



KOTARA HIGH SCHOOL

We Aim High

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Awabakal people, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

From The Principal's Desk

Welcome to our second newsletter for term three 2018. I know that I say this a lot but this is by far the busiest term for secondary schools, and with only two weeks to go, we are nearing the finish line. I would like to acknowledge the work of our staff this term, both in the class room and beyond, as you will see in this newsletter, a lot of fantastic things have happened this term and we have a number of them to celebrate in this edition.

Firstly, I would like to wish our year twelve cohort all the best in their external examinations in a few months. I have been so impressed with this year twelve group, how they have conducted themselves as citizens and role models within our school, as well as academic students. It will be an honour to farewell them on the last day of the term, and share this moment, with not only them, but the school and wider community.

In the same breath I would also like to congratulate our school leaders for 2018-2019: -

Captains - Tao Grieves and Paris Scott

V Captains - Zac Flemming and Mya Hinton

It was a very difficult process this term, to find our new leaders because the candidature was so strong. I would also like to acknowledge the support of the panel, Miss Philpott, Mrs Germon and Benedict Frohlich. I am sure that this new leadership team will do the school proud as our outgoing leaders have, over the last twelve months.

I would like to acknowledge and mention our Big Day Out, which took place on Friday the 14th of September. As always it was a great afternoon and a lot of fun. This event is very unique and I have never been involved with a school that that puts on a celebration like this. Mrs Philpott and her SRC team need to be mentioned here, because without their commitment and hard work this event is not possible. Well done to the whole team and I am looking forward to our next event next year.

As part of our 50th Anniversary Celebrations we have completed a mural painting on the outside of B Block. This mural was led by one of our past students Mitchell Revesky, a now profiled Australian artist. The work that students, along with Mitch, put in to the art work is amazing, and it looks fantastic. I would like to especially mention Mrs Jones in APLACA, for her initiation, coordination and completion of the project, without her vision and commitment this would not have happened. It is a fantastic addition to our school, and memorabilia piece for our anniversary.



Principals desk - cont

On the 19th of August our P&C organised a Bunnings BBQ at Kotara. I would like to thank our community for their support as we raised a few thousand dollars on the day. In particular I would like to acknowledge our P&C President Harry de Vries, along with the rest of the P&C and parent/staff support, for their effort and commitment to the day. This is an amazing example of how our community works together to support the school.

The re-roofing of B, C and D Block has now been completed. This much needed renovation is going to ensure that the blocks, internally, do not flood, as well as the various class rooms that have become affected during the past few years. This was a huge job and I would like to acknowledge the staff and students for their patience during this time.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge two staff members who are leaving us this term, in their transition to retirement. First, Mrs Jill Wagner from the ALPACA Faculty, who has been an amazing practitioner in Languages. I, along with the school, have appreciated her expertise, professionalism and her commitment to her subject and the teaching and learning at Kotara High School. Next, we have Mr Greg Mogg, HSIE Teacher and Head Teacher Teaching and Learning, retiring at the same time. Mr Mogg has been a member of the Executive Body at Kotara High for over ten years, as Head Teacher Social Science, and then Teaching and Learning. Mr Mogg was also a former student of our school and so has deep connections, not only at school, but within the community. Mr Mogg will also be missed as a member of not only the Executive Body, but the whole school.

Mr Snedden



Kotara High School's 50th Anniversary Mural

A mural by Mitch Revs to celebrate the 50th Anniversary came to realization last week, and it looks fantastic! The following students from Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 took part in painting the mural with Mitch and they are to be congratulated on their efforts and creativity. Tonuai Smith, Jett Cooney, Teah Webb, Dylan Webb, Ashton Swain, Joel Beerwald, Jack Chapple, Kate Heap, Elise Cowperthwaite, Jorja Bowden, Kelsey Dare, Angel Rose Tanavasus, Matt Jackson, Lily Patrick, Katerina Roach, Ellie Lambkin, Patricia Goncalves, Mirabelle Rawe, Grace Danslow and Pascal Lecathelinas.

Mitch Revs completed his HSC at Kotara High School in 2007 and is a proud ex-student. Since studying Visual Arts for his HSC, Mitch has followed a career in Art, and is now a well know artist in Newcastle.

The design of the mural began with Mitch conducting a workshop with the students to build up a series of drawings that represented what Kotara High School meant to them. Mitch worked with these images to develop the final design. The mural is a large work, 6 x 2.4 metres and took 2 days to paint. It is a bright and energetic image depicting different facets of Kotara High School. The students involved are to be congratulated on a wonderful mural for everyone at Kotara High to enjoy!

