The Year 8 Biomimicry Project Based Learning program was launched on Thursday by Professor Chris Turney from the UNSW Climate Change Team and Ms Helena Kertesz (HGHS Class of 2014) who is currently studying at UNSW. Professor Turney was highly impressed with the school. It was an honour to host such a remarkable scientist at our school. Thank you also to Ms Kertesz for her outstanding presentation to the students. This project is being led by Ms De Losa (Head Teacher Visual Arts and TAS) and Mr Re (Head Teacher Science). It is further evidence of the great teaching and learning happening at our school to engage our gifted and talented students. Thank you to the parents who attended the launch. I look forward to reporting on the achievements of the students throughout the year.

Kia Collins and Alodia Ong Year 11 recently attended the 2016 UNSW Women in Engineering Camp. During the week Kia and Alodia learnt about many of the different fields of engineering and had site tours at Google, Transurban, Resmed, Sydney Water and UNSW’s sustainable Tyree building. They also completed a week long team project which they presented for judging by engineers. Well done Kia and Alodia.

Lily Henke Year 11 has returned with many stories to tell of her time in France in 2015. Congratulations to Lily on her exciting adventure. Please read her article in this edition of the Torch.

Congratulations to Alex Chen Year 8 who won the United States of America Snowboard Association Halfpipe Competition held in Colorado in January 2016. Well done Alex!

Congratulations to Coco Huang Year 11 who has been shortlisted for the highly prestigious Somerset Celebration of Literature Novella Awards. Coco is one of only five students shortlisted from NSW. We wish her all the best for her novella ‘Three Men and a World’.

Burning Bright is a publication of our best stories and poems. Copies of Burning Bright 2015 are available for download from the school website. Congratulations to all the contributors and to the editor Mrs Motherwell (English Faculty). I do hope you have time to read the incredible stories and poems from our students.

Our school magazine Minerva is also available. Thank you to the Minerva Committee and to Ms De Losa for her organisation of the committee and for overseeing the magazine’s publication.

Dr Turner’s first Careers Bulletin for 2016 has been emailed to all parents. In this edition he provides
information on the UAC 2016 Main Round Offers, Year 10 Work Experience, University Information, Private Colleges, general careers information and an opportunity in April at the Cochlear School of Engineering. If you have not received a copy please contact the school or Dr Turner. Our Careers Night 2016 will be held on Tuesday June 7. Dr Turner has been working with our parent organiser Mrs Krithivasan to ensure the night will be a great success. Dr Turner will be providing more information on the night developed specifically for Year 10, 11 and 12 students in the coming editions of the newsletter and in the Careers Bulletin.

Thank you to Dr Carmel Harrington for her presentation to the Year 10 parents and teachers last Tuesday evening at the Year 10 Information Evening. Dr Harrington is an international expert on Sleep and Health and has provided advice to our community for the last three years.

The first P and C meeting for 2016 will be held on Wednesday 17 February. From 7pm to 7:45pm parents can meet their daughter’s teachers. Finger food will be provided by the P and C. This is a great chance for new parents to meet the staff and other parents in an informal gathering. Year 7 students are asked to attend with their parents. From 7:45pm to 8:30pm parents will move into the school hall for an overview of the P and C activities for 2016. During this time the Year 7 students will be participating in follow-up activities with their Peer Support leaders and Mrs Kathy Marriott (Head Teacher Student Wellbeing). Please see the attached flyer.

The first P and C Grounds Day will be held on Saturday 27 February from 8am – 11am. Thank you to our organisers Mr Andrew Roberts and Ms Catherine Lentfer. Thank you also to Mr Jono Sanders our Grounds Day adviser who has continued to support the school long after his daughter completed her secondary studies here. Please see the flyer in this edition of the Torch.

Dr Justin Briggs

HGHS P&C Grounds Day

SATURDAY 27 February 8am -11am

The main tasks will be weeding and mulching the front gardens, weeding the gardens in the COLA, cleaning the front fence on Edgeworth David Avenue and spreading red river gravel under the trees behind the canteen.

The MEETING PLACE will be out the front of the School, (near front steps).

The TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT you will need to bring are:
gardening gloves, hat/sunscreen, solid footwear (shoes/boots, not sandals) and appropriate clothing (We will try to run it even if it rains a little, so perhaps bring a raincoat if it looks a bit drizzly)
Shovels, crowbars and mattocks (for planting trees)
Weeding tools
Buckets, rags, sponges with light scourers, and a bit of detergent
Rakes (spreading mulch) and brooms (cleaning up)
Wheelbarrow if you have one (for transporting mulch)
If you have a hedge trimmer or shears, it would be useful to bring them too.

Please bring a bottle of water to prevent dehydration.

You will need to sign on when you start and finish for the day (to ensure that you are insured).

We will stop for morning tea at around 9.25 am.
Please note the early start – this is to avoid the heat. If you cannot get there by 8, don’t worry, just turn up as soon as you can, and sign on in the book which will be inside the front door of the School.

Please note that we will go ahead unless it is REALLY raining, the wet ground makes weeding much easier. If we do decide to call it off, we will send you an e-mail by Friday evening.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Andrew Roberts and Catherine Lentfer (Grounds Co-ordinators)

Hornsby Girls High School
P and C ASSOCIATION
"Excellence in Girls' Education"

INVITATION TO ALL PARENTS
to
our February P & C Meeting
on WEDNESDAY 17 February from 7.00pm
outside the Agnes Brewster Hall

‘Meet the Teachers and Year 7 Parent Information Evening’

This will be followed by a P and C Meeting
In the Agnes Brewster Hall
From 7:45pm – 8:30pm
Light refreshments will also be served, so please come along and meet other parents in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.
All welcome!
Old Girls Union Information from the President Linda Patten

The OGU would like to express our gratitude to everyone involved in helping to make our 85th anniversary open day such a success.
Thank you Dr Briggs, Mrs Sexton and Mrs Drayton, for organising the staff and girls for this special day.
Thank you to the Librarian and grounds staff, the Food Technology department and Clothing Pool ladies – for “sitting”, set-up, parking and security, and lending uniforms and memorabilia.
Thank you to Mr Horan for taking great photos and putting them on the HGHS Facebook site.
Thank you to the P&C for such a delicious lunchtime barbeque.
And finally thank you to the smiling, most professional group of girls who welcomed visitors and led the small group tours throughout the day.

Mrs Pamela Carey (HGHS 1935) was inspired by our 85th Anniversary celebrations last year. She has made a few notes on her time at the school in the early 1930s. Please see her story below. Thank you to Mrs Carey. We wish her continued good health.

EARLY DAYS AT HORNSBY GIRLS’ HIGH SCHOOL

As it is more than 80 years since I left HGHS, I thought I would jot down a few of my memories of the early days – while I can still remember them; a couple of snippets might amuse the readers of “Nostalgia”.

Students living on the main railway line travelled to school in the last two carriages of the train (where we “made eyes” at the Barker College boys). At Hornsby we formed a line to walk to school: strictly, no more than three abreast and of course, wearing hat and gloves. The uniform was a square necked tunic with a yoke and three box-pleats, cotton/linen in summer and a fine woollen material in winter, white long-sleeved blouse, black cotton stockings, black “sensible” shoes, and GLOVES.

On Monday mornings we gathered in the Assembly Hall, keeping very quiet, as the teachers led by Miss Brewster, and wearing gowns, proceeded to the stage, then we sang, with gusto, our School Song and the Sports Song.

The Oval was not built for some time (there were blackberry bushes at the end of a paddock) so sports were held in the gymnasium and the quadrangle, students wearing navy blue, knee length, finely bleated BLOOMERS. We played basketball and hockey and an exciting game called “tunnel ball”, where about eight girls stood one behind another, legs stretched apart (hence the bloomers?). A ball, like a small soccer ball, was thrown down the tunnel from the first girl to the girl at the end, who then ran to the front of the line etc. etc. A variation of this was when the first girl threw the ball under her legs to the next girl who tossed it over her shoulder; this was called a game of “under and over”.

We were all in awe of Miss Brewster who was a very fair, but strict disciplinarian, and it was a very exciting time as the four “houses” were formed – I remember Dr. Coghlan visited and I think Ethel M. Turner.

