Principal’s Report

There are a lot of fantastic opportunities offered to our students in the way of excursions and extracurricular activities. Last week we had a group of students head off the snowy mountains, some of whom will not have ever seen snow before. Tomorrow we have a group of students associated with the Archibull competition heading out west to tour our cotton industry as background for their competition entry (our assigned industry for the competition is the Cotton Industry). The HSIE faculty are well underway with the organisation of another overseas trip to Vietnam. In addition, we have entered our school, as part of a community of schools bid with South Grafton High School, in a ballot for student places on a NSW state government sponsored trip to the 100th anniversary commemorative service at Gallipoli. If we are successful (schools are assigned through ballot) we will have 2 students from each school and a single teacher to attend this significant national event. In this case, we will be required to run a local selection process to determine the students attending.

The Clarence Valley actually has a famous connection to World War One and, in particular, the campaign in the Middle East and Gallipoli Peninsula. General Sir Henry (Harry) Chauvel was commander of the 1st Light Horse Brigade, and then the Anzac Mounted Division and served at Gallipoli as well as the famous charge at Beersheba. He was the first Aussie to attain the rank of General and began his military career when he was commissioned as an officer in the Upper Clarence Light Horse. What an incredible opportunity it would be for some of our students to attend the ceremony at the same place that General Chauvel commanded dismounted light horse troops 100 years prior.

Making Contact with the school

The school admin staff have revised their processes for anyone wanting to make contact with school staff during the day, whether by phone or in person. There are a few unavoidable realities that impact on the ability to be able to make contact with staff. In particular:

- Staff have timetabled duties and appointments, which often involve a duty of care to students, and so the staff member is not in a position to leave the duty to talk to someone.
- Staffrooms only have a single phone, meaning teachers and support staff do not have their own individual phone. This also means that they have to share voicemail accounts across several staff (anywhere up to 10 or more in some cases). As such, the leaving of voicemail is problematic and not a very reliable method of contact, especially in more urgent circumstances.

As such, when someone attempts to make contact with the school the office staff will first ask the name of the child and the nature of the matter/contact. They will then attempt to make contact with the member of staff requested. If that person is unavailable then the person making contact will be asked to try again at a time that the member of staff is likely to be available (remember that teachers do playground duty and often meet in lunch times and so it is not as simple as just ringing back at lunch, for example). Alternately, people are able to contact the school email address (see footer below) and mark their email “ATT” followed by the name of the person they are contacting. These emails are then forwarded daily and so it is likely that the person concerned will receive the email and be able to respond within a few working days. Of course, for truly urgent matters we will try to determine an alternate person to deal with the enquiry to ensure a more timely response.

GoArt Raffle Winners

I have been asked to notify the winners of the P&C GoArt Raffle:

1st — V. Dunk
2nd — N. Chevally
3rd — D. Cardow

Congratulations to these winners and thanks to all for your support with the raffle and P&C fundraising associated with the GoArt event.

Unclaimed Lost Property

We currently have a large amount of lost property located in our print room that remains uncollected. If your child has misplaced something then please ask them to check with the front office in case the item has been handed in. This is a timely reminder to parents/carers to ensure that all student property is labelled with their name.

Peter South - Principal
New Books to GHS Library

As Stars Fall
by Christie Nieman.

Robin is a self-confessed bird-nerd from the country, living in the city. On the first day of school, Robin meets Delia, who is freaky and definitely not good for Robin’s image. Seth, Delia’s brother, has given up school, angry at everything since his mother died in a fire. When a rare endangered bird turns up in the city, the lives of Robin, Seth and Delia become fatefully and dangerously intertwined...

The fire was fast and hot... only days after it went through, there were absolutely no birds left. I should have seen it as an omen, the birds all leaving like that. Robin is a self-confessed bird-nerd from the country, living in the city. On the first day at her new school, she meets Delia. Delia is freaky and definitely not good for Robin’s image. Seth, Delia’s brother, has given up school to prowl the city streets. He is angry at everything, especially the fire that killed his mother.

