



Term 4, September/October 2017 - Issue # 6

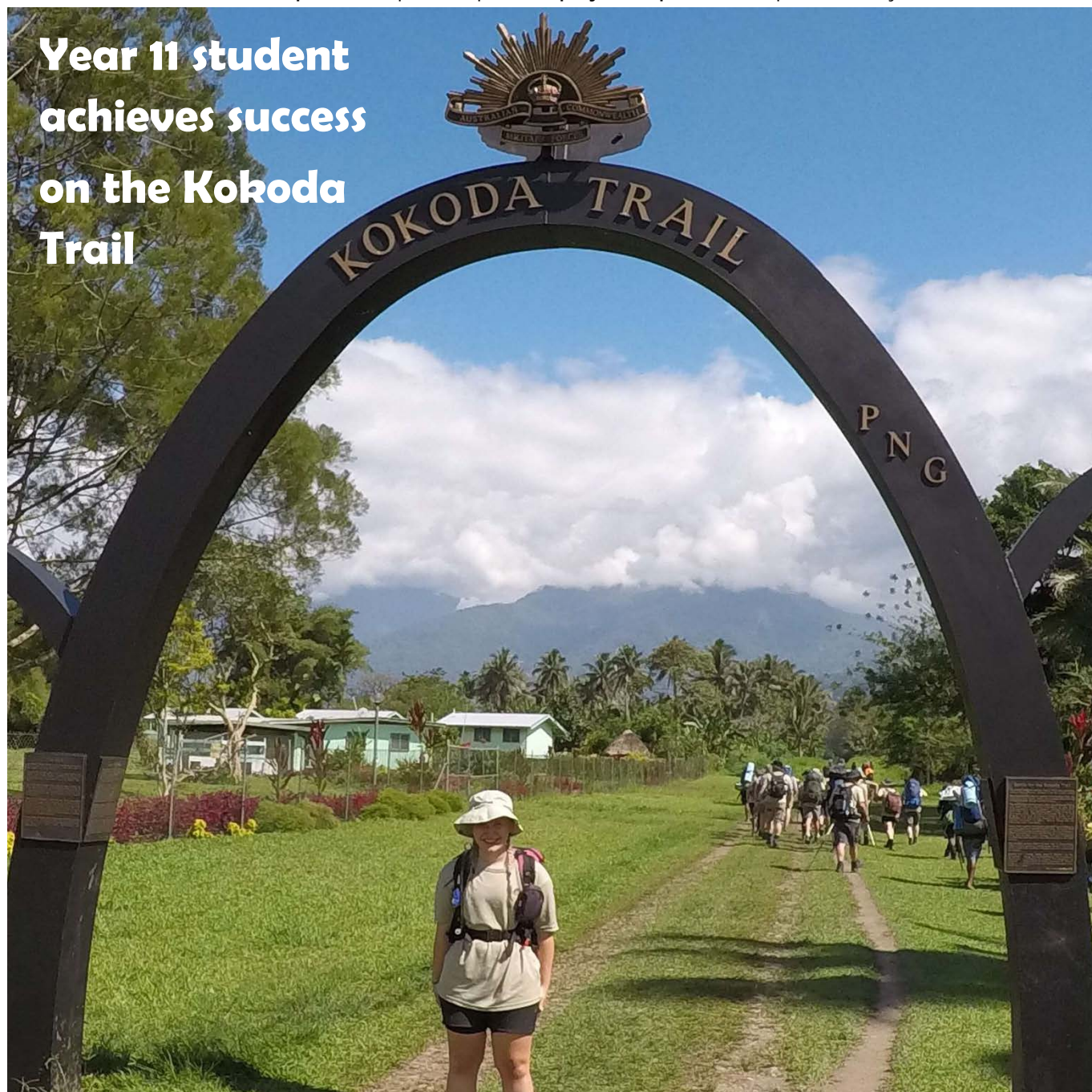
Newsletter

Coomealla High School

Principal: Mr Stephen Harper

Deputy Principal: Ms Josephine Crowley

Year 11 student achieves success on the Kokoda Trail



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Community News

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Dear parents/caregivers

We hope you are enjoying the new look Coomealla High School Newsletter.

