

Hawker College

Murrarji Street Hawker ACT 2614

P 02 6205 7744 F 02 6205 7745

www.hawker.act.edu.au

info@hawker.act.edu.au



NEWSLETTER ISSUE 3

MARCH 2014

Hawker College Environmental Group: GAIA



Last year, after an inspirational speech by green activist Anna Rose, a group of passionate students were stirred into action. Together, we made Gaia – an environmental organisation focused on helping the Earth by reducing Hawker College's carbon footprint.

Over the past six months, we have been working hard on lowering waste, energy and water use. With the help of Claire, an ANU Green intern, the group has managed to make significant headway in these goals, primarily with the future implementation of a school wide recycling system. In the next few months, new recycling and co-mingle bins will be placed around the school, providing students with much more ecologically friendly options of removing waste.

Gaia has collaborated with other environmental groups, both locally and internationally. We have been communicating regularly with Hawker Primary as well as another environmental group in Indonesia, sharing ideas on how to improve the sustainability of our school.

We have also been involved in many school-wide environmental events, such as Clean Up Australia Day, where we



Above: Hawker College environmental group GAIA participate in "Clean Up Australia Day".

wore orange Waste Warrior bands and cleared rubbish away from the interior and exterior of the school. Sustainable Transport Day was also a school-wide success, as we handed out pancakes to students who made the decision to arrive at school in a not-car.

During Youth Week, we will be hosting our own Gaia Week, with environmentally themed events and activities. Gaia has organised an excursion to the Hume Recycling plant for Monday 7th April to show what happens to waste once we

dispose of it. The excursion is free and open to any interested students and teachers.

Together, we aim to become a completely sustainable, eco-friendly college. We believe that a small group of people can make a huge difference in improving the health of our planet.

Heather Macpherson
Year 12

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

HITTING THE HEIGHTS AT HAWKER COLLEGE

On Wednesday, 5 March the college had its first P&C Forum, Supporting Your Student Evening. The night was a great success, with just under 100 families in attendance. On the evening I thanked our Year 11 Coordinator Rachel Tammaro for the contribution she has made to the successful start to 2014 for Year 11 students and for the work she did towards the night's organisation. Our Events Team led by Maria Kelliher was recognised for the support they made towards the night's planning, as were all our teaching and administration staff.

Families were congratulated on their input in choosing Hawker College as the educational setting where their student is preparing themselves for the workplace, vocational training or tertiary studies next year or in 2016.

Parents and carers were introduced to the theme for the night and for the marketing of Hawker College as the college of choice for students in Belconnen and beyond, this is also the theme for my message in this newsletter.

"Hit the Heights at Hawker College"

The alliteration is deliberate, the blue sky thinking is aspirational, the energy of the students is exhilarating and the range of student needs is clearly articulated by the attire of each student.

What parent would not want their student to be represented in such a manner? Parents entrust their child to Hawker College in what could be argued are the defining years of their life, when high stake assessment takes place which is the springboard for student's future lives.

How can we as teachers and parents support our students in launching themselves beyond the college years?

What has Hawker got to offer?

Firstly students need to make as many connections as possible that are sustainable, valued and transferable; these will comprise friendships, links with staff, academic and vocational passions, involvement in interests outside of the formal educational program such as sport and the performing arts.



Parents and carers, need to take the opportunity to initiate those connections with teachers, enjoy the experience, after all it is in your students interest.

Secondly students must set aspirations that are realistic and achievable; it's no good keeping these as secrets. Discussions with friends, family and their MI Group teachers about them are essential. Enrolling in courses that match their needs, not necessarily those of friends and mates is critical.

There is always the opportunity for students to have checkpoints to see how they are travelling, to make revisions, reset their aspirations based on recent experience. Students at times need to take some risks but be prepared to change track so that they put themselves in the best possible position to take advantage of the future. Be aware though that the earlier they are enrolled in a course that matches their ability and skills and that enables them to achieve credentials that have real value and lead to future employment and education, the better.

