NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL
Text Only Newsletter

13 March, 2007 Volume 81, Issue 4

Celebrating 80 years of education in 2006

Diary

Mar 13. 7F to Boho (to Mar 16)
   District Swimming

Mar 14. Shortened Day. School finishes 12.30 pm
   District Yr 11/12 Tennis, Baseball

Mar 16. District Yr 9/10 Tennis, Baseball

Mar 19. Yr 9 ACE Hi Camp (to Mar 23)

Mar 20. District Yr 8 Tennis,
   Baseball

Mar 22. Music Concert. Hall
   District Yr 7 Tennis, Baseball

Mar 23. District Yr 7 finals

Mar 25. Daylight savings ends

Mar 27. 7G Boho camp departs (to Frid Mar 30)
   USA Space Camp departs (to Ap 9)
   7-10 Zone Boys Cricket

Mar 28. 7-10 Zone Girls Cricket

Mar 29. Parent Teacher Meetings
   (all day 10-8 pm)
   No classes for students

Mar 30. Last day of school. School ends at 2pm

Ap. 16. First day Term 2
Batman breaks the drought!

2007 School Swimming Carnival
After years in the Swimming wilderness Batman House had a fine win in 2004 and followed up the double in 2007. Under the enthusiastic guidance of new teacher Mr. Simon Lasslett a sea of red clothed students celebrated their success.

On a lovely sunny day with the temperature in the high twenties over 500 Northcote High students attended the Northcote pool. We had 48 swimming events, 50 novelty small pool events and 22 diving and bombing events. The staff versus students event was hotly contested with 8 teams competing. School captains Cassie Zurek and Ben Walton – Healey arrived unexpectedly at lunchtime to lead home the winning team. The teachers’ team finished a creditable third. A highlight of the day was the fast times and close finishes between Under 14 – year 8 girls Eve Walton-Healey and Lauren Gilder. These 2 girls and many other students have made great improvements in their times over the last 12 months. Other standout performers were Lily Potocnik(Year 9), Sarah Andrew-Reiper(10), Olivia Stray(7), Alessi Burnham(10), Gerard Gilder and Will Green of Year 7, Mark Langley(8), Jayden Mastin(9) and Nicholas Rickard and Charlie Curtis(7 seconds to Nicholas) of Year 10.

Many senior students like super fish Lewin Eddy of Year 11 join our 55 strong swim team which is competing at Richmond Pool today. Most of these students will then progress to the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre in early Term 2 for the Zone swimming championships. Good luck to all of our swimmers.

Mr Craig Price

Principal’s Report

This past week has been another of those wonderful weeks at Northcote High School that combine student learning, teaching excellence and the richness of our diverse community.

Together as a community
Our much anticipated annual Year 7 Barbeque was a great success. This year, there was a huge turn out of parents, students, teachers, support staff and family members to share in the spirit of the event. The wonderful music created by our NHS musicians added a new
dimension to this special evening in which we welcome our new families and gather as a community. It was great to see our students introducing their parents to each other, pastoral care teachers and parents sharing their student’s excitement about the first few weeks of school and camp, younger siblings coming up to tell me how many years until “I can come to Northcote!”, delicious food and the supportive preparation by our Northcote Highlights, Assistant Principal Kate Morris and Year 7 coordinators, Lynn Delahunty and Bill Neal. It is no surprise that parents, students and staff always fondly remember the Year 7 barbeque.

Our greater community
This week a group of students and staff were fortunate enough to travel to the Barmah State Forest for four days. As guests of the Yorta Yorta people, our students and staff were able to hear and experience the depth of heritage and cultural significance of this beautiful place and the learn about the generations of Yorta Yorta people. Our Indigenous students and parents were instrumental in initiating, planning and running this camp opportunity for our students and our staff. We sincerely thank them.

Whole school planning and professional learning
On Friday’s curriculum day, the entire NHS Staff was involved in working on our four year Strategic Plan and our 2007 Annual Implementation Plan. The Strategic Plan is focused on improved student learning outcomes across all year levels, improved student engagement and well being through an emphasis on teacher-student relationships and the enhancement of student pathways and transitions across all year levels. Staff were also involved in sessions focused on effective teaching practices and the implementation of the VELS curriculum, Year 9 LSF program and VCE achievement support strategies.

