

Barham High Newsletter

Find us at: Gonn Street Barham NSW 2732



Term 4 Week 2

20/10/2016

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

HSC

The Higher School Certificate examinations have well and truly commenced! At the time of writing, students have completed the two English papers, the Senior Science, Metals and Engineering and Biology papers with the two Mathematics papers being sat on Friday. The examinations will continue for the next few weeks with the last examination any of our students face being Chemistry on November 3rd. I am very proud of the way our students have calmly faced the rigours of the examination process and I wish them well as they attempt to demonstrate their knowledge gained throughout the HSC course.

Our students are, of course, only a small subset of the 77,000 students completing the HSC examinations this year. I encourage them to take the process seriously and do their very best.

Barham P&C AGM

The P&C Annual General Meeting was held at the school on Monday 17th October. Congratulations to the members of the executive for the election to their position.

- President: Tania Peters
- Vice President: Sharon McInnes
- Secretary: Vicki Bassett
- Treasurer: Julie Frankling

Our Parents & Citizens Association is an integral part of our school. It is a forum for discussion, for planning and for the sharing of ideas and an association that gets things done. We would dearly love to see more interested parents involved with the meetings and I encourage you to come along and support our P&C on Monday night.

School leaders

Many congratulations to our new school leaders. Voting was conducted this week after our candidates addressed the school with their carefully prepared speeches. Elections for house captain were also conducted with the candidates addressing their individual house. Thank you to all nominees for working through the process, thank you also to Mr Taylor and his Year 8 Maths class for conducting the elections.

Student leaders for 2017:

School Captains:	Jorja McGowan	Andrew Buchanan
Vice-Captains:	Mikayla Penrose	Sam Barr

House Captains

Barimo:	Sam Barr	Sharey Green	Isabelle Hausler
Cadelslee:	Georgia Andrew-Mills	Kyle Chenhall	Jorja McGowan
Tullacoota:	Britney Den Houting	Mikayla Penrose	Jack Webb

Glenn Buchanan - Principal



FROM THE DEPUTY'S DESK

It has been a busy start to the term with our 2017 School Leaders process happening as well as the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Camp, a Gannawarra Youth Council meeting and the Murray explored-Schools Discovery Day. Thanks to the staff responsible for organising these valuable experiences and congratulations to the students who were successful at gaining leadership positions.

Our school tutorial program is still running Tuesday afternoons from 3:20pm until 5pm in C1. All students are welcome.

The HSC exams have commenced. The last exam is on Thursday 3rd November and this day has been set aside for Year 12 students to sign out. Students will need to collect sign out forms from the office and return all library books, textbooks and borrowed resources to each faculty. . Laptops and chargers need to be left at the school to be decommissioned. Laptops may be left at the school or they can be collected the following week. The year 12 Formal is on the following Friday evening, the 11th of November.

A reminder, that hats are now compulsory when students are in the direct sun. Thanks to parents and carers who have found white socks for students over the holiday break.

Ian McConnell

Student Leaders for 2017

Thirteen students from year 11 were nominated for leadership positions for 2017. On Tuesday 18th October, speeches were made to a school assembly and to house meetings. Later that day, nine students from Year 8, Henry Barr, Victoria Cook, Harley Currie, Taylah Horn, Cayden Keiller, Felicity Macauley, Yvette McLaughlin, Michael Sampson and Hayden Whatmore conducted the elections in a very capable manner.

The school captains for 2017 will be Andrew Buchanan and Jorja McGowan, and the vice-captains will be Samuel Barr and Mikayla Penrose.

The house captains, who will commence their roles in the preparation for this year's Performing Arts Day, are:

Barimo – Samuel Barr, Sharey Green, Isabelle Hausler

Cadelslee – Georgia Andrew-Mills, Kyle Chenhall, Jorja McGowan

Tullacoota – Britney den Houting, Mikayla Penrose, Jack Webb

Congratulations to all the successful candidates.

Maths at Work

On Thursday, 22nd September, Ms Pereira's Stage 5 maths class travelled to SuniTAFE in Swan Hill for the culmination of the Maths at Work program, spending the day in the workshop building metal funnels. The students applied the mathematical skills that they had developed in three earlier sessions which had been run by Devon, an engineering trade teacher from SuniTAFE during regular maths classes at school. They were able to see the practical application of the mathematics that they learn at school. Thanks go to Mrs McConnell, who instigated the program as part of School to Work and sourced the funding so that the only cost to students was the food they consumed at the SuniTAFE canteen and McDonalds on the way home. It is hoped that a similar program may be run next year, with more students able to participate.



