

Parent Newsletter

Hurlstone Agricultural High School

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2014 Issue 7 Term 2 - Week 4

23 May 2014

CALENDAR

Term 2

Week 5

Monday 26th May - Day 4

Yr 7 & 9 Half Yearly Exams
Yr 8 Agriculture Task 2 Assessment
Yr 11 Crossroads Camp

Tuesday 27th May - Day 5

Yr 7 & 9 Half Yearly Exams
Yr 8 Agriculture Task 2 Assessment
Yr 11 Crossroads Camp
Yr 12 English Advanced Task 3 Ass.
Yr 12 English Standard Task 3 Ass.

Wednesday 28th May - Day 6a

Yr 7 & 9 Half Yearly Exams
Yr 8 Agriculture Task 2 Assessment
Yr 11 Crossroads Camp
Musical Rehearsal

Thursday 29th May - Day 1

Yr 7 & 9 Half Yearly Exams
Yr 8 Agriculture Task 2 Assessment
Yr 12 Geography Task 3

Friday 30th May - Day 2

Yr 7 & 9 Half Yearly Exams
Yr 8 Agriculture Task 2 Assessment
Yr 12 General Mathematics Task 3 Ass.
Yr 12 Mathematics Task 3 Assessment
Yr 12 Agriculture Task 3 Assessment



In my position as a public educator, I strive to avoid tainting anything I write with political bias and rarely discuss anything currently being debated in the public domain. However, given the position I hold as a public educator, the events on university campuses across Australia and the community I service, I feel compelled to enter into a discussion with my community about the current changes to tertiary education and the ways in which they may affect the prospective scholars, both in my care and across the state. I will not be doing this from an overtly political perspective but an intensely personal one.

This personal response to the dilution of the Review of Funding for Schooling recommendations and the proposed changes both to the ways in which universities decide their fees and the ways in which students are assisted to fulfil them revolves around the psychology of disadvantage and debt.

I am the product of a low socio-economic background. I know what it is like to go without and to have to choose between the necessity of food and anything else which life may throw your way. Between the ages of five and ten I, and two of my three brothers, were raised by a single mother. She was, and is, a bus driver who left school in year 9 to help her single mother, and who despite all her best efforts had to resort to going into debt in order to clothe, house and feed us. Even when she remarried and gave birth to my third brother this accrued debt sat over the family like a cloud and dictated what we could and could not do. Please don't misunderstand me, my mother worked hard and ensured that she met all of her commitments to both us and her creditors but the impact of debt on my family and on me were undeniable.

When I was accepted into the University of Sydney in the late eighties it was during the first years of HECS. I found myself sitting at the dinner table deciding whether the \$18,000 debt that I would be faced with at the conclusion of my degree was an imposition worth embracing. The thought of this made me put it off for a year so that I could raise some money to at least off-set some of this daunting prospect. This question of money raised its head throughout my four years at university as events such as changed working conditions, I worked seven days a week throughout my degree, and family situations, especially the birth of my son, intervened. Each time the decision was precariously poised and even though I could intellectualise the advantages of a degree I instinctively wanted to avoid the debt associated with it.

Debt for someone from a low socio-economic background is not an acceptable risk taken for long term gain. It is an inhibitor, not an enabler, and something that you learn to avoid at all costs and this is why I feel compelled to discuss this issue. It is a living, breathing entity which demands energy, time and effort to placate; an entity which sits above you with Damoclean intensity.

The Review of Funding for Schooling, which has taken on the nomenclature "Gonski", understood some of the ramifications of disadvantage and attempted to allay them via the injection of much needed capital into all schools in order to achieve a level of equity between students and the range of opportunities afforded them. I know that these changes may not have affected the personal circumstances of low socio-economic students but it may have altered some of the ways in which these impacted on their educational development and their ability to access higher education.

The reduction of the Gonski timeframe has been joined by the deregulation of university fees and a change in the assistance provided to students to make the situation for both existing and future scholars more tenuous than it has been since the introduction of HECS in the early years of my degree.

