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## MARCH 2014

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## From the Principal



We are now over the halfway point for Term 1. Cardiff High School's student enrolments have pleasingly come in at a higher than expected 723 enrolments for the 2014 school year. Senior students have flocked to the library in record numbers during their study periods, enjoying the comfortable learning environment courtesy of the newly installed airconditioning and our students have all been busy with the school's core business – classroom learning. At the time of writing, Year 7 students have left for their three-day camp along with their dedicated Year Adviser, Ms O'Donnell.

### School Photos



The School Photos Day was held on Thursday 20 February and the Catch-up Day on 4 March, 2014 under the direction of Head Teacher Science, Mr James and Nick Vizintin and the team from A-One Fotomakers, Hunter. All students were looking their best for their individual portraits, team, family and group photos.

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Even though the teachers at Cardiff High School are notoriously camera shy, we still managed to get photographs of the great majority of teachers. I have never seen a faster or more efficient photo day held, which is a credit to the management of Mr James and Mr Vizintin.

**QuickSmart Numeracy and Library Resourcing**



The increase in our staffing and additional funding through the new Resource Allocation Model (RAM) has allowed the school flexibility in delivering specific programs and resources for our students. The first projects for 2014 using our RAM allocation have been to provide physical resources in the school library to support student engagement and learning as well as the planned implementation of the QuickSmart Numeracy program. QuickSmart is a highly-successful, small-group intervention program developed by the University of New England to improve student Literacy and Numeracy outcomes. The school has formed a core team who will implement the program over the next few years and they are heading off to an intensive training course later this week in Parramatta.

I look forward to informing you in future newsletters of the progress of these initiatives and further plans and projects as they are developed and implemented throughout the year.

**High-achievers Assembly**



The 2013 HSC High-achievers Assembly was held on Wednesday 12 February, 2014. The assembly acknowledges students, and the teachers of students, who recorded Band 6 achievements in various HSC subjects. Former student, Mr Sam Montague, was the special guest and presented the occasional Address, passing on wisdom and advice for our current senior students as they work towards successfully achieving their HSC. Highlights of the event included the presentation of the HSC Dux to Rebecca Toll and Olha Pokhmurska's award for first in the State in Ukrainian Continuers. Thank you to Mr Glassop for his outstanding organisation of the event.

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 Book School Interviews Online

**Dear Parents**  
 Parent/Teacher/Student interviews will be held at Cardiff High School between **3:00pm – 6:00pm on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014**. You can now book interviews at times that suit **YOUR FAMILY BEST**. Go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and follow these simple instructions.  
**BOOKINGS CLOSE Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 3:30pm.**

Go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) - you can encourage more traffic to your schools website, AND avoid parents typing in the wrong URL, if you ask parents to click on a link on the schools website, instead of giving them our web address - use this link: <http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/book>  
**Enter THIS school event code. Then follow the 3 simple steps.**

School event code:

- 1**  Enter your details
- 2**  Choose teachers
- 3**  Choose times

 When you click **finish** your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - **check your junk mail folder** if you do not receive your email immediately. You can return to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.

For parents that don't have access to the internet at home, at work, at a friend's house or on their phones, computer kiosks will be available at Reception from Friday onwards, so that parents can still make their own bookings. Parents may send a note to school with the approximate times they require, or phone the school on 5555 3333. Students with written permission from parents may also have access to the kiosk. Interviews are strictly 10mins and spaces are limited. If you require more time, please contact your teacher directly to make alternative arrangements.

Parents can change their interview bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address, you used when you made your original booking. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date, should contact the school directly on: 5555 3333

We would love to hear what you think about online booking. If you get time, click on the "contact us" button on the [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) website, and leave some feedback - anonymously if you wish, but please include the school's name and suburb.

