

The Parkway

NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

“Remis Velisque”

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November 2009

Parent Bulletin Number 11



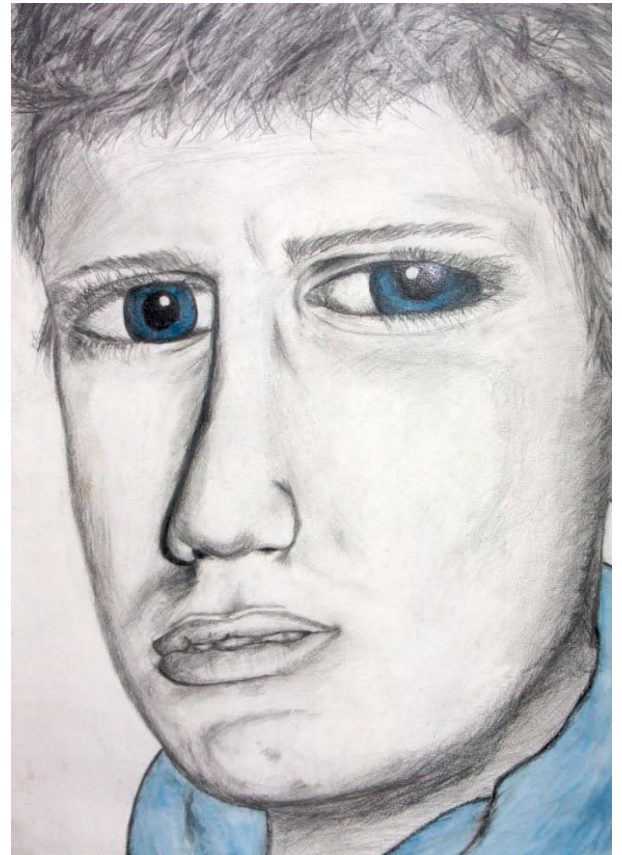
The next P&C will be our end of year dinner at The Junction Tavern
Monday 7th December 2009 at 5.30pm.
Everyone Welcome.

IMAGES FROM ART FIRST EXHIBITION





IMAGES FROM ART FIRST EXHIBITION



PRINCIPALS REPORT

As I am writing this I am reflecting on the success of the first Art Show that was held over the weekend. It was the culmination of a very successful week organised by the Creative and Performing Arts Faculty and the P&C. My thanks go to all the CAPA staff, especially the head teacher, Mark Kempton and the organising committee. During the week students from the local partner schools visited Newcastle High and participated in a range of art and drama activities. Friday night was the opening of the Art First show and there were many activities for visitors to engage in as well as admiring the art. Thanks again to the organising committee and to the artists who exhibited their work.



The Higher School Certificate exams and the School Certificate tests are now over for 2009. Both these important events were run smoothly by our presiding officer, Mr Kevin Lewis. Mr Lewis has indicated his intention to retire from this position and I would like to thank him for his many years of service to the school.

As the HSC exams are over the 2009 Year 12 students need to formally sign out of school. Many students have done this already and have expressed their sense of relief and excitement as they move into the adult world. To sign out students need to pay all outstanding fees they owe. Lots of students have paid both their subject fees and the small voluntary contribution. I am extremely grateful to these students and families. It is very disappointing that Year 12 as a group owe the school over \$10,000. The school simply

cannot sustain this level of loss, so I am proposing that from 2010 students who owe the subject fees will not be permitted to participate in activities that staff provide on a voluntary basis, such as dances, formals, ordering special tops and non subject based excursions. The school community needs to have discussions about how we recover our costs.

Year 10 students have been given details regarding the arrangements for the remainder of the year. With the change to the school leaving age most year 10 students will return to school for years 11 and 12. These next few weeks will orientate students to year 11. The year 10 Graduation Assembly is on Friday 11th December 2009. I would encourage all parents and carers to attend this assembly. This is the only Newcastle High School Year 10 celebration. If you hear of any other events or celebrations they are not in anyway associated with this school. Students are encouraged to wear their senior uniform to indicate their intention to be senior students of Newcastle High School.

