

Tuesday 14th May 2013  
Term 2 – Week 3



# MHS Newsletter



A Member of the  
Cudgegong Learning  
Community

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR  
THE FULL CALENDAR  
OF EVENTS

### Coming Events:

- May 14 to 17  
Naplan Testing
- P&C Meeting –  
Library 7pm
- June 10 – Public  
Holiday
- May 27 – P&C  
Meeting Library  
7pm

### This issue:

- Principal's Message
- Debating
- Dubbo Sheep Show
- ANZAC Day
- Athletics Carnival
- Cross Country
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*"Providing high quality education in a stimulating and caring environment."*

### Principal's Message

We received fantastic news late last week that our senior girls relay team had won a bronze medal at the All Schools Swimming Carnival. They were also fourth in the medley relay and Macy Morley won an individual bronze medal. This is a notable achievement for a small rural community to match skills with the best from large schools in major centres from both private and public sectors. Well done girls and thank you to the parents who provide so much ongoing commitment and support to all our swimmers. Mr Peter Smith was over the moon as you would expect.

Year 11 successfully completed their first senior exams last week. This was a challenging time for most students but they demonstrated they are on the right path to success at the HSC with their dedication and commitment. This week teachers will start to give feedback on their performance. This is the main point of our school exams and tasks to assess what students know and can do and what they have to learn next.

Years 7 and 9 students will sit their NAPLAN tests in literacy and numeracy this week. The major purpose of these exams is to identify areas of strength and areas where students need further development. They are not a credential as the HSC and RoSA are. NAPLAN is not a measure of an individual child's achievements and I am pleased that parents in Mudjee have not fallen prey to the senseless competitiveness which appears to be developing in Sydney and other areas. No child should ever have to use their NAPLAN results to prove anything about their performance at school. They are not designed for that. We give a comprehensive summation of student achievements in our semester reports. If you really want to know how your child is doing read their reports, come to parent teacher evenings and contact their teachers. We use NAPLAN to identify school wide trends and issues and to diagnose what we might need to do to support our students, never to compare them.

We have been lucky enough to be chosen to receive a big boost to our resources enabling us to appoint a third Deputy Principal and a second Head Teacher English for a time. These two positions will focus on enhancing staff skills in literacy teaching initially in English and HSIE classes but by 2014 right across the curriculum. Never before have we been given these types of resources to target both individuals and groups of students for literacy enhancement. Our goal is to develop programs which other schools of our quality can adopt to further their literacy teaching skills. The outcome for students should be more opportunity to identify their needs for remediation or extension and to enable teachers to develop programs to meet those needs. Thank you to Mr Eade and Mrs Davies for leading this project and to Ms Wilson and Mrs Fellows for stepping up as our third DP and HT English.

### P & C Awards – Week 2 – Congratulations to:

**Year 7:** Michael Dowell; **Year 8:** Lydia Martin; **Year 9:** Angus Frost; **Year 10:** Jaymee Mason; **Year 11:** Jayson Brakel; **Year 12:** Erin Kenny

*Louise Manwaring*  
Principal

## DEBATING

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, Tim Cheetham, Maddi Date, Tayla McCarthy and Russell Van Laeren travelled to Dubbo to debate against the Year 9 and 10 team at Delroy College for the first round of the NSW Premier's Debating Challenge. As the affirmative team and with only an hour to prepare their case, they presented some solid arguments advocating why 'self-defence should become mandatory in schools'. After refuting the negative team's arguments, the Mudgee High team was successful in persuading the audience and adjudicator of their case. Round two will be held here at Mudgee High against Gulgong High School.



## DUBBO SHEEP SHOW

Last Thursday a group of 4 students travelled to Dubbo for the annual Dubbo Agricultural Show, along with 6 White Suffolk sheep from the school farm. Students were responsible for preparing the sheep, which included washing and training as well as showing them in the show ring.

White Suffolk judging took place on Friday, and all four students were involved in showing not only our own school sheep, but also several sheep owned by Bruce Stanford. This gave the students an increased opportunity to improve their skills and knowledge.

Unfortunately the school sheep did not win any major ribbons, but we gained valuable knowledge that will be applied to our breeding program as well as our preparation for future shows. Students also received feedback on their showmanship, which will be valuable for

future involvement in the Agricultural industry.

A big thank you needs to be given to Bruce Stanford for shearing all the school show sheep during the holidays as well as providing additional support to the students and transporting feed supplies. Thank you also to Peter Huish for the donation of the lucerne hay. Lastly, a massive thank you to Di Pearce, who transported students to and from Dubbo as well as providing supervision and support throughout the entire excursion.



