



YASS HIGH SCHOOL

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US Consul General visits Yass High School

What a wonderful day we had on Wednesday 27th May. 35 principals from around the District joined the School Education Director, Mr Paul Greer, for a gathering in the school library. Year 12 Hospitality students, under the expert supervision of Mrs Sally Walker, Hospitality teacher, Mrs Annette Halley-Barberis and Mrs Lois Perceval, School Administrative Officer, catered a delicious morning tea and lunch in the kitchen. At lunch time we had more special guests. Judith Fergin, the US Consul General, was accompanied by our local state member Katrina Hodgkinson.

The school captains did a wonderful job and enjoyed the company of Mrs Fergin. Simon was even asked for a copy of the speech on Barak Obama which he delivered at the Lions Youth of the Year competition. The Support Unit joined in welcoming Mrs Fergin by painting an American flag to place in the foyer. Congratulations to all involved in the day.



May-June 2009

Positive future for Yass High School

This letter was received recently from Michael Coutts-Trotter, the **DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF NSW**.

I believe that it describes the success and values of public education and gives insight into the positive future of Yass High School.

Dear Colleagues,

Just a note to wish you well for Education Week and also Reconciliation Week, to thank you for extraordinary efforts for your students and to let you know – if you didn't know already - no one in NSW public education is going to die of boredom in the next two years.

First the tributes: which can't be made often enough, or loud enough.

To administrative staff in our schools, thank you for helping to make them safe, ordered and caring places into which we're happy to entrust our children.

To teachers and school leaders, thank you for your skill, knowledge, creativity and your own love of learning which, more than anything, is likely to spark the same enthusiasm in our children.

Public education has made modern Australia. Above all else, your continuing efforts will determine the kind of place we'll become.

Even the briefest visit to a public school this week will reassure anyone that we're equipping our children as successful learners, confident people and generous citizens who want to play their part in the world.

What a world it is at present: uncertain, volatile and, for many of us, a little scary.

But to mangle a phrase from Charles Dickens: in this worst of times it's the best of times.

We have a generational opportunity in public education to make irreversible improvements not just in the quality of public school buildings – although that's important – but in the teaching and learning that takes place within them.

It's simply a great time to work in public education, but the concentration of so many changes in some schools will be quite disruptive.

We'll work together with goodwill to get the very best results for our students.

In the next two years every public school in NSW will have Commonwealth-funded repairs and refurbishment and most primary schools will have major new building work. All up that's around \$3.3 billion of construction and repairs.



This is on top of State Government investment in school maintenance and building which will be maintained at an average of nearly \$2.4 million a day.

Every public school providing a secondary education will also get a crackerjack wireless network and laptops for every senior student and every secondary teacher.

We'll also complete the roll-out of Best Start and Connected Classrooms, change the school leaving age, introduce Norta Norta, a new program to support Aboriginal students, and finish upgrading science labs at 159 schools and complete 29 new halls and 18 gyms under the State's Building Better Schools program.

NSW will be home to the new agency responsible for the Australian curriculum and for national assessment and reporting.

We'll continue to play a big role in the creation of national teaching standards and continuing improvements to pre-service education, and professional development for teachers and school executives.

Best of all, many of you will participate in new national partnership agreements between the State and Commonwealth governments supporting teacher quality, literacy and numeracy and schools serving our poorest communities.

These partnerships will enable us to build on our successes and to try new things to tackle our biggest challenges.

When the governments have agreed on detailed implementation plans for the national partnerships I'll be able to share those details with you, and describe how you can get involved in planning within your school or learning community to take best advantage of the new arrangements.

As you'd be aware it is Reconciliation Week from 27 May to 3 June. I've done a vodcast that will be on our internet site from tomorrow. You might like to have a look.

I know you are busy this week showcasing to your communities the extraordinary things you do every day.

We are one of the very best systems of education in the world because of the energy and intelligence of staff in schools, regions and state office and the support and generosity of communities.



Sheriff Wins a Badge

Congratulations to Charles Alley, whose metal sculpture of a sheriff was honoured at the Sheet Metal Industry awards in Sydney recently.

Charles and his parents travelled to Sydney for a celebration dinner. Charles was impressed with the other exhibits, one of which, a bumble bee, sold for over \$1,000 at auction.

Charles preferred to bring his sheriff home where it has pride of place in the family home.