Year 11 reports were distributed this week. Having interviewed almost every year 11 student I am impressed with their motivation and commitment. Many students have part time employment and research suggests that part time work to about 10 hours per week actually makes students more organised and better time managers.

This week Year 7 2010 will be formally orientated to the school. Mr Andrew Guinane and Mr Sam Crichton have agreed to be Year 7 Advisors for this cohort and along with Mrs Picton, have been working hard to ensure that the transition to high school is smooth and hassle free. Book packs are available from the school canteen for \$50.00.

Mr Don McLaren, who had been the caretaker for 38 years retired last week. At Don's farewell dinner both Mr Peter Kilburn and Mr Peter McNair, a former principal, spoke of Don's passion and love for the school. This is evident in the grounds and gardens he leaves behind. Don was the last caretaker at any NSW government school and will not be replaced. He always said he was irreplaceable! We all wish Don a long and healthy retirement.



Last week Ms Glenyce Oswald took up her appointment to the English faculty. Ms Oswald had been teaching for several years at a Penrith school. I welcome her on behalf of the Newcastle High community and look forward to the contribution that Ms Oswald will make to the school.

I was delighted to sit in the audience at the Hunter Central Coast Region Music Festival and enjoy the performances of students from all over the region. Apart from Hunter School of the Performing Arts, Newcastle High was the only school to have two items on the program. Congratulations to Terry, Campbell and Nick - you were excellent ambassadors for us all.

Elliana of Year 11 came third in the Australian wide Patrick White Writing Award. Well done to Elliana who has had a very successful year.

Much has been in the media regarding the publication of the "League Table"

Bus travel has always been difficult to manage, but students need to remember that bus travel is a privilege and not a right. The behaviour of a small number of students on the buses has been very disappointing. Some students have had their free passes withdrawn and been suspended. Students who catch buses from Market Town need to remember to behave and be polite and not engage in any disturbances that erupt from time to time involving members of the public that congregate around the area.

I was delighted to join with the canteen volunteers this week at their annual Christmas party and thank them for their time and efforts over the last year.

Mr Kilburn is currently on leave. During his absence Ms Regan is relieving as Deputy Principal. She has been working with several Year 8 and 9 classes and there has been a commendable improvement in the behaviour and work ethic of these classes. Well done to year 8 and 9 students.

On Monday the 23rd, the year 9 laptop computers are expected to arrive. Many parents have attended one of the three parent information sessions and collected the laptop charter that needs to be returned before the computers can be issued to students. Thanks to Mrs Munro and Mr Scott for their work with these information sessions. Parents/carers need to attend one of these sessions before a laptop can be issued to students.

Please mark the dates of the Presentation Days in your diary. I look forward to joining with you at these very special events and celebrating student achievements in 2009.

Year 12 students Sophie and Rochelle have had their work nominated for inclusion in Design Technology – the showcase for outstanding Design and Technology projects. Congratulations to Sophie, Rochelle and their teacher Mrs Queenan.

Included in this bulletin is a copy of the letter sent to Deputy Prime Minister Gillard on behalf of parents, teachers and principals.

Mark Hewitt
Principal

17 November 2009

The Hon. Julia Gillard MP
Minister for Education
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

As parents, teachers and principals we welcome the Australian Government's commitment to lift the achievement of all our students through the provision of quality education in schools.

In striving to meet that commitment, we all recognise that it requires strong evidence-based policy decisions around quality teacher training, skilled teachers in all schools, the provision of a curriculum which meets the needs of all students, and support for school communities as they work to provide the very best education for their children. Any change must be managed with care and driven by sound evidence.

We are writing to you because of our shared concern that one aspect of your program threatens to harm the future opportunities of Australian students. There is, we believe, a serious risk to school communities – students, staff and parents – through the publication of school data by ACARA.