We should not underestimate the importance that support from home can contribute to the learning process of our students nor the enriching experience that can be gained between parents and carers and their children.

If we accept the premise that parental involvement is beneficial to the educational experience of students the obvious question is how can I assist, what can I do? You don't have to be proficient in Mathematics, English or Physics to assist students at home. Simply putting aside a few minutes each day to speak to your Student can have great benefits. Recognition of the progress and knowledge that a young person is making is essential if we are to maximise the learning opportunities of students.

I encourage all to become involved in Parents and Citizens Forums which are held each term for one hour, please read the flyer that is in this newsletter that expand on the role of the P&C and make contact with our Board Chair, Claire Lombard.

Let us all Hit the Heights Together.

Peter Sollis
Principal



WHAT'S NEW IN SCIENCE @ HAWKER?

We welcome Martin Style to the Science faculty for Semester 1. Martin is teaching the line 3 'Life and Crime' General Science class.



2014 Science Honours Program

Interested Year 11 students are reminded that application forms for the 2014 Science Honours program must be completed and submitted to the Science staffroom by Monday 17th March 2014 (Week 7).

Entries into the Rio Tinto Big Science Competition (\$7.50) ICAS Science competition (\$8.80) and RACI Chemistry Quiz (\$5.50) are still being accepted. All Science students (not just those enrolled in the Honours program) are encouraged to participate in these competitions. Entry payments and forms must be made to Jenny Jones the Front Office (8.45am – 2pm) by Friday 4 April 2014 (Week 9).

Additional Honours application forms and Competition entry forms are available on the science page of the cLc.

Please contact Laura Jones for more details.

2014 International Women's Day – Girls in Science Morning Tea

The target audience of this event was senior female students who were interested in studying science at university in 2015. This event was attended by Madeline Nyman, Correa Driscoll, Emily McIntyre, Michelle Vy, Heather Macpherson and Vanessa Farrelly (all of whom are currently enrolled in the Hawker College Science Honours program), as well as Shojoti

Amin, Kate Gillespie and Punna Joyotee. The girls were given a tour of the John Curtin School of Medicine and then attended a morning tea.

FROM THE HUMANITIES FACULTY

Thank you to all parents who attended the recent parent forum. It was lovely to meet you and to discuss how your student is settling in this year. Any parents who were unable to attend or to speak to a particular teacher at the event are welcome to make contact via phone or email.

Honours and Competitions

A number of students have joined the Honours Program in recent weeks, and I encourage anyone else who is interested to do so soon. Further information and forms are available from Kathryn in Room 74.

Several competitions are advertised on the Honours board in the English Open Area – the Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Competition, short film competitions, writing competitions, and the UNSW ICAS Writing and English competitions. The competitions are open to all Humanities students.

Valentine Day Sonnets

Crystal Mahon's Shakespeare, Love and Laughter class celebrated Valentine's Day by writing their own sonnets. Here is a selection for your enjoyment.

Unrequited (Heather McPherson)

*Unrequited is my true love for you,
while yours for me is uncaring and crude,
You could not be kind with a heart so blue,
for the sole want you have of me, is food.
All I give is affection and grace,
but grace is not what you give me, my sweet.
All I need from you is your warm embrace,
but all you need from me is bloody meat.
Where my heart fills with a devotion true,
yours fills with blood, a beat that ne'er abates.
O, how can someone so seemingly pure
have a mind so brutal that only hates?
I wish you to return my love, sweet cat,
but naught is as impossible as that.*

Love Sonnet (Anon)

*We danced and talked and sang the whole night long
and that far away night we shared a kiss.
We parted, I knew it'd hurt to be gone
and now my heart finds - it's you I miss.
I cannot help but dream of you, despite your absence.
Your eyes, your glorious smiles,
they should bring happiness, but only spite,
for though I think of you there are still miles.
We've separated, though your love remains,
your strength gives me hope to cherish.
Beautiful courage is what my souls gains,
but if I were to be granted one wish,
I would demand that you be here with me,
so in those eyes I could get lost - with thee.*

