

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

TERM 4 2021

Dear parents, carers and students,

It is with a real sense of pride that I reflect on the 2021 chapter of Gorokan High School.

Our students worked with us in new ways, surpassing the challenges of last year. While we were more isolated from the global community than many of us had experienced before, the impact of the world around us was acutely felt. Many of us found the conflicting messaging, constantly changing timeframes and the disruption to day to day life difficult to manage at times.

Yet, when the opportunity came to return to face to face learning, our community rallied. There was an appropriate level of concern as to how this was to be managed, however once the plan was communicated we started the process of returning to 'normal'.

2021 has also shown us that classroom learning time is valuable and not to be taken for granted. The effort by school staff and students during the first two terms was the key to success during the lockdown period and allowed a strong partnership when parents and carers became teachers during lockdown. As a school, we will carry this momentum with us into 2022 as quality teaching and learning experiences remain our priority.

Despite the challenges, throughout this year there was still so much accomplished in 2021. There was no greater demonstration of resilience than that shown by our Year 12 students attending their first HSC exam. Despite a Trial HSC period being unable to occur and the HSC Written Exam date being pushed back twice, as well as their graduation and formal being postponed, all students required to be present for the first exam attended. I wish them the very best in their results, but we are already so proud of them.

2022 will hold many opportunities. I am looking forward to a number of building works commencing and being completed, as well as many of our co-curricular experiences returning. After all, that is what Gorokan High School has always been proud to be - a school that provides a quality, holistic education to contribute to the successful development of our young people in a way that is responsive to the needs of our community.

Thank you for the part you have played in the success our students experienced during 2021, as it was a heavier burden than usual. I hope the break is restful and relaxing for you and your family and I look forward to reconnecting at the beginning of 2022.

Kind Regards,

Matt

Mr Matthew Boake
Principal, Gorokan High School Darkinjung Country

KEY DATES

TERM 1 2022		
Week 1	Staff Development Day	29 January
Week 2	Staff Development Day Years 7, 8 and 11 return Year 7 Passport Program starts All Years return Year 7 School Photos	31 January 1 February 1 February 2 February 2 February
Week 3	Year 7 Passport Program concludes	11 February
Week 4	GHS Swimming Carnival	16 February
Week 6	Year 7 Brainstorm Productions Bangarra Dance Trials Ngura Surf Camp	2 March 2 March 3 March
Week 7	Immunisation	11 March
Week 8	Year 9 Smashed Performance SRC National Young Leaders Day GHS Athletics Carnival	19 March 14 March 16 March
Week 9	Immunisation	18 March
Week 10	Year 7 Great Aussie Bush Camp Last Day of Term	28—30 March 8 April
TERM 2 2022	School photos Years 8—12 GHS Cross Country Carnival	20 May 5 May

YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 7 TERM 2, 3 and 4 2021

As the year draws to a close we look back on what has been an interesting first year of High School for Year 7. Students kicked off term 2 participating in the annual Cross-Country Carnival here at school in week 2. Then came NAPLAN examinations in week 4. NAPLAN tests the skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. It is important to remember that NAPLAN is not about passing or failing, but about assessing learning progress.

Students enjoyed a visit from Eddie Woo the creator of WooTube and as part of the new Language and Culture course that has been implemented this year for Year 7, students got to go out and visit local Aboriginal sites to consolidate their learning.

After being postponed at the end of last term due to weather, Year 7 finally got to attend Camp at the Great Aussie Bush Camp. Year 7 had a great 3 days completing a variety of team building activities such as high ropes, dual flying-fox, power fan, etc. A great time was had by both students and their teachers.

In week 10 students will have the opportunity to attend the semesterly PBL Rewards Excursion to TreeTops Adventure Park. Students had been collecting GORO GOLD for all of semester one for positive behavior by demonstrating the schools core values of respect, responsibility and personal best.

Term 3 saw the return of Covid lockdowns and students had to transition to online learning. The majority of students made a smooth adjustment and worked well.

With the return of face to face learning in term 4. Students and teachers were equally excited to get back into the classroom and see each other face to face. Students again transitioned back to school well. The end of term 4 saw a number of exciting opportunities to celebrate our students through Presentation Day and the PBL Rewards incursion. In the classroom, students filled out individual profiles on themselves noting their interests, friends, etc. as part of building material for their Year 12 Yearbook. Students also wrote letters to their future selves in year 12 that I will keep safe until their Graduation Day in Year 12 and return to them.

While it was not the year we hoped for, all Year 7 students have done extremely well to adapt and make the most of their first year of High School. Congratulations Year 7 and have a happy and safe break.



YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 7

Year 7 at the GHS annual Cross Country Carnival at school week 2 term 2.



YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

Eddie Woo the creator of WooTube with Year 7



Mr Boake also assisted students with mathematics.



Language and culture course



Great Aussie Bush Camp



YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS





YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS



YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS



Have a happy and safe break Year 7.

Miss Carla Drummond
Year 7 Advisor

YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 8

In finishing off 2021 (and Year 8), the students have again been involved in a very, very different school year. With school events and learning running smoothly and back to its conventional style to then experience cancellations, postponements, rescheduling, online learning, etc. etc. Year 8 have had it all. This has created a range of challenges in their first two years of high school and as their Year Adviser I commend all of them.

The 2021 school year was always going to have a full calendar and Year 8 had plenty on.

Finally, we were able to go on our two times postponed Year 7 Camp! The students that went were fantastic and they were able to enjoy all that the Great Aussie Bush Camp – Tea Gardens had to offer. Students were involved in a range of activities including the Giant Swing, Archery, Vertical and Team Challenge, Mud Island and lots more! The teachers were able to participate with the students in the always enjoyable Commando Night and there were some very weary and exhausted Year 8 students at the end of the week. A massive well done to all of the students that attended. The Camp & Gorokan HS staff were extremely proud of us.

