UPCOMING EVENTS

May 25th
Students return from DESI
May 29th – June 2nd
Coonabarabran Expo – Equine
June 1st
VET Work Placement Week 1
June 5th
Zone Athletics
June 8th
Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
June 11th – 14th
Holbrook Sheep Show
June 12th
Riverina X Country
June 13th - 14th
Fishing Club @ Carathool
June 15th
VET Work Placement Week 2
June 18th – 22nd
Syd. Inter Schools Expo – Equine
June 20th – 21st
Shooting Club @ Bowral
June 25th
Yr 10 Subject Selection Session.
Yr 10 & 12 Parent Teacher Interviews
June 26th
Years 7-9 & 11 Teacher Parent Interviews & Last Day of T2
June 27th
Overseas Trip Departs

YANCO AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL ANZAC CEREMONY

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS
"As this year marks the centenary of the landing at Gallipoli, we remember the brave Australian diggers fighting up steep and treacherous slopes, yet we often forget the courage shown by many nurses, whose world was as equally dangerous and difficult. Many stories have been forgotten over time, so, on this day, let us refresh our minds and remember the heroes who have been overlooked.

The nurses of Gallipoli were crammed into hospital ship wards and temporary tents where they experienced the shocking reality of those who were fatally wounded, and how their limited access to equipment and their skills were futile in many cases. Nurse Ella Tucker was one of only 7 nurses who, on April 25th 1915, had 557 patients between them on one of the hospital ships. Under the constant threat of Turkish torpedoes and shelling, they struggled to provide their patients with comfort and medical attention. Ella wrote, “The wounded from the landing commenced to come on board at 9 am and poured into the ship’s wards from barges and boats. The majority still had on their field dressing and a number of these were soaked through. Two orderlies cut off the patient’s clothes and I started immediately with dressings. There were 76 patients in my ward and I did not finish until 2 am.”

Another aspect of the Gallipoli campaign is the role that Indigenous soldiers played. Many Indigenous soldiers also sacrificed their life for their country, with over 1000 fighting in the First World War. John William Miller, an Aboriginal who lived near Hobart, embarked for Egypt on December 22nd 1914. He left behind his wife Ida and his four young children. After training for many months, his battalion received landing orders for the Gallipoli peninsula. John never even made it from the lifeboats to the shore. They didn’t find his body until 1922.

Mateship, courage, and sacrifice, are all still integral to the world today. We, as Yanconians, should learn from those who were, and still are brave enough to delve into the unknown dangers of war. Today, we commemorate not war, but their sacrifice, and the sacrifices of their families.

*Lest we Forget.*"
LEETON ANZAC DAY MARCH
ANZAC DAY SERVICES ATTENDED BY YAHS STUDENTS AROUND THE STATE

Zoe Thomas attending their local ANZAC Day service with Ian and Peter McFadyen, who are both Old Yanconians.

Max and Ryan Findlay attending the Barellan ANZAC Service

Ellie, Megan and Robert Castle at the Rankin Springs ANZAC Service. Their brother is laying the wreath for their great grandparents that were in the army but never went to war.

Natalia and Angus Henderson at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service, Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Ned and Beau Routley at the Leeton ANZAC Day March

Gemma Fisher, Year 10, was the guest speaker at the Mirrool Anzac service this year speaking about her great grandfather William Fisher who fought in France in WW1. Unfortunately unable to send a photo.

Over the weekend Conor Johnston (year 7) was allowed to come home for our local ANZAC service in White Cliffs. His grandfather, a WW2 Veteran, always marched at White Cliffs until he died in 2007 and since then Conor has always marched there with his grandfather's medals. It has always been a special day for us so thank you for allowing it to happen this year too.
FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Yanco History

A letter was recently received by the Principal from an Old Yancoian, Rex Goode, passing on some stories, of the ‘old days’. Following are some wonderful memories and interesting stories of a young boy at boarding school from 1945 - 1949.

‘YANCO DAYS’

I have no idea how I came to go to Yanco Agricultural High School but on the Monday before school started in 1945, Ray Arthur, Gresham Hodges and Rex Goode from The Rock began at Yanco Agricultural High School as boarders. The five years I spent there affected me profoundly. I enjoyed the life, the company, the lessons and I quickly “internalised” the culture and mores of the school. I learned to have a go at whatever was offered, to know my place in the scheme of things, to support the school and fellow Yanconians no matter what, to take great pride in the school and in being a Yanconian, to confess my misdemeanours rather than let some other boy accept blame and punishment when caught.

First Year boys boarded in the lovely old home of Sir Samuel McCaughey, “McCaughey House”. Dormitories slept about a dozen boys each and the wide verandas about the same numbers. The same arrangements applied in the other building “Mutch House” where most of the other boys slept. There were however, few veranda beds in Mutch. I spent a couple of years on the “veranda h” – very cold in frosty winter weather but cooler than indoors on summer nights. From Dorm 1 veranda we had an excellent view of the fire the night the “Maids Quarters” burnt down in 1945.

Each “dorm” and “veranda” was supervised by a prefect (one of four Yr 4 and one of eight Yr 5 boys, chosen by staff.) I was appointed Prefect in 1948 and 1949 and elected House Captain of Gardiner House in 1949. Prefects were given quite a number of privileges, including a room of their own (The Prefect Shed), and supper after lights out. We could also go to bed when we wished, were exempt from a number of school rules and expected, and got, respect from the younger boys.

