



St Clare's High School

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NEWSLETTER 34/2016

28 OCTOBER 2016

Dear Parents and Friends of St Clare's

The teaching profession is under constant scrutiny from a range of governments and institutions all of whom take a keen interest in the results that students achieve at various stages of their education. Governments are keen to ensure that they are receiving an excellent return for the money they invest in education on behalf of taxpayers. Taxpayers; often the parents of students in school, are heavily invested in seeing their sons and daughters achieve at an even higher standard than they thought possible. Teachers work hard to ensure that students are safe and secure and able to learn. At times tensions arise between organisations and individuals as to the outcomes achieved by students. However, overall most people can see that when parents, students and teachers work together great things are achieved by our young people.

Much of the process of education in Australia reflects practices that were first established in the 19th century. A room with a row of desks, door closed, and the teacher the dispenser of knowledge, the centre of student attention, with final exams ranking the students capability as a learner. While this model has served our country and its students well for one hundred and fifty years it is starting to fray at the edges and cause tension within our country and our state.

Universities and industry report a large disconnect between what the government and its bureaucracies expect of students and teachers and the skills and capabilities that industry needs to ensure that our workers are able to flourish in a vibrant economy. There is constant discussion about the march of technology, automation of tasks and the need for our young people to have agile minds and be flexible in their thinking. We are often reminded that the skills of collaboration, teamwork and problem solving are the means by which our youth will find rewarding employment and lead happy lives.

Questions are being asked about accepted educational practice. Do set piece exams that encourage rote learning supply the best method by which people learn to problem solve? How do individual tasks encourage a sense of teamwork and collaboration amongst students? How do we redesign the structure of schools to ensure they are able to produce students who are nimble in their thinking and caring of those around them?

St Clare's is investing a great deal of time and resources into the professional development of our staff to ensure that they are well informed about the changing face of education and what constitutes best practice in a contemporary learning environment. Research shows that when parents, teachers and students work together the outcomes for our students are excellent.

Our P & F Committee met at St Joseph's, Taree on Wednesday night as part of our policy of holding regular meetings at our local Catholic feeder schools. Discussion ranged across all matters of school life including uniform, landscaping and planning of buildings. My thanks to the small group of people who attended the meeting and shared their thoughts.

It would be fair to say that our numbers at the P & F meetings have not been large over the past year. If you have any suggestions regarding what would make membership of the group more attractive feel free to contact the school or contact a member of the Parents & Friends executive:

Jackie Burley, President
Laurence Lee, Vice President
Michelle Jones, Treasurer
Linda Page, Secretary

The P & F meet next on Wednesday, 23 November at 6pm in the St Clare's library.

The Tawny Frogmouth owls pictured were found in the school yard this week. No wonder the owl is known as a wise bird. They start learning early in life!

God Bless



Principal



**P & F – NEXT MEETING, WEDNESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2016 – 6 PM
VENUE – STCLARE'S LIBRARY**

PRAYERS: Please pray for those who are currently experiencing health difficulties and continue to pray for community members experiencing challenges, pain, sickness and grief in their lives at this time.

CHAPLAINCY/PASTORAL CARE: A reminder to all that the school has a Chaplain. Please feel free to contact our Chaplain, Deacon Vince Ryan, through the school office if he can be of assistance to you or any member of our whole school community.



Josephite Justice Office

PO Box 1508 North Sydney NSW 2059

JOSEPHITES JOIN BISHOPS AND REFUGEE COUNCIL IN CALL TO #BRING THEM HERE

The Sisters of St Joseph continue to express their deep concern about the ongoing degradation and harm that is being inflicted on innocent children, women and men in detention centres on Nauru and Manus Island, as well as on the Australian mainland. They join with thousands across Australia who are calling for justice and the rights of those imprisoned unjustly by our Government.

‘I am appalled by the current situation’ said Sr Monica Cavanagh, Congregational Leader, ‘where those being detained are living in realities that affect their health and self-respect, and where, above all, they are faced by a sense of hopelessness. I urge the current government to reconsider their position and to allow these detainees to come to our shores.’

