WOLLUMBIN TURNS 20: 15th MARCH 2015

Congratulations to everyone involved in our Open House. An interesting historical display in the gym triggered many memories and generated much conversation. Classrooms were open with displays and staff available to share current educational practice. Drama, choir and band performances were enthusiastically received by audiences. WHS students conducted many tours during the day for past and prospective students. Ms Ann Newman, the foundation principal, attended the day and reflected on the opening of the school and the events of the early years. Ms Newman and Ms Connell planted two long-leaved Tuckeroo trees (Cupaniopsis-newmanii) to mark the milestone. Mrs Lesley Larsen, school patron and WHS second P&C president, shared her memories of P&C meetings and the support P&C members provide. Odette Miller acknowledged the foundations on which the school is built and the opportunities provided to students. Three staff (Mrs Lindy Thomas, Mr Phil Thomas and Ms Janene Brown) have taught at the school since its opening. The celebration could not have happened without the core of people who have worked tirelessly since last year to ensure the event was a success. We thank Helen Albury, Don Napper, Jenny Unwin, Nicole McKay, Colleen Hinze, Lindy Thomas, Angela Rose, Kerry Stevenson and Sean Larrescy for being such a fantastic team. The team was supported by many parents, past and current staff and students, and volunteers – too many to name individually. Please accept our thanks and appreciation. In the lead up to the event we ran a “Where are they now?” request for past students stories. Some are included in this Talkabout.

Thank you to everyone involved in our 20th Anniversary Celebration. The number of visitors to the school that day made all the preparation so worthwhile.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ATTENDANCE POLICY 2015

Please read the flyer included with the Talkabout. Further information will be provided in the next Talkabout.

If a parent is considering applying for student leave during school term there are processes to follow.

Leave over 10 days requires a special Departmental form to be completed. Please phone the school a minimum of one month in advance as documentation is required. Leave less than 10 days requires a letter to the Principal seeking approval. This needs to be to the Principal three weeks in advance.

Please be aware leave is not automatically granted.
CONGRATULATIONS DEPUTY PRINCIPAL’S AWARD

Year 7 - Ryan Stanley, Ashleigh Mayfield, Gavin Sharman, Anisha Webster, Lachlan Durrington
Year 8 - Sarah Walsh, Lilli Oniper, Hannah-May Murray, Taylor Haw, Mitchell Walsh, Rebecca Merton
Year 9 - Georgia-Rae Gibson
Year 10 - Hayley Hyde, Lyrica Gill

CONGRATULATIONS PRINCIPAL’S AWARD

Year 7 - Ryan Stanley
Year 8 - Mitchell Walsh

CONGRATULATIONS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Year 8 - Mitchell Walsh

Homework Help

It’s back!
It is now on a new day (THURSDAY) and in a new place (COMPUTER ROOM 2).

Do you need some help with your assessment tasks, class work or homework? Or you want to start studying but are not sure where to start?
Come along to homework help!

When: Every THURSDAY after school until 4pm (Starting Term 1 Week 4)
Where: COMPUTER ROOM 2
Who: Miss Underwood (Science and Maths), Mrs Hirst (English) and Tulsi Blacka (Titans for Tomorrow)
Why: Homework help is a volunteer program run by teachers, designed to assist students in completing their homework, extra classwork and assessment tasks. It can help students establish a regular study routine, give them an opportunity to go over any work they need extra assistance with, and build and support independent learners.

Hope to see you there!
SYDNEY DRAMA CAMP

In Year 12 Drama you get to travel to Sydney and experience an AWESOME three days of DRAMA EXTRAVAGANZA. Reba Ide, Billy Henderson, Kaitlin Divine, Natasha Currant, Nina Baumer and Danni Challend all attended this WICKED event.

We boarded at the beautiful old Wesley College building at Sydney University with exciting activities and new experiences shared together every day. The first day we watched 2 performances of a program called OnStage held at the Seymour Centre. This is a collaborative performance from last year’s top HSC students that includes Group Performance, Monologue, Costume Design, Video Drama and Set Design. This gave us an insight into the level we must achieve and we will thoroughly strive to be successful in representing Wollumbin High School at OnStage 2016!

The second day we had the opportunity to do a devising workshop conducted by screen and theatre director, Shannon Murphy, in conjunction with the renowned company, Belvoir Street Theatre. We combined with two other schools and shared the love and passion of drama and gained experience in working with a new array of people. We then made our way to the internationally known, Sydney Theatre Company. We delved into their archives and watched snippets from the plays we are currently studying and took a backstage tour of the departments of STC. This included the props department where we found all the chairs one-person could imagine jammed in one room. In the costume department we viewed one-off items tailor-made for the actors, using fabrics of fabulous flair. We learned about the stages of set building, what it takes to get from the floor to the stage, and the development of characterising the set with growing moss, splattered bird poo and other delights. On the final day we had student choice of an activity and we chose a ferry ride on Sydney Harbour.

