From the Principal
Welcome to week 7 of 10 in term 1 at Wee Waa High School and what a busy term it’s been so far!

Our Robotics Team have successfully built, programmed and tested their robot and it’s now bagged and tagged ready for our “Bush Bots” to take to their FIRST competition to take place in Sydney this week. The school is so very fortunate to have had significant sponsorship - both financial and in-kind – from businesses far and wide, and we thank each and every one for enabling this exciting, challenging project.

Thanks also to our local Rotary Club for hosting a very successful launch evening and providing a delicious BBQ meal for the spectators of the first official robot outing. It was terrific to see so many supporters attend the launch and very exciting to watch the robot in action.

On Wednesday last week we were very pleased to welcome our Tamworth Network Director of Public Schools, Ms Ruythe Dufty to the school.

Ms Dufty took time to walk around the school, meet the staff and venture into classrooms to chat with our students and watch them at work. I’m very proud to say that she was particularly complimentary of the way our students presented - courteous, friendly, well-dressed in their uniforms and actively engaged in their learning.

In other news we held a successful BBQ on Thursday night to officially welcome year 7 and their parents and carers to the school community. That same evening saw the P & C hold its Annual General Meeting and we continue to encourage all parents and carers to be involved in the P & C.

Our CHS Netball side has been put to the test at Narrabri recently and most of our eligible students also survived a round of vaccinations!

Annabel Doust
Principal

Annabel Doust, Claire Young & Rylee Sadler with Ruythe Dufty

* Year 7 Excursion notice inside this issue *

AECG Meeting
Wednesday 30th - 5.30pm
Dangar Park
All Welcome

****** CORRECTION ******
In the last newsletter the 13 Yrs Girls 66m Butterfly record breaker was incorrectly stated.
The 13Yrs Girls 66m Butterfly record was broken by Bryony Allen

If you would like an electronic copy of the newsletter each fortnight, please send an email to janelle.lillicbridge@det.nsw.edu.au
Absences:

Attendance at school is vital to your child’s successful education!

Students should be at school between 9am and 3.20pm every day.

Students may only be granted leave
  - For valid reasons (eg illness) by providing written explanation from a parent or carer, or by making an appointment with the Principal or Deputy Principal
  - When collected by a parent or carer in person from the school office

Students may not:
  - Be excused from school to attend work
  - Be excused from school at their own request, without parent or carer consent
  - Be released into the care of someone who is not recognised as a parent of carer

Seniors and Study periods

Senior students are all expected to be at school during normal school hours, including during study periods, when they should be in the school library, studying. As a Year 12 privilege a process is being established to allow students who have a study period during period 5 to sign out early – with parental permission - to go home. Permission notes will be distributed shortly.

Annabel Doust
Principal

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**Every Day Counts…**

A day here or there doesn’t seem like much, but…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When your child misses just…</th>
<th>that equals…</th>
<th>which is…</th>
<th>and therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is…</th>
<th>This means that the best your child can achieve is…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day each fortnight</td>
<td>20 days per year</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 ½ years of school</td>
<td>Equal to finishing Year 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day a week</td>
<td>40 days per year</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2 ½ years of school</td>
<td>Equal to finishing Year 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days a week</td>
<td>80 days per year</td>
<td>16 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 5 years of learning</td>
<td>Equal to finishing Year 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days a week</td>
<td>120 days per year</td>
<td>24 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 8 years of learning</td>
<td>Equal to finishing Year 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Give your child every chance to succeed… **Every day counts!**
Combined High School’s Netball Knock Out

Last Tuesday 10 of our students travelled to Narrabri to participate in the first round of the Combined High School's knockout for the under 15 years girls netball. Teams from Narrabri, Moree, Warialda and Boggabilla were also there to compete.

Wee Waa played Narrabri first, going down 30-6 against a much taller and more experienced team.

In our second match we played Boggabilla, defeating them 15-11. Sports Co-ordinator, Mr Legge said 'We played with a lot more patience, ran the court a lot better and with a much more open style of play in this game.'

Narrabri High School were the overall winners on the day and now progress to the semi-finals of the North-West division of the competition.

The standout performances on the day were by Georgia Smith, Alice Haire, Jordyn Hayne and Emily Haynes.
Keeping You On The Road & Skills In Our Town

For a decade now Garry Mitchell has been keeping many local people on the road through servicing and repairing their cars. For just as long, Mr Mitchell of Garry’s Garage and his team have been investing in the next generation of Mechanics and trades people in the town.