Given that our monthly newsletter is available electronically on our website and our Facebook page, we are no longer going to distribute coloured hard copies to all families. Should you still require a coloured hard copy or a copy emailed to you, we ask that you fill out the form sent home with your child and return it to school as soon as possible.

Please also note that we have made provisions for you to update your contact details on the newsletter distribution letter.

This new method of distribution is commencing Term 4, 2017. If you have any questions, please contact us on 03 50274506.

Thank you.



CHS P&C Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the CHS P&C Association Inc. will take place on 21/11/17 at 6pm in the Senior Learning Centre, to be followed immediately afterwards by a general meeting.



Business to be conducted:

Election of office bearers for 2018;

Approval of the financial reports for the year July 2016-June 2017;

Ratification of standing orders.

New members very welcome



Principal's Report

Congratulations to our Year 12 students for making it through to an important life milestone; a culmination of thirteen years of schooling. My sincerest hope is that you achieve what you have set out to achieve and your results positively reflect your effort. I look forward to catching up with you all on the 20th November for your graduation dinner.

I would also like to pass on my congratulations to Michael Dicker.

As Year 12 Year Advisor, the close bond he created with this cohort of students was very special. The affection, as a year group, that Year 12 have for Michael was palpable at their final assembly.

Every fortnight, I meet with the school student leadership team for lunch. The purpose of these meetings is to work together to determine future directions, identify school improvement projects, and to engage in leadership opportunities. At our last meeting, the student leaders identified the student toilets as an area that required some work. Unfortunately, a small minority of students take pleasure in vandalising or leaving the toilets in a mess. This impacts on all students. In response to the misuse of these facilities, the school executive has decided to use tighter measures to control toilet traffic. Should students wish to use the toilets during class, they will need to gain permission and a note from their teacher to go to the front office, whereby, they will be given a key and directed to the appropriate toilet for their use. This way we can keep track of who uses the toilets and when they are being used. Please note that this arrangement is common practice in many other schools and does not preclude students from going to the toilet during class time.



*Mr Stephen Harper
Principal(R)*

A dedicated and hardworking team of teachers are currently working on the school's discipline policy. This revamp will be due to be actioned from the commencement of 2018. I am excited by the development of this policy as it promises to bring greater consistency in the way classroom disciplinary matters are handled.

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commencement of 2018. I am excited by the development of this policy as it promises to bring greater consistency in the way classroom disciplinary matters are handled.

Students are expected to attend school up until Friday 15th December. If parents are seeking permission for their child to be absent from school for a period of time, you should contact the school to see if your child is eligible for an attendance exemption.

Congratulations to Ms Leon and her Year 9 Drama class on their recent trip to Dubbo Circus School. This was conducted over the last school holidays. The dedication to the performing arts demonstrated by Ms Leon and this group of students is inspirational.

The position of Principal Coomealla High School has recently been advertised. My wish for the school is that the panel is able to secure the services of the best person for this important role. Hopefully, by the next newsletter, I will be in a position to announce the permanent principal.

Steve Harper

Principal (R)

Science Week Challenge



On Tuesday 19th September, 2017, twelve Coomealla High School students from Year 10 challenged Balranald High School students to a series of science and engineering competitions. Activities included:

- a marshmallow tower challenge (students had to build the tallest tower that could withstand wind).
- an egg drop challenge (students had to use the provided equipment to build a parachute or nest for an egg to ensure it survived a 2m drop).
- a bridge challenge (students had to use the provided equipment to build a bridge that would hold half a kilogram).
- an animal challenge (students had to use the provided equipment to build a new animal that would be well adapted to survive at Coomealla High School or Balranald High School).
- a musical instrument challenge (students had to use the provided equipment to create a musical instrument with the loudest sound).



Blake McDonnell participating in the egg drop challenge.

