Rugby League

During the spring holidays a Narrabri 14s rugby league team played against a South Sydney 14s team in an annual event for the Ron Ellison Memorial Shield. It was great to see students from Wee Waa High School representing the Narrabri team. The Narrabri team included the following Wee Waa High School students: Harry Pattison, Lachlan Trindall, Charles Young, TJ Wright, Noah Platt, Jarrod Tompkins and Thomas Russell. This traditional fixture was a hard fought game of rugby league that showcased the talents and depth of youth across our local area and the strength of rugby league in Sydney. After a bruising match the South Sydney team were the victors, winning 40 to 22. Congratulations to all our students for their effort, well done.

Social Media

I have spoken previously about social media and its implications. We have experienced several issues around the inappropriate use of social media by students recently that have caused angst amongst students and taken valuable time away from our core business of teaching and learning.

Students need to understand that the inappropriate use of social media has implications not only in the community but in the school environment and can greatly impact on social cohesion.

Parents/Carers need to discuss and monitor their children’s use of social media, for privacy and security reasons, and to prevent the transmission of inappropriate material.

On Monday 2nd of November we will have our school Police Liaison Officer talking to students around the use of social media.

There is a range of information on the Internet to provide both young people and their parents with tips for living in a social media world. The following is a link to a government Cyber Smart website: http://www.cybersmart.gov.au

Higher School Certificate

We are in the last days of the Higher School Certificate examination period, with some students having already completed their exams. The last examination will be Visual Arts on Wednesday afternoon 4th of November, good luck to our students.

Mr George Frangos
Deputy Principal

Year 6 Transition

P & C Meeting
Thursday November 12th
7pm in the Library. All Welcome!

If you would like an electronic copy of the newsletter each fortnight, please send an email to janelle.lilliebridge@det.nsw.edu.au
You may have all noticed a very strange looking animal running around the Ag farm this week! We’ve given our alpaca Bonnie a shear coming into summer and I’m sure she is feeling a lot better, despite the sheep not quite knowing what to make of her at first! A huge thank you to Ashley Steele for coming in and shearing her for us! It was a great learning experience for those helpers who stayed behind after school to help – thanks to the parents for helping out after hours!
It’s been an eventful week on the farm with the construction of our shed, due to be completed this week! The shed was purchased in addition to the new cattle yards as a result of a grant from Graincorp late last year. A huge “thank you” to Graincorp for supporting our little school’s farm! The shed will house the new yards and bring welcome respite from our extreme summers. This will enable the students to work with the animals in all weather. It is also hopefully going to be the venue to a number of local field days and information sessions in the future. We will have an opening in the near future so keep an eye out for details!

Making Hay!
Our small plot of lucerne in the levee paddock was kindly baled this week by Steve Wohling of CropAir. A massive “thank you” to Steve and his business for doing this job for us. We successfully established a small area of lucerne in the block this season and plan to build on it for next season. The growing of lucerne hay and its associated issues in our climate is a great learning experience for our students and we will continue to persist with it, with hopefully more successful cuts to come! It really is beneficial to have a selection of both forage and fodder crops growing on the school farm for students to experience and we couldn’t make this work without the generous support of community. Thank you!

The Show Team and students in Yr 9 and 10 continue working with the school steers, getting them prepared for the upcoming Northern Schools Steer Show. The steers are looking great, while the students confidence is continually growing in working with the now huge animals!!
Welcome Transition!
The transition groups coming into Year 7 have experienced some Agriculture lessons on the farm this week. Students were introduced to some activities including planting in the vegetable garden as well as working with the sheep and cattle. I look forward to introducing them to the fun educational experiences in Agriculture at Wee Waa High School in 2016.

Verity Gett
Focus on Ability Short Film Festival

In September, three Wee Waa High School students attended a gala red carpet awards evening in Sydney. This event was a part of the Focus on Ability Short Film Festival, which is organised by Nova Employment – an agency specialising in obtaining work for people with disabilities in Sydney. Approximately 160 short films were entered in a variety of categories, showcasing the abilities of individuals with disabilities.

With encouragement from teacher Sharon Grellman, Abby Downes, Montana Jones & Zoe Conomos had entered a film in the competition called ‘Dancing in D’Arts’. It was a documentary about Elizabeth Horne, a student with Down Syndrome at Wee Waa High School.

For the past 3 years, Elizabeth has performed in the Schools Spectacular as a member of the D’Arts ensemble. This group is comprised of approximately 120 students of all ages from NSW public schools who have a disability. The show is held in the Qantas Credit Union Arena (the old Sydney Entertainment Centre) and has approximately 3500 students from across NSW singing, dancing & performing. The film showed Elizabeth being interviewed about going to Schools Spectacular along with some shots of her performing.