According to Wee Waa High School’s Careers Adviser, Mrs Lindy Widauer, ‘the number of work experience students Garry has taken on would be in the dozens. He has been a real asset for Wee Waa High School and every year he is willing to give young people the opportunity to undertake work experience and work placement at his business, roll up their sleeves and get a taste of what it’s like to be a Mechanic.’

Garry said ‘it’s been a good relationship and one that has introduced us to a number of Apprentices in the past. Feeling optimistic about the future, this year we took on two young Apprentices in Jack Kinstler and Clay Mitchell.’

For Clay, the decision about what he wanted to do for a career was an easy one, ‘I grew up helping out in Dad’s garage, sweeping the floor and helping to keep things tidy. Bit by bit I got to do more and more and I always liked the challenge of pulling something mechanical apart and re assembling it. I like to see how things work.’ Clay says, ‘it’s a good team here and I like learning and having a regular income now. One day I’d like for this to be my garage.’

With Jack, growing up on a farm meant that he too was accustomed to spending time in the work shed tinkering with utes and bikes. ‘Medium to long term, I’d like to be farming so becoming a qualified Mechanic will give me skills that are really useful and important on the farm. They’re skills I can use right into the future, whatever I do.’

Mrs Widauer explained that ‘during their last two years at high school both Clay and Jack attended TAFE in Narrabri as part of their Automotive Certificate II studies. From here both of them will attend TAFE in Narrabri once a week. By 2018 these young men will be fully qualified Mechanics.

When it comes to our community Garry says “it’s really important to invest in local skills and the qualities I look for in potential Apprentices include; good values, a strong work ethic, practical and logical thinking and being good with our customers.”

‘We really value our relationship with companies in our town and wider area,’ Mrs Widauer said ‘because together we create valuable pathways for young people to transition from high school into their first job and begin building that next generation of local skills.’
Ag Roundup Week 6

Coonamble Cattle Camp 2016
14 students travelled to Myona Coonamble the home of Myona Charolais for our show team annual Cattle Camp on Sunday 28th February. This is the third annual cattle camp run by Steve Martin and Verity Gett, at the home of Bev and Bob Hogland and is a valuable part of our show teams program. The students- both experienced and new to the cattle team, spent a very hot Sunday working in the yards with the stud cattle- leading them, washing them, as well as learning how to clip and prepare for showing. A number of junior judging sessions were held over the day with students assessing and judging a pen of heifers, and a group of stud bulls in the paddock. Monday saw the team get up early and wash and prepare the cattle for showing, as well as fine tuning their judging skills with all students giving an oral on their opinions of a pen of heifers. The students gained valuable experience and worked hard as a team over the weekend becoming acquainted with the cattle that they will be exhibiting on Myonas behalf at the upcoming Dubbo and Coonamble shows as well as the Charolais Nationals later in the year. It was especially rewarding to witness the older more experienced team members pass on their knowledge to the new junior members. Wee Waa High School was also very lucky to be able to bring home three stud heifers, kindly lent to us by Bev and Bob Hogland to enable the team to keep practicing at school as well as to exhibit these animals at Wee Waa Show in May. We are very appreciative of the support of Myona Charolais to the Wee waa Show team.

Caitlyn Galagher with WWHS Show Steer

Maddison Galagher and Emily Shearin prepping the calf of Myona Opal for clipping for the Sydney Royal Easter Show.
Emily Shearin, Caitlyn Galagher and Amelia Cruickshank washing Myona Nanette - prepping Myona’s Sydney Royal team.

The WWHS Show team attendants at the Cattle Camp with Mr Steve Martin.
Our Veggies are off to the Sydney Royal!
Year 9/10 Agriculture submitted an entry into the Sydney Royal Easter Show Schools veggie growing competition. The basket of produce along with a 40 slide presentation on how we grow vegetables sustainably at the Ag farm was entered for judging at the Tamworth Show on Friday March 4th. Wee Waa High School won our section so qualified to go through to Sydney for judging. The growing of produce has been a joint effort by all years studying agriculture this term with the garden looking great! Our vegetables and project will be judged during the Royal Easter Show, we look forward to sharing results with you at a later date.

We have a huge wheel barrow full of ripe pumpkins for sale at the moment, if you would like to purchase some please call in to the front office at school from Monday to Thursday. Pumpkins will be $2 - $5 each depending on size. All money raised goes back to the farm, to buy more plants for the students to grow.

