**OUR STUDENT LEADERS**

Ambarvale High School

This is the team that has led this Rosemeadow-based school for the past year — (foreground, right) captains Rhys Jerrett and Elizabeth Nand and vice-captains Mitchell Blanchard and Pandora Visesio.

Rhys is keen to study behavioural psychology, while Elizabeth is interested in occupational therapy. Mitchell has a mechanics apprenticeship, and Pandora is interested in a career that involves sport.

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**HSC High Achievers**

A bright future ahead for successful graduates

As a school, we are proud of the growth that many of our students demonstrated when compared to School Certificate results.

This is testament to their efforts and the hard work of their dedicated teachers.

Many students gained entry into university courses in education, tourism, environmental science, information technology and communication.

We also had a number of students gain entry into high demand TAFE courses that required the HSC.

A number of Vocational Education and Training (VET) students will begin apprenticeships and traineeships that will draw directly on knowledge obtained through studying these VET courses at Ambarvale High School.
Out and about for the director-general

By Michelle Taverniti

FRIDAY was no ordinary school day for Ambarvale High School student Malcolm Germon. Instead of attending his year 9 classes, Malcolm spent the day shadowing Campbelltown’s relieving school-education director Marianne Carahallos.

He was one of four local students chosen to be part of the NSW Education Department’s “Director-General for a Day” program – which had them tour schools, join meetings and learn about the role of senior department management.

Malcolm and Campbelltown Performing Arts High School student Sultana (Sultana) Ali (with shadowing Ms Carahallos while regional director Tim O’Regan had Thomas Reddall High School student Robert Harrie and Lennox High School student Gemma Watson accompanying him for the day.

The annual program is part of Education Week – but it was the first for Ms Carahallos since taking up the role.

She and Malcolm spent the morning visiting Woodland Road and Ambarvale public schools.

“It’s about seeing what happens in our schools and what great ambassadors we have,” she said.

“He’s seen only the good part of my job though and I’ve told him about my role in supporting schools and being that link between the state and the schools to make sure information goes up and down the right way. Sometimes you might feel isolated in the role but it’s good to get out and know people by name, to get to that individual level.”

Malcolm was excited his application for the program had been successful. “I’ve never known about anything that happens behind the scenes,” he said. “It’s been quite terrific. From the visits I saw a lot has changed in the past couple of years since I was in primary school. Woodland Road has been really good with the environment and their upkeep, especially all their eco-friendly stuff.”

Ms Carahallos had planned a debrief with Malcolm that afternoon. “Feedback is very valuable. Students are a very important part of education. They are the people who know what their school needs to be.”

NEWS

Don’t stray from goals

Channel 9 newsreader Peter Overton inspires students at Ambarvale High School.

Journalist Peter Overton has encouraged Ambarvale High School students to aim high, reports OLIVER MURRAY.

NEVER waver from your dreams. That was the message Channel 9 newsreader Peter Overton conveyed to Ambarvale High School students on Thursday.

The former 60 Minutes reporter and newswreder spoke to year 11 and 12 students as part of the Macarthur Chronicle’s Inspire campaign.

The campaign brings inspirational public figures to schools to address the area’s youth.

It also aims to show guests speakers the area’s brightest and talented youth to break down negative stereotypes of the region.

Overton discussed how he started in journalism with radio station 2UE before moving to Sky News and later Channel 9.

“Never allow yourself to be taken away from your goals,” he said.

“Whether you want to be a journalist, teacher, builder – whatever: “Never waver from it.”

Overton also encouraged students to respect one another and move away from the “will poppy syndrome” evident in some parts of Australia.

“I love the word respect,” he said. “It’s a core value in our lives. Also embrace other people’s success. Don’t be one of those people who think there’s not enough success to go around.”

Overton said young people should not be discouraged to follow their dreams, despite the current economic climate.

“These are tough times but don’t let it deter you.”

FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS: Check out more photos of Peter Overton speaking to Ambarvale High School students at www.macarthurchronicle.com.au

“The Macarthur Chronicle Inspire campaign continues to attract inspiring Australian achievers to speak to the area’s youth.

Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter Service chief crewman Tony Wood will speak to Elizabeth Macarthur High School students at Narre Warren today.

Prof Brad Franklin, the head of clinical education at the University of Western Sydney’s school of education, visits Macquarie Fields High School next month.

Other speakers next month include Wayside Chapel chief executive Graham Long who will speak at WallagaHill Anglican College and 7.30 Report presenter Kerry O’Brien, who will visit John Therry High School, Rosemeadow.

NEWS

Big achievers pay us a visit

Students are told they can achieve anything if they try through the Inspire campaign.

Picture: ROBERT ROZCO

THE Macarthur Chronicle Inspire campaign continues to attract inspiring Australian achievers to speak to the area’s youth.

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@ Ambarvale High

WOLLONDILLY state Liberal MP Jai Rowell and Roads and Traffic Authority surveyor Narelle Underwood visited Ambarvale High School last week to encourage female students to consider a career in engineering. The visit was part of the Sydney Women in Engineering and IT Speakers Program and encouraged students to include subjects like science and maths into their education, paving the way for a career in engineering.

Heroes

The heroes of public education received special recognition, reports LISA COSGROVE.

STAFF, students and parents from 17 Macarthur area schools have been honoured at the NSW Education Department’s south western Sydney region Director’s Choice awards.

“Director’s Choice recognises excellence and talent in a range of student performances, underpinned by the acknowledgement of outstanding contributions to public education across the region,” regional director Tom Urry said.

A Director General’s school achievement award went to Rosmeadow’s Mary Brookshank School for numeracy, while Bargo Public School won an environmental award for the creation of its environmental learning area.

Elderslie High won a school award for student engagement and retention. Elderslie and Robert Townson Public Schools won strategic pillars awards. Ambarvale High School, Ambarvale, Appin, Rosemeadow and Woodland Rd Public schools jointly received a School Education Director’s community of school award.

News

Police officer urges teenagers to stand up

CAMPBELLTOWN police officer Bryan Doyle was a guest speaker at Ambarvale High School’s recent year 12 graduation.

Chief Inspector Doyle — who is going on extended leave this week to campaign as the new Liberal candidate for Campbelltown — wore his ceremonial uniform as he spoke about leadership to the student body.

“If you don’t stand for something, you will fail for anything,” he said. “Leaders need to have courage and the ability to stand up for what is right.”

Chief Inspector Doyle also shared a humbling leadership experience he recently had.

“Not so long ago, I was working late one night and I stopped in at McDonald’s at Rosemeadow for a coffee,” he told students.

“There was a group of young men also present and we struck up a conversation about the improvements being made in the area. One of the lads finally asked, ‘Mr Doyle, what do the crowns mean?’ pointing to the chief inspector insignia on rank on my shoulders.

“So I explained the rank structure. It then went around like Chinese whispers until it came back around, ‘what does it mean?… it means he’s the king!’ I wonder if they’ll remember the day the king of Rosemeadow had coffee at McDonald’s.”

Chief Inspector Doyle wished the students well and congratulated the incoming year 12 group.
Lucky rubbish pick-up by 13 girls from Ambarvale High

Young women from Ambarvale High School directed their gripower into a clean-up effort at Mandurama Reserve on Monday. Thirteen students from the school spent four hours picking up rubbish in the area around Ambarvale duck pond as part of Keep Australia Beautiful week. They were joined by a group of residents and volunteers from the nearby Tallowood Community Centre. The aim of this year’s Keep Australia Beautiful campaign is to remind people that litter dropped on streets, beaches and riverbanks could pollute waterways and pose a serious threat to wildlife. Teacher Jessica Wira said the girls removed 20 bags of rubbish from the duck-pond area and surrounding roads, parks and water systems. “It’s a really nice area of Ambarvale and we wanted to clean it up so that the community can really appreciate it,” she said.