CALENDAR

Term 2

Week 6

Monday 2nd June - Day 3

Yr 12 Shoe Horn Sonata, Figtree Theatre
Yr 8DAI4 Technology Mandatory Task 1 Assessment
Yr 8DAI 1, 2, 3 & 4 Technology Mandatory Task 2 Examination

Tuesday 3rd June - Day 4

School Photo Day
8RY7 Technology Mandatory Task 1 & 2
8RY 5 & 6 Technology Mandatory Task 2 Examination
Yr 7 Shakespeare on Trial

Wednesday 4th June - Day 5a

ICAS Science
Musical Rehearsal

Thursday 5th June - Day 6

Yr 8 Subject Selection Day
Yr 12 Mathematics Extension 2 Task 3
Yr 12 Physics Task 3 Assessment

Friday 6th June - Day 1

Closed Weekend
Yr 8 English Task 3 Assessment

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE Continued

I can't condone the university students' actions but I keenly understand their frustrations and fears. The supporters of these changes to the ways in which the public purse funds the educators, doctors, lawyers, economists, scientists, etc of our future point to the shared burden they should shoulder and increased choices they have.

What I worry about, especially for those students from backgrounds such as mine, is that this burden will weigh heavily on their young shoulders and their choice that they will face, will not be which university to attend but whether to go to university at all.

Students considering university can establish what assistance is available to them at: <http://studyassist.gov.au/sites/StudyAssist/>

Daryl Currie , Principal

FROM THE DEPUTIES' DESKS

Parent Teacher Night

Thank you all the parents who attended our parent teacher night for year 8, 9 and 10. It was well attended and we have received positive feedback on the survey we are currently running.

Please check your email for the link to the Parent Teacher Survey. The information gathered will be used to further develop our parent teacher nights.

Student Leadership Conference

We had four of our year 11 students; Stephan Music, Kate Diamond, Oliver Quirk and Caitlin Cavanagh attend the South Western Sydney Region Student Leadership Conference last week. 120 students from schools in our region met to discuss leading change at both a school and regional level. The students participated in a number of team building activities which were both physically and mentally challenging. The Executive Director, Public Schools NSW, Murat Dizdar, led a session on leadership and shared his passion for education.

Leader of the Pack - Musical

We are currently preparing for leader of the Pack musical which will run from June 12 to June 14. The students are very excited about the musical and we encourage you all to bring your families and friends to see this great show. Tickets are now on sale from the Accounts office

Mr R Craig

Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES)

Congratulations to Brianna Barry in year 11 who completed an application to become a part of the NSW Board of Studies Student Advisory Group, her application has been successful and she has been offered the role, which she has graciously accepted. Jenny Bryant, Senior Policy Officer for Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES) said ***"We were delighted to read of Brianna's exceptional qualities and would like to offer her a position in the Group for the coming year"***

Matthew Gregory feature article in the Town and Country Magazine

Congratulations to Matthew once again, on his Champion Dairy Cattle Parader success, please take the time to read the article I have attached to this newsletter and share Matt's insights into this great opportunity.

Leave Reminder

A reminder to submit leave for your children for the next closed weekend this will enable boarder administration staff to begin organisation for student travel arrangements.

CALENDAR

Term 2

Week 7

Monday 9th June

Public Holiday - Queen's Birthday

Tuesday 10th June - Day 2

Yr 7 Agriculture Task 1 Assessment

Yr 12 Chemistry Task 3 Assessment

Yr 12 Ancient History Task 3 Assessment

P&C Country Fair Meeting 6.30pm

P&C Meeting 7.30pm

Wednesday 11th June - Day 3a

Yr 7 Agriculture Task 1 Assessment

Yr 11 General Mathematics Task 2 Ass.

Yr 11 Mathematics Task 2 Assessment

Yr 11 PDHPE Task 3 Assessment

Yr 12 Ancient History Task 3 Assessment

Thursday 12th June - Day 4

Yr 7 Agriculture Task 1 Assessment

Yr 12 Modern History Task 3 Assessment

Yr 12 Ancient History Task 3 Assessment

Regional Cross Country

Friday 13th June - Day 5

Boarding School Expo - Wagga Wagga

Yr 7 Agriculture Task 1 Assessment

Yr 11 Mathematics Extension 1 Unit
Task 2 Assessment

Yr 12 Biology Task 3 Assessment

Yr 12 Ancient History Task 3 Assessment

Yr 12 PDHPE Task 3 Assessment

FROM THE DEPUTIES' DESKS

Dubbo Boarding School Expo

Daryl Currie,
Gabby Sherring,
Jack Bush,
Brianna Barry
and myself
attended the
Boarding School
Expo in Dubbo
on the 16th and
17th of May, it
was great to see
Mrs Leanne
Baker,
Anastasia's mum



come and say hello, she brought along with her some fresh foods from the local farmers markets which were well received.