NAPLAN testing provides a snapshot of academic achievement in a small, yet significant, part of the curriculum. Parents receive a picture of their child's skill development in literacy and numeracy and it gives teachers and principals a reference point for evaluating professional practice in their school.

Important as NAPLAN may be, its limitations are considerable and include the following:

- NAPLAN was not designed for the purpose of measuring school performance and certainly is not able to reliably measure overall year-to-year student improvement.
- There are large margins of statistical error evident in tests such as NAPLAN.
- Combining individual student results into a school average does not provide a sound basis for comparing schools.
- The complexities found within a school population – social, economic, etc – do not allow reasonable comparative data to be gained through the administration of one or two brief tests covering a very limited part of the curriculum.

There is considerable evidence that the inappropriate use of data to compare schools can have serious negative impacts, both on the testing itself and on the very schools and children it was intended to help. Allowing student data to be inappropriately or mischievously used for the creation and publication of league tables could exacerbate the difficulties of the communities concerned, narrow the school curriculum and risk the testing process itself becoming corrupted.

The United States and United Kingdom experiences of league tables offer a clear and definable warning to the Australian Government and to all education decision makers. Whether it be the narrowing of curriculum, a deepening inequity across schools and school systems, an unhealthy segregation of schools, or all of these, the research and evidence is clear and well documented.

Minister, you recently stated that the ability of “governments to look at comparable schools and their resultswill allow extra resources and efforts to be targeted to where they are most needed so that schools are supported.” The publication of school comparisons and rankings is not necessary to identify schools in need of additional support. The information needed is readily available.

In order to address our collective concerns we seek the following:

1. What is the conclusive evidence by which the Government decided that the publication of comparative school data will assist, rather than impair, school education in Australia?
2. As the Minister responsible for ACARA, what steps will you take to ensure that simplistic league tables or other inappropriate comparisons of schools will not be published?
3. What risk management processes will be in place to ensure that national testing and reporting will not have unintended negative consequences for our schools?

Minister, it is within your power to stop the damage that would be done through invalid school comparisons and the creation and publication of league tables.

Australian Council of State School Organisations

Yours sincerely
Peter Garrigan
President
Angelo Gavrielatos
Federal President
Australian Education Union

Norm Hart
President
Australian Government Primary Principals Association

Ian Dalton
Executive Director
Australian Parents Council

Andrew Blair
President

Australian Secondary Principals Association
Chris Watt
Federal Secretary
Independent Education Union of Australia

INDUSTRIAL ARTS

As 2009 draws nearer to conclusion, we can reflect back on what has been yet another very successful year for the Industrial Arts Faculty.

The **HSC Industrial Technology** Furniture Construction students have again produced some exceptional Major Projects. A wide range of projects were attempted including a corner lounge, entertainment units, display cabinets, a coffee table and a poker table. A big thank you must go to their teacher Mr Dransfield and well earned congratulations to all students on the success of their projects.

A class in Graphics Technology (Technical Drawing) will be running in Year 9 in 2010 for the first time for quite a few years - a fantastic result as this subject is a must-have for all trade courses and apprenticeships.

The **Metals and Engineering** course has just completed its second year of operation with the first group of graduating students achieving some fantastic results. While undertaking work placement, several students were successful in receiving permanent job offers.

The **Senior Preparation Program** which ran for year 10 students has enabled them to experience various fields of Engineering and Construction such as Civil, Electrical, Mechanical and Metallurgy.

The CO2 Dragsters were again popular as an example of Mechanical Engineering. A wide variety of interesting designs were submitted



with 'Frustrated' made by Kale and Luke winning the CO2 Double Elimination Series.

A variety of model bridges was tested in Civil Engineering while metallurgy of steel was investigated through heat treatment of carbon steel and load testing of brackets.

