

# The Parkway



February 2017

Parkway Edition No. 01

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to 2017 at Newcastle High School. The start to the year has been action packed with a lot of exciting learning and extra curricula activities already occurring, including the introduction of whole school sport for Years 8-10 and our whole school swimming carnival.

I would like to welcome all of our new students and families, especially those starting with us in Year 7. I look forward to the journey over the next 6 years, working with families to prepare our students for the workforce and further education.

I encourage you all to stay connected with the school either in person or through our social media strategies. You can 'Like' us on Facebook, follow our Twitter and/or Instagram accounts or visit our school website. A copy of our school calendar is on our webpage so you will be able to see what events are coming up.

I would like to welcome the following staff to Newcastle High School:

- ◆ Mr Turner- English
- ◆ Ms Sheldon- Maths
- ◆ Ms Hollings - TAS (Food and Textiles)
- ◆ Mr Lenskyj - HSIE
- ◆ Mr Erich - PDHPE
- ◆ Mr Oakwood and Mr Smith - Science
- ◆ Ms Carter - CAPA (Visual Arts) and Mr Myers - CAPA (Music)
- ◆ Mr Kendall and Ms Muldoon - Cooks Hill Campus
- ◆ Mrs Hughes and Mrs Onslow - Support
- ◆ I would also like to welcome Mr Guinane (in Mathematics) back from his leave in 2016.

### Year 7 Passion Projects

An important area of our 2015-2017 school plan is to explore ways to increase student engagement through a variety of connections across the school. One of our strategies is the introduction of Year 7 Passion Projects. Newcastle High School is lucky enough to be part of a 'Schools of the Future' NSW Department of Education Initiative, looking at ways to increase student engagement and foster the skills that will help make our students successful. In Term 3, 2016 staff were invited to submit an expression of interest (EOI) to teach students a passion project. Each EOI had to address:

- I. How will the project will be AUTHENTIC?
- II. How will it involve ACTIVE LEARNING?
- III. How will the students develop ADULT RELATIONSHIPS from outside the school?
- IV. How will the project have ACADEMIC RIGOUR?
- V. How will the project be ASSESSED?

# Principal's Message

From the EOI process, the following Passion Projects were selected for the first 13 weeks of the school year:

Band	G. Lewis
Brain Power – foods for positive mental health	D. Ellis
Chocolate	R. Wells
Dream Travel Expo	N. Durie
I want to Live On Mars	S. Bromfield
Interactive Short Stories	J. Myers
Moon Gardening	A. Hine
Play, Produce, Perform	K. Harris
Rowing for Beginners	P. See
Seeing the Big picture	L. Carter
Skinner's Musical Madness	M. Skinner

On Thursday 18 May our Year 7 students will be participating in an exhibition of learning, showcasing what they have learnt throughout the 13 week Passion Project. Parents and families will be invited as well as any other community member that would like to see this innovation in teaching and learning.



## Parking at the front of the school

If you are picking your child up from the front of the school, in the afternoons, please be conscious of the street signs. We have had a number of police vehicles and parking inspectors making a presence in the first few weeks of school, ensuring our young people are safe. They are targeting vehicles that park on the median strip of Parkway Avenue, vehicles stopped in the bus area and also vehicles that are parked for longer than the allocated time.

**Nathan Towney**  
**Principal**

# Deputy's Report

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I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our school community back for another year of learning. In 2017 I will be the Deputy Principal for Years 7, 9 and 11.

Year 11 students all seem keen to start their HSC journey, with many choosing to specialise their study in set directions, while others chose a wide range of subjects to broaden their future options. The most important thing is, of course, that they have chosen subjects they like, as that not only makes learning more enjoyable, but they are usually the subjects in which they gain their best results.

Year 9 also had the opportunity to further tailor their own learning, by having the choice of three electives, which should help them remain engaged with their learning. There will be an evening information session in a few weeks' time to explain the new importance of NAPLAN and the impact it is going to have on these students come HSC time. This meeting will be after school and will be well advertised. I am starting early to encourage all Year 9 parents and students to attend.

The biggest schooling changes are, of course, for Year 7. At this stage their teachers are still helping them learn our processes and the students are settling in well and enjoying being at Newcastle High School. I was able to attend the selection session last week, where students were deciding which "Passion Projects" they would like to pursue. This is obviously going to be a favourite subject for many. The Year 7 *Meet The Teachers* barbeque is on Tuesday 14 February—it is always a popular event, as it provides an opportunity to have a light tea and a casual chat with your child's teachers. I am sure many students are already thinking about their camp, coming up next month on March 8 – 10. I am sure they will enjoy themselves, there is always a range of fun activities to suit all interests.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to comment on how good all the students look in their full school uniform. It is a pleasure to stand on the podium of a morning and look out at all our young people, ready to get started on a new day of learning.

