



# Grafton High School

## Achieving Excellence Since 1912

29 March 2018

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Principal's Report
- CAPA reports
- School reunions
- Welfare Day



### Useful Contacts:

- Kids Helpline (1800 551 800)
- Lifeline (13 11 14)
- HEADSPACE (1800 650 890)
- [headspace.org.au](http://headspace.org.au)

## Principal's Report



Congratulations to our 23 Debutantes and their partners! I was, yet again, privileged to be able to participate in our annual P&C School Debutante Ball. The debutantes and their partners were announced and escorted from the stage by our helpful Captain and Vice-Captain MCs and "Hat Boys". They were presented to myself as Principal, along with our Federal Member of Parliament, Mr Hogan, and our Mayor, Mr Simmons.

The above photo really says it all. It shows very smart and elegantly-dressed students with smiling faces, obviously enjoying themselves immensely. You can see the concentration on their faces and, if you look carefully, the synchronised precision of their dance movement – pretty impressive for students who really have only been learning these dances over a few weeks of practice this term.

I am very proud that we are able to maintain this tradition and this is only possible through the active participation of students and their parents. Having said that, I particularly need to acknowledge those who have put such an enormous effort into making sure that this event happened. I want to thank our Year 11 Advisers - Mr Litchfield and Mrs Butcher as well as Mrs Kelly from the front office. I particularly want to thank Karen Crispin who, as a parent, has shown incredible commitment and support for our school by taking on the overall responsibility for organising this event for several years now, on behalf of the P&C. Well done to all involved!

### P&C Annual General Meeting

The P&C Annual General Meeting was held last week and I have the pleasure of announcing our 2018 P&C Officer Bearers:

- President: Ms Dianne Rose
- Vice President: Mrs Sharyn Ellem
- Treasurer: Mr Simon Chambers
- Secretary: Ms Christine Wright

### Collecting students early from school

A reminder to parents that the preferred way of having students leave school early to attend an appointment, is for the student to bring a note to the front office attendance desk first thing in the morning. They will then have this entered in the system and will have a sign out slip ready for them to leave at the designated time. If this is not pre-arranged then parents will need to make contact with the school to verify that the child is required to leave early. Please be aware that there are times of the day, such as recess, lunch, sports afternoons and where students are off site at the Ag Plot, where it is difficult to locate a child, so please try to organise this in advance. If a parent turns up to school to collect a child without having rung or provided a note, then they must come into the school to sign the child out from the attendance desk in the front office.

When a child leaves school early it is considered a partial absence. Valid reasons for partial absence include illness and medical appointments. Birthdays, shopping or having lunch with a parent during class time are not considered by the Department of Education to be justifiable reasons for explaining a partial attendance.

*Peter South - Principal*

## Bangarra Dance Workshop

On 19 March, 14 Aboriginal students travelled to Coffs Harbour High School to participate in a Dance Workshop, run and lead by the Bangarra Aboriginal Dance Company.

The Bangarra Dance Company has had the Junior Dance Company running for many years and introduced other initiatives, such as Rekindling, to encourage and promote the Aboriginal culture within school aged students. Their purpose is to provide an opportunity to immerse students in culture, and to shortlist new Junior Dance Company members.

If selected from the shortlist, Company members attend classes throughout the year in Sydney and are the focus group at the Schools Spectacular at the end of the school year. Our students have participated in workshops, Rekindling and Schools Spectacular for many years and have worked tirelessly with every opportunity they are given. On this occasion, it was no different. Our students performed extremely well, being picked to be leaders for the group, as well as being a targeted dancer to watch for the shortlist.

We were fortunate this year to have two boys selected to be on the shortlist: Jamarlee Weatherall and Tyreece Daley. These boys will find out if they have made the Junior Company team in the coming months.

We are very proud of the achievements made by all students who attended this workshop and the continued effort each student puts in throughout the school year, and in their own time, to commit to their culture.

*Ms Feeney – Head Teacher CAPA*

## Our "Spectacular" Georgia

Georgia Cummins of Year 12 has had a very busy start to the year.

Georgia was successful in gaining a place in the Arts Unit's Solo Vocal Camp for 2018. This camp is a selective 5-day workshop for students enrolled in NSW schools currently in Years 8-12. Georgia was successful in gaining a spot in the camp and learned a number of valuable tools to assist with preparing for the HSC. The Solo Vocal Camp finishes with a concert on the evening of the last day. This concert showcases the work that has been done during the week with students partaking in small group pieces as well as a few students being given a solo. Georgia was lucky enough to have a solo and did her rendition of 'Titanium'. Georgia enjoyed every moment of the experience and has said it gave her an opportunity to grow as an artist and work with experienced tutors to help her learn more about her voice.



*Georgia performing at one the open mic nights at the Solo Vocal Camp.*

Georgia has also been busy finalising her audition for the 2018 Schools Spectacular. Georgia has auditioned for a spot as a featured artist and has been successful in progressing to the first live audition round.

2018 is shaping up to be a very busy year for Georgia and her music. We wish her all the best in all of her extracurricular activities.

