Welcome Parents and Carers to our November Newsletter.

This is our last Newsletter for 2015. I do not know where the year has gone. I would like to start with my congratulations to the Year 12 ‘Class of 2015’. The reports I received from your HSC Exam supervisors was glowing of your attitude and behaviour in these important exams. Well done to you all.

On Friday 6th November I convened a panel through the merit selection procedures for the interview process to select a new substantive Deputy Principal for our school. That process went very smoothly and I have pleasure in announcing that Mr Dinos Charalambous has accepted the position of Deputy Principal of Narrabri High School. Mr Charalambous will formally take up his new position from the 3rd February, 2016. Congratulations from all the staff and student here on your appointment. In 2016, Mr Charalambous will be Deputy Principal in charge of Year 7, 9 & 11 and Mr Tame will be Deputy Principal in charge of Year 8, 10 & 12.

On Wednesday 11th November I held an Executive Planning Day at school. We looked closely at the ‘Schools Excellence Framework’ to assess where our school sits with reference to the domains of Learning, Teaching and Leadership. This was a highly productive time and gave us the opportunity to critically review our school. I would like to extend my thanks to all of my executive team for their professionalism and the spirited discussion that unfolded over the course of the day. I very much appreciate the work you do and your dedication in providing every student that comes to NHS with a high quality, well-rounded education.

Ms Doust (Principal at Wee Waa HS) and I are part of a team of people from various sections of the community investigating the possibility of gaining a ‘headspace’ centre for the Moree-Narrabri area. Many young people suffer from mental illness and drug and alcohol issues and most adult illness starts in teenage years. Headspace was developed to help young people aged between 12-25 to tackle these problems. It is a youth-friendly and very effective clinical service designed to make it as easy as possible for a young person and their family to get the help they need for problems affecting wellbeing. This centre will not happen on its own. The community must get behind this initiative if we stand any chance of developing a Competition held in Narrabri at our Show Grounds. Mrs Emma Partridge, Science/Ag teacher has done a marvellous job in the massive task of organising and showcasing this event for 2015. There are 16 schools and 250 students involved in this completion from all over our region. To Mrs Partridge and all her team, a big congratulations on the organisation of this event.

Next Wednesday and Thursday 18th & 19th November will see the Northern Schools Steer
successful proposal. You will see and hear more about headspace over the coming six months and I would urge everyone in the community to familiarise yourself with the program and support it through the upcoming public information campaign. Please watch out for ‘headspace’.

When one looks at the accomplishments of our students during 2015, there are far too many significant achievements; culturally, on the sporting fields and academically to note. My congratulations to all students who come to our school each day and do their best. I am sure that the vast majority of our students value their education and the way that we provide it. My hope is that 2016 will bring every success for every student and we can build on the strengths of 2015. I would like to extend my thanks and acknowledge the exceptional work that the entire staff of NHS has undertaken this year and again congratulate them on their professionalism and caring nature which they display every day to our students.

I would also like to thank everyone who has been involved in our school over the course of 2015. Your support and dedicated work brings out the best in all our children. I hope we can continue our partnership well into the future and provide an exciting, engaging and stimulating environment for all students.

Could I take this early opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and I look forward to serving the students and community of Narrabri to the best of my ability into the future.

I look forward to talking with parent/carers at our next P&C meeting. All are welcome. Until our first newsletter for 2016

Rod Jones
Principal.

CAPERS

Eight students from Narrabri High School recently participated in CAPERS over in Tamworth. CAPERS is a combined schools event in the New England Region showcasing the musical and creative arts talents of public school students. It was an intense week of rehearsals with a Matinee performance on Friday morning and two evening performances on Friday and Saturday. Isabelle Madden was chosen this year to be a featured artist. She sang many solo items as well as part of small ensembles. Thomas Hedley, James Madden, Dylan Gordon, Sarah Hamilton, Lucinda Caton, Ruby Ford and Emily Rex all participated in the massed combined concert band. Sarah Hamilton and Lucinda Caton also participated in a drama segment celebrating the 100 year ANZAC anniversary. The students all performed fantastically and were great ambassadors for our school. Mr Stephen Bailey was also in attendance.

He performed as part of a teacher’s band that accompanied all of the singers during the show.

