



THE HOOPRA

Upcoming Events

14th February

-Valentine's Day
-Swimming Carnival Assembly

18th February

-Swimming Carnival

20th February

-“Formalitea” Morning Tea

13th March

-Social

FEATURED ARTICLE



Get to Know Mr. Currie

Jessica Chuor and Anne Tran caught up with Mr. Currie and had a nice chat.

“Please introduce yourself.”

“My name is Daryl Peter Currie. I’m 45 years old. I was born in England, came out here when I was five. I am the eldest of four brothers. Did my schooling both up on the Central Coast, at Woy Woy High and Blacktown Boys High School. I did my Masters through the University of Newcastle. That was a Masters of Leadership and management in Education. I have three children. I had my kids pretty young so my son is 25. I’ve got a daughter who’s 20 and another daughter who’s turning 18 and is doing her HSC this year. I live in Burwood, at the moment I’m living here. Oh, I’m a Capricorn, but I don’t like long walks on the beach.”

“What schools have you worked at?”

“I’ve worked at many schools. I started my teaching at St Johns Park High School. Then I went to Strathfield Girls. Then I became head teacher of English at Canterbury Boys. I was deputy at JJ Cahill Memorial High School in Mascot and then I became Principal of Strathfield South High.”

“Do you have any interesting facts about yourself that you’d like to share?”

“Well I’m sure people want to know that I’m 1.97m tall! Well, I used to have level one in quite a few sports – both reffing and coaching. They include rugby union, rugby league, basketball, cricket and soccer. Did a little bit of writing – I haven’t done it for a long time but I’ve actually written and directed musicals and plays. I’m a National Geographic junkie, and I love cinema. I’m a film buff. I watch lots of stuff. I’ll basically try my hand at anything. I find pretty much everything interesting and the thing that I love is passion in people. So when somebody is passionate about something, it’s infectious, regardless of what it is. For me, the most important thing is to understand the world around you. I like focusing on the spaces between things. Lots of people look at point A or point B, I like looking at the connections between – so focusing on the spaces between problems or content and not necessarily the content itself. I’m an egalitarian, I believe in equity and equality for everyone and I don’t like bullying and abuse.”

“What were your first impressions of Hurlstone?”

“Very welcoming. In some ways too quiet, but I know this school has a lot of intelligent and capable people. I’ve noticed some passivity of the learning here though. I believe engagement should be promoted, through getting students engaged in active questioning. The “Why”’s and “How”’s behind their own learning. I think you’ve got a very dedicated staff, there are students who are dedicated to learning and I think the environment is magnificent, and that includes the farm.”

“Ah, we’re running out of time! Any last messages?”

“Well, one of the most important things I think, and I’ve said this to every school I’ve been at, and I’ll say it here for the ten weeks that I’m here: I am here to serve. This is not my school, this is your school. I happen to be the site manager. I am a strong believer that the Principal position is there to serve the community and simply to make things happen for the benefit of the students. I would encourage students to actually see themselves in that light as well. If everybody here is serving the benefits of the community and the benefits of the school then the school can’t do anything but succeed and get better. I am there to make your hopes and dreams become a reality within the framework I work. So that idea of service is important to me. I’m not a boss. I simply have the role to plan and realise the will of the community. After all, it is not my school, it belongs to all those that make of the community - students, teachers, parents and all others that have connections to it.”

The complete transcript of the interview can be found at: <http://pastebin.com/5uR43Cv>

STAR OF THE WEEK

This section of the newsletter, from the next issue onwards, will feature the “Star of the Week”.

You can nominate a friend who has done a good deed to feature here! Nominations, including the reason why the person is being nominated, can be submitted to your rollcall prefects.

The Hoopra is Here!

This is the first issue of the Hoopra, Hurlstone's up-and-coming student run newsletter! Managed by the Prefects, we want to not only keep you updated with the school's scoops, but also showcase student and staff made content, and acknowledge student achievement.

We encourage creative entries and your participation in future competitions! This first issue already features student content. Submissions can be sent to rollcall prefects and can take the form of game, movie, or book reviews, articles on school events, stories, or even photos! Issues will be published fortnightly. "Get your scoops from the Hoops!"

REVIEW: Flappy Bird

A cross between the classic flash game 'Helicopter' and that feeling you get when you stub your toe on the corner of the table, Flappy Bird is an examination of the suffering we will endure in order to get the largest number out of an arbitrary exercise (not unlike the HSC).

With only one input and one goal, the obligatory 'how-hard-could-it-possibly-be?' is quickly answered with your inevitable death on the first obstacle (the first of many). The game is so straightforward, so cartoonish and simple, that the biggest motivation to improve is to not let yourself get beaten by an iPhone app. Quickly realised, however, is that in order to succeed in this game, pixel precision and an iron will are going to be your best friends. There then comes the moment when the player realises that the game doesn't have progressive difficulty; the bird doesn't fly any faster the further you go and the pipes don't get any more difficult to navigate. The challenge then becomes entirely mental; if you can get past 1 pipe you should be able to get past them all.

I found myself inadvertently critiquing my technique, recognising where my most common errors had been and trying to fix them. It was an exercise in introspection that would probably be very useful to apply to my school work, until I looked up and realised I'd been playing this stupid game for the last 7 hours, when I should've been doing English instead.

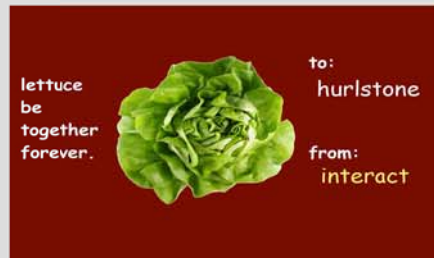
4/5 stars (one star taken away to be given back to me in the form of a mystery ATAR at the end of the year).

By Dominic Bui Viet



Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is this Friday! Don't fret if you haven't ordered a rose yet as roses will be available for purchase during Recess and Lunch at Room 6 for \$4 on the day. Remember to check the Interact noticeboard for something special. We hope you enjoy your Valentine's Day!



Swimming Carnival

As the highlight of Hurlstone's summer calendar draws nearer, tension rises in anticipation of our school's most beloved and ostentatious traditions. Whilst the event for a second year running will be removed from its spiritual home (the Hurlstone Pool), the Macquarie Fields pool located on 52 Fields Road, will once again set the stage for the annual fusion of swimming, sportsmanship, fancy-dress, music and dance culture. Blood will be shed, and tears will fall to the ground in pellets of pure ecstasy, as this colossal feat of unadulterated rivalry mercilessly leaves bystanders in a state of trance; yearning for more.

SC 2014 is coming 18th February.

Shoutouts

This part of the newsletter is dedicated to recognising student achievements, whether they be academic, sporting, extracurricular, or relating to leadership in nature.

As the year has just started, this section has yet to feature anyone! Keep an eye out as the year goes on!

Social

Due to some unforeseen circumstances last year (lice aren't nice), the school's annual social had to be postponed. For those have not yet experienced the Hurlstone Social, it's a fun night to be had with friends and great music from Hurlstone's talented bands and DJs.



It has been put on the calendar for the 13th of March from 6PM to 10PM and any tickets already purchased last year will carry onto this year. Any students including year sevens wishing to purchase tickets can do so now at the cash register. The theme is 'Fluorescent Adolescent'. See you there! - Sid

Games Corner

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TRIVIA:

Who is taller, Mr Currie or Andrew Skiba (Yr12)?