## ANZAC DAY 2013

ON ANZAC Day approximately 55 staff, students and ex-students marched behind the school flag. This was a fine turn out and all students marched with pride in their school uniform. The School Captains and Vice Captains Harry Ottley, Rebecca Bailey, Lauren Hodgetts and Connor Jones laid a wreath at the Robinson Park cenotaph.

Those who marched were joined by other students who were involved through the band, Scouts and Army Cadets.

The highlight of the ceremony was the keynote address by our very own Brayden Palmer. Brayden recounted his experiences of walking the Kokoda Track and what follows is a transcript of his address.

*"Servicemen and women, returned veterans, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen*

*Last year I had the privilege of being selected by Club Mudgee to participate in the RSL Kokoda Youth Leadership Challenge. For 10 days I, along with 24 other young Australians, walked over the Owen Stanley Ranges following in the footsteps of the soldiers who sacrificed life and limb for the security and wellbeing of our nation. The experience tested me both physically and mentally; it pushed me to my limits and beyond; but most importantly it gave me a greater understanding and appreciation for what the soldiers went through and how their courage and sacrifice has helped shape the way we live today.*

*Walking along the track, the heat was at times almost unbearable, my clothes were forever wet and dirty, and the soles of my feet would burn with every step I took. But given where I was and the history the place held, to complain would've been inconsiderate and unjust. I still had shelter, food, safety and above all the knowledge that I'd make it home. I had everything the soldiers didn't. Each day we would walk for hours on end through the treacherous terrain; steep inclines full of false peaks and slow, slippery descents all put strain on the knees and hips, leaving us with bruising and scars. For 10 days we lugged around a mere 15kg on our backs, using the best equipment money could buy to help support the weight; equipment that didn't even exist 70 years ago back when it was needed the most. To walk the Kokoda Trail in 2012 was hard; to fight along the Kokoda Trail in 1942 is incomprehensible.*

*What those brave men did was nothing short of super human.*

*Faced with challenges that we can't even imagine, the soldiers managed to rise up against adversity and bind together to*



fight for a common cause. To walk through places like Isurava and Brigade Hill and hear the stories of the selfless young men, who fought there, was haunting. Men like Bruce Kingsbury who made the ultimate sacrifice at Isurava when, as the Japanese forces began to overpower the Australians, Kingsbury displayed super human amounts of bravery and valour as he charged straight at the Japanese soldiers, killing as many as 30 and forcing many others to run back into the jungle for cover. Sadly as he stopped to change magazines, he was struck down by a sniper hiding behind a rock nearby; in death he was honoured with the Victoria Cross. His actions that day, in hindsight, greatly affected the course of the battle and the campaign. Had the Japanese broken through the Australian defence at that time and had taken hold of Isurava, there was very little standing in their way to the docks of Port Moresby.

Stories like Bruce Kingsbury's exist all along the Track; these are stories of courage, sacrifice, mateship, and endurance. Lindsay Bear and Russ Fairbairn showed all four as they made their way along the track, both seriously injured and incapable of walking unsupported, helping each other so that they could make it back to the rest of their mates and continue fighting for their country. Another is that of Charlie McCallum who, with a Bren gun in one hand and a Tommy gun in the other, single-handedly held off Japanese soldiers while the rest of his comrades withdrew to safety, coming so close to the enemy that one even managed to pull pieces of equipment out from his utility belt. Though he survived that particular encounter, just a week later Charlie McCallum, like Bruce Kingsbury and the many before him, made the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

Today we stop and take notice of these stories, not just from Kokoda but from every conflict where Australians and New Zealanders have given up their time, their safety and their lives for the wellbeing and security of their country. We look at what we have in our lives, the freedom in which we live and the people we share it with. It is because of their courage, mateship, endurance and sacrifice that we stand here today living the lives that we live. To them we say thank you. Lest We Forget". Photos courtesy of Chris Perring

## INDUSTRIAL ARTS

### Information and Communication Technology

Late in Term 1 a consignment of new lab PCs were received and rolled out for student use. The technology in the school is improving all the time with updated hardware and the latest software installed on these new machines. The computer labs are predominantly timetabled for the computing faculty classes but with the online booking system, faculties across the school are taking full advantage of the availability of this valuable resource.

In other technology news, a number of new interactive whiteboards and projectors have been installed and still more are in the pipeline. These fabulous machines allow lessons to be prepared prior to, and presented in class with both the teacher and the students able to add to and interact with the content making the teaching and learning a real shared experience.

Term 2 is a very busy time with the senior classes completing the Half Yearly exams and the last of their assessment tasks. It is fast approaching HSC time and study programs should be in full swing. Any questions about how best to prepare for the end of the year should be directed to your teachers who are always happy to provide guidance and additional resources as required.

Junior classes are finalising assessment items for the end of semester and so it is very important that they make their best efforts. This also means a new round of subject selections for next semester. Advice can be obtained from your teachers about the next logical step in the computing courses.

