

# St George Girls High School

Telephone: 9587 5902 Facsimile: 9553 8043

Email: [stgeorgegi-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:stgeorgegi-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

Website: [www.sgghs.com.au](http://www.sgghs.com.au)



Monthly Bulletin

June 2011  
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## **Parent Teacher Evening Years 7 and 8**

Wednesday 22 June 2011  
Assembly Hall  
4pm – 7pm

## **Parents & Citizens' Association Meeting**

Thursday 23 June 2011  
Staff Common Room  
7pm

## **Year 10 HSC Information Evening**

Monday 27 June 2011  
Assembly Hall  
7pm

## **Mothers' Committee Meeting**

Wednesday 29 June 2011  
Library  
10am

## **"Inspired" Evening**

Wednesday 29 June 2011  
Assembly Hall  
6.30pm

## **Principal's Message**

Dear Parents and Students,

### **End of Term 2 Rapidly Approaches....**

When this gazette reaches your home there will be less than two weeks until Term 2 finishes. Even so there are many important events still to come before we end the term.

### **Year 10 Subject Market Day and Information Evening**

On Monday 27 June we will begin the process of subject selection for Year 10 students. This process will culminate in 2013 when students sit for their HSC. Year 10 will attend a curriculum information meeting during the day. HSC requirements, the courses of study available and assessment and reporting procedures will be explained to them. As well throughout the day students will have the opportunity to meet with Head Teachers and subject teachers to discuss their options, ask questions about various courses and to seek advice on the most appropriate courses to study.

Students also need to consider their university aspirations and to check with Ms Jospe, our Careers Adviser on any assumed knowledge for prospective university courses. An information evening for parents will commence at 7pm in the Assembly Hall. This information will be delivered in English in the hall and, for our Chinese speaking parents; the same presentation will be delivered in Chinese in the Staff Common Room.

### **Parent Teacher Interviews**

Parent Teacher interviews for Years 7 and 8 are being held tomorrow afternoon in the school hall. Your daughter should book an appointment time with her teacher. As is our usual practice an interpreter will be available for parents to use if they desire. This can be booked when your daughter makes her appointment. Unfortunately for this meeting we were only able to secure Cantonese interpreters. Parent Teacher interviews for Years 9 and 10 are scheduled for Wednesday 20 July from 4pm – 7pm in the school hall.

## **Inspired**

On Wednesday 29 June we will be "Inspired" by the creative design talents of our girls. This is our eighth annual inspired evening and I am sure it will be as spectacular as we have come to expect. Our students will parade their creative textile designs and we will once again have a creative design challenge to judge. The evening will be held in the Assembly Hall commencing at 6.30pm and tickets must be purchased prior to the night. The invitation is extended to family members only. We do ask that parents collect their daughters promptly at the conclusion of the evening. Thanks must go to the TAS faculty for organising this highlight of the school calendar.

## **Application for Placement in Years 8-12, 2012**

Each year a small number of vacancies may occur in Years 8 – 12. Students who wish to apply for placement on waiting lists should collect an application form from the school. The Selective Schools Unit Application Form as well

as the St George Girls High School Application Form should be filled in when applying. The forms can also be downloaded from the school's website. Please note that applications are due back at the school by 3pm on Thursday 28 July. There is a non-refundable fee of \$50.00 to cover the administrative costs of processing each application. Each application will be assessed by a panel including myself, the Deputy Principal in charge of each year and a parent representative.

### **Building Fund – Tax Deductible**

The St George Girls High School Building Fund was established in 2002. This is a fund solely for the acquisition, construction or maintenance of our school buildings. Contributing to this fund can be attractive to parents as donations are tax deductible. Please make cheques payable to The St George Girls High School Building Fund. Your donations would be most gratefully received.

### **Sydney Region Award Recipients**

I recently had the pleasure of attending the Sydney Region Awards ceremony at the Australian Golf Club. St George was well represented in the awards with two students School Captain Amy Li and Year 7 student Cindy Chen honoured for outstanding achievement by a student. TAS Head Teacher Ms Castle won the Sydney Region Award for outstanding service to public education by a teacher in the category of leadership while TAS teacher Ms Leto was highly commended in the category of early career teacher. It is always a very proud occasion and an honour for our school when our wonderful students and teachers receive the accolades they so richly deserve. Well done to all!

