UPCOMING EVENTS

February 24th -
March 1st
Canberra Show
Equine, Cattle & Sheep
March 2nd
Open Day
March 3rd
CHS Open Touch
Griffith
March 5th
Students leave for DESI
March 6th
Riverina Swimming Carnival Leeton
March 6th - 8th
Fishing Club @ Bidgee Classic
March 7th - 8th
Equine – Tumut Show
March 9th
Students return from DESI
March 10th - 13th
Year 9 Camp Hudson
March 12th
Selective Schools Test
March 20th
BEACH CARNIVAL
March 21st
GALA DAY
March 22 - Apr 9
Sydney Royal
March 27th - 29th
CHS Swimming in Sydney
March 28th - 29th
Fishing Club @ Blowering Dam

2015 SWIMMING CARNIVAL SUCCESS FOR GARDINER

GARDINER

McCAUGHEY

MUTCH
SUCCESS FOR SHERIDAN HAMMET

In mid-February Sheridan travelled to the Werribee Park Equestrian Centre in Victoria to compete at the Barastoc Horse of the Year competition against the best in the country. Sheridan rode Roscoe (Sanlirra Talk Of the Town) to be awarded Barastoc Reserve Champion Small Galloway of the Year.

The competition was world class and she has now qualified for the EA Grand Nationals in December. Congratulations to Sheridan for this wonderful achievement.

THE BIG SHOW TEAM ROPING

The Big Show Team Roping 2015 was held at the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre, Tamworth, NSW. It is the richest Team Roping Rodeo Event ever to be held in the Southern Hemisphere with over $765,000 in cash and prizes.

On February 16th I travelled, with my family, to Tamworth to compete in The Big Show Team Roping. I entered the #7 Roping twice with two different partners. It was held over two days with more than 250 teams entered.

Teams were divided into six Rotations and had to rope two steers each. The fastest five teams from each rotation, progressed to the next round of thirty teams, where we all had to rope another steer with the fastest ten teams progressing to the short go. I made it to the short go with both my partners. I finished the Roping placing second with one partner and third with the other.

The 2nd place prize was a Mitsubishi Lancer each, and Ariat Boot Vouchers and 3rd place prize was a Mitsubishi Mirage and Ariat Boot vouchers. We also received $1100 per team for progressing to the round of thirty teams, $1100 for making the Short Go, and another $1100 for being the fastest team in a round.

Another highlight of the week was when my family and some friends went out for dinner with J.D.Yates and Jay Wadam, two of the most successful Ropers in the World. They came out from Colorado, USA, to judge and compete in The Big Show Team Roping.

Daniel Guilford
PRINCIPALS REPORT

The school has had a wonderful start and how quickly the first five weeks have past. On day 1 it was great to see the many excited students and families with the start of the school year. A huge thank you to all families for their co-operation and organisation on moving in day. Staff worked closely with you to ensure the day ran smoothly with any issues quickly addressed. Not too hot this year so that was a great help. We have had a few very hot days during the term to date and the pool has been well used and appreciated by all students.

To show the range of opportunities in the school in the first week we had students learning how to train livestock dogs from Neil McDonald and another group were working on a robot with a Macquarie University team that will compete in Sydney in the near future with schools from NSW and overseas.

The school swimming carnival was a huge success and many thanks to the parents who took the time to support their children and the school. By the end of the night our students were voiceless, very weary and ready for a quiet night back at school. It was great to see Gardiner House successful for the first time in many years. All student leaders did an excellent job and are to be commended. Many records were broken with Jock Ward and Max Findlay each breaking three records, some dating back many years.

A large team of students then went onto success at the Zone Carnival winning the interschool competition. Many of these students will now compete in the Riverina Carnival which unfortunately falls on the Friday of our Desi weekend. I am well aware many parents will take the students to this event to try and gain entry to Sydney later in the term. To those parents, thank you in advance for your efforts. Good luck to all students competing next week in this event.

Student Success

A number of our students have been recognised for their achievements already this year.

Two of our students were recognised at community Australia Day Awards:


Damian received his sporting award from the Bland Shire for his talent, dedication and work ethic in what was an outstanding year of sport. His year started when he was selected to represent Southern Inland Rugby Union before being named captain of the Riverina CHS school-boys team which competed at a tournament in Newcastle.

He was then selected in the NSW under-16s Combined High Schools team where his form proved impossible for selectors to ignore when picking the open NSW CHS team to travel to the Rainbow Nation (South Africa) in April.

2. Andrew Haenig – Tumbarumba Shire Junior Sports Person Award

Andrew is an all round sports person and following a great career in Milo Cricket he has gone on to play representative cricket in regional and interstate competitions. He returns home at weekends to continue to play with his team which has led to representative honours. He has also played in a Junior Aussie Rules premiership for Tumbarumba and locally he has been named “Most Improved Player” for the Leeton Phantoms Rugby Union.

In sport three students have achieved great success:

1. Kaitlyn McKay – selected in the ACT Brumbies Under 18 team to contest the national titles in Rugby 7’s. Former student Remi Wilton is also in this team

2. Zac Saddler was awarded ‘Best Afield’ for the NSW Indigenous Rugby League Team (Under 16’s) against the Queensland Indigenous Team on the Gold Coast

3. Sheridan Hammet was Reserve Champion with her Galloway hack at a major show in Werribee and has again qualified for the Grand National.
Many of our students participate in Rodeo events outside school and two students have recently had major success.

1. Daniel Guilford - competed in the National Team Roping at Tamworth. He competed with two different partners and placed second and third winning two cars plus many other prizes in an enormous event for a teenager to participate in.

2. Lawson Stenhouse - currently leading the Southern Zone Junior 14-18 years steer and bull ride aggregate with three rodeos to go. He finished in third place nationally last year which is a great effort considering he is only 15 years of age. Lawson is now a sponsored rider.

