Some thoughts about student choices:
As a comprehensive high school, Narrabri High School welcomes students with a range of interests, abilities and attitudes and from a range of backgrounds. From the time they first arrive at Narrabri High School they have choices to make and, to a very large extent, these choices often say a lot about the students themselves and do a lot to determine the citizens they will become.

When you walk through our playground you will see a majority of our student impeccably dressed in our uniform. I have been particularly impressed by so many of our junior girls who look fantastic in their summer uniform. Also occasionally evident is that minority of students who choose to push the limits by ignoring the uniform code agreed to by the parent body and who choose to go out of their way to look that little bit different.

When you walk down our corridors you will see classrooms where the vast majority of students are engaged and actively committed to their learning. There will also be isolated instances of individuals and groups who have chosen to disengage, to ignore the guidance of their teachers and who appear to have little respect for their own learning.

During breaks you will see most students chatting, smiling and enjoying each other’s company. During a long break some will choose to play basketball, handball or touch in an orderly and good spirited way. Occasionally, a student or group might choose to sneak out of bounds or have a disagreement. Often these disagreements have had their origins outside of school as a result of a Facebook squabble or an offensive SMS text and the students have chosen to continue that squabble at school.

In this 21st Century, schools (and comprehensive high schools in particular) are complex places. It is often easy to take for granted the wonderful young people who attend our schools and the wonderful things that happen there. It is often too easy to focus on the minority who choose not to avail themselves of the opportunities schools provide. It’s a bit like the evening news on television: it highlights appalling aspects of society and to watch it you would think that the world is a horrible, violent place with crime and misfortune everywhere. But it’s not, is it?

Geoff Myers
Principal
Recent High School happenings:

Year 7 students have been very busy during the last month. They were guests with their parents at a “Welcome to Year 7 BBQ”. There was a strong turnout of families and Year 11 hosted the function in a most efficient and convivial way.

This week Year 7 students are experiencing a three day “Bush to Beach Camp”. A large busload of excited youngsters are enjoying their time at ‘The Great Aussie Bush Camp’ near Tea Gardens. I would like to thank the Year 7 Adviser, Mr Partridge and teachers, Mrs Wallace, Mrs Flood and Mr Magner, for supervising the students and Mr Lonergan, who has also volunteered to assist. Owing to this excursion, Year 7 will not receive their copy of this newsletter until their first day back at school next Monday.

Unfortunately, the annual Swimming Carnival has had to be postponed. The facilities at the new pool are not yet ready to cope with an event involving so many students, particularly with the level of parent and family support that invariably occurs. It is hoped that the Carnival can be rescheduled in Term 4.

Year 12 have been doing some serious thinking about their pattern of study for the HSC. Some students have elected to drop one of the subjects they studied in Year 11 in order to specialise and maximise the time spent on their remaining subjects. Their half-yearly exams are rapidly approaching and a serious commitment to study and exam preparation should now be in evidence. At the same time, Year 12 are being fully inducted as senior students by being allowed a number of privileges that distinguish them from the remainder of the School. These privileges acknowledge their developing status as young adults and the trust the School places in its student leaders.

Excursions:

I would like to take this opportunity to foreshadow a number of excursions that are in the planning stage. These excursions highlight the wonderful opportunities that are available to students; most are not compulsory, but they provide valuable experiences for students which complement their academic or social growth.

I am also aware that some of these major excursions are expensive. Parents and students might certainly struggle to participate in every excursion now offered; there may well be a need to prioritise and budget. With this in mind, I think it appropriate to provide some idea of excursions which, though still in the planning stage, might be offered to students in the future. This year’s Year 10 is particularly affected.

March, 2013: Yr 7 to Tea Gardens
August, 2013: Yr 10 Ski Trip to Thredbo
December, 2013: Yr 10 Volunteers to Cambodia
April, 2014: Yr 12 and (if vacancies exist) Yr 11 Modern and Ancient History students to Europe.
2013: Yr 9, Yr 11, Yr 12 Drama students to Sydney
July, 2013: All years Music students to Sydney.
September, 2013: Food Technology to Sydney.