We were also treated to lots of baked goods, from the wonderful Sherring family, who also provided a homestay for the students who represented our community.

Boarder Captain Gabby Sherring, Jack Bush and Brianna Barry met parents and students, from areas as far away as Lightning Ridge and Cobar, who are considering their options for boarding school. Our student delegates were great ambassadors for our whole school community and have put forward some great ideas for the promotion of our school at future expo opportunities and field day events.

We met up with some Hurlstone Alumni including old boy Jason McCutcheon who graduated in 1996. It was great to share some of the stories about Jason's family connections to Hurlstone and memories of his time at Boarding School. Daryl and I spoke to many families and made connections with Farrer and Yanco.

We had a great opportunity to create connections with Duncan Taylor, Sharne Dutton and Lisa Ridge, from the Isolated Children's Parents' Association of NSW (I.C.A.P). All of the groups are passionate advocates for public education, equity and opportunity for rural and remote students in Agricultural, Boarding High Schools.

I have placed some pamphlets in the Boarding School Administration area from I.C.A.P, or you can find out more about the group by visiting the website.

<http://www.icpa.com.au/>

Mrs C Castle

NEWS

School Photos

School Photo Day is scheduled for Tuesday 3rd June. Photo order envelopes will be distributed a week before. Please note that photo orders can be made online with the receipt number recorded on the envelope and submitted to the photo company on the day.

All students are expected to be well groomed and dressed in their full school winter uniform. This includes a blazer for the seniors and a school jumper for the juniors. School shoes should also be polished.

Day School Payments

Day School Invoice payments can be made online from our website. Visit www.hurlstone.com.au and click on the 'Pay Online' button on the left. Pay Online Instructions can be found under the 'Download' button.

CALENDAR

Term 2

Week 8

Monday 16th June - Day 6

Yr 10 English Task 3 Assessment

Yr 12 Legal Studies Task 3 Assessment

Prefect Camp

Tuesday 17th June - Day 1

Prefect Camp

Wednesday 18th June - Day 2b

Prefect Camp

Yr 12 Business Studies Task 3 Assessment

Musical Rehearsal

Thursday 19th June - Day 3

PDHPE Outdoor Rec Camp

Yr 12 English Advanced Task 3 Assess.

Chemistry Competition

Yr 8 & 9 Slam Poetry

Yr 10 Subject Selection Evening

Friday 20th June - Day 4

PDHPE Outdoor Rec Camp

International Food Stall

Yr 7 & 9 Vaccinations

Yr 9 Japanese Task 6 Assessment

Yr 11 Legal Studies Task 3 Assessment

Yr 12 History Extension Task 1 Assess.

EVENTS



Saturday 17th May 2014

**Alumni
Event**



On Saturday 17th May we celebrated the 140th Anniversary of the Hurlstone Name. 190 people attend this special dinner with guests including Alumni, past and present staff members, the Prefects, Boarding Students, Music students, Archive Group and the International students visiting from China.

We had Allan McClelland, Clinton Mead and Jordan Kerr speak on behalf of the Alumni and also Mr Michael Kidd spoke about his time here as Principal.

Catherine Londos sang the school song and all the students did a passionate war cry which brought on a emotional response from Alumni members.

Peter Benson and Diane Tran from Year 7 cut the cake.

Special thanks to staff who helped prepare for this dinner, especially Yelena Vercoe, Rob Craig, Wendy Wuhner, Glenn Armitage, Maintenance team, Hostel Team, Administration Team and the Catering Team, who prepared a spectacular dinner.

The Alumni thoroughly enjoyed interacting with the students and are looking forward to another dinner in the future.

Johanna Leglise, HAHS Archivist

Da Doo Ron Ron Ron

Such memories, such fun, such good music.