The evidence is clear. Irreparable harm is being perpetrated in our name. Recent reports on conditions in detention centres indicate the depths to which we have slipped as a country. Australia’s present policy regarding the global issue of people seeking safety is unsustainable, unsafe and unjust, and does not offer protection to people who need it. In the absence of alternatives being promulgated by either government or the opposition, or by relevant government departments, a new approach is imperative.

We strongly believe that there are credible and innovative international law-compliant alternatives to current policy.

Josephites are urging the Government therefore to

- establish a National Summit to allow the Australian community to consider alternatives to the current injustices
- legislate for a one-off amnesty for those on Nauru and Manus Island, so that they can be given refugee status in Australia

‘I believe we are better than our present policy indicates’, said Sr Monica. ‘We know there are viable alternatives, which are compliant with international law and human rights. Let’s work together to search for the best of which we are capable, both for those seeking asylum, and for us as Australians.’

Contact: Jan Barnett rsj
Josephite Justice Coordinator
0403 634 534

Mass Times

Our Lady of the Rosary, Taree

75 Albert St, Taree
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
Sunday Mass: 9:30 am

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Wingham

8 Farquhar Street, Wingham
Sunday: 8:30am

St Bernadette's, Krumbach

Bucketts Way, Krumbach
Saturday: 6:30 pm
Sunday: 9 am
(Mass is celebrated on alternate weekends – please speak to Deacon Vince or Mrs Denise

Ryan at school for information on which weekend mass will be celebrated)

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Harrington

Pilot St, Harrington
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
(1st, 3rd and 5th Saturdays in each month)
Saturday Liturgy of the Word and Communion: 6:00 pm
(2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month)

St Therese's, Lansdowne

Cundle Rd, Lansdowne
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
(2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month)

Our Lady of Fatima, Old Bar

20 Hall St, Old Bar, Sunday
Mass: 7:30 am

St Patrick's, Cundletown

River St, Cundletown
Sunday Mass: 6:00 pm

Forster-Tuncurry Catholic Parish

Holy Name of Jesus Parish Church, Forster

33 Lake Street, Forster
Sunday Mass: 9:00 am

St Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Tuncurry

15 Peel Street, Tuncurry
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 pm
Sunday Mass: 7:00 am

FROM THE SENIOR SCHOOL: Here we are at the end of Week 3 and the beginning of the HSC course across all subjects.

I have had the great pleasure of going away with Year 11 students in both Week 1 and Week 2 of this term.

Week 1 saw 45 students and four teachers head out to Cundle Flat Farm for the annual PDHPE Survivor Camp. Despite the weather on the Thursday, the students had a great time and showed both their ingenuity and resilience in the Outdoor Education setting. Not one student whinged about the rainy wet conditions, and everyone challenged themselves in all the physical and mental competitions throughout the three days. Congratulations to all the teams who participated.



During Week 2 all of Year 11 travelled to Bonny Hills for the Senior Retreat.

I was amazed by the way in which the whole year group embraced the spirit of the three days. The venue and the food were fantastic and Joady, the manager of the retreat, wanted me to mention how wonderful all the students were. She could not get over what a polite and courteous group of young people they were. She was constantly impressed by many students offering help with clearing up etc. Well done, Year 11!

It was fantastic to see students engaging with other students that they had not previously had any real contact with and if Facebook is any indication, there are many new friendships and a sense of collegiality within the whole group that has not previously been evident. What a great thing as we head into our final year of school.

Thank you so much to all the staff who gave up three days of time with families to give the students a memorable and rewarding Retreat. A special thanks to **Denise and Vince Ryan** who spent much time organising the activities for the Retreat.

I am very proud of all the students and their “living” of our Year Group motto:

“The strength of the team is each individual member.
The strength of each member is the team”.



Finally, a reminder to everyone to “check your emails” every day as there is much information about career pathways, notes etc. which will be emailed to all students. There will be deadlines for applications that have to be completed from now until the end of school and very important information that everyone will need at various times over the next twelve months.

If you are discontinuing a subject see Mrs Avery. You must stay in the subject you are discontinuing until Mrs Avery gives you a new timetable.

Keep supporting each other and ask for help before it gets to crisis point. Make sure that you organise your time as well as you can. Get your tasks in on time so that you don't receive "N" letters.

