COMING EVENTS

18.03.13 - Yr 11 Biology Excursion        20.03.13-22.03.11 - Year 11 Camp
19.03.13 - AFL Gala Day                   21.03.13 - Year 10 HSIE Excursion
19.03.13 - Secondary Students Diet and Activity Survey 25.03.13-27.03.13 - Year 7 Camp
19.03.13 - Visual Arts Enrichment Program 28.03.13 - Merit Excursion –Easter Show

Principal’s Report

The Expo and Information evening was a great success. Thank you to the staff and students who participated in this important event. I look forward to getting to know the incoming Year 7 students in 2014. Bradley Heino and Mitchell Ivanice represented the Student Representative Council as the Masters of Ceremony. This was their first official duty and they were very professional. Thank you to all the staff and students for their assistance on the evening.

The Student Representative Council (SRC) Induction was held on Friday 1 March. The guest speaker was Member for Keira, Mr Ryan Park. His encouraging speech focused on the value of community and school service and an acknowledgment of the great honour that the students have received in being voted into the SRC by their peers. It was a pleasure to see many parents/carers and family members celebrating with the SRC students. The event was well organised by Mr Adam Sargent-Wilson the SRC Coordinator. The Masters of Ceremony were the School Captains, Jodie Feld and Rhys Kilian.

Congratulations to Jodie Feld, Ivana Zaric and Giverny Witheridge of Year 12 who were finalists in the ZONTA Club ‘Young Woman in Public Affairs’. I had the pleasure of attending the Status of Women Annual Awards Luncheon on Saturday 9 March with Mrs Kirsten Borst, Mrs Witheridge and Mrs Feld. The students were in competition with young women from; St Mary’s Star of the Sea, The Illawarra Grammar School and Smiths Hill High School. I am very pleased to announce that Ivana Zaric received the Runner Up Award. All the Figtree High School young women presented themselves extremely well and were great ambassadors for the school.

Thank you to the vocalists who sang the National Anthem on assembly; Victoria Liddle, Kaella Pearson. Abbey Blackmore. Aimee Cunningham, Mikaela Frame and Stephanie Black.

A huge thank you is extended to Mrs Cathy Smith for her outstanding organisation of the Korean Homestay Cultural student exchange program in February.

Mrs Smith coordinated the program from 14 February until 24 February. This involved extensive organisation with our Korean visitors, the Figtree High students, our host families and teachers from our school. This was an excellent learning and cultural opportunity for our students. A huge thank you is extended to our host families who opened their homes to the Korean students and their teachers for the 10 day experience.

In 2014 the Australian Curriculum will be implemented in the areas of; English, Mathematics, Science and History. The staff at Figtree High School will be undergoing professional learning in the new syllabus documents. On the 30th April the Department of Education and Communities has allocated a second Staff Development Day to provide teachers with professional learning related to the Australian Curriculum. Figtree High School will be hosting the Personal Development Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) curriculum. PDHPE teachers from Bulli HS in the north to Albion Park HS in the south will be meeting our school for the professional learning day. This is being organised by Head Teacher PDHPE Mr Stephen Smart and Deputy Principal Ms Ellie Donovan.

Regards
Carol Marshman

PBS - Expectation of the Week

LEARNING

Be on time for your next class
Library News

It’s that time again. Premier’s Reading Challenge for 2013 started up on the 4th March and we would like to encourage as many students as possible from Years 7-9 to participate and complete their PRC this year. Students need to read 20 books, 15 from the list and 5 free choice books to complete the challenge. Students who find reading difficult can choose from a wide range of text formats including picture books for older readers and graphic novels. Books can be read in electronic format. Students who complete the challenge can earn merit certificates in the school merit system.

The benefits of reading on student outcomes has been proven time and time again when reading occurs regularly and is sustained over at least 20 minutes or so. The extract below is from Chapter 1 of Stephen Krashen’s book *Free Voluntary Reading* (Libraries Unlimited. 2011) and is an overview of reading research over the past 40 years. So encourage your children to read and get reading yourself (see Additional benefits)!