Letter to Year 8 parents

Dear Parent or Carer

The *Validation of Assessment for Learning & Individual Development* (VALID) test for Year 8 students will be held **Wednesday 9 November 2016**. The test takes approximately **70 minutes**. The **VALID Science 8** test is an interactive, multimedia test completed entirely on a computer.

VALID Science 8 contains multiple choice, short response and extended response tasks that are grouped around real-world issues, including scientific investigations. This is a diagnostic test, with tasks framed on Stage 4 outcomes and essential content in the *NSW Science Years K–10 Syllabus*. Students will be tested on their:

- knowledge and understanding of science
- understanding and skills in the process of scientific investigation
- ability to evaluate evidence, make judgements and think critically
- ability to access information and communicate scientific ideas.

Students also complete a survey about their opinions, attitudes and values about science. Since students complete *VALID Science 8* on a computer, each student needs to bring **headphones or earbuds** that plug into a school computer. Earbuds for an iPod or portable player are suitable.

If your child has a disability that needs special consideration or has been educated in English for less than one year, please contact your child's school to discuss special provisions or possible exemption from the test.

Results of the test will be available during Term 1 2017. Information about each student is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that the right to privacy of all students is maintained. A personal report for each student will be sent to parents/carers to describe the science knowledge and skills demonstrated by the student in the test. There will also be information about how your child's results compare with overall performance of all students in the test.

The principal of your child's school is able to provide you with more details about the VALID program if you require additional information.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Inwood

R/Director, High Performance

Department of Education

Barham and Koondrook Skate Park Redevelopment

Fundraising for the new Barham-Koondrook Skate Park is well underway. The aim is to raise \$12,000 as the first step in order to get some plans drawn up for the new park. In just over 6 months, we have raised nearly \$6000 which is a fantastic effort! We have applied for a grant from 'Whites Rural Community Grants' and we need your help! Please go to <http://wrcommunity.com.au/entries/vic/202-cans-for-plans.html> to vote for us and share with your family and friends. One click is all it takes!

If you are interested in being involved in any way, please get in touch! Email barhamskatepark@gmail.com – we are always looking for ideas and a little bit of support goes a long way! You can also 'like' us on Facebook to stay up-to-date with what is going on: www.facebook.com/barhamskatepark/

Thanks!

The Barham-Koondrook Skate Park Redevelopment Committee



2016

LODDON MALLEE HUME

REGIONAL SERIES

REGIONAL FINAL

KERANG SKATE PARK SUN 27TH NOV

TIMES: SCOOT 10:30AM / BMX 12:00PM / SKATE 2:30PM / FOR MORE INFO VISIT

WWW.SKATEPARK.YMCA.ORG.AU

[f](#) [i](#) SKATEPARKLEAGUES



Murray Explored Schools Discovery Day

On Friday 14th October, Year 8 headed off to Cohuna for the Murray Explored Schools Discovery Day. Museum Victoria, in conjunction with Gannawarra Shire Council, have been running a Bioscan of our local area, recreating the research of William Blandowski circa 1857. Blandowski conducted a huge research project of our local rivers and accompanying ecosystems way back when and the current scientists are recreating this to compare the range of plant and animal species present today to understand the health of our ecosystem.

On the day, the students had the opportunity to talk to the visiting Scientists and Historians about their jobs, how they got into their field and current jobs and the things they found most interesting about science. They also got a firsthand look at some of the specimens collected as part of the current expedition, got up close and personal with snakes, lizards, turtles, a range of bugs, learnt how to listen for birds and learnt about the fine art of animal photography.

It was fantastic to engage with people who were as excited about Science as Miss Dennis and Mrs Farrant and to truly appreciate the diversity of our local ecosystem. Thanks to Year 8 for their stellar behaviour, you were an absolute pleasure to take on this excursion, and to both Museum Victoria and Gannawarra Shire Council for the opportunity to be part of this experience.

The most important thing we learnt though, is where fish keep their money - In River Banks!



