



# Grafton High School

## Achieving Excellence

Thursday, 27 November  
2014

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### Principal's Report

This week I am going to let our P&C Treasurer and past student from 1950, Mr David Williams, do the talking as he presents two articles. One article relates to the historical connection of Grafton High School with Richie Benaud and the other relates to David's appreciation for our fantastic staff and students.

Before I hand over to David, I just wanted to mention that we have students currently down in Sydney rehearsing and preparing for the Schools Spectacular. The performances will occur this Friday and Saturday and will be televised live and on a delayed telecast on GEM.

*Peter South – Principal*

Anyway, over to David...

### Regarding Richard (Richie) Benaud

Richie Benaud, who recently made headlines because of his skin cancer problem, has a link with Grafton High School in that his father Louis (Lou) was a student of our school, enrolling in 1919.

Lou's sporting achievements were as a footballer. His photo appears in school teams in 1920 and 1921 Graftonians. I took the liberty of sending copies to Richie and received an intriguing reply

*"..he hardly seems to have any hair in the picture, yet he finished with a very full head of grey hair in later years..... It could be that it was the time when he fractured his skull after being thrown from a horse."*

Either Lew or Russell Ellem told me they believe the accident happened on the family property near Glenreagh when Lou lost control of a horse he was riding at a fair speed and was dragged off the horse by a low hanging tree branch.

The Benaud family moved to Penrith about 1922 where it appears Lou revealed his cricketing talent by playing 1st grade for Penrith. While in Grafton in 1950 for a match with the NSW state team Richie spoke to an assembly at Grafton High School. Ex-student, Norman Norton, recalls Richie saying his father was not able to achieve his full potential because as a teacher he couldn't get the necessary leave. Lou vowed that if any of his sons showed cricketing promise they would

not be restricted by their occupation to achieve their sporting potential. Sons Richie and brother, John, played cricket for Australia.

As a footnote I have to admit to "wagging" school to watch the match. My main memory was Keith Miller with shirt unbuttoned to the waist, a beer in one hand and the other holding up a leg of the bar tent.

### Thank You Grafton High School

During a recent lunch time visit to the staff of the Support Unit I experienced a "medical incident" which resulted in an ambulance taking me to hospital. What followed reinforced my pride in Grafton High School which I developed as a student many years ago.

Members of the Support Unit staff went out of their way to ensure I was well cared for until the ambulance arrived. After school a Support teacher and the Principal (who also "baby sat" my car for two days) visited me in hospital.

After a short stay in hospital I went to the school to thank the staff who cared for me. At the Support Unit I was told a number of students who had seen my being taken away by ambulance were very concerned for me. Staff arranged for me to meet some of them and we had a most friendly and animated chat.

I had only just left the Support Unit when I found myself surrounded by about 15-20 young lads. We talked for about 15 minutes ranging through such diverse subjects as my health, big jacaranda trees to my primary school education with what seemed six wanting to talk at once.

Several girls I passed after leaving the boys enquired about my health.

As I was walking through the quadrangle a young student called my name and waved to me from a top floor classroom window.

Friends who drove me home from hospital and to the School have a daughter at Grafton High School, where the mother is very involved in school activities.

And to finish the story a couple of days ago I met the very capable and friendly ambulance man at the School, where he is a parent.

The whole experience gave me a glow to know Grafton High School is living up to its place in history being, in 1912, the first public high school anywhere north of Newcastle.

*David Williams (1946-50)*

## GHS Sheep for Sale

- 3 x Ewes
- 6 Lambs (4 wether, 2 ewes)
- 1 x hogget (2013 lamb)

To be sold together as a group.

Tender forms available at the GHS office.

### **Tenders close:**

**3.15pm Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

Enquires to Mr Kelemec or Mr Brown  
66423355

## PBL Update.

It is that time of the year! The final SHARE token draw is coming up. We will be holding the final draw on the Tuesday morning assembly of Week 9. There will be a double draw as well as canteen vouchers drawn. This final draw for the year will also coincide with our draw for the two iPads. So, keep getting those SHARE tokens in to be in with a chance. The SHARE draw has been hugely successful this year and thanks must go to our sponsor Grafton Shoppingworld.

