Welcome to Term 2 – a busy time for all.
Again the term has started at a hectic pace with a number of educational excursions and programs, the ANZAC School Assembly and student and staff involvement in the Wee Waa ANZAC Day campout, dawn service and March. Miss Freer conducted a school service last Friday at which our students were attentive, respectful and reflective. I was proud to congratulate and thank the large number of students who participated in the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of ANZAC Day. Well done to all, and an extra thank you to the school captains and vice-captains for their roles including the bearing of flags, reading of prayers and laying of wreaths.

As you know our show team had tremendous success at the Royal Easter Show, under the guidance of Mrs Gett and Mrs Mortimer (see the report in this issue). In the next issue it will be clear how much they learned from their experience in Sydney as we list the many awards they received at the Narrabri Show this weekend.

The Wee Waa High School Annual School Report (2014) and the School Plan (2015 – 17) have now both been uploaded to the school website. If you are interested to find out about where we have been and where we are going next, please take a look. Our main directions are Learning, Leading and Teaching and the school will be investing significant time into striving for excellence in all 3 areas.

Day 1 for staff members this term was a staff development day. Office administration and support staff attended a conference to improve their knowledge and skills in a number of areas. Meanwhile, the teaching staff attended an informative session from visiting youth health experts, followed by a presentation of the new Teaching Performance and Development Framework which will result in the maintenance of high teaching standards and ongoing professional learning for all teachers.

This term will continue to be productive and challenging as we continue working to improve student academic outcomes, combined with participation in cultural, sporting and Wee Waa Community Events. Years 11 and 12 will be analysing their exam performances and looking for ways to improve; literacy and numeracy continues with whole school lessons, “Quicksmart” sessions and the Grow and Learn program; our

Gifted and Talented group and 9/10 Advanced Mathematics class continue, as will our Girls Group who regularly visit the residents at Weeronga Aged Hostel; a new class in 7/8 has been created and more teachers employed to better meet our students’ needs; and NAPLAN testing will take place next week for years 7 and 9 students.

I look forward to working with staff, students and parents again this term.

Annabel Doust
Relieving Principal

ANZAC Day 2015

Flag-bearer Brandon Willett
Photo courtesy John Burgess Photography

Wee Waa High School Service
National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy 2015 [NAPLAN]

In May 2015 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by students in Years 7 and 9. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy skills of students across all Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to the school about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student’s level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student’s right to privacy is maintained.

The NAPLAN tests will be conducted from 12-14 May 2015.

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<th>TUESDAY 12th MAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY 13th MAY</th>
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The school will organise another time that week for testing of any student who misses any test unavoidably. Parents are requested not to make appointments or other arrangements for those dates if at all possible.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent_Carer_support/index.html.

New Timetable

Wee Waa High School is in the process of introducing a new timetable across the school. The school will introduce a two week timetable cycle that will see sport timetabled on a Tuesday afternoon instead of Monday afternoons. As part of the new timetable we have employed extra staff and will have 4 mainstream classes instead of 3 classes across Stage 4 (year 7 and 8). This will allow the school to better meet the learning needs of students through smaller class numbers.

Mr George Frangos

Deputy Principal

ICAS competition dates and prices (including GST):

Digital Technologies 19 May $8.80  
Science 3 June $8.80  
Writing 15-19 June $18.70  
Spelling 16 June $12.10  
English 28 July $8.80  
Mathematics 11 August $8.80

For more information please contact  
Mrs Jayne Lovelock
Ag Roundup Term 2.

Well we have hit the ground running on the buzz of our success at the Sydney Royal. The show team girls did an amazing job working with the Myona Charolais stud in exhibiting their cattle, as well as preparing and presenting our own school steer. I got called to go back to Sydney after our return to receive the awards in the carcass section. The steer received a Gold Medal for his carcass as well as 1st in his class and Reserve Champion in the Middle weight section. Well done Wee Waa High School! These results were just the icing on the cake from what was an extraordinary ten days of hard work and excellence displayed by the team. The highlight for me, apart from the outstanding 110% effort they put into every task, was definitely seeing the girls get the opportunity to participate in the Grand parade representing the Charolais breed. What an experience for them all and one I’m sure they won’t forget in a hurry!!
Whilst at Sydney the girls also assisted Bilgamma Dorpers in exhibiting their dorpers and entered the junior handlers competition for meat sheep. The girls did an excellent job and we thank the Hibbens family for giving them the opportunity to participate.
Since returning to school Agriculture students have been reenergized by the success of the show team and all years have been very busy working with the cattle preparing them for upcoming shows. Narrabri Show is this weekend and again Myona Charolais are bringing their cattle along for Wee Waa High school to exhibit. These relationships with local studs provide an invaluable experience for our students and I am truly grateful for them.

