

GUNNEDAH HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



**Excellence and
innovation in a
unique and
caring School**

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09.12.2011

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our final Newsletter for 2011.

The final few weeks of the year have been very hectic, finalising reports and preparing for the end of year Presentation Days. The staff have done an amazing job to meet all of these deadlines and I would like to personally thank and congratulate Mr Barry McRae on his coordination and delivery of high quality reports. Many thanks, also, to the Year Advisers and Deputy Principals who worked incredibly hard to complete their roles.

We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of both our School Certificate and Higher School Certificate results and looking forward to some excellent performances from both Year 10 and Year 12. We hope that Year 10 enjoy their excursion or their work experience this week. To all of our departing students, we would like to wish you every success in your future education and/or future employment. Please keep the school informed of your whereabouts for both our statistical data and, more importantly, the fact that we are interested in what you do once your education with us has concluded.

Year 7 and 8 classes showcased their work on November 17 in the School Hall. The variety of stories, power point

presentations and performances made the night something special, even if the rain was incredible. Thank you to all participants and special mention to Mr Andrew Snowden and his team for organising this event. Mr Snowden will be sorely missed by all and we wish him every success as he takes up his new position of Head Teacher HSIE at Cardiff High School.

The Year 12 Formal was an outstanding success. The students looked fantastic and they were supported by many friends and family members. We had a packed house and all who attended seemed to enjoy the evening. I would like to thank all the special guests for their assistance and particularly like to thank Mrs Watson and Mr Heath for coordinating the event.

The school has successfully negotiated two audits during the past fortnight and our rollover into the new Financial Year has just begun. Many thanks go to Mrs Margaret Kelly and Mrs Jeanette Hinshelwood for their tireless efforts in assisting me with ensuring that the finance of GHS runs as smoothly as it does.

Orientation Day for Year 7 was on Monday, December 5. Once again, a Sports Afternoon for Year 6 was held, which was the finale of all the transition visits for Year 6 to GHS. We appreciate the strong support for this event and hope



**Education
& Training**

that both the students and the families enjoyed the sessions. The Transition Program is a huge amount of work and I would like to thank Mrs Allyson Watson together with Year 7 Adviser for 2011, Mrs Belinda Foran, for their efforts in creating such a wonderful program for Year 6 and organising all of the partner primary school visits. We are confident that this group of students will have a trouble free transition next year.

We have two Presentation Evenings to celebrate the achievement of GHS students. Our junior evening (Years 7, 8 and 9) will be on Wednesday, December 7 and the senior evening (Years 10, 11) will be held on Monday, December 12. Both events will commence at 7pm in the Gymnasium and we strongly urge as many families to come along and enjoy the many achievements of our students. I would personally like to thank Miss Rowena Singleton, Mrs Simone Brady, Mr William Stephenson and their teams for assisting in showcasing GHS.

We are farewelling at least twelve staff this year. To these staff, I thank you for your contribution to GHS during your time here and wish you every success in your future careers. To those of you remaining, thank you for your efforts and have a refreshing Christmas break. You have really deserved it.

To our P&C and AECG, thank you for uniting this year in your support of GHS. It has been a pleasure working in the consultation process with you all and I would like to thank you for your support of me in the relieving role that I have had. We could not have completed the year as successfully as we did without your contribution and your efforts are very much appreciated. Working together, we have made a difference.

To all of our parents, carers, community members and students, we hope that you have had an enjoyable 2011 at GHS. We thank you for your support in helping us deliver the best education we can for your students. We look forward to your return in 2012 and hope that you have a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Kind regards
Murray Borham
Acting Principal

SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT DATES-2012

<u>Staff:</u>	Friday, January 27, 2012
<u>Years 7, 11, 12:</u>	Monday, January 30, 2012
<u>Years 8, 9, 10:</u>	Tuesday, January 31, 2012

The Uniform Shop

(02) 6742 6939

JANUARY SHOP OPENING TIMES

We've extended the back-to-school opening times to include:

Tuesday 24th January 2012: 8.00am – 12.00pm

Monday 30th January 2012: 8.00am – 9.30am

gunnedahhigh@alinta.com.au



To avoid long queues you can book a fitting time

ON-LINE www.alintaapparel.com.au

or by phoning during normal shop hours on 67426939-

we have fitting times available in December

LAYBYS ON A 50% DEPOSIT

WE ACCEPT CASH, CREDIT OR DEBIT CARDS

WE DO NOT ACCEPT CHEQUES OR EFTPOS

Normal hours

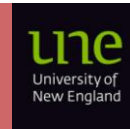
Tuesday 8am-10am

Thursday 1pm-3pm

ASSESSMENT SHOWCASE



Gunnedah High
School

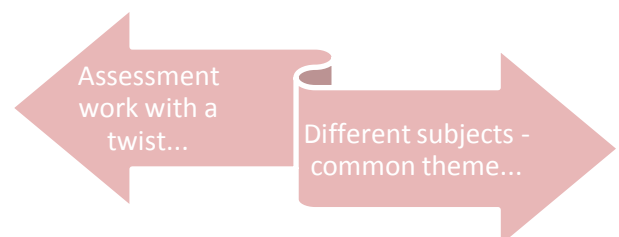


University of New
England



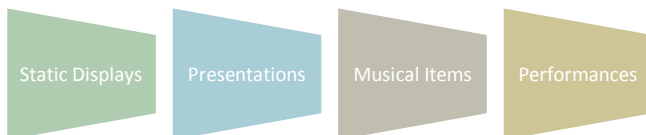
Peter Merrotsy

Year 7 and 8 students recently participated in our inaugural Assessment Showcase. This event was inspired by our work with Peter Merrotsy from the University of New England who has helped guide staff in developing activities and assessment strategies that are more engaging for students and also provide students to develop and demonstrate what are known as Higher Order Thinking Skills.



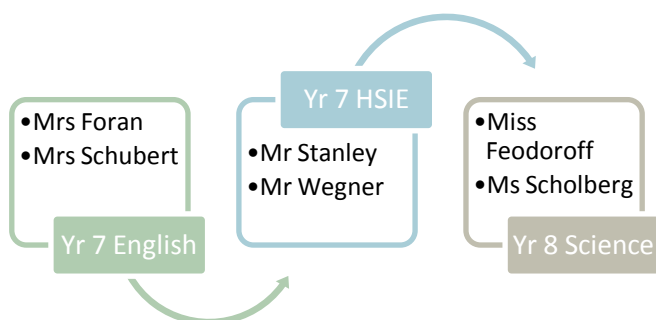


Students were challenged to produce work that was creative and original. One central idea of the night was to integrate the theme of Aboriginal Australia across a number of subject areas.



The students did an amazing job, especially considering the storm that tried its best to disrupt the English presentations that were taking place. The students did a wonderful job to soldier on.

Science Presentation



Congratulations to all the students who performed and many thanks to the faculties and staff who assisted. Next year the evening will return bigger and better than ever.

HSIE Presentations



MC's and some of the behind the scenes helpers



Year 10 School Certificate Learning Portfolio Interviews

Year 10 students recently undertook their SCLP interviews, facing a panel of staff 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.



Panel members were impressed with the efforts of students and were keen to sing the praises of the interviews. Local business and industry leaders indicate that young people need interview preparation when first seeking employment.

Students require 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 the program in 2012.



Thanks Year 9 helpers and Mrs Hayne!

YEAR 12 PRESENTATION EVENING





2011 CHRISTMAS SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Parents, carers, guardians and students are reminded that Term 4 will conclude for the Christmas holidays on Friday, 16th December 2011.

QUICKSMART PROGRAM

GHS QuickSmart co-ordinator, Ms Narelle Hertslet, along with tutors Mrs Sharon Howett and Mrs Marg Kersley joined with Year 7 QuickSmart students to celebrate their graduation on Monday, 5 December. The students enjoyed a special trip to McDonalds followed by an awards ceremony to celebrate another very successful year.



GUNNEDAH HIGH SCHOOL'S GOT TALENT

As part of the Gunnedah TAFE "End of Year Awards 2011", GHS students Samantha McAlpine, Corey Barber & Brayden Kevan provided the audience with a showcase of their talent, prior to the presentations. Corey & Brayden thrilled the crowd with an acoustic version of "Fall for You" by Secondhand Serenade, whilst Sam had the audience in her hands as she sang & played Jason Mraz's "I'm Yours". Well done.