Presently our sheep, cattle and equine teams are competing at Canberra and they have already had considerable success. More in the next newsletter.

A large number of our students have qualified for State finals at the Royal Easter Show in junior judging and parading.

The student qualifiers for Sydney 2015 include:

Paraders: Logan Manwaring, Cooper Carter, Jeremy Mackay, Kaitlyn McKay, Bryce Johnston, Brodie Heron, Maddeline Coomber

Grain: Hayley Fairfull, Alisha Harrington, Logan Manwaring, Zac Liley

Fleece Judging: Rose Nevinson, Cody Brown, Alisha Harrington, Hayley Fairfull,

Meat Sheep Judging: Jeremy Mackay and Deanna Johnston

Fruit and Vegies: Zac Liley

Merino: Rebecca Ritchie, Kylie Fairfull

Dairy Cattle Judging: Hayley Fairfull

Australian Stockhorse: Sheridan Hammet and Jess Afflick

Best wishes to all these students competing at Sydney at the end of the term.

Building Upgrades

At the moment there is considerable construction going on around the school. DEC funding has allowed the upgrade of three of the six bathrooms in Hindmarsh. The DEC has contributed $96,000 for this upgrade and schools funds of $15,000 have been added to enable all three areas to be completed. This work is expected to be completed prior to the commencement of Term 2. The school’s maintenance allocation of $98,000 will be used to upgrade the change rooms/toilet areas on the oval. The school has added $19,000 to ensure this is completed. Work will commence at Easter and must be completed prior to June 30. In addition, over the Easter break, a new type of floor covering will be placed in one of the Breakwell dormitories as a trial.

The Old Yanconians have been very generous in donating funds for specific purposes around the school. Firstly they have donated $42,000 to complete stage two of the watering sprinklers on the oval. The school will complete the third stage at $36,000. In addition the Old Yanconians have donated a further $28,000 to construct an outdoor gym for students. This idea has been floated a number of times to the school and P & C but now the funding has been sourced it will become a reality. This will be a scaled down version of the equipment many of you have seen in the park at Griffith. Over time as funds become available more machines can be purchased. This will be situated in the area adjacent to the gym. A huge thank you to the Old Yanconians for their support. Normally at the Old Yanconians dinner on the Friday night of Beach Carnival only the Captains participate but this year all ten prefects are invited and excited to attend. Again thanks to the Old Yanconians for this kind invitation.

Exemptions and Leave for Travel

Earlier in the year I circularized all parents with the changes in the DEC Attendance Policy. I repeat this again for your information. If you have any enquiries please don’t hesitate to contact the school for clarification.
As of February 3rd 2015 the Department of Education and Communities Attendance Policy was updated and following are the guidelines we now operate under.

**Exemption from School Attendance**

Reasons for granting full day exemption from School

1. Exceptional circumstances, which does include the health of the student.
2. The child being prevented from attending school because of a direction under the Public Health Act 2010.
4. Participating in Elite Arts or Elite Sporting Events.

**Extended Leave – Travel**

Students travelling during school terms are not eligible for exemption from school attendance. If the Principal accepts the reason for this travel the leave will be granted. The Principal will be looking for educational merit in the travel when assessing each application. Any assessment tasks due during the travel time will remain due at those times. A separate form is now available for this Travel and is title “Application for Extended Leave - Travel”.

The front office will be more than happy to email copies of these forms to you. We do advise that when applying and filling in these forms that you plan well ahead where possible

**The “Tell Them From Me” student feedback survey.**

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered at school between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey has been sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 27 February. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

**Please keep the School Up to date**

At the moment the school is closely examining all paperwork provided by parents. Some anomalies have been found and some families will be contacted shortly to ascertain the correct data. Concerns relate to parents indicating students have a health plan but not attaching the required information, notification of changes in telephone and email contact details and emergency contact details. Thank you to all families for your efforts. A new system of asking you to check this information will be actioned during 2015 so that continuing families will no longer need to fill out the forms each year unless there are changes of circumstances.

**Facebook**

At the first day meetings I indicated that the school was working towards an official facebook page to quicken some of the communication. We have continued to work on this project and it is hoped to have this launched by the middle of Term 2. We are very excited with this initiative and many other schools have found this a great asset when working with the community.

All the best until our next news.
2015 SCHOOL CAPTAINS, PREFECTS AND HOUSE CAPTAINS

Rebecca Ritchie, Breanna Carr, Jock Ward, Damian Johnston, Luke Horrobin, Nathan Morris, Darcy Booth, Jane Arndt, Georgia Howard, Natalia Henderson

McCAUGHEY

Nicole Fairley, Geoffrey Hillam, Meg Potter, Clay McKenzie

MUTCH

Mitchell Pippin, Ryan Van Gemert, Marnie Whytcross, Deanna Johnston

GARDINER

Olivia Gay, Matheson Lees, Grace Skipworth, George Alexander

BREAKWELL

Logan Manwaring, Hamish Bradford, Rose Nevinson, Bronte Doyle
TWILIGHT SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2015
GARDINER TAKES IT OUT!!!

Swimming Carnivals at YAHS have always been one of the highlights of our year and 2015 did not disappoint. The afternoon started with the juniors swimming their individual races and it was so great to see a large number of new students winning their events. As more and more of the older students arrived at the pool, the atmosphere became electric. The cheering and chanting was some of the best we have ever seen.

Throughout the night we were regularly updated with overall point scores thanks to Mr Cassilles and Mr Gifford, with the new recording system we were trialling.

From the very beginning Gardiner House were in the lead and it seemed very hard for the other houses to catch up.

