



# Grafton High School

Achieving Excellence Since 1912

School Newsletter  
Week 7 – Term 2, 2019

## Principals Report

This Tuesday evening, all teaching staff will be back at school undertaking professional learning on the Literacy and Numeracy Progressions. This is part of our work with the Year 7 Best Start initiative that we are trialling. We will be having Year 7 teacher class meetings between now and the end of the year to discuss the progress of Year 7 students in relation to literacy and numeracy. Best Start is focussed on students meeting minimal standards but our discussion and follow up will also look at students improving, regardless of whether they have met minimum standards or not. Of course, this all is important in relation to the minimum Literacy and Numeracy standards for the HSC. Students will be tested in these standards between the end of Year 10 and Year 12. Students are required to meet the minimum standards in order to be awarded the HSC.

Uniform continues to be a focus in our school. This is following up on last year's uniform review and the changes implemented as a result. Parents/carers need to be aware that a child out of uniform without a note is recorded in our Sentral student management database. Every two weeks, letters are generated and sent to parents if children have been out of uniform 5, 10, 15 or more times in a term. This is so that parents are aware that their child has been out of uniform without presenting a note. It may be that the parent/carer is aware of this or it could be that a note was written but never presented, or even that students are out of uniform without their parent's knowledge. This is the whole reason we send the letter to parents - so that you are informed. If you believe that an error has been made, then please feel free to follow up with your child's roll call teacher. Please remember that the uniform we are trying to enforce, as staff, is the one that parents and students were consulted on and collectively agreed to.

Parenting is not always easy, and I do occasionally get asked for advice from parents who are dealing with difficult issues with their children. Even though I have two children of my own (one an adult now and one still at school) the reality is that I am no expert. I thought it might be helpful to connect parents with the website [raisingchildren.net.au](http://raisingchildren.net.au) (The Australian Parenting website). The organisation behind this is supported by the Federal Department of Social Services and has the Parenting Research Centre, The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne and the Murdoch Children's Research Institute all as member organisations. They also have an app for smart phones and lots of free parenting videos, apps and articles backed by Australian experts.

We have a number of staff who go out of their way to provide additional opportunities for students, spending many, many, additional hours outside of their normal duties, organising and running major extracurricular activities and sport. They do this voluntarily, for a love of the sport or activity and a love of children and education. Some teachers go beyond even this and take on responsibilities beyond the school, particularly in sport, where we currently have a number of staff who are state coaches. In fact, Mr Smith is currently touring overseas as the coach of the Australian boys hockey team. We also have coaches in a number of other sports at a state level including Mrs Nichols in cricket and Ms Blanch in tennis. I recently received a letter from the NSW All Schools Manager for tennis, thanking Ms Kelly Blanch for her work with the state tennis team:

*"..... Kelly was positive, proactive and tireless in her capacity to step up to further roles (chef, laundromat, 'mum', best friend, counsellor) .... It is also important to recognise the great sacrifice that Kelly made to her family by giving up two weekends to provide our students with a wonderful experience and a chance to excel and strive for their personal best. 4 of the 16 students from NSW were selected in the Australian Pizzey Cup Merit Team – an outstanding effort. ...."*

