YEAR 7 CAMP: All about building relationships and getting to know each other.

On the 25th and 26th February, eighty two Year 7 students, accompanied by Mr V (Year 7 Adviser), Miss Coleman, Mr Walster, Mr Fisher, Miss Perry and Mrs Stil es attended the Year 7 camp at Laurel Hill Forest Lodge. The goal of the camp was to provide students with the opportunity to get to know each other, as well as their teachers, most of whom will be working with them throughout the year as part of the Why Wednesday Program.

After arriving and taking bags to cabins, students had morning tea and then participated in ice breaker activities, including charades and snake tying, as well as beginning work on the Year 7 video. This was followed by lunch, during which students had to complete the ‘Getting to Know Your Peers’ bingo activity where they went around and talked to their peers in a race to find out who had been on a ferry or owned a goldfish.

Surprisingly, considering the heat in Tumut, our walk through the pine plantation was interspersed with cooling rain and students were taught some orienteering skills during a bushwalk led by Mr Fisher. After some fruit and a drink, students took part in a range of leadership and team activities, including the blindfold minefield, human knot untie and water relay. Students exhibited their ability to work in a group and guide or direct their peers.

Dinner was followed by activities in the hall. The first activity was the completion of the ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN – where students worked in their groups to construct a poster, an advertisement and a speech for their chosen objects. Students presented their campaigns to the group and all of these were excellent. This was followed by NEWSPAPER DESIGNERS, where students created fashion items from newspaper, which they then modelled to the group. Following a brief pause to catch a wayward bat, students retired to their cabins and played cards or chatted with their room-mates. The next morning, students worked hard to clean their cabins, had breakfast and then participated in a variety of sporting activities, including trap cricket, volleyball, juggling and exercise ball balancing.

For many students, the highlight of the camp was shelter building. Students were given a scenario and then had to use their own wits and brawn to build shelters to keep all members of their group alive in a snowstorm. Groups worked really hard carrying tree trunks around and manipulating their designs, with the best group saving all but one of their members. At the end of the second day, students were awarded prizes for their skills and contributions and teams awarded their leaders Most Valuable Participant. As the last few strains of ‘Wheels on the Bus’ escaped students’ lips, the coaches were back at Tumut High School and the camp was over.

Thanks to Mr Jim Goode and his staff for driving students to the camp. Thanks to the participating teachers for making the camp such a great success.

Mr Van Stekelenborg

Some student highlights......

“...being able to play with all the sporting gear on the large oval. I also really enjoyed being able to throw Mr Fisher’s aerobie Frisbee”.

“I absolutely loved our Year 7 camp at Laurel Hill. It was absolutely fab. I enjoyed when we did our advertisement, designed outfits with newspapers and my favourite was shelter building. I wish we could have another one soon. Thank you”.

“My highlight was when everybody had to get dressed in newspaper and be models.”

“It was lots of fun to (get to know) the teachers. We should have a Year 8 camp for longer”.

“My favourite thing was the shelter building and the snake tying activity”.

“I liked the water pistol game and the bush walk”.

“It was fun to learn about my peers”.

“Spending time (with) and having fun with friends”.

“Eating all of Mr V’s cheeseburger pringles”.

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TUMUT HIGH SCHOOL

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Thursday, 3rd March 2016

Acknowledging Wiradjuri and Wolgalu Country
was diverse; featuring a broad range of performances. The program “Take The A Train” through to a cello concerto by Elgar from Metallica’s “Master of Puppets” and Duke Ellington’s Prokofiev’s “Toccata in D Minor” on the piano.

classes attended Encore which was held in the beautiful concert hall of the Sydney Opera House. The program agreed it was a once in a lifetime opportunity to work with a professional jazz band of this calibre.

The matrix allows students to learn and respond critically and is a gradation of learning and responding. It was designed by Mr Max Woods, a teacher from Freshwater High School in Sydney, and has enabled many students to achieve improved HSC results. The matrix allows students to learn and respond critically through:

1. **Literacy** - the reading (learning) and the writing (responding)
2. **Content to Concept** - Using the content to arrive at the concept
3. **Understanding the question** - The path to self-directed learning
4. **Structure** - helping students respond as a reflection of their learning

ALARM opens up the opportunity to create a learning community with a transferability of skills from one subject to another and from one year to another to help students and teachers become critical learners and responders. The Cootamundra Secondary Schools Network has ALARM as one of their focus areas and it is being implemented and trialled in the 8 high schools across our district. At Tumut High School it will be used in the English and HSIE courses for Years 11 and 12.

Please encourage your son/daughter to attend these worthwhile sessions.

Ms Bailey

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**Jazz Workshop**

Last week a Jazz Workshop for interested musicians took place involving 10 students from Years 11 and 12. Vocalists & students who play trumpet, sax, flute, guitar, bass & drums took part. The workshop was made possible through Youth Development funding from Tumut Shire Council and was organised by Mr Evan Saunders.

