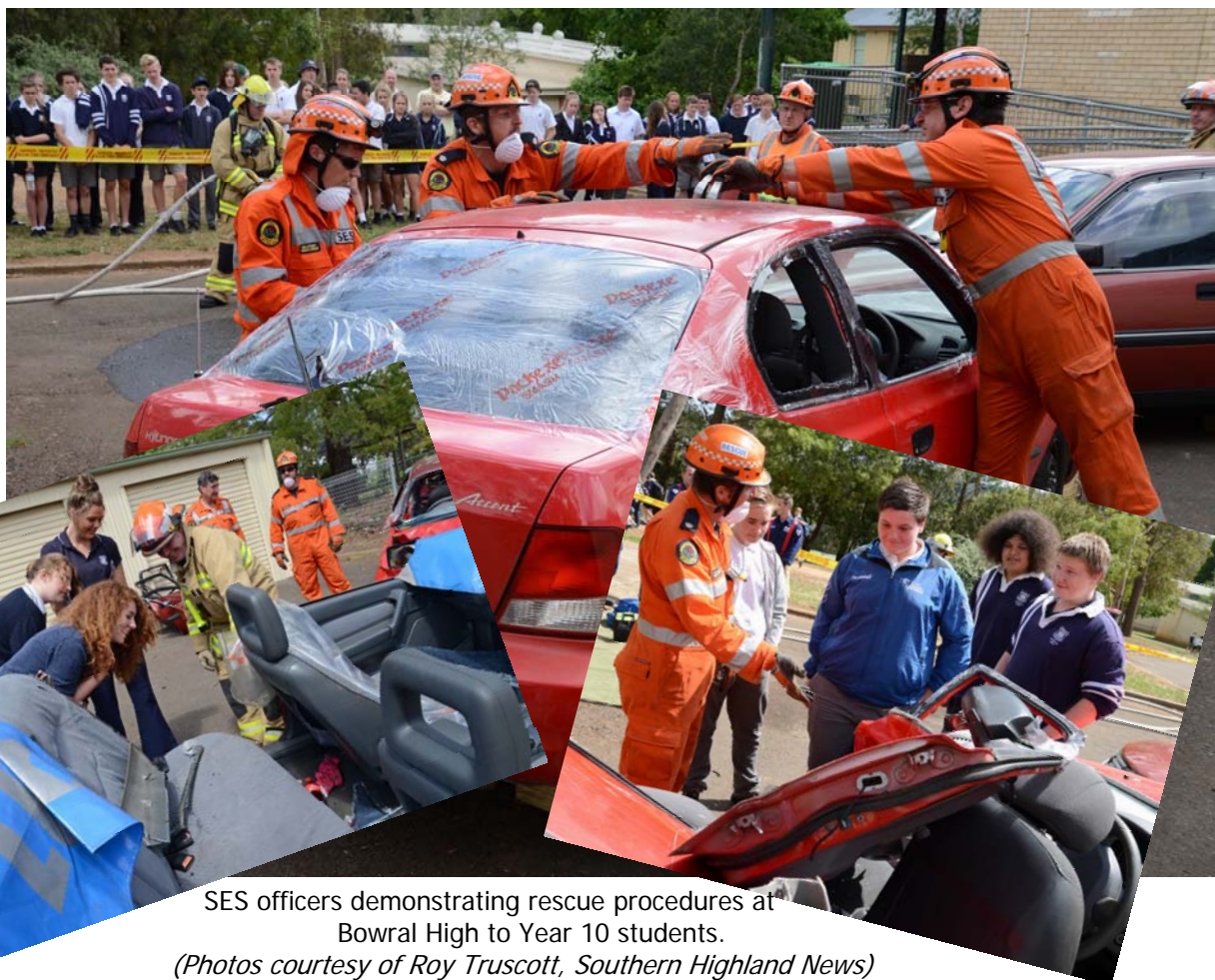


Safety message delivered at Bowral High School



SES officers demonstrating rescue procedures at Bowral High to Year 10 students.
(Photos courtesy of Roy Truscott, Southern Highland News)