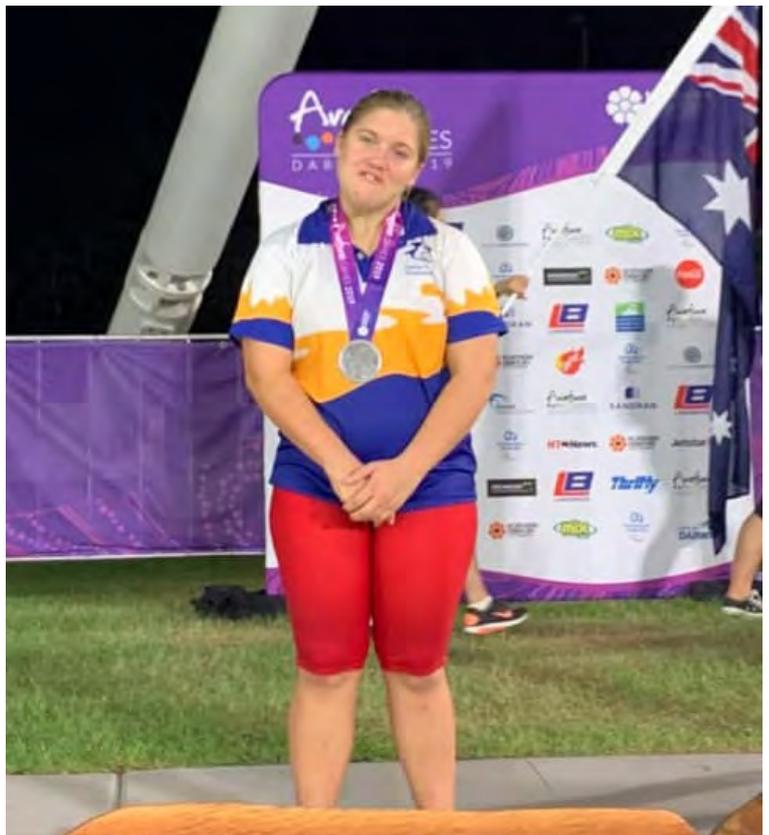
Finally, before I go on to report on some particular recent news/achievement, I also wanted to acknowledge the extremely positive feedback I received recently from the Grafton Vintage Motor Vehicle Club (GVMVC) regarding the behaviour and enthusiasm of our Visual Arts students on their recent excursion to Jabour Park, where they painted, sketched, drew and photographed various vintage cars. A video has been made of the day and can be seen at <http://bit.ly/CarsCake>

*Peter South - Principal*

## **Australian sporting representatives**

We have a significant number of Grafton High School students who represent the school in various sports. Some of these students go on to represent the school at a regional level or even state. We occasionally get some students who even go on to represent our country. To acknowledge this level of achievement, the P&C and school agreed several years ago to establish funding each year, set aside to provide some support for students and their families. This year, amazingly, we actually have 4 students that I am currently aware of who have or will be representing Australia at an international level. Year 10 student, Tahlia Marsh, is again representing Australia in BMX riding at world championships. We currently have Year 11 students, Tyler Gaddes and Jake Lambert, representing Australia overseas in boys hockey. I hope the students will be able to share with us their achievements on their return and wish them all the best. However, we also have one student, Jamie Plunkett, who has already competed at this level this year in multiclass swimming at the Arafura Games. Jamie's achievements include: Gold in the 100 butterfly; Silver in the 100 backstroke, 50 breaststroke, 200 individual medley, 50 backstroke and 50 butterfly; and Bronze in the 50 freestyle, 200 freestyle, 100 breaststroke, and 4<sup>th</sup> in the 100 freestyle. This is on top of her achievements at NSW CHS and all-schools swimming.

I am happy to say that the P&C have agreed to provide a cheque to all students for \$500 to acknowledge their achievements and the costs incurred by families of children competing at this level. It is timely to mention that students who are competing at higher levels can also apply to the school SRC for some (modest) assistance. There are obviously limits on the amount of money that can be given out, but we do want to acknowledge this outstanding achievement. This assistance and acknowledgement also extends to non-sporting representation and the school has previously supported students representing Australia in a number of fields of endeavour, including academic endeavour.



*Jamie Plunkett with some of her medals at various swimming competitions this year. Well done Jamie!*

## SRC NEWS – National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

By Maddie, Laura, Myint Tha & Aimee

As part of anti-bullying day, members of the SRC drew chalk murals around the school to create awareness in the school community. We hope that these murals help to spread positivity to the students and teachers.

These are some of the artworks created.



### In the Library

Mrs Lynch - Teacher Librarian

The Premier's Reading Challenge is a challenge to each student to read more and to read more widely. There were many students who stepped up to take the challenge last year. They were excited to experience quality literature, step into another's shoes and enjoy the adventure. I am honoured to recognise all these remarkable students who achieved something outstanding with reading and learning.

When students read a total of 20 books they receive a certificate from the Premier of NSW. These students received their award of completion at Merit assemblies last year.

When students complete the PRC for four years, they receive a gold award. Platinum is awarded for seven years, and students receive a medal for completing the challenge continuously from Years 3 to 9.

