



EDITION 1 - February 2006

Dear Students, Parents and Teachers,

Welcome to Kingswood Kapers for 2006. This newsletter is published twice a term to make prospective students aware of some of the exciting events happening at Kingswood High School throughout the year. We hope you enjoy reading about our school.

*KINGSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
BRINGELLY ROAD, KINGSWOOD
INVITES
YEAR 7, 2007
STUDENTS AND PARENTS
TO AN
INFORMATION EVENING
WEDNESDAY 22nd March 2006
6:30 PM - 8 PM
IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY*

From the Principal, Mr Erickson:

I see Kingswood High School as having special characteristics and we will continue to work on programs that support them.

- Kingswood High is a **happy and safe place** where we encourage ownership and responsibility, recognize and celebrate achievement, provide a positive working environment and require consistency of effort.
- Kingswood High is a **caring place**, where we work to ensure that all students and staff feel secure, wanted and valued.
- Kingswood High is a **dynamic place** facing the challenges of change and providing structures to ensure that all curriculum and welfare issues are addressed while maintaining those special programs that cater for individual needs such as our Selective Sports Program and Academic Extension Program.

We are proud of our school and encourage all parents to be part of our learning community through the P&C, as parent helpers, by attending our parent evenings or by just contacting us if there are any issues or suggestions you would like to discuss.

Some highlights of the last 12 months.

The outstanding achievement of students from Kingswood High School cover the broad spectrum of:

Academic and Welfare:

- Year 12 students' artwork selected for "Art Express".
- Over 70 awards in each of the state Science, Mathematics and English competitions.



- International links with Sister School visits of students from Japan and Beijing and students and staff of KHS visited Beijing in April 2005. School plan to visit Italy 2006.
- TAFE accredited Peer Mediation Program.
- Award winning team in Model United Nations (MUNA) regional competition.
- Multiple award winners in Camden, Luddenham and Penrith shows (Arts, Agriculture).
- Student winner of Lions and Rotary Community service and leadership awards.
- Students' participation in ICT (Information Computer Technology) Summer School.
- Through the Student Representative Council (SRC) community support, participation in the Red Cross Blood Bank Vampire Shield.
- Competitive team in NSW Junior Chess League competition.



Creative:

- First place in the Small Teams section of the Rock Eisteddfod
- Talent Showcase
- Drama performance

Selective Sports Program

- Within the timetable afternoon sessions of specific skills and training with experienced coaches (eg. Ken Douglas from NSW Baseball/Softball, and Graeme Heape professional athletics coach). The 2006 programs are in A.F.L, Baseball, Basketball, Cricket, Hockey, Lawn Bowls, Netball, Rugby, Soccer, Softball, Tennis and Touch Football.
- Sports specific curriculum and certification.
- Identified talented sports students take part in fitness programs in a joint venture with the University of Western Sydney.



Learning at Kingswood

KHS offers an extensive range of Board of Studies courses in all Key Learning Areas.

- Full face to face in senior classes.
- Talented and Gifted Classes with extension and acceleration programs.
- ESL support team and program.
- Support Teachers Learning Difficulties with reading program to assist in literacy.
- Excellent library

The school has a staffed Independent Learning Centre to support individualised learning programs and a staffed lunchtime homework centre.

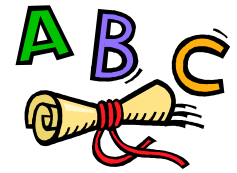
Student leadership and participation at KHS

The school has a prefect system and Student Representative Council (SRC). Council representatives meet with the principal weekly to ensure student participation in school governance.

The school offers many extra curricula enrichments including:

- Leadership training.
- Orientation programs
- School discos
- Work experience and community mentoring programs
- Lunch clubs
- Debating

Staff receive Regional Awards



Three staff were presented with Regional Director Awards at the 2005 annual presentation ceremony.

Mr Robert Procter: Head Teacher Social Science received an award for outstanding educational leadership;

Ms. Belinda Douglas: Art, received an award for outstanding teaching;

Ms. Nyree Waterson: TAS, received an award for outstanding teaching.

Criteria for the awards included having recently taught students who have achieved HSC results in the top 10% of the state and involvement in a range of whole school activities and professional support to their peers

Year 8 Camp ~ Milson Island

What a fantastic way to start off the year! On the 1st of February, 42 Year 8 students along with Mr Kotyk, Ms Ossington and Mrs Hansen arrived at Penrith station at 6.30a.m., ready to start of the school year by travelling to Milson Island on the Hawkesbury River for a three day 'boot camp', as the students called it.



