

# NEWSLETTER



www.orange-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

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14<sup>th</sup> November, 2013 : Week B

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## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Last Friday Orange High School was proud to host a visit from Education Minister Hon. Adrian Piccoli and Member for Orange, Hon. Andrew Gee. Staff and student leaders shared morning tea with the special guests while accompanied by performances from our Flute Ensemble and Man Choir. Morning tea was followed by a meeting with members of Orange High School's Leadership Team during which the group outlined our future plans and directions incorporating the increased funding under the Department's new Resource Allocation Model (RAM). The third part of the visit comprised of a school tour and visits to classrooms led by School Captains and Vice Captains Meaghan Kempson, Trent French, Beth Clarke and Ryan Milham. **The school greatly appreciated the opportunity to share a snapshot of the programs and initiatives underway with the Minister and our highly supportive Local Member.**



Last night the Year 6 into Year 7 2014 Orientation Evening for our newest parents and students provided a terrific opportunity to continue the Year 7 2014 Orientation Program. School Captains, Meaghan Kempson and Trent French did a wonderful job chairing the event and shared their personal experiences starting at Orange High School. Representatives from the uniform shops and bus companies were on hand to provide advice and many parents took the opportunity to purchase book packs and calculators ready for the new school year. Next year we look forward to continuing our revamped Peer Support Program to support a comprehensive ongoing orientation for the first half of the year ensuring all students are supported to make the adjustments from primary school.

Over the last couple of weeks students from Years 7 to 10 undertook their End of Course Exams in the Performing Arts Centre. **The decision was made to host as many exams as possible in 'exam hall' conditions rather classrooms to help build an exam culture among our junior students.** I am very pleased with reports from teachers acting as supervisors regarding the diligence and efforts of almost all our students and look forward to continuing this focus for more exams into the future.

### Contact List

#### Principal

David Lloyd

#### Deputy Principals

Michelle Barrett

Michael Sloan

#### Head Teacher Admin

Kylie Winslade (students)

Helene Hamilton (staff)

#### Year 7 Adviser

Sophie Healey

#### Year 8 Adviser

Jo Cormack

#### Year 9 Adviser

Jenny Wickham

#### Year 10 Adviser

Narelle Small

#### Year 11 Adviser

Karen Rogers

#### Year 12 Adviser

Glen Pearson

#### Careers Adviser

Mel Hope (Rel)

#### School Counsellors

Robyn Flood

Sue Tallis

#### Sports Co-ordinators

Anthony Wharton

Tegan Dray

### D Lloyd

#### SLR OUTDOOR REC EXCURSION

On Friday 8/11 the year 11 SLR group explored the Ophir Reserve. Students navigated themselves throughout the 6.5 km hike using topographic maps to find their way along tracks, bushland and creeks. Students learnt about the history and layout of the area by exploring the features of the land and also prepared lunch using the new Trangia camping stoves purchased by the PDHPE department to enhance student opportunities. All students enjoyed the experience that paves the way for an increase in outdoor recreation activities and for Orange High School students to appreciate the natural environment and our beautiful local reserves.

### A Wharton



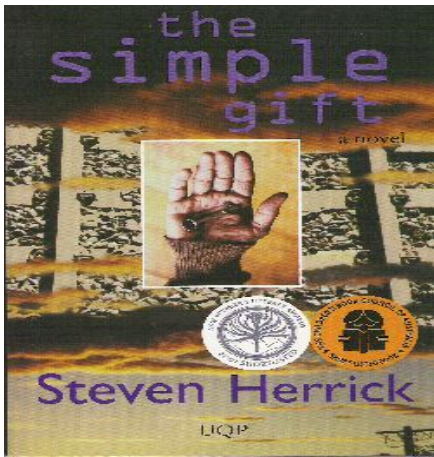
### FACULTY NEWS – ENGLISH

It is difficult to believe that we are half way through the final semester of the year and there is still have so much leaning to be done! All of the junior years have completed end of course examinations and I must commend all of the students for their conscientious approach to the completion of the exams. The English staff are busy marking papers and will present comprehensive feedback to your students with future directions for their learning.

