NEW NAME COMING SOON

2011 DET LAPTOP ROLLOUT
How do they compare?

JEWELLERY SALE
Plan ahead and please someone special

INTER-SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS
Should we be getting together with girl high schools?

PLUS:
NAME OUR STUDENT PUBLICATION
WIN ETERNAL FAME & GLORY. AND A PRIZE

STUDY SKILLS
IS IT TIME FOR A REVIEW?

REVIEWS!
Music, movies, games
1. Justin Bieber, John Holmes, and Chuck Norris are standing on top of the Empire State Building. They all have to urinate so they go to the edge and start to do their business. Wanting to sound cool, Justin says, “Hey, mine is hanging down to the 80th floor.” John Holmes says “Mine is hanging down to the 60th floor.” They look over at Chuck Norris and see him moving back and forth and jumping up and down. Justin says “Chuck, what are you doing?” Chuck Norris replies, “Dodging traffic.”

2. Chuck Norris was in all of the Star Wars movies. He was the Force.

3. Chuck Norris can text with a walkie talkie.

4. Chuck Norris once ripped the sleeves of a tank top.

5. Chuck Norris can sit in the corner of a circle.

6. Santa did exist at one time. But when Chuck caught him trying to sneak through the chimney... let’s just say there’s no more Santa.

7. I was fixing my car a few days ago and asked Chuck Norris for a hand. I still don’t know whose arm this is.

8. Chuck Norris doesn’t call them nightmares. He calls them ideas.

9. A kid once asked Chuck if he knew any magic tricks. Chuck said yes and pulled the kids ear out of a coin.

10. Chuck Norris died 10 years ago; the Grim Reaper doesn’t have the balls to tell him.

Jokes are either created by Wombat Grylls or well circulated on the internet.

Welcome to the first edition of New Name Coming Soon, which may or may not get a new name. This is the new publication written by students for students – the content is aimed at YOU. So get involved: read it. You may just discover something new – a new game, book or music, new opportunities in school or just have a good laugh.

If you want to contribute reviews, editorials, feature pieces, random funny thoughts, stories, photographs and so on, come along to a journalism meeting in the ILC on Thursdays or email us. If it interests you, if you’re onto something great or if it gets you mad – don’t keep it to yourself, don’t just whinge about it, tell everyone about it and while you’re at it, suggest something better.

And don’t forget our Moodle site – it’s open to all students and teachers, no enrolment key (password) required. We’ll be posting polls for you to vote on issues and forums for you to contribute your views. If you wish to subscribe to the magazine and get your own personal PDF version emailed straight to your inbox, email New Name Coming Soon at newnamecomingsoon@gmail.com to join the distribution list.

This first issue has been put together with the assistance and occasional hindrance of:

Arnav Karnik
Andrew Mo
Cameron Kopecky
Chun Kent Chan
Danton Servatius
Jack Jones
Jathurson Subachandran
Michael Chan
And with the superhuman efforts of Thomas Goth-Towney, aka Wombat Grylls.

Editor,
Ms Goulden
Cover image of Thomas Goth-Towney and Danton Servatius.

A GIFT FOR THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE

Do you have a special girl in your life? One you’d like to impress with a beautiful gift? Or perhaps you’ve decided it’s time to recognise all that hard work your mum’s done with a sweet little token of your appreciation? (Believe me, it works wonders)

But you have a spending limit? Never fear! Mrs Edwards is here yet again to save the day with her beautiful and affordable range of Swarovski Crystal pendants, sterling silver pierced earrings, matching sets and bracelets. A limited number of sterling silver chain necklaces will also be on sale for a reasonable price.

Most pieces are unique, which means you won’t find this anywhere else! There’s no better way to show you care!

Prices are:

- $10 for a pendant
- $18 for a matching set.

Other items ranging from $5 to $15 will also be for sale from Mrs. Edwards in room 28 or our SCR volunteers. The sale lasts from April 27th to May 6th.

