UPCOMING EVENTS

2015

January 28th
All students return to school

February 11 – 12th
Year 7
Lake Talbot Camp

February 13th
Twilight
Swimming
Carnival, Leeton

March 2nd
Open Day

March 5th
Students leave for DESI

March 9th
Students return from DESI

March 10 – 13th
Year 9
Camp Hudson

March 12th
Selective High School Placement Test

March 20th
Beach Carnival

March 21st
Gala Day

YANCONIAN OF THE YEAR – MELANIE GUTTLER

Yanco Agricultural High School Newsletter

Friday, 19th December 2014
Term 4, Week 11

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UPCOMING EVENTS

YANCONIAN OF THE YEAR – MELANIE GUTTLER

As you sow, so shall you reap

Merry Christmas
Principal’s Report 2014

I would like to thank the many parents and families who supported this year’s Presentation Day. We did change a number of aspects and to obtain such a person as Professor Marie Bashir was a real privilege. The day was a great day to showcase our many achievements in 2014. The year has been most successful and the hard work of all in the Yanco family culminates in the many successes we are able to celebrate. Following is a shortened version of my thoughts presented at our Presentation Day.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to comment on our progress in what has been another magnificent year.

I am again very privileged to stand here before you to present the 2014 Principal’s report for this remarkable, most wonderful and very unique school Yanco remains a selective school but our priority will always remain with the children of the isolated communities of NSW. These students have little access to mainstream schooling as we know it and even the opportunity to play team sports on a regular basis is not possible. But we must always remember in the big scheme of things we are only a small high school and sometimes this can provide us great challenges.

Our students continue to excel in many areas and again there were some very notable achievements. Year 12 student Lilly Serafin was awarded a John Lincoln Youth Community Service Award which was presented at Government House in Sydney by then Governor, Professor Marie Bashir. Two of our students had previously been selected in the NSW VET in Schools teams and travelled to Perth to represent our State in the National competition. Year 12 student Steven Butler competed in the Electro-technology section winning a Gold medal. Year 11 student Georgina Murdoch represented in the Primary Industries competition and won the Silver medal. These are outstanding achievements and these students are to be congratulated on their efforts at national level.

I have greatly enjoyed working with the School Captains, Melanie, Lilly, Steven, and Dustin as well as the Prefect group. They have been excellent role models for the younger members of the school.

Very special congratulations to Melanie for being awarded Yanconian of the Year. In 2014 the previous year’s Prefect group initiated the new positions of Head Dormitory Prefects – two girls and two boys from Year 12 who use their experiences to work with the Year 11 Dormitory Prefects. This has been a great initiative and Cameron, Mitchell, Emily and Madalene have been great ambassadors for the role in its first year. I would like to congratulate all the Year 12 students for their fundraising efforts during the year, raising considerable funds for Friends of Luro ($2000) and Careflight ($2000). When you consider most of these funds are raised from within, this is a wonderful result. I wish Year 12 all the best in their future endeavours and look forward to following their successes and progress. Many have already received early entry offers into several universities and are excited to be taking up these opportunities in 2015, even before the final HSC results are released.

This school continues to provide enormous opportunities for students and the range of activities continues to expand. The Drum Corp remains a special aspect of the school and together with the choir has performed at many venues during the year. A highlight was performing at the opening of Education Week in Wagga and NSW State Conference of the CWA being held in Griffith. The choir – 16 students, has performed at Schools
Spectacular in November at Sydney, with Lyndsey Mitchell in the core choir and Ellen Shepherd as a member of the Millennium Marching Band. The feedback is most positive and to the students and staff involved thank you for your efforts, they are greatly appreciated. With Performance Night many of our students have had the opportunity to explore this performance interest and I am excited to see this area continuing to expand in the school. This was the best Performance Night to date and the large number of parents who attended had a wonderful night. A special thanks to Miss North for her leadership and tuition, and to the other staff involved in supporting her, particularly Bruce Hammond.

Sport remains the most popular activity outside the classroom of our student body and we continue to excel. Our first grade Rugby League team were not as successful as in previous years but our Buckley Shield team (under 14 years) was highly successful winning the premiership in the local competition and going deep into the CHS State competition. Caitlyn McKay (Year 10) and Remi Wilton (Year 12) were both selected in the Act Brumbies ‘7’s Rugby Union team that contested the National Carnival. Damien Johnston (Rugby Union) and Zac Saddler (Rugby League) were both selected in NSW State CHS teams and both were highly rated in their performances. Both the girls and boys Rugby Union teams have been very successful bringing home a number of trophies.

Two new initiatives with other schools have had impressive developments during the year. Firstly the association with Macquarie Fields and Prairiewood High Schools in South West Sydney has greatly expanded with 60 of their students visiting us and sampling our context and later in the year our students travelled to Sydney spending several days at Macquarie Fields. Both these schools are very large high schools in a totally different environment. Both student bodies gained much from the exchange and we hope this is the start of many exchanges in the future. Secondly our association with Broken Hill School of the Air was enhanced with four of our staff spending a few days at their Term 4 mini-school held over 100 kilometres north of White Cliffs. I again hope this is the start of a long and productive relationship, which will benefit all our schools.

The showstock teams continued their success and they have been in the forefront of a very positive view of the school. Ably led by Mrs Quinn and Mrs Conley (sheep), Mr Dixon (poultry), Miss Edwards and Mr Bandy (horse) and Miss Weller and Mr Collins (cattle) students have been successful in winning significant awards at the major shows both for livestock, junior judging and parading. Jane Goldsworthy (Year 12 2013) won the Champion ASC Junior Judge Award for NSW in Sheep Meat Breeds. Jack Moran-Turner was State Champion in Grain judging and third in the Beef Cattle Junior Judging. In November Jack travelled to New Zealand to represent NSW in Beef Cattle junior judging events. Too numerous to mention many of these awards are now proudly displayed in the school’s foyer. This year the exhibition of Clydesdales horses was expanded with a team of livestock and students entering Canberra, Bathurst, Sydney and Melbourne Royal Shows. Considering the competition our students can be very proud of their efforts winning Supreme Champion at Canberra. At Melbourne Emily Belling won the presentation/handling class at the 100 year anniversary show for the breed. Aiden Raeck was successful in being placed second in the AWI National Merino Challenge for secondary schools with the school team being awarded Champion Secondary Team. A huge thank you to all staff, parents and livestock breeders who support these programs for the benefit of our students.

Our Fishing Club is organised by members of our maintenance crew and has many students and
parents involved, the recent trip to Tuross was a real highlight of the year. The Shooting Club is also thriving, with Mr Sachs giving much of his time to support our students.

These are only a small sample of the many student achievements in a wide range of activities in the school during 2014. There is no doubt the opportunities available to our students at Yanco are second to none in education and our student’s always respond well to being involved. Much of this is due to the good will of staff and all sectors of this school’s community need to appreciate this.

This year the Regional Principal’s group have had their termly meetings at Yanco on three occasions. Each time a luncheon has been prepared by the Hospitality classes under the leadership and direction of Mrs Jennifer Wrightson. Not only is this an opportunity for students to gain valuable service hours for their qualifications but places the school on show at its very best. All visiting Principals have been very complementary about the functions conducted by Mrs Wrightson and her team – congratulations.