### **Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser**

Once again the P&C have secured the BBQ at Bunnings Warehouse as a fundraising activity on Sunday 28 August. If any parent or student can assist on the day it would be greatly appreciated. Just contact our wonderful P&C member Ms Annie Hong on her mobile. Find further details on a special fridge flyer in this gazette. Come along to lend a hand, have a chat or to enjoy a sausage roll to raise funds for our girls!

### **Congratulations**

I would like to congratulate the following students for achieving Gold Certificates indicating that they have received thirty Merit and/or Participation Certificates:

Philippa Meikle and Bianca So of Year 10.

Noellin Acabado, Vivian Do and Jemma Payne of Year 11.

Ece Egilmezer, Tiffany Ha, Kim Ho, Ling Hsu, Vickie Hu, Jenny Huang, Irene Jin, Rebecca Lawrence, Jamie Liu, Amy Reid and Georgina Zu of Year 12.

I would like to congratulate the following students for receiving Principal Certificates:

Rubsat Amin, Christine Azer, Hannah Chiu, Johanna Kennedy, Lily Lasic Latimer, Lucy Liu, Elie Long, Renee Lu, Fiona Pylotis, Yuchen Ren and Kathleen Tan of Year 7.

Erica Li of Year 8.

Jennifer Chen of 9.

Tanya Ali, Rachel Cham, Roanna Chan (3), Felicia Fernando (6), Faye Flevaris, Shivika Gupta (2), Christabel Hoe, Samira Hoque, Claudia Lee, Melanie Mercado (2), Michelle Tsang (3), Alison Wormell, Julie Wu and Yvonne Wu of Year 10.

Noellin Acabado, Vivian Do (2) and Stephanie Xu of Year 11.

Dionisia Andreone, Rene Chang (2), Lisa Chen (5), Michelle Cheung (3), Ece Egilmezer (2), Alexandra Gratsis (2), Phoebe Han (3), Ling Hsu (6), Vickie Hu (7), Sumaiya Khan (2), Kyra Kim, Rebecca Lawrence (6), Laurean Lim (4), Jamie Liu, Caroline Ngo (2), Amy Reid (2), Tiffany Tjugito, Elyshia Weatherby, Jenny Xu (4), Jessica Zhang (2), Phoebe Zhou and Georgina Zu (7) of Year 12.

Well done to all of these girls and to all who have experienced personal success this term.

Yours sincerely  
Carole Knott

## **Deputy Principal's Report**

### **Year 12 and the Trial HSC**

All Year 12 students should be planning to make effective use of the coming holidays to revise their work for the Trial HSC examinations which commence at the end of Week 2. It is important that the girls work in a methodical way which gives them set work time and set leisure time. It is far better to set a realistic, achievable study timetable and keep to it than develop an overambitious one which cannot be fulfilled.

Study should be punctuated by frequent breaks and students should, at the end of each session, tell themselves (or anyone else they can find) what they have learnt about in the session. This helps clarify what has been absorbed and what has not. Exercise is essential throughout all study periods. Many girls make the mistake of giving up sport as part of their drive for success. Maintaining sport and exercise or developing an exercise habit is very helpful in developing a sense of well being. Having a break from study and going for a walk is very therapeutic.

Students should have a set study space which is associated with work. When they are in the space they are studying. When they are not they are at leisure. Short bursts of total focus on study are much better than extended periods of semi-focus or dilatory effort.

### **Year 10 HSC Subject Advising Night – 27 June**

Year 10 parents should ensure they make themselves available on Monday 27 June at 7pm to be told all about the HSC: how it works, what subjects your daughter should do, how to ensure she succeeds. We will have one talk conducted in English in the hall and one in Chinese in the common room. Please be there. Find out what is real and what is myth.

Mr Morris

## Social Sciences

### Mock Trial 2011

The Law Society of New South Wales, which is the representative body for all solicitors in the state, first conducted the Mock Trial Competition in 1981 with an initial twenty eight Sydney secondary schools. The competition was adapted by the Law Society and the Law Foundation of New South Wales from an original program successfully conducted in a number of Northern American states in the 1970's. Thirty years later over 250 secondary schools are competing in New South Wales and the ACT.

St George Girls High School is again participating in the competition and the 2011 team consists of Stephanie Andrews, Veronica Chan, Jamie Lowe, Mira Mahapatra, Jemma Payne, Rebecca Radcliffe, Lily Zhang and Liesl Ziegler.