Performance and Development for all staff
This year, we have further committed to the critical professional growth, performance and development of all staff members. On Wednesday, 14 March, students will be dismissed at 12:30 and all staff (teachers, support staff and principals) will be meeting from 1:30-4:30 to align our individual performance plans with those of our school. We appreciate your support as we strive to strengthen the teaching, learning and support at NHS.

Bringing Science to the Community
You may have read some recent newspaper articles on a national trend of reduced enrolments in mathematics and science. This is not the case at NHS thanks to our dedicated inspiring teachers and our supportive community and university partnerships. On Wednesday, 14 March, we will be hosting Professor Carl Schiesser, a world leader in Free Radical Chemistry and Deputy Head of Chemistry at the University of Melbourne, in our first “Bringing Science to the Community” twilight sessions. We want to thank Professor Schiesser for helping to bring science to life and to our community.

School Council Thanks and Congratulations
Lastly, I want to congratulate our re-elected School Council members- Di Frost, Brenda Gilmartin and Wayne Roberts and our newly elected member – Arthur Secoulidis. Sincere thanks to our outgoing School Council members, Graham Moore and Charles Caddy. As School Council Treasurer, Graham, has been instrumental in assisting us to develop our sound effective financial practices and both Graham and Charles have made significant contributions to the guidance and leadership that is provided by our School Council. We thank them and wish them well in the future.

Gail Davidson
Principal

DECLARATION OF SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION, 2007
I have pleasure in announcing the successful candidates for the 2007 School Council. Congratulations to the following parents and staff:

PARENT MEMBER CATEGORY Diane Frost, Arthur Secoulidis
D.Ed. EMPLOYEE MEMBER CATEGORY Brenda Gilmartin, Wayne Roberts

Gail Davidson Principal
Our Stage Band—Bold & Brilliant

The Northcote HS Stage Band has made an impressive start to 2007. After only 5 weeks of term 1 (only 5 rehearsals) they have already performed at the Yr 7 BBQ and at Melbourne's Federation Square.
The Band was invited to perform in this high profile location and prepared a program including swing, funk & rock styles. The band also featured vocalist on three items.
The Band was well received and attracted a good crowd in spite of the overcast and occasionally rainy periods.
The Stage Band will also perform at the Darebin Arts Centre on Thursday March 29. If you have not heard this swingin' band come along to one of their concerts and be impressed by their big sound and versatility.

Cooking up a storm at the Yr 7 BBQ!

A large number of parents, teachers and students, a cool late summer evening and some wonderful music and company. Thanks to all who helped make our Yr 7 BBQ such a success!

Northcote Highlights events for 2007

The Northcote Highlights parents group plans the following key events for 2007.
Saturday May 5. Diversity in the Kitchen, Series 1. The first of our fantastic cooking workshops.
Tuesday June 5. Understanding adolescence—our workshop with professionals.
Friday August 31. “Hot August Night”. A fabulous night as parents become entertainers
Saturday October 20th. Diversity in the Kitchen, Series 2. The second of our fantastic cooking workshops.

To join the Highlights mailing list, please email pearse.doris.m@edumail.vic.gov.au with the word HIGHLIGHTS as the subject

Collingwood Swimming Stars

Last Friday, Alec and Lil (9D), Nick, Harriet and Alessi (10H) along with 9 other members of the Collingwood Swimming Club participated in the MS 24 Hour Mega Swim. The group named themselves the Collingwood Crawlers. It was a festive environment, with Rotary cooking day and night so swimmers could keep their stamina. Spot prizes were given out during the 24 hours. A total of 27 teams participated, the Collingwood Crawlers were the youngest team participating. But they certainly weren’t crawlers, coming third in the distance covered with a total of 84.6 kms. They managed to raise $1688.50 and would especially like to thank teachers and fellow students for support.
World’s Greatest Shave—16th March

