

# Newsletter

## Grafton High School

Artist: Tyreece Daley

Term 1 Week 3 2022

### From the Principal's Desk

Welcome to the 2022 school year. A particular acknowledgement and welcome to our new Year 7 students and families joining us for the first time. The start of the year has looked a little different to what we might have hoped when leaving for holidays at the end of last year, but as has been the case for two years now, we are adapting and overcoming challenges wherever they arise.

A huge congratulations must go to our 2021 Higher School Certificate students, who finished their secondary studies throughout the pandemic, and have achieved some excellent results. Individual and group results across many subjects were very pleasing, with some described later in this newsletter. Staff were very pleased to see such a wonderful group of students achieve quality results given the journey that they had endured.

We welcome some new teachers to the school in 2022: Elka Ewings and Cortney Skinner in Mathematics, Kerry Bruce, Angie Lauro and Lucy Davison in Learning Support, and Steven McLennan in TAS. We also welcome Rachel Winter to Grafton High School for 2022. Rachel is the substantive Head Teacher Mathematics at Woolgoolga High School and will be working with us as a member of the Mathematics Growth Team, a project coordinated by Eddie Woo to improve the teaching of Mathematics across the state.

We obviously face a new round of guidelines and restrictions that relate to the current pandemic. This will mean that some activities will need to change or perhaps not occur, but our broad intention at Grafton High School is to work with families to conduct our teaching and learning, and extracurricular activities as safely as possible, while continuing to provide as many quality and engaging experiences as we possibly can, within the classroom and beyond it. We are mindful of making each term at school a productive one on both an academic and personal level.

We will continue this year with our focus areas in our strategic improvement plan, with a particular focus on high expectations. We encourage you to use the learning summaries each fortnight to have a conversation with your children about their learning. Research tells us that where students are aware that education and schooling is valued in their home, educational outcomes are greater. Even brief, simple conversations about learning can help contribute to this.

We look forward to a productive 2022, confident in the knowledge that we will overcome whatever is thrown at us!

Scott Dinham  
Principal

## HSC Success at Grafton High School

On 20<sup>th</sup> January, NSW Higher School Certificate results were released, and the 2021 Year 12 cohort did themselves and the school proud with fantastic results achieved by many of our students.

Michael Hourn was the school's outstanding achiever, being placed on the NSW Education Standards Authority Merit List in both the All Rounders and Top Achievers categories. He was a Distinguished Achiever, earning Band 6 results in Earth and Environmental Science, English Advanced, Investigating Science and Physics. Other Distinguished Achievers were Piper Cribb (Agriculture), James Deefholts (English Extension 1 and Investigating Science), Byron Maddock (Investigating Science) and Oliver Westman (Legal Studies and English Advanced).



## Yondr Pouch Reminder

We appreciate parent and carer support in reinforcing our mobile phone policy at Grafton High School and remind parents, carers, and students that mobile phones are banned at Grafton High School. All students are provided with a Yondr pouch so that their phones are secured for the day while they are at school. Students are expected to turn off their phone and pouch it on the way into school and unpouch it as they leave the school gates for the last time each afternoon. If a student does not own a mobile phone, they are still expected to carry their pouch in their school bag as we will have pouch checks at various times throughout the year.

There are consequences for students who persistently breach our phone policy (a verbal warning for an initial incident is followed by a written formal caution- warning of suspension for a second breach, and a suspension will be enforced for a third). Students who have lost or damaged their pouch will be required to pay a \$10 fee to replace their pouch.



## 2022 Centenary Scholarship Winner

Whitney Moon was awarded with the P&C's Centenary Scholarship during our formal merit awards assemblies as the conclusion of the school year in 2021. Whitney received the scholarship after an application process, addressing criteria that acknowledges the spirit of the scholarship; describing personal goals she has for Year 12 and when she leaves school, and how the scholarship will help her towards achieving those goals. Valued at \$1,000, the scholarship aims to support Whitney in furthering her education from Year 11 to 12, and beyond. Congratulations, Whitney!



