

Chatham High School

Excellence • Innovation • Opportunity • Success



chatham-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

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

Facebook: Chatham High School - Official

Ph: 6552 2588

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3 TERM 3, 2016

Principal's Report

I have to admit I thought about how I should start my first newsletter a little more than I should have, when all I really want and probably need to say is G'day. It's been an incredibly humbling experience over the past five weeks during which time I've had the immense pleasure of meeting happy students, dedicated staff and several members of an obviously proud and committed community. In particular I would like to pass on my thanks to Merv Presland, whose gracious nature, integrity and wisdom has ensured the transition in leadership has gone by without a hitch.

A little of my background, I am a country boy born in Cobar NSW, spending most of my time growing up in the bush. I have a background in engineering and computing and retrained as an Industrial Arts teacher in the early 90's. My teaching career has taken me from Western Sydney to Norfolk Island, the Central Coast and most recently to Menindee where I had the great privilege of being appointed as the Executive Principal of Menindee Central School under the Connected Community strategy.

My journey through the school system has taught me a good deal about what makes a great school tick and I see many of those ingredients present at Chatham High. A committed parent body, caring staff and students who are in the main, engaged in school life, offer us an opportunity to achieve great things at Chatham. The Tell Them From Me surveys, which we are asking all students, staff and community to take part in, aims to find out what everyone thinks of the job we're doing now and with those results, we hope to be able to chart a course to take us forward. I am incredibly excited at the prospect of helping the community of Chatham steer that course. I've ridden a bit of a wave since I've arrived, with the school celebrating some immense student achievement, Jack Noble's book launch, senior boy's rugby league crowned country champions and a graduating class of students whose families have much to be proud of. I hope the coming months and years will continue to show that very real example of the school motto in practice, Semper Intrepidi, whether your interpretation is "ever undaunted" or "always courageous" they both fit. Can I finish this, my first of many columns, by thanking my Aboriginal colleagues and community for welcoming my family and I to Biripi country and extend my thanks and deepest respect to elders present and those who have gone before, I look forward to being part of the stories yet to come as we work together to build the elders of tomorrow. If you would like to drop in to say G'day, don't hesitate to drop me a line, I'll do my best to make sure I'm available. Cheers, Daryl.

daryl.irvine@det.nsw.edu.au



'Me'

Chatham High had the privilege of hosting the launch of Jack Noble's book 'Me' on August 1 2016. Jack, now in year 12, was inspired by Luka Lesson (Australian Slam Poetry Champion) when Luka delivered workshops to Jack's class when they were in Year 8. Ms Owen had invited Luka to Chatham as a way of engaging the class in the study of poetry. It certainly worked! A number of students were inspired but it was a promise Luka made to Jack that resulted in the book launch. After Jack, with the help of his aide Marilyn, wrote a poem, Luka promised if Jack wrote 30 poems, he would publish them in a book.

At the launch the whole school, Jack's family and members of the community were captivated by stories of Jack's challenges and ability to overcome adversity and then mesmerised as they were taken on an emotional journey as Luka read the poems to the assembly. What a terrific day for Jack and the Chatham High community!

'Me' is still available for purchase from the school or online for \$20.



Off To A Great Start!

The Clontarf Foundation's Chatham Academy has had a successful start in its first month of operation. With support from the students, teachers and staff the Chatham Academy has so far signed up and registered its first 34 Aboriginal boys to our student and athlete development program. We've launched our Tuesday and Thursday morning sport's training sessions of the program. Over the past month, our boys have been training in Rugby League with turnouts of around 20-25 boys of all ability and skill levels attending the early morning sessions. These young men are demonstrating a strong commitment to developing their skills and best character for their futures while building comradery and their own leadership skills. Our students are showing a strong desire and dedication towards becoming their best person and are embracing the Clontarf program.

Our mission:

"The Clontarf Foundation exist to improve the education, discipline, self-esteem, life skills and employment prospects of young aboriginal men, and by doing so, equip them to participate more meaningfully in society."

Our academy encourages and nurtures their commitment.

With the arrival of our 2 new 14 seater vans, we are now able to travel through the Taree region to pick up the boys from their homes starting at 6:30am and bring them at Chatham High for sports training by 7:30am. After training the boys receive a healthy breakfast and are off to roll call at 9:00am. Clontarf is committed to supporting the highest quality of education and leadership development and training for Aboriginal boys at Chatham High.