As we came to the relays, the points were no longer revealed. Gardiner House once again came away with a large number of wins! The All Age Relays proved to be very competitive and we finished the night with the Teachers v House Captains v Parents relay. This was a great way to finish up the evening and it was so good to see some parents who were keen to get in and have some fun!

By the end of the night we were all on edge to find out who had won the carnival, but before then, age champions were announced.

Congratulations to the Age Champions:
12yr Boy - Seth Carter
13yr Boy - Max Findlay
14yr Boy - Ryan Findlay
15yr Boy - Max Gay
16yr Boy - Aleksi McDermott
Senior Boy - Jock Ward
12yr Girl - Tully James
13yr Girl - Isabel Humphries
14yr Girl - Sophie Ryan
15yr Girl - Abbey McCloskey
16yr Girl - Chloe Ward
Senior Girl - Meg Potter

Once age champions were announced, Mr Finch announced the overall point scores;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Gardiner</td>
<td>1178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>McCaughey</td>
<td>1098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Mutch</td>
<td>891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Breakwell</td>
<td>763</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We couldn’t have a YAHS Swimming Carnival without some records being broken and 2015 was the year for it! Congratulations to all the students who broke records throughout the night.

A huge thank you to all the staff who worked tirelessly throughout the evening. Without your hard work events such as this don’t happen. A big thank you also to parents who assisted during the night and came to support their children.

Bring on 2016!!

Alison Giles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>New Record</th>
<th>New Rec. Holder(s)</th>
<th>Old Record</th>
<th>Old Record Holder</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14/15 Girls Freestyle 200m</td>
<td>02:36.2</td>
<td>Abbey McCloskey</td>
<td>02:36.3</td>
<td>M. Potter 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Snr Boys Butterfly 50m</td>
<td>00:30.8</td>
<td>Jock Ward</td>
<td>00:32.2</td>
<td>B. Burley 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Snr Boys Freestyle 100m</td>
<td>01:04.3</td>
<td>Jock Ward</td>
<td>01:05.0</td>
<td>M. King 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Boys Butterfly 50m</td>
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<td>Max Findlay</td>
<td>00:39.5</td>
<td>R. Milgate 1996</td>
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<td>Open Medley Relay F 4x50m</td>
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<td>McCaughey</td>
<td>02:54.0</td>
<td>Mutch 2004</td>
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<td>Snr Boys Backstroke 50m</td>
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<td>Jock Ward</td>
<td>00:34.4</td>
<td>J. Ward 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Boys Breaststroke 50m</td>
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<td>Max Findlay</td>
<td>00:45.6</td>
<td>B. Robinson 1999</td>
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<td>16/Senior Boys Relay 4x50m</td>
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<td>Mutch</td>
<td>02:09.8</td>
<td>Gardiner 2005</td>
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<td>Junior Boys Relay 4x50m</td>
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<td>Gardiner</td>
<td>02:35.4</td>
<td>Breakwell 2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Snr Girls Backstroke 50m</td>
<td>00:36.6</td>
<td>Meg Potter</td>
<td>00:37.3</td>
<td>C. Delaney 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Boys Breaststroke 50m</td>
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<td>Aleksi McDermott</td>
<td>00:40.4</td>
<td>S. Gross 2000</td>
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<td>Max Findlay</td>
<td>00:32.5</td>
<td>B. Robinson 1999</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Chloe Ward</td>
<td>00:33.8</td>
<td>A. Campbell 2001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Snr Boys Breaststroke 50m</td>
<td>00:39.0</td>
<td>Jock Ward</td>
<td>00:39.1</td>
<td>J. Brown 1999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SCHOOL SWIMMING AGE CHAMPIONS

Girls: Tully James, Isabel Humphries, Sophie Ryan, Abbey McCloskey, Chloe Ward, Meg Potter
Boys: Seth Carter, Max Findlay, Ryan Findlay, Max Gay, Aleksi McDermott, Jock Ward

THE REST OF THE ZONE IN OUR WAKE

It’s been another marvellous start to the competitive swimming season at Yanco. After a brilliant school carnival, where many of the new students shone, Yanco Ag fielded a solid team of 54 students at the recent South West Zone championships. Battling against several much larger schools from the area, the students of Yanco dominated in a number of age groups and were successful in retaining the Zone trophy for the third year in a row. Leading the charge were Meg Potter and Mitch Ryan (team captains) who set the example and assisted Miss Giles in organising the junior swimmers. With their, and the other senior students’, leadership the school spirit was palpable as Yanco represented race after race.

The best individual results belonged to Meg Potter (Open Girls), Jock Ward (Open boys) and Abbey McCloskey (16 years girls), each of whom placed first in their respective age divisions. They were ably supported by Chloe Ward (2nd girls 16 years), Bronte Doyle (3rd girls 16 years), Zac Saddler (3rd boys 16 years), Zoe Potter (3rd girls 15 years), Max Gay (3rd boys 15 years) and Max Findlay (3rd boys 13 years).

However, the real effort behind the school retaining the trophy goes to the part time swimmers, who put in a fantastic effort and showed the indomitable school spirit and desire to participate that epitomises Yanco Agricultural High.

A special thanks to all the parents for coming along and supporting their kids and the school and a very special thanks to Miss Giles for her help.

Mr Haskins

BEACH CARNIVAL
Friday 20th March

Beach Carnival is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a family picnic by the river and watch your children compete in a most thrilling day of events. Remember to bring a picnic lunch, a chair, a rug, water, sunscreen and a hat. Also a reminder that NO DOGS ARE ALLOWED in National Parks, whether on a leash or not. Your co-operation is this matter is greatly appreciated. If all guests could remain behind security fencing and ensure all rubbish is placed in the bins provided, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

STARTING TIME: 8:30am MIDDLE BEACH
WORKING WITH NEIL McDONALD

From the 2nd – 4th March Neil McDonald from Keith, SA, came to Yanco to tutor a group of 15 students on livestock handling and how to train dogs to work livestock. Sally Bannerman (Department of Education Animal Welfare Officer) and Neil’s assistant Rob were also there for the three days supporting our learning.

