Welcome to the 2017 School Year

Learning and working in Blackwood High School is always an exciting experience and never more so than beginning the 2017 school year. With 100% SACE completion and continuing the upward trend of As and Bs, we are thrilled with what our Year 12 class of 2016 were able to achieve and with the continued improvement in academic achievement that is the result of hard work across the school over a period of years. The 2016 External Review concluded that Blackwood High School is a high performing school and our staff are looking forward to continue to challenge every student to improve, and to support their growth and development.

The front of the school and inner courtyard developments are completed and providing students with better shelter and a more welcoming outlook. It has been wonderful to see groups of students sitting under shelter and enjoying the new courtyard during recess and lunch times. We’re expecting our STEMWorks, Resource Centre and Student Services developments to commence later in the year. On a personal note, I’m looking forward to serving the school community as Principal during Term 1. The position will be advertised during Term 1 and we are looking forward to a longer term appointment being made for the beginning of Term 2.

A warm welcome to the 200 Year 8 students and families to our school community, along with many others who have joined us in Years 9 to 12.

Welcome back to our continuing students and families. We look forward to students developing their skills and interests through the wide range of opportunities offered at Blackwood High School. Please do not hesitate to make yourself known to us, or to contact us if you have questions or need more information.

New teaching and support staff

This year has seen the appointment of a number of new teaching and support staff. We welcome:

- **Cassie Dickeson** Mathematics
- **Cherie Earles** School Services Officer: International
- **Mark Flynn** Assistant Principal: Information Communication Systems and Learning Technologies
- **Kerryn Harvey** Deputy Principal
- **Jacquie Heaney** Coordinator: Science and Technology
- **Simon Herrean** Health and Physical Education School Services Officer: Sports Trainee
- **Amber Hood** Art Design
- **Nicki Jennison** School Services Officer: Front Office
- **Katheryn Langmaid** School Services Officer: Student Services
- **Joy Perkins** English
- **Rachel Peters** English
- **Ashley Robinson** Mathematics and Science
- **Elizabeth Szczepanowski** Maths and Science
- **Kate Talbot (Zanon)** Home Economics
- **Shauna Thompson** Senior Leader: Middle School
- **Andrew Cavallaro** Mathematics and Science
- **Adeline Divak** Mathematics and Science
- **Hala Fabbian** English/Humanities
- **Alex Flynn** Art Design
- **Oliver Garrett** Mathematics and Science
- **Adrienne Kajewski** Humanities and Teacher Librarian
- **Matthew Loan** Mathematics and Science
- **Ben Phillips** Mathematics and Science
- **Ben Phillips** English and Humanities

We also welcome back:

Welcome back also to Mr Wayne Learmonth after taking leave in Term 4 last year.
Leadership and Staff Roles for 2017

David Garrett  Principal Term 1
Kerryn Harvey  Deputy Principal Year 10 Term 1
Mark Flynn  Assistant Principal: Information Communication Systems and Learning Technologies
Mary Hodson  Assistant Principal: Senior School, Year 11 and 12
Lee Knight  Assistant Principal: Student Wellbeing for Learning and Middle School Innovation Year 8 and 9
Chris Plummer  Business Manager

Teaching and Learning Leaders

Amanda Aulert  Mathematics
Dale Evans  The Arts
Jacquie Heaney  Science and Technology
Graham Hook  Autism Intervention Program (AIP)
Karyn Jones  Language Acquisition, International Education
Glen Little  Health and Physical Education
Luke Northcote  SACE, Vocational Education and Training (VET)
Tash Thornton  Personalised Learning and Pathways
Kate Young  International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IBMYP)
Raphael Zadey  English and Humanities

Student Wellbeing Team

Argie Buesnel  School Counsellor
Ben Dening  Coordinator Year 10
Kerryn Harvey  Deputy Principal and Year 10, Term 1
Mary Hodson  Assistant Principal: Senior School Year 11 and 12
Lee Knight  Assistant Principal: Student Wellbeing for Learning Years 8 to 12 and Middle School Innovation Years 8 and 9
Luke Northcote  Senior Leader Year 11 and 12
Shauna Thompson  Senior Leader Year 8 and 9
Michael Winter  School Counsellor

Dates for your diary

Parent Acquaintance and Information Evenings
We were pleased to welcome many parents of our Year 8 students to the Year 8 Acquaintance Evening on Wednesday 8 February.

I would like to invite parents/caregivers to attend the Year 9 and 10 Information Evening on Wednesday 15 February commencing at 7.00pm in the Performing Arts Centre (PAC). The information session at 6pm will be preceded by a presentation by Penny Sih, Clinical Psychologist from Developing Minds. The presentation is titled Calm and Confident: A Parent’s Guide to Supporting Teens Be Successful in High School.

Families are also welcome to attend the SACE Parent Information Evening, relating to Year 11 and 12 students, on Wednesday 22 February, at 7.00pm in the PAC.

Hands on Parent Introduction to Daymap
We invite all parent/caregivers to attend a hands on session to learn how to log on and use Daymap on Tuesday 7 March at 9:30am or 6:00pm in the Conference Room.