At Yass High School, we value respect, responsibility, safety and learning

At a recent assembly, students were reminded of a few ways they can show respect at school. Respect for teachers is shown by following their directions, whether in the classroom, in the playground or on excursion. Students show respect in the canteen by speaking politely and taking care of property. Students also show their respect for the school by wearing their uniform with pride. This will be acknowledged in half yearly reports for those students who have chosen to have their uniform checked each day in roll call.

Representing Your School

Students are reminded that representing the school and going on excursions are privileges.

If students wish to represent the school or go on an excursion, they must ensure that:

- All schoolwork is up-to-date
- They wear correct uniform each day (this includes a navy jumper)
- They have a good pattern of attendance (no truancy)
- They have completed any after school detentions
- They bring back notes and money promptly

Students on the Banned list may not attend excursions or represent the school. Students are on the Banned list for 5 weeks following a short suspension and 10 weeks following a long suspension. They are also placed on the Banned list if they fail to complete an afternoon detention promptly.

So Close

Congratulations to the Under 15 soccer team which missed out on a win in the second round of the Bill Turner competition by the closest of margins. The boys kept Trinity (who beat our school by 7 goals last year) to a nil all score line until the last few minutes of the game when Aiden Lees kicked a remarkable goal over the keeper's head. Trinity replied with only moments to go, forcing the game into extra time. Despite a strong defensive effort, Trinity scored again to win the game and advance to the next round.

Coach Ralf Hansson is rightly proud of his team's efforts. Thanks to Doug Murphy and Anthony Gallagher for refereeing duties and setting up the field and to Yass Football Club for lending us equipment and jumpers (again!).

'Talk Out Loud' Workshop

On the 21st of May, year nine participated in a Talk Out Loud workshop. At this workshop we learnt about mental illnesses and how to detect if people who surround you have one and how to 'save-a-mate'. We learnt about how to cope with stress in adolescence.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the activities and instructors. The activities we did involved making name badges, stress balls and numerous other activities that can help us in life. It was a very enjoyable experience.

On behalf of year nine we would like to thank Katy, Vanessa and Belinda for taking the time to come and talk to us. Also big thanks to Ms Rajchert for organising it.

By Ashley Flack, Jane Pryor and Steph Downey

What is TALK OUT LOUD?

On Thursday 21st May 2009, year 9 students participated in the **Talk Out Loud** program, presented and sponsored by the Australian Red Cross.

The **Talk Out Loud (TOL)** program is an interactive education program which involves a mix of PowerPoint style presentation and interactive hands-on activities, as well as DVD presentations.



The **TOL** program forms part of the save-a-mate (SAM) program, which aims to promote the health, well being and safety of young Australians by providing education and support on key current and emerging health issues.

TOL is an early intervention and prevention program addressing mental health issues in young people and promoting good mental health. It builds peer support networks amongst young people to directly support and increase resilience amongst other young people.

TOL acknowledges the role that young people play as carers and supporters, both within their families and their peer groups. The training helps young people to better understand what some of their friends and family may be going through, enable them to provide better support, and promote the importance of self-care during this process.

The presentation was delivered to all Year 9 students in a full day presentation format held here at the school.

Ms Jenny Rajchert
Year 9 coordinator

Meeting for parents of Year 10 students

Yass High School provides various information to assist students to make decisions about which subjects they will undertake in Years 11 and 12 for the Higher School Certificate. This includes the Careers Expo, interviews with Careers Advisor, lessons on careers, and information sessions such as this meeting with Lindy Billing.

When: 6:30 pm Monday 15 June 2009

Where: Library at Yass High School

Who: Lindy Billing, Board of Studies Liaison Officer

What: A session to explain the Higher School Certificate procedures and requirements

Why: To assist Year 10 students and their parents in making decisions about subjects for Years 11 and 12

The process to select subjects will begin in Term 3 with parents and students being given information about the specific subjects on offer at Yass HS in 2010 for Year 11.

Year 12 Biology Class Give the Gift of Life

The Year 12 Biology Class got together and travelled to Canberra for a good cause last Friday. The aim of the day was to learn about the processes involved in taking, storing and separating different parts of blood needed for medicine, as well as the option to donate. Almost all the students donated and had a tour of 'Red Cross House'.



Ben Cover donating Blood



They had such a good day, they ended up on the floor! (several unnamed students felt quite uneasy after giving blood and needed to lie down).

The Year 12 students would like to thank Mrs Chaplin and the lovely ladies at the Blood Bank.

What's happening in the Food Technology Department?