Sonnet to a cat (Sarah Bradley)

*The soft warm fur of 'her' keeps me at peace,
her presence rids the negativity.
All my troubles and difficulties cease,
her purr increases productivity.
The playfulness of 'her' occupies me
and arises affection deep within.
As her constant love fills my life with glee,
soon enough, just sight of her, makes me grin.
My loyal friend keeps me safe from danger.
Her hypnotising eyes keep me engaged.
Her beauty brings joy to outcast strangers,
my love for her grows, even now she's aged.
She causes darkness throughout life to fade,
while creating room for love, to pervade.*

Biophilia (Vanessa Farrelly; for Gaia)

*The earths alive, blood runs through its veins
and flows through its rivers, bending away
It's heart beats a cycle that waxes and wanes,
rhythmically realising rebirth and decay.
Delicate and consummately balanced,*

*tip those scales and awaken the beast.
Ego and greed is repaid with malice,
this world is not ours, merely on lease.
That will expire - we are not immune,
nor are the 'inconvenient' life forms.
Our air, our energy, sent to ruin,
we are on fire, flames, destruction and
storms.*

*We must save this world, pump blood
through its veins,
for our loss will exceed what can be
regained.*

The calibre of creative writing at Hawker College continues to impress.

Kathryn Sutherland
School Leader, Humanities

VISUAL ARTS NEWS TERM ONE 2014

Student Leadership in the Visual Arts

Indigo Philip has been working hard to develop a number of Graphic images for our school to be used as promotional material. Presently she is studying Art, Graphics and Darkroom Photography at Hawker and is investigating images of students and developing her work into a diverse creative portfolio. Her work on these school projects is valuable and we thank her for all her hard work and extra hours she is volunteering.

Chris Szentes is developing a practical creative workshop to present to a group of Belconnen High Students. He will be delivering a workshop program with these students late this term to introduce them to a 'college student's creative perspective' and to support these students with their transition to Hawker College. Chris has a particular interest in using a digital drawing tablet to explore his ideas.

Thank you to Eva Gasiewicz (Youth Worker BHS) for her ongoing support and inclusion of these Creative Leadership Workshops, supporting our students in transition to Hawker College.

Students studying Darkroom Photography at Hawker are involved in a number of excursions to Kangara Waters Aged Care Facility in Belconnen. These Students will be visiting the residence, exploring and capturing images of the gardens, café and working towards their portraiture task. Students will be meeting with residence, sharing stories and getting to know them before they take a number of photographic images of the residents to use for their portraiture task.

I will include more details of the 'Kangara Waters Portraiture Exhibition' and images of student work for this event in the next newsletter.

I would like to also thank Bob Wallis our wonderful Art Assistant, for his work in refurbishing the Photographic Lab/ Darkroom, and with the ongoing repairs and maintenance of our SLR cameras. His contribution is valuable in the successful running of this practical program for our students at Hawker College. If anyone has an old SLR camera they wish to part with, we are very much in need of cameras for this photography unit of study.



Above: Year 11 Visual Art students working on their Hybrid Drawings.

Below: One of our students hybrid drawing.



Anita Briedis
Visual Art /Photography Teacher

CAREERS NEWS

Welcome to Carolyn Lloyd who is the new face in Careers, replacing Alison for term 1.

A new edition of the Careers Newsletter is available on the website each fortnight. It contains information about University, CIT, Defence, Private Providers,

Scholarships and Gap Year information, Work Experience, Resources with some very useful links to further information.

ATAR Estimates

ATAR estimates are now available – please make a 15 minute appointment (Year 12 only) on the booking sheet outside Kim's and Carolyn's office. All Tertiary students should avail themselves of this service over the next three weeks.

