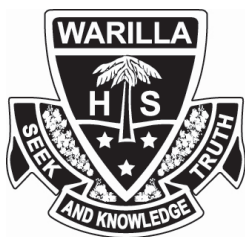

PARENT NEWSLETTER



PRINCIPAL: Mr J Hambly

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Mr R Ashby

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Mr A McInnes

Phone: 42963055 Fax: 42972817

Email: warilla-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Website: www.warilla-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

June 2007

- Term 2 is historically a busy time of year and this year is proving no different - Athletics Carnival, Immunisations, School Photos, Sports Competitions, Half Yearly Reports, Charity Days ... and the list goes on.

- The respect in which John Hambly is held within the Illawarra and South Coast region was evidenced in his appointment as Relieving School Education Director for the Shellharbour Area, by the Regional Director of Education, Dr Graeham Kennedy. I have stepped into very big shoes as Acting Principal.

- The School Athletics Carnival held on Wednesday 23rd May proved to be a resounding success. Thanks to the organisational skills of Sports Organisers, Brian Scott and Chris Meizer, a very enjoyable day was had by staff and athletes, both serious and not so serious. To add to this the weather on the day was perfect.

- Staff at present are heavily involved in collating assessment marks and writing half yearly reports. The completed reports will be issued in the last week of term.

- Kathy McNamara has been busy organising Scoliosis checks for Year 7 and Vaccinations for girls in Years 10, 11 and 12.

- Bob Pastor and his Welfare team have been heavily involved in charity work with

fundraising including 'The Worlds Biggest Shave' and Mrs Unicomb and Year 10 students 'Red Shirt Day' which raised money for the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal.

- Years 7 and 8 have been involved in Statewide testing in Literacy (ELLA) and Numeracy (SNAP). We recently received our ELLA results and 88% of our Year 7 students and 95% of our Year 8 students were placed in the top two bands (proficient and high) for overall Literacy. This places the school above the State average and above the target of 85% set by the NSW Department of Education Illawarra and South East Region for 2008.

- The Beacon Foundation held its major event for the year last week. The Beacon 'Pledge Day - No Dole' in which Year 10 students and representatives from many of our local employers and leaders of industry, sign a pledge to ensure that students leaving Warilla High School will go into employment or further education. Thanks must go to our Careers Adviser, Karen Brookes and her team of helpers, for this well organised and successful event.

- Year 12 received their official HSC timetables last week. This has been a reality check for many in terms of how close they are getting to their final exams.

- Warilla High School has been invited to

'Warilla High School - Student Centred, Outcomes Driven'

take part in a pilot student welfare program called 'Positive Behaviour Interventions and Supports' (PBIS). This program has been successfully adopted in over 70 schools in the Sydney region. Staff mentors Barry Anderson, Karen Unicomb, Karen Wilmott, Craig Harrison, David Whitaker and Dianne Dill will undertake training next week before trialling of the program in Term 3.

- With the re-location of the PE staff to larger quarters, the old staff room has been allocated as a head teacher Student Services / Support teacher Learning Assistance office. The environs of this space have been wonderfully transformed by the work of Michael Pixton and Josephine Davis, members of the local Koori community, who have painted a tremendous mural covering one complete wall depicting a local Dream-time story.

- Excellent sporting results have also been achieved by the Open and Under 14 Rugby League and the Open Boys Soccer teams who have all won through to the Regional finals of their respective competitions. An outstanding effort!

- Other notable achievements in recent weeks include:-

- Justine Norris, Year 10, elected to the Illawarra and South East Region Student Representative Council (SRC).

- Warilla High School awarded a 'Healthy Cities Illawarra' Award for contributions towards a healthier, safer, greener and more caring Illawarra.

- Support Unit Boys Indoor Soccer Futsal team who were undefeated champions at the Disabilities Gala Day for Futsal in Sydney.

I have included in this newsletter a copy of a memorandum from the NSW Department of Education Deputy Director General of Schools, Mr Trevor Fletcher, regarding student involvement in criminal activities.

Please consider the impact of this memorandum and discuss it with your child. There are some very pertinent and important points regarding the inappropriate use of mobile phones and emails.

As I stated earlier - a very busy 4 weeks!

Bob Ashby
Relieving Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

June

11	Queen's Birthday Holiday	25	HPV Vaccination for Girls in Year 10, 11 & 12 (no.2)
12	P&C Meeting, 7.30 pm - Library		
15	Year 10 Geography excursion	25-	Year 10 Geography Field Study excursion
	Regional Cross Country South Coast	27	
		29	Last day of term
19	Australasian Schools English Competition		Semester 1 Reports and Awards issued
21	Zone Athletics Carnival	July	
22	Years 10 & 12 TAFE & Trades Day	16	Staff Development Day - staff return only
25	National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Week	17	All students return

INCREASED PENALTIES FOR SCHOOL ZONES COMMENCING 21 MAY 2007



New fines and demerit point increases include:

Speeding:

Minimum fines of \$128 and 4 demerit points

Approach children's crossing too quickly to stop safely:

\$384 fine and 4 demerit points

Double Parking:

\$231 fine and 2 demerit points

Stopping on or near a children's crossing:

\$308 and 2 demerit points

For a full list of all new penalties and offences, please visit:

www.rta.nsw.gov.au/schoolzones

or call 13 22 13

SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Perfect weather set the scene for a very successful carnival held on Wednesday 23 May. Keen participation and some friendly competition saw some excellent results achieved. Listed below are the 2007 Athletics Age Champions:

	BOYS	GIRLS
12 Years	Joshua Ansons	Sophie King Emily Gulabovska Kayla Hill-Smith
13 Years	Dylan Roche	Michelle Vowles
14 Years	Daniel Curtis	Rachel Potter
15 Years	Jared Waters	Kate McKinley
16 Years	Bradley Quintal	Jessica Myers
17 Years	Matthew Opie	Leah Werner

A Very Important Note for ALL Year 10 Students and their Parents

Many of the students at Warilla High leave school and go straight into the workforce. Even the students who choose to go onto Higher Education generally find they are employed at the same time so that they have the finances for all their expenses. It is possible to be more prepared with the skills and attributes which are needed while, in many cases, you complete equivalent to the first year of the TAFE work while still here at high school.

Students in Year 10 should all be starting to think about which Vocational Subject they are going to undertake in Year 11 in 2008. These subjects all prepare students for the world of work, giving them hands on experiences and advancing their ability to enter the workforce more quickly and easily. Vocational Subjects offered at Warilla High School in 2008 will include:

Business Services (Administration)
Hospitality
Metals and Engineering
Sports (coaching)

Construction
Information Technology
Retail

Please be seriously thinking about which one best suits your interest and, in many cases, future career plans. For more information or to discuss what is involved in each course please contact - Mrs Potts (in B10 or parents can phone the school on 4296 3055). I will be happy to discuss the courses with you and give you more information.

Note: Generally all students at Warilla High School, and especially all students who are not in the top English and Maths classes, should be seriously considering taking up at least one of the above courses.

I look forward to speaking with you.

Mrs Potts
Head Teacher VET

Graduation Ceremony

Warrawong Intensive Language Centre

Tuesday, 15th May

We proudly watched Crystal Oh Year 8, Andy Oh Year 10 and Yu Da Year 10, graduate. With great pride, our students showed us around their former classrooms. It was a great opportunity for them to renew friendships with staff and students.

The ceremony was held in the school hall. Representatives from the Department of Education included Graeham Kennedy, Hayna Stefaniuk - Manager of Multi Cultural Programs in Schools, Steve Goodley Warrawong High School Principal and Bob King Head Teacher of the Intensive Language Centre.

Highlights of the graduation included the ILC choir, who sang Tears in Heaven and the National Anthem, the Burrundi Choir who sang a gospel song from their homeland. We were treated to a short film made by the students of the ILC in which Yu Da played a leading role. The theme of the film was "what makes me special" and was loosely based on the story "Alice through the Looking Glass."

Both past and present students spoke at the ceremony and the message that was constantly reinforced was the learning of English was the key to a good education.