The calibre of the films entered was extremely high, and unfortunately the Wee Waa High students missed out on an award. They had an enjoyable evening checking out the films that won the awards, being entertained by Anja Nissen & having a brief glimpse of their film on the big screen.

A big thank you to Mrs Horne for taking the girls to their first ‘red carpet event’.
TRANSITION HIGH SCHOOL

Transition Message Sticks pole for year six 2015 Wee Waa Public School. The pole is representing the year 6 students on a journey moving on from Public School onto high school as this is a big change in their young lives. The pole itself is a tribute to both European culture as well as the Aboriginal culture of Wee Waa.

The message sticks are representing each student individually as they have put their own stories on them. This is illustrating storytelling and this is a big part of Aboriginal Culture. The message sticks are also a time capsule for the children to come back and see how they were thinking in 2015.

On Wednesday, 28th October, I was invited by the year 6 students to be a part of the making of the message stick. All students in year 6 got an opportunity to make their own message stick by posting messages on their sticks of their own interest and lifetime at Public School. Thank you Darryl Ferguson for coming to Wee Waa Public school.

GIRLS’ GROUP

On Friday 23rd October, the girls’ group visited Weeronga to interact with our elders group by making Christmas cards and having discussions about Christmas. It’s been a pleasure for me and the girls visiting the Weeronga hostel over the year. I would like to thank Liz Bergers for the opportunity for the high school to participate in this positive program and share time and respect with the elders of our community.

AECG AGM

On Friday 28th October I was re-elected as chairperson for another year, Sharon Ferrell as Secretary and Glenda Mason as Treasurer. I’m very proud for the opportunity to serve the AECG for another year. I would like to congratulate the committee that has been voted in for 2016 and remind members that the meeting will be held on the last Wednesday of every term.
HSC STUDENTS - TAFE Courses

If you have completed the HSC and are wondering what to do next, Narrabri TAFE will be running the following courses in 2016 for students who have completed the HSC and would like to gain skills in Automotive, Business Services, Construction, Engineering and Preparation for University.

For more information, phone Renae Kilby on 67682426 or email renae.kilby1@tafensw.edu.au

Apprentice chefs – Year 12 School Leavers

Positions for 2016

This wonderful opportunity will expose apprentices to a broad range of signature restaurants from buffets to 5 star fine dining in a world renowned entertainment facility. If you love variety and have a passion for a career in food, this apprenticeship offers a fantastic starting point. You will develop skills and learn from the best within a diverse range of restaurants. The Star offers great employee benefits such as master chef classes, site visits and employer subsidised meals, supplied and laundered uniforms and much more.


Bedford College - Scholarship Opportunities

Bedford College in Sydney are offering Scholarships for chosen school leavers who commence their study with in February next year. Scholarships will be awarded for both of our one-year, full-time Diploma courses in Business/Management and Early Childhood Education and Care and will cover half the cost of tuition fees for the 2016 academic year.

The Scholarships will be selected on a portfolio submitted by applicants (must be received by COB 30 Nov 2015) which must include:

1. References, including from High School, employer, personal etc.
2. Resume
3. School Reports from last 2 years
4. 1-2 page essay written by the student describing themselves, their interests and hobbies and their career aspirations on completion of the Diploma.

For more information please contact us on 1300 174 174 or visit our website [http://www.bedford.edu.au/](http://www.bedford.edu.au/)

COUNTRY EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Go to [https://cef.org.au](https://cef.org.au)  Then click on Scholarship Guide

This information gives you 205 pages of scholarships that are available for students who are considering going to University. You can scroll through the scholarships that are available and click on any that may apply to you. This will take you to the application page for the relevant scholarship.
YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

On the 16th November, 2015, Year 10 students will be undertaking a Mock Interviews with local employers at Namoi Cotton Cooperative followed by a dinner in the evening hosted by Rotary. Notes have gone home with students. Please ensure students return the notes as soon as possible so that we can let Rotary know the numbers for catering purposes.

AUTOMOTIVE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Apprenticeships are available for 2016. Go to www.vantageautomotive.com and click on apply now. Choose a dealership you are interested in and complete the online form. Attach your Resume with a cover letter and complete a short online assessment. The dealership may then contact you for an interview.

CADETSHIPS WITH McDONALD JONES AND THE MJH GROUP

Career opportunities in the residential building industry. Cadets will complete a Certificate III in Business and a Certificate IV in Building and Construction. You will receive on the job training and a career in the building industry. For further information go to mcdonaldjoneshomes.com.au or call Mark Maguire on 02 49182645.

