**SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS 2013**

Dear Staff,

There have been some requests for information regarding early entry. I published most in the recent newsletter and have some to add for UNE. See below:

Charles Sturt University. Congratulations to Lauren Green and Johanna Vogt who were successful in gaining early entry into CSU, for 2014, through the Principal Report Entry Program (PREP). Johanna Vogt has been accepted into the Bachelor of Creative Arts and Design (Animation and Visual Effects) at Wagga Wagga and Lauren into the Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary) at Dubbo.

The University of Sydney has offered positions to Connor Graham in the Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Sport Science) and Madison Watton in a Bachelor of Arts.

Additional

UNE

Simon Bouwsema, Mariah Colby, Alice Fosdick, Emily Green, Lauren Green, Fred Jerry, Peter Pearson, Johanna Vogt

It is satisfying to see hard work so deservingly rewarded and congratulations and best wishes are extended to all those students.

**2013 NAPLAN**

**Year 7**

\* The Year 7 cohort were below the state mean in all dimensions, however, they were above the Western Region average in all areas of NAPLAN.

\* The Year 7 cohort exceeded the average state growth compared to NSW DEC School's growth from Year 5 (2011) to Year 7 (2013) in all dimensions except Grammar and Numeracy.

\* Year 7 Indigenous students' outcomes were above the State Indigenous means in all aspects of NAPLAN.

**Year 9**

\* The Year 9 cohort were below the state mean in all dimensions, however, they were above the Western Region in all aspects of NAPLAN.

\* The Year 9 cohort exceeded the average state growth compared to NSW DEC School's growth from Year 7 (2011) in all dimensions except Grammar.

\* Year 9 Indigenous students' outcomes were above the average State Indigenous means in all areas of NAPLAN except Numeracy.

**ENGLISH**

2013 has been a successful and productive year for the English Faculty and our students.

\* In the 2012 HSC English examinations, students achieved excellent results in the Extension One, Advanced and Standard courses; in each case cohorts achieved results which were above state average.

\* A number of students from Years 7 to 12 participated in the 2013 English International Competition and Assessment for Schools. Coonabarabran High performed exceptionally well, especially as students participated from right across Australasia. Our results were as follows:

**Distinction**

Stephen Sanders David Tighe

**Credit**

Connor Graham Jarrod Lambert

Oliver Lucas Ian Whittall

\* Students also participated in the 2013 Writing International Competition and Assessment for Schools. Coonabarabran High performed exceptionally well. Our results were as follows:

**High Distinction**

David Tighe

**Distinction**

Annabelle Park

**Credit**

Stephen Sanders

\* Coonabarabran High School entered Year 7 students into the International Competition and Assessments for School in Spelling, reflecting the continuing emphasis on literacy skills across the faculty areas. Our results were as follows:

**Credit**

Oliver Lucas Joseph Samuel Ian Whittall

\* Our students continued to showcase their outstanding writing ability in a number of competitions where their prowess with words was acknowledged as follows:

***Whitlam Institute What Matters Writing Competition***

- James Nash – Second place in the Senior Division

***Henry Lawson (Grenfell) Writing Competition***

- Clayton McKinnon - First

- Jeanette Schaeche - Highly commended

- Ellie Capewell - Highly commended

- Elizabeth Graham - Highly commended

***Henry Lawson (Gulgong) Writing Competition***

- Elizabeth Graham - First

- Emma Tudgey - Second

- Georgina Elton - Third

- Melanie Dow - Highly commended

- Sally Deshon - Highly Commended

- Sara Hincks - Highly Commended

- Caitlyn Green - Commended

- Jesse Doolan - Commended

- Caitlyn Bowden - Commended

- Brittany Soussa - Commended

- Hannah Harris - Commended

- Olivia Colantonio - Commended

- Olivia Eastburn - Commended (Adult section)

***Banjo Paterson Writing Competition***

- Caitlyn Green - First

- Jesse Doolan - Third

***Cancer Council of Victoria Youth Writing Awards***

- Sophie Stuart - First

- Elizabeth Graham - Third

- Connor Graham - Fourth

***Written Portraits Turning Circles Writing Competition***

- Rebecca Silk - Highly Commended

***Western Region Writing Competition***

- Samantha Harris - Highly Commended

\* In the Shakespeare Festival the standard of performance once again impressed the judges. Awards were given out for scenes, monologues, duologues and individual acting as follows:

***Encouragement Award Duologue Years 9/10***

Tori Dundas and Emma Tudgey

***Encouragement Award Duologue Year 11***

Rebecca Silk and Jenny Sullivan

***Highly Commended Duologue Year 9/10***

Tamika Brown and Katie Young

***Highly Commended Duologue Year 11***

Jaimi-Lee Bennett and Jaimelee Milliner

***Best Duologue Year 9/10***

Ashley Michael and Jesse Doolan

***Best Duologue Year 11***

Clayton McKinnon and James Nash

***Encouragement Award Scene Year 9***

Georgina Elton, Mitchell Fosdick, Gabrielle Karagiannis

***Encouragement Award Scene Year 10***

Sara Hincks, Jenna Cormie, Elizabeth Graham

***Encouragement Award Scene Year 11***

Ellie Capewell, Annie Woo, Samuel Redfern

***Highly Commended Scene Year 9/10***

Katherine Harris, Caitlyn McHugh, Brittany Soussa, Holly Verrender, Joshua Masman

