



# Grafton High School

## Achieving Excellence Since 1912

10 August 2016

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### Useful Contacts:

- Kids Helpline (1800 551 800)
- Lifeline (13 11 14)
- HEADSPACE (1800 650 890)

### Principals Report

If it appears that I have again been tardy in getting the newsletter out this term, then I have to again apologise as it really has been a very busy time.

The last week of Term 2 was particularly busy as we celebrated NAIDOC week. Students participated in a number of activities throughout the week. These included cooking a BBQ for students at the sports day for primary schools, participating in the public speaking competition at Westlawn Public School and culminating in the Touch Football day, organised by our students, at the school on Friday. Pictured below are Jaeda Lenoy and Emma Powell with their NAIDOC Public Speaking Awards.



Following on from this, I was privileged to last week be invited to our annual Aboriginal Community Forum. This forum is organised each year by our senior Aboriginal Studies students. They invite elders and members of the community to come to the school and share their stories. This year's theme, as you can see from the cake below, was "Who are we? The accounts students heard, especially in relation to the Stolen Generation, were extremely profound and moving.



### SCU Head-Start

I also recently had the honour of attending the completion ceremony for our students involved in the Southern Cross University Head-Start program. Students participating in this program study a single university subject, at SCU, for an entire university session. They participate in classes alongside full-time university students. Students who successfully complete the unit get conditional early entry to SCU as well as recognition of the unit they complete towards whatever degree they go on to study. Better still, they do not pay any HECS fees for this unit.

Grafton High School has been involved in Head-Start for a few years now and we are probably the school with the greatest number of participants each year. This is no mean feat, given that it requires students to be transported to either SCU Lismore or SCU Coffs Harbour campus each week by parents. Not only are we the largest participant in the program but our students have also earned outstanding results. This year we had six students participate in Head-Start: Micaela Scott, Annabel Green, Natasha Dentler and Grace Moar completed the Biology unit, while Tiana Johnston and Mercedes Sieradzan studied Communication in Organisations. Mercedes actually earned a High Distinction in her course, an amazing achievement for a Year 12 student trying to balance their HSC study with completing a full university subject. Of particular note was the achievement of Year 12 student Nicholas Pate. Nicholas completed Head-Start last year and was awarded the top Engineering honour – the Louise Morgan Scholarship.



*Our SCU Biology students - Micaela Scott, Annabel Green, Natasha Dentler and Grace Moar - front and centre at the awards night*



*Nicholas Pate receiving the Louise Morgan Scholarship*



*Tiana Johnston receiving her certificate*



*Mercedes Sieradzan receiving her certificate*

## Grafton High School Launches into Digital Age Stratosphere

Grafton High School was lucky enough to have the work we are doing with Digital Learning acknowledged by the Education Minister, as well as our local member of Parliament – Clarence MP, Chris Gulaptis. I have reproduced the press release from Mr Gulaptis below:



Clarence MP, Chris Gulaptis has praised Grafton High School's use of needs-based funding to implement a new digital learning program.

Mr Gulaptis, who visited the school, said Grafton High School is enriching learning by providing students with individual 'chrome book' laptops, combined with access to cloud storage and school-wide wi-fi.

"This new program has launched Grafton High into the digital age stratosphere. It is cutting edge and has seen a significant increase in student engagement," Mr Gulaptis said.

"Additional needs-based funding means that all Grafton High School's students can now use an individual laptop, either the school's or their own. Improved wi-fi access enables laptops to be used anywhere in the school.

"By using cloud storage, students are able to access a vast range of educational apps. They can store and retrieve work from any computer,

allowing students to continue with projects at home."

Mr Gulaptis said students are more excited and motivated about learning now they are engaging in additional digital learning.

"The school has employed two full-time technical support officers to directly support teachers who want to use technology to improve classroom learning and communicate with students and staff," Mr Gulaptis said.