Student Free Days
The Governing Council has approved the following dates for Student Free Days in 2017.

• Friday 10 March (adjacent to the Adelaide Cup long weekend)
• Thursday 6 July and Friday 7 July (adjacent to the July School Holidays)
• Monday 4 September
• A school closure will occur on Friday 1 September.

Please note that the two days at the end of Term 2 in July are a departure from what has been the usual schedule over the last few years. The Governing Council agreed with our request as we have the opportunity to host a four day Discovering Positive Education staff training that goes into the first weekend of the July school holidays. We are expecting to resume the usual arrangement in 2018.

To support families in their planning, a list of all events is provided in the newsletter on the last page.

SACE Results
The graduates of the 2016 Year 12 class achieved sound academic results providing them with a range of options and opportunities. 88% have been offered a place of their first choice for tertiary study. The Dux for 2016 is Emily Lauritsen who achieved a Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 99.50, with A+’s in Chemistry and Physics, and A’s in English Studies, Mathematical Studies and Specialist Mathematics.
Emily will be studying a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) (Electrical and Electronic).

Maya Tlauka achieved an ATAR of 99.20, with A’s in Biology, Chemistry, English Studies, Mathematical Methods and German. Maya will be studying a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery.

Nathaniel Ramesh achieved an ATAR of 96.70, with an A+ in Business and Enterprise and A’s in English, Communications and Legal Studies. Nathaniel will be studying a Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice.

Congratulations to the following students who received an ATAR above 90:

Marnie Fiebig (93.50)  Georgie Waters (93.05)  George Woodcock (91.05)  Melissa Pisano (90.95)

Four students gained subject merits, which are achieved when students gain an overall subject grade of A+ for a subject and demonstrate exceptional achievement in that subject.

Merit winners are:
Emily Lauritsen for Chemistry and Physics
Hiromi Hill for Research Project B
Jesse McKinnon for Research Project B
Nathaniel Ramesh for Business and Enterprise

In 2016:
• 135 students completed the SACE which is 100% of potential completers. This outstanding achievement places Blackwood High School with the highest in the state.
• 7 students achieved an ATAR between 90 and 99.99.
• 24 of all the students achieved an ATAR between 80 and 89.99.
• 63 students achieved at least one A with 17 students achieving two or more.
• 63.79% of students achieved A’s and B’s in 2016 compared to 59.27% in 2015.
• 99.1% of students achieved a C or higher compared to 96.7% in 2015.

It is also interesting to note that 71 students (53%) completed the SACE with Vocational Education and Training. This the largest number we have had and is a significant increase compared to 2015.

We are proud of the achievements of our 2016 Year 12 student cohort and our committed and skilled staff who supported their learning. Congratulations.

2017 Timetable
The school year started with two unfilled leadership positions which have now been filled. This required moving a small number of teachers between classes to take account of the new leaders teaching expertise. The changes have now been put in place and parents informed. We are currently in the process of balancing classes to ensure effective teaching and learning. Where additional classes are created or combined, parents and caregivers will receive a letter outlining the change. If any parents and caregivers have any concerns about their child’s timetable, please contact the Year Level leader.

SACE Merit Ceremony
On Tuesday 7 February I was pleased to attend the 2016 SACE Merit Ceremony at Government House for the presentation of SACE Merit Certificates to Emily Lauritsen, Nathaniel Ramesh, Hiromi Hill and Jesse McKinnon. It was wonderful to join these students and their parents as they were recognised for their achievements.

Emily’s two Merits for Chemistry and Physics were presented by the Honourable Doctor Susan Close, Minister for Education and Child Development.

Nathaniel’s Merit for Business and Enterprise was presented by Scott Boocock, Innovator and Founder of HEGS Australia.

Hiromi’s Research Project B Merit was presented by Ryan Osborne, Founder and Chief Innovation Officer, Remarkable Media and Jesse’s Research Project B Merit was presented by Jordan Walsh, Managing Director of Adelaide Green Clean.

Governing Council AGM
I invite all parents/caregivers to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Governing Council which will be held Tuesday 7 March 2017 in the Senior Learning Centre. Drinks and nibbles will be served from 6.30 pm. The AGM commences at 7.00pm. We have a strong group of parents and staff who work collaboratively on the Governing Council to provide a quality learning environment for your children.
Meetings occur twice a term and run from 7.00pm to 8.30 pm. Members of the Governing Council welcome new parents and caregivers in its work in setting the broad directions of the school. More details about how interested parents and caregivers can be involved will be provided later.

**School Attendance**

Blackwood High School will continue to record lesson and Care Group attendance using our Learner Management System (LMS) called Daymap. Shortly, parents and caregivers will be sent information about how they can log into Daymap to look at their student’s attendance.

It is important that students attend school each day for their programmed lessons. Absences from school have both short term and longer impact on opportunities to be academically successful. We know that when some students fall behind in their work they may make the decision to stay home to catch up with the work they missed. This begins a cycle of falling behind and trying to catch up which often leads to further issues. At our school we provide additional support for students who need assistance with their work; some of it in class with additional support available in the Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC).

