Premier, Minister both supportive of our school

By Mr Brett Hartley, Principal

Schools aren’t referred to in the media very often, particularly for good news stories; however, our school has received a significant amount of positive, statewide media attention over the last few months.

The Sydney Morning Herald reported our excellent HSC results late last year and just last week the NSW Premier, Mr Baird, and the Early Childhood Education Minister, Mrs Williams, visited our school as part of the launch of our before and after school care program.

Both the Premier and the Minister were warm and very supportive of our school. They engaged with parents, staff and a substantial number of students. Mr Baird took the opportunity to drop into a few classes and shared a joke with the children.
Encouraged by positive media attention

I am very encouraged that the school has received this positive media attention because it helps the broader community better understand who we are and the valuable contribution we're making to the lives of our students.

In previous newsletter articles I have referred to the importance of effectively communicating with parents and other members of our school community. On one hand we want to make sure that parents are aware of upcoming events and what is happening in the life of the school, but on the other hand we don't want to overwhelm our parents and supporters with too much information or being reminded of the same information too many times.

We also want to find the most appropriate means of communicating information such as hardcopy, email, website, SMS, Apps or Facebook.

Open to parent suggestions

I am always happy to hear from parents who have suggestions on how we can improve how we communicate.

As promised to parents last year, I am continuing to refine our communication to ensure that it is accurate, timely and meaningful.

I am hopeful that the new website and parent portal, due to be operational by the beginning of May, will be a particularly helpful way for parents to access information and understand more about the life of the school.

For example, the parent portal will allow parents to read information about excursions and give permission for their child to attend, eliminating the need for paper permission notes. In the weeks preceding the new website going live, the school will provide more information to parents on how they can make the most of the website.

Changes to our assessment program

In previous newsletter articles I have discussed some changes school is making to our assessment program.

These changes are most significant in Years 7 to 10; however, modifications are also being made to methods of assessment in the Junior School. Assessment will be little different in Years 11 and 12 because of BOSTES requirements related to the HSC. The school is placing greater emphasis on what is known as assessment for learning and formative assessment.

This involves a greater emphasis on teachers providing ongoing feedback on student work and making notes on what students are capable of achieving while they are completing learning tasks.

Features of the assessment program

You may be wondering what's actually different. Traditionally our school, particularly in Years 7 to 10, has issued students with an assignment that is largely or entirely completed home.

The student then submits that assignment for marking and at a later date receives their mark and possibly some feedback on how they can improve for next time.

The school is working towards students completing more of their assignment work during class time so that the teacher can provide direction and feedback while the student is completing the assignment.

Another feature of this new approach is that teachers may require students to complete more tasks in total that are assessed in some way; however, a significant number of these tasks are completed entirely in class.

For example, a Year 8 class may have 2 unannounced in class quizzes during the term so that teachers can understand what the students know or can do.

The teacher would use those quiz results, along with a range of other information gathered about the student, to determine the student’s A to E grade on their report.

I believe this is a far more accurate way to determine a child’s academic ability and also a much better way to help them improve their learning than a limited number of official tasks with each task being weighted to determine a final mark and the A to E grade.

I am looking forward to speaking about this new approach to assessment at the parent information evening in a couple of weeks' time (Wednesday 2 March) and I hope to see you there.
Pictures from exciting visit with the Premier

See our Facebook page for more photographs
Wonderful time as Premier and Minister for Early Education visit our school

See our Facebook page for more photographs
I have written before about the inspiration I derive from the example of the Apostle Paul as a pastor of people. He was a man of very strong conviction concerning the importance of God’s revealed truth and the danger inherent in departure from it. His strong personality, reinforced by his training in the school of the Pharisees, and the dramatic way God brought him to faith in Christ (Acts 9), made him a formidable force when it came to theological debate. He was a man who was not afraid to stand his ground, even if it meant standing alone (2 Timothy 4:16-17). The amazing thing is that it is rare to find someone with such firm views to be, at the same time, someone with such a soft, caring, pastoral heart.

