NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL
Newsletter
Volume 83, Issue 7
Celebrating 83 years of education in 2009
5 May 2009

New $11 million Trade Training Centre

Northcote High School is part of a consortium of eight local schools that have been granted $11.7 million by the Federal Government, to help establish a Trade Training School Centre based at Northland Secondary College—to be known as NTEC Regional Trade Training Centre.

This Federal initiative will provide $2.5 billion over the next 10 years to Australian secondary schools. Trade Training Centres are being established to help increase the proportion of students achieving Year 12 or an equivalent qualification and help address skill shortages in traditional trades and emerging industries.

The NTEC Centre will provide another option and wider pathways for Northcote students. Vocational options at NTEC will also have links to actual jobs in industry. Northcote High School is the largest school in the consortium and stands to gain significantly from the project.

High Resolves for Yr 10s

Being involved with the High Resolves Initiative was one of the most valuable experiences of my life. Not only were we taught to be leaders, but we learned also what it means to be a leader. That is to use one’s skills for good and for optimism, rather than for negativity. We asked ourselves whether, in 50 or 100 years, our actions will be on the right side of history—and that question alone filled us with a profound desire to act on our personal beliefs and to reverse the common thought that society is an ugly beast.

Together we participated in a game that at first glance seemed incomprehensible and uninteresting, but turned out to be an invigorating and socially relevant one. Every participant was randomly designated a country to act as the ambassador for, and was vested with the responsibility to work with other nations to form a General Agreement on Climate Change. Tempers flared, alliances were formed and newly learned methods of conflict resolution were implemented. Before this game we had examined ‘Selective Attention’ and the importance of not just focusing on a single thing, but looking at the big picture.

At the end of the program, we walked out of the school library far richer in our knowledge of so many different things; it seemed almost unbelievable that it had happened in the space of just two days.

Walter Batt, Yr 10

At right—Diyanna Mimtas, our of our hard working HR Moderators.
All agreed our new Athletics venue was excellent! For the first time in several years our Senior Students joined competition as part of their VCE Physical Education course.

At Right: As usual—Zoe McWhinney makes running the 400 metres look like a walk in the park!

A Merri Day was enjoyed by all?

Term 2 has started with our Annual Athletic Carnival being held at the Collingwood Harriers track in Clifton Hill. It was looking like the day could be rained out but with a bit of luck we defied the storm clouds and completed all the events by 2.00pm. Our students and staff were amazingly resilient working hard and positively in cold, showery conditions. Highlights of the day included 50 Year 12 PE students attending and competing, over 500 Year 7-11 students competing in multiple track, field and novelty events and Laura Pearse (Year11) dressed as some super heroine in her Yellow suit and cape. Laura judged the best dressed student competition and of course couldn’t award herself first prize. It was unfortunate for 7C (being on camp) and Sumner House who they belong to. The results could have been closer with Merri winning the day on 1111 to Sumner 965. Batman 903 and Plenty 745 were also very competitive. Today (5th May), over 80 of our best athletes are competing in the Sec-

2009 Open Day for 1000 visitors!

Wednesday April 29th was indeed a record Open Day, with over 1000 visitors and the two information sessions were extremely well attended. Thanks to all the students (about 350 of them) who in various ways helped the school “come alive” for the visiting parents, and who helped staff answer questions. Without the student input (such as the food tech helpers at right) the day would not be able to run. Special thanks must go to Ronnie Secoulidis, Jennifer Nguyen, Nellie Montague and Edward Wills who spoke so convincingly of their NHS experiences at the information sessions.

Our 11 VCE sporting teams have 2 big days coming up covering 8 sports. The dates of these District Competitions are Thursday 14th May and Tuesday 19th May. Our junior teams (Years 7-10) compete in Football, Soccer, Netball and Badminton in weeks 6, 9 and 10 of Term 2.

Cross Country

Mr. Sheedy, one of our Athletic teachers, who belongs to the Collingwood Harriers has put himself forward to train any students interested in running at the Zone Cross Country in week 9 of Term 2 (Thursday 18th June). Meetings and training will commence this week.

Da Shan & Ms Young
Preparing for the National Stage Band Competition

Generations in Jazz—The National Stage Band Competition is now a well established event in the Australian jazz calendar. Held in Mount Gambier in May each year, it brings together many of Australia’s most talented young jazz musicians to participate in and compete for the James Morrison Scholarship, the City of Mount Gambier National Stage Band Awards and the Generations in Jazz Vocal Scholarship.

Our Senior Stage Band have been working hard (even on cold sundays—at right) in preparation for this weekend—and we wish them every success. It is a great environment for young musicians to perform and learn in a relaxed atmosphere, share fellowship with their peers as well as the opportunity to hear professionals like James and John Morrison, Daryl Somers and Graeme Lyall perform.

