

# Smith's Hill High School

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN A SPIRIT OF TRUST AND CO-OPERATION

**Newsletter 8**

**1st June 2009**

## Coming events

<b>Week 6</b>	<b>Beginning Monday 1st June</b>
Monday	Marine Science Excursion to Queensland - 2 Days
Tuesday	Guest Speaker - Tania Hayes - Yrs 9 & 10
	Southern Stars Launch
Wednesday	Expo Night - Yr 7 2010 - 6pm - 8.30pm in MPU
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>Beginning Monday 8th June</b>
Monday	Queens Birthday holiday
Tuesday	Year 12 Assessment Week
Wednesday	Science Competition
Thursday	Regional Debating Final - Senior Debaters - Bomaderry
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Beginning Monday 15th June</b>
Monday	P&C Meeting 7.30pm Common Room
Tuesday	Music Performance Night 7pm
Wednesday	Duke of Edinburgh Silver Hike - 3 days
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Beginning Monday 22nd June</b>
Monday	School Council Meeting

## YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Western Suburbs Leagues Club on Friday evening held their annual awards, which recognise achievement in the arts, academic pursuits, sport and citizenship areas. Smith's Hill was well represented by past students in a variety of fields. Nominees included Justin Ayre, Teena Downton, Halina Leung, Robert Satchell, Daniel Swain. Daniel and Teena won their sections and Justin and Halina were runners up in theirs. It is wonderful to see these students continuing to be successful in their studies at Tertiary level and in their areas of talent.

## THEATRESPORTS ROUND 1

H Block Drama Centre was the venue for a Regional Final of the Theatresports competition on Wednesday evening and a larger than anticipated audience were enthralled by the agility of thought of the teams who were given a range of unusual and challenging problems to solve. We had two teams in the competition at intermediate (Matthew Harrington, Paul Stramare, Brooke Rayner, Tess Ferguson-Hook and Alexi Polden) and senior level Adam Skorulis, Stephanie Carrigan, Mitchell Crouch and Lachlan Walmsley and both teams acquitted themselves well. Their responses were fresh and interesting and their teamwork

exceptional. It was a very entertaining evening. The State Semi-final will be held at the Nowra Anglican College on June 12th at 7pm. You are invited to join our teams for what promises to be a very exciting competition.

## COMPUTER USE – A BLESSING OR ???

Laptops -Year 9 will receive their computers later this year and they will be well equipped with software to enable ease of use for learning purposes. We are currently examining how these may be used in classroom situations in terms of accessibility across the school with the proposed wireless network. There will be some limitations in Stage 1 but these should disappear in the next two years as the numbers of laptops increases and the dedicated network expands.

Social Networking sites – these are used by many of our students and can be effective ways of communicating among friends. Parents and students need to be aware that what is published on the web and messaged on mobile phones is accessible by others and can have unforeseen consequences if the material is inappropriate. One of the messages that was given at a recent conference for principals was that some prospective employers are now accessing the web to find information about applicants as part of their employment process.

## SWINE FLU

As you will be aware from recent media reports, any student or teacher coming into Australia from certain countries including Japan, must be isolated from school for 7 days. This also applies to students coming from Japan. I regret to inform you that we have been advised that all exchange programs planned for the Japanese summer have been temporarily suspended. The Gyoda City group have cancelled their Tour.

We are still negotiating with authorities and Takarazuka and Kitazono High Schools regarding the viability of their Tours.

This is a very sad development, as I know many families were very much looking forward to having Japanese visitors. The Japanese students, too, are understandably upset.

I will let you know when further information is available.

*Caroline David - Japanese teacher*

## ART AWARD

Michelle Bai (Yr 9) entered the 15th Kanagawa Biennial World Children's Art Exhibition last year in Japan. The results have just been released and we are delighted to announce that out of 20,723 works entered for the competition, her picture was selected for a 'Special Prize'.

## DOYLEY'S DEBATING...

Debating and Public Speaking is definitely in full swing, with both the Seniors and Yr10 starting their competition, Regional Plain English Heats and Yr 7 Debating Trials!!!

On Wednesday last week the Year 10 Team completed Round 1, against Albion Park High School. The topic was, 'That we should replace all exams with Assessment Tasks.' Yet again SHHS lost the toss to automatically become the negative!

In an interesting display of arguments SHHS was successfully able to prove that the current system of a combination of Tests and Assessment Tasks was a more appropriate way of preparing students for real life.

Congratulations Zoe, Isabella, Ben and Supryia!