Finally the guests and the graduates were invited to a wonderful buffet which was supplied by the parents of the students currently enrolled. There were many exotic foods to try and enjoy.

Janina Nicholson ESL Teacher, Ros Gaynor STLA

LEARNER LOG BOOK RUN

- * Do you have your L's? Are you having problems completing the 50 hours required for your Log Book?
- * You and your supervisor can experience a range of driving conditions including RBT, Speed Check and Driver Reviver.

A Learner Log Book Run will be held on Sunday 17th June 2007, 10.00 am — 12.30 pm, starting and finishing at the Lake Illawarra PCYC concluding with a FREE BBQ LUNCH and PRIZE GIVEAWAY.

Bookings are essential
please call Jenny Davies on 4221 6124

TAFE NSW OUTREACH DAPTO & SHELLHARBOUR CAMPUS

- Do you want to get back into the workforce?
- Would you like the opportunity to go on to further study?
- Don't know where to start?
- Why not enrol in one of the 4 courses being offered?
- Courses are FREE of the TAFE NSW course administrative charge.

Dapto: Introduction - Hospitality; Introduction - Computers.

Shellharbour: Introduction - Community Services (Welfare); Introduction - Computers

*For further information
Contact Kathy Finigan on 4221 8939*

STUDENT WELFARE HUB HIGHLIGHTS

~ Congratulations to the 26 Year 12 students who successfully completed their Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) Course through the Australian Hospitality Academy:- Shane Andersen, Samantha Almond, Jack Angwin, Daniel Ardron, Jake Baulch, Stewart Boothman, Andrea Burazor, Ashley-Jane Cook, Ryan Cook, Mitchell Cormack, Christine Downton, Christine Dragovic, Cameron Fing, Georgia Garcia, Caroline Hartcher, Leon Healy, Andrew Lai, Leizel MacKander, Garry McCudden, Nathan Perretta, Shannon Powell, Tenika Setter, Karly Skinner, Kayla Stratton, Robert Tener and Ashley Zampa.

The School has been successful in its negotiations with the above company who will facilitate a Responsible Conduct of Gambling (RCG) Training Program for 25 interested Year 12 students on Wednesday 27th June. A further Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) Training Course will be held on Tuesday 26th June for interested Year 11 and 12 students.

~ Leah Werner (Year 11) has successfully negotiated a unique work experience opportunity shadowing the Minister of Housing, Matt Brown in his Ministerial Office in Sydney when Parliament is in session.

~ John and myself had the honour of representing Warilla High School at the Illawarra and South East Regional Awards Ceremony held at Queanbeyan Public School on Friday 18th May. The school received the following awards:-

- Excellence in School/Community Partnerships
- Commendation for Excellence in Promoting Public Education
- Excellence in Leadership demonstrated by a Principal



Graeham Kennedy, Regional Director, Illawarra and South East Region
presents the awards to Mr Hambly and Mr Pastor

~ Great effort! Krystle Marsh (Year 11) on being chosen for the second consecutive year to represent the Shellharbour electorate in the YMCA of Sydney.

~ Ron Ashby (Aboriginal Education Coordinator) and Sharon Maher (AEA) have been undertaking extensive consultation and meetings with the Koori students, parents/carers and the wider Koori Community. The School hopes to introduce three new Aboriginal Education Initiatives.

~ Tim Javier (Year 10), Michael Anderson (Year 10), Sam McDonald (Year 10) and Brad Jack (Year 10) have been undertaking a 'school beautification project' in the old PE Staffroom (now the new staffroom for Mr Pastor and Ms Gaynor). This has included an internal repaint and a 'Graffiti Art Project' with Josh Wiffen (Shellharbour City Council Graffiti Artist). Can I say the Marine theme looks fantastic.

~ Thank you Josephine Davis and Michael Pixton (local Aboriginal artists) who with a number of Koori students replicated and painted a local Aboriginal story in Mr Pastor's office. The teamwork, initiative, creativity and pride that developed and grew with this picture amongst the Koori kids was magnificent.

