Farewell Year 12

Year 12 students were officially farewelled from School across several events in the past week.

The whole School Farewell Assembly was held on Wednesday morning. This student led event provided opportunity for Year 12 to share recollections of their years at Wycliffe. Songs were sung, videos viewed, and stories told - all reflecting the wonderful sense of community that exists at the School.

That evening, family and friends joined staff in acknowledging the wonderful things God had achieved in the lives of this fine group of young men and women. The highlight for me was the speech delivered by School Captain, Chris Gray, who shared not only personal memoires of his peers, but drew focus to the centrality of Christ to our School community.

While there is always a danger in highlighting the achievements of the few, I think it significant to draw focus to students who have used their God given gifts and interests to excel in the academic endeavours. Through this we seek to bring God glory, not the individual award recipients. Year 12 award recipients were:

- Academic Excellence in the Creative and Performing Arts - Christopher Gray
- Academic Excellence in the Health and Sports Sciences - Zoe Gasser
- Academic Excellence in the Humanities - Brooklyn Edwards
- Academic Excellence in Science, Technology and Mathematics - Beth Mitchell
- Outstanding Academic Excellence - Madeleine Jamieson and Beth Mitchell
- Dux of Year 12 (2015) - Mitchell Wassink 96.9
- Principal’s Encouragement Award - Michaela Bourke
- Kooyong Good Samaritan Award - Kathryn Chik and Christopher Gray
- Reuben F Scarf Award for application - Gabrielle McDonald
- Long Tan Award for Servant Leadership - Bailey Cave

Student Leaders

Over recent weeks the selection of new school Captains and Vice-Captains has taken place.

The process involved:
1. Formal nomination by peers or teachers.
2. Interview with the Principal.
3. Election process with votes coming from Years 10-12 as well as staff.

With the process complete I am pleased to present our incoming student leaders:

Captains: Eleanor Mercer, Jared Loydell (center)
Vice Captains: Eleanor Walker (left), Siobhan Toft (right)
We congratulate them on their election to their roles. Having met with each, I am impressed with their personal faith in, and commitment to, Jesus and their desire to follow His example in serving the School and fellow peers.

I must also take the opportunity to recognise the contribution of our outgoing student leaders, School Captains, Chris Gray and Kathryn Chik, Vice-Captains, Matthew Webster and Rebecca Bouchet. This team has served the School well, their legacy being the introduction of the new House system at the School.

‘SLAM DUNK’

Each week students from Wycliffe compete in the local Basketball Association’s competitions held at Blaxland High School.

This week our boys’ U12, and U14 teams contested the grand finals, with the U12 victorious 37-19 over the All-Stars, and the 14s going down in a tough fought game.

Pictured below is our U12 boys’ celebrating with super coach, Mr Bob Slockee.

EX-STUDENTS IN THE NEWS
MICHAEL SHAW - CLASS OF 1987

It’s always encouraging to hear stories of ex-students of Wycliffe, and what God is doing through their lives. The front page of this week’s Blue Mountains Gazette featured ex-Wycliffe student, Michael Shaw (age 44). Michael cycled across Australia, from Bunbury in the West, to Bondi in the East.

Michael’s ride was to draw attention and support for a teen mentoring program, Broadening Horizons, a ministry of Bidwell Uniting Church. The program mentors disadvantaged young people to find hope and confidence through wilderness walks.

Michael and his family, brother Stephen and his mother Heather Cox, who was employed in our School Library for a significant period of time, faced tragedy in their lives when Michael’s father died suddenly in the late 80s. Michael’s heart to give and serve through mentoring, stems from the mentoring and support he received through the Wycliffe community following his father’s death.

His ride was a mammoth achievement, travelling an average of over 100km a day over the 39 days he took to complete the challenge.

MICAH BAWDEN - CLASS OF 2015

Micah Bawden also featured in this week’s Blue Mountains Gazette.

Readers may remember Micah featuring in School Talk late last year after having his HSC Visual Arts major work selected for inclusion in the prestigious ArtExpress exhibition. ArtExpress showcases and celebrates the leading artworks of HSC students annually.

Micah’s work, Albi was only a stretcher bearer, paid tribute to his great grandfather’s efforts as a stretcher bearer in World War 1. Micah’s and other students’ artworks are on display at the Blue Mountains City Art Gallery, Katoomba until November 9.

COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE WEEK

This week we feature Mr Bob Slockee; father of Robert (Yr3), Isaac (Yr 5), and Samuel (preschool).

Bob is a huge supporter of the school and willingly gives of his time in involving himself in serving students and their families.

Most notably Bob coaches the Wycliffe boys’ U12 basketball team that was victorious in the grand-final last Wednesday evening.

Bob works for Australians Together, a Christian organisation with the vision of “Bringing indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians together”. Unfortunately for our school community next year Bob is taking up a new role within the organisation that will see him based in Canberra. We will certainly miss Bob, Justine and their boys.
For further information on the ministry of Australians Together visit: http://www.australianstogether.org.au

HOLIDAY BLESSINGS

May families of the school enjoy a blessed holiday break. May they know Christ’s presence, and the peace and harmony he wishes for our lives.

“Come to me (Jesus), all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”
(Matthew 11:28-30)

Peter Jamieson
Principal