



# WILLOUGHBY GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

*A Leader in Girls Education*

## NEWSLETTER

23 February 2015

### School Photographs



A reminder that school photographs will be taken for Years 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 on Tuesday 24 February.

Year 10 photographs and catch ups will be taken on Monday 2 March

### February/March Calendar

#### February

##### Week 4B 16 - 20 February

Tuesday 17 P&C Meeting 7.30pm in the Staff Room  
Wednesday 18 School Swimming Carnival  
Sunday 22 Music Ensemble Workshops

##### Week 5A 23 - 27 February

Monday 23 Year 10 Camp Assembly  
Tuesday 24 Year 10 Camp  
School Photographs  
Wednesday 25 Year 10 Camp  
Year 11 and 12 Religious Seminars  
Sunday 1 March Music Ensemble Workshops

#### March

##### Week 6B 2 - 6 March

Monday 2 School Photo catch up plus Year 10  
Wednesday 4 In Concert rehearsal  
Year 7 and 8 Religious Seminars  
Year 9 Commerce excursion

##### Week 7A 9 - 13 March

Monday 9 International Women's Day Assembly  
Encore Concert  
Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh pre-meeting  
Tuesday 10 Year 7 Music incursion  
Wednesday 11 Year 7, 2016 Open Night  
Year 9 and 10 Religious Seminars  
Thursday 12 Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh  
Friday 13 Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh  
Saturday 14 Year 7 Extension Class test

## Welcome Year 7 2015

Year 7 have started the year with a bang! Orientation week and camp were jam-packed with a variety of activities to allow the girls to get to know one another and the school. They have now settled into classes and the high school routine, however, there is still plenty more in store for them throughout the year.

**Miss Pryor, Year 7 Adviser**

### Year 7 Orientation Week

When I came to Willoughby I had left all of my good friends behind, so the Orientation Days were my chance to meet new people and make new friends. It was also a chance to get used to having different teachers specialising in different subjects. I knew this was going to be a challenge but it's easier than I thought.

**Ella Pearson 7E**



*Year 7 students making new friends at Orientation Day and the Year 7 Camp*

### Year 7 Camp

During the second week of school, Year 7 went on a camp for two days and it was a blast! When we arrived at the Sydney Academy of Sport in Narrabeen we started activities almost immediately. There was Archery, Canoe/Kayaking, Rock Climbing, Abseiling and a High Ropes Course. Everything was fun. I got to know more people and the people I already knew I got to know better, which is what I think that the camp was all about. I'm sure that this was the same for everybody else on camp. Overall, Year 7 Camp was extremely fun and a joy to be on.

**Portia Simon 7E**

## Principal's Message

As part of our annual school planning and reporting, we evaluate whole school and curriculum based programs on a rotational basis. In Week 5, Term 1, we will be conducting an evaluation of teaching and learning in the area of Mathematics.

The evaluation team will visit classrooms, look at teaching programs and students' work, and team members will interview staff, parents and students and observe lessons.

To assist the team in its investigations, the school will be collecting parent, student and staff responses to surveys of learning and teaching practices. Respondents will be randomly selected and remain anonymous.

The data collected is used by the school in the evaluation and continual improvement of teaching and learning at Willoughby Girls High School.

**Ms Elizabeth Diprose**  
**Principal**

## Careers Forum

Firstly I'd like to offer my congratulations to the 2014 Year 12 students on their performances last year. It was fantastic for me to hear the various pathways that students had selected to continue their adult lives.

2015 is an exciting year for the Senior Students at Willoughby Girls High School with many decisions and pathways to plan for Post School Options.

### Year 10

Year 10 begin scheduled Careers Lessons with me once a cycle to explore Study and Career Pathways using various websites and resources. We will also be concentrating on preparing students for events such as Work Experience in Term 2 Week 7 June 1-5.

Parents - If you or family friends are interested in hosting a Work Experience Student in your place of business please contact me.

### Year 12

I have started interviewing Year 12 students on an individual basis to help with Career and or Study options for 2016. Please be patient as it will take me some time to get to all of you! I would request that you come to see me with some basic individual research on an area you may wish to study.

A reminder that if you are looking to study Medicine or Optometry, you will need to sit the UMAT exam in June (registrations open already)

### Careers Website Subscriptions

The School subscribes to two different Careers Websites that enable access to information regarding further study, careers and upcoming events at Universities, TAFE and Private Colleges. These act as a "one stop shop" instead of having to access multiple sites to find out much of the current information available.

**(These services are provided for the school community only)**

[www.jobjump.com.au](http://www.jobjump.com.au) password – squirrel

[www.careersworks.com](http://www.careersworks.com) password – next

**Ms R Morris**  
**Careers Advisor**

***All Year 10 - 12 students please check your DET email account regularly, Daily Notices and the Careers Noticeboards for further communications regarding Study and Careers***

## parentingteenagersseminar

### **Adolescents : When is it normal and when is it worrying?**

7.30pm, 12 March 2015 - open to all. No cost.

Professor Kate Steinbeck from the Dept. of Adolescent Medicine, University of Sydney will be focusing on **puberty, mood, behaviour and disordered eating**.