29. Those who read more read better (Krashen, 2004).
30. Those who read more write better (Krashen, 2004; SY Lee, 2004).
31. Those who read more have better vocabularies (Lee, Krashen, and Tse, 1997; Cho, Park and Krashen, 2008).
32. Those who read more have more grammatical competence (Lee, YO, Krashen, and Gribbons, 1996).
33. Those who read more spell better (Polak and Krashen, 1988).
34. Those who read more read faster (Anderson, Wilson, and Fielding, 1988).
35. Those who read more know more about literature (Ravitch and Finn, 1987; West, Stanovich, and Mitchell, 1983).
36. Those who read more know more about science and social studies (Stanovich and Cunningham, 1993).
37. Those who read more have more “cultural literacy” (West, Stanovich, and Mitchell, 1983).
38. Those who read more have more “practical knowledge” (Stanovich and Cunningham, 1993).
39. Those who read more get better grades in writing class (SY Lee and Krashen, 2002).
40. Those who read more have less writing apprehension (SY Lee, 2001; SY Lee and Krashen, 1996, 1997).
41. Those who read more suffer less from writer’s block (SY Lee 2001, 2004).

Additional benefits

44. Older people who continue to read show less memory loss (Rice, 1986).
45. Reading causes relaxation and may help you fall sleep (Nell, 1988).
47. Nearly all eminent people were voracious readers: “omnivorous reading in childhood and adolescence correlates positively with ultimate adult success” (Simonton, 1988, p. 11)

All students may borrow and return books before school, and at most lunchtimes. The library is usually also open during Homework Centre on Monday afternoons between 3 and 4pm. Books can be borrowed for 2 weeks and can be renewed at any time. We also have a range of magazines that can be borrowed for 2 nights. Happy Reading!

Mrs M McEwan

PBS Prize Draw

Congratulations to Huseyin Huseyin (Year 12), Patrick Hatton (Year 11), Chloe Winch (Year 9), Madeline Dower, Ryley Rath (Year 8) and Maya Stojackovic (Year 7) who each received a $5 canteen voucher because they had their RSL ticket drawn out on assembly.

RSL tickets are given to students who are seen to be practising the school’s values of Respect, Safety and Learning. Students are encouraged to drop their RSL tickets into the box in the administration block so that they can be included in the weekly prize draw.

iTunes vouchers will soon be given as prizes, thanks to the decision by the SRC to fund the purchase of these. RSL tickets are also tallied for each student and can be used towards earning merits for Bronze and Silver certificates.
One of Figtree High School’s three core values is **Learning**. To have maximum opportunities for student learning at school, **excellent attendance** is one of the keys. Arriving at school on time for the start of the school day ensures that learning time is not lost at the start of the school day. If a student is 15-20mins late to school 3 times a week, they miss approximately one teaching period each week, and over a term, this equates to almost 2 days of lost learning time. Similarly, if a student leaves school early for appointments, this leads to lost learning time, which can cause a student to fall behind with their understanding of key concepts in different subjects.

Another key for enhancing learning is ensuring that students are **well organised** for school. Students should have appropriate resources for each of their subjects and bring these for lessons. A pencil case with writing materials, calculator, ruler, highlighters, sharpener, scissors and glue are needed each day. Students should have an exercise **book for each of their subjects**, unless otherwise instructed from their teacher (eg. teacher supplies the learning workbook). Students need several copies of their school timetable – at least one for school and one for home. A diary to organise work requirements is needed, this enables both parents and students to monitor homework and assignment due dates, to reduce the chance of students losing assessment marks because of the late submission of set tasks.

Technology tools are available to assist parents in supporting their child at school. The Department of Education and Communities have a website for this purpose, [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au) and the resources are in the free ‘schoolatoz’ app in the App store. The screenshots below have been taken from this website.

All students should be engaged in some form of **homework** throughout each school week. This can be homework assigned by the teacher or ‘self directed’ homework, where a student reviews their understanding of a topic by reading through their school book and making summary or study notes on the particular topic.

**ASSESSMENT BOOKLETS ISSUED TO YEAR 10 and 11 STUDENTS**

Year 10 and 11 students were recently issued with their formal Assessment Booklet. These booklets contain information about the formal assessment tasks in all courses, and information about the Record of School Achievement (ROSA) and the requirements for all students. Parents/Carers are encouraged to also read this booklet to assist their child with the organisation and planning of their assessment work. As we move towards the second half of term 1, many subjects will have formal assessment tasks and these may include topic tests or assignments. Supporting your child with their organisation of homework and study time will assist them to achieve to their potential and develop skills for lifelong learning.