### Year 8 Technology Mandatory in 2013

Year 8 made a great start to their work in Technology Mandatory in 2013. With Grace Fogarty and Ebony Rowan's projects being some of the best quality produced in recent memory.



The *Technology* subject aims to develop each student's ability to design, produce and evaluate quality solutions that respond to opportunities and needs. It enables students to justify solutions and to responsibly, safely and creatively use selected materials, tools and techniques



## ATHLETICS CARNIVAL 2013

The athletics carnival is on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> May at Walkers Field. This is a normal school day and attendance by all students is required. Students will need to bring their ID card to swipe in at the beginning of the day and events will start at 9am.

The events held on the day will include 100m, 200m, Long Jump, High Jump, Discus, Shotput, Javelin and novelties (the 400m and 3000m will be held at 8:30am before the carnival). The idea of the carnival is about participation, having fun and getting involved in the house spirit. Students are encouraged to participate in all events and to get dressed up in House colours.

A canteen will be running on the day and Yr 12 will once again be providing goodies for their fundraising.

Bus companies will be diverted to Walkers Oval and students will need to be at the carnival by 8.55am.

The longer events will be held during periods 5-8 on Friday of Week 4. This includes the 800m, 1500m, 3000m and triple jump. Students must nominate to compete in these longer events by coming to the PE staffroom no later than Tuesday of Week 4. Any parent helpers are greatly appreciated and if you would like to help, please contact the school on 63721533 and speak to Mrs Gallen in the PDHPE Faculty.



## MUDGEE HIGH CROSS COUNTRY 2013

The Cross Country will take place during Week 4 of this term. It is compulsory for students in years 7, 8 and 9. Students in Years 10-12 may nominate if they wish to participate and are encouraged to do so. Students must participate in the school event to be eligible for Western Area Trials selection.

**Year 8 and 9** will run during their sport periods on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May.

**Year 7 and 10-12** students will run on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May during period 3 and 4. Students in Years 10-12 must nominate at the PE staffroom by Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May if they wish to attend.

## Mudgee High in the Medals at NSW All Schools Swimming Championships

Mudgee High has had continued success in the pool at the NSW All Schools Swimming Championships held at Homebush Last Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Our 4 x 50 Senior Girls Freestyle Relay Team consisting of Alysha Beckingham, Jayme Muscat, Macy Morley and Georgi York were seeded 4<sup>th</sup> with a time of 1:56.18.

After a technical issue with the start of their race officials declared the race would be re-swum. The girls powered home into Third place in a PB time of 1:55.70 and narrowly missed 2<sup>nd</sup> place by just 12/100<sup>th</sup> of a second a podium finish and a NSW All Schools bronze medal. The girls also contested the 200 Medley relay where they were seeded 5<sup>th</sup>. They completed the race narrowly missing another bronze medal by 1.31 seconds and finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place in a PB time of 2:11.24. Macy Morley also placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 13yrs 50 Butterfly event securing another bronze medal for her collection in a time of 31.17. Macy is now eligible to compete at the National All Schools competition to be held in Adelaide later in the year. The achievements of this team has ranked Mudgee High in 30<sup>th</sup> place out of 157 schools including CHS, Catholic and Independents. A great reward for months of training. I would like to thank the girls parents for their support throughout the season and also a big thankyou to their coach Mick O'Sullivan.



Peter Smith – Swim Team Manager

## Community Notices

### ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH – CONFIRMATION 2013

Confirmation preparation sessions for baptised Anglican students will be commencing on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2013 from 4pm to 6pm in the St John's Meeting Room (6 Church Street, Mudgee). Sessions will then continue from 4pm to 6pm on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May, 4<sup>th</sup> June and 11<sup>th</sup> June. The Confirmation service is then scheduled for 5.30pm on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June.

Please contact Fr Max Wood at the St John's Parish Office (6372 1126 or [stjohnsmudgee@bigpond.com](mailto:stjohnsmudgee@bigpond.com)) for further information and to obtain an application form.

### MAORI – PACIFIC ISLANDER SOCIAL GATHERING

Mudgee Bowling Club

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013

At 6.30pm

Telephone Maria for Bookings – 0400 224 230

### AUSTRALIAN DECORATIVE AND FINE ARTS SOCIETY

Lectures are held Friday evenings at 6.30pm sharp at Cudgegong Valley School Hall, Madeira Road, Mudgee  
Upcoming lectures are:

17<sup>th</sup> May - Paul Brunton – Henry Lawson – Australia's Most Famous Writer

14<sup>th</sup> June – Barry Venning – Napoleon and His Artists

26<sup>th</sup> July – Mary Alexander – Meet Me at the Waldorf: The Extraordinary Story of Two Iconic Hotels Built on Astor Feuds, Fortunes and Art Patronage

### SPONSOR

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