## 'The Wellbeing Zone @ Grafton HS'

Our Wellbeing team have developed a new resource to support our students at Grafton High School. 'The Wellbeing Zone @ Grafton HS' is a website that students can access on any device. The website contains a suite of resources, ideas, and links to help students "get back on track when things get tough, stay on track when things start to get tricky, and deal with the stuff you can't control". You can access 'The Wellbeing Zone @ Grafton HS' at <https://grafton-hschool.wixsite.com/wellbeing>.

Additional resources from our Wellbeing team to support students and their parents and carers can be found on our school's website. Here, you can access links to 'The Wellbeing Zone @ Grafton HS', as well as the GHS Wellbeing Padlet (a digital notice board) and various fact sheets from headspace. The 'Student Wellbeing' page from our school website can be accessed at <https://grafton-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/supporting-our-students/student-health-and-safety/student-wellbeing-headspace.html>

WELCOME TO THE WELLBEING  
ZONE  
@ GRAFTON HS

Home Important links to services Being you Managing emotions Depression Anxiety Relationships More



## Year 7 Camp

The Great Aussie Bush Camp for Year 7 students will occur from Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March until Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March. Notes have been distributed to all Year 7 students with the excursion details. If students are needing another note they can be collected from the school's Front Office. The initial deposit was due Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February with final payments due the Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March. The Great Aussie Bush Camp is a great opportunity for Year 7 students to build connections with the school's Wellbeing staff, fellow classmates and students in their year group, and our school's Peer Support leaders.



## Parking and Bus Zones

We have been advised from the Clarence Valley Council that they are currently conducting a campaign to ensure student and public safety around schools. Please ensure you comply with all school parking zones, including bus zones, to avoid any non-compliance fines being issued.



## Upcoming Events

15<sup>th</sup> February- University Roadshow for Year 12 students

17<sup>th</sup> February- School Photos Catch-Up Day

28<sup>th</sup> February- Australian National University Virtual Information Session for Year 12 students

9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> March- Year 7 Great Aussie Bush Camp

22<sup>nd</sup> March- Australian Defence Force Presentation

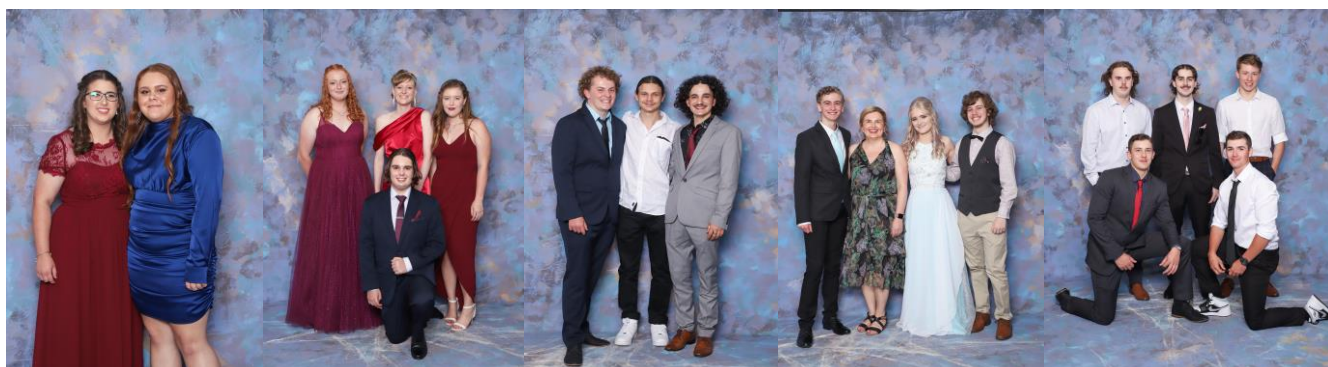
23<sup>rd</sup> March- Frozen Musical for CAPA students in Years 8-12

24<sup>th</sup> March- Coordinated NAPLAN practice Test - Yr7 & 9

4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> April- Year 10 Work Experience (Group 1)

# Year 12 Formal

Year 12 Grafton High School students celebrated the end of their schooling with the Year 12 Formal on Saturday 11th December 2021. It was a wonderful evening that saw, not only the celebration of 13 years of schooling, but the acknowledgement of our students' academic and sporting achievement with the event incorporating the presentation of awards.



