

## Principal's Report

### Vale Gary Hartwig

It is with great sadness that the College mourns the passing of Gary Hartwig on October 17. Gary was a teacher at the College since 1971. He held a number of positions and made an outstanding contribution to education in Wodonga particularly in his time at Wodonga Technical School, Mitchell College and Huon Campus.

Gary had a great interest in teaching Humanities and coached many football teams to great success over the years. Gary's real strength was his ability to relate to and get the best out of disengaged boys. After Gary's retirement he returned to work part time and was more than happy to help the College out regardless of the load or how short the notice given.

Gary was always a gentleman. He always had time for a kind word and willingly offered his help to countless beginning teachers (and Principals). He will be remembered in my mind for his empathy with everyone - student, teacher and parent alike. Our thoughts are with Gary's family at this time. His funeral was held last Thursday.

### World Teachers' Day - Friday October 30, 2009

The Victorian Institute of Teaching encourages everyone to get together and honour our teachers on World Teachers' Day.

The theme follows last years "World Teachers every Day", recognises that teachers open the world to their students in many different ways in the work they do every day.

### Laptop Program Information Night for Year 7, 2010

An information evening to outline the Year 7 Notebook Program is to be held on Thursday, October 29 in the Huon Library, beginning at 7.00 p.m.

By way of a presentation, parents, teachers and students will be informed of :

- the notebooks the College will offer
- payment plans available
- our online learning environment
- support available to students when issues arise
- notebook warranties and insurances

Before this information evening, students will receive through their schools an outline of the information to be explained on the night. It is intended that this allows parents and students adequate time to read and consider the options available and any issues or concerns they may have.

At the end of each aspect of the presentation, there will be the opportunity for students and parents to ask questions to clarify any areas they are not sure of.

### National Australia Bank - Schools First Impact Award Winner

This week a local celebration was held at the Highwater Cottage on the causeway to celebrate the success of the \$50,000 Schools First Award. Our school was one of only 16 to be awarded this prestigious prize in Victoria.

The citation follows:

"School: Wodonga Middle Years College

Partner: Somebody's Daughter Theatre and Gateway Community Health (GCH)

Summary: this partnership involves the College working in partnership with Somebody's Daughter Theatre and Gateway Community Health (GCH) to engage marginalised rural youth in a creative arts led program (High Water Theatre). The

program addressed the needs of the increasing number of young people who have fallen out of the formal education system at a young age. The initiative was developed in response to concerns in the Region about increasing numbers of young people aged 12-16 who were not attending school. The existing formal education system was not working for these young people, leaving them disaffected, vulnerable and disadvantaged with limited future life choices. The Region has the lowest school-retention rate in the State. The program is not problem focused. It uses creative arts processes to address intergenerational unemployment, institutionalisation and poverty.

Over the past 8 years, HWT has devised and performed 18 original plays; staged 278 performances to more than 46,500 people; presented at 39 conferences, guided 3680 core workshops and 384 community workshops; and prepared and mounted 17 art exhibitions. Stage One of HWT has demonstrated the economic, financial and social benefits: 87% of its participants so far, are now employed or undertaking formal mainstream education. At the end of 2008, all core participants of HWT completed education studies. Attendance rates were over 85%. Completion rates included: VCE Year 11 units in English, Dance, Drama and Art, and VCE Year 12 Drama. The HWT program was awarded the Australia Council's Community Cultural Development Partners Award 2005 for "best practice in collaboration between arts and non-arts organisations".

### Melbourne Cup Holiday

The Victorian Government has declared Melbourne Cup a holiday for the entire State. The College will be closed on that day.

Given that in the past, a considerable number of parents take advantage of a four day break and take their children away from Wodonga, a special program will be in place for those students who attend school on the Monday prior to Melbourne Cup day. Year level Team Leaders will gain an indication from students about who will be attending and provide information to students on what activities will be in place.

### Restorative Practices

The College has adopted Restorative Practices as a method of resolving incidents where individuals or groups cause some form of harm to others.

