

Martin St, Katoomba, 2780 | Ph: (02) 4782-2622 katoomba-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

### 2022 Term 3 Week 6

#### COMING UP

#### September 2022

- Every Wednesday morning PCYC breakfast from 8.20am
- Mon 5 Sep Yr 11 Preliminary Exams begin
- Wed 21 Sep White Card Training Course (now full)
- Wed 21 Sep P&C Meeting 7:30pm via Zoom
- Thu 22 Sep Big Day In
- Fri 23 Sep Yr 12 Graduation

#### Congratulations to our new School Leadership team for 2023

Congratulations to our new school leadership team for 2023!

Our 2023 School Captains are Declan Fishburn and Caitlyn Martin

Our 2023 Vice Captains are Lily Wardell and Cooper Hancott

Sport Captains are Lili Roth and James Jacobs

Our 2023 Prefects: Gabrielle Baylosis, Mia Bryant, Ariel Fraser, Stella Hockly-Langevad, Luka Hook, Bridget Mcleod, Riley Monck and Geoffrey Ogden

What a great team!

Our school leaders will be formally inducted on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September.

#### Welcome Lauren Dodson, our new Deputy Principal

As we say farewell, for now, to KHS Deputy Principal Angela Heath who has taken up a temporary Relieving Principal position at Richmond High School, we would like to extend a very warm welcome to Lauren Dodson who will be relieving as Deputy Principal at KHS for the rest of this year...

Hello Katoomba High and our wonderful community.

A big thank you for the overwhelming kindness and positivity I have already received since starting as relieving Deputy Principal. A little bit about me.... I have just come from Colyton High School where I was Head Teacher HSIE and then Deputy Principal (relieving). I began my career as a passionate Ancient History teacher, enjoying the classroom for 17 years now.

Beyond the school world I am a mum of two girls and enjoy all things netball, Crossfit, museums, Pompeii, bush walks and mountain bike riding. I am incredibly excited to meet the community and build on the wonderful success you have already achieved. I look forward to working with you.

Kind Regards,

Lauren Dodson





#### Katoomba High School School Leadership team for 2023

Back Row L to R: Ariel Fraser, James Jacobs, Luka Hook, Declan Fishburn, Cooper Hancott, Riley Monck, Bridget McLeod Front Row L to R: Stella Hockly-Langevad, Lily Wardell, Gabrielle Baylosis, Lili Roth, Mia Bryant, Geoffrey Ogden, Caitlyn Martin



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#### A special message from Geoff Odgen, Katoomba High School Prefect for 2023

My name is Geoff Ogden. I have been a student at Katoomba High School for the past 5 years. I have recently been elected as a prefect.

I would like to acknowledge the Darug and Gundungurra peoples who are the Traditional Custodians of this land. I would also like to pay respect to Country and Elders both past, present and emerging.

When I came to school in year 7, I found the noise, the amount of people and the different classes difficult. It was hard to stay in class. With the support of the teachers over the years I feel more comfortable and welcomed. Students in all



years welcome me into their friendship groups. I have a real sense of belonging now.

People have seen me mature in the past few years. I'm now more respectful. I try to help other students whenever I can. I strive to do my best. I'm someone that people can come and talk to. I don't discourage anyone if they want to do something.

Being elected as a prefect tells me that people care about me and what I can do. They recognise that I have a positive impact in the school. Parents who want to send their kids to Katoomba High School can look at the school positively because of the leadership team Year 11 has formed. As a prefect I would like to see a real focus on mental health.

To anyone who thinks they can't achieve something, I say go ahead and try.

Geoff Ogden, Katoomba High School Prefect 2023

#### Wednesday was Snow Day!

While we missed spending the day together on Wednesday, it was wonderful to see our school and home town sprinkled in winter magic!



Photo of school oval by Ms Hancott.



Photos of our resident sheep and school grounds by Mr Thoms.



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#### Happy memories made at Year 9 Luna Park Excursion

Year 9 may have missed out on their Year 7 camp due to COVID, but a fun filled day at Sydney's Luna Park went some way towards making up for this.

The Weather was perfect for exploring the park and getting maximum thrills. The rollercoaster, jack hammer and big drop rides got a thorough workout.

We discovered that Mr Huxley and Ms Guild were as fearless as any Year 9 student on the heartstopping rides.

