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# PARENT NEWSLETTER



PRINCIPAL: Mr J Hambly

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Mr R Ashby

ACTING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Mr B Anderson

Phone: 42963055 Fax: 42972817

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

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

March 2007

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• I came across a quote from a noted educationalist recently which really struck a chord with me. I thought it succinctly and powerfully described the philosophy that drives Warilla High School and hopefully, all public schools.

*"We are here to help children succeed. It's that simple".*

If this isn't our creed, then we have taken our eye off the ball. I remain passionately convinced that every child who walks through our school gates is capable of excellence.

Our challenge as educators is to find what form this excellence will take and then find the key of learning that unlocks it.

This is our commitment as a school and the mandate our community has given us.

• My congratulations to the school - and especially Mrs Martin - for the outstanding success that our recent school swimming carnival was - the kids had a ball and distinguished themselves as great ambassadors of Warilla High School. I look forward to this becoming an annual event.

• The process to appoint a Deputy Principal to replace Mr Tapp, who retired in January, has been completed.

I am pleased to announce that Mr Alan McInnes was the successful applicant. Alan is the current Deputy Principal at Kanahooka High School and we look forward to his experience and insights. It is anticipated that Alan will begin duties at the commencement of Term 2.

• We put a great deal of time in to tracking our students as they leave us at their various exit points, most notably at Year 10 and Year 12. I am pleased to share with you the following post school destinations of our 2006 cohort:

## Year 10 2006 -

Year 11 2007	74%
Other High School/TAFE	6%
Apprenticeships	9%
Work	9%
Not Working	2%

## Year 12 2006 -

University	20%
TAFE, including	
Apprenticeship training	42%
Fulltime Work	27%
Parttime Work	5%
Unknown	6%

I think you will agree these statistics indicate a very successful transition for our students. Given that less than 10% of our kids are not engaged in higher education - in a Youth Unemployment

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**'Warilla High School - Student Centred, Outcomes Driven'**

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context in the Illawarra of 46% - we have done exceptionally well.

- We are in the process of finalising our 2006 Annual School Report, a copy of which will be available for every family in our School Community. This report will take on a new look with extensive reporting of data regarding our ELLA, SNAP, School Certificate and Higher School Certificate data. Moreover, it will show the school compared to 'Like Schools' (Schools with a similar student population and socio-economic Demography) as well comparisons against state averages and our own historical data from the last 4 years.

Of most interest has been the value added data. This measures the difference we have made between where a student was in their Year 5 Basic Skills Test and after their Year 10 School Certificate. I am pleased to advise that this measure indicates significant positive improvement in English, Maths, Science and Geography.

Indeed, it has reversed historical trends and we have outperformed others in comparison with other 'Like Schools' and our own school averages for the past four years.

My understanding is that this is one of the most positive results in value added data for the Shellharbour Community of Schools. I encourage you to look carefully at the Annual School Report when it has been published and distributed.

- Earlier this year I did a "straw poll" survey of parents, selected at random from across each of the years to get an

idea of community perceptions of Warilla High School

The following is a summary of the survey results from the 90 responses returned:

Strongly Agree / Agree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	No Response
My child likes school			
87%	13%	0%	0%
My child is making good progress in school			
80%	5%	2%	13%
Behaviour in the school is good			
83%	12%	4%	1%
My child gets the right amount of work to do at home			
64%	20%	6%	10%
The teaching is good			
89%	4%	0%	7%
I am kept well informed about how my child is getting on			
87%	13%	0%	0%
I would feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions or a problem			
87%	5%	0%	8%
The school expects my child to work hard and achieve of his/her best			
95%	1%	0%	4%
The school works closely with parents			
77%	12%	0%	11%
The school is well led and managed			
88%	4%	0%	8%
The school is helping my child become mature and responsible			
87%	4%	0%	9%
The school provides an interesting range of activities outside lessons			
75%	4%	13%	8%
This 'snapshot' of parent perception of the school is a strong indicator of endorsement for both our professional practice and direction.			

• On a sombre note, one of our ex-students, Kevin Gibbons (19) was tragically killed in a car accident recently. Our sincere and heartfelt condolences

are extended to the Gibbons family and Kevin's many friends and associates.

Yours in Education  
John Hambly

## IMPORTANT DATES

### March

9	Regional Swimming Carnival SRC Induction	27	Under 14's School Boys' 10's Competition
	Davidson Shield Cricket	28	Year 8 Plain Speaking Competition
	Open Boys 'ERREA CUP' Soccer		School Disco - Welcome to Year 7
12	Arrive Alive Rugby League	29	Australasian Schools Computer Skills
<b>13</b>	<b>P&amp;C Meeting in School Library at 7.30pm</b>		CHS Swimming Carnival
14	Grandparents Morning Tea		Under 16's School Boys' 10's Competition
15	Futsal U19's Boys side	30	CHS Swimming Carnival
16	Year 12 Business Studies Excursion to Jamberoo Action Park		Future Leaders Forum at Sydney Opera House
	Support Unit - IVS Flagstaff and Greenacres	<b>April</b>	
19	Years 8-12 Koori students meeting on Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service Program	2	Year 7 Plain Speaking Competition
20	Year 7 Parent Afternoon Tea	3	School Cross Country
	SRC Leadership Day - Killalea State Park		Open School Girls' 10's Competition
21	Year 12 Design & Technology Excursion to Nowra	4	Rugby Union
23	South Coast School Surfing Titles		Year 7 Interim Reports Issued
26	Year 10 English Literacy Test	<b>5</b>	<b>Last Day of Term</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>2007 School Expo</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>School Development Day</b>
		<b>24</b>	<b>Start of Term 2 for all students</b>

## YEAR 7 FAMILY AFTERNOON TEA

All Year 7 students should have received their invitations to the Year 7 'Welcome to Warilla High School' Family Afternoon Tea which will be held on Tuesday 20 March from 2.00 pm until approximately 2.45 pm in the school hall.

RSVP is due by Wednesday 14 March. If your child did not receive an invitation they are available from the front office.

# Canteen News

There will be a moderate price rise for a number of items sold in the canteen.

A new pricing schedule is included for your information.

Pizza Slab	\$2.00	Water 600ml	\$1.20
Pizza Rounders	\$2.00	Rad Mix Drinks 500ml	\$1.20
Fantastic Noodles	\$2.00		
Chicken and Beef Noodles	\$2.00	<b>Dairy</b>	
Tomato Sauce p/c	\$0.08	Milk plain 300ml	\$1.20
Meat Pies	\$2.20	Milk plain 600ml	\$2.00
Sausage Roll	\$1.60	Flavoured milk 600ml	\$2.80
Potato Pie	\$2.50	Flavoured milk 250ml	\$1.20
Pasties	\$2.50	All flavour Macq 200ml	\$1.00
Hot Dogs	\$2.00	All flavour Macq 375ml	\$1.60
Chicken Burgers	\$3.00		
		Thicken Custard 500ml	\$2.50
<b>Sandwiches</b>		L/L Oaks 500ml	\$2.50
Chicken Lettuce Mayonnaise	\$2.00	Yoghurt D/Lite	\$1.80
Mixed Sandwich	\$2.00	Doubleups	\$2.50
		Fresh Macq Apple	\$2.00
<b>Rolls</b>		B/B Choc	\$1.20
Chicken Lettuce Mayonnaise	\$2.50	Milocup	\$2.00
Chicken and Gravy	\$2.50	Milo Smooth Stick	\$1.20
		PCL & C Cup Vanilla	\$0.80
Mixed Muffins	\$1.25	All yoghurt	\$1.20
Finger Buns	\$1.50		
		<b>Streets</b>	
<b>Juice</b>		Paddle Pop (All)	\$1.20
Daily Juice 500ml	\$2.80	1 Twist Lemonade	\$1.00
Berri ABC 400ml	\$2.20	Red Rocks	\$1.00
Berri Multi V 400ml	\$2.20	Smith	\$1.00
Berri Pine 400ml	\$2.20		
Big Milk All flavours 250ml	\$1.50	Rice Stick	\$0.80
Just Juice 250ml	\$1.00	Milo Bar	\$1.20
Apple/B Curr Juice	\$0.50	Euc Ball	\$0.50
Nas O/Juice Macq 500ml	\$2.20	Butter Menthols	\$0.50
		Piranha	\$0.80
		Burger Man	\$0.80

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# WARILLA HIGH SCHOOL

## SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO GRANDPARENTS AND SENIORS

The St Vincent de Paul Society and Warilla High School students would like to invite "All" grandparents of Warilla High School students to a Tribute Assembly and Special Morning Tea on Wednesday 14th March 2007 starting at 10:00am in our Warilla High School Auditorium.

