

Wednesday

1 May 2017

Term 2 – Week 2



# MHS Newsletter

Mudjee High School – Locked Bag 2004, MUDGEE NSW 2850

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A Member of the  
Cudgong Learning  
Community



SEE OUR WEBSITE  
FOR THE FULL  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Coming Events:

- May 9 – May 11  
Naplan Testing
- May 19 – Athletics  
Carnival
- May 22 – P&C  
Meeting in Library  
7pm
- May 31 - Cross  
Country
- June 16 – Yr 11 & 12  
Vaccinations

## This issue:

- Principal's Message
- P&C & SRR Awards
- Athletics Carnival  
and Cross Country
- PBL Focus
- Britannica School  
Online comes to  
MHS
- Macquarie University
- Community  
Announcements
- Sponsorship

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### ANZAC Day

I know I touched on the remembrance service last week and thanked those students who took the time to be involved in what is perhaps Australia's most solemn day of the year. I would now like to thank Lowanna Paulson and Tulsa Rumney, both from Year 11, who gave an excellent presentation at our Wednesday assembly (26/4) on the enduring importance of ANZAC Day.



I have included just a couple of images from ANZAC day in this week's editorial.

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### Fake news and alternative facts

Anyone familiar with George Orwell will at once recognise the word newspeak. Coined by Orwell in his seminal dystopic satire, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, newspeak quickly entered the lexicon. It refers to what is often ambiguous, euphemistic language used chiefly in political propaganda.

Sadly, newspeak is alive and well in 2017.

Increasingly we see and hear media commentators referring to "fake news" and "alternative facts." While fake news probably does not strictly constitute newspeak given the pejorative nature of "fake," alternative facts most certainly does. When thousands of climate scientists around the planet agree that anthropogenic climate change is real, the fringe arguing that human activity has no effect on climate seek to label their refutation as "alternative facts". It would be nice to think that they are in denial, a natural enough response given the overwhelming scale of what is arguably the most pressing issue facing human kind, because if they are not in denial, they are simply lying.

The reality of alternative facts is that they are not alternative facts; they are lies. As such, they are of no more use in arriving at an informed understanding than is fake news.

Unfortunately, information and misinformation look so much alike these days. Perhaps it is because we live in an age when anyone with a keyboard and a platform – a website, blog or social media account – can be published and read by hundreds, thousands or even millions of others. It is estimated that 90% or all news consumed now comes via Facebook and Google. Little wonder *Fairfax* is shedding jobs. The days of professional journalism seem numbered.

The biggest pitfall for kids, particularly when researching in what is now an information-rich world, is the reliability of that information. For example, if you search “Who writes Wikipedia?” the answer provided on the Wikipedia site is:

*You do! ... anyone can be bold and edit an existing article or create a new one, and volunteers do not need to have any formal training (and) Almost all Wikipedians are volunteers.*

If they have not been already, alarm bells should now be ringing. Think about it: Volunteers who need not possess any formal training produce perhaps the most used information source on the planet, Wikipedia. Without professionalism, what happens to the principles of good research and accurate reporting? What happens to ethics?

At Mudgee High, we are looking to wean students off Wikipedia. Many teachers at MHS already regularly provide students with lists of previewed websites that can be used to better flesh out understanding in a range of contexts.

We are now adding an exciting new resource.

This year we have secured a resource called *Britannica Online*. The same people who have been writing the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* for more than 250 years produce it. Accessible at both school and at home via a user name and login, it promises to bring a great deal more accuracy to the research our students undertake.

Like all good things it costs, but it promises to be a great weapon in the fight against fake news and alternative facts.

Until next week!

Wayne Eade  
Principal

## **TERM 2 WEEK 1 AWARDS**

**SRR AWARD:** Mana Dermott Hopa Yr 8

## **ATHLETICS CARNIVAL 2017**

The athletics carnival is on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> May (Week 4) at Walkers Field. This is a normal school day and attendance 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 ideas that underpins the carnival is participation, having fun and getting involved in house spirit. Students are encouraged to participate in all events and to get dressed up in house colours – Blaxland – red, Cunningham – yellow, Lawson – blue and Wentworth – green

The school 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 prior to the carnival and students will be informed of this date in the daily messages during roll call. This includes the 800m, 1500m, 3000m and triple jump. Students must nominate to attend. They can do this at the PE staffroom.

Parent helpers are greatly appreciated. If you would like to help, please contact the school on 6372 1533.



## **MUDGE HIGH CROSS COUNTRY 2017**

The Cross Country will take place on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> of May (Week 6). It is compulsory for students in years 7, 8, 9 and 10. Students in Years 11-12 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.

The course will start and finish at Walkers Oval and run along the walking track to Lawson Park. Students will walk under teacher supervision to Walkers Oval at the beginning of Period 3 and will be brought back to school by lunch time.