Mrs Jones



Ube - Newcastle Exchange Visit

From August 14th to 21st Kotara High School hosted 10 students and 2 teachers from Ube, Newcastle's sister city. Students attended class with host brothers and sisters, visited City Hall, Oakvale Farm and Newcastle University. Kotara students improved their knowledge of Japanese language and culture and helped the Ube students to improve their knowledge of English and Australian culture.

We would like to thank the following students and families for hosting the students: Mikali Ewin, Sara Jones, Eleanor Moore, Paris Scott, Alice Kelly, Georgia Rainey, Tomo Kazuno, Cooper Thompson and Nicholas Wiseman.

We would also like to thank Gary and Sharon Jenness and Colleen and Juan Mahony for hosting the teachers.

LOTE Department



Drama News

Year 10 Drama Production: *Living With Lady Macbeth* Night time performance on Thursday 6th and Matinee on Friday 7th went off without a hitch. Leads were Georgia Rainey as Lilly and Katie Cameron as Mon. Brother Alex played by Sonny Pope, mother by Skye Murray. Mean girls (and boy) Gema Fry, Isabella Tremenheere, Sophie Ball, Tarsha Brennan and Henry Lambert. Mechanic, Aiden Barski, instructor, Rachael Palmer and the quick changing Callan Squires who switched from teacher to horse to car to instructor in a flash! Lighting by Byron Neilands, film trailer by Callan Squires and Henry Lambert, promotion by Isabella Tremenheere and Gema Fry.

The students worked incredibly hard to get this entertaining production up and going. Mrs Hawkins was very proud of their achievements.

The HSC Drama practical exam was on Monday 3rd of September. They were nervous but once they were up on stage the groups and monologues came together well to give the markers an entertaining day.

Year 9 are getting creative and out of their comfort zone by making their own masks ready for the performance at the end of the term.

State Drama Festival

Three Kotara High Students have been selected to perform at State Drama Festival for their DramaWorks playbuilt piece, *Hakuna Matata*. They are:

Aurora Richardson-Keenan - year 10
Katerina Roach - year 9
Kira Smith - year 9



Year 11 Jindabyne Trip

Wow! What a week! The weather gods were clearly smiling down upon the 88 students who attended the annual Year 11 ski trip. After leaving Newcastle in the wee hours of Sunday morning the student's enthusiasm and excitement levels began to rise as we glimpsed the snow-capped mountains as we neared our destination. This was further heightened once everyone was suited out with their clothing and equipment. We had an early night after an informative Ski talk by Sport and Rec.

Getting up early in the morning, 5.30am, saw tired but enthusiastic faces. The weather Monday morning was not really what we had hoped for, blizzard conditions. The students were undeterred and eager to start learning or honing their skills. Monday morning saw all students placed into their lessons based on their ability, most of the students spent the day on the Rope Tow learning how to snowplough or fall like a leaf, whilst the more experienced skiers and boarders dusted off the cobwebs on the advanced slopes. The smiles on the faces could not be contained as students returned for a quick bite to eat before racing back out onto the slopes for more practice. The ski tube ride was an interesting experience and we were very lucky to be able to leave our ski and boarding gear up at Blue Cow, making it easier to board the train.

During the morning the students listened and improved their skills, so they would be able to ski with friends in the afternoon. By Wednesday the conditions had not improved and so everyone was taking it easy down the runs. As the week progressed and the skills were refined, student's spread out across the resort with Pleasant Valley becoming a favourite run for the beginners. The more advanced skiers and boarders found Guthega to their liking with crowd-free, near perfect groomed runs. The improvement over the week was great to see with all students progressing beyond the beginner slopes and the more adventurous attempting the steeper, more challenging blue runs of the resorts.

Even the Brumby T-bar was ridden without fear or incident...mostly. Throughout the whole time the excitement never waned. On Thursday we awoke to an amazing day! There was fresh powder, no wind, and we had the early ski!! Everyone was keen to get out there and show off their skills. By Friday afternoon the students were physically shattered from carving up the slopes for five fantastic days, but the smiles still remained. Unfortunately, all good things have to come to an end and we reluctantly left Blue Cow with a mixture of emotions; elated for the experience but dejected that it was over.

The students also enjoyed the many amazing meals throughout the week! Some of the great meals were pancakes, butter chicken, lasagne, roast dinner, nachos, and chocolate mousse! Every night there were activities for the students to get involved in. They had a wonderful time, enjoying games, trivia, market night and a movie night where we watched 'Eddie the Eagle'!

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Year 11 students who participated in the camp. They represented Kotara High School very well and we received great feedback from the both the Jindabyne Sport and Rec staff and the general public. Sport and Rec mentioned how many of their staff always ask to work with Kotara High School, knowing they will have a fantastic week.

