

# GUNNEDAH HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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

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Issue 13

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Newsletter

The last two weeks have been extremely busy for both Year 12 students and their teachers as they have been completing major works for a variety of subjects as well as finalising their assessments for the HSC. I would like to personally thank all the staff who gave up much of their own time to assist the students with meeting their deadlines.

The School had an extremely successful Development Day on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> August with a variety of workshops focussing on technology in the workplace. Thank you to all our presenters and a special thank you to Ms Suzanne Feodoroff and Mr Andrew Snowden for their organisation of a great day. Both the staff and our students should benefit from the knowledge obtained from these sessions.

This week Year 10 students have been involved in subject selection interviews with the Gunnedah High School Executive. Thank you to all the family members who came along to support the students at these extremely vital interviews.

Our community members still proceed very positively. SIP was held last week and PSP will occur this Friday. The input received at these meetings has been very useful and supportive of our school and we thank all parties involved in these discussions.

A great night was held by Miss Singleton and the Year 12 music students on August 10. Both the School Education Director and myself were proud of the musical talent which our current HSC group possesses. Thank you to all who assisted and supported the students on this occasion.

Upcoming events this week include the Year 9 Bush Tucker day at Breeza, and the visit by Team Vodaphone to assist in safe driving. Year 11 will also attend the Young Drivers Expo this Friday as part of the Crossroads program in PDHPE. We trust that all concerned will honour the name of Gunnedah High School at these events.

Please continue to support your students so that they will make learning their first priority here at Gunnedah High School. Your assistance is welcomed and appreciated. Together we can make a difference.

Kind Regards  
Murray Borham  
Relieving Principal

## YEAR 12 MUSIC CLASS OF 2011:

Congratulations to all the students who performed in the Gunnedah High School's Year 12 "Music Class of 2011" on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> August when they presented an "Evening of HSC Performances" on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> August in the GHS Auditorium.

Features of the evening included;

- James Stewart opened the evening with a showcase tuba piece, "Fnugg Blue", accompanied by the Gunnedah Shire Band, followed by a piano solo titled "Kiss the Rain" by contemporary piano composer Yiruma.
- Keen country rock and ballad vocalist, Jake Vigor, then took to the stage to thrill the audience with his performances of "Beautiful Soul" by Jesse McCarthy and "Something Like That" by country music legend Tim McGraw. Jake was accompanied by fellow classmates Lachlan Merlehan on guitar and James Stewart on percussion.
- The next performer was Matt Kersley who performed two pieces on acoustic guitar. The first was titled "Promise Me" by Dead by April, followed by "Road to Nowhere" by Bullet for My Valentine. Matt was supported by Evan Piefke on vocals and Lachlan Merlehan on guitar.
- When vocalist Jessica Irwin came on stage to perform, accompanied by James Stewart on guitar, the audience was stunned by her incredible voice and stage presentation. Jessica is a very talented vocalist, with a considered approach to selecting her repertoire, which included "Ave Maria" by Beyonce, followed with "Fix You" by Coldplay.
- Lachlan Merlehan and his rock band were the final performers before intermission, where a delicious light supper was provided by Ms Judy Squire, Ms Samantha Doust and their hospitality team. Lachlan and the boys got the audience moving with their performances of two classics, "Johnny Be Good" by Chuck Berry followed by "Sharp Dressed Man" by ZZ Top.
- To commence the second half of the evening, Courtney Jamieson, accompanied by the Gunnedah Shire Band, performed two pieces on soprano cornet: "On With the Motley" followed by "Goodbye to Love".
- Lisa Furner, having shown a genuine enthusiasm towards singing throughout her high school years, was next on stage to perform. With a great voice and vocal range, Lisa chose to perform "Coin Laundry" by Lisa Mitchell, followed by "Songbird" by Australian singer/songwriter Bernard Fanning.