Congratulations to the following 2018 PRC winners:

Gold Award

Shana Jones  
William Lucas  
Joseph Nilon

Platinum Award

Corey Chaffer  
Sophie Connors  
Laura Hennessey

Medal Winners

Laila Cox  
Narissa Dunston



All students in Years 7, 8 & 9 have the opportunity to participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge this year and be a PRC winner. Please see Mrs Lynch in the library to be part of the reading adventure this year.

**SRC NEWS – Youth Week Forum**

Student Representative Council members Madi B, Laura, Achira, Aimee, Myint Tha, and Maddie C, attended the Youth Week Forum at the New School of Arts Neighbourhood Centre, South Grafton. They discussed ideas about how to improve the Clarence Valley. They also discussed youth perspectives and important issues facing the youth in the community. Some of these ideas included racism, safety, bullying, mental health, and community involvement in the Clarence. The students enjoyed the fantastic experience and would like to thank the New School of Arts team and the Youth Workers for their interest in the ideas of the youth in the community.



## SRC NEWS - World's Greatest Shave

Students and teachers at Grafton High School were eager supporters of the World's Greatest Shave on 21 March, 2019. Many thanks go to Nathan and Brendan from *Prince Street Barbers* for volunteering their time to support this worthwhile cause.



Ben Luxton (School Captain) and Khion Rose began the shave with Colby McIlveen, Damien Sewell, Achira Perera and Mrs Amy Brennan (Agriculture teacher) also participating to raise \$4387 for the Leukaemia Foundation.

### Before and After



## Public Schools Orchestra Visit - Clarence Valley Conservatorium

This Wednesday June 12, the 60 piece NSW Public School Symphonic Wind Orchestra and Stage Band will join forces with the Clarence Valley Conservatorium Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble for a special concert at the Conservatorium. The concert is free and starts at 7:00pm. It is promising to be inspiring.

This is the first time these accomplished young musicians have visited the Clarence Valley. The bands are led by Steven Williams who is also the musical director of the NSW Schools Spectacular.



