



The John Berne School  
Hope Always

# Newsletter

## Dear parents, caregivers, and friends of Berne

Happy Easter to you all.

This latest edition of our newsletter coincides with the weeks immediately following Easter.

In the Church the feast of Easter Sunday cannot be celebrated in isolation. Rather, it is a pivotal component of the Easter Triduum, that is the three days of Easter from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. The three events which make it up are the Last Supper, Good Friday and Easter. As such I have always seen the three connected as one.

It is common to hear Christians say that Christmas with the birth of Christ is the most important feast in the Christian calendar. But rather the events of Easter are. That God became a human and became one like us is an immense thing, true, but then that that man, God, suffered, died, was buried and rose from the dead, that is beyond immense. That is beyond our human understanding yet that is what we recall and celebrate at Easter.

While the events of Jesus' death and resurrection occurred 2,000 years ago they still have significant relevance for us today. Indeed our Christian faith is centred on the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection. Through these events Jesus showed that death is not the end but rather, new life beckons. Christians believe that after we die we rise to new life just as Jesus did. But what is the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection for us on a daily basis? Why is the cross such an important symbol for Christians when there is no real value in suffering or in dying?

The meaning of Easter can play out in the many daily events of life. When we "die to ourselves", when we say "no" to sins, when we focus on self sacrifice and self denial, choosing to live by Jesus' values rather than by the more tempting habits and pleasurable actions that come our way, at those times we are better people, better Christians. Our lives are renewed through suffering. When we persevere in times of difficulties, when we are kind and

when we see the good in others rather than be critical and put down, when we deny ourselves and take up our cross daily (Luke 9:23) it is then that we make personally real the events of the Easter Triduum.

This Easter may we each focus on being better people by daily and often each day taking up our own personal crosses and rise to new life.

May St Marcellin continue to watch our own efforts.

Richard Sidorko  
Principal



David taking up the cross with a little help from Michael  
Photo: Wilson

## Issue 2 2018

### Important Dates for Parents and Carers

#### 1 May

Students' first day Term 2

#### 21 May

Parent and Staff Interviews

#### 22 June

Annual Berne Luncheon — Pupil Free

#### 6 July

Students' last day Term 2

### Upcoming Events

#### 8 May

Tuning In To Teens course commences

#### 10 May

Open day at Berne for visiting school staff

#### 15–17 May

NAPLAN testing Years 7 and 9

#### 28 May–1 June

Years 9 and 10 Work Experience

#### 30 May–1 June

Years 7 and 8 Camp

#### 11 June

Queen's Birthday public holiday

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## Stations of the Cross at Mittagong

Every year on Holy Thursday The John Berne School staff and students return to the Marist Brothers' property, The Hermitage, in Mittagong to spend time together and learn about Jesus's journey through the stations of the cross.



The stations of the cross amongst the beautiful rural backdrop of The Hermitage  
Photo: Wilson

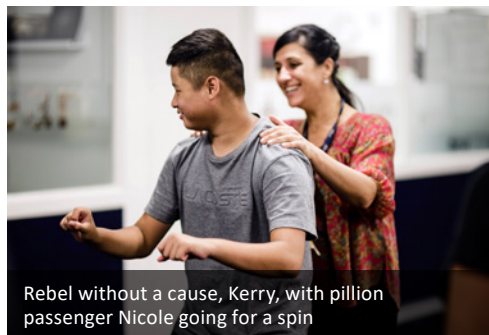
On arrival the students were greeted with a morning tea of hot cross buns after which they had the opportunity to play tennis, cards or just have a wander around the many green pastures. Next students and staff walked along the stations of the cross taking turns reading and listening to the Easter story.

David, with Michael's help, carried a large cross on his shoulders from station to station and all the way into the Brother Stanislaus' room where we gathered for the final reading. We ended the day with hot dogs for lunch prior to heading home for the four day Easter break.

— Tanja Dunne, Year 7 and 8 Coordinator

## Year 10 Belvoir Youth Express

Every Tuesday during Semester 1, Year 10 students have been fortunate to have James Winter from the Belvoir Theatre come to Berne to teach them Drama as part of the Youth Express program.



Rebel without a cause, Kerry, with pillion passenger Nicole going for a spin

Both staff and students have really enjoyed getting out of their comfort zones and getting to know each other through the various Drama games and improvisation activities. These have included miming, space jump and character building activities with a view to students writing their own script and refining it over Term 2.

This will culminate in a performance at the end of Term 2, at 2pm on Monday 25th June at the Belvoir Theatre, Surry Hills. Parents and friends of Berne are invited to attend and we would love your support!

— Kristina Allan, Year 10 Teacher

## Clean Up Australia Day

On Friday 3rd March, Year 10 students engaged in cleaning up the school grounds in support of the National Clean Up Australia campaign which was held on Sunday 5th March.



