

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

2013 has been quite an intense year for schools particularly Wingham High School as more and more change is implemented or foreshadowed for the near future.

Changes in funding models for schools, proposed changes to teacher accreditation, new data systems, new syllabuses in English, Maths and Science have all contributed to a degree of uncertainty. However as all these changes are announced or imposed upon us the school has continued to be extremely successful.

Wingham High continues to be a comprehensive school which provides great opportunities for all students to achieve. The recent annual production is a good example. Romeo & Juliet the class of '66 was a huge success with in excess of 100 students and staff being involved, providing fantastic entertainment and experiences for the whole school. Congratulations to Merilyn Kendall and Stacey Harrell who did a wonderful job of producing the shows.

We have a number of staff changes occurring at the end of the year. I would like to thank Mrs Cassandra Portelli for her dedication, professionalism and commitment to education, particularly Mathematics at Wingham High over the last 3 years. She will be greatly missed by all students and staff. Mr Adriene Muscat is also leaving us. Adriene's professionalism and commitment have been second to none also. He too will be greatly missed by the whole school. Someone who has also made significant positive contributions to many aspects of the school is Mr Brett Ramsay who has had his efforts recognised by being selected by merit to a permanent teaching position in the Riverina area.

Year 10 students have just recently completed their Authentic Assessment interviews and feedback from all participants, students, staff and community representatives has been overwhelmingly positive. The experience gained by the students from a real life interview as well as the opportunity to further develop positive relationships through their presentation is priceless. I'd like to thank Mrs Dixon, Mr Dunbier and Mr Sedgwick in particular for the organisation and coordination of this extremely valuable program.

End of Year presentation assemblies are being planned for academic achievement and Sporting success. I would like to thank Mrs Jenny McPhan and Mr Murray Doust for coordinating these events. They are a fitting way of recognising the many achievements of our students.

## **P & C NEWS**

I was recently at the Year 12 Graduation which was held a Club Taree. All of the Year 12 Students were dressed beautifully, the girls in all their lovely gowns and the boys in their suits. They all looked so grown up and made their parents and carers proud. We have some very talented and gifted students and this makes me proud to be a part of Wingham High School. All of our year 12 students shone, it was a truly wonderful night.

The Volunteers Luncheon was recently held in conjunction with the Thursday Matinee performance of Romeo and Juliet. I and many others really enjoyed the performance of our students in this adapted play of Romeo and Juliet. Mrs Kendall and Mrs Harrell should be

congratulated for all of their hard work and also all of the students from years 7 - 10 who participated; it is a credit to all of you and was extremely funny, musical and enjoyable. Our teachers continue to bring out the best of talent in our students here at Wingham High School. Once again congratulations to all who were involved with Romeo and Juliet.

Lynda once again excelled in providing wonderful food for all of our volunteers for the Volunteers Luncheon. It was disappointing that there were only 22 people there on the day out of all of the volunteers. Lynda also made individual Christmas Cakes for all of the Volunteers. Lynda works very hard in the canteen and does a great job at finding new and healthy meals to keep our students and staff well fed. I am sure she is looking forward to a break after such a busy year in the canteen. We cannot thank Lynda enough for all of her hard work and for all of the volunteers who support her in the canteen. We have a good canteen and appreciate all of the support given to Lynda by her loyal band of volunteers. Our canteen would not operate as efficiently without your support. The Summer Menu will continue when school resumes in 2014.

The incoming Year 7 Parents Orientation Night was held last Thursday 5th December. Deputy Principal, Mr Paul Ivers, ran this and it was good to see a lot of parents there. This is only the second year that we have held this on a night and it is encouraging to see parents come to these information nights. Our uniform suppliers were all there to provide uniforms for Wingham High Schools newest students. I would like to thank Billingshams, Country Clothing and Top of the Town Shoes for being there. We try our best to always support our local businesses and we value their support.

We held our final P & C meeting for the year on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December. This was changed because of the Orientation Night. At this meeting we agreed to fund a 3D Printer for the school and to help fund a cooking appliance for the Hospitality Rooms. We are also buying some Marquee Tents for the school for use on sports days and events. We are also looking into a trailer for the bus, so all of the students can put their luggage and sports gear in it. Our P & C is a hard working group and all of the members do their best for our school. I would like to thank all of our members for their ongoing support of the P & C and most of all their hard work throughout the year. Our AGM will be held only a little over a month after we return to school in 2014. We have several of our members who will no longer have children at Wingham High School and will be standing down from their positions. Mrs Helen Cross who has been our secretary for over 9 years will be standing down as will Mrs Therese Hopkins who has been our Treasurer for 3 years. Both of these ladies have played a big and important part in our P & C and we cannot thank them enough for all of their hard work.