In 2015 and 2016, Grafton High School received \$1,118,659 and \$1,212,414 respectively in needs-based funding.

This year, the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is investing a record \$113 million in additional funding to support NSW public school students who need it most.

The programs at Grafton High School have been made possible by NSW being the first state to sign the Gonski agreement, and it means that NSW students will benefit from needs-based funding totalling \$860 million in 2016.

## Congratulations Mr Randall

While I am in the swing of congratulating people, I really have to acknowledge the amazing achievement of Mr Will Randall, the Principal at Grafton Public School. Mr Randall was presented with a certificate acknowledging his 40 years of service to public education in NSW at a recent Principals meeting. What an amazing achievement!



*Mr Randall receives his 40 Years Service certificate from the Director Public Schools for the Clarence – Ms Meghanne Clarke.*

## Tell Them From Me Survey

Earlier this year all students participated in the first "Tell Them From Me" surveys. This Term our school will be participating in the Partners in Learning parent survey, another part of the Tell Them From Me suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school's support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback

will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers. The survey will typically take 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 22 August and 21 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, however, your responses are very much appreciated.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

*Peter South – Principal*

## Science and Engineering Challenge

On a Friday in June, sixteen intrepid students from Grafton High School journeyed to Lismore to throw themselves into the organised chaos that is the Science and Engineering Challenge.

The battle against seven other schools from around the region meant we had to be 'game-ready' if we were to succeed in our quest to build a bridge from icy pole sticks and masking tape that can hold a 70 kg rolling 'train', make a hovercraft that can be accurately steered and to construct a Mars buggy that was able to handle the 'rough stuff'. As well, we had to solve a number of perplexing puzzles using all of our problem solving skills.

We had the smallest team by far, but by the half way mark we were ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> and looking good. After an early lunch we returned to the challenge and by the end of a harrowing day had fallen to 4<sup>th</sup> place.

A great effort by a terrific group of students.

Can't wait till next year!!!

*Mrs Blackburn/Mr O'Loughlin*



## Geography Excursion

On 12 May 2016, the Year 11 Geography class went to Coffs Harbour for a field trip. As part of the Senior Geography course the students need to participate in twelve hours of field work. Working with the Southern Cross University National Marine Science Centre they completed the "Human Impacts on River Ecosystems" field study. As part of the study they compared three different sites in the Coffs Creek Catchment. The students evaluated the health of the river by monitoring various water quality parameters at a number of locations along a river catchment. Stephan from the Southern Cross University Marine Science Centre ran the day.

The day started at the Solitary Islands Aquarium in Coffs Harbour where the students were able to see the aquarium and have a talk in a lecture room about the human impacts on river systems. We travelled to the three sites; Site 1 was at the back of Coffs Harbour near the soccer field on Polwarth Drive, Site 2 was near the Coffs Harbour Swimming pool and Site 3 was near Dolphin Marine Magic. At these sites they used various pieces of equipment, provided by the Marine Centre, to measure salinity, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, water flow and phosphorus levels in the water.

The students discovered that the Coffs Creek is overall in relatively good health, although site 2 had more sediment in the water. A good day was had by all.

Year 12 Geography and Senior Modern and Ancient History travelled to Sydney on the 18th to 20th of May and had an excellent time. After a long bus trip with our awesome bus driver, Tony, we arrived at the YHA at Sydney Central in the afternoon. That night we went shopping at Paddy's markets and went to Chinatown for dinner. Whilst in Chinatown some of the other students found a busker dressed as a cat and decided to join him in dancing which amused many Sydney people and the teachers. After a variety of tasty meals we headed towards the IMAX theatre to watch the new Captain America film. We returned to the YHA and got to bed after midnight.

