

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2012

Term 3 – Week 6



# MHS Newsletter



*A Member of the  
Cudgegong Learning  
Community*

**SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR  
THE FULL CALENDAR  
OF EVENTS**

**Coming Events:**

- Aug 27 – P&C Meeting 7pm Library
- Aug 28 – CLC Concert , Parklands
- Aug 30 - Parent/Teacher Evening Y8,9 & 10
- Sept 6-14: Y11 Exams
- Sept 19 – T3 Gold & Silver Awards
- Sept 19 – Y12 Farewell Social
- Sept 20 – Y12 Rainbow Day
- Sept 21 – Y12 Presentation Day
- Sept 21 – Last Day Term 3

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

## Principal's Message

Congratulations to Year 12 students who completed their HSC trial exams over the past two weeks. By all accounts the standard of responses were of high quality. Most students will find these exams give them important feedback on what to do next to reach their potential for the HSC. Any students or parents who need extra support only need to let us know. Over the past few months many extra hours of support have been allocated on weekends and after school and this is available in the lead up to the final exams. My thanks to the teachers who have given up many hours of time with their families to support our students.

It is always a busy and exciting time at Mudgee High School and last week was no exception. Up to thirty students in years 7-10 are busy preparing their scripts and designs for the Tournament of Minds which takes place at the end of this month. This is a wonderful opportunity for gifted and enthusiastic students to challenge themselves and enhance their teamwork skills. Thanks to Mr Finter and Mr Manwaring for their time supporting the teams entered.

Students also had the opportunity last week to travel to the snowy mountains for PE. Their skiing skills were developed as no doubt were other skills such as singing on the bus, sleeping after an exhausting day and tolerating others over a long period of time. The PE teachers were very complimentary of the behaviour and reliability of the students who attended. The compliments were also flowing for students who were members of the softball squad at the state titles and won the Plate Round. The students were fantastic ambassadors for our school and community. Today we welcomed Year 6 students to Mudgee High for their first of many visits leading up to starting high school. The students were very excited to finally join the Mudgee High School student body even if only for one day. The feedback from students and parents is they are looking forward most to the amazing range of subjects on offer – the chance to study music with highly qualified musicians, the opportunity to learn hospitality skills with qualified chefs, the chance to join state wide sporting competitions coached by regional and state coaches (who happen to be on the teaching staff). All this alongside the exciting opportunities provided to become scientists, skilful wordsmiths, artists, mathematical geniuses, and fluent in a foreign language. It's no wonder they are so thrilled to be coming here. Congratulations to the parents who have made their first choice Mudgee High School. Not many towns can offer the best school in the state, how lucky we are!

Of course at Mudgee High School our goal is to ensure students not only have their intellects extended but their physical capabilities enhanced as well. We are also keen to notice students doing their best, helping others and being respectful members of our community.

The CLC concert at Parklands will be held next Tuesday. Tickets are available from the door for either the matinee or evening concerts. The evening concert starts at 7pm and tickets do sell out for these performances so don't be late. As usual we have a range of performers from most CLC schools including the Mudgee schools. Once again the sound and lighting have been organised by Mr Holleman from the Mudgee HS music staff and we are grateful for his expertise.

*Louise Manwaring  
Principal*

## FUTSAL

Futsal is indoor soccer played on an indoor hard court consisting of 5 players including a goalie. Mudgee High School futsal journey began with over 100 interested students. Tryouts determined teams of 7 for both girls and boys teams of 14's, 16's and opens. In week 8 of term 2 we travelled to Katoomba for the Regional Championships. Our 16 girls were crowned regional champs and the 14 boys and girls were awarded wildcard entries to the State Titles at Penrith. All teams performed well, displayed excellent sportsmanship and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Our trip to Penrith was long and filled with expert singing in all vehicles, before meeting for dinner and some team bonding. Our day of competition started early with each team playing three games. Both teams played hard, fought fiercely and were very competitive in their search for glory. Although the competition has ended for our teams we would like to congratulate all players on their outstanding efforts and representation of Mudgee High School. We look forward to strengthening our school teams and hope that the donation of 3 futsal balls to the PDHPE faculty will assist in introducing futsal to the school.