P&C:

The next meeting of the P&C in the Library on Monday night at 6.30 pm will be the annual general meeting. I invite all members of the community to attend and encourage all parents to support the School and their children by becoming involved in the P&C.

The main source of funds for the P&C is the School Canteen which is operated by an effective committee and manager, Lyn Ward. Volunteers are always welcome to work in the canteen for a couple of hours and parents are welcome to become involved in the Canteen Committee which meets (usually over coffee) at 6.30 on the third Tuesday of each month. In most months, this usually follows the day after the P&C Meeting on the Monday.

Some administrative matters:

Often students change their address or phone number and this can prevent effective communication unless the School is notified of the change. Please let us know of any changes so that our records remain accurate.
Enrolment forms ask for a student’s “Given Name” as well as his or her “Preferred Name”. Please note that the student’s “Preferred Name” will be the name printed on official documents, including semester reports. If this is NOT the name that you wish to appear on your child’s report please contact the school so that adjustments can be made.

**Reminder:**

If you would prefer that your child’s image or name NOT be used on our website or other school publications, please contact the School immediately.

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**Agriculture News**

**Tamworth Show**

On Friday, 8th March, eighteen Agriculture students from Years 7-12 travelled to Tamworth to participate in a Schools’ Livestock Assessment and Junior Judging Day which was held in conjunction with the Tamworth Show. This was attended by over 300 students, from a number of schools, including Farrar Memorial Agricultural High School, Calrossy, Peel High School, Oxley High School, Wee Waa High School and St Joseph’s Aberdeen, just to name a few.

Our students competed in a number of competitions, including Beef Cattle judging, both Merino Sheep and Meat Sheep Judging, Fleece judging, as well as Cattle parading.

The biggest participation classes were in the cattle ring. Mariah Moss in Year 12, placed in the top 10 in the 15-18 years section. Courtney Boyd in Year 9 put up a very strong performance in the largest age group, to place 5th out of 120 competitors in the 12-15 years section.

Two students qualified to compete in the Group 14 zone final for cattle parading, which was to select the Group 14 representatives to compete in the State Finals at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. The Clarke family from Wee Waa kindly allowed Mariah Moss from Year 12 and Jessica Scaysbrook from Year 11 to parade their Santa Gertrudis heifers in this class, both girls performed to a very high standard in an extremely competitive class. Mariah Moss was shortlisted and put through to the finals, but unfortunately narrowly missed out on selection to the State Final in Sydney.

In the Sheep ring, Narrabri High School students dominated. Year 8 students, Ashleigh Dunn and Mekenzie Parkes took out 1st and 2nd place respectively in the 12-15 years Merino Sheep judging, with Ashleigh being awarded the Champion under 15 Years Merino Judge of the Show. Grace Jackson, from Year 12, placed 2nd in the 15-18 Years Merino Judging class. Narrabri continued their strong hold in the merino section by taking out 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in the 12-15 years class of the Merino Fleece judging. This was won by Year 8 students, Kate Brown with Felicity Elford 2nd, closely followed by Courtney Boyd from Year 9, in third place. Grace Jackson also took out 1st place in the 15-18 Years class and was awarded overall Champion Fleece Judge of the Show, claiming a title which has been held by Calrossy students for a number of consecutive years.

Congratulations to all the students on their participation, team work and effort which they all showed throughout the day. At the conclusion of the event, the Merino and Fleece over judges, both commented on just how impressed they were with the Narrabri High School students, which was a huge complement, given that, for a number of our students, it was their first attempt at judging. They all demonstrated knowledge of the various agricultural enterprises which far exceeded their experience. The students are a credit to the School. Well Done!
Year 11 Agriculture and Primary Industries students went to ‘Waitara’, Gunnedah on Tuesday 5th March to attend The Namoi Catchment Management Authority Schools’ Property Planning Competition. The day is used as part of the competition where the winning students will produce useful property plans for sustainable management of “Waitara”. The day consisted of the students visiting three stations over the farm where experts discussed various aspects of sustainable management such as looking at the vegetation, the students used a soil pit to test various soil features and finally the experts discussed salinity on the farm. Many students got to catch up and interact with other likeminded students from schools around the Namoi catchment area. It was a very useful day for students and most gained lots of benefits to all aspects of agriculture and primary industries.

