

ROSE BAY HIGH SCHOOL

educating today for a better tomorrow



Courses bring science to life

ROSE Bay High School has jumped on the bandwagon of agriculture and farming and renewed a somewhat forgotten life of hands-on learning.

While most students are poring over text books and copying from whiteboards, the students of Rose Bay are digging up soil, rabbit-hunting with ferrets, planting trees, fruits and vegetables, and undertaking excursions to farms, factories, wineries and other agriculture-based destinations.

Not only is agriculture the focus of the Grade 9/10 Natural Resources Science class, but also Marine Studies.

The new agriculture/marine courses were introduced to the school under the guidance of Scottish teacher Alistair Primrose.

Slowly, the science teaching is being revamped and it's out with some of the old and in with the new. This has brought a new way of learning and new wave of enthusiasm.

The students have welcomed the change, and many have willingly taken on the variety of new enterprises now available.

The courses enable students to gain a sense of

independence and responsibility. The students also have the support and facilities needed to undertake personal choice projects, ranging from monitoring the growth of strawberries grown in a variety of different environments, to constructing fish tanks.

The courses also encourage awareness of environmental issues.

One of the school's better-known projects is the ongoing campaign to raise awareness about protection of the swift parrot. Many fundraisers have been run by the students and signs containing information about the endangered bird have been erected around the community.

There have been numerous other campaigns in place around the school such as Air Watch and Water Watch.

And Rose Bay High has made headlines with its new program involving the use of the school ferrets to assist eliminate the rabbit problem on Gordons Hill.

The students have trained the ferrets to hunt rabbits, which destroy the bush life of Gordons Hill. The animals are then passed on to the rangers in charge of the reserve.

Where fashion and farmyard meet



LOOKING GOOD IN A SACK: Rose Bay students, from left, Eleanor Thomas, Rebecca Hardstaff and Isobel Thomas model their Agfest fashion creations.

THREE Rose Bay High students bridged the gap between fashion and agriculture in a display at Agfest in May.

Lifestyle Fashion students Rebecca Hardstaff, Isobel Thomas and Eleanor Thomas entered the Sleepmaker Ag Art Wear competition to make an outfit from materials found around the farm.

The girls designed and made their garments in their Lifestyle Fashion class then modelled the clothes as part of Agfest 2003.

The outfits, which were mainly made from hessian decorated with fabric off-cuts, leaves and wire, took about two weeks to make.

The idea for the fashion students to enter the competition came from Natural Resource Science teacher Alistair Primrose.

Mr Primrose said he was pleased to see an opportunity to bring different subject areas together.

Rebecca, Isobel and Eleanor found the competition a really rewarding experience.

"I can't wait to enter again next year," Rebecca said.

Dusty road to fame

A STORY in last year's Rose Bay school page has helped student band Mental Hazard find new success.

Mental Hazard have spent the last year exposing their talent to the state, with performances in places such as Jammers, Battle of the Bands and local rock challenges.

"We got heaps of exposure from the article in last year's Mercury school page," front man Gary Maurant said.

"We heard strangers saying things like, 'Look, there's that band that said their influence was Slim Dusty'."

Now, with several originals in their repertoire, the band has regular gigs at various clubs.



GOING PLACES: The members of Mental Hazard, a school band already getting regular gigs at clubs.

Drummer Jamie Gujardo said: "It's awesome. We get to do what we love, plus earn some cash, which is a bonus."

Adam Butler has recently been added to the line-up.

The band hopes to spend another year or so getting more experience locally. "After that, who knows?" bass player Andrew Turnbull said.

Rose Bay hits the stage

THIS year, the first in recent times, Rose Bay High School developed a theatre company, which produced the rock musical *Good Vibes*.

This very popular production had a cast of 40 plus crew members.

"They did an excellent job, and all of our hard work and stress paid off," said Stevie Chatters, who alternated in the lead role of Julie.

The new performance class was an opportunity for students to rehearse during lesson times, on top of many hours spent working hard after school, with the help of producer Peter Dowling and music guru Jan Dawes.

The venue for the performances was the Rosny College Auditorium, with the



FEEL THE VIBE: The cast of Rose Bay High's rock musical, staged four times.

support of the Rosny College VET Entertainment team.

Two matinees were staged on July 31 and August 1, with evening performances on each of these dates.

Produced by the Grade 9/10 Creative Writing classes. www.rosebay.tas.edu.au
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