Perhaps the key to this enigma is the fact that he himself was called on to undergo such pain, suffering, opposition, persecution and misunderstanding for the cause of Christ. Probably the best example of this is the way he begins his letter that appears in our Bibles as 2 Corinthians: “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.”

“Just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. “If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

“We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. “Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. “On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favour granted us in answer to the prayers of many.” (1:11-13)

Three things encourage and challenge me about this passage.

Firstly, it gives meaning to all our suffering. We are so often confused about the inexplicable bad things that happen in our lives and in the lives of people we love. But God knows what he is doing, he has a purpose in these things, and he will use them for our benefit and the benefit of others. Paul was such a loving, caring, understanding pastor because he knew what it meant to suffer.

Secondly, it makes me more aware of Christ’s suffering for me. Paul was a good pastor because he knew that he too was a “sinner saved by grace” (cf 1 Timothy 1:15-16).

Thirdly, it encourages and challenges me to pray more for those who are suffering. Paul the pastor knew the power of prayer - the sort of prayer that unites the hearts of God’s people as they pray with and for each other.

Let us give thanks for our school community and continue to support one another before the throne of grace.
“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” - Hebrews 12:1-2 (ESV)

- Praise God for Jesus Christ, the founder and perfecter of our faith.
- Pray for endurance and perseverance as we run the race God has marked out for us, keeping our eyes looking to Jesus.
- Praise God for students who delight in learning both about God, and also about the way this world works.
- Praise God for the teachers who find their students a joy to teach this year.
- Pray for safety for students, staff and families are they travel to and from school.

Parents’ Prayer Time

Please come and join other parents for a short prayer time in the IRC after the Junior School morning assembly, on Friday 26 February. Morning tea is provided, and children are very welcome. You can leave when you need to.

Important notices

Entry not permitted in school car park at home time

For the safety of students catching buses in the afternoon, parents’s cars are not permitted in the school car park when it is home time.

Visual arts Department in need of strong cardboard cylinders

The Visual Arts Department is in need of thick strong cardboard cylinders, like the glad wrap or aluminium foil cylinders.

Also any old blower dryers that are just sitting in your bathroom cupboard that aren’t used anymore. We especially love the small travel blow dyers.

Please leave at Reception in a plastic bag labelled “Visual Arts”.

Prayer meeting for sick students:

Wednesday 24 February: 2-3pm

Parents who are interested, are gathering together next Wednesday 24 February from 2-3pm in the Secondary Library to pray for particular students and their families who are struggling with illness, among these is Nathan Barry (Year 10) who is being treated for cancer.

All parents, teachers and other members of our community are welcome to join.

Secondary zone swimming: permission slips due

The Secondary zone swimming carnival is on next week.

The deadline for permission slips has been extended to Monday (22 February).
Exciting news in the Junior School

We’d like to share with you the exciting news that Mrs Sarah Oste (6B teacher) and her husband are expecting their second child later this year. Mrs Oste is likely to finish teaching 6B towards the end of Term 2.

It is planned that into Term 3, Mr Bluhdorn, who currently teaches 6B from Monday to Wednesday, will be able to teach the class each day for the remainder of the year.

Literacy and numeracy groups are go!

This week, we commenced Literacy and Numeracy Groups for Year 1 to Year 6. This year, Learning Support Literacy Groups will target specific learning needs and skills.

Teachers have been able to assess their students with tools such as “Dibels” and “PAT Maths” to gather data, which informs teachers of specific student needs.

As a result, we can plan and implement specific teaching programs that target particular skills.

For example, students who are having difficulty reading fluently and accurately, find it more difficult to comprehend text.

Therefore, these students could be best supported by having a program that helps to further develop their fluency and accuracy.

The students in the Learning Support Numeracy Groups are taught the same Mathematics concepts as the grade but with lesson activities that further challenge and enrich their learning.

