



# ARNDPELL ANGLICAN COLLEGE

*"News Flash"*

*Friday, 21 May 2010*



## *From the Headmaster:*

*Mr Gareth Leechman MA MEd MACE MACEL*

Like many within our community I have deep admiration for what Jessica Watson has achieved this week. When she started out on her journey some seven months ago I have to admit I was one of the cynics. As a parent I could not understand how Jessica's parents could allow their sixteen year old daughter to go on a around the world journey, a journey that would force her to face numerous challenges and obstacles, many of which would be potentially life threatening. But yet they did. I saw the humour in her first attempt as she crashed into another ship, but now like many of us I have to eat humble pie and congratulate her on what is simply a wonderful achievement.

I am not attempting to write another article which waxes lyrical about Jessica and her achievements rather as someone who is passionate about education. Her story has the opportunity to teach us all so much about ourselves and what we are capable of achieving. At sixteen she spent 210 days largely alone with only her own mind keeping her sane, at sixteen she literally learnt how to tackle her problems head on, at sixteen she took responsibility for her own life, at sixteen she learnt how to turn her dreams into reality. She learnt that commitment, discipline and passion can enable you to become resilient to what life throws at you. So why don't we achieve what she has?

For many of us it is the fear of failure. We fear that we will not make it hence why should we even try. The problem with this logic is that it becomes a self fulfilling prophecy therefore we do not even try at all. But and this is a big but, what I see at Arndell are students who can achieve great things. I see students who can attain academic achievement, I see students who can pursue professional sporting careers, I see students who will become humanitarians, I see students who will pursue careers of service to others and to God and I see students who can turn their dreams into reality, if only they were willing to have commitment, discipline and passion.

For Jessica Watson there are no excuses because out there in her world on the ocean there could be none. Every problem had to have a solution, every difficulty had to be overcome, and every disappointment had to be turned around for if she didn't have this attitude then she would not achieve the goal that she set herself. As I hear our students speak I often hear their excuses, many of which are valid concerns, but the reality is so many of them can be overcome, so many of them have a solution, so many of them can be turned around if only we are willing to see this happen. We could learn a lot from Jessica's achievement and I hope we do.

## Calendar Dates for your Diary

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>May 24</b>	<b>May 25</b>	<b>May 26</b>	<b>May 27</b>	<b>May 28</b>	<b>May 29</b>	<b>May 30</b>
CIS: Primary Rugby Union Trials	<b>Assessment Tasks Due:</b> Yr 11 PDHPE  AICES: Sec. Rugby  ICAS Testing – Computer Skills  Yr 11 PDHPE - Hospitality First Aid Course  Yr 10 PASS – Circus School	<b>Assessment Tasks Due:</b> Yr 11 PDHPE  Yr 11 PDHPE Hospitality First Aid Course  Job Club  CIS: Primary Rugby Union Trials		Snr. School Assembly  Jnr. School Chapel	K. Toms Dancing Club Drama Rooms – JLPACentre  P & F Family Fund Day/Open Day	Community Church JLPACentre
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>May 31</b>	<b>June 1</b>	<b>June 2</b>	<b>June 3</b>	<b>June 4</b>	<b>June 5</b>	<b>June 6</b>
	HZSA: Open Girls Netball Trials  Yr 7-10 Camp Quality Cancer Prevention Program	Yr 10 Science Excursion  Job Club	Year 7 HPV/HEPB/Chickenpox Injections  Year 10 dTpa Injections	Snr. School Chapel  Jnr. School Chapel  Yr 12 Careers Expo Excursion	K. Toms Dancing Club Drama Rooms – JLPACentre  Dress Rehearsal for Oliver Twist JLPACentre	Community Church JLPACentre
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>June 7</b>	<b>June 8</b>	<b>June 9</b>	<b>June 10</b>	<b>June 11</b>	<b>June 12</b>	<b>21 Mar</b>
<b>Assessment Tasks Due:</b> Yr 11 Society & Culture	<b>Assessment Tasks Due:</b> Yr 9 Food/Yr 12 CAFS/ Yr 12 PDHPE  ICAS Testing – Science  Yr 10 PASS – Circus School	<b>Assessment Tasks Due:</b> Yr 9 Graphics/Yr 11 Geography  Prefects Training Day  Job Club  Yr 11 PE – Martial Arts	HZSA: Soccer Gala Day (Yr 5)	Snr. School Assembly  Jnr. School Assembly (Parents Day)  AICES: Open Tennis	K. Toms Dancing Club Drama Rooms – JLPACentre  Dress Rehearsal for Oliver Twist JLPACentre  LONG WEEKEND	Community Church JLPACentre  LONG WEEKEND