We ask that students arrive on time to school and leave at the end of the school day. If there are appointments that need to be made where possible please arrange them for after school or during school holidays.

When students are absent we code their absences. It is important that all absences from school are explained. Parents and caregivers can notify the school when their child is away by:

- Writing a note in their child’s diary for the Care Group teacher.
- Emailing student.absences@bhs.sa.edu.au with the student’s name and reason for absence.
- Phoning the school on 8278 0900.

**Hot Weather and Blackwood High School**

Blackwood High School is an air-conditioned school. As such, we remain open for all school days. In the school there are drink fountains for students to fill their water bottles. During inclement weather, including very hot and wet weather, each year level has a designated indoor area that is supervised.

These include:

- Year 8 – Middle School Learning Centre
- Year 9 – Resource Centre
- Year 10 – Main Building
- Year 11 – Performing Arts Centre
- Year 12 – Senior Learning Centre

During the remaining months of summer, it is important students exercise care of their bodies by maintaining their hydration and being sun smart when coming to and from school.

**Uniform**

The Blackwood High School community has always been supportive of our school uniform policy. Wearing the school uniform provides students with increased safety as we are able to easily identify our students and it contributes to an increased sense of belonging and pride in themselves and the school. It also maintains a sense of equity by reducing fashion competitiveness. We encourage you to provide your child with clothing that is consistent with the school’s Uniform Policy. Care Group teachers have the first wave of responsibility to work with students about uniform. It would make their job a little easier if parents/caregivers contact them if there is a reason why a student is out of uniform on any given day. A note in the diary or a quick email would be very helpful.

Most of you are now aware that Blackwood High School uniform items may still be purchased at the Uniform Shop in Blackwood Primary School. Alternatively parents/caregivers now have the option of purchasing these items from Devon Clothing at 84 Daws Road, Edwardstown from 9 - 5pm Monday to Friday and 9am - 12pm Saturday.

**Bushfire Action Plan**

Blackwood High School remains open on days declared as ‘catastrophic’. Our evacuation point is in the Blackwood Recreation Centre. School buses will run as usual unless they are directed not to by the police or emergency services. Further detail about the Bushfire Action Plan is located on the school’s website www.bhs.sa.edu.au. An evacuation drill will occur to ensure students are familiar with the evacuation procedure. If parents have questions we advise them to ring the DECD Bushfire Information Helpline 1800 000 279 or contact City Light Bus directly via their Helpline 8377 6400.

**Bus timetables and school drop off**

Bus timetables have not been changed this year. If there are any issues with buses please contact me either by ringing the school or emailing blackwood@bhs.sa.edu.au. I will liaise with the bus companies to resolve any concerns.
Just a reminder that parents/caregivers are asked to drop off their children in Seymour Street off Shepherds Hill Road or on Beaconsfield Road. The Mitcham Council constructed a pathway on Beaconsfield Road adjacent to the school to assist students coming into the school. In the interest of the safety of young children, please do not drive through or park in the Blackwood Primary or at Blackwood High School, particularly in the busway.

Public Safety – Parking Control Around Schools, Kindergartens and Child Care Centres

I have been informed by the City of Mitcham that the Council will continue monitoring parking areas around schools, kindergartens and child care centres. Included later in this newsletter is information provided by the Council about parking control around schools, kindergartens and child care centres. This information brochure is to inform drivers about public safety and provide for student safety around roadways at school drop off and pick up times. Any breaches of the Australian Road Rules observed by compliance officers may result in the issue of an expiation notice. Should you have any enquiries in regards to parking controls matters please do not hesitate to contact Joanne Salter on 8372 8870. Please take the time to read the requirements in the interests of the safety of all of our students along with the children who attend Blackwood Primary School.

Parent tips

Blackwood High School has a no school bags expectation. This means that students do not carry their school bags around with them during the day; only to and from school. The Chiropractors Association of Australia has provided some tips to assist young people to take care of their backs, including their spine and posture. Heavy weight carried in backpacks may cause muscle strain, irritation, negative postural changes and injury, which can lead to adult back pain and spinal disorders, particularly after carrying a heavily loaded backpack for twelve years or more of schooling. Below are some suggestions about how you could reduce this risk for children in your care:

1. Backpacks should be ideally no heavier than 10% of a student’s weight when packed
2. Make sure the backpack is sturdy and appropriately sized - no wider than the student’s chest
3. Put comfort and fit at the top of the priority list, rather than good looks
4. Choose a backpack with broad, padded shoulder straps
5. Use both shoulder straps - never sling the pack over one shoulder
6. Use waist straps to bring weight close to the body so it supported by the trunk not the shoulders
7. Don’t wear the backpack any lower than the hollow of the lower back
8. Don’t overload the backpack - use school lockers and plan homework well in advance
9. Place all heavy items at the base of the pack, close to the spine, for a better weight distribution

New Education and Children’s Services Bill

A new Education and Children’s Services Bill, which will replace the Education Act 1972 and Children’s Services Act 1985, has been released for consultation. The Bill guides the provision of public preschool, primary and secondary school education and other children’s services in the state. The draft Bill updates and refines existing general administrative and employment requirements. Members of the public are invited to visit www.yoursay.sa.gov.au to view the draft Bill and provide feedback or email feedback to edlawreform@sa.gov.au. Consultation closes on Friday 10 March 2017.

Facilities Improvement

As mentioned earlier, the courtyard between the two storey building and the landscaping at the front of the school have been completed. The courtyard provides a multi-purpose outdoor space, teaching and performance facilities as well as covered seating areas for students. We are also creating a covered walkway between the Senior Learning Centre and the main building and Resource Centre. The front of the school has been given a real facelift, with the construction of new shelters, pathways, gardens and seating. We plan to extend this in the future. Work on our new STEM facility is due to commence later this year. This will include gutting the area currently occupied by the Resource Centre and general science laboratories to build the new facility. To prepare for this, the lower floor of the northern wing will be permanently transformed into a new Resource Centre. A new Student Services area will be included within this redevelopment. New classrooms will be constructed where the Year 11 Study Centre is currently placed on the top floor of the southern wing. While this redevelopment will have some temporary effects on ways we move around the school, we have planned to ensure the delivery of high quality student learning programs throughout the construction period. See photos over the page.

David Garrett, Principal
Blackwood High School High Achievers

• Congratulations to Victoria Wright in Year 10 who competed in the Victorian Swim Carnival from 6 December to 16 December 2016.

• Congratulations to Chantelle Fey who graduated in 2016 and whose artwork has been selected to be displayed at The 2017 SACE Art Show.

• Congratulations to Amanda Bowne in Year 11 who has received a Dame Roma Mitchell Scholarship.

• Congratulations to Olivia Wheeler in Year 10 who will be competing in the Junior National Track Titles in Sydney from 20 February to 27 February 2017.
Year 8 and 9 Orientation Day

Our Middle School students have enjoyed a wonderful start to the year which has included our Orientation Day events.

Year 8 students have enjoyed a significant amount of time to get to know the other students in their class through care group teacher led activities. They were also introduced to the principles of Positive Education unpacking the meaning of PERMA+ and including an introduction to the link between success and happiness. Students were able to practice ways to increase feelings of wellbeing including writing gratitude cards. Parents and caregivers may also like to watch the short, light hearted Soul Pancake videos which explain the principles covered: The Science of Happiness - Why Happy People do it Better and The Science of Happiness: Gratitude Letters.

The Year 8 day was rounded off with a version of “Survivor”, which had many physical challenges for the students to participate in. Each care group bonded over activities such as Vortex throwing, basketball free throws and a treasure hunt. Points were awarded, and the winners for the day were 8A, Jess Rogers’ Care Group. This is the first of many competitions for the Year 8 Burfield Shield.

All students enjoyed a BBQ lunch in our new courtyard. This was fantastically cooked by our Peer Support students, Cooper Gilbert, Taine Mitchell, Henry Beenham, Chloe McCluskey, Jazmin Harmston, Summer Lintorn under the expert direction of Sam Thomson, Chaplain.

Year 9 Orientation Day activities began in the Wittunga Botanic Gardens with teams of students eagerly seeking out objects in a photo treasure hunt. Following this students also had a chance to get to know the students in their new care groups for 2017.

Year 9s extended their knowledge of Positive Education through a session focused on “Noticing Positive Emotions”. Students learnt to recognise the many different positive emotions and how these can be built. You are also welcome to watch these short clips to help you discuss with your child their thoughts on these perspectives. Nick Vulicic – No Arms, no legs. No Worries! and Validation.

Positive Education will continue to form an important part of the Year 8 and 9 Pastoral Care program throughout this year. Work in 2016 with the Psychology Department of University of Adelaide allowed us to see that our Positive Education Program at Year 9 has a measurable positive outcome on the wellbeing of our students.

As the Assistant Principal for the Middle School I look forward to getting to know and working with all Year 8 and 9 students to ensure they have a productive start to high school this year. Myself and newly appointed Year 8 and 9 Leader, Shauna Thompson, will jointly oversee students in Years 8 and 9. Our team is also supported by Tash Thornton, Personalised Learning Coordinator, Michael Winter and Argie Buesnel, Counsellors. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child’s education here at Blackwood, please don’t hesitate to contact one of us or your child’s care group teacher.

Lee Knight, Assistant Principal, Wellbeing and Innovation in Middle School
2016 Year 8 and 9 Presentation Assemblies

In the final week of 2016 the Year 8 and 9 Presentation assembly was held to recognise the achievements of our Middle School Students.

Students were awarded certificates for outstanding achievements in academic performance, sports and service to the school.

Sports persons of the Year went to
Year 8  Tyson Dyer
        Lucy Boehm
Year 9  Zoe Johns
        Cooper De Zylva

The co Dux for each year level were
Year 8  Allie Stocco
        Trevor Bruce
Year 9  Harriet Cooling
        Elijah Tlauka and Lachlan Gillespie

Below are a selection of photos from the ceremony. Congratulations to all students achieving awards in 2016. We will be doing a review of all end of year awards given to our Middle School students this year. If you have any feedback on this or would like to sponsor an award please contact Lee Knight via phone 8278 0900 or email lee.knight@bhs.sa.edu.au to discuss further.