The first Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held on Monday 31 March, 2014 at the Cardiff High School Hall between 3:00-7:00pm. This year, the school will be using an online booking system for interviews, so parents will be able to quickly and conveniently make their bookings from home and either print a copy of the bookings and/or have them emailed to them. For parents who are unable to access the internet, you will be able to contact our Administration staff who will happily make the bookings for you. A note with all details and instructions will be emailed as well as sent home with students soon.

**School Clean Up Day**



The School Clean Up Day, scheduled for Friday 28 February, 2014, unfortunately coincided with a deluge of rain and minor flash-flooding in the local area. Although close to thirty students volunteered for the various projects, a decision was made at 9:00am, with torrential rain falling, to cancel the event. However, a few breaks in the weather across the day allowed a couple of the planned activities to still go ahead with the removal of vegetation behind the administration building and the planting of a new hedge. Thanks to Mr Hales and Mr Wilson and his Year 7 class for their assistance.

Gareth Erskine

Principal

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**Deputy Report**

The Department of Education has strict legal Guidelines as to the attendance of students at school. Cardiff High follows these guidelines and is required to report on student attendance regularly.

Some issues have arisen this term which have been brought to our attention and require formalising in this letter.

**1. General Attendance**

The Department of Education indicates that students who meet the requirement of 85% attendance have a greater opportunity for success in their education which flows into a smoother transition from school to work. We at Cardiff High School would like every student to have the very best opportunity to reach their goals.

**2. Partial Absence**

**a) Late arrivals**

The school day starts at 8.55am. It is a workplace, any late arrivals are partial absences which interrupt the workings of the school and may be investigated by government authorities if not explained. Parental help in early morning routines and meeting deadlines is expected.

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b) Early Leavers

We recognise that on limited occasions it is necessary to attend appointments within school hours. The correct procedure for this school absence is to send a note to the Deputy Principal to get permission for this absence. This is signed, dated, registered and stored by the school PRIOR TO 8.55am.

Issues:

- Students phoning parents to come and pick them up. (NOT POLICY)
- Parents arriving to pick students up without prior knowledge (NOT POLICY)
- Wet sport afternoons student ringing parents for permission to come home (NOT POLICY)
- No appointment cards for specialist visits. We all know these cards are given out when making appointments. It is the evidence we need to avoid attendance issues.

*If these practices continue the Principal has the authority to reject any application for absence based on lack of information or evidence.*

Any Absence requires written explanation within 5 school days.

3. **Parking in Boronia Street.**

Please be aware that the council have "NO STANDING" signs set in the turning circle of Boronia Street. This is regularly patrolled by rangers who photograph vehicles who stop and let students out. It is ILLEGAL to stop in these areas and is extremely costly if caught.

4. **Uniform**

*The school's policy, endorsed by the Cardiff Community, is that uniform should be worn. We believe that the wearing of school uniform:*

- Develops a school identity and fosters positive community perceptions,
- Develops a student's sense of pride and belonging
- Ensures Workplace Health & Safety guidelines are met (especially in practical rooms)
- Enables us to increase the safety of students in our care by making visitors and intruders clearly identifiable
- Makes school clothing affordable by not having peer pressure to wear the latest fashions.

With winter and colder weather approaching please ensure that your son / daughter wears the appropriate school uniform to avoid any conflict with the above policy. Do not be misled by students who claim "this is accepted by the teachers".

Main concerns:

- Jumpers (no hoods, correct colour and no motifs blazed across the front or back)
- Jeans of any colour are unacceptable
- Girls wearing sport shorts which are inappropriate in length.
- Tights are unacceptable – Dresses with stockings are acceptable.

5. **Bookwork**

*Whilst we understand that a student's workbook reflects their individuality and personality, we also believe that a student's workbook is a reflection of their commitment to learning.*

Workbooks are the basis for student revision and preparation for assessment and as such, the standards expected for student workbooks at Cardiff High School are:

1. Legibility – writing needs to be easily read, preferably the use of blue or black pen.
2. Lesson notes should have headings, key words highlighted and each lesson dated. Missed work requires copying up.
3. Bookwork should be complete and in order of delivery (no gaps or incomplete work)
4. Evidence of student pride in their work, no graffiti, sheets glued into appropriate sections, name on book and preferably a cover (for protection).