***Highly Commended Scene Year 11***

Connor Hincks, Phoebe Hensby, Caragh Fretwell

***Best Scene Year 9***

Olivia Colantonio, Sally Deshon, Melanie Dow, Alexandra Eastburn, Kindelan Murray, James Pearson

***Best Scene Year 10***

Caitlyn Green, Madeleine McNeilly, Tegan Scott, Luke Edwards

***Best Scene Year 11***

Makayla Munns, Samantha Smith, Olivia Eastburn

***Runner up Best Actor Year 9***

Olivia Colantonio

***Best Actor Year 9***

Georgina Elton

***Runner up Best Actor Year 10***

Ashley Michael

***Best Actor Year 10***

Jesse Doolan

***Runner up Best Actor Year 11***

Clayton McKinnon

***Best Actor Year 11***

James Nash

***Young Shakespearean Actor of the Year***

James Nash

\* Coonabarabran High students really do have the gift of the gab and student achievements throughout the year in the areas of public speaking and debating have certainly served to prove the veracity of this statement.

**Public Speaking**

**\*** Year 11 student Clayton McKinnon won his way through to the District finals of the Rotary District 9650 Public Speaking Competition and was also selected to represent the school at the NSW Schools’ State Constitutional Convention held at Parliament House, Sydney.

**Debating**

**\*** Coonabarabran High School took on the Premier’s Debating Challenge with style and gusto in 2013. This year saw our school enter three teams in this state-wide competition. The competition was structured into three levels; Years 7 and 8, Years 9 and 10 and the Senior Division, Years 11 and 12. The School also competed in the region’s inaugural Indigenous Debating Competition.

**Year's 7 & 8**

\* This team, coached by Mr Gardiner, proved that being relative newcomers to debating did not translate to being a barrier to success. Alison Green, Molly Atkinson, Ian Whittall and Eugenie Martin embraced their respective roles with considerable aplomb. Whilst not winning any of their debates, the team certainly improved their skills with each encounter and will be a force to be reckoned with in future.

**Year's 9 & 10**

\* The Year Nine and Ten combined debating team had a successful year, winning two out of three of their debates. The original team comprised, Elizabeth Graham as first speaker, Stephen Sanders as second speaker, David Tighe as third speaker and Ashley Michael as team thinker. The team was coached by Mrs Macintosh and Mrs Birrell.

The team competed in their first two debates against the Narrabri High A and B Teams, coming away with two consecutive wins. This qualified them for a third debate against Quirindi High School to decide whether or not they qualified for the regional debating finals. However, unfortunately David, Stephen and Ashley were unable to attend the team’s final debate. As a result, Annie Nash, Aimee Sanders and Lily Abbott ably joined the team and together with Elizabeth Graham, competed with great team spirit. It was wonderful of these students to step into the team to ensure that the team could compete in Tamworth.

**Senior Debating**

\* The myriad demands of senior school often pose a challenge to senior debating. Students' workloads and extra-curricular activities certainly make for busy lives! Notwithstanding such busy-ness, Clayton McKinnon, Connor Hincks, Nathan Cox and Jaimelee Milliner took up the challenge of debating this year, coached by Mrs Bell. Victory did prove elusive and thereafter the team had the disappointment of other teams in the completion forfeiting. However, undoubtedly, the skills and experience gained will be lifelong.

**Indigenous Debating**

**\*** The requirement for this competition was that the team had to comprise 2 Indigenous students. Initially the team comprised Jack Ayoub, Tessa Flick, David Tighe and team thinker, Steven Sanders. A last minutes illness rendered first speaker Jack Ayoub unable to compete and, very generously, Danielle Andrews stepped into the breach and performed the role of team thinker.

The topic debated by the team was both sides of the proposition that "Aboriginal people should have more say over Crown Land mining rights". The team, coached by Jenny Sullivan and Ms Doolan, won both of their debates and emerged zone winners following an intensive day of debating in Dunedoo in June.

Thereafter the team qualified to represent the school in the inaugural regional finals in Dubbo in August. Having won their way through to the final they were narrowly defeated by a strong team from Kelso High.

Participation in this competition required significant preparation due to the technical nature of the question and the fact that the team had to prepare both sides of the argument, not knowing until the day of the competition, whether they would be arguing the affirmative or negative case or both. The commitment of the team was admirable and certainly underpinned their success.

\* Year 12 English students attended HSC revision lectures in Dubbo in June.

\* In July the school, once again hosted a successful Writers’ Festival; what has now become the annual ‘Feast of Words’. Visiting presenters included performer Christine Anu, authors Kirsty Eagar and Paul Stafford, screenwriter Patrick May, ex-student and solicitor Michael Morrissey and public speaking expert Nerelie Teese. The focus for three days was on writing and the beauty of words.

