



## NEWSLETTER Issue 4

May 2017

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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers

Staff and students are working well together as we move toward week 4. Our new Student Leadership Group meets every Tuesday in the school boardroom and are already influencing school policy and procedure. A Year 12 Formal sub-committee has been established, members have represented the College at the Minister's Student Congress last week, and a number of issues of concern in the school community have been debated.

Among these is the issue of smoking. Smoking on school grounds is not permitted by ACT Government Regulation and Education Directorate Policy. A very small number of students have been counselled for smoking on school grounds, and the school has recently outlined a disciplinary policy that includes suspension for students smoking on school grounds after May 15th. Our SLG has demonstrated great maturity in their consideration of the impacts of this approach by the school and will be making a presentation to fellow students at the next college meeting to help explain the policy.

Many students at the moment are also learning to drive and getting their licenses. The overwhelming majority of students are responsible and careful drivers, but I ask that parents help us to remind students about road safety at all times.

### Open Night

On Thursday 25th of May we are opening the school for visitors and prospective students for our annual open night. This will be an opportunity to meet and talk to staff and students, for our community and those considering enrolment with us for 2018. You may have seen some advertising around the community, we could certainly also use your help to promote the event, the college, and public education when you're out and about.

We are planning a short Q&A forum in our theatre as part of the event, where prospective students and their parents can ask a panel of students and myself about Hawker College. In order to help us prepare, I invite you to suggest topics or questions via the link below that might be useful for incoming students and their families, given your own experiences in previous years. This is also an opportunity for you to give feedback and suggestions about how we can improve on the experience for newcomers on the night.

[Open Night Suggestions link](#)

### The Future of Education

The Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, Yvette Berry MLA, has announced the commencement of work to develop a strategy for the future of education in the ACT. The Minister's [media release is available here](#).

This work will include a community consultation process with parents and carers, students, teachers, educators and education leaders and members of the broader ACT community. This consultation process will also help guide the delivery of other commitments in education including free electronic devices for students and fostering greater parental engagement.

Our staff and students will make submissions to this review, I encourage parents to also participate. It will be a rare opportunity to influence the future of education in the ACT. If you would like to register your interest in receiving updates please email [futureofeducation@act.gov.au](mailto:futureofeducation@act.gov.au) or telephone [620 75520](tel:62075520).

Finally, I encourage you to visit 51 Bake and try a coffee and a cake, or purchase a fresh salad prepared in our kitchen using ingredients grown in our own garden. 51 Bake is open to the public every morning until 9:30am. It is a great opportunity to see our students in action!

Andy Mison  
Principal

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## **IMPORTANT**

Wednesday 10 Month 2017

P&C General Meeting 6:30pm - All Welcome

Monday 15 May 2017

Board Meeting 5:30pm

Monday 22 May 2017

Year 12 College Meeting - Line 5

Thursday 25 May 2017

OPEN NIGHT 6-8PM

Monday 29 May 2017

Year 11 College Meeting - Line 6

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## HAWKER COLLEGE REMEMBERS ANZAC DAY

Students, staff and distinguished guests gathered on the first day back after ANZAC Day to commemorate this significant annual event. This was an opportunity to remember the sacrifices and contributions of Australia's armed services, and also those affected by war.

Highlights were thought-provoking and heartfelt speeches by representatives of the Returned and Services League Belconnen: Group Captain (Retired) Arthur Skimmin OAM JP; and Air Vice-Marshall (Retired) Mac Weller AM. Other distinguished guests were Vice-Admiral (Retired) Peter Jones AO DSC, Chairperson, Hawker College Board; and Ms Jocelyn Bruemmer, President, Hawker College Parents and Citizens.

Elle Butterworth and Liki Chan-Tung were eloquent and accomplished MCs, and fellow students who shared a reflection, laid a wreath or read an item also made outstanding contributions: Shavaun Hickman; Ursula McDonald; Ineka Voigt; Evan Jones; Ezra Bobola; and Allison Bruemmer. Hawker alumna Nicky Philipse generously returned to play the Last Post and the Rouse impressively on the bugle.

