



# The Whisper

September 2008

## Calendar Events

### September

Last Day of Term Three 19

### October

Term 4 begins 6  
Yr 10 Canberra trip with  
Allora/Killamey 6-10  
Old Athletics 9-10  
Yr 12 Formal 10  
School Social 14  
State Futsal Competition 17  
STUDENT FREE DAY 20  
Talent Quest 21  
P & C Meeting 22  
Inst. Music Concert 23  
Yr 8 Information Evening 28  
Awards Night 29  
Spelling Challenge 30

### November

Yr 8 Enrolment Interviews 6

## Administration:

Mr Alan Smith  
Mr Brett Hallett  
Mrs Janelle Robb  
Mrs Cathy Rolfe

This year is quickly disappearing with thirty school weeks now successfully completed. We have experienced some great moments this term with many exciting activities occurring at Warwick State High School. This edition of "Whisper" details just some of these initiatives.

Looking ahead, a number of important activities will occur next term, including: 2009 school leader selection process, Talent Quest, Awards Night, Year 12 Formal, Year 11 Camp, and Year 7 Orientation.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school this term. Best wishes for a safe and relaxing vacation. School resumes for all students on Monday 6/10/08.

## 100th Anniversary

Warwick State High School will be 100 years old in 2012. We are keen to hear from any current or past students, parents, or staff members who are interested in forming an Organising Committee for this very significant event. We intend holding a brief meeting next term to discuss ideas for the centenary. Please contact the school if you would like to be involved (phone 46669222, or mail to [admin@warwickshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@warwickshs.eq.edu.au))

## Shadows of the Past

On 14th and 15th August 60 students in year 10, 11 and 12 Drama classes got the once in a life time opportunity to be on a film set for the shooting of a feature film 'Shadows of the Past'. The film, which is set in Warwick and around our nationally famous Warwick Rodeo, tells the story of the life, love and comeback of a former bull rider and stars some well known Australian actors, musicians and television presenters.

For the two days of shooting at Warwick High which took place around a rodeo career talk in the school gym, some students had small talking roles, others had walk-on parts and most were featured in a crowd scene. Students got to experience life as a film actor through doing multiple takes of shoots, filming the same scene at different angles, doing close-ups and sound checks, waiting for make up, as well as an appreciation of how long it can take to film a short sequence that might only be 3 seconds of action.

Director/producer, Warren Ryan was very impressed at

the participating students' behaviour, cooperation and patience during the two days of the Filming and the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and insights gained. 'Shadows of the Past' is slated for release at independent theatres in Easter 2009. Congratulations to all the students involved.



Students who participated in the filming of 'Shadows of the Past'.

## School Tour and Information Session

Parents and caregivers of prospective WSHS students in 2009 are invited to attend a School Tour and Information Session to be held on Tuesday 28 October 2008. An address by school staff will be given in the school's Assembly Hall at 5.30pm and will be followed by a tour of the school. Please spread the word to your friends and families, and encourage them to hear for themselves about our wonderful school.

## Student misbehaviour

The onset of warmer weather of late seems to have coincided with an upsurge of student misbehaviour. We take this opportunity to reiterate that at Warwick State High School, we have set high standards and have clear expectations that involve mutual respect and acceptable behaviour. In a variety of forums this year we have strongly reinforced to students that any activity which is unlawful, unsafe, intimidates or endangers others is prohibited. We do not tolerate serious misbehaviour, and will use the range of disciplinary strategies available to deal with issues such as smoking, fighting, verbally abusive language, and willful disobedience. The school will use suspension and even exclusion to deal with such matters. Thank you for your cooperation as we uphold our values of achievement, safety, pride, initiative, respect and excellence.

Warwick State High School

Established 1912 "Excellence through effort"

Website : [www.warwickshs.eq.edu.au](http://www.warwickshs.eq.edu.au)

Ph : 07 4666 9222 Fax : 07 46669200

Po Box 67 Warwick Qld

## New Enrolments

Enrolment Packages for students intending to attend Warwick State High School will be distributed to Year 7 students at local primary schools directly after the school holidays. The packages include essential information such as enrolment form, book list, internet agreement, prospectus, and resource and textbook scheme details. Special Enrolment Interviews will be held for all new students and their parents/caregivers as follows.

