Settling into Year 7

A new SRC for the Junior School

Wassall to attend the World Youth Championships

CCGS hosts the inaugural Gosford City Relay for Life
BUNDARA is the magazine of the Central Coast Grammar School Community. BUNDARA is published biannually.

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Open Mornings 2013
Attending an open morning will provide you with the opportunity to see our school in operation during a normal school day. You will meet the Headmaster, key members of staff and experience student led tours of our campus.

Thursday 15 August
Thursday 14 November
Book online at
www.ccgs.nsw.edu.au

Cover Image: Georgia Wassall competing in the 4x400m relay. Photo courtesy of “Sports in Focus”
2013 has been an extremely busy year so far as we have focussed on continually improving academic performance whilst at the same time improving and broadening our co-curricular provision. Each year the number of students engaged in international exchange programs or tours increases and again this year we will send a contingent of students to Cambodia for the Humanitarian Tour and another group to the Beijing International Summer Camp. Students continue to impress at the highest levels with their performances in public speaking and debating. Our results in ISA sport, as well as the many individual sporting achievements of students, has been remarkable. CCGS was represented in many finals of Saturday sport during the summer competition across a whole range of sports.

I am excited to announce that we have strengthened our relationship with the Central Coast Academy of Sport. Several weeks ago I signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Ian Robilliard, Managing Director of the Academy to recognise CCGS as a community partner and specific sport partner to Netball, Rugby Union, Women’s Rugby 7’s and the newly announced Future Stars Program (a program which identifies and supports pre-elite athletes in any sport). This partnership provides great benefits for CCGS. Our school and coaches will have access to the expertise that resides within the Academy, including the most sophisticated approaches to sports management and coaching. CCGS will also receive high levels of exposure via the promotion of Central Coast Academy of Sport programs in fliers, journals, media advertising, radio and website marketing. I am sure that this relationship will lead to an even greater quality of coaching expertise for our students and result in improved performance on the sports field.

In addition, well known Mayor of Gosford, Lawrie McKinna, formerly coach of the Central Coast Mariners, has continued to show a very keen interest in our Football program for both boys and girls. Lawrie has attended the last three home matches and this has provided great motivation for the girls, boys, coaches and their parents. Lawrie is a good friend of the school and I am eager to see him grow his role with Central Coast Grammar School Football in the role of mentoring and coaching the coaches. Again this sort of approach will continue to strengthen our understanding of the game and the skill-set of our coaches and lead to improved on-field performance by our young athletes.

William Low
Headmaster

From the Headmaster
When the new PAC is completed next year there will be no shortage of talented students to fill its stage. These are just some of the highlights so far this year from our Performing Arts superstars:

- Nicholas Geddes (Year 10) appeared in Gosford Musical Society’s production of “The Sound of Music” in March.
- Sophia Walcott (Year 7), Aaron Carey (Year 7), Montanna Ardley (Year 4) and Simone Walcott (Year 2) have been cast in Gosford Musical Society’s production of “Puss in Boots” which will show in July.
- Sarah-Jayne Schofield (Year 3) and Emelie Kull (Year 6) starred in the ABC drama “The Outlaw”. Filmed in various locations across Australia, including Old Sydney Town, and directed by Brendan Cowell, the telemovie is about the outlaw Michael Howe who was a bushranger in Tasmania in the 1800s. A premier date is yet to be announced.
- Matt Baines, Max Tuckerman and Chris Kelly (all from Year 11) and Monty Richmond (Year 12) are all members of the band “Backdrifts”. They entered and won their round of Battle of the Bands at The Hub, Erina Fair. A large number of student supporters from CCGS were present to watch them win and they will now go on to compete in the semi-finals.
- Emma Hunter (Year 10) was selected to play the viola in the Australian Youth Orchestra Young Symphonists program.
- Aaron Carey (Year 7) was selected to perform a solo item at the upcoming Youth In Performing Arts (YIPA) Festival at Laycock Street Theatre.
- Sam Corlett (Year 11), Ella Hide (Year 11), Madilyn Holt (Year 11), Nick Carr (Year 11), Kierstan Nyman (Year 11) and the Central Coast Grammar School Man Choir all recently performed in a vocal showcase night at Lizotte’s Restaurant, coordinated by CCGS singing tutor Nate Butler.

School Productions are a significant part of school life at Central Coast Grammar School for many students and staff. Rehearsals are currently underway for what will be the last school productions performed in the current PAC.

We spoke with two students cast in the Senior Production of ‘Great Expectations’ - Nick Carr (who will play the character of Joe) and Lizie Cross (who will play the character of Biddy) to find out more about performing in school productions.

What does performing in school productions mean to you?

Nick - I’ve always had a passion for drama. Productions give me a chance to bond with students across other grades outside of house family time. It’s a great way to meet new people and get to know teachers. You become really involved with everyone in the cast and crew and get to know everyone; it really is a lot of fun.

Lizzie - I have a lot of fun doing productions. I’ve always liked drama and productions are a great way to build my drama skills. I think I am an outgoing person so for me [drama] is a good way to express that. I’ve also made a great group of friends through drama across the grades.

How do you feel about the fact you’ll be performing on the current Performing Arts Centre stage for the last time?

Nick – We’ve been on this stage many times, and know it inside and out, there are a lot of memories tied to this stage, so it will be a bit sad. However it will be exciting to see the new PAC. It’s going to be fantastic and exactly what the school needs, it’s going to put us higher up, in many aspects of performance, on the Central Coast. While I am sad I won’t get much of an opportunity to use it [as I finish school next year] I am still so excited for the school and the community to get a facility such as this.

How do you think the new PAC will change productions at CCGS?

Lizie – There will definitely be a bigger audience, which is great as often a lot of people want to see the production yet they sell out as there’s limited space.

Nick – They’ll also be on a bigger scale with the capability for more promotion, it will definitely expand the performing arts program.
Chris Hunt, Director of Instrumental Music at CCGS, recently conducted the Central Coast Symphony Orchestra (CCSO) in their first subscription concert for the year – “Wagner vs. Mendelssohn”. While Chris has been performing with the CCSO for many years (playing the French Horn) and conducting rehearsals for the last year, this was his first time conducting the Orchestra during a concert. The concert also featured the Central Coast Philharmonic Choir, directed by Phil Rees, a former CCGS Music teacher.