Property Planning

Extension History Study Day

On Friday 8th March, Narrabri High School student Ebony Gleeson was accompanied by her teacher, Mrs Jo Brazaitis to attend an Extension History Study Day at Southern Cross University, Coffs Harbour.

Although Extension History has been taught at Narrabri High School over the past couple of years, it is the first time the study day has been offered. Topics covered the course content such as Historiography, Who says History is History, the Case Study, the HSC examination questions and Analysing Sources means that Ebony has a greater understanding of the constraints and challenges facing the construction of History in a contemporary world. “Ebony already had a good level of understanding of the content, but the study day augmented and gave depth to her knowledge”, Mrs Brazaitis said. She went on to say that “These types of study days are invaluable to rural students undertaking History at the extension level”.

“The lectures were brilliant. They gave me confidence in knowing I am following the right path with my Major Project”, Ebony said.

The History Faculty at Narrabri High School is continuing to go from strength to strength, with the Modern and Ancient Senior History classes intending to embark on their Europe Excursion for 2014, Elective History classes being selected by students in Year 9, as well as Extension History becoming a more and more popular subject to study.

North West Swimming

On Monday, 4th March, 16 Narrabri swimmers competed at the North West regional swimming carnival with outstanding results. Josiah Barnes was the outstanding swimmer on the day winning 7 out of 7 events in his age group. Students who placed in the top 3 will compete at the CHS championships in April.

Students who competed were TenikaBakhius (2nd 400m freestyle), Josiah Barnes (1st 100m butterfly, 100m backstroke, 100m breaststroke, 100m freestyle, 50m freestyle, 200m freestyle, 200m Individual Medley and 400m Individual Medley), Lucinda Caton (3rd 50m freestyle and 100m backstroke), Isabel Gourley (1st 50m freestyle, 100m backstroke and 3rd 100m breaststroke), Lachlan Gourley (1st 100m butterfly, 1st 200m freestyle, 2nd 100m freestyle, 50m freestyle), Lachlan Hall (3rd 100m freestyle), Chelsea Hancock, Tayla Jackson (1st 100m freestyle, 2nd 50m freestyle, 200m freestyle, 3rd 100m backstroke), Victoria Meppem, Bethany Mison (1st 400m freestyle, 1st 200m freestyle), TeaganPenberthy, Emma Rose, Toby Sunderland (400m freestyle, 1st 200m freestyle), Paige Thornbury, Nicholas Tomlinson (1st 100m breast stroke, 2nd 100m butterfly, 2nd 100m freestyle, 2nd 50m freestyle, 2nd 200m freestyle, 2nd 100m backstroke)and Charlie Williams.
The relay teams were also highly successful. Toby Sunderland, Josiah Barnes, Nicholas Tomlinson and Lachlan Gourley won the Open Medley against much older swimmers; Bethany Mison, Tayla Jackson, Tenika Bakhius and Paige Thornbury were 2nd in the Girls Open Medley. Nicholas Tomlinson, Charlie Williams, Lachlan Hall and Lachlan Gourley won the 13 years’ boys relay, Bella Stewart, India Johnson, Isabel Gourley and Lucinda Caton won the girls’ 12 year relay and Tenika Bakhius, Bethany Mison, Paige Thornbury and Victoria Meppem won the girls’ 14 years relay.

Lachlan Gourley was the most successful 13 year old boy and Josiah Barnes the most successful 15 year old boy on the day. The Narrabri boys were the highest scoring boys team on the day and the girls the second highest scoring girl’s team. This made Narrabri High the highest scoring school on the day. Thanks is also extended to Karla Carruthers for coaching the students and giving up her time to help the students achieve these fantastic results.

