

# PORT MACQUARIE HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

*Principal: Mark Longstaff*

**Proud Motivated Honest Safe**



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**Thursday 23rd August 2012.**

**Term Three**

**Week Six**

## **What's happening in Week Seven**

Monday:  
Tuesday: Yr 9/10 Science Superchallenge  
Wednesday: Yr 9/10 Science Superchallenge

Thursday:  
Friday: Yr 6 into 7 Gala Day

## **TAKING ON THE CHALLENGE**

Last week's walkathon proved to be a pleasant stroll along the beach for nearly all the students and staff, but a hardy group of boys relished the challenge of running the 11 kilometres to Lake Cathie, a tough ask when most school cross-country athletes run distances no longer than 5 kilometres.

Yr 7 student Lachlan Delis led the way from Lighthouse Beach setting a cracking pace and taking some of the older students by surprise. Following him were Nick and Damian Laverty, Lachlan's brother Tim (with a back pack!), Bryce Thompson, Lindsay Isaac-Davies, senior students Howard Aston-Chen, Jack Goonan and Dylan Bruen, and they were joined by several teachers: Mr Longstaff, Mr McGrath, Mr MacGibbon and Mrs Tucker.

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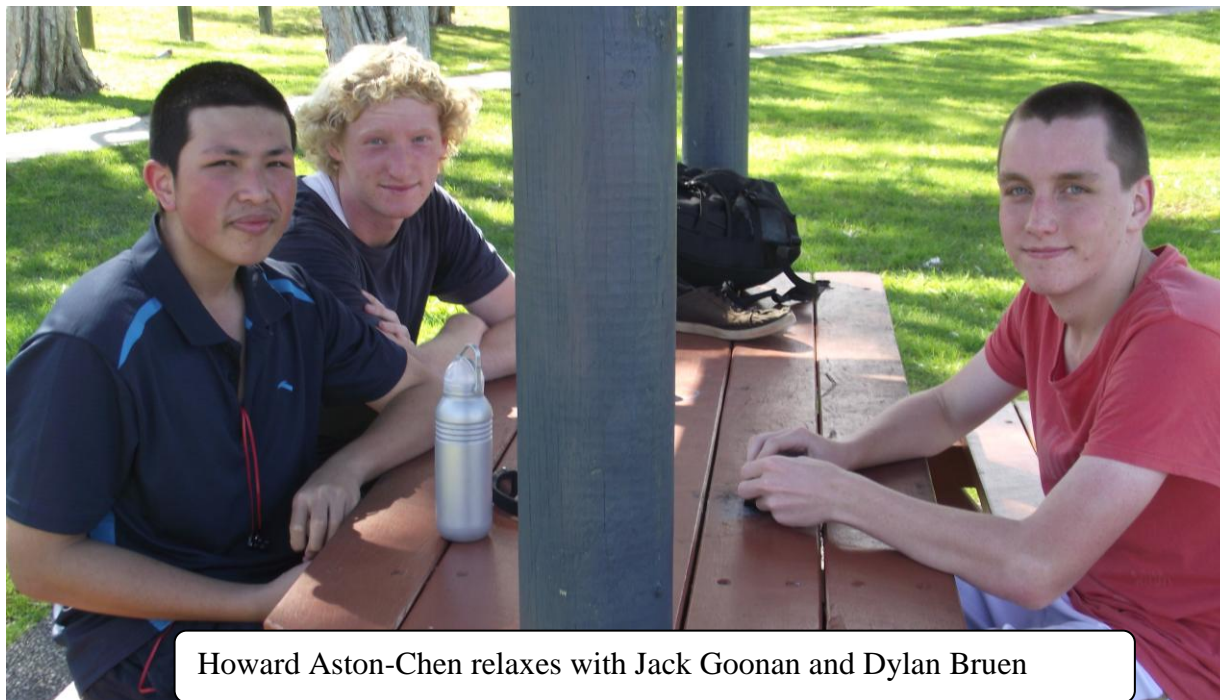
Damian Laverty, Tim Delis, Bryce Thompson, Lachlan Delis, Nick Laverty, Lindsay Isaac-Davies



Some were backing up from the City-to-Surf from three days earlier and sore limbs took their toll, so much so that Mr Longstaff had to catch a lift!

The warm weather and running on sand made conditions difficult and the pace noticeably slackened as Cathie came into view, that is for all except two.

Mrs Tucker, whose husband has run for Australia, showed she is no slouch herself, beating all the boys and finishing in 47 minutes. She was followed 4 minutes later by Yr 11 student Howard Aston-Chen, revealing he is not just a talented table-tennis player. The remaining runners completed the distance in under 60 minutes. All agreed it was a worthwhile (and even enjoyable!) experience, especially when sitting down, relaxing and having a drink afterwards.



Howard Aston-Chen relaxes with Jack Goonan and Dylan Bruen

### MORE WALK-A-THON FUN



# EDITORIAL

Many thanks to all of our parents who have been supporting us in our policy on uniform. A suggestion has been made to update our blue shirts (which have been with us a very long time) to a more modern shirt which can be used for everyday use as well as sport. At the P&C meeting last night it was decided to investigate this further as samples have already been provided by a local supplier. Many thanks to Geoff Duck and the PDHPE faculty for their work so far in developing this proposal which clearly makes sense. Members of the P&C may in the near future talk to the SRC about the proposal and they hope to work with the SRC and the rest of the student body to come up with a shirt that reflects the school in terms of colours and the logo as well. If things proceed to plan then the shirts could be ready for sale to our incoming Year 7 in 2013.

