



# THE Normanhurst News

**The weekly newsletter of Normanhurst Boys High School**

*Celebrating 50 years of quality education for boys*

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Principal: Mr J R Bruce

Deputy Principals: Mr F Johnson and Mr J.E. Fielding

**Friday 20 February, 2009**

**Volume 18 Number 3**

## From the Principal

With Term 1 of the new school year well under way, there is certainly a very positive and productive atmosphere around the school. Students have settled into their new classes and new courses and everyone is busily engaging in our core business of teaching and learning. For Year 12, the rigorous schedule of assessment tasks which will constitute 50% of their HSC mark will be occupying a great deal of their focus. The youngest members of our school, Year 7 should by now be getting used to the routines of high school. From conversations that I have had with many of them, they are certainly enjoying the new experiences that coming to Normanhurst Boys has brought.



We always strive to ensure that the communication channels with parents over issues involving the boys are clear and I would encourage you to contact the school if there are any matters that you wish to discuss. All students will receive two academic reports and there are parent teacher nights scheduled that provide a valuable opportunity to meet our staff and discuss the progress of your son. The scheduled dates for these meetings are:

- Year 7 - May 19
- Year 8 - June 16
- Year 9 - June 25
- Year 10- June 16
- Year 11- June 25
- Year 12- March 2

### An Important Anniversary

This week's formal assembly focussed upon recognising the first anniversary of the historic apology to the aboriginal people that was given by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd on February 13 last year. Sam Farrell (Year 11) gave an eloquent presentation that outlined the significance of this event and introduced a video that captured poignant moments from last year's apology statement.

We recently received from the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Ms Jenny Macklin, a copy of that motion of apology given by the Prime Minister, beautifully presented in calligraphy. The document is being framed

and will be on permanent display in our school foyer to remind current and future generations of this important step on the road to reconciliation and a vision of Australia that we should all aspire to. The text of the document reads:

*I move that today we honour the Indigenous peoples of this land, the oldest continuing cultures in human history.*

*We reflect on their past mistreatment. We reflect in particular on the mistreatment of those who were Stolen Generations—this blemished chapter in our nation's history.*

*The time has now come for the nation to turn a new page in Australia's history by righting the wrongs of the past and so moving forward with confidence to the future.*

*We apologise for the laws and policies of successive Parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians.*

*We apologise especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, their communities and their country.*

*For the pain, suffering and hurt of these Stolen Generations, their descendants and for their families left behind, we say sorry.*

*To the mothers and the fathers, the brothers and the sisters, for the breaking up of families and communities, we say sorry.*

*And for the indignity and degradation thus inflicted on a proud people and a proud culture, we say sorry.*

*We the Parliament of Australia respectfully request that this apology be received in the spirit in which it is offered as part of the healing of the nation.*

*For the future we take heart; resolving that this new page in the history of our great continent can now be written.*

*We today take this first step by acknowledging the past and laying claim to a future that embraces all Australians.*

*A future where this Parliament resolves that the injustices of the past must never, never happen again.*

*A future where we harness the determination of all*

*Australians, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to close the gap that lies between us in life expectancy, educational achievement and economic opportunity.*

*A future where we embrace the possibility of new solutions to enduring problems where old approaches have failed.*

*A future based on mutual respect, mutual resolve and mutual responsibility.*

*A future where all Australians, whatever their origins, are truly equal partners, with equal opportunities and with an equal stake in shaping the next chapter in the history of this great country, Australia.'*

### **Congratulations to....**

Two senior debating teams in Year 11 and 12 who took part in the Macquarie University Schools Cup this week. Although they did not win the trophy, they scored impressive wins over James Ruse, North Sydney Boys, and St Pius X in the preliminary rounds and were unlucky not to reach the finals. Congratulations to Graeme McIntyre, Martin McCarthy, Sanjay Vinoharan, Sam Farrell, Isaac Frelander and Dennis McCarthy.

### **Old Boys' Success**

We received news this week about the outstanding results achieved at the University of Sydney by students from the class of 2004. First Class Honours and the University Medal were achieved by Zach Vermeer (Law), Michael Sun (Mathematics), Ben Lodewijks (Economics) and Phil Howes (Mathematics). First Class Honours were achieved by Tomek Rej (Computer Science & Technology), Sean Randall (Psychology). I hope to invite some or all of these young men to the school at some stage in the near future to address one of our assemblies.

