



Dates to Remember

28 August

Yr11/12 Ancient History
Maritime Museum/Pompeii
Exhibit Excursion

29 - 30 August

Yr7 & Yr9 Naplan Online
Readiness Test

31 August

School Social 6pm-9pm

5 September

Rotary Dinner 6pm-8:30pm

13 September

Yr 11 Final Examinations begin

19 September

Yr 12 Slave Auction

Newsletters are published in weeks 3, 6 & 9, online on the schools website. or Hard copies are available at the Front Office and the Library.



EFTPOS facilities available at the Accounts Office and the Canteen.



Work commences on the Aboriginal Garden

From the Principal's Desk

Isn't it funny how nearing the change in winter to spring signifies a parallel in terms of student life and development. Before we get too far allow me to explain my thoughts.

Spring signifies new growth (and great warmer weather). At school, there are all manner of students beginning to think about their 'new growth'. For instance, Year 12 are heading toward a massive transitional period from 13 years of schooling toward their new chapter. They most definitely have a few hurdles to jump first but it is on its way. Year 11 are nearing their end of Preliminary studies and thinking about their big year ahead. Years 10 and 8 have begun their selecting aspects of what their education will look like for the year ahead, whilst our Year 6 students are already in process for High School.

It is an exciting time and always great to see students in their own personal 'bloom'. Sometimes we wonder just how they will cope with the elements but there is always a great feeling and belief when you know the best preparation has gone into providing a solid basis.

A bit 'out there' perhaps, but I was faced with the question to define our school in terms of how it nurtures student growth. I believe here at Wingham that we do a tremendous job toward achieving one of our strategic directions – Producing Productive Citizens. How? With a major focus ensuring that the foundations are solid, supports are there in those early days to provide a good structure. Most important are the classroom 'elements'. Quality teaching, quality experience, where all students have the ability to celebrate and challenge their strengths and develop areas of less confidence.

I hope the following provides a snapshot of some of those nurturing experiences I am referring to.

Enjoy the read and as always I welcome your feedback.



The SRC are holding a School Social

Thursday 31st August

6pm and 9pm.

Light refreshments will be available.

Tickets on sale for \$6

at the start of week 7 from the SRC.

Tickets are *NOT* sold on the day of the social.



The Big Night Out

The night of Wednesday 9th August was BIG. It was two and a half hours of solid entertainment from students in Years 7-11 plus a staff act as well as amazing food on offer from Year 12 to support their charity. The night was compered by the talented Year 11 Drama students Bethany Carter and Jess Ray who kept the night running smoothly.

The Year 11 Entertainment class were busy behind the scenes with sound, lighting, managing the stage and all performers ensuring an almost glitch free show. These students are often overlooked as they are not seen or heard but without these talented people we would not have had a show. The performances were varied but all demonstrated their amazing skills.

Of particular note were the amazing pianists – Isobel Butler-Kwa, Orlando McDermott, Cameron Waugh and Ben Butler-Kwa. James McCarey of Year 7 revealed outstanding skills on the drums and will be someone to watch out for in the future. Year 10 students Kelvyn Allard and Jack Kelly performed their own compositions and the Year 10 Drama class performed their eisteddfod winning play.

This year was the first show without HSC performances and this makes the talent displayed all the more amazing and exciting as we look forward to seeing all of these students and more in the years ahead.

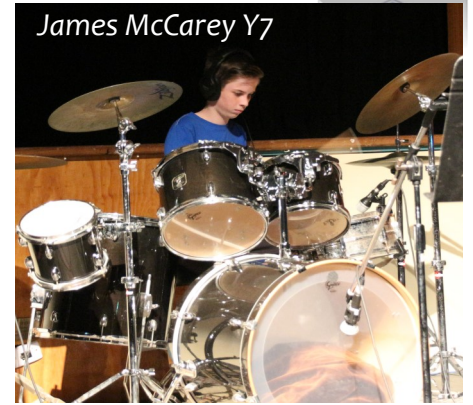




Ben Butler-Kwa Y10



Jess Ray, Bethany Carter Y11



James McCarey Y7



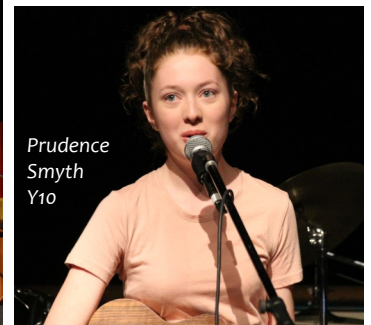
Cameron Waugh Y10



Paige Webster Y11



Georgia Hudson Y9



Prudence Smyth Y10



Y7 Vocal Group (below)

