

GUNNEDAH HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



**Excellence
and
Innovation
in a
Unique
and
Caring
School**



Josh Day SES Cadet of the Year and Mrs Sharon Howett SES Captain

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Dear Parents & Community,

Welcome to our Newsletter. Students across the school have been busy sitting exams, either school based or external exams like NAPLAN. It is these exams which will provide some evaluation of our teaching success but also an indication of the strengths and weaknesses of your child's learning. This information will be used to develop whole school strategies. It is also important for students to develop study habits and timetables so they can maximise their learning. It is the parent's role to ensure that their child has adequate resources to study i.e. a chair, lamp and a quiet space. Together in partnership we can maximise the student learning at our school.

Congratulations to the soccer girls who defeated Moree last week with a winning goal in the last few minutes. The girl's softball team and the open rugby league side were unable to match the feats of the soccer girls.

Any community members who see people on school grounds after hours are encouraged to contact the

police. The senseless and inconvenient vandalism is costing the school money and students' valuable lesson time. Hopefully the security fence, which is imminent, will lessen the vandals attack on our school. These acts are committed by people with no respect for themselves or other people.

It was a much less noisy school this past week with all the Year 10 boys and girls out on Work Experience. Mr. Walls and Mrs. Hill managed to locate over 100 students in various employment opportunities within our community. The school sincerely thanks community businesses and others for taking our students on and allowing them to experience the work environment. I hope that, like me, our community members get to see some of the wonderfully well mannered and respectful students that make up the vast majority of our school. It was wonderful to get all the positive feedback from the community on our Year 10 students on Work Experience. The following is just one of the many commendations I received. This is what Gunnedah High School is all about.

"We have had an extremely busy week and were indeed fortunate to have Gunnedah High School Work Experience student Breanna Jones with us. It was an absolute pleasure to have Brea working with the early stage 1 and Stage 1 students. She was quick to establish a good rapport with the children and worked hard, supporting each child with their learning. Brea demonstrated a maturity in the classroom beyond her 15 years of age. I hope Brea continues her interest in teaching. We, as a staff, thought she was outstanding. Thanks Brea for wonderful week!"
Christine Patison Principal Carroll Public School.

As the cold season starts to take effect so does the wearing of clothes which are not part of our school uniform. Uniform is something that proudly displays the school and those who participate in it. It is a safety issue in school with identification and it is something that reflects the pride and respect of students. I encourage the wearing of uniform and hope parents support me in this endeavour.

I have met very few parents in my time here. I am more than happy for you to come and see me when you drop your children off or just drop in and say hello at any time and discuss your perceptions of our school with me.

Hilton Humphries, Principal

JOSH DAY CADET OF THE YEAR



Wednesday May 16th
 Josh Day was presented with the **NSW State Emergency Service Cadet of the Year 2011 Award** by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services Mr. Michael Gallacher and the SES Commissioner Mr. Murray Kear. The award was presented at Parliament

House Sydney. Josh was accompanied by his family, Mr. Borham, Deputy Principal and Mrs. Sharon Howett Gunnedah SES Captain. Josh received his award for outstanding leadership displayed during his training program. Josh received this award over 465 other cadets. Well done Josh.....fantastic effort!

**NSW STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE
 CADET OF THE YEAR 2011.**



LIBRARY



The [Children's Book Council \(Australia\)](#) has just announced its short list for all five categories within its annual awards. The winners and honour books will be announced in Children's Book Week (18-24 August). The theme for Book Week this

year is 'Champions Read'. As always the standard is high. There are some very familiar names and previously honoured authors and illustrators like Nadia Wheatley, Jackie French, Bill Condon, Emily Rodda, Ron Brooks, Alison Lester and Bob Graham. There are also some good writers who have just missed the cut in previous years and, we have some new names in the list like Ahn Do (with Suzanne Do) and Emma Quay. Interestingly, this is the year for some to have more than one short listing. These include Emily Rodda, Freya Blackwood (illustrator) and Bruce Whately (illustrator).

THANK YOU to the many volunteers who give their time to the students of Gunnedah High. "Every One Counts"



YEAR TEN WORK EXPERIENCE

Year 10 students have enjoyed their first week of work experience. Students had work placements in a wide variety of industries. Work experience is an excellent stepping stone for future employment. Thank you to the business houses of Gunnedah for their continued support of the work experience program.