Verity Gett
The Arthur Murray Award
Leaving a Legacy of Leadership

Two years ago, Wee Waa High School was pleased to see the introduction of the Arthur Murray Award, an award that acknowledges a Wee Waa High School Aboriginal student’s leadership and role model qualities.

Arthur Murray himself was an outstanding Aboriginal leader in our community and he encouraged Aboriginal people to gain as much education as they could, something that he wasn’t able to do. Arthur recognised that knowledge and leadership were the keys to creating positive change and it is this work that his daughter Helen continues with in her role of Aboriginal Education Officer here at the school.

The inaugural winner of the Arthur Murray Award in 2015 was Valerie Booby and in 2015 Helen was delighted to present the award to Lateisha Doolan. Lateisha is in Year 11 this year.

Helen said Lateisha was selected for the award in part because of her good school attendance, something that Arthur Murray knew was so important to achieving the best possible education.

Another outstanding quality of Lateisha’s is that she is a good role model for young people, presenting herself in a positive way, showing respect to all as well as receiving advise and direction in a positive way.

Our Principal, Ms Doust added that Lateisha’s interest in her cultural heritage is to be admired as is her good command of the Gamilaroi language. She sets goals for herself and is quietly working her way towards achieving them.
**Gifted & Talented**

During Literacy and Numeracy time each day, some students attend Lab 2 to attend the Gifted and Talented group. Bryony Allen has completed her first project for the year - a memory board for relatives that need assistance. This board was designed to assist her grandparents and it looks great.

Other students are preparing for the Narrabri Eisteddfod, year 10 students are preparing for the annual Brain Bee Competition and each student is able to negotiate their project in class. It's a wonderful program overseen by Mr Druce and Mrs Grellman.

*Mrs Sharon Grellman*
Unveiling of the Bush Bots’ Robot

65 team members, donors, family, friends and teachers gathered in the school hall on Monday night for the greatly anticipated unveiling of our FIRST Robotics robot.

The eight Bush Bots team members were completely responsible for the coordination and running of the evening that was hailed by all present as a great success.

Guests first gathered to hear how Wee Waa High students were selected to participate in this global competition and how if it had not been for the generous support of a number of local organisations, their participation would not have been possible. The students also acknowledged that had it not been for their Teacher Mentors Mr Druce, Mrs Grellman and Mr Catt giving many hours of personal time to the project, it simply couldn’t have happened. The team then explained to their guests how the robotics competition works and what their strategy for success is.

After a delicious BBQ, dinner cooked by Wee Waa Rotary Club, guests gathered again in the hall to see the team demonstrate how their robot worked and how they have quickly become quite adept at manouvering it over and around several challenging obstacles.

Many guests on the evening commented how impressed they were with the student’s professionalism, speeches, organisational skills and overall attitude. It was truly an evening for the team, the school and the community to be proud of. ‘Together’ Ms Doust said ‘we are achieving great things.’ For Wee Waa High to be one of only a handful of rural NSW schools participating in this international event is testament to what we as a whole community have been able to achieve and for that the team’s parents and the school are most grateful.’

The team would sincerely like to express their appreciation to the following sponsors and donors; Cotton Seed Distributors, Cotton Grower Services, SANTOS, Namoi Cotton, the Cotton Research & Development Corporation, Narrabri Shire Council, Auscott, Namoi Cotton, Wee Waa Community Care, Britto’s Engineering and BEST Access Centre.
Dear Parents and Carers,

Education is lifelong. As a secondary school student your child is moving towards adult life and closer to determining their future.

The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) is an independent, quality skills-based assessment program which rewards and recognises achievement. ICAS gives you broad insights into your child’s performance across English, Mathematics, Science, Digital Technologies, Spelling and Writing. ICAS (sometimes referred to as the UNSW assessments) has been developed by Educational Assessment Australia (EAA) since 1981.

When your child takes part in ICAS assessments, we can track their learning as they progress from year to year. It also helps us to focus our teaching more purposefully to ensure all students achieve their best.

Each student receives:
- an engaging and challenging full-colour test booklet
- an individual diagnostic report highlighting strengths and weaknesses and year to year progression
- login details to access their online results which can be analysed and downloaded
- a High Distinction, Distinction, Credit, Merit or Participation Certificate acknowledging their level of achievement
- the chance to receive an individually-engraved UNSW medal for the highest scoring student in each year level for each subject.

