The best things in life are meant to be shared.

Thank you for celebrating our 50th Anniversary with us.
Our formal assembly on Friday 31st July was a beautiful day; the sun was shining, not a cloud in the sky. The quad was filled with former students and staff and current students and staff.
Over 300 people attended our Commemorative Dinner at Liverpool Catholic Club. The night had a great vibe with people being reunited with school friends after 30 years.
Day 3 of our 50th Anniversary Celebrations.

Open Day Sunday 2nd August 2015
Our 3rd day of celebrations was very successful. Former students and teachers and present students and staff filled the school and reminisced over the memorabilia in A Block. Our guests were entertained by some performances from students, face painting, photo booth and a giant extreme Adrenaline Rush jumping castle.
No doubt our community has heard about the wonderful things that have been going on at LHS since our last newsletter!

IMPORTANT news is the development of the internal bus bay area for all the students in our Support Unit who receive Assisted School Transport. The daily traffic congestion and potential risk of harm at the Demeyrick Ave cul-de-sac is finally being addressed! The school has worked with Public Works and other DEC personnel to make this internal drop-off zone a reality. Construction has started and though this is causing some new challenges to incoming and exiting traffic, all staff, students and families are showing extreme goodwill as we watch progress towards completion.

Our 50th celebrations were a huge event on the school’s calendar this year and the three days were wonderfully successful! The buzz around the school was fantastic and so has been the stream of feedback from visitors to the school during and after that time. The whole event was the culmination of work originating with the organising committee which began in term 2, 2014. The committee consisted of – myself, Jim Samphier, Catherine Myers, Annette Ollerton (CLO), Sue Burfitt. However, our work was supported and strengthened by so many people – staff and students – that it really was a wonderful collaboration from the whole school.

This was followed by MADD Night - a night of Music, Art, Dance and Drama and then by the beautifully poetic dance performance for the Wakakirri competition at NIDA, which saw the judges comment very favourably on the total performance as well as key aspects of the production.

Such was the impact and success of the great occasion marking the 50 years milestone of the school, that we are devoting this edition of the newsletter to this and other recent showcases of students and staff talent!

Principal’s Address at the official Assembly on Friday 31 July:
“Good morning to all our current and former staff and students. Good morning to our special guests – thank you so much for coming along to share in this important event with us.

I wish to begin by acknowledging the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which this assembly takes place – the Cabrigal Clan of the Dharruk nation. I wish to pay my respects to elders past and present and extend that respectful acknowledgment and welcome to other Aboriginal people present this morning.
Welcome one and all.

This assembly today marks our official and symbolic recognition and acknowledgement of the school’s existence and contribution to the education of young people from the local community since 1965. We are here to celebrate the school reaching an important milestone of 50 years of service to the local community through the profoundly important institution of public education.

I’d like to take you back to how it all began: The Liverpool Leader reported in April 1964 about the 2 new high schools that were going to be built in 1965 – one at Lurnea and one at Miller at a cost of half a million pounds. The then Minister for Education, Mr Wetherell announced that the successful tender for Lurnea High School quoted 253,697 pounds and that stage 1 would include 3 blocks by 1965 – and stage 2 would include one more block by 1966. The school would cater for 1000 students.

When 1965 rolled around, the school was said to represent the very best in new and modern educational ideas that had come through the extensive report a few years earlier by Harold Wyndham which became known as the Wyndham Report. This report made some significant changes to education that was eventually enveloped in the Education Act of 1961 including: that all students should experience a “wide range of subjects”. This meant that new subjects such as Visual Arts, Music, Industrial Arts, Drama and Languages would be introduced for the first time into NSW secondary schools. Another change was that high schooling would be extended from a 5 year system to a 6 year system and would now include 2 external exam points – one in the 10th year (4th form) called the School Certificate and one in the 12th year (6th form) called the Higher School Certificate.

By the conclusion of the stage 2 development of the school in 1966, Lurnea High School also had what was considered the very latest resources and was one of the best equipped schools in the state – it had 21 classrooms, a senior library, 4 science labs, 2 art and music, 3 craft and 1 needlework as well as 1 kitchen and 1 combined kitchen needlework rooms. In addition the school had an Administration unit, canteen, toilets, showers and change rooms and a sheltered area.

The uniform was reasonably similar to what it is now in terms of the bottle green colour. For the girls, it was a grey tunic and white shirt with green tie and white hat, for the boys grey trousers, white shirt and green tie.

