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Dates to Remember

Monday 15th

- Y10 Assembly - 9:15am
- Y9 Assembly - 11:15am

Tuesday 16th

- Y8 Assembly - 9:15am
- Y7 Assembly - 11:15am

Wednesday 17th

- Presentation Assembly - 11:00am

Wednesday 28th January

- Years 7, 11 & 12 return

Thursday 29th January

- Years 8, 9 & 10 return



Diary Dates

P&C Meeting
Tuesday, 16th
December
7:30pm - ILC

Principal's Report

As the 2014 school year draws to a close, I would like to take the opportunity, on behalf of the staff of Merewether High to thank everyone for an outstanding year and wish our students and parents a very restful and safe holiday and a merry Christmas. To each and every one of you, thank you for your continued support throughout the year.

To those families who leave us, thank you for the years of involvement and support, stay in touch and let us know of the continued successes of our students.

In the past month since our last bulletin many activities have been completed by students and staff. The following are but just a few of those events.

Hunter Secondary Schools' Sporting Blues Presentation – five of our students received awards this year at the Hunter Blues Awards. Nicholas Sonntag for Swimming, Patrick Moore for Triathlon/Cross Country, Harry Johnson-Holmes for Rugby Union, Kimberley Williams for Netball and Hamish Lorang the Merv Cotterill Memorial Award for involvement in the organisational, cultural and sporting aspects of the school, along with demonstrated roles in leadership and sportsmanship.





Year 7 and 8 Board Meetings, Year 9 Inquiry Based Learning Presentations – students have participated in interviews where they have discussed the learning process and outcomes they have experienced while completing their studies. This process provides students practice in an interview process but the main purpose is to provide students with the opportunity to reflect on the way they learn, the areas that work well and the areas they need to develop.

All My Own Work – all students commencing Year 10 in 2015 have completed the Board of Studies mandatory course. The program ensures students understand their responsibilities in relation to plagiarism before they commence their studies for the Preliminary Higher School Certificate Course.

Prefects' Investiture – our Captains and Prefects for 2015 were inducted into their roles on 28th November. The prefects and their parents joined Mrs Gilbertson, Mrs Southward, Mrs Harvey and I for lunch, to celebrate their induction.

Leadership Conference – our School Captains and Prefects attended the annual conference held in Sydney. The conference was attended by 3 500 students where future leaders have the opportunity to hear inspirational speakers from across Australia about their experiences in leadership. This was an opportunity for our leaders to reflect on their own leadership styles.

The end of year brings some changes in staff for 2014. Mrs West, Head Teacher Social Science and Mr Gill, Teacher Social Science, retire after many years of service to education. Mrs West's and Mr Gill's contributions to the school have not just been in the classroom but across the school in many extracurricular programs. Mr Poullos, Teacher Humanities has been successful in gaining a permanent position at Warners Bay High School and Mrs Campbell, Teacher Social Science a transfer to Narrabri High School. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs West, Mr Gill, Mr Poullos and Mrs Campbell for their service to Merewether High and the efforts they have made to provide a quality learning environment for their students.

Throughout next week we will take the time to celebrate the many successes of our students this year. Our celebrations culminate on Wednesday 17th December with our Annual Presentation Day Assembly commencing at 11.00am. The P&C will provide morning tea after the assembly in the Learning Centre. Please come along and join us in celebrating the outstanding efforts of our students.

Year 12 BBQ – this will be held on Thursday 18th December at 11.00am. All 2014 Year 12 students are invited to attend. Our Prefects and Captains 2015 will be providing the BBQ.

English

Yet again I am able to begin this report by highlighting the outstanding successes and achievements of our debating students. Last week Rosanna Gately, Lucy Witherdin, Callum Donnelly, Harry Su and Rachel McVicar represented the school and Hunter Central Coast region at the State Debating Championships Camp at The Women's College of Sydney University. They were involved in debating four initial rounds and successfully reached the semi finals where they defeated Koorinal High School. They then competed in the final against Sydney Boys High School and we are pleased to report that they **won this debate and are now the Years 7 & 8 NSW DEBATING CHAMPIONS.**

A total of 413 teams from across NSW entered this competition and to win the final is an outstanding achievement. The camp afforded a wonderful opportunity for our students to develop their skills at a whole new level while forming wonderful friendships with other talented and skilled debaters. This is the first time that a Hunter Central Coast team has brought home the trophy and we are incredibly proud of their success.



STATE WINNERS:

Rachel, Callum, Lucy, Rosanna and Harry at the presentation of the NSW Premier's Junior Debating Championship Trophy.



Amelia Reballato (year 10) also had the opportunity to represent the school as part of the Hunter Central Coast Regional debating team at the Years 9 & 10 State Debating camp. Amelia and the Hunter Central Coast team competed in the State final at this camp and came runners up in the competition.

These outstanding successes are testament to the hard work and high levels of motivation demonstrated by all the students and staff involved in our debating programs throughout 2014. Special thank you to Ms Burdekin and Ms Davis who have spent considerable time in 2014 coaching and coordinating our debating squads.

HSC students should use the five week holiday to familiarise themselves with all of their set texts. Students in Advanced English should read *King Richard III* and *Brave New World* whilst students in Standard English should read *The Life and Crimes of Harry Lavender* and *A Man With Five Children*. In addition to this, students should visit the BOS website at http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/hsc_exams/ to familiarise themselves with the style and structure of the HSC English Examinations, Marking Guidelines, Notes from the Marking Centre and other examination resources.

As this will be the last bulletin for the year, the English Faculty would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy holiday period. We look forward to seeing you all back in 2015.

Esme Corney (HT English)

Moospaper

ABC Studios Tour

Patrick Wells, Year 12

Getting up to meet a 6:20am departure time from Broadmeadow Train Station isn't considered an 'exciting' task by most, especially on a Monday morning, but when you know you are going to meet the ABC's respected journalists and newsreaders, and possibly get on TV yourself, this task seems more exciting than two wheelbarrows of AstroTurf!

From the moment all 15 excited journalists-to-be (including Mrs Abbo) were hustled onto the platform at Sydney Central, everything was exciting and fascinating! We walked past the great clock at Central station, a McDonald's, coffee shops, lots of people, skyscrapers, another McDonald's and more coffee shops until we reached ABC studios in Ultimo, Sydney.

We walked through a giant entrance hall and discovered the ABC News 24 studio which we could see into through a large viewing window. We spent a lot of time watching the presenter read the script which is reflected onto the front of the camera lens and managing to get our own reflections, from the glass on TV as well! Pretty cool! We were then led into a large, dark room which we soon realised to be the ABC Q&A studio! Many photos were taken of us sitting in the seats where Malcolm Turnbull, Tanya Plibersek and the legendary Tony Jones were to sit that night. We then listened closely to talks about passion for your job from highly-respected ABC profiles such as the well-known newsreader and reporter, Jeremy Fernandez. We then had some close and personal Q&A sessions with several speakers including a Western Sydney reporter, an ABC marketing manager and an IT technician.

