

# Northlakes High School Newsletter

"Opportunities for future success"



Find us at: Brava Avenue, SAN REMO NSW 2262 T (02)4390 0555 F (02) 43991792  
Email [northlake-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:northlake-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au) [www.northlake-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.northlake-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)

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## From our Principal:

We are delighted to confirm that **Mr Matthew Boake** has been promoted by merit selection from Head Teacher (English) to the position of **Deputy Principal** at Northlakes High School. This is a great outcome for our school.



He has worked as a member of the Senior Executive for a significant time as Relieving Deputy Principal, and in that time has built very positive relationships within our school community in his management of teaching and learning, and a variety of special programs.

Northlakes High School held a very successful **Aboriginal Mentoring Day** last week, organised by Mr Boake and Ms Byrnes, and supported by a wide range of staff. The opportunities to hear our Aboriginal student voice, and their advice to the school, were

invaluable, and will be taken into account as we plan to improve all that we do.

Last week also saw Year 7 and Year 8 involved in **Bookweek**. Mr Freebody, Ms Smith and the English staff provided students with an entertaining and educational 'incursion'. There are a lot of great photos on our website!



We have also appointed a new **Head Teacher Mathematics, Mr Dean Lappas**. I thank Mr Lam for his role as Relieving Head Teacher. We are hoping Mr Lappas will start in Term 4.

Our Year 12 students are all studying hard and preparing for their HSC examinations. Many have practical components, and have submitted Major Works. Those for Design and Technology were marked this week. Our Creative and Performing Arts students put on a terrific concert as a rehearsal for their Major

Work Performances. All were very impressive, a credit to themselves and their teachers.

Our timetable committee has been working throughout this term to plan our new timetable. After our successful Year 8 and Year 10 subject selection process we have a clear idea of what students want. Most students will get their first choice of subjects.

**Reminder: School fees** for Term 3 are due. Parents may now pay online through our **'\$Make a Payment'** button on the website. Everyone who makes a payment before the end of the year will be entered into a draw for \$200.00 off 2015 school fees!

### **Public Education – Good for Employment**

I invite you to have a look at the following site.  
<http://www.smh.com.au/national/private-schooling-no-better-than-public-in-jobs-market-20140816-104do1.htm1#ixzz3AsvsuX4n>

*"Paying private school fees does not guarantee a better job after university, with new research showing there is no long-term employment advantage as public school graduates earn as much in equally prestigious jobs. A research fellow at Canberra University, Jenny Chesters, analysed data from the Household Income and Labour dynamics in Australia project and found private school students were no more likely to get a full-time job than public school students. And while private school students were more likely to attend one of Australia's most prestigious universities, even this did not lead to a higher income the research found".*

I am very confident that Northlakes High School prepares our students for the wider world. Only this week, I was contacted by an ex-student who has worked for NASA... and he is the second ex-student I know of who has done this!!

Year 12 must think about their futures, and ensure they are seeing our Career's Adviser, Ms Hewett, for advice about enrolling in university, our TAFE courses, or how to get into certain careers.

Year 11 – you also need to be studying..... exams in two weeks!

*Yours in Public Education*  
*Merrilyn Rowley*

### **Year 7 Report**

It has been a busy term so far, with only a few weeks left. I would like to thank Ms Davis for relieving in my position as Year 7 Advisor for the first 3 weeks of this term. She did a wonderful job.

Year 7 has recently rotated Technology classes; this will be the last rotation for the year. I hope they enjoy this change and engage in all the activities within the new course. A reminder that students require the correct shoes to participate in the practical components of these courses due to Work, Health and Safety requirements.

Year 7 also recently participated in Book Week. It was great to see so many students dressed up and in character. Lots of students won awards for participation in the day's events and enjoyed the many activities that were provided.



Students and caregivers are reminded that there is a no phone policy in classrooms. Students caught with their phone out will be sent to the Deputy to surrender the phone for the remainder of the day. This policy has had

really positive results in the classroom. Students are more focused and learning is not disrupted.

Students are also encouraged to work hard to receive 'gotchas' and 'classroom commendations', which all contribute to their house points. Students of the winning house will be rewarded at the end of each term for their hard work and commitment of upholding school values and following school procedures. If you have any questions or would like discuss any matter regarding your child, please feel free to contact me on 43900555 or email [Kerry.bissaker@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Kerry.bissaker@det.nsw.edu.au)  
Thank you

*Kerry Bissaker*  
*Year 7 Advisor*

### **Year 8 Report**

First, I would like to thank all the parents who came to our subject selection night; it was great to see so many parents involved in the choices for their child's education. I would also like to thank the faculties and teachers who stayed to help the students make the decisions. It is important to note that the students' choices this time round, should be based on what they think they would enjoy. The next subject selection for the students will be in Year 10 and that will be more important to choose subjects best suited to the career that they have chosen. By that time students will be able to explore and make up their minds on what they would like to do.

