



# Grafton High School

Achieving Excellence Since 1912

School Newsletter  
Week 6 – Term 4, 2019

## Principals Report

This will be the final newsletter for 2019, so I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a great end to what has hopefully been a good year, and all the best for Christmas and the upcoming holidays.

While we still have some time to go this year, one of the highlights has been our successful Year 12 formal, which was held at the Barn last Friday evening. I want to congratulate the Year 12 Adviser, Mr Litchfield, and his assistant Year Adviser, Mrs Butcher. I also want to acknowledge the work of our TAS staff and hospitality students on the evening.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Mrs Butcher for receiving a World Teachers Day award from the Australian College of Educators at SCU Coffs Harbour recently. Mrs Butcher is a very worthy recipient of this award.



## RFS Fundraising

Most people will have, by now, seen the school Facebook page or perhaps even seen the great stories in the media regarding the fundraiser held by Grafton and surrounding area public schools last Friday. The fundraiser was an initiative of the Grafton High School SRC that was taken up by a number of other schools and the Department of Education Grafton Office staff. It began when Grafton High School Vice-Captain, Natasha Clausen and Prefect, Carmen Dundon, visited students from Nymboida and Baryulgil Public Schools who have been hosted by Grafton Public School whilst evacuated from their own schools. Some of these students, along with some of our own students and students at other schools, have lost their homes and pets during these fires. When the schools heard what our SRC was doing they all wanted to join in and the net effect was that we raised, across all schools, close to \$7000, which will be donated to local Rural Fire Services. The fires over the last few months have been, and continue to be, a major challenge for many of our students, families and staff. I appreciate the patience and support of parents as we have managed the disruption over this time and supported affected students.

## Jacaranda Festival

During the Jacaranda Festival, I was lucky enough to attend two special events. The first was a special ceremony to rename the Grafton Army Reserve Training Depot at Duke St in honour of Lieutenant Colonel Charles Hercules Green DSO. Lieutenant Colonel Green was an ex-Grafton High School student who served in World War II and the Korean War. He was killed in action while commanding the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment during the Korean War and was posthumously awarded the US Silver Star in 1951. Lieutenant Colonel Green's portrait and citation hang above the door to my office and is a daily reminder of the achievements of many of our ex-students. The ceremony was also a reminder that there are many in our community who serve our country, both in regular and in reserve forces.



I was also lucky enough to view the premier of the Everlasting Clarence documentary at the Saraton. In the previous newsletter, I mentioned the involvement of our students in the production of this film. It was great to have one of our Year 10 students, Annelise Uren, perform at the opening. Our students did a fantastic job on the film and I feel it would have been a worthwhile learning experience for them. I want to thank HSIE teacher, Ms Singh, for supporting this initiative.



## Security Cameras

The school security cameras are now live and have already been of great assistance in resolving issues both within school hours and as security outside of school hours. The system used by the school is the same as that used by local businesses, which means that any incident that occurs outside of hours can be easily accessed by Police in their investigations. This has proven most useful recently and I am hoping that the cameras will operate as an effective deterrent.

## Changes to On Trac in 2020 (Home Rooms and Student Learning Conferences)

In the last newsletter I overviewed changes to “On Trac” roll call each morning, starting next year. In 2020, roll call and announcements will now be conducted directly in Period 1 each day; there will be no separate roll call. This means that Period 1 will now start at 9:05 am. Then, just prior to recess, at the end of Period 2, students will attend their “Home Room”, where they will have 24 minutes of pastoral care focussed on both group/class work and one-on-one student learning conferences. This is based on successful programs that are running in other schools.