Online access from home

Parents are informed that students are able to access much of their class work from home via the NHS web site www.nhs.vic.edu.au - there are instructions via the ‘Online Access’ link to ‘Scholaris’.

A security warning will appear stating: ‘There is a problem with this website’s security certificate’. It is ok to ‘Continue to this website’. Students then need to enter: northcote\username and their normal logon password.

If you have any questions regarding this please contact Paul Mameghan on 9488 2384 or email pn@nhs.vic.edu.au

Welcoming 27 visitors from Thailand

Northcote High School has welcomed many teacher visitors from overseas this year. At the end of April, 27 teachers of English from Thailand visited the school for a short day of Professional Development, hosted by Ms O’Heare and Ms Sinclair and the English and ESL faculties. As always, Sophie Freeman and Jack Dalton provided a student welcome. Carmen Wiseman, Nikki Marakis and Alexei Ymer-Welsby of Yr 9 (above) also provided guided tours and answered questions. Alexei remarked; “its fascinating to meet teachers from another cultural setting. I was a bit surprised when all said they wanted to work here at Northcote.”

They have since written to us to thank us for the positive experience and warm hospitality of our school.
CAMPS UPDATE

The Year 7 Boho Camps Program is now finally underway for 200 with forms 7F & 7J (below right) already returned. These students completed a night hike to Mt Wombat where they saw the Milky Way without the glare of city lights. Both groups so far have hiked up Mt. Separation, been to Benalla for a swim, canoeed at Polly McQuinns or went horse riding.

The school has been using Year 10 Peer Helpers on each of these camps which has been very successful. The Year 7 Boho will continue for the reminder of this term and Term 3. Dates are as follows:

**Term 2**
- 7C 5th – 8th May
- 7H 19th – 22nd May
- 7G 23rd – 26th June

**Term 3**
- 7E 28th – 31st July

**Upcoming Camps**
Students need to look in the daily bulletin & Newsletter for details of the following. Note: there is no guarantee that all these camps will run.

NAPLAN Testing 2009

The national tests in literacy and numeracy will be conducted from Tuesday 12 May to Thursday 14 May.

The National Assessment Program – literacy and numeracy (NAPLAN) will involve students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 from all states and territories. In Victoria approximately 260,000 students from all government, catholic and independent schools will participate in the program. This program replaces the Achievement Improvement Monitor (AIM) state-wide testing program.

The results of the tests provide diagnostic information can be used to support teaching and learning programs and improve student achievement.

For students, teachers and schools there will be little change from the arrangements in place for last years AIM tests, apart from students across Australia sitting identical tests on the same three days.

Like the AIM tests, the NAPLAN tests will assess:

- Reading
- Writing
- Language conventions (spelling, grammar & punctuation)
- Numeracy (includes a calculator and a non calculator test for Year 7 and Year 9 students)

Year 7 and Year 9 students will each undertake two numeracy tests on Thursday 15 May 2009. The second test will require the use of a calculator. Please ensure your child brings a calculator.

The format of the NAPLAN test will be similar to last year, and the previous AIM tests.

For further information contact the VCAA NAPLAN help desk on freecall 1800 648 637 or email vcaa.naplan.help@edumail.vic.gov.au .

Alternatively, you may find the answers to any queries at the NAPLAN FAQs page on the (NAPLAN) website: www.naplan.edu.au

**NAPLAN timetable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Tuesday 12 May</th>
<th>Wednesday 14 May</th>
<th>Thursday 15 May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 7</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language conventions</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
<td>65 minutes</td>
<td>40 minutes x 2 (80 minutes total)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 9</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language conventions</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
<td>65 minutes</td>
<td>40 minutes x 2 (80 minutes total)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Calculator test to be scheduled first, followed by non Calculator-allowed test</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Calculator test to be scheduled first, followed by non Calculator-allowed test</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Music camp 2009 ROCKED!

Music camp involved 77 Intermediate Band and String students from Years 7-10 PLUS 10 amazing student leader/tutors. This year we headed across to Lady Northcote Campsite in Rowsley for some adventure activity fun, and of course lots of rehearsals.

This year guest conductor Michael Lichnovsky brought his expertise to the mix which gave MEGA BAND (Intermediate Band is currently bursting it’s banks with 60+ students) a fresh perspective.