The students will be paying a special tribute to grandparents and seniors and students are encouraged to help out by baking scones, cakes and/or biscuits. Light refreshments, tea, coffee and juice will be available on the day and we are encouraging students to bring their grandparents to this special occasion as a token of Warilla High School's appreciation and respect for our elderly.

Please check with your grandson, granddaughter, son or daughter to make sure they have returned the acceptance on the yellow invitation sheet to seniors week. If not, please ask them to see Mr Pastor in the Welfare Hub to ensure that they will be able to share this unique experience with you as we pay a special tribute to grandparents and seniors.

*Bob Pastor, Head Teacher Student Services  
and Kellie Marsh, St Vincent de Paul Society*

### **Senior Volunteer Wanted**

As part of the celebration of Seniors Week, Warilla High School is seeking a retired person from a Health related background, or someone willing to undertake Senior First Aid training, to assist the school in the operation of its First Aid Clinic.

Warilla High School is in partnership with the Australian Red Cross who have kindly offered to provide free Senior First Aid training for any interested seniors who can assist Warilla High School with our First Aid Clinic.

**If you are interested in finding out further details please contact either the Principal, John Hambly or Bob Pastor, Head Teacher Students Services on 42 963055.**

## VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Many students in Year 11 have commenced their VET courses which will give them a quicker start to their future career paths.

These students will be soon choosing their work placement sites for later in third term. If any of the local community can assist with work placement opportunities for students undertaking Construction, Metals and Engineering, Hospitality or Retail, please contact Mrs Potts at the school.

Gaining real life understanding of the expectations of work is often assisted by taking the classes on excursions. Mr Cartwright has commenced planning an excursion for his Metals and Engineering students to experience aspects of boat safety and the Hospitality students soon will be offered the experience for an excursion to a top Sydney restaurant. Students have already been involved in various 'hands on' activities here at school.

Year 12 students in all VET frameworks will be completing their 35 hour work-placement early in term 2. A list of employers will be included in the next newsletter so that interested members of the Warilla High School community can support our students and the employers especially at that time.

The school looks forward once again to hearing that our students have been most successful in these experiences.

S Potts - Head Teacher VET

## SKILLS WEEK 2006 DAY 1&2

by **Leteisha Sultana**



Hi, this is me, (pictured left) enjoying the sights of our walk along the waterfront in Sydney on the first day of our five-day adventure. We began with a long train ride from Oak Flats station to Central station. We then made our way toward the Queen Victoria Building, in which we had lunch and had a look around the shops before heading to the Botanical Gardens, admiring the surroundings including the Sydney Harbour Bridge, Sydney Opera House and the ships out on the water. I tell you it was **BEAUTIFUL**. I took MANY pictures. We also visited the St. Mary's Cathedral looking at the work put in to the building. One of the best things about this trip was spending time with my friends and seeing the sights of Sydney. Whilst we were at

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the Opera House, we saw many people eating lunch on that hot sunny day. The food looked so good, but by looking at the menus out the front of the restaurants it was very expensive.

On the second day we travelled by a mini bus to the Royal National Park. We first visited the new Sea Cliff Bridge in Wollongong. The sights were spectacular. On one side there was a rocky cliff face with shrubs looking like a desert and on the other side was deep blue water as far as the eye can see and darkish coloured brown rocks looking like the rock pools on a beach. Then we made our way to the National Park where we all had a sausage sandwich or three, before going on a walk to a nearby beach with a creek that looked awesome especially with the sun shining right down on us. There was a beautiful piece of scenery everywhere we looked. There were cliffs, golden sands and dense amounts of trees and shrubbery just like a rain forest.