Year 11 Hospitality

Being a long way from the coast is a problem when Year 11 Hospitality students need to learn how to fillet fish. There were various reactions as students were told that they would get their hands "dirty", however enter one expert in John Ford, ex Yass Public principle and avid fisherman. John gave an excellent talk on how to handle fresh fish, from pulling it out of the water to putting it in the fry pan. A number of adventurous students had a go and sliced some fillets, which were cut into real 'fish fingers', lightly floured and fried for everyone to taste.

We would like to thank John for his time and expertise and recognise Patrick's Butchery who kindly lent us the chain mail glove for students to use and still keep their fingers intact.



John Ford giving a display of filleting a flat head



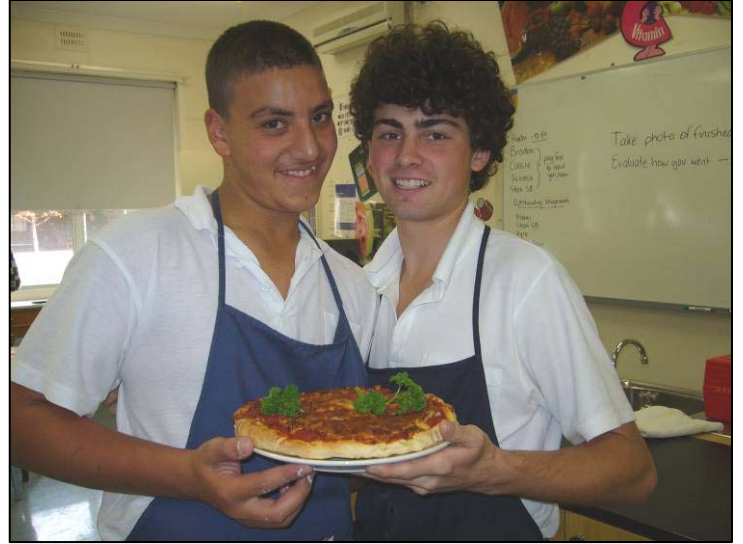
Sophie Maher and Liz Davaris holding a dish of Chicken Parmagania and turned potatoes, cooked during one of their practical lessons



Eliza Shepherd adventurous and successful at filleting her fish



“Do I win with the longest unbroken skin?”
Emily Beal – a dab hand with the peeler when Year 9 made apple crumble.

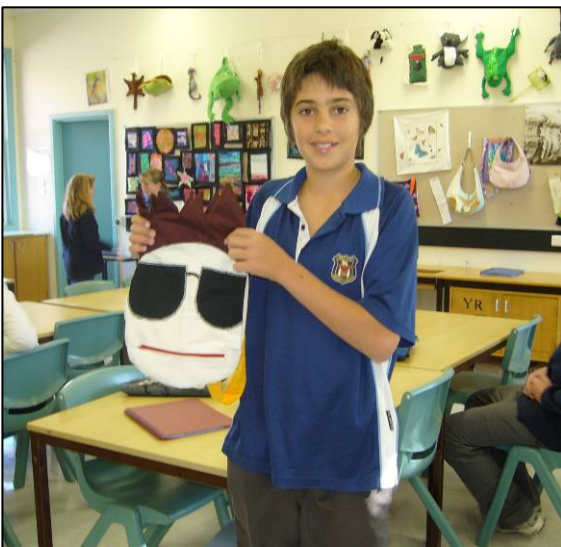


Omar Kassouh and Jeremy Southwell hold their delicious pizza, cooked in International Cookery.

Look Out Pizza Hut!

Textiles

Years 7 and 8 finished their Technology Mandatory unit, having completed some great bags. They were able to use their skills to create other projects. Pillows, using their hand made fabrics, were popular with students as was polar fleece mice.



Rex Stacey shows his impressive bag; with pockets for eyes and a zipper pocket for it's mouth



Patrick Gatfield-Moss created a unique tie-dyed shoulder bag (with his mouse getting a ride in the pocket)

Careers

CIT **Girls Try-a-Trade** day at Fyshwick was a great opportunity for 15 girls in years 10 & 11 to have a hands-on go at 3 different trades of the 12 available to try. The girls realised that they could succeed at, and enjoy, a traditionally male dominated trade.



Lucy Suthern cutting copper pipe in the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning workshop



Megan Cooke assisted by Peta Stokeld to attach a plaster sheet to a frame in the Plastering workshop



Above: Kyra Masters, Cherrae Smith & Cassie Fitzpatrick creating complex patterns in the Tiling workshop

Left: Rebecca Bingley making a flare on the end of copper pipe so it can be joined to another section.