Picture: Luke Fuda

Seeing the C message is seen

By Megan Garrey

IT ONLY took Brooke Williamson, a few minutes to come up with an award-winning temporary tattoo design to promote Hepatitis C awareness.

The design has now been mass-produced and distributed throughout NSW as part of a statewide competition for the “Think about it” project.

Ambarvale High School student Brooke, 16, was one of three winners in the competition which was run in conjunction with Hepatitis Awareness Week.

Brooke said it only took her about 10 minutes to come up with and draw the winning design.

“I did a couple of designs,” she said.

“They all had to include a ‘C’. I won a $300 gift voucher and I decided I was going to spend it on stuff for my niece Isobie, who’s a year old.”

Maccarthur Youth Health Service manager Kelly Walker said the project, which was co-ordinated by Hepatitis NSW, included a workshop for at-risk young people which focused on Hepatitis awareness and ways it could be transmitted.

“Young people are being urged to look after their liver including avoiding or limiting alcohol and drug use and promoting the practice of sterile tattoo and piercing procedures,” she said.

“Participants were involved in a workshop where they were asked to design temporary tattoos to be submitted for a state-wide competition. I’m pleased to announce one of our participants was one of the three in the state. Hepatitis NSW provided staff development, training, and resources and chose the three winners.”
Ambarvale High School

Meet the 2012 leadership team — captain Minhah Zaidi (from left), vice-captains Maria Sawiris and Anthony Phaneufham and captain Tiaine Worboys. Minhah wants to go to university and study commerce or information communications technology and would love to work in finance or design programs. Maria wants to study civil engineering, because she loves doing hands-on work. Anthony would like to attend university and study game designing because gaming is a big hobby of his. Tiaine would like to go to university and study medicine or teaching.

Picture: Phoebe Olls. Words: Jemma Langford

Lions set up new cubhouse

AMANDA PARTRIDGE

AMBARVALE High School students will develop leadership and life skills while serving their community through the formation of a new service club.

Students have formed a Leo Club, sponsored by The Lions Club of Campbelltown Inc., for youth aged 12-17 years.

Student Natalie West, 17, has been elected as the club’s first president.

“We’re exited to give back to our community (and) through this important work we plan to make a difference,” she said.

Campbelltown Lions Club member and Leo Club advisor Martin Peebles said he was excited about the introduction of the Leo Club.

“There is no greater satisfaction than encouraging young people to serve their communities in a positive way, and gain the essential life skills of leadership, experience and opportunility,” he said.

The club will be involved with a variety of projects including the Diabetes Awareness program and the Lions Save Sight Project.

The Lions Save Sight program encourages members to raise money to eradicate cataract and liver blindness in third world countries. It costs just $19 to through Lions to cure one person’s cataract.
Activities like pass the parcel build strong friendships at Ambarvale High School.

Bonding programs cut hijinks

LISA COSGROVE

IT was time for serious fun at Ambarvale High School when students played a giant game of pass the parcel recently.

Serious because the game is part of a program of activities held each Thursday and Friday to create a more structured environment which benefits the students and the school.

And fun because that's what dozens of students tossing around four 60-layer parcels packed with chocolate and gifts are having.

Principal Louise Barnott-Clement and the school's executive team created the program.

"I'd noticed that event days such as harmony day and multicultural days, when students had a focus and weren't milling around aimlessly, were more relaxed and positive," she said.

"So we decided to create the atmosphere more regularly and when we need it most, which is late in the week when people get a bit tired and frictions."

The program now includes activities such as Mr Squiggle drawing competitions, pavement chalk art sessions, handball and hula hoop competitions, Nutbush and Macarena dance sessions, talent quests and sausage sizzles.

"The students are always asking what's happening next and the staff love it as much as the kids," Ms Barnott-Clement said. She said the programs resulted in behavioural incidents decreasing on Thursdays and Fridays.