Lee Knight, Assistant Principal
The Year 10 Orientation program for 2017 consisted of important introduction sessions for the main elements of the SACE Personal Learning Plan (PLP) for the year. These elements could simply be divided into what we can call Experience and Exploration, which incorporates Workplace awareness and safety; understanding careers and course selection and importantly personal understanding and goal setting. The day was split into 3 sessions with the first session of the day taking place in the Auditorium for the entire cohort. The students were given the first of their sessions on Work Experience preparation in the form of a workplace health and safety (WHS) presentation. These sessions are required in order to safely prepare our students for work outside of the school environment with a focus on safety and hazards. This workplace preparation takes on a new level of importance for 2017.

The PLP Task 1 due at the end of term requires students to have completed the 5 hours of safety preparation required to participate in Workplace Learning. Work Experience and Workplace learning in general is an outstanding opportunity for students to apply their knowledge and experience in real world scenarios. Students who have not completed the preparation to a satisfactory level are unable to participate in Work Experience week scheduled for Week 8 Term 2.

The remaining two sessions had the care groups rotated through our first look for the year at Character Strengths which begins to give our young people an insight into what are the building blocks of the best in all of us. These character strengths will be discussed throughout the year and form a part of our goal setting tasks for PLP. The other session run by IBMYP Coordinator Kate Young gave students the opportunity to get their IBMYP Personal Project underway. The session proved very successful with the vast majority of students leaving having made some excellent progress towards their planning.

I would like to thank all staff involved for their efforts in preparing and working with the students on the day. More importantly I would like to commend the 2017 Year 10 cohort for the mature manner in which they went about the day taking in the important information and activities.

Ben Dening, Coordinator: Innovation in Year 10
On Friday 3 February we held the annual Senior School Orientation Day for our Year 11 and 12 students at Flinders University. The purpose of this excursion is to help our senior students to understand the importance of the final years of their schooling and to help them begin to make effective choices for their life beyond school.

Our Year 11 students began the day with a talk from recent graduates and an inspiring speech from a graduating Psychology student about effective habits. Afterwards students broke off into 3 groups with some going on specialized Campus Tours; others completing the World Café discussing a range of topics with student advisors such as Careers, Interviews, Finding Personality and Maximising the University Experience. The final group went with Mr. Northcote to hear about VET options, Apprenticeships, Traineeships and using Vocational Education to complete the SACE. In the afternoon we finished with an inspiring, challenging and mind bending presentation from Lee Harrison of Mobile Science Education.

The Year 12 cohort began the day with an address from former student Jordan Gifford-Moore about his time at university. They were inspired to do their best throughout this year by Doctor Penny Sih talking about finding and keeping their drive. Students were also introduced to University Extension Studies, something they might be able to consider for 2017. After Morning Tea, students spent the remainder of the day completing various University activities such as, Workshops, Flash Mentoring and using Vocational Education to complete the SACE.

This is always a most rewarding day and it is fantastic to see the best of many of our students on display. It also serves to highlight the importance of the Senior Years in helping to shape our students’ futures. Please encourage your child to share their Orientation Day Induction Booklet, which contains many hints and tips for being successful.

Luke Northcote, Leader Year 11 and 12
A high percentage of our students have achieved entrance to their chosen course of study at Tertiary level. These courses covered many of the different discipline areas. Some of these courses include: Bachelor of Business, Bachelor of Psychological Science, Bachelor of Law and Society, Bachelor of Science in Animal Behaviour, Bachelor of Information Technology, Bachelor of Engineering, Bachelor of Visual Arts, Bachelor of Teaching, Bachelor of Laboratory Science, Bachelor of Health and Medical Science, Bachelor of Speech Pathology, Bachelor of Midwifery, Bachelor of Journalism, Advance Screening Bachelor of Creative Arts, Bachelor of Science (Honours) (BIO AND CONSERV), Bachelor Psychology Science, Bachelor of Media.

A pleasing trend is the increased uptake in flexible options afforded by the SACE and complimentary programs here at Blackwood High School. Again a large number of students have utilised their Certificate III or IV training in order to complete their SACE or to gain and enhance their ATAR. This number increased again in 2016. Sixteen students used a completed Certificate III or IV in a range of industry areas including Community Services, Sport and Recreation, Fitness, Media, Children’s Services, Rural Operations (Small Animals), Technical Production, Applied Fashion Design and Technology, and Photo Imaging. An additional five students used their School based Apprenticeship in order to complete the SACE.

It was wonderful to see that 89% of our Year 12 students received a first round offer to gain entry into a large range of courses which spanned across numerous universities. Congratulations to all the students for their persistence and determination which has resulted in opportunities to follow their chosen career pathways.

Mary Hodson, Assistant Principal Senior School

World Challenge Tour Down Under

The World Challenge team had their second fundraiser during the school holidays, holding a highly successful BBQ and mobile drinks cart at the hill climb leg of the Tour Down Under in Willunga.