Date:	Thursday 6/11/08
Venue:	School Library
Time:	3.30 pm to 6.00pm
Duration:	15 minutes

Appointments are essential; please contact the school office to arrange a mutually convenient time (phone 46669222). Please note that enrolment at WSHS in 2009 is contingent on attending an Enrolment Interview. Please pass the word to friends and family who have students attending our school next year.

## Please assist us to keep our school safe over the vacation period:

- DO be observant when walking or driving past our school
- DO observe anything out of the ordinary and make notes about what is happening
- DO phone 131788 (or the local police) if you are at all suspicious
- DON'T enter the school grounds out of hours unless you have the authority to do so
- DON'T place yourself in any form of danger

## Late Arrivals

There has been a large number of students arriving late to school on a regular basis without a note or phone call from their parent/caregiver. From the beginning of Term 4 students who arrive late to school (after 9.00am) without a note or phone call will be given a lunchtime detention. Please ensure your student arrives at school on time.

## Attendance

A considerable number of students across Australia and at our school are having their opportunities to perform to their potential adversely affected by parent-condoned absences.

Once it was the case that students only missed school when they were genuinely ill, but now that seems to have changed. Students are being allowed to stay away for an ever-increasing number of excuses, including:

- o A day off for their birthday
- o A day because relatives are visiting
- o A day off to be with parents at home
- o A day to look after younger brothers and sisters
- o A day off to go shopping

Every day a student is away, they are losing a learning experience. Over time, their knowledge base will be full of holes like Swiss cheese. Learning is sequential and attending three out of four lessons leaves gaping holes.

A sobering fact is that in Australia today, the average student will lose one year of education (200 days) through parent-condoned absences over

their school career from Prep to Year 12.

After love and care, the most important thing that we as parents can give our kids is an education. Let's do it!

Should you require support in improving your son/daughter's attendance or any other issue, please contact the school immediately.

We can all work together to make a difference to your student's future.

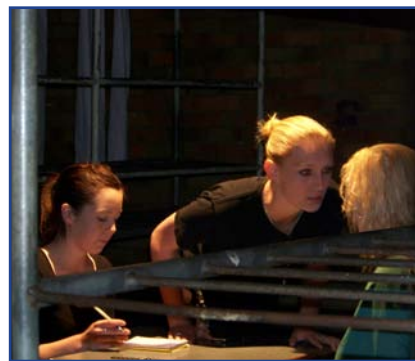
Be on time, Be at school, that's the rule!

## Year 12 Course Productions

Senior Drama students have had a very busy term at Warwick SHS culminating in Course Production Evenings recently. This year's students brought a variety of exciting talents and ideas to the forefront and created interesting and entertaining productions. The two Year 12 Drama classes each had very different messages and themes.

The Year 12B Drama class presented "A Series of Faithful Events" on the 27th August in the Warwick Town Hall. It was a Collage Drama production based around the students' personal beliefs, and posed the questions: What is the Meaning of Life? Is there such a place as heaven and hell? Does God exist/ If so, how can Allah and Buddha exist/ And if God doesn't exist, then what? Do you have to believe in religion or can you just have 'faith' in something such as Fate or Karma? The production was entirely devised by the students and the topic reflected the various outcomes from class discussions and aimed to present a unified message to the audience. Each scene was written by the students. The show contained a multitude of dramatic forms such as film, laughter, drama, dance, comedy, tragedy and satire.

The 12A production "Life's a Maze" explored life as a complex maze – a giant labyrinth where each person is walking their own path. Presented in the form of Promenade Drama on campus at Warwick High, audience members were led around the school to various locations to view the different group performances and explore different aspects of the life maze. Questions that were posed were What are the different lives we live? What if we could look at other people's lives? Are we enjoying finding the end or are we becoming ...lost? Again the production was entirely devised by students from collaboratively writing the script to designing the staging and lighting and choosing the music.



A great deal of the student's time and energy went into the shows. Both classes worked very hard over the past few months and were very excited to perform for audiences. Congratulations also to the teachers Miss Melinda Green and Miss Metta Paterson for their wonderful work in inspiring our students.

## P & C Association

The next meeting of our school's Parents and Citizens Association will be held in the School Library on Wednesday 22/10/08. Everyone is most welcome!

