



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.

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From The Principal's Desk

Welcome to our end of term two, and semester one, newsletter for 2019. I sincerely hope that this newsletter finds our community well and I hope that everyone is still thriving at this stage in the term. However, I am also sure that everyone is looking forward to a break. As always we have had a busy term, from semester one reporting, school construction, year 7 2020 processes beginning, an athletics carnival, various cultural events and the teaching and learning.

I am sure that a lot of our community has heard about our Senior Study space which is nearing completion. This space was renovated from our previous administration building in Block A. I really would like to acknowledge the work and commitment of Mr Shephard and Mrs Thorn on this project, without their engagement, this project would not have become what it is. We are currently working through processes for student utilisation, and the final touches of furnishings, before it is opened. I am hoping at this stage that the space will be open in week ten, and to also have an open afternoon for parents to come and see the space. Information on this will be forwarded by the end of term.

The Senior Study has also enabled me to make some decisions and shuffle a few executives within our school for ease of visibility and access. I have decided to move Mr Leyshon in to an office in A Block and Mr McCord into an office at the top of C Block. Staff and students have communicated on a number of occasions how they would like to have more access to the deputies, and I am confident that this will ensure that. In light of our Careers Advisors moving in to the Senior Study Space, I will be moving our Head Teacher Welfare, Mrs Spicer-Worth, in to the former Careers Office in the Library. This will enable student to access Mrs Spicer-Worth with a lot more ease, as well as allow her to have an office that is more conducive to the role. Finally, Mr Geale, as Head Teacher Administration will move into the Administration Building, and our Counsellors will move in to a more private area of the Administration Building. I am hoping that all of these moves will support services for our students and staff on a more personable, and accessible level. All of these changes will take place by the end of term, so all offices are functioning day one term three.

Further to the construction of our Senior Study space, year twelve took part in their study day on Friday of week seven, and again I would like to acknowledge Mr Shephard for his organisation, but also the remainder of the staff, who presented on the day, and supported our students. The students were engaged with presenters around study preparation, examination techniques, but also nutrition and balance. It was fantastic to be there in the morning and to see all of our students but also to see a past student, Lucy Donnellan, engage the group in their HSC journey. We will take student feedback on the day and look at refining this package, where appropriate, for 2020. The study days have become an integral part of our students HSC year and a mechanism to offer support both with, and beyond, the curriculum.



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From The Principal's Desk -cont.

As mentioned earlier, we are currently working through our reporting for semester one, and will have this process completed by the time this newsletter is published. I would like to acknowledge Mrs Jones and Mrs Fitzsimmons, for their coordination of the huge task and all of the staff for their engagement in report writing. If any parent has concerns with a report please do not hesitate to contact the school.

During week eight and nine Kotara High School are involved in two major Aboriginal Cultural Immersions. The first being a day of workshops presented at our school by various community members, as well as Kotara High School staff. This day will also include participation from Aboriginal Students across all our partner primary schools. Mrs Asvestas has coordinated this event and I thank her for her commitment and work on this event. Following week eight, our Aboriginal student, again with our partner primary Aboriginal Student, are participating in a Tribal Warrior Cruise on Sydney Harbour, partaking in a cultural experience of our first nation, the Eora people, and how they lived on the harbour. It is very positive to have our partner primary schools learning and celebrating with us with regard to Aboriginal Education and History.

Thank you to all our community on their support during semester one. Please have a restful break, I look forward to working with our community again in semester two.

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Mark Snedden
Principal



Deaf Camp

Last week, three students from our Hearing Support class attended the annual NSW Lions' High School Deaf Camp at Point Wolstoncroft Sport and Recreation Camp. A great time was had by all. Some of the activities students enjoyed included: the giant swing, rock climbing, kayaking, BMX biking, damper cookout and disco night.

This wonderful camp offers fantastic opportunities for students all over NSW who are Deaf or hard of hearing to connect and build friendships and have fun. Kotara High School is very proud of our students' behaviour. They were fantastic ambassadors for our school.

We can't wait for next year!

Thanks Lions Club of Australia!



VIVID Festival

Ms Lee Chin and Miss Jackson took a group of 33 keen Photography students to the VIVID Festival at Luna Park last Wednesday evening. Students braved cool conditions and enjoyed a festive atmosphere complete with ferris wheel, harbour views and fun street performers.

We were impressed by the excellent behaviour of our Year 9, 11 and 12 students.

Thanks goes to Mrs Norton our wonderful SLSO, some keen Year 12 parents and former KHS teacher, Jenny Martin for accompanying us on the trip.



Drama

Year 10 Drama Class Production

The Year 10 Drama class put on a full class production of 'Why Are We Here?'.
 Year 10 Drama Class Production

Each student had a character (some multiple roles) to play, directed individual scenes and had a production role such a promotion, costume or lighting designer. They worked really well together to create an engaging performance.