Lamont Wright
Chatham Academy - Director

Quality teaching and active learning in a caring environment

Chatham High School – 2016 Country Cup State Finalists

On Wednesday 27th July, the Chatham High School Open's Rugby League Team travelled to Port Macquarie to take part in the NSW Country Cup State Semi-finals. This day saw the 4 regional winners in the northern half of NSW play a round robin competition. The Chatham High School team qualified to take part in this event by claiming the North Coast Regional Championship for the second successive year with convincing wins over Melville High School Kempsey and Newman Senior Technical College Port Macquarie.

Chatham High School were crowned Northern NSW Country Cup Champions. They are the first team in history from the North Coast Region to make it to this level. They will now travel to Dubbo to play the winner of the Southern NSW Champions in the NSW State Final on August 10th. This game will be televised by Fox Sports so keep your eye on the TV guide and be sure to support this fantastic group of young men.

Scott Brown - Coach

Chatham High School's Country Cup Success



On Tuesday 9th August, the CHS open's rugby league team travelled to Dubbo to compete in the NSW State Final of the Country Cup. We left CHS in the trusty school bus with many well wishes and many containers of food. Lee Deer prepared containers full of cupcakes and biscuits, Townhead Fruit and Vegetables had kindly donated a box of fruit for the boys to enjoy and Jodie Bird and Tracey Beckett prepared a mountain of chicken and ham salad rolls for the boys to enjoy. Earlier in the week, Scott Jacklin presented the team with \$1000 in sponsorship that he had secured from Group 3 rugby league clubs. Thank you to all involved. It is support like this that makes Chatham High such a fantastic place to teach and learn.

The opposition for the big game was Victoria University Secondary College. This school was only added to the southern part of the NSW competition as they were too strong for all other Victorian teams. All of their squad are members of their Rugby League Academy, with many having contracts with the Melbourne Storm.

All team members played strongly, with Jake Hazard being awarded Man of the Match by the CRL representatives. Lionel Mitchel worried the opposition all day with his strong running and slick ball skills. Bruwyn Tisdell kicked superbly and played a tough brand of footy, minimising the effect of his opposite number and Vic Uni's best player.

It was an emotional victory for CHS as they were dedicating their efforts for CHS student and Mikey's brother, Nathaniel Slater. The boys all put in an outstanding effort and created memories they will never forget.

Our next game is the GIO Schoolboy Trophy Final against De Le Salle on Tuesday 16th August at Campbelltown Stadium. This competition involves over 700 schools and to make it to the final two is a monumental accomplishment. It has been an absolute pleasure to coach these boys for the past 6 years and watch them grow into fine players and even better young men.

Scott Brown - Coach

Year 8 Chace Excursion Bootawa Dam And Wingham Brush

As part of the students' Cross Curriculum Task on an environmental issue of their choice, we ventured out of the classroom for the day to gather information and inspiration.

Overall, we had a wonderful day and the students were extremely well mannered and grateful for the opportunity.

A huge thank you to Kirsty Hughes and Geoff Kerr of Mid Coast Water, Keith Davy from National Parks and Wildlife Services NSW and our trusty driver/ maths teacher, Mr Timmins.

Following are some photos and excerpts from students' recount, interpretation and opinion pieces regarding the excursion. We will share some more of these in the following newsletter.

Belinda Christensen
HSIE Geography teacher
Chatham High School



I liked the Bootawa Dam and how they run it there and I think it's good that they are trying to raise awareness about how to keep the water clean so we can drink it. I liked Wingham Brush the best because it's in the bush and I like being out in the bush and learning about the trees and wildlife and I like learning about their lifestyle and how they survive.

We learnt about how we need to keep our waterways clean otherwise our water will be polluted if we don't try and keep it clean. We also learnt about the



flying foxes in Wingham Brush and how they catch their food. I like excursions because they give us a chance to actually go and look at the things we have been learning about in class and it helps our brains process what they do instead of just learning about it in a classroom. It is also easier to learn when we are on excursions and it's more fun to learn when you are actually there instead of just looking at pictures of it.

Chloe Whyte

At Bootawa Treatment Plant we learnt about the little day to day things we do that effect our rivers and oceans. The little things like washing our cars on the road or driveway, leaving garden clippings on the lawn and oil leaks from our cars. It all has an impact on our waterways. We were also taught how to save and maintain farmland water usage and what the best way is to keep our land green and healthy with clean water from the creeks and rivers.

