

# Warrawong High School

*Creating opportunities,  
achieving success*

## Principal's Report

Over the last 2 years we have gradually increased expectations of our students and the message is really sinking in. Students must be on time, in uniform with all books and equipment. They must co-operate at all time, do their classwork and spend time on assignments and study at home. On behalf of the staff can I personally thank all parents for your support. There is no doubt that school tone is at a very high level at present and certainly that is a result of the support we are getting from parents. On parent contact - the value of parent contact is immeasurable. When we talk to parents we get to let you know that we are on to things and we are listening. There is no doubt that by keeping parents informed we get the students onside. The impact on the vast majority of students in terms of their behaviour, co-operation and work output rises significantly when they know parent contact is a genuine promise. Staff are constantly encouraged to contact parents and also to use homework diaries for brief notes home. I urge parents to do the same.

## Open Afternoon

Our open afternoon was another outstanding event despite the terrible weather. As a staff we were all really proud about the program and how it worked. We thought the best advertisement for the program would be to let some of our visitors and parents on the day do the talking :

"We cannot believe all of the facilities you have and how good they are - it is amazing that it seems so much more than other schools have". (Year 6 parent)

"It seems there are more teachers here who are passionate about their work and their role than I have ever see at my school" (teacher from another Wollongong high school).

"The staff are so enthusiastic and positive - they must really like their work".

"Your school just seems to be doing so many programs, so many things are happening and so many good things for your students - it just seems like a really good place to send your child". (primary school Principal).

"I love your uniform - I love what it looks like. It is an easy uniform to manage".



**WAGGI** FILM  
FESTIVAL

Proudly supported by  **BLUESCOPE  
STEEL**

# UOW Discovery Day

Year 12 students participated in Discovery Day at the University of Wollongong on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February. The aims of the day were to inform, motivate and familiarize students with the University setting. Students attended a compulsory session which dealt with how to get into university, early entry, ATAR, HECS payments, scholarships, career paths etc. Students also attended different sessions corresponding to their interests so they could find out about different degrees on offer. They also had a chance to see aspects of student life such as having lunch on the lawn listening to bands. The day was extremely worthwhile for students who are hoping to attend university next year.



## 60 seconds with Sandra... Featuring Brad Hughes

1. What's your star sign?  
Aries
2. How old are you?  
39
3. What celebrity would you most like to invite for dinner?  
Michael Jordan
4. What's your favourite movie?  
Shawshank Redemption
5. What's your favourite TV show?  
Survivor
6. Any nicknames & why?  
Hughesy
7. What sports teams do you follow?  
South Sydney
8. Tell us an interesting fact about yourself  
I played NRL
9. What's your favourite song?  
Boom Boom Pow – The Black Eyed Peas
10. What's your first memory?  
Riding a bike



## Medieval Warrawong

In Term 4 last year the Support Knights sharpened their swords and dragged out their newly built catapult. Their objective was Castle Warrawong with its captive damsel in distress Lady Hristina. They even managed to recruit some additional local muscle in the form of Lady Jenny Flowers.

Following some On-Guard training with power tools, the Senior Support students set to work assembling the medieval style catapult. It was powered by a rope torsion system just like the original catapults.

Students and teachers alike enjoyed a session of sword and siege mayhem. Unfortunately the damsel was completely forgotten during the savage melee and was accidentally dispatched by her would be rescuers

Mr Morales



Sir Thomas Abrahams , Lady Hristina Rizovska and Sir Chris Bukalevski



Senior Support Knights and Lady Jenny Flowers

## Support Canberra Excursion

Support students once again made the trek to our nation's capital during Term 4 2012.

First stop was the Australian War Memorial which boasts an impressive collection in its world class museum. Students also enjoyed some dress up and hands on activities in the discovery zone before paying their respects at the Hall of Memory.

Next stop was Questacon where students were entertained by all kinds of scientific gizmos and displays. The biggest hits were the gravity slide and the 360° swing. Deart Sriwan was the only participant to achieve the 360° loop to the cheers and applause of the onlooking crowd.

Mr Morales



Ensign Tame Ravarua lines up a target in the periscope



W1 Digger, Corporal Billy Hampton during a lull in the bombardment



Support students at the Hall of Memory



Tarne and Maya keep clear of a Qwestacon deep sea terror fish



Students test out one of the many experiment attractions at Qwestacon

## SRC Training and Planning Day

### Respect, Responsibility, Representative

These three words have become the key phrase for the 2013 SRC. Our training day on Tuesday 5 March included team building and leadership games, discussion of activities for the year- fund raising, Carnivale, taking part in leadership camps, SRC participation in assemblies and form meetings and how to keep and expand the SRC's profile in the school.