Ms Donovan - Deputy Principal
During this week, we will recognise the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. On the school assembly on Thursday 14th March, some of our SRC students will be highlighting the role all individuals can take to be an ‘active bystander’ to bullying and violence. **Active bystanders:**

- Speak out when it is safe to do so and don’t place themselves in danger
- Distract the student who is bullying someone else
- Reason with the person doing the bullying
- Tell the person who is doing the bullying to STOP
- Don’t provide a supportive audience for the person doing the bullying
- Walk away from the situation
- Tell a teacher or other adult if the bullying continues
- Check in with the person being bullied to see how they are feeling.


Students and parents/carers can find additional information about how to deal with bullying and violence at the following websites: [http://www.takeastandtogether.gov.au](http://www.takeastandtogether.gov.au) and [http://bullyingnoway.gov.au](http://bullyingnoway.gov.au). Students can also download the free app ‘Take a Stand’ from the app store to provide them with valuable information about managing bullying and harassment.

In support of this event, the **Illawarra Hawks are offering free entry** to students who complete a National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence poster and take it along to the Friday 15 March night game at the WIN Entertainment Centre. Templates for the poster will be distributed to interested students on Thursday 14 March.

**News for Year 12 Students**

Year 12 students have recently been involved in career and goal setting interviews with Ms Donovan, Mr Sargant-Wilson, Mrs Parr and Mr Cartwright. The purpose of these interviews was to discuss student's post-school goals and aspirations and discuss their current experiences at school. Many of the Year 12 students identified that they are managing their assessment and homework requirements well due to their good organisation skills. The formal Year 12 Half Yearly Examination period will begin on Tuesday Week 10, 2nd April and conclude on Friday 12th April. It is essential that students establish a formal ‘self directed’ study program now, to assist their achievement in the examinations. Students can use a range of online resources to assist their study, including; The Board of Studies Assessment Resource Centre - [http://arc.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/go/hsc/](http://arc.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/go/hsc/) and HSC Online [http://hsc.csu.edu.au](http://hsc.csu.edu.au).
School Uniform –

A focus on Footwear

The school uniform requirements for shoes state that shoes must be ALL black, fully enclosed, with a leather, leatherette or suede upper. There are a variety of styles of black shoes available in our community that meet our school uniform requirements.

Discount Department Stores, such as K-mart, have a variety of black shoe styles suitable for school – with girls shoes starting at $19 and boys shoes starting at $29.

There are also a variety of all black shoes available at local Sports stores that also comply with the school’s uniform policy, while providing excellent comfort, support and stability. Examples of these shoes and their style numbers include;

- **Ascent** - podiatry design
- **Asics** - 180TR
- **Asics** - 500TR
- **New Balance** - 624
- **New Balance** - 846

These shoes range in price, depending on the store.

 SRC Induction 2013

On Friday the 1st of March, Figtree High School proudly inducted the Student Representative Council for 2013.

The school captains, Jodie Feld and Rhys Kilian, led the formal assembly. Principal, Mrs Carol Marshman, congratulated the members of the SRC on their success of becoming student leaders for our school.

Mr Ryan Park, our local state MP for Keira and Mrs Di Grant from the P&G acknowledged and spoke about the importance of leadership and how the newly elected representative students can strive to make our school, Figtree High, an even better place.

Teachers, family, friends and year 8 students watched proudly as Mr Ryan Park presented each student their badge for their representative roles as either an SRC member or Sports House Captain.

In conclusion to the assembly, the student leaders commenced with signing the book for this year's Representative Council. The SRC members and the official guests then enjoyed a morning tea.

With lots of future planning and hard work for a busy year ahead, Figtree High School would like to congratulate all of these students on achieving their roles as SRC members and House Captains.

Written by Cassandra Kelly
SRC Secretary

SRC Training Day - UOW

On Monday, 18th February, the Student Representative Council met for an SRC Training Day at the University of Wollongong. This is held every year to introduce new members to the team and discuss events and goals for the upcoming year. As well as this, our Principal, Mrs. Marshman and school captains, Rhys and Jodie, gave presentations to outline their expectations for the year and the SRC’s responsibilities and roles as school leaders.