- A highlight of the evening was Evan Piefke's rendition of two very well known pieces that had the audience smiling and singing along. Accompanied by Mr Jamie Brown on piano, Evan commenced his performance with a rendition of the Animals' "House of the Rising Sun", followed by the haunting "Hallelujah" by Leonard Cohen.
- To bring the night to a well deserved finale, the last performer of the evening was talented trombonist, Charlotte Pettet, accompanied by the Gunnedah Shire Band. Charlotte performed "Donegal Bay" by Paul Lovatt-Cooper followed by "Fantasy for Trombone" by James Curnow.

As the evening came to a close, Gunnedah High School - Relieving Principal, Mr Murray Borham, came forward to make a special presentation to thank Mr John Fenton of Narrabri High School and practice teacher, Ms Allison George, for travelling to co-mark this Trial HSC exam. He also thanked Ms Ruythe Dufty, School Education Director New England South, for her attendance on the evening.

Gunnedah High School music teacher and evening producer, Ms Rowena Singleton, took the opportunity to sincerely thank the following people who had made the evening possible:

- Mr Andrew Snowden and his team for the assistance with sound and lighting.
- Master of Ceremonies, Mr Ray McCoy and Photographer, Mrs Louise Hill
- Teagan Brownrigg, for her assistance with the videography and the SRC students who assisted on the evening
- Accompanist Mr Jamie Brown, the Gunnedah Shire Band and the members of the school rock band

Thank you also to the audience who attended. The evening provided the students with a valuable experience and we appreciated your support for attending this evening.

### HELP WANTED!

Canteen supervisor Mrs Sharon Newell urgently requires your assistance during Term 3. For more information, please contact Sharon on 6742 1110.

## AQUAPONICS:

Thanks to a donation from the GHS P&C, the Agriculture department purchased an Aquaponics system. The system was purchased to help provide a practical component to the Aquaponics, Hydroponics and Aquaculture topic studied in Year 10. The students are now able to see the symbiotic relationship that exists between fish, plants and bacteria (*Nitrobacter sp.* and *Nitrosomonas sp.*). The aquaponic system works by feeding fish which produce waste (Ammonia) through digestion and breathing through their gills. Eventually this waste builds up in the water and becomes toxic to the fish. The bacteria in the water, breaks down the toxic waste into simpler compounds (nitrates and nitrites) that can be used by plants. Plants absorb these compounds through their roots to grow and allow clean water to be returned to the tank. The plants grow in a grow bed that contains expanded clay. The clay supports the plants roots and also provides a place for the bacteria to live and breed. Students have been spending time constructing the aquaponics system under the watchful eyes of Mr McVittie and Mr Edmunds. Water was added to the Aquaponics from the school's main rainwater tank, thanks to the help from the Gunnedah Rural Fire Service who kindly allowed us to borrow a tanker and pump to transport the water. Each Agriculture class has had the opportunity to be involved in the set up and water testing of the system. The next month involves taking frequent water readings and 'cycling' the system to ensure that it remains balanced. Around twenty silver perch will be added to the systems in the next week or so.



## UNIVERSITY EARLY APPLICATIONS

New enrolment application forms for Charles Sturt University and the University of New England are now available from Mrs Hill or Mr Walls. Entry application forms for Southern Cross University are only available on-line.

## RTA ABORIGINAL SCHOLARSHIPS:

The RTA is offering scholarships for Aboriginal students studying Year 11 or 12 at high school or TAFE. If you're interested in a job in civil engineering or a related field, like surveying or environmental science and doing maths and science subjects as part of your study, why not apply for an RTA scholarship worth up to \$5,000.00? You can use the money to buy educational tools and services such as a new computer, text books or tutoring. An RTA scholarship could also help you get the results you need to go to university when you finish school. If you are interested, you can apply for an RTA scholarship now.

**Applications close 30 September. For more information:** email [Aboriginal\\_Jobs@rta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Aboriginal_Jobs@rta.nsw.gov.au)

## RTA TRAINEESHIP FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE:

Want to earn while you learn? The NSW Government is creating jobs to invest in skills for the future. The RTA is now recruiting for traineeships commencing January 2012. Positions are for motivated and enthusiastic Aboriginal people in Sydney and regional NSW. They include:

- Government Traineeship (2 years).
- Business Administration Traineeship (1 year).