I mentioned in the last newsletter that there would be some minor changes to bell times to accommodate what will be called “Home Room classes”, but this will not involve any change to the school start or end time. I have included the changed bell times for 2020 below for your reference:

### 2020 GRAFTON HIGH SCHOOL BELL TIMES

	MON A	TUE A	WED A	THU A	FRI A	MON B	TUE B	WED B	THU B	FRI A
1	9:05 – 9:53 (48)	9:05 – 9:53 (48)	9:05 – 9:53 (48)	9:05 – 9:53 (48)	9:05 – 9:51 (46)	9:05 – 9:53 (48)	9:05 – 9:53 (48)	9:05 – 9:53 (48)	9:05 – 9:53 (48)	9:05 – 9:51 (46)
2	9:53 – 10:41 (48)	9:53 – 10:41 (48)	9:53 – 10:41 (48)	9:53 – 10:41 (48)	9:51 – 10:36 (45)	9:53 – 10:41 (48)	9:53 – 10:41 (48)	9:53 – 10:41 (48)	9:53 – 10:41 (48)	9:51 – 10:36 (45)
On Trac	10:41 – 11:05 (24)	10:41 – 11:05 Assembly	10:41 – 11:05 (24)	10:41 – 11:05 (24)	10:36 – 11:00 (24)	10:41 – 11:05 (24)	10:41 – 11:05 Year Assembly	10:41 – 11:05 (24)	10:41 – 11:05 (24)	10:36 – 11:00 (24)
Recess	11:05 – 11:25 (20)	11:05 – 11:25 (20)	11:05 – 11:25 (20)	11:05 – 11:25 (20)	11:00 – 11:25 Communication Meeting (25)	11:05 – 11:25 (20)	11:05 – 11:25 (20)	11:05 – 11:25 (20)	11:05 – 11:25 (20)	11:00 – 11:25 Communication Meeting (25)
3	11:25 – 12:13 (48)	11:25 – 12:13 (48)	11:25 – 12:13 (48)	11:25 – 12:13 (48)	11:25 – 12:13 (48)	11:25 – 12:13 (48)	11:25 – 12:13 (48)	11:25 – 12:13 (48)	11:25 – 12:13 (48)	11:25 – 12:13 (48)
4	12:13 – 1:01 (48)	12:13 – 1:01 (48)	12:13 – 1:01 (48)	12:13 – 1:01 (48)	12:13 – 1:01 (48)	12:13 – 1:01 (48)	12:13 – 1:01 (48)	12:13 – 1:01 (48)	12:13 – 1:01 (48)	12:13 – 1:01 (48)
Lunch	1:01 – 1:41 (40)	1:01 – 1:41 (40)	1:01 – 1:41 (40)	1:01 – 1:41 (40)	1:01 – 1:41 (40)	1:01 – 1:41 (40)	1:01 – 1:41 (40)	1:01 – 1:41 (40)	1:01 – 1:41 (40)	1:01 – 1:41 (40)
5	1:41 – 2:29 (48)	1:41 – 2:29 (48)	1:41 – 2:29 (48)	1:41 – 2:29 (48)	1:41 – 2:29 (48)	1:41 – 2:29 (48)	1:41 – 2:29 (48)	1:41 – 2:29 (48)	1:41 – 2:29 (48)	1:41 – 2:29 (48)
6	2:29 – 3:15 (46)	2:29 – 3:15 (46)	2:29 – 3:15 (46)	2:29 – 3:15 (46)	2:29 – 3:15 (46)	2:29 – 3:15 (46)	2:29 – 3:15 (46)	2:29 – 3:15 (46)	2:29 – 3:15 (46)	2:29 – 3:15 (46)

