



NSW Department of Education and Training
GLOUCESTER HIGH SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER

WELCOME BACK

A special welcome to all our new students,
Year 7 students and their parents and carers.



Also a special welcome to our new Teachers -
Mr Rod Sharpe, Mrs Mary Doust and Mr Phil Dowle with Pat Cavanagh, Principal.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Welcome back one and all to another school year. I trust everyone had a relaxing and restful break. I especially hope that our 2011 Year 12 students and their parents took the opportunity for some quality “down time” after a full-on couple of years! Speaking of Year 12, we again showed what great results our students can achieve with the right mix of individual commitment, quality tuition and parental support. Nine Band 6 results were achieved in various

subjects and a staggering 43 Band 5s (or equivalent). Nina Burrows, Emily Hamilton and Jessica Fordham all attained an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) of over 90, with Erin Wilson and Karly Hawkins in the 80s.

2012 is shaping up to be another busy and productive year. On the staffing front, we have a new Head Teacher (Mathematics), Mr Philip Dowle, previously at Narabeen Sports High School, and a new Head Teacher (Science), Mrs Mary Doust, formerly of Wingham High. Also in the Maths faculty, we welcome Mr Rod Sharpe, who joins us from the Tweed River district. Relieving Head Teacher (TAS) will be Mr Dave Garland, while Miss Sam Tulloch continues to fill in for Toni Stanton in PD/H/PE. Mrs Pauline Jollow will fill a 0.5 vacancy in both Visual Arts and English. Welcome to all our new staff. We are confident you will find the “Gloucester experience” rewarding and uplifting!

Parents are reminded that students cannot be dropped off in the bus zone at the front of the school, nor in either of the school's carparks. We have had real safety issues recently with students, sometimes unseen, being open to injury. Remember – cars and kids don't mix.

A reminder also that the school day for Year 11 and 12 students finishes after 12:00 pm each Friday.

Some students will have timetabled Extension classes, but most will have the opportunity to either stay at school and do some extra study or go home. All students must initial the sign-out book provided if leaving, or indicate which part of the school they will be in if staying. In line with the concept of an adult learning environment, all students have been advised that, whether staying at school or leaving, their behaviour is expected to be exemplary, as is required by all Gloucester High students.

Finally, if any students are interested in participating in an overseas exchange student program (through the Rotary Club), they can find all the details at rotaryyouthexchange9650.com.au. Alternatively, you could contact members of the Gloucester Rotary Club directly.

THE ANZAC MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

One of our Year 11 students had been successful in winning a prestigious Premier's ANZAC Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship funds 20 students from across the state to travel overseas on a study tour of significant sites associated with the ANZAC tradition. Our successful applicant, and one of the lucky 20 state-wide, is Jaslyn Tuckwell.

Congratulations, Jaslyn, on your well-deserved success. I know you will be a great ambassador for your family, your school and your country.



CAREERS NEWS

FRIDAY TAFE COURSES 2012

These courses commence on Friday 10 February 2012.

Transport is provided by Fisher Bus Company at a cost of \$10 return each Friday.

Bus leaves Billabong Park Bus Terminal at 6.55am each Friday morning. Pay the driver for each trip on the day. The bus returns to Gloucester at 4.45pm each Friday. If you wish to be picked up along the route ring Fishers to arrange times and pick up point. (Brian and Libby Fisher 0427 411 208).

Students need to take their own writing material and lunch or purchase food from the TAFE Kiosk on Campus.

If you require any other assistance ring Mr Green at school 6558 1605.

OHS WHITE CARD COURSE

The Neighbourhood Centre is running a White Card Course for GHS Students on 15 March 2012. Cost is \$130.

Courses need to be paid at the Neighbourhood Centre seven days in advance. They will provide all necessary details about the course when you pay.

All students working on construction sites for work experience or VET work placement must have an OHS White Card before they can go on the building site by law. This law applies to all trades that work on a building site.

For more information ring Kim Hall on 6558 2454 or Greg Green on 6558 1605.

DEFENCE FORCE TECHNICAL SCHOLARSHIP

Defence Force Technical Scholarship Application packages are available from Mr Green.

To apply you need to have an interest in a trade career with one of the defence forces (Army, Navy, Air Force).

You also need to be studying VET Courses in Construction, Metals, Automotive or Engineering Science. You must also be studying Maths General or higher.

For more information or an application pack see Mr Green.

VOLUNTEER TUTOR READING PROGRAM

Gloucester High School has been running a very successful Volunteer Tutor Reading Program for many years. The program runs each Tuesday and Wednesday morning for two hours, from 9.00am to 11.00am.

We are currently looking for parents/grandparents/interested community members to help with the program, particularly on Tuesday mornings. You don't need any special qualifications – just a desire to help students and perhaps a little bit of patience!

If you have a couple of hours to spare each Tuesday (or even every second Tuesday), we would love to hear from you! Just contact the school on 65581605 and ask to speak to Lorraine Forbes (if she is available) or leave a message and she will get back to you ASAP.

WELLBEING LESSONS YEAR 7-10

The first Wellbeing lesson for each class in Years 7-11 will cover GHS Anti-Bullying Policy and GHS Uniform Policy. These policies will be explained in detail to the students. Opportunity will be provided for discussion with question time, and links to GHS Intranet— under Our School Rules and Policies.