2011 VOLUNTARY SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS

Subject fees & voluntary school contributions are used for the purchase of school resources, so that the GHS can enhance the education of all students. Payments can be made at the GHS main office during school hours.

SCHOOL-BASED TRAINEESHIPS

Congratulations to the following students on gaining school-based traineeships within our local business community: Marie-Ellen Griffiths with ANZ Bank and Sylvie Golding with Gunnedah First National Real Estate.



TAFE NSW-GUNNEDAH CAMPUS 2011 AWARDS

At the recent 2011 TAFE awards, 2012 GHS School Captain, Charmaine Gillham received the award for Trainee/Apprentice of the Year – Certificate 111 in

Business Administration, whilst students Paige Cassidy, Daniel Morris and Angus Pettet were awarded for their Commitment to Course Work in Certificate 1 in Engineering – BHP. Congratulations to all of the GHS students who received awards on the day.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

#1: The Water Operations division of Tamworth Regional Council is seeking the services of an individual who is committed to learn and undertake an Apprenticeship in the Electrical field. Applications close at 12.00pm on Wednesday 7 December 2011. For more information, contact Mick McGufficke on 02 6767 5807

#2 Wayne's World discount Variety Store, in the old Co-Op building, requires junior staff, after school and on weekends, to assist in the set up and preparation for their opening on 15th December 2011. Please contact Mr Walls for more information.

COLEMAN SHIELD BOYS' CRICKET

The GHS U/14 boys' cricket team scored a comprehensive win over Coonabarabran in the Coleman Shield last Monday. After their 40 overs, GHS were 6 for 198 with Sam Lumby hitting a cracking 67, Keegan Lane not out 26 and Izacc Merlehan not out 17. When Coonabarabran came to the crease, GHS protected their total of 198 with some brilliant bowling, including Kris Lodge 3 for 9 off 5 overs, Izacc Merlehan 2 for 2, Lachlan Paine 1 for 7 and Keegan lane 1 for 11. Well done, boys.

Following their comprehensive win over Coonabarabran, the GHS U/14 boys met Warialda High School in the regional semi-final at Gunnedah on Wednesday, 7 December.



YEAR 8 ABORIGINAL CULTURE PROGRAM

Congratulations to Michael Craig, relieving AEO, Anne Thomas and their band of helpers on the success of the Year 8 Aboriginal culture program. The program commenced on Wednesday, November 9, 2011 and was held each Wednesday. The program included:

- Kamilaroi language
- Cultural dancing
- Music and crafts
- Health & relationships

The program concluded with a cultural showcase for parents, carers and community members on Wednesday, 30 November.



2012 EXCURSION TO GREECE

The students and staff would like to extend their sincere gratitude to the following local businesses for their kind donations of prizes for our Trivia Night

Body Integrity	McDonald's Restaurant
	Gunnedah
Crazy Clarks	Eagle Boys
Courthouse Hotel	Civic Theatre
Gunnedah Radio Cabs	Gunnedah Dental Centre
Gunnedah Services	Video Ezy
and Bowling Club	

NATIONAL VICTORIES

Congratulations



Congratulations to Jack and Corey Grosser on winning Australian Amateur Boxing League Championships in their weight divisions.

GHS CANTEEN NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE

Canteen supervisor Mrs Sharon Newell is also seeking your assistance during 2012. For more information, please contact Sharon on 6742 1110.

30 YEARS SERVICE



Congratulations to
Mrs Margaret Kelly: School
Administration Manager and
Mrs Gail Hill:
HSIE on receiving recognition from the
DET and GHS Acting Principal,
Mr Murray Borham
for achieving the
30 year milestone of
service to the
Department of Education.

Congratulations



P & C ASSOCIATION

With 2012 fast approaching, all parents/guardians, carers and community members are most welcome to join our P & C next year. Meetings are held on the third (3rd) Wednesday of the month in the GHS library, commencing at 7.00pm. The first meeting in 2012 will be on Wednesday, 15 February. We look forward to seeing you.

Please be aware that mosquitoes are on the attack and students should protect themselves with insect repellent