NOSSAL HIGH SCHOOL
Nossal News

August 19, 2013

SOLAR ENERGY GRANT
See page 2

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
See page 3

NOSSAL CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE
See page 6

EXAM SUPERVISORS NEEDED
Page 4

NOSSAL FLYING CLUB NEWS
Page 4

HOUSE CHORAL EVENING
Page 5

GREAT ART SHOW WITH SIR GUS
Page 7

IMPORTANT AUGUST/SEPTEMBER DATES
Aug 20 Yr 10 VIS Sport Science Excursion
Aug 21 Guest Speaker Yr 9s - Abdi Aden
Aug 23 Senior Boys Hockey - Vic Championships
Aug 26 Start of Book Week Celebrations
Aug 28 House Choral Evening 7pm
(Students at 1 pm at Robert Blackwood Hall)
Sep 2 VCE Food & Technology Excursion
Sep 3 Yr 11 Biology students visit University of Melbourne
Sep 6 Casey North Division - Track & Field
Sep 7 VCE Accounting Revision Lecture
Sep 10 VCE Philosophy Revision Lecture

Sir Gustav Nossal Boulevard, Monash University, 100 Clyde Road, Berwick VIC 3806
P.O.Box 1036, Narre Warren VIC 3805
Phone: 03 8762 4600 Email: nossal.hs@edumail.vic.gov.au
www.nossalhs.vic.edu.au
Dear Nossal Community

We welcome new staff members....Ms Tatiana Vega (voice and piano) and Mr Adam May (guitar) to our music team. Both are outstanding musicians and teachers and we look forward to them helping us to further build the music program. Soon Ms Shelley Warner (Japanese) replacing Ms Reeves who will be on maternity leave from the end of August. We thank Ms Reeves for her work with us this year and wish her well with the latest addition to the family.

We farewell Ms Linda Burridge (Library Technician) last week and she will be enjoying an exciting retirement building a new house and travelling overseas. We owe her a great debt of thanks as she (along with Ms Susan Filips) helped us create the Nossal library from scratch as unpaid volunteers who devoted significant time helping us to set up and organise our new library in the first year of the school, before we were in a position to employ anyone.

Places for Year 9 2014
The first round of offers for Year 9 2014 have just gone out and already there are large numbers of acceptances being received. There will be considerable movement over the next few weeks as the offers are made, preferences implemented and second and subsequent offers go out. We have invited the first round of “Principal's Discretion” applicants to apply and will be interviewing them shortly as well.

Solar Grant (Energy Efficiency)
The school was the recipient of a $10,000 grant to implement energy efficiency measures within the school. Our initial proposal for a comprehensive monitoring system has been rejected as being a new school most of the “usual” energy efficiency measures were designed into the school building, so we are now looking at the installation of a small wind turbine. Those of us who experience the local weather conditions on a daily basis believe that a wind turbine here has the potential to generate significant power and the unique design of the type we are looking at means that it looks more like a piece of sculpture than a turbine. It is not the traditional propeller blade design, and in fact looks nothing like what you would expect from such a device. People familiar with CERES in Brunswick East can see one in action there.

School Facilities Hire
We have been receiving numerous requests from community and sporting organisations wishing to hire spaces and facilities at the school after school hours and at weekends. To date we have not entered into any agreements and are carefully considering a number of proposals as I wish to ensure that the security and condition of the school is not impacted by outside hirers. It would be a shame though if the facilities were sitting idle when they could be utilised by community groups without impact on school programs and of course it will also generate a much needed source of additional income for the school. The other positive outcome is that there may be opportunity for our students and families to access additional clubs and activities here in Berwick.

White Ribbon – Anti Violence Program
I was pleased to be invited to attend the launch of the “Challenge Program” at the City of Casey this week. This is an initiative organised as part of the White Ribbon program and supported strongly by the Casey, Greater Dandenong and Cardinia councils, as well as the Department of Justice, Police and various other organisations. They have invited prominent male leaders to sign up as ambassadors to lead and actively promote the campaign to eliminate domestic violence, in particular violence directed at women and children, predominately by men. Because of the excellent work done by our students and Mrs Reddy previously, they are very keen to see that Nossal takes a leading role in this. Both Aswin Raveendran and Lachy Doughty of Year 12 attended the launch with me and the three of us have signed up as ambassadors; we will assist with the community leadership of this very worthy program. They were the only students in attendance, among 80 or so invited local leaders, which is a marvellous testament to the work done previously and to the reputation of our students. Sadly the initiative is necessary as the police district that includes all three of the above areas experiences the highest rate of domestic violence in Victoria.