An early start to prepare and set up was aided by several helpful dads who, with the students, quickly set about catering for the hungry cyclist enthusiasts. Steak sandwiches, sausages, egg and bacon rolls and drinks were popular, flying out as the crowds increased. Often the crowd waiting for food stretched back three rows deep.

Our hill climb team transported eskies full of drinks up the 3km Willunga hill, much to the appreciation of the hot, thirsty patrons who had set up to watch the race along the roadside. Many people commented on the student’s commitment and drive to pull the load up the hill for their benefit! Such was the demand, the teams had run out of drinks after getting only half way up the hill on their second run.

The group managed to raise $2500 for their community projects that they will take part in when they head on expedition in November and December. This will enable us to provide real change for communities that need additional help that they normally would not get.

Thanks to Mike, Matt, Adam for their assistance on the BBQ, Col for the use of his BBQ trailer, Damian from A1 Refrigeration for the Fridge trailer and Dylan and the team from Coromandel Meats.

Stay tuned for information on our next Fundraiser, our famous Cabaret night, in late Term 2.

Dan Smith, World Challenge Program - School Coordinator
2017 Whole School Athletics Carnival

The Annual Whole School Athletics Carnival will be held on Thursday 2 March (Week 5). Preparations for this whole school event have commenced with the first House Meetings being held for students to select their House Captains and Vice Captains. Congratulations to the following students who have been selected in these important leadership roles.

RUSSELL
Captains: Matthew Walton, Hiromi Hill
Vice Captains: Macca Short, Amanda Bowne

ASHBY
Captains: Josh Rosman, Sarah Crawley
Vice Captains: Kinglsey Rosman, Rhianna Manfield

MILLS
Captains: Henry Berndt, Emily Jayne
Vice Captains: Saxon Burnard, Jenna Kervers

MADIGAN
Captains: River Moore, Nina Lombardi
Vice Captains: Cooper Smith, Chelsea Roper

The next house meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 February at 11.00 am directly after Care Group. All students will have the opportunity to nominate for events at this meeting.

We look forward to all students attending and participating on the day. The theme for this year is “Party” to celebrate the 10th Birthday of the reintroduced Athletics Carnival. Students are encouraged to both dress up and wear their house colours.

Another key date on the calendar for athletics is the interschool competition to be held at SA Athletics Stadium on Wednesday 12 April (Week 11). Students will be selected for the squad based on results from our school carnival. Squad training will begin in Week 6.

Glen Little, HPE Leader
My name is Eve Denner and I am a Year 11 student who has just come back to Blackwood High from a five-month exchange in France. I was living in the south of France with a host family for the full five months, and had an amazing time. Going to a French school with my host family’s children was truly the most authentic French experience possible. I now consider the many incredible people who helped me along the way as some of my closest friends. Being surrounded by a completely different language and culture not only makes you extremely tired, it also forces you to learn, ask questions and take risks. This has really improved my confidence and has given me a new set of life skills. In addition to living and doing things with my host family, I also had the freedom to travel around the south of France with my friends. I also visited different regions like Paris, Strasbourg and Andorra with my exchange organisation. My main inspiration for going to France was to improve my French and as someone who knew next to nothing before going away, I can say that I have improved a lot. By the end of the first few months, I could talk to my French friends and family in their own language, which is a gratifying experience, as you can understand so much more about a country and its people when you understand how they express themselves. I would definitely recommend going on exchange to anyone who wants to learn a new language and culture, gain independence and meet people from all around the world.

Eve Denner, Year 11 student

Planning is underway for the arrival of our first Japanese Study Tour visit to Blackwood High School for 2017. The group of 5 boys and 11 girls, aged about 15 years, from Morioka Chuo High School will be with us from 28 March – 9 April. The visitors will have a full program of activities at school, including English as a Second Language (ESL), cooking, football and netball, art, a trip to Cleland and the city and a farewell dinner.

If you are interested in hosting a Japanese student during this short visit or would like more information, please contact Karyn Jones via email karyn.jones@bhs.sa.edu.au or call the school on 8278 0919. Host families will receive a homestay payment of $465 per student to defray expenses for the 12-night visit.

Karyn Jones, Coordinator International Student Programs and LOTE
From 15-21 January this year I was fortunate enough to participate in an intensive engineering immersion experience hosted by Curtin University in WA. Indeed, it was a life-changing experience.

My early trepidation soon disappeared when I realised I was not the only Croweater and after a welcome from an Aboriginal man named Shaun Nannup, and a few ‘ice-breakers’ we were allocated our ‘digs’ – shared accommodation in self-serviced cottages.

I quickly made a few friends and it was off to the common room where we played pool for much of the night. It would be fair to say that I was no slouch with the pool cue either.

After a good night’s sleep, we began the day with a welcome to country before boarding the bus to visit a few prominent businesses such as Parsons, Brinkoff, Honeywell and ICAAR where key personnel from engineers to CEO’s addressed us. From the outset, they were respectful and inclusive, showing a genuine desire to share their experiences and answer our questions.