The P. & C. remains a very supportive body to the school raising significant funds to support student learning in the school. The events such as Gala Day and McCaughey Ball would not be possible without the concerted efforts of many enthusiastic parents and I encourage all parents to become involved and share the load – remember in the end your students benefit greatly from this support. The contribution of $20000 to various school initiatives is a wonderful effort. This year Mrs Elizabeth Dwyer has been President, Mrs Genevieve Van Gemert Secretary with Mr Brian Johnston the Treasurer, both new their positions. They are a very passionate group about the school and I thank all parents for their efforts in 2014.

Over the last three years we have seen the development and expansion of our school website and this in conjunction with the increased use of email has seen the communication avenues between the school and our families greatly expand. The website has opened up a whole new world and with nearly 2000 hits each week is well used by our present community and those wishing to join in the future. This website has largely been the responsibility of one of our parents, Melanie Beer. I would like to acknowledge her many hours of work and thank her for her development of this valuable communication tool. Thanks Mel your support has been wonderful.

There is no doubt Beach Carnival is a real highlight at the school – it is the most astonishing event witnessed by such a large crowd of excited families, friends and supporters. A big thank you to the House Captains who were instrumental in ensuring the beach march remained a spectacle few can match. I was very proud of all the students and it sends goose bumps down my spine seeing it all come together in such an outstanding way. The school spirit on display and at the swimming carnival is always something to witness, admirably led by the House Captains and other senior students, a great example to our younger students.

The Year 6 into 7 Transition Program and Year 10 leadership camps were again highly successful and acknowledged by all as a very positive aspect of our school. The Transition program for students entering Years 8, 9 and 10 is now also a successful fixture in our welfare program. To Miss O’Brien, Mrs Piffero, Mr Sachs and other welfare staff thank you for your leadership in making these initiatives highly successful. To the team of staff who support them a huge thanks.

To the hostel farm, maintenance, cleaning, dining, and laundry staff that support the student learning. You all make our time at the school better and our thanks for your efforts. Schools only function well when all staff work together as a team. The SASS and Registers staff continually hold the fort and ensure the school runs efficiently – they do many of the everyday tasks we sometimes forget to acknowledge – ladies a job very well done and greatly appreciated. To the teaching staff – a wonderful group of people with varied experiences and always making that special extra effort to ensure student learning is maximised. There is no doubt that many student opportunities are provided by the good will of staff contributing their own time, this is essential for this school and greatly appreciated. A big thank you.

A special acknowledgement of my hard working deputies Mr Denis Benjamin and Miss Lisa O’Brien and BSM Mr Bruce Hammond for their long hours of hard work and support.
To Miss Amy Dolstra who has had a very significant role in the leadership and development of our English/History faculty over the past nearly 5 years. Miss Dolstra has recently gained a position at a newly established high school in western Sydney which will open many opportunities to her in the future. Her contribution to this school is greatly appreciated and we wish her well in her future career.

It is not often that a person commits over 37 years to a single position in a school but that is what Mr Steve Hill has done at Yanco. He has been a teacher in our Science faculty since 1978 and has had many varied experiences. His story is worth a close read. How do you say thank you to such a valuable contribution. On behalf of the many thousands of students who have graced your classrooms and the school we acknowledge your work and thank you sincerely and wish you all the best in your retirement.

We enter 2015 with renewed optimism – The Pratley Report and the new School Planning initiative have seen the involvement of students, parents and staff in working towards the direction of the school over the next three years. After much work the school’s ‘Mission Statement’ or Statement of Intent has been updated and I know the new school plan will reflect the consensus of thoughts from the various stake holders after good responses from the various surveys. In 2015 it is anticipated that we will have about 390 students in the school.

Thank you all for your contributions in 2014 and we can look forward to another great year in 2015. Finally, I really appreciate your support and hard work and I wish you all a happy, safe and enjoyable holiday season and may Santa fulfil all your wishes.

THE McCAUGHEY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

THE DICK CONDON/MILTHORPE FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

FIRST PLACE IN YEAR

DUX OF THE SCHOOL
THE AUSTRALIAN STOCKHORSE SCHOLARSHIP FOR A STUDENT ENTERING YEAR11 IN 2015

DOUBLE DAY SHIELD – Won by McCAughey

MACNAUGHT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE

SCHOOL’S EXCELLENCE AND BLUES AWARDS

Excellence Awards:

Emily Belling: Agricultural Excellence
Champion Junior Presentation Handler in the Clydesdale section at the Royal Melbourne Show.

Zac Liley: Agricultural Excellence
Champion Junior Merino Handler. Winner of Merino Junior Judging at the Royal Canberra Show.

Kaitlyn McKay: Agricultural Excellence
Overall Champion Junior Judge Beef Cattle, Royal Canberra Show.

Rose Nevinson: Agricultural Excellence
Senior Champion Parader in the School Sheep section at the Royal Melbourne Show.

Jasmine Boyland: Cultural Excellence
Jasmine was selected to perform at the NSW DEC Solo Vocal Camp and the Griffith Young Musician of the Year Awards. Jasmine also performed in the Nancy Bulmer competition.

Lilly Serafin: Cultural Excellence
John Lincoln Youth Community Service Award.

Melanie Guttler: Sporting Excellence
For representing NSW Combined High Schools for 6 years in Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country

Jock Ward: Sporting Excellence
For representing NSW Combined High Schools for the last 12 months in Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country.

Blues Awards

Jack Moran-Turner: Agricultural Blue
First place in the Fleece Junior Judging National Merino Challenge at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show held in Bendigo. At the Sydney Royal Show he was awarded 3rd place in the State Finals of Beef Cattle Judging. He also represented NSW at the Canterbury Show in New Zealand, coming 4th in the Merino Junior Judging.

Georgina Murdoch: Agricultural Blue
Silver Medal in Primary Industries at the National VETiS World Skills Competition in Perth.

Steven Butler: Technology Blue
Gold Medal in Electrotechnology at the National VETiS World Skills Competition in Perth.

Damian Johnston: Sporting Blue
For Rugby Union. Damian was selected in the NSW Combined High Schools’ Open Team – Rugby Union to tour South Africa in early 2015.
Zac Saddler: Sporting Blue
For Rugby League. Zac was selected in the NSW Combined High Schools’ Team, also selected in the Indigenous Rugby League Team for 2014.

Kaitlyn McKay: Sporting Blue
For Rugby Union. Kaitlyn was selected in the ACT Brumbies Rugby Union Team 2014.

Remi Wilton: Sporting Blue
For Rugby Union. Remi was selected in the ACT Brumbies Rugby Union Team 2014.

Ellen Shepherd: Cultural Blue
Ellen was a member of the Millennium Marching Band in 2014. She also performed with the State Wind Ensemble at the Sydney Opera House culminating with a performance in the DEC Festival of Instrumental Music. Ellen has toured regularly with the Riverina Touring Band.

YEAL 12 GRADUATION
HILLY’S FINAL WORDS

A while ago I was asked to pen a short ‘story’ about my time at Yanco. For those with time on their hands and assuming there is little on TV, here goes;

Indulge me for a moment as my story begins a little earlier.

1954 – born (it’s true 8MS2, I’m not 26!) and grew up in a tiny village in Yorkshire, England (Clifford was, and remains, smaller than Yanco).