We arrived at Milson Island at about 10a.m. and from then until 12.30 p.m. on Friday, our days were filled with fun and exciting activities. Our first activity consisted of students being divided into two groups, where one group participated in fishing and the other group in archery. Ms Ossington showed her fantastic fishing skills by catching an eel. (Approx. size 10 cm) After cooling down in the pool and having some lunch, we were off on our next adventure, camping. Upon arriving at our campsite, the students had to erect their own tents and were shown how to dig a hole in the ground when they needed to go to the toilet. As you can imagine, there were a few disgusted girls and a few very full bladders. Putting up tents and setting up campsites is hard work and there were grumbling bellies around the camp. Students were divided into groups of six, issued with camp stoves and food rations and encouraged to create their own meals. I must say I was very

impressed with the range of meals that were created and the students were very enthusiastic about their creations.

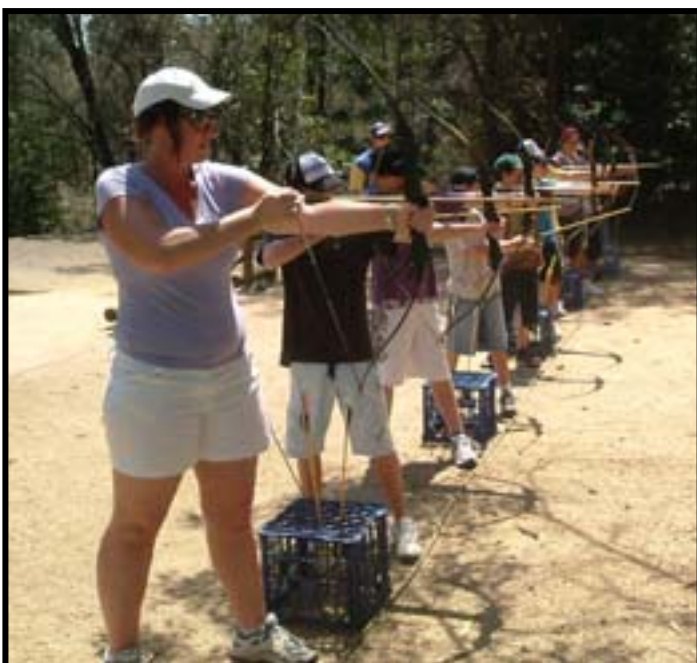
Shortly before sunset our instructor decided to take us on a bush walk. It was very exciting walking around the island hearing of its history and listening to the sounds of the bush as the sun went down. After our walk, we headed back to the campsite where Allison our instructor, told us stories around the campfire.



On the morning of day two there were quite a few tired faces and the campsite was not as alive as the night before. The students learnt to appreciate the comforts of their own beds, but this did not stop us heading off for our next adventure.

After a breakfast of Milo, cereal and toast cooked over the campfire, we headed up to the pool where, the students were involved in team building activities and raft making. It was great to see the knowledge and team work of Kingswood High School students working together to achieve a common goal.

The next activities were definitely a challenge as quite a few of us conquered our fears and walked the High Ropes and flew down the Flying Fox. Mrs



Hansen nearly chickened out, but with encouragement from Mr Kotyk and the students, she managed to complete the course to the end. After the evening activities, the students were back in the cabins on nice, soft mattresses, where they had a much better night's sleep and were refreshed and ready to go the next day.

On the last day, students were again divided into two groups. One group went canoeing and the other

kayaking. The canoeing group managed to capsized their canoes on more than one occasion, so the students came back saturated. On the other hand, the Kayaking group had very sore arms and as they had paddled part of the way around the island.

After a shower to get refreshed, the students were given lunch and we headed down to the ferry to make our way home. We got as far as central before the students needed to have their junk food fix, as they had spent the last three days eating healthy food.

We arrived back in Penrith at 4p.m. on Friday afternoon with a very tired bunch of teachers and students.

It was a pleasure taking year 8 away on camp and we were very proud to say that we were a part of Kingswood High School. Hopefully more students will be able to join us on upcoming camps.

I would like to say a big thankyou to Ms Ossington and Mr Kotyk for giving up their time and coming away on camp with us. Without their help, camp would not have been able to go ahead. Thank you also to the parents who had to get up early to bring their children to station on time.

Mrs Hansen

Yr 8 Advisor

