OUR STUDENTS ADVISE LOCAL POLITICIANS

On Friday 1st August Wyong High School hosted the launch of the establishment of the Dobell Youth Advisory Committee. Invited by Federal Member for Dolbell, Karen McNamara, WHS Year 10 students Georgia Broadbent and Nathan Connor joined other local high school representatives in this the first of many committee meetings. Students were encouraged to discuss issues concerning their local community and schools and work in partnership with the federal member to initiate projects to support youth in our community. WHS was delighted to be chosen as the first venue for this important initiative as it relates directly to our own focus on the importance of student voice to our school governance. Also in attendance for the launch was the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, the honourable Mr Scott Ryan.

IMPORTANT DATES

WEEK 7

25th Aug - RSA Training for Year 11 and 12
26th Aug - RCG Training for Year 11 and 12
26th, 27th, 28th, 29th Aug - Year 11 Ski Trip

WEEK 8

3rd Sep - Year 9 and 10 Open Oz Tag Gala Day
4th Sep - WHS Community Market Day
4th, 5th, 6th Sep - NSWCHS Athletics

WEEK 9

9th Sep - Year 7 and 8 Open Oz Tag Gala Day
11th Sep - Central Coast Chess Competition
11th Sep - Year 10 Police Driver Safety Talk

WEEK 10

19th Sep - Year 12 Farewell Assembly
Our Wyong High students, Rebekah Ford, Billy McGovern and others taking the sheep for a stroll.
Farm Field Day

Invitation

The agriculture students at Wyong High would like to invite the kindergarten and other students in composite classes to visit the school farm.

The students are preparing for a FIELD DAY on Tuesday, 16th September. An invitation will be extended to the general public to visit the farm. The day will be between 10 am and finish by 2pm. We would be pleased to have the feeder schools share the day with us.

The primary schools can vary these times to suit their individual needs. Each group of students will be provided with their own 2 guides to escort them around the various points of interest. (If a school wants to divide the students into a number of small groups, each group will have their own guides.)

The students will have 11 interest areas to visit: collect eggs from the hens, sit on the tractor, pat the pigs, sheep, and the day old chickens. Groups can visit the Aboriginal rock, check the yabby trap, collect mandarins under the fruit trees, watch a sheep being shorn and pat the horses. A brief talk will be given before patting each of the animals.

Lunch is available at a cost of $2 and will include a sausage sandwich and a cup of orange juice. Numbers are needed of course. There is a single toilet available at the farm and the nearby hall has a number of toilets.

The Ag Farm will also have a stall at the Community Market Day where visitors and students can pay $1 to suggest a new name for each of the four new piglets (25c per pig).

Mr Unger - Teacher, Agriculture

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HSIE News

France/Germany April 2015

Finally we have 20 very lucky students locked in for the history excursion to France and Germany.

**France:** Students will first be travelling to Paris (4 nights sightseeing in Paris, Palace of Versailles etc.) and then 5 days touring around key WW1 sites on the Western Front. Then will head to Germany by train.

**Germany:** Arriving in Munich, students will 5 nights and days to explore the city, visit Dachau concentration camp and Neuschwanstein Castle etc. From there they will travel by to Burghausen to visit local sites, Salzburg and attend school for two days.

Mrs Harkness - Teacher, HSIE

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Left: One of the adorable new piglets, settling in nicely at the Ag Farm. They all need to be named so come by the stall at the Community Market Day and make a suggestion!

Above: The historical and picturesque city of Burghausen.

The beautiful city of Paris at dusk.
NAIDOC WEEK
NAIDOC week fell in the school holidays and was celebrated at Wyong High School during Week 2. We once again took the opportunity to learn about and show our respect for the history and traditions of our local area and the nation. To celebrate, a variety of activities was held across the school. They included the interactive Kadul performance by Ryka Ali where Year 7 and 8 students, our exchange, international and Aboriginal students and the teachers demonstrated a range of their talents by participating in the traditional dancing and singing! In addition there was a smoking ceremony and a visit to the rock with local legend, Gavi Duncan. Cultural activities with staff involved learning about and tasting bush tucker, making art and music, playing Indigenous games, yarning and so much more! We would like to acknowledge the Prime Minister’s office which helped fund the activities and the students for their keen participation. We look forward to celebrating again in 2015.

Ms Batha - HT HSIE, AECR

TERM FOCUS: BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITY TIES

TERM 3 is always a very productive term and it is wonderful to see our Year 8 and Year 10 students putting so much energy and thought into their subject choices. It is also with an element of sadness that I farewell Year 12, who started the same day I did at Wyong HS in 2009! All the best to a great group of young people.