Using livestock handling techniques that reflect a knowledge and understanding of the physical and behavioural characteristics of stock and dogs is becoming a vital part of our primary production. The acquisition and use of these skills not only improves animal welfare and work, health and safety but leads to increased productivity and profitability.

On Monday we were in the classroom for the first few hours watching video clips on livestock handling and working dogs. We also learnt about Neil’s way of livestock handling, why we should do it and what the benefits are. After recess we went down to the sheep yards where Neil and Rob had their dogs tied up and ready to work. The first exercise we had to do was to make the dogs move the trainer mob to follow us. This was harder than what we expected. We then had to make sure the mob came between two markers and if we had a spill we had to keep trying. After lunch we headed down to the yards, where we learnt how to move a mob of sheep without dogs and without making noises but by using Neil’s techniques of feet and leg movements and some arm movements. This session didn’t finish until after 4 o’clock but we didn’t want to leave because it was so interesting and relevant to the industry.

On Tuesday we kicked off the day by starting down at the yards where Neil told some stories and explained the natural behaviours of sheep and dogs. We then had to move a mob of sheep into a small yard by ourselves and without dogs. This activity was challenging but very rewarding and we were starting to realise that what Neil was saying actually works no matter what we look like when we’re doing it. After recess we went back to the classroom where Neil told a few more yarns and we had a lesson on dogs and what we need to look for when we are picking a dog and how we should look after our dogs. After lunch we were back down at the yards where Neil and Rob showed us professional dog working skills and also showed us a few tricks that he does with his dogs. He showed us that in a mob there is always a leader and that we should always acknowledge it and let it lead. He showed this to us and recognising the leader he caught it and spray-painted goggles on it. This was very worthwhile as he could also refer back to ‘Goggles’ which helped us to understand the technique to handling livestock. That afternoon a lady brought in a kelpie pup (at least 5 months old) and Neil showed us how to get a new dog to listen, respect, trust and work for you. This was one of the most interesting sessions and was very worthwhile.

Wednesday morning saw us back in the classroom reflecting on the previous days and showing us a few more videos. After morning recess we went down to the yards and started working stock again. This time we learnt how to train a mob of sheep to train our dogs and how to start our dogs off. The method we used was the ‘quarter bubble’, ‘half bubble’ and ‘full bubble’. This was very challenging as we had to stop the dog ‘Nobel’ from running and biting at the sheep. This took quite some time as it takes time to understand and learn the technique. After lunch Neil hit us up for the ‘Single Beast’ challenge. This challenge is where you have to get one beast (sheep in our case) and make it stop between two posts without touching it and without using dogs and to be able to walk away.

back to the classroom where we watched more video clips on handling livestock. We were all starting to become weary so we ventured back
from it and it still stand there. At first we all thought that Neil was crazy but we soon realised that it was possible and when we did it we felt pretty happy about our accomplishment! We ended the last day by watching some more video clips, Neil telling some yarns and Rob playing the guitar and singing for us. We were very sad when Neil and Rob had to go. The experience and knowledge that Neil shared was so extensive and we were so glad that he shared so much of it with us.

We would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Quinn for organising such a remarkable opportunity for us to learn so much about our passion – training dogs and working with livestock. The stories that Neil told us and the many performances and acting he did for us was funny as well as relevant. Our favourite ‘move’ to get the sheep moving was definitely the ‘McSpin’. Neil quoted ‘there needs to be more fun in working in the livestock industry’, and we proved that with all the laughter and fun we had during the three days. We would like to thank Neil McDonald in taking time out of his busy schedule to run this dog training school for us. The skills that he taught us will definitely be put into practise as it makes moving livestock so much easier and makes working dogs a breeze. Neil also told us that ‘I’m teaching you guys so there are more trainers teaching what I’m teaching’. I’m sure he has helped a few of us with our future career choices. The Neil McDonald Dog Training School was an outstanding experience for us all.

The Dog and Livestock Handling Workshop was organised by Sally Bannerman (Animal Welfare in Schools Advisor) and funded through the Animals in Schools Program (NSW Department of Education and Communities).

By Deanna Johnston, Molly Cornish, Kyla Warmsley, Emma Kuerschner and Charlotte Butt
NEW STAFF

Rachel Posselt
My name is Miss Rachel Posselt and I completed my training to be a teacher in Wagga in 2012 at Charles Sturt University. Over the past three years I have been teaching at schools in both Wagga and Leeton, including Yanco Ag. This year I am fortunate enough to have come back to Yanco to fill in for Noni Del Guzzo, while she is on maternity leave, teaching English and History. I look forward to being a part of the Yanco family again.

Hannah Jolley
Hi, my name is Hannah Jolley. I attended Charles Sturt University in Wagga where I completed my Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Teaching (Secondary). After being at Yanco for a six week prac last year, I am back this year in a temporary position in English/History. I am very happy to be back and am enjoying being part of the Yanco Ag community.

Kelly Seidel
I grew up on a farm outside of Narrandera and attended Narrandera High School until I moved to Bathurst for University. I studied the Bachelor of Exercise Science (Rehabilitation) for three years then moved to Albury to complete a Bachelor of Education (Secondary). I graduated last year therefore YAHS is my first school, which is very exciting! I am a keen netballer and have played my whole life with the Narrandera Eagles, travelling back from university on a regular basis. I look forward to teaching at YAHS as I have heard many great stories about it from my sister, dad and pop; all of which completed their schooling here.