Elly Poletti & Movement 9, a jazz outfit on tour and travelling between Wagga and Canberra gigs, spent a morning session working with our students in small groups. Students and tutors joined together to perform “Between the Cheats” by Amy Winehouse. Students agreed it was a once in a lifetime opportunity to work with another and from one year to another to help students and teachers become critical learners and responders.

**Encore Excursion**

This week, nineteen students from Year 11/12 Music classes attended Encore which was held in the beautiful concert hall of the Sydney Opera House. The program was diverse; featuring a broad range of performances from Metallica’s “Master of Puppets” and Duke Ellington’s “Take The A Train” through to a cello concerto by Elgar and Prokofiev’s “Toccata in D Minor” on the piano.

Two performances almost brought the house down. A solo on tenor recorder by a female student from Armidale called “Big Baboon”, told the story of the animal in the wild & then described its capture & imprisonment in a zoo. The sounds produced in this piece were truly amazing. In the second half a humorous rendition from the stage musical “Camelot” was cleverly delivered & met with much applause from the audience.

Thanks to Ms Bailey for organising the excursion & Shiny’s Bus Service for delivering us home safely.

Ms Bailey

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**Office Duty**

Office Duty is a school service performed by all Year 7 students on an alphabetical rotational basis. At the beginning of the period they are allocated, students make their way to the front office. They are encouraged to bring ongoing school work with them (either from their classroom teacher or homework from the previous day). If they do not have any work, they are encouraged to bring a book to read.

Whilst on office duty students run messages and errands, greatly assisting the day to day running of the school. There can be many different reasons messages need to be delivered to students (or staff) throughout the day including a change in home travel arrangements, unexpected appointments or family emergency. Having an office duty student enables us to deliver messages quickly and efficiently.

Year 7 students are reminded to be in full uniform each day and to behave in a respectful and courteous way whilst on Office Duty.

**Year 12 Study workshops**

Tumut High School will be providing Study/ALARM workshops for Year 12 students during Weeks 8 and 9. Students are expected to attend the 2 workshops during their old StudySMART lessons in the Resource Centre.

Students will be divided into three groups and will attend one session on **Thursday, 17th March** during Period 5 and another on **Tuesday, 22nd March** during Period 3.

The core purpose of these workshops is to provide Year 12 students with the skills and scaffold to interpret HSC examination and assessment questions effectively. This will enable them to write detailed responses which demonstrate their understanding and knowledge of their courses and achieve HSC results and HSC bands which reflect their true ability.

ALARM stands for A Learning and Responding Matrix and is a gradation of higher order learning skills that allows students to learn and respond in an effective and meaningful way. It was designed by Mr Max Woods, a teacher from Freshwater High School in Sydney, and has enabled many students to achieve improved HSC results. The matrix allows students to learn and respond critically through:

1. **Literacy** - the reading (learning) and the writing (responding)
2. **Content to Concept** - Using the content to arrive at the concept
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4. **Structure** - helping students respond as a reflection of their learning

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**Respect, Responsibility, Safety**
Year 12 Geography Alpine Field Trip

As part of their year 12 studies on an ecosystem at risk, students from Tumut High School attended a 3 day field trip visiting Yarrangobilly Caves and the Mt Kosciuszko Alpine region. The class was ably assisted by Mr Darron Watt of the Riverina Environmental Education Centre in Wagga Wagga who provided much of the equipment required for our fieldwork studies as well as a wealth of knowledge on both ecosystems.

During our visit to Yarrangobilly Caves students were fortunate to benefit from the knowledge provided by National Parks officers on caves ecosystems and their management. The students learned that caves environments are fragile ecosystems and that it is just as important to manage the area above the caves as it is to manage the interior. Students gained a greater understanding of the processes that lead to the formation of cave structures such as shawls, stalactites, stalagmites and other cave structures.

We then travelled to Thredbo which was our base for the remainder of the excursion. That evening Darron provided students with an introduction to the complicated nature of the alpine environment and the challenges legislators and national parks officers are faced with in preserving this fragile ecosystem.

The class awoke to a glorious, cloudless day and walked to the base of the Thredbo Ski Resort where we caught the chairlift to the upper chairlift station. From there we began our walk to the fieldwork site. Darron pointed out that, from this point on, the students were in the true alpine region of Australia at an altitude of 1850m above sea level. After a short walk we arrived at our fieldwork site where students carried out soil tests, a quadrat study and pH tests on the alpine soils. They learned about why features such as the cold weather, high precipitation, winds, and shallow, humus-rich soils make the alpine region such a fragile ecosystem and why that requires careful management. Having conducted our fieldwork we continued on to the summit of Mt Kosciuszko, learning about management strategies such as raised walking platforms, the toilet block and bans on practices such as grazing as a means of preserving the environment.

