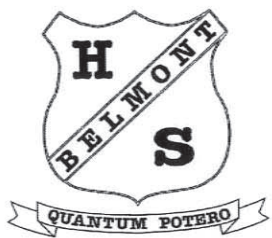


Secondary entry #16: Belmont High School



HIGH TIDE



AWARENESS: Knight Jarrod Mullens with student Connor Dickson.

Big goals to help achieve link to world

By **SIOBHAN O'TOOLE**

BELMONT High School has a total of 1100 students, including four classes that specifically support 50 students from years 7-12 with intellectual or physical disabilities.

In order to best meet the needs of students with special needs, staff and students are striving to improve the facilities and technology that are currently available.

Head teacher of special education Alison Sellers is spearheading a campaign to achieve some admirable targets to ensure students with special needs at Belmont High don't go without.

Mrs Sellers explains her departmental goals as "opening up opportunities for students with special needs to do things other kids get to do. It's not only about raising funds, but also awareness".

Smaller goals include raising funds to acquire iPads and Smartboards to encourage students to learn using their senses. However, the major goal is to purchase a wheelchair-accessible bus that would enable students to gain greater access to the community.

Achieving these goals is no mean feat. An estimated \$90,000 would need to be raised.

Fund-raising events include a monster raffle with more than 30 prizes, an upcoming Op Shop Ball and a trivia night, which was held in the school hall on August 24.

By **PARIS WRIGHT** and **HELENA PREDOJEVIC**

BELMONT High School turns 60 years old this year and party organisation is well under way, with a focus on precious memories, reunion and celebration.

To celebrate this milestone of learning and achieving, the school is hosting a "Back to Belmont High Day".

A proposed Battle of the Bands competition is a testament to the proud history of Belmont's music department, which started in 1954 with one piano and a 25-member band led by R. Whitten.

The band is now the second largest in the region with 75 members and, in 1993, it was Belmont High School's Ollie Maywald who started the Interschool Bonanza which later became the now-famous StarStruck.

"If it wasn't for Belmont High and Ollie Maywald, then there wouldn't be a StarStruck," said current music teacher, Mrs Gill.

The school is also producing a digital diary to pay tribute to past students, teachers and community members who have brought honour to Belmont High School such as NRL sporting legend Paul Harragon and Kenneth Maher, a former student who was the first to graduate in science at Newcastle University in 1964.



TRADITION: Third-generation Belmont students Liam Pride, Dylan McElhone and Jessica Hooper-McCann.

Many past teachers and students are sure to recall the dark days after the fire in 2004 and how the school community came together to support each other until they moved into the new state-of-the-art gymnasium, a fully refurbished 'A' block and exceptional new science facilities.

There will be those who remem-

ber the first principal, Mr Schofield, who chose Quantum Potero - "I will achieve my potential" as the school motto.

When asked about the new school, Mr Schofield described Belmont High as "a newborn babe" with only 500 students.

The current principal, Mr Robinson, now describes the school of

1100 students as a "full-grown adult".

A commemorative sport shirt especially created for the occasion will be available for purchase.

Many will agree that Belmont High School has indeed achieved its potential and will proudly wear their commemorative sport shirts while celebrating.



BENEFITS: Students work on the school environment.

Students give back to community

By **AMBER VOTE** and **GRACE CHENSEE**

BELMONT High encourages its students to give back to the community and volunteer. By volunteering, students are rewarded by knowing that they have made a difference in someone else's life and their own.

Students volunteer on a regular basis by offering to assist with several organisa-

tions such as the aged care facility Narla Village, Floraville Kindi Patch, Plan it Youth Mentoring Program and the Belmont Community Garden.

Year 10 student Chloe Chivas has participated over the course of three years.

"I started out in year 8 by contributing to the development of a program for year 4 students. The program was aimed at building their self-

esteem and confidence. This year I am volunteering at Floraville Kindi Patch, assisting in the kitchen with meal preparation. I am also participating in the Narla Village visits," she said.

Ruth Thompson, Belmont High School TAS teacher and volunteering coordinator, said volunteering "opens many opportunities and employment options too. It's like a sweet treat".

Need funding for a Community Project?

Each year, Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation provides approximately \$1.5 million in grants to eligible not-for-profit organisations in the regional areas in which we serve. To help community organisations gain an understanding of the easy application process, how funding applications are assessed and the types of community projects funded to date, the Foundation is holding a **free two hour workshop**. If you are a representative of a not-for-profit organisation, please register to attend our free workshop.

Venue: **Raymond Terrace Bowling Club, 2 Jacaranda Ave**
Time and date: **10am, Tuesday 17 September**
RSVP: **By Monday 9 September to Sue Jones (02) 4927 4435**
or sue.jones@newcastlepermanent.com.au

**NEWCASTLE PERMANENT
CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION**