

Artist: Tyreece Daley

Newsletter

Grafton High School

Term 4 Week 10 2021

GHS Dux 2020

From the Principal's Desk

As we reach the end of a year that we all hoped might be better than last, but turned out not to be, it is still encouraging to look back on where we finish the year, compared to where we started. Despite many obvious challenges, our staff and students have continued to seek improvement. At our recent presentation assemblies held in year groups due to restrictions, we recognised many of the academic achievements in each year group, and some of the sporting achievements that were able to go ahead this year. We also recognised the Dux of the school in 2020, Joseph Lynch. I congratulated all year groups on the resilience shown in getting through a year that presented us with floods, staff shortages, and many COVID-19 related disruptions, changes and frustrations.



Joseph Lynch

Staff Farewells

The end of this year sees us farewell two permanent staff who are moving elsewhere. Helen Mahony will be taking up a position at Coffs Harbour High School in the new year, and Rayleen Mills has accepted the position of Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts at Parkes High School. Rayleen has taught the students of Grafton High School for over 20 years. We thank both of these teachers for the care and effort they have given to our students.

Staff Appointments in 2022

After beginning the year with a Principal and two Deputy Principals that were not substantive in their roles, it is exciting to look towards 2022 and begin the year with a settled and permanent Senior Executive to serve our school. I thank both Lisa Hill and Stacey Martin for their efforts while relieving in the Deputy Principal role, guiding me through the early days of learning a new school and community, along with the whole staff who have stepped up when needed and helped progress our school. Lisa Hill has now been appointed permanently to the Deputy Principal position vacated by Gervase Bertus, to formally start at the beginning of 2022. We will also have a range of new staff beginning in the new year, and I look forward to introducing them to our community in Term 1.

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Appreciation

At the end of my first year leading this wonderful school, I would like to thank the students, families, staff, school Parents and Citizens Association, and the entire community for the good will, trust, cooperation and support that has been shown to all of us through some very difficult times. Students, staff, families and community will all have been impacted in some way this year, and I wish you all a restful, peaceful and safe Christmas break. I am very much looking forward to returning better than ever in 2022, to push ahead for the benefit of our students.

Scott Dinham
Principal

Year 12 Formal

We would like to advise Formal guests to arrive from 5:30pm onwards as there will be delays at the gates due to sign in requirements, including providing proof of vaccination. Masks are required. We are looking forward celebrating this very special event with you all.

Mrs Gorham and Mrs Patterson



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon 13 Dec 2021

- Activities Week
- Year 11 Tutorials

Thu 16 Dec 2021

- Last day for students

Fri 17 Dec 2021

- Staff Development Day

Mon 24 Jan 2022

- Canteen open - 8am to 2pm

Tue 25 Jan 2022

- Canteen open - 8am to 2pm

Thu 27 Jan 2022

- Canteen open - 8am to 2pm

Fri 28 Jan 2022

- Staff Development Day

Mon 31 Jan 2022

- Staff Development Day

Tue 01 Feb 2022

- Year 7, 11 & 12 first day

Wed 02 Feb 2022

- Year 8, 9 & 10 first day

Fri 09 Feb 2022

- School Photos

Tue 15 Feb 2022

- University Roadshow Year 12

Thu 17 Feb 2022

- Photos Catch-up

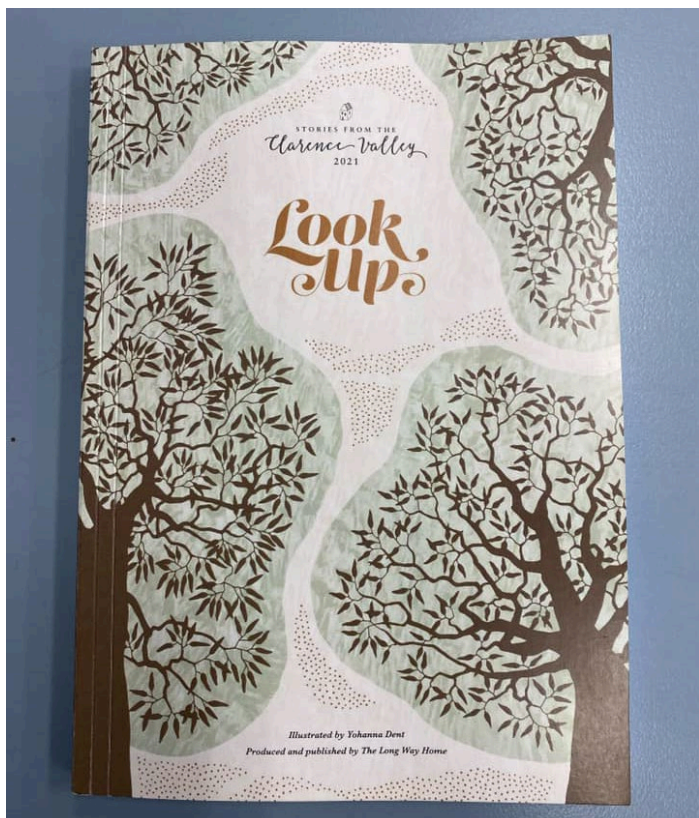
PASS Outdoor Recreation

Congratulations to the PASS Outdoor Recreation students for your sensational campfire food preparation in challenging conditions.



Stories from the Clarence Valley

On Tuesday evening, writers gathered on the riverbank of the Commercial Hotel in Ulmarra for the launch of *The Long Way Home, Stories from the Clarence Valley*. This year's theme was 'Look Up'. Congratulations to Kiera Banfield, winner of the Secondary Schools section, Nadia Smith, Harmin Singh, Annabelle Dungey, Neve Rhodes, Daisy Ada and Hayden Luxton! These students' stories have been published in the book, 'Look Up', which is available for purchase at the Book Warehouse and the Grafton Farmers' Markets.



Staff Retirement

Recently a retirement function was held for three highly regarded Grafton High staff members. Wendy Butcher (left) and Ann Williams (right) held permanent SLSO positions working with students with the highest care needs. Wendy and Ann always treated these students and their carers with the utmost amount of dignity and compassion. Wendy and Ann worked as an SLSO for 21 years and 22 years respectively and Wendy continues to work casually when needed. Donna Booth (middle) has worked as a Special Education teacher for many years. Donna originally lived in Darwin where she started her teaching career in 1989. She moved with her family to Grafton in 2001 and was appointed as a permanent teacher to Grafton High in 2006, working firstly in the support unit and later establishing the first multi categorical (MC) class in the Clarence Valley. Donna has always been a strong advocate for students with Autism being able to access an inclusive and comprehensive education and is greatly missed by both staff and students at Grafton High. These ladies also received their retirement medals for their services to students and education.



Congratulations, Wendy, Ann and Donna, we thank you for your service and wish you all the best in your retirement

Leisa Moar
Head Teacher Support

Northern NSW Philosothon Champions!

On Thursday, GHS were awarded champion senior team at the NNSW Philosothon. After an intense day, discussing topics such as whether breaking the law is ever justified, and if we can truly know other minds, the judges delivered their verdict. When they read out the names of the Top 3 Philosophers, two of our students - McKenna Wearing and Leticia Black - were named. The judges made special note of the quality of our whole team, and we emerged victorious out of the nine schools.



These students are exemplary representatives of our school, and are to be congratulated

SRC School Leaders 2022

Year 8 2022 representatives (L to R): →

Ruby Martin; Toby Smidt; Myla Smith

Year 9 2022 representatives (L to R): ↓

Sienna Connell; Makayla Shipway; Alex Blanchard; Reece McLaughlan; Phoebe-Rose Collins (absent: Leni Rush)



↑ Year 10 2022 representatives:
(L to R)

Riley Luscombe and Anicka Peters

← Year 11 2022 representatives:

Violet Mansfield, Nadia Smith, Shannon Robinson, Elanah Dunstan, Letitia Black (absent: Reece Easterbrook; McKenna Wearing; Abel Warren)

↓ Year 12 2022 representatives (L to R):

Liam Gorham; Hope Endean; Laura Hennessy (Vice Captain); Whitney Moon (Captain); Oskar Robertson (Captain); Noah Fahey (Vice Captain); Michael Luxton; Declan Lynch.



