



# *The Oak Leaf*

## Armidale High School

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### *Principal's Report*

#### **Welcome back**

A very warm welcome back to what will no doubt be a particularly cold term. We have hit the ground running and already the school calendar is filling up fast with a variety of events.

#### **ANZAC commemorations**

Last Wednesday Armidale High School conducted an ANZAC assembly which included an address from Commander Cameron Moore. Captain Moore spoke about courage and really connected with the students in the audience. He asked them to consider that the people that were going off to war 100 years ago were, in some cases no older than many of the students who were present in the auditorium. As is protocol, the names of past Armidale High School students who lost their lives representing Australia in the various wars were read out. This was a very moving and sombre assembly and I thank Mr Worley for his organisation.



Many parents would have been at the Armidale ANZAC Day march on Saturday. It was wonderful to see so many young people in attendance representing the various schools and groups in town. Armidale High was no exception with over 40 students in attendance to mark the occasion. Our school captains, Georgie Cooper and Subhanu Abbaraju joined many others in laying a wreath at the memorial in Central Park.



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## NAPLAN Tests

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an everyday part of the school calendar since 2008.

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling and numeracy. The assessments are undertaken nationwide every year and this year will be held on **Tues 9, Wed 10 and Thurs 11 of May**. Students in Year 7 and 9 have been issued with relevant information about the tests. Please contact the school if you have any further questions about NAPLAN.

## Family circumstances

Sadly sometimes relationships break down and the court makes orders that change the contact parents can have with their children or the role they play in making decisions about their children's education. These can be Family Court Orders or Apprehended Violence Orders. Parents can also reach agreement about issues such as contact in a parenting plan.

If this happens it is important that you provide the school with a copy of any court orders or plan that could impact on your child's education.

In the absence of any notification to the contrary, the school will assume that both parents continue to retain a shared and equal parental responsibility for their children and should be involved in making any decisions regarding their children's education.

This means that the school will recognise that each parent has equal duties, obligations, responsibilities and opportunities in relation to matters involving the school.

If any changes occur in your family relationships which have the potential to impact on the relationship between the school and your family, please advise the school immediately and provide a copy of any court orders that may be obtained. These orders will be stored securely and only accessed by staff who need to see them in order to plan for your children's learning and support and related issues.

## Uniform

School uniform at Armidale High School will remain a key focus area this term. I realise that we experience very cold weather in the winter terms but I would encourage students to layer underneath the uniform rather than wear various items of unauthorised clothing in place of the uniform.

I would like to emphasise that jeans and leggings are NOT part of the school uniform. Girls have the option of wearing plain blue track pants, blue pants or blue tights with their skirts.

I sincerely thank those students who wear their school uniform with pride on a daily basis and I welcome the opportunity to work with families to ensure that students are consistently wearing uniform.

## '13 Reasons Why'

Many of you will have heard in recent days about the recently released Netflix show, '13 Reasons Why'. The show is the story of a girl who suicides, leaving tapes for her classmates which place the blame on them.

Youth mental health and suicide prevention services worldwide have expressed their concerns about the show, especially the graphic nature of some of the scenes.

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Australia has created two documents to assist parents and young people. The first is a list of possible discussion points about the show. It is by no means exhaustive. The second summarises the plot and explains what material may be distressing or even triggering for vulnerable young people.

<https://mhfa.com.au/news/2017-04-21/32544/resources-adults-and-young-people-watching-netflix-tv-show-13-reasons-why>



*Carolyn Lasker*  
Principal



## *Year 7 Coffs Harbour Excursion*

Last week year 7 went to Coffs Harbour for their yearly excursion, and except for a day of rain and some chilly nights, it was a experience for all involved. Some of the activities we participated in were: ice skating, water sliding at the Big Banana (even though it was drizzling!), walks along the beach, jumping at 'flipout', bowling and more. Some year 10 peer support leaders came along to help with tents, organise games and activities and get to know the students before commencing our peer support program this term and have reported positive experiences with all year 7 students. We have also been complemented by other campers and the camping grounds owners on our behaviour and decorum throughout our stay, which reflects the stellar behaviour and manners that our students possess. Now we settle in for hard work and study for the rest of the year with renewed friendships and love of learning and keenly await next year's excursion, which the students are already asking about!



## *Parent Portal*

Using the parent portal gives you access to your child's enrolment details which include current address, contact details, student reports and much more.

*You should have already received a personal login in the mail for your child/children..*

Many parents have already logged onto their parent portal and have notified the school of changes through the online link. If you haven't already logged in please do so in order to ensure that the details the school have are correct.

*Please note that not all family changes can be recognised or accessed through the portal, for example a change of parental custody.*

If you have any changes in your circumstances that cannot be accessioned through the portal please contact the school as soon as possible so that our records can be updated.