The basis of the process is to restore the harm that has occurred and to re-establish good relationships. It is a clear movement away from the expectation of punishment leading to a change in behaviour. Restorative Practice involves all those affected by an event having the opportunity to explain how they feel and what harm they experienced. The outcome of the process is an agreement by all parties regarding future behaviour and interaction.

While this practice may take longer and is more confronting, it has proved to be very effective in supporting improved behaviours. We are now mirroring what is becoming the accepted standards in handling harm in our community.

### Family and Community Visitors

Anyone who wishes to talk to a student of the College must go to the relevant administration office. If appropriate, staff will arrange for the student to come to the office. It is important that all visitors to the College register at the administration office.

## Assistant Principals' Report

### Updated Contact Information

It is vital that parents keep the College up to date on all changes of phone numbers and addresses. We have not been able to contact parents due to disconnected or changes to phone numbers. If your only form of contact is a mobile phone, please ensure it is switched on at all times and please inform the College as soon as practical of any changes.

### Planning for 2010

Families who are aware that they will be moving out of the district and / or not returning to our College next year, are asked to inform their A Team teacher by the end of this month. This information greatly assists with our planning for 2010.

### Head Lice

There have been a few reported cases of head lice this week. Please check your child's hair on a regular basis, particularly behind the ears and the base of the scalp. If head lice or nits (the eggs) are detected please keep your child at home until they are treated.

### Uniform

Many workplaces require people to wear a uniform as they want their company to be presented in a positive way to the wider community. Uniform is important, whether at work or at school, as it presents an image of the organisation to others. Therefore it is important not just that we wear uniform, but **how** we wear it. Could parents please ensure that school dresses and skirts are worn knee length and buttons on shirts and dresses remain done up.

A reminder to parents and students that footwear must be black and enclosed.

### Sunsmart

A reminder to parents and students that broad - brimmed hats, sunscreen and / or sitting in the shade are behaviours we encourage during term 1 and 4. Broad- brimmed hats are part of the P.E. uniform and therefore should be worn.

### Course Selections

All current Year 7 and 8 students should have submitted their 2010 course selection sheet by last Wednesday. If your selection sheet has not been submitted, please do so immediately.

### It's Not OK to be Away

Student absence for any reason results in a break in the continuity of the program. Some absences are inevitable due to illness, however it is very important that any other absences are minimised. Parents and the College have the responsibility to ensure student attendance. This partnership is vital to support students through their education.

The College requires parents to inform us if students are absent. This contact can be via telephone or by a signed note detailing the dates that the student was absent from school.

The College is continually endeavouring to improve our processes in recording absences and keeping families informed.

**Alyson Miller, Richelle Moyle**  
Assistant Principals

### 4000 for Health

The Department of Human Services is undertaking a survey in Victoria to help win the fight against heart disease and diabetes. The study will depend on 4000 volunteers, each of whom will undergo a comprehensive health check and questionnaire followed by three telephone dietary interviews. Wodonga households are being contacted during October/November.

## Year 8

### Boys Group

Last term Mr Kennedy took a group of 25 boys to do a class called Footy, Fitness and Fair play (FFF). We began each week with a distance run, starting at about 1.5kms and gradually increased it to 2.5kms by the end of term. Our midweek session usually consisted of



intense fitness circuits, some football drills or small games. In our single session on Fridays we would normally discuss footy rules, tactics and other issues that are important to young people. This term we took a vote and decided to change our focus to basketball instead of football. We still have an emphasis on fitness and some of our activities include core strength activities, plyometrics training and weight circuits. On Wednesdays we normally work on our game play, skills and tactics. Friday is our theory lesson and so far we have discussed defensive and attacking plays. Sometimes the boys don't like the fitness circuits but when we focus on our skills it really helps. It has been mostly really fun.

**Seamus Quinn and Liam Potter 8E**

### RPM Automotive

Students in the Year 8 Automotive class have been designing and constructing billy carts this term. This has been a very challenging task for some of the students who have had to learn how to use the tools required for the first time. Well done.