If you see Mrs Edwards early, you can pre-order Murano glass beads or crystals in your loved one’s favourite colour! (Hint: find out her favourite colour)

All funds go towards our school’s free literacy tutoring program.

(Left: one of the beautiful bracelets you can purchase)
NAME YOUR PUBLICATION!

This is your student publication and therefore we on the journalism team think you should get to name it!

Put your suggestions on the ‘New Name Coming Soon’ moodle page, in the forum specially designated for title suggestions.

The best suggestion will lend it’s glorious syllables to our publication. The composer shall win eternal game and glory in the history of Homebush Boys High School. Plus a canteen voucher. Good luck!

CHECK OUT OUR MOODLE PAGE

Yes, it’s true! Your publication is on Moodle, and will have additional content regularly updated, including polls and surveys, the PDF version of the publication and forums for suggestions.


or go to Moodle, click on ‘Public’ and select ‘New Name Coming Soon’

EDITORIAL: WOMBAT GRYLLS

HOMEBUSH BOYS SHOULD MEET MORE GIRLS

It’s time to get with the time. We live in a modern age where transport takes minutes not hours, and communication takes seconds not days, and as one of the biggest schools (for its size) Homebush Boys should be taking advantage of such opportunities and making the most of these modern times.

Our inter-school relationships may not be lacking, but they certainly could be better. One way to do this would be to use modern technology to create inter-school relationships. As one of the closer schools, Burwood Girls should be a more commonly tossed around name at our school. The year 7 & 8 students have the junior disco with Burwood Girls as well as Ashfield Boys. Those who take part in the Premier’s Reading Challenge can take on Birrong Girls in the Battle of the Brains. Occasional games of netball are organised with Strathfield Girls. Yet it would be a great community bonding exercise if more activities are organised and publicised, with not only Burwood Girls, but Strathfield Girls and other single sex schools in the district.

As Strathfield Girls do not play competitive sport against other schools as a part of their week, getting together to ‘throw a ball’, ‘hit some wickets’ or even just some tag would be beneficial, and I’m sure all boys schools would definitely enjoy the experience. As Mr. Sculthorpe’s football team would know, Concord High pretty much owns the oval and playing fields down near it, and forming a relationship with them could encourage more games and provide easy access to training facilities in the form of both the rugby and athletics fields. Inter-school relationships would greatly benefit many members of all schools involved.

Furthermore with such schools not that far away such as Newtown Performing Arts School, trips to and from could be greatly beneficial to both the music and drama sections of our school. It is my belief that a bus or train trip could easily be arranged once every month or two, to go to Newtown Performing Arts School for both the music and the drama students in order to get some experience with a school that specialises in both the areas of acting/performing and music (vocal and instrumental). With wireless communications available through mobiles and video conferencing (which Mr. Halkidis takes full advantage of most Tuesday lunch times) organising such events as well as keeping in touch with fellow students and teachers would be easy and quite possibly very beneficial.

Wombat
How does the 3rd generation compare?

With the next generation of yr 9 laptops rolled out Thursday and Friday (the 17th and 18th of March) it's time to ask ourselves how they compare with the older versions. These laptops were originally brought in by Julia Gaillard to help students with school work. The government has bought some decent laptops with top of the line software in order to do that, but let's just evaluate how it's really working out.

First off the line were the laptops given out towards the end of 2009. Surprisingly these ran Windows 7, the most recent and up-to-date version of Windows. They also came with the business edition of Microsoft Office, the Master Suite Collection of ADOBE, and many other wonderful programs to help in the life of being a high school student. The laptops were equipped with a tracking device, operational by the police department of whichever state they happened to be in. They contained 1 GB of RAM, 149 GB HDD, 1.60GHz Intel ATOM processors and a built in wireless ability.

