

GUNNEDAH HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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

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Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our Newsletter

As always, we have had many activities taking place over the last two weeks. Year 10 had their subject selection interviews over three days which were extremely successful in guiding our students into subject patterns which reflect both their interest and ability level. I would like to thank Mrs Watson and her team for taking these interviews and the families who supported their students in this process.

The visit by Komatsu and Team Vodaphone was an outstanding success. The messages regarding safe driving practice were respectfully delivered by both Craig Lowndes and Jamie Whincup, and the conduct of Years 10, 11 and 12 were a credit to our school. We thank both Komatsu and Team Vodaphone for supporting our school and make special mention of Mr Snowden who organised a magnificent day. Year 11 also attended the Drivers Expo the next day and conducted themselves with maturity and

class. Well done to the PDHPE faculty for the organisation of this Crossroads activity.

Bush Tucker day for Year 9 was a huge success. This event has grown every year since its inception. Close to 100 students attended the day out at Breeza, with a huge feast enjoyed by all. Thank you to Ms Squire and her team of chefs and supervisors who continue to make this day a massive event.

Our community meetings continue to proceed very positively. Both PSP and National Partnerships have been held since our last newsletter, with very valuable input received. Our school is transparent with our decision making and we thank those members who give of their personal time to help support us in moving forward.

The school hosted 33 Principals and executive staff from around the New England Region last Thursday to look at Planning Strategies for their schools.

They were warmly welcomed by Tom Hassan (11), Molly Batinic (11), Brad Sandercock (11) and Lauren Swain (11) and the Welcome to Country was beautifully presented by



**Education &
Communities**

Marie Ellen Griffiths (10). The group were entertained by the Year 10 Dance Group and Lisa Furner (12), and fed by the Hospitality team from Year 12. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making Gunnedah High School a fine showpiece for the New England south region.

As we approach the end of Term 3 it is important to note that Years 10 and 11 have extremely important upcoming exams. We strongly encourage all families to support their students by preparing well in advance so that the maximum result can be obtained. Last minute cramming will not be successful. For those not with upcoming exams, make learning your first priority here at GHS. Your assistance is welcomed and appreciated. Together we can make a difference.

Kind Regards

Murray Borham

Relieving Principal

OFFICIAL OPENING:GHS SCIENCE CENTRE

Ms Ruythe Dufty, School Education Director - New England South, Gunnedah Mayor, Mr Adam Marshall, Deputy Mayor, Mrs Colleen Fuller and AECG representative, Mrs Debbie Steadman were special guests at last Tuesday's assembly to officially open the school's refurbished Science Centre.

Representing Senator Chris Evans, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs, and Workplace Relations, Ms Dufty addressed the school body saying, "On behalf of the Australian Government, I would like to congratulate Gunnedah High School on the opening of the refurbished Science centre under the Building the Education Revolution (BER) program."

Ms Dufty continued reading from Senator Evans' message, "I regret I cannot be with you today, but I look forward to seeing first hand the great benefits that this much needed revitalisation will bring. I extend my gratitude to the staff at Gunnedah High School for constantly meeting the demands that are placed upon them in nurturing their students. The Australian Government is committed to working with schools to ensure that students have the opportunity to achieve to the very best of their abilities."



KATRINA BURGOWNE & EMMA KERSLEY MENTOR YEAR 12 MUSIC CLASS OF 2011

Following the very successful "Evening of HSC Performances" on the 10th August that was utilised as a 'dress rehearsal' for the upcoming HSC, the Gunnedah High School's music class of 2011 received a further boost when former local award winning singer, Katrina Burgoyne and former GHS student, Emma Kersley, visited the Gunnedah High School recently to mentor Year 12 students in preparation for their final 2011 HSC performances.

Under the guidance of GHS music teacher, Ms Rowena Singleton, the students were given the opportunity to perform for Katrina and Emma who then critiqued their performances and passed on some very valuable advice.

As the Gunnedah High School's reputation in music and drama grows from strength to strength, Katrina and Emma were delighted with the passion and commitment shown by the students.

The GHS music class of 2011 includes a variety of gifted performers, who have all selected their own genre of music to best showcase their individual talents.

The students were delighted with the 'one on one' mentoring provided by Katrina and Emma during the 80 minute session, and all left with a number of valuable tips that will be sure to stand them in good stead as they prepare for their 2011 HSC performances.