On Tuesday I supported Maddi De Gabriele and Solange Handley at the Regional Final of the Plain English Speaking Competition at St Mary's College. Both girls performed brilliantly in both the prepared and impromptu sections. The adjudicator made special mention of our speakers who were outstanding, and both Maddi and Solange were named...and then she announced the winner! Maddi De Gabriele! Maddi will now represent our Region at the State Semi Finals to be held in Sydney next month.

Congratulations Maddi!



Finally, the Yr 7/8 debating trials took place last Wednesday, and what a mammoth event that was! We had 48 students trying out for 4 spots! I am extremely proud of all the students who participated, because they were all well prepared and impressive! Selectors, Solange, Nathan and Mrs Doyle found the process extremely difficult, and decided on calling back 12 students to participate in an Hour Prep Debate next week for the final elimination round.

On Friday the Senior Debaters went on their first 'road trip' for the year to finalise the Zone Championships. Their first debate was against Bomaderry High School. At last we won the toss to become the affirmative for the topic, 'That the Government's apology has benefited the indigenous population.' SHHS clearly proved that the increased media attention brought to Indigenous Issues through the Apology, definitely raised awareness and empathy towards our Indigenous population, leading to increased action. After a 15-minute break, SHHS lost the toss to become the negative against Nowra High School on the topic, 'That Globalisation is good for us'. As a result of the affirmative defining 'us' as the world, SHHS were able to prove that the Third World countries of the world, being the majority, do not reap the benefits of globalisation, but are in fact exploited.

The Senior Team was in fine form, in fact the best I've ever seen them, BUT the highlight of the day

was definitely Mr Connor's Anzac cookies! They were 'scrummy' and enjoyed by all! Even those with braces!

SHHS are now the Zone Champions and await their next Round.

Congratulations Natalie, Nathan, Solange and Milan!

### **GUEST SPEAKER FOR YEARS 9 & 10.**

Year 9 and 10 will be privileged to hear guest speakers, Tania and Warren Hayes who have a lot to share about dealing positively with adversity. Tania Hayes was only 22 when her 29-year-old fiancé Warren was diagnosed with a dangerous brain tumour. Their happy and successful lives — full of youthful plans and excitement — changed in an instant. In less than 24 hours their future together took a completely new and uncertain direction, which did not include their imminent wedding.

For more than 12 months Warren endured an agonising series of medical battles, mishaps and relentless close calls. He clung to life against all odds, encouraged by Tania's love and devotion. Love Has No Limits is the extraordinary true story of Tania's journey through a decade of dedicated care for the man she loves and adores.

Much more than a medical drama, 'Love Has No Limits' is a touching narrative of the value of hope, determination and sheer grit; of strength, courage and the power of the human spirit. It is also a celebration of family and mateship and the work undertaken every day by Australia's 2.6 million home carers.

*"People often ask me, 'So why don't you give up? Why do you keep putting in hours on end trying to rehabilitate Warren's tired and weary body?' And I always reply that no matter what happens to you, you owe it to yourself to make the most of what you've got. Warren and I cannot alter the past, but we can certainly direct the future. Life is what you make it. If you sit back and feel sorry for yourself, you will slowly waste away, but if you strive to be the best you can, you will always succeed. It's about learning from the experiences you face and finding the courage to continue."*

— Tania Hayes from *Love Has No Limits*

We are fortunate to have Tania and Warren in our local community and come to speak to our students about their life journey from which I am sure much inspiration may be drawn. As we

endeavour to build resilience in our students, listening to the experiences of others and how they develop strategies to overcome difficulties every day is character building.

## **CAREER EDUCATION**

### **INSIDE THE FORENSIC WORLD**

A half-day seminar featuring forensic scientists, investigators and lawyers who will discuss their career paths, experiences and be available for specific questions from the audience. There will be displays featuring work performed by NSW forensic practitioners and information from those NSW universities offering studies relevant to forensic science.

Date: Saturday 11th July 2009

Time: 9am – 1.30pm

Venue: The University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) Broadway Campus.

Cost: \$30 per person – this includes a morning tea/coffee break.

#### **Who should attend?**

This seminar is open to anyone who wishes to learn more about the "real" world of forensic science, policing and law. It is especially designed to help secondary and tertiary students learn more about these career areas and to make more informed choices. Lectures will be presented by prominent professionals in the field and will include interesting casework. Please note that some material may be graphic, hence a 16-years+ age restriction must be strictly observed.

### **UOW YEAR 11 & 12 OPEN NIGHT**

The University of Wollongong is hosting an Open Night to give Year 11 and 12 students, and parents, the opportunity to visit UOW and where a degree from UOW can lead.