The afternoon consisted of sporting activities such as basketball, beach volleyball and boot camp and more games back at our base that enabled us to bond more.

The rest of the week saw us taken through the site of a new bridge under construction where BG&E representatives described the project and a visit to Aurecon whose activities included development of virtual reality headsets. It was awesome viewing 3D models and having a go at constructing our own. We attended a careers expo that enabled us to talk to company reps about what they offer and their relevance to our futures. Night time activities included groups having to build and launch rockets. Ours was a great success, travelling over 60 metres from launch.

One of the biggest highlights was a visit to the site of the new Perth stadium. It was truly amazing and I suspect it will trump Adelaide Oval as the best footy stadium in Australia when completed.

At Parsons Brinkoff we were given the task of constructing spaghetti bridges – ours was an epic failure. By mid-week, the long days filled with information had begun to take their toll and by nightfall we were exhausted.

Yet another site visit saw us learn about John Holland’s newest project – an overpass, before we were each given a $50 voucher and told to ‘go wild’ at the Westfield shops. In a week with many highlights we were also given a tour of the new Fiona Stanley Hospital including the electronics and other systems integral to the operation of the hospice and ICAAR where we got to construct spectroscopes and look at the sun.

Towards the end of the week we enjoyed a pretty fancy dinner and celebration of the week where we received a range of awards. The formality of the dinner meant we had to dress smartly and following formalities including amazing traditional Aboriginal dance, we ‘hit the floor’ and danced to the beat of the DJ. ‘Take on Me’ was particularly popular, myself and newly anointed mate, Jack Orr leading the way.

At the end of the night we ventured to the beach where many of us reflected on the week that was, new found friends and said our emotional good-byes. The realization that despite becoming so close, we might not see each other again, was indeed sobering.

As I bade my final farewells the next day, I began to reflect on one of the best weeks of my life before boarding the plane to return home, grateful for the opportunity and experience, more knowledgeable about possible future pathways and with a few new friends to boot.

Thank you to the IAESS staff and the school for an amazing experience

Kobe Cavouras, Year 12 student
STATE OF INNOVATION?

Blackwood Rotary Club hosts keynote speakers from South Australia’s top scientific community to discuss the ‘STEM’ trend.
Where has South Australia found itself in fields of innovation, are we cutting edge or cut out?

Tuesday 7th March @ 7pm
Blackwood High – Performing Arts Centre Auditorium
Gold Coin Donation Entry

“Come and Play”
Female Footy
Ironbank Cherry Gardens
Football Club

Recruiting for Female Footy players
We are a family friendly community based club. If you are interested in joining our club and playing in the 2017 season of Female Footy please contact us:
IBCFC Female Football Director - Vanessa Medder on 0410470290
IBCFC Vice President – Don Watton on 0417865044
or email info@ironbankfootball.com.au

HOST FAMILY NEEDED!

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand is looking for a volunteer host family for a 16 year old German girl who arrived in Australia in July 2016 and is currently attending Blackwood High School. She is a very open minded and friendly girl interested in cooking, drawing and meeting friends. Together with her host family she would love to experience new activities and simply be part of her host family’s daily life. We are looking for a family able to host her until April 2017.
We are always looking for new volunteer host families for students from all around the world and would be very happy to talk to you about hosting.
If you can help, please phone Isabelle at the Student Exchange Office: 1300 135 331. Thank you very much for your help.
PARKING RESTRICTIONS AT SCHOOLS ARE FOR THE SAFETY OF YOUR CHILDREN

Local Councils impose a variety of parking restrictions at and near schools to achieve a safer environment for your children. These restrictions are also to optimise traffic movement and safety.

NO STOPPING ZONES -
These zones are usually adjacent to school entrances and the approach and departure sides of school crossings.
You must not stop your vehicle in a no stopping zone or on a solid yellow line, not even for a few seconds.

NO PARKING ZONES -
You may stop in a No Parking zone to immediately pick up or set down your child, and drive off as soon as possible.
No Parking zones are to ensure a quick and smooth turnover of vehicles.
You must not leave your vehicle parked or unattended. You must not wait and watch your child go into school from this zone. If you are going to collect your child from this zone, have your child wait nearby in the school grounds so they can see you arrive. On your arrival they can then leave the school ground, enter your vehicle and you can then drive off. (Do not wait in the zone if your child is not in sight).

CONTINUOUS WHITE CENTRE LINE -
If a road has a continuous white centre line, there must be 3 metres between the vehicle and the white line.

SCHOOL CROSSINGS -
You cannot stop within 20m of the approach side or 10m of the departure side of a school crossing.

SPEED LIMITS -
Speeding vehicles in a school zone are highly dangerous for children. There is a speed limit of 25 kph, designated by the signs and a zigzag line below, any time when children are present or when the lights are flashing (depending on the type of crossing).

INTERSECTION OR T-INTERSECTION (Restricted Area)
You cannot park within 10m of the intersection.