On another day we went to Minnamurra and walked to Kiama. Then there was the day to Sydney where we caught a ferry under the Harbour Bridge and around to Darling Harbour. Our final day was to Miranda Fair. We learnt so much about how to get around the city by public transport. I would recommend Historical and Environment Studies as a skills week activity.



Mr Grabowski and students on the Sea Cliff bridge

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# COMMUNICATING BY TEXT MESSAGE

Warilla High School is currently bringing you the next generation in school/parent communications. Personalised SMS text messages sent direct to and from your mobile phone are the best solution for student safety, attendance management and significant event reminders.

## ***Benefiting You and Your Child***

### **1. You have the right to know that your child is safe.**

If your child has not arrived at school, you need to know immediately. A personalised text message will be sent by the school to your mobile phone. This is the fastest, most reliable way of reaching you, discretely, wherever you are and whatever you are doing.

### **2. Your child deserves the best possible chance of success.**

Regular attendance is a key factor in school success. If your child shows any sign of poor attendance, SMS text messaging will immediately inform you that a problem may exist, allowing swift intervention.

### **3. You deserve the most responsive delivery system available.**

Letters are slow and can be intercepted. Phone calls can be intrusive and may not reach parents in time. A text message direct to your mobile phone is fast, effective and discrete.

### **4. You must have immediate notification in times of crisis.**

There may be times when the school will need to reach a large number of parents instantly. It could be because the school bus is late returning from an excursion, or it might be something much more serious.

In any case, a broadcast SMS text message is by far the most effective solution.

### **5. You deserve a communication tool which fits your busy lifestyle.**

Sending a text message to the school is the most cost and time effective option for busy parents. The message is sent from wherever you are located directly to the appropriate school staff member - no telephone delays, no recorded message instructions, no answering machines.

## ***Working Together For Our Children: What Parents Must Do***

Your child's school is taking important steps to benefit your child. This is a shared responsibility and parents must also help the school.

### **1. Keep your mobile phone details up to date.**

Make sure the school has your current mobile phone number and notify the school immediately if this number changes.



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## 2. Notify the school in advance when your child is absent.

If you notify the school as soon as you know your child will be absent, the school will know your child is safe and will not need to contact you. An SMS text message sent to the school is the best way to do this.

## 3. Respond to messages from the school.

If you receive an absence message from the school, please respond via return SMS. The school needs to know why your child is absent.

### ***If you don't have a mobile phone.....***

Details of low-cost phone plans ideal for parents who want to benefit from the new system are available from mobile phone providers. The school will maintain its existing contact methods for parents who do not have mobile phones.



## Get Ready for an Author Visit!

Erasmus James and the galactic zapp machine is the title of a book by DC Green. Mr Green will be visiting us early next term to talk to Year 7 and Year 8 students about his zany writing and his life as a surf journalist.

The DC Green show will be presented to 100 Year 7 students and 100 Year 8 students in week 3 next term. The cost will be \$2 and there will be a chance to buy his books at the end of the show.

Keep an eye out for the permission note. The first 100 students in each year to return their note and money will be the lucky viewers of his show.

.... And we DO have Erasmus James in the Library!

*Mrs Hing and Mrs Connell*

# Tax File Numbers (TFN)

All Year 9 students will be given the opportunity to apply for a TFN during Term 2.

Secondary students may need a TFN to apply for Youth Allowance, or for part-time or holiday employment. A TFN is also required by financial institutions so that income tax is not levied on interest payments on savings accounts.

As part of a whole-government initiative, students will need to provide the following information on the TFN application form:

- Students born in Australia will need to provide their:
  - birth certificate number
  - state of issue, and
  - year of registration.
- Students born overseas will need to provide their:
  - overseas passport number and country of issue, or
  - Australian citizenship number and date of issue.

Schools are only required to check that the relevant question on the TFN application form has been completed, and do not need to confirm the details against the original documentation.

Therefore, students will NOT be required to bring their birth certificates, passports or citizenship certificates to school.

The purpose of this note is to advise parents of the TFN application form requirements, and to give them time to collect the required information.

Further information will be sent home with all Year 9 students during Term 2.