Guest speakers Ryan Park, Glen Saville and Deidre O’Shea also joined us for the day. Mr. Park, Member for Keira, discussed his role in parliament and his years at school as part of the Student Representative Council. Glen Saville from the Illawarra Hawks spoke about never giving up and working hard as a team member to get to a common goal. Deidre O’Shea the Illawarra South East Regional Arts co-ordinator spoke about always bringing a positive attitude and energy to the role as a leader. Our guest speakers provided us with a lot of information about what leadership means to them, their personal achievements as community leaders, and how we can contribute to helping our local community.

The formal meeting then took place, in which the SRC members addressed any issues their peers are facing, or suggest changes that can be made to improve our school environment. Ideas such as the establishment of a school debating team, volunteering club and improvement to ‘cubie’ seats within the school were proposed. These recommendations are then pursued by the SRC members and addressed at following SRC meetings.

The SRC Training Day was a successful and productive day which helped us outline our aims and ambitions for the year. Further meetings will be held to address more issues and discuss our progress, so if any student has any issues or ideas, please see your year representative, who will then report back at our next SRC meeting.

Rhys Kilian and Jodie Feld (Captains 2013)

Country Cup Rugby League

A big congratulations needs to go out to the Open Boys Rugby League team that were crowned Country Cup champions for the Illawarra region last Thursday. The team started the day well with a solid victory against a relentless Corrimal High team eventually running out victors 20-16. In the second match of the day the team easily accounted for Keira High winning convincingly 28-0. In the final against Bulli High the scores were locked at 6 all at half time, however, a really great second half saw the team win 18-10. There were many fantastic performances on the day, but special mention must go to these players who performed outstandingly Nathan Leatigaga, Ryan King, Nathan Bishop, Jarryd Oliveira and Brendan Woods. The team will now represent the Illawarra region early in term 2 when they play the final of the Country Cup against other regional winners.

Mr Sargent-Wilson
Year 9 Physical Activity & Sports Studies Snowy Mountain Excursion

Earlier this term I discussed with students in Year 9 PASS the possibility of an excursion to the Snowy Mountains and from the positive response it will go ahead. The dates are Wed 7th, Thurs 8th and Fri 9th August 2013 (Term 3 Wk 4). Once ski prices are released a follow up letter with costings will be sent to parents. To confirm student positions on the excursion we ask that a deposit of $100 is paid at the school office by Thursday 11th April 2013 (Week 11 Term 1) for students wishing to attend this excursion. It would be advisable to pay further installments at the school office to avoid a lump sum payment in late July.

The students are aware that they will NOT be eligible to go on the excursion if they are on ANY LEVEL in the school's discipline code within ONE MONTH (excluding school holidays) of the excursion (as of 15th July 2013). Monies paid will be refunded to these students.

Please, if you have any questions regarding the trip, don't hesitate to contact us at school on 42712787 ext 133/127.

Mr A Sargent-Wilson & Mrs T Markham
Ski Co-ordinators

REECE Plumbing and GREENCROS VETS School Based Apprenticeships

Congratulations must go to Sam Errington of Year 11, who has secured a school based apprenticeship with REECE Plumbing at the Unanderra office. Sam will now work one day a week on site at REECE whilst completing his HSC studies at school on the other four days of the week. Sam was identified as the most suitable candidate for the position after the REECE team viewed many applications and held numerous interviews.

Earlier in the year Denzie White of Year 11 was also offered a school based apprenticeship through GREENCROSS VETS at Fairy Meadow. Again Denzie was offered the position after a rigorous application and interview process. Denzie will be working one day a week and is already enjoying the challenge of combining work with school studies.

We wish both students well as they work towards completing their school based apprenticeship and their HSC studies and we congratulate them on achieving the position.

Mr Sargent-Wilson
(Relieving Careers Advisor)

Grip Leadership Conference

On Tuesday 26th Feb 2013, some SRC members accompanied by Mr Sargent-Wilson, made the long train journey up to Sydney. After running for the train, we finally made it to the Wesley Conference Centre. We got stuck right into work and were amused by the nonchalant and humorous teaching ways of the hosts.