Mock Trials are simulated court cases in which the participating student teams contest a fictional legal dispute in a mock Local Court. Each team is coached by a volunteer solicitor and the trials are presided over by a senior member of the legal profession acting as a Magistrate. The St George team is coached by Mr T Lowe, a practising solicitor who imparts specialist knowledge and prepares the team for each trial by advising students on how to approach each case as either the Prosecution or the Defence. He also coaches students on the appropriate procedures for the hearing, the etiquette involved when speaking before the Magistrate and the roles of judges, barristers, witnesses and court officials in trials.

After three rounds of the 2011 competition the team has defeated Brigidine College Randwick on 1 March, suffered an unfortunate loss to Kirrawee High on 6 April and defeated Danebank on 16 May. The final round in the round robin section is against St. Ursula's on 17 June.

St George Girls High is extremely grateful to Mr Lowe and thanks him for his time and expertise in thoroughly preparing the team for each trial. Teams in this competition cannot perform without specialist legal preparation.

L Brown and W Melville

### Student Welfare

Since the issue of the last Gazette, the following students have been presented with Dragon Badges:

Teodora Bojanic, Anthea Cheung and Anna Ha of Year 7.

Claire Fu, Saloni Shingavi (2), Carolyn Tran and Angela Wang of Year 8.

Christabel Hoe, Claudia Lee, Sharon Lo and Julie Wu (3) of Year 10.

Noellin Acabado, Vivian Do and Stephanie Xu of Year 11.

The following students have been presented with a Super Dragon Badge:

Claudia Lee and Sharon Lo of Year 10.

Lily Zhang of Year 11.

## Sport

### Regional Dance Success!

Congratulations go to two of our choreographers – Alison Abdullah and Esme Wong of Year 11. The dance they choreographed and taught their group was successful in being selected to perform at the Regional Dance Festival. Our other four choreographers – Adela Greenbaum, Scarlet Ng, Brenna Harding and Angela Xing should also be congratulated for the time and effort they gave to teach their groups the dances that were auditioned for the Festival. Unfortunately, only one group was successful. Hopefully, we will see all three groups perform at a later assembly and at our 'Inspired' night. Good luck to Alison, Esme and their team of 12 dancers when they perform "The Dance" at the Seymour Centre on 23 June.

### Knockout Tennis

The four talented players of the school team made it to the Central venue day for the Regional finals in tennis. Their first game was against Woollooware High and unfortunately resulted in a defeat. They then played off for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> against Sydney Girls High and won this match to be placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the regional Knockout. Well done to Karen Ly, Vidhya Thayanathan, Jessie Trompp and Bessie Zhou and also to Jesse Poon for helping the team to reach the Regional finals.

### Golf News

Michaela Scheetz of Year 11 and Jessica Widarma of Year 10 were both selected in the Regional golf team to play at Blackheath Golf Club. **Michaela** won and progressed to Dubbo for the All Schools. In the match play Jessica beat her far more experienced opponent in the first round but then took on the #1 schoolgirl in NSW and was defeated. The Regional convenor was very impressed with both of our students, commenting that they were excellent ambassadors for Sydney East and that their play and behaviour on the course was outstanding. Well done to Michaela and Jessica. Good luck to Michaela who heads to the next championship event in the last week of term.

### Regional Hockey Congratulations!

Four of our students were selected in the Sydney East Regional Hockey team to go to the CHS State championships in Broadmeadow. They were Alice Burrell, Hannah Burrell, Taylor Innes of Year 12 and Greta Hayes of Year 9. As part of the Sydney East team, the girls were very excited when the team made it to the semi-finals. After winning this match, they went on to the finals against Hunter Region. For the first time in history, Sydney East won the Girl's hockey championships by defeating Hunter 3-2. Well done to our four girls who were part of this memorable team. Congratulations extend to Alice Burrell and Hannah Burrell who were selected in the CHS team to play at the All Schools Championships.

### Year 7 Mini Athletics Carnival Results

Due to the school carnival being washed out, a Mini-athletics carnival was held for Year 7 for them to experience seven different athletic events and to determine our better athletes for the Zone team. All girls participated with enthusiasm as they moved around the events. Thanks must go to the teachers who braved the cold conditions on the field so that the



carnival could be run – Mrs Thodey, Mrs Macready, Ms Papas, Mrs Clark, Mrs James, Ms Leto, Mrs Burg, Ms Wright, Ms Ruck, Ms Skrypay and Mrs Breen. Also thank you to our Year 10 helpers from Mrs James' IST class who officiated at events and were team leaders for each of the groups.