We had lots of laughs and created many happy memories.

Ms Van Capelle.





Students Mitchell Cox & Lai Wyatt



Students Matilda Berryman, Kaya Peacock, Keira Atkinson, Lauren Howell and Miette Hoekstra



Ms Guild & student Niobe Palma



Ms Van Capelle & Mr McLeod







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#### Success at Sydney West Athletics Carnival

The Sydney West Athletics Carnival took place on the 26th and 27th of July at Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre. Katoomba High School had many strong representatives that achieved great results.

We would like to acknowledge the fine achievements of the following students:

Evie Schembri G12 3rd place 200m

Chloe Flugge G14 1st place High Jump, 3rd place 100m

Aleria Turner G12-15 Multi Class 2nd place 100m, 4th place Discus

Aisha Turner G12-15 Multi Class 3rd place 100m, 3rd place Discus

Emmagen Cronshaw G16 3rd place Discus

Alana De Bortoli Dodson G17+ 1st place 400m, 1st place 800m, 2nd place 4x100m relay

Hannah Patton G17+ 2nd place 4x100m relay

Caitlyn Martin G17+ 2nd place 4x100m relay

Keeli Brown G17+ 2nd place 4x100m relay, 2nd place 400m hurdles

Taishan Holland B13 2nd place Long Jump

Finn Kleij B14 1st place 800m, 2nd place 1500m, 2nd place High Jump

Tobey Shyne B16 2nd place 400m

Jason Jordan B17+ 3rd place Discus We would like to wish the best of luck to our athletes that are competing at the Combined High Schools Carnival in September.

#### **High Jump Personal Best**

Chloe Flugge is off to State after placing 1st in the 14 girls high jump and recording a new personal best of 1.44m at the Sydney West Athletics Carnival.



### U15s Girls Relay gaining ground

The 15 girls relay team placed 3rd at Sydney West Athletics Carnival with a Personal Best that was 3 seconds faster than they recorded at Zone.

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#### Yr 8 Student Artwork on Cultural Centre Stairs

The Yr 8 Ceramics class worked with Aboriginal Mentor and Cultural Dharug Educator Cindy Lee to explore connection to place and home. The work is located on the stairs via Coles and the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre. Thank you for including our Katoomba high students in this public Art workshop. Mrs Grahovac.





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#### Happy 'Wear it Purple' Day!

Today students and staff donned their best purple to demonstrate their commitment to KHS being an inclusive school. The day is particularly in support of our LGBTQI+ students, staff and community and highlights that inclusion is for everyone.

Thank you to our talented bakers and artists who put on the delicious cake stall and created a banner for the day. And thank you to everyone who contributed a coloured fingerprint to the banner to show their support of inclusion and acceptance.

Students were also engaged in discussions about the language they use. Rather than choosing words that isolate, bully and intimidate others, students were encouraged to think about the importance of speaking kindly.



Peta Mammone, William Ham & Mrs Boyall





Freya Wilson, Ms Daley and Ms Loomes





Ms Gulabovski, Mr Thoms, Ms Gibson, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Boyall, Ms Loomes



Artist Zoe Keep



Declan Fishburn, Mr Thoms, Karri Gill, Tess Rogan, Arista Havenga



Banner Artist Arista Havenga & Ms Bagley



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#### Yr 9 Outdoor Ed Students Reach Great Heights

Yr 9 Outdoor Education students enjoyed their day of rock climbing at Mt York recently. They challenged themselves on a variety of climbs and learnt roping and belay skills.

Thank you to Certificate IV students from Wentworth Falls Tafe for leading the day.









#### **Poetry Slam Workshop**

A group of Year 9 students participated in the Inspire Poetry Slam workshop held at KHS on 17 August and hosted by slam poet, Mel Ree, in collaboration with Blue Mountains Library.

Mel performed from her collection and discussed the poetry making process, as well as sharing what inspires her to write. The audience gained a powerful insight into what it takes to become a slam poet and how this can lead to other opportunities, such as acting.

Thank you to Mel Ree and the Blue Mountains Library for the wonderful learning experience!

Mrs Bystrzynski



Spoken word artist Mel Ree





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#### 'Where I'm From' Poetry with Year 9

In English this term, Year 9 are focusing on Life Stories. This has involved exploring writing about ourselves, and reading and writing about the lives of others.