The large audience were attentive and respectful throughout all of the moving ceremony. Principal Andy Mison concluded by commenting on the significance of the occasion and thanking all involved.

Chris Kenna, English & History teacher

## VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION AND COURSE FEES

Thank you to our families for payment of your students voluntary contribution and course fees. The Hawker College community has always demonstrated a strong commitment towards supporting the quality education programs that are offered at the College.

Parents were provided with information on these costs for their student at the beginning of the Semester. Course fees and voluntary contributions are able to be paid by online deposit into the College's Westpac account (BSB: 032777; Acc No: 001391) or by calling the Front Office on 61420355.

NB: Voluntary contributions are able to be paid into the Library Trust Fund and then claimed as a tax deduction.

Thank you for your continued support.  
Karin Mitchell, Business Manager

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST EDUCATOR

This year Hawker College welcomed Oliver Burke to our staff as part of Faculty 4, Humanities. Oliver had completed a very successful pre-service practicum here in 2015, and we were keen to offer him employment upon the attainment of his teaching qualification. Oliver has already proven to be a fine English teacher, designing engaging, challenging and varied lessons that cater appropriately to his students. Popular with students and staff alike, Oliver takes an interest in the breadth of college life and is a great asset to our college.



Oliver attended his graduation ceremony in April, and we warmly congratulate him on qualifying as a Master of Teaching.

Kathryn Sutherland, School Leader - Faculty 4

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## HAWKER COLLEGE P&C

With semester one half-way through, Year 12 students will be busy gearing up for the ASTs and Year 11 students should now be settled and know what college life is all about.

### Year 12 AST Forum

Our first forum for the year was held on Wednesday, 29 March. Chris Brown presented the Year 12 AST Forum and covered off the following items:

- . *What is the AST?*
- . *How do AST results affect the final ATAR?*
- . *What are the three test papers of the AST?*
- . *What are the main strategies for success in each paper?*
- . *How can parents support students' AST preparation?*

Parents/carers were given the opportunity to test their skills at the types of questions that will be asked. While there was a very small turnout it was still a very informative evening.

Future forum topics and dates will be discussed at our next general meeting.

### Upcoming Events for the P&C

- . Wednesday, 10 May - P&C general meeting commencing at 6:30pm – All Welcome
- . Thursday, 25 May – Hawker College Open Night – come and meet the P&C committee
- . Sunday, 6 August – Bunning's BBQ in conjunction with the Student Leadership Group (SLG) – watch this space for more details in the future.

### Contact Us

To contact us and join our email list for information on up-coming events, please email us on [hawkercollegepandc@gmail.com](mailto:hawkercollegepandc@gmail.com)

Jocelyn Bruemmer, P&C President

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## INSPIRE - PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE

On June 1st and 2nd we are staging "Inspire": a performing arts showcase featuring music, dance, media and drama. Introduced this year as a collaborative initiative to share and promote the Performing Arts at Hawker College, while offering authentic learning experiences and improved outcomes for students in our college, cluster and network. Many students will be involved as performers, or as members of production and management teams. We look forward to sharing the rich student talent and our featured 'combined schools' items on the night.



## THRILLING GOTHIC THEATRICAL SPECTACLE

On Friday, Term 2, Week 1 the Year 11 and 12 Literature and Drama classes attended an

excursion to Shake & Stir's *Dracula* at the Canberra Theatre Centre. This company produces work which is aimed at young adult audiences and has found a niche market in creating quality theatrical adaptations of powerful literature on stage.

Last year Hawker College attended Shake & Stir's production of *'Wuthering Heights'* to great student acclaim so this year students were keen to return to see *Dracula*, which certainly did not disappoint. The show was a powerful, gothic theatrical experience – full of brooding characterisations, energetic physical acting, chilling atmospheric effects and remarkable staging. Hawker students were also lucky enough to win a free acting workshop run by the theatre company after the show as our '25 words or less' response to the question asking 'why our school needed to attend the workshop' was deemed the most entertaining of all the competition entries...