By 1945 great efforts were being made to stamp out “initiation” of new students by bullying, fighting and general humiliation by older boys. For the first few weeks the First Year boys were confined to a lawn area for their own protection. At the end of this time an official “Initiation Concert” was held as a formal initiation when each new boy stood up before the school and sang a song or recited a poem or some such. Most boys, like me, didn’t get far and were “clapped off” quickly, so ending the ordeal. A few others had some talent and had to complete the performance. Booing anyone, friend or foe, was NOT done at Yanco. By the time of the initiation concert a few boys would have become unpopular and would be booed by their peers. Some of the senior boys would collect names and, to reinforce the rule, they would be punished. In 1945 about a dozen boys were thrown into the main canal after Church one evening.

Enforcing the mores of the school was sometimes rough and ready. One lad lost an eye during one vacation and when he came back to school he had an artificial eye. A couple of older boys began calling him “Goggle Eye” and similar names. They were taken for a walk up the canal one Sunday evening and came back minus bits of skin and bruises about their faces. Neville was never teased again. Not all of the students’ mores were laudable though. Some forms of stealing were almost honourable. If one could steal a pound of butter and some bread for a feast in the bush,…. great. There were times when the poultry runs yielded few eggs as most of them had “gone bush”. Vegetables from the garden were not such easy, or attractive, targets. Milking a cow in the paddock at night to make pure milk cocoa wasn’t all that easy either. The cows would not stand still enough and rarely had much milk after the afternoon milking. Sometimes we would be lucky enough to find “Old 45” in the dark and get milk from her. She was quiet but with small tight teats and very hard to milk. Sometimes she would not have been milked out and we could be lucky enough to milk a litre or so of fine Jersey milk.

Each Monday morning School Assembly was conducted in front of McCaughey House, weather permitting. The students were marshalled by the Mutch verandah and marched to the assembly area. House points were awarded for the marching. Other
announcements were made by the teacher on duty at mealtimes.

The dining room was on the ground floor of Mutch, where boys sat at tables of ten with a Fifth Year boy or Prefect in charge. Apart from keeping order at the table, the table head usually had to distribute the food, which came out in bulk from the kitchen. He was charged with making sure everyone got a fair go. I gave up milk and sugar in my tea as it was easier than missing out often. The younger boys tables were at the front of the room.

Each school year was divided into A and B classes with the A class studying French, Maths 1 & 2, and History. The B class took Woodwork, Metalwork, General Maths and Geography, probably because they were judged to be less academic than the A class. Other subjects up to the “Intermediate” at the end of Third Year were Agriculture, English, Agricultural Biology and Combined Physics and Chemistry.

For the last two years I studied English, Maths 1 & 2, Agriculture, Combined Physics and Chemistry and French. In Fourth Year we also did a “Farm Mechanics” Course. Jeremy Agnew and I were given the job of dismantling the engine of a rotary hoe, replacing the rings and valves and putting it back together. It actually went again in spite of our efforts. We also learnt basic use of a lathe, a shaper and some other workshop machines. Academically I did well enough (perennial report comment was “Rex tries hard and deserves to do well”) to stay within the top four of each year but never did I manage the top place. At the end of Third Year I was awarded a special prize for Agricultural Biology and some other thing as I remember. I also won a scholarship which gave me free board for Years 4 and 5. The fees at Yanco were seventeen pounds ($34) each term for 1945-47 and then in 1948 rose to twenty five pounds ($50). I always said I hadn’t cost a great deal to put through school.

Each evening for a couple of hours from 7pm we went to our class rooms for Prep. That was homework and we were supposed to write home at least weekly. As there was only one teacher to supervise each floor, there was not a lot of lesson preparation done.

Each year the School Concert consisted of at least one play put on by each class up to Fourth Year. I was usually one of the cast and in Fourth Year won the “Best Acting Performance” for my role as “Dickie in Yeats’ “Birds of a Feather”. I always enjoyed acting and at Teachers College, and after, played various parts in amateur theatricals.

Sport was very important at YAHS. Boys were encouraged to try everything. In my first year I managed weigh in for the under 6st.7lb (41kg) Rugby League after a couple of days without food or water. I was then just 13 years of age and one of the bigger First Year boys. There were quite a few lads who made less than 5st.7lb (about 35kg). Today’s boys seem to be much bigger. Thereafter it was 7.7; 8.7; 9.7 teams and the First Thirteen in my final year of 1949. Somewhere along the line I became a hooker and learned many tricks to win the ball. In those days scrums were supposed to give both sides an even chance to win the ball, but you can’t win if there is a hand over your eyes or a head in your face can you?

The local competition included Griffith, Leeton and Narrandera High Schools, where we rarely lost a game in any division. The annual highlight, however, was the Junee Carnival, then the largest Rugby League Carnival in the world for participants. We certainly won the 8st.7lb.event in 1947 running in tries at will in the final. We lost the Open in 1949 to the hot favourites, Wagga Christian Brothers, in the final minute. I missed a vital tackle and we lost 6-2!

Tennis was every boy’s leisure sport and a major sport for some. Some of the senior boys usually played in the Leeton Easter Tournament with considerable success. Hand tennis was sometimes very popular and intensely played on the “Quad”. Dinny Pails, then Australian number three player behind Quist and Bromwich visited and played a set with some of the teachers as well as coaching some of the boys.

Football and Cricket were the serious sports. I loved cricket and played whenever I could. The “nets” was a popular place in season. Yanco was proud of its cricket record, especially when Mr Jack Connolly was coach. At this time, highlight games were against Mosman Juniors and the Staff. We also played games in the bush with tennis ball and hand carved bats. Every lad was a Lindwall, Miller, Morris or Bradman. I captained and opened the
batting for Gardiner House and for the Second XI but never achieved my hearts ambition to play in the First XI. Boxing was also popular and I won a few weight divisions. My reputation as a boxer probably saved from being hassled by other boys. I never once had to fight to protect my own rights. Our boxing coach and French teacher, Jack Connolly, stressed that any fight instigated by one of his “team” would mean dismissal from the squad! I was excited when Vic Patrick, Australian Lightweight Boxing Champion visited the school.

