



KOTARA HIGH SCHOOL

We Aim High

From The Principal's Desk

I hope that this report finds our community well, at the middle of term two. There is a lot of activity happening in the school at the moment, both with regard to education and the infrastructure, all leading in to our semester one reporting period. It is a busy time indeed.

The first thing I would like to mention for my report was the school trip to Japan during the holidays. I understand there is a detailed article on this later in the newsletter but I want to mention it briefly myself. I was fortunate enough to accompany the students on the excursion and it was fantastic as the principal of our school, to experience Japan with our students. The behaviour of our students was exemplary and they all need to be commended. We had an amazing time seeing so many important cultural and physical features of the country. It was also amazing to visit our sister school Ube Senior High School and meet all of the staff and students first hand. To finish on this I would like to acknowledge the work of Mrs Fitzmaurice and Mrs Wagner for their work on the excursion and its implementation.

Our Athletics Carnival took place early this term. Over the two day carnival students and staff interacted and competed and the atmosphere was very positive and collegial. It is unusual for a comprehensive high school to have a two day carnival but due to the amount of student participation and the school spirit that is evident throughout the event, we just can't reduce the days. I would like to thank all of the staff for their support of the event, and in particular, Mrs Threadgate, for her organisation and commitment.

The transition for year seven 2019 is well underway. We have recently received our in zone enrolments as well as the expression of interest, for our out of zone enrolments. Our numbers are very strong for 2019 which is very positive for the school and community. The panel assigned to read and rank the out of zone enrolments will take place during week six of this term, and offers will be made at the end of the term, if we have any places available.

We recently had our 50th Anniversary Celebrations. We organised three separate events – a school assembly involving past staff and student speakers, a dinner for past students and staff and an open day on the weekend. All three events were very successful and I was so humbled by the community response. For our dinner we had over three hundred people attend and over one thousand people walked through our school during the open day. I would like to thank all of the staff as well as the anniversary committee for their support and organisation in each of the events.

I am sure that all of our community are now aware that we are in our new administration building on Lexington Parade. It is fantastic to be finally in the new space, and support our community and students in a much more appropriate position. I am now looking forward to refurbishing the old administration building in A Block as a much needed senior study space. I am hoping that this will be completed by the end of the year.

Finally, the reroofing of B, D and C Block is half way completed as I write this report. I am hoping that the building will be all complete by the middle of term three. At the moment we are compromising with room closures and restricted access across the site, however, the new roofing system will stop leaking in heavy rain as well as the constant drain blockages.

I would like to wish everyone all the best for the remainder of semester one and a restful break, when it comes.

Mark Snedden

Japan Tour

During the April holidays 34 students and 5 staff took part in the school Japan Study Tour. We all had an amazing time experiencing the culture and practising our language skills.

Our first stop was Kyoto and Nara with their beautiful temples, shrines and deer park. Next we went to Miyajima where many of us went on the cable car up the mountain. Here there were spectacular views of islands in the inland sea. We then visited the Hiroshima Peace Park and Museum, which was a time for reflection about the gravity of war.

In the middle of the tour the students enjoyed a 3 day homestay in Ube with host families. We attended Ube Senior High school and assisted with English lessons, participated in school cleaning, which is a daily job for the students, and went to after school clubs, like kendo, archery and the tea ceremony club. On the Saturday we went to various places and activities with host families and the Ube teachers hosted our staff. The homestay was definitely a memorable experience.

After our time in Ube, we travelled to Kanazawa, which had a wonderful mixture of traditional and modern Japan including a castle, samurai house and old shopping district.

On the last leg of the tour we stayed in Tokyo. It was a fun filled adventure where we saw traditional Japan in Kamakura and Asakusa and shopped til we dropped in Harajuku and Shibuya.

Our final day was spent at Tokyo Disney Sea, where everyone enjoyed the many attractions on offer.

The tour was an experience everyone will remember for the rest of their lives and it was a pleasure to have the company of 34 students whose behaviour and participation were exceptional at all times.

Many thanks to the parents for supporting the tour and to Mr Snedden, Ms Sneddon and Mrs McPherson for helping with supervision.

Mrs Liza Fitzmaurice
Mrs Jill Wagner
Japan Tour 2018 Organisers



Japan Tour from the students

My time in Japan was wonderful. We visited many places in Japan, one of them being Kamakura. We went to a beautiful garden with steps leading up to a temple perched near an amazing outlook of Kamakura, I distinctly remember trying to get a photo of the temple without my friends trying to photo bomb it. But the thing I remember the most in Kamakura was when we went to see the great bronze Buddha, and that we could actually enter and see inside the Buddha.