Megan Edwards writes

In the first week of term 2 intermediate band and strings went on camp to Lady Northcote. As well as the music teachers there were 9 tutors from years 9-11. The tutors were there to help out with sectional rehearsals and be leaders in general. The camp was a lot of fun. Between the many hours of rehearsal everyone participated in the camp activities like canoeing, giant swing, bike riding and high ropes. The day we arrived everyone was pumped and ready to go. We started with a rehearsal and then an activity and then more rehearsing. The second day we rehearsed even more and you could already hear how much the bands had improved. That night everyone split into groups and performed in a variety night. It had everything from musical acts and dances to comedy routines and human pyramids. Everyone performed great and it was very funny. When the variety night finished we played a game of capture the flag. We split into two teams and ran out into the dark. We used glow sticks as the flag and as wristbands. The game was crazy but so much fun! The last day came too quickly and no one was ready to leave. We had one final rehearsal in the morning then packed up, had lunch and said goodbye. The camp was a great opportunity for the bands to get to know each other and really improve on how they play as a whole.

Thanks to all the teachers and tutors for helping out!
Megan Edwards and Ms Neesh Wray

UBS Young Women's Leadership Academy

The UBS Young Women's Leadership Academy, now in its 6th year, was held from the 20th to the 24th of April. It was created by Wendy McCarthy AO in 2004 and has been financially supported and staffed by UBS (United Bank of Switzerland) employees. It is a fully subsidised, weeklong residential program held at The Women’s College at The University of Sydney. Each year 50 girls are selected to attend this program from NSW, ACT and Victoria.

As part of the program we were asked to complete a Meyer Briggs personality test so that we could better understand our personality and how that influences our leadership styles. We heard from guest speakers such as Angela Bishop from Channel 10 on how to communicate and make an impression and many others on how to present ourselves for interviews. We were taken to UBS head quarters where we heard from a panel of successful women who instructed us in how to find jobs and share their experiences with us. On the final day we developed our leadership skills through watching an episode of Summer Heights High and acting out scenarios involving ethical dilemmas through pretending to be boys. Finally we had many heated debates and oral presentations regarding a range of issues.

I made friends with girls from all over NSW, the ACT and Victoria, some being from rural areas such as Taralgon and some being from schools right around the corner such as Brunswick. There were some extraordinary girls that I had the opportunity to meet with two in particular. One Melbourne girl has successfully started up her own charity, having already raised $20,000 and another girl from NSW has become self sufficient after being kicked out of home at 14.

Overall it was a truly rewarding and remarkable experience.

Marissa Butera 11B
Wine Fundraiser 2009

in conjunction with Prospect Wines Carlton

Buy a bottle - get a gong!

The Music department is keen to purchase a concert gong for the school. It costs $1500, and you can help – by buying quality wine in a group order organised by the Parents’ Music Committee.

You can buy one bottle or dozens – the choice is yours from a great range of prices and varieties.

Here’s how you do it:

1. Please complete the order form on the reverse
2. Enclose a cheque payable to ‘Prospect Wines Carlton’ or include credit card details. PLEASE, NO CASH!!!
3. Clearly mark envelope ‘Music Wine Fundraiser’ and your name
4. Return to the General Office, Northcote High School, by 3.00 pm Tuesday 26 May 2009

Wine Collection

Please ensure that you provide your email address/phone number so that we can advise you of the final details for wine collection (mid June).

Minimum Orders

There is no requirement for minimum order size.

For any enquiries, please contact:

Sue Helme
NHS Parents Music Committee, ph 9480 3584 or email sueh@unimelb.edu.au

Thank you for supporting our music program!

Northcote High School

PARENTS MUSIC COMMITTEE
Northcote High School Music Wine Fundraiser 2009

Please accept my order for the following Northcote High School wines. I acknowledge that I am over 18 years of age and that I am placing an order on Prospect Wines Carlton, holder of Victorian Packaged Liquor Licence no. 32055132. The applicable law for transactions for the purchase of wine from Prospect Wines is the law of the State of Victoria. By placing an order with Prospect wines you accept that the ownership of and risk of the goods, passes to the customer upon payment of the goods and when the goods have been despatched with the carrier by Prospect Wines.