Future Directions

On Wednesday afternoon, Future Directions program has commenced with a small group of year 12 students meeting outreach workers from the Ted Noffs Foundation. The program deals with topics such as relationships, goal setting, emotions, drugs, alcohol, piercings, mental health, as well as other concerns/ issues brought up by the group. The programs aim is to discuss youth issues and to facilitate students remaining at school. Students' academic progress is monitored along with encouragement to participate in work experience or alternate programs that may be available outside school.

Defence

First in our series of CAREER FOCUS lunchtime talks is happening in week 8:

Tuesday 25th MARCH Defence Force Recruiting – lunchtime Careers talk – Science Lecture Theatre – 1.00pm start

RSA (Responsible Service of Alcohol)

If you are intending to work part-time, casually or otherwise in a business that serves alcohol – this is a MUST HAVE.

The session in Week 5 is full. There is another session happening in Term 2 – interested students should see Carmel in Work Experience.

Carolyn Lloyd & Kim Thomas
Transitions and Careers

LEGAL STUDIES EXCURSION TO ACT COURTS

On 20 February, legal students attended an excursion to the ACT Supreme Court and Magistrates Court. At the Supreme Court, we met with the Sheriff who gave us a briefing on court processes and etiquette. Students were able to view part of a civil trial in session before a full bench in the Court of Appeal. We then headed over to the Magistrates Court where we were able to view several criminal cases.



Above: Year 11 and 12 legal students on the steps outside the ACT Supreme Court.

It was a very interesting morning and a great opportunity for students to connect theory to real-world processes.

Joanne Adams
Legal Studies Teacher

OZCLO COMPETITION ROUND 1

Hawker College students participated in Round 1 of the OzCLO Competition on Thursday 27 February. OzCLO is a contest for high school students. It challenges them to develop their own strategies for solving problems in fascinating real languages. The experience proved challenging and interesting. Quoting from participants' feedback:

I find that OzCLO is an interesting event to attend and I really enjoyed solving those 'language puzzles'. I'd like to attend next year. Thank you for giving us this wonderful opportunity.

It was a challenging competition that required lots of thought and imagination. Although it was very hard, it was also lots of fun.

The OzCLO competition was great fun ... it was an amazing experience that I will definitely go through again next year!

The OzCLO competition was not anything like the usual competitions. It was incredibly hard but I haven't laughed that hard in a long time. It was a fantastic learning experience which I will definitely repeat ...

I really enjoyed the OzCLO competition because it was interesting and challenging. I am looking forward to next year's competition!

Frank Keighley, Celia Bazalar
OzCLO Coordinators

SPORT REPORT

Term 1 sports are well underway with the Basketball team currently performing well in the home and away series. Team combinations and fitness continue to improve and coach Nick Pitsonis is extremely happy with the team's start

to the season. A 10 point win over Gungahlin College is the latest result for the team.

The Nines Rugby League team performed solidly in the inaugural ACT Raiders Cup. A loss to the eventual winners, followed by a draw and a come from behind win was a pleasing start to the football season. The first round of the John Allen Cup starts this week with Hawker combining with Melba/Copland to form a very strong team.

Hawker has entered two mixed teams in the ACT Colleges Beach Volleyball Championships. Hawker are the defending champions in this competition and our teams will be striving to repeat last year's success.

A number of Hawker College students have been successful in their chosen sports representing the ACT at National Championships. Kenya Lawler participated at the National Schools Athletics Championships travelling to Townsville last December. Kenya made the final and finished eighth in the 90m hurdles, an outstanding achievement. Kenya's other impressive results included 12th in the 200m hurdles, 16th in the 200m and 14th in the long jump. Well done Kenya!

Leah Allen has again performed extremely well in her chosen sport of swimming. Participating in the Country Championships at Sydney's Olympic Park Leah finished first 15yo in 400 freestyle, 200m backstroke and 200 IM. Second in 200m freestyle and 3rd in the 50m freestyle, 200m backstroke, and 400m IM. Leah has been training hard for the upcoming Australian National Age Championships in April. We wish Leah all the best.