Stuart McVittie
Hello to Parents and Students of YAHS. My name is Stuart McVittie and I am teaching Agriculture and Technology Mandatory here at the school for 2015. I am a local from Leeton and have a keen interest in Cropping Systems and Aquaponics. I enjoy participating in many sports such as Cricket, Hockey and Australian Rules football. I hope to meet you all throughout the year at many of the events that the school hosts.

Chris Worland
I’m actually an ex-student of Yanco Ag. I completed year 11 and 12 here in 2009 and 2010 so I’m finding everything very familiar. It still feels strange eating with the staff at the dining table but so far it’s been a real pleasure coming back here to teach. My specialties in teaching are within the Industrial arts sector. This year I am teaching Tech Mandatory, Industrial Technology - Metal and Timber to Years 7-12.

McCAUGHEY BALL
Date for your diaries
Saturday June 13th 2015

BEACH CARNIVAL
Date for your diaries
Friday March 20th
Middle Beach, Start 8:30a.m.
EXCHANGE STUDENT – HAYLEY SMITH

Throughout my childhood, my family and I went on many trips around the world, experiencing new foods, the way other people live and getting to know what else there is in the world, and each of those places made me realise not everywhere is the same. Over those years, I had heard of many people living in another country for up to 12 months and on their return the stories they had told sounded absolutely amazing.

So I decided that student exchange is something I would love to do. After talking to different people, looking at a wide variety of websites, I finally came to the decision of choosing WEP (World Exchange Program) thanks to my careers teacher Mr Cassilles. After two weeks of sending in my application I had found out that I had been accepted into the program and was heading off to Italy for five months to live with a family in a small city called Ferrara forty minutes north west of Venice.

Finally on September 1st 2014 it was time for me to head off on my adventure. After a lot of information sessions and trips to Sydney, I was prepared and ready to take off. My first flight was from Sydney to Melbourne with four other exchange students where we then met the Melbourne, Brisbane and Cairns students. After 28 hours of flying time with two stop overs, one in Singapore and the other in Dubai, we finally made it to Rome were we met the thirty other exchange students from around the world including America, Canada, Brazil, Holland, Mexico, Hungary, Columbia, Belgium and Germany.

My first week I spent in the centre of Rome with all of the other exchange students going on tours and learning about each other’s life styles, making amazing friends and getting prepared to meet our host families. On September 6th we all said goodbye and headed off to our own families to start a new chapter in our lives. I caught a train with three other Australians, a boy from Germany and a girl from Hungary, to my new home where I would be living for the next five months. The train ride brought nerves and butterflies but as soon as I stepped off the train my host sister Daniela ran up and gave me a massive hug. At that moment I realised my host family couldn’t speak English and I just stood there in shock.

My host family were very welcoming and on my first day my host sister showed me around the city and took me out with her friends. I found it very difficult in my first month trying to communicate not just with my host family but with everyone around me and trying to understand everything I read from road signs to shop windows and even trying to find shampoo and conditioner but fortunately I managed and my language improved over time.

I started school with everyone talking about their summer holidays and what they all got up to, whereas when it came to my turn I began to speak English and everyone just stared at me and was amazed. After that I got many questions like where are you from? Why are you here? How long are you here for?

I thought starting at a new school that didn’t speak
Helping out at my host mum’s work

English would be incredibly hard but it turned out that every staff member and student at my school were very welcoming and incredibly nice. They asked to show me around, they asked to hang out, invited me to birthdays and even just walking by and saying ‘Hi Hayley’ made me feel comfortable. I started off in one class and then after a few weeks I moved around different classrooms and helped out in English lessons. I found this a lot better because I had the opportunity to meet a wide variety of people.

Over my exchange I had many opportunities which included travelling around Italy, experiencing a completely new culture; having my host mum as a chef, riding a Vespa, meeting amazing people and living a whole different life in another country. I also had the opportunity to go with my host mum to her work, and worked with children who had disabilities and taught them how to cook. I now look back on exchange and I wouldn’t change it for the world. Even though I may have had a few rough days where I was homesick or got frustrated because no one understood me, I still loved every moment of it.

I would have not been able to gain as much from this experience if I had not been a boarder at Yanco Agricultural High School. What I have learnt here at school helped me get through all sorts of situations and helped me make the most of my time in Italy. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that I have received as it has changed my perspective on the world in a positive way and it’s an experience I will always treasure.

Hayley Smith

PREFECT BODY – WEEKEND ACTIVITY

On Sunday February 15th, Yanco Agricultural High School, Year 12 prefect body and Miss Weller organised a trip to Lake Talbot for all year groups. Lake Talbot which is located in Narrandera is a great place for school gathering/picnic. It was a beautiful 27 degree sunny day when we arrived at Lake Talbot with 55 Yanco students. Straight away we put on sun screen and jumped in the pool. For lunch we got yummy chicken burgers with poppers and for dessert with had fruit. Around 3:00 pm we arrived back at Yanco. It was a perfect ending for a weekend.

Thank you year 12 prefect body, Miss Weller, Ben and Miss North for accompanying us, it was a lot of FUN!!!

Need help managing stress or anxiety?

If your child or teen has difficulties with anxiety or just seems to have too many worries, we would like to introduce you to BRAVE Self-Help – a free, interactive, online program for the prevention and treatment of childhood and adolescent anxiety. It was developed by a group of researchers from the University of Queensland and now, with the support of beyondblue, this program is now freely available to all young people aged 8 -17 years old who are living in Australia. BRAVE Self-Help provides strategies for children and teenagers to better cope with their worries. There are 4 programs available, one for children aged 8-12 years, one for teenagers aged 12- 17 years and one for parents of children at these ages respectively. The program can be accessed as often as you like, from the comfort of your own home. For more information, or to register for the program, please visit www.brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au

Remember for serious concerns, see your GP, or ring Accessline on 1800 800 944 for advice.
“TINY GIANTS” ROBOTICS CLUB

You may have noticed the strange comings and goings in and out of certain places around the school in the last few weeks, with the words ‘Tractor’ and ‘Bulldozer’ spoken in hushed and reverent tones. Does not compute?