Mr S Trayhurn

Deputy Principal

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## P&C News

The Annual General Meeting set down for this Wednesday night March 12, 2014 has been changed to Next Wednesday night March 19, 2014 due to a clash with Year 6 Transition Expo evening.

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The AGM will commence at 7pm in the School Administration Building. All welcome.

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## Science News

Welcome to Science for 2014. Again it has been a busy start to the year with several weeks gone already.

There have been only a few very minor changes to the Science Faculty staff. Mr James is the Head Teacher of Science and the other permanent science staff members are Ms Woodbury, Ms O'Donnell, Mr Ross and the Deputy Principal Mr Robinson, who is teaching the HSC Biology class. Mr Smith is working four days a week, with Mrs Tanti taking his classes on Thursdays. Mrs Kerr is also working four days a week, absent Monday, but working Tuesday to Friday.

It has been a better start to the year without the disruption of last year with the two refurbished science labs up and operational. The students have settled in to the school routine and are working well. Many will be receiving Good Start Awards to reflect their outstanding efforts in class.

Students in practical lessons are required to wear covered in, leather upper, sturdy shoes and safety glasses as required by Workplace Health and Safety laws. We do provide a pair of safety glasses for those who forget to pack their safety glasses, but they are a one size fits all. These safety glasses do provide good protection for student's eyes. However, they are not as comfortable as a student's own pair. Please help us to meet the Workplace Health and Safety laws and ensure that your child has covered in shoes that will protect the top of their feet and has a good sturdy sole underneath.

It is essential for all students to participate in all aspects of the course to adequately fulfil and complete the outcomes of the course. We ask that students collate all of the course work into a covered writing book. This enables the students to have all of the necessary notes together in the one location to revise and prepare for assessments, have evidence to demonstrate they have completed the course outcomes, demonstrate the quality of work that they are capable of producing and reflect the effort that they put into the learning process.

Students also need to bring with them the correct tools for the job. In science we write in blue or black pen and underline headings in red pen. When we draw diagrams we use a pencil and if we want to improve them an eraser is used. All straight lines are drawn using a ruler and there are a lot of straight lines in tables, graphs and diagrams of equipment. When sheets are provided it is imperative that they are not lost, so a glue stick is required to glue them in. Where necessary, we try to provide the resources listed above to enable all students to achieve excellence with in science.

Science is a practical subject and has a \$6.00 fee for students in Years 7 to 10 and a \$10.00 per subject fee for senior students in Years 11 and 12. We kindly ask that you pay your fees to enable us to purchase the consumables used throughout the course like chemicals, matches, biological specimens etc, as well as the purchase of replacement equipment and new equipment to support your child's learning through engaging hands on learning.

It has been observed that there has been an increase in the use of mobile technologies during class. This often occurs after a holiday where students have been able to use them whenever they like while on break. In Science, we follow the school policy of no phone use in the classroom. There are clear signs at the entrance of all Science rooms reminding students of the no phone policy along with the verbal reminder from staff that was given at the start of the term. Apart from the distraction that they cause to a students learning there is also the increased risk of harm to students who are distracted from practical. While at school students are at their job work and should not be on their phones while working.

Speaking of mobile phones and other valuable items, we would like to remind parents and students that Science is a practical subject and all bags are left outside of the rooms. Please be aware of this and ensure that nonessential items and valuables are left at home. If valuables are brought to school then we recommend that they are brought into the room (phones turned off) and kept on your person. Teachers are not responsible for items bought into the classroom. Their role is to facilitate learning, not police or provide security for your personal belongings.

Mr James

Head Teacher

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## PDHPE News

Welcome back to 2014! By now, both students and parents alike have been immersed in school, carnivals



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and excursions. This is the time of year when the PDHPE faculty seems to have a never ending list of assignments, excursions and sporting teams going all at once.