**Kathryn Outram**  
**Deputy Principal**



2017 will be an exciting year for all of us at Newcastle High School. Year 8 students are no longer the babies, and Year 10 are wearing the senior uniform for the first time. Year 12 should be aware that the end of the year is closer than they think! These last three terms are crucial, educationally and socially. If you want some advice from me, it's 'do it now'. The school provides opportunities which should be taken up with both hands, ranging from senior study afternoons, working with peers in the senior common room and library, QuickSmart, to our youth worker Amy King, Maths breakfasts, and don't get me started on the Passion Projects!

This is my last term of teaching. I look back on a long career with a sense of wonder at all the lives I've been involved with. I remember many individual students, even from 1977 in Ardlethan (look it up). I spent most of my career as a classroom teacher because it was such a satisfying job, only moving out of the classroom in 2009. I know I'll miss it. Friends you make at school are yours for life – look after each other.

**Tim Gorrod**  
**Deputy Principal**



# Key Dates

Term 1		
Week 3	8 February 10 February	Swimming Carnival—All school <i>The Parkway #1</i>
Week 4	13 February 14 February	P&C Welcome Supper Meet the Teacher BBQ
Week 5	21 February 22 February	Zone Swimming Carnival Year 9 Information Evening
Week 6	28 February	Regional Swimming Carnival School Photos
Week 7	7 March 8—10 March 10 March	Catch up Photos Year 7 Camp <i>The Parkway #2</i>
Week 8	13 March 15 March	P&C Meeting—AGM Year 7 Vaccinations Zone Cross Country Parent/Teacher Interviews Years 7, 11 & 12
Week 9	21 March	Parent/Teacher Interviews Years 8, 9 & 10
Week 10		
Week 11	5 April 7 April	Year 12 Reports Last Day Term 1



# Vaccination—Year 7

The Vaccination Program will be running on the following days:

Wednesday 15 March, Tuesday 6 June and Thursday 12 October.

Hunter New England Population Health

Direct Contact Details  
Phone: (02) 49246477



Health  
Hunter New England  
Local Health Network

## NSW SCHOOL VACCINATION PROGRAM

Each year NSW Health works in partnership with schools to offer the vaccines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the school vaccination program.

**In 2017 the following vaccines will be offered to Year 7 students:**

- dTpa vaccine (Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis (whooping cough)) as a single dose
- varicella vaccine (chickenpox) as a single dose; and
- human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in a 3-dose schedule at 0, 2 and 6 months (students who commence HPV vaccination in Year 7 but do not complete the course may be offered catch-up doses at school in Year 8)

*Parent Information Kits\** will be sent home to parents/guardians. To consent to the vaccination of their child, parents/guardians are advised to:

- read all the information provided
- complete the consent form, including signing their name next to the vaccine/s they would like their child to receive
- return the completed consent form to their child's school
- ensure that their child eats breakfast on the day of the school vaccination clinic.

*\*The Parent Information Kits contain a consent form, information sheet and privacy statement that details how personal information will be collected, stored and utilised.*

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their consent for any reason may do so by writing to the school Principal or phoning the school. The Procedure for Withdrawal of Consent is available on the NSW Health website at [www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation).

To improve vaccination completion, students will be opportunistically offered any missed doses throughout the year where possible.

**A Record of Vaccination will be provided to each student vaccinated at each clinic. Parents/guardians should ensure that this record is kept for future reference and should not assume that their child has been vaccinated if they do not receive this Record of Vaccination.**

# ABSTUDY



Australian Government  
Department of Human Services

## Talking points for ABSTUDY

### ABSTUDY

ABSTUDY helps with costs for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australians who are studying or doing an Australian Apprenticeship. You may be able to get ABSTUDY if you are:

- an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australian
- enrolled in an approved course or apprenticeship, and
- not getting any other government help to study or do an apprenticeship or traineeship.

### ABSTUDY payments

- Parents or guardians of students younger than 16 and living at home may be able to get ABSTUDY Schooling Allowance.
- Full-time students who are 16 or older and living at home may be able to get ABSTUDY Living Allowance. The amount you get may depend on your parents' annual income.
- Full-time tertiary or preparatory course students and other secondary students may be able to get ABSTUDY Living Allowance. The amount you get may depend on personal, parental or partner income.
- Full-time Australian Apprenticeship, traineeship or trainee apprenticeship students may be able to get ABSTUDY Living Allowance. The amount you get may depend on personal, parental or partner income.

### Applying for ABSTUDY

To claim, call the ABSTUDY line on Freecall™ 1800 132 317. You can submit supporting documents online at [humanservices.gov.au/submitdocumentsonline](https://humanservices.gov.au/submitdocumentsonline)

If you can't claim over the phone, you can get a claim form at [humanservices.gov.au/abstudy](https://humanservices.gov.au/abstudy)

How long it takes to assess your claim depends on how complex your situation is.