On Friday 16th March Northcote High will be hosting their own “World’s Greatest Shave Day”
This annual event is held Australia wide to raise money to assist families of patients living with
leukaemias, lymphomas, myeloma and related blood disorders.
Money raised, goes directly towards helping families in every state to relocate to their nearest
city for treatment
“The Big Event” will occur at lunchtime on Friday 16th March in the hall. A group of dedicated
fundraisers will be colouring student’s hair at the cost of $3. A head shave will cost you $5
and will be performed by a qualified hairdresser who is donating her time for the event.
The “Shave For A Cure Day” was a great success last year but unfortunately a number of
students were unable to take part and boost our schools donation as they did not bring along
their SIGNED permission forms! Don’t miss out this year!!! REMEMBER NO PERMISSION
FORM NO COLOUR/SHAVE (see attachment)
Questions? Information or Huge Donations! Can be directed to the WellbeingTeam.

Tall Poppies at Northcote High

The Victorian TALL POPPY SCIENCE AWARDS recognise the achievements of young
Victorian researchers from a wide mix of scientific and biomedical research areas, with strong
representation of both men and women.
The awards not only acknowledge the recipients’ achievements, but also provide them with
an opportunity to demonstrate their value as role models by promoting and encouraging an
interest in science within the education sector.
Northcote High School is proud to be one of four schools selected to participate in the
program which will result in visits to the school by the TALL POPPIES throughout 2007.
The first of these visits will involve Yr 11 Biology & Chemistry students as well as Year 9
Science students and will occur on Monday 26th March. Dr. Rachel Caruso and Dr. Hylton
Menz will give a brief outline of their professional journey as well as talk about their current
research and scientific pursuits, with an opportunity for students to ask questions.

Ms. S. Bennett

Yr 9 visit to Ecolink

On the 27th of February 100 Year Nine Geography students attended a full day course at
Ecolinc (http://www.ecolinc.vic.edu.au/) in Bacchus Marsh. Students engaged in four
seminars focusing on how people can make conscious choices to change their practices at
home and at school in order to reduce their water and energy use. Students were particularly
interested in the Australian Greenhouse gas Calculator. Why not visit the site and see what
your greenhouse emissions are?
Ms P. Kelly
Term 1 Summer Sports kick off

All of our Boys and Girls Years 7-12, Cricket, Volleyball, Tennis and Soft/Baseball teams will begin their district campaigns over the next 2 weeks. Winners from these competitions will then play off in Zone finals in late term 1 and early Term 2.

Our Year 11 and 12 Girls finished their campaign playing off against arch rival Mac Robertson Girls. Our Girls captained by Megan Conboy made 5/62 off 18 overs (Polly Koeleman 36 not out). Mac Robertson passed our total in the 16th over. This was a close game that could have gone either way. Team coach Cathy Lester was impressed with the behaviour, sportswomenship and positive attitude of all of our players.

Public Transport Challenge 2007

The METLINK Public Transport Challenge provides students in Years 7-10 with an opportunity to learn about their environment, to gain teamwork skills, and to discover new destinations whilst using Melbourne’s public transport system to explore their city. The event is conducted by Metlink in partnership with Environment Victoria. Orienteering in teams of four students and one adult, participants use trains, trams and buses to reach destinations around Melbourne and collect as many points as possible. Winning teams from the suburban heats (held in April and May) advance to a CBD-based final on World Environment Day, Tuesday 5 June 2007.

Two teams of four students from NHS can enter. One team is Yr 7-8, the other Yr 9-10.

If you are interested, get your team together and see Mr Murphy a.s.a.p! We must register you by the end of the week


Give Tobacco the boot day – 28th March

ON NATIONAL YOUTH TOBACCO FREE DAY
With almost 140 000 Australian school students smoking regularly each year, young people are being encouraged to celebrate National Youth Tobacco Free Day on Wednesday 28 March 2007 by giving tobacco the boot.

National Youth Tobacco Free Day spokesperson, Fiona Edwards said deciding not to smoke is one of the best decisions any young person can make.

“Tobacco kills almost 20 000 Australians every year, and the fact is that most of these deaths will occur in people who started smoking before the age of 18 years.”

“We know that the younger you start smoking the harder it is to quit. Dependence on tobacco can sneak up on you. There are no ringing bells or flashing lights to announce its arrival,” said Ms Edwards.