\* In August, English lecturers from the University of Sydney visited our school to discuss HSC texts with Extension, Advanced and Standard English students. Professor Will Christie, Dr Kieryn McKay and Dr Nicola Parsons shared their invaluable insights into HSC prescribed texts with our Year 12 students.

\* HSC Extension 1 English students attended a study day in May at Sydney University hosted by The Romantic Studies Association of Australasia.

\* HSC Advanced students attended a performance of ‘Hamlet’ and took part in a study symposium, at the Seymour Centre Sydney. HSC Standard students also travelled to Sydney to view a performance of their prescribed text, ‘Shoe-Horn Sonata’. Equity funding supported both of these worthwhile excursions.

\* In November, the Advanced English class were the guests of the Sydney University English Faculty as part of their Outreach Program. Students attended lectures and workshops and were given a guided tour of the campus and information to encourage then to consider Sydney University for their tertiary studies.

\* Senior students in the Standard course experienced the world of war poet Wilfred Owen bought to life by the players in Poetry in Action.

\* Mr Gardiner continued in his valuable role as Support Person to the students participating in the Xsel Program.

\* HSC students were strongly supported in their studies via film nights and additional revision workshops.

\* In November the Faculty hosted its second English Conference to support the professional development of English teachers in Western Region. The 2 days of seminars focused on the new 7-10 curriculum and the new HSC Prescriptions which will be first examined in 2015. Such days have been made possible due to Centre for Excellence funding and it is wonderful that we are able to receive such expert guidance so close to "home" - well, "at home" to be accurate.

\* The Multi-Lit and Fluency Reading Programs have continued to successfully support student learning.

\* Faculty staff maintained their commitment to ongoing professional learning and attended numerous Saturday workshops in Dubbo conducted by the Western Plains English Teachers Association. Additionally, staff also attended various other lectures and workshops throughout the year, thereby ensuring that their students have access to great ideas and teaching strategies to support their success in the English classroom.

\* 2013 saw the welcome return of Mrs Bell to a full time teaching load. In 2014 we farewell Miss O’Brien as she sojourns abroad; she has made a valuable contribution to the teaching of English in our school over the past three years.

**MATHEMATICS**

Highlights of 2013 for the Mathematics Faculty include:

\* In the third year of the QuickSmart program, over 30 Year 7 and Year 8 students participated in pairs in regular sessions of practise of their Numeracy skills in order to improve proficiency and confidence in Mathematics. Evaluation of last year’s program has shown very pleasing results and had a positive effect upon students' NAPLAN results. Thanks are extended to the QuickSmart team for their effort throughout the year.

\* The second annual Mathematics Festival - Feast of Pi was successfully held on Thursday, 18 July 2013. The goal of the Feast of Pi was to raise the profile of Mathematics as a discipline in the school. This year the festival was hosted by a number of Mathematics teachers and academics. Professor Fred Watson delivered presentations which illustrated how our knowledge of the Universe depends on mathematics. Former student Professor Kerrie Mengersen has statistical projects currently operating in countries worldwide and she took students on a tour of these assignments which encompassed computational, environmental, genetic and health statistics. Harry Langes the Virtual Mathematics Faculty Leader Western Region delivered some timely HSC lectures to our senior mathematics students. Margo Dent a Mathematics teacher at Gilgandra High School presented hands on practical workshops to the Year 7 and 8 students in the curriculum areas of number, fractions and measurement. Dynamic Mathematics teacher and Deputy Principal at Condobolin High School, Jamie Sampson returned for his second Feast of Pi. Jamie is an inspirational teacher who utilised non-traditional mathematical teaching methods. It was also good to welcome Emma Dwyer back to Coonabarabran High as a presenter.

\* In October, Year 7 students along with Year 6 students from Coonabarabran Primary School, St Lawrences Primary School and St John’s Primary School, Baradine participated in a Maths Field Day. Coonabarabran High School hosted the day and Year 9 students were the facilitators of each session and group leaders/mentors for the Year 6 and 7 students. The Year 6 and 7 students were placed in mixed school groups of approximately 8 students. The groups then rotated around the following practical activities : Bridge Building, Finding Pi, Exponential Decay, Greedy Pig, Spaghetti Maths and The Pendulum Swing.

\* During Term 4 the Mathematics staff was involved in delivering Mathematics Transition lessons to Year 6 (Stage 3) students at Coonabarabran Primary School, St Lawrence's Primary School and St John’s Baradine. The lessons explored Understanding Fluency, Problem Solving and Reasoning in Mathematics and Numerical Literacy and Problem Solving.

\* Mathematics Competitions **–** including the Australian Mathematics Trust Competition and the ICAS competitions. Our students once again showed their potential in a range of Mathematical Competitions and were well deserving of credit for their efforts.