Year 8 were involved in our annual GHS Expo Night. This is where parents/carers and students of Year 8 were able to circulate and peruse the wonderful displays that each faculty had provided for the proposed electives for Stage 5 (Year 9 & 10). There was also the opportunity for numerous conversations with different teachers about what each of the subjects include and have to offer. Nights like these are great as students start to mould their educational experience to suit what they would like to do in the future. A big thank you to all the staff who attended the night – it couldn't be done without you!

Other events that occurred throughout Term 2 included School Photos, National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week, Pink Day, Cross Country and a lot more. These events do not happen without the work carried out behind the scenes by many wonderful staff, students and helpers. Thank you one and all!

In Term 3, we all experienced a very different way to schooling as staff and students spent plenty of time learning, communicating and completing classwork online. There were countless Zooms, Google Docs and learning opportunities and a big well done to the students for assisting in this very foreign way of learning. It was a very interesting and innovative way to experience education (for the staff and students) and thank you to all the families who had to go above and beyond to assist the students of Year 8.

Term 4 started with the continuation of online learning before returning to a COVID restricted way of learning in the "normal" educational setting. It was a very exciting time for staff and students returning back to the classroom participating in conventional lessons and connecting with each other once again. The learning opportunities were endless as staff ensured the year was finished with support and erudition for Year 8.

I wish all of Year 8 and their families a restful and enjoyable holiday and look forward to seeing you all in 2022!

Thank You,

Mr Sean Glachan
Year 8 Advisor

YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

Year 8 @ the Great Aussie Bush Camp



YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS



YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 9

It has been great to see students return to school this term after what has been an unusual period to say the least. Students and teachers have enjoyed being back in the classroom and hopefully we have seen the last of Home-Based Learning.

As you may be aware, the Gold Coast excursion has been postponed until Term 1 next year. Students will be given a new permission note with new dates to be confirmed. If you have questions or are experiencing any issues with payments, please feel free to contact the school on 43937000 or send myself an email to samson.underwood3@det.nsw.edu.au.

Additionally, I'll take the opportunity to remind students that are attending the Central Australia excursion next year, that they too must keep up to date with payments. Opportunities for fundraising including; chocolate boxes and Bunnings BBQ's have begun, so I encourage all students to get involved.

Make sure you enjoy the break and come back for what is hopefully a more normal year in 2022. Here's to a fantastic holiday!

Mr Samson Underwood
Year 9 Advisor 2021

YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 10 2021

Time is really starting to fly for Year 10. We are now at the halfway point of the year, with Stage 6 studies and career pathways having been the focus for the cohort over the last 3 months. Term 2 has proven to be an incredible term with a multitude of events, excursions and extra-curricular activities for students to be a part of. As always, our Year 10 students continue to acquit themselves with aplomb and I am forever grateful to co-ordinate this year group.

The Careers and Subject Expo night was Year 10's first taste of life after junior school. The event saw an overwhelming majority of our students and their families attend an after school function with fantastic stalls, flyers, brochures, activities and displays provided by staff and faculties to inform students of potential future study options. A big thank you to Ms Jacobs and Mr Robertson for organising the event and for the external providers from TAFE NSW, University of Newcastle, RTO and others for sharing their expertise on the evening. Subject selection has now closed but students and families still have the opportunity to have an interview with Mr Robertson about future options. Finally, Year 10 has also been involved in the inaugural Careers Expo at Lakehaven Shopping and Recreation Centre and at Avondale College. The amount of options available for Year 10 is enormous and I am hopeful that Gorokan High School can help facilitate the right career pathway for all our students.

Term 2 was also the start of the Aspiring Leaders Program (ALPs) for a select number of Year 10 students. Students were selected on their potential and demonstrated ability over their time at school. The program aims to further the leadership skills in our cohort and has proven to be a valuable opportunity for our previous Year 10 cohorts. I would again like to thank Mr Underwood, Mr Buxton and Mr Glachan for running this program again for our students. The feedback provided by staff in the first few ALPs sessions has been incredibly positive and I look forward to this program continuing over the next term.

Finally, I would be remiss in not mentioning the Gold Coast excursion. After 16 months of organising, a global pandemic, floods and social restrictions, Year 10 were finally able to make it to Queensland in early May. It was an absolutely amazing experience (everything I dreamed it would be - though I didn't get a whole lot of sleep that week!) and all students that attended have brought home wonderful stories from the week away. Unfortunately I have been a bit slow in posting some of the pictures from this week. See below for a little sample of the fun we had this week!

As the opportunities for our students to engage in extracurricular activities continue, such as the numerous sporting teams, Marine Studies excursions and the Stand Tall event, it is also important to understand that attendance is one of the most important factors in determining educational outcomes for students. Unfortunately we have many Year 10 students starting to fall below the minimum 85% attendance rate due to non-attendance and truancy. I would like to take this opportunity to remind our families of the the detrimental impact that poor attendance can have on future pathways and encourage students to continue making the effort now to support themselves down the track.

What a fantastic year 2021 has been so far. With how busy it has been and how quickly time has flown, I cannot wait to see what 2022 has in store for us.

Mr Matt Pascoe
Year 10 Advisor 2021

Athletics
Carnival go
Hargraves

GO!



YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 11 TERM 2

What a start it has been for your first year of senior schooling! With just over one term to go of Year 11 before commencing the HSC. It has been quite an adjustment for many students to navigate the ever-increasing workload of study and assessment tasks, however, the majority of students are applying themselves diligently and are encouraged to keep up their hard work. You should be proud of your efforts!

