



Macksville High School

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Newsletter

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2010 MACKSVILLE HS CROSS COUNTRY

Macksville High School's Annual Cross Country was held yesterday under sunny skies. Participation was high with plenty of enthusiastic students ready to run for their Sports Houses and a chance to be eligible to attend the Zone Cross Country to be held on the 21st May at Kendall. The following Age Champions were our winners on the day.

	BOYS	GIRLS
12 YEARS	Jack Tonge	Ellie Scafidi
13 YEARS	Clinton Lavender	Alina Tape
14 YEARS	Liam Noble	Nyomi Widders
15 YEARS	Beau Tape	Rachel Perkinson
16 YEARS	Narayan Neubauer	Sharni Tape
17 YEARS	Dylan Young	Alison Lawler
18 YEARS	Brent Peatey	Rhiannon McAuliffe

The winning house was **Oxley** with 355 points closely followed by **Graham** on 349 then **Briner** at 330 and **Taylor** on 280.



Above left: A great time had by students with teachers even getting a little fitness



Above right: Our hard working Marshalls making sure all the results were tallied on the day.



At left: Having fun and ready to race

IMPORTANT DATES

MAY

- 11Opens Uni Shield Rugby—Kempsey
- 11—13**NAPLAN—Stadium**
- 14NCCHS B&G Touch—Port Macq.
- 14Bellingen Show
- 17Wh'chair sports Roadshow—Stadium
- 20English Speaking Awards—NHds
- 21Zone Cross Country—Kendall
- 25**P & C Meeting—6.30pm—Library**
- 27Yr9/10 Debating—MHS
- 28NCCHS Squash—Yamba
- 28Africa Alive (1hr) —9.15am-Hall
- 31—Jun 4.....Yr 9/10 Half Yrly exams—Stadium

JUNE

- 2School Athletics—MHS (1/2 day)
- 3School Athletics—MHS
- 7—10Yr11 Dive—SWR
- 7—11**Yrs 7/8-1/2 Yearly exams—Stadium**
- 9Green Card Yr9/10—Tech.Draw.room
- 11NC Cross Country—TBA
- 16Country Cup Rugby League—CH
- 18Zone School Athletics—NH
- 22**P & C Meeting—6.30pm—Library**
- 22Zone boys softball—Kempsey
- 22—27Bi Annual Tangerang Visit—MHS
- 22Christian School—P3—Yr9; P4—
.....Yr10, P5—Yr7, P6—Yr8—Stadium
- 23Country Cup finals—TBA
- 2315's netball—Port Macquarie
- 25Alt Zone School athletics—NH
- 30NCCHS lawn bowls—Tweed

JULY

- 2Last day Term 2
- 3—18School holidays
- 20 School Development Day—student free
- 19.....All students attend school

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From The Principal



.....I have posted home to year 7 & 9 parents a letter outlining Macksville High School teachers' unanimous decision to support the Australian Education Union moratorium and not deliver NAPLAN testing.....

It's all happening at school with construction work in full swing. We have the Language Centre built to lock up stage with a covered walkway next to be built. Painters are working around the school repainting seats, classrooms and doors. There is a new front entrance and electronic sign going in, carpeting of several rooms along with a solid wall being constructed between B3 & 4.

At the moment the administration block is surrounded by building fencing in readiness for construction of scaffolding to allow workers to install a new iron roof. The school is looking more like a construction zone each day. The students

need to be commended with all the builders reporting nothing but cooperation from our kids. Staff are doing it hard at times with a consistent chorus of jackhammer noise during lessons. The end result will be outstanding and we all look forward to the end of work and the improvements that will result.

I have posted home to year 7 & 9 parents a letter outlining Macksville High School teachers' unanimous decision to support the Australian Education Union moratorium and not deliver NAPLAN testing.

However a compromise has now been reached and NAPLAN will now go ahead

on Tuesday 11 Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 May 2010. The valuable data that will be available to us about our students can assist our teaching to improve students' achievements.

The data obtained from NAPLAN was never intended to be used to rank schools and serves no positive purpose in helping parents know more about their child's school. A letter has been included with this newsletter with more information for you.