See some of the design material below.



DramaWorks 2019

DramaWorks is an amazing opportunity where students are offered an array of workshops designed and delivered by some of Australia's leading entertainment industry specialists, right here in Newcastle.

Gifted and Talented Drama students have five different workshops available to choose from which will focus on a particular Drama skill set for exploration, refinement and performance including, Stage Combat & Biomechanics, Object Theatre & Puppetry, Physical Theatre & Le Coq, Multi-Disciplinary Theatre, Moving Stories Through Music.

Students from Years 10 and 11 (see below) have been nominated and accepted to attend the DramaWorks 2019 workshops in Newcastle in the last week of Term 2, from the 1st – 5th July during normal school hours, and, present a final performance showcase which takes place on the Friday evening between 6.30 and 7.30 pm at The Unorthodox Church of Groove, 3 Tudor St, Newcastle West. Teachers, friends and family are welcome to come along to see the performances they create during the week. (Katina, Katerina, Kira, Sam, Egan, Caitlyn, Georgia, Aurora and Isabella).

State Drama Ensemble

The applications for the NSW Public Schools State Drama Ensemble are now open. The State Drama Ensemble is open to students in Years 9-11 and runs at The Arts Unit in Lewisham over the first week of the October school holidays from 10am-4pm. In that time they work with an experienced tutor and industry professionals to devise a piece for the State Drama Festival later that month at the Seymour Centre. All details can be found on <https://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/drama/state-drama-ensemble>. Auditions are via video submission and priority is given to rural and remote students, although the ensemble will ultimately be comprised of a mix of students from across the state and year groups. Speak to your Drama teacher in the ALPACA staff room about audition requirements and for help to get this in well before Friday 16 August 2019.

Futsal

In Week 6, nine teams competed in the futsal championships at Howzat. The weather was wild and the competition strong. Our under 14 boys and girls played tough and hard, but unfortunately did not make it to the finals. A shout out to River P and Anna J for endless running and skill throughout the whole day.

The two under 16 boys teams were pumped up for the day and displayed some razzle dazzle ability. However, even with Spencer B and Jack M in goals, neither team were able to progress to the grand final. A shout out to Gus M for some stunning goals and Zach M for his leadership.

The Under 16 girls, and Open Boys and Girls teams were fantastically successful. The Under 16 girls scrapped into the semi-finals only to stun the opposition with some stella defence and attack. A big shout out to Baylee H for her brick wall defence.

Both Open Girls and Boys teams were victorious. Both teams were undefeated on the day and represented Kotara High School with pride, enthusiasm and extreme talent. Shout out to both captains, Adelaide M and Jack R, for their inspiration. Also a special shout out to Sascha M for his amazing footwork and leadership and Charlotte O and Kate H for not hurting themselves and scoring some sweet goals.

Well done to all teams and good luck to the 3 successful teams who compete in Maitland at the Regional finals.

A proud coach, Mr Lister.



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Star Struck

Throughout term 1 and 2 students from years 8, 9 and 10 participated in Star Struck – No Limits.

The students performed two dances – Child's Anthem and Dream Catch Me. They rehearsed during sport time, attended camp at Glenrock Scout Camp and attended many rehearsals at both The Forum, University of Newcastle and Newcastle Entertainment Centre.

Miss Jackson and Miss Hallams are proud of the hard work and attitudes of all students. All their hard work shined in the shows. Congratulations.



WW1 Living History

Our school was privileged to have Shane from WW1 Living History visit this month. His passion for and deep understanding of World War One was an enormous benefit to our junior and senior students. They thoroughly enjoyed and engaged with the interactive nature of the presentation.



Boccia Team

Students from the Support Faculty represented the school in the Regional Knockout Boccia competition. They played 12 games against three schools and came equal first with Newcastle High School. After a recount on points for and against, Newcastle will progress to the State Finals. The team played extremely well and all our players (Lachlan, Jack, Beau, Cameron, Benjamin and Cohen) were a credit to Kotara High School.

Library

At present Year 7 students are reading *Once* as a text in the unit "Children and War". Some students are also reading other novels within the theme.

The Kotara High School Library Management System (Oliver) allows students to submit book reviews. This facility encourages readers to recommend titles they have read. It also provides an opportunity for students to hone their review writing skills. In Week 8, year 7 English C will be reviewing books they chose for wide-reading and adding them to Oliver.

The Outsiders is a genre defining book for teenagers and Young Adult readers. The story resonates as soundly in 2019 as it did when released in 1967. The film of the same title was made in 1983 and had an outstanding young cast.

Posters outside the library of the poignant cry of young Johnny "Stay gold Ponyboy. Stay gold" have elicited interesting and varied discussions amongst students.

Green Team

Ngan, from Year 11, recently represented Kotara High School at a screening of the film "2040".