"Too often the enjoyment stops after primary school and it shouldn't be that way," she said.

"We're here to teach the curriculum, but we're also here to create great people and that means creating a great place to learn."

NEWS

Healthy Hudson loves his soccer

AMANDA PARTRIDGE

FASHION and a strict focus on maintaining a healthy lifestyle have enabled Reid Hudson, 15, to excel in his chosen fields.

The Ambarvale High School student has mastered the art of football, represented his school in a long list of sports at regional and state level, including swimming, athletics and cross country, earning him a nomination in the Macarthur Chronicle Junior Sports Star awards.

But Hudson says soccer is his passion and is a utility player for the Macarthur Rams under-16 team.

"Soccer is my favourite, I want to focus on it the most," he said.

"I can play wherever I'm needed or whatever the coach wants me but fullback is my favourite."

Since pulling on a jersey for Campbelltown Collegians in the under-8s, Hudson has also taken the field with Uniting Church.

The talented teen has also bagged the sports person of the year award at his school for the past two years and mum Leanne - who nominated him for the sports star award - couldn't be more pleased.

"I am very proud of his achievements and good sportsmanship," she said.

Hudson's commitment to his sport, which includes training with coaches and four runs, is shown through his advice to others, "eat healthy, have a healthy life and really focus on what you want."

The Junior Sports Star is sponsored by Rebel. South West Sydney Academy of Sport is the Macarthur Chronicle sports awards sponsor.
**AMBARVALE HIGH SCHOOL**

**Historical visit excites school**

**NEW SUBJECT OPENS MINDS**

Evin Priest

AMBARVALE High School students had the chance to discuss history with a Macquarie University professor who once left Bill Gates speechless.

Professor David Christian founded the subject “Big History”, which combines history and science, to offer a 13.7 billion-year educational timeline of the universe. He spread the concept throughout universities and high schools around the world after Gates took a personal interest in the discipline.

Ambarvale High School was one of the first schools in Australia to offer Big History as an elective subject, and was delighted when Professor Christian visited the school. “The course offers a multidisciplinary approach to coming up with an informed and modern creation story,” human society and the environment faculty head teacher Karl Weber said.

“Professor Christian’s visit had increased student interest in the fast-growing discipline. “The visit was an excellent experience for students because Big History fascinates them and a lecture from the founder has created a buzz,” he said.

Our Universe

What: Elective high school and university subject, “Big History”

Who: Macquarie University professor David Christian

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**Our Student Leaders**

Ambarvale High School

Meet the 2013 leadership team of this school which, despite its name, is actually within the suburb boundaries of Rosemeadow.

They are vice-captains Claire Trembath (from left) and Ashif Bulsh and captains Jenna Loveday and Cody Heathcote-Heller.

Claire hopes to be a professional dancer, while Ashif is keen to study engineering and pursue an MBA (master of business administration).

Jenna wants to become a high-school history teacher and Cody is interested in a career involving art and young people.
Congratulations
Year 12, 2012
Ambarvale High School
We are so proud of all of you!

Maria, an ATAR of 98.6. All that hard work paid off. Well done. The Engineering Faculty at UTS are lucky to be getting you.

17 of you are starting University degrees in March. How good is that. Zoe, Elizabeth, Megan, Raquel, Roshan, Lauren will be at UWS. Others are off to Sydney, NSW and Wollongong.

Tiarne, Advanced Medical Science. Yay!
Ben, wowing them at Disability Services!
Nothing below a Band 5. Zoe, you are a legend.
Ali, Aviation Management at UNSW. Excellent!
All those hours in the library were worth it Jake. Fantastic!

So many of you are off to TAFE. Such a good pathway to a great future. Fabulous effort in getting in. Especially well done to Lorina, Jamie and Courtney.

Congratulations to those who have achieved full-time work. Lots of brand new employees. We are very excited for you. Ambarvale High School students are everywhere!

From the Staff and Students of Ambarvale HS