However, these laptops were not designed to run such programs. These laptops are certified to run Windows XP, which is 2 whole generations lower then '7'. This seriously slows them down. Another problem lies with all those great programs installed on them. Although they were included with good intentions, they completely overload the tiny laptops capabilities. The 25 + GB of programs + more than 3 GB of proxies set of over countless files slow these computers down to, at times, an almost unusable rate. Not only that but they even block some features of programs installed. ADOBE captivate for instance (a program costing just under $1000 today) is partially blocked by the proxies, only allowing limit access. So this not only wastes memory and money, but the loading time for programs and the laptop itself. Sometimes it takes over 10 minutes just to load the internet! However it doesn't help that most boys have a tonne of movies on their laptops either...

Putting the past behind her (ring a bell?) Julia Gillard and her team attempted to make the 2010 rollout better, and to have everything in full operation. The Laptops came with the full 32-bit Windows 7 (which originally wasn’t seen in the 09’ group), Business edition of Office, ADOBE Master Suite Collection and all the rest of the programs on the 09’ laptops with a few extras, which were quickly added to the 09’ models via electronical update. However these laptops had a much more powerful 2 GB RAM and an even better 1.66GHz N450 processor. The same HDD was installed, along with the wireless, however a new screen was developed along with a new casing to stop the damage boys (yes it was more commonly boys) breaking their screens due to the way they were picked up. This time a (very welcomed) graphics card had been installed to try and reduce the severe lag times.

However there was a problem in that all the cases for the laptops were the wrong size and by putting your laptop in them you risked cracking the screen. This was eventually seen to a few months down the track. Another problem was the bizarre placement of the ‘external screen connector port’ right next to the battery making it difficult to plug in. Despite the new and upgraded hardware these laptops were also only built for Windows XP, meaning running ‘7’ took a lot out of them. One thing that still puzzles many however, is how they seem to be slower than the 09’ models. Both the RAM and processor are better and larger, yet they seem to lag twice as much despite having the same amount of programming and proxies (after an update which soon followed rollout). My personal guess is that the specific type of RAM ‘doesn’t like’ (to keep it simple) the N450 processor, if this is the case it means that the RAM and processor are two parts that won’t work together (like a PS3 game on XBOX 360).

But this year has seen quite a turn around. These are the first laptops which ARE built and capable of running Windows 7 and the result is quite noticeable. It takes less than half the time to load the computer. The same 2 GB RAM sits in these new laptops, however a downgraded 1.07 GHz U3400 seems to be working well. A (yet again) bigger keyboard has been attached for easier typing and this time Microsoft Office 2010 is in the gift package. The newer CS 5 Master Suite ADOBE is installed alone with all the normal and (yet again) some extra presents such as Notepad Finale 2010. This year the screen size has gone up again, and a proper 750 MG graphics card has been installed (which is 3 times that of the 2010 models.) The battery remains unchanged, but this year a new power management program also comes pre-installed. The same external screen port is still next to the battery too. The main problem I found with these particular laptops however, is that after about a week or so, they start to lag a bit like the old ones did. This however may have just been a one off, so luckily for it when I did my main testing it was on full performance.* And for the life of me I still can’t figure out why you would put a HDMI port on this thing.

To find out which one was the best I got all three laptops side by side and (with a stopwatch) timed how long it took to open...
**WOMBAT GRYLLS**