Friendships were formed, some lasting a lifetime.

“Once a Hornsby Girl, always a Hornsby Girl”, at 95 years old I can vouch for that.

Pamela Carey (nee Webb) 1933-1935
MULTICULTURAL FAIR 2016
SATURDAY 20TH AUGUST

Participating in the organisation of the Fair and/or on the day is wonderful way to get involved in the HGHS school community. More information will be sent out in terms 2 and 3 however please put August 20 in your diary now!

If any members of our school community from a Turkish, Lebanese, Iranian or other Middle Eastern country would like to cook (as part of a team!) at the Fair please contact Kate on kate@henke.nl

My Time in a French High School

I’ve recently returned from three months on exchange in Nancy, a beautiful and historic town in France’s north-east. On arrival, I was nervous about buying a bottle of water from the local supermarket. After twelve weeks, I had developed enough confidence in my French to negotiate with a bank employee for the return of my cashcard (which had been swallowed by the ATM), bargain with street vendors in Paris and debate with my school friends about the lack of snow.

My high school, Lycée Stanislas, was certainly different. It was a specialist science and technology school – not a great start for an arts student like myself! It was considered normal to smoke in the courtyard with one’s friends, in clear sight of the Principal (an activity I most certainly did not engage in). I also have developed a whole new appreciation for our teachers, given the strictness of those in France. All technology was banned from the classroom and we never used a laptop. My favourite aspect was the school’s coffee and hot chocolate vending machine, at the equivalent of 60 cents a cup. If Australian schools could please take note, it would be greatly appreciated!
Of course, living and studying in another language was challenging. For those wondering, being examined on biotechnology in a foreign language is not easy. However, I became more familiar with the language each day and have made life-long friends.

My exchange was an incredibly rewarding experience, particularly in terms of my progression in the French language. I have developed an abundance of memories which I will forever cherish.

*Lily Henke* Year 11

**Year 8 Biomimicry News**

Thirteen months in the making and many hours of collaborative work across the Science, TAS and VA faculties has finally paid off with the completion of our first Biomimicry Workshop Day. The day was designed to help inspire students to embrace integrated, STEAM based projects at school, and learn the foundations of finding innovative solutions to complex problems of our ever-changing world. Students will work in teams that have been created to ensure efficiency, high productivity and reduced stress. They completed Kolbe surveys that identified their natural conative strengths and gave insights about their preferred way to ‘do things’. Kolbe Corp assisted us in putting together 30 ‘super’ teams and students spent most of the day getting to know their team members. Every team I spoke with at the end of the day was excited about working with each other and confident about the project work ahead. Students have been provided with e-workbooks, tasks and other material on Moodle; most of these resources have been developed by the staff involved in this innovative learning program. There are some great photos later in the newsletter.

Professor Chris Turney from UNSW kicked off the day with an inspiring talk about his adventurous life of science and encouraged us all to reflect on the simple moments of curiosity that can feed big and wonderful ideas. As a scientist, writer and explorer, Chris showcased some recent scientific data that highlighted the rapidly changing world we live. Climate change science shows no doubt that human impact on the environment presents challenges for humanity in the future. He regaled us with wonderful stories, serious science and hope for the foreseeable future. For more information about Professor Turney and his work, I encourage you to visit the following link: [http://www.christurney.com/](http://www.christurney.com/)

Our second speaker was Helena Kertesz, a UNSW student with a passion for coding and mechatronics. As a 2014 graduate of HGHS, Helena was able to show us how an interest in birds, nature and electronics sparked her curiosity when she was young and how this continued interest has seen her project work develop and grow over recent years. Her HSC Visual Arts Body of Work was selected for Art Express and
showcased the integration of Science and Visual Arts that inspired the Biomimicry unit. It was very uplifting to see how achievable great deeds are when you have genuine interest in what you’re doing, and commit to see solutions realised. Helena is currently the Chief Technical Officer of “Off-World Robotics”, participating in the construction of a Mars Rover which competed in Poland in 2015. The link below explains ‘off-world robotics’ further. [http://bluesat.com.au/off-world-robotics/](http://bluesat.com.au/off-world-robotics/)

Both of our guest speakers addressed working in a team and how essential group work is to the collaborative careers that exist and operate in the modern, innovative world we live. The bulk of the day was spent in the science labs and art rooms viewing animal and plant biology, documenting these observations through scientific and realistic visual representations. Some of the specimens observed under microscopes were particularly creepy but intensified the students’ connection to nature, particularly engaging their ardent curiosity. The Visual Arts classes have been working with students on observational drawing skills in order to improve the visual representations they will make of their theoretical design solutions. This allows them to visually communicate ideas that don’t exist in the real world.