Our students who went to CAPERS (from left) Isabelle Madden, Ruby Ford, Dylan Gordon, Thomas Hedley, James Madden, Sarah Hamilton, Lucinda Caton (absent Emily Rex)

North West Open Girls Softball Trials

North West Open Girls Softball Trials were held at Inverell on Wednesday 21st October. Three Narrabri High girls, Alexandra Howard-Phemister, Chelsea Hancock & Isabelle Howard-Phemister attended these trials.

Congratulations to Chelsea who was selected in the 2016 North West team. She will be competing at the CHS State Championships which will be held at Newcastle in March 2016.

Cindy Neil
(NHS Softball Coach)
LILLIAN HULBERT MEMORIAL PRIZE
$11,500 REWARD FOR YOUNG ACHIEVER

Nominations are currently being called for The Lillian Hulbert Memorial Prize which will be announced on Wednesday, 24 February 2016. Nominations should be on the form provided by Council. Forms which include the selection criteria, can be obtained at Council’s Administration Centre, 46-48 Maitland Street, Narrabri, on the Council website www.narrabri.nsw.gov.au, or by calling Council’s PA to GM and Mayor, Mrs Libby Lantz on 6799 6833. Nomination forms must be submitted to Council prior to 5.00pm on Friday, 11 December 2015. Nominations received after this date will not be considered. Candidates will be required to be involved in an interview process. Previous applicants who meet the criteria are encouraged to re-apply.

Junior Fire Brigade

Would you like the opportunity to train as a firefighter, and maybe compete in a team at the NSW Rural Fire Service State Championships? Narrabri HQ Rural Fire Brigade is working towards creating a Junior RFS Brigade in Narrabri. There will be an open day for Juniors on Saturday 21st Nov at 2pm.

A junior member of the RFS:
P 12 – 15 years old (16+ can become full firefighting members)
P energetic and committed
P ready to learn and develop new skills
P works well in a team.

At the Junior Open day you will have the opportunity to try out some of the equipment, hear about the plans for the junior brigade and the State Champs team, and take a membership form. Junior RFS members do not actively fight fires, but are trained in all the skills needed so that when you turn 16 you move into being an active brigade member.

If you are 12 -15 yrs old and interested in coming to the Junior Open day on Sat 21st Nov please call or text Tim Baxter on 0428 431 602. If you are 16+ and interested in being an active firefighter please contact Tim for more info.

Photography

Congratulations go to year 8 photography student, Layten Smith who entered the highly prestigious Moran Contemporary Photographic Prize (secondary level). He was selected for the semi-finalists with more than 2,000 entries, Layten image is of his sister capturing the afternoon light.

Layten Smith-semi-finalist photography

Upcoming events:

Cambodia BBQ @ Woolworths 8am, Saturday 21 November

Narrabri High School (POP)

What expenses can be paid online?
• Voluntary School Contributions
• Subject Contributions
• Excursions
• Sport
• Creative and Practical Arts
• Sales to Students
• Other

This payment method is now available. Log onto School site at www.narrabri-h.schools.nsw.edu.au
Europe Excursion Fundraising

The students who are participating in the Ancient and Modern History Excursion to Germany and Italy in 2016 have been busily fundraising. They have held a cake stall, with another coming up on Saturday 28th November; a BBQ at Woolworths, were “flaggies” at the dirt bike races; catered a clearance sale and have sold many boxes of chocolates. In addition, Donuts for Charities have held two events to support the students; one at the Narrabri Soccer Club and another at the Narrabri Public School Fete.

A number of businesses kindly donated items for a Father’s Day Raffle. The prizes included: a tank unit from Landmark, an outdoor toolkit from Repco, an Anna Gett massage, socks from Authentic Trademarks, a cap from McInnes Clothing, pruners from McKechnie Brothers, a 4WD Centre cleaning kit, a bag of dog biscuits from the Farm Centre and a gift voucher from Kelly’s Car Sales.

First prize was one by Malcolm Fearn whose nephew, Ben Freeman, is going on the excursion. Ben’s father Anthony collected the prize on Malcolm’s behalf. Second prize was one by Julie Shoobert. Third prize was won by Tom Hedley who is also going on the excursion.