**THE EVOLUTION OF DET LAPTOPS**

the same program on each laptop, after 3 tries on each 1 averaged the times and found the results to be quite consistent throughout. The 2010 models were the slowest by about 4 seconds for every 'Office' program, the 2011 models were the fastest beating the 09’ models by about 2-3 seconds on average. 2011 was also the fastest at opening the internet, beating the 2010 models by about 5½ seconds and beating the 09’ by about 6. Other programs who didn’t fall into categories such as QuickTime & GeoGebra were fastest on the 2011 models, who beat the 09’ models by about 2 seconds, and slowest on the 2010 model who were about 5½ seconds slower than that. But the real surprise came in all the ADOBE programs (the most complex of the lot), where the smallest and most overloaded laptop won! The 09’ models were the fastest beating the 2011 models by an average of 4 seconds, who smashed the 2010 models who were consistently over a whole minute slower...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEATURE</th>
<th>2009 GENERATION 1 LAPTOPS</th>
<th>2010 GENERATION 2 LAPTOPS</th>
<th>2011 GENERATION 3 LAPTOPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCREEN SIZE</td>
<td>10.1”</td>
<td>12.1”</td>
<td>13.1”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAM</td>
<td>1 GB (about 870 MB useable)</td>
<td>2 GB (never seems to be used)</td>
<td>2 GB (1.86 useable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDD</td>
<td>149 GB</td>
<td>149 GB</td>
<td>149 GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPU</td>
<td>1.6GHz (Intel atom single) *</td>
<td>N450 1.66GHz *</td>
<td>1.07 GHZ (U3400)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS (BUILD FOR)</td>
<td>Windows XP</td>
<td>Windows XP</td>
<td>Windows 7 (32 bit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADOBE</td>
<td>Creative Suite 4</td>
<td>Creative Suite 4</td>
<td>Creative Suite 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THOMAS’ LAG (/10)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USEFULNESS (/10)</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

So statistically the 2011, or 3rd gen laptops, are the best. They work the best, have the most up to date programs, biggest screens, don’t lag too much (or at first anyway) and have the most energy efficient program. But personally, they wouldn’t be my choice. The 3rd gen may be nice to look at with its LED lights and its better performance, but it just doesn’t feel right. The larger keyboard feels like it’s the exact wrong size, it’s tried to go between notebook and computer sized keyboards, and is just uncomfortable to use. The little red mouse thing on the keyboard always seems to move when you’re typing (which by the way causes your mouse pad to freeze sometimes). I still don’t understand why you want a HDMI port on something so small and technically flimsy. You can’t colour the top (not that I ever did) in all the ADOBE programs... the 09’ models were the fastest beating the 2011 models by an average of 4 seconds and it just lacks the correct feel.

All in all my choice has to be the 09’ models. They may be slow but they do work. They are tough little things, I’ve seen them dropped screen first on concrete and survive without and real damage. The tiny keyboard becomes very comfortable after using it. It doesn’t have a HDMI port, it doesn’t squeeze in its external screen port where it doesn’t fit in order to cater for more USB ports. It’s just a good laptop, which works. And that is really all it should be. Personally I hope that next year the government and Lenovo realise this and simply make the same thing they did in 2009, just maybe a bit faster and revise their proxies.

* Any boys in year nine who have the same experience with their laptops please put it down on the student magazine website, if the majority do I will re-test with a ‘used’ laptop.

**A BRIEF OVERVIEW...**
NEW NAME COMING SOON

6

On the 21st of March, Harmony Day took place, celebrating acceptance and diversity. Perhaps now is a good time to reflect on a period in history when the genocide of a people occurred, and there was no such word as ‘harmony’.

‘The Book Thief’, written by Markus Zusak, is the tale of a young girl who lives in Nazi Germany. It is a heart wrenching story of her life and how she struggles to comprehend and understand the Nazi regime. This chronicle acts as a chilling reminder of a time where there was no harmony.

First published in 2005, it follows Liesel Meminger, an adopted child, on her journey during the Nazi administration. We see her become a young adult, and all the trials and tribulations of this transition. In the story her foster family, the Hubermanns, give refuge to a Jewish man in the holocaust days of the war, risking their lives in the process. Liesel is supportive of this decision and forms a strong bond with the Jewish man, Max Vandenburg. He is referred to in the book as the Jewish fist fighter, a title he earned in his youth. We see gripping heroic recounts of his first fight as a young boy. He fights the strongest boy in the school who is a bully and wins, making him instantly the most popular student at his school.