Those present learnt how to be a motivational speaker, how to make successful school events, how to minimise conflict, how to develop others and most importantly, how to be a good leader. The Figtree High school students were able to talk with over 500 other leaders from other schools and the ideas learnt from the conference and other schools will surely impact on the way we conduct events in the future.

Overall, it was a fantastic day and everyone who went left with a smile on their face.

By Bradley Heino

Boys South Coast Basketball

Congratulations to Shane Potter who made the South Coast Basketball team. He will travel to Maitland on the 9th-11th April to compete. We wish him all the best.

Yr 10 History Workshops

A reminder to Year 10 students studying the Vietnam War in History this semester that they must pay $15 as soon as possible to the Front Office for the series of workshops that will be conducted on Thursday 21st March. The students will be engaging with one of Australia’s most comprehensive military history collections as well as watching actor and musician, Brett Hunt, bring the story of his father, Frankie Hunt, to life. Frankie Hunt, a Vietnam War Veteran, is known to many Australians as his story was the basis of Redgum’s famous song “I Was Only Nineteen”. If any students are experiencing financial difficulties, please see HT HSIE Mr Joseph or Mrs Corbett (nee Dzida).
This is a normal school day and ALL students are to attend and participate.

**WHEN:** Tuesday 9th April 2013

**WHERE:** School – races start on the Netball courts and finish on the bottom oval underneath the football posts, running through paddock and crossing the creek (approximately 3km).

### Timetable for the Day

**Periods 1 – 3 normal lessons**

- Lunch 1 – 11.22am till 11.52am
- Assembly 11.52am till approximately 12.15

### Race Schedule for the Day

- **Seniors & 16 years** – 12.30pm
- **12 & 13 Years** – 12.50pm
- **14 Years** – 1.15pm
- **15 Years** – 1.40pm

Assembly in Quad at approx. 2.30pm where rolls will be marked and raffle tickets will also be drawn with prizes given.

### Information

- School uniform **MUST** be worn for Periods 1 – 3, then students may change into old clothes to run in (they don’t have to run in their PE shirt)
- The students **WILL** get their feet wet crossing the creek so it is advisable to wear old joggers and not expensive shoes.
- Seniors and 16 years students should not eat a great deal at Lunch 1 but wait until after their race.
- 12, 13, 14 and 15 years students should eat their lunch at Lunch 1 before their race.
- It is advisable to wear a hat and sunscreen for the race.
- Water will not be available on the course. If needed, students will need to carry a water bottle with them

### Teacher Supervision

Teachers are stationed at regular intervals around the course (within site of each checkpoint) – each with a mobile phone and small first aid kit. A Risk Assessment has been completed for this event.

All students are encouraged to participate whether to qualify for the Zone Cross Country Championships or just to have fun. If your son/daughter has a medical condition that may prevent them from participating in this event, please supply a note on the day detailing the condition so an exemption may be arranged.

### Fundraising

On the afternoon of the Cross Country the SRC are running some stalls to raise money for the school (eg, sausage sizzle & drinks). We ask you to bring some money to support these ventures.

### European Handball

Congratulations to two of our students **Ilir and Vegim Ajdari** who represented NSW in the European Handball Championships in December 2012. They played QLD in a best of three matches. Ilir was given the honor of captaining the side and also scored 2 goals. Vegim played in the U14’s and also scored a goal. Well done boys!

### NSW OZ Tag Team

Congratulations to two of our students who have been selected in the NSW OZ Tag teams. They will play a tri series against QLD and VIC in June this year. They are **Demi Westwood** in Year 7 and **Mikayla Malaki** in Year 9. Well done girls and good luck in June!

### CHS Basketball

Well done to one of our very talented basketball players in Year 10. **Danijela Milisic** has just made the CHS Open Basketball team. She will play in the NSW Championships at Terrigal on the 1st-3rd May. Congratulations and good luck

### Australian Junior Athletics Championships

Two Figtree High Students are representing NSW at the Australian Junior Athletics Championships in Perth to be held Tuesday 12th March to Sunday 17th March 2013.