Starting off this term, we have had a number of educational opportunities including excursions, scuba diving and study skills seminars. There has also been a number of sporting opportunities with students representing the school in varying sports, gala days and at the Zone Athletics Carnival. Well done!

With the weather taking a cold turn, we are eagerly awaiting the arrival of our senior jerseys which will be arriving at the start of term 3. Lastly, a reminder that attendance is incredibly important in senior years and to take the opportunity to speak to our Careers Advisor in creating extra opportunities for transition to work, TAFE and resume skills.

A massive congratulations to Jourdan Mitchell who received the award for Youth Volunteer of the Year for his outstanding work and commitment to the Lake Haven Sport and Recreation Centre.

Support at School for Year 11

A reminder that there is the Supported Senior Study available on a Wednesday afternoon from 2.30-4pm with teachers volunteering their time to help our students.

Library Senior Study- Support staff are available to our senior students in the library to assist with study planning and submitting assessment tasks.

Work Experience

Many of our Year 11 students had the opportunity to venture out in the workforce to gain knowledge and skills necessary to assist in gaining part time work or for transitioning into the workforce. This was a very beneficial and positive experience for all students involved.

Mr Daniel Jonovski and Ms Imogen Selby-Smith
Year 11 Advisors 2021



YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

Year 11 2021 Term 4

What a great start to your first term as Year 12 students! Just a special thank you and acknowledgement of all your hard work throughout online learning in what was an extremely difficult time for all of us. Most of you came back from online learning with a positive attitude and ready to embrace your learning.

Leadership Team Induction

I would like to introduce our wonderful Leadership Team for 2022.

These students have done a fantastic job completing the school captain process throughout online learning and should be commended for their efforts.

School Captains	Toby Dowdell and Cameryn Smider
Vice Captains	Luke Vincent and Elise McMahon
Leadership Team	Jirrah Nelson, Cameron Cheney, Isabella Powell, Amelia Carty, Indigo Twyford Tweedie, Lillie Nolan, Eliza Wetherall and Eliza Schramm.



Our leaders took part in a presentation and badge ceremony with parents, Mr Boake, Mrs Singleton and executive staff members to officially induct them into their new roles. Students then attended a luncheon to honour their hard work and dedication.

Mentorship Program

The Year 12 mentorship program has now been finalised and is underway. Students and teachers were able to connect and begin planning over the Year 12 morning tea. Students have been working with their mentor teacher in planning and implementing study regimes and skills for what is going to be an extremely busy yet exciting time next year.

Merchant Navy Memorial Service

On Saturday 4th December, our school captains Cameryn Smider and Toby Dowdell had the opportunity to represent Gorokan High School at the Merchant Navy Memorial Service at Norah Head. These students spoke alongside the Swansea MP Yasmin Catley at what was an important and significant event in recognising our fallen Australian merchant mariners.

Lastly, thank you all for a great year, enjoy your holidays and I am looking forward to seeing all of you in the new year!

Ms Imogen Selby-Smith

Year 11 Advisor

YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 12 TERM 2

Another term is almost over and Year 12 you are to be congratulated for a wonderful first semester! Many students have approached their studies with enthusiasm and diligence as they near the end of their schooling. There have been many excursions including Aboriginal site visits, Geography students visited Bangaroo, Science students paid a visit to Museum of Human Disease, Music students attended study days and Drama students have been on excursions to the theatre – very valuable experiences for their studies. Students are very busy completing their assessments as the term concludes and at these times, we need to be mindful of the added stresses that come with this. Please keep in mind all of the help that is available to senior students, including the senior study running in the library every Wednesday afternoon from 2.30-4.00pm, which is supervised by staff members (including afternoon tea), Maths Homework Centre operating every Tuesday from 2.30-3.30pm, the senior study teacher aides available in the library any time to assist seniors with completion of tasks and of course my classroom door is always open. Also, we have the respected teacher mentors to help students manage their schedules and to offer invaluable advice and help. Please take advantage of any, or all, of those opportunities to assist in getting work completed and relieve some of the stress.

ANZAC Day

Thank you to our school captains - Tanique and Harry and our vice captains – Zac and Ella for representing the school at the Toukley RSL ANZAC Day services. You represented yourselves and Gorokan High School with dignity, upmost respect and delivered thought provoking and excellent addresses. THANK YOU!!



School Captains Government House Visit

The Parliament of NSW and Government House jointly provide this civic and citizenship program for Year 12 captains and school leaders from all NSW secondary schools. It gives the student leaders the opportunity to develop their knowledge of our system of government and parliamentary proceedings, and the opportunity to meet the Governor, Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC and gain a better understanding of her role. Tanique and Harry are looking forward to this visit which will take place on Wednesday 23rd June.

YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 12 TERM 2

Mentor Program BBQ lunch

On Monday 17 May we held a BBQ lunch for Year 12 and their mentor teachers. This was an opportunity to thank the teachers who have, and are being a wonderful resource to aid the students with time management skills, study skills and generally be a guide to help them navigate their way through this stressful time in completing the HSC. This was also a chance for students to reconnect with their mentor teachers in a relaxed environment.



YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 12 TERM 4

To my wonderful, precious Year 12.

Where to start? When Mrs Costa asked me to be take over the role of being your year advisor at the beginning of Year 9, I knew I was to be your third one. I didn't hesitate as having the honour of being a year advisor is a role I treasure very much. I recall the assembly when you were told there was going to be yet another change to your year advisor and clearly hearing the disgruntled "what another one?" I vowed from that day on I would have your back and you would always know I was on your side.