Students particularly enjoyed completing a poetry exercise where they wrote poems titled, 'Where I'm From' that mimicked the style of George Ella Lyon.

Here is a small selection from 9ENA:



#### Where I'm From

I am from hardwood floors From green fern trees and tall rock walls I am from solid brick And concrete pours I am from a tall blossom tree Whose limbs wrapped around one another, never ending I am from yellow swingsets and black umbrellas From people old and new And from new years eves and weekend parties From christmas days I am from bright coloured lights From long lasting nights From neverending labour And from brand new neighbours From pink teddy bears I am from moments past and present From a tall picket fence

By Lily

It is wonderful to see young people exploring their own experiences in such powerful ways.

Well done, Year 9!

Mrs Bystrzynski



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#### Game Changer Challenge: 8STEAM1 makes the 2022 Semi-Finals!

A team of 5 students from 8STEAM1 including Jesse Jacobs, Harry Taylor, Nathan Mongan, Finn Kleij and Toby Chaffey have made the semi-finals of the NSW Department of Education's 2022 Game Changer Challenge. This is the second time in three years that a KHS STEAM team has made the semis.

The semis were to be held at NSW DoE headquarters in Parramatta but got delayed and moved online due to the worsening COVID-19 situation this winter.

This year's timely wicked problem was "We have a global challenge of ensuring healthy lives for all, at all ages."

The KHS STEAM team, also known as the Rick Astley All-stars, came up with the idea for a network of A.I. controlled ambulances that each included a team of robot doctors on board out

on the ground ready to help alleviate ambulance shortages and long delays waiting for ambulances to arrive as the world grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The team considered that not all patients calling 000 would want a robot doctor, or might even prefer one, and would allow for patients to opt-in or opt-out based on estimated wait times available in real time.

Team Presenter, Nathan Mongan said, "We are strong" about the challenge. Finn Kleij said "We are stronger than whatever Nathan said". "Toby Chaffey said "I am stronger than Nathan and Finn." Harry Taylor said "No comment". Jesse Jacobs, said about the challenge "The GCC is an exceptional way of finding solutions to real world problems. Also, I am handsome and really strong." The team worked well together and were energetic supporters of the challenge.

The KHS 8STEAM1 class are now moving on to the NRMA Future of Transport Challenge with entries closing in September 2022.

STEAM/iSTEM is an elective subject available for Year 8, 9 and 10 students at KHS run by the TAS Faculty.







Mr Liu - TAS/STEAM Teacher and Game Changer Challenge Mentor



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### ENRICHMENT AND OPPORTUNITY GUIDE

'Wonder is the Source of Wisdom'- Socrates

#### **ENRICHMENT AT KATOOMBA HIGH**

We hope you find opportunities for enrichment and extension available across different faculties in our school. Every student is different with unique talents. This is why we are keen to offer a variety of different opportunities across learning areas. The enrichment team are Mr Long, Ms Ladd and Ms Mah from the HSIE faculty, Mr Liu in TAS, Mrs Gibson H.T Teaching and Learning , Mrs Van Capelle. For more detailed information, see also the Katoomba High School web site enrichment section under Teaching and Learning. Please contact us if you have any questions. We welcome any ideas you have for enrichment activities.

#### **2022 Opportunities**

With COVID restrictions easing, offering more events has been possible in 2022. However, there are many that are online or virtual. On the positive side, this has opened up a whole new world for many of us with exciting virtual excursions and competitions still possible. Here are some events to either be involved in or to consider for next year.

The National History Challenge – Every year a new historical theme - See Ms Mah and HSIE teachers. Musicals – Previously it was Little Shop of Horrors so see CAPA staff.

Drama Ensemble - See Ms Holbrook in CAPA.

Maths Club - See Ms Stevenson or Maths Staff.

Student Voice – This is all about you having a say in important issues that affect you at school and in our world today. See Ms Ladd for more information. Surf Camp – An opportunity for senior students that develops and complements your skills in the PDHPE course.

Excursions are offered by each faculty.

Birriban - Offers a space for sharing culture, and learning.

Debating and Public Speaking – Katoomba High School teams have been highly successful against the best in the state. See the English faculty staff for details on how you can be involved.

Tournament of the Minds – This is a great chance to extend your creative thinking skills. You might remember this fun competition from primary school. See Ms Van Capelle for information on the 2023 event.