UNSW MINING SUMMER SCHOOL

Learn about study, careers and opportunities in the Australian Mining industry from professionals, current students and recent graduates.
18-20 January 2016
For students in Years 10 and 11 who are interested in science or engineering. Cost $200
For more information go to unsw.to/summer-school.
Applications close 31 October 2015.
Wee Waa High Student Representative Council

‘Leading by Example’

Last Friday saw the members of our School Representative Council (SRC) dedicate the day to reviewing their constitution and planning for the next few month’s activities and into the future. Under the guidance of Teacher and Mentor, Mr Patrick Legge, this hardworking and dedicated group of young leaders are elected every two years by their year-group and Year Adviser.

The SRC meets weekly to discuss and organise events, plan fund raising initiatives and generally to enhance the school for their fellow students. The SRC also raises funds to assist our sister school in Vanuatu and has in the past sent a large amount of pre loved books over to help the school create a library.

With many other achievements already under their belt, some of the upcoming fundraising activities include a Melbourne Cup day fundraiser for the Westpac rescue Helicopter and an afternoon of fun sports activities. Also planned is a school social on Tuesday 1st December.

Current SRC Members 2015/2016

School Captains - Year 11/12 Nicholas McPherson, Lily Cruckshank, Jacob Haynes, Amber Conomos and non-Captain representative Travis Dixon – Year 11/12
Year 10 - Tyson Gilmore, Maddison Galagher
Year 9 - Zoe Conomos, Georgina Johnson, Amelia Cruickshank
Year 8 – Noah Paltt, Emily Shearin
Year 7 – Harry Kinstler, Hayley Constable, Tameika Stewart
BREACKFAST CLUB

**FREE**

EVERY FRIDAY 8-9AM
OUTSIDE HOSPITALITY ROOM

ALL Students Welcome
STICKS AND STONES MAY BREAK MY BONES

BUT WORDS CAN HURT ME TOO

Report child cyberbullying
www.esafety.gov.au
A MESSAGE FROM TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS

YOU HAVE PROBABLY HEARD OF GONSKI FUNDING BUT WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION.

Gonski funding provides better resourcing for schools so that all children get the education they deserve.

Local schools have already started receiving Gonski funding. It is delivered according to the individual needs of students.

Schools are using this funding in ways we know make a real difference, such as:

- Reducing class sizes
- Employing specialist literacy and numeracy teachers
- Providing more assistance for students with additional learning needs

BUT THERE IS ONE PROBLEM YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT.

In 2013 the NSW Government signed a Gonski agreement with the Federal Government.

That sets out how much both governments would pay over the six years it will take to ensure all schools are properly funded to a national minimum resource standard.

But the Federal Coalition Government in Canberra wants to walk away from funding the vital last two years of the agreement.

This would have a serious impact on schools and students across NSW. Many children who need help will not get it.

We need all politicians, all political parties, to support this once in a generation investment in the education of our children.

With one click you can help.

REGISTER YOUR SUPPORT FOR THIS VITAL FUNDING AT WWW.IGIVEAGONSKI.COM.AU
Whooping cough alert

Dear Principal,

There has been a large increase in whooping cough notifications in NSW during 2014 and 2015. A large part of this increase has been among school-aged children.

NSW Health would like to provide information about whooping cough to parents and carers of children attending NSW schools.

I am writing to request that you include the attached text in your next school newsletter or other appropriate communication tool to encourage early diagnosis and treatment of those with the infection, and to help reduce the spread of infection in the community.

This information is also available on the NSW Health website:


You are invited to cut and paste this text into your school's newsletter or other appropriate communication tool as required.

Please notify your local public health unit on 1300 066 055 if you are aware of new cases of whooping cough in your school. This is a requirement of the NSW Public Health Act 2010.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Vicky Sheppeard

Director Communicable Disease Branch
**Whooping cough information for schools**

There is an outbreak of whooping cough (pertussis) in NSW, mainly affecting school-aged children.

Coughing spreads the infection to others nearby. Whooping cough can spread to anyone at home, including younger brothers and sisters. Whooping cough can be especially dangerous for babies.

Whooping cough starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. The infection can occur even in fully-vaccinated children. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and may be worse at night.

- Children with these symptoms should see a doctor.
- If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough in your school-aged child, please let the school know and keep your child at home until they have taken 5 days of antibiotics. Keep coughing children away from babies.
- Whooping cough vaccines give good protection against infection but immunity fades with time. Check that all your children are up to date with their vaccines, due at 6 weeks, 4 months, 6 months, 4 years and 12 years of age (offered to all Year 7 students through the NSW school-based vaccination program). A booster is also recommended at 18 months of age.

A booster dose of vaccine is also recommended for adults that are in contact with young children, such as school staff and parents. Pregnant women are recommended to have a booster dose during each pregnancy and this is funded by NSW Health. Those who are new parents or carers of babies should consult their general practitioner about appropriate immunisation.

Your local public health unit can provide advice about whooping cough on 1300 066 055 or visit the NSW Health website for [information for childcare and schools about whooping cough](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au).