Chloe Hyde, Chelsea Manger and Eliza Collier constructing their marshmallow tower.



Science

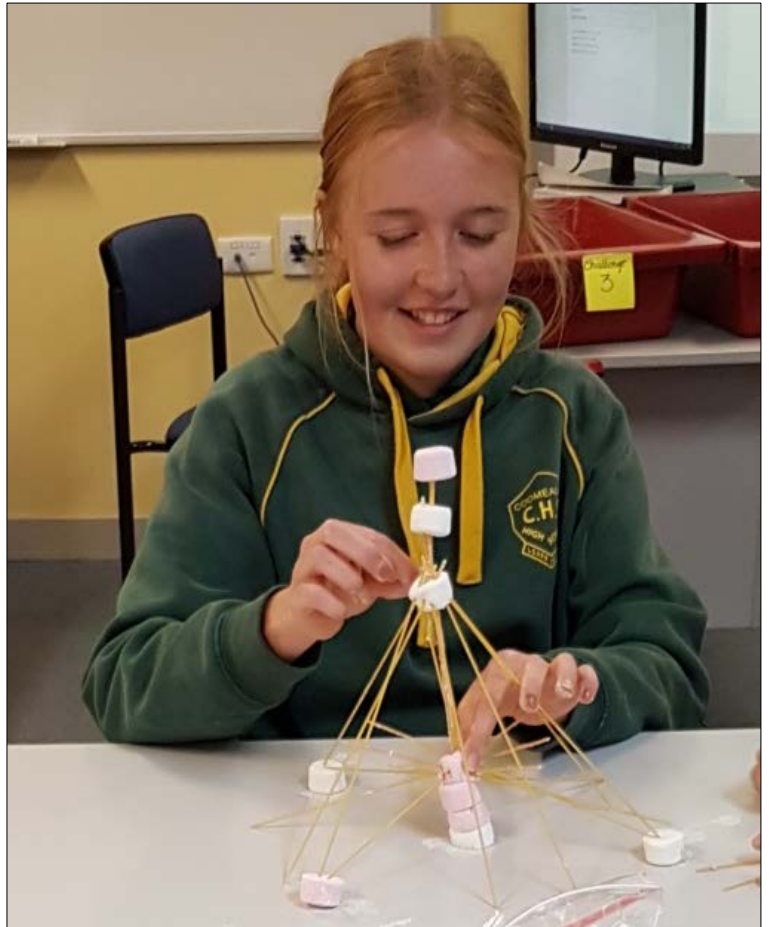
All students participated enthusiastically and produced excellent designs for each challenge. Other Coomealla High School students that represented the school proudly included Chloe Hyde, Chelsea Manger, Murphy Baird (pictured), Phoebe Sullivan, Will Mangan, Eliza Collier and Chloe Henderson.

A special thank you must also be given to the Year 8 science extension group consisting of Sarah McCarten, Makalya Witte, Matthew Hancock, CJ Jarman and Mia Alderton, who assisted with the judging of each challenge.

Natalie Steel

Head Teacher Science (R)

One of the Coomealla High School teams consisting of Blake McDonnell, Lee Evans, Ashton Tilley and Connor Chatterton were the overall highest achievers of the day, winning the 'Science Week Trophy' which will be proudly displayed in the Science Staffroom. Well done to these boys!





Conquering Kokoda

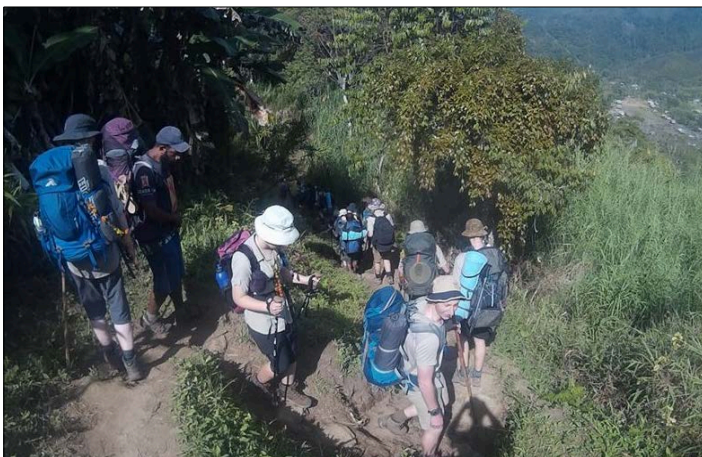
Mihkaila Sansom's Kokoda Trail experience