Many thanks to Mrs Goldsmith, Ms Philpott, Mrs Spicer-Worth, Mr Tweed, Mr King and Mr Pulsford, for their time and support throughout the week, ensuring the students were safe and having an awesome time.



WWI Memorial Box

Kotara High School was fortunate to have on loan from the Australian War Memorial a WWI Memorial Box of resources containing genuine artefacts from The Great War. A display of these relics plus personal WWI memorabilia from staff members, staff family heirlooms, posters, souvenirs from France and books were on display in our school library.

In addition to the display to honour 100 years since the end of WWI, classes in the Support Faculty, Stage 5 History classes and Senior English classes immersed themselves in gaining a greater understanding of what our soldiers endured on the battlefield in 1914 - 1918.

Lest we forget.



Belair PS Construction

Congratulations on our year 10 students:

Brodie Martin, Jamison Crisp Riley, Hollingsworth, Jet Wislang Declan O'Donnell, and staff Darren King and Anthony Ryan who have worked with the Principal of Belair PS Mr Warwick Beard in setting up the foundations for Belair's 50th Anniversary Celebrations. This has involved the preparation for a sponsored paving project in the schools courtyard. The students have been involved in the preparation and final concrete pour. Thankyou to Mr Warwick Beard for allowing the KHS students to participate.



The Blind Chef

Last weekend I went out to Boolaroo Bowling Club to see one of KHS' ex-students at her work at The Blind Chef Bistro. Skye Jenkins (who completed her HSC in 2016) is one of 2 young people with vision impairments being employed at the bistro, and she is enjoying it immensely. Skye works as a kitchen hand on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

The Bistro was established with the aim of providing work and training for people with vision impairments. Having become blind as an adult, Chef Ian Edwards realised how difficult it is for people with vision impairments to be given a chance in the workplace. He decided to try to do something to change that. Ian and the Bistro have become famous in the last few weeks, with a number of newspaper articles about him, and he is in the SBS series, "The Employables" on Wednesday nights.

At the Bistro we were greeted by Skye's friendly smile and warm voice and it was great to see her working so well in the busy kitchen.

Of course, while I was there I had lunch, which was great, and I learnt later that Skye had prepared the yummy salad.

Skye has other work and is about to return to TAFE study. She continues to be a mentor to younger students with vision impairments by volunteering in local primary schools and by providing a listening ear and advice to older students.

It was great to see Skye and the other workers at The Blind Chef, and to have a great lunch while we were there. I'm sure we'll be going back.

Debra Goodsir, Itinerant Support Teacher Vision



Pompeii and Herculaneum HSC Study Day 2018

On Monday the 3rd September, 25 Year 11 and Year 12 Ancient History students attended the Pompeii and Herculaneum HSC study Day at Darling Harbour Sydney. The study day was taught by 4 specialist presenters (two of whom have taught and marked the HSC) and focused on the skills of 'interpretation' and 'evaluation' in relation to a number of key topics in the HSC. There was an emphasis on up-to-date scholarship and new interpretations. The final session on conservation examined the most recent conservation work at Pompeii and Herculaneum in 2016-2018 and provided students with specific examples. Combining academic depth and an exam focus this study day helped to equip the students with information and skills that will aid them in their preparation for the HSC.



Support News

Term 3 has been a very busy time for the students in the Support Faculty. We have been learning about William Shakespeare for English and World War 1 in History. Additionally, we had students participate in the creation of the KHS 50th Anniversary Art Mural and attend the Geography Excursion to Barangaroo to learn about sustainability in an urban environment. On the sporting field, Brayden played in the Hockey Gala Day and Joel represented the Hunter Region at the Combined High Schools State Athletics Carnival in Shot Put. It has been a very busy term to say the least!

To engage with the learning program "Why Study Shakespeare?" the students of SL3 have each built a replica Globe Theatre, viewed Romeo and Juliet, filmed dramatic recitations of Shakespearean language and discussed the relevance of Shakespeare's language in today's society. The creation of the mini Globe Theatres addressed knowledge of the theatre, problem solving in the construction of the models and developed fine motor skills for the students.

When studying WWI, the Support Faculty arranged a loan from the Australian War Memorial the WWI Memorial Box containing artefacts from The Great War. This was a wonderful learning resource. Students were 'hands-on' gaining a greater appreciation and understanding of life one hundred years ago and how the soldiers lived.

Congratulations to Joel who represented KHS and the Hunter Region at the State CHS Athletics Carnival in Shot Put. Joel placed fourth place in his classification for Under 15s. And well done Brayden for playing in the Hockey Gala Day for students from Years 7-9.

