

# Melville Matters



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Term 4 – Issue 16

Thursday, 13 November 2014

## **Term 4**

### **Week 7**

Wednesday, 19 Nov Yr 11 RRISK Driver Awareness

### **Week 8**

Monday, 24 Nov Yr 10 Crossroads

Tuesday, 25 Nov White Card Training

Thursday, 27 Nov Yr 10 Driver Awareness

School Spectacular

Friday, 28 Nov White Ribbon Day

## ***REMEMBRANCE DAY***



*(L-R: Jarrah, Isaiah, Ben & Sean)*

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> of November, the World stopped at 11 am to mark the end of World War 1 in 1918. At Melville High school all students stopped work and marked this moment with a minute of silence and an explanation of the significance of this day in history.

Also as part of this Remembrance Day, a memorial garden that has been established at the front of Melville High Administration building around the flagpoles is the annual focus for a

special ceremony. This garden project was constructed from a suggestion of a former student to do something significant for his school, community and to incorporate a memorial to the Aboriginal Soldiers of the district who fought and in some cases died in the War.

The photo is of the students who represent the SRC and Aboriginal community of Melville High laying 2 wreaths at the memorial as part of the remembrance of those soldiers who proudly served our community.

*Regards*

Mr Jeff Hollingsworth  
Principal

## ***DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT***



It was with great pride to see all our students recognise all the soldiers from World War 1 with a minutes silence throughout the school. It is important that we don't glorify war but recognise the sacrifice of those before us so we could continue to live in this great country.

Last week I had the fantastic opportunity to spend the week with Year 8 at Emu Gully Camp on the banks of Pindari Dam out past Glenn Innes. What a great experience for staff and students!! The experience for the students was invaluable and Ms Mackay, Mr Kallmier, Mr Singleman and myself all saw the students grow individually and as a team, as the week progressed. They overcame great adversities such as the fear of long drop loos or the great heights of the rope course around the buttress. All students got the opportunity to drive buggies, motor boats, GPS navigation units and many more. Each activity was accompanied by a talk before and after trying to get students to reflect on the four values of the camp, Courage, Mateship, Perseverance and Sacrifice. I must thank all students for their behaviour on the camp and also the opportunity to get to know you all better.

The last of our Year 12 students have signed out from their 13 years of schooling. We wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavours and as always we look forward to watching their future unfold.

An open tour for parents and students in Year 6 was conducted last week. This was organised by Mr Ruhl and Ms Heath with great success, with many positive comments from participants. A huge thank you to the peer leaders in Year 9 that were involved in this activity your conduct was fantastic. Well done.

Finally I would like to personally thank the P & C for their kind donations of \$1000 to each faculty. It is generous gifts like these that allow the faculties to purchase extra resources to support your students' learning. So thank you!

On another note let's talk about social media. I spoke at assembly this week about dealing with aggressive or provocative messaging in social media. Please encourage your child to simply disengage in this sort of conversation by logging out or simply turning the device off. It's really that simple. If the matter involves another student at our school, please encourage them to report it. On a lighter note, Melville's Most Marvellous is nearly upon us; it's time to encourage students to begin practicing their talents as there may be a challenge from staff for the first place trophy this

year.

Have a safe and productive 2 weeks until the next Melville Matters.

Vicki Staunton  
Deputy Principal

### ***THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT***



*(Video Conference participants  
Back L: Emma, Jocie, Kate  
Front L: Honey, Georgia)*

### **English KLA - Junior Debating**

2014 has been an exciting year of debating for Melville, with two junior teams from years 7/8 and 9/10 participating in the Premier's debating competition. This is a particularly challenging competition for our teams as they are only provided with the topic on the day of the debate and are given an hour to prepare. The only tools provided to teams during the preparation hour are pens, paper and a dictionary. During this time students must prepare a 4-6 minute debate to woo the audience and adjudicator.

The Year 9 team this year consisted of Eloise, Sydney, Emma and Will. Year 9 fought valiantly this year, but were overcome and came a close second in each of their debates. Year 7 included Kate, Emma, Georgia and Jocie. Year 7 were confronted with an additional challenge this year when their introduction to debating saw them not only participating in two debates in the one day, but against teams with 12 months' experience. Nevertheless, the girls made Melville proud, coming away from the day with one win and one loss.