**SCIENCE**

\* 2013 has been another busy year for the Science Faculty at Coonabarabran High. Mr Peter Morrissey has returned to the Science faculty after he was seconded to the role of Connected Learning Coach for the Warrumbungle region. Welcome back Peter and many thanks to Mrs Nash for assisting in Biology throughout the year in Mr Morrissey’s absence. Dr Stevenson took long service leave during Term 3 and half of Term 4 to participate in the Archery World Championships in South Africa and enjoy some overseas travel. During her absence, we were fortunate to have Mr Colin Storer, an experienced teacher and analytical chemist, assist the students. Mr Nott and Miss Moore have also ably assisted the Year 11 and Year 12 Chemistry classes, and Mrs Pulham has taught so many Science lessons this year that we are awarding her with an honorary Science degree.

\* Whilst our participation in external competitions has been slightly down on previous years, we have had 2 High Distinctions awarded in the 2013 Big Science Competition.

Students who scored a **High Distinction** were:

- Stephen Sanders (Year10)

- Charles Knight (Year 7)

**Distinctions** were achieved by:

- Marcus Young (Year 12)

- Edward Wilkin (Year 12)

- Richard Knight (Year 9)

The following students obtained a **Credit**:

- Kevin Lee (Year 11)

- David Tighe (Year10)

- Emma Tudgey (Year 9)

- Jarrod Lambert (Year 7)

- Ian Whittall (Year 7)

Steven Sanders achieved a **Distinction** in the Australian National Chemistry Quiz.

Congratulations to these students on their commendable achievements.

\* Our Science & Engineering Challenge team, consisting of Year 9/10 students, participated in the Challenge at Narrabri and from there were selected to represent the North West region at Newcastle. Students work in groups of four to solve a variety of problems related to the disciplines of Science and Engineering. Our students performed very well during the challenge and a fun time was had by all. The Science & Engineering Challenge has become a regular fixture on our calendar and it is also a great opportunity to expose students to university life and the University of Newcastle in particular.

\* There have been a number of activities to assist and enhance learning in the classroom. These include subject-specific excursions in the senior school, regular Skype sessions and video conferences and team teaching. We also took advantage of the expertise in the school during the Feast of Pi and many of the junior science and senior Physics classes enjoyed the entertaining and informative sessions by Professor Fred Watson.

\* Whilst on the theme of Astronomy, Year 8 enjoyed an excursion to Narrabri’s CSIRO radio telescopes to witness the reconfiguration of their radio telescope array to supplement their area of study on Astronomy.

\* All junior science classes were given the fantastic opportunity to attend a Forensic Science show, which provided students with hands-on activities used to solve crimes. Students were presented with a crime scene scenario and then used a number of scientific processes such as finger-printing, DNA analysis, fibre matching, sample testing and blood typing to apprehend the suspect. This was a fantastic opportunity for students and teachers alike.

\* Our HSC students enjoyed an excursion to Armidale for the UNE Science and Maths booster sessions. This is a great opportunity for students to complete some of the more difficult practical work associated with their senior science courses. UNE makes the experience very accessible to all students as accommodation and meals are provided and travel is subsidised. It is also a great opportunity for students to have a sneak peak at university and campus life.

\* Throughout the year the Science faculty have been busy programming for the implementation of the National Curriculum in 2014 for Year 7 and Year 9.

**HUMAN SOCIETY & ITS ENVIRONMENT**

2013 has been another fruitful year for the HSIE faculty. We sadly farewelled Mr David Partridge and welcomed Mr Robert Holden who not only brings his exciting approach to Indonesian language studies but also has the same zeal for studies of History and Geography. As a faculty we have had a number of opportunities to enhance our knowledge and that of our students both in the classroom and beyond including:

\* Participation in network planning days with our neighbouring schools with a view to the implementation of the National History Curriculum in 2014 - an invaluable opportunity to share resources, ideas and gain new skills which will enhance student learning.

\* CHS hosted a two-day conference for History teachers where we were able to continue the process of understanding and planning for the National Curriculum which we will begin to implement in the classroom in 2014. This day also gave us the opportunity to learn from experts from the History Teachers Association in both Modern and Ancient History with a focus on the skills of writing under examination conditions and simulated marking of examination scripts. Lectures in Ancient and Modern HSC topics for both history teachers and students were also conducted.

\* Year 12 Geography students travelled to the Macquarie Marshes to study the ecosystem of the area and to look at various management strategies in place across the marshes. Students were able to experience this unique environment during a rare flood period, gaining access to areas that most people never see. These students also benefited from the sharing of expertise by Mr Ambrose Doolan in relation to their case study of his cattle production enterprise on his property "Toorawandi".

\* Year 11 Geography students enhanced their understanding of water catchments and the impact of human activity within an environment when they completed two days of field work in the Warrumbungles and along the Castlereagh River, concluding with a tour of the water treatment plant. This was a rather unique opportunity to gain a better understanding of the landforms in the Warrumbungle ranges after the catastrophic fires of January.

\* Year 10 students studied a number of geographical issues impacting their local community with a focus on land and water management and projects to manage erosion in and around town. This study also gave them an opportunity to test out their ability to apply newly learnt geographical skills and research talents under the guidance of Mr Draper.