Next up was a tour through a maze of ABC corridors to find the ABC 702 Radio Sydney broadcasting studios. We were led into a room with several microphones standing in the middle and piles of cords snaking around the room. It was an actual band recording room for ABC 702 radio! It was complete the classic window through which we could see the technician smiling at us and fiddling with a few of a million controls. We caught the lift to get to the next part of our tour and, after we all got off, Tom, our tour guide informed us that the stranger in the lift was another well know ABC presenter (I guess these brushes with fame are common at the ABC).





We were then shown the warehouse-like room behind the studios at the ABC. We saw a full size green screen, a giant lift for transporting sets (that makes our school lift look like a baby in comparison), the make-up room where Kerry O'Brien Brown had been just ten minutes before, a real green room (that was actually blue) and the Media Watch studio. Then came the most exciting part of the whole day! We were led to the studio where "Lateline" is filmed and were split up among real production team roles including cameraman/woman, stage manager, newsreader, and interviewee. About half of us stayed in the studio, while the other half went to the dark production room out the back with at least 30 television screens. With the help of the ABC staff, we then made our own (fake) news production with real news clips!

MHS Repower: Learning to be Heroes

Freya Dastoor, Year 12

Saving the world doesn't necessarily need a cape and boots. Talking to Amanda Burrows, an environmental education consultant who visited the school in week eight, this was one of the most important things I learned- but it wasn't the only thing. Amanda's workshop day centered on grant applications and other ways of funding MHS Repower's bigger projects in the school, and everyone involved was tasked with practicing the sort of applications that (hopefully) will help us get some of our projects off the ground next year.

Previously this term, the elite team of volunteers in MHS Repower (sometimes known simply as 'the greeny group') led by Mrs. Donnelly, have given up some of their own time to take part in a research and planting day (some of our efforts can be seen in the replanted box gardens of the quad). With the remaining money from the fundraising at Green Day, the garden planting enabled us to boost some of the ecosystems in our school - of which previously, there was little (unless you count the mosquitoes and the astro-turf...).

We are hoping to similarly improve other areas of the school in the next year (and certainly, some of our longer term projects will stretch on further), and are looking forward to next year's Green Day, in which the students of MHS never fail to participate enthusiastically. To supplement this income, however, grants need to be involved, and it was Amanda's visit that took us a little step closer to achieving those goals. As she pointed out to us that Thursday, huge environmental problems faced by the world today (such as the island-large conglomerations of plastic waste in the middle of our oceans) are not going to be solved by one superhero, appearing from nowhere and magically blasting it all away - it's up to us, each last one of us, to take on a little of the responsibility. To reduce the waste we produce and to be careful where it goes. To take part in the fight against climate change and global warming - the fight to save the creatures on this planet, and the habitat in which they live- and although they may seem like very large and untouchable issues, it starts by knowing that if you take part, if you step up to the plate: you can make a difference too.

So sorry, Recycle Guy: While we appreciate your great costume and care for the planet earth, we won't be relying solely on *you* anymore - because we're taking matters into our own hands, and step by step, just like you, we're saving the world .

The Great Big End of Year

Bernadette Callaghan & Cara Rixon, Year 10

The time has come for the annual end-of-year slouch when every student and teacher waits anxiously in class for the beginning of the holidays, much like how one would imagine a scene from High School Musical; students gazing wistfully out classroom windows as teachers drone on about the prospect of next year's subjects. This is the case for Years 7-10, at least. The unlucky souls who find themselves in Year 12 are still working around the clock in preparation for their final HSC exams and assessments.

Still, surely they, the most damndest of souls, look towards the summer holidays with a sense of yearning and longing. They seem so close, yet simultaneously so elusive. With Christmas around the corner, the New Year on the horizon, and only one week of the school year left it seems that only the most academic of students are left avidly paying attention. The final assessments of the year are behind us and we can all breathe a sigh of relief and finally relax; until the reports come home. The sun-drenched days of beach-going, the starry nights spent with sparklers in hand, the family holidays that turn out to be surprisingly okay in the end. All of these things are just within grasp of Merewether High students now; we're on the home stretch.

Summer holidays give us moments to remember and cherish for years to come, and from all of us here at the Merewether Journalism Team we wish every reader an abundance of them.



Year 6 Orientation Day

Jacob Gamble, Year 9

One hundred and eighty Year 6 students arrived at Merewether High School on December 3rd for their Orientation Day. This was a pleasant surprise for most MHS students and an insightful opportunity for the Year 7 students of 2015.

Throughout the day the students and their parents were welcomed with an opening address from Mrs Harvey followed by an introductory tour around the school with the prefects and peer support leaders. The Year 6 students then engaged in activities run by Year 9 Peer Support Leaders before they wrote either a biography or a news article about themselves in a literacy lesson. Next was a fun practical activity such as music, PE or a twine throwing game involving students creating a net with twine where Mr Poullos disappointed everyone by not jumping on it. The day concluded with a BBQ lunch provided by the SRC.

A big thank you to the SRC helpers, Peer Support Leaders, prefects, teachers, office staff and P&C, as well as the future Year Advisors, Miss Collins and Mrs Allen, whose commitment to the organisation of this day has been extraordinary. The Year 6s most certainly enjoyed themselves and I'm sure everyone is looking forward to seeing them in 2015.

Year 8.9 Drama Performance Night

Rizina Yadav, Year 9.

Fairy floss, The Statue of Liberty, elderly people and turtles – these were just some of the features from the Year 8 and 9 Drama Night held on Tuesday 25th November in the Learning Centre. Titled 'Channel 8.9' the night allowed for Year 8 and 9 to showcase some of the work undertaken in the Drama course in Semester 2 of this year.

Beginning at 6 p.m. the night started with a music video, which featured Year 8 students who were dressed as different characters and who danced to music, namely Fancy by Iggy Azalea. Using various musical instruments such as tambourines, triangles and didgeridoos as accessories the video caught the eye of all audience members.

The next captivating performance was by Year 9, and incorporated special effects and make-up with the characters dressed as elderly people living in a retirement home. The different characters expressed the various stereotypes the general public has of elderly people, creating a humorous, yet meaningful play.

Merewether News was another highlight of the night with students from Year 8 lighting up the stage with stories such as 'Merewether High has recently opened a gym for lunchtime use. The effect of this has been mind-blowing, creating muscular super smart super-beings that are slowly taking over the world.' Further interesting news stories followed, with stories about tattoos, a donkey, lawsuits and an international lawn mowing championships.