The next day the History classes split from the Geography class. The History classes went to the Big Dig at the University while the Geography class went on Miss Reinten's "Urban Dynamics Grand Tour of the City" (32,000 steps later, it was a grand tour). We first walked to Central Station and all bought train tickets to Circular Quay. From here we had a great view of the Opera House and Harbour Bridge. We headed towards Customs House where we stood on a glass floor above a spectacularly detailed model of Sydney that showed us where we were walking that day. Our adventure then took us to The Rocks Museum where we studied the history of Sydney's streets so we could see the changes. We then found Foundation Park and looked at

remnants of old terrace houses. Continuing on under the Harbour Bridge we found old cannons and stopped for a photo opportunity and a Mr Whippy ice cream. After finishing the ice cream, we embarked on our journey through to Barangaroo and onwards to Darling Harbour. On the way we saw examples of urban decay, consolidation and renewal. We also noticed protest signs where the people of Millers Point are against Urban Renewal. It was at this point we decided the strange noise we could hear were our stomachs rumbling so we went in search of food. We walked through the nearly finished Barangaroo development. After finding some lunch we visited the Sydney Aquarium. It was spectacular; we saw a dugong, lots of fish, penguins, nemos, dorys and even the Crown of Thorn starfish that we had learnt about in Geography. On our way back to the accommodation we found an awesome playground at Darling Harbour and everyone turned into little kids again, even Miss Reinten joined us on the swings. We stopped back at Paddy's Markets and returned to our accommodation for a shower before Thursday night late night shopping at the QVB and Pitt Street Mall.

On the Friday, after breakfast, we again split into two groups. One group went to the Art Gallery of NSW and another went to the Sydney Jewish Museum. The group that went to the Art Gallery walked with Mr Robertson and were allowed to roam freely in the Gallery until we all met in the middle and looked at the Tang Empire exhibit. It was very interesting.

The second group went with Miss Allibon and Miss Reinten to visit the Sydney Jewish Museum where we listened to a Jewish Holocaust survivor. She was a fascinating person who gave us an insight into life before the war, how she sought refuge in Shanghai and how she came to live in Australia. She happily answered our questions and outlined how important it is for future generations to remember what happened. We also looked at the museum where there were letters from Jewish people to their families and an exhibit about Anne Frank.

Our awesome bus driver, Tony, picked us all up and we headed back to Grafton. It was a much quieter journey home. We really enjoyed this excursion and recommend it to anyone in the future. We would also like to thank Mr Robertson, Miss Allibon and Miss Reinten for taking the time to give us this opportunity.

*Year 12 Geography Class 2016*





### CHROMEBOOKS - YEAR 8

Please remember to bring your Chromebooks every day.



### Term 3

#### Week 4

- 9/8 HSC Trials
- 10/8 HSC Trials
- 11/8 HSC Trials/ North Coast Athletics
- 12/8 HSC Trials

#### Week 5

- 15/8 HSC Trials/Year 10 Geography Exc
- 16/8 HSC Trials/Year 8 Police talks/AIME Excursion/Titans Shield U16
- 17/8 HSC Trials
- 18/8 HSC Trials
- 19/8 HSC Trials

#### Week 6

- 22/8
- 23/8
- 24/8
- 25/8
- 26/8

#### Week 7

- 29/8
- 30/8
- 31/8 STEM – Quberider Space Camp
- 1/9 STEM – Quberider Space Camp/AIME Excursion
- 2/9 STEM – Quberider Space Camp /Business Studies Exc/HSC Drama Prac Exam

#### Week 8

- 5/9
- 6/9
- 7/9
- 8/9 R U OK? DAY
- 9/9

#### Week 9

- 12/9 Prelim Finals
- 13/9 Prelim Finals
- 14/9 Prelim Finals
- 15/9 Prelim Finals
- 16/9 Prelim Finals

#### Week 10

- 19/9 Prelim Finals
- 20/9 Prelim Finals
- 21/9 Prelim Finals/SUPPORT UNIT GRADUATION
- 22/9 Prelim Finals
- 23/9 Prelim Finals/YEAR 12 FORMAL ASSEMBLY/Last day of Term 3