**Year 9 class Excursion to The Courier**

On Monday the 11th of March, Year 9N English went on an excursion to the Courier Newspaper. We were welcomed by Mrs Wanda Dunnet and Mr Ben Rossleigh. We were introduced to the employees of the Courier and they explained their jobs. There was a graphic designer, a sports editor, a social news reporter, a journalist, a tech guru, an editor and an advertisement officer.

We were shown how the newspaper is put together on the computer and then sent to James (tech guru) to change the format. We were shown past copies of the Courier dating back to 1913, the papers in the past were very large with tiny print.

There is a special room used for printing stencils of the pages of the paper. The lights in the room were yellow because bright light and sunlight damages the plates.

The stencils were taken to the printer, where we were able to see the Norwester being printed. The paper used for the newspaper is all sourced from regenerated forests. We were later shown the process of how each colour was transferred onto the 11 and a half kilometre roll of printing paper, which was then automatically cut and folded into newspaper size.

On the premises, the courier is in charge of printing, designing and writing The Courier, The Wee Waa News and The Norwester. They also put together the information and design for The Namoi Valley Life magazine, which is then sent to a printing company in Queensland, to gain the glossy cover.

9N English thoroughly enjoyed their excursion to the courier office and gained knowledge of how our local paper is operated and produced.

**Personalised Learning Plan (PLP)**

**Understanding and engagement in learning for Aboriginal students and Families**

In 2012 Aboriginal students at Narrabri High School were involved in developing Personalised Learning Plans. Each student was interviewed by Ms Pocock to determine his or her goals and to assist them to complete tasks associated with their learning at Narrabri High School.

PLP’s are also about:
- developing relationships between students, teachers and parents.
- the child expressing their interests and challenges
- the staff listening and supporting the achievement of these goals
- ensuring all Aboriginal students (including those with special talents) achieve and reach the highest standards possible

Students from Years 8-12 will have their PLP sent home. Parents and caregivers are asked to discuss these with their children. Each student has some clear goals that they will be working towards and they will be monitored and evaluated throughout the year.

In the next few weeks, interviews will commence with Year 7 and new enrolments and these will be posted home in the near future. By School and Home working together in this initiative, we will be able to assist students in their learning, completion of tasks, and support their personal needs whilst they attend Narrabri High School.

If you would like to find out more information about PLP’s, feel free to contact Ms Pocock at the school.
**NOTICES**

**Calendar**

| March     | 20 | Motivational Media  
|           | 22 | Year 12 Senior Success  
|           | 25-26 | North West Rugby Trials  
|           | 28 | North West Winter Trials  
|           | 29-1/4 | Easter Break  
| April     | 8-11 | Year 12 Half Yearly Exams  
|           | 10 | Year 11 Senior Success  
|           | 15-26 | School Holidays  
|           | 29 | Staff Development Day  
|           | 30 | Staff Development Day  
| May       | 1 | Students resume Term 2  

**Narrabri Little Athletics Starts**

Wednesday 1st May 2013 at 3.45pm  
At Narrabri High School (Selina Street)

We are holding a cake stallon  
Sat 16th March from 8.30am  
at the Community Kiosk (caravan)  
Maitland St Narrabri  
and taking registrations on the day

The cost will be $70 each child

**Narrabri Scouts**

The 1st Narrabri West Scout Group has sections  
6-8 year olds, 8-11 year olds, 11-15 year olds  
and 15-18 year olds


**Schoolkids Bonus**

Eligible parents should by now have received the “Schoolkids Bonus”. You are eligible for the bonus if you have a child in primary or secondary school and receive certain benefits and pension payments. For more information go to [australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus](http://australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus)

**2013 Junior Soccer Season**

Starts April 6th  
Age groups now up to under 18’s

Register now at myfootballclub.com.au

Information and registration days at  
Gately Field March 16th and March 23rd (9-12am)

For more information: [narrabrisoccer@northerninlandfootball.net.au](mailto:narrabrisoccer@northerninlandfootball.net.au)

David Coleman on 0428950017  
Graeme Sunderland 67904042 (8am-4pm weekdays)

**YOUTH CONNECTION PHOTO COMPETITION**

FABULOUS PRIZES
SEE NOTICE BOARD NEAR GLASS OFFICE
FOR MORE INFORMATION
12yrs and Under

**2013 DER-NSW Parent Survey**

For some years students in Year 9 have been provided with laptops to enhance their learning. A survey is being conducted to obtain views as to the effectiveness of the NSW one-to-one laptop program and how it has had an impact on learning and teaching across the state. The evaluation has taken place over 4 years. Parents are invited to participate in this survey. Please go to the link below and complete the 2013 survey. It won’t take you too long.