Isobel Butler-Kwa, Amber Loretan,
Jorja Milligan, Amelia Hansen,
Kali Wells, Emily Turner & Mia Polley



Y8 Junior Band - Lochlan Clement, Jorja Bulley & Harry Kern





On the evening of 10th August, Science hosted a 'Sky Stories Community Astronomy Night'. Charles Sturt University donated a Telescope to our school for use at such events. The focal point of the evening was the use of our new telescope with our staff and students. Indigenous astronomy was discussed with the community members present and Uncle John Taylor outlined a Biripi star story with local significance.

Special thanks must go out to Mr Denis Duval and Mr Murray Doust who also provided their own telescopes and their astronomical knowledge on the night. Thanks also goes out to all the community members who attended this evening and left a little more knowledgeable on the night.

John Hawkins
Relieving Head Teacher, Science.



Manning Women in Agriculture

The Manning Women of Agriculture visited the Ag Farm on Monday 21st August as one of their monthly trips out. They were given a brief explanation and tour of both the top and bottom farms by Charlie Cassels and John Hawkins.

This group was formed in 1995 when a group of women from the land got together and realised that they needed somewhere to congregate and discuss the importance of women in agriculture. It now has about 40 members and as well as a board with President – Irene Henderson, Secretary – Ruth Woodward and Treasurer – Coleen Russell.

Kyle Thomas, Lyn Norquay,
Marieke Fastovsky (year 11) & Irene Henderson

Caroline Weekes & Sarah Busuttill (year 8)





Wingham High 2, Grammar Schools 0!

“A horse! A horse! My kingdom for a horse!” In a scene reminiscent of the Richard the Third’s desperate rage on Bosworth Field, the Black King was left stranded on the battlefield in the final stages of Ryan Siegel-Hensen’s victory that sealed the win for the Wingham High School team in Round 5 of the Country Secondary Schools Chess Teams 2nd place competition. On Friday the 18th of August; Isaiah Hardy, Ryan Siegel-Hensen, Bryceon Xuereb, and Brook Todd defeated the Newcastle Grammar Team at Bulahdelah Central School(2.5/1.5). Two weeks earlier in their Round 4 clash the Wingham Team crushed Hunter Valley Grammar School’s Team(2.5/1.5). A big thank you to the Principal, staff and students of Bulahdelah Central School who offered up their library for the contest.

You will be pleased to know that we didn’t bury our opponents in the carpark.



Work Experience for Rory & Selena

Rory Perks - Year 12

Rory attended work experience at Valley Industries on Tuesday 22nd August with other students from various schools around the area.

Rory was able to experience several of the different business arms of Valley Industries to decide which area he enjoys the most. He firstly worked in the nursery planting seedlings. He enjoys this type of work through his experience at the Wingham High School Ag farm.

He then worked in the document shredding section where they put large amounts of documentation from many different businesses into large shredding machines to be bundled into bales. We then visited The Valley Café. Rory has had good experience in the hospitality industry having worked at The Garden Grub and is currently working in our school canteen once a week.

Selena Marion - Year 11

Selena has been attending work experience at The Cubbyhouse Preschool and Long Day Care Centre since June. Selena really enjoys interacting with the youngsters and making their day enjoyable. She assists with morning teas and lunches as well as helping to settle them when it is their rest time.

The staff enjoy having Selena there and they have seen her confidence blossom with both the children and staff alike.





On a beautiful Tuesday morning on the 22nd August 2017, we started on our garden in period 4.

First we dug and it was very hard with all the rocks and hard dirt. We had to use mattocks to loosen the ground, we then planted all of the indigenous plants.

We watered and mulched the plants and then watered some more, as the day was very hot. The team that helped were some of the aboriginal students and the teachers.

Thank you to Mr Hawkins and the ladies from The Native Bee Garden Centre.

Caitlin Brown and Olivia Hardy.