We are getting excited for Wee Waa Show coming up on May 15th and 16th. The Agricultural students will be setting up and running the Animal Nursery over the show weekend as a major fundraiser for a new piece of tillage equipment that we desperately need! Please come along, bring your children and see/feed our animals and support the Ag farm.

We are looking to purchase a new set of discs to be able to efficiently farm our country, this will assist the senior students in both Agriculture and Primary Industries to operate machinery and hopefully get the oats in after this rain. I am also hoping to plant some lucerne as a rotation if we can get the farming equipment updated.

Verity Gett
Royal Easter Show Report

Five junior students with Mrs Gett and Mrs Mortimer, nervously headed off to the Royal Easter Show. The arrival was very overwhelming because the showgrounds were so busy and it was all so big. We had to venture out to get groceries and we were extremely lucky to have Mrs Mortimer cooking for us and a total of 20 people. Wellington HS and the men from the ‘Myona’ stud were fortunate that we brought Mrs Mortimer. We’d like to thank her very much for keeping us fed, healthy and happy – the food was yummy. We travelled to Sydney with 4 chickens for the poultry competitions. Sadly they did not come home with us for they were judged on their carcasses.

The first week saw us showing for the school steer competition. Amelia Cruickshank led the school steer and he gained 6th place. We are waiting to hear how its carcass was judged. Caitlyn Galagher then also led the school steer in the school parader’s competition and also gained 6th place. Well done Caitlyn!

The highlight of the weekend was participating in the Grand Parade. Never before have we seen so many people and livestock in one place! Caitlyn watched our steer while we led in the parade, feeling very proud to be a part of Wee Waa High School and to have had this opportunity. It was fascinating to see how many animals actually didn’t cope with all this excitement and there were at least 2 Clydesdale horses, a Brahman bull and some little ponies that were let go. For a few moments there, we were a bit worried. Sunday was a sad day as the steers were loaded up for their ultimate sale at Woolworths. Earlier in the week the steers were auctioned after they had been shown and even though we knew they were going to the abattoir, it was still emotional as we had become quite attached to them. Each day we would get up at 4am and wash and prepare them for competition.

Sunday night we did the heifer fitting challenge. This was an event that was new to us. The heifers were covered in straw and we had to clean them up, halter them and get them out to the arena for parading in the shortest period of time – only 5 minutes! Emily and Amelia were highly commended in their classes. Students were divided in age groups and it was lovely to see the kids receive individual ribbons.

Week 2 saw the girls working with Steve Martin and the Myona Charolais stud from Coonamble preparing Charolais cattle for competition. Steve received a ribbon in every class he entered and we were very proud to have prepared his Charolais with him. Many of the girl’s hard work impressed other studs, and they were trying to ‘poach’ our hard workers.

In between sitting with the livestock, the girls were able to enjoy the atmosphere of the show and a few rides. All the hard work – getting up early, losing sleep, getting really tired and a little cranky is worth it – we were rewarded with a wonderful experience and would sincerely like to thank Mrs Gett for her passion and vision to get us there.

Report written by Emily Shearin
Issy at your service!

Every year students from Wee Waa High School take part in a school to work program. The successful program is designed to give students a taste of life in the working world while they are still at school.

Year Nine student, Isabella Crutcher, can be found working at Marinda Nursery every Friday morning. Customers will be greeted by her smiling face as she takes morning tea orders, waters plants or cleans tables. She is guided by nursery proprietor Linda Kiem and Fiona Oudenryn, who run the café.

‘Marinda Nursery has given Isabella a wonderful opportunity and we are most grateful for the time and knowledge they share with Issy. Linda and Fiona have been so impressed with Issy, that they have now offered her a Saturday morning job,’ said Lindy Widauer, Careers Adviser at Wee Waa High.

The High School’s school to work program involves various students from Years Nine to Twelve. Students undertake work experience, work placement for vocational subjects, TAFE courses, school-based traineeships and apprenticeships as well as special work programs at different times throughout the year.

Year 10 students prepare portfolios as well as attending mock interviews prior to attending work experience. Wee Waa High School would like to thank our local business community for their ongoing support of our students.
MONDAY 4TH MAY 2015

Welcome Back To School

Welcome back to term two. I hope that you all had a great holiday with your family. It is time to settle back into school life. We have had a busy start to the term with year 11 -12 completing their half yearly exams on Friday. Hope that you all did well in the tests and get marks that make you happy.

