Experiencing Trench Warfare

Last Wednesday and Thursday, Year 9 and the Year 11/12 Modern History class participated in an undertaking of mammoth proportions. Year 9 have been learning about Australia’s involvement in World War I since last term, and part of their studies includes looking at the experiences of Australian soldiers in both Gallipoli and on the Western Front.

The men serving in each of these campaigns had differing experiences of war based on the conditions – Gallipoli was hot and dry, while the battlefields of northern France and Belgium were wet, muddy and freezing cold. However, in both campaigns, soldiers fought in what is called ‘trench warfare’. This meant digging vast trenches and using them as a base from which to attack. The Turks in Gallipoli and the Germans on the Western Front also established trenches, and between these two lines of trenches was ‘No Man’s Land’ – land that soldiers had to run across in an attempt to take their enemy’s trenches. Trench warfare was brutal and gruelling as many soldiers lost their lives in No Man’s Land in failed attempts to storm an enemy trench. These trenches were also dug by hand by the soldiers – hard work including filling sandbags and building and laying duckboards which were planks of wood placed on the ground of the trench so soldiers could walk without sinking into the mud of the trenches.

As part of their learning experience, I thought it would be a fun experiment to see if students could build their own trenches before then experiencing a mock version of a WWI battle in No Man’s Land. As a result, my Year 9 students and I worked on planning out two opposing trenches. Once planning was underway, students had to make decisions about which style of duckboards would be the best for their trench, and where they should place weapons, or where they should leave the trenches when ‘going over the top’. Students demonstrated great knowledge and understanding during these discussions, and worked well in their teams to establish two very different styles of trench.
Then, last Wednesday, students spent the day cutting wood, measuring their trenches and nailing together their duckboards and A-frames for supporting their trench walls. Students worked incredibly well throughout the day to ensure all their pieces would be ready to go to be laid in the trenches the following day. The next day, students walked up the hill to Mr Warren’s property where the outlines of their trenches were ready to be built. Students got straight to work digging mounds of dirt and rock into sandbags to help build up their defences to protect from enemy fire and to help support the walls of the trenches. This is back breaking work, but all of our students gave it 100%. Following the arrival of their duckboards, students began laying these in the floor of their trenches, while also further supporting their trench walls with corrugated iron, and defending the front of their trenches with fences connected by wire.

By 2pm, both trenches were finished. Students then participated in three simulated battles across No Man’s Land, with the team of Trench 1 successfully taking Trench 2 and therefore being the winners of the day.

However, this project would have been impossible without a huge amount of community support. We would like to thank Dongwha Timbers for donating all of the timber used to build duckboards, A-frames and fences for the trenches, as well as the local SES branch who provided our students with the many sandbags they used to protect their trenches. Murphy’s also kindly transported the timber to the school for us, which was incredibly helpful! We would also like to thank Russell Kerry who very kindly donated his time and work to dig out the outlines of the two initial trenches so that our students wouldn’t have to start from scratch. Our students were also given a free barbeque lunch thanks to the donations of the Bombala Butchery and Bombala Bakery, and the morning tea and snacks provided by Kay Warren. Huge thanks must be given to Glen Warren who has given up part of his property to house the two trenches, without which they could not have been built. I also could not possibly have completed this project without the support of all the staff of the high school who participated in various ways throughout the project, including special thanks to Gary Herron who gave us immense support in the building of the timber pieces. Without this incredible support, the trenches would not have been the success they were.
I would also like to congratulate all of our students on their magnificent efforts over both days, and for representing our school values of Personal Best, Respect and Responsibility so well for the duration of the project. I am incredibly proud of their efforts, and I hope this is an experience that stays with them for a long time!

Caitlin Morrison

Please note After School Study will now be held on Monday afternoons.

**Important Dates**

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**Bombala High School P&C Association AGM 16 June**

The High School P&C will hold its AGM on Monday 16 June in the High School Library commencing at 7.00pm. All invited to attend.

Any enquiries to Sheree Jones

**Notices**

**Disco Cancelled**

Please note that the Disco advertised in last week’s newsletter, which was to be held tonight has had to be cancelled.

**Last Call For Names For G’Day USA**

Thursday is the last day to bring in your expressions of interest note for G’Day USA.
Reminder

School Fees and Music Tuition Fees

Both these fees are now overdue. Please pay them as soon as possible. They can be paid at the Front Office or by internet / direct deposits.

Account Name: Bombala High School
BSB: 032-001
Account Number: 140-212

Please use your child’s name followed by FEES eg. J CitizenFEES or your child’s name followed by MUSIC TUITION FEES.

School Uniform

Supplies of the very popular navy polo shirts are available at $20 each. New stock is also on order.

Lost Property

We currently have dozens of school jumpers in our Lost & Found pile. Please encourage your child to come and see if any belong to them. After a period of time, unidentified jumpers become part of the Clothes Pool, which is available free of charge for all parents to access.

PLEASE LABEL YOUR CHILD’S CLOTHES AND WE WILL RETURN THEM!

Skippy’s Melanoma Battle

Friday, 20th June 2014
Bombala RSL Club
Auditorium
Starts at 7pm
$15 entry
Tickets available at Final Touches.

Nibbles provided
Raffle Tickets Available

CONTACT Chris or
Chloe at Final Touches
02 6458 4008

Come and support our lovely local ladies and spunky men as they hit the runaway!
It’s for a great cause.

Local Band ‘Hodakary Connection’
will be live upstairs from 9pm.

FASHION PARADE FUNDRAISER
Athletic Carnival Photos
Get More Skills

Hear about changes to the disability support system and what it will mean for you

Talk about planning and things to consider for your life

See what some people are already doing

Cooma Workshop
Friday July 11th 2014
10am - 1pm

For people with disability and their families - Let's get ready!
There will also be an information session for service providers from 1.30pm - 4.30pm

Morning Tea & Lunch will be provided. My Choice Matters workshops are fully accessible.

To Register
1800 144 683 or (02) 9211 2605
info@mychoicematters.org.au

To Connect
www.facebook.com/mychoicematters
www.twitter.com/mucchsw

2014 Tobacco Public Notice Campaign

Spectator areas at sports grounds are smoke-free

All public transport stops, platforms & taxi ranks are smoke-free

The smoking ban applies to covered & uncovered areas, including where people stand or gather.

Tobacco Information Line
1300 134 793

Health NSW
No smoking in spectator areas of sports grounds

From 7 January 2013, there are new requirements in NSW making designated spectator areas of sporting grounds smoke-free while they are being used for an organised sporting event.

The ban applies to covered and uncovered spectator areas, and includes other recreational areas while they are being used for an organised sporting event.

Penalties may apply for anyone who fails to comply with the new laws.

These amendments to the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000 are a key measure in reducing community exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke, tobacco-related harm and the uptake of smoking in NSW.

For more information
Please contact the Tobacco Information Line on 1800 357 412 or visit the NSW Health website www.health.nsw.gov.au
The Tobacco Information Line can be accessed by non-English speaking people via the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 13 14 50.

I’m ready...
To explore my options!

Semester 2 Enrolments open online 14 June
Choices Day Info Session Saturday 14 June 2014
Cooma Campus 9am - 1pm
Bomaderry Learning Centre 10am - 12noon
Jindabyne Learning Centre 10am - 12noon

www.illawarra.tafensw.edu.au | 1300 766 123
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