## Awards Night

Our school's annual Awards Night will be held on Wednesday 29 October 2008 in the Assembly Hall. This prestigious evening allows us as a community to celebrate the success of our young people in academic, cultural and sporting areas. This is a very special occasion on the school's calendar. All parents, students and community members are cordially invited to attend.

## 2008 Instrumental Music Day Tour



On Thursday 7th August 45 Instrumental Music students and three teachers (Mr. Waples, Miss Windley and Mr. Follett,) met at Warwick High at 7.15am to pack musical instruments,

equipment, music stands, school uniforms and three days worth of warm clothes onto a bus as they embarked on the 2008 Three day Music Tour. The first destination of the Tour was Brisbane's Queen Street Mall. Both the WSHS Big Band and Wind Symphony played two x 30 minute sets over four hours which drew large and enthusiastic crowds. In between sets was a chance to have some lunch, stretch legs in the Mall and a quick visit to some shops. The Queen Street Mall performance was a great gig to start the Tour and the large audience was very impressed with the standard and professionalism of the groups' performances. Afterwards, they headed off to the Queensland Camping & Conference Centre in Brookfield which was their accommodation base for the Tour. After settling into units and a great roast dinner, a fast and furious games session completed the night. On the Friday morning, they headed to the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) for a tour and talk with the Head of the Music Department and found out some interesting information about music and tertiary studies at QUT. This was then followed by a 2 hour Wind Symphony Workshop with the former conductor of the QUT Concert Band in which the students picked up some expert advice on some of the music pieces they had been working on. After all this hard work, they headed to Westfield Chermshire Shopping Centre for an afternoon of team building via Ten-pin bowling (and of course some shopping). This was a fun afternoon and a good chance to wind down after an intense workshop. After returning to QCCC for dinner and a short rehearsal in preparation for the following days performance, it was time for some social fun 'n' games downtime for students before lights out. On Day 3, Saturday morning, the group headed off to the Brisbane Ekka to take part in the Billy Hyde Festival of Music competition. Both ensemble groups gave very tight and polished performances at the Ekka, impressing passers-by, judges and listeners alike with high standard of performance. After the fantastic performance, and a couple of hours free time at the Ekka it was back on the bus and home to Warwick SHS. Congratulations to all the students involved. You were fantastic ambassadors for your school and we could not have asked for a more polite, cooperative and professional group to take away.



Socially and professionally, for the students and the teachers, the Tour was a great success and an experience we hope all involved will remember fondly for a long time.

## Student Absences

Just a reminder of the facility available when students will be away. We have a student absence line, where parents/carers can ring, leaving a message regarding student absences. This information will then be used to update student records. Please ring 46669266.

## SET Plans

This term, Year 10 students have participated in an extensive Career Education Program. The culminating event has been preparation of individual Senior Education and Training Plans (SET Plans) for all Year 10 students. To this end, the students attended a range of information sessions and completed a range of activities designed to assist them with the transition to the senior years of learning.

## Year 11 - Leadership

With the end of the year fast approaching, Year 11 students are preparing for the senior leadership positions nomination process and Leadership Camp. The cohort has been completing studies in leadership during HRE in the second half of Term 3, and will continue these studies in Term 4.

At the beginning of Term 4, the current 2008 school leaders will speak to the students on Year Level Assembly about their positions and the responsibilities associated with it. At the end of Week 3, Term 4, the leader position nomination forms will be released for students to nominate themselves for the 2009 Senior Leader positions (Captains/ Vice Captains/ House Captains/ Committee Leaders). These nominations will be due Thursday 6th November. Voting will occur in the final week of Term (at camp for those students attending or at school).

The Leadership Camp at Maroon Dam Outdoor Education Centre will take place this year from Monday 24th November to Thursday 27th November. All students have been issued with consent forms and payment envelopes. Payment is due to B101 by Thursday 16th October, 2008. This is a great opportunity for the students and a fun time is guaranteed!

The excitement of the final year of schooling also brings with it the privilege of a senior jersey. The design was voted on early in Term 3 and payment envelopes have been issued to students. Jersey payment is due to the canteen by Thursday 31st October.

The students are very excited about the many opportunities ahead of them in their senior year. If you have any queries on the above information, please don't hesitate to contact Kate Van Der Meulen.