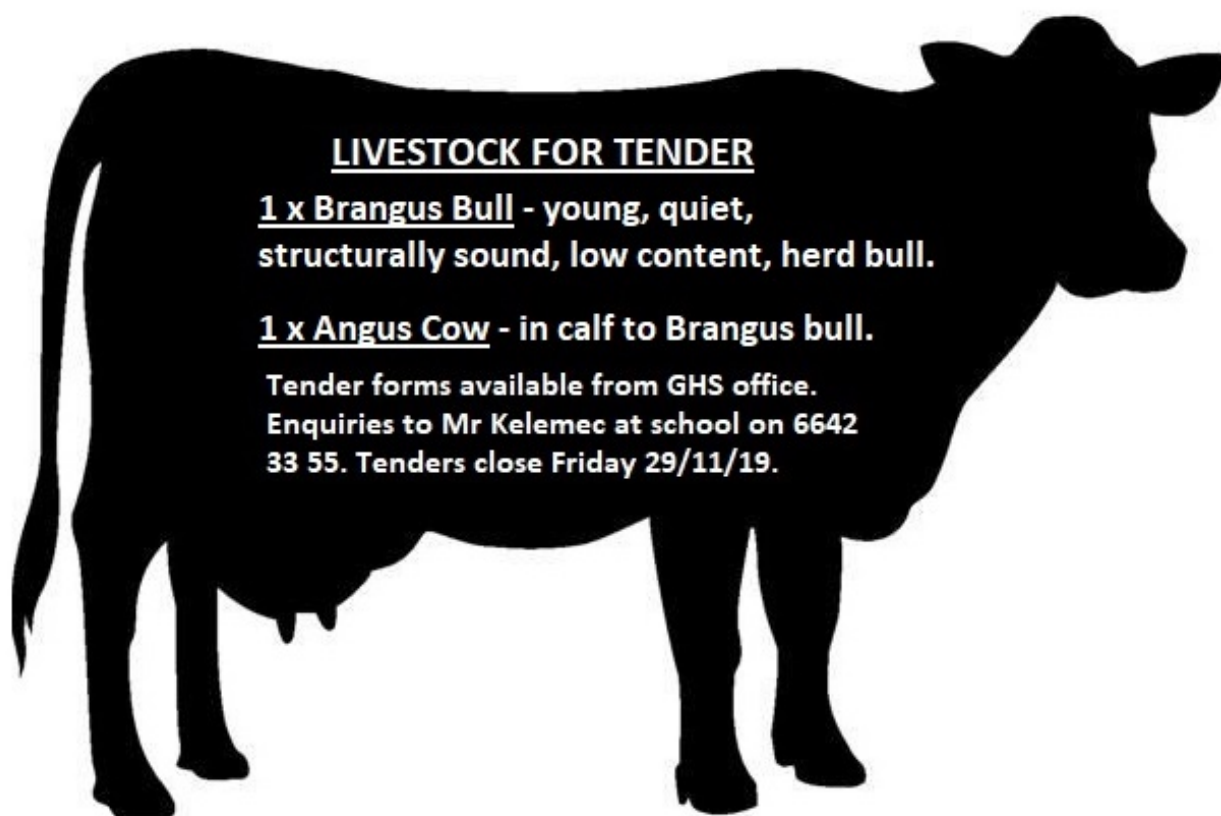
## Education Pathways Pilot

Grafton High School already has several initiatives to support students transitioning to work. This includes, in addition to the school Careers Adviser (currently Mrs Nichols whilst Mrs Piper is on leave), the appointment of a school Transition Adviser – Mr Hartmann, as well as special programs and classes such as our Skills for Work class in Year 10. We have already had some success with students transitioning to other pathways to work/employment as part of these programs.

Grafton High school has now been selected to be part of a pilot program, along with Maclean HS, South Grafton HS and Woolgoolga HS. The pilot is aimed at increasing student participation in traineeships and apprenticeships. You may have seen this pilot program covered by media recently following a press release from the NSW Government. As part of the Educational Pathways Pilot, the Department of Education committed to employing five Head Teacher Secondary Studies who will lead the Careers Immersion teams across participating schools. Three positions will be located in South West Sydney and two in the North Coast between Grafton and Mullumbimby schools involved in the Education Pathways Pilot. This additional resource will work with Careers and Transition Advisers in schools to improve student participation in traineeships and apprenticeships. I hope to provide further updates as the pilot progresses and more information becomes available.

### **Livestock for tender**

With the drought, it has become necessary to purchase feed for the livestock on the school farm. Just like many primary producers, the school needs to partially destock during this time, with the hope that we can re-stock when the drought eventually breaks, and feed/grazing is more plentiful. As such, please see the advertisement below regarding livestock available for purchase by tender. Please contact our Farm Manager, Mr Kelemec, if you need further information.