Students at the Murray Explored day

Recyclable Materials

Science is once again on the hunt for recyclable materials. We're looking for cardboard boxes of all different shapes and size, bottles, aluminium cans, cardboard rolls, pop top bottles and lids, plastic and anything else you can think of.

Please send them in with students. No toilet rolls please as we cannot use them. Thank you!



GANNAWARRA SHIRE
YOUTH COUNCIL

gannawarra youth council is trialling a

ROVING YOUTH CENTRE

come along to the meeting room next
to the cohuna library

**FRI
21
OCT**

3:30 - 6PM

there will be
FREE FOOD
WIFI 
+ FUN
ACTIVITIES

for enquiries please contact Penny at council on 5450 9333

William Blandowski – Koorie Culture & Scientific Knowledge

from the Central Murray 1856-57

As a part of our practice camp for Duke of Ed, we went to a presentation on the 'Koorie Culture and Scientific Knowledge from the Central Murray', including Gunbower Island in Kerang on Wed 12 October. The session focused on an expedition, 160 years ago from 1856 to 1857, carried out by William Blandowski. He came over from Berlin, Germany and was stationed at the Melbourne Museum. The expedition started at Gunbower where they stayed for two months. Blandowski developed a good relationship with the Indigenous community and collected information from them. They also helped him catch specimens – the main focus of the expedition. He preserved the specimens by drying them out, sometimes having to only take the skin.

Blandowski was interested in the Indigenous Australian culture – their activities and their ways of life. He also observed and recorded the daily lives of the Indigenous Australians and planned on making an encyclopaedia, something no one had done before. He noted that women got a native grass, typha, chewed on the roots, rolled it into twine and made nets (20-30m long) that were then hung up by the men. Someone spooked the ducks, making them fly into the nets that were then lowered and the ducks were then collected. The most common duck was the Wood and Black Ducks. He also observed that children played with balls made out of the typha. The expedition started the collection of Koorie names for different animals as there were many different names in the different languages, a feat which had never been done before.

They went on from Gunbower, spending eight months at the junction of the Murray and Darling rivers. He went back to the museum and examined all of the specimens that he had collected. There were a lot of personal disagreements and scientific controversy surrounding his findings. Therefore his findings were not recognised until the 21st Century. McCoy (his arch nemeses) tried to discredit him and in retaliation he named new species after prominent political figures to make fun of their appearance. Due to this, he was forced to return to Germany, taking his specimens with him, never to be heard of again.

Currently, his findings are all over the world. He acknowledged the Indigenous Australians that helped him – that he would not have been able to accumulate all of his findings without their help.

As a part of the presentation, Aunty Esther Kirby made an appearance who (along with Kimberley Moulton from Melbourne Museum) talked to us about a First People's exhibition (opened in 2013) which has information from around here. They also talked about a video called Warrung Warrung which recreated Blandowski's drawings in human form in the local forest.

This presentation gave us a better understanding of the local Indigenous culture. It also allowed us to better understand how different tools were used and crafted, which then helped us later in our camp. The presentation also made us aware that 160 years ago, there were more species of animals that are now extinct or moved out of the area due to humans changing the environment.



Aunty Esther Kirby and Kimberley Moulton

DUKE OF EDINBURGH – SILVER PRACTICE CAMP



On Wednesday 12th of October, Nicola, Erin, Kasey and Emma departed from Barham High School to take part in the Practice Camp for Silver Duke of Edinburgh at Gunbower Island. To begin the camp, we travelled to Kerang to attend a presentation by the Melbourne Museum about the *Koorie Culture and Scientific Knowledge from the Central Murray*. It was about William Blandowski who was a German scientist who had come to Australia to study the native wildlife and the indigenous peoples'