Each student took away a different view from the excursion, of course all being positive, however changing in the fact that each student has a different interest in how they can use what they learned. We would all like to personally thank our dramatic teacher, Ms Hall, for planning a trip of a lifetime and encourage all students to pick Drama as an elective!!!

Reba Ide and Billy Henderson

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST BULLYING & VIOLENCE & HARMONY DAY

On the 20th March, Wollumbin High School staff and students joined the Tweed 5 schools in a day of action designed to take a stand against anti-social behaviours in recognition of the harm and disharmony that social media misuse can cause. ‘The anti-social network’ (http://youtu.be/b_tEoMEAVOKI), is a short you tube clip that was played to all students. It is designed to get people thinking and initiate debate. We encourage parents/carers to watch this youtube clip and continue the discussion about social media misuse. Staff and students were encouraged to declare Friday 20th March a social media and mobile phone free day.

Congratulations to the SRC for this initiative. Together we can make a difference.

WHAT’S ON

Term 1 2015 - March

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23rd - 25th March</td>
<td>Year 7 Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd March</td>
<td>Year 12 commence Half Yearly exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th March</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting 7pm Library</td>
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<td>2nd April</td>
<td>Last day of term 1</td>
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Term 2 2015 - April

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>20th April</td>
<td>SDD (Staff only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st April</td>
<td>Year 12 commence Half Yearly exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th April</td>
<td>ANZAC DAY meet 10am at Post Office Full School Uniform</td>
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<td>28th April</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting 7pm Library</td>
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<td>29th April</td>
<td>Year 11 Senior Success 6 - 7.30pm Library</td>
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<td>5th May</td>
<td>Year 7, 11 &amp; 12 Parent Teacher 3.30 - 6pm</td>
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SPORT NEWS
Selection trials at both FNC and North Coast level have resulted in a number of students being selected for their respective sports.

FNC HOCKEY
Georgia Fahey is travelling to Lismore for the Far North Coast trials in April.

FNC SOCCER
Livinia Currant, Lauren Kirkby and Isaac McKay had to attend two selection trials to make the FNC soccer.

COMING UP
Under 15 Soccer and Open Soccer will be competing in the State Knockout.

SPORT CHOICES
Sport choices are now being taken for term 2. Students should select wisely. Parents please advise your student to select a school based sport rather than a sport requiring payment if this creates financial strain.

NORTH COAST SWIMMING
Regional Swimming Championships were hosted in Lismore on March 5th. Two students from Wollumbin competed. Alec O’Brien swam the 200m Individual Medley in the 17+yrs and placed fourth, missing State selection by the narrowest of margins. Fiona Stanley swam in the 16 yrs events and placed 1st in the 200m freestyle, 100m backstroke and 100m butterfly, 2nd in the 100m freestyle and 3rd in the 50m freestyle and 200m Individual Medley. Fiona will represent the school in Sydney at State championships in each of these events as well as the 400m freestyle. Fiona was also awarded age champion for the region as a result of her many great swims on the day.

Also heading to Sydney to compete in the 12 -14 Years 400m is Ryan Stanley, Year 7. Good luck Fiona and Ryan.

ANZAC DAY : 25TH APRIL
This year it is our turn to lead the Murwillumbah service - a very important event due to the centenary. It is a privilege to have students taking lead roles in the ceremony.

Students are encouraged to join the school for the march. Students meet at the Post Office at 10am in full school uniform.

We will hold our ANZAC service on Friday 24th April.

PLAY RUGBY AND TAKE A TRIP TO THAILAND!
Casuarina Junior Rugby is looking for boys turning 15 this year, to play in the Northern NSW competition. The team has an accredited and vastly experienced coach in Phil Gould. Games will be played on Friday evenings. The team is also planning an end of year trip to play in a tournament in Thailand. If you are interested and would like to talk to someone about this fantastic opportunity please contact Leanne Blyth (Vice President and Registrar) on 0414895121. or Belinda Hall (Team Manager) on 0419245996.
Maths Celebrating Pi Day 2015

On Friday 13th March, the Maths Faculty celebrated Pi Day by running our annual Pi reciting and Wagon Wheel eating competitions.

We had quite a few entries in the Pi reciting, with our eventual winner being Jacob Baartz who was able to recall 300 digits of Pi. He won a $30 iTunes voucher for his excellent efforts.

We had approximately 30 students who participated in our Wagon Wheel eating competition, with great technique showed by Tom and May Guinea. Tom and May needed to go to an “eat off” as the finals were too close to call.

We eventually ended up with Tom Guinea being our winner again this year. Tom won himself a $10 voucher to spend at the school canteen.

