Principal’s Report
This is the last newsletter for term 1. I would like to start by taking this opportunity to wish everyone a happy Easter and a safe and relaxing holiday break.

Cross Country
The School Cross Country will be held on Wed 29th April (T2 wk 2). Years 7 and 8 will be run during periods 1 and 2. Years 9 and 10 will be run during sport (periods 5 and 6) as well as any senior student who has nominated to attend zone.

Working Bee
We will be holding a working bee on Wednesday 15th April to begin construction of a small memorial garden outside the HPC. The garden will incorporate the pavers purchased as part of the school centenary celebrations as well as a rose garden and memorial plaques. If you are able to lend a hand we will be starting at 9:00 am, please meet at the pedestrian entrance on Fry st outside the MPC.

P&C News
The next P&C Meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd April from 7:00 pm in the staff common room. Congratulations to our new P&C executive:

- Mr Richard Green (President)
- Ms Dianne Rose (Vice President)
- Mr Dick Pryor (Secretary)
- Mr David Williams (Treasurer)
- Mrs Justine Endean (District rep)

A big thank you to those parents that assisted with the P&C BBQ at the election on Saturday.

Year 7 Digital Learning
A reminder to parents that on Monday 20th April, from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm, the school will be hosting a “Meet the Chromebook” evening for Year 7 parents. Parents can come along and have a play with one of the same Chromebook computers their child will be using. We will give parents a quick introduction to the device, where they can then have a hands-on experience with the sorts of applications and digital learning experiences that their children will take part in.

A further reminder that on the first day back for students, Tuesday 21st April, all Year 7 will spend the day at a Chromebook “Boot Camp”, where they will be taught how to properly use their devices for learning and for organising their work. Students will also be asked to sign a Digital Device Acceptable Use Agreement that will detail the rules and requirements around the appropriate use of these devices. These agreements will then need a parent signature and be returned to school so that the students can begin using their devices connected to the school network.

Peter South - Principal

Year 11 Biology Arrawarra Excursion
On the 20 February the two Year 11 Biology classes made their way to Arrawarra rock platform and undertook a field study of the local ecosystem.

We arrived at Arrawarra bright and early in the morning with a great sunny day ahead of us. Students learned how to run transects and use quadrats to study the distribution and abundance of organisms that lived on the platform. We identified many different plant and animal marine species and learnt of where they all fitted into the ecosystem of the rock platform.

Everyone enjoyed the day. All students worked well, completed the practical exercises and study booklets. Some of the girls fell in love with two nudibranches(!!) and the only damage done was some wet shoes. A very successful excursion!
Rowing

Grafton High school was well represented at The 2015 Combined High, Schools (CHS) Regatta, with 12 students traveling to Taree to compete over the weekend of 13th - 15th March.

Single Scull Events

Bethany Van Haren placed 1st in the WU15 heat, finishing 5th in the final.
Adam Pryor placed 3rd in the Championship Mens heat with Max Van Haren finishing in 5th. Adam finished 6th in the final.

Double Scull Events

Emma Waterhouse and Abbey Counsell placed 3rd in their WU15 heat coming 6th in final.
Adam Pryor and Max Van Haren placed 1st in heat Championship Men's heat. Due to inclement weather the Championship Men's double final was cancelled.
Jordan Smith and Riley Oseland finished 5th in their Championship Men's heat.
Grace Moar and Emily Ashenden placed 4th in WU 17 heat.

Coxed Quad Scull Events

Grace Moar, Bianca Bertus, Emily Ashenden, Maisie Tooth, coxswain Bethany Van Haren finished 4th in WU 17.
Adam Pryor, Max Van Haren, Riley oseland, Jordan Smith, coxswain Emily Ashenden finished 4th in Championship Men's heat.

Earth Hour

The HSIE department's Environment Club held Earth Hour this week. Students in the club went around the school in Period 1 Friday giving out prizes and share tokens for classrooms that are being ecofriendly. Earth Hour is held every year to promote turning off lights and unnecessary devices to combat the harmful affects of climate change.

Tanks Very Much

A special thank-you from the Science Faculty to the Hartz family for their generous donation of a 3-foot Aquarium which will be situated in AL1. This adds to our myriad of tanks and exotic species of marine life that exist in 4 of the labs in A-Block. We will take all kind donations associated with aquariums.

Legal Studies Year 11

Class with #OpenToSyria signs

Year 11 Legal Studies has been investigating international law and how people can make a difference around the world. The students spent some lessons working on projects to assist Amnesty International in their work. The students wrote letters to world leaders who are allowing human rights abuses to take place and made a sign to protest the Australian Government’s refugee policy. Students joined the #opentosyria campaign to tell Syrian refugees who are not safe in their own country that they are welcome here.

Environment Club

The Environment club has started up again for the year. This allows students to come and learn about ways to improve our environment while getting their hands dirty at the same time. These photographs show students planting veggies and herbs for the canteen, so Grafton High can have fresh healthy lunches. Other activities we will be doing through the year include excursion to check the health of the local environment and organising Tee for a Tree day.

Year 8 Medieval Europe

Year 8 students studying Medieval Europe have been working hard completing their models from the Middle Ages. A wide range of models were made by our students from castles to peasant homes, weapons and medieval dresses. A fantastic result from 8 Select, 8 History 3 and 8 History 5.
Science Junior Assessment
Year 7 Project on Arthropods was due last week (25/3), whilst the Year 9 Technology Project was due on the 13th March.

The final reports for the Year 8 and Year 10 projects are both due on Monday 30th March.

The next assessment task for all junior Science classes will be the Term 1 test. These tests will take place during week 2 of Term 2 and will test the topics taught during Term 1.