*Peter South - Principal*

## Attendance Awareness Month

November at Grafton High School is Attendance Awareness Month. During the month of November, the SRC will be visiting each Ontrac room to promote the value of good attendance and take steps to reduce unexplained absences. Miss Mann and the SRC will select students from each year group who have improved their attendance to receive a canteen voucher throughout November.

### Our first voucher winners are:

- Most improved attendance – Tyron Wilson Yr 9
- Perfect attendance – Lilly Green-Powell Yr 11

[#attendtodayachievetomorrow](https://twitter.com/attendtodayachievetomorrow)



## Dragon Boats

On Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> of October our school competed in the Jacaranda Dragon Boats Regatta. We were one of 4 teams competing in the community/schools category. In the first race of the day GHS claimed victory. The second race brought the team back to earth with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish. However in the final the team dug deep to claim victory and be crowned the 2019 Jacaranda Community/schools Dragon Boats Champions. A big thank you to the Year 11 students who represented GHS and thank you to Mrs Scott and Mrs Strano for all the support and organisation.



## 2019 Curious Minds

Congratulations to Moe Myint Tha of Year 9 who has qualified for the 2019 Curious Minds Program. The Curious Minds project is a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program aimed at highly capable girls in Years 9 and 10 who have an interest in STEM learning areas. Moe is one of only 66 female students Australia-wide to be invited to attend the Curious Minds Program. As part of the program, Moe will attend 2 week long camps at the Australian National University in Canberra and have the opportunity to explore all aspects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths through guest lectures, interactive sessions, practicals and field trips. This is a massive achievement by Moe and we wish her all the best.

## International Soccer Team Selection Success

Kasey Sevil, Year 10, has been selected for an international Soccer tour with the West Ham Academy. Kasey will travel throughout the UK and Scotland over a period of two weeks.

When the UK West Ham Academy team was here on tour, they chose a team of Australian kids to tour with them. Trials were held at Rushforth Park, where Kasey was selected for trials in Brisbane against young players from all over Australia. Kasey was then fast-tracked onto the Australian team. She will fly out on Sunday 26 November with fellow team mates. Well done Kasey!

*Fran Williams – Aboriginal Education Officer*



## Japanese Visitors for Jacaranda

On Wednesday 30 October, Grafton High School received some overseas visitors keen to view Australia's largest Jacaranda tree. Mr Sinya Yoshida, President of the Miyazaki Parks Association, and a group of horticulturalists from Japan came to the school and met with our principal, Mr South. According to the National Biggest Tree Register, Grafton High School's Jacaranda is 17 metres tall and has a trunk girth of 5.5 metres. The 25 metre crown, however, was sacrificed for safety and had several larger limbs removed. The group measured the tree and took lots of photos. They were interested to find out when the tree was planted, so we are now working with the Clarence Valley Council to research the tree's history.

As the group study tropical plants, they really enjoyed the experience, and were happy to know that our students had planted and maintained the photinias along the front of our school. They were also interested in seeing how different our school was compared to schools in Japan.

Since returning to Japan at the beginning of November, they have emailed their thanks for Grafton High's generous hospitality and sent through some photos.

*Pamela McVicar – Front Office*



## Clarence Valley Equestrian Challenge 2019

The Grafton Pony Club annually hosts the Clarence Valley Equestrian Challenge. Held this year on the 26 - 27 October, the event is aimed at giving school-aged children the opportunity to participate and ride as an individual, make up a team or represent their school as a team.

This event has its beginnings in giving children who do not necessarily attend Pony Club the opportunity to experience equestrian activities in an environment which encourages sportsmanship and team activities.

There were 43 school teams entered, as well as individual entries, for a total of 157 nominations this year. Participants from Grafton High School were Aimee Unitt, Sophie Connors, Kate Connors, Taharna Reid and Piper Franklin. Sophie and Kate carried the Grafton High Banner, all wore the school colours and the team looked very smart on presentation, but unfortunately did not take home the March Past trophy.

Saturday included events such as hacking events & rider classes in the morning, and dressage and jumping in the afternoon. This day was extremely hot - 37 degrees - and all children held up very well in such trying conditions.

Sunday's events were time trials and sporting, which includes such things as barrel racing, flag racing, bending, the keyhole race and the relay, which is exciting for children and parents both.