Now is the time for students to bring their Walkathon sponsorship money in to the office. The P&C BBQ looks as though it may well have raised a four figure sum and combined with student fund raising we should be able to purchase some useful items for the students.

Thanks to the parents who attended the Year 8-9 Information afternoon on Monday. A short, sharp and informative session was held which clarified a number of issues for parents and caregivers and I am aware that the timetable team is already looking at placing the subject choice on lines for final student selection.

We have had an announcement that Minister Garrett will officially open the Trade Training Centre on October 25 2012. The TTC comprises the metal and primary industries facilities at Westport and Wauchope HS as well as our hospitality facility.

On Thursday 30 or so of our students were involved in the PISA test. Thanks to Greg Jones for his superb organisation. PISA is an international study that was launched by the OECD in 1997. It aims to evaluate education systems worldwide every three years by assessing 15-year-olds' competencies in the key subjects: reading, mathematics and science. To date over 70 countries and economies have participated in PISA. The last results for 2009 indicated that Australia was continuing to

perform very well but that other countries and states such as Singapore and Finland were outperforming us. It is interesting to note that the Finnish model of education is being strongly endorsed by educators around the world but not governments. Interesting as Finland has no private system at all and education and teachers are held in very high esteem, as to become a teacher requires not only extremely high marks but interviews as well. Professional development of teachers takes place at the end of the school day every day but the school day itself comprises less hours face to face. In other words every lesson delivered is high quality and a teacher's role is that of a teacher. YouTube has plenty of material on the Finnish system of education. It is well worth a look.

Mark Longstaff  
Principal



## Get practical information about:

- Laws for L and P licence holders.
- Supervising a learner driver.
- How to complete the Learner Driver Log Book.
- The benefits of supervised on-road driving experience.
- Low risk driving.

Time and date:

Venue:

Book now on:

Thursday 20th  
September 2012

Port Macquarie High  
School

Port Macquarie High  
School

5:30pm sharp

Library

65831844

**Helping learner drivers become safer drivers**



## JAPANESE VISITORS WELCOMED

Again, students and teachers from Okadama Senior High School, our sister school in Japan, visited us for a week on the annual Goodwill Tour. They were able to experience varied weather conditions, from wet and windy to beautiful, sunny days.

Our trip to the Billabong Koala Park was excellent and there were great memories; from the scary snakes to the noisy white cockatoo and also the smelly wombats.

They visited a few Japanese classes and showed us some traditional games and activities.

Thank you again to the host families who so freely give up their home for our visitors. From the tears at the airport it was obvious that our new Japanese friends will be missed.

どうもありがとうございます- Thank you,

Wells Sensei

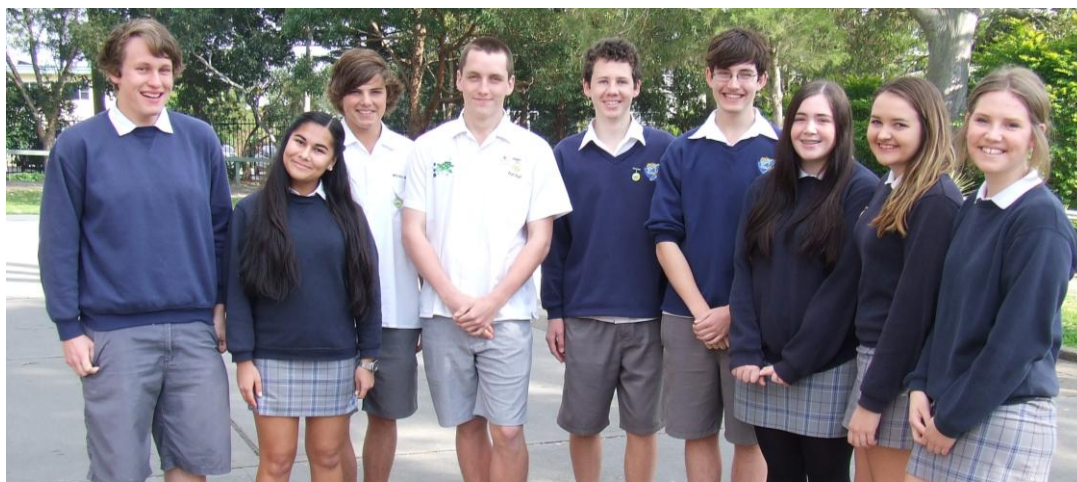


By Chelsea Mavin- Year 11

This year I hosted a Japanese student for the second time. Her name was Saki. She was one of seven Japanese students to visit us from our sister school in Japan. They attended school with their host brother or sister and spent a whole weekend with our families. It was a great experience and strong friendships were formed. We miss them very much.

## SCHOOL CAPTAIN NOMINATIONS

Yr 11 Adviser Nicole Wells took the opportunity to introduce the nominees for School and Vice Captains 2013 at the school assembly on Wednesday. Each candidate delivered a brief address, and students will have the opportunity to vote next week. The new captains elect will be announced at the Yr 12 Final Assembly held on the last day of this term.



Casey Henderson, Kiralee Munday, Mitch Davis, Dylan Bruen, Dan Patrick, Chris Reed, Chelsea Mavin, Courtney Kriis, Sydonie McLaughlin