Policies will be provided for future reference by both students and parents. If parents would like a hard copy of either document please contact me at the school 65581605.

<http://www.gloucester-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/our-school/rules-policies>

http://www.gloucester-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/documents/5807549/5813452/Anti-bullying_plan%20web.pdf

Trudi Edman

P&C Annual General Meeting

Gloucester High School P&C AGM will be held on Thursday 23 February at 7.30pm in the School Library. We would love to see as many as possible and would encourage you to bring along any other interested parents. P&C meetings are held the 4th Thursday of every month. If you no longer wish to receive P&C emails please let me know.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Rachel Starrett

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Expedition -Tasmania 2012.

During the January school holidays an intrepid group of Gloucester High students headed south for two weeks, bound for the wild, windswept plains of Central Tasmania. The trip, which formed the final assessment expedition for the 8 Gold Duke of Edinburgh students, was to walk the world-renowned Overland Track (along with a few challenging side trips) – covering over 100km of rugged terrain.

Heading off from Gloucester on one of the few non-rainy days the happy little troupe consisting of Alex Bratfield, Hannah Deen, Beau Hebblewhite, Dylan Snowdon, Ellen Starrett, Rick Williams and Matt Wise (along with Mr & Mrs Costa) set forth from their wailing families aboard the XPT to meet fellow trekker Luke Grey, who was eagerly awaiting them in Sydney before flying down to Launceston. Alex nearly didn't get to board the plane due to a small security misunderstanding (yes metal cutlery is not to go in your hand luggage) and Matt nearly got crash-tackled by security on the tarmac of Launceston when he attempted to reboard the plane from the terminal after realising that he had left his backpack on the plane...hmmm



A day of organisation and preparation of supplies in Launceston, was followed by a minibus trip with our faithful driver Danny over to Cradle Valley where Mrs Costa (AKA Bob) celebrated her 21st(???) birthday with much loud yahooing and cake eating to a backdrop of the dramatic Cradle Mountain...this was to be the last day that we would see the sun.

The first day of the track dawned overcast and became progressively greyer as the group climbed higher up onto the exposed plateau. Heavy first-day packs (weighing from 18 to 25kg) made the climbing tough, but the stunning views from the top more than made up for the effort. After reaching the summit of Cradle Mountain the group headed off to camp at sheltered Waterfall Valley, where the first of the rain (which was to be a constant companion) started.

On commencing the track we were informed by National Parks staff that Tasmania had in fact been in a rather serious drought (as the brown paddocks seen from the plane on arrival had testified – “I though Tasmania would be a lot greener” R.Williams (2012)), however in true GHS Duke of Edinburgh style the drought was soon broken and the next week was spent trekking through amazing scenery whilst enjoying a combination of torrential rain, gale force winds, hail, blizzards and deep mud.

Side trips to Cradle Mountain, Lake Will, Mt Doris and a particularly icy Mt Pelion East ("I have never been this cold, I can't feel my hands" M.Wise(2012)) made for some of the most memorable experiences of the trip and all will remember the brief, but highly competitive snow fight...it was hard to believe that we were bushwalking in Australia in the middle of summer.



Most people complete the Overland Track at the northern end of Lake St Clair with a gentle (soft) boat trip, however these tough little chaps and chapesses chose to hike for a further two days along the side of the lake through beautiful beech forest into Cynthia Bay where much celebration was had and burgers consumed.

Balancing out the challenging highlands weather the group then headed to Hobart for a relaxing couple of days before boarding their shiny new minibus to head for the sunny, sheltered east coast for a couple of days of hiking along the beautiful sandy beaches of the Freycinet National Park.

Flying back from Hobart into Sydney the tired little campers were met by their eager parents, before drifting off in various directions full of stories of their exciting journey and a new found appreciation for their comfortable, warm beds and hot meals which they didn't need to cook on a small metho burner.

Congratulations to Alex, Hannah, Luke, Beau, Dylan, Ellen, Rick and Matt on taking on and completing this challenging expedition and thankyou to all for making this such an enjoyable and memorable experience.

Kevin & Sharon Costa

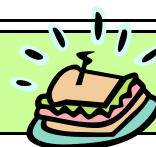


SCHOOL CALENDAR—TERM 1

Tuesday	21 February	Zone Swimming Carnival
Thursday	23 February	Vaccinations - Year 7 & Year 10
Thursday	23 February	P&C Meeting 7:30pm
Monday	27 February	Year 12 Student/ Parent HSC Info Evening
Friday	2 March	Clean Up Australia Day
Tuesday	6 March	Regional Swimming Carnival—Maitland
Monday—Wednesday	19-21 March	Year 7 Great Aussie Bush Camp
Thursday	22 March	P&C Meeting
Monday	2 April	Year 10 Work Experience
Monday	2 April	State Swimming Homebush
Thursday	5 April	Excellence Assembly
Friday	6 April	Good Friday



CANTEEN—TERM 1



Monday	13 February	Elona
Tuesday	14 February	Kate
Wednesday	15 February	Paula
Thursday	16 February	Kristy
Friday	17 February	Elona
Monday	20 February	Elona
Tuesday	21 February	Mary Anne
Wednesday	22 February	Yvonne S
Thursday	23 February	Reena

SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT

Gloucester High School aims to develop a supportive learning environment that engages all students, teachers and community in the pursuit of excellence.



**Education
& Training**
North Coast

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Deputy Principal Mr Mike King
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