I know it's been a tumultuous ending to your schooling but let's not focus on that. Let's focus on the good that has emerged from this. You are stronger than you think, more resilient than people twice your age and have experienced so much change – not only to what has been happening in the world but to your one constant – your schooling. You have emerged with maturity beyond your years and hopefully the very valuable lifetime skills of being able to 'not sweat the small stuff'.

Among you are talented writers, artists, musicians, mathematicians, scientists, carpenters, mechanics, chefs, and sportspeople – you have so much to offer the world and I have enjoyed watching you grow in confidence and show that you believe in yourselves.

You should feel so proud of yourselves.....

Proud of what you have achieved – what an accomplishment to have finished high school – Senior school, although very rewarding can also seem like you are climbing an insurmountable mountain. It's during those times that you have impressed me the most.

Proud of your dedication and commitment – in times of hardship, sadness – whatever adversities you have faced, you have come out the other side where many have found it too difficult – you have persevered –that in itself is an achievement! Some of you have been extremely focused and driven – and have been a great example for those around you. Others have found their way with time and have turned it all around to do what was needed to complete these final senior years.

Mostly you should be Proud of whom you are as a person – which is by far what I am most proud of. I know I can speak on behalf of the staff of Gorokan High when I say we have found it an honour to teach and know you, you are held in high regard and are so lucky to have had such dedicated teachers.

You are like my own children, except I'm probably, no I know - I'm nicer to you. I have felt your pain – I have watched you grow and mature to caring, kind and generous people. In my struggle to write this I thought how can I help you – even in the slightest way – be ready for whatever your future holds?



YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

YEAR 12 TERM 4

I've come up with five important things I've learnt during my life which I try to live by:-

1. Don't worry if you don't have a big dream

If you have something you've always dreamed of – great go for it! I was someone who didn't and was constantly nagged about what I was going to do with my life. I terrified my parents when I announced all I wanted to do with my life was be a mum and a Coles checkout operator because I liked their dresses. (Yes, years ago, Coles ladies wore blue dresses with a zipper up the front – it was my one true goal). So, what I'm trying to say is that it's ok to dream small and achieve milestones along your way in life.

2. Don't seek happiness - You'll spend your whole life there. Make someone else happy instead and you might find you acquire happiness as a side effect.

3. Be a Teacher - If you're in doubt about what to do – be an amazing teacher. Think about your teachers here at GHS – they have taught you not only subject content but by their actions and gestures that caring relationships are vital for success. So even if you're not a teacher – share your ideas.

4. Respect People - It doesn't matter how much power, success or riches you have – you will be judged on how you treat the least powerful, successful or poorest person.

5. Learn Empathy - Whatever else may fail you in life – your personal integrity is always in your own hands and can never be taken away from you.

So finally to my beautiful Year 12 – my door will always remain open – know that I believe in you – have the courage to follow your heart and trust your own intuition.

Always believe you can fly xxxxxx



Mrs Kim McLean
Year 12 Advisor

Plenty happening in Ab Ed at GHS.

Pirru Thangkuray with Rob Waters. Rob Waters was working away with our Pirru Thangkuray group (Yr 10) and took them on Country to a few sites near Staples Lookout, Bulgandry, Somersby Falls and Girrakool. The program has been extremely successful and all students have engaged really positively. On Thursday 20th May our Year 10 cohort travelled to The Entrance HS for a presentation from Joe Williams (The Enemy Within). This talk was extremely well received and touched on Mental Health and Resilience for Aboriginal People.

Connecting to Country performance. During Week 2 this term we had Jirrah N. perform on his didge and our Girls Aboriginal Dance Group perform for the Regional North Directorate on their opening for Connecting to Country. This was a fantastic experience for all.

Kinchela Bus for all of Year 10 and Senior Ab Studies. We had the Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation visit the school again, this time for our students. The Uncles were extremely impressed with the maturity and respect shown by all students and all students were grateful for the experience. The feedback from students and staff was extremely positive and some new perspectives were formed.

Years 11 & 12 Aboriginal Studies students went to Bulgandry Aboriginal Site with Uncle Dave Ella to learn about the significance of the site and the historical perspectives of the carvings. Students also went to Somersby falls for a nice finish to the day.

Year 7 LAC started. The newly formed **Language and Culture** Curriculum for our Year 7 students began this term "Banal Ngaruga-dhi". The start has been extremely positive with students participating in a wide range of experiences especially following Aboriginal Pedagogical Approaches. All Year 7 students went "On Country" to Bulgandry and Somersby Falls and have had Uncle Dave come in to school to support our teachers.

Starstruck. Our dance girls went to the first rehearsals for this year's Starstruck and have been working hard ever since. Maddy has dropped in to support Ms. Sanchez and the main performance is coming up in Week 9. Good luck to the girls.



Ngura. Uncle Matt Sonter has been running the Ngura Program on Thursdays with our selected group at Mingara Recreation Centre. Students have been applying themselves in the Aboriginal Leadership Model, Histories and Culture and Health and Fitness throughout the day. This has been an awesome experience for all students involved. Students were able to apply their new leadership skills at Toukley Skate Park for the Reconciliation Week events run. Students from local primary schools were led by our Gorokan HS students in Koori Games and all students and staff were extremely impressed with the maturity and efforts from these students. Well done! The graduation ceremony on Thursday 3 June highlighted the fantastic efforts of our students and displayed the connection that each student has with Uncle Matt. Thanks for all of your efforts.