Of his experiences playing and conducting with the Central Coast Symphony Orchestra Chris has commented that it is “a great way to meet musicians and other music teachers in the local community” and that “it helps to keep my passion for music alive”. Chris continued on to say that working with the orchestra serves to keep him active as a performing musician (as when teaching music there is not a lot of time to also be performing) and inspires him to share his love of music with our students.

Chris also joined the orchestra committee this year and will be performing in the remaining three CCSO subscription concerts for the year.

Lions Youth of the Year

In the Lions Youth of the Year Competition, Year 12 student Natasha Naidu, who represented the Terrigal-Wamberal Lions Club, was one of only 5 students in NSW to make it to the State Finals. Each round of competition involved an interview with three judges who assess the student’s personality, general knowledge and academic records as well as requiring students to give two impromptu talks and one prepared speech.

Mr Boesenberg, Natasha’s mentor during the competition process, stated “Natasha grew in confidence throughout the rounds. Her public speaking skills and ability to think on her feet are testament to the goals of the Lions Club competition.”

Natasha was an outstanding ambassador for the school, the Lions Club and Central Coast community. Congratulations Natasha on reaching the State Finals!
Traditionally, students in Year 7 study 14 weeks of Indonesian, French and Japanese. This year, 12 Year 7 students are participating in a trial course studying Mandarin for the year. There are four components to the course: the Mandarin Chinese phonetic system, the Chinese Characters writing system, basic conversations and an introduction to Chinese culture. By the end of the year students will gain a thorough understanding of the Mandarin Chinese phonetic system (including the alphabet and tones) and how Chinese characters are written (including basic strokes and the rules of stroke order). They will learn to write around 50 basic Chinese characters and be able to engage in basic conversations including greetings, farewells, numbers, talking about their likes and dislikes, their family, pets, colours, food & drinks, sports and hobbies. Students have the opportunity to practice their new language skills during class and can practice after class through the LanguagePerfect website.

This is the first time Mandarin has been offered at CCGS and is said to be a difficult language to master. Students were chosen to participate in the trial for their keen interest in learning Mandarin and teacher Willa Chen reports that the students are progressing well and are enjoying the class and the challenge of the Mandarin language.

Facts about Mandarin
• Mandarin is the national language of China and Chinese is the most widely spoken language in the world.
• About 1 billion people speak Mandarin Chinese around the world.
• Chinese is a tonal language whereby the meaning of a word changes according to its tone. There are 4 tones in Mandarin Chinese: flat, rising, falling then rising and falling.
• All words have only one grammatical form - there is no grammatical distinction between singular or plural, no declination of verbs according to tense, mood and aspect.

If this course is a success and supported in the future, Mandarin will be offered in 2014 for Year 7 and Year 8 students.

C CGS to head to China again
Our students’ exemplary participation last year has led to a rare and honourable invitation for CCGS to participate for the second year in a row in the Beijing International Student Summer Camp. Held in July, the camp brings together over 1,000 students from over 24 countries. Students and staff who attended last year reported that the 10 day camp, which immersed them in Chinese history and culture, was a once in a lifetime opportunity.

University style learning for Senior English students
This year the CCGS English Department are engaged in a pilot program for senior students in the Advanced English and English Extension 1 courses. For classes that are discussion based, such as seminars and workshops, or whole group lectures, audio recordings of the lesson are being produced and placed on Moodle for students to access. These recordings provide students with the ability to re-listen to sections of a lecture or class at a later date and seek further clarity on topics and ideas discussed. A key benefit of making lectures and discussions available to students outside of the classroom is that it frees up student note-taking time during class, allowing students to more fully engage with the discussion at hand, confident of the ability to re-visit ideas at a later stage if required. Staff involved in the pilot program have reported an increase in the quality of discussion and a regular re-listening to all or parts of recordings by a range of students interested in refining their understanding or preparing for assessment tasks.

A life-long learner
Mr Matthew Phillips, a past student of CCGS (2002), completed a Bachelor of Education (Secondary) with Honours at the University of Sydney and has been a Social Science Teacher at Central Coast Grammar School since 2009. Recently Matthew had his second article published in the Professional Journal of the Society and Culture Association, ‘Culture Scope’. Matthew’s published articles, which serve as resources for other teachers of Society and Culture, are on the topics of ‘The Process of Social Research’ and ‘The Nature of Popular Culture’. Matthew has said that his teaching experiences help him to identify areas where he feels there is a need for resources and further literature for other teachers as well as improve his own knowledge, and, ultimately his ability to teach content more effectively. Teaching HSC Society and Culture, particularly in regard to working with students on their Personal Interest Projects (PIP), inspires Matthew to continue writing and producing his own work, keeping him connected with the process of developing ideas, revising them, responding to feedback, and producing a final product. Matthew has said that “Preparing and submitting articles is a great process, it keeps me fresh and motivated and able to teach students at a higher academic level.”
Education beyond the classroom can take many forms - cocurricular activities, sport, music, drama and play. Another integral way in which students learn is through excursions and this year students have participated in some fun, interesting and engaging excursions.

In February Year 12 Geography students spent a day at Wamberal Beach. While the weather was far from ideal beach weather (cold, rainy and blustery) students braved the elements to examine Dune Systems and discover why this ecosystem is at risk from natural impacts and human interference.

Ahead of their Sydney ‘Communities’ Excursion, Year 10 Geography students attended an incursion - spending time making field sketches of the school from areas in and around the new outdoor Pavilion. This innovation allowed a different view on making field sketches of the panoramas they found in Sydney.

In March Year 11 and 12 Physics students attended Luna Park, Sydney. While this may sound more like a day of fun and games than learning, students were there to study the science behind motion and forces. The excursion provided students with a unique opportunity to experience science in action and to see physics as a part of everyday life in the real world. Students experienced first-hand the basic physical principles of the various rides including: gravity, circular motion, centripetal force, momentum, inertia and energy conversions. Students made observations and took measurements for various rides; using this data and the equations of motion they have been studying to calculate various quantities such as forces, velocities and acceleration.

Year 9 Food Technology students spent the day at The Sydney Royal Easter Show. Students spent time viewing the Woolworths Food Dome, looking at and tasting a variety of new products and studying how products are marketed to consumers. They also viewed the District Exhibits to examine a range of products and food displays. In a delicious end to the day students participated in a Chocolate Appreciation Class where they learned about chocolate and tasted a variety of chocolate types. Their experiences at the show will provide valuable insights when students learn about sensory assessment and food displays during their Food Trends topic in Term 4.