Hurlstone Agricultural High School's 2014 musical is "Leader of the Pack", the Ellie Greenwich musical. Yes, she wrote those words and many others! "Going to the Chapel", "Leader of the Pack" "River Deep Mountain High".

The show runs from June 12-14, doors open at 6.30 for a 7.00 start and for \$11 you will be able to relive some of the greatest music of the rock 'n' roll era. Tickets are available through the school Accounts office (9829 9222) or at the door (safer to book).

Europe Tour in 2016

Planning has begun for the 2016 Europe tour and information will be forwarded to the current Year 9 and 10 students later this term. The 15 day Pompeii, Herculaneum, Rome, Paris & the Western Front senior study tour has been pencilled in for Jan 2-16 2016. Parents are welcome to accompany their children and an expression of interest list will be made to determine if we have the required 20 participants to form a Hurlstone only travel group. An information meeting in early Term 3 will be held with Academy Travel. For further information please email me yelena.vercoe@det.nsw.edu.au



CALENDAR

Term 2

Week 9

Monday 23rd June - Day 5

Zone Athletics Carnival

Yr 11 Studies of Religion 1 Unit Task 2 Assessment

Yr 12 Senior Science Task 3 Assessment

Tuesday 24th June - Day 6

Zone Athletics Carnival

Yr 11 English (Advanced) Task 2 Assess.

Yr 11 English (Standard) Task 2 Assess.

Yr 12 Economics Task 3 Assessment

Wednesday 25th June - Day 1b

PDHPE Outdoor Rec Camp #2

Musical Rehearsal

Thursday 26th June - Day 2

PDHPE Outdoor Rec Camp #2

Science & Engineering Challenge

Yr 11 Modern History Task 3 Assessment

Yr 12 English Advanced Task 4 Assess.

Yr 12 English Standard Task 4 Assessment

Yr 12 PDHPE Task 4 Assessment

Friday 27th June - Day 3

PDHPE Outdoor Rec Camp #2

Yr 7 PDHPE Task 1 Assessment

Yr 8 PDHPE Task 1 Assessment

Yr 9 PDHPE Task 1 Assessment

Yr 11 Computing Applications Task 2 Ass.

Yr 11 PDHPE Task 3 Assessment

Last Day of Term 2

EVENTS

The Youth Advocate Forum

Daniella Stewart and Ryan Southwell of Year 10 attended with 18 Year 10 high school students from across NSW for a three-day camp. This event included:

- expert learning workshops at UWS, learning about food security and sustainability
- Live Google Hangout from the Easter Show Woolworths Fresh Food Dome https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjH_jgRzfjc
- Backstage tour of the famous District Exhibits and the latest innovations in agriculture
- Careers expo and media tours with RAS staff and RAS Youth in Ag members
- Using their learning from all of these experiences they then worked in groups to design strategies for promoting agriculture and encouraging secondary students to become involved in agriculture as a career.

Students made some excellent videos which can be viewed on our UWS PICSE YouTube channel [http://www.youtube.com/playlist?](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLT1OE93N0dPMkk/edit?usp=sharing)

The media approved photos for the camp can be downloaded here

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-BTeIXkksXbWT1OE93N0dPMkk/edit?usp=sharing>

(it is best opened in Chrome).

The link to the videos they made are here: [http://www.youtube.com/playlist?](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLT1OE93N0dPMkk/edit?usp=sharing)

Students connect with agvocacy

AN ENTHUSIASTIC group of Year 10 students participated in a first this year: a Youth Advocate Forum conducted by the University of Western Sydney and Primary Industry Centre for Science Education.

The three-day camp was held at both the University of Western Sydney's (UWS) Hawkesbury campus at Richmond, as well as at Sydney Royal Show.

Youth Advocate Forum organiser April Browne said 18 students from Sydney and south-western Sydney, the Central Coast and Armidale attended the event.

She said there had been good interest in the lead-up to the camp, with about 40 applications received.

"The students were split into groups of three, and were tasked with developing a strategy for encouraging students into agriculture," Ms Browne said.

They did so by creating movies, interviewing various subjects and asking for their perspectives on agriculture.

She said throughout the camp the students were given a range of experiences designed to show them what was available to youth in agriculture.

"On the Thursday, the students did some workshops at UWS based on urban farming," she said.