Paul Holding
PRINCIPAL

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

ITS NOT OK TO STAY AWAY

Too many students across Australia and at our school are missing their best chance to do well in life because they are allowed to miss days of their education. Some students are allowed to stay home for an ever increasing number of excuses including -

- A day off for their birthday
- A day off because relatives are visiting
- A day off to be with parents at home
- A day off to look after younger brothers and sisters
- A day off to go shopping

Students should only miss school for genuine illness or for serious domestic reasons. All absences must be explained within 7 days or earlier is even better.

Talk to the Principal or class teacher or AEO etc if you have trouble getting your child to school.

After love and care the **most important thing** that we as parents can give our kids is an **EDUCATION**. Every day a child is away, they are losing a learning experience. Over time missing school leaves big gaps in their learning. They become more keen to spend less and less time at school and they influence younger brothers and sisters. Allowing your child to stay home becomes the easy way out. If you require support in saying No to your child on their attendance or any other issue please contact someone at the school. We can work together to make a difference to your child's future.

Be on time, Be at school That's the rule!

CANTEEN ROSTER

MAY

Monday 10 S Compton, J Welsh
Tuesday 11 M Lavery, M Mason
Wednesday 12 Helpers Needed
Thursday 13 C Templeton
Friday 14 G Welsh

Monday 17 S Compton, Helpers Needed
Tuesday 18 H Jaeger, C Osgood
Wednesday 19 Helpers Needed
Thursday 20 J Martin, D Jackson
Friday 21 G Welsh, A Booker

Monday 24 S Compton, R Aitken

Please phone Ros on 6568 1453 if you can help at the canteen.....see separate page 4

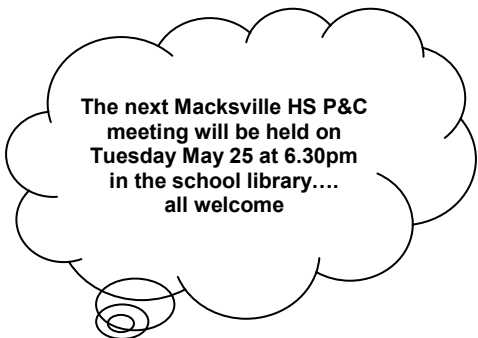
JOIN NOW....THE NEW 2010 JUNIOR LAWN BOWLS PROGRAMME ABSOLUTELY NO COST. IT'S FREE!

The programme has been developed in close consultation, and endorsed by, Bowls NSW for young athletes 11-17 years of age. Conducted by the Club's Australian Sports Commission accredited coaches, has begun.

The Programme includes...

- Free Bowling Club Membership for the first year of competition bowls
- Free use of club bowls and equipment
- Free coaching books and guides

AT the conclusion of the 2010 Programme, a tournament for all participating junior members will be run in the September school holidays. More information and application form is available from the front office.



The next Macksville HS P&C meeting will be held on Tuesday May 25 at 6.30pm in the school library.... all welcome

LAPTOPS

Year 9 Laptops will hopefully be issued to students next week.

For more information and Fact Sheet please check our website
www.macksville-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Notices

NEWSLETTERS

Reminder—Newsletters are given to students in roll call usually every second Friday. If you would like the newsletter emailed to you, please give your email address to the front office. Newsletters can also be viewed on our website www.macksville-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE 2010

Scotts Head Families needed

Every year the Scotts Head Community Group and Scotts Head School P & C host a group of American students travelling to Australia. This year the group is from Kansas and the students are in Junior High (age 11-14).

We need to billet 43 students and 4 teachers and we would very much like you to open your homes and billet 2 students for 2 nights, on Thursday 24 and Friday 25 June.

If you have not done this before it is a very rewarding experience for your family and for the American students involved.

The students arrive Thursday evening (usually about 5pm) and you give them dinner on that night and breakfast next morning. They do organised activities in the morning, including an option of a surf lesson, and have lunch provided at the Scotts Head PS and talk to our school students about Kansas and learn some more about Australia.

They then go back to the host family for the rest of the afternoon—if hosts work it will be arranged for your students to join in with other hosts for that time.

Friday night is a BBQ and Disco night at the Scotts Head Surf Club for all students and the host families.

The students leave by bus early Saturday morning to continue their journey to Sydney—so for the hosts it's 2 nights accommodation with 1 dinner and 2 breakfasts.