The results were as follows:

### 12 Years

	1st	
Discus	Teodora Bojanic	15.8
Shot	Melissa Tan	6.0
Javelin	Irina Tyan	13
High	Kathleen Tan	1.19
Long Jump	Evelyn Yew	3.7
75m Run	Evelyn Yew	10.81
Hurdles	Jessica Carter	13.23

	2nd	
Discus	Farabhi Khan	15.6
Shot	Vivian Shang	5.9
Javelin	Clarissa Lim	12.1
High	Cathy Wang	1.19
Long Jump	Cathy Wang	3.6
75m Run	Sylvia Wang	11.6
Hurdles	Cathy Wang	17.54

	3rd	
Discus	Stephanie Noronha	15.13
Shot	Stephanie Noronha	5.7
Javelin	Vicki Zhai	10.6
High	Lisa Liu	1.18
Long Jump	Teodora Bojanic	3.55
75m Run	Cathy Wang	11.7
Hurdles	Renee Zhang	18.69

**12 Years Age champion – Cathy Wang**

### 13 Years

	1st	
Discus	Shanshan Qi	16.7
Shot	Jessica Franke	7.1
Javelin	Bettina Liang	13.9
High	Bettina Liang	1.15
Long Jump	Nina Pirola	3.7
75m Run	Kaelyn Rahardja	11.0
Hurdles	Miela Malyon	17.44

	2nd	
Discus	Elsa Feng	15.5
Shot	Kaelyn Rahardja	6.9
Javelin	WingTei Cheung	12.5
High	Shandy Liu	1.15
Long Jump	Emily Keevers	3.6
75m Run	Jessica Franke	11.97
Hurdles	Kaelyn Rahardja	17.67

	3rd	
Discus	Amy Lawrence / Rachel Yu	15.4
Shot	Vicki Tran	6.4
Javelin	Shanshan Qi	10.6
High	Emily Keevers / Nina Pirola	1.12
Long Jump	Miela Malyon / Jessica Franke	3.5
75m Run	Johanna Kennedy	11.98
Hurdles	Emily Keevers	18.4

**13 Years Age Champion – Kaelyn Rahardja**

### Table Tennis Championships

On Monday, 6 June, six Year 12 students (Jocelyn Lui, Lina Feng, Christy Cheung, Fiona Luu, Vickie Hu and Amy Li) competed in Sydney Schoolgirls' Table Tennis Competition at the Sydney Indoor Sports Centre Homebush. St George entered 3 doubles teams and the girls played 2 single matches and 2 double matches.

Jocelyn and Lina qualified for the quarter finals where they defeated Blakehurst High to progress to the semi finals to play St Johns Park. The semi final was an exciting and close game where the girls won a singles match each. It was through their excellent teamwork skills that the girls won both doubles matches to progress to the grand final, where they met Birrong High School. The girls tried hard and put up a great fight in their singles and double matches but unfortunately lost. A great effort and a well deserved second place.

The repechage finals were entertaining games, where Christy played against her own "school mate" Vickie. Christy won the best of three contests and progressed to the next stage. Fiona played against a student from Blakehurst High and was successful in progressing to the next stage and Amy progressed to the next stage due to a forfeit from Fairfield High. Unfortunately, during the repechage semi finals both Fiona and Amy were eliminated. However, Christy made it through to the grand final. Christy played against a student from Blakehurst High and was successful in winning all three games to be the 2011 Repechage Grand Final Winner. Congratulations Christy and all of our girls who played so well on the day.



### Teacher Success

Congratulations go to Mrs Macready who returned from the Australian Rowing Masters Championships in Tasmania with 4 medals – a silver and three bronze. Her most prized being 3<sup>rd</sup> in the single sculls where she was the first placed female rower in NSW. Not bad for someone who only took up the sport a year ago! Another instance where determination, hard work and a positive outlook results in success.

Mrs Cooper  
Head Teacher PDHPE

## Green Corner



### Worm Farm Fertiliser



**T**hank you to all parents who purchased bottles of Worm Farm Fertiliser on the Years 11 and 12 Parent Teacher Evening and for your ongoing support. A total of \$104 was raised towards Enviro Club Projects.