The Green Team won free tickets to this special screening at Event Cinemas Kotara, thanks to Miss Lee Chin. The screening not only included viewing the insightful film, but also included a Q&A session with the film's director, writer and star, Damon Gameau. Ngan met Mr Gameau and spoke to him about the vision of our world envisaged in this documentary.

Our Green Team are working towards making Kotara High School this envisaged world and very soon recycling containers will be available in all classrooms.

Also, Miss Swamy has joined the team and has exciting new events organised for later in the year.

Remember...Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!



AFL

The AFL team played in the Regional Knock Out competition on Wednesday, 12 June 2019.

They won the first game but lost the second. Everyone played well and they were a credit to the school.

Earn and Learn

After earning some furniture for the Library last year Kotara High School is again participating in the Earn and Learn program. Remember to place all your stickers in the collection box at Woolworths Kotara or the school library.

Cameron, in Year 10 is "the boss" of putting the hundreds and hundreds of stickers in the booklets and on the posters.



Careers

This term has seen a lot happening in Careers.

Early in the term Mrs McPherson accompanied some Year 12 students to the University of Newcastle to attend 'The Jobs of the Future' seminar. Students got to listen to a range of speakers and were then given a tour of the Engineering and Built Environment faculty's facilities. Those who attended found it very informative.



On Thursday 16th May, eighty seven students from Years 10, 11 and 12 attended the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie Careers Expo. There were many tertiary institutions present as well as employer groups. The students gained valuable information about careers and courses that are available through universities, Tafe and private colleges.

Kotara High has run two White Card courses this term. This training is compulsory if you are going to be working or visiting a construction site. The presenters have been motivational and the students have benefitted from their knowledge.

In early June a number of our students attended the Tafe Taster day where students could ask questions about various courses and take part in hands on activities.

Hunter New England Health ran a Midwifery Showcase in May. The students that attended found the sessions very informative.

Coming up on Monday 24th June will be the Multi-disciplinary Showcase and we will be sending a number of students along to this seminar also.

This term we were fortunate to have an ex-student, Clare Tiedeman, come to speak to interested students about studying Science or Medicine. Clare is a doctor currently working in Newcastle. The students had the opportunity to ask many questions. Clare was very engaging and motivational and the students enjoyed her talk.

Our school based apprentices and trainees (SBATs) are working very well and gaining valuable skills and competencies towards their qualifications. We have students doing warehousing, retail, nursing and sport & recreation.

Mr Shephard and Mrs McPherson accompanied sixteen Year 12 students to Sydney to attend the HSC & Careers Expo. The students not only received information from stallholders about courses and careers but were also able to attend seminars relating to the HSC. It was a very worthwhile event and hopefully there will be greater numbers attend next year.

Up-coming events:

- University of Newcastle Schools Visit day which is targeted towards Year 10, 11 and 12. There will be sample lectures to attend and students can take part in hands on activities and have a good look around campus.
- Tafe NSW are holding Infofest from Monday 24th June - 28th June. Students are encouraged to go to www.tafense.edu.au/infofest to register their interest in attending a one hour presentation on a course of interest.
- The EVET Tafe courses for 2020 will become available at the end of July. For students interested in studying a Tafe course while studying for the HSC they will be able to pick up an expression of interest form from Mrs McPherson or Mrs Atkins at that time.

TAS

Term 2 has been another busy term in TAS Faculty.

The coffee shop - Kotara Beans - run by Year 11 Hospitality students has been successful in helping students in their Barista training and completing competencies for the unit - Prepare and Serve Espresso Coffee. We have a brand new Coffee Machine that students are using and the feedback from staff has been supportive and positive.



The introduction of the new Technology Mandatory syllabus in 2019 has seen some exciting units of work with Year 7.

In Agriculture and Food Technologies context area students have been involved in designing a system for growing a herb using a piece of recycled material as the vessel for growing it in. The final system had to be self-watering and portable. Students then went on to design and produce a healthy pizza that appealed to teenagers using the herb/s grown at school.



Some Year 7 classes have been studying the Engineered Systems context which focuses on how force, motion and energy can be used in systems, machines and structures. Students have been provided with opportunities to experiment and develop prototypes to test their solutions. Students now understand how forces and the properties of materials affect the behaviour and performance of engineered systems, machines and structures by constructing a Pin Ball machine.

Year 8 Food Design students had a recent assessment task which had the design brief to create a party table and display for a young child's birthday. The final displays were very creative and professional.

Year 11 Food Technology students have enjoyed learning about food styling and photography and are now currently investigating functional properties of proteins, carbohydrates and lipids.

Year 12 Industrial Technology - Timber students are busy with the construction of their Major Projects. Each student must undertake and present a Major Project consisting of a product and an accompanying folio. The Major Project must include evidence of a range and depth of skills and knowledge developed in the course.





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50 YEARS

Celebrating

**PUBLIC
EDUCATION**