

# Dreams *Do* Come True at Marsden

Wednesday 23 February, 2005 – A Day Many Will Never Forget.... The school was buzzing with excitement on a day that most at Marsden will not forget for a long time. Everyone was ecstatic with anticipation, cricket fan or not. Many at Marsden have not had the opportunity to see, let alone talk to, a world-renowned sports person like Steve Waugh. Accompanying him were his wife, Lynette, Federal Education Minister Brendan Nelson and wheel chair athlete, John MacLean.



The day allowed Steve Waugh an opportunity to launch his new DVD “Chase Your Dreams” and, importantly, gave us the chance to meet and talk to the Federal Education Minister, Steve and Lynette Waugh and John MacLean.

Our hall had to accommodate Education Minister Nelson’s many associates, the many hundreds of students and 80 staff that make up Marsden High School and its IEC. We were also lucky enough to have present amongst the ranks the prefects and captains of Ermington Public School. Our own hall crew helped a team of professionals to prepare the auditorium with a special sound system, huge projection system, banners and posters.

Master of Ceremonies for the event was Mr John MacLean, a highly respected wheelchair athlete who, though he may not have been well known to many of us before the event, became a mentor and hero to many who heard his story by the time they went home.

The ceremony opened with the Marsden High Choir, performing a beautiful piece composed by a local writer. Minister Nelson then gave an inspirational speech about Steve Waugh’s DVD, at one stage even admitting that he had shed a tear whilst watching it for the first time. He prefaced his presentation, explaining that Marsden High School had been selected to host the important event due to its being recognised as one of the strongest and most excellent schools in NSW. Steve Waugh spoke openly about his wishes to help everyone achieve their personal best, no matter what their circumstances, and previewed segments of the DVD during his presentation. When the official part of the day was complete, everyone was able to mingle with the guests. There were no restrictions on how many autographs they signed or who they gave them to.

Our mad cricketers from many backgrounds were over the moon when they were able to be in a photo with Steve Waugh himself!



Steve Waugh with MHS super-enthusiastic cricketers.



Jeremy with John MacLean

The BBQ, provided by Minister's department, went off without a problem. The SRC did a sterling job serving and the General Assistants along with Mr Williamson also outdid themselves cooking for an army that seemed like thousands.

Jeremy, one of our Year 8 students who is confined to a wheel chair with cerebral palsy, was happy to have found a buddy with wheels like his own in John MacLean.

All the while, an army of thousands who had just devoured hundreds of sausage sandwiches and vegetable patties was swamping Steve Waugh. Not only did he eagerly sign more and more autographs for anyone who asked, but also chatted happily with them, asking some questions in return to the hundreds he was getting. Students enjoyed the extra long lunch, rubbing shoulders with celebrity and it was disappointing to realise, for staff and students alike, that we did, indeed, have return to learning in period 5! Recapping the major events of the day, all involved agreed that it was worth it. What an amazing event at a local, comprehensive high school!

The school and other organizations put a lot of time and effort into the day. Thanks have to go to Dr Nelson for providing the BBQ lunch and Steve Waugh for his time and many, many autographs and photographs. Thanks must also go out to Head Teacher of Teaching and Learning, Ms Symons who provided the inspiration for the day to happen. Thanks also to Ms Idrus and the Vocal Group for their beautiful choral contribution and to the Art Department for their redecoration of the hall and front office with quality student artwork. Thanks to General Assistants, Mr Niderberger, Mr Boshier and helpers who prepared the hall so well. Huge thanks to the SRC who excelled themselves in their roles of meeting and greeting and serving at the BBQ and to the School Prefects and Captains who made all the dignitaries feel welcome and were happy to help in any way they could.

Thanks to our student body for being so amazing and patient on a day when we were on show to the world and to the staff for helping with supervision as well as getting signatures and working their way into many a photo. As always, thanks to Mr Wann for his enthusiasm and vision, our Deputies Principals for their organisation and calm in the smooth running of the event and to Ms King for running the assembly with tight control. Thanks *also* to our Year 12 photography class for recording the event, providing some of the photos seen throughout this article and to Alan Harrison for writing this report and Ms Holder for her *slight* modifications and corrections.