This year has seen the introduction of an Elective PDHPE shirt. This optional piece of clothing has had a great deal of input into the design by students and those that ordered these late last year are now able to wear them as uniform in PASS classes. We do need to stress that this shirt is not a substitute for the school uniform and students are reminded to change out of this shirt after their practical lessons into the correct school uniform.

As a result of the popularity of these shirts, we have a very limited supply of extra shirts currently for sale through the PDHPE staffroom. They will sell at \$30 each, as they are a special order and did not attract the cheaper price when the order was first placed. If your child wishes to get one of these shirts, they will need to see Mr Maher at the PDHPE staffroom before making any payment. The sizes are 'generous' and we have limited supplies of Small, Medium and Extra Small available.



Students in Years 7-10 need to be paying attention to due dates for assessment tasks. Many of these tasks will involve work to be completed in class, emphasising the need for students to be in class ready to work in each and every lesson.

Many of these tasks do require the submission of typed / word processed work and with the decision being made to not accept work that is handed in on thumb drives/USB devices, students should be able to email their work to their teacher. This reduces the need for printing and encourages students to use the DEC portal. If students are unable to email their teacher, they are welcome to email the Head Teacher with their work at [Craig.J.Maher@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Craig.J.Maher@det.nsw.edu.au)

Students in the Senior Years are progressing through their courses in PDHPE or the Sports, Fitness and Recreation VET course. Year 12 students should be preparing topic summaries and revising classwork on a regular basis to stay on top of the demands of the course and Sports, Fitness and Recreation Students are preparing for an increase in the practical aspects of the course with a number of carnivals, trials and gala days looming. These opportunities allow students to progressively complete the work placement aspects of this course over the year, a much easier option than the work placement for a full week that happens in other VET subjects. It is critical that Year 12 students attain their hours by the end of Term Three to be eligible for the awarding of a HSC.

Year 11 PDHPE and Sports, Fitness and Recreation students have started the journey towards the HSC and are working well, although some have realised that the demands of senior courses does require them to manage their time better. The Library is a wonderful resource and I encourage senior students to use this during free periods as a place where they can work with minimal distractions on homework and assessment tasks.

Physical Activity and Sports Studies (PASS) students have received their initial letter regarding the PASS SkiTrip. This trip is a highlight of the school year and I encourage all students eligible to attend to consider this opportunity. A deposit of \$50 (non-refundable) is due to the front office as soon as possible. If your child studies PASS and requires a note for this excursion, please have them see Mr Maher at the PDHPE staffroom.

Mr Maher

Head Teacher

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## Swimming Carnival

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Yet another fantastic day for the Annual Swimming Carnival on Monday 17 February 2014. Once again Cardiff High School populated Charlestown Pool in a sea of red, green, yellow and blue. Students were encouraged to dress up in their house colours with bonus points being awarded for best dressed and most overall colour. This year's "Best Dressed" went to Yirrig with house captain Tahlia Smyth going all out and donning a person sized Blue Yirrig Star! Valtiri also bound together in voice to produce the "Best Cheer Performance" and went into the start of the day's events ahead in points.



This year we decided to mix up the program with the addition of novelty events such as floatation races, noodle races and kick board races. All students got into the spirit and proved very popular. Another star was discovered this year when Mrs Gallard was given the microphone for the announcing - nice work Mrs Gallard!



For the main event, serious swimmers raced for House Points and selection in the school team to race at the Zone Carnival and also for Individual Age Championship Points. Points are awarded for places 1 through to 4 in each race, with 8 points awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 6 points awarded for 2<sup>nd</sup> and so on. To be awarded Age Champion students have to score the most points in their gender and age with a minimum of 10 points being achieved. Congratulations to the following students who are awarded Swimming Age Champions for Cardiff High School 2014.