Brad Hardy's effort and skill in Oztag have been recognised with selection in the ACT U'20 mixed Oztag team travelling to Wollongong for the State Cup. Brad has also been selected in the Australian U'18 Barbarian team. Good luck to Brad!

Upcoming one day sport competitions include golf and lawn bowls. Interested students should see Mark in the PE staffroom for details.

Mark Greer
Sports Coordinator

AWARD WINNING DRAMA

Hawker College Drama has once again been recognised for its high standard of achievement at the Canberra Area Theatre Awards a fortnight ago. Dance and Drama teacher Hannah McFadden has been awarded Best Director of a School or Youth Company Musical. This award is highly coveted in the performing arts scene in Canberra and the field of nominations covered most of NSW.



Hannah is to be congratulated for her incredible choreography and management of a large performance piece including 28 musical numbers and accompanying dance.



Nicola Hall, one of our highly talented students of the past two years, also won Best Supporting Actress for a School or Youth Musical. This was a greatly deserved win as Nicola has received nominations in the past for the many roles she has performed for a variety of local theatre companies demonstrating her extraordinary ability as a singer, dancer and actor. In her award speech Nicola thanked all of her teachers at Hawker College over the past two years saying she loved her time at our school and appreciated all of the support from staff.

Maria Kelliher
School Leader Arts



Do you have a concern about your ACT Public School?

Many concerns are resolved quickly and easily by discussing the matter directly with the school.

First speak directly to your child's teacher or talk to a member of the executive team. If you continue to be concerned please make an appointment to see your principal.

If you are not satisfied you may lodge a written complaint. The *Complaints Policy* and the *Complaints Form* are available from the policy section of the Directorate website: www.det.act.gov.au

You have the right to approach the ACT Human Rights Commission. Details are available from the Commission website: www.hrc.act.gov.au/humanrights

If you need assistance, or you would like to compliment us,

contact the ACT Education and Training Directorate's
Liaison Unit on Tel: 6205 5429 or
Email: DET.CommunityLiaison@act.gov.au



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FOR MORE INFORMATION & APPLICATIONS CONTACT

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P&C - INVITATION



We are seeking parents who are interested in contributing to the college community by joining the Hawker College P&C.

We invite all parents of our Year 11 & 12 Students to our P&C AGM on Monday 17 March, 6:30 pm.

The P&C at Hawker College is a forum for parents to support their children and to network with other parents.

The college environment is very different from high school, and just as our children are adjusting to the change so are we, the parents. The P&C can provide an opportunity for parents to network and pick up tips on matters that relate to having college aged children, and the challenges involved.

There would be minimal fundraising involved, as the canteen is outsourced and not managed by the P&C. The P&C at the college does not require a large amount of your time either.

The P&C meets once each term on the Monday in Week 3 at 6:30 pm in the College Boardroom. Meetings last for 1 hour.

If you are interested in supporting your child in this manner please leave your contact details at the P&C table.

Name: _____

Contact Details: _____

For more information please contact Claire Lombard, Board Chair;
info@hawker.act.edu.au.

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Important dates for your diary

Monday 17 March 2014	Year 11 College Meeting - Line 4; Year 12 MI-Group Line 4
Monday 17 March 2014	Board/P&C AGM - 5:30-7:30pm - All Welcome
Wednesday 19 March 2014	AST Focus Day
Monday 24 March 2014	Year 12 College Meeting - Line 3; Year 11 MI-Group Line 3
Tuesday 25 March 2014	AST Special Case Applications Close
Tues 1 - Fri 4 April 2014	Mid-Semester Cross-Line Tests - Alternate timetable
Wednesday 9 April 2014	Open Night 6-8pm

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For further information
Call Lisa or Matthew on 6242 8687
Email: info@pinnacledrivingschool.com.au
Website: www.pinnacledrivingschool.com.au

OPEN NIGHT

Wednesday 9th April 2014
6.00 - 8.00pm



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