As the session drew to a close, both Katrina and Emma paid tribute to the students for their undivided attention and wished them well with their HSC performances. They also encouraged the students to chase their dreams for their future.



THANK YOU FROM YEAR 12 MUSIC CLASS OF 2011

We'd like to say 'thank you' to award winning singer, Katrina Burgoyne and former GHS student, Emma Kersley, who visited our school last week to mentor Year 12 students in preparation for their 2011 HSC performances.



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.

SENIOR COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the 2012 Senior Council and School Captains have now closed and with interviews were held on Friday September 2nd. Who will be our school leaders for 2012? Watch this space.

COLES SPORTS FOR SCHOOLS PROMOTION

The "Coles' Sports for School" promotion is now in full swing. Here's all you have to do:

- When you shop at Coles, collect a "Sports for Schools" voucher for every \$10.00 you spend (for example \$68.00 = 6 vouchers).
- Bring the vouchers to school and place them in the entry box outside the PD/H/PE staff room.
- The more vouchers you collect, the more sporting equipment for your school.

Should you require any further information, please contact Mr Adam Mooney in PD/H/PE.

P & C "CAUGHT YA" SCHOOL UNIFORM PROMOTION

Congratulations to the first winners in the 'Caught Ya' promotion drawn on Tuesday. During Term 3, students identified wearing full school uniform will receive an entry form and go into a draw to win either a \$20 Phone Credit or a \$20 iTunes Voucher.

The winners were: Year 7: Ciara Eveleigh, Year 8: Clare Abra, Year 9: Kayla Smith and Year 10: Crystal Boag. The next draw for Term 3 will be in week 10, with a winner from each Year group (7-10) to be chosen. Make sure that you 'get caught'.

P & C ASSOCIATION:

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

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

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**

If you have any questions or need assistance with your application you can email Aboriginal_Jobs@rta.nsw.gov.au. **Applications close 9 September 2011.**

GIYANHA DIRRABUU MURRI AWARDS: "FUTURE OUTSTANDING ABORIGINAL"

Hughie Berry, Year 10 was the recipient of a Giyanha Dirrabuu Murri Award (Future Outstanding Aboriginal). Hughie was presented with the Aboriginal Education Consultative (AECG) Group North West Award for his demonstrated commitment to showing leadership within the school and community.

The presentation was held at the Moree Secondary College on the 30th August. Hughie was accompanied by his parents, June and Adam, Helen Lickorish AEO and Ann Thomas.



TWO WAYS TOGETHER SCHOLARSHIP:

Akesha Mills, Year 11, Gunnedah High School was the recipient of a Two Ways Together Scholarship. These scholarships were made available from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Department of Education and Communities.



GHS CANTEEN NEEDS YOUR HELP

Canteen Supervisor, Mrs Sharon Newell, urgently requires your assistance in the canteen.

For more information, please contact Sharon at the school canteen on 6742 1110.

2011-12 GUNNEDAH LITTLE ATHLETICS SEASON:

- **All Registrations are to be done online this year. www.laansw.com.au**

If you require any further information or help registering online, please contact the Registrar: Sue Newbery on 67437180 or 0400 024 405 or Karen Kennedy on 0428 435325.

Reminder: Bring receipt of payment or proof of registration and pay only at pickup days.

Uniform and registration number pickup will be on Wednesday afternoons at **Wolseley Oval** from 3.30-5.30pm on: **Wednesday 14/9/11 & Wednesday 21/9/11** – Activities for kids provided

Wednesday-12/10/11-3.30-4.30pm-Competition Starts

- This year's registration fee is \$75 per child (with no weekly attendance fee). There are family discounts when more than 2 children.
- Any registrations after 4.30pm on Monday 20/9/11 will attract a \$25 penalty fee, per registration! No family discount applies to late registrations.
- Proof of age documentation (eg birth certificate, passport etc.) is required at the time of registration.
- All parents must fill out a working with children form (available online when registering).
- All parents will be required to participate in the volunteer's roster throughout the season.
- NO MANUAL ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED due to workload.

DIABILITY 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.

PROBLEM SOLVING AND COPING SKILLS FOR FAMILIES:

Centracare New England North West will be presenting a Problem Solving and Coping Skills for Families workshop in Gunnedah. This presentation looks at how you might be able to more effectively resolve problems, along with skills to enable you to cope better with daily stresses.

Thursday 29th September

10am-2pm

Parish Hall, 346 Conadilly Street GUNNEDAH

Further information or to register contact Sharon on 67629270