The school crest with the platypus is what it has always been. I have always wondered about why the platypus was selected as the school’s crest. Aunty Mae told me just the other day that the Georges River was a well-known habitat for platypuses before white settlement in 1788. It turns out that when a parcel of land was granted to an early settler in 1803, his land took in all of Lurnea and went all the
way to the Georges River – so maybe this is why there is this link between our school and the platypus.

According to Aboriginal Dreamtime legend, the first platypus was born after a young female duck mated with a lonely and persuasive water-rat. The duck’s offspring had their mother’s bill and webbed feet and their father’s legs and handsome brown fur.

I think it is especially poignant that we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which the school sits – the name of the suburb which has given the school its name is directly connected to the indigenous heritage of this country. As many of you will probably already know, the name Lurnea carries an Aboriginal meaning – “resting place” or as the Liverpool Heritage staff have noted in a recent publication of the history of the Liverpool area - “Here I rest”.

As I have stated on other occasions over the past four years, these Aboriginal links – in the school’s name and the platypus legend are symbolic and powerful. In one sense our school provides a “resting place” for the many different people who come here to teach and learn. It is not that we physically “rest” while we are here but rather that we stay in this one place for a period of time. For many years now, our students have come from many cultural and language backgrounds and when brought together here in this one place, they all make one unique and very special group, like a new family – a bit like the platypus.

In researching some of the history of the suburb and the school, I have been struck by the connections the school has now with the underlying educational principles back then. Just as the school in 1965 was designed to account for, represent and accommodate the new educational views of the times which valued the inclusion of the arts – both creative and industrial in its curriculum, so too now do we value the educational ideas that have been emerging from research studies around the world, including Australia that highlights the importance of the creative and practical arts in the development of young people as well as the notion more broadly of creativity in learning through problem –solving and project based learning. So while the school has sat here on this land for 50 years, it may have changed shape slightly with new buildings and the implementation of multiple new technologies over time, it has not stood still in terms of making educational shifts where required.

Education is about providing learning experiences and opportunities for young people to equip them to meet the world they live and work in. As I am sure you’ll appreciate, the world of 2015 is not quite the same as the world of 1965. One obvious difference is the impact of the many new digital technologies that have emerged over the latter part of the 20th century, that are now having far-reaching influences on our lives and the way we live and work. Another difference is that almost 2/3 of the current student population was born in the 21st century.
It should be no surprise to you that Lurnea High School and its many teachers over 50 years have always been motivated to deliver the very best for the young people who attend here. These motivations are strongly present here in 2015 where we believe it is our role as educators to come together in partnership with our families, carers and the wider community to act as one in our common and shared goals to ensure all our students have access to a range of educational opportunities and learning experiences that will help them grow and function as effective and creative managers of their lives beyond the school gates. But more than this we know our young people are the future leaders and managers of our world, they are also the custodians, who will have to use their collaborative and creative thinking skills to ensure the continuing safety of the planet and the continuing wellbeing and productivity of the people.

And so here we are this morning, coming together as one to share in some memories, reinforce very important ties to our Aboriginal past, present and future, to meet up with former staff and students and to celebrate and value public education as that most important public institution that provides educational opportunities and access for any young person regardless of socio-economic, cultural, language, learning, developmental difference or need.

Thank you and once again – welcome to our… your school!”

Uncle Steve performing the smoking ceremony with Aunty Mae, Ms Holland and Ali Marouche
The traditional academic journey through high school from year 7 to 12 can be difficult for many students. The legal requirement of staying on at school until the age of 17 and/or completing the HSC does not suit all students and likewise not all students aspire to go onto university.

For some students the challenge of studying six very different and complex subjects in their senior years can prove to be extremely demanding. In reality many students in years 10-12 aspire to take up studies in trade type courses or prefer to engage in ‘hands on’ type activities to further develop their interests, strengths and maintain educational engagement.

In attempting to address the needs of these students, Lurnea High has developed a Transition Team which includes Mr T. Jacobs (Career Adviser), Mrs C. Walton (Learning Centre Coordinator) and Mr J. Samphier (Deputy Principal and Transition Coordinator). The Transition Team seeks to ‘case manage’ each and every student that expresses an interest in finding an alternate educational pathway to success. To date all students who have been part of the transition program are now working their way through their chosen career pathway.

