NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL
Text Only Newsletter

17 October, 2006 Volume 80, Issue 17

Celebrating 80 years of education in 2006

Diary

Oct 17-20. 8B Boho camp
Oct 17 VSSSA Athletics
   “The Trap” launch at ACMI City
Oct 19. Northcote Cluster
   Celebration Day—Town Hall
Oct 24. Curriculum day,
   No school for students
   Oct 24-27 8C Boho Camp
Oct 27. VCAA Exams commence
Oct 31-Nov 3. 8D Boho Camp
Nov 1. Yr 9/10 District Indoor Cricket/Soccer
Nov 3. Yr 11 End of Semester
Nov 6. No School for students
Nov 7. Melb. Cup holiday
   No School for students
Nov 8. Yr 11 Exams Commence (to Nov 14)
Nov. 14. 8 E Boho Camp (to Nov 17)
Nov 15. Yr 10 end of Semester
Nov 20. Yr 10 Exams commence (to Nov 24)
   Yr 12 Graduation
Nov 21. 8D Boho Camp (to Nov 24)
VCE Media’s “The Trap” launched

In July 2006, a group of twenty VCE Media students from Northcote High School attended a week-long camp at Boho South, where they produced a short film, titled “The Trap”.

The aim of the camp was to allow students to participate in the specific roles and responsibilities associated with the production of a film product. Students gained valuable creative and technical experience in all areas of production, from planning through to recording and editing.

Mr. Peter Staubli’s intention was to construct an entertaining and functional DVD that may be utilised by Media classes in the future. This opportunity enabled students to develop skills that could be applied to the creation of their own individual products for the completion of Units 3 & 4 in VCE Media.

“The Trap” relates the story of five teenagers who are rescued from a tragic plane crash in remote bush. Their rescuer, Norman a local farmer, cares for the survivors as they are cut-off from civilisation by floodwaters. A pair of hikers joins the group. When one of the hikers mysteriously disappears, the others become suspicious of Norman. Those remaining suddenly become the target of a vicious killer.

Shot in 16:9 widescreen, “The Trap” runs for 34 minutes & will screen at Australian Centre for Moving Image (ACMI) TONIGHT, Cinema 1. October 17th at 7pm. ACMI is at Federation Square, Flinders St, Melbourne.

Our Environment Expo.

On Thursday 5th & Friday 6th October over 350 Year 9 & 10 students from NHS and neighbouring schools had an opportunity to participate in our first Environment Expo.

Representatives from DSE State Forests, Powerworks, Alternative Energies Australia, Merri Creek Management Committee, EPA, Melbourne Water, Green Chemistry- Monash Uni & the Deakin Uni Careers presented workshops that both increased the awareness of environmental issues facing us today and in the future, as well as “hands – on” workshops.

A special thank you to the Science Staff and classroom teachers who assisted on the day.

Ms. Soula Bennett Head of Middle Years

2006 Year 7 AIM test results released

For the fifth consecutive year our Year 7 students have performed equal to or above the state average (which includes all state, Catholic and independent schools in Victoria) in all four areas that were examined in the AIM tests: Reading, Writing,
Spelling and Mathematics. This is an extremely satisfying result and augers well for our students in the future.

Our results were significantly better than those of ‘like’ schools – ‘like’ schools being those who have demographically similar populations.

Mean Results for the state, ‘like’ schools and Northcote High School (NHS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>State</th>
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<th>NHS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>4.2</td>
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Individual AIM results will be posted home.

Mr W. Neal

Arrangements for Yr 9 Exam Day—Oct 18th

As advised in parent information sessions and previous newsletters, on Wednesday Oct 18th, all Yr 9 students will sit a Maths and English Exam.

At 8.55 am
9B, 9C, 9D, 9E, 9F will report to the Hall for their Maths Exam.
9H will report to B11,
9I to B12
9G to B13
9A to B14

At 10.55 am,
9B, 9C, 9D, 9E, 9F will report to the Hall for their English Exam.
9H will report to B11,
9I to B12
9G to B13
9A to B14

Period 5 and 6 will operate as normal for all Yr 9 students.
Any queries should be directed to Year Level Coordinators Ms Fattore or Mr Ramsay

Diversity in the Kitchen—Saturday October 21

Don’t forget our next Diversity in the Kitchen event, featuring Vietnamese food, on Saturday October 21st, brought to you by the Northcote Highlights.
Selecting a VCE subject in Year 10, 2007

As we know, Term 4 is an important time for planning for the next school year. Students have been involved in information sessions and preliminary subject selection counselling. Having reviewed the Year 9 subject selections, we want to ensure that all Year 9 students and parents are clear about the option of doing a VCE Unit1/2 subject next year in Year 10. We believe that doing a VCE subject in Year 10 is a very strong option for students and one of several effective ways to prepare for future VCE studies.