A good number of students took advantage of the opportunity to obtain their construction Green Card. This was organised by the school at the MBA centre and it allows students to enter and work on building sites.



On a sad note we saw the retirement of Mr Rod Kleeman this year and we also saw the transfer of Mr Craig Butler to Warners Bay High School. Both teachers will be missed and I would like to thank them both for their commitment to public education and for what they have done for the students of Newcastle High School. We have also welcomed Mr Steve Prior to the Industrial Arts faculty. His enthusiasm and positive attitude towards our students this term have been greatly appreciated.

David Campton
Head Teacher Industrial Arts.

SHINE PROGRAM

Shine program is a program designed for young girls. The program focuses on 3 areas:-

1. Worth
2. Strength
3. Purpose

Some things I love about 'Shine'

Helpful ideas

Make new friends

Fun

Interesting

Teaches us that we are important.

We learn about our value.

We learn that strength inside is important too.

We learn about self-respect.

We have had awesome guests to teach us.

We learn to value each other.



One of the activities was learning how to look after our skin. We had a special guest from Mary Kay to teach us about skin care.

Yamuloong Bush Tucker Excursion

What a great day our indigenous students experienced! Zoran, our leader, took us for a walk through the bush and explained how the aboriginal people used different leaves and berries to flavour their food and drinking water. Then came the best part..... sampling the bush tucker! We ate lemon myrtle scones with bush-berry jam, followed by bush plums and sweet and sour muthin berries. D-E-L-I-C-I-O-U-S.

Highlights of the day included:

- A trip in the 'buggy' driven by Belinda Wright
- Doing aboriginal art under the trees
- J.B.'s dancing
- Learning the art of aboriginal dance

This excursion was certainly one of those cultural days to remember!

Ada Briggs



IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY	
Orientation Day Year 7, 2010	17/19 November 2009
Drama Showcase Night	30 November 2009
Year 11 Presentation Day	3 December 2009
P&C Christmas Party	7 December 2009
Year 10 Presentation Day	11 December 2009
Years 7 – 9 Presentation Day	15 December 2009
Last day of term for students	16 December 2009
2010 - Staff return	27 January 2010
2010 - Years 7,11, 12 return	28 January 2010
2010 - Years 8,9,10 return	29 January 2010

GAZETTED SCHOOL TERM DATES 2010
27 January to 1 April
19 April to 2 July
19 July to 24 September
11 October to 17 December



WHAT'S THE DRAMA???

Wicked excursion Report: 28th October 2009
by Kristen Hepple.

Mr Kempton, Mr Danvers and Mrs Hepple accompanied 45 Drama and Music students to the Capital Theatre, Sydney to see the Broadway Musical 'Wicked'. Here are some student observations of the day.

On the 28th of October, 45 classmates and I went to Sydney's Capital Theatre in order to see 'Wicked, the true story of the witches of Oz'.

We got to Market City around 11.15 and spent the next hour and a half having lunch and going window shopping. The show commenced around 1.00. As we got our tickets there were many show-goers buying merchandise and bustling to get their seats. The atmosphere was amazing.

The show was a definite success; it had a rather great lighting scheme which assisted its illusionistic features. The cast was definitely well chosen with all characters hitting every possible high note. The set with its many trap doors and unique features was certainly an upside. I really loved 'Wicked'. It was really well made and it was definitely worth its weight in gold.

Jasmin Year 8 Drama

On the 28th October, 45 students from years 8, 9 and 10 went to Sydney by coach to see 'Wicked the true story of the witches of Oz'. We walked to Market City and were given about an hour and a half to have lunch and go shopping. When the hour and a half was over we met up in the food court. We walked to the Sydney Capital Theatre and organised ourselves into lines with the people we wanted to sit with. We went into the theatre and the show commenced.



My opinion of the show was it was amazing. My reason for this is that the actors sang the songs perfectly. The leading girl had a very powerful voice which resonated throughout the theatre. The lighting was the best I think because they were able to make it look like it was raining and that the stage was damp.