1965 – Arrived (after 6 weeks at sea) in Australia. Yes, Hilly is a boat person!! Actually a ‘ten pound pom’ – that’s currency, not mass (or weight) with my parents and two younger sisters. We spent our first year in Oz at ‘Villawood Migrant Hostel (now called ‘Villawood Detention Centre’).

1967 – 1st Form (now called ‘Yr. 7’) at Sydney Technical High School, Bexley. A selective, all-boys high school a few suburbs away from where we lived.

1968 – as was expected for most students at ‘Sydney Tech’, joined the Air Force Cadets at the school. (this will come back to bite me later!)

1972 – 6th Form (Year 12) at Sydney Tech. Reached the rank of Cadet Officer in the Air Cadets (see previous comment about coming back to bite) and finished my HSC.

1973 – 1976 UNSW, Bachelor of Science and Education – usual Uni stuff – you’ll find out!

1976 – after years of living, studying etc in ‘the city’ was keen to go to the country. Applied for teaching positions in the North West Region, Western Region and Riverina Region. Where did the Department send me – Picnic Point High School (‘School’s a picnic, but there’s no point to it’ – student version of school motto) – a school in the St George region of Sydney about 7 minutes away from where I lived (and where my parents still live!)

1977 – first year of teaching (need I say more!) at Picnic Point High. Great Staff – Ted Glossop (then coach of Canterbury Bankstown Rugby League first-grade team) was the principal! Given both Year 11 and 12 GEOLOGY to teach!! AAARRRGH! Talk about steep learning curve, but we made it!

1977 (end of) – decided life in Sydney when one had money (unlike being a broke uni student) wasn’t so bad, so applied to stay in Sydney. Where did I get posted to – Yanco! (in the first of what is to be many strange co-incidences, I returned to the staffroom at Picnic Point from having found where I was to go (I’d never heard of Yanco) only to discover the Science Head Teacher was an ex-Yanconian!

1978 – (23 yrs old!) Arrived at Yanco with all my worldly possessions (a stereo, an SLR camera, a few clothes and two motorbikes; a Ducati 900 (now long gone), and the XL350 which I still ride). It was a year of huge staff turnover – 13 new teachers (mostly first year outs) from a staff of 24!

1978 - In my first meeting with the principal, Mr Ian Bond (also an old boy of Sydney Tech. High) we discovered that we had both been in cadets – consequently, I was immediately put in charge of the Yanco Army Cadet Unit with another (first year) teacher who arrived that same time. This was an initiation by fire (literally at times), but after all these years I still keep in touch with some of the cadets from those early years (most are now over 50!). Many camps and activities, shooting, marches, night-time raids, bivouacs camp fires etc. Fun for all and about many incidents my lips are STILL sealed!

In 37 years (not long if you say it fast!) I have taught junior science, maths, agriculture, music, art, woodwork, computing, food tech, photography, German, biology, chemistry, physics, general science and senior science.

In addition to teaching, I have: been accused many times of blowing up the YAHS labs (almost true), set fire to the labs at CSU (actually true), launched too many tissue hot air balloons to count, run a model airplane club, conclusively proven that a YAHS bus can demonstrate a non-inertial frame of reference (sorry about the hydrant, Punchy!), had camp-outs on the school beach, paddled a significant portion of the Murrumbidgee, landed in an army helicopter on the school ovals, taken excursions to the South Coast of NSW, Snowy Mountains, Warrumbungles, New Zealand,
Melbourne, Sydney and helped out on trips to Tasmania, Central Australia, Queensland. ‘Buzzed’ the school in a light aircraft (as a passenger!). The pilot, a Yanco teacher, went on to enter federal politics as an MHR!)

Run a rifle club (and stored all 16 rifles and ammo in my wardrobe in the ‘Pizza Hut!!!’) because the Principal wouldn’t put them in the safe. 

Operated the school canteen for 10 years after inheriting the job from the science head teacher, Mr Luckie, who ran it when I arrived.

Was allowed to coach the mighty 13B Rugby League team (a heady responsibility in the day when Yanco had, every year, the following teams: 12’s, 13A, 13B, 13C, 14A, 14B, 14C, 15A, 15B, 16A, 16B, 2nd Grade and 1st Grade)

Screened the Saturday evening movies (on an old 16mm FILM projector), with Mr Tsoukalidis, on Saturday nights for ??? years (can’t remember). Where did Ted ever get those awful films from? ‘Wicker Man’ – seriously!

Along with Mr Ian Crossley, now retired Principal from Albury, but then a mere teacher at Yanco, re-started ‘MIASTA’ (the ‘MIA Science Teachers Association’).PS. I wanted to use the acronym ‘MIASMA’, but people objected. (look it up in a dictionary!)

Helped organise taking the whole school to ‘EXPO 88’ in Brisbane – a memorable excursion, great time, heaps of learning and all this despite having no 50 page ‘Risk Assessment’, ‘cost/benefit analysis’, 3 independent quotes, ‘GST exemption’ or a permission form signed in triplicate by Genghis Khan.

In all this time I have had one student score 100% in the Chemistry HSC (of course I take full credit!!). In another of those ‘déjà vu’ things, I now play in the Leeton Town Band with his dad!

In 1988 I met a pretty Hydrogeologist who was working for Department of Water Resources in Leeton.

In 1990 I married the pretty Hydrogeologist – absolutely the best move I ever made!

In 1991, 1993 and 1995 – three ‘foothills’ arrive and for me the word ‘joy’ is redefined!

In 1991 we moved into the ‘Farm Forman’s Cottage’ at Yanco Ag. This gave us 5 years in a lovely setting – then surrounded by the school citrus orchard. Our two younger children were born there so for us all it holds a very special place.

Yanco has given me so much to be thankful for – I grew up here (to the extent that I have!), met my wife here, my children were born here and grew up closely associated with the school. I won’t try to number the staff I have had the opportunity to work with – some brilliant, some slightly ‘quirky’, some hilarious, others very serious and all dedicated to the students.

If I were to try to single out individuals (staff, students and parents) this ramble would become a ‘magnum opus’, but it would be remiss not to acknowledge the influence fellow ‘Yanconians’ have had on me both personally and professionally. I have been humbled by peoples generosity and made a better person by their counsel and for both I am forever grateful.

Keep an eye out for a book/blog/movie/something – in the manner of some higher profile folks, I may actually get round to doing a ‘tell-all’ – you have been warned!

Thanks for the memories!

Hilly
SYDNEY PREFECT LEADERSHIP CAMP

The newly elected Prefect Team for 2015 travelled to Sydney on the 18th of November to further their leadership skills. Over the week, the prefects gained knowledge about how to handle pressure, work together as a team and get to know everyone in the prefect body.

Throughout the week we were accommodated at Bundilla Scout Camp, located at Winston Hills in Western Sydney. This was where we undertook many of our leadership training exercises and activities, from cooking and preparing a formal dinner to preparing a presentation for James Ruse Agricultural High School. We were kept pretty busy throughout the entire stay in Sydney. The sessions which we undertook allowed us to seek out our inner leadership qualities and brought us together as a group to be able to solve problems as a team.

With Mr Sachs’ late night hot chocolates and the early morning rush, we were just about exhausted by the end of the week. However, from start to finish, stepping in and out of our comfort zones, we enjoyed every minute of it.  