Pythagorus Switch is a fun and creative day long activity. See Ms Jeffries for more information

Game Changer Challenge - This is offered by Mr Liu in TAS. A chance to have fun and challenge yourself with technology.

Outdoor education. This was written by one of our students. Katoomba High offers many opportunities for students with the large variety of elective options for all years. Katoomba High students are very fortunate to live in such an amazing area which offers many opportunities for this course. There are so many students who are enthusiastic about this program that there are two classes Mr Huxley teaches. It allows students to participate in a wide range of different activities and teaches students self -a wide range of different activities and teaches students self - initiative skills and about the environment. This year in Outdoor Education, Year 9 students participated in numerous activities including: abseiling; indoor rock climbing; overnight hikes; day hikes; and in class bush walks to nearby areas."





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#### Schools and Museums: Improving Student Learning Outcomes

On Friday 12 August I had the pleasure of leading a workshop for MUSE, the Blue Mountains City Council Museum Advisory Service. The workshop focused on assisting museums, galleries, heritage sites and historical society's with creating meaningful and relevant excursions that bring their exhibitions and collections alive for secondary school students.

Having worked for 10 years as a museum professional in Sydney and Singapore prior to retraining as a teacher, the workshop presented me with the opportunity to combine my passion for museums, heritage and education. It was a delight to connect with some of the hard working, dedicated and talented volunteers who keep our cultural heritage alive.

Excursions to museums, galleries and heritage sites are a mandatory component of the NSW History and Geography syllabuses. While these excursions can be virtual, an actual excursion has significant benefits for student learning outcomes, as well as providing an opportunity for schools and communities to develop meaningful partnerships.

Despite teachers operating within an increasingly crowded curriculum with expanding responsibilities and evolving health and safety concerns in a COVID dominated world, the potential power and transformative ability of excursions is always worth the work.



Excursions and site visits have been shown increase student to engagement, which leads to improved student learning outcomes. A well planned and meaningful excursion can promote new knowledge and skills, as well as bring the curriculum to life. Museum educators can offer students deep insights, context expertise and understandings of the most recent research in their individual fields of knowledge.

Over the last 15 years cultural institutions of all sizes have begun to deepen their engagement with schools to cater for curriculum requirements, diverse student needs and provide an immersive experience.

At Katoomba High School we offer students a broad range of excursion experiences that are carefully and thoughtfully designed to further the learning outcomes of students and provide insight into future careers.

I would like to thank Gay Hendriksen (The Rowan Tree Heritage and Cultural Services) and Blue Mountains City Council for giving me the opportunity to present at the recent MUSE workshop.

Together, we can build partnerships that strengthen student educational outcomes and unite our broader community.

Andrew Finlay, Head Teacher HSIE





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### WHAT'S ON AT SCHOOL...

#### The Mud Club is back on!

Join Ms Grahovac, every Friday lunchtime to play and learn ceramic techniques.

#### MUD CLUB



CLAY CLUB FRIDAY LUNCH ROOM 5

#### Free Brekky with PCYC every Wednesday

All students are welcome to join us for a free brekky and fun physical activities and games every Wednesday from 8:20am in the school hall.

#### The Rainbow Room Thursday Lunchtime

A friendly, safe space where our LGBTQIA+ students can meet, socialise, take part in fun activities and promote acceptance. Every Thursday lunch in Room 9.

#### **Harmony Room**

A student group to promote peace, tolerance and inclusion. The Harmony Room happens on Wednesdays at lunchtime in the Student Support Office in the Library.

#### Get your ride tickets for The 'Big Day In'

Big Day In is an end of Term 3 celebration carnival day and Year 6 to 7 transition event. It has been an annual event at KHS for many years but was put on hold during Covid. The great news is that Big Day In is back this year!

The Big Day In will be held on Thursday 22 September from 10am to 2pm. Ride bands are \$40 per person and can be purchased at the front office or via the links on our website under 'Make a Payment'. It is recommended that students buy their tickets before Monday 19th September 2022.

The tickets cover unlimited rides on the day. Students will need to bring extra pocket money for food and other fun activities. The canteen will also be open all day with an extra special 'naughty' menu of tasty food and treats.