Swimming and Lifesaving was also big at Yanco and, for a number of years, the school was NSW Schools Lifesaving Champion in its category. I earned my series of awards – Elementary, Intermediate, Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross and Instructors. I never swam for the Award of Merit but later became a Royal Lifesaving Society and Australian Lifesaving Association Examiner. Competition swimming was never my forte. Swimming in those days was in the Murrumbidgee River from a beach just above the Euroley Bridge. By 1948 the Old Yanconians Union was raising money to put in a swimming pool.

There was also an inter-house debating competition. At the Inter-Schools debating Yanco was usually beaten by other schools whose teams always seemed to include attractive, voluble young ladies.

During World War II, and for a time after, many men and women were committed to the war effort, so it was difficult to get sufficient staff to run the school. To overcome the staffing problems the boys were drafted. We took our rostered turns at washing up, cleaning tables, cleaning up and washing up. Preparing vegetables and, especially, peeling potatoes was an unpopular chore. A potato peeler was the first new appliance purchased after the war. The boys also swept dormitories, made beds, sorted and distributed washing and most things necessary to keep the place going. As staff became available after the war boys were gradually phased out of domestic duties. As well as domestic duties the boys did ‘stock duties’ in the dairy, the piggery, the stables and the poultry. Stock roster meant rising early each morning to work at the rostered facility and then again each afternoon after school. The largest group was rostered to work in the dairy as the cows were milked by hand and there was lots of cleaning up to be done after milking. As I said ‘45’ was hard to milk but ‘99’ was worse. She could kick the eye out of a needle. She had to be leg roped on two legs on a good day and three on a bad day. Fourth Year boys supervised the dairy, though there was also a stockman, Fred Chaffey, on duty. Fred also ran the piggery. Mr Bornholt was in charge of the poultry and the horses. First and Second Year boys would each have a rostered stock duty about once per term. The pigs were fed food scraps from the kitchen, transported in an open 44 gallon drum mounted on wheels.

At certain times, and in particular when sorghum or maize had to be harvested and stored as silage for the dairy herd, Fourth Year boys would be taken from the classroom to the paddocks or the chaffcutter.

The ‘stock’ tasks were ‘practical agriculture’ as was called for in the school syllabus. It was only by using the boys to work that the school was able to survive the war-time troubles. One year for ‘prac’ Ag, we ran a trial for the new hormone weedicide! I think we marvelled at the eradication of a patch of onion weed.

Hut building was very much in vogue, especially among First, Second and Third Year boys. Ray, ‘Wog’, Pete, ‘Stick’, ‘Doc’ and I built quite a luxurious job in the First Year bush, about a kilometre (or so it seemed) from school. The frame was of round gum saplings and it was clad with flattened kerosene tins and sheets of much recycled galvanised iron. The room was lined with old wheat bags opened out. It had a gabled roof (about 4m x 3m) and the verandah was a feat of architecture sloping, as it did, from the gable to the flat verandah. We laboured over this for a long time after school and on weekends, and then spent many delightful hours in it. ‘Wog’ produced a couple of rabbit traps and we enjoyed an occasional rabbit stew (stew when we could scrounge some vegetable, clear soup when we couldn’t). On one occasion we cooked a water hen. All it did was get tougher and tougher as we cooked it so it was finally buried. One cold Sunday afternoon we got too enthusiastic with the fire, a bag caught alight and we could only watch as our pride and joy burnt
to the ground. This had been our second, and by far our best, hut. We never even thought of rebuilding.

There was a lot of timbered country along the river on each side of the school. To protect the First Year boys all ‘bush’ on one side of the main canal was for First Years only, while ‘Second Year Bush’ was open to the rest of the school. We spent a lot of time wandering the bush and swimming in the river (which was strictly forbidden). We even made a golf course on which we played with tennis balls and sticks carved from the bush. On one memorable Sunday we went down the river probably five kilometres or so (well perhaps) and decided to take a short cut back to school for dinner. Eventually we emerged from the bush and arrived back at school just after ‘lights out’. We had missed dinner, Church and evening ‘recreation’, went to bed hungry and we were “gaited” (confined to barracks as it were) for two weeks. No sooner had we served our time, then on a return trip down the river my watch stopped and we were late again and in trouble again!

That YAHS had been able to survive the war years was hugely because of the efforts of Principal James McEwan King and Mrs King. He ran the school, administering the school with very little ancillary assistance and always seemed to be available to any boy who needed him. Mrs King supervised the “House”, did the cooking, ran the kitchen, controlled the stores and acted as Matron. Each evening she would move from the stove to the dispensary to attend to boils and sore throats and then to the sick bay where there were sick boys. At the beginning of 1945 she only had one helper. Mr and Mrs King worked all the hours God gave, and then some.

It may seem from a distance of 70 years that Yanconians led a tough life then and perhaps we did a little more than children usually did. Rarely did boys withdraw from school and then homesickness was usually the reason. The stock and domestic duties were valuable learning experiences for me. Apart from the academic I learnt to be self-reliant resilient and to relate to the many and varied characters in the school community. I enjoyed my time at Yanco and look back fondly on my happy high school years.

**WWII SERVICEMEN FROM YANCO AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL**

*Details of Research from Frank Kennedy*

- **NX 36676**
  Private Robert S. Bickett - a farm hand at YAHS, enlisted July 1940, killed by a car at Randwick 10/8/43

- **423722**
  Flying Officer Douglas Boyd Hamilton – Missing in Action with 460 Squadron RAAF

- **411510**
  Flt/Sgt Norman Archibald McCallister – Killed in an air operation near Amiens 15/3/1944. Attended YAHS 1934-1937

- **412613**
  Sgt/Observer Reginald R Hinton – Killed in a flying accident in Scotland. Attended YAHS for 5 years

- **403065**
  Sgt/Pilot John Charles Harley Young – Missing believed killed during an air operation at Lorient, France with 103 Squadron RAAF.