## New staff at GHS for 2022

Seven new teachers have joined the dedicated staff of Grafton High School in 2022.

Elka Ewings and Cortney Skinner have been appointed permanently to the Mathematics faculty. Ms Ewings comes to us from Coffs Harbour, having previously worked in education supporting students with vision impairment at various primary and secondary schools for the past 10 years. Mr Skinner is a former GHS student who returns to us after working as a Mathematics teacher in Orange.

Learning Support has seen the inclusion of Angie Lauro, Kerry Bruce (not pictured) and Lucy Davison. Ms Lauro comes to us from Induna and will be working in our Multi Categorical (MC) classes, as will Mrs Bruce, who has replaced Donna Booth after her retirement in 2021, focusing on learning support and behaviour management. Ms Davison will be working as a Learning and Support Teacher, assisting students with developing their Literacy and Numeracy skills.

Steven McLennan has joined the TAS faculty and will be teaching various practical subjects across the faculty, while Andrew Ottaway, a former Grafton High School student, returns to support teaching in faculties across the school.



## Mathematics Growth Team @ Grafton High School

The Mathematics Growth Team, a part of the Best in Class Teaching Unit, amplifies the impact of expert mathematics teaching at targeted schools. Its aim is to strengthen mathematics leaders and build a new generation of mathematics teachers across NSW public schools, and support the use of evidence-based, best-practice assessment and teaching practices among mathematics educators.

Currently, the Mathematics Growth Team consists of 13 school-based expert secondary mathematics teachers. Rachel Winter (pictured below with Eddie Woo, Leader Mathematics Growth and Craig Holden, Coordinator Mathematics Growth) is the trainer based at Grafton High School. She will be working with teachers and students to develop mathematics skills and knowledge at Grafton High School.



# WISE- Grafton High School Support Unit



Last year, Grafton High School Support Unit staff worked through a process to give the unit a name. We are very excited to reveal that the support unit will now be known as WISE. WISE stands for 'Working In Supported Education'. The classes are now known as WISE 1, WISE 2, and WISE 3. We hope you like our new WISE logo pictured above.

Mr Cooper's and Ms Lauro's MC classes also have new names. Mr Cooper's class is SLIP 1 and Ms Lauro's is SLIP 2. SLIP stands for "Supported Learning In P1" and "Supported Learning In P2" which are their classroom room numbers. As well as the above classes, we also have three more MC classes that support students who are integrated into mainstream.

The WISE and SLIP classes have welcomed seven new Year 7 students as well as three other students. We are all enjoying getting to know each other and settling into new routines. Currently, we have Mrs Green filling in for Mr Durney who is taking leave to spend time with his new baby boy. Ms Mackay has moved from MC and is teaching STEM and Music. Already students are enjoying these new subjects. I look forward to listening to some great musical performances. Hopefully, later in the year, we might be able to share them with our parents and carers.

Our Year 10, 11 and 12 students have already started to discuss work experience opportunities. If your student is in one of these years, please start to think about possible placements for them. This will be something that will be further discussed when Personal Learning and Support Plans are completed. Teachers will soon start the process of making appointments with parents and carers to formulate or update existing plans.

Finally, thank you to all the parents, carers and students who supported and attended Activities Week during the last school week of 2021. We had great attendance and loads of fun. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we stayed as a cohort; however, students enjoyed a wide variety of activities including lawn bowls, tennis, sewing Christmas stockings, making Rocky Road, bike riding at Junction Hill, visits to See Park and the movies, as well as ten pin bowling. The highlight for many students was the afternoon of waterplay and car washing. I believe there were a few wet teachers and some well washed cars!