Venue St Stephen's Anglican Church 211 Mowbray Road (Cnr of Mowbray Road and Sydney Street) Willoughby

For details and to register, see:

<http://www.st-stephens.com.au/what-s-on/parenting-teenagers-seminar>

or email Tim St Quintin at [tim@st-stephens.com.au](mailto:tim@st-stephens.com.au)

## History News

Welcome back to a new year with lots of exciting challenges! We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ms Wigan and Mrs Wade to the History Faculty this year. We would also like to congratulate our Year 12 HSC graduates who produced outstanding results in all History subjects in 2014. Of particular note is Jamaica Eisner who placed 9<sup>th</sup> in the State in Society and Culture.

Society and Culture students also produce a 5000 word sociological investigation called a Personal Interest Project. The Society and Culture Association in conjunction with the Board of Studies presents awards to those Personal Interest Projects that are deemed exemplary, dividing them into High Distinction and Distinction Awards. Of the 8 High Distinction Awards presented in the state, two Willoughby Girls students, Gillian Battese and Lauren Moore, received High Distinction Awards. These awards will be presented at a ceremony at the State Library. Congratulations to these students for their diligence, persistence and outstanding efforts on producing such exceptional work!

This term, the History Faculty have planned lots of exciting opportunities for our students. On 25 March, Year 11 Ancient History students will participate in an incursion with a visiting archaeologist who specialises in Ancient Egypt. Students will be able to work directly with artefacts and learn more about archaeology. On 26 March, Year 9 students will be participating in the Big Dig excursion to the Rocks to explore our convict heritage.

Next term, 40 students from various years will have the opportunity to participate in Camp Gallipoli. Students will be transported to Centennial Park on 24 April and will participate in Anzac commemorations, sleeping overnight, concluding with a dawn service on April 25. This will be a special occasion, given the centenary of Australia's participation in the Gallipoli campaign. Finally, planning is underway for an Information Evening for Year 11 Ancient and Modern History students and their families to gauge interest in participating in a History tour to Europe, specifically the historical sites in France, Belgium, Germany and Italy.

**Ms C Allen**  
**Head Teacher History**



## Peer Support Focus

Over the next three terms, Year 7 students will be participating in the Peer Support Program. Groups of approximately 15 students meet with 3 – 4 Peer Leaders and work through a range of activities that focus on assisting students with the transition to secondary school. Students will learn strategies that will equip them to cope more effectively with new and challenging situations.

Key skills which will be developed include optimism, empathy, positive self-talk, perseverance, and coping strategies, with the aims of building Resilience and Well Being.

The program is designed to encourage peer connections and make them stronger and more positive, and to assist Year 7 students to acknowledge their strengths and achievements, identify people who support them and learn how to view challenges as opportunity for growth.

For additional reading and resources to support your child please visit the parent tab on the Peer Support Australia Website [www.peersupport.edu.au](http://www.peersupport.edu.au)

**Ms E Gleeson**  
**Peer Support Coordinator**



WILLOUGHBY GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

## OPEN NIGHT

The school Open Night will be held on  
Wednesday 11 March 2015 from 4.45pm to  
7.30pm in the school hall.

Any prospective students are welcome to attend the night. The night will provide a great opportunity for the students and parents to view the school facilities, meet the teachers and P&C members and experience a few mini-lessons/programs.







## Social Science Update

Social Science is finalising preparations for the Year 10 Geography Camp at our new venue of Broken Bay. Students will depart from Willoughby GHS at 7.30am on Monday 23 February and return on Wednesday 25 February at 3.00pm. During one day of their camp, students will complete a Coastal Management Fieldwork Study of Palm Beach and Barrenjoey Headland led by educators from Gibberagong Environmental Education Centre. The fieldwork will then be used by students as primary data in a report that assesses the causes and consequences of change at the site and that makes recommendations about future management.

Students have been visited by Tim Silverwood from the “Take That Organisation” who shared his personal experience of starting an organisation to campaign to reduce waste on our beaches. Students have shown great enthusiasm for the beach clean-up which is planned and the adventures ahead that will include camping out in the bush, cooking dinner on the fire and activities such as orienteering and rock climbing. It is a magnificent location and it is sure to be a memorable and enjoyable experience through which genuine learning takes place.

**Mr M Palmer**  
**Head Teacher Social Science**

## Community and Family Studies Experience

“People think that when you have a disability, you also lose your intelligence.” Visually impaired D’Arcy Sharpe and his blind dog Origan made a visit to Willoughby Girls High Year 12 Community and Family Studies class to show us that this statement is anything but true. Although he may not be able to see, D’Arcy demonstrated that there are many different ways to get around without his sensory disability getting in his way.

After a 12 month bonding phase, D’Arcy and Origan are now ready to go anywhere and everywhere. When first meeting Origan, he’s the perfect dog. He listens to all requests, lays down peacefully and never steps a paw out of line. However, once the uniform comes off, Origan switches to a friendly playful companion, brushing up to everyone and rolling around on the carpet. Sharpe explains that it’s not a commander and servant relationship, it’s important to build a strong relationship with each other in order to work together. Even tasks like walking up the stairs are made to look easy. Firstly Origan puts his front paws on the stairs, and D’Arcy places his right foot on the first step. With a simple request of “... up” the two are able to climb any stairs with ease.

Although he lost his sight, D’Arcy has never let it get in the way of his enjoyment of life.

**Year 12 CAFS Class**



*Mr Sharpe with Year 12 CAFS students*