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Starts date: 6 October and finishes  
Finish date: 21 November 2008

## Equestrian

Year 12 student, Emma Whear (right), competed recently at the Queensland Interschool Equestrian Association State Championships for Eventing (one of the six disciplines). She placed 2nd in the QISEA and 3rd in the EFA events. Emma has qualified to represent Queensland in the National Championships which will be held in October in Toowoomba for Eventing. This is the first year that a National Competition is being run and only the top two competitors in each discipline from each State are eligible to compete. Congratulations Emma!



The remaining five disciplines of Showman, Showhorse, Dressage, Combined Training and Showjumping for the QISEA State Championships are being held in Maryborough on the first weekend of the September holidays. Although all of our equestrian team qualified to compete at the State Championships only three are able to go (partly Robbie Stewart's fault – we hope the wedding goes well Robbie!). Of these three, we also stand a very good chance of others qualifying to be selected to compete at the Nationals.

## Vicki Wilson Netball

On Sunday 31st August, a Warwick High Netball team competed in the Junior Vicki Wilson Cup held in Toowoomba. Competition for this carnival consisted of teams from all over the Darling Downs. After seven very competitive games, our team finished 3rd overall. Although the team had not played together previously, they moulded together and displayed outstanding team skills. They all played extremely well, with great application and sportsmanship shown by all. We are very proud of the girls' efforts and conduct, as well as their achievement on the day. Congratulations to the students involved: Stephanie O'Brien, Shanaraah O'Leary, Georgia Hoffman, Denby Watt, Shelby Kinlyside, Emma Pails, Chenae Ridge, Jazz Lane and Sarah Holeszko.



Sam Warrener throws his way into the State Titles

## Darling Downs Track & Field

Trials for the Darling Downs Track team were held on Thursday 4th September in very cold and wet conditions in Toowoomba. The field event trials scheduled for Friday 5th September were postponed till Tuesday 9th September, due to safety concerns.

Congratulations to the students who were selected in the team to compete at the State Titles in Brisbane in early October. Matthew Carey (400m), Leanne Brown (1500m Walk), Brook Croft (Javelin), Steph O'Brien (Discus), Shot Put & Javelin), Amanda Politch (Hurdles), & Samuel Warrener (Hammer & Discus)

Other medallists were Sakara Bell, 2nd in 1500m walk, Samuel Warrener, 3rd in 400m, 3rd in Hurdles, 3rd in Long Jump, & 3rd in Javelin, Denby Watt, 3rd in 400m; Bill Sullivan, 3rd in Shot Put, 2nd in Triple Jump; and Jake Reid, 2nd in Javelin.

We look forward to seeing some good results at the State Titles, and hopefully some representatives to compete at the Pacific School Games in Canberra in November.



Matthew Carey running strongly on his way to winning his 15yrs 400 m event



Sam Olsen crossing the finish line to win the 17yrs Boys relay



Denby Watt, 13yrs, finishing strongly in the relay for Warwick High

## Border District Athletics

This big event on the sporting calendar was hosted by Warwick High on Wednesday 27th August. Warwick High did very well; winning both the Boys and Girls aggregate as well as The Champion School trophy. Students from our school also won seven of the 10 Age Champion awards presented on the day.



Team captains Justin Alley & Kia Sowden with the Champion Boys, Girls, & overall Champion School trophies.

AGE CHAMPIONS -- BOYS	AGE CHAMPIONS - GIRLS
17 years Champion SAMUEL WARRENER (WSHS) 50pts Runner-up JASON STEKETEE (WSHS) 24 pts	17 years Runner-up KIA SOWDEN (WSHS) 34 pts
16 years Champion SAM OLSEN (WSHS) 45 pts	16 years Runner-up: CRYSTAL RUSSELL (WSHS) 21 pts
15 years Champion MATTHEW CAREY (WSHS) 48 pts	15 years Champion STEPH O'BRIEN (WHS) 39 pts
14 years Champion ANTHONY MCINTOSH (WSHS) 40pts Runner-up JAMES JONSTONE (WSHS) & MARK STEKETEE (WSHS) 21 pts	14 years Runner-up CARISSA WRIGLEY (WSHS) 25 pts
13 years Champion BILLY SULLIVAN (WSHS) 33 pts	13 years Champion DENBY WATT (WSHS) 32 pts