We would like to thank the students for their hard work in training for this event and parents for their support with transport and encouragement on competition days.

Until next year.....

Cathy Bennett and Ronya Maynard



## GAME TRAINING ROAD SHOW

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> August, fifty five students attended a Game Training Roadshow, presented by Jeff Ayling, a games developer. The students enjoyed the experience and were given many ideas for creating interactive 3D games with software that is used in the gaming industry. They were shown how to create their own 3D Worlds with terrain, ocean, sky and trees and grass which blow in the wind, import characters and vehicles and create roads which weave through the terrain. The students were also introduced to some programming concepts that they can apply to their own games. This was a great opportunity and we are looking forward to seeing what the students can now produce.



## NCSS Computer Programming Challenge

Thirteen students from Year 7 to Year 11 have taken the Programming Challenge this year. The Challenge is run by the School of Information Technologies at the University of Sydney as part of the National Computer Science School (NCSS). For 5 weeks starting from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2012 and running until Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2012, students are provided with a set of notes containing the information you will need to complete the week's programming challenges. Points are awarded for correct answers in the least number of submissions. We would like to wish the students all the best in completing the challenges and improving their computer programming skills.

## CAREERS NEWS

**Apprenticeships with Essential Energy** – NSW's regional electricity network operator is currently seeking motivated men and women for a range of apprenticeship positions serving local communities throughout the state.

For more information and to apply visit [essentialenergy.com.au/apprenticeships](http://essentialenergy.com.au/apprenticeships)

Applications opened on 10<sup>th</sup> August and close on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

## **WUDHAGARAGARRA AWARDS**

### **Congratulations Isabelle Berry**

This year Mudgee High School nominated five Indigenous students for the prestigious regional Wudhagaragarra Award. Wudhagaragarra is a Wiradjuri word meaning to listen, to learn. The award can be presented for encouragement, leadership or achievement in Sport. It is a great achievement to gain a nomination in this Award, which is decided by the Regional Aboriginal Education Team and the Regional Aboriginal Education Consultative Group.

Three students were nominated for Encouragement Awards; Stacey Robbins, Matte Ager-McConnell and Isabelle Berry. This award is presented to Aboriginal students to encourage them to continue with their studies. The award is intended to highlight Aboriginal student's achievements in the areas of excellent attendance, achieving academic potential, consistent effort and a positive attitude to school. It was with great pride that Mudgee High School received the news that Isabelle Berry had the very special honour of being awarded the Encouragement Award for Stage 6.

Josie Ager-McConnell and Jessica Buckman gained nominations in the Leadership category. This award is presented to Aboriginal students who have demonstrated exceptional skill in promoting, encouraging and supporting student participation across their school and community. Aboriginal students nominated need to have effective communication skills, input into school initiatives, be ambassadors to their school/community/region, be role models and maintain a positive attitude to their school and community. The field of competition must have surely contained some truly exceptional candidates, as Josie and Jessica fulfil these requirements. Mudgee High School congratulates all these students.

## **WESTERN AREA ATHLETICS TRIALS**

The Western Area Athletics Trials were held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July in Bathurst. Mudgee High had a number of students representing our school who participated extremely well. Many students placed highly in their events and all should be proud of their efforts.

The following students have qualified for the State Athletics Carnival which will be held in Sydney in September. Rebecca Bailey, Courtney Brackenrig, Jessica Buckman, Rachel Byrne, Zoe Da Roza, Evangeline Endacott, Isobel Finter, Lauren Hodgetts, Tyler Joyce, Ruby Marshall, Trent McDonnell, Macey Morley, Chantelle Pinilla, Ben Rheinhard, Matilda Single, Peta Travers-Jones, Melissa Wisbey. Congratulations to these students.

There will be relay training at 3.45 pm each Monday afternoon at Walkers Field for the relay teams going to State.