~ The School Executive unanimously endorsed and formalised the Warilla High School / St Vincent De Paul Society Youth Support Program. This program will take the WHS / Vinnies partnership in a number of new directions that will significantly provide much greater support and resources at the classroom level through provision of classroom 'Mentors'.

TEENAGE GIRLS and/or BOYS SEXUALITY WORKSHOPS

Invited and interested students can attend these workshops subject to the return of a Permission Note from parents. These workshops are small groups - maximum of 10 to 12 students – and will be ongoing throughout the year.

The workshops are facilitated by South East Sydney / Illawarra Area Health, Clinical Nurse Specialist from the Sexual Health Clinic. So far Warilla High School has hosted one very successful workshop. The workshop attempts to answer all participants' questions in regard to teenage sexuality issues.

YR10 RED SHIELD 'RED SHIRT DAY'

Mrs Unicomb and Year 10 decided to take on raising money on behalf of the Salvation Army Annual Red Shield Appeal. Encouraging students to wear a 'Red Shirt' on the collection day, over \$390 was raised at the morning assembly.

I would like to thank all students and staff who helped to collect the money on the assembly:- Carlie Eades, Maiquilla Brown, Kyarna Cruse, Mykila Curtis, Megan Eades, Jacqui Willetts, Chris Murray, Kane Craig, Justine Norris, Chelsea Riches and Petar Brankovic. A special thank you is extended to Mr Chris Meizer who supervised the collection in Karens' absence.

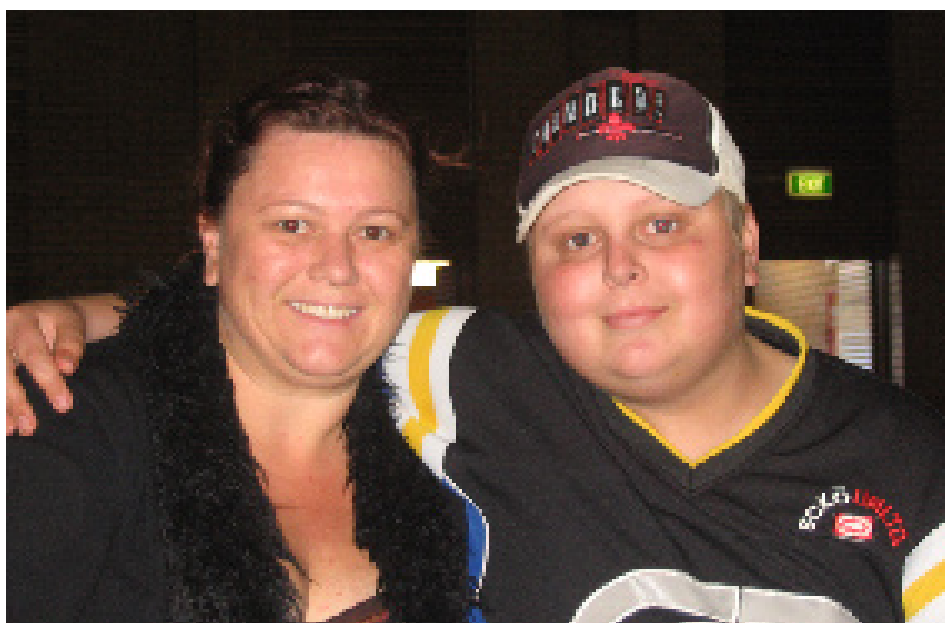
THE WHS/LEUKEMIA FOUNDATION 'WORLDS BIGGEST SHAVE'

Thank you, Warilla High School and the wider Warilla local school community.