YWAC NSW Y-ISE Up About Relationships Workshops

The YWCA ran workshops for Years 10 & 11 aimed at helping students develop happy, safe and rewarding relationships.

The students gave some very positive feedback after the workshops for example:

In Year 10:

- 100% said “I’m now more aware of what abusive behaviour in relationships looks like.”

In Year 11:

- 93% said “I have learned new strategies to help me resolve conflict without aggression.”

Overall the workshops were very successful and most students found them interesting and helpful.

YWCA NSW Hip Pocket Workshop

Year 10 students participated in a fun and interactive workshop that aimed to help them be more savvy in financial matters. Students said they learned “tips for managing their finances”, to; “read the fine print in contracts”, “save and spend wisely” and “be careful on internet sites”. 98% of students said Hip Pocket has helped them to understand the importance of checking contracts and gained valuable skills on how to budget and save for the future.

Part of the success of the day was due to community mentors who gave up a day to work with the students on the activities and to share their wisdom. 98% of students said they valued meeting a number of mentors and learning about their careers and lives. We would like to thank the mentors again for their assistance.

OH&S Course (White Card)

There will be another course run at school on **17th June**. Students need this for Work Experience with a tradesperson or the Council. The cost is only \$50 if done at school. See Ms Robinson for a note.

YHS Careers Expo

This Expo will be held on the **7th July**. There will be presentations from universities, technical colleges, group training organisations, public service and large local employers. In 2009 there will be new segments on health and rural careers. Students will be asked to sign up for sessions as soon as it is finalised.

Zone Cross Country - Every Cloud has a Silver Lining

From the desk of Nathan Furry – Friday May 22nd, 2009

With a maximum temperature of 15°C and clouds covering the sky, conditions were going to make the cross country a cold and muddy challenge. By the day's end, however, the Yass High team continued to run at their best – Rain, Hail or Shine.



The Yass High District Team waiting for their bus

Upon arrival at Mulwaree High School, the grounds were muddy and very damp – something expected by the weather. Every school met in the hall and was briefed on the 2km and 3km routes. Unlike previous years, the course was not walked through (this being due to the weather), meaning the events began slightly earlier.

The day began with the 17 years and older age division. Yass High competitively demonstrated its performance on the course in both the Boys and Girls divisions, with most participants finishing under 10th place. It was later revealed that Yass High had won the 17+ age Division overall. The best male performer from Yass High in this division was Douglas Murphy – Finishing in 7th place. Best female performer in this division was Laura Raine – finishing in 5th place.

The 16 year age division provided position best comparable with the previous division however could not achieve the near impossible task of keeping most participants under 10th place. The best male performer was Hussien Kassouh - finishing in 9th place. The best female performer was Cherrae Smith who achieved the Best Female Position from Yass High – Finishing exceptionally in 2nd place.

The most anticipated event of the day was the 15 Year old Division. A notable contender was Isaiah “Izzy” Dawes, who has been training himself for the cross country for eight months. After a very close finish, he achieved an exceptional position of 2nd place. From the girl's division, the best placed female was Kate Southwell – finishing in 26th place.

The 14 year old division was perhaps one with the least amount of participants; however, this did not affect Yass High's performance. Aiden Lees proudly achieved 1st place, receiving an age champion medal and the best position achieved by a Yass High Student on the day. Sian Minary-Bland finished in 7th place – the best position achieved in the Girls 14 Years Division.

The 13 Year old age division contained 10 Yass High participants – the most participants who ran in a division for Yass High. Although their positions were somewhat scattered in this division, the best male was William "Billy" Beck – finishing in 2nd Place and the best female in this division was Kirsty Hansen – finishing in 10th Place.

For their first time running the Mulwaree Cross Country track, the 12 year old age division showed an exceptional effort in both the male and female divisions. Dylan Patton was the best male performer in this division – finishing in 2nd place. The best female performer was Olivia Mercieca – finishing in 11th place.

At the end of the day, Yass High has scored 6th place overall against all other schools. Although the day was miserable, this never diminished the efforts of all Yass High performers.



Aiden Lees (1st) stretching after finishing the 14 year division race as Age Champion and Best Performer from Yass High.