It was very interesting the way they incorporated some of the original story lines from the Wizard of Oz into the modern telling of it. They also did a good job giving the characters depth so you feel a connection to them. The costumes were made well and suited the characters who wore them. It was a fun excursion and the show was very successful.

Bridynn Year 9 Drama

'Wicked' is a great musical production performed by Amanda Harrison as Elphaba, Lucy Durack as Galinda and Rob Mills as Fiyero.

The untold story of the Witches of Oz is a journey through an unexpected story, with a talented cast, amazing and ridiculously out there costumes, with bedazzling sets and lighting.

'Wicked' combines heart and sharp wit with obvious though not condescending political commentary to depict a society that prefers smoke and mirrors over hard truth.

'Wicked' is an amazing performance not to be missed. In the foreground is the relationship between the green skinned girl Elphaba, who

one day becomes the wicked witch of the west and Galinda the “in training” good witch.

‘Wicked’ shows the back stories of the tinman, the cowardly lion and the scarecrow and elaborates on them.

‘Wicked’ leaves you absolutely astounded and thrilled.

Well done to all.

Sam, Year 11 Drama

DRAMA SHOWCASE NIGHT - CHANGE OF DATE

Our Drama Showcase Night is no longer happening on Wednesday 25th November.

The new date is Monday 30th November 6.00 – 8.30pm.

This night will include a selection of our students’ work (Years 8 – 11) from this semester.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YEAR 9 PARENTS

YEAR 9 LAPTOPS

November 23rd is the date we have been given for the arrival of the laptops for Year 9 students. To prepare for this date three parent information evenings/afternoons have been organised.

The date and times are:

Monday 9th
November at 6pm
– This session is full.

**Thursday 12th
November at 4pm**

Tuesday 17th November at 7pm



Your child should have brought home a note asking you to indicate a session which you will be able to attend. There are still a significant number of Year 9 students who have not returned this note.

At these evenings, information on the laptops, policies and support available will be covered plus the Laptop User Charter will be handed out. This laptop charter will need to be signed by both parent and child before the student is given their laptop.

If you have not returned the note indicating the session that you will be attending, please do so as soon as possible.

The venue for the information sessions is the staff house.

Looking forward to seeing you on these nights.

Sondra Munro
Head Teacher –
DER



APPLICATIONS FOR TRAINEESHIPS

Applications for Traineeships for 2010 have opened today. Links to information can now be found on the RTA website, go to - **careers in the RTA - search for jobs - latest vacancies**. Advert is at the bottom of the page with instructions for applicants - see below - please note that jobs commence in February 2010.

You can also apply by going directly to www.onetest.com.au/rtanewcastle/ap25672/ - Seek, My Career and Career One. Adverts will also appear in the Newcastle Herald.

An Aboriginal Identified position is also vacant.

Rebecca Murphy

SPORT

Most team sport competitions have finished for the year.

Our Under 14 boys' cricket team, who made it through the first two rounds in Term 1, were unfortunately defeated in their Round 3 match by Lambton High. Top scorers were Ben (38) and Jack (17).



An outstanding result for Bree !!!

Bree qualified to attend the NSW All Schools Athletics carnival in the 16 years Girls 100m and Long Jump. Unfortunately Bree withdrew from the 100m due to injury, but managed to complete the long jump and finished

3rd.....missing 2nd place by 1cm!!! An outstanding result considering that she wasn't 100% fit. The gold medal winner was probably quite relieved!!

Mr P Wagner/Ms N Blatchford
Sports Organisers

WEBSITE UPDATE

After twelve months of waiting, our new website www.newcastle-h.schools.nsw.edu.au is up and running. Please feel free to comment or make suggestions – we are always looking for ways to make our site more exciting, interesting and useful. In the current news section you'll find the latest from the P&C as well as an invitation to receive 'The Parkway' electronically. If you would like to have the next parent bulletin posted electronically instead of waiting for the paper version via your child's schoolbag (or not, as the case may be), please contact the school on newcastle-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au. This would be a perfect opportunity to also update any contact information you've been meaning to let us know about.

