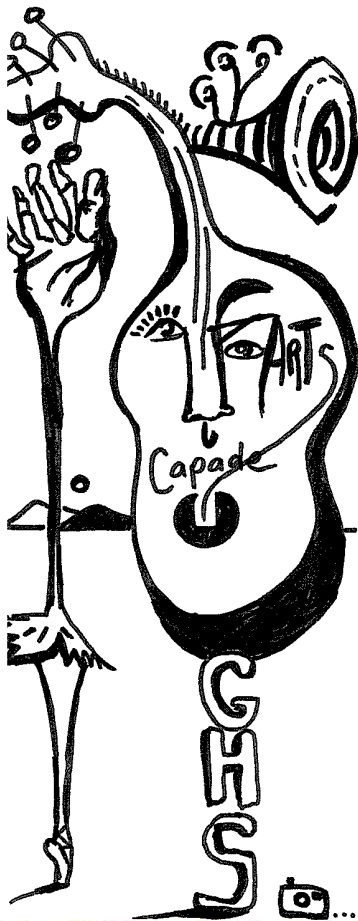
### FACULTY PRIZES

|                  |           |                             |                           |
|------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>HOWARD</b>    | Carly     |                             | HSIE Faculty Prize        |
| <b>HUTCHISON</b> | Jennifer  | Daisha Namba Memorial Prize | CAPA Faculty Prize        |
| <b>KORN</b>      | Dannielle | Len Ford Memorial Prize     | ENGLISH Faculty Prize     |
| <b>KORN</b>      | Dannielle |                             | PDHPE Faculty Prize       |
| <b>WILKINSON</b> | Ashleigh  |                             | SCIENCE Faculty Prize     |
| <b>WILKINSON</b> | Ashleigh  |                             | MATHEMATICS Faculty Prize |
| <b>WOODHEAD</b>  | Madeline  |                             | TAS Faculty Prize         |

### SPORTS AWARDS

|                  |         |                               |                      |
|------------------|---------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>BAKER</b>     | Matthew | Open Boys Rugby League        | Most Valuable Player |
| <b>BEASLEY</b>   | Sophie  | Open Girls Basketball         | Most Valuable Player |
| <b>CAMERON</b>   | Andrew  | Open Boys Basketball          | Most Valuable Player |
| <b>MANLEY</b>    | Jake    | Open Boys Football            | Most Valuable Player |
| <b>McCORMACK</b> | Boyd    | Open Boys Cricket             | Most Valuable Player |
| <b>PRYOR</b>     | Samuel  | Open Boys Lawn Bowls          | Most Valuable Player |
| <b>SCHUBERT</b>  | Samuel  | 2010 Sportsperson of the Year |                      |
| <b>SCHUBERT</b>  | Samuel  | Open Boys Swimming            | Most Valuable Player |
| <b>SMALL</b>     | Shannon | Open Girls Swimming           | Most Valuable Player |
| <b>SMALL</b>     | Shannon | Open Girls Netball            | Most Valuable Player |





## ARTS CAPAde

Was held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2010. The evening was a great success. Sam McAlpine delivered the Welcome to Country Shirley Urquhart local Artist opened the evening

- Static Displays
- HSC Visual Arts Bodies of Work
- Artwork from Junior school
- Photography from elective classes

### PERFORMANCES

- Music students
- Dance Group
- Art students
- Drama