We are all looking forward to the learning opportunities that these will provide.

Silver Awards

Ruby Macpherson

Bronze Awards

Ruby Macpherson

Parent help greatly appreciated

In the past we have valued the contribution that many parents have made to the life of the school in various practical ways. This can be a rewarding opportunity as part of the school community.

We will be emailing a letter and an online response for outlining ways that you may be able to help with at home or at school.

We’d appreciate hearing from you soon so that we can organise the rosters to make this happen.
Junior school musical time

By Mrs Christine Wright, Teaching Staff

This year the Junior School will be presenting the musical “Alice in Wonderland” on 13 - 16 September.

There are a variety of roles for children to play. We need all-round performers, actors and singers.

All the cast will be required to join the choir so that songs and parts may be learned fully.

Once the casting is finalised, rehearsals will take place during at least two to three lunch times a week.

There also will be a few afternoon rehearsals and a Saturday rehearsal as we get closer to the performance.

Auditions will begin on Wednesday 24 February for Years 5 and 6.

We will let your child know which day their audition is likely to be.

They will be held during lunch on Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays in the CAL English room.

If your child would like to audition, they need to have collected a script from me and learned the lines of one of the characters.

I will be looking for someone with volume, expression and movement. They will also need to bring a CD of their choice to sing along to.

I will be listening for pitch, volume and expression.

There are some songs in the musical that need a strong singing voice and others that just need a character voice and also a few roles that are acting only.

We also need a chorus onstage of flowers and actors that would sing as a group. I am excited to meet with all the talented actors in preparation for presenting our musical later in the year.
Meet our new staff

Miss Amy Roberts:
12 month maternity leave
English teaching position

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I completed an Arts degree with a double major in English and History, then went on to complete a Graduate Diploma of Education Secondary.

I’m now slowly making my way through a Diploma of Theology at SMBC.

My family is from Australia, New Zealand, and England, and I have a younger sister and brother, two cats, a dog and a fish.

I follow the Dragons football team, and enjoy reading, playing sport, and photography.

Which of your teachers had the biggest influence on you? Why?

My high school Maths teacher had the greatest influence on me as she pushed me to work hard and to try more challenging things, both inside and outside the classroom. She kept me motivated and encouraged me.

She was also my mentor during Year 12 and she had great techniques for dealing with school stress.

Where did you work before?

I was a casual teacher at St George Christian School, Inaburra, and The Jannali High School. I’ve also worked at my church (St Luke’s Miranda) as the youth assistant.

What is your vision for your students this year?

I would love to see my students enjoy their learning, grow in confidence in the classroom, and increase in their faith, knowledge and love of our wonderful Lord and Savior, Jesus.

'I think that Christian schools, and particularly SSCS, have a great support network for students and teachers because of our Hope and a great foundation (the Bible) for all learning and living.'
By Mrs Roslyn Cleaver, Teaching Staff

When it comes to Mathematics there are different types of learners.

Some students find Mathematics fun and they eagerly embrace a challenge.

Others quickly grasp a new concept but struggle due to a lack of drill and practice.

Another student may need further repetition and a slower paced explanation to achieve competence.

If any of these descriptions apply to your child, you may like to consider enrolling them in CAL Maths this year.

CAL Maths is a before school program designed to revise, extend and motivate students in Mathematics.

Students use the Studyladder, Mathletics and Multiplication.com computer programs as well as sheet work, concrete materials and numeracy games to consolidate concepts learned in the classroom.

The program is teacher supervised and runs four mornings a week.

If you are interested in enrolling your child in CAL Maths this year please contact Learning Support through the office for an information pack.
Fantastic day as 2 teams compete in Super 8s cricket

By Mr Andrew Mellor, Teaching Staff

On Tuesday 9 February our school sent two teams to compete at the annual Primary Super 8s Cricket Gala Day.

