

## 2003 Span Magazine – Principal's Report

### THE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

It is often quoted that, As Australians, "We don't really appreciate how lucky we are to live in a country as free as ours, with all the fantastic attributes that we Australians, as a nation, enjoy". This is not a derogatory comment but more an observation of our way of life.

I have the view that the same could be said of the Whitebridge High School community about Whitebridge High School. Whitebridge High School is a great school. It has a very diverse range of quality school programs and activities and has a very committed, dedicated and professional staff. Many parents are extremely grateful for the daily instruction, care, challenges and planned learning experiences, which combine cumulatively over the six years of secondary education to develop well-rounded, academically, culturally and socially successful students.

Whitebridge High School is a fantastic community resource and as a staff we are indeed privileged and proud to contribute to the development of our students. Our school magazine, *Span 2003*, highlights the many activities and facets of school life that occurred over 2003 and reminds us of how lucky we are to be part of the Whitebridge High School community. Our students have done extremely well academically this year. The school has achieved a general shift upwards from Bands 2 and 3 to Bands 4, 5 and 6 in all external tests, including the Higher School Certificate, School Certificate, ELLA and SNAP tests.

Particularly impressive is the higher incidence of students in Bands 5 and 6 in all tests which is indicative of the quality learning experiences being provided for the students.

Year 12 student Neil Caddis has led the way with a UAI of 98.45, while eleven other students gained UAI's of over 90.

Students have also achieved well in external competitions such as Mathematics, Science, English and Debating. Sixty-four awards out of the 99 entries in the Westpac Mathematics Competition, 9 awards out of 35 entries in the National Chemistry Quiz, 25 awards out of 79 entries in the National Science Competition and 43 awards out of 58 entries in the Australian Schools English Competition.

Culturally, students participated in Starstruck and the students and staff held a successful M.A.D.D. night to allow students to perform before a very appreciative audience. This successful initiative will be held again next year.

Our school history demonstrates that the standards of student achievement and success are getting higher and that the school's commitment to developing the individual talents, excellence and diversity is being met.

Kieran Pink, our School Captain, was awarded the Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement. This award has been won by Whitebridge High School students 13 times over the past 14 years. This is an outstanding achievement for Whitebridge High School.

Of particular importance was the selection of six Year 12 HSC artworks for the State Art Express competition and two Year 12 Industrial Technology major projects were selected for NSW Intech display. This is a great credit to both the students and staff.

I would like to recognise the continued support of our parents. The P & C Association, the School Council, the Canteen Organisation and the parent tutors are vital contributors to the governance and operation of the school. Thank you for your support; the students and staff appreciate your contributions.

When you take the time to reflect on the quality of experiences provided for students and the quality of the standards of student achievement I am sure that you will too – come to the conclusion that we are indeed a very “fortunate or lucky” school community. In saying this we, as a school are challenged not only to accept the current standards as the norm but rather use them as a benchmark, as a minimum, and then work together to exceed our previous standards and strive for personal bests for each student. That is our challenge for the 2004 school year.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year and a safe and relaxing well earned holiday. See you next year.

**Ian Wilson**  
**Principal.**

**2004 Span Magazine – Principal's Report**

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**2005 Span Magazine – Principal's Report**

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**2006 Span Magazine – Principal's Report**

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## 2007 Span Magazine – Principal's Report

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

It's fantastic to witness our school in full operation; students practising music outside G Block; students running the dreaded 600 metre track; students completing the finishing touches to their art works and ceramic pieces; senior students working on their digital photography montages or major projects, incorporating the latest design techniques; students completing go-karts for metal work; students serving in the canteen; students reading notices at the morning assembly; students completing stories for publication of their class work in English, or undertaking experiments in science, or solving equations in mathematics. Our school is a busy place involving everyone working together; co-operating to get the most memorable and best learning experiences. Yes. It sometimes appears chaotic and disorganised, but underpinning this busy appearance is a strong sense of cohesion and purpose by staff, students and our school community.