Wendy Muskin
Teacher Librarian

P&C UPDATE

Welcome to our P&C update.

Thankyou to Ann Burstal and everyone who helped with the mulching/gardening morning. Next garden day will probably be towards end of 1st term next year. I will keep you in touch with future dates.

Another big thankyou to Sharon Liolio and Caroline Smith for all their enthusiastic uniform shop research during the year. Hopefully our uniform shop will be up and running next year. This will be a huge bonus to have facilities at the school for purchasing all required items.

At our last P&C meeting we presented to the school a cheque for \$20,000. This will help towards many required items for our school. New rubbish bins will be purchased in the new year, this will greatly help in keeping our school grounds clean.

The Canteen dinner will be held at the Aloha Motor Inn this Monday 16th November at 6.30pm. A reminder to everyone that the P&C Christmas dinner will be at The Junction Tavern Monday 7th December at 5.30pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and join in for our end of year get-together.

A big thankyou to everyone in the P&C for all their support during the year.

J. Woodcock
President

Bring Malaysia Home

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to visit another country? Dream of immersing yourself in the vitality of another culture, but don't have the time? Why not invite another culture into your home by hosting an exchange student? AFS Intercultural

Programs is looking for loving families in Newcastle to host vibrant and enthusiastic exchange students from Malaysia.

The students arrive in Australia on 19 December 2009 for an Advanced English Program for four weeks.



AFS is looking for families to open up their hearts and homes to these young people, to share their journey with them.

The students hope that their exchange experience will provide them with a sturdy platform to build lifelong friendships, share their heritage and learn about the rich history, traditions and rituals of the diverse Australian lifestyle and ofcourse advance their English language skills.

Hosting an exchange student has multiple benefits for the entire family. It is a life changing, emotional and aesthetic experience

that gives you the opportunity to exchange ideas, stories and histories with people who will cherish the memories and friendships that form over the course of time. Not only will you see the world through the eyes of another culture, but learn to appreciate the diverse ways of life that populate the world and perhaps even learn another language!

If you are interested in hosting, or would like more information, please contact Rita Wilson in Sydney on 02 9215 0024.

AFS Australia also offers annually more than 300 scholarship opportunities to help young Australians discover another culture, and is supported by more than 30 organisations and individuals. Competition for AFS scholarships is high and successful applicants are selected based on their cultural awareness, consistent academic achievement and community involvement. Since 1959, AFS Australia has sent more than 15,000 Australian teenagers overseas and hosted more than 25,000 exchange students and community service volunteers. More information is available at www.afs.org.au.

AFS Intercultural Programs is one of the world's largest not-for-profit community-based volunteer organisations and is dedicated to building a more just and peaceful world through intercultural exchange. A network of 52 AFS partner organisations run programs involving over 11,000 students, young adults and teachers each year. AFS Australia has sent over 15,000 Australian teenagers overseas and hosted more than 25,000 exchange students and community service volunteers since 1959. For more information about AFS, visit www.afs.org.au or email ausafs@afs.org.

Illuminated idea for kids!

L!vesites & Newcastle City Council are conducting FREE craft workshops in November and an exhibition during December to help encourage creativity while also boosting the city centre's economy.

Recycled-materials artist, Ken O'Regan, will be teaching the November 14th, 21st and 28th workshops at Shop 45 on the corner of Hunter Street and Market Street in the former Newcastle Mall for kids and adults alike to create sculptures that will be exhibited in the space in the lead up to Christmas.

"The sculptures will look spectacular by day, and will be illuminated by night for a festive presence in Hunter Street that we hope will increase patronage to the retail hub of the city" Programme Director, Paul Tibbles said.