### Congratulations

During the second week of the holidays, Melissa Bilney, a Year 8 student, participated in the Athletics Championships in Coburg. She competed in the 100m and 200m events winning both her heats and recording the fastest time in the 100m and the second faster in the 200m. Melissa then won both finals. She will now go to the AIS in Canberra during November for a week of tours and training, and if successful will be awarded a scholarship to the AIS. We wish Melissa the best of luck.

### Ceramics

Ms Leddin's Year 8 Ceramics class has had to research, design and construct a type of food. When the designs were ready students then had to make them. Firstly they moulded them and then let them 'set' for a day and then fired



them in the kiln. Coloured glaze was applied, followed by a clear glaze and then they were fired again. Lots of fun and many different foods were made including a slice of cheesecake with strawberries on top, an apple complete with grub, a hot dog, cupcakes and a bowl of fruit.

## Library

### River of Stories

The awards for the seventh annual "River Of Stories" writing competition was held at the Albury Library Museum last Saturday. This competition is sponsored by Rotary International,



Dymocks Booksellers and Albury City Council. Once again, many of our students from Wodonga Middle Years College entered the story and poetry writing competition. Thanks must go to the English teachers who guide and encourage their

students to enter competitions such as this.

Congratulations to all the students who entered the competition.

Section winners:

#### Huon

Ian McGill 9/10 Poetry  
Jess Boyd Year 7/8 Poetry

#### Felltimber

Emma Knowles 9/10 -Poetry  
Isabelle Pattison 9/10-Story writing  
Tamara Harrison 7/8 - Story writing

Nida Mollison from Felltimber received an Honourable mention.

Special thanks to the English staff and Library staff who assisted students in this community activity.

**Sue Manek, Helen Lees**

### The Dead and the Gone

The bloody and pale souls marched  
not over the blood drenched ground of that days push,  
but in the land of the dead in uniforms freshly starched.  
Brothers in arms patrol on the ground of their lost mates in that  
days ambush  
they hover for a moment over final battle grounds where they lost  
their souls,  
now they turn leaving their bodies to their brothers in arms,  
leaving the life they once knew.  
Bodies lie on the blood-stained ground, mangled and riddled with  
bullet holes,  
They will eat no more hard biscuits with weak cold tea and bully  
beef stew.  
As they cross over with one final goodbye they turn and see the  
fallen, friends and family, now all equals.  
Mates' faces once grim are now bright with life; they sit like an  
old battalion.  
On the other side, life is bright and God smiles on every one, and  
sees them now as immortals.  
See the old folks, mama and papa, sitting under an old tree with  
the rest of the family, mainly Italian.  
As we march we take our first step in this life, like birth, we are  
fresh from the womb of the living.  
See us all sitting in our groups talking of our memories, now, the  
only thing from the past worth reliving.

**Ian Magill, H9D**

### A Great Australian Story

Where: Wodonga Library

When: Wednesday, October 28 6pm - 7pm

Cost: FREE. Parents most welcome.

The story of Tom Wills - genius, sporting libertine, fearless leader and the man most often credited with creating Australian Rules Football. This story transcends sport and connects indigenous and white Australian histories in a way that has fascinated many people. Presented by Greg de Moore, Psychiatrist and award winning author of "Tom Wills: his spectacular rise and tragic fall." Greg de Moore will also be presenting at the Wodonga Middle Years College. This presentation is for Year 9 students and staff. He will be in the Library at

Huon: Periods 6 / 7, Wednesday, October 28

Felltimber: Periods 1 / 2, Thursday, October 29

Greg de Moore is a Consultant Psychiatrist at Sydney's Westmead Hospital and his expertise is in the area of mental health, more specifically, suicidal behaviour. His presentation will focus on his book, *Tom Wills: his spectacular rise and tragic fall*. De Moor carefully pieces together Tom's life, "a man who lived by his own rules and whose contribution to Australian history has endured for more that 150 years." (de Moore, 2009)

**Sue Manek  
Librarian**

## Art, Technology, Music and LOTE

### Indonesian Cultural Day

All the schools in the Hume Region were invited to attend a day to celebrate the Culture of Indonesia.



Many schools came along to share their experiences and join in the fun.