Led by Dr Marshall and Miss Crnkovic, a team of students from Years 9, 10 and 11 are preparing to take part in the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC). FIRST means For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology and has been running in the US since 1989 and in Australia since 2006. High Schools across the country have been given the task of designing and building a working robot that can perform certain tasks suited to the new competition each year. This year’s theme is ‘Recycling’ and our robot has been built to push and pull recycling containers.

The competition consists of a series of matches with each match lasting for two and half minutes. Each match then has a 15 second Autonomous period, where the robots operate independently of their drivers and try to score more points, then a Teleoperated period, where the robots are under human control which last for the rest of the game. During this time, teams in an alliance of three have to work together to place as many recycling containers on their scoring platform as possible. You get more points if the containers are stacked higher.

The FRC is not about ‘robot fighting’. It’s about bringing people from all over the country together and everyone having a go and having fun, putting their science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills to use in the hardest fun you’ll ever have.

The team consisting of John Mullins and Cooper Lawson (Programming), James Kearines, Matthew Young, Mitchell Cattle, Matt Seymour, Zeb Uebergang, Connor Ricciarelli (Mechanics), Amber Arthur and Hannah Williams (Electronics) and Annalise Potts (Social Media) have produced ‘Tractor’, Yanco Agricultural High School’s very own robot.

In the spirit of sportsmanship, 4 members from Macquarie University in Sydney (from which this competition is hosted) came to Yanco Ag on the 4th, 5th and 6th of February this year to assist the Yanco Ag team to build Tractor, and to set up the computer which brings Tractor to life. ‘Tractor’ will be taken to Sydney on March 15th 2015 for competition.

The ‘Tiny Giants’ would like to thank Dr Marshall and Miss Crnkovic for all of their support and for making this great experience possible.
LEADERSHIP CAMP 2014

At the end of the year, for the last two weeks of school, the entire Year 10 completed a leadership camp that trained us on how to use teamwork, communication, organisational, and management skills to support us to become a future leader in our senior years. This leadership camp has equipped us with many lifelong skills as well as certificates such as our first aid and bronze medallion certificates. This leadership camp has skilled all of the year 10’s with skills and knowledge of how to handle their dormitories in positive and supporting way in 2015 when they become dormitory prefects.

Throughout the first week of the leadership camp we completed numerous tasks and activities in order to build up our leadership qualities and our teamwork as a group. In the first day, we talked about the many qualities of leaders and what prefects need to have and we also completed an ‘All my own work’ course which is a compulsory course that needs to be done to continue into year 11. Over the next few days, we all attended the First Aid course and completed several life-saving techniques and methods which we will be able to use throughout our lives. Within the rest of the week we attended a leadership workshop with the Principal, where we talked about the many leaders in our history, we did some of our bronze medallion course and completed many enjoyable teamwork activities including a rafting activity where we had to build a raft, cross the river, retrieve a puzzle, go back across the river and figure out what the puzzle meant.

Over the weekend, for those students that chose to stay, the teachers had organised an exciting and enjoyable activity where all the students travelled to Lake Talbot and ran around like crazy on the slides and pools for a few hours. Everyone enjoyed their afternoon as it meant they got away from school and also we all were able to have Subway for dinner. Also, on the weekend, we all enjoyed a BBQ at school and relaxed in the co-ed recreational room while we watched a movie together for the night.

On the second week of leadership camp, we again participated in various activities and challenges that helped us to gain ever-lasting skills of leadership and teamwork. We had a quest speaker, Bruce Staines, who talked to us about road safety and how to drive safely for an hour which was extremely informative for many of us that are just getting our licences. We also did a scavenger hunt around the school but with a little twist, where everyone in each team had roles of the leader, supporter, wrecker and the want to be leader. This was very interesting with every group having different strategies of dealing with certain people in the group. In this week, we all also finished our bronze medallion course and canoed along the river for a day which was very tiring for some people. On Tuesday afternoon, our whole year travelled to
Griffith to watch a movie in the cinemas together where we watched either the new ‘Mockingjay – The Hunger Games’ or ‘Alexander and the Terrible’, ‘Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day’. Also, one of the major activities that Year 10 participates in each year is the Yanco Markets. This is where groups of about eight, organise stalls to serve students, with fake money, and have to try to gain the most money in the night. Some of the stalls set up this year were: nachos, pancakes, milkshakes, toasties, spiders, cold rock, hot dogs, darts, sock wrestling and slip and slide. Everyone was very successful on the night but the clear winner with the most money in their float at the end of the night was the cold rock group. The final activity we did on leadership camp was a race where we had to get into our house groups and complete multiple activities and tag the next person to do their activity. In the end, McCaughey team won, with Gardiner coming second, then Breakwell third and Mutch in fourth place.

These two weeks of leadership camp were tremendously beneficial for the entire year group and was a fantastic way to finish off our junior high schooling. These two weeks have prepared us for the leadership roles that many of us will be involved in for the next two years and also for our future careers. We would also like to say a special thank you to Mrs Piffero, Mr Sachs, Mr Haskins, Mrs Cassilles, Mr Weir, Mr Coelli, Mr Cassilles, Miss Giles, Dr Marshall, Miss O’Brien, Mrs Rolfe and Mr Finch for preparing and organising the numerous activities throughout the two week camp.

Cambell McMaster

PEER SUPORT TRAINING

On February 4th and 5th, every student in Year 10 participated in peer support training. Our year was split up into two groups, one run by Mr Sachs, and the other run by Miss North and Mr Haskins. In these groups we got involved in many team building and leadership activities and were taught what it means to be a positive and effective peer support leader.