Luke Horrobin

Wednesday

Our very first trip was to the Careflight centre in Sydney where we met Mr John Ebbott, who showed us the base and some of the equipment the school’s donations have been used to purchase. Careflight is one of the two charities our school has funded over the past couple of years. The money is raised entirely from our fundraising group and SRC through various activities and special days throughout the year. We visited Careflight to understand more about this fantastic organisation that works to save many lives, many of these being premature babies needing to be transported to hospitals in Sydney. We had a tour around the base and were shown the helicopters and some of the equipment. We even met two of the pilots who were very kind and let us sit in the helicopter while they talked about all their experiences and answered any questions we had about their work. Hopefully we will see a lot more of the foundation and be able to share our new-found knowledge with the rest of the school, so that they are aware of this great cause that their donations are going towards.

Georgia Howard

Students arrived at James Ruse Agricultural High School and were met by the two deputy principals and our buddies for our tour of the school. Our buddies took us around their school and their farm area, this included the orchard and shearing shed. We were also taken to the art rooms, science labs and their large library. Once our tour of the school was finished, we did a power point presentation to our buddies and the deputy principal. Our power point consisted of photos of our school and the special features that are at Yanco. The students really enjoyed this because it gave them an idea of what our agricultural high school was like compared to their school.

Darcy Booth

After a great day at James Ruse we planned to finish it with a fun climb on the indoor rock walls in Sydney. But it turned out harder than first thought; we kicked off rock climbing with a practice run on the warm up wall. After that Bec destroyed the kid’s wall, Mr Sachs was on a sugar rush with Miss North and the boys were complaining about the tight harnesses. All up rock climbing was a fun and a great team bonding activity, we all enjoyed it.

Damian Johnston

Thursday

One of the best parts of the trip was on Thursday morning when we went to St. Mary’s Cathedral. The massive Cathedral was astonishing. We spent the morning wandering around the Cathedral looking at Architect, William Wardell’s fantastic...
Gothic Revival architecture. While walking around the Cathedral, we also learnt a bit about the history of the building and of Sydney as well. After almost an hour of remarking at the beauty of the place, we were kindly granted access to the Cathedral’s Crypt. The Crypt was yet another architectural wonder, and quite a surprise to Miss North and I who were expecting a scene from the Da Vinci Code. It held an exceptional floor mosaic of Earth’s creation spanning the length and breadth of the above cathedral as well as housing a vast history of Sydney. The main attraction of the Crypt was the magnificent tombs of the early Priests and Catholic Church leaders of Sydney. It was an eye-opening experience to try and comprehend how the builders had built this Cathedral in the early 1800s especially with such little resources.

Nathan Morris

Our trip to parliament house was going to be an interesting one with it being the last day of parliament. During the Q and A things were getting heated between both parties and what we expected was going to happen with official talks from politicians but that was far from what we had seen. From our perspective it was like a Year 2 class pulling faces, calling people names and writing things on paper and handing them around to everyone with little laughs here and there. It was a very eye opening experience for all of us that even the top of the NSW parliament can act like kids at times. So from this we have learnt that we as leaders do not want to talk to each other in these ways so we can have productive meetings and talks with each other.

Jock Ward

In the afternoon, after a long day at parliament Mr Press thought it would be a good idea for us prefects to walk the Harbour Bridge. It was good fun and took us about 20 minutes. After that we went down and took photos near the water, also visiting Mrs Macquarie’s Chair.

Rebecca Ritchie

Friday

On Friday we travelled to Homebush stadium to attend the Halogen Foundation National Young Leaders Day. The annual event is designed to develop young leader’s leadership skills and values and we got to enjoy a variety of multimedia presentations and guest speakers. Some of the guest speakers included anti-bullying campaigner Lucy Thomas, Australian Olympic bobsledder Jeremy Rolleston and The Bottom Line host, author and successful CEO Alex Malley. They spoke to us about the challenges they overcame, the obstacles they faced as they began to take on leadership roles in their lives and how first attempts often don’t succeed. It was an extremely interesting day and we got to speak with lots of other young leaders from around the state. We have definitely taken away some ideas to try out at Yanco.

Natalia Henderson

On the last night of Prefect Camp, the teachers gave the prefects a task to cook a formal dinner, this included preparing the meal, setting the table, decorating the area and dressing and behaving appropriately. The meal cooked by the prefects was delicious and the teachers thought we were successful in creating a good atmosphere for the event. All of us enjoyed the experience and learnt some lifelong skills involved in leadership such as teamwork, confidence and understanding that
leadership it based around being a team and how important that is.

Jane Arndt

The whole week was an extremely exciting experience that has increased our knowledge and abilities as a prefect team. I believe that every one of us has gained something from this trip, leaving us with some new lessons that we will have for life. The Prefect Leadership Camp has definitely had an impact on my own views and I look forward to putting my new skills into practice.

Breanna Carr

Team building activities at the rock climbing centre in Sydney.

The Prefects enjoying the view in Sydney.

Prefects at Parliament House
YEAR 9 EXCURSION TO TASMANIA

Day 1
Yanco to Melbourne-Spirit of Tasmania

We woke up at 6 o’clock on a humid Sunday morning when the thoughtful Mitchell Cattle and Matthew Seymour decided to wake the whole of Hindmarsh Year 9 boys up and force everyone to have a shower. At 7.00am we headed down to breakfast with all our gear. After a “delicious” and “fulfilling” breakfast we headed to the bus. After this Mr Benjamin had a talk with us about the importance of manners, being clean on the bus and about the 10kg chocolate bar. We then boarded the bus for an exciting six hour trip to Melbourne. With multiple stops to pick up students on the way, we soon discovered that Seymour and Cattle didn’t take kindly to anyone waking them up after waking everyone else up so bright and early. We arrived in Melbourne early and decided to take a stop at the Melbourne markets before boarding the Spirit of Tasmania where we settled in for the night and made ourselves as comfortable as possible. At 8 o’clock several of us went and watched the movie “The Boxtrolls” in the Deck 7 cinema. This movie went for almost two hours and perfectly lined up with our 10 o’clock curfew. After the movie we went back to our cabins, showered and went to our beds. Our rooms were small and cozy, with two bunks and a bathroom.

By James Kearines and Matthew Young

Day 2
Cradle Mountain and seeing the Penguins-NOT!

After a choppy journey on the Spirit of Tasmania 1 on Sunday night, we awoke to a speaker telling us it was 5:45am and that we would be disembarking the boat at 6:30am on the shores of Davenport, Tasmania.

After getting off the boat we travelled to a Motor Inn and had an all you can eat buffet breakfast, which we all enjoyed immensely, as we were all hungry after having such an early dinner the night before. After our delicious, filling brekkie we again boarded our bus and travelled to Cradle Mountain National Park.

On the way we stopped for our daily café break in Sheffield, before continuing on to Cradle Mountain. Upon arriving we split into three groups and met our tour guides and jumped on a bus to drive on a scenic route around the mountains. We stopped at Dove Lake and cupped the fresh mountain water into our hands for a taste, and shot some photos of the mountain completely shielded by Tasmanian clouds!

After we finished touring around the mountains and national park we said our thank yous and travelled yet again to our nights’ accommodation at Port Sorrel where we bunked in nice and snug.

Then after finishing a warm delicious meal we had a slight change of plans as we were not able to sight see Burnie’s famous Little (Fairy) penguins, instead the National Parks tour guide came to us and walked us around the shores, beaches and streets and introduced us to the homes of many other native animals.

