YEAR 9 PEER SUPPORT CAMP

61 Year 9 students were selected to attend the annual Peer Support Training Camp which was held at the TOPS Conference Centre in Stanwell Park. This gave students an opportunity to learn about their own leadership skills and challenge themselves in adventure activities that pushed students out of their comfort zone.

All students behaved themselves in an exemplary manner. Teachers constantly told by workers, members of the public and presenters about the students positive attitude. It was very pleasing to see all students working together during the activities and supporting each other through the challenging tasks.
Newtown in Review

By Hamish Reid

I write to you. Be you student or teacher, I write to you

So it would seem you have come across this article with your mild flickings through this paper, with either moderate to minimal interest. It is a would-be, distraction. Nothing more, something from which you may leave the medial dramas of the classroom, staffroom or playground and fill it with trivial matters for a while. It’s just a combined little event amongst your normal day to day. 8:55 to 3:10. In which, you must perform your task to fill requirements. Sure there is fun, distraction and laughter, but nevertheless you are here for some larger purpose. Be it to educate the masses or expand your mind officially working toward the esteemed HSC.

I write to you as a would be once outsider. I came to this high school in year 10. Where from it is not important, but it was surely no Newtown. I preach ( like many others) the glory and wonder of Newtown. You may hear people claim “ it’s not like your average high school!” or “Newtown is so great”. They are right. Newtown isn’t your average school. In fact there is no school like Newtown. Which is a thing of pride indeed. Look around. There are no rinses and copies of the same students only influenced by one opinion working down the ranks of age. You see kids in the weirdest array of hats. And scarves. And all manner of things they may have raided from some eccentric relatives wardrobe. Yet they wear it with pride. You see ball games of the oddest array amidst conversations varying from weekend dramas to politics and literary theory and philosophies. You hear talk and the sound of mix tapes and EP’s only 17 people have ever heard of. And none of them are adults. They vary from 12 to 18. They are all bloody mad. And it’s absolutely fabulous. This may sound like School Pride Propaganda. But seriously look at them all. They are so weird yet so inexplicably interesting and immense. When I say there is no school like Newtown, I mean it. At many many many others, the majority of us would range from either weird to complete outcasts. Yet Newtown manages to bind this all so loosely for us to express amongst our peers openly and with true authenticity. Which is a thing of awe from a public school indeed.

I spoke recently to a previous student and his general recollections of Newtown was this? Paraphrased somewhat.

“ The year groups did not divide us. Sure there was Smurfs (juniors) and White shirts but the thing about it all was; there was some tiny scrap of a kid who could play some flute better than you could ever imagine, sitting next to some 14 year old who knew the soliloquy of a Shakespearean king. You were in awe. You just wanted them to teach you all this stuff and show you their talents. It didn’t matter what year they were in, nor what their art was, or even if you or they were a local. You got to see another side of them that was inspiring. This then could be moved again to not just kids with arts but your peers in general. You saw their talents and strengths and it was just really cool. It was kind of like art Hogwart’s.”

Our schools motto is equality, creativity and excellence. These are terms I believe all who come to Newtown each day truly meet. Don’t forget it. Don’t fall into the easygoing day-to-day amble. There is always something going on. Put down the paper. Go on, you have something so much more important to do.
On August 16th 80 people from years 7-10 attended ski trip and it was a blast. We travelled to Thredbo ski resort via bus and skied down the slopes for a period of five days. The snow was fantastic and everyday was a day well spent. Waking up at 5:45 each morning was worth it.

On the first day we were split up into groups according to our skill level of skiing/snowboarding. We were allocated ski instructors who were all terrific, not just as teachers but also as people. We had two lessons a day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Each day was a new experience and I learnt new skills and became more knowledgeable about skiing. Although doing parallel turns down a ski slope 9 times tends to get tedious, I did gradually become better at turning quickly and adding some 360s in the process.

The accommodation was quite cozy and nice as well as the heaters constantly warming the cabins. The only downside of the whole trip was the food. The soup wasn’t the best and neither was the orange juice. Apart from this one of the best things about staying at Vikas ski lodge were the jumpers we got… For free!