The night concluded with the Algorithm March; a dance fad originating in Japan where dancers perform in lines, moving canon style one at a time. In the end it creates the effect of a production line.

Back stage was very hectic to say the least with preparations for the performances. Students streamed in and out: getting their make-up and costuming done, controlling music, organising props, waiting to go on stage and practicing lines.

Congratulations to Ms. Sellers and all students involved for an engaging and well-executed night!





Social Science

On Friday the 21st of November, 18 students from Year 8 travelled to Toronto Workers Club to participate in the Junior Geography Trivia School Challenge. We all met at Broadmeadow Station at 8:15am and got off at Fassifern, then travelled by bus to the Worker's Club. There were several other competing schools, including Maitland High School, Narara Valley High School and Gosford High School. We had 3 teams of 6 people in each. There were many opportunities throughout the day to win various prizes. We were tested on our knowledge of countries' specific locations, major rivers, animals and their habitats, countries' Coat of Arms, capital cities, languages, seas, etc. We stopped for a lunch break - a serving of hot chips, and hot dogs. By the end of the rounds we were all eager to see where our 3 teams had placed in the competition. Our Merewether teams had earned 6th, 4th, and 2nd place overall, trailing Gosford High School who came first by a few points. We caught the train back to Broadmeadow Station after a long wait due to train delays, with the addition of humid weather. We all found this day to be very rewarding. We thank all the teachers for organising a memorable day.

Sharon Teh

University of Newcastle Business Plan Competition – Winners

The Social Science faculty is very proud to announce that one of our competition entries from our Preliminary Business Studies class has been successful in winning this competition. The 'Build-a-Burger' team consisting of Harry Johnson-Holmes, Sam Pearson and Luke Ellis, successfully presented their business plan to a panel of academics from the University Business School. The boys beat a field of 400 entries from across the state. They were presented with a cheque for \$2,500 by Nuatali Nelmes on her first day on the job as mayor, \$2,000 for the team and \$500 for the school.



There is also a \$2,000 scholarship offer to the Faculty of Business & Law if the students are successful in gaining a place in a university course. The win was the culmination of a lot of hard work and dedication from the team in constructing a professional business plan and presentation.





Hospitality

Our Preliminary students have completed several mocktail practical lessons while studying the unit "Prepare and Serve Non-Alcoholic Beverages". The finger food prepared included Thai chicken sausage rolls, Mexican bites, Portuguese custard tarts and mini carrot muffins. These items were to accompany the mocktails Island Paradise, Kermit the Frog and a malt smoothie. All students thoroughly enjoyed these practical lessons.

2014 has been another busy year for Hospitality students. Here are some of the highlights:

- ◆ We have had a total of 44 students complete 35 hours of Industry work placements at various venues around Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and Port Stephens.
- ◆ All of our Year 12 students have achieved their Certificate II in Hospitality.
- ◆ Year 12 Hospitality students have catered for the families staying at Ronald McDonald House
- ◆ Preliminary students donated soup to OzHarvest after a practical assessment task. This brings our total donations to over 200kg of food to OzHarvest.
- ◆ Students catered for International Women's Day.
- ◆ Year 10 Accelerated students promoted and supported Food Allergy Week, drawing attention to the 1 in 10 children who will develop a Food Allergy in their lives.
- ◆ Congratulations to ex-student Zoe Drew, a member of last year's Year 12 Hospitality class who is the recipient of a 2013 Australian Vocational Prize. Zoe, who is currently at Tafe completing her Certificate III in Hospitality, received \$2000 in prize money which she is using to assist her in her studies. This is the third year in a row that a Hospitality student from MHS has received this prestigious award.
- ◆ Rachel Leonard from Year 12 is Merewether High School's 2014 Australian Vocational Prize nominee. We will not find out if Rachel is successful until mid-way next year, so keep those fingers crossed.
- ◆ Careerlinks Work Placement Awards for Recognition of Excellence have just been received for our Preliminary students who completed work placement during Week 10 of Term 3.

Congratulations to Jessica Tyler, Jasper Quirk, Ella Cannon, Brooke Nguyen, Scott Conlon, Lesley Huang, Kimberley Dingle, Eloise Callingham, Samuel Relf and Zachary Norgard.

Plans are already underway for 2015 including

- ◆ A Crowne Plaza buffet breakfast and tour of the facilities.
- ◆ A day of coffee making and latte art before students put their new skills to work by running coffee shops.
- ◆ 'Front of House' work placement for our 29 Year 12 students during Week 3.
There will also be a range of catering opportunities and assessment events for our hard working, enthusiastic Hospitality students.

Julie D'Amico and Wendy Rosser
Hospitality Teachers





Year 8 Food Technology - High Tea

Mrs McCudden and Mrs D'Amico's Year 8 Food Technology classes showcased the skills learnt during semester by producing a high tea for invited family and friends. This task was completed in 2 teams - red and black - to see who the champions were. The design brief was to produce food items that would be served in a high tea situation, one team produced 2 sweet and 1 savoury and the other team 1 sweet and 2 savoury. Students had total control over the menu items produced and had to plan in their groups the appropriate invitations, table settings, and job allocations for the service period. A big thank you to all of the parents, grandparents, aunties and even big brothers who came to support the students. Our invited guests had to vote for their favourite team after sampling all of the food items. Tough decisions but it ended up a tie.





Mandatory Technology

Our students have been putting the finishing touches on their major projects in Textiles completing work of a very high standard and they have shown great creativity in their individual designs. We have seen a great variety of projects such as wall hangings, pillows, soft toys, table runners and cushions.



The food component of Technology always proves to be very popular with students and this term didn't disappoint with "The Theme Cake" project. We have had such a huge variety of different themes including doughnuts, Lunny Tunes, gumball machines, packets of popcorn, and reptiles just to name a few. It is always so exciting for our Food Technology staff to see how our student's skills and confidence and enthusiasm develop throughout the semester in Technology.





Year 8 Textile Elective

Year 8 Textile Technology elective have been busy this term with their final practical. They had to utilise two of their new decorative techniques and incorporate them into a soft toy.





World F1 in Schools Competition

Joshua Beverley, Mohammed Al-Mudafer and Daniel Bradley from Year 11 have just returned from competing in the F1 in Schools World Championship. Very early in their Year 9, as Super Sonic Speed, they started F1 in Schools and made it to the State Finals and bowed out.