Maria Kurochkina
Year 10



I really enjoyed my trip through Japan. One of my favourite places was Arishiyama, Kyoto. Firstly we went to the bamboo grove. It was an amazing and beautiful walk. Next we went to the monkey park. The monkey park had an awesome view! I got to feed the monkeys - they were very cute. We then had a walk around the town and went shopping. I got gifts for my family. I also had my first bento box. I enjoyed Arishiyama and I would recommend it to everyone for a fun experience.

Alice Kelly
Year 10

The thing I miss most about Japan would definitely be the food. Every meal was an adventure, whether you liked the food or not. My favourite dish would have to be the Hiroshima special 'okonomiyaki' (think of it like a savoury pancake). We got the dish from what seemed like the back alleys of the city, on the 4th floor of this sketchy looking building. When we got inside it was just a bunch of tiny little 'hole

in the wall' restaurants which consisted of a massive grill and 14-15 bar stools which surrounded it. 'THE BOYS' and I sat around the grill as the chef and his wife began preparing our meals. We sat in awe as we watched this man cooking a dozen meals at once. It looked and smelt amazing, we couldn't wait to chow down. Once our meal arrived no one was hesitant to dig in. "The SAUCE", I can't exaggerate enough of how good this sauce was. It tied the rest of the dish together perfectly. After we finished eating I could defiantly say with 100% confidence that it was THE MOST satisfying meal I've ever had. It tasted delicious, it cost less than \$10 and it filled me up without making me feel bloated. True Satisfaction.

Addendum: Last Thursday I cooked some 'okonomiyaki' at home for dinner. It wasn't the same recipe as the one I had in Hiroshima but it was very similar.

Nicholas Wiseman
Year 10

On April 15 - our first full day in Japan - we went to a town called Nara. We caught a bus from the train station to Nara where we first off went to a deer park. There were many deer walking around with the public and many of us gave them a pat. We also had the chance to buy some crackers from a little stall to feed to the deer.

After, we walked down a small shopping street to Todai-Ji which is the world's largest wooden temple which also houses one of Japan's statues of a Buddha.

Abbie Jones
Year 10



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Hiroshima is the largest city located in the Chugoku region of Japan. It is famous as on August 6th, 1945, a nuclear weapon was dropped on Hiroshima by America during WW2. This bomb destroyed over 70% of the city's buildings and directly killed over 70 000 people. After the war had ended, in 1949, Hiroshima was named a city of peace by the Japanese parliament. There you will now find the Hiroshima Peace memorial, which surrounds the ruins of Hiroshima prefecture, the only building left standing near the bombs hypocentre (the A-bomb dome). Personally, Hiroshima was one of my favourite places to visit in Japan as you would never know it was once a place filled with such hopelessness and ruin. It is one of the most pleasant places I've ever visited and it's hard not to admire the city's beauty.

Georgia Rainey
Year 10

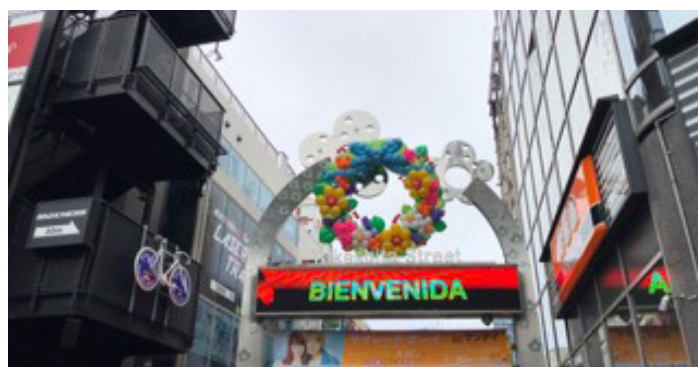


We stayed in Kanazawa for 2 nights. We were lucky enough to stay right next to a 7 story shopping centre. We got the opportunity to walk around Kanazawa for a large amount of the day. I visited a traditional samurai house with Mr Snedden and explored the grounds of an Edo period castle. The day after that we ran around a fish market. I was happy with our visit to Kanazawa. I got a new guitar strap and spent some quality time with friends.

Sonny Pope
Year 10

27 April 2018, our last day in Japan and we got to spend an exciting day at Tokyo DisneySea. For me, it was by far my favourite day of the entire tour. We enjoyed many of the thrill seeking, adventurous rides and spent our day laughing- or for some people, screaming. Rides such as the Tower of Terror and Journey to the Center of the Earth were favourites among many of the group. This day spent at the happiest place on earth, definitely lived up to expectations and I would do it all over again in a heartbeat.