At the treatment plant we were shown around and were able to see the membrane filters being cleaned and the big water tanks as well as what they do to clean and treat the water.

Going on excursions are a great way to teach people in our generation because we can get outside and learn in a fun way. We can learn about the history of rivers, the bush and towns and what may happen in the future. Excursions give us a chance to enjoy learning and not being kept inside a small room writing. We should be able to look around at the nature around and learn about what is outside around us and see it in person not through pictures online.

Charli Muir

On the 16th June the year 8 CHACE class, accompanied by Mr Timmins and Ms Christensen, first attended the Bootawa Dam followed by the Wingham Brush.

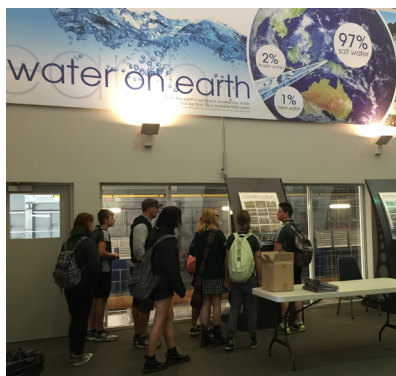
At Bootawa Dam we learnt how dirty water from rivers and is turned into clean drinking water. We got to see some of the machines that did this thanks to Geoff. Kirsty from Bootawa Dam also showed us a model of a Forster-Tuncurry town and showed us how waste like oil and garbage can get washed into rivers and affect our oceans.

The environmental issue affecting our waterways by pollution is something that we should be taught about from a young age since we cannot live without water. Putting attention onto keeping our rainforests safe is another important thing since we are losing so much of it.

In my opinion we should have more excursions because they put into practice and we get to see the effects of what we learn about in class and write about in our books.

Alice Kennewell

We travelled to Bootawa Dam which is to the west of Tinonee. Bootawa Dam holds the supply of water for the Manning Valley. We learnt about water pollution and how we could prevent waste and chemical pollution of our water ways. We also learnt about the things we already do to help.



Environmental issues I learnt about include water pollution, chemical pollution, deforestation, extinction of species and over population. Excursion are a great way of learning as we get out of the classroom, learn something from someone other than our teachers, hear other people's opinion and we have fun. Cooper Armstrong

On Thursday the 16th of June we went to Bootawa Dam to gather information for our cross-curriculum task. Bootawa Dam is the water treatment plant for the Manning Valley.

We then travelled to Wingham Brush, walked the rainforest track and went for a walk along Wingham wharf.

At Bootawa dam we had Geoff tell us about the process of water treatment, and the chemicals involved. We also Kristy tell us about how we can prevent water pollution by doing simple things like washing your car on the lawn instead of on the drive way.

We then went to Wingham Brush, and learnt about how they restored the rainforest. Mr Keith Davy told us about flying foxes as well as the strangler figs.

I really enjoyed walking through the rainforest and learning about the logging and animals.

Elissa Turner



I learnt that Bootawa Dam can hold a lot of water (77 million litres to be exact). Geoff showed us the backwash and the machines cleaning the water just before that water was sent off to homes in the Manning Valley. At the Wingham Brush Mr Davy taught us about the flying fox and how it was really important to nature.

In my opinion the excursion was a fantastic day and a great and fun way to learn about the environment. I would like to thank Mr Davy, Kirsty, Geoff and most of all Ms Christensen and Mr Timmins for a great learning experience.

Rhys McCartney



I learned how our drinking and bathing water gets to us from the Bootawa Dam and how the water is filtered and cleaned. They also re-use a lot of the water at the Bootawa Dam.

Whilst at the Wingham Brush I learned about the native animals and how every little critter is important to the ecosystem of the Brush.

I think that excursions are a great way to learn a lot without being cooped up in a classroom. We were showed a model at the Bootawa Dam that taught us about what pollutes our waterways and I thought that was a great way to learn about our waterways because it is very interactive.

At the Wingham Brush they had stuffed animals that live in the brush which is a cool way to get up close and personal with the animals of the Brush.

Thank you to our teachers that took us on the excursion. A big thank you to Geoff, Kirsty and Mr Davy for teaching us all this cool stuff.

Jayden Edmonds

What A Catch

Each week after fishing, Cate always asks me, 'Did you catch a snapper?' For as long as I can remember, my answer has always been 'No'. We have caught in the past the occasional toadfish, a stick fish... and the odd cold, but never a keeper!