No trophies for the team, but some placings received, which were well deserved considering the numbers entered. The children had a great time, however, and there were plenty of smiles all round and the comments were: "Can't wait for next year."

Congratulations to Aimee, Sophie, Kate, Tarhana and Piper on a great effort in participating in the equestrian challenge.



## Earn & Learn Resources Arrive

The Woolworths Earn & Learn program provides schools and early learning centres the opportunity to earn new educational equipment. There are thousands of items available in the range including supplies for English, science, mathematics and music, as well as library books and sporting gear.

This year, with the help of our community, we collected 19860 Earn & Learn points which were redeemed for a variety of learning supplies.

The colourful delivery arrived in Week 6 Term 4 and was distributed to our Key Learning Areas.



# WEP STUDENT EXCHANGE

**AT A GLANCE:**

- Choose from over 25 countries
- Attend school overseas
- Live with a local host family
- Learn about yourself and the world around you
- Make international friendships
- Learn a language
- Make memories to last a lifetime!

 "THIS HAS BEEN THE MOST AMAZING ADVENTURE, THERE ARE NO WORDS!" CAITLIN, CANADA

WEP.ORG.AU   INFO@WEP.ORG.AU   1300 884 733



 CLARENCE VALLEY CONSERVATORIUM

# SONGWRITING ESSENTIALS

WORKSHOP  
23 & 30 NOVEMBER 2019  
10:00am-4:00pm

The Clarence Valley Conservatorium is excited to present Songwriting Essentials facilitated by Luke Gough (Guitar/ drum/ production/ composition) and Wesley Chegwiddden (Vocals/ percussion/ composition)





**BOOK NOW**

Workshop cost is \$50  
Registration Forms available from our office at 8 Villiers Street or at [www.cvcon.com.au](http://www.cvcon.com.au)



**YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING**  
Student Exchange Programs

## BECOME A HOST FAMILY

Give your family a global perspective without leaving home.

To find out more about hosting an international exchange student visit

[yfu.com.au/about-hosting](http://yfu.com.au/about-hosting)  
or call us on 1800 654 947


NEW STUDENTS ARRIVING SOON



open  
minds  
and hearts

 Find us on Facebook



Helping learner drivers become safe drivers 

## Teaching someone to drive can be a **happy** experience.

You can learn all the simple steps on how to teach a learner driver at a **FREE** two hour workshop.

The workshop is designed to assist and support parents / supervisors of learner drivers fulfill the requirements of the GLS, where a learner driver is required to obtain 120 hours of on-road, supervised driving experience.

### GRAFTON

Tuesday 29th October @ 6.00pm

Grafton Library  
Pound St, Grafton

For enquiries, or to register your attendance

Email: [roadsafety@joblinkplus.com.au](mailto:roadsafety@joblinkplus.com.au) or call 02 6764 6688



## Food Smart Workshop



### Learn how to reduce food waste in your kitchen.

Discover how making small changes can help you reduce food waste at home, save money and help the environment. Learn about the Food Smart Families program and how you can help your families make the most of the food they buy!

Attend this **FREE**, fun and practical workshop to find out more.  
Afternoon tea will be provided.

CHEC Campus Coffs Harbour Room O.G.16 | Thursday 28 November 3.00 - 5.00pm

Bookings essential, places limited, register at:  
[childandfamilyserviceschec@tafensw.edu.au](mailto:childandfamilyserviceschec@tafensw.edu.au) or 6659 3087



[lovefoodhatewaste.nsw.gov.au](http://lovefoodhatewaste.nsw.gov.au)  
This project is a NSW Government Waste Less Recycle  
More Initiative funded from the waste levy.



**MIDWASTE**  
Regional Waste Forum

# STREET-O

is here for summer!