Lastly, we watched a number of inspiring clips of Lauren Hodge and Kenneth Shinozuka, who undertook similar projects, researching ideas and generating simple and effective solutions. If parents would like to support their daughter’s engagement with this program, please discuss simple ideas, like those of Lauren and Kenneth that they could share with their team. They have been asked to complete an evaluation of the day on Moodle. This data will assist us to ensure this program meets their needs. Parent feedback would also be appreciated and can be sent to the school via email.

Students will continue to engage with Biomimicry content in class throughout the year. For our next workshop day we hope to engage with technology that will help students communicate creative ideas. InDesign, video production and editing will be used (building upon knowledge gained from last year’s partnership with AFTRS) and time will be allotted for teams to work on their project ideas. The workshop day in term 3 will explore the types of technology that could see their ideas realised – robotics, coding, electronics and animation.

Nicole De Losa  Head Teacher Visual Arts & TAS

Biomimicry Winners
Success in the Snow!!

Congratulations Alex Chen - Year 8
USASA Rocky Mountain Series

Slopestyle 5th
Halfpipe 1st

During the holidays Alex Chen in Year 8, went to Colorado to compete in the USASA (United States of America Snowboard Association) Rocky Mountain Series competition. Rocky Mountains is one of the regions in the USASA competition which consists of most of the resorts owned by Vail along with some others. Alex competed in two events, halfpipe and slopestyle. For slopestyle the competition was held at Vail Resort, unfortunately Alex didn’t put down a run and ended up 5th. However for halfpipe which was held at Breckenridge Resort she landed two solid runs and won!

The HGHS School community and Sport Faculty are very proud and celebrate your achievement Alex!

Jan Lang, PE Teacher

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Looking for some excitement and adventure? Come and join the 206 Australian Cadet Unit - it’s the best experience that you’ll never forget!

The 206 Army Cadet Unit is a national youth and leadership development program that has been running for over 97 years. It is a special program for teenagers 13-17 years old to develop their leadership, discipline, teamwork, organisation and communication skills. We meet every Tuesday at 5.30-8.40pm in North Sydney, attend one weekend camp near the end of each term and have a one-week annual camp with other cadets units of NSW.

Our training includes radio communication, navigation, survival training, first aid, roping, boating, abseiling, ceremonial parades (such as Anzac Day & Remembrance Day) and much more. The strictest safety procedures are in place at all levels for all adventure training. After the basic training, senior cadets will have the opportunity to be promoted to lead and stage activities.

This unit offers physically and mentally challenging training to produce confident young leaders who will play an active role in the community.

For more information:
Website - www.206acu.org.au
Commanding Officer, Captain Wark - 0400 369 312
Tina Yip (Year 9) - tina.yip@education.nsw.gov.au
(Send me an email to confirm your attendance at the Info Night)

Look forward to your joining us in our upcoming Info Night.
Safer drivers presentation

Is it time to refresh your knowledge of the road rules? Hornsby Shire Council is holding a free road safety presentation for drivers of all ages.

Presented by Council’s Road Safety Officer.
Topics covered will be:
- Older driver licensing
- Safe driving tips
- Road rules
- Vehicle safety
- Pedestrian safety
- Roundabouts
- Responding to hazards; and more

When: Tuesday 1 March 2016, from 10am-12pm
Where: Hornsby Shire Council, Chambers Building, 236 Peats Ferry Road, Hornsby
Cost: Free. Light refreshments will be available. Places are limited.

Bookings essential. Phone Council’s Traffic and Road Safety team on 9647 6618.

For more information visit hornsby.nsw.gov.au