This year it was held at Gannons Park, Peakhurst on a beautiful day for playing cricket. Our teams are to be congratulated on their fine effort during training and their matches.

Our teams played two games in separate pools, Team A finishing their pool games undefeated.

Team B played very competitively in their matches with many players having fun playing competitive cricket for the first time!

Team A qualified for the final against Inaburra A. A very closely fought match with our boys winning 60 runs to 57 runs with 5 balls to spare! It was a fantastic day, both teams displaying tremendous sportsmanship and team spirit.

Thank you to Andrew Grose who assisted with umpiring and scoring, Fiona Mellor and Chris Gilbett who managed the teams, Sam Sara for providing a shade shelter and the many parents who assisted with transportation.

 Winners first time in 5 years

Team A
Jack Martin
Michael Davidson
Jake Mellor
Seb Sara
Nathan Howarth
Bailey Thompson
Samuel James
Harrison Shore
Zac Young
Noah Anderson

Team B
Kayden Salter
Stephen Barry
Tom Gilbett
Joshua McGrath
Danie Bredell
Matthew Rolland
James Doyle
Hamilton Magrath
Angus Kerr
Joel Street
On Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 April the 78th NSW Talented Enrichment Weekend Mindquest will be held for students from Years 1-6.

These include gifted and talented students, gifted underachievers and students with above average ability with a special interest.

Students will have an opportunity to participate in over 37 exciting courses in the two-day program.

They include chemistry, earth science, drama, Lego robotics, art and much more!

Several of our students have attended these weekends in the past and enjoyed the enriching learning opportunities!

The cost of the weekend is $190.

Please contact Leonie Hampson at school for a brochure or you can call Shelagh Poray at Mindquest on 42322494.

Closing Date for enrolments: Friday 4 March

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**By Mrs Leonie Hampson, Teaching Staff**

On Monday Year 12 boys organised a Valentines day Recess for the girls. They gave each girl a rose and had music playing as they all joined together for a recess they provided.
PEPSE training to help Year 7s

By Miss Lucinda Garner, Teaching Staff

During Week 1 of Term, Year 11 students underwent PEPSE training with Mrs Marilyn Cole in anticipation of beginning the PEPSE program this term.

Students were engaged, willing participants, being generous in their suggestions regarding what it means to be a leader, and how best to serve our Year 7 cohort.

The program will begin shortly and we’re really looking forward to seeing Year 11 step up the occasion and care for Year 7 as they were once cared for in PEPSE all those years ago.
Year 6 JUMP!

By Mrs Christine Wright, Teaching Staff

On Friday 12 February I was privileged to work with a wonderful dedicated group of Year 6 students as they served our school by acting in JUMP.

JUMP plays are performed once every term to teach social skills to children in Years 3 and 4.

Our play was “The Amazing Race” named after the television program of the same name.

The contestants in this race were Joy and Complain, Patience and Impatience, Self Control and Impulsive, Ungrateful and Be Thankful, Kindness and Meanness.

All the contestants had to go through many obstacles to reach the end of the race with each contestant reacting according to their character.

The children learnt that every day that we are alive, whether we are at school or home or shopping or playing sport we are in an “AMAZING RACE”!

We are in an Amazing Race where God allows us to experience different pit stops in our lives that mould us and shape us into being the children and adults that God wants us to be.

Therefore the winners of the Amazing Race today were maybe not the winners they thought. The winners of our amazing race were not the team that arrived first at the pit stop but were the contestants who were most closely living the way Jesus would want us to live our lives.

Be Thankful told us that he tried to live his life as in Psalm 119 v.30: “I have chosen the way of truth: I have set my eyes on your laws”.

Kindness lived by Proverbs 12 verse 17: “A truthful witness gives honest testimony but a false witness tells lies.”