Our fishing luck changed last week when one of

our keen fisherman, Jake Hardy from the Support Unit, snagged a HUGE flathead! Jake is dedicated to his fishing and his consistent patience has been rewarded! Jake went home last week with his 40cm+ fish and a \$2 fishing prize from the fishing team!



And would you believe that this was the one time that Cate didn't ask me if we caught a snapper!

Happy days at sport!
From the Fishing Team!

English Major Work Time

Students are working hard to complete Major Works in English. Three Year 12 students hit the 'submit' button in mid-August. Zoe Dargan, Paige Brett and Brianna Refalo have each completed a 6,000 word short story for Extension 2 English. They should be proud of their achievement.

Year 10 students will also be submitting an English Major Work to their English teachers by Monday 5th September. The Year 10 English teachers have been enjoying working with their students and are looking forward to the submission of the final products.

Brand New Drama Studio At Chatham High School

Chatham High School students are enjoying the experience of performing in our new Drama Studio. Located next to the Music room and above the Art rooms in B block, the new Drama Studio is providing a professional performance environment for our many talented drama students.

The space has been painted completely black and our blackout curtains are on their way. LED lights, a lighting and sound mixing deck and performance mirrors are part of the plans for the next stage of retrofitting the space. There is a large storage space next to the Drama Studio which will be used for costume, make-up and technical equipment storage.

Students have commented favourably on the look of the space. "I feel like a 'real' performer in this space," was an excited response from one of our Year 12 HSC Drama students. This year we have 12 students studying Drama for their HSC. They are busy rehearsing for their Group and Individual Performances which will be marked later this month.

Chatham High School's new Drama Studio is evidence of the school's commitment to providing a full range of creative and performing arts learning experiences for our students



Photo caption: One of our HSC Performance groups snapped on stage in the Drama Studio during their rehearsal. L-R Aiden Morris, Zoe Dargan, Mardi Miller, Tara Louis, Natasha Nichols, Summah Lyall.

Girls Rugby League

On Friday July 22nd Chatham HS attended a girls rugby league, tackle gala day in Windale, Newcastle.

Chatham entered two teams, a Year 7 & 8 and a Year 9 & 10 team. After an early start, 6.30am, we had a smooth trip and the Year 9 & 10 girls played our first game. Charli Wares caught the ball of the kick off and was instantly injured with a corked thigh. However this proved to be our only injury of the day with some girls dishing out plenty of big hits and strong runs themselves. In all, the Year 7 & 8 and 9 & 10 teams played four games each.



The Year 9 & 10 team were competitive in every game, where the players improved greatly, tying the last game 2 all with Mt View. Some stand outs were Harmony Burton, Natasha Ruge, and Alex Ridgeway. Improved players were Rose Toy and Marylyn Sendah, who made excellent runs and solid tackles. A big thanks to Maddy Littlejohns, Brittany Oxlade-Tindall, Alkira Roberts and Ashlea Anderson who had never played before and to the more experienced players such as Brianna Annesy-Brideson, Charli Wares, Alex Ridgeway and Harmony Burton.

The Year 7 & 8 team played exceptional football throughout the whole day, only being defeated once, against Rutherford HS who also progressed to the Sydney finals.

The Year 7 & 8 team were extremely physical, with big hits from Beth Macdonald, Shakaya Dumas, Hope Napier and Tabitha Wares and excellent

runs from player such as Izzy Swan and Chelsea Chapman. The Year 7 girls were light on their feet in the wet conditions with Ashlee Smith, Bella Handel and Michelle Annesley-Brideson making many linebreaks allowing Janeeka Paulson to score long range tries down the sideline. The Year 7 & 8 girls were successful in progressing to the Legends Shield to be played in Sydney on August 25th. Congratulations go to both teams. Our next gala day is in Newcastle on August 31st.



Finally, a big thank you goes to Taniesha and Taylor for their hand with training and also to Jack Bailey and Ms Wilson for their continued support.

Well done everyone.

Mr Timmins

Support Unit Garden To Kitchen

The support unit garden project has been in full swing for a number of years now. It has been very pleasing to see all the classes embracing the benefits of teaching and learning about sustainable living through growing seasonal vegetables. The kitchen garden has given teachers in the support unit the opportunity to implement a cross curricular approach to developing teaching and learning activities with the students in their classes. Preparing produce they have grown themselves and using these in recipes in a weekly cooking programme is proving a success for students.