UNSW

The UNSW Winter School is a fully supervised week-long residential program to provide Aboriginal students from years 10, 11 and 12 to attend a University faculty. Wee Waa High School put seven applications in for Aboriginal students. If Aboriginal Students are successful they have the opportunity to attend University of NSW for one week to be introduced into University life and also participate in tertiary studies of their choice. This will assist students to identify their paths of interest and set goals. The program is fully funded by the Nura Gili Indigenous Program. This program will nurture our students ability for leadership, growth and development.

Subjects offered for 2015 are: Built Environment (including Architecture, Construction), Business, Education, Indigenous Studies, Law, Medicine, Performing Arts, Science, Social Work and Visual Arts. I am very proud of the students that have applied for this year’s UNSW Winter School.

Update PLPS

Wee Waa High School is resuming with the rest of the PLPS in 2nd term. We hope to finish the remainder of the interviews with parents and students in week 3. Thank you to our Aboriginal parents for being a part of the process with their children’s future educational goal. This program is run every year for Aboriginal students to set goals, and parents are required to be part of PLPS with the supportive input into the student’s future decisions.

SASS Professional Learning Day

On Monday the 20th April all SASS staff from WeeWaa High school attended a training day with a number of workshops to improve their professional learning opportunities. On the day there were over 200 people attending. The day started with a keynote speaker, Jennifer Wendtman, talking about working with children and how positive it is to be in a job that helps students.
In March, students from the Year 10 Gifted & Talented group participated in the Brain Bee Challenge. This competition gives students a booklet to read and learn - describing everything you may need to know about how the brain functions. Our students will be receiving participation certificates, however, UWS Co-ordinator Vaughan Macefield, wrote this in his letter to the school:

"Of your competing students, Montana Jones is to be particularly congratulated for attaining the highest mark for your school. Montana did well in the competition, unfortunately missing out on entry to the NSW finals by only a few marks.

This year we had 1,249 registrations from throughout NSW and, once again, the standard was very high. Consequently we had to impose a high cut-off for inviting successful students to the State Finals. Your students did very well, and though, unfortunately, they did not reach the threshold to be invited to participate in Round 2, I have no doubt your students have learnt more about the brain by participating in this competition and hope they have enjoyed the learning experience.

Science is critically dependent on attracting the next generation of researchers, and this is particularly so in neuroscience. Understanding how the brain and other components of the nervous system operate and communicate with the body requires ongoing research. Indeed, we hope that some of your students may consider undertaking a science degree and specialising in neuroscience.....

We do understand that teachers have many demands on their time, so we appreciate your enthusiasm in promoting an increased awareness of the brain. On behalf of the organising committee at the University of Western Sydney, I thank you and your students for participating in the Australian Brain Bee Challenge."

Thank you year 10 students for your dedication and participation.

Mrs Grellman
G&T co-ordinator
LUNCH TIME SOCIALISATION PROGRAM

Wee Waa High School students are being given the opportunity to join into a lunch time program where students can meet in the library and play board games. This has been an initiative of the Learning Support Team which is headed up by Mrs Schwager.

A number of students, along with Mrs Schwager and other teachers have volunteered to assist students who come to the library by showing them how to play the games.

Students who volunteers to assist in this peers support program are able to gain credits towards their Leadership Certificates. Many of the board games are educational and can assist the students in learning various skills including literacy and numeracy skills.

Favourite games to date include Chess, Pay Day, Connect 4 and UNO.

Left hand side of table – Chloe Murphy, Cody Raymond-Wyatt, Shantai Biles, Jorja Williamson and Felicity Otto.

Right hand side of table – Elizabeth Horne, Alana Bennett Clancy, Isabella Crutcher, Claire Young

Right - Chess Masters - Thomas Macklin-Shaw, Sharna Smith, Tegan Conomos and Nicholas McPherson

Monday 4th May 2015

Well, what a great start to term two for Grow and Learn! We wanted to kick start this term by balancing out our practical and theory focus on learning and we have had a lot of fun achieving this goal. The students have their own Grow and Learn workbooks, allowing them to work together on both their literacy and numeracy skills.

While we have managed to balance out the practical and theory focus on learning, due to the beautiful rain we have had lately the students have also been busy maintaining their garden and even harvesting a few radishes already! Our beans especially are not too far off either!

We have also really benefited from the government funding we were successful in receiving. By this we have begun to stock up on resources from garden tools to mud boots. We also have a goal of transforming our old unused cricket nets into a greenhouse, as they are situated right next to our garden. The funding will certainly help to make this happen in the near future.

It has also been a great pleasure to witness the growth of the students in areas of attendance and social attitude. Even though this program only runs for 20 minutes a day, four days a week, we have noticed a significant improvement in overall attendance for all of our students involved. We are so excited to see this improvement as this can also be a greatly beneficial habit to learn even when finished school and seeking to find a job. More so, we have noticed a growth in our students and their behaviour towards one another. While their social attitude to those around them was already acceptable we have seen a softening and bonding between the students both when out in the garden and learning in classroom.