Get in early and submit your claim up to 13 weeks before you start your course or apprenticeship.



# Meningococcal W

Dear Parents

The NSW Minister for Health has announced the start of a school-based meningococcal vaccination program targeting Year 11 and 12 students in Term 2 2017.

Meningococcal W has emerged as a significant cause of invasive meningococcal disease with the number of cases almost tripling in NSW in 2016 compared to 2015. Meningococcal disease is a rare but serious illness that can present as meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord) or septicaemia (blood poisoning) and may be caused by one of several serogroups (or types), including A, B, C, W and Y. Use of meningococcal C vaccine on the National Immunisation Program has almost eradicated meningococcal C disease in Australia.

Evidence from Australia and overseas suggest that meningococcal disease caused by serotype W is significantly more severe than the other serotypes currently circulating in Australia. More information about meningococcal disease is available here: [www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/Meningococcal\\_disease.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/Meningococcal_disease.aspx).

The vaccination program will target and protect Year 11 and 12 students based on national expert advice that older adolescents have a greater risk of carrying and transmitting meningococcal disease and that school-based vaccination programs are the most effective way of achieving high vaccine uptake in this group. The vaccine is given as a single dose, protects against serotypes A, C, W and Y and has been shown to be both safe and effective.

The Meningococcal W Response Program for students in Years 11 and 12 will run alongside the routine Year 7 vaccination program, with some modification. The second dose of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine normally given to Year 7 students in Term 2 will be deferred, which will allow school immunisation teams to commence the Year 11 and 12 Meningococcal W Vaccination Program from 1 May 2017 at that Term 2 slot instead. There is no harm for Year 7 students in delaying the second dose of the HPV vaccine.

Further consideration will be given to completion of the HPV course for Year 7 students, and correspondence about these arrangements will be made to parents and schools as soon as possible. In determining this schedule, NSW Health has been working with the Government, Catholic and Independent sectors to minimise disruption to schools and senior students.

Your local Public Health Unit (available on 1300 066 055) will shortly be contacting your school to make arrangements to offer meningococcal vaccination to Year 11 and 12 students, including confirming clinic times and the distribution and collection of consent materials.

Your support is greatly appreciated and will help maintain the health and well-being of your students and the broader community.

Regards

**Janet Davy**  
**A/Deputy Secretary**  
**School Operations and Performance**



**Education**

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Department  
of Industry  
Resources & Energy

# Support to Pay Electricity and Gas Bills\*



**Help is available to pay  
your energy bills.**

**For information on  
rebates and emergency  
assistance go to:**

**[www.resourcesandenergy  
.nsw.gov.au/rebates](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/rebates)**

**or phone Service NSW  
on 137 788**

**\* eligibility criteria apply**

## **YOU COULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR ONE OR MORE OF THESE REBATES/ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

**Family Energy Rebate\*** – \$150 or \$15 per year – If you are the electricity account holder in your household, have dependent children and receive a DHS payment called Family Tax Benefits (Part a or B), you could qualify for this electricity rebate. Information on application deadlines is available from our website.

**NSW Gas Rebate\*** – \$90 per year – If you have natural gas or use LPG for cooking, heating or hot water, you could qualify for this gas rebate. To be eligible you will also need to be the gas account holder and have a DHS or DVA Pensioner Concession Card, DHS Health Care Card or a DVA Gold Card marked with WW, TPI or EDA.

**Medical Energy Rebate\*** – \$235 per year – You could qualify for this rebate if you, or someone living with you, have an inability to self-regulate body temperature which is often associated with medical conditions such as Parkinson's disease and Multiple Sclerosis. The electricity account holder in your household must have a DHS or DVA Pensioner Concession Card, DHS Health Care Card or a DVA Gold Card.

**Low Income Household Rebate\*** – \$235 per year – If you are the electricity account holder in your household and have a DHS or DVA Pensioner Concession Card, DHS Health Care Card or a DVA Gold Card marked with WW, TPI or EDA, you could qualify for this electricity rebate.

**Life Support Rebate\*** – If you are required, or have someone living with you who is required, to use approved energy-intensive medical equipment at home, you could qualify for this electricity rebate. Information on approved equipment and rebate rates is available from our website.

**EAPA\*** – Energy Accounts Payment Assistance Scheme – helps people experiencing a short term financial crisis or emergency to pay their electricity or natural gas bill. The scheme helps people stay connected to essential energy services during a financial crisis. EAPA is not means tested and you do not need to hold any DHS or DVA concessions cards to access this scheme.

## **HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION AND WHERE DO I APPLY?**

The Department of Industry website has all the information you will need to determine if you are eligible for an energy rebates or emergency assistance. Go to [www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/rebates](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/rebates) for further information.