- **402697**
  Sgt/Observer Ian King – (Son of Principal J. McEwan King). Appointed RAF Bomber Squadron with a composite crew of one Australian, Canadian, New Zealander and a Scotsman. Killed in the Middle East Battle of Egypt – Tobruk Harbour with the 148 Squadron.

- **NX 35578**

**POW’S**

- **NX 5968** - Sgt Reginald Thomas Napthali, 2/4 Australian Infantry Battalion – Served in Palestine, Libya, Tobruk to Ben Zeidi and Greece where he was captured. Interned near Vienna, Austria then STALAG XVIII, Germany.

- **NX 5969** - Lan/Sgt Sidney Alfred Palmer, D Coy 2/1 Machine Gun Battalion – Served in Western Desert, Libya, Bardia, Greece and Crete where he was captured. Moved to various camps the as prisoner No. 92485 at Camp 8B (the 344) then STALAG VII (then 357) at Moosburg, Germany.

*Rex Goode YAHS 1945 – 1949*
Day 1 The trip started off with a thirteen and a half hour plane flight from Sydney to Johannesburg.

Day 2 The first full day in South Africa we spent at Sun City which is 5 star hotel and water-park. We also went on a game park tour and saw most of the African animals.

Day 3 In the morning we travelled to Pretoria and played our first game against Grey College. We went down 55-8. We then had a talk presented to us by a professional Bull’s player and a BBQ (Braai) with the other teams that were in the competition.

Day 4 We watch the Pretoria Bulls train and do a gym session; we then travelled an hour down the road to another water park for the rest of the day. For dinner we had a BBQ (Braai) with the other teams again.

Day 5 We had a white board session with the coaches and then a team run and ruck training session with Manu (ARU). We then watch the Queensland Reds have a captains run, which I got to help out and kick the balls back to the players. We then had another training run as a team. After lunch Garry Botha – an ex Springbok - took us for another training run where we focused on scrums and lineouts with some ruck work.

Day 6 We played Waterloof and won 26-21. We then watched the other side play. That night I went to watch the Queensland Reds vs Pretoria Bulls and met up with the Van Gemert brothers there as well.

Day 7 Flew from Johannesburg to George.

Day 8 Had training in the middle of the mountains, then walked around town and did some shopping. We then went to the wood and stone carving shops and straight after that we went to an elephant farm where we were able to touch and feed the elephants.

Day 9 We travelled by bus through
wine country on the scenic route to Paarl. We then had training at Paarl Boys High. After training we were billeted out and I got a 17 year old boy called Altus. Altus took me out for dinner with his friends that night.

**Day 10** We had training again at Paarl Boys before heading to the malls for a shopping session. We returned to Paarl Boys High and played them in footy, we won 15-7. After the game we had dinner with the players then return back to Altus house where we were staying.

**Day 11** We left Paarl for Cape Town. Once we arrived we played another team and won 44-22. We then had dinner with the team and had our tour presentation.

**Day 12** We took a ferry to Robben Island, where we had a tour of the whole island, then returned to Cape Town and went for a walk around town.

**Day 13** We travelled to Table Top Mountain where we caught a cable car to the top of the mountain. There were some amazing views of Cape Town from up there. After that we went to the beach and had a swim in some very cold water.

**Day 14** We flew from Cape Town to Johannesburg which was a one and a half hour flight, then caught the plane to Sydney which was 12 hours

---

**SYDNEY ROYAL CATTLE TEAM REPORT**

On March 22nd, twenty two students travelled to Sydney to compete at the Sydney Royal Show, taking with them 14 steers, 4 heifers and 1 bull, making it two big trips to get all the cattle there.

We arrived at the show grounds just after lunch and had to unload the steers, the gear and all the hay bales. The steers were then washed and taken into their beds.

On Tuesday the steers were weighed and scanned. We also set up the display, which looked awesome.

On Wednesday 25th March, the school paraders’ competition was held. One student from the cattle team was selected to represent the school. This student was Hayley Fairfull who led the school steer, Yanco Kelvinator (shorthorn steer bred by the school). Hayley placed 5th in the class.

The next day all the purebred steers were to be judged. All steers went well in their classes but the steer that came out on top in the Yanco team was the School Steer, Yanco Kelvinator. He placed 2nd in his middle weight class. He was then selected to go into the champion class to compete for Reserve Champion School Steer, but unfortunately did not place in this class.

After the steers were judged they then had to be auctioned off to various buyers. The auction was a
great experience for all the students as it taught us what actually happens at a cattle sale.

Over a few days the Stan Hill Competition was held to pick the best three purebred steers in their breed. Twelve steers from the Yanco team competed in this selection process but only two were selected. They were Yanco Kelvinator representing the shorthorn breed and Eurimbla Leo representing the Red Poll breed.

That night the senior students had to attend the Old Yanconians dinner. It was a great night out, learning about what the school was like when it first began.

We would like to thank the gentlemen who made the time to attend the dinner and for telling some very interesting stories about their time at Yanco.

Friday the 27th was time for the students, who qualified to compete in the state finals cattle paraders, to compete. In this competition there were seven students from Yanco who were able to show off their abilities. They were Brody Heron, Madeline Coomber, Cooper Carter, Bryce Johnston, Jeremy Mackay and Kaitlyn McKay. The students who placed in this competition were Cooper Carter, placing 2nd in his class, Brodie Heron placing 3rd and Madeline Coomber who also placed 3rd.