To mark National Youth Tobacco Free Day, young people are invited to go to www.OxyGen.org.au to find out what they really know about being dependent on tobacco. By taking the online quiz, young people aged between 10 and 25 years, have the chance to win an iPod Video and $50 iTune vouchers.

The competition opens on 31 January 2007 and closes at 5:00pm (AEST) on 5 April 2007.

For more information on the competition or for more ideas on how you can celebrate National Youth Tobacco Free Day, go to the OxyGen website at www.OxyGen.org.au
Live and Study OS in 2007/2008

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange will run a public information session on
Tuesday March 27th at 7.30 pm for parents and
interested students

Hemisphere Conference Centre 488 South road Moorabin
For further information go to
Www.scce.com.au Phone 1800 500 501

Watsonia Heights Soccer Club

PLAYERS WANTED
NEW PLAYERS ARE CURRENTLY REQUIRED FOR THE FOLLOWING TEAMS:
UNDER 13 MIXED
UNDER 14 BOYS
UNDER 16 GIRLS
EACH OF THE ABOVE TEAMS HAS VACANCIES FOR PLAYERS OF ALL LEVELS. SO IF
YOU HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO PLAY SOCCER HERE IS YOUR CHANCE!
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB PAGE AT: www.whjsc.org.au
OR CONTACT: ROSS WALKER - 0402 092 531

Community Mail Bag

VCE Private Tuition English, ESL, Literature, History
I am an experienced VCE teacher of English, ESL, Literature and History offering private
tuition in 2007. I am registered with The Victorian Institute of Teaching. I am currently
teaching VCE English and VCE ESL and am familiar with a wide range of current VCE print
and film texts. Tutoring to lower Year Levels is also offered.
For further information or to arrange a tutoring session, please call Jan on 0414 584 599 or
9489 2490. Referees are available if required.

TOM HAFEY VISIT
Tom Hafey, the footballing legend, is coming to speak to Year 12 on Wednesday 14th March. The
presentation will be followed by a BBQ on the balcony of C Block for Year 12s.

TUTORING
I have just graduated from Aerospace Engineering at RMIT. I have experience in tutoring at high school,
tertiary level and also led study groups. Most of my students have been able to achieve a minimum of a
distinction grade. I teach Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and Accounting for Year 10 and Year 11
students. Having recently graduated, I bring a fresh and easy approach method to break down the
complexities in understanding the fundamentals of these subjects. If interested contact Deepak Roy
(04)21 000 056; or email at deepakroy83@hotmail.com.
Tutoring can be given at students' residence or the Local library.

Engineering Careers Expo 2007
Tuesday 17th April 3-6pm

NGV 180 St. Kilda Road. Entry is Free! Interested students are invited to register online
www.engcareerrexpo.org.au prior to March 30th! All educational institutes that provide engineering related
courses will be represented. Exhibitors will assist Students to explore educational pathways and learn of
the many and related career opportunities available in Engineering – 2007 is the year of Women in
Engineering, so girls are particularly encouraged to attend!
The Aim of Scouting is to encourage the physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual development of young people so that they take a constructive place in society as a member of their local, national and international community.

2nd Clifton Hill Scout Group is holding an information session for new parents to find out about:
- Joey Scouts ages 6–8
- Cub Scouts ages 8–11
- Scouts ages 11–14
- Venturers ages 14–18

and the great fun to be had:
- experiencing outdoor activities
- learning skills necessary to accomplish goals
- exploring and helping our community and environment
- promoting teamwork, understanding and preparedness
- making new friends.

Both girls and boys can participate at all levels.

Parents who would like their child to join need to attend a parent information session which will be held at:
3.30 pm 18 March 2007
The 2nd Clifton Hill Scout Hall
85 Walker St, Clifton Hill
(Melways 2D2C)

Light refreshments provided.

Any enquiries please phone:
Peter Jeppesen – 9489 7184 (H)
Annabellie Murray-Smith –
9489-7840 (I-H)

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BECOME AN AWESOME DANCER

**STYLES ON OFFER INCLUDE**
- HIP-HOP
- JAZZ
- BALLET

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Vikki Ellen
Mobile 0401 740 051
Email awesomedancer@bigpond.com
Guides Hall, Wingrove St Fairfield
Ages 3 years to Adults