- **Teghan Barklay** – Year 9 – Competing in 90m Hurdles, Long Jump & High Jump.
- **Joshua Head** – Year 9 – Competing in 800m

**Congratulations to these students.**

### Zone Swimming

We took a strong team to the zone swimming carnival and we achieved some fantastic results. A big Congratulations to Michael Trajevski in Year 12 and Wes Roberts in Year 11 as they were named aged champions on the day. This is a very big achievement and showed the talent we have here at Figtree HS.
**NAIDOC Week**

On Thursday 28th February, a number of our ATSI students participated in an art workshop. This workshop enabled students to complete a poster for NAIDOC week with the theme “We value the vision: Yirrkala Bark Petitions 1963”. Students began the day learning about the Yirrkala Bark Petitions followed by completing a poster design based upon their understanding. Students are to be congratulated on their participation, excellent behaviour and their commitment to the task.

Mrs Liddle and Mrs McCurry

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**Match Report – Open Boys Cricket, 5th March 2013**

FHS vs Kiama HS, - 40 over match played at Uni of Wollongong Oval no.1

Kiama HS: 9 for 163  vs  Figtree HS all out 135

Ffigtree lost the toss and were first in the field against a strong and well organised Kiama HS first XI. Our opening bowlers (Llatse and Burley) were on target early and runs were hard to find. A steady batting display by Kiama saw them reach 1 for 73 at drinks and our boys were feeling confident of chasing a modest target.

Captain Tobby Dodds shared the bowling around after the break with mixed results and Kiama made it to 163 all out. Todd Rigby returned the best figures with 4 for 20. Nick Armstrong took 2 for 15 and Will Nimeti and Toby Dodds got one apiece. Josh Burley and Aaron Llatse also bowled well.

A strong opening stand from Llatse and Ben Rada against a quality attack put us in a good position and at the 10 over mark FHS were looking likely winners. Unfortunately a middle order collapse left only Llatse and Burley with the real chance of victory. An excellent partnership of 50 put us back in the game but the loss of Aaron Llatse for a well made and stylish 76 and then Josh Burley for a strong 28 put the task out of reach for our remaining batters.

Kiama fielded well and their professional and consistent approach was the difference on the day. One or two of our well seasoned players had disappointing days and perhaps next time their contributions will get us over the line.

Despite the loss, the boys had a great day’s cricket played at a quality venue. They behaved well, looked the part and showed potential for the future. M Malouf
Ben Rada contemplates what might have been.

Aaron Llatse backing up.

Match Summary:
Kiama HS 9 for 163 off 40 overs
Rigby 4 for 20, Armstrong 2 for 15
Price 45, Grant 30

Defeated
Figtree HS All out 135 off 35 overs
Perry 2 for 24, Grant 3 for 15, Swain 2 for 18
Llatse 76, Burley 28

P & C News

Just a reminder that our next P & C meeting is the 27th March 2013. This will also be our AGM. We would really like to invite any new members of the school community to become a part of this pro-active and friendly group. Please contact Sharyn Low if you have any questions, on figtree-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au The meeting is in the Library at 7.30pm.

ALL WELCOME

CALENDAR NOTE

Get ready to splash across the Illawarra

The Great Ocean Pool Crawl urges Illawarra Students to give hope for a cancer-free future

Great Ocean Pool Crawl – Sunday, 21st April 2013

You may not be able to walk in the shoes of a cancer patient, but you can swim for one on Sunday, April 21st.

The Great Ocean Pool Crawl is an opportunity for students, friends, and families to swim, snorkel or paddle their way through 2 laps in 7 beautiful ocean pools to raise funds for Cancer Council NSW.

Beginning with a 9:00am registration at the Corrimal Hotel, a free bus will transport our Pool Crawlers to each ocean pool from Coalcliff to Towradgi.

Get your classmates, teachers, and family to sponsor your crawl and reach your fundraising target!

Fantastic prizes for best dressed, highest fundraiser and lucky door are on offer!

All funds will go towards cancer research, prevention, information and support services such as the Illawarra General and Practical Support Service which assists people undergoing cancer treatment, and their carers with a bit of extra help during a very difficult time.

For more information visit: www.poolcrawl.com.au
Find us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/poolcrawl
To register online visit: http://www.trybooking.com/cauy

Media contact: Mia Parsons - Community Relations Co-ordinator, Cancer Council NSW Southern
ph: 4223 0214 email: miap@nswcc.org.au