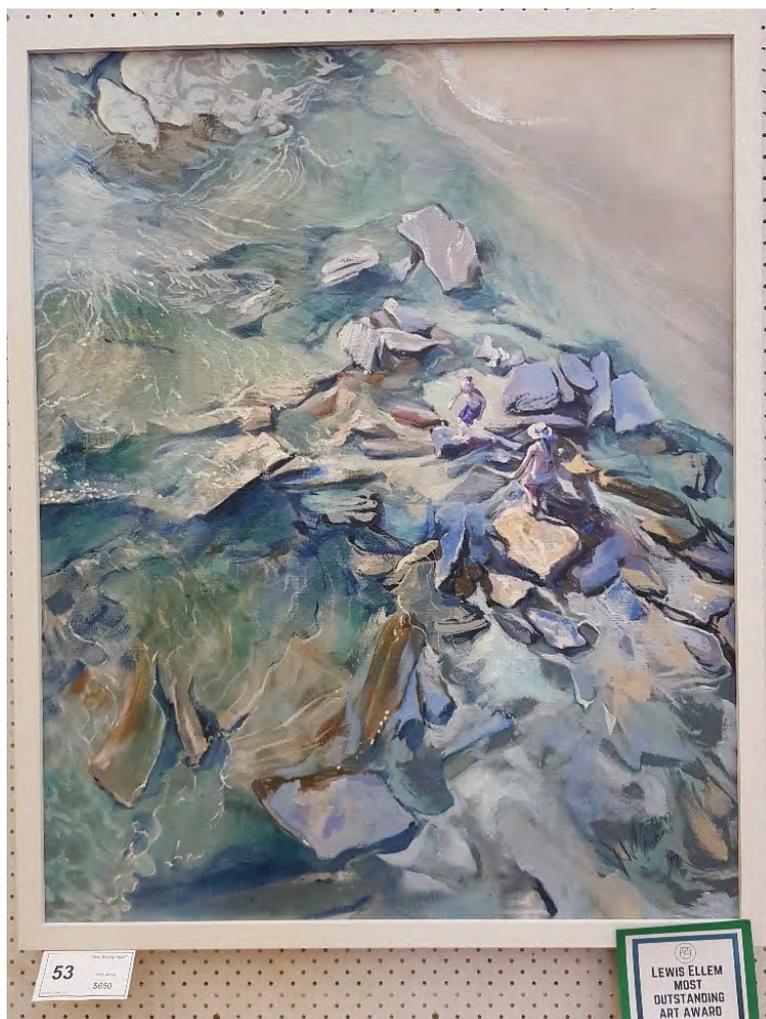
## Reserve Bank of Australia Survey

Grafton High School has been selected to participate in a major study on “high school students’ subject selection”. Ipsos is conducting this research on behalf of the Reserve Bank of Australia to understand the factors that influence students’ subject selection. The research will be used to inform how the Reserve Bank best supports teachers and students through its public education program. Years 10 – 12 students will be asked to complete a survey about their decisions around subject selection for the HSC. The survey should take students less than 12 minutes to complete. Note that participation by students is voluntary. The survey will take place in term 3 and further information will be distributed to parents and students closer to that time.

## Go Art 2019

This year we had over 300 entries in Go Art across a range of sections from youth (year 4-6, 7- 10 and 11-12) and open categories. The standard was amazing, and I want to thank our judges, Louis Covre from Grafton Fast Photos and Niomi Sands – the Director of the Grafton Regional Gallery. Student entries came from a number of schools across the Clarence Valley and it was inspiring to see the creativity and skill of our up-and-coming artists. I want to thank the many parent, student and staff volunteers who helped in the organisation prior to the event and over the weekend itself. I also want to acknowledge our major sponsors for this year: The Ellem family, Coffee Club Grafton, Grafton Fast Photos, Grafton Art Club, Peter Dougherty, Fay Boyd’s Fine Art School, Grafton District Services Club, David Moon Chiropractor, Trevor Waterhouse Mechanical Repairs, Justine James Design & Print, Lormac Transport, I Scream.

Finally, I particularly want to acknowledge the incredible enthusiasm and commitment of Cassie Palmer as the overall organiser and driving force behind this year’s exhibition. Cassie is an outstanding teacher, an outstanding artist and an asset to our community. To finish this newsletter, I wanted to leave you with the order of merit and some images of our annual P&C Go Art exhibition.



*Winner of the Lewis Ellem “Most Outstanding Artwork” – “Rock Hopping” – Jenny Johns*

## Go Art 2019 Raffle Winners

Drawn 3:00 pm, Monday 10 June 2019: **1st:** Phil Cross, **2nd:** Louis Covre, **3rd:** Travis O'Connor

## Go Art 2019 People's Choice Awards

Drawn 3:00 pm, Monday 10 June 2019: **Youth:** Ella Freeland, **Open:** Lynn Gawne

# 2019 Go Art - Youth Category Prize Winners

### Section 9 (Youth (Years 4-6)): Drawing

1st Place	Ronin Johns	"My River View"
2nd Place	Axel Vereyken	"Finger Puppet"

### Section 10 (Youth (Years 4-6)): Painting

1st Place	Mitchell Kelly	"Tassy Devil"
2nd Place	Matilda McEntee	"Inside out"

### Section 11 (Youth (Years 7-10)): Painting

1st Place	Toby Snowling	"Broken Bridge"
2nd Place	Aimee Unitt	"Dad's EH"

### Section 12 (Youth (Years 7-10)): Mixed Media

1st Place	Mack Brennan	"Untitled"
2nd Place	Caitlyn Clausen	"Cry for peace"

### Section 13 (Youth (Years 7-10)): Drawing

1st Place	Awen Farnell	"Chief"
2nd Place	Paige Mackey	"Tears"

### Section 14 (Youth (Years 7-10)): Sculpture/Ceramics

1st Place	Gabby Solway	"Snek"
2nd Place	Nadia Smith	"Wire Rhino Bug"

### Section 15 (Youth (Years 7-10)): Photography/Digital Media

1st Place	Beau Brinkworth	"Enthralling Eatonsville"
2nd Place	Alyssa Loy	"Car Face"
Highly Commended	Paige Mackey	"Flower by water"

### Section 16 (Youth (Years 11-12)): Painting

1st Place	Isabelle English	"Portrait"
2nd Place	Tash Clausen	"Flower Power"