Thank you to Year 10 for helping keep our community clean

Outfitted with gloves, bibs and bags we walked around the block of the school from West Street to Thomas Street and collected two large bags full of rubbish.

Congratulations to Matthew and David who were wonderful ambassadors for the school on this project.

— Nicole Arathoon, Year 10 Coordinator

## Year 8 Activities

Year 8 students this term had the opportunity to engage in different activities over the course of three days.

Wednesday was spent at beautiful Clifton Gardens where the students had the opportunity to fish, swim and play games. It was a warm, sunny day and although we did not have any luck fishing, Rhys, Joel, Dylan, Jordan and Myles had great fun trying to catch blue swimmer crabs by hand.



Sydney's most famous chicken and chips

On Thursday the group went to Flip Out where we got to bounce around for a couple of hours and the students had a chance to expend some energy

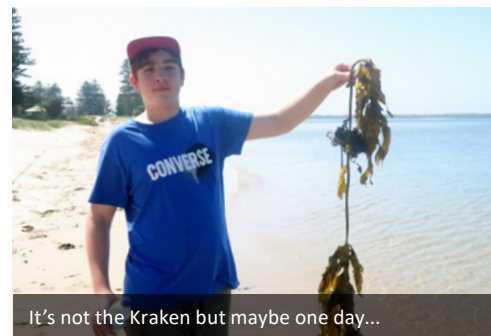
on the trampolines. To refuel Myles, Xavier, Joel and Jordan had the chance to enjoy some of the finest charcoal chicken at El Jannah restaurant.

To finish the week off Dylan, Jordan, Myles and Joel took on a staff team of Br Chris, David and myself in a game of bowls. Afterwards we enjoyed a delicious Italian pizza at Cafe Gioia in Leichhardt. Congratulations to all the boys for making activities week a great success.

— Tanja Dunne, Year 7 and 8 Coordinator

## Year 10 Activities

This term our Year 10 students had three days of activities instead of a camp. On the first day we enjoyed a beautiful sunny day fishing at Dolls Point. Although we caught no fish the weather was lovely and the company of our group of five was wonderful. We enjoyed a very large pizza lunch together to end the day.



It's not the Kraken but maybe one day...

On the second day we set off on a long three hour walk from The Spit Bridge to Manly. The beautiful scenery made up for the very warm weather and tiring journey. We enjoyed a big fish and chips lunch at the end which we all certainly deserved.

On day three we cancelled our canoeing trip on the Lane Cove River due to poor weather but we enjoyed watching Black Panther at Broadway cinemas and returned to school to enjoy a big barbeque lunch.



Enjoying the scenery on the Spit to Manly walk

A big thank you to our team of Matthew, David, Kerry, Joseph, Daniel and Michael for a wonderful three days spent enjoying each others' company.

— Nicole Arathoon, Year 10 Coordinator



## Year 9 Camp

As part of the Outdoor Education Program here at Berne Year 9 students and staff had the opportunity to spend three days camping at the beautiful Bonnie Vale campsite in the Royal National Park, Bundeena.



Looking out over Jibbon Head

For a number of students this was their first time camping. Once we arrived, we set up camp and this provided a great opportunity for the students and staff to develop teamwork skills that would serve them well over the coming days.

Working cooperatively in a beautiful yet challenging environment, the boys experienced canoeing on the Cabbage Tree Basin, fishing in Simpson's Bay, swimming, bushwalking and the opportunity to explore indigenous art on Jibbon Head.



Daniel and Harry canoeing together

Many new skills were learned and existing skills improved during the camp such as: social skills and relating to each other in positive ways, rigging and baiting a fishing line, positively encouraging one another and working together to achieve a goal.

Well done to all who attended.

— Anthony Rooskie, Year 9 Coordinator

## His Excellency the Most Reverend Vincenzo Zani Visits The John Berne School

On the 7th March 2018 The John Berne School welcomed Archbishop Vincenzo Zani, Professor Monsignor Guy-Real Thiverierge and Father Anthony Casamento to meet with John Robinson (Regional Director, Marist Schools Australia), staff and ex students Mark Hinton and Taylor Reidyk.

Archbishop Vincenzo Zani is currently the Secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education in the Vatican. It was both an honour and a privilege to welcome the visitors to Berne. A small discussion took place with staff and students where Archbishop Zani was clearly interested in our alternative educational setting and the impact we had on the lives of both Mark and Taylor (ex students).



An opportunity to ask questions and discuss the effects the school has on the lives of our students

There was the opportunity for a brief tour of the refurbished school where all were overwhelmed with the modern facilities on offer and the ratio of staff to students.

Following the tour of the school the visiting party had afternoon tea with whole staff and continued discussing their work and commitment to Catholic education and their desire to work with the students who are entrusted into our care.