Our next P & C meeting will be held on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014 in the School Staff Room at 6pm**. All are welcome to attend. Hope to see you there. I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Hope you all enjoy the holiday break.

Thanks  
Anne Munns  
President

## **SCONE BEEF BONANZA 2013**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2013, 15 members of the Wingham High Agricultural Show team travelled to Scone to participate in the 2013 Scone Beef Bonanza. These students were: Jonty Hemmingway, Brianna Hartup, Jarrad Paltram, Victoria Lee, Elle Deane, Brooke Anderson, Kate Stocks, Rachel Atkins, Cassey Williams, Jessica Hudson, Teanna Peckett, Emily Holden, Nikitta Gallagher, Tom Butler and Trae Murray. We were accompanied by Mr Charlie Cassels, Mr Robert Settle and Mrs Rebbecca Holden.

We arrived by early afternoon and unloaded our 8 animals and set up camp. Some students camped in an undercover area and others in tents. Wingham High School competed in a Junior Judging practice; steer class and parading of our bonanza steer on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October. We didn't win any ribbons that day but it was a great experience!

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October, all our animals had steer classes. We had an early start and a busy day! One of our steers, 'Harry' was taken in his lightweight class by his handler, Brooke Anderson. This dynamic duo came through to win second place! Kate Stocks paraded her heifer, 'Hungles' in her heavyweight class and was rewarded with a highly commended ribbon. Another win, Bree Hartup scored a third place with her steer, 'Gizmo' in his heavyweight class. Jonty Hemmingway took her steer, 'G6' in his steer class and finished with a highly commended ribbon. Congratulations to these students!

After all the steer classes were done and dusted, the 14 years and under paraders commenced. Brooke Anderson was again rewarded with a ribbon for highly commended. Congratulations again to Brooke and to the others who had a go!

A team of WHS students attempted the meat judging section for Scone Beef Bonanza 2013. This team included: Jonty Hemmingway, Victoria Lee, Bree Hartup, Trae Murray and Nikitta Gallagher. In the end, our team was crowned the Scone Beef Bonanza 2013 Champion Meat Judging Team!!!! Congratulations to these gifted students! Further congratulations to Jonty Hemmingway as she was awarded Champion Meat judge.

Judging started first thing on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2013. All students present under the age of 25 could participate. We were to place each animal in order from best to worst. We got to judge bulls, heifers and steers. It was later decided that the oral presentation to decide the winner would be on the heifers. Brianna Hartup was chosen to validate why she placed the heifers in the order she did. Congratulations to Bree as she claimed Reserve Champion Junior Judge. 15 years and above parading commenced after the orals presentations for Junior Judging. Both Jonty Hemmingway and Trae Murray made it to the finals. Good effort guys!

After the parading, sadly, it was time to say goodbye to our beloved cattle. We led them to the yards and said our farewells and went back to camp to pack up. We left Scone Beef Bonanza in the early afternoon and arrived back at the farm around 6:30pm. We later received the results of our animal's carcasses. Both 'Harry' and 'Gizmo' placed first in their classes. All our hard work paid off! Thanks and congratulations to all the students and staff involved in this excursion.

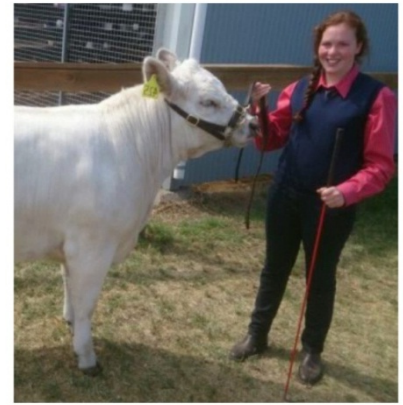
By Rachel Atkins.



Jonty Hemmingway decked out in her gear for the meat judging (left)

Kate Stocks with her heifer 'Hungles' (right)

WHS's cattle ready for show! (bottom left)



## Meat Judging



## ESSAY BY JONTY HEMMINGWAY

Australian agriculture is a vital part of our economy now and in the future and with a growing population both nationally and globally the need for more sustainable ways to feed the world is necessary. The global population is expected to rise to around 9.1 billion by 2050, and to compensate for that food production worldwide will need to increase by 70%. Most of this increase in demand is coming from countries in our own region, especially China and India, so Australian farmers are well placed to contribute to the challenge and capitalise on the commercial opportunities and the rise of new markets.