PFA
My thanks to Grace Kamuyu and the Nossal Parents and Friends for organising a delicious and friendly morning tea for parents last week. It was wonderful that so many parents were able to attend, interact and meet other parents. I took some of them for a tour of the school so they could see it in operation, as many parents hear (I hope) about
places, programs and structures at the school, but have not been able to see it working. Some of what we do is significantly different to many other schools, so I think it is very valuable for the parent community to be able to see and hear this first hand. I hope to be able to make this a regular event and encourage parents to join one of our regular tours, or to join the PFA to increase their awareness and understanding of what we offer and what challenges we face.

Food Technology
Under Mrs Ansalde's excellent leadership our Food Technology program continues to flourish and grow. This is particularly evident now as the Year 12 students are preparing their assessment task, which are of course edible. I have to say that the quality and diversity of the dishes the individual students are producing is outstanding. They will go through a formal assessment process, but my expanding waistline and the crowd of “seagulls” (students and staff) that gather outside the room to sample the wares and tidy up the scraps is evidence of their talent and success. I encourage them to apply themselves strenuously to their studies here and am more than happy to continue to assist with an independent assessment of their (edible) work.

Partnership with The University of Melbourne
Mrs Ansalde, Ms Callahan, Ms Harrap and myself recently spent half a day at The University of Melbourne discussing the further development of the “Maningrida” project that Mrs Ansalde has been working on. We are entering a really exciting phase where we have the opportunity to link directly with world renowned scientists and researchers; incorporate authentic high level scientific research into school based subjects (the “Extended Investigation”) and create a sister school link with Maningrida College in Arnhem Land. We will be hosting the first visit of Maningrida students later this year and will be seeking host families to accommodate their students for a few days while they are here. In 2014, we hope to have some of our students visit their community as part of a reciprocal ongoing exchange.

BAD NEWS
I was angered and embarrassed to receive an email from a teacher at another local school containing footage of a large group of our students crossing the railway line at Berwick station, while the barriers were down and the warning bells ringing. He brought this to my attention as he was horrified at the danger they were putting themselves into and the impression that was given to the many members of the public who were witness to it. This is a serious safety issue that I have highlighted on numerous occasions through the newsletter and directly with the students at assemblies and my greatest disappointment was in seeing a large number of students who I thought were exceptional leaders and role models for others ignoring the law, my requests, common sense and community concern.

Of even greater concern to me was that the students appeared to be aware of the footage being recorded, (yet still continued to cross) and that it was recorded by other members of the public who have not made contact with me, so I have no idea where those images may end up, nor what impact that will have on our reputation. I have spoken with those identified in the video. I acknowledge that a few others (adults and other members of the public) were also doing the same thing, but I have higher expectations of Nossal students and do not want an accident, prosecutions, or our reputation sullied by such actions. I ask that all Nossal students step up, take responsibility both personally and collectively and resolve this issue so that I do not have to waste scarce resources putting teachers on duty at the station, or punishing those who continue to do the wrong thing.

House Chorals
A reminder to all families that the House Choral evening is fast approaching and every student is expected to be in attendance. As of Wednesday this week approximately one quarter of the students had not returned their attendance forms. Please ensure they are returned to the office immediately, or see your Tutorial teacher if you require a new one.

Science Week
My thanks to the Science Team and Mrs Latham in particular, for an interesting and engaging week of Science celebrations. We were fortunate to have Sir Gus join us as “Principal for the Day” and it is always uplifting to see the genuine warmth he has for the school and the students (and staff) and the respect and warmth that he receives in return. As well as his Science presentation and Q & A session with the students he also attended each of the House Choral rehearsals and was made an honorary member of Griffin. He was a bit overly generous with his expansive offers of big pay rises for all staff, substantial additional time off for the students and the cancellation of final exams, all of which were greeted with considerable enthusiasm. It is always a joy to have him visit and we really appreciate the time he is able to give us, in what is still (at age 82) a very busy schedule of appearances and presentations here and internationally.
Exam Supervisor Volunteers Wanted