"We think of them with sorrow and with pride but there should be a third feeling stronger than grief, greater than pride: A sense of fullness and of achievement. To us, their lives may seem to have been severely shortened, yet in truth they were full lives. It is not how many years a man lives that matters but what he does with the years-many or few-that are granted to him. And those who sleep here did much with theirs."

Lt Col Phil Roden, OC 2/14th Battalion AIF

My name is Mihkaila Sansom, I am a Year 11 student at Coomealla High School.



During the Term 3 holidays, I walked in the footsteps of the brave along the Kokoda Track with the Australian Army Cadets, Victorian Brigade with No Roads Expeditions.

We flew into Port Moresby, then on to Popondetta to then stagger from the PMV in Kokoda, having 'enjoyed' a three-hour dust-cloud in the back of the PMV also known as the chiropractic express. Finally, we had arrived. It was a relief to put the pack on and get moving towards Deniki.

Collapsing into Deniki, my legs were quivering and heart pounding, that's where we all started wondering how our training back in Australia related to the conditions in PNG. The heat and humidity causing gasping lungs and rivers of sweat. Would anyone make it to the top, let alone complete the trek days later?

Day Two would reassure us all, with the 'flat ground' between Deniki and Alola giving our group an opportunity to get our 'trek legs'. Lunch and service at Isurava was a highlight. I was called upon to participate in the service and it was an honour to recount the battle, with a focus on the concept of leadership with the arrival of Col Honner.



Conquering Kokoda

At Alola we got taught of Metson, Bear and Fletcher whilst learning the value of leadership, supported by values of sacrifice, courage, endurance and mateship. These were all called upon to get us through days three and four, the loooong ups and downs to Templeton's and Kagi respectively, via Myola. The welcome at Kagi was heartfelt, very much so a personal highlight and much appreciated. We were 'home', at least for a while, and able to relax and enjoy the Sabbath rest day.

The climb down from Kagi would claim a friend.

Magically, as if the heavens knew, our service at Brigade Hill was conducted in drizzle, the bagpipes of Amazing Grace and a few choice words bringing tears to myself and others. Then, torrential rain all the way into Menari.

Menari- home of one thousand roosters, all competing to be heard at 0330!

The short day to Nauro was very testing, I would not have been able to do it with those around me, in particular the seemingly endless climb out of the swamp. A swim in the Brown, although apparently low on water, was a welcome opportunity to finally experience something close to warm water. Likewise, after a huge day into Ua Ule, the swim was a fitting reward to ease my sore and tired muscles.

Well, Ower's Corner.....our final message was one around our obligation, having walked in the footsteps of the brave, to return to our families and tell the stories of the soldiers who fought and fell along the track, so that their legacy would live on in our lives. That the soldiers were ordinary men who performed extraordinary deeds, and that we had a responsibility to lead extraordinary lives in whatever we do. This was our vow; be it in school, cadets, life, work, or family.

Bomana.....sitting in front of a headstone, reflecting. Precious minutes, spent largely alone, drawing to a conclusion the trip of a lifetime. The tears evaporating off my face will not be a memory to be forgotten anytime soon.



A few notable highlights:

The rubbish man of Kokoda- one of my fellow cadets took it upon himself to collect every scrap of rubbish along the track. Such was his influence that he had the porters supplying new collection bags and gathering rubbish as well. Leadership takes many different forms.

Sing sings- the kids in Alola, the Kagi welcome and the hokey-pokey, the porters on the final night in Moresby. "You are strong men, warriors, and yet gentlemen, with hearts and voices of angels" was the best that we could come up with to thank the porters.

