**Vale Kelly Morgan**

It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of year 12 student Kelly Morgan. Kelly passed away peacefully last Tuesday evening. School was an important part of Kelly’s life and Kelly was an equally important part of the life of the school and of our lives. She was loved by those who knew her and will be deeply missed by all of us.

**Principal’s Report**

I would like to thank staff, students and parents for the manner in which they dealt with and supported each other over the last week in dealing with the loss of Kelly. I would particularly like to acknowledge the caring professionalism of all our Support Unit staff and the support provided by our district counselling services. The church service was a moving tribute to Kelly’s life and demonstrated the love and support within the community not just for Kelly but for her older sister Tegan and parents, Don and Margaret.

Counselling was made available last week to students and staff and will continue to be made available as required through our school counsellors, Mrs Johnson and Mrs Lasker.

**Interim Reports**

Interim reports will be issued to all students over the coming week. All state public schools are required to formally report on student academic progress twice each year and to provide appropriate opportunities for parents to speak with teachers to discuss their child’s progress. At Grafton High School we issue a mid-course report at the end of term 2 and a final report at the end of the year. We also issue an Interim Report at the end of term 1 with a follow-up parent-teacher evening. The Interim report format has changed this year in response to feedback from parents, students and teachers during our evaluation of our reporting system last year. The Interim report will now indicate a descriptor grade of Always, Mostly, Usually, Sometimes, Rarely against two criteria:

**Commitment to Learning** reports on a student’s effort in and application to a subject, that is, the extent to which a student:

- Completes set tasks, including homework
- Brings required equipment
- Achieves to the personal best
- Takes responsibility for their learning

**General Cooperation** reports on a student’s attitude and behaviour in class, that is, the extent to which a student:

- Shows respect for teachers and peers
- Follows instructions
- Demonstrates responsible behaviour
- Works independently and in a group

I would encourage all parents to attend the “Meet Your Teachers” evening next Tuesday from 3:45 – 6:00 pm. I recognise that some parents may work shifts that conflict with these times. In such cases parents are encouraged to read the report and make contact with teachers either by phone call or by arranging an interview at an alternate time. Note that interviews outside of parent-teacher evenings need to be arranged to suit teacher duties and timetable restrictions and so the preferred method of contact with teachers regarding reports is always through the dedicated evenings that we run during the year.

**High Performance Sports Centre**

As you may have read in local papers, we have been successful in gaining additional funding towards the construction of the High Performance Sports Centre. This brings our total funding, including DEC, school and P&C contributions, to approximately $760,000, which will allow construction to go ahead. I have accepted the tender approved by Public Works so construction should begin shortly.

*Peter South - Principal*
Aboriginal Studies

As part of my Aboriginal Studies major project, I recently undertook the organisation of an excursion to the Yarrawarra Cultural Centre, which is on Gumbayngirr land. The day involved a small group of senior students, accompanied by Mr Robertson, Fran and Bernadette participating in a Bush Tucker and medicine walk and damper baking. The walk provided an amazing insight into the way Indigenous people used the land for medicinal purposes, such as the bloodwood tree, the sap of which is used for both an antiseptic for cuts and a cure for stomach aches. Tony Dootson, our guide for the day, recounted stories of his ancestors and the impact colonisation has had on Aboriginal peoples’ way of life. This excursion was inspired by my reading of the book ‘Singing the Coast’ by Margaret Somerville. This book details the experiences of the two authors in the Corindi and Red Rock areas. The book, described as “one of the most beautiful and important books to enter our world in recent times”, provides a magnificent insight into the lives of the Gumbayngirr people and takes the reader on a journey “where oral and written modes of storytelling weave together.” It was a wonderful experience to be able to immerse ourselves in the beautiful places featured throughout the book and transform our views on the environment.

On Monday, 11th March, the Year 12 Aboriginal Studies class and Mr Robertson, went to the Bulgarr Ngaru AMS for a class tour of the health centre. We were guided by Trevor Kapeen, an exceptional worker for Aboriginal Health. On the tour, we learnt about the different services provided for Aboriginal and Indigenous People. Some of the services that are running include: Dental Health + Orthodontist, Drug & Alcohol, Male & Female Sexual Health, Mental Health Issues, Child Health, Obesity, Medical & Clinical, Lifestyle Educator, Male Mental Health/Hearing Health, Youth Sexual Health, Counselling and Psychologists. We discovered that while the AMS is widely used, there is plenty of room for new customers. One particularly successful program conducted by the AMS in Maclean is a cooking workshop for male and female Aboriginal and Indigenous people; it is a regular workshop held for all. The tour was a valuable experience, learning new facts about the Aboriginal community and what fantastic services that Bulgarr Ngaru provide for them. Thank you to Trevor Kapeen for a fantastic tour and great information. Stephanie Carcar.
Year 7 & 9 immunisations continue in Term 2 with Round 2 taking place on 6th & 7th May 2013