There are a number of exciting PBL projects that will be taking place at the end of this year and the start of next year. These include a PBL Mural and a PBL sculpture. Keep your eyes peeled to see these projects taking shape.

Good luck in the final draw!

*Mr Townley.*

## School Spec Fundraising

### 100 Club

1<sup>st</sup> \$100 - Kerry Merry

2<sup>nd</sup> \$50 - Ike

### Raffle

1<sup>st</sup> Basket of Groceries- Amanda Skinner

2<sup>nd</sup> Fan - Elizabeth Smith

3<sup>rd</sup> Handbag and accessories - Peter South

*The  
Magic  
Flute*  
Mozart



## Upcoming Events:

### November

#### Week 8 B

24-28<sup>th</sup> Heron Island Excursion

24-28<sup>th</sup> School Spectacular: Sydney

27-28<sup>th</sup> Queensland University Excursion

27<sup>th</sup> P & C Meeting 7pm

### December

#### Week 9 A

1-3<sup>rd</sup> Variety Night Rehearsals

3<sup>rd</sup> Year 6 -7 Orientation Day

3<sup>rd</sup> Support Unit Graduation Dinner

4<sup>th</sup> Variety Night

5<sup>th</sup> Rewards Excursion Year 7, 8 & 9

#### Week 10 B

10<sup>th</sup> Presentation Night – 6.30pm

12<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Bands

#### Week 11 A

15-17<sup>th</sup>

17<sup>th</sup> Last day 2014 for Students

18-19<sup>th</sup> School Development Day 2015

### January

27<sup>th</sup> Staff Development Day

28<sup>th</sup> Year 7 & 11

29<sup>th</sup> All Students

## Take the kids to see The Magic Flute these school holidays

### 2-30 January 2015 | Sydney Opera House

Opera Australia's *The Magic Flute* is a great introduction to opera. Directed by Julie Taymor (Disney's *The Lion King*), this production is full of colourful, larger-than-life puppets, enchanting special effects and fantasy characters. This is a shortened version performed in English – ideal for families and children over 8 years.

### Puppet-making workshops before or after the show on 10, 15 & 17 January

Children will learn how to make their own fantastic puppets inspired by Flute characters,

which they'll be able to take home. Opera Australia's expert puppeteers will teach them techniques used by Taymor herself, and all materials will be supplied.

Visit [opera.org.au](http://opera.org.au) to book tickets to the opera and workshop

today.

## Changes to the Secondary Schools Tax File Number Program in 2015

The Secondary Schools Tax File Number (TFN) Program will not continue beyond 31 December 2014. This means that School TFN forms will no longer be processed beyond this date.

How students can apply for a TFN from 1 January 2015

The Australian Taxation Office in partnership with Australia Post is making it easier for individuals to apply for a TFN.

Students can now apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office.

Applying online is the fastest and most convenient way for students to get a TFN. More information on applying online can be found at [ato.gov.au](http://ato.gov.au) by searching for 'QC27248'

Students who are unable to visit a participating Australia Post office will need to complete the application form Tax file number - application or enquiry for individuals form (NAT 1432). More information about lodging this form can be found at [ato.gov.au](http://ato.gov.au) by searching for 'QC22604'

The ATO will continue working with teachers to educate students about tax and superannuation. The curriculum resource Tax, Super & You is a free, easy to use, online educational resource aligned to the school curriculum of each state and territory. This resource can be accessed at [taxsuperandyou.gov.au](http://taxsuperandyou.gov.au)

In the coming weeks we will provide more information by email on how students can apply for a TFN and the educational services we can provide. In the meantime if you require any further information you can phone 1300 130 282 between 8:00am and 5:00pm Monday to Friday.

*Steve Vesperman*

### Deputy Commissioner of Taxation

## All My Own Work

Before students begin Year 11, they must have completed the compulsory modules for 'All My Own Work'. This will be done on Wednesday 3 December. The Peer Support leaders involved in the Year 6 Orientation day will complete their modules on Wednesday 10 December in periods 5 & 6.

Mrs Bennett