Please join in and show these visitors our local hospitality

You can get more information from Jan Simmons (6569 7117) or Karen Wodring (6569 7353)

SCHOOL FEES

Accounts for school fees were posted home recently. Thank you to those parents/guardians who have paid their student's subject fees. Some fees are still outstanding. Course contributions are applied to assist faculties recover the cost of consumables that students use during the course of their study. It would be appreciated if subject fees are paid as soon as possible. If you have difficulty in paying subject fees Student Assistance is available.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE

Assistance is available for parents and students with uniform and equipment costs, course contributions and excursion costs. We only receive limited funds and the school endeavours to assist as many families as possible. If you require assistance, please contact the School's office. Parents/guardians will be informed of the assistance provided.

NEW ACEO

(Aboriginal Community Engagement Officer)

Hi everyone,

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Mark Werner and I am the new Aboriginal Community Engagement Officer at Macksville High School.

The AECO is a newly created position funded through the National Partnerships initiative.

The aim of the position is to strengthen partnerships with parents, service providers and the community.

I look forward to working with all the students, parents, staff and community within my new role.

I can be contacted on (02)65681066

Canteen Helpers Needed !

Parents, grandparents, carers etc. We have for some time been experiencing a severe shortage of volunteers to help out in the school canteen. Of course we are still managing to feed the hungry hordes and we parents know teenagers are a hungry lot.

Profits from canteen sales are used by the P&C to pay for valuable extras which may not otherwise be possible. Purchases in 2009 included 2 Apple computers for the drama/music departments and a set of basketball singlets.

The purchase of a drum sander has been approved for the Design and Technology Department and most recently approval was given to purchase netball uniforms. The netball girls have never before had a uniform.

Yearly donations are given by the P&C in support of the Cattle team, Welfare, Presentation Day, Wall Of Fame, Sporting Rep shirts and P&C Award to name a few. On the priority list are air-conditioners text books and much more.

At the moment we are employing a canteen assistant (sometimes 2) most days as we simply don't have enough volunteers. As you can imagine this is cutting into the funds that are normally channelled to the P&C. We know times have changed and people are very busy but we're hoping there might still be someone out there who could spare a few hours.

What's in it for you? There is the chance to meet other parents, teachers and see your children and their friends in their school environment. They are well mannered (the kids), usually very noisy and always hungry in which case you will probably have your hand in your pocket as most parents find.

Free lunch (pick of the menu), tea, coffee and Ros makes an amazing carrot cake.

Thanks to the generosity of the P&C there is also a chance to win \$50. Twice per term a draw will take place in which a \$50 gift card will be awarded to a canteen volunteer. Our way of saying thanks. Congratulations to Ruth Flarrey, last term's lucky winner!

The opportunity to contribute to the P&C's major fundraiser and the satisfaction of knowing you were a part of the team that made the extras possible.

If you can help or would like more information please call Ros on **6568 1453** or send slip.

Canteen Helpers

Yes, I would love to help!

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

PREFERRED DAY: _____



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7 May 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians

NAPLAN Testing Years 7 & 9 WILL GO AHEAD Tuesday Wednesday & Thursday 11 12 & 13 May 2010

The Teaching staff at Macksville High School is delighted to be able to lift the moratorium on the delivery of the NAPLAN tests.

This is a result of the Australian Education Union's (AEU) resolution to lift the moratorium following an offer by the Education Minister Julia Gillard to form a working party of educational experts, including representatives of the AEU, to provide advice on the use of student performance data and other indicators of school effectiveness. The AEU Federal President Angelo Gavrielatos has said: "The working party will provide a way forward to advance and address the profession's educational concerns relating to the misuse of student test data including school league tables."

I believe principals and teachers across NSW who stood their ground on this most important issue under what was at times extreme pressure should be congratulated on their commitment to what is in the best interest of our students for years to come.

The concern for our teachers has always been to try and ensure the data is not misused in ways that may be damaging to students and schools.

The teachers of Macksville High School appreciate the support and understanding offered by the parents/guardians of our students during the last few weeks.

Your child will receive a NAPLAN timetable to help with exam readiness and teachers will provide advice in class to assist students complete the test. Attendance is critical to ensure we obtain valuable information about your child's numeracy, literacy and personal growth rate.

Yours sincerely

Paul Holding
Principal