CROSSING PLACES (driveways)
You may park so that the front of your vehicle is level with the approach or the back is level with the departure side of a driveway to any private or public property so that vehicles can enter and depart safely.

FOOTPATHS / NATURE STRIPS -
Parking is prohibited at all times. It creates dangerous situations for both pedestrians and other vehicles in the vicinity.

DOUBLE PARKING -
Creates dangerous situations anytime, however the danger is increased near schools, especially when children are entering or leaving school.

AUSTRALIAN ROAD RULES

CHILDREN SCHOOLS & TRAFFIC

A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS COMBINATION

Proudly distributed by the
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORISED PERSONS ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 21
OAKLANDS PARK  S.A. 5046
BECAUSE CHILDREN ARE NOT LITTLE ADULTS YOU NEED TO DRIVE WITH CARE AND CONCENTRATION NEAR SCHOOLS

WHY ARE CHILDREN AT RISK

- Their size means that sometimes they cannot easily see or be seen in traffic.

- Parked vehicles, light poles and other street furniture all block a child's view of the road and also make it difficult for drivers to see them.

- Their concentration is limited and they are easily distracted.

- Their actions are often spontaneous and unthinking (that's why they will dart out on to the road to fetch a ball or weave about when riding their bikes) without checking to see if vehicles or pedestrians are coming.

- Their sight is not fully developed, especially their ability to "scan" for things.

- They are lacking the ability to estimate the speed of vehicles, the gap between vehicles, where a vehicle is coming from or how far away it is.

HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILDREN

FOR UNDER 5 YEARS
Make sure your children have reliable supervision at all times when in or near traffic, especially when crossing roads.

FOR 5 TO 8 YEARS
Help your children to become familiar with all aspects of the road environment — signs, traffic lights and crossing places.
Teach them cycling skills in a safe area — in a park or playground etc.
If they are riding a bike to school, plan a safe route for them to take.

FOR 9 TO 12 YEARS
Take the time to explain the road rules in simple terms e.g.: Right of way, what to do at intersections etc.
Go for bike rides with your children to make sure they have safe cycling behaviour.

ABOVE ALL, BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU ARE DRIVING NEAR SCHOOLS, THE SAFETY OF ALL CHILDREN DEPENDS ON YOU
This meeting could save your life!

**TOPICS INCLUDE:**
- Bushfire behaviour & warnings
- Property preparation
- Keeping safe
- Where to go and when
- Your bushfire plan

**WHEN & WHERE**

*Monday 20th February 2017 @ 6.30pm*

*Blackwood High School Auditorium*

*4 Seymour Street*

*Eden Hills*

*This is a free family event, please come along for a sausage sizzle, see a fire truck and squirt a little water.*

**FURTHER DETAILS:**

For further information please contact
Natasha Huber - CFS Community Engagement Officer
0428 114 218 or natasha.huber@sa.gov.au
The Rotary Club of Blackwood

invites you to a

High Tea

Sunday the 12\textsuperscript{th} of February

2:00pm - 5:00pm
Blackwood Memorial Hall
21 Coromandel Parade, Blackwood, SA, 5051

$25 per person

Champagne on entry, sweets and savouries supplied. There will be raffles and games throughout the day. All men and women are welcome to come!

Bookings Essential: https://www.trybooking.com/OEIA
Laura Richter 0466 427 923
Laura.Richter@westpac.com.au

Flyers printed by Westpac Blackwood Branch
Calendar Dates

**Term 1 2017**

**Wednesday 15 February**
Year 9 and 10 Parent Information Night PAC 7pm

**Thursday 16 February**
Year 8 Sports Day

**Tuesday 21 February**
Governing Council Meeting 7pm

**Wednesday 22 February**
SACE Parent Information Evening PAC 7pm

**Thursday 2 March**
Whole School Athletics Day

**Friday 3 March**
Year 12 Formal

**Tuesday 7 March**
Governing Council AGM Senior Learning Centre 7pm

**Friday 10 March**
STUDENT FREE DAY

**Monday 13 March**
MARCH PUBLIC HOLIDAY

**Monday 20 March**
Open Night 4:30-7:30pm

**Tuesday 28 March**
Principal’s Tour 9am
Governing Council 7pm

**Tuesday 28 March to Friday 7 April**
Morioka Chuo Study Tour

**Wednesday 29 March**
Year 8 Immunisations

**Wednesday 12 April**
Interschool Athletics Carnival Parent/Teacher Interviews 1:30-8pm

**Friday 14 April**
GOOD FRIDAY

**Term 2 2017**

**Tuesday 2 May**
Principal’s Tour 9am

**Friday 5 May**
School Photos

**Monday 8 to 9 May**
Year 11 Aquatics

**Monday 8 May**
SRC Leadership day

**Tuesday 9 to Thursday 11 May**
NAPLAN

**Wednesday 10 to Friday 12 May**
Year 12 Aquatics

**Friday 12 May**
ISCA Career Expo (Year 10 Students)
School Photo Catch Up 9am

**School Contacts**
Student Absences: student.absence@bhs.sa.edu.au
Student Services: 8278 0900 or see website for staff email contacts