Grafton High School Star Achievers

Recently, we were asked by the Daily Examiner to nominate students from Grafton High School who have been achieving great things at school. Over the coming weeks, we will feature a profile of these few, of the many students from Grafton High School, who are working hard and demonstrating their leadership through their commitment and achievements at school.

Shaan Singh (Year 10):

Shaan's achievements across a broad range of subjects in 2020, including ranking first in her year group for Science, Industrial Technology, and Inquiry Based Learning, culminated in her being awarded the Year Adviser's Prize for 2020. In 2021, Shaan was selected to participate in 'The Science Experience', touring several universities in Brisbane and participating in science experiments to learn more about the fields of study. She received a grant from the Grafton Rotary Club to assist her with this endeavour. Shaan's plans for the future include going to university to study a degree based on sciences, aspiring to travel the world, and championing action against climate change. Shaan's advice to students is to, "not treat school as a competition but instead, just look for ways to improve on yourself. Take small steps out of your comfort zone, use the resources available to you, and most importantly, ask for help".



Anicka Peters (Year 9):

Anicka is an outstanding academic achiever, ranking first in English, Maths, Science, Music and Art in 2020. She has a passion for sport, in particular running, earning her a place at NSW Cross Country, and she has achieved a 2nd degree black belt in Mixed Martial Arts, which she has been studying for 10 years. In the future, Anicka hopes to study medicine at Sydney University and complete a Ph.D. in trauma surgery. Anicka's advice to students is, "use your time wisely; the more work you do in class the less work you have to do at home, which means you have more time to do the things you love"

A Healthy School Canteen

Recently we had our menu assessed against the Food and Drink Criteria of the NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy (the Strategy). We were pleased to be informed that our school canteen is meeting the requirements of the Strategy.

By having a healthy canteen we are supporting the health and wellbeing of our students. To acknowledge this achievement our school has been awarded the Great Choice Certificate and badge.



PDHPE

Grafton High School students make the most of opportunities to be on, in and above the water with the resumption of both the aquatics and rowing programs.

Students both experienced and new to the sport have resumed in the rowing program.

PDHPE students are developing aquatic skills during double periods of PDHPE.



Remembrance Day

Noah Fahey and Laura Hennessy represented Grafton High School at the Remembrance Day Service, held at Memorial Park in Grafton.



ROAD SAFETY INFORMATION

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR CHILDREN'S SAFETY WHEN THEY ARE TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL.

Ride a bicycle safely

As younger children are still developing the skills needed to ride alone, the safest place to ride bikes, scooters and skateboards is within fenced areas.

Until children are at least 10 years old they should ride away from vehicles and driveways. As they are learning to ride it is important to ride or walk alongside them and talk about how to be a safe bicycle rider.

Children between 10 years old and 12 years old should ride away from busy roads.

Children under 16 and adult riders accompanying and supervising them may ride on the footpath, unless there are signs specifically prohibiting cycling.

Teach your children to be safe bicycle riders by getting them to always:

- follow bicycle road rules including:
 - ride to the left on footpaths
 - give pedestrians right of way on footpaths
 - watch out for cars entering or leaving driveways
- wear a correctly fitted bicycle helmet – it's the law
- wear bright-coloured clothing such as a vest so other road users can see them.

For older children, think carefully about the following when judging their ability to ride on their own:

- How safe is the travel route?
- What are their riding skills like?
- How aware are they of their surroundings in the traffic environment?
- How well can they manage unexpected hazards?

Your school will have procedures about students bringing bikes onto school grounds. Ensure your children follow these at all times.



For further support

Go to the department's Road Safety Education program at education.nsw.gov.au/road-safety-education or visit education.nsw.gov.au and search for road safety education.