Kimberley Wilkinson

Kimberley has a love of all animals. When she finishes school she wants to become a Veterinary Nurse.



Chloe Jones

Chloe chose Mystic Circle for her work experience. Chloe is aiming to become a beautician.

Hayden Dawson and Mitchell Matthews

Hayden and Mitch enjoyed their week with Mr. Gary Sams at West End Auto



James Guest

James worked at the Mornington Butchery.

Cody Barnes

Cody has spent his week working with Matt Hathway. Cody is hoping to get an apprenticeship as an electrician when he completes his schooling



Alistair MacDougall

Alistair has been working at Gunnedah High School with Mr. Barry Mc Rae. He also assisted Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. Hoban in the Library.

Shannon Skavinski

Shannon Skavinski wants a career in retail. When Shannon finishes school she is aiming to go to University to do Retail Studies.



ETHAN STEVENS MEMORIAL PLAQUE



Ethan Stevens – Great Sportsman, Great Friend

The Student Representative Council at Gunnedah High School has dedicated a plaque in memory of their friend Ethan Stevens. The plaque was dedicated in a quiet ceremony last Tuesday which was attended by Ethan's family as well as students and teachers from the high school. Vice Captain, Liana Goninon, explained that the plaque was placed on a tree "between the basketball courts and the oval because Ethan loved sport so much." Those present at the ceremony were asked for a minute's silence in Ethan's memory before Hughie Berry closed the dedication with a moving poem. The SRC held a school social and raffle last year to raise money for the plaque. They hope that the students at Gunnedah High School will see the plaque and remember Ethan; a great sportsman and a great friend.



BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE



Year 8 student Keira Fernando has been selected to audition for the NSW Public School Aboriginal Dance Company. The Bangarra Dance Theatre aims to foster the development of talented Aboriginal students in dance

MATHS COMPETITION



The Australian Mathematics Competition is being conducted for years 7–12 at GHS this year and the entry fee has been subsidised by the school. To enter, students need to pay

\$2 to the front office (exact money please) **before Friday 25 May.**

The competition contains 25 multiple-choice problems and 5 questions containing a number answer. The time allowed for the Secondary division is 75 minutes and will be held in the hall during periods 1 and 2 instead of normal lessons on **Thursday 2 August.**

Prizes are awarded to the top students. All students receive a certificate showing their level of achievement and a detailed report showing how they performed on each problem with comparative statistics. Many of the problems are set in situations to which students can relate, showing the relevance of mathematics to their everyday lives. Above all, the competition is designed to be a fun event, removed from the pressures of formal assessment.

GUNNEDAH JUNIOR SHOWGIRL



Gunnedah
Junior Showgirl
**Sara
Hutchinson**
runner up
**Marie-Ellen
Griffiths.**



**Dorothea
Mackellar**



Optional theme for 2012

**Wheels and Wings
and Marvellous Things**

Junior Secondary (Years 7 – 9) Winner: \$500, trophy, UWS engraved iPod Touch and prize pack
Runner-up: \$300 and prize pack

Senior Secondary (Years 10 – 12) Winner: \$500, trophy, UWS engraved iPad and prize pack
Runner-up: \$300 and prize pack

Learning Assistance and Special Education Secondary Winner: \$500, trophy and prize pack
Runner-up: \$300 and prize pack
Entries to be submitted by the teacher, only students on IEP or STLA programs or with English as a second language are eligible to enter.

**2012 poetry competition dates: Open 1 March,
Close 30 June**

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY SUMMER SCHOOLS APPLICATIONS

The University of Newcastle is offering five-day residential experiences for Year 9 students who are entering Year 10 in 2013.

They include Girls Choices Summer School and LIVE IT! (For boys).

The Girls Choices residential experience (2 – 6 Dec 2012) aims to expose girls to the range of study and career options for HSC graduates in math's and science subjects.

LIVE IT! (9 – 13 Dec) is designed to inspire boys to build on their potential to succeed in senior school. Participants will experience life on campus - just like a real uni student. Along with meeting equity criteria, students should be willing to be challenged by new experiences and explore opportunities. **Applications close 29th June 2012** and require teacher and principal support. For more information and to download application forms: www.newcastle.edu.au/aimhigh