On Monday 10 November, about 180 year 10, 11 and 12 students watched SES Primary Rescue and Fire and Rescue NSW volunteers demonstrate how they cut open a car to save a life as part of emergency services' RescuED program. The program also included a simulator exercise with SES Primary Rescue and Fire and Rescue NSW volunteers arriving at a crash and attempting to safely remove an injured driver from the car. The service volunteers cut through glass, used 'jaws of life' to forcibly open car doors and cut open the roof of a car, to "save" the body stuck inside the vehicle. This program is to help students understand through education and awareness the consequences of road accidents. Other exercises included a video presentation of a car accident and the events leading up to, during and after the accident and lessons in the causes and consequences of accidents. The volunteers also addressed why youth were especially at risk on roads. It is hoped that this demonstration will also help young adults to learn the facts which have an influence on the behaviour of drivers.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who attended and especially to Mittagong Auto Wreckers which donated two cars, plus the delivery for the volunteers to use. Also, to Matt Langdon, PDHPE Faculty, who organised this worthwhile event for our students.

ANZAC grant approved

We are pleased to announce that Bowral High has received a grant of \$5,965, under the ANZAC Centenary Local Grants Program to create and establish an ANZAC Memorial Garden at school. A big thank you to Mr Staats and Mr Andrew who put in the submission for this grant.

Kim Paviour

Orientation Day 2014

The Orientation Day for incoming year 7 students is on **Wednesday 3rd December**. Students and parents can arrive from 9.30am to the Welcome Assembly which commences at 9.45am. All students and parents for year 7 2015 are invited and are welcome. A BBQ lunch is provided for students and a morning tea will be provided by Café Bowral for parents. An optional tour of school for parents will follow the assembly.

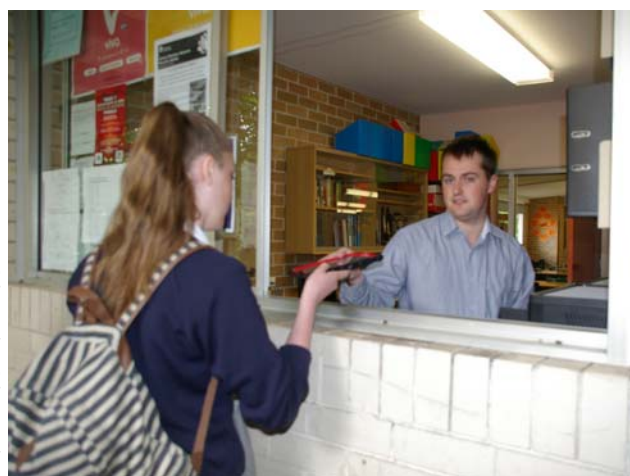
Laptops for year 8

At the start of Week 6 this term Bowral High School started providing the year 8 technology class (8R) with Samsung Tablets. The school has spent \$11,266.70 on the tablets themselves, as well as a re-charging trolley and protective cases.

The students are able to collect these Tablets in the morning from the Library and can use them throughout the day in their classes and at recess and lunch. Each student then returns their tablet at the end of the day before they go home. They can also see their work at home if they log into their Google account.

The response from the students has been a very positive one, with each student using their tablet in class to be able to research on the internet or to take notes and complete work. Each student has made their tablet their own and the teachers are already seen a marked improvement and engagement in 8R classes.

(Steven Hurley, TSO)



Christmas Giving Tree 2014

It's that time of the year again for BHS annual Christmas Giving Tree. Every year we contribute in some way to the Southern Highlands Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. Your assistance and generosity with appeal will be greatly appreciated and we encourage all students, parents and teachers to donate both food and gifts. The tree will be located in the front office.



Some Calendar Dates for Term 4 2014

Weeks	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 8	24 November	25 November	26 November Aspire UC Day yr 9	27 November	28 November
Week 9	1 December	2 December	3 December Yr 6 Orientation Day	4 December	5 December Formal Assemblies War Memorial Excursion
Week 10	8 December Yr 7-10 reports posted	9 December	10 December Presentation Night Hall 7pm	11 December Performing Arts Night	12 December Yr 9 Convocation period 2
Week 11	15 December Activity Week	16 December Activity Week	17 December Activity Week	18 December School closed for students	19 December Last day for staff

What is success?

As we often see here at Bowral High School students and families come to school with many different measures for success. I was introduced to this article which I thought I would share with you. A measure of success that I know may just have many parents identifying with. And yes there is a happy ending.

