From the Founder

‘THE GRIND’

Anyone who has ever seen me on a surf board will know I am to surfing what Andrea The Giant is to ballet. I have no grace; no style; no trick manoeuvres and the dismount of a one legged cowboy.

But last week on holiday while paddling out to my favourite break in the world off Snapper Rocks in Coolangatta Queensland, I was reminded of a life lesson I learned as a teenager. Snapper Rocks has a range of options. You can surf of the right side of the break in the protection of the bay and have really gentle ride, or you can paddle out past the point where the big waves form and ride them in over the rocks which create the perfect surging break.

Learning to surf is a great lesson in life. I was a slacker and most of my best work was done smothered in professional strength Reef Oil lounged out next to my board on the sand. I could stand up, do a trick or two but I learned so many bad habits I never progressed at all. My best mate Dave ‘The Doctor’ Rogers, however would always push on past me and look for the harder choices. While he would grind it out looking bad trying to be good, I bobbed in the little waves, more interested in my sun tan than developing my surfing.

I’d watch for hours as this lanky red head kid would grind it out. Every now and then he manage to stand up like some giant drunk huntsman spider, while all around him a sea of blond haired local grommets, would pop up, do all sorts of tricks and effortlessly peel off to the safer left hand break to avoid the rocks… But not The Doctor. The great man was not known for his agility on land but on water it was like turning the Queen Mary. At least twice a summer the locals would look on in horror as ‘The Doctor’ failed to read the break and instead of riding the surge over the rocks, he would slide off the front of the wave and go crashing into the uncovered rocks, crumpling in a cacophony of size 12 feet, blue speedos, sunburnt arms and broken surf board.

Most would have given up. ‘What’s the point of getting all beaten up if you don’t have to?’ We all like the safety of the bay, but if we don’t learn to grind it out into the big surf now and then, we never get to the gift of learning how to cope when things get tough or the unexpected happens.

Many modern educators argue with me that pushing kids into ‘uncomfortable’ circumstances is dangerous and even immoral; but they are wrong. ‘Why?’ Because no matter how comfortably we may try to live our lives there are always times when we will end up smashed on the rocks. In my opinion to not prepare kids for this moment is far more immoral than to shield them from the inevitability of it occurring.

And so these holidays as I lugged my great guts out into the beginners break at Snapper Rocks, I took a moment to remember the young ‘Doctor’ ploughing head first into rocks. I remembered the many times in our 35 year friendship that I had scraped him up after one disaster or another. I also remembered the great times; his wedding to Nicole and the birth of his two kids Georgia and Ellie; his 300 game rise to become one of the great Amateur footballers of his time.

But most of all what I recalled were the times I tried to follow in his footsteps and fell short: And it is at these times I learned the value of the ‘grind’ lies not in what it can do for you, but in the fact that during the journey, it gives you the strength to not only carry your own weight, but to pick up the load for others when they are battling around you. Many was the time, I fell short trying to follow in The Doctor’s footsteps. But no matter what pressure he was under, The Doctor would always find a bit extra to help ‘carry’ me through just long enough for me to regain my composure and then finish the journey with dignity of being able to say, I did this myself.

That is the grind. It was something The Doctor taught me way back in 1996 and it is something I believe we, as parents and educators should be resolute about passing onto our children.
This term we welcomed three new students to the JCS family. Shanti is a kind hearted and insightful young woman who will be studying her VCE with us over this year and next year. Khye is an energetic and adventurous addition to the JCS crew who rides dirt bikes on the weekend. Nick wants to be a web developer and has already created one website through the school and is currently working on another... did I mention he is in year 8.

This term students participated in the annual Queensland camp. Special mention to Isi and Ching for embarking on their first adventure to South Stradbroke Island. Hiking and camping was a new experience for the both, but they finished with smiles and good memories.

Congratulations to Cat, Dean and Rach for completing the 1st Semester of VCE. Only two terms to go! Many, Cory and Jason worked well over the term to help others as well and create a greater sense of service and community. No only to complete their work and hold themselves more accountable, but Josef continued to impress us with his costumes, plush toy collection and quirky sense of humour. Storm continued to live up to his name and keep us on our toes. But we couldn’t imagine this place without him. Sophie developed her own therapy program, ran horse riding lessons as well as completed her first Semester of VCE.

Megan continued to offer support and the best hugs this side of the Yarra. Tom introduced the boys to manual labour, Jon continues to impress us with his dress sense and style and Kate baked like a trooper to keep up with the May/June birthday boom.

So... we celebrated Megan’s birthday with a cookie dough ice cream cake. Kira turned 16 and Sophie celebrated her 18th birthday. Thanks to all the students and staff for a fun filled term... never a dull moment!
DECV

DECV semester 2 has now commenced for VCE’s. VCE students should have completed up to the end of week 2.

DECV semester 2 will commence for year 7-10 students at the beginning of Term 3.

Dates

Term 3

Tuesday 14th July: Term 3 commence
Thursday 20th August: First Aid Day
Sat 5th Sept – Sat 12th Sept: South East Asia trip (TBC)
Friday 11th September: Term 3 concludes
Warming up for a fantastic Term 3!