### Section 17 (Youth (Years 11-12)): Mixed Media

1st Place	Amali McGrath	"Shadow"
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### Section 18 (Youth (Years 11-12)): Drawing

1st Place	Ella Freeland	"Sweet Music Playing in the Dark"
2nd Place	Emma Scott	"A pot & a pair"
Most Outstanding Student Art Work	Nikki-Lee Hanna-Plunkett	"Spirits"

### Section 19 (Youth (Years 11-12)): Sculpture/Ceramics

1st Place	Tash Clausen	"Music of Nature"
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### Section 20 (Youth (Years 11-12)): Photography/Digital Media

1st Place	Tash Clausen	"Bush Boy"
2nd Place	Nikki-Lee Hanna-Plunkett	"Spaced Out"

### Section 21 (Youth (Years 4-6)): Young Writers Award

1st Place	Axel Vereyken	"Hunted"
2nd Place	Jed Rediger	"The Night Owl"

### Section 22 (Youth (Years 7-12)): Young Writers Award

1st Place	Eden Annesley	"Summit"
2nd Place	Laila Cox	"Owlagedon"

# 2019 Go Art - Open Category Prize Winners

## Section 1 (Open): Acrylic

1st Place	Joy Cooksey	"Rock Pool"
2nd Place	Lynette Gawne	"Inner Glow"
Principals Choice GHS	Annabel Green	"Black Birds"

## Section 2 (Open): Oil

1st Place	Trish Tait	"A Man's Best Friend"
2nd Place	Curt Edwards	"Morning Sunlight Central Australia"
Fay Boyd Scholarship	Pam Birrell	"Am I Blue"
Lewis Ellem "Most Outstanding Art Award"	Jenny Johns	"Rock Hopping"

## Section 3 (Open): Watercolour

1st Place	Pam Birrell	"Poppy Parade"
2nd Place	Colin South	"Sailing at Urunga"
Fay Boyd Scholarship	Michelle Worley	"Not now - I'm busy"
Packers Prize	Julianne Gosper	"Yellow Tail"

## Section 4 (Open): Mixed Media

1st Place	Deborah McLennan	"Bee Queen Party"
2nd Place	Raelene Mirindo	"Singing for their Supper"

## Section 5 (Open): Drawing

1st Place	Julianne Gosper	"Chill Time"
2nd Place	Deborah McLennan	"Best Mates"

## Section 6 (Open): Pastels

1st Place	Jenny Johns	"Good Morning Sunshine"
2nd Place	Pam Fysh	"What's up pippie"

## Section 7 (Open): Sculpture/Ceramics

1st Place	Kane Minogue	"100% recycled scrap metal Lyrebird Totem"
2nd Place	Kade Valja	"Nodule 1"

## Section 8 (Open): Photography/Digital Media

1st Place	Stuart Murphy	"Part A"
2nd Place	Annabel Green	"Life through a lens"
Highly Commended	Tash Clausen	"Gran's Frog"