Peer support leaders are put into pairs and become leaders of a small group of Year 7 students. They are in charge of running sessions twice weekly during prep and are role models for the school’s youngest students. Peer support training is to give us an idea of the activities that we will be in charge of and prepares us for many scenarios.

Over the two days, we worked through a program which helped us find our strengths and looked into the qualities that individually made us great leaders. We were categorised into groups that suited our qualities and personalities. These groups were the commanders, thinkers, protectors and the energisers. Within these groups we realised the positives of having a mixture of people in a group in order to have a variety of opinions and qualities. Throughout the days we continuously changed groups so that we got the chance to work with everyone in the year.

Some of the favourite activities were; creating your own app, designing a costume out of nothing but newspaper and masking tape, working through and figuring out different scenarios, making your own game using only a piece of rope and a balloon and many, many others.

Not only did the training prepare us to be peer support leaders but it helped us come together as a year group, get to know the new students and have
lots of fun. We were able to finish off the two days by celebrating Miss North’s Birthday. The training was lots of fun and great help for our upcoming years as leaders.

*By Alex West*

**SHOOTING TRIP TO BOWRAL**

The shooting group is locked and loaded for the start of 2015. Our first meeting attracted lots of interested students which was great to see, exceeding fifty keen participants. This year the staff that attended the shooting trip were, Mr Sachs as usual and Mr Cross who has joined him to help us all out.

Once all of the notes were in and things organised 24 of us (22 students from Years 7 through to Year 10) left on the school bus to head off to our first shoot at Bowral on Friday 20th February. We boarded the bus at 1pm which had us arrive at Bowral at around 7:00pm.

While we were at Bowral we slept in our swags, which were all lined up in the Air Rifle Range. As usual there was excellent food. The club really looks after us when we are there and we get to meet some great people.

On Saturday we shot Rim Fire and used 22’s with scopes, shooting at miniature silhouettes. On Sunday we shot C.L.A.S, open sight 22’s at the larger silhouette targets including chickens, pigs, turkeys and rams.

Crossy (Mr Cross) who was new to the Shooting Club, did not yet have his shooters license. This in turn required me to have to carry his gun to which ever bay he shot at, and I will say the bullets, more often than not, didn’t always find the target.

There were a lot of Year 7’s who did their safety requirements for shooting. Angus Clarke (my little brother) said that the weekend was “awesome.” Everyone really enjoyed the weekend.

On Sunday we headed back to school, stopping for the traditional Macca’s for tea on the way home, where we shared our experiences and shooting scores of the weekend.

Thank you to Mr Cross and Mr Sachs for giving up their time and effort to take us to Bowral, supporting us all the way.

*Seb Clarke*

**TRIVIA NIGHT**

On Thursday February 12th, the SRC held a trivia night for a spot of fun. The overall winning house on the evening was allowed to choose their grand stand position for the 2015 Swimming Carnival.

The night was run by the SRC and some school prefects as well as Mrs Carn and Mr Gifford. The whole school attended and students were split into house groups with students from every year group on each table. Each house was required to answer 10 questions in each round.

Throughout the night, several students entertained us with a bit of karaoke in order to score their house an additional 5 points. Congratulations to James Littlehales for his amazing cover of “Let It Go” from the movie Frozen.

In the end Breakwell was the winning table but Gardiner defeated the rest of the houses by winning the night. The trivia night was a great success, many thanks to the SRC, Mrs Carn and Mr Gifford who made the whole night possible. We look forward to our next trivia night.
ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION REPORT

On Wednesday February 18th, YAHS completed the first Artificial Insemination program for the McCaughey White Suffolk Stud in five years. This was undertaken by Genstock from Jerilderie and aided by the students in Year 10 Animal Management, who had assisted in choosing the semen sires to be used in the previous year.

Year 9 Animal Management programmed the ewes by putting the CIDRs into the ewes and Year 10 Animal Management removed them and injected the ewes with PMSG two days before AI. On the morning of AI they drafted the ewes off into their sire groups and under veterinary supervision injected them with sedative and loaded them into the cradles for the Vet to perform the procedure. They also performed the data recording on paper and in Stockbook, the stud management software that is used.

There were a total of 121 ewes artificially inseminated to 8 different sires, four of which were allocated from the Superwhites Young Sire Improvement Program and four which were chosen by the Animal Management students under guidance from the stud manager. The sires used are all elite and within the top 150 male White Suffolks in Australia on LAMBPLAN. They are a combination of high growth, high muscling, low birth weight, moderate fat and excellent White Suffolk type. Several sires were also selected on the basis of their excellent meat eating quality Australian Sheep Breeding Values for Intramuscular Fat (juiciness and flavour) and Shear Force (tenderness) and selectively inseminated to ewes that had been identified as also being superior for these traits through DNA testing.

SUSTAINABILITY IN AGRICULTURE
Presentation delivered by Dr Ted Wolfe

Dr Ted Wolfe visited Yanco Agricultural High School to speak to the current Year 12 agriculture students with an enlightening approach to addressing key issues on developing a sustainable farming system.

He delivered a seminar which explored how developing the ultimate sustainable system requires a balance between optimising enterprise productivity whilst maintaining the health and productivity of the ecosystem.

Dr Wolfe discussed how these two important factors interlink with the fluctuating and demanding economy, the social wellbeing of farmers, and the demands of the market and the community. He particularly focussed on how these factors differ within the irrigation, high-rainfall, and sheep-wheat belt zones in New South Wales, and how landholders need to use different strategies to address these factors.

Dr Wolfe expressed that in order to obtain a long term sustainable agricultural system, it is essential that landholders aim to work together with one another and their land, while considering the market demands and social, economic, and political factors which influence productivity.