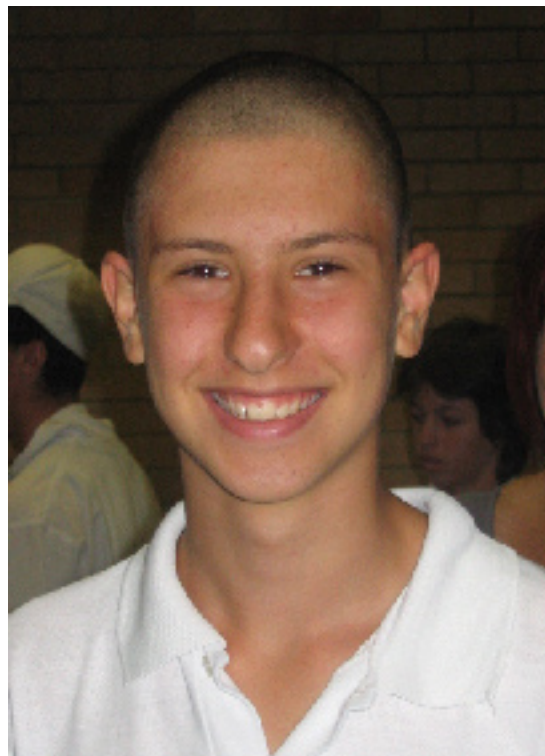
This year's appeal was very emotional, as we rallied around one of our own and gave him the strength to keep fighting on. Over \$1300 was raised. The greatest reward was to see the smile on Year 8 student, Chris Calleja's face - it said it all!

I would also like to highlight the great work of the Year 12 Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation students who cooked and ran the BBQ, Victor Cartwright and the Warilla Bowling & Recreation Club for the meat donation, Lynne and Brooke Fletcher and Mrs Fallo-Craney for their hairdressing skills and Josh Gulabovski and Todd Burgess who co-ordinated this highly successful event.

Amarilia and
Christopher Calleja



Photos by Year 10 students Adriana Mazevski and Rebecca Johnston



2007 NATIONAL SAFE SCHOOLS WEEK

To help all schools across Australia ensure safe and supportive learning environments for all students, the Australian Government hosted the second exciting National Safe Schools Week (NSSW) from the 25th May – 1st June.

This was a great opportunity for Warilla High to reflect upon its current approaches in ensuring a safe school environment and reviewing its practices to counter all forms of bullying, harassment, violence, abuse and neglect. In any school, Bullying and Harassment Policies will only ever be effective if all members of the school community - students, staff and parents/carers - actively embrace and follow the policies and practices that are in place to combat this issue. Warilla High has just reviewed and updated its Anti-Bullying Policy.

As part of Warilla High School's National Safe Schools Week activities the school encourages all students and staff to reflect upon the simple edit of 'Care for Self, Care for Others, Care for this Place' and what they, as an individual, need to do to make this become reality.

Please find detailed below the updated version of the Warilla High School Anti-Bullying Policy for your information. I welcome student/parent feedback if you feel this policy could in any way be further improved and strengthened.

WARILLA HIGH SCHOOL ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Guiding Principle-rationale

The School will provide a positive culture where bullying is not accepted and in so doing, all will have the right of respect from others, the right to learn, teach and work, and a right to feel safe, happy and secure in their school environment.

'Care for Self, Care for Others, Care for this Place'
--

Definition

We can define bullying as intimidation of physical verbal or psychological nature of a less assertive person by a more assertive person or group of people. School Bullying includes teasing, exclusion, gesture bullying, abuse, threats, assault, property damage, and malicious gossip. Bullying is a clear form of harassment and will not be tolerated at Warilla High school.

Bullying No Way!
Warilla High School has a Zero Tolerance Approach to Bullying

And this guiding principle was reflected in the 2005 Winning Anti-Bullying Poster displayed around our School:

Bullying - Think it's cool? Find yourself another school!

Low Level Bullying can be referred to the Year Advisor for counselling. Persistent bullies can be referred to the Head Teacher Student Services or to the Deputy Principal for inclusion in the Bullying Register. Students who are the target of persistent bullying will be referred for extra support with anti-bullying strategies. Referral can be made to the Head Teacher Student Services and Counsellor.

What we hope to achieve:- Aims

- To reinforce within the school community what bullying is, and the fact that it is unacceptable.
- Everyone within the school community to be alert to signs and evidence of bullying and to have a responsibility to report it to staff/supervisors as observer or victim.
- To ensure that all reported incidents of bullying are followed up appropriately and that support is given to both victims and perpetrators.
- To seek parental and peer group support and co-operation **at all times**.