Inspiring stories lead to award

Recently Central Coast Grammar School won an award for Achievement in Advancement in the area of Marketing and Communications from Educate Plus.

Manager Development and Community Relations, Christine Hodgkinson, was presented the award for two innovative campaigns, including the “Stories of Inspiration” marketing campaign. Judges described this campaign as “fresh and contemporary” which worked effectively to direct people from print advertisements to the CCGS website. The award is not only an accolade for the school but reaffirms our position as an innovative school that continues to set benchmarks in the education industry.

The Stories of Inspiration videos are short documentary style videos, told through the eyes and from the mouths of students themselves. The videos tell the stories behind the positive learning experiences that turn CCGS students into confident, empowered young adults. To view the videos visit the website www.ccgs.nsw.edu.au or scan the QR barcode.

Alex wins national writing competition

Earlier this year Alex Gill of Year 8 entered a writing competition in ‘Girlfriend’ magazine. Alex chose the topic ‘Change is Possible’ and wrote about her ideas to change the bullying culture in society.

Alex’s piece focused on communities working together to prevent bullying as she said “bullying doesn’t only happen in schools.” Alex suggested community members – such as sport coaches, after school care, local businesses – all use their unique strengths and skills to reinforce the message to kids that bullying is unacceptable.

There were over 1,000 entrants to the competition and Alex was announced as the national winner. Her prize was to spend the day with Ruby Rose, who is a model, television presenter and anti-bullying campaigner for National Youth Mental Health Foundation, Headspace. Alex spent the day with Ruby at ACP magazines in Sydney, where she attended a modelling shoot, helping chose Ruby’s outfits for the shoot and talking about anti bullying tactics.

Central Coast Grammar School is totally opposed to bullying in all its forms because it is alien to the School’s ethos and concern for the wellbeing of all members of the School community. More information about our anti bullying procedure and policy can be found on the school portal http://portal.ccgs.nsw.edu.au/Community/Downloads.aspx
Periods of transition at any age can be daunting, scary, overwhelming, exciting, fun or a mixture of all of these emotions. None more so than the time when students move from Junior or Primary School to Senior School. Students have to deal with changes in class structure, learning styles, routine, uniform and friendships, all at a time when they’re also starting to face the intellectual and social challenges of the teen years.

At Central Coast Grammar School a number of initiatives are in place to assist students (and parents) with their transition to Year 7 and ensure their experiences fall more often on the side of fun and exciting than daunting and overwhelming.

Some of the Y7 transition activities at CCGS include:

- The Head of Middle School and Deputy Head of Middle School meet with Year 6 students, parents and teachers the year prior to starting Year 7.
- Selected Year 7 students speak with Year 6 students, sharing their experiences and responding to queries and concerns.
- An information morning is held for prospective and existing parents with tours conducted throughout the School.
- A Get To Know You Day is held which includes teambuilding activities and orientation to the school.
- High needs students entering Year 7 are given individual education and medical plans implemented in consultation with parents and relevant staff.
- All new students are assigned a Buddy to support their transition to CCGS.
- Additional staff are allocated to Year 7 Core Classes to assist with transition and organisation of all students.
- Information evenings are held specifically for parents.
- The Middle School Wellbeing Team meet each fortnight to discuss individual student progress, action plans and future initiatives.
We caught up with some Year 7 students to see how they are settling in and got their thoughts on Year 7. Some of the students interviewed have been at the school since Kindergarten and some are new to the school.

**The best thing about Year 7 at CCGS**

- Definitely the teachers. They really make an effort to get to know you as well as your academic needs. I know they helped me to settle into year 7, so much easier than I ever thought I would. - Indigo
- You always get to use your computers, they’re much easier and better to use than textbooks. - Jay
- The teachers have always helped me be well prepared for anything and the older kids go out of their way to help and support the little kids. - Scout
- I like the extra opportunities that are available to students. - Hugh

**The worst thing about Year 7 at CCGS**

- Homework of course, although you don’t get loaded down with it. - Jay
- When assignments are due at the same time. - Elena

**Favourite subject**

- Science because my teacher Mr Eades makes the classes fun and interesting. - Aaron
- I really enjoy Design and Technology because you get to make things that are fun and you can be creative. - Hugh
- Practical PE classes. This is because I have a great teacher, Ms Amoroso, and also I am a very active person who loves anything to do with sport. - Oskar
- I like them all but I really like Science, closely followed by Music. I want to be a Marine Biologist and I think Science is really fascinating, how everything works and why everything is here. - Oskar
- Mathematics because I’m learning a new method to solve problems every lesson and I also find it very interesting. - Charlie

**Core class**

Students are with the same core class for Roll Call, English, Geography, History and PDHPE.

- Core class is terrific. It has made it easy to make friends. In fact, all my new best mates are in my core class. - Aaron
- I absolutely love my core class and I have made lots of friends in it. I thought it would be hard to make a whole new set of friends as I was super close to my old ones but all the people in my core class have been so welcoming and nice to me. - Indigo
- I think my core class is very supportive and friendly towards one another and I’ve made 2 best friends in my core class. - Charlie

**Biggest difference from Y6**

- More homework and assignments. - Elena
- The moving around to different classrooms for different subjects. - Jay
- I have found that you get a lot more independence. - Indigo
- There is a lot more personal responsibility and you have to be really well organised and do things for yourself. - Hugh
- In Y6 you only have to hand in your homework once a week, you don’t have to get changed in and out of your sports uniform for PE lessons and you basically get to have fun most of the time. In Y7 there is more homework, you run around to different classrooms for different subjects and horrible new words like “assignment” and “study notes” and “organisation classes” are introduced. - Matteo