**Donna Smith**  
Administrative Manager

## *Hockey Come and Try Friday evening hockey*

The U9's development. Every Friday 4pm, about 15 mins of skills and about 15 min games. Mainly for kids that aren't playing in a team and are U9. If there is someone older who is brand new they can still come to the sessions. There are also competitions catering for U11, U13 and U16 also on Friday evenings. Venue is at the New England Hockey Centre, Sports UNE.

Contact Lisa at

[lisa\\_ken7477@bigpond.com](mailto:lisa_ken7477@bigpond.com)



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## Captains Corner

As an exciting new term begins, the captains extend a jubilant welcome back to all students. We hope you've had an enjoyable Easter break with family and friends, and are as thrilled as we are to get back into the swing of school life.

We kicked off the Easter break in true AHS spirit with a surprise egg hunt on the last day of term. During assembly, while everyone else was seated on the quad, the captains made their way around the playground hiding more than 200 Easter goodies.



It won't be easy to forget how everyone sprinted to go search for them! The Easter bunny and the AHS Acorn made a casual visit to join in on the fun.

Thank you to all that marched with Armidale High on Anzac Day and attended the noon service. We had an excellent turnout of AHS students who projected their Pride and Respect for school and community. The captains attended the Dawn Service at 6:00 AM along with Mr Horton.

**Sai Subhanu Abbaraju & Georgie Cooper**



## State Touch Trials

Armidale High students, Liam Whitehill, Jacob Whitehill and Kasey Gaukroger represented North

West at Mudgee last weekend for the State Under 15 touch trials.

Liam and Jacob played in the boys team and were very competitive with all regions throughout the two day carnival. Both boys received high praise from the North West coach for their effort in every game. Liam is always instrumental in setting up plays in the middle of the field and would not look out of place if selected in the state side. Jacob is still in Year 7 and really takes the older students on in with the pace of the game.

Kasey is a recent enrolment to Armidale High and played in the girls team. The girls were competitive in every game with defence being their best attribute. Kasey received the medal for player of the tournament for the North West Under 15 girls team.

**Malcolm Gaukroger**  
Head Teacher PDHPE



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## DEBATING THRIVES AT ARMIDALE HIGH SCHOOL

As part of the Premier's Debating Challenge, the Armidale High School Year 9 and Year 10 debating teams participated in a Round 1 debate last Monday in the school library.

In a close debate, both teams debated well the proposition that NAPLAN testing should be banned. However, the winning team from Year 10 presented a very compelling Negative case that NAPLAN should not be banned. Both teams will next debate Farrer Memorial High School from Tamworth and will have one more opportunity to debate each other in this round of the competition.

Murray Cox from Newling Public school who was the adjudicator; both teams benefiting from his insights and suggestions which will serve them well in future debates in the NSW competition. Thanks also to Ms Partridge and Mr Bugden for their organisation and support.

On this occasion the Year 9 team comprised: Olive Tutt, Juliet Knuckey, Stephanie Hancock and Elizabeth Zemlyanoy. The Year 10 team included: Riley Doak, Ben Ridges, Jesse Streeting, Challa Gow



### *Introducing Allira Cutmore*

Hi, my name is Allira Cutmore and I am currently

on placement at Armidale High as part of the SWIS (Social Workers In Schools) Project as part of the Bachelor of Social Work at UNE.

I am a Gamilaroi woman originally from Moree but have lived in Armidale for the past five years. Most of the students may have seen me around already as commenced in February and work alongside Fiona Kelly (Welfare Teacher). I am located in the Student Welfare office and I am here Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays.

My role is to support students and their families to achieve positive educational outcomes, and work together in addressing any challenges or concerns, raise awareness of social issues and community development.

I will be here all of Term 2, and will also be attending the Homework Centre on Mondays from 3.30pm in the library to help any student with assessments. Please feel free to drop in and introduce yourself and I look forward to working more with you all this term !!!!



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# KOORI CORNER

## University Tasters

On Thursday 11th May, Jess and Bruce took Amber, Gabby, Liam, Alyssa and Joanne out to the UNE to participate in the Oorala Centre UNE Business and Law School Experience day.

The students got to learn about the supports that are available at the Oorala Centre.

After that they participated in lectures where they got to hear what they could study in the Business and Law School and how these subjects will be very helpful in the way the future of employment is heading.

We are looking forward to the next Experience Day which will be focusing on the Science School.



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Aboriginal Education Consultative group will be holding a planning meeting at Armidale City Public School on Thursday 18th May starting at 1.30pm.

We are looking for new members so everyone is welcome. If you have a great idea but cannot make the meeting, call Brad Widders at Armidale City or Bruce Dennison at Armidale High.



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