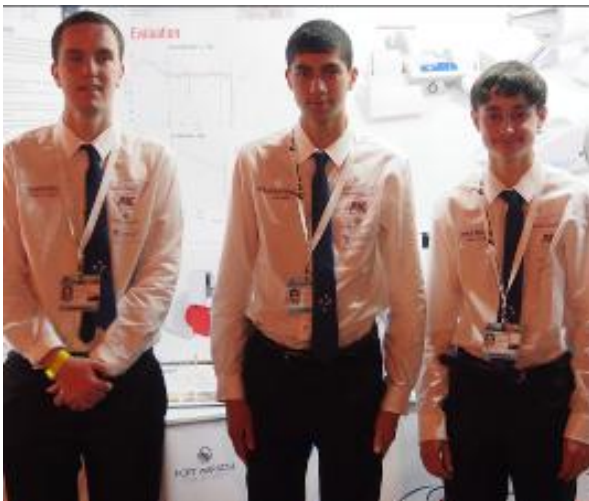
They returned the next year, winning State and progressing to Nationals where to all intents they tied for second. It is with this tied team that they were invited to form a collaboration team and compete in the World Finals as a Wildcard entry. The new team was called Southern Cross F1 and they placed 6th out of 38 international teams, collecting the award for the best portfolio along the way.

The quality of competition was outstanding and the British team were clear winners.

Competing in the middle of Abu Dhabi's Ferrari World, living in a plush hotel opposite the Yas Marina Formula 1 circuit, checking out the McLarens and a Bughatti Veyron parked outside, riding the world's fastest roller coaster, having a private meeting with Daniel Ricciardo, doing a pit lane walk and watching the real Grand Prix racing and experiencing all that Abu Dhabi and Dubai have to offer and so much more was fantastic!

The journey at different times was exhilarating, emotional, exhausting, a little disappointing but ultimately rewarding.

A special thanks to Port Waratah Coal Services, Varley Group and Custom Fluid Power for their support, without which the team would not have been able to compete. What an experience!





LOTE

HUNTER REGION FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM FESTIVAL

Congratulations to **Eamonn Garvey, Davis Harara, Thomas Suters** and **James Purkiss** for their film, *Moyes Change Sa Vie*, which won Best Actor in the inaugural Hunter Region Foreign Language Film Competition. Schools from across the Hunter produced films in French, Italian and Japanese which were then judged and shown on the big screen at the Tower Cinemas.

"We had a great time. AND we won the award for

best acting!!!! It was one of two awards which came with a TROPHY. We also won \$50.

So it was a great time and we hope to participate again next year." James Purkiss, Year 9 French.



NAGISA JAPANESE RESTAURANT

Last week Year 12 Beginners' Japanese and Year 9 Japanese had the opportunity to put their Japanese language and chopstick skills into practice at Nagisa Japanese Restaurant. It was great to catch up with Year 12, 2014 students at the restaurant.



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JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL

In November, Year 12 Japanese students travelled to Sydney for the school screening session of the annual Japanese Film Festival. Students enjoyed the movie, *Time Trip App*, which gave them the opportunity to practise their Japanese but also to study the Edo Period of Japanese history and to compare it to life in the 21st Century.

After the movie, students visited a Japanese supermarket, had lunch at a Japanese restaurant and then visited the amazing Kinokuniya Book Shop.



INDONESIAN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO MHS STUDENT

Carson McGovern of Year 10 was selected as the worthy recipient of the Australian Indonesian Association's CommBank Indonesian Scholarship for a Year 10 student in NSW. This award had a rigorous interview process, including speaking with a panel of native speakers about her application in Indonesian.

As a result of this award she will travel to Yogyakarta in Central Java for a two week immersion course in January 2015. During her stay in Yogyakarta she will attend language classes, visit Indonesian schools and stay with an Indonesian family.

To facilitate her Indonesian studies Carson has taken extra measures such as changing the settings on her phone to Indonesian and reading articles on the internet in Indonesian. We would like to congratulate Carson and wish her well for her travels in the upcoming holidays.





Year 9 German students enjoyed a very tasty German lunch at Omas Kitchen in Watt Street in Newcastle.

Some of the favourite dishes included German sausages, sauerkraut, leberkaese, veal schnitzel and of course German cheesecake and apple strudel. Lecker !!



We would like to say a big 'DANKE SCHÖN' to Herr Chris Deutschmann. Chris arrived at Merewether High at the beginning of 2014 from Germany, where he is already a qualified teacher of English and Biology. He joined us in the language faculty in the role of German Language Teaching Assistant.

He has made a valuable contribution, not only in German language classes, but has also been involved in many other areas of teaching here at Merewether High, including PBL and Marine Biology.

Chris has shared many new ideas and his enthusiasm and passion has been an inspiration to our German language students. He will be sorely missed. We wish him the very best for his future.

Auf Wiedersehen Chris!



Making the decision to apply as a Language Assistant in Australia was probably one of the best I have ever made. Throughout the school year, I have had the opportunity to gather experiences far away from Germany and German Schools. That not only includes a different school system, it also includes the cultural experience and philosophy, which is much different than one would imagine. Right from the start, I was warmly welcomed by the staff in this school and especially Carole Raby, the best mentor a Language Assistant could ever have, made this year a unique experience. I have had the chance to improve my English and test many different teaching methods. I also learned a great deal about teaching from many other teachers in this school, who welcomed me into their classrooms to observe subjects other than German. I would especially like to thank Rachel Tonks for allowing me to teach some classes of Marine Science, one of my specialist subject areas.

I have really enjoyed my time at Merewether High. I can only encourage every teacher to take up any opportunity to experience teaching in other schools. Thanks to all, especially Carole, who made my year so wonderful. I will miss the school with these awesome Merewether High students and staff. I look forward to coming back to visit again one day.

Chris Deutschmann



CAPA

Wicked Excursion

Music, Drama and Visual Art students as well as members of music ensembles travelled to Sydney on the 26th of November to see the Capitol Theatre's production of the musical, *Wicked*.

Wicked follows the story of green-skinned, social outcast Elphaba and the popular blonde Glinda, later revealed as the witches of Oz. Elphaba's powers in witchcraft and her determination to protect animals lead her to becoming the Wicked Witch of the West. The choreography and singing were brilliant whilst the story tied in nicely with *The Wizard of Oz* so it was definitely relatable for anyone familiar with this classic tale.



Wonsun Jin from Year 9 shared his thoughts on *Wicked*; "It was probably the best experience of my life".

So for anyone with a passion for music or theatre, I would definitely recommend you go and see *Wicked*.

A massive thank you to Ms Tenorio, Ms Sellers, Ms Gilbertson and Ms Pettingell for organising the excursion and accompanying us.

