

Monday July 16th 2012

Term 3 – Week 1



MHS Newsletter



A Member of the
Cudgong Learning
Community

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR
THE FULL CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

Coming Events:

- July 19th Year 10 to 11 Parent Info Evening
- July 23rd P&C Meeting 7:00pm in the Library

This issue:

- Principal's Message
- Parent Info Evening
- Link Camp

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"Providing high quality education in a stimulating and caring environment."

Principal's Message

Congratulations to Brayden Palmer who has won the Kokoda youth challenge Scholarship. Brayden will now prepare himself to undertake this rigorous and personally challenging trek at the end of Term 3. I would also like to congratulate Taylor Sanders and Tavis McLennan who were short listed for this award. All three students deserve enormous accolades for their fantastic applications and the way they conducted themselves at interview.

A number of new staff will be joining us in Term 3. Carolyn Callahan will be our second Learning and Support teacher, working with Mrs Kerry Gooley to provide specialist support for students with additional learning needs. Ms Erin Johnston will replace Mrs Laurelle Stevens who has moved to Wagga Wagga with her family. Ms Ellen Crewdson will replace Mrs Angela Rayner who is on maternity leave and Mrs Gina Kalaizis will replace Mrs Christine Smith as School Administrative Manager (SAM). I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Marlene Hunt who has been relieving SAM for the past two terms. She has done a fantastic job keeping our large organisation running smoothly.

Term 3 looks like being an exciting one which is no surprise for those who have been in Mudgee for some time. This term, Year 12 work towards their HSC undertaking Trial Exams and working to support the community through Rainbow Day fundraising. Their charity this year is the Mudgee Rescue Squad so get behind them as we all need to support this great organisation of volunteers. Talking of volunteers, congratulations to Samuel Jarvis who has achieved a diamond award for his student volunteering. Many other students would be able to achieve this if they registered their hours working for groups such as RFS, SES, the Forty Hour Famine and peer reading tutoring. For more information, see Mrs Spinner in HSIE. This is great recognition for students and looks good in a CV too.

We are looking forward to welcoming parents to many events this term. Check out the calendar on the website for dates you should know – these include subject selection information for parents and students of Year 10, Education Week launch, Parent Teacher meetings, the school play and mid-year presentation for junior students. Parents should also have a look at the new P&C section of our website. There you can access minutes, details of the executive and other information about what your P&C is doing for your students.

Louise Manwaring
Principal

Year 10 into 11 Parent Information Evening Thursday 19 July, 2012 – 7pm start in the Performance Centre

On Thursday 19 July, beginning at 7pm, there will be a parent information evening for current Year 10 students considering continuing to the HSC. It will be held in the Performance Centre. The following will be covered on the night:

- Gain an overall understanding of the senior system
- Begin the process of subject selection
- The role of the Year Adviser
- The roll of the Careers Adviser
- A tour of the school for those parents unfamiliar with Mudgee High's facilities (optional)

Be aware that this is NOT the Subject Market. The Subject Market will be held on Tuesday 31 July between 4pm and 7pm in the school gymnasium.

We look forward to seeing as many parents, carers and students as possible. For more information, please feel free to ring the school on 6372 1533.

Remember that access to the Performance Centre is via the western end gate on Denison Street.

Link Camp - HMAS Kuttabal/Williamtown/State of Origin Week
A once in a lifetime experience for Mudgee students.

On Sunday, June 15 I headed off for Sydney with six students from Mudgee High School not really knowing what awaited us on the other side of the Blue Mountains. Six days later we returned, weary, but much more knowledgeable and experienced after what turned out to be the trip of a lifetime.

Besides taking in the sights of Sydney, Williamtown RAAF Base and a whole host of places along the way, including a magical State of Origin event, we all learned the finer intricacies of the Australian Defence Forces. What we had all seen before on a video, a piece of paper, or been told by a career's advisor paled into insignificance as we went inside the real world of our defence men and women.

We discussed all facets of the RAAF, including sitting in a Hornet simulator, training safety with the FA18's machine guns, hearing a young, recently married pilot, telling of his immediate plans to be transferred to Afghanistan for six months. It was gripping stuff as told by the real people at Williamtown air base.

The hornets thundered overhead as we met with RAAF tradies and discussed careers as carpenters, technicians and other jobs in the defence Force. The students from Mudgee, Warren and Narromine were engrossed as they entered the world of the hornet technicians, sat in a real air plane and learnt about the weight of bombs and other relevant material from people who were more than willing to share their knowledge and technical expertise with the students. Warrant Officer Mark Donlan was our chaperone for the six days. He joined us on a trip down to Garden Island and a boarding on the HMAS Tobruk. Not a warship as far as firing guns goes, but a mighty impressive vessel and one that will live in the minds of the students forever.

We were taken on a journey to just about every inch of the ship, inspected the sailor's cabins below deck, the spacious cargo hull which carries equipment for war and peace, and got to meet a junior sailor named Mabo. It just so happens that he is the grandson of Eddie Mabo, the Aboriginal elder responsible for framing the Mabo Treaty, an important phase of Australian reconciliation.

I find it hard to describe in words the commitment and hospitality afforded to us by Warrant Officer Mark Donlan, a fine officer of the RAN and a fantastic bloke. He lived on the base for the whole week, looked after our every whim and fancy and went the extra yard to make our stay even more pleasurable. I speak for everyone when I say "Thank You Mark". Our group was given t-shirts and blue wigs as part of the Blatchy's Blues 12,000 cheer squad at the northern end of the ground come Wednesday evening State of Origin match NSW v Queensland.

At the State of Origin we were privy to one of the great sporting occasions in this country – 83,000 plus screaming fans, a sea of blue (we were somewhere in there), unbelievable atmosphere and finally a win to the Blues – could we have been the x factor?

From a Mudgee student's perspective we discussed the trip and its benefits on the journey home and again at a gathering with fellow students this week. The general consensus was that the Sydney trip had.

- Opened doors and horizons for the students
- Expanded their knowledge, particularly of the Defence Forces and their many and varied activities
- Given them an opportunity to meet and communicate with people who they believed were out of their reach, e.g. Navy Commanders, high profile rugby league players
- Made them believe in themselves and that they have a role to play in our community
- Introduced students to working roles that they had only ever seen on video, etc..
- Made them realise that there are people out there who care for those who may be less fortunate than others
- Given the students a greater understanding of the indigenous culture and helped to break down some barriers



From my perspective, I thoroughly enjoyed the trip which I believed to be of enormous benefit to the students in a number of ways. They are now more rounded in their knowledge and understanding of the Australian Defence Forces. Two Mudgee students, Chris Mason (rifle/man) and Sam Percival (automotive) have expressed their desire to pursue a career in the ADF which speaks volumes for the commitment and professionalism of the men and women we met in the various defence departments. They did not go overboard in their description of the services, but simply gave the students a real life interpretation of what is in store should they join.

The whole week was a lesson in attitude, dedication and application in an endeavour to find out more...more about life's experiences and how committed to the cause are the men and women of the ADF. We are certainly in good hands! A big Thank You from myself and the students to the organisers and everyone concerned with the 6-day journey to the 'Big Smoke'.

Elwyn Lang

Mudgee High School students participating were: Jeffery Kimm, Chris Mason, Jessica Hancock, Sam Percival, Danielle Catt and Keeghan Munn.