“Success is about creating benefit for all and enjoying the process.
If you focus on this & adopt this definition, success is yours.”

Kelly Kim

Karen McCann, Year 11 Student Coordinator

CAREERS CORNER: This week, Careers Corner **re-focuses on Year 12**. Many Year 12 students had their final HSC Examination yesterday, Thursday, 27 October, with the Studies of Region 1 Unit and 2 unit papers... **BUT**, some things still need attention:

- 1) Year 12 Coordinator, Mrs Davidson, still has quite a few who have **not finalised/paid for Graduation tickets** – this is making life difficult for her as she tries to organise table groups and catering;
- 2) Mrs Kelly in the **Book Room** is also concerned that texts required for the current Year 11 students who have commenced HSC courses have not been returned – as Year 12 students complete each examination, the relevant books/folders should be taken back to Mrs Kelly (N.B. teachers who have loaned resources are also waiting for returns);
- 3) A number of students who successfully completed **RSA/RCG accreditation** have contacted me to enquire about certificates etc. – those of you who provided **a valid email address AND USI AND full payment** were emailed on 21 September (CHECK CHECK CHECK) with details as to how credentials can be obtained (if there is any difficulty with this, see me ASAP);
- 4) A number of students also have **not submitted the YEAR 12 STUDENT PROFILE** which is needed to prepare their **SCHOOL REFERENCE** – those students have been emailed an electronic copy of this form which needs to be printed off, completed then scanned/emailed to me or dropped off in the Library at the next exam;
- 5) The **University of Newcastle (UoN)** and the **University of New England University (UNE)** have each made the offer of **ONE scholarship** to be awarded to a **St Clare's student who has UoN or UNE as first preference on their UAC list** – to be considered, please send an email to Mr Evans expressing your interest in being considered. There is **NO APPLICATION FORM** – it is as simple as that!!

All students from Years 9-12 should access both weekly **JobJump Careers News** updates.



This email focuses on places where post-school training can take place...



...while this one focuses on careers which emerge from subject Key Learning Areas (KLAs).

These two updates will be **emailed** to all students from Years 9-12 each Friday. So keep an eye out! **Ian Evans, Careers Adviser**

2016 YEAR 10 YEARLY EXAMINATION TIMETABLE

Please Note:

1. Catch-ups will be done on the first day of your return in order of exam roster; you may also be requested to complete two exams in one day if you have missed more than one exam.
2. You must contact the school if you are sick on any day you have an exam prior to 9 am
3. You may receive a zero mark if you do not follow these guidelines.
4. All exams are conducted in the school hall unless otherwise stated.
5. You must be present at exam hall prior to exam starting.
6. If you do not have an exam you will attend your normal classes

	Morning Session (P1 and 2) Unless stated otherwise	Afternoon Session (P3 and 4) Unless stated otherwise
Monday 7 November Hall	English – 2 hours	Textiles – 1 hour Information Software 1.5 hours – Room 22
Tuesday 8 November	Maths – 2 hours	HSIE – 1.5 hours
Wednesday 9 November	Science – 2 hours	Commerce- 1.5 hours Graphics- 1.5 hours – Room 31
Thursday 10 November	Food Tech1 (Hospitality) - TTC Industrial Tech – Timber –Hall	Food Tech 2 (Hospitality) - TTC PASS - Hall
Friday 11 November	Japanese – 2 hours Drama – All Day Prac	Drama – All Day Prac

MATHS WORKSHOP - Mathematics Workshop provides the opportunity for every student to obtain assistance and support in improving their understanding of mathematics. Four mathematics teachers are available each week to explain the concepts you are finding difficult or give assistance to enable you to complete your homework, assignments or any work that you may have missed due to absence from class.



WHEN IS IT ON? Wednesday lunchtime - every week.

Bring your lunch!

WHERE? Room 10

We hope to see you there!