Jacob Gamble – Yr 9

ART AND MUSIC NIGHT AT LIZOTTE'S

Last Monday night Year 9 and 10 students, parents and teachers from Merewether High School and three other schools were invited to come to Lizotte's for a night of art and fine music. The reason for this was an initiative conducted by Lizotte's to involve and embrace the local schools through an art project, where students were asked to create an artistic work inspired by Lizotte's and the music industry. Our Year 9 Visual Arts students (Alyshia Barnes, Annaleigh Carter, Ella Gore, Cassie Hallett, Jemma Harbison, Shannon Hardwick, Jessica Horton, Erin James, Wonsun Jin, Sam McIntyre and Elena Pavlou-Watt) created a massive relief sculpture made from recycled cardboard boxes inspired by local and international musicians who have made an impact on music over the years. The students designed and developed their own assessment task based on Lizotte's brief and collectively decided that a full

sized crowd scene that included artists as diverse as Bob Marley, Billie Holiday, Blondie and John Lennon would be the best way to represent music through time and style. Different genres, from country to rock, rap and blues have been represented and the artwork is inspired partially by the cover of The Beatles "Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" album. The fantastic music for the night was provided by the saxophone quartet (Luke Clemenson, Oscar Girgis-Cook, Eliot Kozary and Hamish McCarthy) and clarinet quartet (Rachel Ditton, Mark Holdsworth, Campbell Moore and Madeline Newland) who all played beautifully. Congratulations to all



our wonderfully talented MHS CAPA students!

Karen Gilbertson
Class Teacher



London Symphony Orchestra MAKE Project

In week 8 I had the opportunity to travel to Sydney and take part in a 6 day composition workshop with The Arts Unit and London Symphony Orchestra (LSO). There were two projects, PLAY and MAKE. I was in MAKE, which was composition. PLAY was a 4 day project where approximately 100 kids formed an orchestra to play LSO repertoire with members of the LSO.

Day 1 and 2: Our animator Paul Rissmann, who is a Scottish composer, divided Stravinsky's ballet 'Petruška' up into 30 parts, and deleted 15. Our job as part of the project was to recompose those 15 parts taking inspiration from the original score.

Day 3: We were joined by three LSO members who came to help us compose. There was Gina, who played Viola, Jonathan, who played French Horn and Matthew, who played Double Bass. As part of the project we were given the opportunity to watch an open rehearsal and attend the evening performance of the LSO playing Petruška and Prokofiev's Symphonies No. 1 and 5 conducted by Valery Gergiev.



Day 4: I was fortunate enough to attend the concert on Tuesday night as my mum gave me tickets as a birthday present. That night featured Rachmaninoff's Second Piano concerto, played by Denis Matsuev and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10.

Day 5: We finished composing.

Day 6: We went to the Sydney Conservatorium, and rehearsed with the LSO, they played the real Petruška, and we played our recomposed sections. That day we also performed, we were conducted by Alexander Briger, an Australian conductor.

All in all it was an amazing experience. These photos are with members of the LSO. I tried to get a photo with Valery Gergiev (LSO's principal conductor and best in the world) on the Tuesday night concert, however his security guard said no!

Huon Bourne-Blue – Yr 9



December
2014

Merewether High School Bulletin





PDHPE

Year 7 Swim, Save and Survive

Year 7 Students have participated in the annual MHS Swim, Save and Survive program during week 10 of this term. This program provided students with the opportunity to develop their water safety knowledge and skills in order to promote their personal safety in aquatic environments.



The program was structured to suit the needs of swimmers and non-swimmers, and covered swim stroke technique correction, non-contact rescues, survival strokes and strategies and resuscitation.

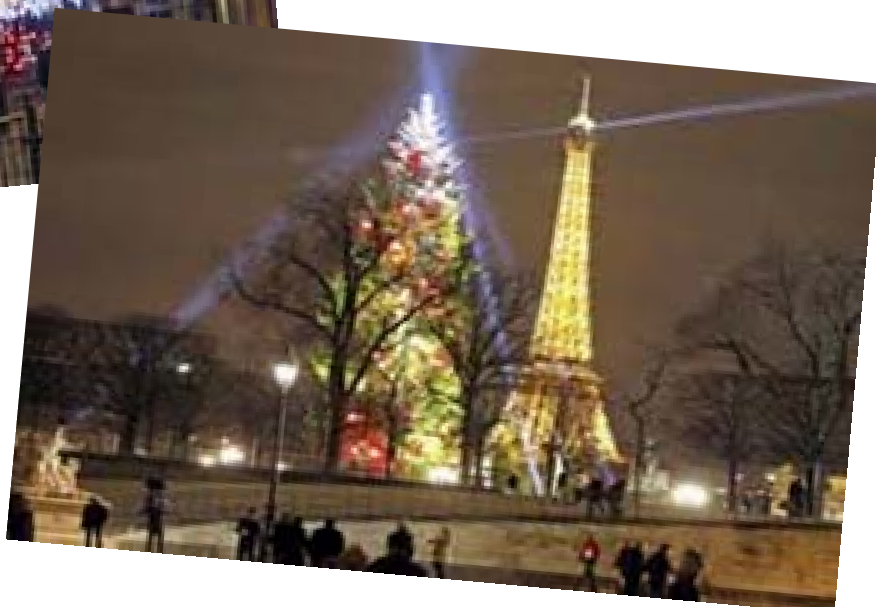
Sports Tours Take Off!

The PDHPE Faculty wishes the respective Boys' Soccer, Boys' Rugby and Girls' Netball/Hockey sports tours safe travels in their upcoming tours of the UK, France and Dubai. The teams will experience several once in a lifetime opportunities when they play against formidable oppositions, brave the European winter, see the sights and try the delights of different cultures, and enjoy the unique historical aspects of each of the countries they visit.

The Boys' Soccer tour departed on the 6th of December and returns just after Christmas. The Boys' Rugby and Girls' Netball/Hockey tour departs on New Year's Eve and returns on the 24th of January.

A reminder for those students interested in the 2017/2018 Sports Tour to return your expression of interest form which are available outside Mr Harrison's office.

A special thank you to Mr Harrison and Ms Brooks for the countless hours of preparation they put in behind the scenes to make the MHS Sports Tour Program so successful.





Staying 'Sun Safe' at School

The onset of warmer weather is a timely reminder to us all about staying 'sun safe'. Whilst sun safety is important all year round, the summer months inevitably mean that we will be outside more often and we should therefore be adopting sun safe practices as part of our daily routine which includes the time when we are at school.

Simple ways you can stay 'sun safe' over the summer break include:

- ✓ applying **sunscreen** of SPF 30+ (or higher) to all areas of exposed skin before you leave for school and re-applying your sunscreen as necessary such as before and after PE lessons.
- ✓ wearing a **hat, sunglasses and a long sleeved shirt** when in the sun
- ✓ Seeking **shade** when possible and **avoiding the sun** during the hottest part of the day between **11.00am and 3.00pm** during AEDST.