Soon Max attempts to flee the country, trying to escape the horrors of war and genocide. This riveting escape is fraught with great dangers, including being caught, which would result in Max’s torture and eventual agonising death. Liesel becomes distraught with anxiety about the Jewish Fist Fighter’s location and whether or not he is safe, revealing her thoughts surrounding the barbarity of the Nazi regime.

‘The Book Thief’, the recipient of many literary awards including the prestigious Boeke Prize and Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best Book, is an amazing composition by Markus Zusak. It looks at the Holocaust in an authentic and realistic manner. It offers a view perhaps not seen as often, the youth perspective, and by doing so can better relate to the young target audience. The characters come across as believable and likeable and one can connect with them from the beginning. After reading the book, the characters will stay with you, their memory emblazoned onto your mind.

The Book Thief is set in a time where there was no harmony. The Nazi regime was a period of great disharmony where people were persecuted for doing nothing in particular. There was great distrust among people of the time, created by the propaganda that was so prevalent. There was a religious genocide in Germany and death for people who did not conform to German society and its conventions.

Harmony Day celebrates cultural diversity and also focuses on the elimination of any forms of racial discrimination. The main message this year was ‘Everyone belongs,’ trying to establish the acceptance, in general, of the Australian people.

Today harmony has taken the place of the disharmony of previous times. Harmony Day should have reminded us how lucky we are in this society – we can just be who we want to be. However, it should also remind us of the time when people weren’t as privileged, where disharmony was so much more common, like during the Nazi regime. The time in which the Book Thief was set in paints a clearer picture of how fortunate people living in this day and age truly are.

Cameron Kopecny

REVIEWS

BORN THIS WAY - Lady Gaga

Hit after hit, Grammy after Grammy, Lady Gaga, the Queen of pop alongside Madonna, has surprised with eight of her massive singles climbing to #1. Her songs have been and are loved by millions of fans just like me. Here’s more news that Lady Gaga’s ‘Born This Way’ is a massive hit. ‘Born This Way’ has been in the Billboard’s 1000 of #1 (similar Hall of Fame) and according to her label, Interscope Records, it is the fastest selling single ever sold on the iTunes Store, worldwide, hitting #1 in all 23 countries and selling over one million tracks in just five days!

This song is a very inspirational song. The line ‘Don’t be a drag, be a queen’ really speaks for us because it saying no matter who you are, you have a goal in life to achieve. This song is also similar to Madonna’s ‘Express Yourself’. I rate this single from Gaga – 9.5/10 Chun Kent Chan

NEED YOU NOW - Lady Antebellum

In 2010 they won category Top Vocal Group of the Year, Single Record of the Year for “Need You Now” and Song of the Year for “Need You Now” at the Academy of Country Music Awards and won a massive 3 Grammys in February 2011. Their single ‘Need You Now’ has made #1 in 10 countries now.

I’m not a country fan but this song is the only exception. This single is just pure awesome; it has a slice from pop, country and a little bit of alternative – just a little slice. After topping #1 in 2010, it re-topped again to #1 for 5 weeks! Move out Taylor Swift, there is a new artist in town. I rate this trio’s song a 10/10! Chun Kent Chan
Another year, another year of study skills. New to the year 7, mild to year 8, a way out of class for year 9s, study periods for year 10s and four periods which must be caught up on for years 11 and 12. The common trend seems to be that as we get older we get more bored of study skills. The problem is, teachers get countless students asking them how to study...

This begs the question: is it worth doing study skills? Well if people don’t seem to be getting anything out of it, then surely not, right? Or could it be the other way around? Should the students start taking study skills more seriously?

Personally I think it’s a mix of both. Everything you need to get through high school (study wise) is brought to you during these 4 periods, yet almost no one seems to take it in.

Not being allowed to name names, countless students, mostly from senior years, are going up to teachers asking them how to study, even just days after the study skills exercises were completed. This obviously shows that they weren’t paying any attention, but maybe it’s not all their fault.