Transformation- Kokoda changes you. Individuals begin to work as a collective, encouraging each other, digging deep. A simple word, a hand up, a smile. Whatever it takes.

Making fun of the Australian guide- we all weren't happy with the answer of "20 minutes" or the description of "flat ground", EVEN when it was 20 minutes and flat ground.

Ower's Corner- tears are a sign of great strength, of overcoming a life-changing challenge and achieving something truly great.



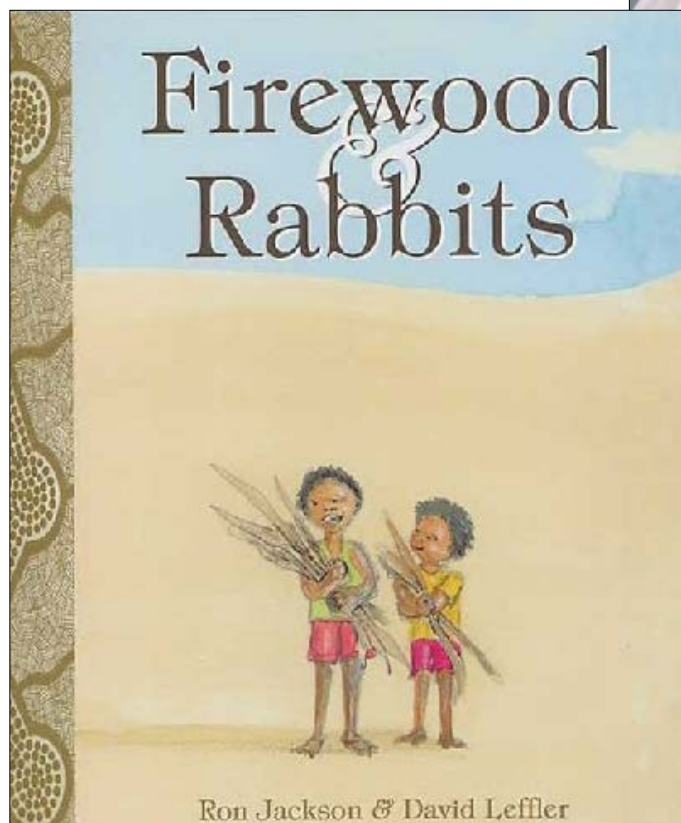
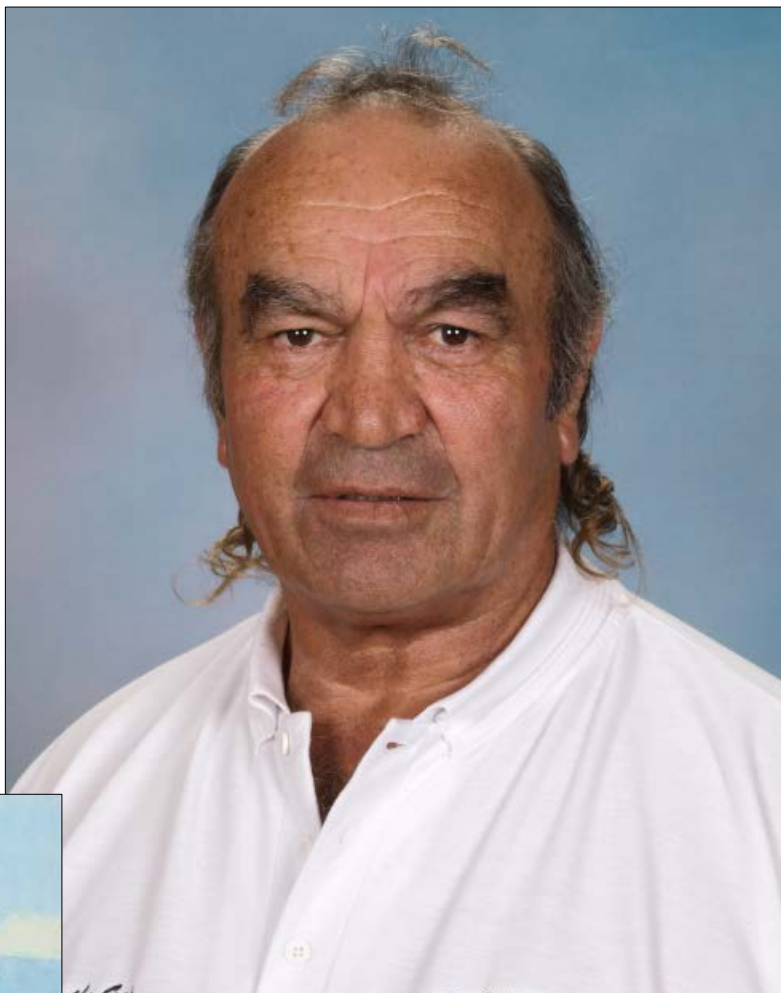
Coomealla Noticeboard