On the Last day our ski class travelled up to the top of the mountain. The weather wasn’t the best and it was raining and windy. Eugie and I caught the T-bar up to the top and couldn’t see anything in front of us. We were twisting and flipping on the T-bar and got thrown in the air.

They made the T-bar stop because of us and it was broken down for about 7 minutes.

We joined the rest of the class at the top and huddled like penguins until we found our teacher. We then skied down to the bottom of the hill and joined the rest of the school at Thredbo village.

Ski trip will always be remembered as one of the most thrilling, exhilarating times of my high school life. It was a time well spent and my fingers are crossed I can go again next year.
Year seven has been really fun this year and I’ve so many experiences and made a lot of friends. The transition from year 6 to year 7 was quite hard in terms of the work as there is a lot more homework and a lot of assessments compared to year 6. It was also quite hard as none of my friends were going to my school so walking in on my first day not knowing anyone was a bit weird, but soon after I found a group of friends with one girl I already knew and ended being in a class with two of them.

At the beginning of the year we went on a school camp and were separated into peer support groups with peer support leaders who did the activities with us at camp and taught us about bullying and other social stuff. Camp was really fun and the activities were really good and I made new friends by being in the peer support groups, and got to know the peer support leaders also.

Newtown has been a really good school and I have had the chance to perform in the orchestra and the choir at different showcases, also in year seven, Newtown gives you a really good idea of all the creative arts as you get to try them all which makes it easier at the end of the year when choosing your electives for year 8.

I’m in a drama/local class which has been really good this year as I’ve gotten to know a lot of the drama kids and local kids.

Year 7 has been really good this year and there’s been so many opportunities in performing arts and sport for me and other year sevens to try.
NSW SCHOOLS SPECTACULAR

BY SAM WELLER

On the 29th and 30th of November, 3500 students from across the state will collaborate to form what is the world’s biggest variety show- the Schools Spectacular. Throughout the past weeks, instrumentalists, dancers and actors have undergone intensive rehearsals at both the Arts Unit and the Sydney Entertainment Centre in the lead up to show week. Joshua Meader in year 10 is a featured instrumentalist in this year’s Spec, playing guitar in numerous numbers. Josh has been rehearsing since June alongside other featured artists many of which who attend Newtown, such as Kelsi Boyden (Year 12) and Georgia Melville (Year 12 Graduate). Last weekend was the first rehearsal for the musical groups of the show- The Symphony Orchestra and the Stage Band. The Orchestra is an integral part of the show as it is responsible for all the music from start to finish, the orchestra is also comprised of many students from Newtown; Alistair Hayes (Year 10) Alice Connor (Year 12) Thomas Edwards (Year 12 Graduate) Bella Fonti (Year 9) Lily Khalil (Year 9). This year I am involved in the Schools Spectacular Stage band, alongside Alfie Carslake (Year 12), Payge Eminovski (Year 8) Emma Gibson (Year 12) Patrick Earl-Danao (Year 12 Graduate) Victor Rosse (Year 10). This band provides the zing and pazzaz to the show playing swing, pop, and rock numbers along with some choreographed dance moves and the possibility of the famous “twerk”. Throughout the next few days all the members of the Schools Spectacular will undergo more intensive rehearsals up until the first show (29th November). Tickets for this world class performance are available from TicketMaster, The show will also be broadcasted nationally on the Nine Network on the 1st of December and replayed on Go! later in December.
A typical school day begins at 8 o’clock, when I rise from my slumber. I have the privilege of living in Newtown, so early rising isn’t necessary. I begin my day with trying to locate my uniform. Living with 4 other girls who also go to Newtown makes this a chaotic and confusing time for all. I then escape to take my shower and dress myself for the long day ahead.

School begins at 8:55am. First period normally goes past quite quickly (unless it’s science! har har). We work diligently until we hear the chime of the bell that signals our release. Students stream out of every nook and cranny, as my friends, and I make our way to the canteen. The choices oh, so many choices, what will we get today? I settle on a can of my favourite soft drink, passiona! I quench my thirst as I slurp down the delicious fizzy liquid. We then wait out the rest of our recess chatting about the latest gossip, and specifically our upcoming year 10 formal. What will you guys wear?