Students from the Support Faculty participated in the creation of the 50th Anniversary Mural. The students attended meetings to plan the design, participated in drawing the mural before being in team of KHS artists to paint the artwork. The mural is a fantastic representation of KHS.



Year 9 Changing Places Excursion: Barangaroo.

On August 16, 114 Year 9 students headed to Sydney for an excursion looking at the history and subsequent redevelopment of the Barangaroo area.

It was an early start but the trip went quickly and we arrived to be greeted by a great view of the harbour. Students learnt about the history of the area as a working port, its expansion over the years and eventually the reasons for its closure. Then we looked at the redevelopment of the area into a mixed urban space, with parkland next to the foreshore that is accessible to all.

We walked around the retail and housing precinct and discussed the techniques that had been used to ensure environmental, social and economic sustainability. We walked to Millers Point and looked at the redevelopment of the old terraces and had lunch at the reserve.

Other fieldwork activities included water testing, a field sketch and a GIS activity.

It was a great day out as students had the opportunity to visit an area still in the process of being revitalised, complete some fieldwork in a beautiful part of the world and learn how areas are being redeveloped in a sustainable manner.

Year 12 Court Excursion and Legal Studies Student Lecture Day.

Year 12 Legal Studies students had the opportunity to visit the Local Court during their Law Day Out Excursion in Newcastle. This Excursion is organised by the Rule of Law Institute and was facilitated by Lauren O'Brien.

Students met, passed through security and were taken for a short tour of the new building. Students then went into a court where they were spoken to by one of the magistrates about the local court. Students had the opportunity to ask questions and were excited when we got to see the court in action and observe a few cases. It was very quiet in court.

Students walked down to the NeW Space building and had lunch. After admiring the building and the views towards Nobby's, we met David Malcolm Head of ALS Newcastle. Here we had an informal discussion about some of his experiences as a solicitor, and asked a few more questions.

The next day, students travelled to Maitland for the Legal Studies Association Student Lecture Day. Students listened to experienced teachers with HSC marking experience, discuss the course, study techniques and HSC Examination.

Ms Campbell



Ancient and Medieval Day

This Term the HSIE faculty held the annual Ancient and Medieval Day. Year 7 and 8 History students got to experience what it was like to wear chain mail, plate mail and swing a two handed sword. Each year, James comes to our school and presents an engaging, interesting and at times funny show. It is hands on, and the students are asked to demonstrate how to use different types of weapons and try on different pieces of armour. Throughout the show, James adds lots of interesting bits of ancient and medieval trivia – like carrots in medieval times were originally white. A very sincere thank you to James for presenting with so much knowledge and enthusiasm.



The Pop Up Globe

“The course of true love never did run smooth.”
A Midsummer Night’s Dream, William Shakespeare

On Tuesday, 11th September 7L travelled to Sydney to watch A Midsummer Night’s Dream at the Pop Up Globe Theatre. The world’s first full-scale temporary working replica of one of the greatest theatres in history, the setting of this theatre immersed students into the world of performance like it was in Shakespeare’s times. As ‘groundlings’ students had an up close and personal experience with the play – even getting to talk to the actors as the play was being performed! This opportunity allowed them to develop their understanding of A Midsummer Night’s Dream, the Shakespeare play they studied in Term 2 as part of their Enrichment English program.

Many laughs were had throughout the day and all students represented Kotara High School exceptionally well.



Year 9 and 10 Marine Studies Excursion

Last month Year 9 and 10 Marine Studies classes travelled to Irukandji Shark and Ray Encounters at Bobs Farm about half an hour north of Newcastle. Students had the opportunity to get up and personal with sharks and rays at the centre as follow up to our unit of work on Dangerous Marine Creatures.



The experience was exhilarating yet terrifying for some. The staff at the centre did a fantastic job at dispelling many of the concerns surrounding sharks and rays as monsters of the deep, pointing out that humans kill about 100 million sharks annually and that the corresponding number of human fatalities from shark attacks is less than 10. Students left with a new appreciation for sharks and ways in which we can preserve a species so vital to healthy marine ecosystems.