*Mr Townley – Music Teacher*

## School Reunion – Classes of 1950 - 1952

You may have seen recent letters in the paper regarding some of our ex-students wanting to organise class reunions. We are repeating the request that went out in that article in the hope that it will assist these reunions, which are an important part of the rich history of Grafton High School – the oldest public high school on the North Coast. If anyone knows of someone from the class of 1951 who would like to be involved in a reunion with other classes from the same era, could they please pass on the following contacts:

- Vois Bancroft (nee McLennan) – 66477255
- Daphne Giese (nee Hurley) – 66452436 or 0417406190

## Upcoming Events

### TERM 1

#### WEEK 10

- 2/4 Easter Monday
- 3/4 Yr 12 Mid Course Examinations commence, Yr 7 Peer Support School Disco
- 4/4

#### WEEK 11

- 9/4 Yr 12 Mid Course Examinations all week
- 13/4 Cross Country, Last day Term 1

### TERM 2

#### WEEK 1

- 30/4 School Staff Development Day
- 1/5 First day for students

A promotional graphic for WEP (World Education Programs) student exchange scholarships. The graphic features a collage of images: a woman in a hat and sunglasses, a man in a blue jacket, and a couple in winter gear. A blue speech bubble contains the text: 'SMS 0428 246 633 For A Free Info Pack!'. A pink box on the right says 'THERE'S A WHOLE WORLD OUT THERE!'. The main text reads 'STUDENT EXCHANGE SCHOLARSHIPS!'. At the bottom, it says 'WEP.ORG.AU FOR MORE INFO' and 'Don't miss out, submit your video entry by April 29!'.

A WEP high school student exchange provides a unique opportunity to spread your wings, leave your comfort zone and become a confident and capable citizen of the world!

Get creative and you could win \$2000 off your year-long 2019 WEP student exchange program with WEP's *There's A Whole World Out There* Scholarship.

Don't miss out, submit your video entry by April 29!



## Coles Sports for Schools program

Dear Parents, Families and Community,

Thank you all so very much for all your awesome support throughout the Coles Sports for Schools program.

This is the last week of Coles Sports for Schools Vouchers.

This weekend, Friday through Sunday, all families and supporters of the school will get double vouchers to be placed in the boxes at any Coles supermarket in Grafton!

I look forward to seeing all our community support over the weekend as this opportunity comes to a close.

Thanks again.

Scott Smith - PDHPE



## Year 8 Welfare Day

On Wednesday Week 8, Year 8 headed over to the pool for their Welfare Day. They focused on team building games which work on cooperation and problem solving. Students excelled at team work by helping their mates back to their feet after being knocked over in Bubble Football, working out how to pass balls to their friends while treading water and beating Mr Piper at tug of war. Students came together at lunch for a sausage sizzle and a "Happy Birthday" sing-a-long for Flick Ellem. It was a great day and students were commended for their excellent behaviour.



## FREE

We have available to our school community, free of charge, old school furniture which needs to be collected before the school holidays. Please ring the school on 6642 3355 if you are interested.

- 4 Adjustable Computer Tables (metal Frame)
- 1 Teachers Desk (wood)
- 1 Medium size Art Table - lots of paint on top (wood)
- 1 large table with damaged chipboard top (metal frame)
- 1 small veneer cupboard

*the long way home*

# SHORT STORY *Competition*

A WRITING COMPETITION FOR **SCHOOL-AGED STUDENTS** LIVING IN THE CLARENCE VALLEY

**PRIMARY SCHOOL CATEGORY:**  
YEAR 1 – 6, 150 WORDS. THEME:  
'WATER' / **SECONDARY SCHOOL**  
CATEGORY – YEAR 7 – 12, 500 WORDS.  
THEME: 'THE LONG WAY HOME' / **PRIZES:**  
TICKETS TO THE BYRON WRITERS  
FESTIVAL / **COMPETITION RUNS**  
FROM 3 APRIL TO 31 MAY 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
[thelongwayhomecv.wordpress.com](http://thelongwayhomecv.wordpress.com)





## See the world in a new light!

### SOUTHERN CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE

is looking for voluntary host families for overseas high school students aged 15-18 arriving in Australia in [July/August](#). Host families can choose a student based on their interests, background and nationality, for a duration of 3, 5 or 10 months. We have carefully-selected students arriving from Italy, France, Germany, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Spain, looking for families who are willing to welcome them into their home and show them the Australian way of life! Prepare to be amazed at how this unique and rewarding experience can help bring your family together, understand themselves better and see the world in a new light.

*“The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes”.* (Marcel Proust, 19<sup>th</sup> century novelist)

#### Why host a student?

Families choose to host students for a variety of reasons. While motivations vary between families, all host families gain from:

- exposing family members to different customs, values and ideas
- developing global interests
- helping a student realise his/her dreams
- expanding international friendships
- sharing Australia with a new family member from overseas

#### What do host families have in common?

- willingness to share and care
- desire to learn about another culture
- interest in enhancing awareness of the global community
- curiosity about the world, history, languages, customs
- aspiration to develop international friendships
- pride in Australia and enthusiasm to share the ways of this beautiful land
- recognition of the importance of education
- great sense of humour

*Want to learn about another culture without leaving home?*

Our international students are looking forward to learning about Australia, and enriching the lives of their host families.

For more information on how you can help these students find a place to stay *please call* Nicolle on 0418132137 or email [personals\\_01@hotmail.com](mailto:personals_01@hotmail.com)

For more information on how your family can help these students find a place to call home, *please contact* **Nicolle** on **0418132137** or email **personals\_01@hotmail.com** ASAP. The students need to have homes secured by the middle of April but don't actually arrive until [14th July 2018](#) until around the [30th April 2018](#) and there is another group arriving [11th August, 2018](#) and departing [30th May, 2018](#). Even if you're not able to host, please continue the conversation - for the sake of these students.

## It's an experience of a lifetime!