To access the link please enter it into the long address bar at the top of the page of your internet browser (not into a search engine such as Google) and press enter or go – this will take you to the survey.


### Narrabri High School Canteen Roster 2013

**TERM 2**

**Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri**

- **Morning Session:** 8:45am to 11:00am : Lunch Session 1:30pm to 2:15pm
- **Wednesdays**
  - **Morning Session:** 8:45am to 11:00am : Lunch Session 12:00 noon to 12:45pm

Canteen Supervisor - Mrs Lynne Ward - Canteen - 6752 1169

Thank you for volunteering for canteen. We hope you find it rewarding and enjoyable.

If at any time you have a problem, please speak to Lynne or one of the Committee members.

If you are unable to attend on your rostered day, it would be appreciated if you could arrange for one of the other volunteers listed below to take your place.

**Committee members**

| **Barnes, Joanne** | 6792 2951 |
| **Koutournanos, Margaret** | 0414 170 831 |
| **Baxter, Tim** | 6792 2151 |
| **Mahor, Debbie** |
| **Brennan, Donna** | 6793 1183 |
| **Marshall, Sue** | 0413 320 517 |
| **Fish, Kay** |
| **McLachlan, Fiona** | 6792 6310 |
| **Hamilton, Jo** | 0427 632 143 |
| **Norocose, Carolyn** | 6792 5270 |
| **Hannaford, Leann** | 6792 2454 |
| **Pattison, Sandy** | 6792 2580 |
| **Hill, Jodi** | 6792 4504 |
| **Ross, Samantha** | 0427 526 216 |
| **Hennessy, Cheryl** | 6793 5179 |
| **Rothwell, Caroline** | 0413 526 829 |
| **Hughes, Janey** | 6792 3097 |
| **Westman, Gaye** | 6792 6333 |
| **Joffna, Alisa** | 6792 2660 |
| **Wherrier, Margaret** | 6792 4666 |

| **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY** | **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY** | **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY** |
| **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| 29 Apr.13 | 30 Apr.13 | 01 May.13 | 02 May.13 | 03 May.13 |
| **Carolyn Norocose (am) Jo Hamilton** | **Samantha Ross** | **Donna Brennan** | **Alisa Joffna** | **Carolyn Rothwell Gaye Westman** |
| **12 May.13** | **13 May.13** | **15 May.13** | **16 May.13** | **17 May.13** |
| **Margaret Koutournanos** | **Fiona McLachlan** | **Margaret Wherrier (pm)** | **Sandy Pattison** |
| **27 May.13** | **28 May.13** | **30 May.13** | **31 May.13** |
| **Debbie Maher** | **Jodi Hill** | **Kay Fish** | **Leann Hannaford** |
| **03 Jun.13** | **04 Jun.13** | **05 Jun.13** | **06 Jun.13** | **07 Jun.13** |
| **Carolyn Norocose (am) Jo Hamilton** | **Samantha Ross** | **Alisa Joffna** | **Carolyn Rothwell Gaye Westman** |
| **PUBLIC HOLIDAY** | **Sam Marshall** | **Tim Baxter (pm)** | **Jenny Hughes** | **Cheryl Hannaford** |
| **Margaret Koutournanos** | **Fiona McLachlan** | **Donna Brennan** | **Margaret Wherrier (pm)** | **Sandy Pattison** |
| **Debbie Maher** | **Jodi Hill** | **Kay Fish** | **Leann Hannaford** |

- ** Helpers needed please:**
- **Sue Marshall**
- **Tim Baxter (pm)**
- **Jenny Hughes**
- **Cheryl Hannaford**
- **Sandy Pattison**