By doing a VCE subject in Year 10, students can become familiar with the VCE structure, timeline and workload without the full pressure of being in Year 11 or Year 12. It also allows students to consider the option of doing a Unit 3/4 in Year 11 and have a sixth subject as part of their ENTER calculation in Year 12.

Prior to building the subject blocking, students have a final opportunity to sign up for a VCE subject. The options for next year's Year 10 students include:

- Design Technology Fibre
- Design Technology Wood
- General Maths Further
- Health & Human Development
- C20th History
- Information Technology
- Physical Education
- Psychology
- Studio Art (Digital Photography)
- Systems Engineering

These options will be further discussed with students at the Year 9 Assembly on Tuesday, 17 October. Request forms have been mailed to Year 9 students and parents and can also be picked up in the VCE Centre.

Completed requests should be returned to Ms Hill in the VCE Office by Wednesday 25th October.

If you have questions, please contact Ms Hill on 94882312.

Constitutional Convention Report

On Wednesday Northcote High held their first ever Constitutional Convention. A Constitutional convention is like a youth forum where students can hear speakers, discuss the issue and hear other young peoples ideas. The topic of Wednesday’s convention was ‘Is Reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians important? What could Northcote High do to move towards reconciliation? We had speakers from the Indigenous Community come and speak; they spoke well and informed everyone on the issue. When the small discussion groups reported back we found that we had a bright and energetic group of minds
that all seemed to be progressive in their thinking and everyone felt that they learnt a lot from the day.
All in attendance made recommendations and they are being collated into one recommendation, which will be sent to the principal as well as school council. We will place the final draft in the next newsletter.
Kate and I would both like to thank the speakers, Anthony Brown, Jacqui Marion and Michael Long and also a special thanks to the indigenous student group for their input both before and on the day. Of course or biggest thanks go to Martin Ramsay and Deborah Pyke for all of their help with making the day the success that it was.
*Noni Sproule and Kate Jama (Student Organisers)*

**An Outstanding Music Concert**

The final Music concert for 2006 was a chance to celebrate the great successes of the year - and to hear some great music. Performing on a hot October night to a packed audience in our school hall, the various Northcote bands and groups demonstrated again why we are regarded as one of Melbourne’s premier Music schools. We were also able to wish a fond farewell and good luck to our 12 senior musicians, who are about to do their final school exams.

**ACE PROGRAM ENTRANCE EXAMS FOR YEAR 9 2007**

There are a number of places available in the ACE program for students who will be in year 9 in 2007. Entry is via examination and costs $25 per student. The exam will be conducted at school and all students registered will be notified of the date. If you would like more information and an application form, contact Mrs Butera on 94882357. Applications close Friday 27th October, 2006

**Number One In Australia!!**

Last week Annie Xiao of 10B attended the National tabletennis titles. She displayed her best form ever playing as the number 2 seeded player for Victoria who won the National teams title.
Annie also finished third in Australia in the U16 Singles competition and 5th in the U18 Singles competition. Saving her best for the U18 doubles competition she finished first with her partner in the whole of Australia.
Annie is currently studying Team Sports and Leadership in Year 10 at Northcote High School and has become a leading sportstar and female role model for everyone in the Northcote community.
Mr.Price(Sports Director)
NHS’s first Mountain Bike Team

On the 16th September, Henry Hughes, Alex Ricco & Alex Rooke made history by being the first Northcote High School mountain bike team. We competed in the “FullGas Promotions 12 hour endurance” mountain bike race. The race is a lapped race with only one team member on the circuit at one time. The laps are approx. 40-50 mins long. We placed 2nd with 15 laps in the schools team category. Also Carson Tully (Yr 12) and ex-student Simon Wright competed in other teams. Carson’s team finished inside the top 10 with 17 laps in the 3 man category and Simon’s team placed 1st with 20 laps in the same category. Well done to all the guys and thanks to Mr. Price for his encouragement, generous donation and support.

Alex Rooke 11c

Our First Annual Art Show

To showcase the high standard of student art work in the school, Northcote ran its first student Art show from October 12th-14th. About 200 people attended the opening night to view student work, a feast of creativity from all year levels - our Year 7's through to final production pieces for Yr 12 Studio Art. The school intends to make this an annual event.