John Williams  
HT HSIE

## ENGLISH NEWS

### **Important Coming Tasks / Events**

12 Advanced English - Assessment task Representing / Writing task is due Week 8, Friday 23rd March.

12 Standard English - Assessment task Viewing / Reading task is due Week 7.

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10 Literacy Paper 1 - This is the first across the year assessment task for Year 10. All Year 10 will be in the hall for this task - Week 9.

Plain Speaking Competition - Years 7&8

Year 7 Date: Monday, Period 1 - Week 10

Year 8 Date: Wednesday, Period 3 - Week 9

## **COMPETITIONS**

Writing 4 Fun Poetry Competition

Closing date - 23rd March 2007

## **Students Working Well in Class**

Year 12: Ryan Cook, Jennifer Bozinovski, Jack Angwin, Leizel Mackander, Leon Healy, Christine Downton, Kevin Gamble, Caroline Hartcher, Christine Dragovic, Anita Jansen Van Rensburg, Jessica Outeiro, Peter Henderson, Troy Oldroyd, Daniella Ristevska, Jamie Stevoski, Kayla Stratton, Rachel Wade, Sam Zaboyak.

Congratulations to Jasmin Arnold, who represented Warilla High School in the Lions Youth of the Year Quest.

# Warilla High School Swimming Carnivale 2007

What a great day!

The sun shone, a gentle breeze blew and everyone from the youngest in Year 7 to the oldest in the staff (no names) had a wonderful time.

All events were hotly contested with the highlight being the staff vs student relay. Suggestions that there be a staff and parent vs student relay next year will be seriously considered!

Other activities on the day were also a success with all apple spirals being eaten, wonderful masterpieces being painted, countless cans won on the knockdown, nameless number of books and magazines read at the quiet corner and bucket loads of icees, iced chocolates and sausages being consumed.

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## The School Age Champions for 2007 are...

12 Years - Devin Gould, Sophie King

13 Years - Jason Clark, Zoe Elkerton

14 years - Blake James, Lara Pecchiari

15 Years - Jacob Helson, Cherise Lomas

16 Years - Mark Elkerton, Laura Worthy

17 Years - Nathan Perretta

Support - Shaun Iacovelli, Renae Gorak





### **Southern Illawarra Swimming Carnival**

On Friday 2nd March, 45 students represented Warilla High School at the Southern Illawarra Zone Swimming Carnival at Warilla Pool in 126 races. The day was a great success with 5 Age Champions, a second place in the CHS Knockout 12 x 50m relay and a third placing overall.

### **The Zone Age Champions for 2007 are...**

12 Years Girls	Sophie King
13 Years Girls	Zoe Elkerton
14 Years Boys	Blake James
14 Years Girls	Lara Pecchiari
16 Years Girls	Laura Worthy

All competitors are to be congratulated for their sportsmanship and behaviour on the day. They were excellent ambassadors for our school.

Eight swimmers and four relay teams (Girls Medley, Boys All Age, 13 Years Girls, 13 Years Boys) have qualified for Region, based on the carnival results.

Other qualifiers are yet to be determined.

Check the Sports Notice Board for details.

**Coming Events** : School Cross Country Carnival 3rd April - Start Training!!  
School Athletics Carnival 23rd May.

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## REFLECTIONS ON LIFE AT WHS BY A STUDENT

The sign outside of Warilla High School states that it is a World Class School. During my six years here I can honestly say that Warilla High School is nothing short of a world class school in every possible way. With an excellent academic rigour that challenges students in every way, a network of first class teachers that provide a enormous amount of knowledge and support, a learning environment that is equipped with all the necessary resources to get quick access to all answers, an overwhelming amount of opportunities and a welfare system that creates a happy place to be – Warilla High School truly is and in my experience has proved to be a world class school that provides a fair go for all.