**Advice to Y6 students starting Y7 next year**

- Have a schedule for your homework and break down all your homework into little pieces and then it’s not so overwhelming. - Oskar
- Don’t stress because there is a lot of support and help to be offered at CCGS. Most of all have fun! - Charlie
- Have an organised locker at all times. The 3 day old sandwich, squished banana and dead cockroach smeared through your books is not a good look when you have to present them for marking. - Jake
- To be organised and write down homework and not leave it to the last minute. - Elena
- Make sure you’ve got all your equipment ready. - Aaron
- Try to join a club or team in the school to get to know more people so you don’t feel secluded and isolated. - Indigo
- In week 2 we had a ‘Managing Year 7’ course. We learnt a whole lot of practical stuff that made sense and taught us how to manage our workload. We learnt about planning, chunking and chipping away and how important it is to get organised. - Scout
- Middle School ties are not like Junior School ties, they don’t come with an elastic neck. I had to learn to tie a Windsor Knot via watching multiple YouTube videos over and over again. - Jake
- If you get organised (I’m still getting there), you won’t have to stay up late to get the homework done and there is still time for mucking around at home. - Matteo
- Your bag can get very heavy so plan which books you need for each day. - Oskar
- Savour every moment; it goes super-fast. - Jake

Thank you to the following Year 7 students for sharing their experiences of Year 7 at CCGS with us: Aaron Carey, Charlie Kaparakis, Elena Khoury, Matteo Lannan, Hugh Littlefield, Jay Murray, Indigo Neville, Oskar Rubie, Jake Vernon-Elliott and Scout Walker.
The role of Head Prefect is a rigorous one; students must be a leader for the prefect body, their cohort and the school. They must conduct weekly school service and senior assemblies and are called upon to be representatives for the school at social functions and formal occasions, often with short notice, requiring them to give both prepared and impromptu speeches.

This demanding role requires students to have an impeccable track record in regards to uniform and attendance, they must be strong academically in order to be able to cope with their studies and the additional duties of Head Prefect while also be involved extensively in cocurricular activities. Common characteristics of CCGS Head Prefects are that they are independent learners, self-starters who are well respected among their peers and display leadership qualities, they have good public speaking skills with a global perspective and the ability to reach out to others.

Typically one Head Boy and one Head Girl are selected as the Head Prefects; however this year, for the first time since the Head Prefect system was implemented, we have 3 Head Prefects due an even tie between the girls.

We took some time to catch up with each of them and find out what makes them the perfect leaders for our school.

**Meet your Head Prefects**

**Georgia Wassall, Christian Whitfield, Jessica Redmond**

**Question**

What do you think makes CCGS different to other schools?

**Georgia Wassall**

Students have an enormous range of opportunities both academic and cocurricular, giving every student the opportunity to discover their strengths and develop their weaknesses. The support from the staff and the camaraderie amongst the students, provide a safe and nurturing environment for this to be achieved. The friendships to be made with fellow students and staff members, through sport as it was for me, or any of the various other co-curricular activities, are precious and long lasting.

What do you hope to achieve as Head Prefect this year?

**Georgia Wassall**

I am hoping to ignite a strong school spirit throughout the cohort and to encourage students to be outwardly proud of their school. I hope to encourage the students at CGGS to embrace every opportunity and appreciate their circumstance.

What have you learned about Leadership?

**Georgia Wassall**

I have learned to lead by example and to stand firm in what you believe; not to be judgemental but rather to be understanding. I have learned this is the way to gain respect from others.

What advice might you give to future school leaders?

**Georgia Wassall**

Make the most of the opportunity; it is a real privilege and honour to represent your school. Be grateful for the opportunity, be humbled by it, learn from it and immerse yourself in all the opportunities presented to you. It will be the most rewarding experience of your school life. But most importantly, get straight to the Dean Of Studies and get some help with your time management skills!

**What next for our leaders?**

- **Georgia** plans to represent Australia at the World Youth Athletics Championships in the Ukraine in July, survive the HSC and hopefully one day study Exercise Science at university and represent Australia in athletics at a senior level.
Christian Whitfield  

It’s easy to admire the outstanding facilities and grounds we have at the school, but it’s the intangible qualities that make CCGS different to others. It’s difficult to compare. I’ve been at CCGS since Year 3, however, you get a feeling that the genuine sense of community at Grammar differentiates it from any other school. We have perfected the balance between being small enough to be personal and large enough to be a community - and it is this balance that I love. The fact that a Year 12 can walk past a Year 4 and they can recognise each other is outstanding and it’s programs like house families that encourage this to happen.

Leadership is so misunderstood, it’s not about being the one student with the badge, it’s not about being the person that gets special privileges, and it’s about exemplifying the kind of behaviour that is unique to our school. I’ve learned that the most effective quality in a leader is integrity. I’ve learned that it serves everyone in the most positive fashion if a leader is themselves. There is no point being chosen for the person that you are, then changing your whole image to what you think people may want. I believe integrity is key to the most holistic leader.

Of course our aim is to serve the school in the most effective way possible, however with three of us I honestly believe our power to instigate change is increased. Between the three of us we bring such a wide range of abilities, personalities and ideas to the table, all of which will contribute to the legacy that we leave. Something that I am extremely passionate about is breaking down the stigma that is attached to inter-grade communication. I think our school already does so much in this regard, but I would love to see this further developed during our last year, and well past us leaving. The goal for any Head Prefect is to leave a legacy that the school will remember, and that we are proud of.

Advice that we so often hear, but one that I have only recently subscribed to, is that leadership is not about changing the world, leadership is so much more effective, particularly at school, on an everyday level. Don’t let leadership become something that is bigger and beyond you, because when we do, we only let ourselves celebrate amazing things that hardly anybody can do. We begin to take moments where we are truly a leader and we don’t let ourselves take credit for it. My advice is simple, recognise those who help you, be yourself because that is who everyone voted for and don’t treat the term ‘leader’ as if it’s something that one day you’re going to deserve, because everyone is a leader in the smallest moments that make the biggest difference.

Jessica Redmond

CCGS is definitely unique in many ways. There are so many opportunities available to us that students attending other schools are unable to partake in. For example, the reciprocal exchange program has allowed for us to build strong relationships all over the world, and with the large community of exchange students that visit our school every year, all students in the school are able to be involved in the program and make lasting friends all over the world. These international opportunities extend into our overseas trips for sports, music and humanitarian tours allowing all students the opportunity to travel for a passion of theirs.

Leadership isn’t merely something reserved for those that have roles or ‘positions of leadership’, leadership has so many varying degrees and types, anyone can lead. I read a quote from Bill Gates once that perfectly summarises what I have learned about Leadership, “As we look ahead into the next century, leaders will be those who empower others.”

My main advice would have to be to work together; a team full of great leaders with vision can accomplish so much more than individuals alone, which is a great thing about there being three of us this year. Working as a team has been fantastic.