| Name: ____________________________ Telephone: ____________ |
| Address: _____________________________________________________ Postcode: _______ |
| Email Address: ________________________________________ for advising time of wine collection |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wine Description</th>
<th>$ per Bottle</th>
<th>$ per Dozen</th>
<th>No. of Bottles</th>
<th>Total $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. HUNTER VALLEY SEMILLON SAUVIGNON BLANC 2008</td>
<td>Hunter Valley with a portion of Western Australian fruit to liven up the blend. Has vibrant aromas of ripe fruit, and an abundance of fresh tropical flavours balanced with an acidic dry finish.</td>
<td>$13.00</td>
<td>$156</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. BAROSSA VALLEY PREMIUM CHARDONNAY 2007</td>
<td>Peach and melon characters on the nose, with hints of citrus and apricot on the palate. A medium bodied lightly oaked style, with lots of fruit driven flavour.</td>
<td>$13.00</td>
<td>$156</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. MARLBOROUGH SAUVIGNON BLANC</td>
<td>Marlborough is home to some of the worlds best Sauvignon Blanc. This stunning example has fresh grassy aromas with complex flavours, a rich full palate with hints of citrus &amp; passionfruit balanced by mouth-watering acidity.</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
<td>$192</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. WILLBRIGGIE MERLOT 2008</td>
<td>This red has fresh vibrant aromas with an impressive balance between sweet fruit flavours and a dry smooth finish. Ready for drinking now.</td>
<td>$11.50</td>
<td>$138</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. TRIO SHIRAZ HEATHCOTE, McLAREN VALE &amp; HUNTER VALLEY</td>
<td>A blend from three famous Shiraz growing regions. It is full bodied with spicy pepper characters, firm tannins and a long lingering dry finish.</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
<td>$192</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6. BAROSSA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNON</td>
<td>A cracker-jack of a wine, this is what Barossa Cabernet is all about. Dark bold colours, hints of mint &amp; plum on the nose, with deep rich earthy flavours and smooth oak. An honest full-bodied style that will reward cellaring.</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>$180</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please find attached my cheque payable to Prospect Wines Carlton

Please debit my credit card for the above amount

Name on card: ____________________________ Card Type: Visa/Mastercard / AmEx
Card no: ____________________________ Expiry Date:____/____ Total Amount: $100

I authorize the above amount to be charged to my credit card. Signed: ____________________________ Date: ____/____/____

Orders are to be returned to: General Office, Northcote High School, with cheques / credit card details, by 26th May 2009. No cash please.
VIC ROADS Announces construction work on St. George’s Rd Roundabout
Vic Roads have written to advise us of the impending work to begin on improving the roundabout at the intersection of St. George’s Rd, Merri Parade and Charles St. This will cause some delays to traffic flow, as partial road closures will occur between April and August.

A reminder again—please do not drive into the circular drive to deliver your children to school. Children can be safely dropped opposite the school, or further down St. George’s Road near Summer avenue.

LOST
A black ipod in a brown leather case, please return it to the general office. The owner would be very grateful and you will receive a wonderful reward, no questions asked. It was last seen in either A3 or G1, in Miss Martin’s class

Community Notices

PARENTS of primary and secondary students, in all locations, are warmly invited to take part in the third online conference to be held by Parents Victoria. The conference will be held non-stop on the internet from 6am Monday 18 May to midnight Sunday 24 May. No special software is needed, other than an internet-connected computer and a browser. The online discussions will be very easy to join in, and guidelines about how to participate will be provided. You don’t need to be a member of Parents Victoria to take part. Join in for all days, just some days, or even a few hours, depending on your lifestyle and other commitments.

Register online at no cost
The Parents Victoria Online Conference 2009 website will open from 6am on Monday 18 May at: http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv1_09/ but please register yourself online first at http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv09.htm

I look forward to meeting all of you online soon, to discuss these important issues. The more of you join in, the more successful this e-vent will be. Debra Brydon Online Conference Manager Email: brydon@cybertext.net.au

Solo Mums with Teenagers Group
A new group has been started for single mums with teenagers (aged 13-15). The group aims to develop friendship and support through family activities such as bike rides and day trips. If you are interested and would like to know more please contact Michele on 0400 433 515 or visit meetup.com (look under parents/families)

Calling all adult musicians
Would you like to play a musical instrument as part of a group of adults and meet some other Northcote High School parents and friends?

Maybe you are a proficient player or maybe you are a beginner. Perhaps you learnt an instrument when you were at school yourself and are now inspired to start playing again. This would be for people with any level of experience. For details contact Brenda Walker at brenda@shorewalker.com or on 0438 196 522, or email Jennifer Bowen at jennifer.bowen@bigpond.com.

Parents of 14-16 year old adolescents! Can you help with a survey?
My name is Bernadette Ward and I am doing a PhD at Monash University. I am surveying parents on issues relating to young people and alcohol; in particular parties where alcohol is present. Past research has suggested that parents are looking for support in relation to their role in influencing young peoples’ alcohol use. Your participation will involve completing the online survey www.parentsandalcohol.com.au which will take approximately 20 minutes. Once you click on this link, you will be redirected to our secure survey site. No identifying information will gathered in the survey. Your participation is anonymous and confidential.

Any questions regarding this project may be directed to Bernadette Ward, Monash University on 0427059205 or email: Bernadette.Ward@med.monash.edu.au

This study has been approved by the Faculty of Medicine, Monash University (Approval number CF08/0638 - 2008000307).