In my opinion above all else, one of the qualities of this school above all others local and around the state, if not nationwide, is that this school instills the value and sticks by the belief that every child is entitled to the right to a first class education and provides the enormous amount of opportunities for each student to learn and reach their full potential – a fair go for all. Every student is treated as an equal and each student is treated as an individual who is supported by not only a network of teachers but the entire student body to reach their dreams. The many opportunities I received alone such as entering national Public Speaking, Young women in Public Affairs and Youth of the Year competitions to mention a few not only boosted my confidence, but they enabled me to develop many lifelong skills. Through my role as deputy school leader I was further able to interact with members of the community and inevitably meet a state Senator that offered me the lifetime opportunity of carrying out work experience out of both her local and Canberra office. These many opportunities have become the first steps into making my dream of moving into law and one day Politics come true and they would not have been possible if it wasn't for the Principal, Welfare System and Staff Network who all have a shared vision of providing every chance possibly for their students, be it in the academic, cultural, performing arts or sporting fields.

There has always been the preconceived notion that in order to get a first class education and succeed academically that you have to go to a private or selective school. In my opinion Warilla High School provides an academic rigour as good as if not better than any other school, public or private. Succeeding academically has always been an important goal of mine right throughout my schooling. During my final senior years above all others the many beliefs I already had about this school were reinforced a thousand times – I knew that I was getting the best education possible. The HSC year is a time of challenges, stress and many choices that need to be made about career prospects and tertiary education, but from day one I cannot think of a single time a teacher failed to help solve my questions. This is one of the things that I think distinguishes Warilla High School, the fact that your teachers are not only there to provide knowledge and teach but they also become your friends and share in your

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experiences.

At Warilla High School there is a learning environment that provides you with the most up to day technology and resources. Our library alone is continually updated and provides you with quick access to the latest textbooks and staff that are more than happy to help.

But school is not just about one thing alone, it's not just about academics or sport or even just performing arts. A first class quality school provides a balanced and happy atmosphere and this is true of Warilla High School. Everyone is different and the welfare system at our school provides the most amazing assistance and support to those who need it. Our school has many partnerships with the local community and businesses through the BEACON Foundation which proved a fantastic link between the school and working environment. We have a wonderful Youth Development program with St Vincent de Paul's and the school is very passionate about helping local and national charities. There are also many social events and fundraising within the schools to support students who may need to travel overseas for sport or academics.

Warilla High School has in my experience proved to be a world class school and as I have reached the end of my journey of high school I am very grateful for and appreciative of all the amazing lifetime opportunities and experiences that I have received. My time at Warilla High School as I know, has been the experience for so many others before me, has equipped me with the skills and put me on the path to truly following my dreams. This is a school that truly embodies all the values of honesty, fairness, truth, trust and knowledge of public education.

Valentina Stojcevska  
Year 12, 2006



Valentina receiving her most prestigious of many awards

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# COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

## ***Meditation for Young Minds***

### ***One Day Meditation Course***

***for Teenagers 12-16 years &  
Children 8-12 years***

***25th March 2007 - 9.30am to 3.30pm***

***Venue - Mt Keira Girl Guides Camp***

***Mt Keira Road Mt Keira***

**Website:** [www.bhumi.dhama.org](http://www.bhumi.dhama.org)

**Email:** [ctc-info@bhumi.dhamma.org](mailto:ctc-info@bhumi.dhamma.org)

**Phone:** 4787 7436 or 0418 168 092

*Vipassana Meditation Center Blackheath is a not-for profit organisation and all courses are funded solely by donation.*

## **STINGRAYS JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB**

For any boys interested in joining this well respected club, registrations are still open.

Ages from 5-14 years

Cost: \$50

New players encouraged and more than welcome

Phone Paula on 0402 437 485 or 4297 2760

## ***HOST FAMILIES NEEDED***

Students are from Italy, Germany, Scandinavia, and Brazil.

They become a part of your family including doing chores and joining in the fun! Hosting is voluntary, students bring their own spending money.

**For more information  
phone 1800 500 501  
for the cost of a local call**

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## **SOUTHERN YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES**

*Southern Youth and Family Services and Albion Park Rail Community Centre have formed a partnership to more efficiently provide services to adolescents and their families in the southern suburbs.*

*As part of this strategy, Southern Youth and Family Services - Family Services division will be available, beginning 1st March 2007, each Thursday from 10am-12pm at the Albion Park Rail Neighbourhood Centre to assist young people aged between 12 and 17 years and/or their families, who are experiencing relationship difficulties. This is a free service.*

*Please ring the Neighbourhood Centre on 4256 4404 for an appointment time.*

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