## Year 9 & 10 Premier's Debating Final

This year we were fortunate enough to be offered the opportunity to participate in a "virtual excursion" organised by the arts unit of the DEC. This excursion involved the Year 7 debate team travelling all the way to the TLS to dial into a video conference of the YR 9 & 10 final of the Premier's Debating Challenge, broadcast live from the William Wilkins Gallery in Sydney. The finalist teams were Northern Beaches Secondary College - Manly and Smiths Hill High School, debating the topic 'That horse racing should be banned'. In addition to viewing the debate, our team was encouraged to interact through online polls and comments on Edmodo and via an adjudication sheet provided prior to the event. Seeing the high standard of both vocabulary and argument provided by the finalists provided an invaluable learning experience for the Year 7 team, as well as providing a standard of debating for the team to aspire to and work toward.

## The English Competition

Each year the English Faculty of Melville High enters students in a Competition officially known as "International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)" which are independent skills-based assessments with a competition element. Commonly referred to as the UNSW tests, ICAS is unique, being the most comprehensive generally available suite of academic assessments and school tests for primary and secondary school students. The assessments comprise eight Computer Skills tests, eleven English tests, eleven Maths tests, eleven Science tests, five Spelling tests and ten Writing tests.

Administration Guidelines are provided to the schools with the ICAS papers to ensure that the same conditions are afforded to all students sitting ICAS.

Over one million student entries are accepted from over 6,300 schools in Australia and New Zealand annually. In addition, students from over 20 countries including Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa and the USA participate in ICAS each year.

Every year Melville students receive excellent results and this year is no different. We received

### 2 Distinctions:-

- Ben (Year 7) – 90%
- Sarah (Year 11) – an outstanding 93%.  
Sarah has entered the competition every year since year 7 and has achieved excellent results every time. Looking forward to her entering again next year in her final year at Melville.

## 2 Credits-

- Jaxon (Year 7) – 73%
- Declan (Year 7) – 80%

Hopefully Jaxon and Declan will follow in Sarah's footsteps.

The competition test is quite hard so all students who entered this competition are to be commended for their participation and effort.

## Thankyou to the Parents and Citizens Association

This term the P & C donated \$1000 to each key learning area to purchase a significant "wish list" item that faculty budgets otherwise may not cover. It is an exceedingly generous and gratefully received gesture. Thankyou to the committed members of Melville's P & C for all their work in 2014 and particularly for thinking of our students and staff and their teaching and learning needs.

Ms R Turner  
Head Teacher English

## THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

*Awareness of history is an essential characteristic of any society; historical knowledge is fundamental to understanding ourselves and others, and historical understanding is as foundational and challenging as other disciplines.*

Shape of the Australian Curriculum:  
History May 2009

Melville High School History Department provides all students with opportunities to better understand, examine, analyse and evaluate history on a local, national and global level.

History is about understanding the past in order to better understand the world around us in the present. We ask questions of how the past impacts us today, how we interact with our environment and how we as individuals can make a difference in the world in which we live.

History teachers at Melville High School extensively use Quality Teaching Framework activities including ICT research and practical lessons to assist students in creating connections with their prior knowledge and to manipulate information to create new meanings and understanding. Students can engage in historical enquiry including archaeological digs and site studies.

This year has been particularly busy with the implementation of the new National Curriculum in

Year 7, 9 and 10. This has given us greater flexibility to choose topics that are more relevant to the students of Melville High. Next year will see the final implementation of the National Curriculum in Year 8.

Melville High School History Department enthusiastically offers a selection of subjects to Stage 6 students, including Ancient History, Modern History, Extension History and Legal Studies. Students also study Mandatory History in Years 7 to 10 (Stages 4 and 5). A very successful and popular subject is Elective History, which can be undertaken in Years 9 and 10. Following is an account of the experiences of two students who have undertaken Elective History in Years 9 and 10.