Ronald Jackson 1951 - 2017

The school was saddened recently by the passing of Ron Jackson.

Ron was a long-standing member on the staff of Coomealla High, retiring in 2015. He served with distinction as the school's Aboriginal Education Officer and was employed in the Department of Education for 28 years. Ron was dedicated to his role as the AEO and devoted himself to enhancing the education of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students.

Ron was a man of many talents, he was a keen fisherman, loved to travel and was a published author. His book "Firewood & Rabbits" includes cultural information, lesson notes and blackline masters which teachers continue to use to enhance their students cultural knowledge and awareness.



Ron was a devoted family man. He loved his family and they were everything to him. He would often share stories of his children's achievements and was devoted to his grandchildren. Ron was always quick with a story, a joke or an affectionate hug. His easy-going demeanour endeared him to all who knew him. He will be sadly missed by the Coomealla School community.

Ron wrote this book which was first published in 2007 which recalls stories from his youth about firewood and rabbits in and around Lake Mungo and the Murray River.

Special Education

Medieval Europe

Special Education students are currently studying Medieval Europe for History. To date, they have looked at the Feudal System and castles. During the remainder of the Term they will learn about religion, the many facets of daily life, laws, and health and hygiene.

Here we see students enjoying building model castles.

Angel Castle and Black Knight Castle (pictured right) and Red Baron Castle (below).



Coomealla High School Special Education staff and students would like to thank Buronga Bake for their weekly donation of fresh bread and buns. The breakfast program continues to be a success through the generosity and support of this local business.





Farewell Year 12

Coomoella was proud to celebrate with Year 12 students at our Term Three Formal Assembly. Today we recognised their many achievements over the years and said a fond goodbye, as they move towards their HSC Exams and the next chapters in their lives.

They will be missed by fellow students and staff alike. It was an emotional event with many happy tears, and families coming to celebrate this momentous occasion. We wish them all the best for their exams and look forward to further celebrating their achievements at the Leaver's Dinner.



Coomoella students achieving excellence



Shae McDonnell
VET Student of the
year – Allied Health

The Sunraysia **VETis** Student Excellence **Awards** are designed to expand opportunities and pathways for senior secondary students, and improve educational outcomes. **VETis** also addresses the skills and employment needs of industry in Victoria.

Coomoella High School is proud to announce that Year 12 student, Shae McDonnell was awarded with the 2017 Sunraysia VETis Student Excellence Award making her the Sunraysia VET student of the year in Allied Health.

Year 11 student, Shamika Taylor was also nominated in Automotive.



Shamika Taylor
Automotive nominee

Circus Camp



During the second week of the Term Three school holidays, six Year 9 students and myself, travelled to Dubbo to participate in Circus West's Circus Camp. This three day camp gave the students the opportunity to learn and develop a range of new and exciting skills, from diabolo to aerial, clowning to acrobatics, juggling to unicycle.

Whilst on camp, the students also were lucky enough to be able to explore Dubbo, visiting the Farmer's Markets and Old Dubbo Goal, and even had the amazing opportunity to watch professional circus students from Warehouse Circus, Canberra put on a show.