Sarah Oost
HENTY SHOW – SHEEP SHOWSTOCK

The first show of the season kicked off this year at Henty on February 14th. Seventeen students from Years 7-12, made their way to the show with Mrs Quinn, twelve sheep, six rams and six ewes. The students paraded the sheep in the White Suffolk classes against St Pauls College at Walla Walla, winning the Champion White Suffolk Ewe and Ram and competing in the interbreeds.

HENTY SHOW – CATTLE REPORT

On Saturday February 14th, twenty five eager cattle students left Yanco at 5:30am to head to Henty for the annual local show, with 10 of these students being new to the school and the Yanco show team. We arrived there at about 8am and unloaded our cattle off the truck.

The day started with Beef Cattle Junior Judging. We all participated in this and Odette Mara was lucky enough to place 4th. Without a break it was time for the animal classes. We had 12 head of cattle all up so most of us where paired up to share a heifer or steer. We were pretty successful with our animals with our results being: Heifers - Longreach Jelly – 2nd place, Royalla Belinda – 2nd place and our own school bred Limousin heifer, Ingrid, 1st place in her class and Reserve Champion Female of the show. The results of our carcass animals where - school bred Shorthorn steer 1st, school bred Shorthorn cross Limousin heifer 2nd and a speckle park steer that was donated to us, by the Alcorn family 3rd.

After the animal classes, the paraders competition began. Once again, everyone participated with a number of us placing. In the under 12’s Damian Cain was 2nd. In the 13-14’s Jessie Alcorn was 1st and Cooper Carter was 2nd. In the 15’s – Thomas Hotham 1st, Kylie Fairfull was 2nd and Logan Manwaring 3rd. In the 16 and over class, Jeremy Mackay was 1st and Natasha Greenshields placed 3rd. This saw Yanco have 6 of the 8 finalist out for champion but was unfortunately unsuccessful.

After lunch there was some more junior judging that most of the students competed in. Firstly there was fleece junior judging. In this, there was an opportunity for some of us students to qualify for Sydney Royal Show.

In the qualifiers Alisha Harrington came 2nd, and Cody Brown came 3rd. In the non-qualifiers Logan Manwaring was 1st, Tully James was 2nd and Jeremy Mackay was 3rd. After the Fleece judging, it was time for grain judging. Once again, a qualifying round was available for those who were eligible. In the qualifiers Alisha Harrington came 1st and in the non - qualifiers Cooper Carter came 2nd.

After a long successful day of judging and showing, the team was all worn out. We left Henty, bound for Yanco. On behalf of the cattle team I would like to thanks Miss Weller and Mr Collin’s for giving us the opportunity to attend these shows.

By Rebecca Ritchie
FROM OUR SCHOOL COUNSELLOR ….

From time to time I come across interesting articles I’d like to share with students or parents. This one can be quite pertinent for many of us!

Robyn Heath

Article………………

HOW TO TALK TO TEENS WHO DON’T WANT TO TALK

Do you have a teenager who isn’t interested in talking with you? Do you get monosyllable answers to your questions? If so, you – and they – are normal. But don’t give up trying to have a good quality conversation with your teen. Teens don’t have to be having long, deep and meaningful conversations with adults on a daily basis – but it is important they share their thoughts and feelings with adults at least some of the time.

Here are a few ideas to help the process.

1. Talk while doing something else at the same time
Try conversations in the car, while walking the dog, ironing and so on. Create spots in your house that a teenager can sit and eat or look at magazines, etc. and talk to you while you are also doing something (cleaning up, looking at the paper yourself, etc.).

2. Express less intense emotion (positive and negative) while talking to the teen
Teenagers will often “turn off” if they notice stress, worry, frustration and excitement in an adult’s voice. Try to be as neutral as possible in conversations with uncommunicative teens. Express interest and care but stay nonchalant, casual and ‘mild’ with words and body language.

3. Try closed questions
If open ended questions (How was your day?) aren’t getting you anywhere, try closed questions with just a few options. For example, “What did you like most, ‘this’ or ‘that’?”, “What was the hardest bit, ‘this or that’?”, or “On a scale of 1-10, how good/bad/worrying/fun/upsetting or easy is this/was that?” These are often easier for teens to answer.

4. Try written communication
Excellent teen-adult communication often happens via email, texts, notes left on pillows and Facebook posts (yes, even if they are in the next room!). Teens often feel less embarrassed and vulnerable communicating in writing, and they can do it in their own time.

5. Talk about yourself.
Don’t make conversation just about interrogation. Share your own thoughts, daily experiences and feelings. Talking idly about things helps increase their own sharing in the long term.

6. Try addressing the uncommunicative behaviour directly.
Sometimes it can work to be upfront about the difficulties in communicating. Say: “I know you don’t always feel comfortable talking about this stuff, and I really will try not to bug you, but I need to know a couple of things”. Or try humour: “Here we go again, I’m going to pester you for information, I know it’s a pain, but just five minutes and then I’ll stop talking”

7. Offer options for communicating with someone else
Help teenagers find opportunities to talk with another adult they trust. Organise for an aunt/family friend/older cousin to take the teen out for coffee or be with them and initiate conversation. Set up counselling sessions with a GP/school counsellor/psychologist. Communication that happens between a teenager and adult can have positive outcomes.

8. Don’t get frustrated, just try again tomorrow
If the teenager still doesn’t want to talk, don’t take it personally. It’s not your fault – or theirs. It’s just the teenage brain focussing on other things. Try again tomorrow, and the next day, and the next day. Never give up on showing care and interest. Eventually they will start to talk, often when you least expect it.

By Kirrilie Smout - Clinical Psychologist
Specialising in supporting Kids and Teens