Cherrae Smith (2nd) finishing the race as the Best-Performing Female

Athletics Carnival

Hovell won the annual athletics carnival with the highlight being the breaking of some 20 year old records and the mass participation of students in all age groups. Sports Organiser, Miss Bills thanked the students for their contribution to the day and especially noted the role of house captains in motivating and organising their houses. Photos, age champions, and more results will be available

Five records were broken at this year's Athletics carnival which turned out to be one of the most exciting events to have happened in Yass High history. The following records were broken. 14 year boys 800m, Ben Wylie takes this record from Evan Lawton by almost four seconds. The 14 boy's high jump event has a new record holder in the name of Ben Wylie who took it from Jono Butt by 3cm. 14 boys 400m sprint, Ben Wylie took it off Matthew Paul by approximately 2 seconds. 15 boys 400m sprint was won by Izzy Dawe who took the record off Mark Kennedy. Finally 15 boys 800m new record was also won by Izzy Dawe beating Andrew Swaffield's previous record by over 2 seconds.

Girls

Age Division	Winner	Runner Up
12 years	Olivia Mercieca	Crystal-Lee Gilbert-Ebert
13 years	Kirsty Hansen	Bonnie Morgan
14 years	Trish Taylor	Laura Fletcher
15 years	Tegan Morris	Georgia Burleigh
16 years	Rebecca McLean	Cherrae Smith
17 years	Rebecca Kordas-Humphrey	Eliza Shepherd

Boys

Age Division	Winner	Runner Up
12 years	James Roche	Nathan Regan
13 years	William Beck	Dimitri Yialeloglou
14 years	Ben Wylie	Aiden Lees
15 years	Izzy Dawe	Tom Roche
16 years	Dylan Stephenson	Josh O'Brien
17 years	Mark Kennedy	Shaun Davis



Rugby League News

Buckley Shield

On May 19th our Under 14 Buckley Shield team travelled to Queanbeyan for a round three match of this state wide competition. We lost the match 38-18 but fought hard for the entire 60 minutes of play.

Initially we lead 18 nil after Ben Wylie had scored three tries in the opening 15 minutes. Unfortunately, Ben was injured and had to go to hospital. This allowed Queanbeyan to regroup and they ended up winning. Yass never gave up and showed promise for next year.

Ben has played 8 games for our school this year and has scored 23 tries in the process, which is a great effort. He has been helped by the rest of the team setting him up with quality ball on the inside.

Our team comprised of Ben Wylie, Jackson Chatfield, Omar Kassouh, James Byrne, Toby Serafin, Jai Smith, Josh Lawrence, Curtis Butt, Haiden Bush, Jack Bush, Matt Bitmead, Corey Elphick, Sam Mercieca, Billy Finn, Shaun Thomson, Josh Solomons, Nathan Regan, Billy Beck and Brodan Dowling.

Thanks to Eddie Wylie for coaching the side, Lisa Wylie and Fiona Wykes for their help with first aid and Peter Regan as League Safety Officer. Thanks to the other parents who came along including Claydon Butt, Melissa Beck and Wendy Smith. It's great to see our parents watching and supporting their sons.

University Shield

On May 20th our University Shield team travelled to Moss Vale for a regional semi-final game. This is for Under 18s. Moss Vale had previously defeated Monaro High 24-20 in a close encounter in Cooma.

Yass had come off a good win against Karabar High School from Queanbeyan 40 - 10 and were looking to make the Far South Coast Regional Final for the fifth year running. We started well with our forwards combining well up the centre of the rucks and we scooted out to a 12 nil lead. Guy Sherratt, our captain Shaun Davis and Boyd Roche were very prominent in this phase of the game. Fullback, Ben Pryor was very steady and safe as well.

Towards half time Moss Vale started to get more possession and put more pressure on our try line. This told in the end and they crossed to make the score 12 -6. Their halfback Adam Thorpe who is contracted to the Brisbane Broncos was controlling play and he caused Yass plenty of headaches. Each team crossed for another try and the half time score was 18-10 to Yass.

Early in the second half Yass took control and went out to a 24-10 lead with two more well worked tries. Matt Oldfield, Ryan Greenwood, Daniel Wallace, Kyle Merritt, Marc Townsend and James Paton stood out in this period. Our other players including Josh O'Brien, Hussien Kassouh, Jayden Dowling and Issy Dawe also made useful contributions.

Moss Vale came back late in the half with two more tries but Yass held on for a well deserved win. Matt Cooke, Stephen Greenwood, Chris Bush and Mark Kennedy made their presence felt with probing runs in the last 10 minutes. We play the winner of Bega High and Batemans Bay High in a few weeks' time. Hopefully, this will be a home game.

This is a great credit to the school. We only have a small number of players to select from and to reach the regional final for the fifth year running is tremendous. Both Bega and Batemans Bay have over 1000 students each. If we get through this match we play a school from the Riverina area.