### *Community Notice*

#### **Raine & Horne Mudgee Junior Golf Classic**

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August – open to all Boys and Girls 18 years and over

18 holes, 10 holes & 7 holes – tee off from 9am - \$20 for 18 holes, \$10 for 10 holes and 7 holes (*includes lunch and drink*)

Enquiries & entry phone Mudgee Golf Pro Shop – 63722686 or enter on the day – email [mudgeegolfshop@hotmail.com](mailto:mudgeegolfshop@hotmail.com)

#### **MUDGEE PCYC – Dare to be Aware Young Driver Program**

Free Program for Young Drivers aged 16 to 25 at Mudgee Airport

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept or Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 9am to 4pm – Lunch provided

Booking of limited places Mudgee PCYC 63721367 or [mudgee@pcycnsw.org.au](mailto:mudgee@pcycnsw.org.au)

### **SPONSOR**

#### **COFFIN CREEK ANGUS STU**

Wollar Road, Mudgee

**Telephone 63733838 or 0414 669494**

*Proud Sponsor of Mudgee High School Champion Steer Showing Team*



Education &  
Communities

# Local Schools, Local Decisions

## A MESSAGE TO SCHOOL COMMUNITIES FROM THE NSW MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

Right now the New South Wales Government is working with schools to advance the most far reaching changes to school education in this state in over a century – changes that are going to help all our public schools meet the challenges of education well into the future.

Nothing better illustrates this than the new way we are going to fund our public schools. We are putting students at the heart of all decision making.

On July 23 I announced the new Resource Allocation Model, known as the RAM. This delivers on my promise to change the way NSW public schools receive their funding. School communities need to have this important information.

The new RAM is central to the Local Schools, Local Decisions reform. Under the new model schools will see more of the total public school education budget and they will have more authority over how to spend it.

In NSW we are increasing the funding that goes directly to public schools to more than 70% of the total public school education budget, up from the current 10%.

The RAM takes into account the fact that students and school communities are not all the same; they have different needs and will need different levels of support. We cannot improve outcomes for individual students with an out-dated cookie cutter funding model.

The new model will provide certainty of funding for schools to employ teachers in order to adhere to the class sizes policy. No principal need worry about the cost of a teacher, principals will be able to choose teachers based on their quality and skills required to best meet the needs of their students.

The RAM will also reduce red tape. I want our principals to be innovative educational leaders, free from the constraints of too much bureaucracy. Instead of hundreds of small funding buckets to be managed and reported on, schools' resource allocation will be divided into two components. The first will see money quarantined for staffing purposes only. These resources cannot be used for anything else. The remaining component will fund all other operational requirements of the school and any discretionary needs, which may include employing additional staff.



I am sure that you will be wondering if this is going to be better than the way schools have been funded in the past. It was always an issue for schools and their communities when a small change in enrolment numbers meant a significant change in resources. Under our current model, one or two students leaving can result in the loss of a teacher and changes to classes that impact on the students and the school community. The RAM will help fix this problem but it won't happen overnight. It will take two to three years for implementation across all of our schools.

These changes need to be right for every school across NSW so before we finalise the model we are rigorously testing it across a range of school settings. When new funding under the RAM is received in the first group of schools it will be fairer, more transparent, and it will enable schools to plan more effectively with their communities.

If your school is part of the Empowering Local Schools National Partnership, some changes will happen faster than in other schools. These schools will be the first ones to be funded under this new model and will be able to involve their school communities in the allocation of resources to identified areas. Other schools will be funded by the RAM over the next two years.

The RAM will include loadings for socio-economic status, Aboriginality, English Language Proficiency and students with disability, as well as loadings for school size and location. It will provide a loading for each of these factors to ensure equity for our students.

This is a funding model that is student focused. It is simpler, fairer and transparent. And it will give schools funding stability so a small change in circumstances doesn't lead to a big change in resources.

It is the critical financial enabler of everything we are trying to achieve under Local Schools, Local Decisions; build an even better public school culture; one that promotes creativity and innovation, where the staff in our schools are willing, and supported, to try out new things.

A culture that supports a principal with ideas, energy and a willing school community, to innovate and know they'll be supported, not second guessed by head office.

It's a big change and a long overdue recognition of the capability and professional judgement of the leaders in our schools and of the importance of local decision-making in ensuring NSW continues to have a great public school system.

You can find more information about the RAM on the Local Schools, Local Decisions website at [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/lslsd](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/lslsd). Over the coming months there will be regular updates on this site.

**Adrian Piccoli MP**  
**Minister for Education**