Students will need to listen to the announcements in roll call and on assembly for further information.



# PBL Focus this week

Mudgee High School is a positive behaviour for learning school. We expect all students to follow our universals and be **SAFE, RESPECTFUL and RESPONSIBLE** whilst in the Toilets



## To be Safe

- Wash Hands
- Dispose of waste properly



## To be Respectful

- Follow staff instructions
- Show consideration for others privacy
- Leave the area promptly

## To be Responsible:

- Show consideration for others personal space and property
- Report damage and issues to staff
- During class times carry a permission slip from the teacher

A photograph of a yellow "MHS - Out of Class Permission Slip" form. The form includes fields for Date, Time, and Room. It has a section for "STUDENT NAME:" and "Please allow the student named to report to:". There are checkboxes for reporting to: Principal, Deputy Principal, Mr Finter / Mr Browning, Counsellor, Head Teacher, Front Office, Staffroom, Library, Toilet (checked), and Other. There are also checkboxes for Message and Collection. At the bottom, there are checkboxes for "Immediately" and "At end of Lesson", a "SIGNED:" line, and a "Return to class at:" line with a space for initials.

## BRITANNICA SCHOOL ONLINE COMES TO MHS

Information in our modern world is not in short supply. With over 4 billion pages of information on the internet, it is not possible for one person to 'click' (not read) every page available online in a lifetime. If you add information that is 'entertain news' and 'fake news' disguised as real news in small 'news bites' spread rapidly through social media formats like Facebook, then information for all of us becomes a minefield of both excess and validity.

A humorous example of this is the case of two American teenage boys that decided to change the facts on Wikipedia. They literally wrote themselves into history as the people that had devised the mathematical formula for x-rays. This 'contribution to humanity' went unchecked or validated for two years. In that time it was taken up 'as fact' by Google and their names also managed to grace the pages of several medical websites around the world. Eventually, the truth came out. Imagine how many school assignments also managed to write both boys names into historical fact?

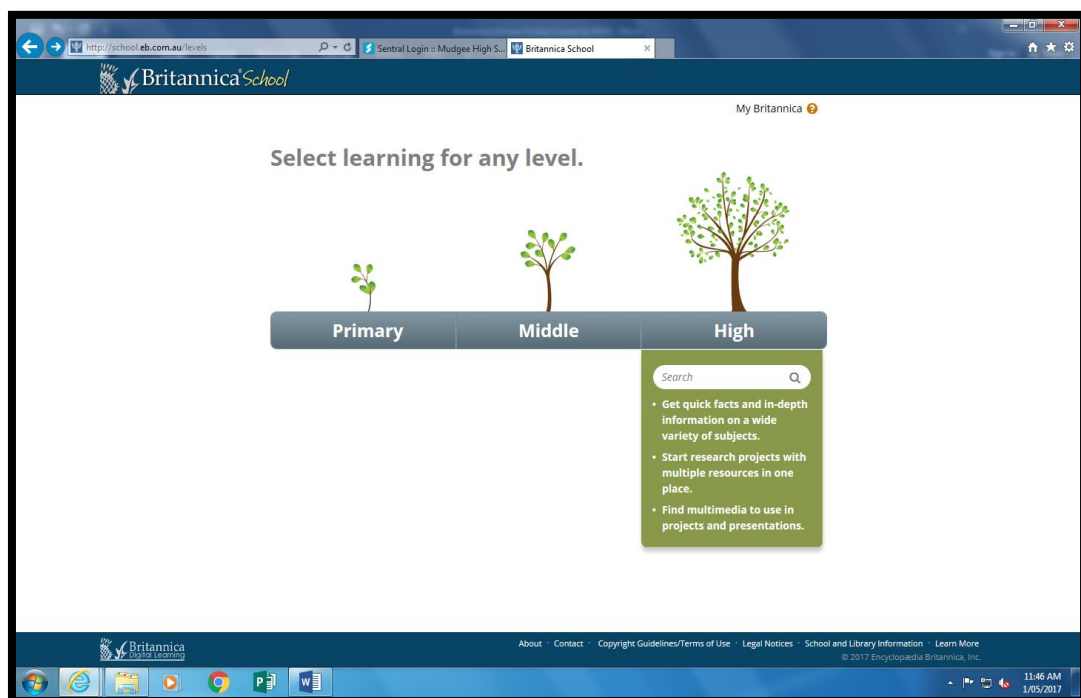
Wikipedia has its place and Google certainly has become the information highway of the digital age. However, sourcing and providing quality information for young people is the challenge.