Unfortunately we have had a very poor response to our camp this year and in all probability I will be forced to cancel this unless I can get more students interested. To date I have approximately 30 replies of interest, so if you are interested please get those expressions of interest forms in as soon as possible. It is a great shame that more students haven't expressed interest as this will impact on organising future excursions and trips away. There has been a bit of unsettled behaviour in Year 8 at the moment. I would ask parents to

remind their children that school should be a safe and fun place for all and bullying at Northlakes will not be tolerated. If parents hear of any incidents the sooner we know about it the quicker we can act. Ms Smith, our Anti-bullying coordinator should be contacted on the first instant so she can put in place school procedures to prevent any escalation. If parents have any concerns I am can always be contacted and I will get back to every enquiry as soon as I physically can.

On a positive note students are reminded to ask for Gotcha's and teacher commendations. If a student collects five commendations from their teacher they will receive a year advisor award, which will be a great asset in their resume for students applying for their first part time job next year.

Year 8 had a wonderful turnout for book week, and a lot of the students came dressed in costume and thoroughly enjoyed the day.



*Sue Fulwood*  
*Year 8 Advisor*

### **Year 9 Report**

Year 9 have had a very productive and busy Term 3. Lots of activities have been happening around the school and many students are involved in various activities in lots of learning and extracurricular areas! It has been impressive to have seen some work samples from Year 9 Art, Dance and Drama students. It is great to learn how much fun students are having in their elective classes. I was so impressed to see some musical performances at the recent year assemblies. So much talent



and courage was displayed! Keep up the great work!

Year 9 Half Yearly Semester Reports were issued in Week 2. It was great to see the majority of students receive wonderful results and comments. Please let the school know if your child did not receive a report.

During Week 7, Year 9 had the pleasure of having the Jesus V8 Racing Team at school. Andrew "Fishtail" Fisher, the driver of the team spoke to Year 9 about the importance of courage and making careful decisions in life. Year 9 loved the visit! It was great to see an actual racing car outside the hall and to hear the pure power of the engine when Andrew pushed the throttle! Students benefited from this experience.



In exciting news, it is great to hear that three of our Year 9 students have been selected in the Northern NSW State Futsal Team. Blake Foss, Jacob Owens and Cristian Berrios will travel to Victoria in September to compete against other states for the Australian Championship. Well done boys! What a great achievement!

As always, if there are any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me on 43900555. I aim to respond as soon as possible.

*Erin Campbell*  
Year 9 Year Advisor

## Year 10 Report

It has been so wintry here at school and this has kept me focussed on organising the senior jackets so that they will be available from the beginning of Year 11. The cost will be \$66.00 which includes \$6 for GST. The jackets will have the Northlakes High School initials on the front and on the back the number 16 to represent the year they finish. Above the number will be their surname, name, nickname or they may choose to keep that blank. Below are the proposed designs. Payment forms will be sent home shortly.



I have had one student interested in completing the Duke of Edinburgh Award. This is a really rewarding challenge and involves a range of activities aimed at self-improvement and personal growth. There are a number of options including Physical Recreational, Skills, Service and Adventure. There are many ways to tailor the award to suit your passions or interests. If your child is interested please ask them to see me.

Over the next year any opportunities to take on community service or extra-curricular activities should be encouraged. In one year this cohort will be asked to nominate themselves or others for the leadership positions in the school including; Captain, Vice-Captain, and School Leaders. Certificates and awards are a great asset and will assist in earning these positions.

*Megan Lubinski*  
Year 10 Advisor

## **Year 11 Report**

As the third and final term for the Preliminary Year rapidly draws to a close there are still many important school outcomes to be decided.

This Monday the 1st of September, students who have nominated for leadership roles for 2015 will be presenting themselves to members of staff at Lunch 1 and to their peers from Years 10 and 11 during the day. Voting will take place on both of these occasions with interviews taking place later in the week. Hopefully, we will have a new set of school leaders for 2015 by the end of the week.