The pros of study skills: it’s helpful. It especially helps year 7 as it tells them a bit about ‘surviving high school.’ When you first come to high school you really don’t have any idea what you’re doing, and just about everyone who’s not in year 7 and 8 will agree with me there. It is also helpful for years 11 and 12, who are simply rocketed with work overload. And it still reminds everyone else how do to so.

Perhaps for year 7 four periods is appropriate. Truth be told four periods probably isn’t enough to teach them to study, they’re used to being the highest of the school (coming from year 6) and wouldn’t really be used to the concept. But as we go up the years, the time needed realistically should be going down: for year 9 a small top up of 2 periods would be enough. For year 10 and the school certificate 3 periods may be appropriate. But once in senior years, by pulling us out for 4 periods, we can’t concentrate on study skills because all our teachers have made it clear we’ll be catching up with 4 periods of work in our own time. And without a teacher to show you how things are done it takes more than 40 minutes to catch up on a period. 1 or 2 periods should be the maximum time for seniors to complete study skills. Most boys have their booklets completed within a period and spent the rest of the time trying to catch up or talking, when the teacher is talking and actually teaching you about what you need to know.

Arnav Karnik

EDITORIAL: WOMBAT GRYLLS

SHOULD SENIOR STUDY SKILLS BE SHORTER?

‘The Dark Knight’ is a mind blowing film by prestigious director Christopher Nolan. ‘The Dark Knight’ continues from where ‘Batman Begins’ (the previous sequel) left off. Set in Gotham city, Batman and Constable Gordon have teamed up with the new district attorney Harvey Dent to find and stop the psychopathic lunatic The Joker from wrecking havoc within the city.

The movies consists of an amazing cast including Christian Bale as Batman/ Bruce Wayne, Heath Ledger as the Joker, Gary Oldman as Gordon, Maggie Gyllenhaal as Rachel, Michael Caine as Alfred, Morgan Freeman as Lucius Fox and Aaron Eckhart as Harvey Dent. ‘The Dark Knight’ is an action packed film which has many nail biting scenes. It also has done a superb job with its amazing special effects and stunt work, which makes the film extremely popular and very realistic.

Personally I was blown away by the film and thoroughly recommend this film for teenagers through to adults as it contains intimate and action scenes. ‘The Dark Knight’ is a movie I would never get sick of even if I watched it over and over again. Over all I rate this movie 5/5 stars.

Arnav Karnik

THE DARK KNIGHT - rating M, 152 minutes

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Arnav Karnik
It sure isn’t a day at the beach but the annual HBHS swimming carnival is definitely a fun event, or at least it is for those who try to have fun. This year there was the normal minority who sat down in the stands watching the clock, wondering why time has to move so slowly, but for a larger majority of students (who did attend the event) the carnival was lots of fun.

The carnival was run very successfully by Mr. Tedford, his team of SLR students and fellow teachers resulting in over 50 races being held well before 2 o’clock, meaning it was an early weekend for everybody. The overall winning house was Vaughan on a massive 687, followed by Howe on 442, then on Hayes, 385 and Greening on a respective 342.

The swimming carnival was filled with not only swimmers but supporters and some real crazy house patriots. The security also deserves a mention as they all held their posts well all day, and it’s been such a long time since such a tough set of security was on station. All in all the swimming carnival was a huge success with the only downside being that this year, there was no swimming appearance from Mr. Hilliard.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. FAIRLEY
WINNER OF THIS YEAR’S
“BEST TEACHER AT THE CARNIVAL” AWARD

SHAVE FOR A CURE - THE WORLD’S GREATEST SHAVE

Dr Nagaruban Arumugam, also known as “Ruban” by his friends, was a Tamil Australian paediatrician. He was known for his exceptional abilities as a doctor caring for children and his service to the rural communities in Australia. He should be honoured as a role model for all students, particularly those of our school as he himself, a highly accomplished doctor, was also once a student of Homebush Boys High School.