On Saturday the trade steers where judged. Yanco had only two steers in this competition, one Shorthorn/Limousin bred steer (bred by the school) and a Shorthorn/Angus bred steer (bred by the Carter family). Both steers did not place but the steer bred by the Carter Family was selected to go into the second round of the class. Then, very early the next day, we had to say our goodbyes to the steers as they loaded the trucks.

The steers were then judged on their carcase, based on their muscle score, fat distribution, eye muscle depth and intramuscular fat (marbling). The steers McCaughey Cowboy and Yamba Hopper received a Bronze award while Yanco Kelvinator received a Silver award, and finally our top steer Eurimbla Leo received a Gold award with a score of 90/100.

Sunday was Shorthorn judging day where our five Shorthorn exhibits would be paraded in front of local judge Glen Trout. Our four Shorthorn Heifers did not look out of place in the judging ring, however we were not well rewarded for our efforts. This changed when our bull (Yanco Kalvin Clein) entered the show ring. He placed first in his class and possessed the highest EMA and weight for age of all bulls in
his division. This was a great achievement by students who exhibited the shorthorns. The shorthorn team was also commended for their presentation and display of the cattle with them being awarded Best Maintained Team in the Shorthorn Stud Section (2-5 Head).

Sunday was the last day of the show for some students but was only the half-way point for others. The students who had to stay behind had state final judging competitions to compete in such as Grain, Fleece, Merino Sheep, Meat Sheep, Fruit and Veg and Dairy cattle.

In the Grain judging the students competing were Logan Manwaring, Alisha Harrington, Zac Liley and Hayley Fairfull. Zac Liley and Alisha Harrington were chosen to speak but did not place.

The Fleece Judging consisted of Cody Brown, Rose Nevinson, Hayley Fairfull and Alisha Harrington. Unfortunately no students from Yanco were chosen to speak in this event.

Jeremy Mackay and Kylie Fairfull also competed in the Meat Sheep Judging competition. Jeremy Mackay was chosen to speak but did not place.

In the Fruit and Veg judging Zac Liley was the only student to compete. He did well in this competition but unfortunately did not place.

Merino Sheep Judging was also held. Kylie Fairfull and Rebecca Ritchie competed in this, but were not chosen to give their reasons as to why they placed the sheep the way they did.

Finally, on the last day, we had the Dairy Cattle Judging. Hayley Fairfull competed in this event. She was chosen to speak but did not place.

While the Yanco students waited for their state final judging competitions they competed in the Heifer Show and the Heifer Fitting Competition.

**Heifer Fitting Competition results:**
Thomas Hotham 5th, Kylie Fairfull 4th

**Heifer Show Junior Judging results:**
Cooper Carter 2nd, Brodie Heron 6th, Kylie Fairfull 3rd, Hayley Fairfull 5th

**Paraders Competition results:**
Cooper Carter 1st in his class, Reserve Champion Parader of the Heifer Show, Kylie Fairfull 6th, Logan Manwaring 2nd

Overall the Yanco Cattle Team had a great time experiencing what it is like to show and prepare steers and stud animals, and we obtained a 2nd place overall in the Herdmans Best Maintained Team. We learnt so much over those days at Sydney Royal and have come away with many memories that will be with us for a while. We would like to thank the following people for their kind donation of steers, the Carter Family (Blackjack Shorthorns), Yamba Murray Grey stud, Yamba Angus Stud, The Glen Pastoral Company, Longreach Limousins, DSK Charolais Stud and I & J Coughlan (Eurimbla Red Poll Stud). Without their donations we would not have had the opportunity to attend Sydney Royal. We would also like to thank Mr Shady and Steve (farm staff) for driving the truck and transporting the stud animals to Sydney Royal. Thank you to Alison Manwaring, Joanne Mackay, Laura Mackay and Georgina Fairfull, who came and cooked some delicious meals for us.

Finally we would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Collins and Miss Weller, without you we would not have even made it to Sydney and learn all the skills we have gained before, during and after the Sydney Royal show.

*Hayley Fairfull*
JUNIOR DEBATING

Students from Years 7 and 8 have had a strong start to the debating year with Round 1 and 2 completed against Narrandera High School. Both the Yanco Agricultural High School Team A and B were engaged in a tireless debate at the start of the term, discussing issues related to the use of Australian novels in English and filtering the internet. Whilst both teams were unsuccessful against Narrandera High, each team has shown great promise and will continue to work towards the next round of debating against Ardlethan Central School.

All students are to be commended for their efforts on the day.

Team A: William White, Harry Alcorn, Lachlan Daniel, Emma Dixon

Team B: Mathew Senes, Angus Clarke, Tully James, Montanna Wilkinson

Martin Dickens
Junior Debating Co-ordinator.

YOUR TUTOR @ LEETON LIBRARY

YourTutor is a service Leeton Library offers to all Library members from Years 3 to 12. The service is available from 3pm - 10pm Sunday - Friday (inclusive). This is a FREE service. Enclosed in the newsletter is an application form for students to fill in to become a member of the Leeton Library. This form will also be available on our School Website. These forms can be returned to the Registrar’s office and will be passed on to Leeton Library where they will be processed. Cards will then be issued to students.

PERMISSION TO PUBLISH - FACEBOOK

Any family who has not yet returned the Social Media Permission to publish form entitled “General Permission to Publish and Disclose Information” please sign and return the form to the Registrars’ Office as soon as possible.

With the school’s Facebook page up and running now, please “like” the Yanco Agricultural Facebook page and Twitter feed @YancoAgHS

ABSENTEE NOTES

A reminder to parents; when your child is absent from school, especially on a Monday or first day back after a weekend or holiday break, could you please contact the front office (phone, email or fax) stating the reason and how long your child will be absent for. This enables the front office to place the correct coding against your child’s absence, which is then recorded on their report. If an ‘A’ for Unjustified or Unexplained Absence has been recorded it is quite often because we have not received anything in writing to explain the absence.