Held on Wednesday 10 June from 5pm, you can visit the UOW Uni Services Expo to learn more about the opportunities and support UOW has to offer students – such as scholarships and study abroad.

From 6pm – 8.30pm, each of UOW's nine faculties will run three consecutive sessions – meaning that you don't have to pick just one faculty to visit - you can learn more about a number of study areas and careers that you may be considering for life after high school.

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Faculty sessions will commence at 6pm, 6.50pm and 7.40pm and attendees can expect to hear from the Faculty Deans and Academics, as well as current and past UOW students who will be discussing why they chose UOW and where their UOW degree has led them.

Wednesday 10 June, UOW Open Night:  
5pm – 6pm – UOW Uni Services Expo  
6pm – 6.50pm – 1st Round Faculty Sessions  
6.50pm – 7.40pm – 2nd Round Faculty Sessions  
7.40pm – 8.30pm – 3rd Round Faculty Sessions

Bookings Essential, call 1300 367 869 or book online at <http://tiny.cc/UOWevents>

## UOW ADVICE FOR STUDENTS IN YEARS 7-10

The University of Wollongong is also holding Information Evenings for Years 7 – 10 students and their parents in June. Attendees will gain information on Year 11 and 12 subject selection, scaling and admission into university.

15 June 2009 – Sutherland Entertainment Centre, 6.30pm – 8.30pm

22 June 2009 – University of Wollongong Shoalhaven Campus, 6.30pm – 8.30pm

30 June 2009 – University of Wollongong University Hall, 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Call 1300 367 869 for further information.

*G. Barbaro - Career Education*

## UTS INFORMATION EVENINGS

Engineering Courses Info Evening – 24 June at 6pm  
Engineering Scholarships Info Evening 22 July at 6pm

Students will find out about courses, scholarships, entry and career

opportunities. Students can find information on all upcoming events by visiting our websites. Please encourage your Year 12's to attend.

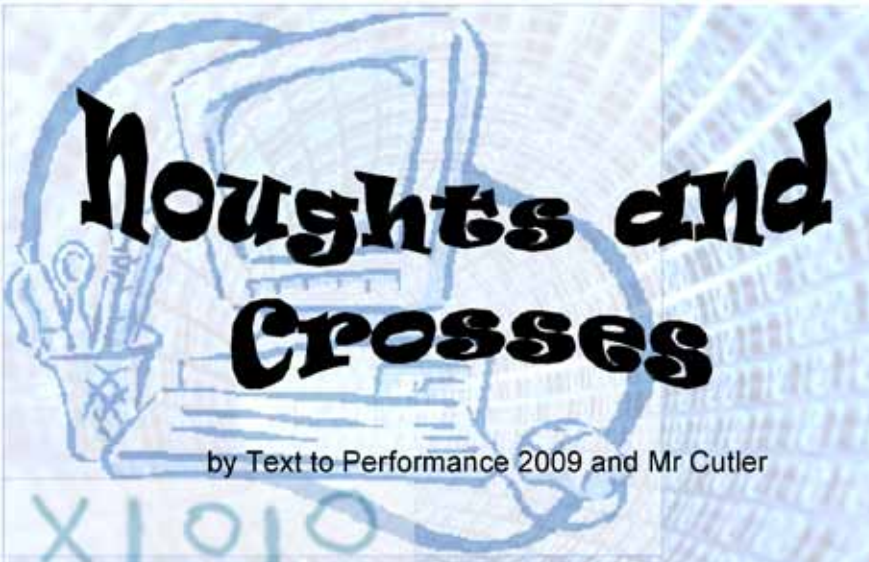
## CANTEEN NEWS

Expo Night is on Wednesday 3rd June and Canteen will be open from 6pm till 8.30pm. If you are able to help during these times, even for an hour, it would be greatly appreciated. Volunteer help is needed: 3rd Friday, 4th Tuesday, 4th Thursday, 4th Friday. Please phone Mrs Kriss on 4228 5912

Price increases: Traveller pies \$2.60, Soup & roll \$2.30.

We also have a new coffee and hot chocolate machine in the Canteen. Come and try it only \$1.50 a cup.

*Mrs C. Kriss – Canteen Supervisor*



**Thoughts and Crosses**

by Text to Performance 2009 and Mr Cutler

Smith's Hill High School, H Block

Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm  
Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm  
Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> June at 5pm

Tickets sold at \$8 before the night in the quad or \$10 at the door