### **Kind regards**

**Jeff Bruce**  
Principal

## **PREFECTS' PERIODICAL**

Another successful Mufti day saw the flawless execution of an obesogenic Prefect BBQ, with the theme being the letter "P". In true Normo spirit the day saw approximately  $\pi\%$  of boys wearing attire resembling the aforementioned theme. Special mention definitely goes to that kid in Year 7 who is an actual champion for being completely fitted out in PJs. No special mentions go to the 700 boys that attempted to pass the "P" theme with portrayals of 'people' by wearing 'pants'. All in all a perfect day where the persistent precipitation of the previous \*insert more profound P words here\* days could not rain on the Normo parade of pythonically perfect proportions.

### **The Prefects**

## **MUSIC NEWS**

### **ENSEMBLES**

All three ensembles are sounding great. It is not too late to join if you have missed the first rehearsals – just come and see us.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	THURSDAY
7.30am Stage	8.00am String	7.30am Concert

Band Rm. 46	Ensemble Rm. 46	Band Rm. 33
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### **ENSEMBLE CONTRIBUTIONS**

Thank you so much to the parents who have already paid their annual ensemble contribution of \$50. In order to purchase things like music, instruments, coaches to various venues etc. We need all students who are in an ensemble to pay a **\$50 ensemble** contribution to the school. This should be in an envelope marked "ensemble contribution" and handed in to the front office as soon as possible. **The Stage Band fees for this term are set out below. If you are in stage band and you cannot afford both Stage Band fees and ensemble contribution then please just pay for Stage Band.**

### **EMAIL**

To facilitate communication to students and their parents we are making a distribution list for each ensemble. The students' DET address will be used, as well as one, or both, parents. Could you either submit your email(s) in writing to the music staffroom, or email it to [margaret.johnson15@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:margaret.johnson15@det.nsw.edu.au). Please make sure you include the name of your son, his instrument, the ensemble that he is playing in and his year group, as well as your own name(s) of course. Once we start to send messages in this way we would encourage **students**, not just parents, to check their emails regularly. If any ensemble rehearsals are cancelled for some reason there will be an email to this effect.

### **STAGE BAND FEES**

This information will also go home with the Stage Band members.

The Stage Band fees for term 1 are now due. There will be 8 sessions this term at \$4.00 a session. A total of \$32 should be placed in an envelope marked with your name, year and roll class and "Stage Band Fees" and then handed in to the front office ASAP.

**Mrs. M. Johnson and Mrs. S Cousins**

## **TEXT BOOK COVERING**

Each year, parents volunteer to cover faculty text books in the Library. This is done during normal school hours (9.00am to 3.00pm).

A few mothers have volunteered this year .... but we need more! We have had quite a number of English and TAS texts arrive. They are all paperbacks.

If you can spare a few hours to help our boys get their textbooks sooner, it would be much appreciated.

Please call me at school on 9489 1077 extension 117.

**Thank you**

**Jennie Coggins (Library SASS)**

## **STUDENT TRANSPORT – ROUTE CHANGES**

Any students who wish to change the route by which they travel to school and back must submit new forms to the school office **by Tuesday of next week**. After next week, no route changes can be made until the beginning of Term 3 (except for changes of address).

**Thank you**  
**Office Staff**

## NORMANHURST BRIDGE CLUB

As you may know, our school has a bridge club. The club, founded two years ago, has 10 members and meets at lunchtime most weekdays during school term.

This January, five of the members (year 12 students Harry Wood, Yan Zochowski, Max Kemeny, Jamie Macaulay and Angus Hirst) attended the Australian Bridge Federation Youth Championships. The Championship selects the players to represent Australia in international competitions in 2009, and also is a great way for young players from across the country to make contact.

The Normanhurst team proves the effectiveness of grass-roots development of youth bridge, and serves as a model for other schools to follow in promoting the future of the game. Normanhurst was the only "school" team to be represented across all of Australia.