We ended up back where we started with the tour, and called it a night with most of the group crashing immediately to get as rested as possible for our day ahead.

Day 3

Today we packed up from Camp Banksia and travelled two hours to Hobart. Once we arrived at Hobart we had time to get some lunch and wandered throughout the city and Salamanca Place. Salamanca Place was originally the Port of Hobart. Some of us had lunch at the Retro Café which was really nice. I would recommend it to anyone in the area. We then went for a walk around the harbour with some of the teachers and checked out some of the boats. We then got some ice cream, which was delicious and then went to our meeting point to get back on the bus. After our time shopping in Hobart we travelled to our accommodation which was amazing!! Eight of the girls (Loren, Hannah, Alison, Alex, Olivia, Annalise, Abbie and Shai-Yane) stayed in the “Coach House” that was two storeys. It looked like an old English Cottage. Some of the Boys stayed in the “Mansion”. It was also two storeys and from the outside looked amazingly like a haunted house.

That night we all travelled to the Putt-Putt Golf Centre and played golf for a couple of hours. It was
great fun and some people discovered that they had a hidden golf talent. Others had an amazing talent of losing their golf balls even though they were fluoro colours. We could play both of the courses (one inside course and the other was outside) that were both very fun. After golf we went back to our accommodation and went to bed.

Day 4
We started our day with an early morning start followed by the usual buffet breakfast at the Riverfront Motor Inn. By this stage, everyone was very weary so we caught up on some much needed sleep during the bus trip to Ridgeway Park. We had a quick stop where we explored the Ridgeway museum and information centre before we were set free to buy pies and hot drinks. We then commenced our bus trip to the Tahune Airwalk located in the Southwest National Park. This trip in particular was filled with loud; out of key singing from Mr Cross leaving us all half deaf by the time we arrived. Once we had arrived we were split up into two groups and taken separate ways. During our time there, both groups walked the airwalk where we enjoyed panoramic views and sighted the part of the rainforest that isn’t usually viewed - the canopy. Certain students decided that this was a good time to rock the unsupported, overhanging platform thoroughly scaring just about every girl in the year. But if you thought that was wobbly then you wouldn’t stand a chance when it came to the swinging bridges. These bridges are over 100 metres long and are held by only supports on either side of the river, with nothing in the middle. We then completed the walk and drove to the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens to enjoy the beautiful scenery. On returning to our motel, we had dinner and left for a night of laser tag and arcade games. This was a great way to top off a very exciting and interesting day.

By Abbie and Alex

Day 5 - Port Arthur
We started the day by making an hour and a half trip to Port Arthur. It was a very cold day. When we arrived we were given small cards and instantly became a convict for the day. We had to go around the visitors centre and learn about our particular convict. While we were in Port Arthur, we learnt about the early years of the British settlement in Australia. We spent time in the prison, and learnt about the many hardships the convicts faced. Port Arthur was a great experience for us all as we were able to experience firsthand how hard it was to live in this time. While we were at Port Arthur we went on a 20 minute cruise around the harbour learning interesting facts about the small islands, one of which was practically totally a grave yard.

After having a packed lunch we then headed out to the beach and went on an Eco cruise. This was a marvellous experience and became the highlight of the whole trip. There were two speedboats in which we boarded and headed out of the harbor and out into the Tasman Sea. We explored beautiful seas caves and rock formations including beautiful towering sea cliffs. During the action packed three hour jet boat experience we were fortunate enough to see many majestic animals which included many species of rare birds such as the wandering albatross, seals and a very close encounter with a humpback whale. We travelled at incredibly fast speeds all the way out to Tasman Island where we learnt about its history and about the lighthouse located on the top. On the way back at least three people on each boat got seasick vomiting over the side of the boat! Afterwards everyone was shivering feeling frozen on an incredibly cold day after being blasted with seaspray. We travelled an hour and a half back to the motel like this.

After a quick shower and a quick dinner at the hotel we then headed to the “Rock It” Rock Climbing Centre in which we all enjoyed getting harnessed up and climbing the wall.

Day 6 - Hobart
We started our day at Hobart, with breakfast at 7am then loaded the bus with our gear for the last time in Tasmania.

Our first stop was Tasmania’s ClaremontCadbury Factory where after a presentation of how chocolate is made, we had time to shop; we all bought lots of chocolate with Mr Brown buying the most, a 10kg block of chocolate for Mr Benjamin costing around $190.

We then travelled another hour and a half to Ross Bridge. In the historic town of Ross we had a group picture taken with the bridge in the background and had morning tea.
Once we left Ross we travelled to the last attraction of the trip to see the Tasmanian Devils along with a close up experience with other native wildlife such as kangaroos, black swans, wombats and ducks. We were given the opportunity to pat and feed the animals.

We then travelled back to Devonport, stopping at a cheese factory along the way. We boarded the Spirit of Tasmania I once again and after eight hours of smooth sailing we were back on the mainland in Melbourne. By 1.30pm we arrived back at school, tired and ready for some big sleeping time.
YEAR 8 EXCURSION TO MELBOURNE

On Monday the 1st of December, Year 8 travelled to Melbourne. The teachers accompanying us were Miss Weller, Mr Collins, Mr McGrevy, Miss McCaig and Miss Crnkovic. After arriving in Melbourne we went straight to the Eureka Sky deck, followed by the Melbourne Sea life Aquarium. We then settled into our accommodation before heading to dinner and visiting the Eureka Sky deck at night.

On Friday morning we packed the bus and drove to Melbourne Zoo. After 4 hours of walking around the zoo, we got back on the bus to head back to Yanco.

We would like to thank all the teachers for the opportunity to visit and learn about Melbourne. A special thanks to Miss Weller for organizing the whole excursion and making the whole trip possible. Lyndsey Mitchell & Heather Robinson.

Tuesday we visited Cooks Cottage, the Shrine of Remembrance and the MCG.

Wednesday we drove to Geelong to visit the National Wool Museum and to have a 2 hour surf lesson at Torquay. On the way to Torquay beach, we went to Bells beach for a look. After surfing, we returned to the hotel for a roast dinner and to have an early night.

Thursday we spent a couple hours at The Queen Victoria Markets and then visited the Old Melbourne Gaol. After lunch at a park, we went to Science Works. Thursday evening was spent eating dinner at the Three Crowns Hotel and then caught the bus to the Crown Casino. While at the Crown Casino we had three games of laser tag and an hour of free play in the arcade.
YEAR 7 EXCURSION – SYDNEY

Day 2
It was a 7:30 breakfast on Tuesday the 2nd. We got up and walked down to the kitchen/cafe in the YHA. After we had breky at the hotel, we jumped on the bus and drove into a small street at The Rocks. We walked up a lot of stairs and along a heap of pathways until we finally reached one end of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. We walked on the left side of the small pathway on the bridge, as pedestrians were walking along side us on the right hand side. As we were crossing it we got to see the beauty of Sydney’s Harbour. Once we got to the other side we got the experience of going under the bridge and a lot of us were fascinated with the sensor toilets. After we had our morning tea we then had to walk back over the bridge were we had a tour of one of the Pylon Lookouts. We learnt a bit about the history of the Harbour Bridge and who worked there. Then we caught a ferry over to Manly which took about 30 minutes. Once we got off we went to buy lunch and some of us got the opportunity to go shopping! Then we got back on the bus and caught it to Long Reef Beach for our 3 hour surfing lesson with some instructors. I’m sure in our own minds we were all very good but Miss North definitely hammered it! Unfortunately, 30 minutes before out lesson was supposed to finish, it started to storm so we had to get out of there very quickly to get back to the YHA so we were nice and dry. It cleared up so we walked to China Town where we got a beautiful meal but some people got a little bit carried away with the soy sauce, leaving a full bottle empty! After that we got to get some yummy ice-cream from N2 Extreme Gelato or yoghurt from Smoyo. We all enjoyed ourselves and had a great night out. We then went back to the YHA ready for the next day ahead of us.