Unfortunately, this great man is no longer with us as he tragically died in a car crash after spending some of his final hours treating a boy diagnosed with leukaemia. It was a Monday afternoon, July 2009. Dr Arumugam had just worked a double shift at Dubbo Hospital and was embarking on a five-hour drive home when he succumbed to the sheer intensity of his work and fell asleep, leading him to veer his car off the road and lose his life.

His dedication and hard work in treating sufferers of leukaemia was truly praiseworthy. In newspaper articles surrounding his untimely death he is referred to as “the doctor who gave too much” and “a genuine life saver.” This dedication to leukaemia and consideration of others is still present in the students of Homebush Boys today.

On Friday 11th of March, students and teachers of Homebush Boys High School took part in The World’s Greatest Shave, a fund raiser for the leukaemia foundation. Thomas Goth-Towney, Chris Wales, Perrin and Reilly Taska and myself shaved our heads to raise awareness of leukaemia.

Students and teachers also showed their support by colouring their hair.

We received tremendous amounts of support from students, teachers and parents. The SRC enthusiastically assisted whenever possible. Ms Brown the SRC co-ordinator devoted countless hours and immense effort to organising this charity event.

Mr Pearson also demonstrated his strong adherence to the cause by allowing our principal, Mr Jurd, to shave his hair and beard at the morning assembly. With the combined efforts and generosity of everybody who took part in this project Homebush Boys High School raised a grand total of more than $2200.

After I shaved my hair, I thought I looked like a criminal and people kept staring at my hair, or lack of it, everywhere I went. On the train, on the street, at school. I didn’t mind at first but when it started to grow back people started to walk up to me and just run their hands through the tiny bristles on my scalp. Eventually I got used to that too and now I encourage people to touch it. All in all I’m glad I shaved my head: it’s a liberating experience and I’m sure anyone who has gone from long to short hair would agree.

Andrew Mo
THINGS THAT GRIND MY GEARS

Let me just make a list seeing as we’ll be here forever if we go one by one.

• Late buses when you have to meet people.
• That feeling when you wake up on Sunday and know you have an assignment to do.
• That feeling when you wake up on Sunday and realise you have an assignment to do and it’s actually Monday.
• The HSC
• Being told that if you don’t get an ATAR of 80 or more, you are going to fail at life.
• Crying babies
• Crying babies in a movie theatre
• Crying babies on a plane
• Crying babies in a restaurant
• When your girlfriend asks you to repeat what she’s just said.

• When your girlfriend asks you if that girl over there is pretty? And no matter what answer you give you still get in trouble.
• When you’re so stressed you’re about to hit someone and your friends know it so they say “It’s that time of the month”
• When your mum asks you 5 questions in 10 seconds at 7am and you just went into the kitchen to find some breakfast.
• When you don’t answer because you know can’t even string a sentence together this early in the morning and she accuses you of being rude.
• When you go upstairs to find something in your room and when you get up there you can’t remember what that was.
• Doors which don’t open from the outside
• Doors which don’t open from the outside and your keys are inside.

Jack Jones

GUMPERT IS BACK!!

WHO’S THE FASTEST ROUND THE TRACK?

When Top Gear first started, all those years ago, it was a small time car show with not much meaning. The not-so-mysterious Stig of the time would lap the cars on the figure of eight track and no one would really care. But now, every major sports car maker wants to lead that ‘board’.

Since the first prototype was ready in 2001, the Gumpert Apollo has been a heavy contender and in 2003 it took the title as the fastest car in the world (by Top Gear) with a staggering time of 1.17.1. This title was held until very late last year when the Bugatti Veyron took one last shot with its Super Sport Veyron and finally beat it... by 0.3 seconds. However, it too was beaten early this year by the staggeringly ballistic Ariel Atom... which isn’t even road legal in Australia.