Leisa Moar  
Head Teachers WISE



# Grafton High School Uniform

## Grafton High School Junior Uniform

- Plain sky blue, short sleeve shirt with collar (No T-shirts)
- Plain black shorts (No coloured trims)
  - Please note:
    - Black shorts MUST be worn by ALL students when completing sport/physical activity subjects. Shorts should be of an appropriate length (i.e. reaching mid-thigh at their shortest).
- Blue tartan school skirt (May be worn with black stockings)
- Royal blue Grafton High School jumper/hoodie or plain royal blue jumper/hoodie
  - Please note:
    - Jumpers, even if royal blue, will not be accepted as uniform if they contain other designs and/or motifs.
    - Junior students should not wear past or current senior jerseys. They will be considered out of uniform if this occurs.
    - Blue Combined High School (CHS) jumpers will be considered as uniform. North Coast representative jumpers and PSSA jumpers will not be considered uniform and all other jackets/jumpers/hooded jumpers, will not be considered Grafton High School uniform.
- Plain black track pants,  $\frac{3}{4}$  pants or slacks (No coloured trims, no tights)
- Fully enclosed shoes/joggers with leather or solid uppers
  - Please note:
    - Student shoes must be flat or with a minimal heel, have a good grip and fit well (No thongs or sandals will be permitted)
    - Leather upper shoes are mandatory for practical subjects
    - See below for additional information
- White socks
- Students are encouraged to wear the school cap or bucket hat for sun protection.





## Grafton High School Senior Uniform

- Plain white, short sleeve shirt with collar (No T-shirts)
- Boys: Plain grey shorts (No coloured trims)
- Girls: Plain black shorts (No coloured trims)
  - Please note:
    - Shorts MUST be worn by ALL students when completing sport/physical activity subjects. Shorts should be of an appropriate length (i.e. reaching mid-thigh at their shortest).
- Navy blue school skirt (May be worn with black stockings)
- Royal blue Grafton High School jumper/hoodie, plain royal blue jumper/hoodie or senior jersey
  - Please note:
    - Jumpers, even if royal blue, will not be accepted as uniform if they contain other designs and/or motifs.
    - Blue Combined High School (CHS) jumpers will be considered as uniform. North Coast representative jumpers and PSSA jumpers will not be considered uniform and all other jackets/jumpers/hooded jumpers will not be considered Grafton High School uniform.
- Plain black track pants,  $\frac{3}{4}$  pants or slacks (No coloured trims, no tights)
- Fully enclosed shoes/joggers with leather or solid uppers
  - Please note:
    - Student shoes must be flat or with a minimal heel, have a good grip and fit well (No thongs or sandals will be permitted)
    - Leather upper shoes are mandatory for practical subjects
    - See below for additional information
- White socks
- Students are encouraged to wear the school cap or bucket hat for sun protection.



## School Canteen News

It has been a busy start to the year for our P&C managed school canteen, which has been verified as meeting 'The NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy'. Our canteen staff were kept on their toes in the last week of the school holidays with the canteen's Uniform Shop in full swing.

When lining up to use the canteen, students are reminded that they are to remain socially distanced, standing on the 'x' marks placed in the canteen area, entering the canteen at only five at a time, and wearing their mask.

Parents/carers and students are asked to be aware that; unfortunately, due to rising cost of goods, there have been some small price increases at our canteen. Students can pay by cash at the canteen, and EFTPOS is also available.

As well as the healthy food ready made in our school canteen, students are able to preorder their recess and lunch. Students are reminded that food such as rice paper rolls and lentil patty salads must be pre ordered.

The Grafton High School canteen is always happy to have new volunteers to help out. If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact the school canteen by phoning the school's Front Office or by accessing the canteen's Facebook page, 'Grafton High School Tuckshop'.



## GHS P&C Association

The Grafton High School P&C meets every fourth Thursday during the school term at 6.30 pm. Our first meeting for this year will be on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Please see the Agenda for the location. Depending on Covid-19 restrictions, the P&C will meet either:

- meet in the Staff Common Room (via Mary St reception); or
- via Google Meet (session called "GHSPandC").

Could interested parents please email [pandc@ghs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:pandc@ghs.nsw.edu.au) to receive the Agenda when it becomes available.



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