By Georgina Russ and Samuel Thomas

Day 3
After breakfast we arrived at Taronga Zoo at 9:30am, and then we were all off in groups racing around the zoo to see all the animals. We had to find our own way to the Outback Backyard by 11am. When we got there we had to walk around to the Outback Theatre which is where we had a great experience learning about Aboriginal culture and animal stories. We got to meet a long neck turtle, a possum and a python. When it hit lunch we had a challenge to go around the zoo and find all the animals in the school war cry, but some of us just sat down and had some lunch. By 12:45pm we were on the bus going to Darling Harbour.

We arrived at Darling Harbour at 1:30pm. When we got there we got split into house groups McCaughey and Breakwell and Mutch and Gardiner. McCaughey and Breakwell were off to Madame Tussaud’s while Mutch and Gardiner went to the Aquarium. Then we swapped over half way through.

When we got inside at Madame Tussaud’s it was amazing! First of all we had the A-List Party including: Angelina Jolie, Nicole Kidman, Leonardo DiCaprio, Bruce Willis, Marilyn Monroe and Johnny Depp. Next was onto the Pop Stars including Rhianna, Michael Jackson, Taylor Swift, Katy Perry, Lady Gaga, Kylie Minogue, Delta Goodrem and Slim Dusty. Then we were off to the Cultural Personalities. Albert Einstein, Henry Lawson and Banjo Paterson were all there. We quickly got around to the film section where Wolverine, Iron Man, E.T, Jakie Chan, Audrey Hepburn and Alfred Hitchcock were. Then we were in the TV Stars section where Oprah Winfrey, Rove McManus and Delta Goodrem were. Next came the Historical Greats, where Ned Kelly, Captain Cook and Mary MacKillop all were. We got into the World Leaders section and very quickly found Nelson Mandela, Barack Obama, The Dalai Lama and The Royal Family including, Queen Elizabeth, Prince William and Princess Kate. Last but not least the Sport Stars, Layne Beachley, Mark Webber,
Donald Bradman and Rod Laver were all there looking as good as ever!

At half time we swapped and went to the aquarium. It was a lot of fun playing the interactive games and meeting lots of different animals such as Sharks, Dugongs, Penguins and many many more.

After that it was a very loud and exciting bus trip to Bondi Beach where we all went down to the beach and played in the sand and sea until… a storm came in! It was very windy and the sand stung our legs, so we all ran for shelter. We had to buy dinner so most of us went to McDonalds. It started pouring down rain so we all had to run to the bus and head off back to the YHA.

Meg Walton and Lachlan Henderson.

Day 4
The day started at 7:30 with breakfast in the café/kitchen of the hotel. For breakfast we had fresh toast or cereal. After breakfast, we went back to our rooms, packed our bags for the day and walked back down and outside to get on the bus that was waiting for us. We drove to the Sydney Tower.

As we arrived at Sydney Tower, we walked into a big building which was obviously the base. We caught some elevators up the next few levels until we reached the entrance to the lifts that would take us up to the top of the tower. When we got to the look-out floor, it was an amazing view. Our tour guide told us a bit about the tower and then we got to go and have a look through the glass windows and interact with the activities all around the place.

After our visit to the Sydney Tower, we got on the bus and drove to the Powerhouse Museum. We arrived out the front and all piled off the bus and walked to the front door of the building. We waited for our guide to come and direct us in. We walked through the main entrance and into the next entrance of the souvenir shop and café. As we sat down, the guide explained all of the rules that we had to follow whilst in the museum. For two hours we were allowed to explore in groups. There were so many different sections such as a space section with a piece of moon rock, an electrical section where you got to interact with many different activities. There was a car that had been crushed into a cube with was pretty interesting. There was also a whole section full of ancient and beautiful jewellery. It was all an amazing experience because of all of the interesting and exceptional exhibits.

After lunch we went to the opera house for a guided tour. Our tour guide’s name was Curly. He showed us three different rooms in the opera house; one was for singing one for dancing and the third room was for public performances. After the Opera we spent the rest of the afternoon at Paddy’s Markets. We left Paddy’s Markets at five o’clock and went back to the hotel to get changed for dinner. Dinner was at the Pizza Hut in George Street. We were back at the hotel and ready for bed by nine thirty.

Bianca Smith and Jacob Brouwer
YEAR 7 EXCURSION PHOTO COLLAGE BY MEG WALTON
YEAR 7 SHEPPARTON AND MOOTUBE PRESENTATION TRIP

On Thursday the 6th November, Year 7 travelled to Shepparton, Victoria, to participate in the Cows Create Careers presentation. Prior to the event, the students had all made Mootube Moovies about a selected topic or statement in relation to the Dairy industry and raising our dairy calves. We all had great fun interacting with the calves while making the movies in an effort to win big at the presentation. After all the preparation, the Four Witty Missy Moos came out on top, winning the first prize in the junior school section, with a tie in second place was The Milkbottles, Bruce and the Boys and We make Milk. Yanco was also named the overall winning junior school.

During the day, there were many games and activities that needed people with different personalities to compete from each school. Lots of us had a go but weren’t very good. Luckily we all had fun! Some of the activities had to dress someone up as a cow and cover them in notes that had a different dairy related job, while another one included making a wet weather outfit for a member of the team out of the given items, which that person had to parade around in. These outfits were later used on a teacher. Lucky Miss Weller got to wear our lovely outfit.

We left the presentation and headed out to Boosey creek cheese and dairy farm near Yarrawonga. When we arrived we met the tour guide, the owner Ada who took us over to the poddy calf shed. She said for the first week they feed them milk twice a day. All the milk that we feed the poddy calves comes straight out of the cows so they don’t have to mix up powder. After the first week they limit the milk to once a day and put them on grain. We left the poddy shed and went over to the rotary dairy system. It was a fifty stand system and it was quite amazing how it automatically fed the cows how much grain was needed to be fed. We then got to taste the cheese which was very yummy. They make all the cheese on site and only 2% of the milk goes to cheese. We then left Boosey Creek and headed back to school after our successful excursion.

Emma Dixon and Cooper Carter
SCHOOL SPECTACULAR 2014

On Tuesday the 25th of November, 17 students, Miss North and Mr Press travelled to Sydney to participate in the 2014 School Spectacular. We arrived in Sydney at 5pm and settled into our hotel. On Wednesday we were up early to get to the University of Technology Sydney for a full day of rehearsing. On Thursday we went to the Qantas Credit Union Arena to practise with the Orchestra and Featured Artists as well as a full dress rehearsal to make sure the show ran smoothly. On Friday we started early at the Qantas Credit Union Arena for the first matinee performance, followed by dinner and the evening performance at 6:30pm. After the evening Show ended we walked back to our accommodation, arriving around 11pm. Saturday was similar to Friday except we didn’t have to be at the Qantas Credit Union Arena until 12pm. After the matinee performance we had dinner and some of the students met with family members. The break was only 2 hours as we had to be ready at 6 for a 7pm start for the final show. We arrived back at our accommodation at around 11:30pm.