A paper trail is required for all absences which is why it is important for us to have this in writing. If you are unable to email or fax this to us, a phone call is sufficient until you are able to get to a fax or computer.

Also, if you are planning a family holiday outside of school holiday times we now require you to fill in the “Application for Extended Leave” form which you will find on our website. If you cannot access the website please call the school and we will be happy to send you the form.

Thank you from the Front Office Administration

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS 2015

Booking your Parent/Teacher interviews will be different this year. Please see the attached information complete with booking instructions on how to book your interviews.

Bookings will open on Monday June 1st. If you attempt to book before this date the site will tell you it is closed. You will also find this information on our website.

MAJOR PROJECTS 2015

Over the past few months there have been many projects being worked on within the school.

Trees – a number of trees were deemed to be dangerous by an arborist last year and have been trimmed or removed. This work was funded by the DEC.
**Hindmarsh Bathrooms** – the bathrooms on the western (Hall) side of the building are in the process of being renovated. This project is taking longer than was expected but the final result will provide a much better amenity for the boys in that building. This project is worth just under $200,000 and the school has contributed about $20,000 to ensure all 3 bathrooms are upgraded, and the DEC has provided the rest of the funds.

**Gym Change Rooms** – these rooms have not had any work done on them since they were built by the P and C over 40 years ago. The renovation has led to a dramatic improvement in the male and female areas. This work cost just over $100,000 with the school contributing $20,000 and the DEC the rest.

**Cattle Yards** - In January the old cattle yards were dismantled and a new set of yards has been erected in their place. This work was carried out by the Farm Staff, Roy Bandy from our Maintenance Team and some of the senior students. The yards will now provide a much safer working and teaching area for staff, students and allow the easier movement of stock.

**Oval Irrigation Systems** – a 50/50 agreement with the Old Yanconians Union has seen work undertaken on stages 2 and 3 of the automatic spray irrigation system for the ovals. This work, along with a generous donation from the school Canteen to fund a pump for the bore, will allow the ovals and grassed areas around the school to be ‘drought’ proofed. The combined cost of this work will be just over $100,000 and the school thanks the Old Yanconians’ Union and the Canteen for their support of this project.

**Registrar’s Office** – a much needed upgrade of the office was undertaken in the April holidays. The work involved the removal of all furniture and the installation of a new counter and work stations. The work was undertaken by Felix Joinery from Leeton and was funded by the school.

*Bruce Hammond - Business/Services Manager*
**STUDENTS ACHIEVE**

**Lachlan Manwaring**
A newspaper article from the Condobolin Argus reporting on the Condoland 750. The Condoland 750 is a navigational event which covers 750km’s around Condobolin.

**Courtney Menzies**
Courtney Menzies had CHS netball trials on Friday 24th April and made it into the team. She heads off to Wollongong (Berkley) on May 25th – 28th.

**Fraser Menzies**
Fraser also trialled and got into the U15 AFL Riverina team, they compete on the 1-4 June in Sydney.

**Griffith ‘Young Musician of the Year’ Awards**

**Jasmine Boyland**
(Year 12) was awarded finalist at the Griffith Young Musician of the Year Awards on Wednesday 22 April. This award recognises talented young musicians in the Riverina based on video evidence of their achievements throughout the previous year. Jasmine was awarded $100 cash as a finalist.

**BANGARRA DANCE WORKSHOP**

On April 24th, Miss Giles and I travelled to Wagga Wagga for an Aboriginal Dance Workshop. We left at 7:30am from school got to Wagga at 9:00 am. We still had 30 minutes until the dance workshop started, so we went to McDonalds for a hot chocolate and a cup of coffee. After we finished our McDonalds we went to Wagga High School where the dance workshop was held. First we got our number and then we were introduced to everyone who was going to be running the workshop. After that we started to do some warm ups, the warm ups were really hard. We did this for about two and half hours. We then learnt a little dance that we did for a while and that was still a part of the warm up.

After a fifteen minute break we started to learn the dance we would audition to possibly go to the School Spectacular and be in the Bangarra Dance Group. We learnt the dance step by step, the dance was really hard to do.

After lunch we went back over the dance that we were going to audition. After we practice a couple of times, we had to audition. The boys went first because there were only six of them and it was easier. Then it was time of me to audition, I auditioned with Year 7 and Year 8 girls. The last people to audition were the Year 9, 10 and 11 girls. After everyone had auditioned we were told who made it into the Bangarra Dance Group.

There were five boys and six or seven girls who made it into the dance group. The reason why only a couple were chosen to be in the Bangarra Dance Group was because they already had sixty to seventy children.

Overall the day was really fun and a good experience, I will go there every year now. I really loved learning about my culture and how they dance.

*Betty Dolan (Year 8)*

**AAMI CRL 15’S RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN WAGGA WAGGA**

Will Barnes, Jayden Pippen and Jarod Brain represented Group 20 15’s on 9th - 10th May hosted by the NRL. Group 20 team was unfortunate to go down to Illawarra and Group 6 in their games. Jarod was unfortunately injured in the last game and was taken by ambulance to the Wagga Wagga base hospital and will be off from playing football for a while.

It was a great experience for all of the boys.
DRAGON SKIN 2015 “FRONTIERS”

On Thursday April 2nd, Mr Press and Dr Marshall transported our Dragon Skin team of 4 Venturers to Berrima Scout Hall, so we could stay the night before being dropped off at a remote check point in the middle of Penrose State Forest for the commencement of the 2015 Dragon Skin Competition that commenced on Friday 3rd April and concluded on Monday 6th April.