Warwick Sicklen
Coach

Open Girls Touch

The Open Girls Touch team recently travelled to Goulburn to compete in the regional CHS knockout. Unfortunately, the girls finished third on the day with only the top two teams moving on to the South Coast.

The girls played extremely well and were very unlucky not to progress considering they only lost one game to Bowral, who won the day. Special mention to Liana Wylie, Billie-Alice Blackman, Stephanie Mihaljevic, Cherrae Smith and Sophie Lawrence who all lead from the front and played consistently in every game.

The girls would also like to thank Miss Lisa Bush for her help on the day.

Mr Barrett
Open Girls Touch Coach



Back Row Mr Barrett, Corina Apps, Emily Witt, Sophie Lawrence, Georgia Bennett-Burleigh, Holly Murphy, Liana Wylie, Billie-Alice Blackman, Stephanie Mihaljevic.

Front Row L to R – Sian Minary-Bland, Ebony Henderson, Stephanie Hales, Cherrae Smith, Kyra Masters.



CAMS School Challenge - Competition Launch

On Thursday the 21st of May CAMS held a launch for the CAMS School Challenge. This is a fuel efficiency car building pilot programme which has been organised by the Confederation of Australian Motorsport (CAMS) and our local LCP member Mr Geoff Gwynne. The program has been 12 months in the making and has now come to realisation. 10 regional schools are participating.

Mr Donohue from the Industrial Arts department took four students to the event. Team Captains Doug Murphy & Kiran Guarani, potential driver Josh Molloy and publicist Britney Benson. The presentation started late but plenty of Pizza was available to help pass the time.



The presentation involved a talk from the CAMS organisers. They updated information which included the confirmation of the race day event which is to be held on September the 23rd at the driver training track at Queanbeyan.

The motor for the car has been increased to a 135 cc 4 horse power (2.6kw) Honda stationary engine. More information on what the efficiency trial looks like in action around the world can be found on the internet by searching **Shell Eco Marathon** at

http://www.shell.com/home/content/eco-marathon-en/welcome_global.html

The Yass High School CAMS School Challenge team needs to raise money and find sponsorship for the construction of the car and participation on the competition day. It is estimated that we will need approximately \$4,000 in funds or donated equipment and materials.

This is a big project on a relatively short time line. Anyone in the community interested in sponsoring this project or helping with the construction of the car please contact Mr William Donohue at Yass High School Industrial Arts Department



Students of the Week

For Outstanding
Leadership at the
Athletics Carnival



Talia Chalmers
Year 11

For volunteering to assist
with hospitality function
in her own time



Emily Witt
Year 11

For being an outstanding
Office Duty Person



Brooke Selwyn
Year 8

For Showing Admirable
School Spirit



Hussein Kassouh
Year 10

For Outstanding Individual
Performance at the
Athletics Carnival



Kirsty Hanson
Year 8

Yass High School Talent Quest

Open to all Yass High School Students

Heats to take place towards the end of Term 2

Finals will be in early Term 3 - an evening concert full of fun and talent

Grab a nomination form from the front office

Return it to the entry nomination box at the front office

\$1000 in PRIZE MONEY

Facsimile For Sale

Plain Paper Facsimile, rapid scan document scanning, 38 programmable one touch auto dial keys. Enquires contact Mrs Michele Winter in the Front Office

Change of Information

Reminder, that if you have a change to your family circumstances, change of address, contact numbers, or emergency contact details, it is extremely important to notify the school office immediately.

A number of letters to parents/carers have been returned by Australia Post as an incorrect address recently.



Warm Up For Winter

Polar Fleece jumpers with 'Yass High School' embroidered on them are now available from the Front Office for \$30 each.

There are also a number of warm jumpers in excellent condition available from the Clothing Pool via the Front Office.

Positions Vacant

New Position-Technical Support Officer
Supporting the introduction of Laptops at Yass High School

Where will the positions be advertised?

The position advertisements will be published in:

- Jobs@DET Website
- The Public Sector Notices
- Career One www.careerone.com.au
- Seek www.seek.com.au

What do the L4L TSO positions offer?