Our final day was spent exploring ways of minimising the numbers of people who stay overnight in the alpine regions; such as limiting the number of beds at resorts and providing alternative means to enjoy the snow without having to drive up to the resort e.g. catching the Skitube. All students agreed that the opportunity to experience first-hand the problems humans have caused through their interaction with the alpine and caves environments and how we are trying to manage them was invaluable.

Tell Them From Me student survey

Our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between the 14th March and 8th April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students or emailed to families. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Friday, 11th March. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

Chess

Recently students from Years 7 to 11 have been trying out for the THS Chess Team. We will be entering a team in the Country Secondary Schools Competition. Our first opponent will be Hennessy Catholic College (Young) at home later this month. They are a tough opponent who we have not gotten past before, however, we are looking forward to the challenge.

We have a mixture of youth and experience this year. Our team consists of Andy Dodds from Year 7, Corey Crain and Brendan Castle from Year 8, Adrian O'Rourke from Year 9 and Slade Higgins from Year 11. The team order is still being finalised as they can all beat each other on various occasions.

Thank you to all students who have shown interest in trying out and just having some fun. It's a great game which involves problem solving skills and strategies and is good for brain development. Students are still welcome to come up to Room 9 at lunch and challenge our team.

Mr Dierkx

Respect, Responsibility, Safety
Songs for SAM
The annual Songs For Sam fundraising event was held late last year at the Tumut RSL and featured live performances from Tumut High School musicians. Year 12 student Jack Bazely was presented with a scholarship to assist him in furthering his skills in electronic music production & mixing.

Jack was presented with his award by Songs For Sam committee member, Cooryna Ackroyd and later in the evening entertained the crowds with his DJ mix; a bracket of dance tracks which encouraged some energetic dancing from the crowd.

Jack attended an Audio Engineering Course at JMC in Sydney during the holidays and plans to continue his studies throughout the year.

P&C News
The P&C meets on the 3rd Monday night of each month (during school terms) from 7-8.30pm in the Staff Common Room above the school office.

Meetings provide a great opportunity to meet staff, to become aware of school happenings and to be part of the decision process. You are also able to ask questions, put forward ideas and provide feedback or raise any concerns you may have. All parents and interested community members are welcome and encouraged to come along; it is very informative and worthwhile.

The next meeting is on Monday, 21st March. This meeting will start with the AGM and be followed by the general monthly meeting. All are welcome. Please bring $3.00 to pay the yearly subscription which allows you to vote or be nominated for a position.

Community-School Partnerships
Would you like to become more involved in the teaching & learning process at Tumut High School? From time to time, we partner with local organisations or businesses to provide additional opportunities and activities for our students with great success. We are sure that there is also a wealth of talent and experience amongst our parents and other members of the community and we would love to hear from anyone interested in sharing their skills & knowledge with our students as a volunteer.

There are many different ways of helping and these may include:
- helping out as a parent reader
- assisting with excursions
- being a guest speaker
- helping out in the classroom e.g. practical based courses
- assisting with sporting activities
- assisting with workshops for small group activities

If you would like to volunteer, or find out more about what may be involved, please contact Sue Bailey at school on 6947 0600 to discuss options that may suit your skills, interests and available time.

Southern Sports Academy Junior Netball Development Camps
The Netball Talent Development Camp is an ideal opportunity for players of all levels to improve their netball skills before the netball season starts. The camp caters for all players regardless of ability focusing on player development as well as player talent.

The camp is hosted by former NSW Swifts player Jackie Murphy and Southern Sports Academy coaches. Sessions will involve balls drills, footwork, fitness, fun sessions and games. There is also umpire training for any aspiring umpires who are un-badged and wanting to learn. The camp caters for girls aged 7 years to 14 years of age and run in the school holidays at the Wagga Wagga Netball Courts over 2 days.

- Athlete Camps 7-10 years 19th & 20th April - $120
- Athlete Camps 11-14 years 21st & 22nd April - $120
- Umpire Camp All Ages 22nd April - $40

For further information contact Cathy Breese. Ph: 6931 8111, Fax: 6931 8011, Email: cbreese@ssas-nsw.org.au

Bullants Rugby Registration (including Girls’ 7’s Touch Rugby Comp.)
- Registration is on Friday 11th March at 5.30pm at Jarrah Oval (Booral Ave) Tumut.
- Cost $80.00 (include shorts, socks and bag for new members)
- Training is on Fridays and games are played fortnightly on Sundays (2 games)
- For more information contact Jock Mason on 0418 649 203.
- Check us out on FaceBook at https://www.facebook.com/pages/Tumut-Bullants-Junior-Rugby-Union-Club