At the end of the three days, everyone got up and performed at the last 'circle' showcase. Lauren Boundy, Olivia Daymond, Hayley Kerridge, Taylor Kemp and Zoe Sapuppo performed a hula-hoop routine they carefully choreographed. Jackson McDermott performed an impressive trick with a hat, one that even his instructor found difficult to replicate. I also attempted to show some diabolo tricks whilst telling jokes.

We would like to thank Paul Woodhead, director of Circus West, for the amazing and unique opportunity he provided our students.

Miss Leon
Drama Teacher



Year 10 excursion

Ballarat & Melbourne university tours

Taking place in September, the Australian Catholic University (ACU) hosted the Year 10 students as they explored their futures and the possibilities that were available to them.

The group arrived Monday afternoon at Ballarat after a long bus trip. We had our first glimpse of the picturesque Ballarat Campus before being entertained by third and fourth year ACU students.

The students conducted a range of "Ice Breaker" games and activities that were designed to consolidate the group and start them thinking about the potential that would be placed before them in the next few days.

Tuesday was a packed day of soul searching and information with a valuable look at university life and the courses that are on offer at ACU Ballarat. These included teaching, nursing, paramedics, and physiotherapy, with hands on activities and explanations that were delivered by students, with an obvious passion for what they were learning.

On Wednesday, we were on the bus to Melbourne, where we explored the world of the ACU city campus that offered an even more diverse range of courses.

Thursday gave the students the opportunity to explore other activities in Melbourne. They visited the Victorian Institute of Sport, the Australian College of Moving Images, Scienceworks and the Melbourne Escape Room before dining at La Porchetta in North Melbourne.



We commenced our trip home on Friday, with lunch provided at Sea Lake, arriving at Coomealla High School in time for the buses to go home.

This was a thoroughly enjoyable excursion with students demonstrating maturity and responsibility. We would like to thank ACU, the students were well feed and engaged, and there were certainly no complaints. A big thank you to Mrs Nicole Fraser who accompanied the students and I on the excursion. The days were long and the nights were late, however, everything ran without a hitch.

Mr Phil Gee – Camp Coordinator



Year 10 excursion





Coomealla Noticeboard



SUNITAFE FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS

SuniTAFE has formed a community partnership with Chances for Children to offer students exciting education scholarships. The scholarships are provided to ensure that the absence of money or support will not stand in the way of a young person achieving their potential.

The Sunraysia Institute of TAFE and Chances for Children Scholarships will provide \$5000 per year to support students who meet the following criteria:

- are Australian citizens
- are aged between 16 and 25
- reside in north-west Victoria or south-west New South Wales
- are able to demonstrate financial hardship
- will be studying at one of the Sunraysia Institute of TAFE campuses

APPLICATIONS

To apply students must complete the Chances for Children application form available via the Chances for Children website. Applications to Chances can be accepted at any time throughout the year. Applications are assessed twice a year in October and January.



www.chancesforchildren.com.au

MILDURA CAMPUS

Benetook Avenue, Mildura VIC 3500 E mildura@sunitafe.edu.au

Call: 1300 478 648 Visit: sunitafe.edu.au





Physical Education

Athletics Carnival - COOK makes it a clean sweep!!!!

On Monday 21st and Thursday 24th August, our annual Athletics Carnival was held at the Aerodrome Ovals Athletics Complex. The two days featured some outstanding competition and sportsmanship; we had a second guest appearance from Mr Graham Stratford who retired at the end of 2016. Bevan Wade and Mr Kiely faced off in a 100-metre sprint; Bevan was the victor against Mr Kiely who was running on not much more than one leg.