Year 7:
- Chicken Pox – single dose only
- Gardasil (girls & boys - cervical cancer) - 2nd dose
- Boosterix (diphtheria, tetanus & pertussis - whooping cough) - single dose only

Year 9 boys:
- Gardasil - 2nd dose

If your child has returned consent forms for these free immunisations they will be called from class on the above dates.

Students who missed the first round will be offered a catch up round on these dates.

Any enquires to Mrs. Nichols (HT Welfare)

Premiers Reading Challenge

Congratulations to Hayden Smith-Semple, Year 8, for being awarded “Gold” in the Premier’s Reading Challenge.

Peer Tutoring

Many thanks go to our year 10 Peer Tutors for assisting our year 7 Tutees in On Trac sessions. Our Tutors not only assist with reading tutoring but also mentoring. The year 10 Tutors are completing a, ‘Literacy Volunteer Tutoring in Schools,’ course through T.A.F.E. with support offered by the students being in accordance with current research in this area.

It’s a pleasure seeing the interactions between the year 7 and 10 students with some firm friendships already in place. Many students such as Charlie Tyrrell, Jackson Brown and Kasey Jones have already achieved the ‘Twenty Sessions,’ milestone. Congratulations also goes to other students who will be graduating from the group in term 2, making way for some new students in the program.

Transport Survey

Sustain Northern Rivers (SNR) is a collaboration which communicates, consults and collaborates for action on climate change. It comprises 26 organisations from across the government, education, health and community sectors. SNR has developed an action plan that identifies key actions for transport, energy and food.

The Sustain Transport Action Plan identifies a need for more specific information and data about transport in the region. Current initiatives of the NSW Government including the long term Transport Master Plan and the Casino to Murwillumbah transport study have also identified the need for more data about transport in the region. Transport for NSW commissioned a regional household travel survey to find out how, where and when people currently travel in the region. However it does not provide enough information on the real demands for transport that are currently not being met.

Parents are being asked to participate in a survey of transport in the Northern Rivers. We don’t know enough about how people currently travel within the region and what stops them getting to where they want to go. This survey is designed to give us more information about this.

The results will be published on the RDA-NR website and given to Transport for NSW to inform their planning for the region. The data will also be shared with, and used by, SNR’s member organisations.

Your personal information is confidential. The survey results will be reported in aggregate and all data will be used in a form where it is not possible to determine the identity of the individual responses.

The following link leads directly to the survey:
https://scuau.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_0J1GIHqqaBOcalD

Women’s Hockey

Kylies Hockey Club is looking for players for the B Grade Team for the 2013 season. B Grade is the entry level and players with no experience are welcome.

Please call Yvette on 0414 399 525
*CALLING ALL ACTORS
*CALLING DIRECTORS
*GET YOUR ENTRIES STARTED NOW
FOR THIS YEAR’S OCTOBER SCREENING & WIN PRIZES

CVR filmFest 2013

Facebook:
Clarence Valley Regional Film Festival

NORTHERN RIVERS
AUTUMN 2013

FREE SKATEBOARDING WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

SUN 17TH MARCH
Goonellabah Skatepark
StreetWise 9-12pm

SUN 24TH MARCH
Ballina Skatepark
StreetWise 9-12pm

SUN 7TH APRIL
Yamba Skatepark
StreetWise 9-12pm

SUN 20TH APRIL
Yamba Skatepark
StreetWise 9-12pm

WED 23RD APRIL
Copmanhurst Skatepark
StreetWise 9-12pm

MON 21ST APRIL
Wooli Skatepark
StreetWise 9-12pm

TUE 22ND APRIL
Coutts Crossing Skatepark
StreetWise 9-12pm

Grafton Skatepark
StreetWise 9-12pm

Maclean Skatepark
StreetWise 9-12pm

For more information or to register go to sba.org.au/hubs

National Partners:
Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

Local Partners:
TRUCK STOP
Lismore
Clarence Valley Council

Grafton High School - PO Box 458 Grafton NSW 2460, Phone: (02) 6642 3355, Fax: (02) 66423184
Email: grafton-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au, Newsletter available on our website: www.grafton-h-school.nsw.edu.au