Upcoming Events:

**August**

**Week 5 A**
- 13-15th: Excursion to Narrabri (Cotton)
- 13th: Year 10 Love Bites

**Week 6 B**
- 18-20th: Ag Quip Excursion Gunnedah
- 20th: Year 10 Love Bites
- 21-22nd: Year 10 Rotary Youth Driving Awareness
- 21-22nd: Interviews for Gold Class and scholarships 6-7 2015

**Week 7 A**
- 26th: Year 8 Police Talks
- 27th: Year 10 Love Bites
- 28th: Aboriginal Performance 9.30am 10.30am
- 29th: P & C Meeting
- 29th: 2015 Year 7 Advisor to GPS
- 29th: 2015 Year 7 Advisor to Westlawn PS + Copmanhurst, Lawrence, Baryulgil & non-Local Primary Schools

**September**

**Week 8 B**
- 1st - 5th

**Week 9 A**
- 8-12th: Year 11 Final Preliminary Exams
- 10th: Year 10 Creative Writing Camp Valla Beach

**Week 10 B**
- 15-19th: Year 12 Graduation Assembly
- 19th: Last Day Term 3

**October**

**Week 1 A**
- 6th: Labour Day Public Holiday
- 7th: School resumes for all staff & students
- 8-10th: Year 10 Final Exams MPC

**Week 2 B**
- 13-17th: HSC Exams MPC

**Week 3 A**
- 20-24th: HSC Exams MPC
- 23rd: Year 7 2015 Taster Day GPS
- 24th: Year 7 2015 Taster Day Westlawn PS + Copmanhurst, Lawrence, Baryulgil & non-Local Primary Schools

**November**

**Week 4 B**
- 25-31st: HSC Exams MPC

**Week 5 A**
- 3rd - 7th
- 4th: Parent Information evening 6pm

**Week 6 B**
- 10-14th

**Week 7 A**
- 14-18th: Year 11 Preliminary Exams
- 17-21st
- 21st: Year 6 into 7 Orientation Day – all schools 9.30am to 2.30pm at GHS.

**December**

**Week 8 B**
- 14-18th: Year 11 Preliminary Exams
- 3rd: Year 6 into 7 Orientation Day – all schools 9.30am to 2.30pm at GHS.

**Week 10 B**
- 21st

**Week 11 A**
- 15-17th

**Week 12 B**

See media release on next page.

WANTED

The science department is looking for donations of LARGE fish tanks please.
If you have any tanks please contact Mrs Blackburn at GHS.

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
Farmers are great - no bull

Raising awareness of their trip to Moree and Narrabri to learn first-hand about cotton and pecan production through farm and industry visits, Grafton High School (GHS) Year 10 Agriculture students were showing their ‘cow’ at the school’s recent ‘60 Years of Education’ display at Grafton Shoppingworld.

The trip is part of their participation in the ‘Art4Agriculture’ program as they compete for the “Archibull Prize”.

The Archibull Prize is an innovative and fun programme that provides students with opportunities to meet young farmers and engage in genuine farm experiences, gain knowledge and skills about the production of the food they eat, fibres they use and the environment they live in.

This year’s theme celebrates the role Australian farmers’ play in feeding Australian families and many other families around the world.

Mr Keith Brown, Agriculture teacher at GHS said:

“Art4Agriculture” acknowledges that the average person doesn’t consider the resources and expertise required to keep a nation well fed. Many students at Grafton High School have never been west of the divide or seen food production on a large farm. With the generous support of a $1000 grant from North Coast Local Land Services we are about to change all that on our trip to meet some leading young farmers who should or will inspire our students.

“The trip will show students that modern agriculture now attracts young and highly skilled Australians and is a rewarding career choice, much different perhaps to what their parent’s experiences may have been.”

Mr Royce Bennett, Manager Land Services, said:

“We are more than happy to support Grafton High School in undertaking this ‘experiential’ trip. The average age of farmers both here on the North Coast and elsewhere continues to rise and a programme that inspires the next generation of farmers is a great investment.”

During the trip students will complete blogs and multimedia displays and will need to turn their blank fibreglass ‘Archibull cow’ into an artwork that showcases their research into the cotton industry.

Their ‘Archibull’ will be judged against 24 others from participating schools around NSW.

Photo attached: (l to r) Brandon Robinson (GHS), Nigel Blake (Senior Land Services Officer, NCLLS) and Brody Bate (GHS) with “Archibull”, the yet to be painted Art4Agriculture fibreglass cow.

Media contact: Darren Murray, Senior Land Services Officer – telephone 6653 0129.
Grafton High School Library now has an eBook Collection for Staff and students. To access this new digital Library go to http://graftonhs.wheelers.co/ or access via the school’s Library webpage under “Our School.”

Click here to find out general info

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