Monday the 8th of September will see the commencement of the Preliminary Course Yearly Examinations; these will run until September 17. Students are only expected to attend school on the days when they have exams. Students should, by now, be revising and studying for these exams. Students should have their examination timetable by now, if they have not received one they should see Ms Legge as soon as possible, or look on our website under the 'School Years' tab, Year 11.

Orders for senior jackets and or jerseys will be closed at the end of Week 9, Friday 12th September. All students will be expected to have paid in full for their jacket or jersey by this date. Students are aware of the numbers required by the manufacturer before the order will be taken. To avoid the disappointment of missing out on a jacket or jersey, please encourage your students to order their jacket or jersey as soon as possible. See me for further details

*Ed Seaby*

*Year 11 Advisor*

## **Year 12 Report**

All Year 12 have now completed their Trial Exams. Year 12 students should be discussing their results and exam techniques with their teachers for feedback for their HSC exams.

Ways to improve their results should be a focus for all Year 12 for the next 7 weeks.

Mr Hextell has spoken to all Year 12 about the rules of sitting the HSC and how to best be prepared for the exams. I will have another meeting with them in the next two weeks to cover anything that is troubling them about the HSC. Study timetables and summaries should be underway for all their subject areas. If Year 12 students require any support please see me in the TAS staffroom. Time management is still the major key in being organised for the rest of this term and your HSC. The HSC timetable is on the website under 'School Years' Year 12.

Last week all Year 12 participated in the Newcastle University; Resilience Workshop. It was a valuable opportunity to learn about dealing with the stress of the HSC, meditation techniques and how to realise their potential at this time of their lives. I am hoping they have taken aspects of the workshop away with them to reflect on!

About 55 Year 12 students attended a talk in the library recently regarding University applications and scholarships. Applications for Early Entry close on the 30th September. It is important that all students who want to go to University log onto the UAC website to read further about these applications and scholarships. Please see Ms Hewett in the Careers Office for further details.

The Year 12 Graduation Assembly will be held on the 18th September at 9am. This is an important part of Year 12. The assembly will show how far the students have come in their school life. Awards and HSC folders with Year 12 yearly reports will be presented. All parents are invited to attend this special event. More details about this assembly and the format of the last week will be sent out to Year 12 students in Week 8.

The event of the year, the Year 12 Formal on the 15th November 6pm at Koorindah Waters Golf and Resort is looking to be a great night with students and staff attending to celebrate the achievements of Year 12 2014. The final

payment is due on the 19th September 2014. Remember to continue to pay fees especially for Year 12. These can be paid in instalments at the student window.

Outside the TAS staffroom is a Year 12 Noticeboard which is constantly updated with valuable information for Year 12 students. Please check regularly for any information that may apply to you.

Dates to remember:

- 18th September 2014: Year 12 Graduation Assembly
- 19th September 2014: Formal final payment
- 30th September 2014: Early Entry University applications close.
- 13th October 2014: HSC begins.
- 15th November 2014: Year 12 Formal

Please do not hesitate to call or email (jodene.garside@det.nsw.edu.au) me if there are any concerns. Remember I am here to support Year 12 and their families in any way I can.

*Jodene Garside  
Year 12 Advisor*

### Library News

With Year 12 nearing closer to their last days at Northlakes High School, it is important that students remember to be responsible. Students are reminded to bring back all library books on time & before the end of term to avoid getting charged a replacement cost. It is important so that future students can utilise the resources for their HSC.

*Thanks, Library Staff*

### TAS News

*In the TAS department Year 7 and Year 8 have changed Technologies classes this week. Here are some samples from the last classes.*

*Patchwork and tie dyed cushions by Year 8 from a Textile Unit called Cushy Life.*

*Hand painted calico shopping bags by Year 7 from a unit called Theme Parks.*



### Total Agriculture College

A select group of ten enthusiastic agriculture students recently travelled to the picturesque rural town of Paterson located in the Hunter Valley just over one hour north of San Remo. The aim of the trip was to experience what C.B. Alexander College Total has to offer.

Total is unique in that it is the only working farm in NSW where students can gain recognised qualifications such as Certificate III and IV in Agriculture, Diploma of Agriculture and a Certificate III in Horse breeding. Students gain broad and valuable experience on the Total farms that run:

- 1500 beef cattle
- Over 100 Australian stock horses
- 200 dairy cows
- 300 sheep for prime lamb and wool production
- Five poultry sheds produce up to 1,000,000 chickens per year



Studying full time at Tocal involves practical work on the college and local farms, practical skills training and case studies covering a wide range of topics. Students will learn not only about a range of animal, pasture and crop production but also develop skills such as quad and motor bike riding and maintenance, fencing, first aid, welding, wool classing, horse breaking and environmental management.