And we discussed Galatians 5:21-24: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

We ended each performance praying that all of us would try to follow Jesus’ example in how we live our lives.
On Friday 5 February, our Junior School Swimming Carnival was held at Engadine. The students swam and cheered throughout the day with some fantastic results achieved.

**Age Champions**

8 yr Jade Seidel, Joel Fox.
9 yr Summerset Rigg, Nathan Hunter
10 yr Samantha Zhang, Kieran George.
11 yr Ella Luxton, Noah Anderson

12yr Grace McAdam, Sebastian Sara

**House Competition**

1st Cranmer, 2nd Calvin, 3rd Knox and 4th Luther

Two records were broken on the day:

Sebastian Sara 12yr Boy 50m Freestyle 32.97
Samantha Zhang Jnr Girl's 200IM 4.15.76

Thank you to all the parents and year 10 students who volunteered to help at our carnival.
Junior School Zone Swimming

By Mr Tim Bluhdorn, Teaching Staff

The Zone Swimming Carnival was again held at Prairiewood Leisure Centre with 36 students travelling to represent our school.

We did an amazing job as a team achieving overall second place in the carnival.

There were a number of standout performances including:

• Kieran George: 10yr Boys Age Champion

• Sebastian Sara: 12yr Boys Age Champion

• 3 Relays qualifying for State

The following 11 children will be representing South Met at the State Swimming Carnival on Monday 7th March:

Kieran George, Danie Bredell, Jaydan Kepu, Sebastian Sara, Joshua Shortt, Samantha Zhang, Summerset Rigg, Caitlin Gilbett, Ella Leong, Lara Humphreys, Ella Luxton.
Annual secondary swimming carnival

By Mr Phil Askew, Teaching Staff

On 12 February, our Secondary students gathered at Sutherland Leisure Centre for the annual Swimming Carnival.

Competitive spirits ran high with Mr Salaun waving his blue Knox flag at the entrance to the pool.

After a prayer from Mr Christian, and numbering put on every students arm, the carnival started with a bang with Mr Kearns on the starting buzzer.

The warm conditions ensured a high participation rate from students and some outstanding achievements.

A number of records were broken, including a few very old ones, by big margins.

These included:

- Ashleigh Robinson (Year 7) in the 200 Individual Medley, 50m Freestyle, 50m Butterfly and 100m Freestyle
- Paige Clifton (Year 9) in the 50m Butterfly and 50m Breaststroke
- Laura May (Year 11) in the 200 Individual Medley and 100m Freestyle
- Grace Jacobson (Year 11) in the 50m Butterfly
- Larissa Butler (Year 12) in the 50m Butterfly, 50m Breaststroke and 50m Backstroke

Well done to these students, showing some serious girl power in the pool!

Students also enjoyed the novelty 25m swims in each swimming stroke, and of course the floatation device races.

Due to the smooth running of the carnival, students were able to have time for a free swim, ending a fantastic day.

The final points are as follows, with Cranmer House currently in the lead: Calvin fourth on 521, Knox third on 575, Luther second on 595, and Cranmer first on 698.

The first two swimmers in each race qualify for zone, which is on Friday 26 February at Engadine Leisure Centre.

Students wishing to compete are required to indicate this by returning their permission notes to the PE staffroom no later than Monday (22 February).
By Mrs Diana Moes, Learning Support

An unhappy Prince, Augusta Blusta the Second, is tired of waiting to inherit his father’s kingdom. He decides to travel afar in search for a place he can claim as his own.

He comes to SSCS and, deciding it needs a king rather than just a principal and teachers, declares himself king of SSCS Blustaville!

It soon becomes apparent that all good kingdoms need rules and guidelines. The new king and the children and teachers of K-2 work on a good set of rules to keep the kingdom and its citizens happy.

As it turns out, they are the same as the school’s “Rainbow Reminders” which are based on the way our real King, Jesus, wants us to live!

A special thanks go to Eric Stonestreet and Joshua Christofides for helping Mrs Wright and Mrs Moes run the performances.