My daughter, my beautiful failure

What is success? Thanks to my daughter, I have re-thought the meaning of the word. If her resilience in the face of difficulties isn't a triumph, I don't know what is by Lucy Clarke for The Hoopla The Guardian Wednesday 5 November 2014

By all the standard markers, by all the accepted rules and regulations and assessments of secondary school, my daughter left school a failure.

Over the two years of her higher school certificate, she has truanted frequently, she has failed to hand in assignments, she has failed to turn up on time, she has failed to meet uniform requirements, she has failed to attend some of her HSC trial exams, she has exhausted the patience of teachers and pushed to the outer limits the structural sympathies of the public school system.

Innumerable official letters outlining her many misdemeanors have kept postmen busy beating a path to our house – we stopped opening them about a year ago. There have been programs of improvement, second chances, third chances, and more. Expulsion has been just around the corner for six months.

It has been difficult for her teachers; it has been difficult for her parents.

It has been difficult for no-one more than her.

Every day of my daughter's high school life has been a struggle. She wakes up in the morning and the thought of going to school – sometimes even the thought of going outside – is like an enormous mountain to climb. Very often she hasn't been able to scale it.

There have been times when she just hasn't made it all the way to school: she sits in a park on her own, wondering why she finds it all so hard while her friends trundle on ahead in their "normality"; she has been doubled up in a laneway near the school crying, riveted by her anxiety.

When she has made it there, sitting in class for the duration of a lesson is the next mountain in the range. Anxious thoughts crowd out her bandwidth, blocking the admission of any useful information the teacher might be trying to impart. She told me once in a moment of rare vulnerability that she felt so distressed about being so behind in her classwork that she spent the whole period fighting the urge to flee and throw herself onto the train tracks.

She has fled class many, many times; mercifully never to throw herself off anything, anywhere.

"Nothing will ever be as easy as your school years," well-meaning adults have told her, but I know for my daughter, and for many others who have struggled as square pegs trying to make themselves round, this is dead wrong.

What has been her saving grace? Her school community, her friends, her understanding teachers (certainly not the English teacher who was informed of her mental health issues and continued picking on her and humiliating her anyway, ultimately banishing her from class).

While she has missed just about every mark on the schoolwork journey, she is highly functioning in her social life. Many parents would look at this fact with a wry sideways glance and an eyebrow raised, but I have held onto it for dear life. What could be more important than succeeding at your personal relationships? Don't we say that at the end?

But the lottery of life has blessed this girl with a personality that rejects ranking or assessment of any kind. She can't even watch the Olympics – actually has to leave the room – because she can't stand the thought that someone has to come first, second, third, and that someone has to come last.

In an education system that long ago became a race – yes, a bloody race – my girl opted out of the competition early. Consequently now she is one of the ones coming last by a mile, hobbled by an unseen, misunderstood disability and yet still so determined to cross the line. The stadium has not been cheering.

But for the compassion, patience, and implicit understanding of one magnificent teacher, and a clutch of friends coaching from the sideline, she might not have made it.

She might not have walked, beautiful big smile on her face, with her cohort into the school hall on the last day of school. She might not have made in onto the stage to collect the precious piece of paper that says "Graduation Certificate", hugging that teacher on the way.

Like so many kids of her age, she is tremulous in the face of the great unknown. What will I be? Who will I be? What will I do? Everyone is demanding an answer of these poor buggers right now, in this 17 year-old moment. The pressure is terrible, and the final stretch in the race to the finish is particularly arduous.

But the finish line is here – we are at the end of the HSC, and I don't care how she went, I don't care about her results.

She has picked herself up after so many "failures", one after the other after the other. She has filed these "failures", stored every mistake, and kept on going, even while extreme anxiety still has her in its grip. If that's not resilience, if that's not bravery, if that's not triumph, I don't know what is.

Today she sent me a text after her final exam. "Just finished!!!!". I know the sheer relief she feels – it is molecular – but I have to say no, you're wrong, darling girl, it is only just beginning for you. Freedom is here, and I know you will be okay.

My daughter, the failure, has taught me how to rethink the meaning of success, and I could not be more proud.

This story has been published with the support of the author's daughter. If it brings up any issues for you, please call Lifeline on 13 11 14.

This piece was originally published in The Hoopla <<http://thehoopla.com.au/daughter-beautiful-failure/>, part of the Guardian comment network

Nic Morris
Deputy Principal