In the second half of this term students will be busily engaged in a range of activities. Year 7 students are being introduced to the world of Drama and will be developing skills in areas such as improvisation. They will also look at scripts and performance skills. This can often be challenging for some students but English classrooms are supportive environments and all students are encouraged to participate. Year 8 have finished exploring Shakespeare and his times and will now complete a unit developing their short story writing skills. This is an important text type that is assessable throughout their entire English studies. Year 9 are deconstructing film as a form of communication and they will have the opportunity to use their technology skills to create a film or a film trailer. Year 10 classes are studying different concepts ranging from "Protest Songs and Poetry" to "Change". They are developing their skills in deconstructing texts in the lead up to their transition into senior English.

Last term I reported on the submission of the HSC Extension Two Major Works and as I am writing this, I am currently working with six new candidates for the course. We had the opportunity to attend a course co-ordinated by the State Library of New South Wales where the students were able to speak to experienced Extension Two markers about the best way to approach the project. Students were able to "speed date" an expert, including Dr Felicity Plunkett who, as well as being an author, was the Chief Examiner of Extension One and Two English between 2004 and 2009. This experience was invaluable for the 2014 students and they are all eagerly researching their concepts as well as their form in the preparation for the commencement of the actual writing process.

Our new group of Higher School Certificate candidates have been busily developing their understanding of the Area of Study, Belonging. They have been exploring this complex concept and studying prescribed texts such as *The Simple Gift* and Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. In week 9 of this term, students have their first HSC assessment task due where they have to compose and present a five minute speech where they deconstruct two additional texts that they have researched. Although this is a daunting task, the students learn a great deal and develop confidence in public speaking which is a vital skill.



*The Simple Gift*, a verse novel by Steven Herrick that many of our Standard English students are studying.

The English faculty are also busily putting the final touches on the new and innovative programs for the implementation of the National Curriculum for Years 7 and 9 in 2014. These exciting new units are designed to challenge students and meet the needs of twenty-first century learners. It has been a great deal of work for the faculty and we are eagerly awaiting the challenge of teaching these innovative new program.

As always, if you ever have a question, concern or would simply like to give us some feedback, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or your child's teachers.

**Kathleen Maksymczuk, Head Teacher English**

#### ASSESSMENTS DUE – WEEK 7

Year 9: PASS (research task)

Year 12 (2014) Food tech (Case study – Aust Food Ind), Ind Tech – Metal & Eng (folio & project), Ind Tech – Timber & Furn (folio & project), Legal St (Research – extended response in class), Maths Genera 11 & 2 (in class test), Mathematics (in class test)

#### P&C MEETING

The next P&C meeting will be held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm in the Music Centre.

#### PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Three students from Orange High School have been working as part of the ballet ensemble for the Phantom of the Opera. It has been running for almost a month completing 14 performances with 2 in Dubbo. The show is very technical and is rarely undertaken outside a metropolitan area.

The girls have been engaged with the show since June. Congratulations to Gemma Sattler, Roisin O'Connor and Erin Cooper.

**L O'Connor**

#### RETURNING BORROWED INSTRUMENTS.

We are currently completing a stocktake of our musical instruments. It is so easy to forget that instrument that has been placed "out of sight, out of mind" once band is no longer a priority in the busy life of school. Please return any found and no longer being played, instruments to the music staff room so they can be used for the next generation of players.

Thank you in advance.

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#### WARATAH CRICKET CLUB

Cricketers wanted for seniors Waratah Cricket Club 1<sup>st</sup>, 2nds and Centenary Cup. Please contact Brendon on 0400 490 449 or Brett on 0431 313 917 or Di on 0418 164 264 if you require further information.