	BOY	GIRL
12	RHYS WILLIAMS	REBECCA JOHNS
13	ANGUS BROWN	MEGAN LOWERY

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14	LUCAS BORROW	BONNIE LUXTON
15	ADAM LANSKE	No Result Achieved
16	No Result Achieved	BILLI PRINCE
17+	DREW LAMBERT	GRACE DIXON

Special Congratulations to Bonnie Luxton who was the most successful swimmer of the Carnival, winning every possible race for her age group.



The House Points competition was very hotly contested on the day. A notice will be published in the next newsletter with the successful winning house and the long awaited announcement will be made at next week's assembly after Year 7 return from camp.

Ms Harvey

Sports Co-ordinator

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**FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER**

RUSH Mentoring Service Hunter Region was established by In 2 Life in 2004 in partnership with its current Director Rick Prosser. In 2014 we are celebrating 10 years as RUSH Mentoring Service and we believe it to be a significant milestone for RUSH; it has stood the test of time succeeding through the generosity of our volunteers and the financial contributions of our personal supporters. Over the course of a decade RUSH has provided one on one volunteer mentoring for hundreds of 'at risk' young people by providing them and their families with a wider support network.



**RUSH Hunter Region Programs**

- One on One Mentoring
- Positive Choice Seminars
- Resilience-building & Life Skills
- Leadership Seminars
- Camps / Mentor and Mentee Activities

**Mentor Training**

**Become a RUSH Mentor:** Register now [mentor@rush.org.au](mailto:mentor@rush.org.au)

**Become a RUSH Sponsor:** RUSH is funded by like-minded and generous people, businesses and organisations.

What will the Funding pay for?

Sponsor funding provides for:

- Mentor recruitment and training
- Mentee Activities and Camp
- High School Programs
- Administration and Staffing costs

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible

Direct Deposit Details:

Account Name: IN 2 LIFE Inc  
 Account Number: 1014 1350  
 BSB: 065107  
 Reference: RUSH Hunter Region

**RUSH Mentoring Services**  
 Hunter Region

**RUSH Mentor Training**  
 Date: 13 & 20 March 2014  
 Time: 6:30 – 9:30pm  
 Location: C3 Newcastle City,  
 4 Lingard St, Merewether 2291.  
 Phone: 0421 973 925  
 Email: [mentor@rush.org.au](mailto:mentor@rush.org.au)  
 Connecting Youth and Community.

RUSH Mentoring Services  
 PO Box 928 Charlestown 2290  
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**Key Dates 2014**

DATE	WHAT	DETAIL
17 Feb	Mentor Connect	7pm Max Brenner – Monday night
23 Feb	Mentor Activity	Boats and biscuits 1:30 – 4pm
13 & 20 March	Mentor training	Hosted at c3 Newcastle
3 May	Mentor Activity	Movie Night
2 June	Mentor Connect & In-service	7pm, C3Newcastle
27 – 28 June	RUSH Camp	Riverwood Downs
4 Aug	Mentor Connect	7pm Max Brenner
14 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> Aug	Mentor training	C3V Ministry Centre
12 August	International Youth Day	RUSH Person of Influence Competition
19 – 25 October	Youth Mentoring Week	RUSH 10yr Celebration (23 Oct)
30 Nov	Mentor and Mentee activity	Barefoot bowls and BBQ at Stockton

Many Blessing,

Rick & Sue Prosser  
 RUSH Director & Schools Coordinator



**Contact Details**

Email: [mentor@rush.org.au](mailto:mentor@rush.org.au)  
 Phone: Sue Prosser RUSH Schools Coordinator 0410 586 543  
 Twitter & Instagram: [@rushmentoring](https://www.instagram.com/rushmentoring)

- IN2Life Director – Darryn Keneally [dkeneally@gmail.com](mailto:dkeneally@gmail.com)
- RUSH Hunter Region Director – Rick Prosser [rick@c3victory.org.au](mailto:rick@c3victory.org.au)
- RUSH Schools Coordinator – Sue Prosser [sue@c3victory.org.au](mailto:sue@c3victory.org.au)
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### Air Force Cadets offers sky-high opportunity for local youth

Young people in the Hunter region who are looking for a challenge are invited to join a dynamic and exciting youth organisation.

The Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC) is a voluntary organisation which aims to equip young people for community life by fostering initiative, leadership, discipline and loyalty. It is supported by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).

Officer Commanding 3 Wing (NSW & ACT), Wing Commander (AAFC) Wayne Laycock said cadets participate in a wide range of activities.

"Our syllabus includes practical aviation, bushcraft and survival activities," Wing Commander Laycock said.

"In addition to weekly meetings and weekend activities, cadets have the chance to apply for specialist courses conducted on Air Force bases during school holidays."

Cadets develop a range of life skills including self-reliance, teamwork, initiative and a sense of mateship. They also make new friends and importantly, have fun!

There are four Air Force Cadet units in the Hunter region.

**No 308 (City of Maitland) Squadron** meets on Wednesday nights during the school term and will hold recruit information nights on 12 March and 19 March (repeat session) at 7.00pm. Address: Scobie Barracks, Harvey Road, Rutherford.

**No 316 (City of Lake Macquarie) Squadron** meets on Friday evenings during the school term and will hold a recruit information session on Thursday 6 February at 7.00pm. Address: Bullecourt Barracks, Military Road, Adamstown.

**No 321 (City of Newcastle) Squadron** meets on Wednesday evenings during the school term and will hold a recruit information session on Wednesday 12 February and on 12 March and 19 March at 7PM. Address: Bullecourt Barracks, Military Road, Adamstown.

**No 335 Squadron** meets on Tuesday evenings during the school term and will conduct its next recruit information session in August 2014. Address: RAAF Base Williamtown.

Anyone interested in joining the AAFC should attend the appropriate information night with their parent or guardian to learn more. New applicants must be between 13 and 18 years of age.

For more information about Australian Air Force Cadets, visit [www.aafc.org.au](http://www.aafc.org.au).



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For more information please contact:

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## Meaningful Community Participation



### What is community?

The word community can be used to describe many different groups of people across many locations. It is important to define what your community is. Perhaps you are part of a school community, a community of youth or parents, or perhaps a neighbourhood community. Developing a sense of community and having active and meaningful participation within that community is a vital component for youth and adult development.

It is important to remember that community is not static, it is dynamic – this means that communities are made up of many different people and constantly change over time. Healthy communities are those that have strong trust in, and care for the people that make the community, and allow expression of differing opinions in order to support growth and development through debate and change.

### Community Participation

As community participation can have a significant impact on youth, adults modelling behaviour that they wish children or students to emulate is an integral part of developing positive community participation.

Meaningful community participation can involve a variety of things including:

- Encouraging members of the community to *develop and accept responsibility*. Allowing community members to each have a valuable role, big or small, in the community, fosters self-esteem, resilience, and a sense of purpose and connectedness.
- Finding a way for adolescents to *assist and participate within the local and wider community*. The involvement of youth within community events such as fetes or fundraising activities enhances a sense of pride, belonging, accomplishment and essentially, resilience.
- *Finally, volunteering* your time to community organisations.



Communities that enable people to be involved as active members enhance *student learning and engagement, improve school attendance, reduce anti-social behaviour and improve resilience levels amongst adolescents*. They possess the necessary resources, such as strength, to adapt to any changes and challenges that may arise.

