

Should video games be included in the Olympics?



This was a great topic for the first round of the IPSHA Interschool Debating and our Years Five and Six Debating Team students did a fantastic job in presenting some convincing arguments for both the affirmative and negative sides. The team which consisted of Abraham Awakian, Caleb Eveniss, Amber Garth, Declan Gunther, Gabriella Imad, Lillian Dyson, Hannah Wildes and Rachel Wong had obviously prepared well and were remarkably poised despite the pressure of competition.

Accompanied by Northholm's Head of English, Mrs Jenny Scotney, Mrs Kate Hartley, one of our Senior English teachers and proud parents these young debaters performed surprisingly well for their first public debate demonstrating to everyone present the importance of this skill. Mrs Scotney, who joined Northholm earlier this year, believes "debating fosters skills far beyond the ability to speak in public. It teaches students to take an objective view of issues, to be aware there is an opposite point of view to theirs and to think quickly under pressure". More importantly however debating requires students work collaboratively as a team for debates can only be won if members work together.

As a keen debater herself, Mrs Scotney is making her a mark on the English Department at Northholm. Her passion for English is evident in the enthusiastic way she has embraced her new role and in her plans for other initiatives that will help instil this same passion in students across the school. Together with Mrs Hartley, Mrs Scotney's involvement in the Year 5/6 Debating provides a great start to their transition into the Senior School and a sign of the good things to come.

Middle Dural Public School

A new public access walkway has been constructed at Middle Dural Public School to better cater for mobility impaired students and visitors.

The works which cost \$8,500 was awarded to the school by Hornsby State Liberal MP Matt Kean through the NSW Community Building Partnerships program.

Mr Kean joined students and Middle Dural Public School principal Ann Mills to inspect the new walkway last week.

"This path will give greater accessibility to the school in all weather conditions and for those with mobility issues," Mr Kean said.



Philip Ruddock MP
Federal Member for Berowra

Dear friends

As I have now retired as the Federal Member for Berowra this is the last time that I'll be writing to you through this local publication.

Since becoming the Member for Berowra in 1993 I have enjoyed watching our area thrive as the greatest place to live.

I am pleased to see major federally funded developments that will benefit the district well underway including the vital NorthConnex project, alleviating mobile blackspots and more recently \$125,000 in Anzac Centenary Local Grants to help our schools and R.S.L.'s continue to commemorate the sacrifice of those who have served our nation.

It has been an honour and a privilege to represent you in Canberra as your Federal Member of Parliament. Meeting with so many of you to work through the issues that matter has been my greatest honour. I wish my successor well in continuing the work for Berowra.

My wife Heather and I look forward to seeing you around the area in the years to come.

All the best,
 Philip



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