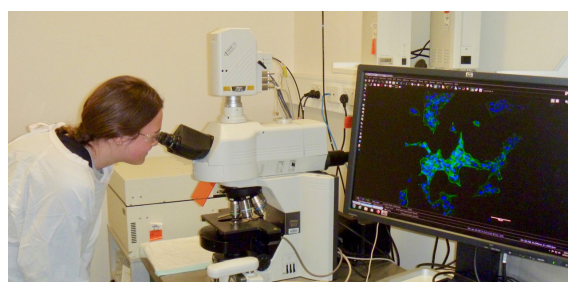
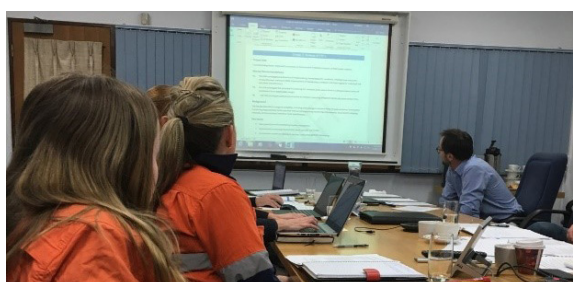


After leaving the centre we travelled to Nelson Bay where, after a quick stop for fish and chips (no flake), we were able to try out some of the fishing gear generously donated to the school by the Marine Studies Teachers Association. With time limited, and a free Shimano cap on offer to anyone who snagged a fish, the students eagerly set to work trying to catch 'the big one', unfortunately to no avail. Thanks go to the staff at Irukandji Shark and Ray Encounters, Hunter Valley Buses and Mr Pulsford for organising the excursion.



Work Experience

Year 10 completed a very successful week of work experience during Week 3 of this term. The students enjoyed their experiences in the workplace and the supervising teachers received excellent reports on their application and behaviour. Mrs McPherson would like to thank the employers who were willing to accept the students and the students for their enthusiasm.





University Admissions 2019 (UAC Guides)

Year 12 have been issued with their UAC Guide in early August. All sections of the guide have been explained to students to help them understand the process and how to research the courses on offer. On time applications are from 1st August and close on the 28th September and students need to go to <http://www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/> to start the application process. Cost for on time applications is \$70. Students have been encouraged to come and discuss their options and access advice from me in Careers.

EAS – Educational Access Scheme

This is for students who have experienced educational disadvantage as a result of circumstances beyond their control or choosing. Categories considered include:

- disrupted schooling
- financial hardship
- home environment and responsibility
- English Language difficulty
- Personal illness/disability
- Refugee status
- School environment

An application is submitted and students may be eligible to receive bonus points to add to their ATAR. Please note that additional documentation is needed to support applications. On time applications close 28th September (this scheme is open until and through next year, however, on time applications are encouraged). The school needs to complete a section of the application so the forms should be submitted to the school by Week 10. Please contact Mrs McPherson in Careers for an information booklet. Forms can also be downloaded at <http://www.uac.edu.au/eas/>

SRS – Schools Recommendation Scheme

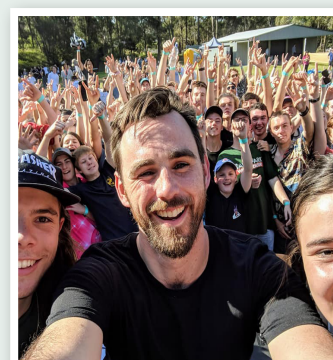
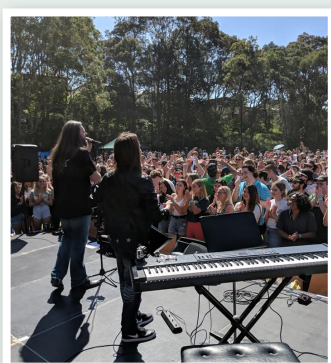
This scheme allows students to get an offer for university using criteria other than ATARs (or in addition to). Students should complete an online application at www.uac.edu.au/srs and then the school will be notified to provide an assessment and rating of the student based on certain criteria. This scheme can take the pressure and stress off students as they may know of an early offer to university during November. SRS applications close 28th September. Please contact Mrs McPherson in Careers for an information booklet or to discuss.

Apprenticeships/Traineeships

Students who are searching for apprenticeships and traineeships are encouraged to view the Careerlinks Newsletter that comes out every Monday. It is located on the shelves outside the Careers Office or see Mrs McPherson. Other opportunities are advertised on the TV in the Library and in Roll Call. Current positions available include: MEGT (Australia) vacancy for a first year Electrical apprentice and a Business Sales Representative traineeship and Warehouse Storeperson traineeship with a local business. www.kotarahighcareers.com is a very informative website that also includes job vacancies.

Big Day Out 2018

Last Friday KHS held its 4th annual Big Day Out, a student music festival / fundraiser coordinated by the SRC. Students were entertained by the musical talents of student bands and individual performers as well as the teachers band with special guest lead singer Mr Snedden.





KOTARA HIGH SCHOOL

We Aim High

50 YEARS

Celebrating

PUBLIC EDUCATION