2013 Junior School SRC members:

2G: Stella Hannagan and Angus Glover
2H: Darcy Medcalf and Eva Warden
2W: Kailan Paul and Simone Walcott
3C: Ainsley Fort and River Wright
3D: Baxter Graham and Ruby Fischer
3L: Spencer Holden and Olivia Ball
4H: Anna Battersby and Jatin Panwar
4J: Joshua Dickford and Olivia Johns
4M: Seb Plummer and Ailbhe Doyle
5G: Malaki Mortiss and Kate Robson
5M: Maddison van Dijk and Dylan Howard
5V: Ellen Mezrani and Isaac Chase
6A: Chelsea Bowden and Rory Hingerty
6B: Meg Garden and Mackenzie Holden
6W: Phoebe Render and Jai Panwar

Christian aims to attend an American college to complete a Bachelors degree in Economics or Finance and one day work in the Australian political system.

Jessica’s focus is completing the HSC to the best of her ability while maintaining a balanced lifestyle, with the future goal of attending university to study Medical Science and continuing her love of travel.

A new SRC for the Junior School

CCGS aims to provide leadership opportunities for all students. In the Junior School opportunities to demonstrate and enhance leadership skills for students include positions as captains, vice-captains, house captains and buddies to our Kindergarten students. Recently a new position has been introduced in the form of a Student Representative Council (SRC).

The SRC provides a voice for students in Years 2 to 6. One boy and one girl were elected from each class to be an SRC member. They were voted for their communication, negotiation and perseverance skills; their ability to be responsive to the needs of others and their preparedness to help other students.

The SRC body communicate issues, concerns and requests raised by their classmates in a fortnightly lunch time SRC meeting, which is run by the House Captains and coordinated by Mrs Valls. In the meeting, members raise issues, weigh up the positives and negatives and vote to decide which issues are presented to Mrs Webb.

In addition to providing our younger students with the chance to experience a leadership role, operating an SRC in the Junior School provides a model of the parliamentary process and how our Local Members represent the voices of their constituents.
**CCGS girls reign supreme in the ISA Basketball competition**

At the conclusion of the ISA Summer competition CCGS was very well represented in Girls Basketball with teams participating in the Open C Final, Intermediate Final, Junior A Final and Junior B Final. While on the day the Intermediates were defeated by Chevalier College, the Open C’s, Junior A’s and Junior B’s all won their games and went on to be announced as the Season Premiers. In a further show of talent these 3 teams completed the entire season unbeaten.

These outstanding results are a testament to the time, effort, enthusiasm and commitment put in by teachers, coaches, parents, and of course our talented students.

**Results of the Finals:**
- Open C’s defeated Blue Mountains Grammar School 28-16
- Junior A’s defeated Redlands 36-31
- Junior B’s defeated Chevalier College 34-21
- Intermediates were defeated by Chevalier College 11-15

The Boys’ Under 14B’s Basketball team also competed in the Final however the team were defeated by St. Patrick’s College 19-25 in a very close game.

**CCGS named Champion School at ISA Cross Country**

In March CCGS sent a team of 69 students to the ISA Cross Country Carnival, held at Chevalier College, Bowral. The day was a huge success for the school with CCGS named Champion School overall in both the Girls and Boys events. This is the eighth year in succession the Girls were named as Champion School and the first time since 2002 for the Boys.

There were plenty of Top 3 performances and any student who finished with a Top 10 placing in their race will now progress to the CIS Cross Country Championships in June, to which CCGS will be sending 31 students.

**Top 3 performances:**

**Girls**
- 12 years – Elena Khoury 3rd place
- 13 years – Scout Walker 1st place, Harriette Boursnell 2nd place, Emma Farncomb 3rd place
- 14 years – Jemma Smith 1st place, Bianca Khoury 3rd place
- 15 years – Estella Pounder 1st place
- 16 years – Mollie Reed 1st place
- 17 years – Georgia Wassall 1st place
- Senior – Samantha Danckert 1st place, Emma Boyd 2nd place

**Boys**
- 13 years – Alex Bauer 1st place, Thomas Lynch 2nd place, Charles Kaparakis 3rd place
- 15 years – Matthew Scarr 1st place
- 17 years – Charlie Hunter 1st place, Christopher Augood 2nd place

**Wassall’s gold medal in Youth Olympic Festival**

The 2013 AYOF brought together 1700 athletes from 30 countries to compete in 17 sports at many of the Olympic venues around Sydney. The event gives many athletes, including CCGS student Georgia Wassall (Year 12), their first opportunity to experience just what it feels like to compete at a multi-sport event. From marching at an Opening Ceremony in front of a packed crowd, to living in an Olympic-style Village and being educated and tested for banned substances, the Festival introduced athletes to the pressures and unique experiences of competing on the world stage.

At the event Georgia won the Gold Medal in the Women’s 800m and broke the Youth Olympic Festival record, which was set in 2005. Georgia has said “It was a tremendous experience to represent my country and have the national anthem played for me.”

**Australian Junior Youth Athletics Championships**

In March Georgia competed in the Australian Junior Youth Athletics Championships in Perth. Georgia competed in the under 18’s and won 3 Gold Medals for the 4x400m relay, the 800m and the 1500m. Georgia is now the National Age Champion in these events and has gained selection into the Australian team to participate in the World Youth Championships in the Ukraine in July.

**National Australian Open Championships**

Most recently Georgia raced in the National Australian Open Championships in the 800m, earning a Silver medal. This now places Georgia in the number 2 ranking in Australia.

**Hannah Simmons**

Earlier this year, Year 12 student Hannah Simmons was honoured at the 2012 Equestrian NSW Annual Awards for Excellence. The event celebrates all Equestrian disciplines and awards competitors for being at the top of their field. Hannah was awarded her medals, one for Interschools Senior Champion Dressage Rider and one for Senior Overall Rider, by the Sports Minister, The Hon. Graham Annesley MP.

In attendance were past, present and future riders from the Australian Olympic and Paralympian teams.
On the weekend of Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 May Central Coast Grammar School hosted the inaugural Cancer Council's Gosford City Relay For Life. This overnight community event, involved teams participating in a relay-style walk or run to raise funds for the Cancer Council and brought together the whole community for a night of fun, entertainment, celebration and remembrance.