45 MINUTES to find as many CHECKPOINTS as you possibly can

2<sup>ND</sup> FRIDAY OF THE MONTH @ MEMORIAL PARK

(river end of Prince St, Grafton)

START TIMES BETWEEN 5-5:45 PM

*all ages & abilities*

25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY

\$2 ENTRY

WELCOME

8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER

14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

13<sup>th</sup> MARCH

## GRAFTON STREET ORIENTEERING



Bush 'n' Beach Orienteering Club



0467 819 769 (Gavin)



Grafton Street Orienteering  
Bush n Beach Orienteering

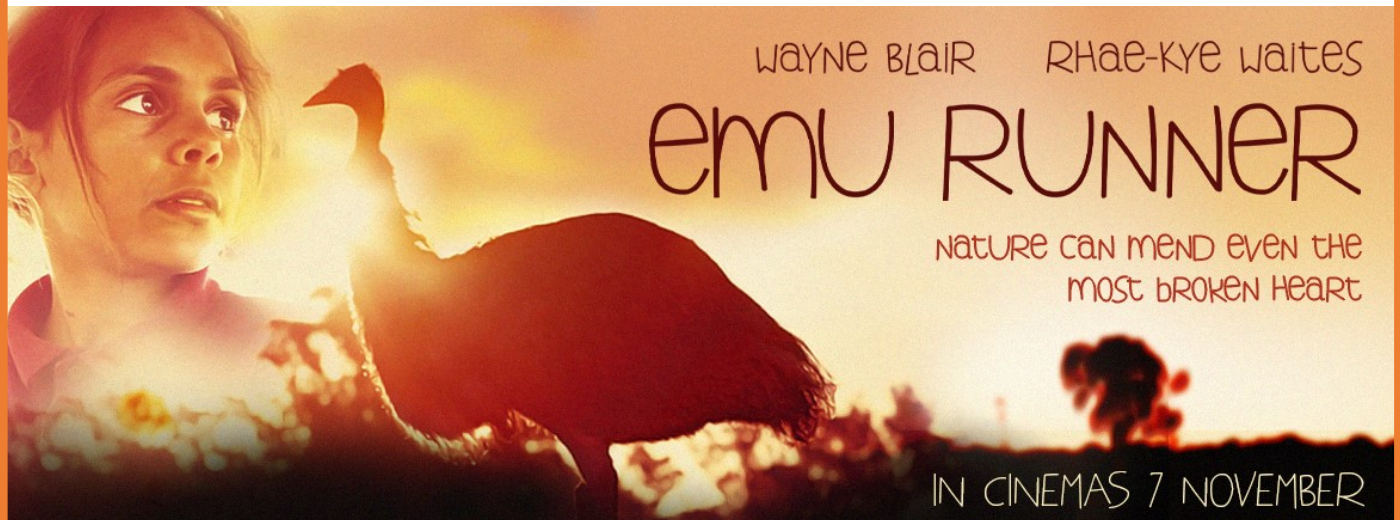


graftonstreeto@gmail.com

**NORTH WEST FILM FESTIVAL 2019**  
**FRI 29 + SAT 30 NOVEMBER**  
**INVERELL TOWN HALL**

**REMARKABLE NEW AUSTRALIAN FEATURE FILM**  
**EMU RUNNER**

**FREE SCREENING SAT 30<sup>TH</sup> NOV AT 4PM**



Her mother's death propels a young girl to seek comfort in her ancestral lands, where a bond she forms with a wild emu rebuilds her spirit but also brings her into conflict with a social worker who could break her family apart. Shot in Brewarrina, Emu Runner is a lyrical and poetic film grounded in social realism and emphasising the importance of country, community and storytelling. Recommended for ages 8+. Rated PG

**FRIDAY**

7pm

**FESTIVAL AWARDS**

The Oscars in the Bush!  
Hosted by Rob Carlton  
Enjoy a drink at the Festival Bar

**SATURDAY**

10am - 1pm Workshops, Panel Sessions,  
Q&As, Screenings

2-4pm **Lost in the Crowd**  
Documentary presented by  
writer/director Jason van Genderen

4-6pm **Emu Runner**  
Presented by Rob Carlton

7-8pm Rachel Ward  
In conversation with Rob Carlton

8pm **Beautiful Kate**  
Presented by writer/director Rachel Ward



**ALL EVENTS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**