How do we see this being achieved ?- Implementation

- Parents, teachers, students and the community to be made aware of the school's position on bullying.
- Warilla High School has adopted a four phase approach to Bullying.

1. Primary Prevention

- Professional development for staff relating to bullying, harassment and proven counter measures (**Anti-Bullying Conferences, Rock & Water...**).
- Community awareness and input relating to bullying, its characteristics and the school's programs and response (**School Newsletter, Families Matter – to target parents of Year 6 going into Year 7 in 2008**).
- To provide programs that promote resilience, life and social skills, assertiveness, conflict resolution, and problem solving (**John Brown: 'Celebrating Going With the Flow'**).
- At the start of each year each classroom teacher will clarify the school policy on bullying with their class.
- The curriculum will include anti-bullying messages and strategies – lessons from Mindmatters Bullying/Harassment Booklet (**cross curriculum approach**).

-
-
- Student Representative Council, peer support delegates, staff and students will promote the philosophy of **'No Put Downs'**.

2. Early Intervention

- Encourage students and staff to report bullying incidents.
- Encourage parents to contact the school if they become aware of a problem.
- Manyana Room – a designated safe and quiet place for students to access at recess and lunch times is available at the Student Services Hub and is provided in our Library.
- Publicly recognise and reward positive behaviour and the resolution of bullying problems.
- P&C will be regularly informed of actions taken by the school to prevent bullying.

3. Intervention

- Once identified each bully, victim and witness will be interviewed, and all incidents or allegations of bullying will be fully investigated and documented.
- Students and staff identified as bullies will be fully informed of allegations of bullying.
- Both bullies and victims will be offered counselling and support.
- If student bullying persists parents will be contacted and consequences implemented consistent with the School's Discipline Code.

4. Post Violation

- Proposed consequences for students will be individually based and may involve:-
 - ☛ Name included in the Bully Register
 - ☛ Exclusion from class
 - ☛ School Suspension
 - ☛ Withdrawal of privileges
 - ☛ On-going counselling from appropriate agencies for both victim and bully

Strategies that aim to enhance a positive school climate and lead to improved school communication through:-

- » Reinforcement of positive behaviour
- » On-going monitoring of identified bullies
- » Rewards for positive behaviour
- » Positive whole school support structures – Learning Support Team
- » Faculty involvement
- » Consequences for staff will be individually based and may involve:
 - Counselling
 - A period of monitoring
 - A formal support work
 - Disciplinary actions

EVALUATION

Policy/structures, programs and initiatives will be reviewed with input from the whole staff, students, parents and School Community as part of the School's on-going three year cycle reviews.

HEAD LICE

Head Lice can sometimes be a problem in the school environment. Below is some information from James Cook University which you may find interesting:-
How Do I Know If My Child Has Head Lice?

You actually have to LOOK, as many infections cause no symptoms and probably less than half cause itch. Eggs are not difficult to see – use a strong light and look on the hair shafts. Newly laid eggs are usually within 1.5 cm of the scalp while older eggs are higher up the hair shafts. If you are not sure whether an object you find is a head louse egg, try sliding up the hair shaft using your fingers. Eggs are usually quite difficult to move. However finding live lice can be quite difficult since the climbers move away quickly from disturbances in the hair, and they are very difficult to see.

If Live Lice Can Be Difficult To See, How Can They Be Detected?

- An easy way to find the climbers is to use the conditioner and comb technique.
- Apply conditioner to dry hair aiming to cover each hair from root to tip with a layer of conditioner.
- Detangle the hair using an ordinary comb.
- Immediately comb the hair with a fine tooth comb. The best comb for this is the Lice Meister comb. However plastic nit combs with conditioner are also very effective.
- Wipe the conditioner off the fine tooth comb onto a paper tissue and look for lice and eggs.
- Repeat the combing for every part of the head at least 5 times.
- Examine the comb for lice eggs.