The students from the Enviro Club will also be selling Worm Farm Fertiliser at the Years 7 and 8 Parent Teacher Evening on Wednesday 22 June. **So, please take a look and purchase a bottle of worm farm fertiliser to support your school.**

### Enviro Club is at it again...

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! The Enviro Club has been hard at work producing a 5 minute media presentation for *Enviro Inspiro!* (a competition run by the NSW SRC for Public Schools to showcase their successful student-led environmental projects). We will be presenting our endeavours to reduce bottled water in the school and in our local community. This includes our 'Say No to Bottled Water' Forum, the installation of water bottle re-fillers, and our success in stopping bottled water from being sold at our canteen.

### Did You Know?.....

- Most bottled water is packaged in **PET plastic bottles** derived from **crude oil** taking up to **3 litres of water to produce 1 litre of water to drink**.
- Although plastic bottles are recyclable, many end up in landfill and take up to a **thousand years to break down**.
- Over **90%** of the **cost** of a water bottle can be **traced back to the bottle, lid and label**.
- **Evian** brand of bottled water spelt backwards is... **"NAÏVE"** they thought people must be naïve to buy water when it comes free.

**So How NAÏVE are WE?**

Follow this link (uploaded by WWF) and

"Change the way you think about everything":

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nekqKEsbdU>

Julie Tran, Year 11 and Mrs Duffy

## Parents and Citizens' Association

**T**he next meeting of the P&C will be held on **Thursday 23 June 2011** in the Staff Common Room at 7pm. There is plenty of parking on Victoria Street and entry is via the front gate.

Our **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** will be held immediately prior to the June monthly meeting. Parents already on the P&C email list will receive a copy of the meeting agenda and other information prior to the meeting. The guest speaker for this month's meeting will be Mr Jagelman, Head Teacher Languages. These presentations always start the monthly meeting and conclude before 8pm.

At present the P&C is offering parents, families and friends of the school the opportunity to get some great discounts at restaurants, stores and cafes across the St George area, including McDonald's, Coles, K-Mart and Bi-Lo. The popular **Entertainment Books** cost \$65 but last until June 2012. The purchase of every book will return \$13 to the school which will directly benefit students. *(Please see flyer for discount and payment details)*

### For the Diary – two important P&C events in Term 3:

- The fundraiser BBQ at Bunnings Warehouse, Rockdale on **Sunday 28 August** (8am-6pm) is another opportunity for the school to mingle with the wider community and raise funds for the school. All proceeds go directly towards teaching and learning resources for our students. These BBQs have become a regular event on the P&C calendar. As always, parent (and student) volunteers are vital to the success of the day. We hope to see our parents and students drop in for a sausage on a roll and a drink. *(Please see attached flyer)*
- The annual Father & Daughter Dinner at St George Leagues Club on **Saturday 3 September** (7pm-11pm) to coincide with Fathers Day. This is a great opportunity for dads to meet their daughter's friends ... and vice versa!  
Payment details and other information will appear in the next Gazette. Start organising your table of ten (10) NOW !!

I look forward to seeing you at our June P&C meeting.

Michael Costello	Van Pham	Mark Yan	Aparna Hegde
President	Secretary	Secretary	Treasurer
0408 195 739	9730 0133	0410 665 198	9385 1569

## Mothers' Committee

### Last Meeting – Wednesday 1 June

We were very fortunate at our last meeting to have Deputy Principals, Mr Morris and Mr Ponder, give an informative talk on elective subject selection from Years 7 to 12 in conjunction with mandatory subject requirements. Their time given to talk to us and the opportunity to get an insight into the structure of the curriculum was very much appreciated.

Ms Knott, School Principal, provided us with a regular update on what has been happening around the school in addition to a tour of the Drama Studio to show us the refurbishment works undertaken with the \$15 000 contribution from Mothers' Committee last year. The refurbished Drama Studio was most impressive and we were all very pleased to have contributed toward the creation of such a special and valuable space for the students to enjoy.

The Guest Speaker at our next meeting will be Mrs Jospe, Careers Adviser and Year 8 Adviser.

### Uniform Shop News

Winter stock including red scarves (\$10), tracksuit jackets (\$50), tracksuit pants (\$30) and blazers in most sizes (\$165) are still available.

The Uniform Shop is open Wednesday lunchtimes during term from 12.45pm – 2pm (but please note that the girls' lunch break commences at 1.10pm). Payment is by cash or cheque only (No EFTPOS facilities).