If you do not have access to the internet you can call Service NSW on 137 788 and talk to a customer service officer about your circumstances. Service NSW can also post you application forms.

If you have an electricity or natural gas account with an energy retailer you can call them to apply over the phone for the Low Income Household Rebate and NSW Gas Rebate. Your retailer can also provide you with application forms for other rebate programs.

## **REMEMBER**

**If you have a DHS (Centrelink) Health Care Card you could qualify for the  
Low Income Household Rebate and/or NSW Gas Rebate.**



# Cooks Hill Campus

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## Have you heard about Cooks Hill Campus?

Cooks Hill Campus is a part of Newcastle High School, run from an annex site on the Corner of Laman and Union Streets.

Cooks Hill Campus caters for 136 students from Years 9-12. Students use their passions and interests to meet curriculum, following the **Big Picture Education** design. This innovative design has engaged many students as they develop their passions through individualised project based learning. Students complete personalised interest projects covering all learning using the 12 Big Picture Education Distinguishers.

Cooks Hill Campus students participate in all Newcastle High School carnivals, Wellbeing opportunities and students access electives on the Parkway Avenue site.

Each *Parkway* edition, we will share a story about our campus. If you would like more information please see our Campus website at <http://www.cookshill-s.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

If you have any specific questions or would like to learn more about his innovative campus, please make contact with us. Phone: 49291663



Quinn Robertson- Campus Leader



Nick Willis- Deputy Campus Leader

# Sport Faculty Report

A big year of sport coming up for Newcastle High School. A return to a sports afternoon for Years 8-10 and a whole school swimming carnival are the two big ticket items to begin the year. Sports offered to students on sports afternoon include: ice skating, skating, ten pin bowling, squash, laser tag, rock climbing and surfing to name a few. The swimming carnival will have been run and swum and our top competitors will be representing the school at the zone carnival by the time you read this edition of *The Parkway*.

Newcastle High School will again compete in many sports during 2017 including: AFL, basketball, cricket, hockey, rugby league, rugby union, tennis, touch football, volleyball, Futsal, lawn bowls, table tennis and netball. These sports are aimed at various ages and we are confident of success on the playing arena.

In early Term Two the school will run its Athletics and Cross Country carnivals. All in all, a big year of sport ahead for Newcastle High School. Just how we like it!

**Mr Lyden**

**Sports Organisator**





# TAEKWONDO

Our mainstream classes are for ages 10-65. Students are taught from our comprehensive syllabus, providing all with fantastic life skills, confidence, self control, discipline, as well as improved fitness. Students have the opportunity to attend tournaments, seminars, camps & much more. Numbers are limited so don't miss your chance to train with the best.

Register now at: [www.smarttraining.club/classes](http://www.smarttraining.club/classes)

**2 FREE lessons + a FREE uniform after joining!**



For ages 5-9, this is a great class to begin learning taekwondo with other's closer to their own age. The Tiny Tigers is a slightly less formal class

where the students needs is still at the fore, without the added pressure of having to mix with adults. Numbers are filling fast so book your place here: [www.smarttraining.club/classes](http://www.smarttraining.club/classes)

Class sizes are limited, don't miss out!

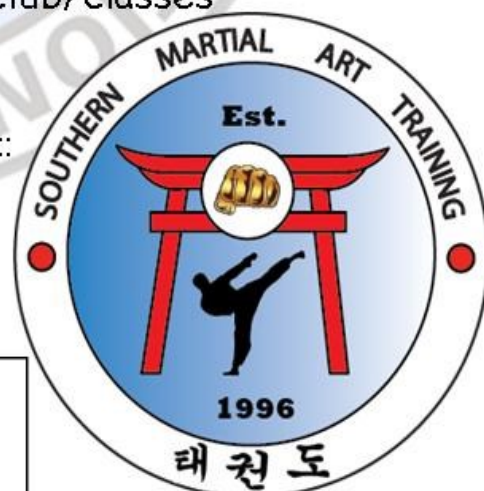
Instruction given by multiple National Gold medallist:

**Mr. Michael Southern**  
**4<sup>TH</sup>. Degree ITF Black Belt,**  
**Chief Instructor & Examiner.**

**MEREWETHER SCOUT HALL**

SMITH STREET, MEREWETHER  
(Across from netball courts, around the corner  
from Newcastle High School)

**TUESDAY & THURSDAY - 4:30-6:30PM**



[smarttraining@ymail.com](mailto:smarttraining@ymail.com)

[www.smarttraining.club](http://www.smarttraining.club)

**Mobile: 0400392520**





## NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

“Remis Velisque”

Parkway Avenue, Hamilton 2303

Telephone: (02) 4969 3177

Facsimile: (02) 4961 2912

e-mail: [newcastle-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:newcastle-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

Website: [www.newcastle-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.newcastle-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)