Many of the year 7's, 8's and some year 9's came along to the Civic Centre to join the festivities of Indonesian Culture Day. The students all had a role for the day, some were selling Indonesian cakes, and others were supervising activities to direct students from other schools. Such activities included Village games, Becak making and Becak riding. Whilst supervising, the students also had the opportunity to experience

other activities on the day such as traditional Dancing and Gamelan Orchestra playing and folk stories. You may have been lucky enough to see the students on prime News or maybe read about it in the Border mail.

The Indonesian Culture Day was heaps of fun. There were different workshops, prawn cracker eating competition, story book reading, dancing, putting a pen in a bottle, musical instruments, you could ride the becak or fill out a quiz to win a prize oh and there was Indonesian food... The dancing workshop was on prime T.V... the schools involved were Tallangatta secondary and primary, WMYC and Alexandra Secondary College... it was a fun day and every one enjoyed it.



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**Jasmine Kohne F8D**

We had traditional Indonesian dancers come to perform and teach us the dance's. We had 4 becaks that we got to ride and give lifts to one another. We also had stories, games, skipping ,music and food. We enjoyed the day very much.

**Jasmina Radoicic F8C**

# Lounging on high



**New monthly format**

**Friday, November 6**  
6pm to 9pm  
High St, Wodonga  
(from Elgin Blvd to South St)  
**FREE event**  
Theme: **Hoising around on High!**

Lounging On High is just like relaxing at home in your lounge room with family and friends, only bigger! Simply bring a chair and make yourself at home. We'll look after the rest.

Live entertainment  
Food and wine  
Children's activities  
Extended trading hours

**EVENT FEATURES**  
Entertainment: Uncle Fungus with a mix of various styles.  
M.E.G.A.S' Music Store open mic: Local musical talent performing.  
Fashions off the field: Fashion On High spring fashion parade.  
Roving around: Dodgy bookie and stilt-walking jockey on the loose.  
Children's activities:  
• Active Edge street games  
• McWaddleduck Farm.  
• Filly Faces face-painting.  
Featured winery: Rutherglen Estates.  
Arts Space Wodonga: Join us for the Coming Together 'Dhanyunmarr Ngurna' exhibition. Open to 8pm.

For more information, contact the event co-ordinator on (02) 6024 9371 or go to [www.wodonga.vic.gov.au](http://www.wodonga.vic.gov.au)



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## Malaysian Excursion 2010

### Malaysia 2010

Expressions of interest and initial deposits are now being invited for the upcoming Malaysian Safari. Departing on September 16, 2010, students will spend 10 days in Malaysia and will experience Malaysian culture and language first hand.

Tour highlights include: Batu Caves, Taman Negara National Park, Royal Selangor Pewter Factory, Batik Lesson, Kuala Gandah Elephant Conservation Centre, KL Tower, Baba Nyonya Heritage Museum, Traditional Malay Village, Sunway Lagoon Theme Park, Market Shopping

Estimated tour costs are from \$2,500 per student. This includes 9 nights accommodation, return economy airfare with Malaysian Airlines and some meals.

For further information, including a detailed itinerary please contact Michelle Heintze at Huon on 60579000 or via email at [MHeintze@wmyc.vic.edu.au](mailto:MHeintze@wmyc.vic.edu.au)

**An information session will be held at the Huon Campus on November 5 - time to be advised.**

**Michelle Heintze**  
LOTE

## Writing Group

### Retraction

Last week in the school newsletter under Writing Group heading, I knowingly put my name to a poem that was in a movie and I did not write. I wish to apologise to anyone I may have offended by not being honest.

**Sharna Anderson F7D**

## Dates to Remember

Dates for 2009	Activity
Tuesday 3 November	Melbourne Cup Holiday
Sunday 22 November - Thursday 26 November	Year 9 Felldtimber Tasmanian Camp
Sunday 30 November - Thursday 3 December	Year 9 Huon Tasmanian Camp

## Canteen Roster - Felldtimber

Monday, November 2	Katrina Dawes
Tuesday, November 3	Melbourne Cup Holiday
Wednesday, November 4	Helen Deegan
Thursday, November 5	Dot Wallace
Friday, November 6	Katrina Dawes

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