< Most Outstanding Student Artwork  
– "Spirits"- Nikki-Lee Hanna-  
Plunkett

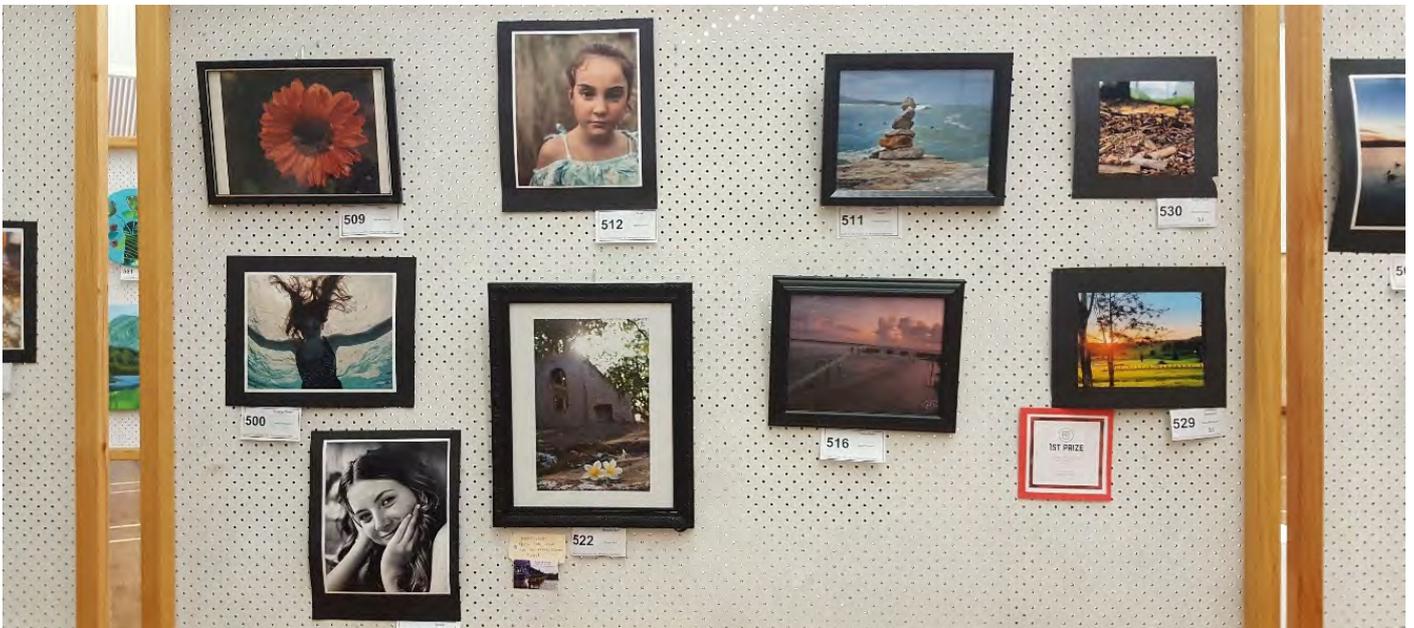


Principals Choice (Fay Boyd  
acquisitive prize) – "Black Birds" –  
Annabel Green >