"It will be a secure event where kids will be supervised and safe while parents either join in or do their Christmas shopping."

The official lighting of the exhibit is Friday the 4th of December at 7:30pm, continuing until the 30th of December.

CRAFT WORKSHOPS:

Saturday 14th, 21st & 28th of November
1pm – 3pm

WHERE:

Shop 45, corner Hunter Street & Market Street

OFFICIAL EXHIBITION:

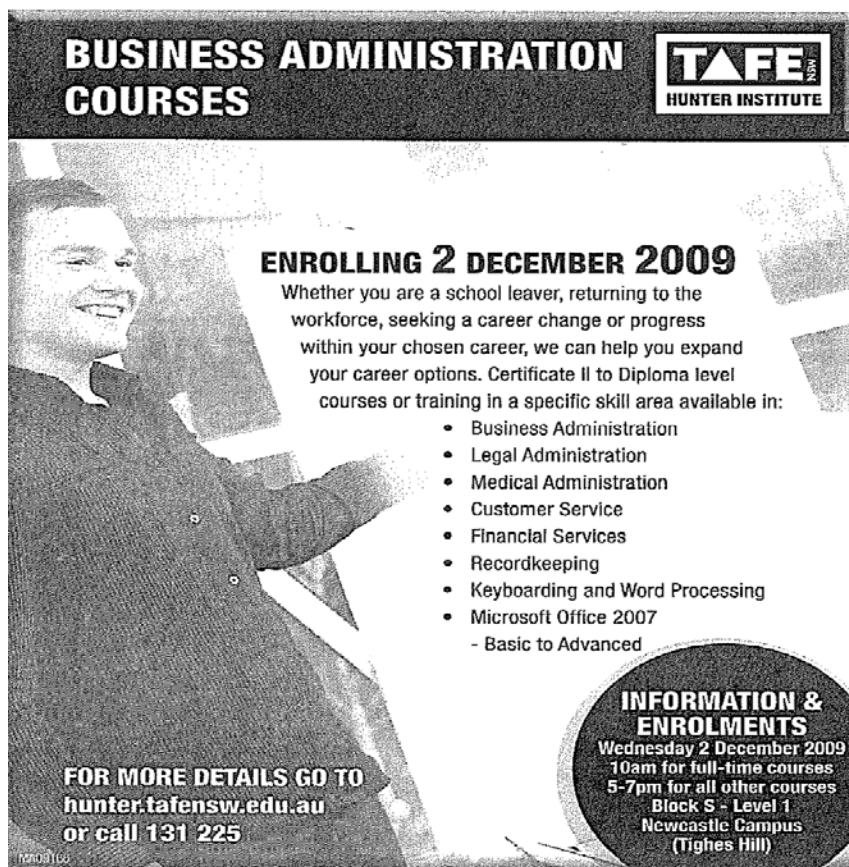
Official turning on of the lights – Friday 4 December at 7:30pm (during Renew Newcastle's First Friday event)

Exhibition close – Wednesday 30 December

WHO:

Everyone is welcome - from school-aged children to mature artists. The workshops are secure and safe events supported by Newcastle City Council.

Media Contact: Kate McGregor,
kmcgregor@ncc.nsw.gov.au
Phone 02 4925 3969



BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION COURSES

TAFE HUNTER INSTITUTE

ENROLLING 2 DECEMBER 2009

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- Customer Service
- Financial Services
- Recordkeeping
- Keyboarding and Word Processing
- Microsoft Office 2007 - Basic to Advanced

FOR MORE DETAILS GO TO
hunter.tafensw.edu.au
or call 131 225

INFORMATION & ENROLMENTS
Wednesday 2 December 2009
10am for full-time courses
5-7pm for all other courses
Block S - Level 1
Newcastle Campus
(Tighes Hill)



**MORE IMAGES
FROM ART FIRST
EXHIBITION**



YEAR 12 MAJOR WORKS 2009