There is tremendous potential for increase in the output of Australia agriculture. This is because we have a vast land area and the potential to increase yields with improvements in technology and science. Genetic engineering, more efficient machinery and scientific equipment, smarter, more sustainable farming methods and increased productivity due to 'smarter' farming and tailored breeding plans are examples of this. In 2010 Australian farmers used 7.3% less land than they did in 1950, while producing 220% more. With the expansion of the population, the availability of farmland does not, so innovation and productivity will need to continue to increase. Australia's farmers have a long history of embracing new technologies and innovative practices, with strong productivity growth as a result, so it is vital that it continues to improve to help feed the world's growing population.

The challenge of maintaining the adequacy and affordability of global food supplies will likely become more pressing over time, and with that Australia's role as a net food exporter will be critical. "In 2009, Australian farms produced 93% of the total volume of food consumed in Australia. After catering for the needs of the Australian population, 60% of Australia's farm produce was exported, helping feed some 40 million people outside Australia each day." Agricultural produce has constantly been among Australia biggest export commodities, with the value of this export growing over three decades from \$8.2 billion to \$32.5 billion. With Australian farming set to improve and become more productive than it already is the

export of food to growing countries will play a vital role in Australia's economy in years to come, especially with the slowing of the mining industry.

It's our farmers that sustain our way of life and help ensure the economy of the nation. A recent white paper 'Australian in the Asian Century' suggests that our agricultural sector will be transformed due to the changes occurring in Asia, and lists that "Australian food producers will be recognised globally as innovative and reliable producers of more and higher quality food and agricultural products, services and technologies to Asia." From developing innovative techniques to wisely using the land, Australia's agriculturists are leading the world in the science of farming, sustainability and productivity.

Jonty Hemmingway

## WINGHAM HIGH PRODUCTION



The play "Romeo and Juliet ... Summer of 66" adapted from the original work of Shakespeare by Drama teacher Marilyn Kendall had its opening performance in the Wingham High School multi-purpose centre. Set in a circus, the two warring families of The Beatles and The Rolling Stones do their best to create havoc only to find that Romeo Beatle and Juliet Stone decide to make "beautiful music" together. The end is disastrous for Romeo, Juliet and their friends but a lesson for their families who realise that fighting is not the way to solve problems.

Student directors Madelyn McKay and Courtney Smith worked with a team of 110 actors, musicians, dancers, cheer leaders, crew and technicians for six weeks to produce the final performance which was warmly received by audiences alike.

During the final two weeks leading up to the public performances students spent all day rehearsing while some made costumes and props, painted sets, create T shirts, wrote a daily newspaper, took photographs and made a movie of the rehearsals and the final

performance. A full dress and technical rehearsal was carried out on Monday night before the public performances.



"Apart from creating the final product the object of the production is to engage students in a real life activity" said Mrs Kendall. They contact other schools by letter, email and phone and converse with people in the community regarding their particular section of the production. "They learn to take initiative and solve problems while taking responsibility for their actions and work as a team with students from other year groups" she said.

This year the play required the students to research the 1960s so attention to detail of hair, make-up and costume was particularly important. Mrs Rachel

Bloomfield assisted the students in the application of make-up and hair styles and said the students were extremely knowledgeable about the era and well organised in their approach. It was evident by the comments from the audience that they had achieved the desired effect.

Music of the Beatles and The Rolling Stones was beautifully scored by Music teacher/producer Mrs Stacey Harrell and the calibre of the students' singing and playing was exceptional. A junior technical team was assisted and tutored by Hamish McDonald of Paradyme Studios and their experiment with back lighting created an effective silhouetted scene.

Wingham community supported the performance by selling tickets, McKeough's Betta Electrical, and attending the shows. Wingham High School is the only school in the Manning to create a production on an annual basis and offering such a rich opportunity to its students.

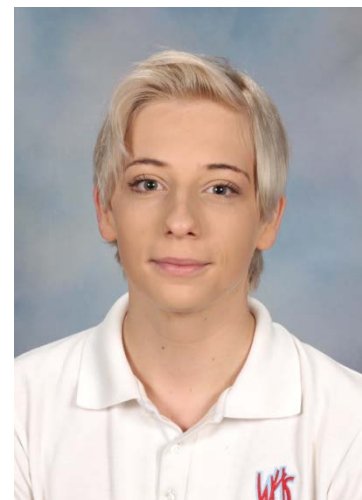


### Joel Wins Rotary Public Speaking Competition



Joel Hedge, Year 12, recently continued Wingham High's winning tradition at the local/cluster level of the annual Rotary Public Speaking competition.