\* Year 9 Geography students had the opportunity to participate in a state-wide public forum; students discussed aspects of waste management presenting their ideas for the future and sustainable management of waste and practices for reducing waste in our homes. Students finalised this forum with a public debate held in the Warrumbungle Shire Council meeting room.

\* Almost all Year 8 students were lucky enough to participate in the Zoo Snooze at Taronga Western Plains Zoo. This gave students an opportunity to study the role of zoos in the management of endangered species and look at some special breeding programs.

\* Year 8 History students spent long hours developing their own board games with a special focus on a historical period they had studied. The students then put their games to the test in a mega 'gameathon' which concluded with the students voting for the best overall creation.

\* Year 7 History students recently completed a study of Ancient Greece with a Greek feast and games day. Students participated in traditional Olympic style events including chariot races and javelin throwing. They then adjourned to a feast of typically Greek foods.

\* Year 12 Legal Studies students, accompanied by Ms Doolan, travelled to Sydney to attend the annual HSC enhancement lectures conducted by the Legal Studies Association of NSW.

\* Year 12 Business Studies and Economics students attended HSC enrichment lectures at Armidale University.

\* The school's Mock Trial team, coached by Ms Doolan, successfully won their way through 6 Mock Trials - undefeated - to be ranked in the top 16 schools in the State!  This was a wonderful achievement given that the Law Society of NSW's state-wide Mock Trial Competition began with 200 teams. Along the way, the school's team which comprised barristers, James Nash and Clayton McKinnon, instructing solicitors Nathan and Blake Cox, court official Jaimi-Lee Bennett and star witnesses Sharleen Jones and Makayla Munns, experienced an extensive range of court proceedings.  They undertook both prosecution and defence roles in criminal matters and also acted as counsel for the plaintiff and for the defendant in civil matters.  Cases ranged from prosecuting an accused for cruelty to animals, to defending a civil action in bailment, their client being a prestige car repair centre which, rather awkwardly, managed to have a car stolen from its business whilst it was booked in for repairs! In every matter, the team presented as impeccably groomed, well prepared and increasingly, skilled advocates.  At all times they were wonderful ambassadors for the school, competing in good spirits.  There is a well-worn adage that "failure requires no preparation".  This team gave proof to that statement as their commitment to each case was exemplary

\* Year 12 Legal Studies, Ancient History, Economics, Modern History, Geography and Business Studies students attended the annual HSC Lecture Days in Dubbo in June.

\* Year 12 Ancient History students benefited from the expertise of Mrs Linda Davis who generously travelled to Coonabarabran to conduct a day of HSC revision.

\* The Year 9/10 Archaeology & World Issues class and Year 12 Ancient History class undertook an archaeology excursion to Sydney in May, engaging in a range of activities including visiting The Big Dig at The Rocks, Nicholson Museum, Maritime Museum and Jewish Museum. Year 12 students were also able to attend some important HSC enhancement lectures at the University.

\* The newly established Year 9/10 Aboriginal Studies class has been extremely busy both around the school and in the community participating in a number of culturally important events. This course is an invaluable addition to the Coonabarabran High School curriculum giving students an opportunity to explore Australia’s unique Indigenous culture. Students have this year learnt about traditional foods, and applied this knowledge to the development of a bush foods garden at school. They have represented the school on the planning committee for the National Sorry day march and NADOC celebrations event at the school and in the community. Students have also immersed themselves in local indigenous history with visits to Burra Bee Dee with the Society & Culture students form Year 12 and entertained local Gamilaraay elders at school events.

\* Years 9, 10 and 11 Geography students participated in The Australian Geography Competition. Our results were as follows:

***Australian Geography Competition***

**High Distinction**

Joseph Bowen Luke Edwards

Stephen Sanders David Tighe

**Distinction**

James Nash Sara Hincks

**Credit**

Sam Bowen Caitlyn McHugh

Makayla Munns Joshua Masman

Nattalie Schaeche Jonty Raaen

**TAS (TECHNICAL & APPLIED STUDIES)**

\* Metals and Engineering classes participated in a range of innovative programs throughout the year. These included: constructing pizza ovens and fire boxes from old hot water systems, making valuable resources e.g. wire spinners, star post pullers and star post drivers for the BlazeAid organisation who have worked tirelessly in the Coonabarabran community following the January fires, and completed a refit of a race car.

\* Coonabarabran High School has established a partnership with the Coonabarabran Aero Club to provide hands-on experience with a flight simulator and advanced training opportunities. The flight simulator will be set up at the school and members of the Aero Club will present theoretical and practical training modules to students as part of their Engineering classes.

\* Year 12 Hospitality students successfully achieved Barista qualifications when they completed a Barista Course run Central West Courses. This course, along with a First Aid Certificate supplements their Certificate 2 in Hospitality and adds to their future employment in the Hospitality Industry.