More views of our Overseas trips

New Caledonia (at right)
The best part of New Caledonia was Amadee Island. The boat ride over was a bit rough but was fun because the islanders were playing songs on the guitar which we could sing along to. At first we were freaked out because of the scary snakes but soon loved the Island. It was a beautiful day and we spent most of the day on the beach and swimming. We had the best lunch I've ever had with delicious.....seafood. After that we went on the glass bottom boat and got to see fish and a few turtles. It was definitely the best day in New Caledonia.

Morgan Wall

China (see photos on Page 7)
In September Northcote High School students, staff and five parents visited China for two weeks. This was a new style of international excursion from NHS as it combined students from two different subject areas. Most of the students were studying International Studies in Year 11 or 12, while others were studying LOTE Chinese. Regardless of their subject backgrounds, all the students formed a remarkably friendly, supportive and responsible group which made the journey all the more enjoyable for everyone involved.
The excursion followed the itinerary that the school has been following on previous trips to China, but some significant additions were included which greatly enhanced the experience. On our first stop, in Shanghai, the students visited Shanghai East Teaching University where they were given the opportunity to speak with one of
China's leading academics on Australian-Chinese relations (Professor Hou) and talk with some of his students. While in Shanghai, the group were able to see and experience the astounding commercial energy and development that characterise this massive city (of over 17 million people).

In a dramatic change of pace and style, the group arrived in Huaibei, home of Northcote’s sister school. This was clearly the biggest highlight of the tour for the students and adults alike. The genuine excitement and warmth from Huaibei’s students and teachers toward our group was quite overwhelming. Also, the experience with homestays and the 7am to 9pm school days gave all the group members a new perspective on life and school! The intensity of activities and experiences during the three days in Huaibei are difficult to describe, but some significant events included;

students participating in mass sports lessons (in martial arts), having dinner with the parents of Jing Wang, school captain and former Huaibei student, students being treated to a detailed lecture and discussion about the nature of Chinese politics and government by teachers from Huaibei No 1 Middle School. Our Northcote students demonstrated incredible maturity and sensitivity in their questions and responses.

We departed Huaibei in an unforgettable manner - involving a student being held at a police station (while details of his lost passport were taken), Ms Wang being delivered to the bus in a police vehicle and a Hollywood-style bus trip to catch our overnight train to Xian.

After visiting the grand archaeological sites of the Qin emperor and his tomb of terracotta warriors, the group experienced the spectacular, natural beauty of the Hua Mountain and enjoyed a stunning gondola ride to one of the peaks. This small mountain in China rises to the same height as Australia’s highest mountain. Upon returning to the centre of Xian, the group were able to take time to experience more street-level activities in China, with bicycle tours of the ancient city walls, market and food shopping behind the grand mosque and soaking up the atmosphere of night shopping in the streets and malls radiating from Xian’s central and ancient bell tower.

In the final days of the trip, the group travelled to Beijing where the impossibly grand and ancient Forbidden City and Great Wall of China made enormous impressions on all members of the group. These impressions, will perhaps compete with their memories of the hard bargaining with Beijing merchants. The level of Chinese language of commerce was definitely highly developed among many of the group, not just the LOTE Chinese students.

As the teachers who led this trip, it was genuinely rewarding and pleasing to take such interested, engaged, robust and mature group of students away from school for those two weeks. Our thanks are also extended to the five parents who came with us. The patience, good humour and constant support from these parents was incredibly important to the overall success of the tour.

xie xie (thank you). Mr Gilby and Ms Wang

Wang lao shi and Jilby lao shi.
(Ms Wang and Mr Gilby)

Planning for the 2007 Trip to China

An Information night for parents & students for the 2007 China Tour will be held on
Monday 23rd October 2006 7.00pm in Room A1 (Art Centre)
Mr Price is looking for 10-15 more students in Years 9 and 10 (this year) to go to China in Term Two, 2007
How would you like to
Fly to and from China
Stay with a Chinese family (homestay at our sister school for 3-4 nights)
Go to a day or two of classes in our Chinese sister school
Spend 3-4 days in Huaibei at and around our sister school
Play sport with and against Chinese students
Visit the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Ming Tombs, the Temple of Heaven, the Terracotta Warriors, Beijing Olympics infrastructure preparation, Beijing Institute of Sport
Spend 10 days travelling around China as a tourist—going to all the best places—Shanghai, X’ian, Beijing etc
The estimated cost is $3500 all inclusive (all fares, transfers, all accommodation, most meals and entry fees, guides where relevant) paid over 6 months. Parents may also be able to attend.
The proposed dates are currently May 8-21st 2007. The Olympics are in Beijing in August 2008 and this may be one of the last times the school can offer this tour at such a good price.

