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MHS ANZAC Day Ceremony Speech

Mr Bell, Mr Winfield, special guest speak, students, teachers.

Writing a speech like this came across as a very difficulty thing for me and because it is the 100 year anniversary, it didn’t make it any easier. Only recently I had watched a story on SBS World News, and it was about the wars within the middle east, and the conflicts particularly within Syria. It was weird because for the first time in a long time I had noticed a guy who didn’t look much older than me, holding a gun and firing around the corner of this building. It was chaos! But soon it made me wonder how someone with my age and my height find themselves caught up in a situation when people within his city are trying to kill him and vice versa. And then I figured that in this country we don’t dare take up arms against someone from our own country, let alone city, because we don’t have to. Because that sacrifice was made before us and lives were laid down so that we may live ours in peace.

Private James Martin was one of the 85,000 ANZAC’s killed in the Gallipoli campaign. He was in the 1st Reinforcements of the 21st Battalion, from the small town of Tocumwal, southwest of here. James was the son of Charles and Amelia, he was the third of six children, and the only son. When James signed up for the Australian Imperial Force in April of 1915, he lied about his age and enlisted against the wishes of his family. He was deployed 2 months later to Egypt and then to Gallipoli. Not long after James fell ill with typhoid fever in the trenches and passed away in October 1915.

James Charles Martin, was 14 years and 9 months.

After reading the story of James, I studied a photograph of his face which had seemed so round with youth, eyes looking calmly back at you as his mouth remained stern and serious. It soon made me wonder how many were just like him, his age, his attitude, his height or even his eyes. Because it wasn’t long after that I read this I began to think of boys not much older than you or I, having to await the whistle of an officer to go over the trenches and face the unknown, whose expressions were completely lost when seeing their mates fall in battle, facing forward and running as fast as their legs could carry them.

I think also of the mother who lost the ability to hold her own weight when hearing the news, the screams and the pleading to be able to hold her son, her child her boy once more. I think of the father whose heart had turned to lead, and blood had run cold.

Sadly, war is still prevalent in our modern society today, with soldiers as well as civilians subjected to a life of risk and death. But it is because of the men and women today, and in all wars that Australia has participated in, that we as Australians can remember all those lives lost, to prevent anymore war or devastation from ever occurring again.

I can never repay the debt of sacrifice that these men and women have given, as all they gave was out of love, love for their country, love for the people and love for their family. All we can feel is gratitude, gratitude for all those who gave. And remember, remember all those who did not make it home, who did not return.

LEST WE FORGET!!

Speech by Thijs de Ruijter
Japanese Exchange Student

My name is Shiori Ito. I’m from a part of Japan called Aichi Prefecture. I am an AFS exchange student. I’ll stay here about 10 months. When I was in Japan I was a member of a “Kendo” club. “Kendo is a Japanese form of the sport of fencing, using swords made of bamboo. I practised it every day after school.

I am sincerely looking forward to my life as a student in this school. I am still studying English, but I’m trying my best to improve it. Please feel free to introduce yourself to me. I’d like to try out my English with you.

Year 11 Earth and Environmental Science

On Thursday 2nd April Year 11 EES students braved the cold and travelled to Sawpit Creek Education Centre for fieldwork.

They surveyed the area, identified plants and animals and noted the impacts of humans. Dainers Gap, Perisher Valley and Charlotte Pass were also observed and the relationship between soil, altitude, plant type and animals were identified.

Although it didn’t snow, the howling wind did make for a fun day in our local environment!

A big thank you to Mrs Thompson and Mrs Marks for accompanying us on this excursion.
**U/15 Girls Soccer**

On Wednesday 22nd April the U/15 girls soccer team travelled to Karabar for the first round of the Bill Turner Trophy. It was a high scoring and very exciting match for all the parents and friends in attendance. Monaro held the lead for the majority of the game, but a few late goals from Karabar made it 5 all with 5 mins to go. The girls fought hard and set up Abby Fremanis to score 2 goals in the dying minutes of the match to win 7-5. Monaro now progress on to round 2 and play Daramalan at home. Most valuable players for the day were Abby Freimanis, Zara Childs, Chloe Trevanion, Brenna Clayton, Ella Davis and Hayley Jones. I would like to thank all the girls for their wonderful sportsmanship and effort on the day. Lastly a big thank you to all the parents and friends who supported and filled in as linesman and helpers when needed.

*Good luck in round 2!*

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**MHS Northern Territory Basketballers Tour 2015**

The MHS adventure began in the early hours of Saturday morning 28th March with an excited convey from Cooma to Sydney airport. Months of planning and preparation unfolded and was put to the test. The tour participants were so excited for the week ahead. Already these teams have saved, raised, trained, played, battled injuries and forged new friendships. They had persevered through a marathon and celebrated at a special dinner. Staff, students and parents had put plans in place to ensure everything was set for departure - lessons planned, assignments completed, families organised. Along the way the teams had been supported by friends, family, community members and businesses.

Each and every tour member bought something special to the group to make the week what it was so we would firstly like to thank the students for the way they threw themselves into the basketball and cultural experiences and how they adapted and supported one another in their home away from home with their big family of 27! Particular thanks to the Captains and Vice Captains Jaime, Tim, Jarrod and Penny for being the extra set of hands, eyes and ears whenever required. To our tour parents Tanya and Steve, for providing the Mum and Dad perspective, for always putting the kids and tour first and helping out with food, washing, driving and tactical moves as well as video, photos and data recording for player statistics. To Jena Shaw who left Monaro HS at the end of last year to teach at Kingscliff high school for her care of the kids, refereeing and camaraderie. To Janet JJ for her driving, tireless work on statistics and 'executive presence'. We could not have done it without you! Thank you to Richard Lyons for participating in the tour, working with the students and videoing the matches for a valuable keepsake. Leading up to the tour our students had many local individuals and businesses show support and we would like to sincerely thank them for getting behind the team in what proved to be a very worthwhile and successful venture for this special group of young people from MHS. Winning seven of ten games of basketball against representative teams of which a number went on to win the NT Championships. However, from the beginning it has always been about more than just the basketball and it's off the court that they truly excelled forming friendships and learning more about each other and themselves. They did a wonderful job of representing our school and town interstate and they deserve a big pat on the back to go along with the many happy memories for all.

**Thankyous**

W&S Holdsworth Logging, Beautilious, Kettle & Seed, Cooma NewsXpress, TLE Cooma, Betty & Brian McCabe, Melray Meats, Your House, CRT-Southern Ag Solutions, Southern Service Centre, Fugitsu Air Conditioning, Cooma Express, Mainstreet Clothing, Julie Smith & family, Mic Bottom, Monaro High School PDHPE Dept, Site Magic, Cooma Champs Tennis, Geach family, Kim & Jasmine Trevanion, Pat Swain, Cooma Sportspower & Cooma Basketball Association.

**Tour Participants**

Kaesie Baker, Shaye Baker, Jerod Blyton, Natalie Corey, Emma Fogarty, Abby Freimanis, Penny Grayson (Vice Captain), Jimmy Harding, Daniel Hopkin, Douglas Li, Renee Nelson, Daniel Pevere, Mikaela Smith, Jarrod Sopniewski (Vice Captain), Jacob Stiles, Daniel Swain, Jaime Thornton (Captain), Shaye Thornton, Ben Trotter, Tim Wall (Captain), Janet Johnston, Kari Ingram, Richard Lyons, Michelle Pollard, Steve Thornton, Tania Thornton & Jena Shaw.
MHS Year 11 students will again be participating in the RYDA Driver Training program on the 7th May 2015 at Bega. All Year 11 students are required to attend.