As a trainee at the RTA, you will be involved in a variety of projects, work with leaders in the industry and complete your study at work. Locations include Wollongong, Newcastle, Parkes and Port Macquarie. **To apply go to [www.rta.nsw.gov.au/careers](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/careers)**

If you have any questions or need assistance with your application you can email [Aboriginal\\_Jobs@rta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Aboriginal_Jobs@rta.nsw.gov.au). **Applications close 9 September 2011.**

## DISABILITY EXPO:

This event is for people with disabilities and on-going medical conditions, their families, carers, support network, as well as service providers, and will be held at the Tamworth Town Hall on Thursday, September 15 from 9:30am – 2:00pm. Entry is free. For more information, please contact Danielle on 6762 8003 or Sharne on 6742 1501.

## COLES SPORTS FOR SCHOOL PROMOTIONS

Wow, what a great response from parents and students to this year's "Coles' Sports for School" promotion. Bring the vouchers to school and place them in the entry box outside the PD/H/PE staff room.

## AFL SWANS CUP:

Congratulations to the Gunnedah High School AFL team on their great win in the Swans Cup: a state-wide 12 a-side AFL competition that was held at Tamworth's No. 1 Oval last weekend. Gunnedah High won their opening game against Farrar 2<sup>nd</sup> XII by only 2 points, went down to Quirindi by 2 goals in the second round, but in their third and final round against Farrar 1<sup>st</sup> XII, Gunnedah earned a place in the final against Quirindi High School with a 20 point upset victory. From the outset of the final, it was clear that Quirindi were the bigger and more skilful team. However, GHS kept in touch with accurate kicking and ran away with the game by remaining focused, attacking the ball and not concentrating on the player. The highlight of the game was provided by 'Jumping' Jack Grosser who pulled down a 'speckie', reminiscent of Leo Barry's mark in the 2005 AFL grand final. Jack finished it off in style, with a goal from a tight angle to seal victory for Gunnedah High School 67 – 40.

## INDUSTRY AND YOUNG PEOPLE MAKING VITAL CONNECTIONS WORKSHOP

### Workshop Objectives:

- To provide students and parents with information about various industries and their career pathways and opportunities
- Expose industry to a pool of young, keen potential employees
- Expose students to potential employers offering employment opportunities in their industry
- Link keen, interested Year 9 and/or 10 high school students with employers and industry from a range of industry areas
- Provide information to employers, students and parents about the School Based Traineeship and Apprenticeship Program and raise awareness of the program
- Increase opportunities for both students and industry to participate in School Based Traineeships and Apprenticeships
- Provide students/parents with information about Vocational Education & Training courses that are available for study as part of the HSC or mainstream
- Link teaching staff with industry, schools, students and parents

**Workshop Date: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2011**

**Session Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm – 2 hours**

**Arrival Time: 6.15pm for 6.30pm start**

**Venue: Gunnedah Services & Bowling Club,  
Conadilly Street, Gunnedah**

Come along and make connections with industry and learn more about:

- Industry pathways and employment opportunities, and training and education in industries of interest
- School Based Traineeships and Apprenticeships which allow you to gain credit towards the HSC, receive a qualification, gain valuable work related skills, knowledge and experience whilst earning an income, and get a head start into a career or advanced standing into further training. Light refreshments will be available on the night
- For more information, please contact Mrs Gail Hill in HSIE.

### The Uniform Shop

Tuesday: 8am-10am

Thursday: 1pm-3pm

(02) 6742 6939

[gunnedahhigh@alinta.com.au](mailto:gunnedahhigh@alinta.com.au)



**ON-LINE SHOPPING  
NOW AVAILABLE!**

**UNIFORM SHOP  
SALE**

Polar-Fleece Jumpers \$30.00

Knitted jumpers ALL SIZES  
\$59.00

Girls Fitted Pants \$29.00

Mens Formal Trousers  
\$39.00

**LIMITED TIME ONLY  
WHILE STOCKS LAST**

The next GHS P & C meeting will be held on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011, in the school library commencing at 7.00pm. All parents/guardians, carers and community members are most welcome.