By regularly adopting these simple behaviors when you are enjoying your holidays can greatly reduce your likelihood of developing skin cancer later in life.



School Gym – Up and Running!

The PDHPE Faculty has been working hard throughout the year to implement a facility that will enhance the Physical Activity and Sport Studies Program (PASS). The space doubles as sports science laboratory for classroom activities and also for strength and conditioning gym.

This facility is now up and running with students welcome to use equipment under the supervision of a qualified staff member. Permission notes are available from the PDHPE Staffroom.

This is a wonderful opportunity for students who are interested in sports science, strength and conditioning, sport and physical activity to become involved in for FREE! Available for use Monday and Wednesday mornings 6am – 8am and afternoons 3.30pm – 5.30pm.

International Children's Games

Good Luck to Miles Petersen of Year 9 who is competing this week!

We wish you all the very best in your Athletics events!!





Year 7 Assembly

Dear Parents, Relatives & Friends,

On behalf of the school I would like to extend to you an invitation to attend our Year 7 Presentation Assembly on

Tuesday 16th December, 2014

in the Bensley Hall

commencing at 11.15 am

*On this occasion we will be presenting our **Year 7 students** with their reports and course awards.*

We suggest you should arrive at least 5 minutes before the assembly commences to find a seat on the left of the Hall (facing the stage.)

We hope you will join us to celebrate your child's achievements.

Yours sincerely

*Robyn Morrison
Assembly Coordinator*





Year 8 Assembly

Dear Parents, Relatives & Friends,

On behalf of the school I would like to extend to you an invitation to attend our Year 8 Presentation Assembly on

Tuesday 16th December, 2014

in the Bensley Hall

commencing at 9.15am

*On this occasion we will be presenting our **Year 8 students** with their reports and course awards.*

We suggest you should arrive at least 5 minutes before the assembly commences to find a seat on the left of the Hall (facing the stage.)

We hope you will join us to celebrate your child's achievements.

Yours sincerely

*Robyn Morrison
Assembly Coordinator*





Year 9 Assembly

Dear Parents, Relatives & Friends,

On behalf of the school I would like to extend to you an invitation to attend our Year 9 Presentation Assembly on

Monday 15th December, 2014

in the Bensley Hall

commencing at 11.15am

On this occasion we will be presenting our Year 9 students with their reports and course awards.

We suggest you should arrive at least 5 minutes before the assembly commences to find a seat on the left of the Hall (facing the stage.)

We hope you will join us to celebrate your child's achievements.

Yours sincerely

*Robyn Morrison
Assembly Coordinator*





Year 10 Assembly

Dear Parents, Relatives & Friends,

On behalf of the school I would like to extend to you an invitation to attend our Year 10 Presentation Assembly on

Monday 15th December, 2014

in the Bensley Hall

commencing at 9.15am

*On this occasion we will be presenting our **Year 10 students** with their reports and course awards.*

We suggest you should arrive at least 5 minutes before the assembly commences to find a seat on the left of the Hall (facing the stage.)

We hope you will join us to celebrate your child's achievements.

Yours sincerely

*Robyn Morrison
Assembly Coordinator*





DECEMBER	
Mon 15/12	Y10 Assembly - MPC - 9:15am Y9 Assembly - MPC - 11:15am
Tues 16/12	Y8 Assembly - MPC - 9:15am Y7 Assembly - MPC - 11:15am
Wed 17/12	Presentation Assembly - MPC - 11:00am Morning Tea following the Assembly - 12:30pm - LC HSC Results released
Thur 18/12	Staff Development Day - No Students Y12 2014 - BBQ
Fri 19/12	Staff Development Day - No Students



The Uniform Shop

0401 725 885

merewetherhigh@alinta.com.au

Uniform Shop opening hours during school terms are:

Monday 8.00am – 12.00pm

Thursday 1.00pm – 3.30pm

The uniform shop can be contacted during these hours by phone or email:

Ph: 0401 725 885

merewetherhigh@alinta.com.au














Payments can be made direct to Alinta Apparel on the day of purchase. Alinta will take payments in the form of cash, credit card, or debit credit card.

Uniform price list & online shopping available at: www.alintaapparel.com.au



**SOCIAL SCIENCE FACULTY
AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE**

In keeping with the selective nature of Merewether High School, the Social Science Faculty is pleased to announce its AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE. We appreciate the generous assistance of the leading organisations listed below. They obviously hold our students and their education in high regard.

<p>ECONOMICS \$200 YEAR 12</p>		<p>COMMERCE \$100 Year 10</p>	
<p>BUSINESS STUDIES \$200 YEAR 12</p>		<p>GEOGRAPHY \$100 Year 10</p>	
<p>LEGAL STUDIES \$200 Year 12</p>		<p>COMMERCE \$100 Year 9</p>	
<p>ECONOMICS \$200 Year 11</p>		<p>GEOGRAPHY \$100 Year 9</p>	
<p>BUSINESS STUDIES \$200 Year 11</p>		<p>COMMERCE \$50 Year 8</p>	
<p>LEGAL STUDIES \$100 Year 11</p>		<p>GEOGRAPHY \$50 Year 7</p>	
<p>GEOGRAPHY \$100 Year 11</p>			