The garden to kitchen project has given the students the opportunity to experiment and learn about different methods of growing vegetables. The teachers have found that the students have been more willing to try new vegetables when they have grown them themselves. The students have developed a sense of pride and ownership of their garden and the plants they are growing.

This semester a greenhouse will be added to the garden. With this addition students will be able to grow seedlings from seed with more success. Also I would like to give thanks to Ross Wagland for his efforts and help with the care of the garden over the last term. Your support is very much appreciated.



I5 Support Unit

The students in I5 have been achieving great results and working like champions in class. All the students follow a Life Skills pattern of study and work is differentiated to allow students to work through course material with success. Throughout the semester each student completes daily tasks which focus on improving numeracy and literacy skills.

These tasks can be teacher directed or at times set as an independent task. One of these tasks was a research task on a topic of interest. The students were required to choose a topic to research and then present the information to the class. Some of the topics chosen were Flathead, The Industrial Revolution, Submarines and Crocodiles. The students all did a great job with this task.



My research task on Flatheads, by Jake Hardy.

Wheelchair Basketball

The students from the support unit have been going to wheelchair basketball for a number of years now. The opportunity of playing wheelchair basketball was first offered as a sport for the students in the support unit by Terry Mason. Terry has been confined to a wheelchair since being crushed in an accident. All the wheelchairs used for the sport have been supplied and maintained by Terry. Due to ill health Terry has had to step aside.



Luke Bailey and his mother Kim have taken over from Terry and continue to maintain and give up their time each week to offer this activity to the support unit students. Luke is a remarkable young

man. Confined to a wheelchair, Luke competes through Athletics Australia in wheelchair racing in events in Sydney and Canberra. The support unit students and staff gain a great deal from this activity. I would like to express my appreciation to Terry, Luke and Kim for all the effort, expense and time they put in for this activity to continue.

Fragile X Awareness Day

Friday 22nd July was Fragile X Awareness day so the support unit staff and students wore their best orange outfits to raise awareness for this syndrome which affects four young Chatham High support unit students.

While you may not have heard of Fragile X syndrome (FXS), it is the most common known cause of inherited intellectual disability and single gene cause of autism spectrum disorder. People living with Fragile X are affected for their entire lifetime and while these effects vary from person to person they may include: intellectual disability, speech and coordination difficulties, anxiety, depression, ADHD, autistic like behaviours as well as hypersensitivity to touch, noise, light and smells. Every week in Australia one child is born with FXS and another ten carry the changed gene. Approximately 100 000 people in Australia are affected by Fragile X in some way. This information was sourced from Fragile X Association of Australia.

Judy Bowman - Teacher Support Unit



Yarn Bombing

Yarn Wrapping the tree was something that I had wanted to do for a while. At the start of the year in art we were given the topic of street art. Since then we have studied so many different types of street art, as well as famous street artists. For our last assessment we were asked to do a collaborative art piece. Either doing yarn bombing or a painting. I had the idea of completely covering a tree in wool. I didn't quite get there but I'm super happy with the results. I made granny squares and was given some knits from the community. It ended up being a really fun project. It was great having friends helping me complete it. Doing collaborative projects are a really good way to get an understanding of where other people are coming from in their artworks.



Rose Toy
July 1, 2016

Engineers Without Borders

Chatham High were lucky enough to have Engineers Without Borders visit for a day and run fun and interesting workshops for years 7 to 10. Engineers Without Borders is a not-for-profit global organisation which works with communities locally and overseas to improve standard of living through engineering knowledge. They run school outreach sessions around the state, aiming to redefine the idea of engineering and spark interest in students to perhaps consider engineering as a career path.

They really enjoyed their time at Chatham High and loved seeing the creative ideas students came up with.



Sporting Congratulations To

Jack Hyde Year 8

Jack is the 2016 Australian Junior Dirt Track 250cc 13-16yrs Champion. The championships were held in Gunnedah. Jack made it into the final after gaining top three finishes in the three heats. The final race was held over four laps, with Jack in second place for the first two, then racing on in the third to take the flag and claim the championship. Jack was also runner up in the mixed 2stk-4stk 250 class.



Emma Garland Year 10



Emma competed in the NSW CHS Athletics Carnival at Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre on Wednesday September 9 and came 3rd in the 15yrs girls javelin, throwing a massive 33.4m.