Until next time...

Helen and Kate.
YEAR 9 STUDENTS – UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE SUMMER SCHOOL

Specifically for students from remote and regional areas.
Girls - 6-10 December 2015
Boys – 13-17 December 2015
Spend 5 days at University and learn about opportunities for your future. Meet new people with similar interests and enjoy campus life, lectures, workshops and industry visits which will enable you to learn about careers and study options.

The cost is only $50 for your accommodation and food. The remainders is subsidised.
Families will be responsible for travel to and from Newcastle.
Applications close Friday 26th June 2015.

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

Notes have gone home with all Year 10 students regarding work experience for 2015. Students will undertake one week of work experience in November and they are expected to have this organised by the end of Term 2. It would be appreciated if parents and guardians can talk with students and help them to organise this work experience.

Students may, if they wish, do an additional work placement during Term 2 or 3. If students would like help with organising work experience, can they please talk with Ms Blewitt or Ms Widauer.

DEFENCE FORCE WORK EXPERIENCE

There is work experience available in various areas of the Defence Forces including Army, Navy and Airforce in various areas in New South Wales. Students will need parents to accompany them and parents will also be responsible for organising travel and accommodation. If you would like further information on these opportunities, please see Ms Widauer.

NAMOI COTTON – Ginning and Classing Machinery Technician Opportunities.

If students are interested in undertaking work experience at one of Namoi Cotton’s Ginning facilities, places are available. Additionally, if anyone is interested in learning about the maintenance and repair of machinery used in the classing room, there are also opportunities available in this area. Students will need parents to assist them in getting to and from the various Gins or the Classing room. Interested students should speak with Ms Blewitt or Ms Widauer.

Mrs L. Widauer
Term 2 Lunch Specials $5.00

YOU MUST ORDER THE SPECIAL TO RECEIVE THE FREE DRINK

FREE

HOT CHOCOLATE or WATER or MILKSHAKE

Must be ordered by end of Recess on the day of special.

Week 1 -

MONDAY 4th May - Caesar Salad or Potato & Leek Soup
TUESDAY 5th May - Jacket Potatoes with Bolognese
WEDNESDAY 6th May - Lasagne & Salad
THURSDAY 7th May - Jacket Potatoes Hawaian Style
FRIDAY 8th May - Fast Food Friday Special $ 6.00
S&V Wraps or Nuggets & Chips free Coke, Lemonade or Sprite
Or Apricot Chicken on rice.

Week 2

MONDAY 11th May - Jacket Potatoes Creamy Chicken & Corn
TUESDAY 12th May - Shepard's Pie
WEDNESDAY 13th May - Jacket Potatoes Hawaian Style
THURSDAY 14th May - Pumpkin or Potato & Leek Soup
FRIDAY 15th May- Jacket Potatoes with Bacon & Cheese
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<td>25 ANZAC DAY</td>
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<td>MAY 3</td>
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<td>5 Yr 12 Workplacement</td>
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<td>MAY 4</td>
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<td>MAY 6</td>
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<td>JUN 7</td>
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<td>24 Yrs 7-10 Reports Out Parent/Teacher Evening</td>
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</tbody>
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Correct as: Monday, 4 May 2015
Practical Parenting

- Are you tired of repeating everything 4 times to get your children to listen?
- Do you give into your children to stop the whining?
- Do you ever feel guilty or embarrassed because your children won’t behave?
- When you punish your children do you feel punished yourself?

**WHEN:** Wednesday 27th May 2015  
**TIME:** 9:30AM to 1pm  
**WHERE:** Neighbourhood Centre  
22 George St. Wee Waa

Registrations are essential.  
This course is subject to numbers.

Yes?  
Come to the Practical Parenting

For more information or to register, contact  
Gail at Wee Waa  
Namoi Family & Youth Service  
6795 1025

**FREE**
Surviving Your Adolescents

Learn how to manage and let go of your 11-22 year old!

The Surviving Your Adolescents course covers:

- What is normal adolescent behaviour
- How to manage teen risk-taking
- The Four Cardinal Sins (what not to do)
- The relationship between parent-teen communication and adolescent safety
- The five ways to improve your relationship
- What role to take: Observer, Advisor, Negotiator, Director.
- How to respond to emotional blackmail

For more information or to register, contact
Gail at Wee Waa
Namoi Family & Youth Service
6795 1025

WHEN: Wed - 17th June 2015
TIME: 9:30am - 1pm
WHERE: Neighbourhood Centre
22 George St, Wee Waa

Registration is essential. This course is subject to registration numbers.