\* In Year 12 Design and Technology, all the projects were completed to a very pleasing standard with a well-presented and documented folio. The students worked very hard to produce their authentic projects - these covered a range of skills and interests:

- Jemmae Dow (Mp3 compatible sports bra)

- Edward Wilkin (Electronic car licence plate)

- Marcus Young (Personalised motorbike trailer)

- Madison Watton (Local historical website)

- Patrick Shepherd-Hagemann (Computer game for Autism)

- Jack Ayoub (Barbed wire dispenser)

- James Bateson (Redesign of the Coonabarabran Skate Park)

\* Year 12 Industrial Technology (Timber) students’ constructed quality products, including a folio. The students made the following major projects:

- Jack Ayoub (Music stand and matching stool)

- Casey Draper (Garden seat)

- Luke Scott (Dining table and lazy susan)

- Keiren Comyns (Portable pool table)

**LOTE (Language Other Than English) *Bahasa Indonesia*- Indonesian Language**

\* 2013 has seen the introduction of Indonesian language and culture at Coonabarabran High School. The LOTE Program is designed to expose students to the diversity and cultural complexities found within a vast number of Indonesian speaking communities.

\* There have been three Stage 4 Year 8 classes this year - for the first time these students have been exposed to the national language of Indonesia, *Bahasa Indonesia*, which is spoken across the entire Indonesian archipelago.

\* Undoubtedly the highlight for the year has been the Indonesian shadow puppeteer Pak Sumardi who visited our school in July. This experience has given our students the opportunity to view authentic Indonesian culture in real time at the school. We hope to continue bringing other cultural events to the school which will reinforce student language learning while exposing our students to authentic cultural experiences.

\* Many of our Year 8 students have enjoyed the cultural exposure to all things Indonesian throughout the year resulting in a number of enthusiastic students continuing with their Indonesian language studies in Year 9.

**AGRICULTURE**

\* Coonabarabran High School Agriculture and Primary Industries students have had a very successful and busy 2013. Students have been involved in all facets of the plant and livestock production systems in the Ag Plot as well as attending extra curriculum excursions to Coonabarabran Show, Coonamble Show, Cotton Field to Fabric, The Royal Brisbane Show and the Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza.

\* A beautiful, slightly overcast and nippy day welcomed fifty six presenters and one hundred and eighty three students from Coonabarabran, Baradine, Binnaway and Gilgandra schools to our Ag Skills Day in June. Small groups and a hands-on experience underpin the relevance of this day to both the Agriculture and Primary Industries syllabi. Working so closely with each presenter ensures greater interaction from students and learning through authentic experiences. Thank you to everyone involved in the day, through the donation of equipment or animals, and especially through the donation of time and expertise. The staff and students from Coonabarabran High who stayed late and arrived very early on Thursday morning to set up are worth their weight in gold. We also rely on Equity funding to help run this important event.

\* The Cattle Team have prepared and exhibited cattle at Binnaway, Baradine and Coonabarabran Shows. Students prepared stud Charolais heifer and bulls kindly lent by Terry and Maylene Griffin from Temana Charolais, Baradine. Students excelled in their parading competitions around the local shows. Students won all the Champion Parader titles: Emily Young, Champion Parader at the Binnaway Show, Lachlan McEvoy, Champion Parader Baradine Show and Caitlyn Green took out this prestigious title at our Coona Show. Well-done to all the students who participated and thank you to Terry and Maylene Griffin for their ongoing support of our Livestock Show Team.

\* On 3 August we travelled to Brisbane to exhibit four of our school steers at the Royal Brisbane Show. Ten students from Years 7 to 11 entered Junior Judging and Parading Competitions where they displayed excellent livestock handling skills. There were 350 steers competing in the Hoof & Hook sections. We were extremely successful receiving a 1st, 2nd and 6th in the Open and School Hoof sections. Congratulations to all of the students who participated as they were excellent ambassadors for our school.

\* Students also excelled against 700 students from 40 different schools from across the state at the Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza in Scone. Ale Van Schalkwyk, Caitlyn Green and Emily Young all received a Highly Commended for their skills in exhibiting and parading their animals. Our steers received a 2nd, 4th and Highly Commended in the Heavy Weight Led section.

\* Year 11 Agriculture Students participated in the Australian Intercollegiate Meat Judging Competition at the Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza as a component of their HSC Beef Product Study. Our students were placed third in the Team Section. Joe Bowen and Samantha Smith were Runners-Up in Beef Carcass class one and two respectively.

\* Year 11 and Year 9 students travelled to the Narrabri Cotton Research Centre to support their learning in Plant Production Units. Students were taken through all facets of cotton production and gained first-hand knowledge of technology used in its production.