Sutherland Shire Christian School

Junior School Teacher

Our school is seeking to appoint a Junior School teacher. Committed Christians are welcome to apply for the full time position, starting at the beginning Term 2, 2016.

Some further details and specific duties of this role include:

• Personally committed to the school’s statement of faith. The statement of faith is located on page 4 of the application form.
• Actively involved in a protestant church.
• K-6 trained, passionate and experienced in Stage 1 learning.
• Able to incorporate Christian perspective across the curriculum.
• Able to implement quality programs in Stage 1 Numeracy and Literacy with a Phonemic approach.
• Ability to integrate technology and apply 21st Century learning practice.
• Able to perceive and assess learning needs, engage students and differentiate learning.
• Able to work collaboratively and build positive relationships with students, parents and staff.
• All applications should be submitted using the application form below.

How to Apply:

All applications should be submitted using the application form on the school website. www.sscs.nsw.edu.au (under the community tab / positions vacant).

Hard copy applications are to be addressed to the Principal, Sutherland Shire Christian School, PO Box 390, Sutherland NSW 1499. Electronic applications please email to principal@sscs.nsw.edu.au

Applications close Friday 26 February 2016.
Something special happens when each member of a community commits to serve and contribute with the gifts they have been given.

We often find that the end result is greater than the sum of the parts. We learn that we are better together, and we learn this best by doing it and experiencing its joy.

There is a sweet expression of this that happens quietly each week on repeat. Clusters of musicians and singers meet together, grouped around the instruments that they play, directed by highly trained and experienced musicians.

The diversity of the band program has steadily grown, so much so that there are more ensembles than there are lunch times.

This week marked the first week for our Band Program for the new year. Rehearsals will continue to happen weekly, and some ensembles will shift the day that they rehearse.

Please note the day and time of your ensemble as we now no longer will be able to be announce what’s on each day at morning assembly.

- Monday Lunch: Vocal ensemble (High School Choir)
- Tuesday Recess: Uke group
- Tuesday Lunch: Stage Band, Percussion Ensemble
- Wednesday Lunch: Primary choir
- Thursday Lunch: String ensemble
- Thursday after school: Concert Band (finish time is at 4pm)
- Friday Lunch: Gospel Band, Vivace

Instrumental and vocal tuition also restarted this week as part of the Peripatetic Program headed up by Mrs Bronwyn Irvine.

There are a dozen tutors on most instruments with about 10% to 15% of our student body already participating, and some room for more to join. See page 20 for an enrolment form.

Tutors will be in contact with parents about organising a timetable for their students to minimise interruptions to regular classes. In high school this means that the timetable rotates so they don’t miss the same period.

As with every skill, there is no shortcut. It’s not a surprise to hear that growth only comes through steady, regular, daily practice.

With term performances for our elective classes, ensemble excursions and performances, and peripatetic recital evenings, there’s always something to aim at and work towards.

By Mr David Humphreys, Teaching Staff

Students, staff already busy making and studying music
Sutherland Shire Christian School

Enrolment Form: Peripatetic Music Program

Student Name: ____________________________ Class: ____________________________

Contact Details

Address: ________________________________________________________________

Postcode: __________ Email: ____________________________

Phone: __________ W: __________ M: __________

Instrument: __________________________________________________________

Has this student chosen Music as an elective subject? (Secondary School) Yes No

Type of Lesson (please circle one)

- Private half hour
- Shared half hour
- Private 20 minute (K-2 only)

Preferred Lesson Time (please circle one)

- During School Time
- Outside School Hours (Limited spaces available)

Comments: __________________________________________________________

Instrument Hire (Orchestral instruments only. Excludes guitar.)