We are seeking volunteers for a full day (with break times) to assist us in the supervision of exams

Dates: Wednesday November 13 to Friday November 15, 2013
       Monday November 18 to Friday November 22, 2013

Who can do it? Anyone with a current Working With Children's Check
Application forms are available at Post Offices and they are free for volunteers

What do volunteer supervisors do?
- Work with the coordinating teacher to supervise exams to ensure that students comply with exam requirements
- Patrol amongst the rows of students sitting exams
- Assist students with questions and escort them to the toilet
- Collect exam papers at the end
- We run training sessions for new volunteers

How do you sign up?
- Email Tracey Di Lollo at dilollo.tracey.t@edumail.vic.gov.au your details including your phone number and the day(s) that you are available
- Phone the school for more details on 87624600
- Someone will contact you closer to the date to confirm the times you have been allocated to supervision

What do volunteers get for offering their time?
- Food during meal breaks throughout the day.
- A letter of thanks
- The opportunity to see and understand the pressures on our students
- Experience in and understanding of VCAA exam conditions, rules and processes
- A good feeling 😊

When you sign up for supervision we are relying on you to fulfil your commitment. Thank you.

The Nossal Flying Club is now airborne!

On Wednesday July 27, students participating in the Nossal Aviation Program had a fantastic time enjoying nearly an hour of flying under perfect calm conditions with clear blue skies. Nossal has engaged in a partnership with Tooradin Flying School to provide students with an opportunity to obtain a pilot's licence.

Each Wednesday afternoon participating students undertake theoretical and practical flight training. Pilot log books and training manuals will be purchased soon, as they will help prepare students for the theoretical exams. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Vos-Butler family for their assistance with transport.
Scotch College Literature Festival

On a special invitation from Scotch College, four students from Nossal High School namely, Chloe Pearce, Osuri Manatunga, Berta Karaim and Krishna Balakrishnan together with Mrs Reddy participated in their 7th Biennial Literature Festival which was held on Thursday August 8 at Scotch College. The theme for the day was “Story Matters.”

On the day our students attended a presentation and lecture by New Zealander Rob Hamill, the transatlantic rower who captured headlines around the world winning the gruelling and inaugural Atlantic Rowing Race in 41 days. He discussed the commitment, focus and self-belief required to achieve ambitious goals. Our students also attended workshops with Charlie Thomson aka “The Educator” and the well known Australian writer Scott Gardner.

The day concluded with a brilliant cultural performance by Sean Choolburra, a proud Aboriginal man who maintains and practises the cultural traditions of his people.

House Choral Evening

The annual House Choral Evening is just around the corner (Wednesday August 28) which will be held at the Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University, Clayton starting at 7pm. Walking around the school during rehearsal periods has been an amazing experience listening to beautiful voices, strums of the guitar and strings. This is an event not to be missed!

We invite all Nossal families to join us on this fantastic evening to witness the musical talents of each house. This is a compulsory event for all students. Tickets are $10 per adult and $6 per child (U15) - Nossal students are free.

Tickets can be purchased via Monash University at http://sa2.seatadvisor.com/sabo/servlets/EventSearch?presenter=AUMONASH&event=_15786

All students should arrive at Robert Blackwood Hall at 1.00pm.

We wish every house the best. Which House will bring home the trophy in 2013?

NASAA

Nossal High School has a new group! The Nossal Asylum Seekers Awareness Association (NASAA) was formed early this term and has been meeting regularly every week to discuss issues surrounding asylum-seekers, or, as they have been labelled by the media, ‘boat people’. We are aiming to increase the awareness our school community has of this issue that affects all of us and our communities, by sharing the stories of those who have experienced hardship in their countries of origin and the challenges of re-settling into a new society, along with shedding light on some of the myths and realities about people seeking asylum. We are hoping to make our existence known to the wider community and aim to make a difference there as well.

As our first project, we are running a competition titled "Asylum-seekers and Refugees Creative Competition". We are looking for short stories, opinion pieces and illustrations. The short stories can be true stories, or fictional accounts, but they must be realistic. The word limit is 500 - 2000 words. They will be judged based on creativity, structure, language and grammar, message and overall appeal/impact on the reader. The opinion piece must be discussing a topic related to asylum-seekers and refugees in 500 - 1500 words. Opinion pieces will be judged on structure, language and grammar, good discussion of the topic, ability to
acknowledge sources, ability to persuade well and complexity. The illustrations can be any sort of illustration or photograph on any topic related to the topic of “asylum-seekers and refugees”. They will be judged on creativity, artistic ability and message.