GHS Library Update

Book of the Week
EVENTUAL POPPY DAY
By Libby Hathorn

Review: Libby Hathorn weaves the stories of Maurice, a WWI ANZAC, with his great nephew Oliver’s life, set now.

We see the horror of World War I from Gallipoli through to Flanders Fields, where Libby’s own uncle Maurice spent three years fighting, only to eventually die in Flanders Fields. This ties in with Oliver, who lives with his great Aunt Dorothia. Dorothia is Maurice’s youngest sister, and was born shortly after Maurice’s death.

At first Oliver cannot understand our need to remember the war. Then, when he is at his lowest and in a great deal of trouble with Dorothia, she gives him special letters written by his great uncle Maurice. Oliver is touched by these letters, especially the one to his unborn sister, Dorothia. Maurice and Oliver’s connection is made stronger by their love of drawing and painting.

This story explores the effects of war, including the connections between families and the long term impact war can have on a family group. A strongly written, thought provoking read, that would best suit readers 14 years and older.

Upcoming Events:

**Term 2**

**Week 1**
- 20/04 Staff Development Day, Year 7 Parent “Meet the Chromebook” evening (6 – 7 pm)
- 21/04 All students Return, Year 7 Chromebook “Boot Camp”
- 21-24/04 Year 12 Science Excursion to Sydney
- 23/04 P&C Meeting (7:00 pm)

**Week 2**
- 27/04-01/05 Work Placement VET Metal
- 29/04 School Cross Country Carnival, Drama Day

**Week 3**
- 5/04 Stellar Role Model Career Day Year 10
- 6/05 Cyber Space Presentation

**Week 4**
- 12-15/05 NAPLAN Yr 7 & 9
- 18-22/05 Year 7-10 Mid-Course Exams
- 19/05 ICAS Digital Technology

**Week 6**
- 28/05 Police Talks Year 8
- 29/05 Athletics Carnival

**Week 7**
- 3/06 ICAS Science Assessment
- 4/06 Year 7 Immunisation
- 5/06 Year 11 & 12 Immunisations

**Week 8**
- 8/06 Queens Birthday Holiday
- 11/06 Police Talks Year 8
- 11/06 SLAM Poetry workshop Year 9-11

**Week 9**
- 18/06 Stellar The Great Year 8 at GHS

**Week 10**
- 22/6 NAIDOC Flag Raising
- 22-26/6 NAIDOC Week
- 24/06 Dirty Dancing
- 26/06 NAIDOC Touch Football & BBQ
- 26/06 Last Day Term 2

**TERM 3**

**Week 1**
- 13/7 Staff Development Day
- 14/7 School resumes all students.
- 16/7 Sydney Quilt Show Year 11

**Week 2**
- 22/7 Opportunity Class Placement Test
- 23/7 Police Talks Year 9
- 23/7 Stellar Year 7 Recipe For Success

**Week 3**
- 28/7 ICAS English Assessment
- 30/7 Australian Maths Competition

**Week 4**
- 3-14/8 HSC Trial Examinations
- 4/8 Year 10-11 Ski Trip
- 6/8 Police Talk Year9

**Week 5**
- 11/8 ICAS Mathematics
- 13/8 Bangara Dance Excursion Brisbane

**Week 6**
- 18/8 Police Talks Year 10

**Week 7**
- 22/8 Police Talk Year 9

**Week 8**

**Week 9**
- 7-18/9 Final Preliminary Exams Year 12

**Week 10**
- 18/9 Last day of Term 3

**TERM 4**

**Week 8**
- 5/10 Public Holiday
- 6/10 School resumes all students.
**Community Notices**

**NAME OUR KELPIE COMPETITION**

Help name our popular literary sculpture! Submissions open at Grafton Library. Competition closes 26th April 2015.

**WRITING WORKSHOPS: FOR CHILDREN**

Potential author John Juddman will work with 8 to 12yrs to develop their creative writing skills.

- **Date:** Zephyrs 1pm, Monday 14th April
- **Venue:** Yamba Library, 45 Wood Street, Yamba
- **Date:** Zephyrs 1pm, Tuesday 15th April
- **Venue:** Grafton Library, 135-137 Queen Street, Grafton

**THE LOADED DOG**

A storytelling performance of Henry Lawson’s most popular comic story ‘The Loaded Dog.’ With puppyoping coffee and homey music, and audience of all ages. It’s a uniquely Australian story that features characters and locations from Australia past that will mesmerize.

- **Date:** 9:30am, Tuesday 16th April
- **Venue:** Yamba Library, 43 Market Street, Yamba
- **Date:** 10am, Wednesday 17th April
- **Venue:** Grafton Library, 135-137 Queen Street, Grafton
- **Date:** 10am, Wednesday 24th April
- **Venue:** Yamba Library, 43 Market Street, Yamba
- **Date:** 10am, Wednesday 25th April
- **Venue:** Grafton Library, 135-137 Queen Street, Grafton

**PCYC | Safer Drivers Course**

**GRAFTON**

PCYC are an accredited provider of the Safer Drivers Course, guiding young people in the right direction since 1937.

**The Safer Drivers Course involves two modules:**

**Module one:** A three-hour facilitated group discussion on how to manage risks on the road. This will involve a maximum of twelve participants and will be delivered by a facilitator.

**Module two:** A two-hour in-vehicle coaching session to develop low-risk driving strategies. This will involve two participants and a coach. Course cost: $140

Participants must meet the following requirements to be eligible for the course credentials gained under the 3 for 1 scheme cannot be included.

Participants who complete the course will receive 20 hours credit recorded in their learning log book.

To find your closest club or book into the next available course check out our website: [www.safedrivers.org.au](http://www.safedrivers.org.au)

**Grafton Community & Function Centre - 59 Duke Street, Grafton NSW 2460**