LIONS YOUTH OF THE YEAR

We are very proud of two of our Year 12 students for participating in the Lions Youth of the Year quest in 2015. Grace Adams and Taylor Black completed an interview with a panel of judges and then stood before a room full of Lions members to deliver two impromptu speeches. The topic was given to the student and then the student began speaking, with no time to prepare other than the few seconds when the topic was read out for the second time. The process was then repeated immediately with the second impromptu speech. The night was completed with the delivery of a five-minute prepared speech. While neither of our two representatives won the quest, they were impressive in their performance and are to be congratulated for their fantastic efforts.

WANTED SECOND HAND UNIFORMS

Our uniform stock is very depleted so if you have any unwanted uniform items at home we would greatly appreciate a donation to the school. Other students will benefit from your kind donation.
FROZEN MOMENTS
The 9/10 Drama class is exploring the Language of Theatre this term and we have been looking at a variety of theatre types and styles. As part of our learning journey we have been exploring street theatre and experimenting with different styles of theatre in different places. Deciding it was time to go public with our experimentation, the class froze in place at the end of assembly in Week 6 causing quite a stir for the two minutes that they remained frozen in time. In Week 7, we took it to the playground and the class froze in place, scattered across the playground, for another two minutes. Teachers and students alike engaged with the performance through their interactions with the frozen performers, demonstrating to both our class and the school that drama is not always about speaking lines after the curtain opens on a stage. Congratulations to the students involved for demonstrating admirable focus and braving the public world with their performances.

CHOIR RELAY FOR LIFE
On March 7th, Wollumbin High School attended the Choir Relay for Life at Merv Edwards Field in Kingscliff. The students sang beautifully and were well received by the crowd.

UNI SHOWCASE - 19th FEBRUARY 2015
On Thursday 19th February 2015, 5 Universities and Queensland TAFE (Gold Coast) visited the school to speak to the current Year 12 students about attending university and the expectations of either staying at home or moving away from home to study.

The universities that attended were Southern Cross University, Bond University, Griffith University, University of Queensland and Queensland University of Technology.

A representative from each university spoke to the students about the process of applying to university, the costs involved in attending university, extra curricula activities at university, living at home while studying and additional information on courses.

At the end of the talk students had the opportunity to speak to the representatives from each of the universities and TAFE on their future options.

The Year 12 students felt the day was an amazing presentation and they gained valuable knowledge from the sessions to plan for their future.
YEAR 6 TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL
PRIMARY SCHOOL VISITS

In week 5, Students from Year 7 and the School Captains accompanied Mr Cutcher and Ms Ndegwa (Year 7 Adviser 2016), to our Partner Primary Schools to talk to them about what it is like to attend Wollumbin High School.

The presentation provided information on Wollumbin High School Expectations, what is good about high school, what was the biggest challenge, how a day operates, the different subjects, uniforms, sport, Year 7 Camp, making friends, hangs, awards, extra curricula activities (Band, Choir, MADDD, Debating) mentoring, senior students, SRC and peer tutoring by Year 10 students.

The Year 6 students were actively listening and asked a wide range of questions which assisted our students to provide additional information.

Last week presented mock Quality Portfolio Panels to our partner Primary Schools to demonstrate the quality of work Year 7 achieve.

Congratulations to Jessica Maloney and Skye Brambleby who demonstrated a Quality Portfolio Interview and their substantial portfolios of quality work.

Nicole Hofmeier

Hi team, Not sure if this is how you wanted to receive the "Where are they Now" stories, or if I'm too late, but never-the-less, here's mine/ours: I'm Nicole Latter (now Nicole Hofmeier), foundation student and graduated 2000, school captain. I married Karl Hofmeier (fellow foundation student, graduated 1999, school captain) in 2006, after we met up and started dating at Uni. I studied a Bachelor of Communication in Marketing and Journalism at Griffith and now work as a Sales Director for a media sales company called jfmedia (where I've worked since 2004). We live in Brisbane and have two boys, Hugo is 4 and Lincoln is nearly 2. KARL: studied a Batchelor of International Finance at Griffith, and later completed his Graduate Diploma of Chartered Accounting. He now works as an Associate Director at NAB Brisbane in the Corporate division, where he has been for 2 years. We visit Murwillumbah regularly with both of our parents still in the area, and look forward to seeing everyone. Cheers Nicole

Leigh Hogden

Currently living in Inverell, NSW, have completed a Bachelor of Music and am about to complete my Masters of Teaching (secondary) in Music and Drama at the University of New England. I can start casual teaching in April this year!

Melanie Bruce neé Thomas

Went to Southern Cross University for a degree in Marketing and worked in various companies on the Gold and Tweed Coast before going back to university to get a PhD. During the last 10 years she has travelled extensively, wandering back to Murwillumbah between adventures to visit family and friends. Met Bobby Bruce while studying at Southern Cross University and married in 2013. Currently finishing up a year as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Marketing at Kansas State University, USA and will be moving on to a job as a Tenure Track Assistant Professor at the University of Tennessee.