Education Minister visits

The Honourable Mr Adrian Piccolli MP, NSW Education Minister, visited the school on Thursday. It was an honour that he put aside some time during his tour of the area to meet our school captains, learn more about the history of the school and visit our students engaged in learning.

Thank you to our school captains Peter Hedt, Sophie Stephens, Zoe Nisbet and Jacob Watkin for meeting the Minister and to Mr Sciffer and Ms Longworth for their assistance during the tour.

Congratulations to Jodie Hicks

Congratulations to Jodie Hicks who has been selected to play in the ACT Meteors (Women’s National League). Jodie will be playing in the team playing three matches against Queensland on the 19th, 20th and 21st December. We wish Jodie and her family all the best. The school is very proud of her achievements.

Strategic Directions

Following a significant process of consultation with students, staff and parents, we have finalised the Strategic Directions that will form the vision for Hay War Memorial High for the next three years. It has been an enlightening and uplifting process which has enabled us to focus on the outcomes that we all want for the students at Hay War.
Memorial High School.
The Strategic Directions are:
- Quality Teaching & Learning and Assessment
- Building Positive Relationships
- Engaging Students in Learning

The next phase in the process of finalising our School Plan is to develop the programs and practices that we will target to achieve these very lofty, aspirational directions. We should all stand proud of what these directions represent – a school that is well positioned to serve the needs of an aspirational, positive community who share a desire to achieve the best possible outcomes for students. We are excited by our vision and what it means for the future of our proud school.

Program participation
I take this opportunity to congratulate the many students who have participated in the various programs on offer at our school and the staff who make them possible. Collectively, this good will and high participation in leadership, social justice, performing arts and sports contribute to the wonderful vibe that is commented upon at Hay War Memorial High School. I will elaborate a little more on these at Presentation Day Assembly on Wednesday 17th December when we celebrate the best of each of these areas.

I would also like to commend those students who have demonstrated ‘true grit’ throughout the year. I thank the many members of staff who provide the necessary support to these students so that they flourish from their education.

Merry Christmas and a very safe and happy holiday to one and all.

Mr Y Chambers, Principal.

Ag Update

This week, the Ag plot has been excited with the arrival of our first alpaca, Elsie. Elsie has been donated to us by the Cox family. Elsie will be used as a guard companion for our stud sheep. Next year we hope to expand the Ag plot and get another alpaca to assist Elsie with her guarding duties.

We have also taken possession of a new Heiniger shearing handpiece and clippers that will be used by the students to prepare animals for shows as well as normal shearing and crutching of sheep. Our new Trutest scales arrived which will allow us to weigh and record individual animal weights. The unit also has a Bluetooth function that will allow us to move into the electronic tag and wand reader technology.

I would like to thank every business and individual that has supported and donated to the schools Ag plot in 2014. I look forward to an even more successful and exciting year in 2015, pushing the students to learn more by forcing themselves to try new experiences and overcome their fears.

Last call for 2015 Debutantes

Wednesday 17th December 2014 is the last day names will be taken for the debutante ball.

The decision will then be made whether the ball proposed for Saturday 18th April 2015 will go ahead. Students who have already put their names down will be advised either way.

Debutantes now need to be age sixteen by 30th June 2015 and not 18th April as previously stated.

Please consider being part of this exciting gala evening, you won’t regret it!

If anyone is interested or would just like to make an enquiry please contact any of the P & C members below:

Rhonda Slattery
0427 932140

Serena Wall
0437 391808

Kerry Barnes
0427 933405
Careers in Agriculture

Last Thursday and Friday fifteen students from Years 10 to 12 travelled to Leeton and Wagga and visited a variety of agricultural industries and higher education institutions. Mr Caughey and Ms McNally accompanied the students. In Leeton, the Visitors Information Centre put on a presentation about the great variety of agricultural industries in Leeton including Rice Growers (Sun Rice), Freedom Foods and Walnuts Australia. Everyone got to sample foods from Rice Growers and Freedom Foods during this presentation. We then went to Pacific Fresh a massive orange packing shed that supplies Woolworths, Coles and many other retailers with oranges and also exports oranges all over the world. This is a high tech, multimillion dollar, computer operated system where the oranges are scanned with a laser and this then sorts them into 30 different types based on size, markings and colour.

We then travelled to Wagga and visited the Riverina Institute of TAFE Primary Industries Centre, that teaches Cert III and IV in Agriculture and the Diploma in Agriculture. This is a great alternative for students who wish to study agriculture but do not want to attend university. The next day we visited Hutcheon and Pearce, the John Deer dealer with eleven branches. Their Human Resources Manager explained the variety of apprenticeships available, their selection process for apprenticeships and then we went for a walk through the site where a number of employees spoke to the students about their jobs. We then went to Landaco owned by Peter and Berlina Connors, both are ex-Hay War Memorial High School students.

Landaco makes fertiliser spreaders. Berlina showed the students around their site and explained the jobs available with them and the training involved. We then went to GTES, the group apprenticeship and traineeship organisation, which students can contact if they want an apprenticeship or traineeship and are unable to get one. The final visit was to CSU where the students found out about the agriculture, animal science and veterinary courses. An agriculture lecturer who specialises in soil science and crops spoke to the students and showed us through the underground tunnel where they can see the roots of the plants growing above, monitor the effects of fertilizers and water supply.

The students also had a look around the uni and a current student spoke about university life. The students were well behaved and great representatives of the school.
Canteen News

Rhonda and Mel wish everyone a safe and happy holiday and hope to see everyone back in 2015.

**Breakfast 8.30am-8.55am**
Toasted Cheese Sandwich 80c

**Recess and Lunchtime**
Slushies $2
Frappé $2

High school hints and tips

**Boys and body image:**
AUDIO: Rachel Friend talks with paediatrician Associate Professor Michael Kohn about the issue of body image and how it impacts on young men in particular.

**Girls and body image:**
AUDIO: Rachel Friend talks with the Butterfly Foundations Education Manager, Danni Rowlands about body image issues affecting young girls. Research shows young people feel under more pressure than ever to look a certain way.

Teach your kids to be waterproof
As temperatures rise, the risk of drowning increases too. Review these water-safety tips to help keep your family safe this summer.


Road safety reminder for parents and carers these holidays
Remember when walking near roads, on footpaths, near driveways and in car parks always: hold your child’s hand, talk to your child about road safety and point out road safety dangers and differences in new environments.

The best way to keep your child safe on or near the road is to hold their hand. Talk with your child daily about road safety. For further information visit:

P & C Information

**MEETINGS**: 1st Thursday of each month during term. 7.30pm in the staffroom. ALL WELCOME!

**CONTACT** Vice President/ Acting President: Rhonda Slattery 0427 932 140
Secretary: Serena Wall 0437 931 808
Acting Treasurer: Helen Jacka 0428 931 972

**UNIFORMS** The P & C supports the wearing of the correct school uniform by HWMHS students. We run a uniform pool at the school where most items of clothing are under $5. Donated items can be left at the front office of the school.

**STUDENT INJURY INSURANCE**: P&C provides student injury insurance coverage for all enrolled students at HWMHS. Please refer to www.pandc.org.au/insurance.seo for information and claim forms. Completed forms should be sent direct to the insurer.

Hay War Memorial High School

For so much what shall we repay?