But now, Gumpert is back! In a secret lab deep into German territory, something marvellous is happening. Touring Superleggera, the designers of cars like the Lamborghini Murciélago and the Gallardo Superleggera is working with Gumpert to turn their raw animal into a pure streamline beast and they’ve got their eyes on one thing and one thing only. The top of the leader board.

The old Gumpert base model sat on 631 BH, while the new Gumpert sits on a whopping 700 (base). This combined with a stronger chasse, lighter car and smoother ride, the new Gumpert is ready to take its place, though I must admit I find the back rather vulgar. After many months of secrecy it has been discovered that the new name will be the “Tornante.” So will it take the number one spot? It’s only a matter of time... Wombat.

Gumperr Apollo 1.17.1

Bugatti Veyron Super Sport 1.16.8

Ariel Atom (supercharged) 1.15.2

Gumpert Apollo on the track

Superleggera

The new Gumpert Tornante

Wombat.
WOMBAT GRYLLS

WHICH GAME IS THE BEST?

Only games available on multiple consoles

Racing: -

In the field of racing there are quite a few good titles out at the moment, but the real stand outs are Dirt Series, Race Driver Grid Series, Newbie Test Drive Unlimited Series, and old boys Mario Kart and NFS. Mario Kart has been reborn on the Wii and is a great little toy, but when you want to play a real game, you want something more than a little toy. If you want to buy a game for your 7 year old cousin, this is the one, if not…. Well let’s find out.

Dirt and Dirt 2 are moderately new to the market, so how do they picture? Well it’s certainly better than the random car game you see sitting on the shelf. It’s also certainly made a name for itself. However it still isn’t enough to outtrace the big name of the market. Similar things can be said about Race Driver Grid and Test Driver Unlimited, although they are both starting to get through series, neither really has anything completely special. What separates these titles from other average games is simply that they’re well made and have money behind them.

No, if you want a proper racing game, your only real option is to buy a NFS games. For those who don’t know what that is NFS = Need For Speed. With Play Station One the NFS games have been the top of the line, and unlike it’s closest competitor (Gran Trismo) it’s not limited to just the one console (which is why GT is not reviewed). For the city streets in Carbon, to the undercover cops in (you guessed it) Undercover, to the race tracks of Pro Street and Shift, every driving style, every car and every possible customisation hits the NFS player in one game or another.

Shoot-em-ups: -

For over a year the only war game ever mentioned was COD… Nazi zombies, special ops, online, co-op, throwing knifes, an explosive cross bow for Christ’s sake! It was all there. But now people are starting to look around again, now it’s time for the market to expand. Now you might wonder why COD is starting to go downhill – simple reason. They’re all pretty much the same. So as good as they are, after you get around the little perks here and there, you will get bored of it after time. So what else is there?

There’s always the other new sensation of L4D (Left 4 Dead) which is taking the world by storm, however due to laws in Australia the real (or more full on) version is ‘unavailable’ for ‘legal’ purchase, which kind of kills the point. So as great a game as it is, the experience is lost.

Aot (Army of Two) is a big newcomer. When it released its original a few years ago (labelled Army Of Two Trans World Organisation) the game was a huge success with millions of people asking for DLC to be released almost immediately. Then as COD 6 was released, AoT the 40th day came out. The game play was simply supreme, the weapon customisation was the most enhanced any game had seen (and still today is the game with the most customisation available with well over 10,000,000 different customisation). However the story line is very dark and trails off from the first. The characters change and so do their voices. In all, the first game is a better story and better view/controls. But the game play and the ‘little fun bits’ are easily better in the second.

Other games on the market include Gears of War, or Medal of Honour. However all these other games seem to be COD with slightly different game play and story lines normally about the same. So if you happy with COD but feel like a slight variation, grab any title off the shelf. If you’re ready for something different, go for AoT or AoT the 40th day.

Other –

Assassins Creed or The Force Unleashed. Hands down.