The transition team in preparing students for the workforce or for other educational settings endeavours to prepare students for life beyond school by engaging these students in a variety of different programs which may include; the early completion of the Work Ready Program, acquiring their Work Cover White Card, work exposure activities both at school and in industry and undertaking formal work experience opportunities at a variety of venues and business outlets. Alternatively, other students have elected to take on traineeships with different companies or take on a School Based Apprenticeship while completing their year 12 studies. A recent example of a successful School Based Apprenticeship is that of Jack Boyle a current year 12 student who was the NSW State Finalist for the School Based Apprentice/Trainee of the Year - 2015 and a nominee for a number of regional awards for his outstanding efforts.

To date, a number of the students that have sought the support from the Transition Team are now taking up apprenticeships in carpentry, electrical, motor mechanics and panel beating. While others have reported back to the school that it is “the best thing that they have done” and as a result of their experiences they have recouped their interests in a possible career pathway or further education. Other success stories include Lachlan Russel and Brodie Cameron who recently completed a two week work experience program at Mainfreight - a local logistics company. Both Lachlan and Brodie were offered permanent or part time work as a result of their
outstanding efforts when they finish year 10. Likewise, Joshua Hall has also recently begun permanent fulltime work at Bunnings at Hoxton Park in the building section after completing a TAFE course and a range of extensive work exposure activities at school.

Another success story includes Jessie Lee Agostino who took up the opportunity to pursue a Diploma in Beauty has now been offered work at the same college teaching other students studying the same course and is now undertaking extension courses in this same field of work.

For any additional information on the Transition Program please contact the school to arrange an interview.

Jim Samphier
Deputy Principal and Transition Team Coordinator

Lachlan Russell, Brodie Cameron and a representative from Mainfreight.
VET courses are available for study by students at Lurnea High School as part of the Stage 6 curriculum and the Higher School Certificate curriculum.

Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses focus on delivering skills and knowledge and achieving qualifications required for entry level in specific industries. They allow students to investigate and/or begin a career pathway while continuing studies at school, where they develop industry specific competencies, work ready skills and have practical and real experiences in 70 hours of work placement.

The NSW Regional Vocational Education Awards were held on the 19th of October 2015. This year’s award has been a successful one as 2 students and a teacher got nominated and eventually won the awards in their categories. Fatima Al Wahab got the student award for finalist in Information and Digital Technology, and Rachel McCarthy went on to win the student finalist award for Retail Services. Mr. Kumar who is a teacher at Lurnea High School for the last 10 years received the teacher’s award for Excellence in Delivering VET in Information and Digital Technology.

Rachel McCarthy, Ms Holland and Fatima Alwahab
Students across the Support Unit classes were invited to take part in a Team building excursion. Students invited had the opportunity to think about and discuss positive behaviours and interacting with their peers. Students learnt skills to assist in strengthening their physical control of their bodies, their "core" as a way of having better control of their actions and reactions.
We Are the Beat of Change Lurnea!! We have raised over $750 for Amnesty International. Well done to SC4 students alongside Alanah Oufi, Jennifer Mason, Saif Sahar and Samer who were so dedicated to this cause. Thanks to staff and students for their baked goods, time and $$$
The InterAct program is designed for high school students to broaden their awareness of career options and help them make informed decisions about their choices and pathways beyond school.

Some Y9, Y10 and IEC students took part today in the Launch of the InterAct program in Lurnea High School. Students attended 6 sessions and participated in different workshops with their selected mentor from Optus.

During the session, students and mentors will:
- see what a modern workplace looks like by touring the building
- consider careers as non-linear through hearing their mentors career stories
- consider a career as a mixture of interrelated skills, attitudes and values.
This year, Year 12 Design and Technology students’ major works were outstanding.
Congratulations to the 43 Senior IEC students who participated in the school swimming scheme this term. As a result they have improved water confidence and swimming technique. Hopefully they will use the upcoming holidays to get plenty of practice at the pool.

Thanks go to Mr Marcus for his organisation of the scheme, Ms Lee for her constant support towards the scheme and to all the IEC teachers that accompanied the students each day.
Congratulations to Alanna McKew and Angela Nguyen whose artwork is being displayed in the Cross Network CAPA Exhibition and Concert at Bankstown Sports Club! Well Done!
The Kurrajong Cup is underway again for 2015. This is the third year that this program has been running. This year Lurnea PS, Casula PS, Dalmeny PS and Prestons PS will compete for the Kurrajong Cup. Year 11 Sports Coaching students will conduct Rugby League coaching sessions for Stage 3 students and 40 students from each primary school will be selected to compete at the Gala Day.