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#### September P&C Meeting Agenda: Teacher Shortage Discussion & Planet Youth Survey Findings

Our P&C meetings are a great opportunity for parents, carers and community members to feel more connected with the school and learn more about topics that impact our young people's school lives.

At the next meeting we will have guest speakers leading a discussion about the current teacher shortage in NSW and a presentation and conversation about the findings of the Planet Youth Blue Mountains 2022 student survey on substance use and factors that can protect young people from use.

Our P&C meets via Zoom on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, during term time. **The next meeting is on 21st September at 7.30pm.** Everyone is welcome. Please contact the school for the Zoom meeting link if you would like to be involved. You can also contact the P&C directly via email:

katoombahighschoolpandc@gmail.com

Or join the P&C Facebook Group https://www.facebook.com/groups/1588707334781679



New South Wales Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Inc.

### Blue Mountains Ngarra Wingarru AECG Meetings

The AECG is the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group - an organisation that represents the Aboriginal community and provides advice on all matters relevant to education and training. The AECG promotes respect, empowerment and self-determination and believes the process of collaborative consultation is fundamental to the achievement of equality.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents/caregivers are welcome to attend the monthly local meetings. **The next meeting will be held on Thursday 8 September** at Hazelbrook Public School from 4pm for a 4:30 start.

#### **New Help Service for NDIS**

We now have a virtual NDIS Connection Desk service set-up for KHS.

Parents and carers who have a question about NDIS matters can book a time through the front office to speak with Fiona Young, who is a Uniting NDIS Project Officer, via zoom.

Sessions will be running for the next few weeks on Thursdays between 1 pm and 3 pm by appointment.

To find out more, or make an appointment, please contact Deputy Principal Kevin Thoms via the school office.





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### COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

#### **School Junk Band invitation**

The festival will kick off with the Regenerate Launch event at the Carrington Hotel (and grounds) on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September 11am-2pm. As part of this celebration, we would like to showcase the ingenuity of turning junk into musical instruments! We are inviting your school to participate in this fun project and perform with your **junk band** on the main stage. Our very own local legend Mic Conway (Captain Matchbox Whoopee Band) has produced a video to assist you.

#### https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LC0POLIvNpQ

Meet Mic on the day as he will be awarding prizes for best instrument and best band (and like the clown game at a carnival every school wins a prize!)



#### **Rural Fire Brigade's Community Fun Day**

Blue Mountains Central Sector Rural Fire Brigades will be hosting a community fun day at Lawson Public School on Saturday, 3 September 2022 from 10am to 3pm.

The day will see the local emergency and community service groups including RFS, Fire and Rescue, Police SES and Red Cross, to name only a few; come together with our community for a day of fun!

There will be games, face painting, a free barbecue, lucky door prizes, kids activities, a concert band, demonstrations and displays: including emergency service vehicles.





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### COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



#### Celebrating & Protecting the Natural Environment in Australia

a beautiful country with so Australia is many wonderful beaches, parks, trails, paths, and outdoor spaces to explore. But our natural environment and local communities are also facing challenges climate change and other environmental from problems. To help us start understanding these impacts in our communities, the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) is proud to launch this photo contest for students in Years K-12, with support from the State Library of NSW, the Rotary Club of North Ryde and the Rotary Club of Currumbin Coolangatta Tweed.

Ripple Effects: Exploring the Impact of Climate Change invites students to share a photograph that reflects how you feel about the natural world around you. It could be a picture of one of your favorite outdoor spots, or something that worries or bothers you. Or maybe it's a photograph of an activity or project that you think is doing a good of helping us to address environmental iob problems in your community. In taking your photograph, think about how you can tell the story of this place to others through that image



For the complete rules and to participate in the contest, go to rippleeffectsoz.weebly.com

submit photo Please vour and short a 100-250 word reflective write-up by August 31st (one photo per student). Cash prizes for 1st (\$100), 2nd (\$75), 3rd (\$50), and honorable mention (\$25) will be awarded for the best photographs in the following age categories: kindergarten through 2nd grade; 3nd through 5th grade, 6th through 8th, and 9th through 12th. Students who do not have access to a camera or smart phone may be able to check out a digital camera at your local library.



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Entries for Blue Fringe 2022 Art & Literature Festival close Thursday 1 September. For more information on how to enter go to <u>www.bluefringe.org.au</u>





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