We are looking for volunteers who are available to help with stock take on Wednesday 20 July from 9am to 11am. New helpers for Wednesday lunchtimes are always welcome.

If you can assist, please contact Carolyn Baehnisch on 9534 5495 or [baehnisch@optusnet.com.au](mailto:baehnisch@optusnet.com.au) or speak with Mrs Lana Winger at the school.

***The Mothers' Committee always meets the first Wednesday of the month (except during school holidays)***

The Mothers' Committee is a great way to be involved with the school community, meet other parents and find out what is happening at school from the Principal and guest speakers in a relaxed and enjoyable setting. You will be made most welcome whenever you are able to attend our meetings, so please come along.

Please note that there will be no July meeting due to the school holidays.

### Next Meeting: Wednesday 3 August in the Library at 10am

Lisa Tulau President 0407 007 211	Maria Radcliffe Treasurer 9533 5303	Megan Eriksson Secretary 9580 1167(wk)
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## St Georgians

The St Georgians held our Annual Reunion Luncheon on 30 April at the St George Leagues Club. This year, it was wonderful to have such a large group of ladies join us to celebrate their 50 year reunion, with nearly half of our 150+ guests from 1957-1961. Bravo! If you know anyone who is interested in organising a reunion, please let them know that they are most welcome to join ours. The Leagues Club looks after us very well, with a delicious three-course lunch and fabulous service. It makes for an extremely fun day, with much laughter and reminiscing about our days at St George.

Ms Knott has most generously offered to host an Open Day at the school on the Friday before our Annual Luncheon, and I know the ladies attending this year had an absolute ball. I have heard reports that one ex-student came along in her school uniform, which is pretty impressive! Many, many thanks to the current students for their friendly and enthusiastic welcome.

Special thanks go to the Principal, Ms Knott, and to the current students who give up part of their Saturday to attend. We love to hear from the School Captain and this year's address by Amy Li didn't disappoint. Music was provided by Grace Patten, Winnie Zhao and Georgina Zu; and was much remarked upon and thoroughly enjoyed.

Another St Georgian social event is our theatre party group, to which all are welcome. We recently saw *The Shoehorn Sonata* at the Guild Theatre, Rockdale – a play based on the actual experiences of two women POWs of the Japanese during WWII. A heartwrenching story, and a glowing example of the ingenuity and courage of women when under extreme duress. We look forward to our next outing towards the end of the year. Many thanks to Enid Hartnett, who makes a million phone calls to organise us all.

The St Georgians meet in Room 5, at 7pm on the fourth Thursday of each month during school term. Our next meeting will be Thursday, 23 June. Our Annual General Meeting will be held the following month, on 28 July. We are always keen to meet new members, and look forward to seeing you there!

Pam Appleby President 9587 0355 (after 6pm)	Diana Renton Treasurer 9580 3282	Melissa George Secretary 9522 2527 (after 6pm)
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Year 9 student Katerina Bamos delivered a memorable speech on assembly during Reconciliation Week. I was so impressed that I wanted to share it with you. Ms Knott.

This week is National Reconciliation Week. The 27<sup>th</sup> of May through to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June is a time for us to recognise one of the world's oldest cultures and to advance the cause of reconciliation.

These dates were chosen to coincide with the 1967 Referendum, which removed discriminatory clauses from the Australian Constitution, and the anniversary of the Mabo decision which was declared on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 1992. The Mabo decision was decided by the High Court of Australia and recognised that indigenous Australians had a system of law prior to European settlement.

These were big steps in the process of reconciliation, but the journey, far from complete, is ongoing within our community and continues today.

Many here today are too young to know about the Redfern Address by the then Prime Minister of Australia, Paul Keating. I would like to share with you some of his very important words about reconciliation.

"It begins, I think, with the act of recognition. Recognition that it was we who did the dispossessing: we who took the traditional lands and smashed the traditional way of life. We who brought the disasters, the alcohol. We who committed the murders. We took the children from their mothers. We practised discrimination and exclusion. It was our ignorance and our prejudice and our failure to imagine these things being done to us. With some noble exceptions, we failed to make the most basic human response and enter into their hearts and minds. We failed to ask – how would I feel if this were done to me?"

Reconciliation, to Paul Keating, was about ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have their rights as the first peoples of this nation properly recognised. It was about acknowledging the wrongs of the past and pledging as a nation to right them.

My great great grandmother was a member of the Dhungatti people. When her husband died she was sent to a mission called St Catherine in the Singleton area a long way from her home around Walcha. My great grandfather and his brother and sisters were fostered out. My great grandfather finally ended up in the care of a church of England priest far from home and family. His experience was not unusual.

Achieving true reconciliation depends on remembering such experiences and not shying away from them. It means raising awareness and knowledge of Indigenous history and culture, changing attitudes that are often based on myths and misunderstandings, and encouraging action where everyone plays their part in building a better relationship between all of us as Australians.

The massive disadvantages suffered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in health, housing, custody rates, education and employment will not be overcome tomorrow, but with goodwill and determination Australians can achieve realistic steps towards justice and equity sooner than some pessimists think. Reconciliation is a multi-layered process, at its core; it is about addressing the divisions between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians – divisions that have often been caused by a lack of respect, knowledge and understanding.

On the 13 February 2008, another former Prime Minister – Kevin Rudd urged us to:

Honour the Indigenous peoples of this land, the oldest continuing culture in human history.

Reflect on their past mistreatment.

Reflect in particular on the mistreatment of those who were Stolen Generations – this blemished chapter in our nation's history.

And he told us that the time has now come for the nation to turn a new page in Australia's history by righting the wrongs of the past and so move forward with confidence to the future.

We need no reminder that there's still plenty to be done on the practical side of reconciliation, the statistics of deprivation are beyond debate the pictures on the nightly news beyond appalling. So Australia as a nation is presented with a challenge. For only when the massive disadvantages still suffered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are tackled and beaten, when everyone who resides in this great country benefits equally from what it has to offer, will the full meaning of reconciliation be seen...

... and the true beauty of this country be realised.

Thank You.

Katerina Bamos



# Coming Events

Tuesday 21 June	Gazette issued on school website Year 7 Languages Day Year 9 Environmental Excursion, Carlton Public School, 8.45am – 3pm <b>Students Dismissed 2.25pm</b>
Wednesday 22 June	Years 7 and 8 Parent/Teacher Evening, Assembly Hall, 4pm – 7pm
Thursday 23 June	Year 10 Careers Expo, Homebush, 8.30am – 1.45pm Regional Dance Competition Parents and Citizens' Association Meeting, Staff Common Room, 7pm St Georgians Meeting, Room 5, 7pm
Friday 24 June	Year 12 Biology Excursion, The University of Sydney, 9.30am – 2.30pm Year 11 Textiles Excursion, Darling Harbour, 10am – 2pm Year 12 Textiles Incursion
Monday 27 June	Year 10 HSC Information Evening, Assembly Hall and Common Room, 7pm Zone Athletics Carnival Orchestra Performance, Sydney Technical High School, 6.30pm – 8pm
Tuesday 28 June	Year 8 Japanese Excursion, Kirrawee, 9am – 3.05pm Year 12 Music Composition Day, Sylvania, 9.30am Library Monitors lunch <b>Students Dismissed 2.25pm</b>
Wednesday 29 June	Mothers' Committee Meeting, Library, 10am 'Inspired' Evening, Assembly Hall, 6.30pm
Thursday 30 June	Engadine Bandfest, Kogarah, 11.50am – 3.05pm Macquarie United Nations Schools Conference, Macquarie University, 8.30am – 3.30pm
Friday 1 July	Year 11 Modern History Excursion, City, 9am – 3pm Year 9 Reports Issued Year 10 Reports Issued Final Day of Term 2.
Thursday 7 July – Friday 8 July	Year 12 Japanese HSC Workshop, 10am – 3pm, Kirrawee
Monday 11 July	Year 12 Japanese HSC Workshop, 10am – 3pm, Kirrawee
Monday 18 July	School Development Day. Staff Only.
Tuesday 19 July	Term 3 commences for all students. Small Group Photo Day Year 12 French and Japanese Trial HSC Speaking Exam
Wednesday 20 July	Year 7 Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal, 9am – 3pm, Burwood Years 9 and 10 Parent/Teacher Evening, Assembly Hall, 4pm – 7pm
Thursday 21 July	Music Excursion
Friday 23 July	Zone Athletics Carnival CHS Cross Country, Eastern Creek Gala Music Evening, Assembly Hall, 7pm

**It is important that payment for excursions is made to the Finance Office  
on the days as designated by classroom teachers.**