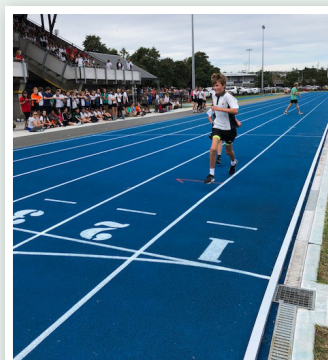
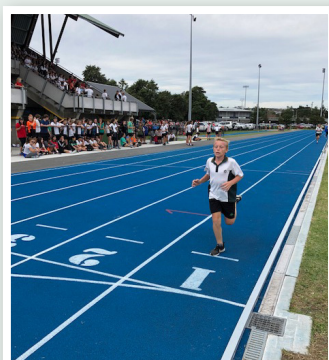
Kelsey Turner Year 10



Athletics Carnival

The Kotara High School Athletics Carnival was held on the 8th and 9th of May at Fearnley Dawes Athletics Centre. We are very privileged at Kotara High School to hold a two day carnival and this is supported by our enthusiastic students who participated in a variety of athletic and novelty events. Beautiful weather both days also contributed to an enjoyable event for both teachers and students.

The Zone Carnival will be held on Monday 4th June at Fearnley Dawes Athletics Centre with over 50 students representing Kotara High. Information for this event is available from the PE staffroom.



SRC Report

Since the athletics carnival moved to its new venue, the SRC has been able to run a food and drink stall at our two-day event. This year students cooked a BBQ and sold lollies and drinks on both days. By offering this stall the SRC is able to provide students with lunch as well as raise funds that contribute to ongoing school projects. Students enjoyed the busy days and successfully raised \$1300.



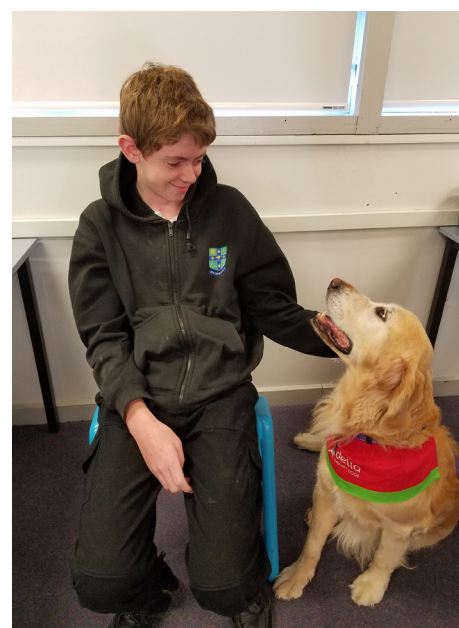
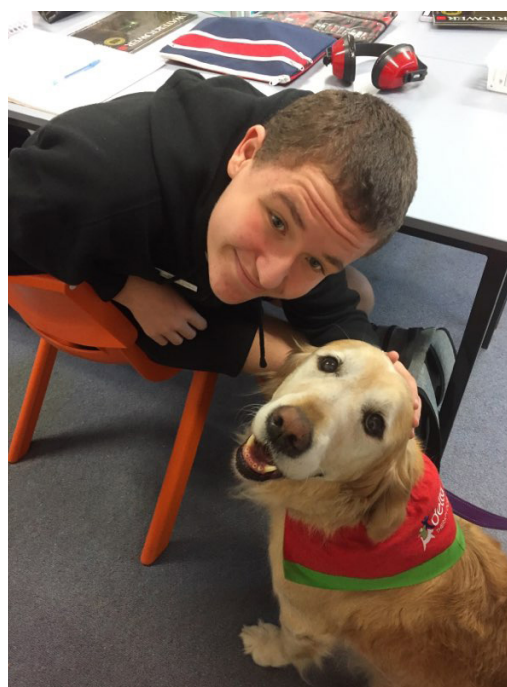
Sport

Congratulations to the Kotara High Boys Softball team who were named Hunter Region Champions. They were undefeated in all 4 games at the Regional Gala Day, with a multitude of home runs scored. The team will be competing in the CHS tournament in August.



Delta Society

Trish Carlier and her therapy dog Jazzy, from Delta Society, have started working with students in our Support Classes. The students and staff had a fantastic morning, Jazzy brought much joy and calmness to our classrooms. Trish and Jazzy or Milly will work with our students every Tuesday morning for the next few months.



50th Anniversary Celebrations





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50 YEARS
Celebrating
**PUBLIC
EDUCATION**