The L4L Onsite Technology Support Officer position offers:

- Excellent starting positions for candidates interested in pursuing a career in ICT
- Good career development
- Excellent chance to gain on the job experience of complex ICT systems
- The chance to work locally

Students Gaining Experiences in the Workplace



Merin Rayner at
Narelle's Do Duck Inn



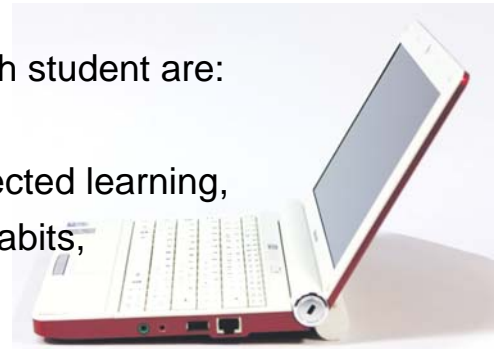
Courtney McLennan at the
Yass Newsagency

Information for parents of students in Year 9 - Laptops for learning

All laptops will come with Microsoft and Adobe software, giving NSW students and teachers access to the largest and most comprehensive roll out of software in any education system worldwide. The Department of Education and Training is also investing in wireless networking and technical support for all secondary schools as well as professional learning for teachers.

Benefits

- Laptops allow students to learn anytime, anywhere. The laptop weighs just over 1kg and fits easily into a school backpack.
- Studies show the benefits of providing laptops to each student are:
 - increased student motivation, engagement, interest,
 - improved student organisation and improved self-directed learning,
 - increased academic achievements and better work habits,
 - improved communication and information skills.



Requirements

- Parents/carers and students will be required to sign a Laptop User Charter prior to issue of the laptop.
- To increase security, students will be asked to keep their laptops out of sight when travelling to and from school.
- The laptop can be used for school work at home – with or without internet access.
- Students will be able to access the Internet at home if there is Internet service at home. The Department's Internet filtering will work at home so students will not have access to inappropriate content.
- Students must charge their laptop overnight to ensure it is ready for each school day.
- Year 9 students may keep the laptop if they complete Year 12. Students who leave school or move out of the government school system must return their laptops.

Further information

Your school will provide information regarding requirements, ownership, damage or loss of laptops, laptop care and acceptable computer and internet use when the laptops are provided. The school can also provide advice on the best academic use of the laptop, safe internet use, copyright, plagiarism and ergonomics.

All Year 9 students in NSW government schools will receive a Lenovo laptop starting from August 2009. This has been funded by the National Secondary School's Computer Fund component of the Federal Government's Digital Education Revolution.

Support Unit News

Have you been to the community library and viewed the art display? The students from the Unit have an art exhibition to co-incide with Education Week.

The senior students, particularly Natasha Wilson and James Mather were involved in cooking the afternoon tea and pre-meeting coffee for the Principal's Meeting on Wednesday 27 May.

The students were great ambassadors for the school.



Hand Washing - simple advice that makes a big difference

Good hand-washing habits help to stop the spread of infection and reduce the amount of time teachers and students are absent from school due to infectious illness. Dr Paul Armstrong, NSW Health Acting Director of Communicable Diseases, said parents have a key role to play in ensuring their children know when to wash their hands.

Children should wash their hands:

- Before they eat or handle food
- After playing
- After blowing their nose
- After going to the toilet
- After touching their pets

Dr Armstrong said parents should also ensure their children know how to wash their hands correctly.

Steps in washing hands are:

- Wash with soap and running water
- Wash front and back of hands as well as between fingers and nails
- Rinse well with running water
- Dry well all over

“If parents lead by example and help their children develop good hand-washing habits early in life they can significantly reduce the spread of infection, not just in schools but also in the home,” Dr Armstrong said.

For a range of health information, go online to www.health.nsw.gov.au

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

H1N1 Influenza 09 (Human Swine Flu)

Information Sheet

NSW Health has confirmed a small number of schools in Victoria and South Australia have been closed for seven days due to confirmed cases of human swine influenza. These decisions were taken as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of the virus.

To limit the potential exposure, NSW Health has advised the department to take steps to exclude staff or students who may have been in countries that have had community or school transmission of the virus.

Currently the countries are Mexico, USA, Canada, Japan and Panama. This list will be continually revised. School principals have been advised that, for the time being, any student who travels to, or arrives from, these countries should be excluded from school for seven days after arriving home.

This will allow time for any illness related to that travel to develop, and for prompt assessment and treatment to commence. If they remain well after seven days they can return to school.

Human swine influenza is a new strain of flu that has recently been confirmed in 41 countries around the world. This flu virus is a concern because:

- it is new, so there is no vaccine
- it seems to spread more easily than normal, seasonal flu
- while many people who get sick with this virus have a mild illness, some people get very sick and need hospital care, and some have died
- it is affecting mostly young people under the age of 30, which is unusual for flu
- there is potential for the virus to develop into a more dangerous form.