Some comments from SRC members-

"Today was great- we got to know each other, plan future activities and communicate with each other."

"I liked how we learned about what makes a good leader and team."

"It was fun and a nice experience."

"Today was great. We ... learned how to make a good leader and gain respect from other students."

"I liked the activities and learning about leadership and good teamwork."



## International Women's Day

### 2013

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March four Year 10 girls, Chloe Radiceska, Safie Rakipi, Ashley Saveska and Brooke Smith attended the International Women's Day Brunch. The aim of the event is to inform, raise awareness and celebrate International Women's Day. Guest speakers talked about their interests, their work and the choices they have made in relation to work, family and other commitments. They were:

- **Nieves Murray** - Chief Executive of IRT Group,
- **Nicole Clark** - interpreter for the deaf,
- **Emily Squires** - Human Resources Manager of ACCOR's Novotel Wollongong Northbeach and Novotel Sydney Brighton Beach.

- **Wendy Richardson, OAM (2005)** - one of Australia's most popular playwrights, best known as the author of Windy Gully.

The Year 10 students found the event interesting and inspiring.



### National Sorry Day

"The national sorry day was on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February. It was a national day that is one of the most incredible days for the decedents on the aboriginals." DYLAN RAY  
"The sorry day was and is one day that I really respected and am glad to have been a part of. Dylan and I also had the time of our lives and we thank Uncle Mark for getting us there."

RILEY BAILEY



### High Flyers

Congratulations to Keiara Lewis from Year 10 who has been awarded a School Service Award for her outstanding contribution to the school Open day held on February 20. Keiara was an outstanding ambassador for our school and went above and beyond in assisting

parents around the school and providing invaluable information about how Warrawong High School operates.

Last week the Year 11 Biology class participated in a two day camp. During this time, Robert Niven showed outstanding leadership skills by demonstrating to the other students the correct techniques required to paddle a kayak. Once on the water, Annmarie Dredge and Sarah Fletcher showed great initiation and bravery in carrying out a deep sea rescue. All students have returned to school safe and sound.

### Check out our wonderful English results in last year's HSC!

The English faculty achieved three of the six merits which Warrawong HS achieved -- top band marks in English Advanced, Extension 1 and Extension 2) .

- 58% of our Standard English students received HSC marks between 70 and 100 (the state average is 36% in Bands 4 – 6)

All our Advanced English students received HSC marks between 80 and 100 (the state average is 53% in Bands 5 & 6)

- Our Extension1 student received HSC marks in the top band (the state average for Band 4 is 25%)
- Our Extension 2 English student achieved HSC marks in the top band (the state average for Band 4 is 22%)
- For 68% of our 19 students studying English as a Second Language their HSC mark was either their best or second best mark out of all the HSC subjects they studied at Warrawong High School.

Many thanks to all our hard-working English teachers!

### Project Kasparov : Chess

Did you know that playing chess and academic achievement often go hand in hand ?



Many students who have made playing chess a part of their school life have also finished their school careers achieving outstanding ATARs (Australian Tertiary Admission Ranks). In 2011, chess playing student Maros Van Den Burg scored 97 (out of 100). In 2006, Ahmet Ozturk also scored 97 and in 2007, best female chess player Ruveyda Ozturk scored 99.05 just to name

a few. Many other chess playing students like Yuxi Ruan and Steve Yousseff (2010) also achieved the highest Bands 5 and 6 in Mathematics.

The benefits of playing chess are numerous and our school has a strong tradition of being ranked amongst the best chess playing high schools in the region.

As many of our senior students have left, new players are needed for three teams; WHS "A", "B" and IEC team. See Ms. Dus in the IEC a.s.a.p.

By the end of this month our "A" team needs to play against Oak Flats HS and our IEC team will play Edmund Rice College in the **Country HS Knockout Chess Competition.**

Next term **The Illawarra Southern Zone Chess Competition** will get under way as well as our annual "friendly" lunchtime chess tournament which will take place in our new library.

Last year's winners in our **Annual Lunchtime Chess Competition** were rewarded with a package of prizes worth \$200 each.