We woke up on Sunday morning before 6:30 to attend breakfast and make sure everything is packed for returning to Yanco. Miss North and seven Year 9 students were dropped off at Sydney Airport to catch a flight for their Year 9 Tasmania trip. Miss O’Brien met us in Sydney and accompanied the remaining 9 student back to Yanco.

We would like to thank Mr Press for driving the bus and putting up with our singing as well as Miss O’Brien for accompanying us on the bus ride back to Yanco. Also a huge thank you to Miss North for organising and making the whole trip possible.

By Heather Robinson and Lyndsey Mitchell.

MILLENNIUM MARCHING BAND

Applications are now open for the 2015 NSW Public Schools Millennium Marching Band.

The band is a dynamic group, full of energy and drive with a focus on fun and entertainment. The music is a mix of popular, traditional and new, combined with fast paced drill that is reflective of the music. The NSW Public Schools Millennium Marching Band is more than straight lines and traditional marches.

Membership of the Millennium Marching Band is open to all students in Years 7-12 attending a government secondary or central school in New South Wales.

Please pass on this information to students at your school and within your community who would enjoy being part of the band. We are looking for talented and enthusiastic students to join this excellent group. There are also a few positions still available on our 2015 USA Tour for interested students.

Check out The Arts Unit website for more information about the band and the online application form.


Elyse North, Music Teacher
ALBURY SHOW - CATTLE REPORT

Our final show of the year for the cattle team was Albury Show, which was held on the last weekend of November. We headed off to the show early Friday morning so we could get the cattle all washed and settled before competition that afternoon. Competition started off with junior judging, we were asked to judge a class of steers. The people who got to speak in this class were, Natasha Greenshields, Rebecca Ritchie, Brittany Clark, Rose Nevinson, Logan Manwaring and Cameron Saul. The students were later placed in the order of age and in the over 15 class Logan Manwaring came first, Rebecca Ritchie placed third meanwhile in the under 15 section Cameron Saul placed first while also being named Champion junior judge with reserve being Logan Manwaring. We then had paraders and the place getters were, Logan Manwaring placing second and Laura Harris placing third in the older class. In the younger class Zac Liley placed second in his age group. The group final paraders was next, were students were vying for a position in the state finals next year at Sydney Royal, the people who qualified were, Kaitlyn McKay and Brodie Heron with Breanna Carr being named reserve.

In the steer class we had many wins, in the light weight class Yanco had a heifer placing first named Fairley Snickers, and another heifer placing fourth by the name of Fairley Fair Lady. Both were donated by the Fairley Family. In the middle weight class a steer donated by TopTani Angus placed third and in the heavy weights we had two steers that placed and they were a Limousin steer donated by Kings Creek Limousins who placed second and also a Galloway steer donated by Greenthorne Galloways placed third. But that is not all; Yanco also took out champion live-weight steer/heifer with the heifer from the light weight class, Fairly Snickers.

After this we had the heifer classes, we had many place but the top heifer of the day was Futurity Endurance Ruby who is owned and shown by Logan Manwaring. She went into the champion class along with Nero Victoria who was on loan from Nero Shorthorn stud, Keith and Vicky Ridley. Unfortunately both heifers did not place but deserved the chance of competing in that class.

The following Tuesday students got the opportunity to attend the viewing and result ceremony of the carcase section of the competition. This is a wonderful chance for the students to get the opportunity to assess the final product of the production line. Yanco’s cattle performed well on the hook with the Limousin steer from King Creek Limousins and a
Santa Gertrudis cross steer donated by the Manwaring family both placing 3rd in their weight divisions. The top honour of Champion carcase also was award to Yanco with the Limousin Heifer from the Fairley family winning with a total point score over 92 points.

Yanco wishes to thank all donators of steers and heifers who have made the Albury cattle show so successful and enable the students to compete in paraders and vie for a state finals position. Many Thanks’ to the Manwaring family, Fairley family, Toptani Angus stud, King’s Creek Limousin Stud, Greenthorpe Galloways, Grylls Family, The Glen Angus stud and Nero Shorthorns.

SUCCESS FOR SHERIDAN HAMMET AT MAJOR AUSTRALASIAN SHOW

Sheri competed recently at the Equestrian Australia Australasian Show Horse & Rider Championship 2014 at Werribee Park just out from Melbourne. SHERIDAN rode her GALLOWAY to be awarded Runner Up Small Galloway, only beaten by a horse from New Zealand. This is a title that she will hold for the next 12 months.

Sheri competed against the two top horses from all the Australian states which included Tasmania and representatives from New Zealand. Congratulations to Sheri for a wonderful effort.

EUROBODALLA HACK AND AUSTRALIAN STOCK HORSE SHOW

Jessica Afflick and Rayma China girl Champion led show hunter
Champion stock horse hack
Champion working stock horse
Champion stock horse ridden by a junior
Supreme ridden stockhorse
Largest Murray Cod:
- Adult: Will Armstrong, Hillston, 77cm
- Student: Aaron Cain, Hillston, 76cm
  Runner up: Sam Thomas, Hillston, 75cm

Largest Yellow Belly:
- Adult: Alan Briggs, Carrathool, 52cm
- Student: Liam McCallum, Hillston, 48cm
  Runner up: Jack Simmonds, Hillston, 46cm

Largest Freshwater Bream:
- Todd Gaffey, Carrathool, 37cm

Biggest Flathead:
- Student: Thompson Helwig, Tuross, 95cm
  Runner up: Connor Ricciarelli, Tuross, 67cm

Most Carp caught:
- Adult: Ian Armstrong, Booligal, 60carp
- Student: Damian Cain, Booligal, 44carp

Most Flathead caught:
- Ex Fishing Club Student: Hayden Gorman, Tuross

Most Unusual Catch all year:
- Ex Fishing Club Student: Warren Weir - Pelican around foot, Tuross

CLUB PERSON OF THE YEAR:
- Jack Simmonds

FISHERMAN OF THE YEAR:
- Mitchell Cattle

New Student Life Members 2014:
- Luke Lucas & James Wade

New Adult Life Members 2014:
- Graham Scarlett & Narelle Lucas
HELP OTHER PARENTS PREPARE THEIR CHILDREN FOR BOARDING SCHOOL

Would you like to share your knowledge to support other boarding families? If so, then this is for you!

ICPS Federal Council is working with Kate Hadwen who recently completed a PhD exploring the transitioning challenges faced by boarding students and their families when young people move into boarding school. The families who participated in the study shared such useful tips about how they supported their children and managed homesickness and other issues that Kate felt strongly about finding an avenue to more broadly share their knowledge. To this end, Kate has been successful in having a publisher agree to publish a book. The royalties from the book will be donated to ICPA to support further research in this area.

Message from Kate:

Supporting boarding students towards being happy and healthy in their new environments has become a life-long passion for me. Having been a boarder and worked in a variety of roles in boarding houses and then as a children's health researcher I became deeply interested in how to support boarding students and their parents as students transitioned into boarding, and how to support students and families when things weren't going so well.