A lot of effort is going into containing the spread of the virus in our community. This is important while we wait for a vaccine to be available. A vaccine is some months away.

At this stage (and this is likely to change over coming weeks) there are five countries where the virus is spreading within the community to an extent that warrants extra precautions. These countries are Mexico, USA, Canada, Japan and Panama.

There are grounds for extra precautions to help stop the virus spreading from returned travellers returning from these countries.

The advice from NSW Health is that, for the time being, any student who travels to Mexico, USA, Canada, Japan or Panama should be excluded from school for seven days after arriving home. During these seven days, the student should stay home whether or not they have flu symptoms. This is because a person infected with flu can spread the virus a whole day before they start to feel unwell.

During the seven days that a student is away from school, they should not attend after school activities, community events, sporting events or training, public entertainment facilities, or go to shopping malls/centres. Students should remain at home as much as possible, and away from other people.

Please contact your child's school to advise them that you are keeping your child at home for seven days as they have arrived home after travelling to one of the identified countries. The school will arrange for education materials to be available for your child for the time they are excluded from school.

Students will not be recorded as being absent from school for the exclusion period. The attendance register will record them as having an approved exemption from school.

This strategy is important and will help protect the whole community. At this stage the exclusion does not affect children at child care. This decision is based on information available so far about how this virus spreads.

For more information about these arrangements, please contact your school.

If you would like more information about swine influenza, this can be accessed on the NSW Health [website \(http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/swine_flu.asp\)](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/swine_flu.asp) or by calling the national information line on 180 2007.

If you have recently returned from overseas and are feeling unwell with any flu-like symptoms or believe you have had contact with someone who has been confirmed as having Human Swine Influenza, please go to your closest hospital Emergency Department for assessment, or ring your general practitioner if you are from a rural area and do not have ready access to a hospital.

LifeSmiles



School Children Aged 0-17

Are Eligible for

Free
Dental Treatment

At the Yass Community Health Service

To make an Appointment

Telephone:

1800 450 046

(Please have Medicare card details available)

NOTE: we accept Medicare Teen Dental Vouchers

Yass Oral Health Service

The Yass Oral Health Services, located at The Yass Community Health Centre is a free service provided to all children aged 0-17 years. No Healthcare Card or Pension Card is necessary for eligibility.

All general dental work is carried out including checkups, clean & scale, fillings, restorations, extractions, xrays, etc where necessary.

Medicare Teen Dental Vouchers are accepted.

For all enquiries please ring the Oral Health Intake Service
1800 450 046

Community Events

Reconciliation Week - 27 May - 3 June

Each year National Reconciliation Week celebrates the rich culture and history of the first Australians.

This year's theme is 'See the person, not the stereotype'.

It's the ideal time for all of us to join the reconciliation conversation and to think about how we can help turn around the disadvantage experienced by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

You can find out more at the Reconciliation Week website www.reconciliation.org.au

New campaign to help families save power

Ever wondered how much carbon pollution your household really emits? A new community awareness campaign called 'what can you do in your world' could have some surprising answers.

The [website](#) explains carbon pollution through the use of simple black balloons - one balloon equals around 50 grams of carbon pollution. The average NSW household produces around 8 tonnes of carbon pollution and 160,000 black balloons every year.

Compare your carbon output with other Australia households and find examples of easy changes that save carbon and money.

For example, your household could save:

- more than 11,600 black balloons by using energy efficient light globes
- 10,100 black balloons by switching appliances off at the power point when they're not in use

Go to www.savepower.nsw.gov.au for more information.

Coming Events

DATE	EVENT
1 st June	P&C Meeting – 7.30pm
1 st - 5 th June	Junior Assessment Week
1 st - 5 th June	Year 12 Metals VET Work Placement
5 th June	Year 9 PASS students assisting at District Athletics Carnival
8 th June	Queen's Birthday – Public Holiday
10 th June	Science Competition
12 th June	Regional Cross Country
12 th June	National Careers Expo
15 th June	Year 10 Students & Parents Meeting 6.30pm, Library
17 th June	Year 11 VET Industry Visits
17 th June	OH&S Course at YHS
18 th June	Zone Athletics
25 th June	Brainstorm Productions, Years 9 & 10 in Hall, 10.00am
29 th June	Religious Seminars
7 th July	YHS Careers Expo
27 th July	School Development Day
28 th July	Students Return for Term 3
	Click on the school website for the online calendar
If parents/carers wish to receive an electronic version of InTouch, please ask your child to respond to the email as instructed.	