Please note that all interstate and overseas tours run by Northcote High School are subject to School Council and Department of Education approval. There may also be variations in costs due to changes in airfares or land content. Cost of passport, luggage and spending money is not included.

Community links for Chinese National day
During the school holidays on 24th September, five female students( Xijunyi Li, Jing Wang, Zhen Wang, Ziyang Tian and Shujing Yi) were involved in the celebration of the Chinese National Day at Preston Town Hall. There were more than 20 different performance groups all celebrating together. The Mayor of Darebin City Stanley Chiang and other officers attended the function. Our students performed brilliantly and were applauded by everyone.

Ms. Emily Wang

Short School Notices

UNDER-14 CRICKET PLAYERS WANTED
The Edinburgh Cricket Club (based at Edinburgh Gardens in North Fitzroy) is looking for under-14 players for its two under-14 cricket teams. If you are interested in joining us please contact: Michael Fry 0418 107 413 or mfry@nelsonalexander.com.au

HOMESTAYING FRENCH STUDENTS FOR FOUR WEEKS IN 2007
The Department of Education is very interested in having Northcote High School take 4 French students for four weeks homestay in JUNE 2007. The criteria they have set out is as follows: 1) NHS Students will be Year 10 students 2) French students MUST be matched with same age / same sex host 3) Host families MUST be school families. If you think you might be interested speak to Ms Schapper. Home-stay families would be paid.

HOMESTAYING THAI STUDENTS FOR SIX WEEKS IN 2007
In 2007, NHS will not be hosting students from Japan as we have for the last three years. Instead, we are considering a 4-6 week home-stay for 12 students from Thailand. 2 weeks would be in a language centre and 2-4 weeks at NHS. This is ideal for families who would like an slightly extended home-stay or who see value in developing a relationship with a student from Asia. If you think you might be interested or you’d like more information, contact Mr Murphy at school. Home-stay families would be paid.

CONSERVING WATER AT SCHOOL
As a school community of 1300 teachers and students, we need to do our part to conserve water for Melbourne. Please make sure taps at school are turned off and water leaks are reported to our General Office. Fire plugs should be left intact and not used to collect water. Water play games are absolutely forbidden at all times at school. All families are asked to discuss this issue with students at home.

VCE SECOND HAND BOOK SALES—November 17th  L.1
Do you have VCE books you want to sell? Nov 17th is the day to hand in Year 11 and 12 books, at L.1. In the school foyer you will find pricing slips to attach to the books, as per last year’s arrangements.

If you have any queries, contact Vernice Petty on 0402 203 937
The next newsletter will have details of arrangements for other Year Levels.

NHS Parent information Evening—Oct 23rd

Challenging parenting issues of our time: Binge drinking, partying and managing adolescents.
An important information evening for Northcote High School Parents, 7pm, October 23rd, NHS library
Guest Speakers include
NORTHCOTE POLICE
Information on The Victorian Police Party Safe Program and a discussion on Adolescents & The Law.
TURNING POINT ALCOHOL & DRUG CENTRE
A discussion of drugs, including alcohol and suggestions on how to have conversations with adolescents about this issue
ABCD PARENTING PROGRAM
Parents will be provided with information, skills and strategies for developing and maintaining trusting, positive and accepting relationships with their young adolescents.
DATE: Monday 23rd October 2006, TIME: 7pm LOCATION: Northcote High School Library
COST: Gold Coin donation to cover costs of refreshments will be appreciated.
Queries to Sarah Phillips, School Nurse
Northcote Cluster Student celebration—19th October

Parents are invited to celebrate the work of students and teachers at the Northcote A Cluster Celebration Day “A Community of Learners” on 19th October at 4.45 – 7.45 pm at Northcote Town Hall, Studio 1. Tea and coffee will be provided. The Honourable Mary Delahunty MP will be present from 4.45 – 5.15 to meet students and parents. Please RSVP to Lillian on 9488 2301.

Alphington Primary School, Baltara School, Northcote High School, Northcote Primary School, Thornbury Primary School, Victorian School of Languages and Westgarth Primary School will present interactive displays.

DOBSON'S UNIFORM SHOP

OPENING HOURS TUESDAY 12.30 - 3.30PM FRIDAY  8.30 - 11.00AM
These hours are until the end of October, when we will extend our opening times. Remember if you shop before 29 October you receive "early bird" discounts.
We are now accepting 2nd hand uniform items in good, clean condition for resale on commission. We particularly require girls' dresses and skirts. The seller receives 70% of the selling price. 26% is donated to the Student Services here at NHS.
Northcote High Uniform Shop
St Georges Rd
Northcote Phone  9488-2317  Email Nor@Dobsons.com.au