Conditioner stuns the lice for about 20 minutes. So once the hair is properly covered with conditioner, don't delay in combing the hair. If you find the lice, you need to treat your child's hair (treatments available from chemists).

By NSW Health Department regulations, we must send any child home who has active head lice. Once treated children can return to school.

Mrs McNamara
Girls Supervisor

STUDENTS ENGAGING IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Message to Students

- All schools have discipline policies that ensure members of the school community behave responsibly and are treated with respect.
- Schools are among the safest places anywhere in the community.
- Students are commended for showing genuine concern for the welfare of their friends and others. Students who share in information with staff allow help to be provided to peers who are involved in or considering criminal behaviour.
- Students have often played a key role in preventing crimes and consequences.
- Unacceptable behaviour can have significant consequences. It is important you are aware of these consequences.
- If students use the internet, emails or mobile phones in a way that is offensive, harassing or menacing, this is a serious crime with heavy penalties, including imprisonment.
- If students use mobile phones to film criminal behaviour that they or their friends are engaged in and then share the film with other people or post it on the internet, it is itself a criminal offence.
- If a student witnesses a crime and records images of a crime on a mobile phone or cameras they should give it to the police as soon as possible.
- Having a gun, including a fake gun that looks real, is a serious crime with heavy penalties.
- Having knives or other items that can be used as weapons without a good reason, is also illegal.
- Encouraging other people to commit a crime is itself a crime.
- Being present as part of a group while a crime is being committed by others in the group can lead to all of those present being charged, even when some of those in the group did not engage in the specific act of crime.
- Just because you are a school student does not mean you cannot be held responsible for a crime. Nor does the fact that you are playing a prank or a trick. You can still be punished as a criminal.
- Pranks, particularly if they involve the use of fake weapons, can be very serious in ways that you may not intend. If another person believes that the weapons are real, they could suffer serious harm, such as a heart attack and you could be punished as a criminal.

- If you are found guilty of a serious criminal offence it could have a big effect on your future life - it could affect your work prospects, or restrict your right to travel to some place.
- All students must report to the principal, teachers, the police or other responsible adults, any criminal behaviour that they see or that they know is being planned by others. You should not see reporting a crime as 'dobbing in a mate' - such action may in fact save someone's life or prevent serious injury or damage from occurring.

Trevor Fletcher

**Deputy Director - General Schools
NSW Department of Education**

WARILLA HIGH SCHOOL EMBRACES BEACON FOUNDATION 'NO DOLE' PHILOSOPHY



As a gateway to the future employment and training of its 1150 students, Warilla High School has embraced the philosophy of the Beacon Foundation and is working to ensure a secure future for all students.

The growing partnership between Warilla High School and the business community is best described as a two-way-street with education and industry. We are aiming to have all students that leave the school involved in employment or further training.

It could be said that our school is committed to the three 'R's, the Right job, for the Right person, for the Right reasons.

The unique approach by the Beacon Foundation to assist students in securing their future, is perhaps most evident when students take part in the Pledge signing ceremony.

School staff and members of the business community can do much to assist young



people, however, there also needs to be a commitment from students to take up these opportunities and to pursue all avenues to employment and training upon leaving school.

On Friday 1 June all students in Year 10 made such a pledge. They were supported during the special ceremony by their parents, staff, Year 9 students and 30 members of the local business community and distinguished guests. Keynote speakers for the event were Mr Scott



Harris, CEO Beacon Foundation and Ms Neryl East, Manager, Communications and Public Relations, Wollongong City Council.

Our Year 10 SRC representatives, Petar Brankovic, Justine Norris, Ryan Rayner and Chelsea Riches, did an outstanding job in helping with the running of the ceremony, We were entertained during the proceedings by Year 10 students Matt Blottin and Jared Waters. A great job also by Matthew Robson, Year 11, our photographer.

My sincere thanks is also extended to Kellie Marsh, for her constant help and support and without whom some of the critical aspects of ensuring the success of such an event would not have had the attention they deserve.

I wish to congratulate Year 10 students on the commitment that they have made and compliment them also on the maturity shown throughout the ceremony.

Mrs Brookes, Careers Adviser.