It is compulsory to be involved in a School ensemble if using a School instrument. An application to use an instrument needs to be completed with a cost of $25 per term. Payment at trybooking.com.au

This section must be completed by the person responsible for paying the account

Name: ____________________________ Email: ____________________________

Address: ________________________________________________________________

Phone: ____________________________ Mobile: ____________________________

I have read and agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the “Instrumental and Vocal Program.” (See the Office staff if you need a copy of the original enrolment booklet with terms and conditions explained)

Parent's Signature: ____________________________ Date: __________________

I understand my responsibilities in undertaking these lessons and agree to do my best to uphold the school's expectations of me.

Student's signature: ____________________________ Date: __________________

Please return this form to MRS IRVINE in the Music Department
Connections made at the New Parents evening

Important for your diary...
Whole School Information Evening

Wednesday 2 March 2016
Book this in your diary. More details to follow in an email next week.
Drama excursions for Secondary

By Mrs Kara McLaughlin, Teaching Staff

Last week the Drama department was busy travelling around Sydney enjoying theatrical experiences.

On Wednesday 10 February, Year 10 Drama visited the Roslyn Packer Theatre to watch an impactful and evocative performance by the Sydney Theatre Company’s (STC) of *The Secret River* written by Andrew Bovell. Annie Carroll wrote about their experience:

This play is an adaptation of the book written by Kate Grenville in 2005. It is based around the colonisation of Australia.

*The Secret River*, explores the journey of the Thornhill family who had been sent to Australian and had decided to claim a piece of land just off the Hawkesbury River.

Little did they know that this land was already owned by a family who were part of the Dharug people. This play explores the tragedy of the massacre of the Indigenous people.

The play was very well done with sound and lighting used to influence the audience, enhance the importance of the issues raised, and illustrate how delicate the situation is.

Having Indigenous characters made it even more touching because we knew that some of their ancestors could have been killed.

This impacted the students in different ways. I was affected by this play because I feel what happened was unjust. We should stop trying to hide our history, instead we should learn from our mistakes and try to make amends.

Going to the play as a Christian has definitely changed my perspective on some things. *The Secret River* has empowered me and I am sure many other of the Drama students, to do more surrounding these issues. We have to remember that God created everyone, we are all made in His image and remembering this as a Christian is very important.

By Mrs Kara McLaughlin, Teaching Staff

Years 11 and 12 Drama class participated in what only can be called an ‘Epic Adventure’.

The morning saw a visit to the Wharf Theatre where they listened to a forum on Australian Theatre, focusing on their HSC texts.

This was followed by a brisk walk back to Circular Quay and a train trip to Central (via Wynard station to retrieve a lost wallet).

There the students walked in the hot sun to Surry Hills for a quick lunch before making their way to Belvoir Street Theatre to watch an archival production of the Australian play *Neighbourhood Watch*.

After a brief hiatus at a park and a Thai meal, students made their way to the Seymour Centre, where they were joined by Year 11 Drama for Onstage.

Here both classes had the privilege of viewing outstanding performances and projects from 2015.
Powerful words

Monday 29 February at lunchtime in the TLC we will have an ex-student who is currently studying a double degree of Computer Engineering, and Science (majoring in Mathematics) at University of New South Wales come and talk to interested students.

David McKinnon is currently in the United States working for Microsoft as part of his degree. He has also been involved in the university Robocup World Champion Team and will be going to Germany this year for the world cup, defending their title of reigning world champions.

David will talk about his HSC years, university and what you can do there, work and will allow time for questions from interested students.

Information evening

Built Environment Information Evening for prospective students and their families at University of New South Wales: Wednesday 16 March, 6pm-8.30pm. at UNSW Built Environment Ground Floor Gallery, Red Centre West Wing Building, Kensington.

At this presentation you will learn about UNSW Built Environment’s admissions options including the alternative admission scheme, pathways to get you to the degree and the career you want, find out where a career in the built environment can take you, etc.


Airforce Cadets

Australian Air Force Cadets at Sutherland are having an information day for students who are interested in becoming a Cadet.