On Wednesday 26 May GHS held a whole school assembly in recognition of National Sorry Day. This was an opportunity for students to enhance their learning about Australian History and Culture and the importance of this date. National Sorry day is a day to for all Australians to remember and acknowledge the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were forcibly removed from their families and communities known as “The Stolen Generations”. The assembly also opened up the conversation about the importance of 27 May – the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum which is when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were included in the census and the beginning of Reconciliation Week.



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

For Reconciliation Week, 27th May – 3 June, GHS students and staff participated in a wide range of activities to acknowledge the importance of Reconciliation. This year's theme Reconciliation (More than a word. It takes action!) suited the action GHS took in starting and continuing conversations, looking and viewing clips and articles in relation to Australian History and Culture. Reconciliation is a journey for all Australians and we all have a role to play in building the relationships between Australia's First Nations People and non-indigenous Australians.

Reconciliation Week finished on 3 June, otherwise known as Mabo Day. Mabo Day commemorates Eddie Koiki Mabo, a Torres Strait Islander whose campaign for Indigenous land rights and to overturn the legal fiction of terra nullius (uninhabited land). This led to the High Court of Australia acknowledging that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are Australia's First Nations People and have rights to the land on which they lived on 3rd June 1992.

Unsettled Exhibition. On the 8th June, our Year 10 Aboriginal students and Stage 6 Aboriginal Studies students travelled to the Australian Museum in Sydney to view the Unsettled Exhibition. This exhibition was a fantastic experience for all students and staff who were able to look at artefacts and information relating to the European settlement and its *unsettling* impact on Aboriginal Australians.

Wollotuka Emerging Day Yrs 10, 11 & 12. On 17th June our senior students will travel to the Wollotuka Institute at Ourimbah Campus to view the facilities and gain an important perspective into university life. Students will view various exhibits and speak to university staff and gain an insight into goal setting and expectations of university life.

Throughout Week 10 term 2 we have multiple groups going to local primary schools and hospitals to perform and help out in NAIDOC Week Celebrations. NAIDOC Week falls in the school holidays so GHS will be celebrating in Week 3, Term 3. We have many events/experiences planned and look forward to this opportunity to engage in some activities to celebrate Aboriginal History and Culture.



As you can see, plenty happening, but a very rewarding time in Ab Ed.

Thanks,

Benjamyn Glachan

Head Teacher Aboriginal Education

Humanities

Term 2 saw Year 7 Humanities students work through the 'Empowerment' unit. This unit has focused on a study of Ancient China, including how its geography empowered its people, the social structure, death and funerary customs, everyday life and much more. Students have thoroughly enjoyed learning about how the Chinese empowered themselves through their beliefs and in a physical sense by building such engineering feats as the Great Wall of China. They have learnt how to analyse historical sources based upon their origin, content, purpose, usefulness and reliability. Through the study of the film 'Mulan', Year 7 have revisited how camera shots and film techniques are used to convey meaning. All classes will also be reading a novel this term and early next term and analysing it through the textual concepts of character, theme, genre and style.

Students will have received their marks back for their Term 1 assessment task (Humanities Portfolio). This was a series of 'mini-assessments' completed in-class including a geography skills test, a critical reading task, a writing component focusing on 'sizzling starts' and classwork. I encourage parents and carers to speak to their children and go through the feedback that has been given to them by their teachers. Acting upon feedback is a key driver of improvement, as is seeking it; not only for assessments, but classwork in general.

We continue to encourage students to bring their own reading material each day so that they can read something which they find interesting. Further, please be reminded that each student has their own WordFlyers account and they are encouraged to complete lessons at home.

Banal Ngaruga-dhi continues to thrive in its first two terms at Gorokan High School. Students have thoroughly enjoyed learning about Darkinjung origin and co-existence. The program this term has seen students explore Darkinjung spirituality, kinship, spirit ancestors and ceremonies associated with living on Darkinjung land.

We have been extremely fortunate to have Uncles Dave Ella and Gavi Duncan come in to classes to share their knowledge with our students this term. Students have asked some excellent questions to further their understanding of Darkinjung language and culture and have, at all times, been highly respectful during lessons. During my visits to Banal Ngaruga-dhi lessons I have been highly impressed with the amount of knowledge that students are conveying through their participation in class discussion.



On Country

Our students have also had the opportunity to engage in the exciting opportunity go On Country to explore Darkinjung land and their relationship to it. Back in May students visited Bulgandry and Somersby Falls, and again we have been blessed to have the expert knowledge holders Uncles Dave Ella and Rob Waters share their expertise with our students during these visits.

Next term Banal Bgaruga-dhi classes will be studying Darkinjung land, skys, waterways and climate. Once again, all classes will have the opportunity to engage in On Country learning.

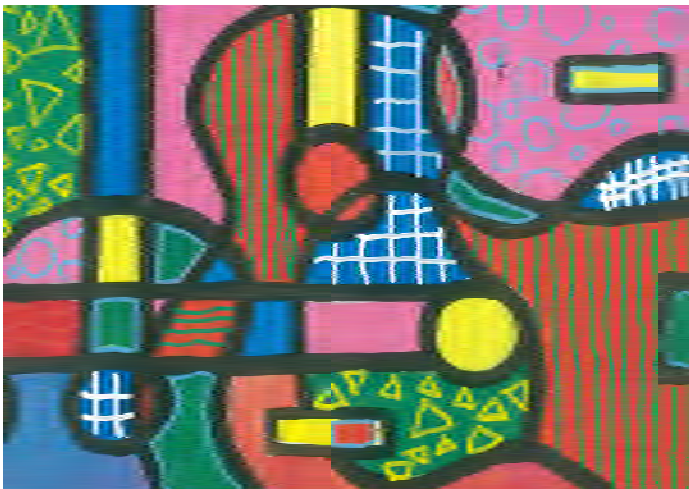


Mr David Moore
Head Teacher Core

Year 9 Still Life

Year 9 Visual Arts students experimented with acrylic paint and glazes as well as chalk pastels to explore the theme of still life. Some amazing results!