Mr Carter - HT CAPA

It's been a very busy Term 3. Years 7 and 9 students have been involved in a variety of engaging and challenging learning activities and it is great to see high levels of participation when I visit classrooms. I wish Year 11 all the best for their upcoming yearly exams and I urge them to think carefully about any subject changes as they move on to their HSC studies.

Phil Reynolds
Deputy Principal

Term Success Stories
It was fantastic to see the wonderful turnout of the Wyong Learning Community at this year’s showcase. This annual event allows our students to demonstrate the breadth and depth of performing arts talent in our community. We also held our second student voice forum on Wednesday 20th August. I love being able to hear the great ideas our students have about all aspects of leadership and learning.

Megan Johnson
Principal

CAPA NIGHT SUCCESS
June, 25th 2014

Once again CAPA presented an excellent evening of music, dance and visual arts to a full house. It was great to see so many students and families in attendance, supporting our school and enjoying many great musical performances. The evening kicked off with the opening of our visual arts exhibition. This year exhibitors were acknowledged with a People’s Choice Award and the winner was photographer Chloe in Year 9 with a self-portrait. Acts ranged from individuals performing solos to bands and dance groups. The dance team from our Support Unit received the loudest applause with their rendition of Dynamite. “Technical Difficulties” (Year 10) brought the audience to their feet with an encore performance. It was such a high standard of performance by all students, showcasing a diversity of skills and talent. If you missed it this year be sure to buy your family ticket for next year in what promises to be an “as good as or even better night out!” Thanks to the members of our stage crew who were excellent, and to the Food Technology students who volunteered their time to ensure the evening ran smoothly. Our special thanks to our Master of Ceremony, our magician extraordinaire, Beau of Year 11. See you next year!

Mr Carter - HT CAPA
HAVE YOU NOTICED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CHANGES IN YOUR CHILD?

- Mood changes
- Social withdrawal
- Behaviour changes
- Excessive worrying
- Violent outbursts
- Intense emotional changes
- Difficulty concentrating
- Alcohol and/or drug use
- Change in school performance
- Increased absences from school
- Unexplained weight loss/gain

If you have, your child may be experiencing stresses that are putting them at risk of poor mental health.

WYconnect is a family mental health support service in Wyong that can help your family improve its health and wellbeing, strengthen relationships and connect you with your community.

We work with children, youth and families to strengthen what is already going well to reduce the risk of developing poor mental health. WYconnect can provide short term support or long term support specifically tailored to your family’s needs, including information, referrals, advocacy, family action plans, education and group programs.

To find out how WYconnect can assist your family, call 1300 654 269 or visit www.wyconnect.org.au

This service is funded by The Australian Government Department of Social Services
Meet our amazing new staff member:
Nerida Cronin

**When did you start at Wyong High School?** I commenced teaching English and History in 1991. After extended maternity leave, I was thrilled to be appointed to Wyong High School at the beginning of Term Two.

**What is your favourite thing about Wyong High School?** It is impossible to choose just one favourite! I have been warmly welcomed into the school community and feel very much at home. As a lover of heritage architecture, the high ceilings, enormous windows and old fireplaces of Blue Block appeal to my imagination.

**What is your favourite food?** Lamb roast piled high with baked veggies and extra gravy.

**Who is your idol and why?** My dearly-departed Nanna. She left school at the age of twelve to work as a cook. Being small of stature, she had to stand on a wooden crate to prepare hot meals for a dozen workers. I loved and admired her deeply.

**What is the best advice you have ever been given?** Do your best and leave the rest to God.

**Please finish this sentence: Education provides...** society with a precious gift that keeps giving back to itself.

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**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**Research in the School**

The school is participating in the Aspirations Study, a research study run by Professor Jenny Gore and her colleagues at the University of Newcastle. Parents of students in Years 7, 9 and 11 have the opportunity to fill out a 2014 parent/carer survey at http://goo.gl/KiWvB. If you require a paper copy, please request one from the school office.

For more information or to download a withdrawal form, please visit www.newcastle.edu.au/aspirations.

Ms Connally - Teacher, Careers

**CANTENE UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT**

The Wyong High School Canteen is under new management. Look forward to an exciting new menu and tasty, healthy food for our growing kids!

**PICTURESQUE MOMENTS**

Sian Huntley, Preston Daniel and Victoria Honeyman dressed for success on the starting line at the WHS Athletics carnival last term.

**EARLY MARK FOR TERM 4!**

All our hardworking staff will finish a day early, on Thursday 18th December 2014.

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Like us on Facebook to keep up to date with what’s happening at Wyong High School!