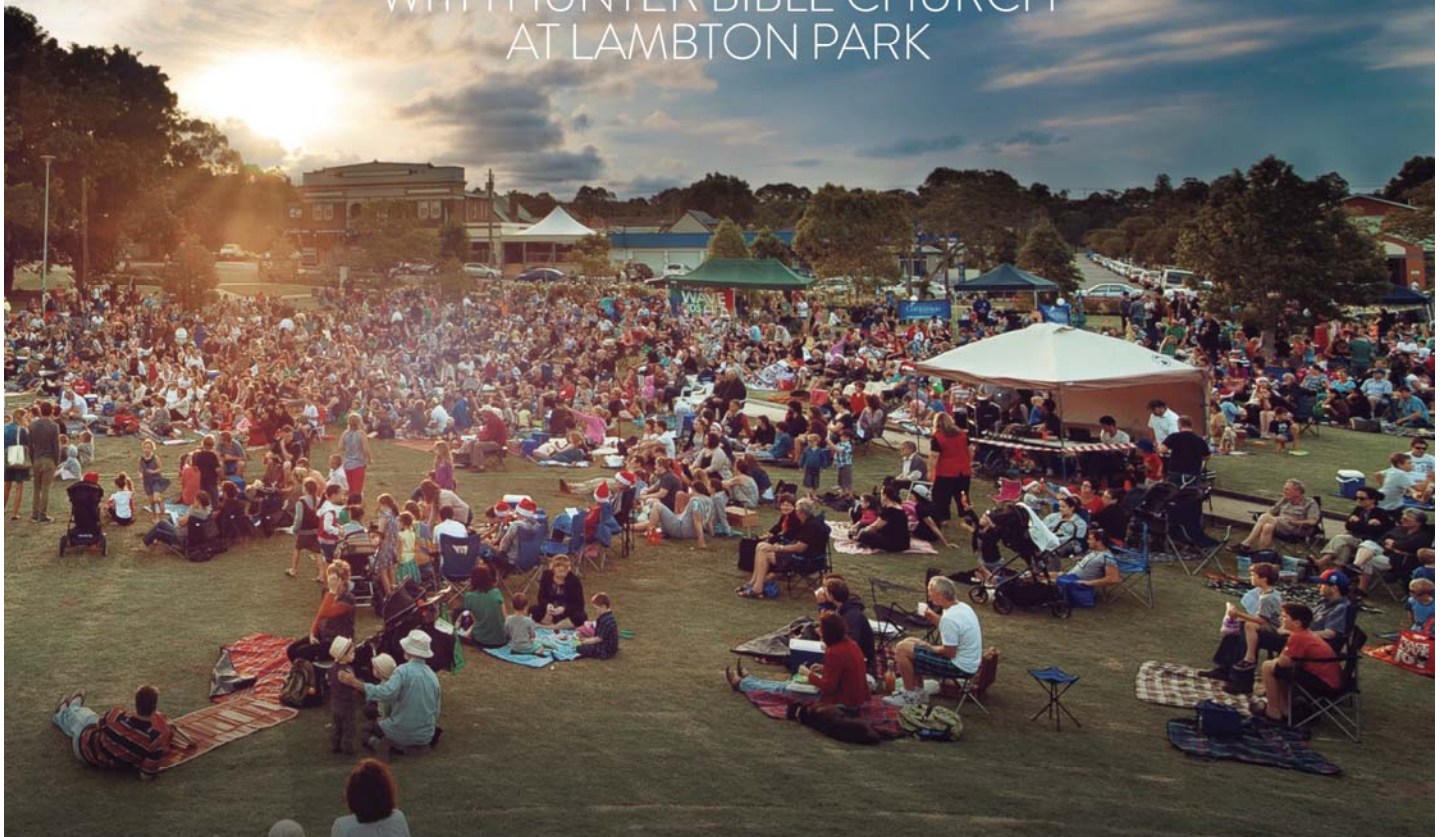
December
2014

Merewether High School Bulletin



CHRISTMAS CAROLS

WITH HUNTER BIBLE CHURCH
AT LAMBTON PARK



DEC 21 | BYO PICNIC FROM 5PM | CAROLS FROM 7PM



COLIN
BUCHANAN



DUTCH
PANCAKES



COFFEE
CART



POPCORN
& ICE CREAM



JUMPING
CASTLES



FACE
PAINTING



FIRE
WORKS

For more information visit hunterbiblechurch.org



COME 'n' TRY DIVING

Hunter Diving is looking for the next generation of divers.....

Hunter Diving is looking for:
Boys and Girls aged 8yrs - 14yrs to attend a

COME 'n' TRY DIVING Holiday Program

When: Monday 12th to Friday 16th January 2015
Time: 9.00am – 11.00am
Where: Lambton Pool
Cost: Normal pool entry fee and enrolment fee

Diving is a fantastic sport that promotes self-confidence, courage and discipline in children.

COULD YOU BE THE NEXT MATTHEW MITCHAM OR MELISSA WU?

Diving is also a fully supervised outdoor sport that allows children to progress and reach achievable goals at their own pace.

Since its inception Hunter Diving has produced Olympic, National and State Champions.

To register please contact Charlie at:
Email: charlotte.moore@huda.org.au
Mobile: 0404 168 689

Hunter Diving also offers a variety of diving programs.

Training Times:

Beginner Divers

Monday 3.30pm to 4.30pm

Elite and Competition Divers

Monday to Thursday 3.30pm to 5.30pm

Saturdays 8.30am to 11.00am



Contact: Eric Brooker
Mobile: 0404 168 689
Email: eric.brooker@huda.org.au
Website: www.huda.org.au



CENTRAL COAST SUMMER CHESS CHALLENGE 2015

Date:

Monday, 19th January 2015

Venue:

Erina Fair Shopping Centre
The Hub Youth Entertainment Venue
North South Road, Erina Fair

Cost:

\$20 per player

Time:

9:00am Registration
9:30am Round 1 begins
12:30pm Lunch break
3:00pm Prize giving

There are short breaks between the rounds. Children need to bring their own lunch.

Format:

This tournament is an individual and not a team event. The tournament is restricted to players under 18 years of age. The tournament is an 7-round 'Swiss' competition. This means that all players play 7 games and no-one is 'knocked out' of the tournament.

The time limit is 15 minutes per player per game.

This tournament will be JCL rated.

Prizes:

Trophies will be given for: 1st Place, 2nd Place, 3rd Place, 4th Place, 5th Place, and Girls Prize

Age performance trophies awarded to the following age groups:

12 Years and under Prize
10 Years and under Prize
8 Years and under Prize
6 Years and under Prize

All participants receive a certificate of participation.

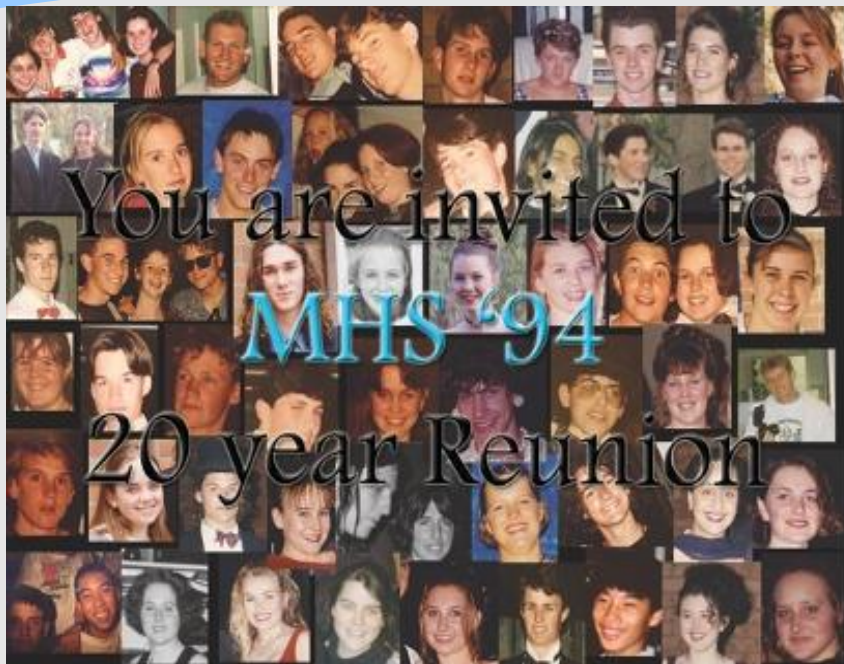
Entries close:

Thursday 15th January, 2015. The late entry fee is \$30 if paid on the day.