Mrs Julia Harvey Trappel
Head Teacher CAPA

9 HSIE A

Enjoyed a Geography practical outside, despite the brisk morning weather. The practical involved an orienteering challenge. In groups, students effectively used their compasses to navigate around a nine station course. At each point, students answered a geographic question to determine its unique letter. Once the students had the nine letters, the next step was to unscramble the word. Congratulations to Ava, Katelyn and Tyler, who crossed the finish line with the winning word first.



Kinchela Aboriginal Boys Home Incursion

At the beginning of the term, students from Year 10 HSIE and Year 11 and 12 Aboriginal Studies participated in an incursion at school to hear from four amazing Aboriginal men from the Kinchela Aboriginal Boys Home Corporation. This incursion aligned with the Year 10 topic Changing Rights and Freedoms and provided the opportunity to hear firsthand accounts and experiences from survivors of the Stolen Generation. We are very privileged and grateful to hear with raw emotion from the Uncles the impact being a part of the Stolen Generation had and continues to have on many Aboriginal families and communities. Students shared their appreciation for the opportunity to hear about the truth of the past and has been an ongoing conversation in our HSIE classes.

9 HSIE P Trench Warfare

This term 9 HSIE P class participated in a Trench Warfare Game as part of our study of World War 1. The game is played on the oval and is designed to simulate World War 1 Trench Warfare, whereby students participate in several role play activities to gain a more in-depth understanding of Trench Warfare during World War 1.

Unsettled Australian Museum Exhibition

Year 11 and 12 Aboriginal Studies students travelled to the Australian Museum with the Aboriginal Education Team to view the 'Unsettled' exhibition at the Australian Museum. The exhibition displays the untold story of the colonisation of our beautiful country from a First Nation peoples' perspective. It is a powerful exhibition that details the devastation, resistance fighting and survival of Aboriginal peoples through this time in Australia's

Students participated in a guided tour of the exhibition from a First Nation community member and were privileged to hear her experiences and perspective of the impact that colonisation continues to have on Aboriginal families and communities.



ANZAC Day

On Friday the 23rd of April, Gorokan High School held their annual School ANZAC Day ceremonies. Years 7, 9 and 11 attended the first ceremony run by School Deputy Principal Mrs Kim Costa and School Vice-Captain Ella-B and Zac D. The second ceremony was run by School Principal Mr Matthew Boake and Captains Tanique N and Harry W. In both ceremonies was the attendance of Toukley RSL Representatives Rod Clark, Ian Collier, Judith Walker, Roy Norman and Allan Love. Student behaviour was excellent and we would like to thank all involved for their attendance and participation in both of these solemn ceremonies.

HTA HSC Study Day

Year 12 History students braved a very cold and drizzly winter's day to attend the 2021 HSC Study Day at Sydney University. The event, run by the History Teacher's Association, provided both Modern and Ancient History students with tips and insight into how to approach their exams. Students were also given a taste of what to expect should they choose to go on and study at university.



Australian Geography Competition 2021



Earlier this year students from Year 7 and Year 8 participated in the 2021 Australian Geography Competition. This Competition is made up of multiple-choice questions testing geographical knowledge and skills and is completed in class under exam conditions. All students are commended for their resilience to complete the task with a 'can do' attitude and their eagerness to enhance their learning. A special congratulations to Brock S, Chase M, Jack B and Hamish R from 7HSIEP for receiving a High Distinction. This is an amazing achievement that placed them in the top 10% of students around Australia. Well done and keep up the great work.

Remembrance Day

On Thursday the 11th of November Gorokan High School held its annual School Remembrance Day Assembly. In some unusual circumstances due to covid and weather conditions the assembly was recorded and played at 11am in classrooms for students. After more than four years of continuous fighting during the First World War, the firing ceased along the Western Front as an Armistice was called.



After the end of the Second World War, the name 'Armistice Day' was changed to 'Remembrance Day' so that day would commemorate all of the war dead. We now remember the contribution of the more than 120,000 Australians who have lost their lives in wars, conflicts and peace operations over the past century. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Gorokan High School Staff and Students for their cooperation on the day which ensured a respectful and dignified commemoration assembly. A specific thank you to Ms le Clercq, Mr Griffiths and Mrs McKinnon for their efforts in recording the assembly.

<https://youtu.be/jtHaNNMnPE8>



Mr Steve Carey
Head Teacher HSIE

Mr Woo visits GHS

As the year ends I would like to thank all the staff, students and community for their engagement and efforts so far this year. 2021 has been action packed as we look forward to 2022. Lately, the Mathematics Faculty have noticed a decline in students bringing the basic equipment needed to be successful. We ask that all students come to class prepared with an exercise book, pens and a calculator. Some Mathematics concepts need a calculator to complete the set tasks to a satisfactory standard. We sell CASIO Calculators at the front office, if you are ever in need. If there is any difficulty with having the correct basic equipment, please feel free to get in contact with the student's teacher to discuss the options available.

Eddie Woo Visit

On Wednesday 12 May 2021, Eddie Woo (famous Mathematics Teacher, Author, TV host and all-round nice guy) came to visit Gorokan High School. Eddie ran engaging sessions with students showing them that everyone can be a maths person. Students were excited, captivated and lined up to get him to sign their calculators!. The day also provided the opportunity for the maths faculty to engage in some professional development presented by Eddie and Craig Holden, that targeted developing tasks for the classroom which allows all students the ability to access and achieve as well as provide students with the opportunity to be extended through higher order thinking.