The Year 11 students have worked closely with the NRL Development Officers to gain important coaching skills and knowledge around the ‘Backyard League’ course, and are imparting their knowledge to a new group of players.

The program aims to create successful partnerships with the local primary schools and Lurnea High School to create community spirit and strong connections.

Good luck to all primary schools students for the Gala Day and hope it is a fun and enjoyable day for all.
This year 40 students from Years 7 – 11 have worked tirelessly for the past 2 terms to create a moving and inspiring dance story called ‘Sheltered’. The focus for the piece was to raise awareness of the number of young people that are currently homeless or have been homeless for a period of time in their life. The students tackled this subject are with respect and were humbled by the experience of telling this story. We would like to publicly thank Ms Stoakes, Ms Bellman, Mr Harkness, Ms Dennaoui and Mrs Hutchen for their hard work throughout the year in choreography, creating music and organising the event.

Wendy Le – Wakakirri was a fun experience. It helped me understand how much people put into their performances and how amazing it was to see the finished product. I loved making new friends and I hope we can be a part of it again next year.

Dayna Rameka – Wakakirri has been a great experience that I have thoroughly enjoyed so much so that when I graduate this will be one event that I will miss participating in. I loved jamming with the East Hills Boys and making new friends.

Natasha Enrique– Wakakirri was very fun, we laughed a lot, made new friends and learnt a lot about new people.

Ashley Mobbs– Wakakirri is an awesome experience, I’ve learnt so much and made so many friends. Being able to see how different schools interpret ideas is
Yes the Social Inc group successfully did it again! Students and staff involved in the Social Inc group successfully created and ran the Amazing Race as a Peer Support initiative at the end of Term 2.

The Social Inc group is all about supporting the social inclusion of all students regardless of ability or culture. This event meant that students from Support, Mainstream and IEC had to complete challenges in their mixed teams in order to win the race! Students worked well together to complete each challenge had a focus from different cultures around the world.

Students and all staff involved had a fantastic time!
Students across the school have been volunteering to take a more active role in planting and maintaining the schools garden areas. One of the activities involved students planting 50 native trees that the school received from Liverpool City Council.

Support students were enthusiastic in potting some flowers to assist in beautifying their playground area. All students involved worked hard and did an overall splendid job.

National Tree Day – Ms Karamitos
World Refugee Day is acknowledged on 20th June every year. This year we had week long activities leading up to World Refugee Day. The theme for 2015-2017 is “With Courage Let us All Combine”. Students and staff had the opportunity to place where their families have come from on a large scale World Map which now proudly hangs in E Block, this piece of art is a testimony of how far across the globe we all come and represents the journey's our families have taken to be able to live in this wonderful country. The pins placed in Australia have been placed by Aboriginal students and have played a key role in physically connecting all the pins across the World Map, this not only adds a visual harmony to the artwork but also emphasises the symbolic connection between the path families have travelled and the land's original custodians.

Other activities that took place through the week included:
* "Share A Memory Campaign" coordinated by Amnesty International on behalf of children in detention centres in Nauru.
* DJ Music Workshop- students created a beat harmony that was performed in front of peers at the end of the week
* Year 8 students took part in workshops that involved developing their understanding of Border Control and the Plight of the Refugee
* Creative Competition whereby a piece of art or writing was entered based on the theme of "With Courage Let Us All Combine"
Google Doodle Competition

Well Done to Junior and Jayden who worked hard in their own time to complete entries to the Google Doodle competition. Students have been encouraged and supported greatly by Ms Mahdar and their written expression was guided by Mr Cobon. Check out their impressive submissions:

Junior Papalii Year 10

Australia is a place where people from many cultures come together. My artwork reflects a strong link to Australia’s Aboriginal past, to the land and to a culture rooted firmly in a passion for sport. The flag on the right suggest that the future is blank canvas that we, it multicultural people will write.
Jayden Bradley Year 8

Australia’s colonial past is an important element of our culture and values as a nation. Moving forward, my artwork depicts the growing influence of the Pacific region in our population and outlook. All of this revolves around the Aboriginal heart of our nation that continues to beat strong with courage in the face of adversity.
Year 11 Wellbeing initiative!! Donating blood to help those in need!

Giving blood is one of the easiest and most rewarding ways to make a difference to someone’s life.

It only takes an hour and every donation saves three lives.

Great work! to all those who donated blood.
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8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

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SAM HAMEED
Driving instructor
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