2013 Equestrian Report

* This year the CHS team represented the school at Mendooran Horse Sports Day, Northwest Equestrian Expo, Baradine Horse Sports Day, participating with the usual CHS spirit to achieve some wonderful results.
* The equestrian highlight of 2013 was, once again, the Northwest Expo. The Organising Committee and others who contribute to the success of this event are deserving of our gratitude and admiration, providing riders from across the state and beyond with a variety of riding experiences.
* Coonabarabran High School was once again one of the largest teams in the event with 22 riders involved in all events across the five days of competition. The highlight was again the spirit of participation the CHS team displayed and the collegiality showed by team members. While many riders were rewarded for their hours of training, achieving success in a number of events, the performance previously unheard of at Coonabarabran High was the blue ribbon in the teams of four on the final day of competition. Our team was only beaten by a team of four from Kinross School in which the horses were all related to each other.
* The Expo Committee once again made a significant financial contribution to the school which will benefit all students.
* Thank you to all the parents who helped make our camp at Expo an enjoyable and delicious place to be, and who put so much time and effort into supporting their children in this sport and contributing to everyone’s enjoyment of this sport. The contributions made by Jenny Smith, Michelle McEvoy and Kylie Deshon were essential in presenting a well-organised and well-dressed team at all these events.

**VISUAL ARTS**

\* The Visual Arts department has seen some amazing artworks produced by students in a range of mediums this year. Students from Years 7-12 in Visual Arts and 11-12 Photography have engaged with a variety of subject matter. The results look fantastic, as was seen in the artworks hanging in the foyer gallery, where students at Coonabarabran High School frequently display their creativity.

\* In March this year we were fortunate enough to be selected as a school to show the Elaine and Jim Wolfensohn Gift Suitcase from the National Gallery of Australia. This mini exhibition showed contemporary artworks small enough to fit into a suitcase which was then brought into schools for students to see, touch and talk about. We thank Kerry from Orana Arts for the opportunity to experience these works.

\* Students from 9/10 Elective Visual Arts, 11-12 Visual Arts and 11-12 Photography travelled to Tamworth Regional Gallery to see the ArtExpress exhibition which displays selected works from the 2012 HSC Visual Arts practical Body of Work. Students were impressed with the high calibre of artworks produced by HSC students and the range of styles and forms shown. The works were to provide inspiration for many students including our HSC class.

\* This year’s HSC Visual Arts class focused on Painting, Drawing and Collection of Works categories for their major Body of Works. Each student pursued their ideas individually and produced impressive designs. We wish the students well for their HSC and future endeavours.

\* Students in the junior years have enjoyed their time in the Art classroom and Year 10 students have finished their major works at the end of Term 3. The students revisited themes from earlier drawing and painting tasks but created unique and well-developed artworks which reflects their dedication to this subject. Well done to these students for completing their works to such a high degree of skill.

\* Thank you again to Miss Rankmore for her help in the department teaching junior Art classes and senior Photography. Her excellent work with the Year 12 Photography students was shown in the wonderful display of photographs in the foyer gallery.

**MUSIC**

\* Year 7 have been learning to write, listen to, and perform music. The students have started to use traditional notation and have explored their own creativity with graphic notation assignments. Acoustic guitar playing and singing is part of Year 7's performance experience; they also study instruments of the orchestra, leading to Classical listening.

\* In Year 8 students have an opportunity to learn to play a concert band instrument. Instruments selected by Year 8 students including flute and clarinet, electric and acoustic guitars, violins, keyboards, djembe and drum kit. Year 8 have composed and performed radio plays (with sound effects). They have also practised the acoustic guitar and studied music in film.

\* Years 9 and 10 have delved into composition writing and creating some wonderful, individual works. Students have extended this technique and repertoire for their study and performance of a major instrument. Years 9 and 10 enjoyed diverse listening experiences and learning about their mandatory and elected topics.

\* Years 11 and 12 have been busy with a wide range of programs following the Senior Music Syllabus. Some results of this study were seen in performances of soloist and ensembles in school assemblies, special events and HSC preparation concerts (both lunch time concerts and evening performances).

\* The School Band operates as part of the Orbital Swing Band which is a wonderful mix of young and older students and adults. These musicians rehearse weekly as well as doing their own instrument practice, ensuring a busy annual calendar. This performance program starts with Australia Day and includes many community events such as Senior Citizens Week, Coona Show, Anzac Day and Late-Night shopping and culminates in the Awards Night performance. This year the Band has encouraged new students to take up an instrument. A number of our students add to their community involvement by tutoring the instrument groups.

\* The choir has worked long and hard to prepare six major choral works. Our students joined other school and community choirs to sing at the Choral Concert in the Sydney Town Hall. One Year 12 student sang a duet with a baritone and orchestra from 'The Pearl Fishers' by Bizet. Proceeds from this concert raised $15,000 for Westmead Children's Hospital.

\* The Moorambilla Festival was held again in Baradine and Coonamble. Our students participated as part of the "Maxed Out" ensemble and it was an exciting, spine tingling performance involving singing, movement and Japanese ceremonial drumming.

\* The Australian Music Examination Board enabled students of violin, piano and woodwind to develop technique and repertoire of varying levels of difficulty. Our High School violinists achieved AMEB grades ranging from Grade 2 through to Grade 7 (Grade 8 is the highest grade).

**SPORT**

\* Harley Wood won the Gold medal in the Boy's 14 Years High Jump at the Combined High Schools Athletics Carnival. He was also placed second in the same event at the NSW All Schools Carnival and Mitchell Fosdick placed 9th in the 15’s High Jump.

\* Coonabarabran High won the Single Cup for the sixth consecutive year in year in a row!