16 August 2017

5:30am: The bus is already waiting. We assemble and Miss tells us we can get on. Everyone makes a dash for the back seat.

5:45am: The bus pulls away from the kerb and we are on our way to the Super Challenge.

7:30am: We arrive at Heatherbrae. Sir gives us a half hour to get in, order, eat and get out. It's a mission we know we can fulfil because we've done this before: we're veterans.

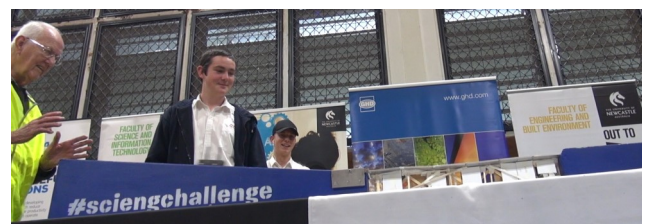
8:40am: We arrive, disembark and assemble on the oval outside the Sporting Complex. Some guy tells us we'll have to wait until 9:20 before we can go in. He tells us, "I'll be back at 9.20." That leaves us forty minutes to size up our competition. Already we know there are going to be nine schools, most of them private.

Eight other buses arrive and unload. The competition looks smart in their school blazers and ties. Some of us are wondering if we should have borrowed the Wingham High school blazers. Of course, some of us just don't care; we wear our natural enthusiasm with pride.

9:20am: The Super Challenge Organisers are running to time and we assemble in the main arena. This is when we learn whether we got the Bridge, the Catapult, Electra-City, Grasping at Straws, Flat-Pack, String-Ways, Turbine or Confounding Communications.

2:00pm: We assemble again in the main arena for the testing of the bridges. Not a single one survives, most are crushed before they get to the *Super Ingot* stage. Not one has made it to the *Bridge Buster* level.

2:20pm: We're not going onto the next challenge.





Habits are hard to break, that is why we instil good ones from an early age!

I see it fairly straight forward, the more you miss of school the more damaging it becomes in continuity of learning. We might all debate curriculum and different structures, which is a great, evaluate skill in itself, one that is developed at school.

Consider the following:

1 day off a week = 10 days a term (2weeks - gone!)

1 day off a week over the period of 1 year = most of 1 term - gone!

If this pattern starts in Year 7 and continues through to Year 10, one whole year of learning is lost!

If students miss days of learning they reduce the chance of achieving to their academic potential

Attendance every day that the school is open for instruction is a legal requirement and a major responsibility of parents/carers.

The following should provide an understanding of how absence must be recorded in a public school.

UNJUSTIFIED ABSENCE (A)

The student's absence is unexplained or unjustified. This entry must be used if parents have provided no explanation within **seven days** of the occurrence of an absence, or, the explanation is not accepted by the principal. It is at the principal's discretion to accept or not accept the explanation provided.

The following are examples of **unacceptable** reasons for absence and will be indicated as so **regardless of notification**:

Sleeping in

Birthdays

Shopping

Minding other children

For routine check-ups or care such as hair cuts

Minor family events

Medical and other health appointments for your child with specialists such as dentists or doctors should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.

Regular appointments (i.e. private swimming or music lessons during school time) which require students to leave school early.

SICK (S)

The student's absence is due to sickness or as the result of a medical or paramedical appointment. In these cases:

- a medical certificate is provided or
- the absence was due to sickness and the principal accepts this explanation.

Principals may request a medical certificate in addition to explanations if the explanation is doubted, or the student has a history of unsatisfactory attendance.

OTHER LEAVE (L)

An explanation of the absence is provided which has been accepted by the principal. This may be due to:

- misadventure or unforeseen event
- participation in special events not related to the school
- domestic necessity such as serious illness of an immediate family member
- attendance at funerals
- travel in Australia and overseas
- recognised religious festivals or ceremonial occasions.

Holidays

Families are encouraged to holiday or travel during school vacations. If travel outside of school vacation periods is necessary, the following considerations apply:

- If the principal accepts the reason for the absence, the absence will be marked as "L" and a Certificate of Extended Leave – Holiday issued. (these application forms are available at the front office)
- If the principal does not believe the absence is in the student's best interests and does not accept the reason, the absence will be recorded as "A". A Certificate of Extended Leave – Holiday will not be issued.