Then comes period 2 and 3. This is the slowest part of the day. Minutes pass as hours and the teachers voices become a distant hum. As many bathroom breaks as possible are needed during this time period, as the school work becomes very monotonous. As the clock ticks down towards 1:13 the students become ravenous animals, eager to break the confinements of the classroom. The lunch bell tolls, students once again flood the playground, bathrooms and canteen lines. We spend our time, basking in the sunlight and reminiscing times of great happiness. Lunch drags on, and finally the call of last period awaits...

After school foodworks is bustling with happy customers making their after school purchases. As the crowd disperses, and I walk towards the familiarity of home. I spend my afternoon, completing school homework and watching my favourite shows, such as Wizards of Waverly Place. For dinner, my mother cooks up an illustrious home made meal and we share the woes and wonders of each others days.

Before I retire to my bed, I skim over the works of Shakespeare and Austen, whilst sipping on my hot cocoa. I shower, brush my teeth and change into my silk pajamas. After, I fall into a deep slumber, ready to rise again on the next morn.

Where else will life take me? I do not know. My name is Lucy Pavela and this is a day in my life.
To use one of my favorite English techniques, simile, I would like to compare us with the knights of Camelot. Like those great, gallant heroes of English folklore we were recruited by our King Arthur and are now searching for the most elusive of Grails, a happy and harmonious school community. While we sit around our roundtable, Sir Lancelot, Sir Galahad and Sir Gawain become indistinguishable from Charlotte, Ben, Remy, Hamish, Lani, Yazmin, Toni, Jess, Isabella, Sameera and Will, as we wield the Excalibur of collaborative discussion and action, all the while using the same tactics as those sixth century chivalric legends: a want and willingness to use our collective passion for the arts to reinforce the uniqueness of our school.

We of course are not the first to be bestowed this honour. The previous prefect body were exemplary in their actions and have left a lasting impression upon the school, to the point of physical manifestation in the fantastic photo collage adorning the front office. They are certainly a hard act to follow.

However, we are more than willing to try our hand. We plan over the next year; to help those in the wider community through continued fundraising activities like the always mega-successful World's Greatest Shave, showcase the surprising talents of students (and teachers) in forums like the school Talent Quest and provide the most off the rails apple bobbing ever witnessed at World Earth Fest. And indubitably there are more plans bubbling about the conference room that we are keen to unleash upon the school in the coming months.

We want to be a transparent and approachable group. The decisions and proposals we make are always open to the input of those who want to give it and we are more than happy to listen to your ideas and suggestions as we, like any democratically selected prefect body, are there to speak for the students we are so grateful to call ourselves a part of.

Newtown High School of the Performing Arts is a phenomenal school and I speak on behalf of all the prefects when I say that we are privileged to lead it in 2013/2014. We will endeavor to enhance the vibrant atmosphere of it's A block to G block, its quadrangle to the St George’s Hall.

In the words of the great man himself, Hugh Jackman, “I… love… Newtown.”

Watch this space.
Special Thanks:

HAMISH REID
TOBY BLOME
ELLA MOSELY
ALLEGRA MONK
SAM WELLER
ORSON Heidrich (Photographs)
SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SRC

PRODUCED BY
SOPHIE WILDE AND AUDREY MITCHELL

ONLY AT NEWTOWN

This section is dedicated to the unique moments that only members of the Newtown community could achieve.

Here are the winners for the final moments of the year:

1. To the year 9 peer support students who woke up at 6am to go on a 2 hour run, bushwalk, hike and adventure to the beach. Very proud of your achievements

2. To the Senior Debating Team who outsmarted, outplayed and outwitted Sydney Boys High in their last encounter.

3. Finally, to Kelsi Boyden who performed the national anthem in front of royalty.

If you hear any achievements from anyone around the school, please come and see me.

Mr Shipp

NEWSTOWN
Newtown High School of the Performing Arts
2013. Term 4 Issue

If you have any submissions please place them in the NEWSTOWN box inside the front office.