Students who are interested need to be between the ages of 13 and 17 at SQN (Sutherland Multi User Depot, Rawson Ave Sutherland) on Saturday 27 February at 9:15am. Please bring a pen and paper.

Call 0403899943 with queries.

Within the AAFC we:

• Provide flying training for greatly reduced prices as well as giving scholarships. Members of our organisation are trained by actual Air Force personnel, and can even fly solo in gliders/ powered air craft before they can drive a car.

• Teach and practice survival and general bush skills; on our regular parade nights cadets are taught the basics of how the defence force operate in the field and then after extensive prior training, how to survive a weekend with just a litre of water.

• Cadets are given the opportunity to go shooting with no cost to themselves, where they are trained and supervised by experience staff.

Great opportunities

Through our close relationship with the Australian Defence Forces, cadets are able to visit and stay on operational bases, to see what life in the ADF is actually like.

Great opportunities are provided on these activities such as: Hercules experience rides, being able to fire current ADF rifles in their simulations and much more.

Teach cadets leadership, how to teach a class, organizational skills and critical thinking. Cadets further themselves by attending promotional courses run on active ADF bases that equip them with skills to lead large groups of cadets, whilst developing the qualities of initiative, leadership, self-reliance and discipline.

Through our Youth Development Philosophy, cadets are given the opportunity to further themselves and develop business skills by becoming an essential part of the operation and organization of our Squadron.

All of this and more is provided for our cadets, should they wish to participate in it. There is no obligation to join the military once cadets join, the AAFC is based on the Royal Australian Air Force, but is not a military organisation.

The Australian Government, along with our own fundraising, helps to subsidise the cost so that there is minimal cost to parents.

All interested students are asked to visit our website www.318squadron.org, with access to information regarding recruitment.

UOW: Alternative pathways

Guaranteed pathways into UOW Do you have students worried they won’t get the ATAR for direct entry into university?

UOW College offers 28-week courses that can guarantee students entry into the first or second year of a range of UOW undergraduate degrees (subject to meeting UOW entry requirements).

For information visit http://www.uowcollege.edu.au/pathway/index.html
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep to Year 6</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 22 Feb</td>
<td>Yrs 11 &amp; 12 Music to Encore @ 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 23 Feb</td>
<td>CSSA Hockey Gala Day</td>
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| Wed 24 Feb    | Year 10 HSIE Excursion to Cronulla  
Years 11 & 12 Excursion to Hazelhurst @ 6pm |
|               | Special Community Prayer meeting 2pm-3pm in Secondary Library |
| Thu 25 Feb    | Board Meeting  
Extraordinary Association Meeting @ 8.30 for 8.45pm |
| Fri 26 Feb    | Secondary Zone Swimming Carnival |
| Tue 1 March   | Year 12 Design and Tech Seminar at Powerhouse  
Big Day In @ UTS (4 Students) |
| Wed 2 March   | Year 12 Parent Teacher Afternoon  
Whole School Information Evening from 7pm to 9pm |
| Thu 3 March   | Junior School Assembly @ 1.46pm  
Yr 11 Biology Field Trip to Bonna Reserve Kurnell  
Secondary Assembly  
Year 12 Drama Incursion: 3pm-5pm |
| Fri 4 March   | Touch Football Gala Day  
Year 12 Textiles Excursion - Stitches & Craft Show |

### Community Corner

**Personal Assistant/Office Manager: Gymea Baptist**

Working hours are flexible, but it is desirable that the candidate be available on Mondays.

This role requires the following skills and characteristics:  
• Efficiency  
• Discretion  
• Flexibility  
• Initiative  
• High Interpersonal skills  
• An ability to manage volunteers  
• Strong communication skills  
• Advanced level skills in Word and PowerPoint.  
• IT literacy.  
• Experience in graphic design is desirable but not necessary.

Applications can be sent to Marc.Rader@gymeabaptist.org.au and close on Friday 26 February.