On the Thursday night, they attended a careers expo and heard a presentation from the Royal Agricultural Societies (RAS) Youth Group.

The students returned to the show on Friday where they had the opportunity to take footage and conduct interviews for their videos.



Students who attended the Youth Advocate Forum.

"All up, the students came up with six strategies throughout the camp," she said.

One example was the suggestion there should be an agriculture version of the Healthy Harold bus, which would make visits to students to educate them about farming.

"Some students were looking to break down some of the stereotypes of agriculture, and so were asking people about their perceptions of ag, while another group surveyed people and asked them about their own interests in agriculture."

Ms Browne said the plan was for the videos to be shown to the RAS, and to be used by the science education officers at UWS to help promote agriculture to other students.

"We were happy with how the camp went in its first year," she said.

Ms Browne said one of the aims of the camp was to give the students plenty of opportunities to speak to those

involved in ag, whether through the RAS or industry.

"We wanted to give them a variety of experiences and networking opportunities."

The organisers have also been busy at Sydney Royal with a stand at the Food Farm, and a social media display encouraging students to take agriculture-related "selfies" while at the show.

They are then displayed on a screen at the stand.

Each day the best photo is selected and a prize awarded.

In the first week, about 210 photos had been posted.

This camp is to be followed up with another, set to take place in the June-July school holidays.

Targeted at Year 11 and 12 agriculture students, and to be held at the UWS Hawkesbury campus, the camp will aim to help these students discover some of the career pathways available in agriculture.

— NICK HEYDON

Champion parader

By *DARRYL FERNANCE*

May 19, 2014, 7 a.m.



SHOWMANSHIP: Dairy paraders judge Dennis Mashek from Iowa, USA, complimented the new Champion Dairy Cattle State Parader Matthew Gregory following his win at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

MATTHEW Gregory from Goulburn has achieved an honour usually bestowed on dairy cattle hands much older than himself.

He has been judged the Champion Dairy Cattle Parader of NSW.

Junior cattle handling has five age groups with young people up to 25 years old competing for the honour of being NSW's best before going on to compete at the Australian championship.

Matthew turns 15 in July and at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, where the event was held, there were former state and national champions competing for the honour of representing NSW at the National Championships in Brisbane later this year.

Matthew is not from a dairy farming background but his parents do run a few beef cattle on their small Southern Tablelands farm.

Matthew is a Year 9 boarder at Hurlstone Agricultural High School.

He took on preparing the school's dairy cattle for show as an extra-curricular activity at the beginning of last year and attended several shows where he competed in the junior parader competitions, including the 2013 Sydney Royal.

"Preparing a cow for show includes washing and clipping them in a particular way," Matthew said.

"Then you have to put a show halter on them and lead them into the ring.

"The aim is to show your animal to its best advantage, standing it well and presenting it in a positive fashion so the judge will notice it above the other animals in the ring."

This also requires the handler to keep his or her animal under control and responsive to efforts to pose it.

After being placed first in his age division, 13 to 15 years, Matthew found himself up against four females for the championship.

The heifer Matthew paraded was an Ayrshire dairy cow from his school's herd.

He had worked with her a few times before including at the Robertson Show where he placed sixth and again at Camden where he won.

In Sydney there were about 70 competitors and it was quite a surprise when he won his age division, though he knew he and his cow had performed well.

"I did not have any expectation of becoming champion knowing the experience of other competitors in the competition," Matthew said.

"I just went out there to do my best. Hurlstone Majors Finale is a naturally calm cow and a pleasure to work with."

Dennis Mashek from Iowa, USA, judged the competition. He was particularly looking for how the competitors handled their animal and answered his questions as well as how quickly they responded to the cues he gave for leading, stopping and standing the cattle.

"It's the little things that make a difference in showmanship," Mr Mashek said.

"Matthew did a tremendous job. He led the heifer perfectly all day, never missed and walked her as smooth as can be."

Matthew is looking forward to the opportunity to compete in Brisbane at the Royal Show in August.

Here he will be given an hour to train with an animal that is selected from a hat draw.

The reserve champions ribbon was awarded to a young woman from Victoria, the winner of the under-25 age group in the NSW Dairy Breeds Parader Championship.