I would like to thank Father Anthony Casamento, John Robinson, Mark Hinton, Taylor Reidyk and the entire staff of Berne for ensuring this event was a success.

— James Le Huray, Assistant Principal

## Thank You Guildford Leagues Club

Sincere thanks to Guildford Leagues Club for their generous grant for camping equipment.



## Work Experience

Year 9 and 10 students have recently undertaken a week of work experience with some very pleasing successes. Students worked in a wide variety of occupations including building and construction, automotive, retail and hospitality.



Wilson at the helm at Harbour City Ferries

There are many reasons why work experience is an important part of our school program. There are some skills that are better learnt in a work environment such as problem solving, teamwork, communication, initiative, responsibility and time management, just to name a few.



Customer service with a smile; Matthew at Berkelouw Books

In addition students might apply numeracy skills and gain cultural awareness from working with others. As well as this students have the opportunity to try out occupations, network and make contacts, add to their CVs, secure part time work and generally make themselves more employable.

The Term 2 work experience dates for Years 9 and 10 are Monday 28th May to Friday 1st June.

— Michael Muranty, Work Experience Coordinator

## ASX Art Union Raffle Thank You

On behalf of the staff and students at Berne, we offer a huge thank you to everyone who has supported The John Berne School by purchasing tickets in the recent Art Union Raffle.

Your generous support will assist our Counselling Program which plays a significant role in the work we do to help young people at risk and their families.

We currently engage three full time counsellors at Berne who work intensively with our teaching staff to help students overcome behavioural, social and mental health challenges. In addition to counselling services for students, our counselling team provides practical support for families and conducts a series of parenting courses throughout the year. They also conduct drug and alcohol education and anti-bullying programs for students in our care.

**ASX THOMSON REUTERS**  
CHARITY FOUNDATION  
CORPORATE AUSTRALIA HELPING THOSE IN NEED

The Art Union Raffle was drawn on Thursday 15th March. We are thrilled to announce that one of our past parents and very loyal supporters was the lucky winner of the 3rd prize, a beautiful Raymond Weil Maestro watch.

Our sincere thanks also goes to the ASX Thomson Reuters Charity Foundation for their extremely generous donation

### Thank You

The John Berne School gratefully acknowledges the generosity of Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL Club for their grant towards our Breakfast Program. We thank you for this support which is greatly appreciated by our whole school community.



**CANTERBURY  
HURLSTONE PARK  
RSL CLUB**

to The John Berne School. Principal, Richard Sidorko, and Assistant Principal, James Le Huray, attended a presentation luncheon on Friday 23rd March where the cheques were presented by the Charity Foundation to those charities they supported during 2017/2018.

— Ange Flannery, Development Officer

### Tuning In To Teens

Tuning In To Teens is a free six week program starting on 8 May every Tuesday from 6.30-9.30pm.

Please call the office on 9560 9260 to register.

### The Annual Berne Luncheon 2018

You are cordially invited to join us to celebrate 20 years of *Love. Hope. Acceptance.* at The Annual Berne Luncheon 2018.

#### Date:

Friday 22 June 2018  
12 Noon – 3.30pm

#### Venue:

Doltone House, Hyde Park  
Level 3, 181 Elizabeth Street  
Sydney

#### Dress:

Lounge Suit

#### Tickets:

Purchase tickets at:  
<http://www.trybooking.com/368974>

**Corporate Sponsor\*: \$2500**

**Individual Sponsor: \$500**

**Individual: \$175**

**Table of 10: \$1750**

*\*Includes Corporate Package*



## PARENTS' CORNER

### Free One Day Workshops

One of the common dilemmas families and carers share with us here at Berne is the question of how best to support a young person when challenging emotions and risk are escalating.

One initiative that helps support parents and carers with this challenge is the "Staying Connected When Emotions Run High" program developed by Dr Annemaree Bickerton and Toni Garretty.

The team have delivered the Staying Connected program to over 3,300 families and carers who are supporting a young person with challenges such as depression, anxiety, school refusal, intellectual disability, difficulties regulating anger, and personality vulnerabilities.

In my experience with families who have attended the workshop, their feedback has been very positive.

Some of the core relationship strategies that the program focuses on include:

1. Caring for yourself to care for others
2. Being contagious with your calm
3. Setting clear boundaries
4. Listening without fixing
5. Developing a Safety or Crisis Plan

The program also explores how to create helpful relationship interactions with young people.

The program is run across a variety of locations including Gympie, North Sydney, Parramatta and Penrith. Dates and times for free 2018 workshops can be found at:

[https://www.islhd.health.nsw.gov.au/Staying\\_Connected/](https://www.islhd.health.nsw.gov.au/Staying_Connected/)

— Gemma Peters, School Psychologist

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