The event was well attended by CCGS students, staff, parents and past students as well as the wider Central Coast community. With an initial goal of $40,000, the results were pleasing to all who attended, with 40 teams participating and over $75,000 raised for cancer research, support, education and prevention.

Community spirit was strong from the school, with 6 CCGS teams participating, a team for each House, a staff team and a Year 12 team, together raising $12,512.10, with Ironbark the highest CCGS team. There were also a number of teams led by CCGS families as well as many others from the CCGS community who attended for the day.

Area Manager for the Hunter/Central Coast region of the Cancer Council, Shayne Connell, said that in all the 60 Relay for Life events across NSW he had never seen a whole school community, including Headmaster, teachers, students, parents and past students, embrace Relay For Life like CCGS did in their support for the inaugural Gosford City event, and, that it was a “true credit” to the school community.

After an official opening, including speeches from Gosford Mayor Lawrie McKinna, Ms Deborah O’Neill MP Member for Robertson and inspiring cancer battler Ana Kitson Ferguson, local survivors and carers walked the first lap of the track while the rest of us cheered them on. Later in the evening the Candleight Ceremony of HOPE was held to remember those lost to cancer. Candles were placed in paper bags, lovingly inscribed with messages from family and friends, and placed around the track to encourage us all to remember those who lost the fight and be inspired to keep going. Former CCGS student, Stephanie Mencakova, shared her story of hope during the ceremony.

In addition to the official ceremonies there was plenty of fun and entertainment for race participants, as well as those that came along to cheer them on, including riding a Segway, dancing, drumming, yoga and local bands playing live music.

The real reason for the day however was never far from people’s minds. There were teams walking for themselves, to show how proud they are at having survived cancer, some walked to show they are strong enough to beat cancer, some participated in memory of a loved one who had passed away from cancer and others just wanted to be involved and make a difference.

The Closing Ceremony on Sunday was a time for reflection and togetherness, thanks, awards and a chance to celebrate everyone’s achievement.

The Cancer Council holds two other Relay for Life events on the Central Coast each year, at Mingara and Woy Woy, and the hope is the new Gosford City event will continue to provide a central location for Gosford residents to come together to raise awareness and funds for the Cancer Council for years to come. The ever competitive Gosford Mayor Lawrie McKinna even stated he’s aiming “for one day the Gosford City Relay for Life to be the biggest on the Coast”.

CCGS hosts inaugural Gosford City Relay for Life
First-hand cultural insights can be gained abroad and at home

At Central Coast Grammar School we believe it is important to connect students with communities at local, national and international levels. Our Student Exchange program continues to provide a valuable cross-cultural experience not only for those students who travel abroad, but also for the entire community who experience different perspectives as seen through the students who join us from overseas.

In addition to the learning experiences students receive from attending classes and school events with exchange students there are many valuable aspects, for both students and their families, in hosting an exchange student. Families not only gain a new son or daughter, but have the opportunity to learn about a different culture, its values, customs, traditions, food and language.

However it is the insights into our own country and culture, wider humanity and even into ourselves, as well as the opportunity to make lifelong friendships, that are the paramount benefits to be gained from the hosting experience. First time exchange host, Jessica Watson of Year 9, had this to say of her recent experience hosting a visiting student from Ueda Nishi High School, Japan:

“I learned there are many ways to communicate other than just through words; you should not assume that everyone does everything the same way as we do in Australia – it is very easy to take some things for granted; despite language and culture difference teenagers in our two countries are very similar; I made a new friend and we still talk on Facebook and email.”

The Christoforou family have been hosting exchange students to CCGS since 2010 and remarked that the opportunity to host students showed them “That people are interesting, every exchange student had their own personality but they were always polite and eager to learn about Australia. Their [Japanese] culture seemed refined and technologically advanced.”

The McGrath family, who for the last few years have hosted short term students, hosted their first long time student this year. Of the experiences the family remarked that “…our hosting experiences have taught us so many things...they [the exchange students] are wonderful, but mostly, they’re just people, like us, not much of a difference.”

It is insights such as these that truly enhance the global perspective of our students and help them appreciate first-hand the cultural diversities (and similarities) of the communities in which they may one day live or work.

A visit from our sister school

During Term 1 we welcomed 16 students and 2 teachers from our sister school, Ueda Nishi High School, located in Nagano, Japan. In addition to sampling a slice of Australian home life and attending specialised classes, activities and excursions to enhance their cultural understanding of Australia, the visiting students shared some unique aspects of Japanese culture with CCGS students. Senior College students were treated to a performance of a traditional Japanese dance called Soran Bushi, Year 8 students studying Japanese got to try their hand at the traditional Japanese art of Origami as well as try on the traditional Japanese garment, the Kimono, and, our Year 1 and Year 4 students enjoyed an afternoon playing Japanese Games.
Trading places

In addition to offering student exchange programs CCGS also facilitates for our teachers to participate in reciprocal exchange teaching programs. PDHPE teacher Mark Steele is currently on exchange in the Comox Valley, a region on the east coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada. In his place for the year we welcomed Colin Tinga. He brings with him his wife Jill and his 2 children Sage (Year 1) and Kye (Year 3).

He has been teaching for 27 years and is residing in Bateau Bay near Crack Neck Lookout for the year. We caught up with both to see how their exchange year was progressing.

Questions:

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<th>Mr Mark Steele</th>
<th>Mr Colin Tinga</th>
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<td><strong>What were the reasons behind your decision to become an exchange teacher?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Jill and I had travelled in Australia before we had kids and we loved it. We wanted to come back and have an adventure as a family, make new friends, explore the beautiful beaches and have fun!</strong></td>
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<td><strong>What are you hoping to get out of the experience of exchange teaching for the year?</strong></td>
<td><strong>I hope to challenge myself as an educator and gain a broader understanding of educational systems internationally. Of course, I am loving getting to know the students and working collaboratively with my PDHPE department. Thank you to students, staff and parents for welcoming me so warmly!</strong></td>
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<td><strong>So far are there any big differences you have noticed in regards to the education system, schooling or teaching between Australia and Canada?</strong></td>
<td><strong>We feel so lucky to have secured an exchange at CCGS. It is an incredible school. The grounds of the campus are extraordinary; teaching in such a beautiful learning environment is such a pleasure. We don’t have school uniforms in our schools in Canada, so that is a big change for our kids, but they like it! Essentially, the curriculum is similar to Canadian schools but being a PE teacher is a bit different in Australia – sports like netball and rugby are so huge here, whereas at home we have very active ice hockey and ski/snowboard programs. I think the students at CCGS are receiving a top notch education provided by first rate teachers. Jill and I can’t believe how much our kids have learned already!</strong></td>
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<td><strong>So far are there any big differences you have noticed in regards to the culture between Australia and Canada?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Culturally, Australians are pretty similar to where we come from in British Columbia. People love the outdoors and spend lots of time being active and enjoying their natural environment. One big thing we all notice of course is the Australian accent and the difference in vocabulary. Many words are shortened and made to sound so cute – at first we weren’t sure of what some things meant. Example? “G’day Mate! Would you like to meet me this ave after brekkie? Also, surprising... No one actually says “throw another shrimp on the barbie!”</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Has there been anything so far that your host school/CCGS has taught you or shown you that you plan to bring back to CCGS/your own school?</strong></td>
<td><strong>I love the house family system and the leadership roles that the older students in the school are given. Our kids look forward to house family and feel so special when an older student from their house family says hello to them around the campus and even comes up and gives them a hug! We are really impressed by how the teams teach and group the students by ability to accurately provide them instruction at their level. Students at CCGS receive a very individualized education thanks to teachers working so collaboratively. As parents, we are also learning a lot from how involved the parent community is at CCGS. We will bring back a lot of ideas that we can use at our children’s school back in Canada – from infants’ disco to fundraising ideas and morning teas for grade parents. All of these things make a huge difference in making CCGS such an inclusive and successful school.</strong></td>
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The mountain backdrop provides a vastly different view for Mark Steele while teaching in Canada.
Senior students lead the way in community involvement

This year Senior College students have been setting a great example for fellow students through their extensive fundraising and community involvement. Some highlights of their inspiring efforts this year include:

• Senior College, together with the P&F, hosted an inaugural breakfast to celebrate International Women’s Day. CCGS senior students and staff were joined by student leaders from other local High Schools and special guest speaker six-time Paralympian Liesl Tesch.

• Eight Year 11 students will act as Youth Ambassadors for the Australian Red Cross Blood Service, encouraging fellow students and the school community to donate blood.

• During Red Cross Calling month (March) over 100 senior students volunteered their time to collect for the Red Cross, raising $2115. Gosford City Council was so inspired by our students’ efforts they donated $1000 towards Red Cross Calling and encouraged other local businesses to do the same.

• Year 12 students participated in the Coast’s Biggest Pyjama Party, sleeping out on the PAC floor. The event raised $1407 for Coast Shelter, a not-for-profit charity based on the Central Coast which provides accommodation and support programs for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

• Two students represented the school at the Gosford City Citizenship Ceremony. This ceremony provided an ideal opportunity for our students to personally welcome the new citizens of the Central Coast.

• Over 50 students from Years 10-12 attended this year’s ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Terrigal. Head Prefects laid a wreath on behalf of the Senior School at the Terrigal Dawn Service and representatives from Year 11 laid a wreath at the Gosford service.

Junior School students raise funds for Cancer research

While community service programs are a formal part of the curriculum in Years 9, 10 and 11 some Junior School students took a proactive approach to community involvement that inspired us all.

Ten years ago student Matthew Douglass (Y6) lost his dad to Cancer. To celebrate his father's memory and to help ensure other families do not have to go through the same heart ache, he and his friend (and fellow Y6 student) Mitchell Battersby set about to raise funds for the Leukaemia Foundation’s World’s Greatest Shave.

The boys set an initial goal to raise $2000, however, with their excellent leadership and organisation skills, and a strong enthusiasm for the cause, the boys, along with the help of their 4S World’s Greatest Shave team mates (The CCGS Courageous Kids) raised $14,684.45, over 7 times their original goal.

In preparation for the 7th annual Cambodia/Vietnam Humanitarian Tour fundraising for the Tabitha Foundation House Building Project and Sunrise Children’s Village has begun.

Fundraising activities have included regular lunchtime BBQs, raffles and the group’s biggest event for the year, a fundraising dinner.

The theme for this year’s dinner was “Moonlight Luau” and was an evening of fantastic food and entertainment, including live music and a Polynesian-inspired dance show. The dinner was well supported by parents and students with over 160 people attending and many local Central Coast businesses donating prizes and decorations. Nearly $10,000 was raised from the event and was a credit to the very active parent involvement in the planning and running of the event as well as the generosity of the CCGS community.

In addition to raising funds the students also collect goods for the Sunrise Children’s Village in Phnom Penh. This year the group are collecting exercise books to be taken over and given to the children.

Scan this QR code to watch a video on the humanitarian efforts of our students.
Opening of the ‘John Taylor Science Centre’

Our students have been enjoying the upgraded facilities and new classrooms in our Science Centre since late last year and earlier this year an official opening for the centre was held at the school.

During the event the School Board announced that the Science Centre would be named after Mr. John Taylor, who served on the School Board for nine years, four of which he was Chair. This honour was bestowed on Mr. Taylor as a result of his enormous effort in assisting building programs in the school including the Multipurpose Sports field, the Richard Lornie Centre, the Sir David Martin Foundation Library and the Science Centre, and, for his contribution in helping set the strategic direction of the school during his term on the Board.

The event was attended by a number of people involved in the construction of the building as well as staff, current and past Board members and a number of dignitaries.

Farewell to Gary Glenn

The school community recently farewelled much loved staff member, Gary Glenn. Gary commenced at CCGS on 2nd September 1985 as a General Duties Assistant. The school had an enrolment of 278 and had been operational for just 8 months. Last year, just months after announcing his retirement, Gary suffered a stroke and prematurely departed the school while he commenced his recovery. Ten months on and we were finally able to give him the farewell he deserved.

Gary’s retirement celebration was attended by 150 people, including current and past staff members and past members of the board. The night resounded with tales of fond times (and a little bit of cheeky mischief) with Gary over the years and as the speeches rolled on there was not enough time to say all the wonderful things there are to say about Gary.

Those in attendance described him as a man who is “a great judge of people, who gave everything to his family and the school, he was the perfect employee whose only fault was he couldn’t say no” (Past Headmaster, Richard Lornie), a “pillar of the school” (Head of Sport, Paul Geddes), whose passion and dedication to Rugby at the school can be summed up by the fact he was “always the first here and the last to leave on the Rugby field” (Past Chair of the Board, Judy Stokes).