To Enter:

Visit the website <https://sydneyacademyofchess.com.au/payment> and enter the code 7OU3RPICBM

Alternatively, download the attached form below and follow the instructions on how to enter.



MHS Class of 1994 staff and partners



Date	december 21 2014 5-10pm
Where	merewether surfhouse
Cost	\$50pp (includes food) plus cash bar
RSVP	mhsclass1994reunion@gmail.com
by	august 31 (include your payment details)
Payment	BSB 732729 Acc 642140 Piccolo Willoughby
Dress	smart casual

contact us: mhsclass1994reunion@gmail.com or [facebook.com/merewetherhigh1994reunion](https://www.facebook.com/merewetherhigh1994reunion)

Hamilton Anzac Dawn Service - 100th ANZAC Day Anniversary Invitation—Gregson Park

Merewether-Hamilton RSL Sub Branch would like to invite students, parents and staff to attend the 100th Anniversary of Anzac Day at the Hamilton Dawn Service at Gregson Park on 25th April, 2015. Anzac Dawn Services have been held in Gregson Park, Hamilton since 1922.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the march from Beaumont St to Gregson Park.. Those wishing to march, will need to form up on the corner of Tudor and Beaumont St at 5.00am. Marshalls will be in attendance to assist.

If you just wish to attend the service please make your way to Gregson Park prior to 5.15am.

The service begins at 5.30am and is completed just on sunrise.

A sausage sizzle along with tea and coffee will be served, for a small cost, at Hamilton PS which is just across the road from Gregson Park at the completion of the service.

If you have any questions please call David Jack on 0447902352.

*Wishing everyone a Happy
Holidays and a safe break!*

Years 7, 11 & 12 commence Wednesday 28th January

Years 8, 9 & 10 commence Thursday 29th January

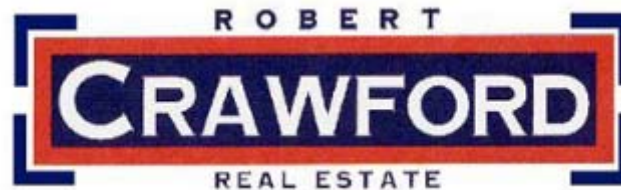


Merewether High School Sports Tour 2014-15

Planning is well under way for the 2014-15 Sports Tours to be conducted in December. A boys' soccer tour and a mixed rugby and netball tour will travel to the UK to play and be billeted by host schools in England and Scotland. The tours also provide sight-seeing opportunities and experiences in Dubai, London and Paris. Sports Tours are ingrained into the culture of Merewether High School and are extremely popular. They offer our students the opportunity to experience different cultures, play sport on international soil, and gain independence while traveling the world with their friends in a safe and supervised environment. MHS Sports Tours really are an 'experience of a lifetime'.



Sports Tour management is pleased to announce our continued association with **Robert Crawford Real Estate**. Robert has generously contributed funds again in 2014 and is the **Major Sponsor** of our upcoming **Sports Tours**.



Ph. 02 4957 6166 – New Lambton

Ph. 02 4955 7888 – Elermore Vale

www.robertcrawfordrealestate.com.au



We also welcome Hunter Imaging as a sponsor in 2014 and acknowledge their generous donation.

Thank You to our sponsors

All money donated to a 'MHS Sports Tour Team' assists with defraying the cost of playing gear and other mandatory uniform items for individual tour members and ultimately contribute to the longevity and overall success of the Sports Tour program. Your sponsorship is very much appreciated.



Merewether High School International Sports Tour 2014-15

would like to acknowledge the following local business groups for their generous support of Sports Tour fundraising initiatives

102.9 KOFM	Grill'd – The Junction	Pacific Dunes
106.9 NXFM	Healing Wave Chiropractic	Paul's Asian Affair
Anchorage Port Stephens	House	Pegs - Cafe
Aphrodite's On The Lake	Howards Storage World	Perfection Point - Skin & Body
Aqua Lilly Hair Design	Hoyts Charlestown	Pharmacy for Less Kotara
The Athlete's Foot	Hunter Business Golf Group	Poppies Garden Centre
Babyshop	Hunter Gourmet Pizza	Priceline Pharmacy
Bakers Delight	ITW Group - Cyclone	Pulse Climbing
Belmont Golf Club	Jarret's Quality Meats	Restaurant Mason
Belmont Hairdoo	JB Hi-Fi	Robert Crawford Real Estate
Bi-LO Cardiff	Jenda Collection	Rosie's School of Rock
Board Crazy	Joslin St Butcher	Salamander Village Florist
Bunnings Warehouse	Junction Fair Pharmacy	Scott-Dibben Amcal Kotara
Cellarbrations - Adamstown	The Bottle-O Kahibah	Scrap Needs
Christiane's Hair Design	Kathmandu	Seaview Malaysian Restaurant
Colour de Rose	KFC	Sesames - On the Lake
Cupcake Espresso	Koko Hairdressing	Strachans Day Night Pharmacy
Dan Murphy's	Kylie's Hair Specialists	Suki Hairdressing
Darby Street Pharmacy	Lambton Fridge	Super Strike Salamander
Deneng Pty Ltd	Lambton Fruit Market	Tackle Power
Donut King	Lombard- The Paper People	The Forum University
Elite Mobile Locksmiths	Lucky 7 Supermarket	The Letter Q
Extraless Prices Variety Store	Macs Home Timber & Hardware	The Wests Group
Gateshead Tavern Bottle Shop	Megamania	Tri-Benedict Solutions
Gemelli Estate	Merewether Golf Club	Warners at The Bay
Global Packaging	Merewether Hair Studio	Wax in the City
Good Guys Kotara	Moo Culture	The Bottle-O Whitebridge
GR Brassiere	Nesbitt Hair and Body	Whitebridge Butchery
Graze at Valentine	Newcastle Family Dental	Woolworths
Greencross Vets	Office Works - Newcastle West	Worimi Framing Services
Grinding Halt Café	Open Dorz	XY Body Treatments