Griffos Fly At Chatham High

Griffo rewards for positive behaviours are in big demand at Chatham High. It's so easy to get one. Any student who is caught doing something positive can receive a bright green Griffo, affectionately named after our Griffin school mascot. Students write their name on the back of the Griffos and place them in a green bin located on the Library front counter. Every two weeks the Positive Behaviours for Learning team draws two names from the bin. Prizes have included iTunes cards, Officeworks vouchers and Big W gift cards. What a great way to reward positive actions.



Winners for Week 9, Term 3 are Keely Dyer and Emily Croker, pictured here with Mr. Wood and Ms. Lander.
The PBL Team



Chatham High School is participating in the "Tell Them From Me" survey. Thank you to those families who have already completed this survey. The "Tell Them From Me" survey will help our school understand your perspective on your child's experience at school and provides valuable information which will enable us to make practical improvements. We would appreciate you taking the time to complete this valuable survey which is open until October 21 and will only take 10 minutes to complete.

The survey has been sent out by SMS but can also be found at:
<https://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/gxsnq>

Farewell Year 12

Chatham High School said farewell to our Year 12 students with a whole school assembly on Thursday September 22. The MPC was full with families and friends ready to see these wonderful young adults receive academic, sporting and special awards before heading on stage to be presented with their portfolios and making their final way through the room. There were laughs and tears shed as students and staff recounted many interesting anecdotes shared throughout the years. We wish the Class of 2016 all the very best with their HSC and future endeavours, whatever they may be.



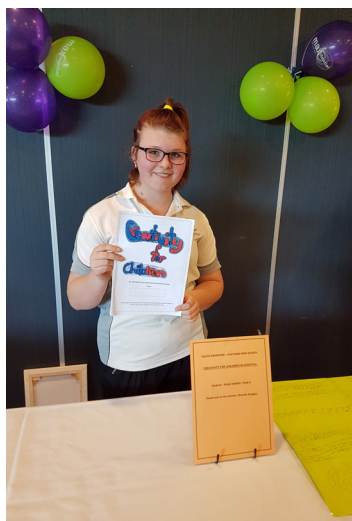
2017 School Leaders

To finish up the end of a busy term we would like to announce the incoming 2017 School Leaders. Congratulations go to:

Captains
Ben Williams
Izabella Stuart

Vice-Captains
Mitchell Chivas
Brodi Woolnough

Youth Frontiers Creates Confidence



The smiling confident faces of Paige Harris, Tyran Colley and Zac Sheldon greeted our State MP, Mr Bromhead and family and friends at the Showcase of Youth Frontiers Projects at Club Taree on Tuesday 6 September. These students of Year 9 were proud to show off their community orientated projects developed during some five months of mentoring. Paige showed her Creativity For Children Booklet, which she had prepared and donated a 100 copies to the Children's Ward at Manning Hospital. Paige was keen to help children have an easier time when in hospital, an experience she has had herself. Tyran had the best decorated display to promote his message of 'It's okay to be yourself' to help students with different sexual orientations be aware of support lines. Zac had organised musical students at school to come together to perform a lunchtime school concert. Zac loves being the technical sound man behind the scenes and is a member of the stage and sound crew for our school assemblies. This mentoring project is sponsored by the state government to encourage students to contribute their talents to the community.

Open's Rugby League – The Final Wrap

The Open's Rugby League team had one final game on Tuesday 16th August to complete a fantastic season. CHS played against De La Salle Catholic College Cronulla in the State Final of the GIO Trophy at Campbelltown Stadium. Chatham High produced their best football of the season to give the opposition an extremely tough match. The lead changed a number of times throughout the match and the boys were unlucky to end up on the wrong side of a 28 points to 26 score line. The opposition players told us of how they train each day for 2 hours and study rugby league as a subject at their school. They also had 500 senior



students to choose a team from, which shows how tremendously well our students performed to match it with them. This game brought to an end an 8 game winning streak for our boys. I am extremely fortunate to have had 6 years coaching these fantastic young men. I would like to like to thank them for the laughs and the life lessons that they have given me during this time. I would also like to congratulate them in the way that they have conducted themselves, always showing me the utmost respect and I wish them all well in their future endeavours. My thanks is extended to Mr Nick Timmins and Uncle Matt Mitchell for being a huge support for myself and the boys.

Scott Brown
Coach