On Monday November 25<sup>th</sup> at Club Taree, Joel defeated speakers from Taree High, St Clare's, Gloucester High and both campuses of Great Lakes College. Each of the six speakers gave a five minute speech on a topic of their choice, with the only requirement being that they had to include one or more elements of the Four



Way Rotary Test. Each speaker was sponsored by their local Rotary club.

Joel's winning speech was stunning in its depth of content and in Joel's expert delivery. The adjudicators from Taree Toastmasters - Philip Thornton and Robert Weller- described the speech as sublime; advanced in its concept and ideas, and outstanding in its content. They said that Joel had taken the element of speaking to a new level in the contest with his extemporaneous delivery and expert use of pause, vocal variety, gestures and body language.

Titled "An Alternative to Apathy", Joel's speech advanced the thesis that it was not apathy that causes talented young people to become disengaged with leadership and political processes. Rather, he said, there were political, cultural and social barriers placed in front of youth today that turned them away. He cited examples from the political party system, the media and the myths surrounding the notion of heroism.

The next round of the competition will be held at Walcha in February where Joel will face seven other competition winners from the North West and North Coast regions. At that level of the competition, as well as the prepared speech, the speakers will have to deliver a two minute impromptu speech. From

there, the top four speakers will face off in the final, with the winner receiving an all-expenses paid trip to New Zealand, sponsored by Rotary International.

Mr Dunbier, our debating and public speaking coach, believes that Joel will definitely be there in the final and he has the skills to go all the way to New Zealand.

## **SISTASPEAK**

SistaSpeak was a series of mentor-supported workshops for our Aboriginal girls in Years 7-10. The aim of the workshops was to support and inspire the students to pursue their education, examine career options and work towards financial independence. It is also aimed at increasing their self-esteem, and to strengthen their sense of identity, culture and connection to community.

All the workshops, including excursions had specific learning objectives and were designed to continually reinforce positive aspects of the girls throughout the program.

An important part of this program was working with Indigenous role models who provided the girls with examples of the diversity for possible careers and highlight options which they may not have otherwise been aware of.

Some of our workshops and activities included a visit to Boutique on Bella in Isabella Street Wingham, where owner Brooke Yarnold, a former student, gave up her time and provided a workshop for the girls. Brooke shared her story and spoke in depth to the girls about the importance of good skin care, careers in the beauty industry and applying makeup.

Mrs Shirley Clissold, Careers advisor, held a talk with the girls where we covered topics such as appropriate clothing for job interviews, resumes and the many career choices available to them.

We took to the trees at the Tree Top Adventure Park in Newcastle for a day of physical and mental challenges. The girls faced their fears and worked together to challenge and achieve things they never thought they could. Great teamwork, courage and confidence were shown by all the girls.

Our last day was spent at Saltwater where the girls were led in a cultural talk and walk by Nardja Davies from the National Parks and Wildlife Yun yi Barragay program. Nardja spoke with the girls in depth about the surrounding animals and plants and their uses and described how their life as an Aboriginal Woman in the past would have been.

After a BBQ lunch the girls were faced with another physical and mental challenge when they took on the waves with a Surfing Lesson from Saltwater Surf School. The smiles on their faces and the sound of laughter when they succeeded in standing up were a priceless moment for them the mentors, and the staff involved.

Year 9 student Quote: "It's great to feel like you're a part of something; I've never been a part of something before"

Carissa Campbell  
Aboriginal Education Officer

**CANTEEN ROSTER**

16/12/2013 Annie Upton, Marie Reeve, HELP NEEDED

17/12/2013 Caroline Weekes, George Greaves

18/12/2013 Judy Abdo, Julie Page

19/12/2013 PUPIL FREE

20/12/2013 PUPIL FREE

**WINGHAM HIGH STUDENTS RECEIVING THE REGIONAL WINNERS CHEQUE FOR CSU BUSINESS GAME ON**







Price: \$0.99

Category: Utilities  
Released: 21 March 2012  
Version: 1.0  
Size: 1.9 MB  
Language: English  
Seller: Daniel Morcombe Foundation Inc

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Rated: 4+

Price: \$0.99

Category: Education  
Updated: August 25, 2012  
Version: 1.0  
Size 11M  
Suitable for Android: 2.2 and 2.3  
Requires Android: 2.1 and up  
Seller: Daniel Morcombe Foundation Inc

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Rated: Low Maturity

**Introducing the Daniel Morcombe Foundation 'Help Me' App. A great way to not only help keep kids safe, but assist people of all ages, from 7 to 97, covering all kinds of personal emergency situations!**

#### MAJOR SAFETY FEATURES

The 'Help Me' button sounds a warning and allows you to send off an SMS text to two (2) nominated 'safety' numbers, as part of your Trusted Safety Network. Included in the text are GPS co-ordinates from where the text was sent, so the sender can be located or a last known place of contact is indicated.