Mrs Julie Rowsell, Mathematics Coordinator

MONDAY	31/10	Help Urgently Required
TUESDAY	1/11	Monica McMullen, Ros Hia
WEDNESDAY	2/11	Jackie Wiseman
THURSDAY	3/11	Help Urgently Required
FRIDAY	4/11	Help Urgently Required

VACANCIES STILL EXIST

**MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS
IF YOU CAN ASSIST PLEASE CONTACT CHERYL KINGSFORD**

AT ST CLARE’S: 6591 2104, HOME: 6552 1857 OR

VIA EMAIL: cheryl.kingsford@mn.catholic.edu.au

LEAVE NOTES & STUDENT MESSAGES: It would be appreciated if parents/guardians would send in a **written note** if their child needs to leave early for appointments etc. Notes should be handed in at the front office in the **morning before roll call**. If parents/guardians need to notify their child of a change of afternoon arrangements, it is necessary to **phone the school prior to 2:25 pm** (End of Lunch – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday) or **prior to 1:55 pm** (End of Lunch – **Thursday Sport**) as it is often difficult to locate students if their last lesson is a PE Prac or there has been a room change. **Students cannot be collected from the school during school hours by anyone other than a parent or guardian without written permission.** Thank you.

LATE NOTES: Lateness to school is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained to the school the same way as other forms of absence. **Arriving Late for school requires a handwritten note from a parent/carer or a phone call from a parent/carer** or the absence is recorded as an unexplained partial absence. Thank you.

SCHOOL CLINIC: Students are reminded that if they are unwell whilst at school they are to advise their teacher who will then send them to the Front Office. If necessary, the office staff will contact a parent while the student waits in the Clinic. **Students are not to contact parents on their mobile phones** as this leaves teachers and office staff unaware of the situation and is also in breach of the school policy – use of mobile phones. Thank you.

COMING EVENTS - 2016

Term 3

- Week 4** Friday 4/11 ♦ HSC Written Examinations conclude
- Week 5** Monday 7/11 ♦ Year 9 & 10 Yearly Examinations commence
Friday 11/11 ♦ Graduation Evening
- Week 6** Monday 14/11 ♦ Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Year 7 & Year 10 2017
Parent Information Evening – 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm
Friday 18/11 ♦ Year 9 & 10 Yearly Examinations conclude
- Week 7** Monday 21/11 ♦ Year 7 & 8 Yearly Examinations commence
Wednesday 23/11 ♦ P & F Meeting – 6 pm
Friday 25/11 ♦ Year 7 & 8 Yearly Examinations conclude
- Week 10** Wednesday 14/12 ♦ Year 10 Social
Thursday 15/12 ♦ Year 10 Awards Ceremony
♦ HSC Results released
Friday 16/12 ♦ ATAR Results released
♦ Years 7, 8, 9 & 11 Annual Awards Ceremony
♦ **Final Day for Students**
- Week 11** Monday 19/12 ♦ Pupil Free Day
♦ Parent/Teacher Interviews (by request)
Tuesday 20/12 ♦ **Final Day for Teachers**

2017

Term 1

- Week 1** Friday 27/1 ♦ Staff Development Day – **Pupil Free Day**
- Week 2** Monday 30/1 ♦ Years 7, 11 & 12 Students Commence
Tuesday 31/1 ♦ Years 8, 9 & 10 Students Return
- Week 5** Wednesday 22/2 ♦ School Photographs



“Long periods of incarceration are simply inhuman.”

Dr Munjed Al Muderis

GUEST SPEAKER

DR Munjed Al Muderis

Adjunct Associate Professor
Munjed Al Muderis, Orthopaedic Surgeon

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

**SATURDAY
OCT 29
2016**

Event

Munjed will tell his extraordinary story of how as a young man he fled war-torn Iraq, came to Australia as a refugee by boat, spent months in a detention centre and went on to become a pioneering surgeon.

In his book “Walking Free” Munjed describes his treatment in an Australian detention centre in such detail, it will really shock!

Copies of his book will be on sale at the event



THIS EVENT IS HOSTED BY
GREAT LAKES RURAL
AUSTRALIAN FOR REFUGEES
who advocate for the humane
treatment of all asylum seekers and
refugees seeking help from
Australia

2pm

Holy Name Primary School
Assembly Hall
Lake Street, Forster



GREAT LAKES RAR

Rural Australians for Refugees

Find us on: www.greatlakesrar.org