In our short existence, we have set up a blog (tumblr) on which we post a variety of quotes, news report, cartoons, photos, in short, anything related to asylum-seekers. Please visit our blog on nasaa.tumblr.com.
We can also be contacted on nasaa@nossalhs.vic.edu.au

We look forward to judging your entries and thank you for your support of this worthy cause!

Science Week Celebrations

This week at Nossal we have been very busy celebrating all things Science. Monday lunchtime, in one of the chemistry laboratories, students were wowed with a variety of chemistry demonstrations led by one of our talented teachers Ms Jenna Richards.

On Tuesday the Snake Man paid us a visit. He stayed for most of the day and entertained many groups of students with his collection of snakes and lizards. He even brought a baby crocodile.

Wednesday was the highlight of the week because our namesake, Sir Gustav Nossal, paid us a visit as “Principal for the Day”. A large number of students and teachers attended a Q&A session with Sir Gus where he gave us a brief history of Australian Nobel Prize winners in the field of medicine. He also answered a range of questions from students.

Throughout the week, other “Sciencey” things have been happening including “NAFF” – the Nossal Astrophysics Film Festival – organised by our new Physics teacher Mr Stephen Alderton. Students have also been participating in a photographic competition where they are compiling photographic montages illustrating the various sciences. Some of our more ambitious students have completed the Science Olympiad examinations – an international science competition that could see one or more of our students travel overseas next year to compete on the world science stage. Throughout the week, there has been a heightened sense of excitement and fun within and around the Science Domain. Well done to all the Science Nossalonians!

English Language Lecture

In early August Tim Rayner, an experienced VCE English Language Teacher, visited Nossal to give a Lecture on how to prepare for the English Language end-of-year exam. Here are two reflections of the lecture.

Mr Rayner was highly engaging and thorough. He dissected every section of the exam and clearly explained what an examiner was looking for in a response while simultaneously answering our many questions. Essential exam tackling tactics such as managing time efficiently and how to structure your analysis and essay were amongst many of his tips. Armed with his valuable advice and study techniques, I, along with the rest of my peers, feel more confident about approaching the upcoming exam. We’ll be ready when the day comes, so come at us with all you’ve got VCAA! - Anisha Balakrishnan, Year 12

Mr Rayner’s lecture focused upon general strategies to effectively tackle individual sections of the final
examination. Productive suggestions included the need to be aware that short answer questions are marked holistically against a set of performance descriptors, the need to see the overall, 'big picture' purpose and context in the analytical commentary and the need to show an awareness of contemporary Australian English through relevant, up to date examples in the expository essay.

For most students the lecture did not present any ground-breaking revelations, but rather, it was an assuring reiteration of what we have been told throughout the year from an independent and credible source. From a personal perspective, it was a helpful presentation which brought everything into focus, and into perspective, granting extra motivation for the revision process. With the opportunity available to ask specific questions, I would say to future students that this is a lecture well and truly worth attending. - Randall Chu, Year 12

Would $500 assist you with educational costs?

You could receive up to $500 to help pay for educational costs including text books, computers, excursions and swimming lessons. Saver Plus is delivered by the Brotherhood of St Laurence in your local area and is looking for new participants.

You may be eligible if you or your partner:
• have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card
• are at least 18 years old
• have some regular income from work
• have a child at school or attend accredited vocational training yourself

To find out more contact Karmen Dayal on 5941 9155/1300 610 355 or kdayal@bsl.org.au

seeking and empowering your

TOP 5 ARTISTS

GREAT ART SHOW
20 - 22 SEPTEMBER 2013
Sir GUSTAV NOSSAL - FINE ART AWARDS
Nossal High School - Monash University Campus - Clyde Rd, Berwick
www.artshowsofoz.com

Organised by Provenance Artists Inc for the South Eastern Arts Festival Inc
Directors Calvin Bell 9704 7773 & Judy Owen 9704 8376
Provence Artists Studio
20 Toptani Drive, Berwick Springs 3805
provence@tpg.com.au