Cattle showing is not Matthew's only interest.'

He plays basketball and soccer and referees basketball, soccer and touch.

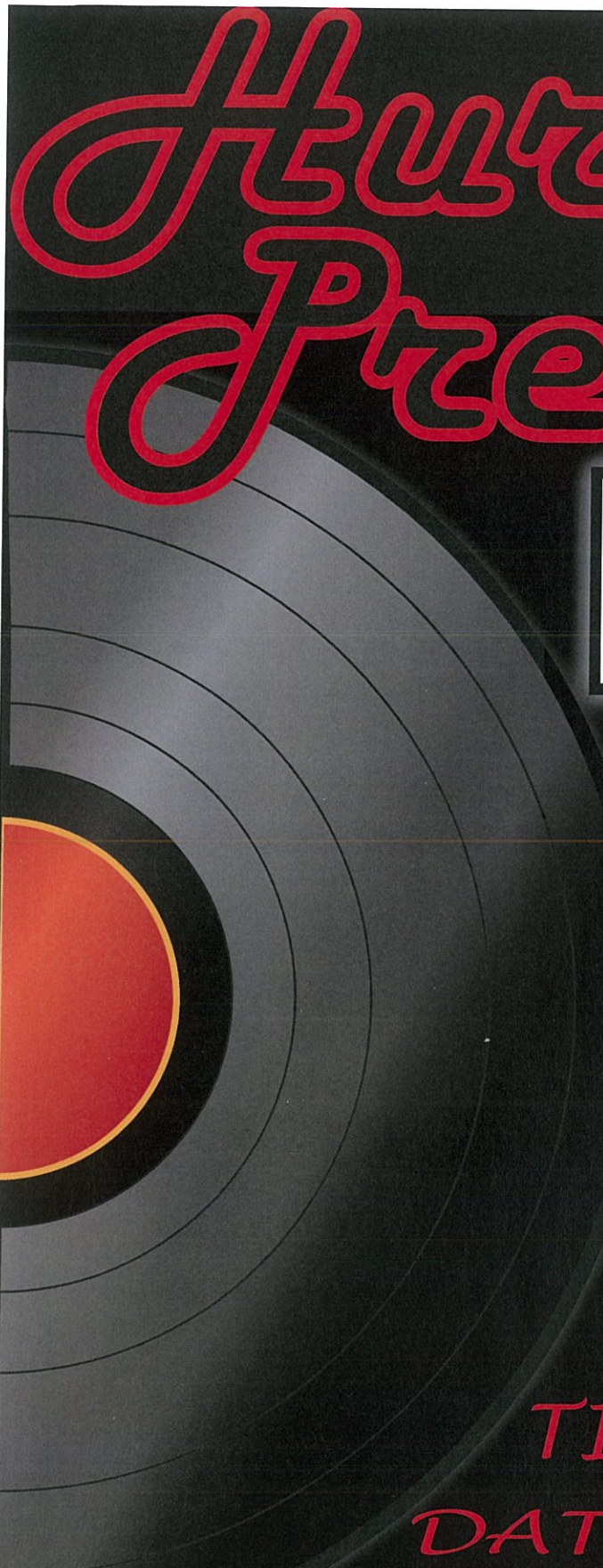
Most weekends he comes home to the family farm near Marulan where his parents also breed German Shepherds.

In winter, Saturdays are taken up by sport most weekends.

Matthew first learnt about presenting an animal to its best advantage in the dog breeds show ring.

He has extended that early learning to the dairy cattle ring.

Matthew thanked Hurlstone Agricultural High School and teachers Sandra Hackett, John Houweling and LeeAnne Fraser for their guidance and encouragement throughout the competition and in the lead up to the NSW Championship.



*Hurlstone
Presents*

**Leader
Of The
Pack**

TICKETS: \$11.00

TIME: 7:00 PM

*DATES: 12/6/14 To
14/6/14*

*WHERE: Edmondson Hall, Hurlstone
Agricultural High School*

"Leader of the Pack: The Ellie Greenwich Musical" (100%) Music and Lyrics by Ellie Greenwich and Friends Liner notes by Anne Beatts Additional material by Jack Heifner Based on an original concept by Melanie Mintz By Arrangement with ORiGiN Theatrical on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.