Ms J Richmond  
Head Teacher History

### Student experiences of Elective History

As students at Melville High, we found the Elective History Year 9 and 10 courses extremely enjoyable and educational. The course is engaging, fun and intriguing. The subject offers a variety of topics and lots of freedom as to what you study. In these topics, there will regularly be associated media that communicates directly and effectively through the big screen.

You will undertake a personal transformation leading you through the most interesting and significant parts of history such as the Trojan Wars and the sinking of the Titanic. Immerse yourself in past worlds filled with wonder, excitement, glory, tragedy and heroism. Prepare to tolerate some of the most influential and riveting staff. Explore the frayed pages of human history, but don't go alone. Share in this adventure with your best pals and most reliable and flexible teachers.

Be the best you can be by doing it right at Melville High and choose Elective History! ☺



By Isaac and Connor

Camden Haven/Port Macquarie Triathlon festival  
22nd/23<sup>rd</sup> of November

Junior races to suit all ages and abilities from [1pm Saturday](#) along with an ocean swim and senior/teams sprint triathlon [on Sunday morning](#).

For more information and entry forms visit  
[www.portmactriclub.com.au](http://www.portmactriclub.com.au)


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AND BUDGET

## THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

The Library at Melville High is a friendly and busy area of the school. We aim to be an accessible, comfortable and vibrant resource centre that encourages and supports reading, relaxation and learning for all students and staff. It is a place where we hope to inspire you to inquire, explore, discover, collaborate, imagine, think, learn and create. We will support your educational goals and give you the tools and skills to succeed.

### When can I use the library?

The library is open every day at 8:35 and closes at 3:30. Students are welcome to use the library during their breaks – before school, recess and lunchtime. Lunch 1 is for senior students only and lunch 2 for all students. Teachers often bring their classes to the library to utilise the computers and resources for research and class work.

### What can I do in the library?

Students may work on research, assignments and homework, either individually or in groups. They can read quietly on the comfy chairs, study, play board games, and use the computers and internet. We have a dedicated senior study area. Students are expected to behave and respect and consider other users.

### What resources does the library have?

The library has a large collection of fiction books, magazines, newspapers, graphic novels, and audio books. There is also an up to date selection of information resources. We are constantly buying new books and are always happy to purchase your favourites if we don't have them.

### What can the library do for me?

Students can borrow up to 4 books at a time over a 2 week period, but these books can be renewed if nobody is waiting for them.

The library staff are always happy to help you find information, research, use the catalogue, locate resources, complete assignments, use the computers or find a good book.

There is a black and white printer and photocopying facilities available for school work and assignments.

An engraver is available to engrave your name on your calculator.

There is a laminator available to use, for a small fee.

We encourage all students to be actively enjoying reading. The Premier's Reading Challenge is a great way for Year 7 to get involved. We enjoy helping students discover something they like to read and have found that many are exploring new authors and genres.





## Book yourself a summer reading adventure

Registrations for Kempsey Library's Summer Reading Club (SRC) open at 4pm on Wednesday 3 December. Come along and sign up, decorate a library bag and receive a starter pack with a log sheet to record books completed, an activity pack, wrist band, key ring and temporary tattoo.

If you can't get to the library on Wednesday 3rd, bag decorating is also being offered on Thursday and Friday afternoons at 4pm.

SRC registration is open throughout December and January, for students from preschool through to high school age. However you must also be a member of the Kempsey Shire Library. To join the library, come into any branch with your parent or guardian and sign up for the SRC at the same time!

The Summer Reading Club is a national initiative that aims to keep kids reading throughout the summer break. The SRC has its own website, which has loads of fun online games and activities, books reviews, author profiles and reading tips. Check it out at [www.summerreadingclub.org.au](http://www.summerreadingclub.org.au)

Locally, SRC activities planned by Kempsey Library include weekly prize giveaways, a movie afternoon mid-way through the program and a celebratory party at the end of January, which will include games and lucky prize draws for each of three age categories.

For more information about how to get involved in this year's Summer Reading Club program phone Kempsey Library on 6566 3210 or call into your nearest library branch.