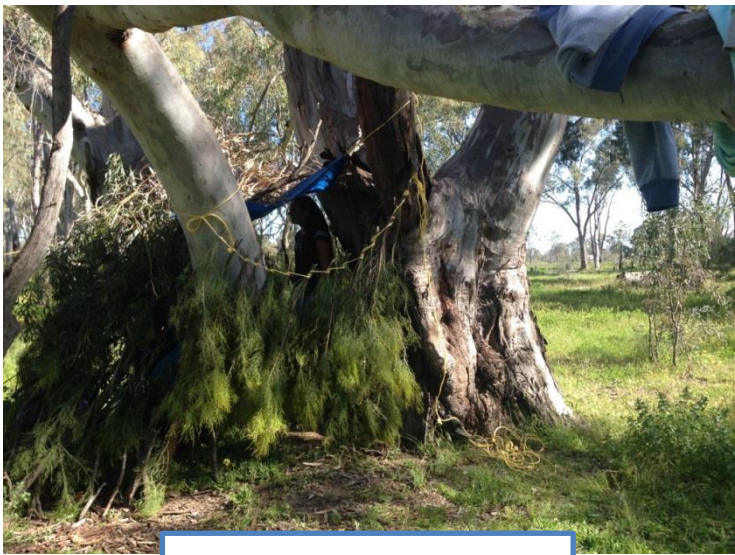
culture. It was interesting and expanded our understanding of the local indigenous culture and wildlife. Using the knowledge we gained during this presentation we then travelled to the Gunbower Island to explore the local bushland.

On the first day it was quite cold and rained for about half a day, luckily we had already set up camp and did not get too wet. However, we discovered that there was quite a lot of flood water which reduced the amount of walking that we did. Once the rain had stopped we found a dryer area and did Emma's teambuilding activity. For this activity, we had to figure our way through a web as a team and as another activity, we had to guess the path through a grid and work as a team to remember the correct path. Although it was wet and cold we enjoyed the first day of our camp, especially Emma's 'find the path' teambuilding activity.

On the second day it was dryer and warmer. Early in the day we went for a long walk and had a scavenger hunt along the way. After this we collected fire wood, as well as long sticks for Nicola's raft activity whilst Kasey's thinking activity was being set up. It was a mystery challenge with riddles, codes and ciphers where you had to find the answer to the challenge within an hour. Once this was completed, we started to build the shelter. It was made from sticks, leaves, bushes, baling twine and a tarp. This took a while but the end result was successful. Later in the day, we prepared a delicious camp oven dinner which we made from scratch. The second day was also enjoyable with the highlight being Kasey's thinking activity.

On the third day, we packed up our bags and let our tents dry while we all participated in a range of activities. The first of which was Erin's 'track-a-trail' activity. In this activity a person would go hide and leave a trail of "breadcrumbs" and everyone else had to go find where they were hiding. After this we took down the shelter so that we could retrieve the tarp and re-use the twine for Nicola's raft making activity. We used some long, straight sticks, a tyre tube and baling twine to make the raft. This proved to be successful and could hold two people. Once we had finished the activity we packed up camp and came back to school. The third day was very enjoyable with the highlight of the day being Nicola's raft building activity.

Overall, the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Practice camp was very worthwhile and we are looking forward to our Qualifying Journey. **By Emma and Kasey**



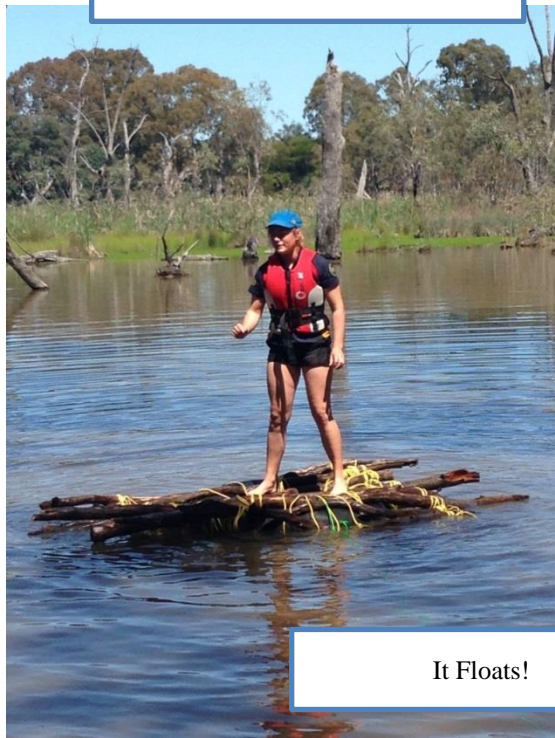
Outside the Shelter



Inside the Shelter



Constructing the Raft



It Floats!



The Perfect Damper



Preparing the Camp Oven Casserole