Dragon Skin is an annual Venturer Scout and School group (Duke of Edinburgh) activity that is held in various forests around N.S.W. On Dragon Skin there are many initiative style activities that are used to test a team’s ability to plan, work as a team, demonstrate a positive attitude in the execution and completion of set initiative tasks at given map references around the forest. The goal is to complete as many Initiative tasks (bases) as possible and get the most points (25 points). At night you are required to say at one of 4 VOC’s (Venturer overnight camps).

This year’s dragon skin team included Andrew Barr, Thomas Kimpton, James Kearines and Mitchell Ryan. Mr Press dropped the four of us off at the check in point which was near the community hall at the small rural town called Penrose. Shortly after check in we were bussed into the middle of the forest to commence the three day activity. After walking along muddy, winding and slippery hills for about five hours we finally made it to VOC 2. With good map position and seven bases completed we would be able to have a good first nights rest before an early morning start for Day 2. With a wakeup call at 6:30am we were ready to head off as soon as we could sign out. We had a hard day’s work ahead of us in the miserable wet, windy and foggy conditions, but even though we were all tired, soaked to the bone we still pushed through completing seventeen bases for this day.

After drying out our clothes as best as possible, we cooked dinner and met up with old friends and had fun on the multitude of activities they had set up on VOC. With a reasonably early night behind us we were ready for a long hard day, before setting up camp at VOC 3 for the last night. On the last day we managed to clean up on 16 bases which gave us a total of 40 bases completed out of 46. While in line to get signed into VOC 3 we were talking to a few teams that we had grown to know over the weekend and a few that Andrew and I knew from previous Dragon Skin trips, and they informed us that they only knew of a few teams that had gotten around the same number of bases as us. Well as soon as we found out the anticipation of not knowing how well we had gone grew. After talking among our group we came to the conclusion that no matter what position we came, we had put everything we had into our performance so we should be happy with whatever position we achieved for the activity. With a wakeup call at 6:00 we were fattened up on a bacon and egg sandwich before we walked to the closing ceremony.

During the presentations at the closing ceremony we were sitting there not knowing just how well we had gone. The two new recruits said that they would be happy with a top 15 finish. As we sat and listened to the names of the teams who had achieved from the top 30 to the top 15 we were quietly confident that we would be read out in the
next few place getters. Just prior to the announcement of the top 10 they decided to draw a participating team’s raffle that rewarded teams who had worked throughout the 3 days within the rules of the competition. Not fully paying attention, due to lack of sleep from the previous night and not expecting to be drawn, I heard the team number 48 read out as the winners of this raffle. As I was thinking to myself “I know that number”, Andrew asked ‘Isn’t that our team number?’ Realising that it was we went up to collect a band new Coleman 5 man tent.

After this presentation the next five teams were called up to receive their placement banners and at this point in time we knew we had underestimated just how well we had really gone. Prior to announcing the teams who came 4th and 5th a short break was held which really got the nerves going. After the 4th and 5th positions were announced the top three teams were called out which included our name “The Wild Bunch”.

Congratulations were acknowledged to each member of the three teams and after third place getters were announced as Team 48, “The Wild Bunch”, Yanco Agricultural High School Venturer Unit.

Just prior to the announcement of 1st place, Mr Press and Mr Johansson (from Bathurst) were recognized and congratulated on their 30 years of service in attending this event. After the presentation ceremony we were congratulated by many of the friends we had made over the weekend and previous Dragon Skin events. After saying goodbye we loaded up the 13 seater and were on our way home for the holidays.

All in all it was a fantastic weekend and one that we will never forget. With a big thank you to Mr Press and Dr Marshall for taking us and giving up their Easter weekend, without their help none of this would have been possible. With this being Andrews and my final Dragon Skin we wish next year’s team the best of luck.

By Mitchell Ryan
UBS YOUNG WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

On Monday April 18th, I travelled by plane down to Sydney for an academy held by UBS (formerly known as United Bank of Switzerland). I arrived at the Women’s College, Sydney University, where I was to spend the next week. I was one of fifty girls from NSW, ACT, and VIC who were chosen for this academy. When I arrived at the college we were welcomed by the College Principal and a representative of UBS. After a tour of the grounds, we settled into sessions on Personality Type. This went on for the rest of the day before meeting with our mentoring uni students with whom we would be staying. There was a formal dinner that night where all the uni girls wore their academic gowns and there was a speaker from UBS who spoke about the company and their cadet program.

The next day we were all up early for some morning Zumba before starting the sessions. I had a full day of learning about personal branding, image and attitude where we learnt how to present ourselves in an interview or while meeting with important businessmen and women.

Wednesday started with a short bus ride to the UBS corporate offices in the CBD. We were given a tour of the trading floor where all the shares were marketed and managed. We also had sessions on goal setting and how to succeed in the business world. That afternoon we took a walk to the Art Gallery of NSW and had guided tours of the Contemporary Photography in Australia Exhibition.

That evening we all got dressed up and attended a UBS Canapé Function. We had the opportunity to meet many of the successful workers at UBS and learned how they reached their high positions of work.

Thursday was mainly filled with sessions of sport with a campus walk of the Sydney Uni before walking to the Uni fitness centre where we learnt how to defend ourselves in a dangerous situation. Afterwards, it was back to the Women’s College common room to do a session on digital philanthropy. Following this was a two hour personal training session where we did a lot of physical team activities.

Friday was the last day and we were given three hours in the morning to create and plan a presentation to the UBS panel. We were given a scenario and problems which we had to solve. In groups of ten, we planned and presented to the panel. We were all given feedback and then the winning team was announced. We made our way to the main common room at the Women’s College where there was a graduation photo followed by lunch and the presentation of our certificates. Afterwards we said our goodbyes and travelled home. The week was tiring and challenging however I gained so many valuable skills and friends. It was an inspiration to see all the girls from diverse backgrounds and how we all had common attributes making us future leaders.