Our school does well to accomplish this high level of activity and learning in a co-ordinated and co-operative manner each day. We can hold our heads up high for great student achievements, quality experiences and learning, and above all, a real sense of community and pride for our school.

In February this year our school swimming carnival was an absolute *hoot* of a day. All staff were pleased with the efforts of students to get into the spirit of the day and have a great time. Of course, Mulgabirra House won again, but Jindabyne made sure they didn't go without a fight to the end.

Our athletics carnival saw the commencement of the *Grudge Cup* between year 12 and year 11 students as they battled it out for supremacy on the athletics track. Of note was the way the year 12 students (ably led by Mr Frost) worked together to run the canteen and raise funds for their *Year 12 Year Books*. *Thank you Mr Frost and year 12 students.*

To assist in building our school community, we introduced the morning assembly in the quadrangle for roll call each day. This proved successful in keeping all students informed and allowing students to lead the assemblies and demonstrate their initiative and leadership on a daily basis. *Thank you students for your leadership and active contribution to our school community.*

When we think of learning in schools we generally think of learning through instruction by a teacher. Often the best learning is by making mistakes: taking a small risk and then being able to reflect on the consequences and understanding

the impact our mistakes have on others; or by witnessing others' mistakes and consequences.

We all make mistakes and take some risks in life.....what is important is that we learn from the situation we find ourselves in and do our best not to find ourselves in a similar situation again. Our school provides a safe and secure environment for students to engage in learning, either through the inspiration of their teacher or through the consequences of their own decision making. Either way students are valued and recognised for their contribution and participation in our school.

Our teachers work hard to provide rich learning experiences for our students and to contribute to the lives of those they teach. *I would like to thank all staff for their contribution to students' learning during 2007 and for their positive contribution to our school community.*

Some staff need special recognition this year. I would like to thank Mr Locker who has done a great job in the role of relieving Head Teacher Welfare. I would like to recognise the longstanding work of Mrs Richards and Mrs Squires in the teaching of mathematics for many years at our school. Mrs Squires and Mrs Richards both retire in January 2008. I would also like to recognise the work of Miss Black who also retired from school this year. Miss Black has the distinction of both having been a student of the school as well as a long term teacher.

Special mention goes to Mrs Gledhill, Head Teacher English, who was recognized by Newcastle University as an Outstanding Educator this year. Mrs Gledhill was nominated for this prestigious university award by a former student.

I would like to recognise the contribution of our student leaders. Dane Lerougete and Amanda Dixon (captains) and Anthony Brown and Jodie Pullman (vice captains) who have represented and led our school with distinction during 2007.

Of importance in a large school is the contribution of parent and community organisations. The P & C Association and School Council have provided sound governance for our school and continued to actively pursue our collective purposes, this being a leader in deliver of public education and developing young Australians.

Special thanks go to the canteen supervisors, Mrs Nelson and Mrs Williams. They, along with the parent volunteers have done a great job in providing a healthy menu and food for hungry and growing students daily.

A new addition to our school community this year has been the formation of the Whitebridge High School Ex-Students and Staff Association (WHxers). This growing group of ex-students are committed to extending the scope of our school community to include those that have completed their schooling at Whitebridge and have moved successfully into adult life in the broader community.

They have developed a website [www.whxers.org.au](http://www.whxers.org.au) for promotion of their activities and they produce a regular newsletter. The Ex-Students and Staff Association have already supported the school by providing major awards for students and by providing speakers at major functions for our students. Their next major event is a 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our school in 2008. *We welcome them as part of our school community and know that they will make a positive contribution to our school community.*

In closing, Whitebridge High School community has every reason to be justifiably proud of its achievements in 2007. It is a great school and I am immensely proud of the manner in which staff and parents work to assist all students to '*Seek the Way of Life*'.