The day went far too fast and was a huge success! If you would like to learn more about Eddie Woo's story, I encourage you to borrow the signed



copy of 'Aussie STEM Stars: Eddie Woo' that he kindly donated to our school library.

Thank-You

Mr Daniel Jonovski
Relieving Head Teacher Mathematics

Science Term 4

This year is nearly over. Looking back we have packed a lot into a small amount of time.

In Science we explore our world and since last year was such a difficult time it has been great to extend this beyond our classroom and offer our students excursions. Our kids have represented our school on these excursions and the Marine excursion to Darling Harbour gained compliments on their behaviour and attitude. Importantly the skills and knowledge that we discuss in the classroom is applied into practical experiences that allows us to enhance our students learning.

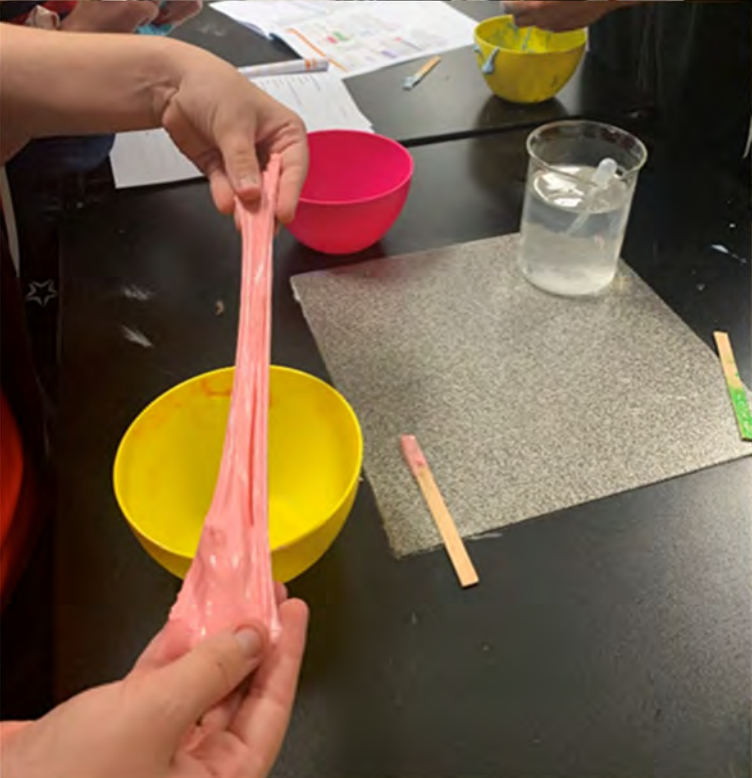
The STEM class went to the Central Coast Air Show preparation day and got the opportunity to get up and close to the aircraft that were on display on Saturday and Sunday. Millions of dollars worth of equipment within reach. We also spoke to pilots about the opportunities offered by the aviation industry. This included talking to an ex-Gorokan High student who is currently a Qantas 787 “Dreamliner” pilot! The students got to sit in an aircraft and experience what it would be like at the controls of an aircraft... even if they did not get off the ground.



With the genuine interest shown by our students in the Sciences being displayed by our offering all the Science courses in Years 11 and 12. The EXPO night is an important event that allows future scientists to discover the opportunities our school offers. This year EXPO Night was a great success. It was an enjoyable evening. Just a reminder if you have any questions about Science at Gorokan High or in general, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Shark and Ray centre allowed our Marine studies students hands on experience with living creatures we share our coast with. Mr Watson, Ms Laksa and Mr Fletcher organised and ran this wonderful experience and the students were still talking about this trip weeks after the event. The Sydney Aquarium always excites our kids and seeing the wonderful displays the Aquarium offers allowed our students to our coastal ecosystems in a whole new way. The great variety to bring the learning from their classwork into reality and definitely in 3 dimensions.

Science Faculty



Science Faculty Term 4

Marine Studies

Marine Studies students enjoyed peeling prawns as part of their Food from the Sea Unit. Delving into the anatomy and physiology of marine organisms and tackling the big issue of ocean sustainability. Students have also been helping with upgrades to the Marine Centre and restocking of some beautiful Marine Fish. Looking forward to a fun and fishy future for our oceans.



Science Faculty Term 4 2021



Museum of Human Disease

Our Senior Biology students explored the Centre for Human Diseases at the University of NSW. Here they were able to see and experience the collection of the University that shows how the human body is impacted upon by the diseases we encounter through life. The collection is not found anywhere else and again it lets students see what has been discussed in class in the real world. Both eye opening and interesting students learning is only enhanced by the practical experience.



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Mr Frank Mesina
Head Teacher Science

Various learning activities have been happening in all our lessons, from slime making to bubble science and everything in between!

Behind the scenes Mrs Prest, our wonderful Lab Coordinator always looks after us and lets the “learning happen”. A massive thank you to Mrs Prest.

Thanks again to the Science staff for their tremendous effort this year. We look forward to bringing “Our World” to our students.

Have an enjoyable and safe holiday. Looking forward to the new year ahead. Frank Mesina and the Science faculty.

Industrial Technology Automotive

Things are hotting up in the Industrial Technology Automotive area, our Year 12 are racing to finish their major projects. A collection of motor bikes, quads, go-carts and lawn mowers make up this year's collection of works. Year 11 are starting to reanimate another classic car before they start their projects next term.