To assist our students to access and utilise quality information for class and assignment work, Mudgee High School has just invested in a digital version of 'Britannica School Online' for our school community. This is available for use at school and at home to students at no cost. We believe this is an investment in our digital citizens of the future. Britannica School Online works like a 'search engine' for finding information and provides that information as text, videos and images. It also allows students to choose between three different levels of information (Primary, Middle and High), that will cater to just about any academic need. It is much more than just an encyclopaedia but based in its origins and reputation as one of the most reputable encyclopaedias in the world.

Britannica School Online can be accessed by students at home through a link on our school website [www.mudgee-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/](http://www.mudgee-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/) or by accessing it directly at <http://school.eb.com.au/> on the internet. It is also easily located on all school computers as a saved 'shortcut'.

Once on the site, students will be prompted for a username (logon) and password. These will be emailed to all students through their DET Student Portal this week. The logon details can also be obtained from Library staff at any time.

As we move forward with Britannica Online within our school this year, staff will be asking students to utilise the resource for research tasks within school and at home where internet is available.





**MACQUARIE**  
University

Macquarie University invites Year 11 and 12 students, and their parents, to our undergraduate information evening on Wednesday 17 May, 5pm – 8pm.

The information session will run twice on the evening, giving your students the flexibility to attend at a time that suits them.

Students and parents will have the opportunity to chat with staff, current students and representatives from the Universities Admissions Centre and have all their questions answered.

If you have any questions, contact the Future Students Team at (02) 9850 7250 or [futurestudents@mq.edu.au](mailto:futurestudents@mq.edu.au)

We look forward to welcoming your students to our campus.

Kind regards

Tristan Tulloch  
Recruitment Coordinator (Undergraduate)

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MUDGEE DIRTBIKES**  
MUDGEE & DISTRICTS MOTORCYCLE CLUB

**CLUB MUDGEE**  
THE MUDGEE SOLDIERS CLUB LIMITED

**18-MARCH**  
**8-APRIL**  
**20-MAY**  
**5-AUGUST**  
**21-OCTOBER**

**ARENA-X RACING**  
**FREE SPECTATING**  
**FULL CANTEEN**  
**RACING STARTS AT 9AM**

*Family fun*

**Zeromx Graphics**

**LocalSearch**

**Sponsors:** VIRGO SECURITY SERVICES, NSW First Aid, PARAGON HOTEL MUDGEE, Mudgee Honda Centre, coateshire, BUTCHERY, BIKEWORX MUDGEE, YAMAHA & SAZUKI, ENDURO ADVENTURE, 4M Electrical Services, ROB MC, MURKINS EARTHMOVING PTY LIMITED, LONDON FULFILLMENT PLUMBING, The Shed Company.

**Free Trial Classes**  
**EP PHYSI**

**Classes back 15/2**  
**CUDGEGONG VALLEY** physical culture

**Classes back 14/2**  
**MACQUARIE RIVER** physical culture

**WEDNESDAY'S MUDGEE CLASSES**  
Perry Hall Studios  
18 Perry St (Upstairs Studio)

**TUESDAY'S DUBBO CLASSES**  
St Johns Primary School  
138 Sheraton Rd

**4.00-4.45....3-8 yrs**  
**4.45-5.30....9-12 yrs**  
**5.30-6.15....13-16 yrs**  
**6.15-7.00....Ladies**  
**7.00-7.45....Seniors**

**4.00-4.45....3-8 yrs**  
**4.45-5.30....9-12 yrs**  
**5.30-6.15....Ladies**  
**6.15-7.00....Seniors**

**info@physicalculture.net.au**  
**0417 225 948**



## MUDGEE JUNIOR GOLF – PIZZA REGISTRATION DAY FOR TERM 2

Where: Mudgee Golf Club

When: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Time: Golf 4pm – Pizza 4.45pm

Open to all Boys and Girls 5 to 16 years

Parents and friends are invited and welcome

We look forward to seeing you all for another Term of Golf and good fun

THE WESTPAC CHOPPER PRESENTS

5<sup>th</sup>  
MAY  
2017

MC FOR THE NIGHT: KEN SUTCLIFFE

'BLOCKER' ROACH

SHAUN TIMMINS

ANDREW 'BOBCAT' RYAN

CRAIG FITZGIBBON

– MEET AND GREET WITH THE COUNTRY/CITY TEAMS  
– HEAR THE STORIES OF SOME ORIGIN GREATS  
– CHARITY AUCTION AND SO MUCH MORE!

LEAGUE & LEGENDS  
DINNER 6:30 START  
TICKETS \$70 INC 2 COURSE MEAL  
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WESTPAC & THE MGC  
CONTACT ROCHELLE MCDONALD 0413558973

MUDGEE GOLF CLUB

CRL

Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service

COUNTRY & CITY ORIGIN

PosterMyWall.com

## SPONSORSHIP

MUDGEE HIGH SCHOOL – LINK PROGRAM

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

**GLENCORE**

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