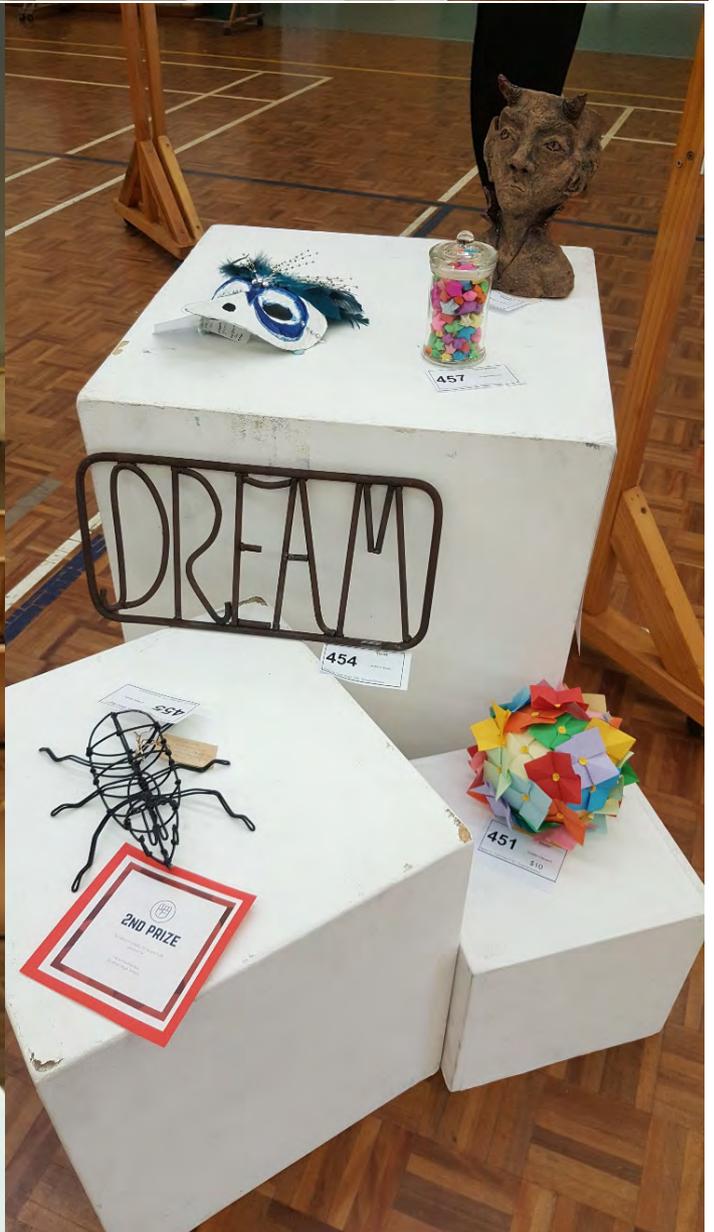
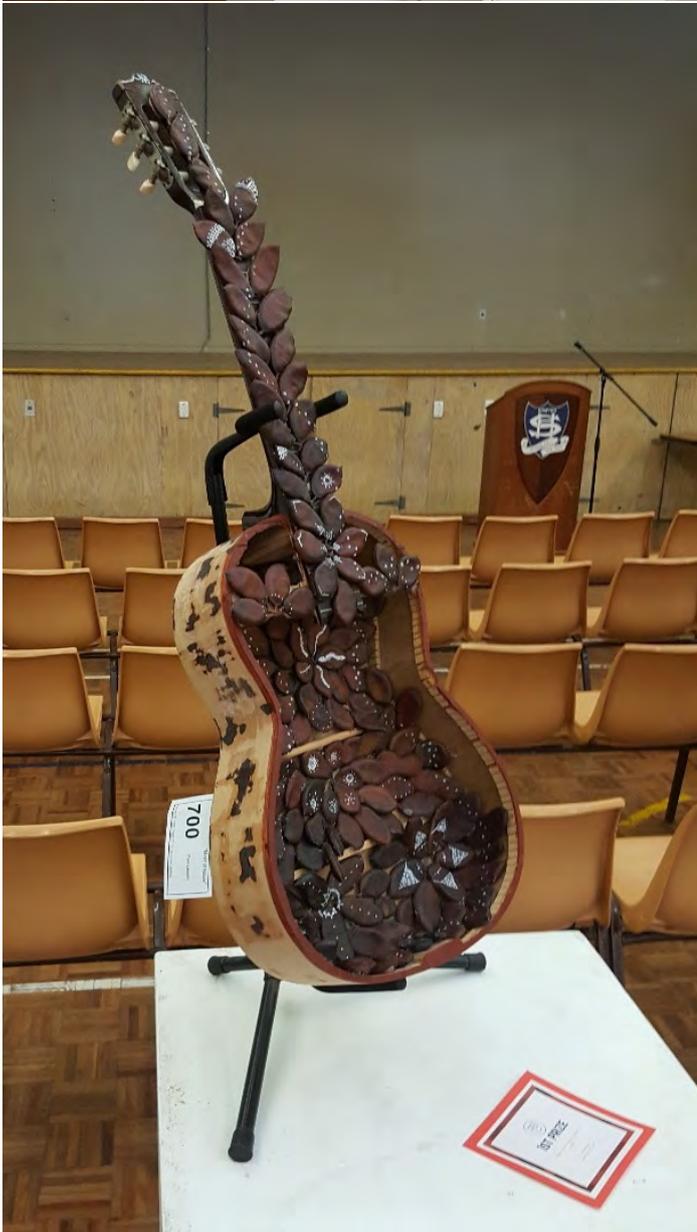














ENGINEERS  
AUSTRALIA

# Discover Engineering South Grafton

A free forum for all high school students  
interested in learning about  
engineering as a career choice

- Why be an engineer?
- What do engineers do?
- What is it like to study engineering?
- How do you become an engineer?

Discover Engineering provides the opportunity for high school students interested in an exciting career in engineering to hear real life experiences from young engineers across the various engineering disciplines who will share their career path and practical first hand knowledge. University representatives will also be available to advise on course information.

**Wednesday 26 June 2019, 6.30pm - 8.30pm**

South Grafton Ex-servicemens Club  
2 Wharf Street, South Grafton  
Enquiries: 02 4911 7310

This is a free event. Light refreshments will be served, registration is essential for catering purposes

[Register online](#)



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