Having secured funding to better understand the current climate for boarders and their families in 2010 I began researching topics such as: transitioning activities, connectedness, safety, loneliness, homesickness and help-seeking in an attempt to understand how young people were experiencing boarding and how schools and families could support positive transitions and healthy outcomes for boarding students.

Through this study I began to realise parents of boarding students were equally, if not more effected by the transitioning of their children into boarding than were the children. Through interviews and focus groups I also listened to the wonderful suggestions parents made regarding how they uniquely supported their children through this transition and how they managed homesickness. Their stories taught me so much and I was inspired by their courage in the face of adversity.

Wanting to share this knowledge more broadly I approached a publisher who I had previously worked with to ask if the company would consider publishing a book for parents that provided them with the useful advice other families had shared with me regarding supporting children transition into boarding. Thankfully the publisher thought this was a great idea.

This is where I need your assistance (please)....every family is unique and you all have important messages to share with other families regarding how you have supported your children. I would deeply appreciate anything you would be willing to share with me that you feel may be of benefit for other families. Please contact me using the below information or fill out the online survey to share your knowledge with other families. Thanks for taking an interest in this project, let's hope our collective knowledge helps other families as they travel the path of transitioning their children into boarding. Online survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/parentsicpa Email: katehadwen@gmail.com Phone: Kate Hadwen 0448 068 541 (I will be out of mobile range between December 18 and January 3)

2014 SCHOOL FEES:
School Fees should now be paid in full. If there are any amounts still outstanding, and you have not spoken to the Registrar, you need to do so immediately in order to guarantee your placement for 2015 school year. The Registrar’s Office closes on Christmas Eve and re-opens 5th January 2015.

YEAR 7 LAKE TALBOT CAMP
Camp dates: February 10th and 11th.
All Year 7 will be going. They need to have a swag or sleeping bag. A note will be emailed home very soon with all information regarding the camp. The cost is approximately $25

YEAR 9 CAMP HUDSON 2015
Camp dates March 10th – 13th
All Year 9 to attend this camp which will be immediately after term 1 DESI. All students will need to have a swag or sleeping bag. Cost is approximately $100.
What a year it has been and a very very busy Term 4, with an even busier Term 1 2015 planned! Ewe lambs, ram lambs and ewes have had their DNA sampled and sent off for testing. The lambs are growing between 500 and 700 grams per day and have been muscle and fat scanned and entered into LAMBPLAN, while the Physics and Biology HSC classes as well as some of our new Science staff came down to watch while the scanner used the Ultrasound to measure the size of the eye muscle and fat on the lamb’s loins, which goes into LAMBPLAN to produce an Australian Sheep Breeding Value for muscling and fat. The more muscling, the more meat a sheep should produce and fat is important for lamb survival, lamb finishing ability and meat eating quality.

We have had three rams selected by the Sheep CRC and University of New England for the 2015 Resource Flock, which have had semen collected and sent across to Armidale. This will be genotyped using the 700K SNP test, which is a lot more detailed than the current 12K SNP test that is used commercially and distributed across the Resource Flock. Over 300 sires were nominated and we were very privileged to be chosen! This will greatly improve our linkage with other studs and the accuracy of our data.

Students from the Animal Management class have selected the semen sires for the 2015 Artificial Insemination program, which will occur in mid-February. We were allocated semen from four elite sires from the Superwhites Young Sire Improvement Program; Millswyn 130201, Waratah 130597, Ashmore 130305, Felix 130742 and students selected the remaining sires, Kurralea 130406 and Ramsay Park 130201. We were kindly donated semen from a top sire, Langley Heights 060073 by Barry Lang of Langley Heights White Suffolks and the use of some top rams for oestrus synchronised yard-mating of the ewe lambs and backup rams by Murray Long of Pendarra White Suffolks and Performance Plus Genetics. We have also managed to secure the last remaining 21 doses in the country of the ONLY ram on LAMBPLAN that is a trait leader for all three DNA tested traits, lean meat yield, intramuscular fat (correlated to flavour) and shear force (correlated to tenderness), who will be selectively mated to ewes that have been DNA tested for these traits as well. We are very excited to see the outcome of the 2015 artificial insemination and joining program, who will be for the sale hopefully in the inaugural on-farm ram sale in 2016!

The students and I would like to give a very special thank you to the Parents and Citizens Association. They have been so incredibly generous to the sheep enterprise over the past two years, with the donation of money to purchase a Gallagher SmartTSi weigh scale indicator in 2013 and a Combiclamp Sheep Handler and Gallagher HR5 Electronic identification wand in 2014. We are very very grateful for these amazing contributions. They have made the Yanco Agricultural High School sheep enterprise and McCaughey White Suffolks industry-leaders in the use of technology. All of the sheep have been tagged with Electronic ID tags and are run through the Combiclamp, weighed and husbandry operations performed, scanned using the wand and the data transferred via Bluetooth to the indicator. This is all done by the students. So far, in the short time we have had the Combiclamp, the students have performed weighing, DNA testing, intramuscular injections in preparation for AI, testicle palpation, castration and condition scoring. We will be able to
use it for much more than this and it has made handling large sheep much safer and easier for the students.

For their generous contributions in 2014, I would like to thank the following people and businesses:

- Bianca, Mick, Steve and Grant, the Farm Staff, who without the sheep enterprise would not run at all!
- Murray Long from Pendarra White Suffolks and Performance Plus Genetics for his advice, support and use of his rams
- Barry Lang from Langley Heights White Suffolks for the donation of semen
- Doug Thomas from Fabstock for donation and supply of lick and show feed
- Alan and Kerrie Johnston from Longlands, Naradhan for supply of feed oats
- Matthew Shady from Illoura for supply of lupins
- Garry Armstrong for his classing services
- Steve Milne for his scanning services
- Trevor Pearse for his scanning services
- Phil Balcome for his pregnancy scanning services
- Tim Hutchison for his services as an agent
- Mal Henman for running the Shearing School
- Greg Sawyer from Australian Wool Network for assisting with the wool
- Tanya and Gavin from Australian Shearing Supplies for their services
- The Team from Practical Systems for providing us with Stockbook livestock management software and support.

I would also like to thank our clients who have purchased rams in 2014 for their business. We still have several two-tooth rams for sale and if you would like to purchase them, please contact Ellie Quinn at the school on (02) 69511500 or after hours by email on ellie.quinn5@det.nsw.edu.au

Merry Christmas to all the students and parents, may you have a safe and happy holiday and I hope to see you all back for our very busy Term 1 in 2015!

Ellie Quinn

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**PROGRAM FOR RETURN OF ALL STUDENTS 2015**

**ALL MEETINGS IN THE HALL**

**WEDNESDAY, 28TH JANUARY**

10.00 a.m.  
Meetings for all new students and parents

10.15 a.m.  
Years 7 and 8 students and parents

10.45 a.m.  
Year 10 students and parents

11.15 a.m.  
Year 11 students and parents

11.45 a.m.  
All VET students

12.00 noon  
Year 9 students and parents

1.00 p.m.  
Year 12 students and parents

1.30 p.m.  
All students and parents involved in the Equine Program

2.00 p.m.  
P & C Meeting