Youth Week was held at the Canberra Bridge Club, and the Greenhills Retreat near Canberra. This year's event consisted of 50 young people aged 13 to 28, representing every mainland Australian state. Apart from the bridge (400 hands played in 7 days, including some less serious fun sessions), participants enjoyed games of football, volleyball, swimming, late night partying, BBQs, music, scrabble and lots of general fun.

The youth field is largely comprised of young adults, with about one third of the field being under 18. Almost all the players either learned the game at university, or at home from their parents, many of whom are leading players in their state, or even in the whole of Australia. But for 4 of the 5 Normanhurst team members, this is not the case, having learned solely at school with Max as the "resident" bridge teacher.

The Normanhurst team was not there to win, but rather

to enjoy, and gain experience. Max partnered young Sydney bridge identity Will Jenner-O'Shea to run third in the Plate event of the weekend pairs competition that kicked off Youth Week, whilst the Angus/Jamie and Yan/Harry pairings gained valuable experience.

In the teams qualifying stage on Monday and Tuesday, the four man Normanhurst team (Harry Wood having only been able to stay for the weekend pairs competition) trailed the field, without a match won. But there were some close losses (and a couple of thumping but instructive ones from the top teams!).

For the five youth teams that did not make the finals, a "Consolation" teams event was conducted. Normanhurst's newly gained experience showed through here, with several close losses, and one drawn match.

The Normanhurst team split up for the Thursday night Consolation Pairs event. Max partnered another young up-and-coming Sydney player, 15 year old Muhammad Naufal, and topped off his week, winning this event by a wide margin. Other Normanhurst players Jamie, Angus and Yan all had creditable results, coming equal fourth, equal fourth and seventh respectively out of 10 pairs; each Normanhurst player playing with a new partner.

New players are sought for the Normanhurst Boys Bridge Club, especially as most members are now in year 12. The club needs some new faces in order to continue into 2010 and beyond. For details, contact Max Kemeny at the school.

You too could be in Canberra in January 2010 for next year's championships. Max, Yan, Harry, Angus and Jamie will be there again, and are interested in obtaining new participants.

## SPORTS RESULTS

GRADE		DATE:20/2/2009	ROUND No 14
SPORT	OPPOSITION	VENUE	COACH
1st CRICKET	4 vs 1-North Sydney	Day 1	Washed Out
2nd CRICKET	Missed Semis		
15A CRICKET	2 vs 3-Randwick	Day 1	Washed Out
14A CRICKET	1 vs 4-Homebush	Day 1	Washed Out
14B CRICKET	2 vs 3-Homebush	Day 1	Washed Out
1st BASKETBALL	Nth Syd	Normanhurst	50-47
2nd BASKETBALL	Nth Syd	North Sydney	35-34
15S BASKETBALL	Nth Syd	Draw	27-27
14S BASKETBALL	Nth Syd	Normanhurst	40-28
SNR BASEBALL	Bye	-	-
JNR BASEBALL	Bye	-	-
1st VOLLEYBALL	Nth Syd	North Sydney	2-0
2nd VOLLEYBALL	Nth Syd	North Sydney	2-0
15S VOLLEYBALL	Nth Syd	Draw	Washed Out
14S VOLLEYBALL	Bye	-	-
1st TENNIS	Nth Syd	Draw	Washed Out
2nd TENNIS	Nth Syd	Draw	Washed Out
15S TENNIS	Nth Syd	Draw	Washed Out
14S TENNIS	Nth Syd	Draw	Washed Out

<b>Open OZ TAG</b>	<b>Nth Syd</b>	Draw	Washed Out
15s OZ TAG	<b>Nth Syd</b>	Draw	Washed Out
<b>1st WATERPOLO</b>	<b>Nth Syd</b>	Normanhurst	6-1
15s WATERPOLO	<b>Nth Syd 15</b>	Normanhurst	7-3
14s WATERPOLO	<b>Nth Syd</b>	North Sydney	2-11
<b>OPEN FUTSAL</b>	<b>Nth Syd</b>	North Sydney	3-6
15s FUTSAL	<b>Nth Syd</b>	Normanhurst	2-1