To learn more about ICAS go to www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/about Remember, EAA has some very helpful tools to help your child prepare. You can access practice assessments at www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/preparation

To enrol your child in ICAS, please complete the registration form overleaf and return it, with your entry fees, to the school no later than Friday, April 8th 2016. PLEASE NOTE NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Kind regards,

Kim Burgess
ICAS coordinator
Wee Waa High School
The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

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


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

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Friday 18 March. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.
P&C Federation would like to cordially invite your P&C to attend our forum

When:
Thur 19th May 2016

Where:
MacIntyre High School
Swanbrook Rd, Inverell NSW 2360

Time: 10am – 2pm
Registration from 9.30am

Light lunch and refreshments provided

Registration Open Now!

Click to Register
For Further information
Call Debbie:
Ph: 1300 885 982
or
Email: projects@pandc.org.au
RSVP: 5pm
11th May 2016

"An Initiative of Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of NSW
Funded by the NSW Government"
Hope Lives in Relay For Life

Join the thousands of Australians who take part in Cancer Council's Relay For Life each year.

An overnight experience with fun activities and moving ceremonies to raise vital funds for research, prevention and support services. Help us make a difference in the fight against cancer. Register now.

Register. Participate. Donate.
1300 65 65 85

Wee Waa
Relay For Life
8th and 9th April 2016
Wee Waa Sporting Complex

facebook.com/RelayForLifeAustralia

relayforlife.org.au

'Relay For Life reminds me how precious life is and that each and every moment counts.' Sharon Cohrs, Breast Cancer Survivor
How to install our app

On Apple
- On your iPhone open the app store
- Search for our school name
- Press Install
- Enter your iTunes password
- It will commence downloading immediately

On Android
- On your Smartphone open the Android/Google Play market
- Search for our school name
- Press install
- Your app will start installing instantly

To Open Our App
- Look for our school's app icon on your phone screen
- Press the icon once
- It will open automatically
- When prompted select yes to receive notifications and use your location (this will make sure the google maps and pop-up alerts work for you)

Having Trouble?
- Shut down the app and or your phone to refresh the phone's memory
- Uninstall your app and reinstall it
- Contact support@activeschoolapps.com.au for help within 24 hours
2\textsuperscript{nd} March 2016

We are planning an excursion for Year 7 to the Coffs Coast Adventure Centre in Coffs Harbour. Students will undertake activities that will help build confidence, enhance teamwork skills and build leadership qualities. They will also experience some of the sights of Coffs Harbour like the Dolphin Marine Magic Show, Boronia Park, shopping and nature walks.

**When:** Week 10 Term 2
27\textsuperscript{st} June 2016 to 1\textsuperscript{st} July 2016
Monday to Friday (5 days)

**Price:** $450.00
(Does not include spending money)

**Itinerary**

**Day 1:** Depart school at 7.00am
- Purchase lunch (McDonalds) Student to buy
- Arrive at Coffs Coast Adventure Centre at around 3.00pm
- Unpack
- Students to use on-site facilities
- Dinner
- Onsite Night Activities
- Bed

**Day 2:** Breakfast
- On-site organised activities
- Lunch
- On-site organised activities
- Dinner
- Movie
- Bed

**Day 3:** Breakfast
- On-site facilities (Mega Drop, Leap of Faith)
- Packed Lunch and Afternoon Tea
- Dolphin Marine Magic (includes private seal kisses with a photo opportunity $15pp)
- Dinner
- Night Games
- Bed

**Day 4:** Breakfast
- Boronia Park (Ocean Awareness, Surfing)
- Lunch (On-site)
- Free Time (Shopping, Beach)
- Dinner
- Movie
- Bed

**Day 5:** Breakfast
- Pack Up/Clean Dorms
- Depart for Wee Waa
- Lunch (students to buy)
- Arrive back at school by 5.00pm

Please indicate if you would like your child to participate on this excursion by completing the form below and return to the FRONT OFFICE STAFF.

My child ____________________________ would like to attend the Year 7 Excursion to Coffs Harbour and I have included $100 deposit (non-refundable) to secure their place.

**Payment Plan Option**
A payment plan option is available for you to start at your earliest convenience. Please contact our Front Office staff to discuss these arrangements.

Parent Signature: ____________________________ Date ____________________________