#### CREATING YOUR SAFETY NETWORK...It's Easy!

Mobile phone numbers for your 'safety' numbers are easily obtained from your Contacts with a simple manual check and upload of the numbers. These numbers form part of your Trusted Safety Network and can be simply changed at any time by going to the Settings menu item and updating your desired numbers. This is particularly helpful when people are not in your immediate area, there are shared parental responsibilities or someone could be away on holidays for a period of time.

#### MORE GREAT KEY FEATURES...

Like this the easy-to-use Notes page that allows you to simply record important details that can be stored for later recall should you require. Just tap the screen, enter the information, make sure to tap 'save' and all the details will be stored in your DMF App. To recall saved information, just click on the Notes icon at the top right hand side of the screen and it will list the history details including time and date recorded.

#### OTHER USER FEATURES...

Includes Helpful Numbers commonly required for assistance. Just tap the screen and you can be easily connected to the number.

#### RESOURCES

This App also provides a range of helpful resources and assistance that is designed to educate kids and parents on how to keep safe plus keep them up to date on the latest news! It offers safety and assistance for children and reassurance for parents and adults.

#### IDEAL FOR EVERYONE INCLUDING...

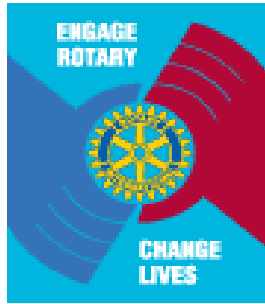
Children and youth, elderly & seniors, shift workers, recreational enthusiasts, pregnant mums, people with medical conditions, holidaymakers, school camps, Backpackers and more!

Disclaimer: "Continued use of GPS running in the background can dramatically decrease battery life."

**For Sale**



**Contact Jake 6551 7868**



## ROTARY CLUB OF WINGHAM INC

A member club of District 9650  
Rotary International  
(68th year of service)  
Club Bulletin: Volume 68 – Folio 25  
3rd December 2013

### THE BOARD AND CLUB OFFICERS 2013-2014

<b>President</b>	<b>Michael Roohan Vice</b>
<b>President</b>	<b>Ron Hindmarsh</b>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Robert Walsh</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Allan Brown</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Lawrie Ayres</b>
<b>Club Service</b>	<b>John Dorrington</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Bill Davis</b>
<b>Sergeant at Arms</b>	<b>Graeme Bird / Bob Clarke</b>
<b>Welfare</b>	<b>Rob Roy</b>
<b>Programs</b>	<b>All members</b>
<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Brian Leggott</b>
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<b>Club Historian</b>	<b>Bill Freeman</b>

Postal Address PO Box 57 Wingham NSW 2429

## **SOME USEFUL WEBSITES FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS.....**

### **Ready for high school?**

Can you recall what you were most apprehensive about when you started high school? This video of Year 7 students explain why teens shouldn't be worried about starting high school, and how they can get off to a great start in the first few days.

Watch the videos: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/what-happens-in-year-7>

### **Kik messenger**

Does your child use Kik? Police have described it as "the No.1 social media problem involving teenagers", but most parents would barely have heard of messaging app Kik before last week.

Find out what it is: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/technology-az/-/technology\\_glossary/7w0F/5353/Kik+messenger](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/technology-az/-/technology_glossary/7w0F/5353/Kik+messenger)

Why cyber safety experts are concerned: <http://www.smh.com.au/digital-life/digital-life-news/experts-warn-of-apps-hidden-dangers-20131130-2yif3.html#ixzz2mYlkXFyd>

### **Boys and body image:**

AUDIO: Rachel Friend talks with paediatrician Associate Professor Michael Kohn about the issue of body image and how it impacts on young men in particular.

### **Girls and body image:**

AUDIO: Rachel Friend talks with the Butterfly Foundations Education Manager, Danni Rowlands about body image issues affecting young girls. Research shows young people feel under more pressure than ever to look a certain way.

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/boys-and-body-image>