Grace Armour

McCaughey Ball
Saturday 13th June

New dates for 2016 only.
March 4th Beach Carnival
March 5th Gala Day
YEAR 7 TAIKO WORKSHOPS

On May 7th, Year 7 students participated in a Taiko Workshop with Kiyomi from EzJapanese. Taiko is a traditional form of Japanese drumming. Students had a great time learning some new drumming patterns and performing as a team.

Some feedback from Year 7 Students:

“I enjoyed Taiko, the drumming was fun. It was challenging and it took a bit to get your head around.”
Ben Harland

“I liked being able to make lots of noise with the drums and being able to yell and we learnt something.”
Matthew Senes

“What I enjoyed about the Taiko workshops was learning how to play the instruments. They were different and you wouldn’t normally play them. I also liked what Kiyomi taught us - it was fun.”
Alexis Hughes

“I really enjoyed learning about the Japanese culture through Taiko with Kiyomi. It was an awesome experience and I would recommend it to anyone.”
Angus Clarke

“Taiko drumming was amazing, everyone enjoyed themselves. Kiyomi was really nice. Everybody gets a go at the big drums, which was awesome.”
Ella Frank
POONCARIE FIELD DAY

At the request of some our local Pooncarie families a number of staff and students travelled to Pooncarie for the Field Days in early May. On the Friday we were given the opportunity to work with some of the young children from the region, most of whom are School of The Air (SOTA) students. The age range of the “little” people was from preschool to Year 6. YAHS staff and students helped with three activities and the young children were divided into groups which rotated between the activities.

Drums – Five of our Year 9 drummers Emily Kearines, Heather Robinson, Zoe Thomas, Tom Kimpton and Lyndsey Mitchell worked with the groups of students and all had a great (and noisy) time teaching about different drumming beats and marching around with the drums.

Science – Mr Sachs and Year 12 students Gabrielle Holgate and Adele Ruigrok worked on sending coke bottles into orbit using an air pump and then making slimy lava.

PE – Miss Seidel and Year 9 boys Adam Wakefield and Jock Hudson worked with the younger students doing ball skills and playing games of “cricket”.

On Saturday we attended the Field Days and the drummers performed to an appreciative crowd. All the students took turns in manning our information stall and providing answers to questions. There were many positive comments on the manner and personal presentation of the students as they wore their walking out uniform.

Overall it was a great experience for everyone involved, and a big thank you to the parents and families who looked after us on our visit.

Bruce Hammond
FROM THE COUNSELLOR .................

I hope some of you find the following article helpful. It is a realistic look at anxious thoughts and gives some ideas on how to make more calming thoughts.

Your DGO - Robyn Heath

3 Step Guide Helping Kids to Calm
A Five Minute Writing Exercise to Help Kids Feel Less Worried and More Confident.

There are lots of things we can do to help kids calm themselves. One of the most important – and sometimes forgotten – is to help them come up with some actual words and phrases that they can repeat to themselves in times of stress. Words are powerful. Phrases which remind children that they can cope, things aren’t terrible, they have a plan and there are good things in life can be incredible calming tools for children.

Here is a 3 step guide for parents and teachers to help children develop ‘calm sentences’:

1. Firstly, find out details about the worry. Dig. Ask questions like “What could be the worst thing about that?”, ‘What might go wrong there?’, ‘What is the scariest thing about that?’, ‘Do you think something bad could happen with that?’ etc. Write these down on a piece of paper in front of the child.

2. Then say: “Now I understand your worries, let’s think of some calm words which you can remember when you have these worries. Together we are going to think of four different types of calm sentences. Here are the four types”: THIS IS NOT LIKELY BECAUSE…calm sentences
I CAN COPE BECAUSE…calm sentences
I HAVE A PLAN…calm sentences
SOMETHING HELPFUL TO REMEMBER IS…calm sentences

To help the child think of some NOT LIKELY sentences about their worry, ask them how many times this has happened in their life, how often it has happened to someone else, and what are things that make this unlikely. Write these answers down, for example: This has never/rarely happened before.
This is unlikely because…

To help the child think of some I CAN COPE statements, ask the child, “Why is this not a catastrophe?”, “Why are there WORSE things that could happen, why can you cope with this?”, “Why are there some good things about this?”. Write these answers down:
I can cope with this because…
This is not the end of the world because…

To come up with I HAVE A PLAN statements, ask the child, “If this did happen, what could you do?”, “How would you manage this?”, “What would be your next step?”. These sentences could be:
Even if this happens, I would…
If that happened, I could…

To come up with SOMETHING HELPFUL TO REMEMBER sentences, ask the child, “What else is helpful to remember about this scary thing?”, “What people are around to help you?”, “What is something positive that is happening for you?”, and “What might you learn from this situation?”.

Remember to make all of these sentences short. You are aiming for one sentence dot points – simple language that is easy for the child to say to themselves when they are worried.

3. Once you have your list of calm sentences, ask your child to put them in a place they can see them. Ask the child to read them out before worrying situations. Ask the child to read them before bed. Get them to draw a picture next to each one.

Worried kids have worried thoughts. We need to help them add in another perspective. This is an exercise that does that, and it can make a big difference to children’s wellbeing.

By Kirrilie Smout, Clinical Psychologist
Specialising in supporting Kids and Teens
Yanco Agricultural High School Presents

2015 Performance Night
A Showcase of Musical Talent

Together with an Original Art Exhibition of Student Works

Yahs School Hall

$5.00 Adults
$2.00 Concession

Thursday the 25th June
Performance Starts at 7:00PM
Exhibit Open from 6:00 Till 7:00PM and During Intermission

Light Refreshments catered for by our team of Hospitality Students

For More Information Contact Yahs
(02) 69511500 | Yancoag-H.School@det.nsw.edu.au

Iguana by Breanna Carr. Year 12