Headmaster Bill Low stated that “There are many special people in all schools and many very special people at this school. Gary is extraordinary even when compared to other very special people. During my career in education I have seldom seen anyone as respected and liked as Gary Glenn.”

Gary was absolutely loved by everybody in the whole school community - students, staff and parents (past and present) - and he will be greatly missed at the school. He will always be a part of the CCGS family and we hope to catch him from time to time at the home rugby games.
Adelaide Kershaw 2008

Congratulations to Adelaide Kershaw on her recent completion of a Bachelor of Laws at Notre Dame University in Sydney.

Adelaide attended CCGS from Kindergarten through to year 12, graduating in 2008.

Since finishing her university studies in December 2012 Adelaide has been travelling the world including visits to New York, Mexico, South America and Europe and was lucky enough to be in Rome for conclave and see the announcement of Pope Francis.

Adelaide recently returned from her overseas trip and will commence employment with a small personal injury firm in Sydney, focusing on her chosen area of law - medical negligence.

Lisa Weston (nee Piper) 1997

Lisa Weston is an Intelligence Officer in the Australian Army who was awarded Australia Day honours this year.

Lisa completed her military training at the Royal Military College Duntroon and holds a Bachelor of Management and Professional Studies from Southern Cross University and a Master of Justice (Intelligence) from Queensland University of Technology.

As part of her military service Lisa has held posts across Australia and has served on operations in Iraq and Timor Leste. She is married to Damien; also an Army Officer, and their first son Harry was born just after Christmas.

As part of the Australia Day Honours list, the Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM) was introduced in 1989 to recognise meritorious achievement or devotion to duty in non-warlike situations. Major Lisa Weston was awarded the CSM on Australia Day 2013 for meritorious devotion to duty as the Officer Commanding Echo Squadron at the Australian Defence Force Academy.

Her citation reads:

Major Weston demonstrated exceptional leadership and provided outstanding management to her squadron, guiding and mentoring young midshipmen and cadets to great success despite extraordinary challenges. Her understanding of command in a complex environment far exceeded that expected of an officer of her seniority. She was the key player in a peer mentoring program, a strong proponent and role model for women in Defence, and was an inspiration to subordinates, peers and superiors.

James Bracey 2002

James Bracey has won a Logie Award for “Most Outstanding Sports Coverage” as part of the team on FOXTEL’s London 2012 Olympic Games coverage.

James started working as a producer at Sky News in 2004 whilst he was studying a Bachelor of Communication (Journalism) at the University of Newcastle, before becoming a sports host and reporter.

Prior to his Logie win James won Swimming Australia’s 2008 Media Award for his coverage of the Australian swimming team before and during the Beijing 2008 Summer Olympic Games for Sky News Australia.

In addition to his award winning coverage James has also covered the Winter Olympics in Canada, the Commonwealth Games in Delhi in 2010 for FOXTEL and the Rugby World Cup in New Zealand for Sky News in 2011.

In January 2013 James was appointed presenter of a new self-titled sports show on Sky News, SportsNight with James Bracey.

Amy Hope-Hodgetts (nee Paradise) 2007

On February 23 2013, despite driving rain, howling winds and minor flooding, Amy Paradise married her sweetheart Jesse Hope-Hodgetts. The ceremony was held at Distillery Botanica, Erina and the reception at Terrigal Trojans Rugby Club.

There were approximately 80 guests in attendance, and the affair was quite the CCGS reunion. Past students in attendance included Maddy Paradise (2012 Head Prefect) as Maid of Honour, with Nicholas Paradise (2005) and Nell McDonald (2007) as members of the bridal party and Bianca Burgess (2009) was a part of the photographic crew.

The coupled honeymoon in the South Island of New Zealand.

Photo courtesy of Bloom Photography
Chasing their Dreams

Sometimes when students finish school they know exactly what they want to do with their future, some are even lucky enough to know years before they finish school exactly what their passion is.

However for many this realisation and discovery doesn’t happen for many years to come. Two past students show us that it is never too late to chase your dreams.

After Bronwyn Bonnette graduated from CCGS in 2000 she went on to complete a Bachelor of Business in Tourism Management at Southern Cross University, Lismore. Upon completing her degree in 2003 she worked in the events management industry for 12 months. However this never felt quite right for Bronwyn and her dream had always been Veterinary Science. Bronwyn decided to change career paths and pursue her passion, working in the field as a veterinary nurse for 2 years. Bronwyn then applied as a mature age student at Sydney University and completed a degree in Bachelor of Veterinary Science, graduating in 2011. Bronwyn is now practicing at Pet Friends Veterinary Hospitals at Winmalee and Falconbridge in the Blue Mountains and loving every minute of being a vet.

In his late 20’s Justin Coulson (1993) left a flourishing radio career and returned to university. Justin was looking for answers to a new challenge he faced – his parenting experience with a three year-old and an infant left him feeling inadequate and he had no idea how to be the dad he wanted to be. Justin spent four years studying Psychological Science, hoping for answers, and graduated with first class honours, and an insatiable desire for more answers. Justin has said “my studies – and my passion for parenting – consumed me. It took another four years to complete a PhD”.

Dr Justin Coulson is now an author, educator, and an expert in Positive Psychology and Wellbeing. Justin shares his expertise regularly on the TODAY show, The Project, ABC radio, 2UE, and other major market radio stations. His articles appear in the Sydney Morning Herald, Australian Women’s Weekly, news.com.au, and various national magazines. He writes weekly for kidspot.com.au. Justin’s academic work has been published in peer-reviewed journals, books, and online at Psychology Today.

Justin is an advisor to the “Life Education/McAfee bCyberwise” education program and is also a committee member and speaker for the World Congress of Families.

Justin and his wife Kylie are the parents of five children.

Save the date!
Opening Night Cocktail Party
Friday 6th September

Artshow
Saturday 7th September
Sunday 8th September

Save the date!
Springfair
Saturday 7 September 2013
9am- 4pm
Admission Free
- Market-style stalls
- International Food Court
- KidsZone games
- Entertainment
- Musical performances
- Chocolate Wheel
- Community displays

Happy Hour
3 Free Toppings
for students
3PM-5PM
Monday to Friday

Located at Erina Fair Shopping Centre
In front of Atrium food court
www.moosch.com.au

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