*Exams and assessment really 'suck!' Our students desperately need to be 'shaken and stirred' out of their assessment doldrums with an awe-inspiring educational experience.*

Thanks to the Canberra Theatre Centre's Education Team, Shake & Stir and the staff and students at Hawker for their collaboration in making this a wonderful educational experience for all involved. Below is a review of the show from one of our wonderful Literature and Drama students – Melody Lehtonen...

*To describe Shake & Stir's adaptation of Dracula, I would choose the word mesmerizing. From the set, to the actors; the character portrayal, to the makeup and costuming, it was a thrilling and beautiful experience to be a part of as an audience member. With no context to the original novel or storyline of Dracula, it was very easy to follow along with what was happening. The scene changes were effective in transitioning the audience from one place to another through the use of the rotating stage, and the different levels created by the stairs and balcony, the bed and the additional platform. The mix between the traditional and contemporary costuming helped to modernise the text and make it more appealing to the audience. The actors did a fantastic job in creating an authentic, believable performance, which is tricky to do with such a fantastic text, embedded with so many supernatural elements. I particularly enjoyed the fake blood and the fight scenes, which were obviously well rehearsed and looked amazing. As a Literature and Drama student, it was overall a great experience and a terrific show, well worth the time and money. I recommend any of Shake & Stir's adaptations to everyone who has the chance to see them!*

Crystal Mahon, English and Drama Teacher

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## HEADSPACE: DANGEROUS CONTENT IN 13 REASONS WHY

Headspace has today issued a warning following growing concerns raised by schools, parents and young people across Australia about some content featured in US Netflix series *13 Reasons Why*.

The series – which debuted in Australia in late March and is currently streaming on Netflix - depicts a young woman who suicides. It presents the viewer with very confronting and graphic messaging and imagery inclusive of suicide method and means.

Since its debut both the national headspace School Support Program, which supports school communities in the aftermath of a suicide, and eheadspace, the national online and over-the-phone counselling service has received a growing numbers of calls and emails directly related to the program.

Kristen Douglas, National Manager of headspace School Support said the show exposes viewers to risky suicide content and may lead to a distressing reaction by the viewer particularly, if the audience is children and young people.

*“National and international research clearly indicates the very real impact and risk to harmful suicide exposure leading to increased risk and possible suicide contagion,”*

Head of eheadspace Dr Steven Leicester said clinicians working for the service had been dealing with a steady stream of concerned parents and young people since the show first aired.

“There is a responsibility for broadcasters to know what they are showing and the impact that certain content can have on an audience – and on a young audience in particular,” he said.

headspace School Support and eheadspace is urging school communities, parents, and mental health services to be aware of the dangers and risks associated for children and young people who have been exposed to this content.

The national suicide media initiative, Mindframe, also has significant concerns and warnings related to this content.

Please see the headspace website, <https://www.headspace.org.au/> for more information, as well as other links providing helpful information for schools, mental health services, and parents if they are aware that children or young people have been exposed to the content and have expressed concerns around their own mental health, distress, or suicidal thoughts and feelings.

From: <https://www.headspace.org.au/news/dangerous-content-in-13-reasons-why/>

Accessed May 2017

*Note from Student Services:*

*Parents who are considering watching this program with their children or who know that their children have watched the program and would like to discuss the content and themes with them may find some of the attached information useful:*

- [13 Reasons Why - plot summary and content warnings](#)
- [13 Reason Why - talking points](#)
- [How to talk to young people about 13 Reasons Why](#)

Crystal Mahon

School Leader - Student Services and Wellbeing

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## OUR SCHOOL BOARD

We are pleased to announce that the composition of our 2017 School Board was finalised at our Annual General Meeting in March, as follows:

Chair: Peter Jones AO, DSC

Parent Representatives: Amanda Sheaves & Ashok Krishnan

Student Representatives: Laura Pease & Riz Asuncion

Teacher Representatives: Chris Brown & Chontel Green

Business Manager: Karin Mitchell

Principal: Andy Mison

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**HAWKER COLLEGE**

# **OPEN NIGHT**

**THURSDAY 25 MAY**

**6-8PM**

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[www.hawkercollege.act.edu.au/enrolment](http://www.hawkercollege.act.edu.au/enrolment)

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