The college caters for just over 100 fulltime live in students which come from all over the country, even overseas. Many students have no previous farming experience and go on to work on and manage large farms all around the world. Entry is open to any student aged over 16, courses take one year for the Certificate III courses or two years for the Certificate IV.

The day was thoroughly enjoyed by both the students and staff who attended to personalised tour of the farm and facilities. Many of the students indicated they were now very interested in pursuing this avenue of further education following their time at Northlakes High.

*Mr Ben Bryant*

*Assistant Head of Agriculture*

## **Wellbeing**

We are running many small groups throughout the years for both boys and girls. The groups focus on identifying and building strengths and teaching strategies to help our young people become the best adults they can be. The groups are run with the help of our local services, such as Oasis Youth (Wyong), Youth Connections (Kariong), The Links Cabin (San Remo), and Phoenix Youth Support (Gravity Youth Centre) The Men's Shed (San Remo). These groups are free to our students, some may have a small fee for excursions, which the students enjoy and benefit from. Students are selected to be involved through our Wellbeing Team. Groups this term are working with students on Resilience, Anger Management, Building Social Skills, Healthy Working

Relationships, Grief and Loss and Improving Confidence. We would like to thank the local groups involved in these programs, enabling us to create strong community links.



## **Community News**

### **Supporting Our Community**

This week's feature is on an ex-student from our School – Hayden Williams

*"Recently I was asked to write a blurb for Northlakes High's newsletter about my success after leaving the school in 2011 – it's weird writing about yourself but I hope that current students can read about what I have done with my life since leaving and think about what direction they will take when they leave.*

*Despite being a bit of a nerd, I never really liked school. I liked my friends and the social aspect but I didn't achieve as much as I could have because I wasn't focused and hadn't thought about my future. In 2011, I was a slightly above average Year 10 student doing the electives of Engineering and Commerce. At the end of the year, after failing to qualify for a School Certificate (I didn't sit the Computer exam because I was sick), I dropped out of high school. Luckily enough, the Careers Advisor directed me to a course in management. After I completed this course, the instructor asked me to work for San Remo Neighbourhood Centre, which is located in the yellow building across the road from the school. I started in March of 2012 and still work there*

as a Project Support Officer– my job involves lots of paper work, organizing programs, working with volunteers and about a billion other things.

Working for an organisation that works to fix social issues within the community teaches you how to empathize with others and it makes you question the world around you. In July 2012, I was selected to represent young Australian's at the United Nations climate talks in Doha, Qatar (in the Middle East) – this experience taught me a lot about how the world works and a lot about myself and what I wanted to do with my life. After I came back from my travels, I decided to apply for university. Initially, I wanted to study politics but eventually I fell into anthropology. Anthropology is the study of culture through participating in it. An anthropologist tries to understand the world by looking at it through the eyes of others, many work with indigenous communities, refugees and sporting teams. I have nearly completed my degree and am passionate about what I am studying. I have been very lucky to have had opportunities come my way. Keeping an open mind, working hard and not giving up have helped a lot. Being a student at Northlakes gave me a certain perspective of the world; I've used that to my advantage. What's next for me? In 2015, I'm heading to Sweden for 6 months to study and am insanely excited."

Hayden Williams

### Rego Day - Soldiers Beach Nippers

Sunday 31 August and Sunday 14th September

10am – 2pm at Soldiers Beach Surf Club

Why not join us to learn surf skills and have fun!

More info at [www.soldiersbeachslsc.com.au](http://www.soldiersbeachslsc.com.au)

# The UNIT

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[links@sanremo.org.au](mailto:links@sanremo.org.au)

EIPP funded by Department of Family and Community Services. A project of San Remo Neighbourhood Centre

### DATES TO REMEMBER

1/9/14	AECG – Gorokan High School
2/9/14	Year 10 Rumbalara site study
3/9/14	Vietnam Veterans Bus – Year 10 \$5.00
3/9/14	Oz Tag Years 9-10
4/9/14	Sydney Aquarium excursion
4-5/9/14	Combined High Schools Athletics Carnival
7/9/14	Father's Day
9/9/14	Oz Tag Years 7-8
8-17/9/14	Year 11 Preliminary exams
18/9/14	Year 12 Graduation Ceremony