Over the past four years each class has been learning how automotive vehicles work and how they can maintain their own cars by disassembling and repairing donated vehicles. One such car was the Commodore wagon donated by "the Computer Guy" of Charmhaven. When the vehicle was found to have blown a head gasket and was uneconomical to repair by G&S automotive they suggested that the car be donated to our school for the benefit of our students. When the owner agreed, Owen from G&S Automotive contacted Burston's Auto Parts and they supplied all the parts required to repair the vehicle free of charge. It is the support of these local businesses that give our students real life learning experiences, please support them wherever possible.



Industrial Technology Timber

The new car we are working on at the moment was donated by a family of some of our students, we thank them for their generosity.

The Year 9 and 10 Industrial Technology Timber class have been hard at work throughout the year finishing off their beautiful timber planter boxes. Multiple students were able to finish them in time to gift to their loved ones on Mothers Day.

Thankyou to Danielle S. for the picture of her wonderful project that is now sitting in her Grandmother's house.



Mrs Narelle Sheahan
Head Teacher TAS

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

Canyoning Term 4

Year 9 and 10 Outdoor Pursuits students participated in an abseiling and canyoning excursion on Thursday 9th December with the Australian School of Mountaineering in the Blue Mountains.

Students conquered any fear of heights in the morning abseiling session at Narrow Neck, completing several descents of 5, 15 & 40 metres as we watched a storm roll into Katoomba. Unfortunately, due to this storm we were unable to complete our original canyon descent, however we were able to complete the Grand Canyon which was a first for all of us.



OUTDOOR PURSUITS





OUTDOOR PURSUITS



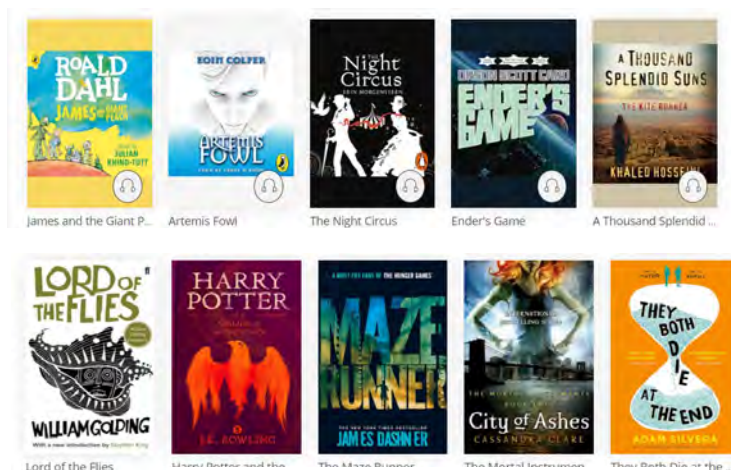


Mr Ben Drelincourt
Outdoor Pursuits Teacher



Wheelers eplatform

GHS now subscribes to Wheelers eplatform. This is a shared digital collection of ebooks and audio books that can be found on the school library catalogue. Our students now have access eBooks and Audiobooks anywhere, anytime.



ebooks



Audio Books

It's really simple platform to use an ebook or audiobook. Students need to login to Gorokan High School's ePlatform digital library, and from there select a great title. Simply hit the 'borrow' button and you can start reading or listening immediately.

1. Download the eplatform app
2. Search for Gorokan HS and login using your Dept. Ed password
3. Browse and borrow to read or listen on your device

Ms Samantha Powell
Teacher Librarian

The Subject Expo Night

This was held for Year 8 and Year 10 students and their parents, on 19 May and was once again very well attended. It was a very successful school community event.

Thanks to Ms. Jacobs for organising the night and also to all the staff for their efforts in setting up the hall, preparing the displays and information leaflets as well as making themselves available to speak with students and parents on the night.

We also appreciate that representatives from the University of Newcastle, TAFE NSW, State Training, and Central Coast Group Training were able to attend.

Central Coast Careers Pathways Expo

The excursion to Cooranbong on Tuesday 25 June which will be attended by year 10 and year 12 students.

The **CCCPE** is the region's biggest expo event! Attracting over 3,500 senior students from across the Central Coast each year, the expo gives these students the opportunity to gather information from over 200 exhibitors about the careers, courses and jobs they are interested in. Exhibitors are grouped into 17 industry areas – including employer and professional associations, TAFE, universities, colleges, training providers and employment agencies.

This is an excellent opportunity to speak to people from all areas of tertiary education and industries, such as health, construction, hair and beauty, just to name a few.

Work Experience

Chelsea-Leigh S. had a fantastic time at the Australian Reptile Park caring for Scorpions. Spiders, Snakes and Crocodiles. She also found time to pamper the Koalas.

Well done Chelsea-Leigh



Courses being offered @ GHS

At GHS we run Workplace Health and Safety Whitecard Construction Induction Courses throughout the year. This course is compulsory for all Year 10 students who want to do Work Experience in the Construction Industry.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact the school and if I am not available at the time the office staff will pass on your message to me.

Mr Steve Robertson
Careers Advisor

Some resources for parents:

The following resources will assist you in dealing with a variety of issues that may arise with your children whilst at High School.



Website link: <https://www.esafety.gov.au>

The Office of the **eSafety** Commissioner is committed to empowering all Australians to have safer, more positive experiences online. The Office was established in 2015 with a mandate to coordinate and lead the online safety efforts across government, industry and the not-for profit community.



- 📞 1300 22 4636
- 💬 Chat online
- ✉ Email us
- 👥 Online forums

Website link: <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

beyondblue provides information and support to help everyone in Australia achieve their best possible mental health, whatever their age and wherever they live.



Website link: <https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/>

Bullying. No Way! is your ally in your search for trustworthy and practical information about **bullying. Bullying. No Way!** provides information and ideas for students, parents and teachers and where to get help if you are being bullied.