<b>Normanhurst Boys' High School</b>						<b>Term 1, 2009</b>					
<b>Wk</b>	<b>Monday</b>		<b>Tuesday</b>		<b>Wednesday</b>		<b>Thursday</b>		<b>Friday</b>		
<b>5</b>	23 Feb Yr11/12 Visual Arts Exc Streamwatch testing (P1/2)		24 Streamwatch testing (P5/6)		25		26 Yr12 Design & Tech Exc		27 Yr7 Geography Field Study School Clean Up Day  Battle of the Bands		
			Yr11 English Advanced								
<b>6</b>	2 Mar LST Meeting		3 Yr7 Teachers' Meeting		4		5 Formal Assembly Yrs 7/8/11/12 Zone Swimming		6 Yr7 Geography Field Study  P&C Working Bee 7 Mar		
	Yr12 P/T Night						Yr12 English Advanced				

  

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<b>7</b>	9 Mar		10 Yr10 Geography Field Study		11		12 Formal Assembly Yrs 9/10/11/12 Yr10 Geography Field Study		13 Yr7 Maths Fun Day		
	←		Year 9		Northern Explorer		→				
	Yr12 Economics		P&C Meeting								
<b>8</b>	Yr10 Mathematics		Yr11 Mathematics		Yr8 Maths		Yr11 Business Studies		Yr11 Maths Ext1		
	16 Mar Yrs 7/8/9/10 French Inc Yr11 Geography Field Study		17  Yr7 BBQ		18		19 Selective Schools Test		20 Yr9 Commerce Field Study Yr7/10 Immunisation  Yr7 Interim Reports issued		
	←		NO		YEAR 12		ASSESSMENTS		→		
Yr10 Japanese Yr10 French		Yr11 Eng Ext1 issued						Yr11 Japanese			

## GUITAR LESSONS

Individual – shared – group lessons  
Guitar tuition is available during school hours to students at NBHS. Please ring to book your place. Most importantly, please speak to me before you buy an instrument. I also do setup and repair work for an instrument you already own.

**Owen van der Klauw**  
9894 1604  
0421 818 521

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Pennant Hills Neighbourhood Aid Inc.** is a not-for profit organisation that provides support services to the frail aged and people with a disability. Volunteers provide individual assistance with transport, shopping and companionship to allow people to remain living independently in their own home.

If you would like to help, more information can be found by ringing 9484 7777 or by visiting the website at [www.phillsneighbouraid.org.au](http://www.phillsneighbouraid.org.au).

The following information was provided to the school by the Australian Taxation Office:

## THE EDUCATION TAX REFUND – GET 50% BACK

Under the new Education Tax Refund, parents and others who are eligible can now claim 50% of their eligible education expenses up to \$750 for primary students and \$1500 for secondary students.

This means you could receive a refund each year of up to \$375 for each primary and \$750 for each secondary school student in your care.

### Are you eligible?

To be eligible you must have received Family Tax Benefit Part A for each child whose education expenses you wish to claim. You can also claim the Education Tax Refund if you were stopped from receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A because your child received any of the following:

- Youth Allowance (student) aged 18
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY
- the Veterans' Children Education Scheme
- the Student Financial Supplement Scheme
- a scheme under s258 of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004
- an Australian Postgraduate Award.

Independent students are also eligible to claim.

### What can you claim?

You can claim the purchase, lease, hire or hire-purchase costs, repairs and running costs of:

- laptops, home computers and associated costs — for example, internet and paper
- educational software, printers, USB flash drives, disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
- stationery and art supplies
- school textbooks and associated learning materials
- trade tools and safety equipment for secondary school trade courses.

- ⚠ Some of the expenses you cannot claim include school fees or the cost of school uniforms, school excursions or travel to and from school, musical instruments or sporting equipment, clothing or footwear. For a more comprehensive list visit [www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au](http://www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au)

### When can you claim?

You can claim your education expenses in your 2009 tax return. If you do not have to lodge a tax return, you will be able to lodge a separate claim with the Tax Office from 1 July 2009.

- ⚠ **Remember, you need to keep all receipts for expenses you claim.**

If your education expenses in one year are more than the claim limit for your children, you can add the excess to your education expenses for the following year.

➡ For more information:

- visit [www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au](http://www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au)
- phone the Tax Office on **13 28 61**.