At the end of the day, the final point scores were:

1st Place Cook - 7430 points

2nd Place Oxley - 5455 points

3rd Place Sturt - 4499 points

4th Place Mitchell - 4026 points

GIRL'S AGE CHAMPIONS

Age	Title	Student
12	CHAMPION	Chloe Nash (Sturt)
	Runner Up	Jemma Clifford (Sturt)
13	CHAMPION	Laura Tilley (Oxley)
	Runner Up	Mikaela Lees (Cook)
14	CHAMPION	Summer Halls (Oxley)
	Runner Up	Montana Norris (Sturt)
15	CHAMPION	Brandi Oliver (Cook)
	Runner Up	Alannah Millar-Burow (Cook)
16	CHAMPION	Imogen Smith (Oxley)
	Runner Up	Chloe Thompson (Cook)
OPEN	CHAMPION	Mikaela Fraser (Mitchell)
	Runner Up	Jasmin Pohlner (Mitchell)

BOY'S AGE CHAMPIONS

Age	Title	Student
12	CHAMPION	Jodynn Boundy (Oxley)
	Runner Up	Dion Harris (Sturt)
13	CHAMPION	Thomas Stokes (Sturt)
	Runner Up	Lachlan Witte (Mitchell)
14	CHAMPION	Bailey Pollesell (Oxley)
	Runner Up	Oliver Carter (Oxley)
15	CHAMPION	Deakin Richards (Cook)
	Runner Up	Lee Evans (Mitchell)
16	CHAMPION	Elliott Driscoll (Sturt)
	Runner Up	Blake McDonnell (Cook)
OPEN	CHAMPION	Tyler Tyers (Oxley)
	Runner Up	Christopher Gold (Cook)



Age 12 Champion
Chloe Nash



Age 13 Champion
Laura Tilley



Age 14 Champion
Summer Halls



Age 12 Champion
Jodynn Boundy



Age 13 Champion
Thomas Stokes



Age 14 Champion
Bailey Pollesell



Age 15 Champion
Brandi Oliver



Age 16 Champion
Imogen Smith



Open Champion
Mikaela Fraser



Age 15 Champion
Deakin Richards



Age 16 Champion
Elliott Driscoll



Open Champion
Chris Gold



Mathematics

HSC after school study sessions

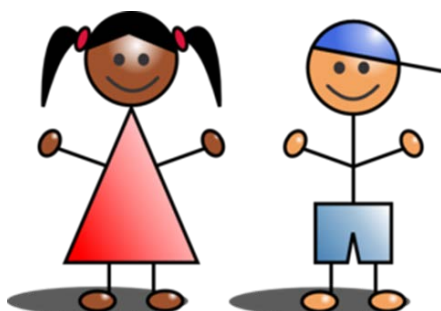
As Year 11 have now commenced their HSC studies, the mathematics faculty would like to offer supervised study sessions for all Year 11 students. The two sessions will be held immediately after school on a Monday and Thursday, for approximately an hour. Students are welcome to one or both, dependent on their commitments in other areas. Students will be able to complete homework, seek help with the class work or attempt review exercises or past exams when appropriate. Work can be provided for those students who are up to date, but still wish to study.

The sessions will run with a minimum of one student, and if successful will continue next year for the first three terms. If you or your child have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. While we are willing to be flexible if these nights do not suit, staff do have other commitments after school such as meetings.

Mrs Nicole Fraser - Head Teacher Mathematics



ROOM FOR ONE MORE?
Have you considered
becoming a Foster Carer?



"Foster Care is providing a Secure and Safe Home for children who cannot live at home for whatever reason – you can be a Foster Carer for a few nights, weeks or maybe years"

New South Wales Office: (03) 5027 7600

EBZ DANCE 2017
CONCERT Mildura Arts Centre

Saturday 18th November
Matinee 12:30pm
Evening 6:30pm

Sunday 19th November
Matinee 12:30pm

TICKETS ON SALE 13th October, 10am
available at the Information Centre or Online through Mildura Arts Centre

The Ebz Dance Concert is here again! 2017 brings you more energetic and entertaining routines in the styles of Tap, Jazz and Hip-Hop, ensuring that there is a great variety and something for everyone!	Adult - \$24 Pension - \$22 Child (U16) - \$20
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EBZ DANCE