If you would like further information of Meaningful Community Participation, please refer to: Meaningful participation: How to give the community a 'voice', an article by Don Edgar available at: [http://www.rdasouthwest.com.au/\\_content/documents/Giving%20communities%20a%20voice](http://www.rdasouthwest.com.au/_content/documents/Giving%20communities%20a%20voice)



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## Engaging Adolescents



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The course costs \$15 (includes booklet and morning tea) for families who are registered with our service and not in receipt of NDIS funding. For parents who are registered themselves with NDIS (National Disability Insurance Agency) or have a child registered with NDIS please see below for more information \*. Registrations close by 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2014

To register, or find out more information, please contact **Kim Talbot** at **Firstchance** by email [kim.talbot@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:kim.talbot@newcastle.edu.au)

\*We are now happy to say that this program can also be accessed by our families living in the **Newcastle** area who are receiving an NDIS package or whose son or daughter are **receiving NDIS funding**. However, it would be best to contact your NDIS planner to find out if this program can be added to your funding or your son or daughter's funding in time for our RSVP date, the 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2014.

☺The trainers for this course are Kim Talbot and Cristy Elizabeth. Kim Talbot has a background in Welfare Work (Associate Diploma), Early Childhood Specialising in Special Education (Bachelor Degree) and has worked in various programs and settings that support young people with special needs (0-18yrs). Cristy Elizabeth is a Firstchance case manager and family worker with a background in Social Work (Bachelor Degree).

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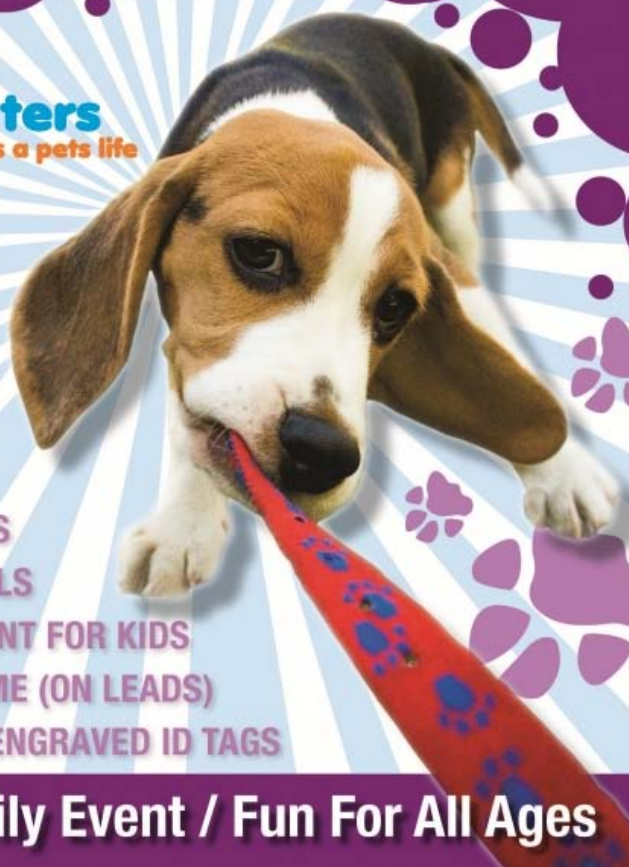
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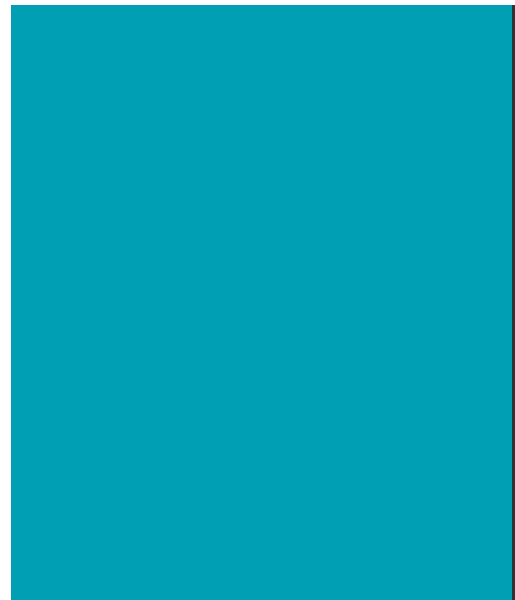
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