1<sup>st</sup> Yr 12 Emin Canli  
2<sup>nd</sup> Yr 12 Ali Mrad  
3<sup>rd</sup> IEC Wujin Zuo  
4<sup>th</sup> IEC Mayshar Shar

**Encouragement Award (Senior)**

Yr 10 Spy Chaengsawang

**Encouragement Award (Junior)**

Yr 7 Kyle Sturgess



A reminder that our school library is well resourced with books on how to play chess and has a number of new chess sets available for student use during break times.

Our small quad has a concrete chess court and will be set up Tuesdays Break 1 with the larger chess pieces for any students wishing to have a go at "outdoor" chess. Spectators most welcome.



**Yours in Chess,  
Ms Dus**

## *Academic Monitoring*

Our school monitors student progress every 5 weeks to ensure all students are maximising their academic potential. Good performance is acknowledged while students who are not working hard enough are placed on review. Students who do not make a reasonable effort

may be told they have to leave school under the post compulsory rules for the School Certificate and HSC. If you wish to get information on the first academic monitoring or have any concerns, please contact the relevant student adviser immediately.

## *School Website and Student Email*

Our school website is worth checking as it contains a lot of information about the school. Try [www.warrawonghigh.nsw.edu.au](http://www.warrawonghigh.nsw.edu.au). All students have an email address and password. A note and information to parents will be sent out as soon as our new system is finalised.

## School Uniform

Full school uniform makes student look good, it creates respect in the community and helps sets a positive school tone. Our uniform letter to parents is attached and again this year it has the full support of parents through the P&C. Parents are urged to ensure that their child always follows our uniform code. Students out of uniform must report to Ms Ramsay before school with a signed note. To be fair to all, students who do not comply with uniform rules will face discipline consequences. A reminder that all students must wear solid (preferably black) shoes - anything less is a safety issue particularly in practical classes.

## P&C Meeting

We have shifted the time to see if we can get more parents to come along.

When : February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 5pm in the school foyer.

At the Parents & Citizens Association meeting we will talk about our start to the year including our annual plans, facilities, school fees, uniform and the welfare policy. In addition, we will discuss the future of the P&C, how to increase parent participation and how best the P&C can support the work of the school.

## **STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN WOLLONGONG CITY COUNCIL CONSULTATION**

On Tuesday 26 February Wollongong City Council staff visited Warrawong High School to talk to students about the proposed skate plaza in the Berkeley area about design issues and ideas for the proposed new skate plaza.

Council staff commented that the students were well behaved and creative in their responses. Their behaviour was respectful and the sessions ran smoothly. The students were well prepared and were keen to become involved. Students commented that they felt that they had been listened to and taken seriously.

Warrawong High School sees the benefit of our school and students having a connection with the broader community. It is empowering for students to feel they are valued enough to be asked their opinion on such

## Upcoming Events

Day date month	event
Tue 19th March	Harmony Day
Fri 22nd March	Easter Show Incentive Excursion
Tue 26th March	School Cross Country
Fri 29th March	Good Friday
Mon 1st April	Easter Monday

projects and that they can be active and effective citizens.

Consultation Coordinator, Tracey Kirk-Downey said, "On behalf of the team here at Wollongong City Council I wish to congratulate and thank the school for their participation and making our experience at Warrawong High a positive one. We have had a wonderful experience with the students from Warrawong High School. We left with a strong impression of the school and its commitment to the students. We look forward to returning later in the year to present the final design of the Skate Plaza"

I would like to thank all of the students for their responsible, creative and energetic participation. I would also like to thank Mr Harrison, Mr McCall and Mr Oczos for encouraging their students participation and attending the consultation with their students.

Mr David Curley

## Community Notices

WHS does not receive or accept any paid advertising for Community Notices. Also, we have no way of checking the bona fides of any information received. We encourage parents/caregivers to make all necessary checks prior to involving their children in activities listed.

**DO YOUR FUNNY BONES  
NEED EXERCISING?**

**FRASER HOOPER**

AWARD-WINNING CLOWN & DIRECTOR (UK)



These April School Holidays Circus Monoxide brings you Fraser Hooper with workshops for everyone!

Family Clown Workshop {4yrs - Adult}  
Sunday 14th April 10am - 12pm \$40/Family of 4

Teen Clown Workshop - 16th & 17th April  
6pm - 8pm \$50 for both sessions

"If you get the chance to do his workshop, I highly recommend it...  
I haven't laughed that hard in years!"



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Our Supporters:



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