\* At the North West Athletics Carnival Harley Wood (14’s High Jump) Darcy Cain (12’s Shot Put) and Cody Brady (15’s Shot Put) all placed first.

\* At the Combined High Schools Athletics Carnival Harley Wood (1st 14’s High Jump) Mitchell Fosdick (7th 15’s High Jump) Cody Brady (8th 15’s Shot Put) Madeleine McNeilly (6th 16’s 1500m) Darcy Cain (9th 12’s Shot Put) and Jasmin Lucas (10th 13’s Shot Put) all secured top 10 finishes.

\* At the North West Swimming Carnival Jack Isedale (13’s 50m 100m Freestyle) and Olivia Tilborghs (100m Breastroke) gained first placings.

\* The Open Girls Netball team finished second in North West and qualified in the top 20 in the state.

\* The Open Rugby League team finished third in North West.

\* The Open Boys Basketball, Lawn Bowls, Open Girls Netball and Open Girls Softball teams reached North West semi-finals.

\* Darcy Cain, Madeleine McNeilly, David Tighe, and Shaun McNeilly all represented North West in two different sports

\* Overall 29 students represented North West in the following sports:

**Rugby League**

Edward Martin

**Swimming**

Joshua Masman Kate Masman

Jack Isedale Olivia Tilborghs

Darcy Cain

**15s Touch**

Blake Cain

**Squash**

Jack Masman

**Soccer**

David Tighe Teaghan Barron

**Athletics**

Harley Wood Mitchell Fosdick

Cody Brady Georgina Elton

Jasmin Lucas Darcy Cain

Shaun McNeilly Madeleine McNeilly

Brodie Draper Annabelle Park

**Cross Country**

Grace Colantonio Jada Kuras

Shaun McNeilly Isobelle Fox

Breeana McNeilly Madeleine McNeilly

Caitlyn McHugh David Tighe

Jaimelee Milliner Kieran Comyns

Nathan Verrender

**Netball**

Olivia Eastburn

**Lawn Bowls**

Byron Coe

**SUPPORT UNIT**

Students in the Support Unit have again participated in a wide variety of activities during the year:

\* The Riding for the Disabled program continued to offer our students experiences in horse riding and horse care. At the North West Equestrian Expo, Megan Gledhill and Dylan Britton were the Champion Girl and Boy Riders, while Penny Price and Grace Smith were named Reserve Champions.

\* Students participated in the Breakthru Athletics Carnival with significant success for all students.

\* A number of students were enrolled in various TAFE and TVET courses – Hairdressing, Welding and Automotive.

\* The students also manage the school’s recycling program each week.

\* Several students from the Support Unit were given the opportunity to go to the Ag Skills Day where they participated in several workshops with agricultural experts.

\* During the year the students engaged in practical and applied mathematics activities as part of the Feast of Pi. Students have also participated in regular literacy and numeracy programs on a daily basis.

\* Once again the backbone of the Support Unit were the School Learning Support Officers, Mrs Yvonne Rice, Mr Dennis Coe, Mrs Michelle McEvoy, Mrs Sue Norton, Mrs Mary Lawson, Mrs Lee-Ann Doel, Miss Megan Rice and Mrs Kelly Heaney. Their work with the students and the support they give to the teachers is invaluable, both within the unit and in mainstream classes.

**ABORIGINAL EDUCATION**

2013 has been a positive year for Aboriginal Education at Coonabarabran High School. Indigenous students have again been given opportunities to celebrate their culture and to contribute positively to the fabric of our school community. Some highlights in this regard include:

\* Aboriginal student attendance was up by 3%, which is a very positive step in the right direction.

\* There were some outstanding performances by Indigenous students on the sporting field including Blake Cain who tried out for the North West Touch side and was selected to play in Newcastle in April of this year.

\* Abbey Edmondstone of Year 7 was awarded the Indigenous Youth Leadership Program Scholarship for 2013.

\* NAIDOC week celebrations were once again very successful. Aboriginal students were involved in various activities supported by Year 9/10 Aboriginal Studies students and the whole school celebrated via a NAIDOC Week assembly. The Aboriginal flag was raised by Katelyn Nixon and Talisha Kuras. Jayd Robinson spoke on behalf of the students on the importance of NAIDOC Week and reconciliation. Aboriginal Studies students helped cook the BBQ. It was also great to see Elders from the community join in with our celebrations.

\* Indigenous Youth Leadership Program recipients Abbey Edmondstone, Jayd Robinson and Talisha Kuras travelled to Baradine to attend a cultural gathering.

\* Aboriginal students, accompanied by Michelle Watton, Jillian Norton and Andrew Piper, attended a cultural day at Burra Bee Dee mission organised by Ian Nixon, Paddy Cain, Paddy Chatfield and Will Robinson. This was a wonderful opportunity for students to learn more about their unique heritage.

*Ian Nixon, AEO (Aboriginal Education Officer)*

**CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE**

Coonabarabran High School was one of a select group of schools identified as a Centre for Excellence School at the end of 2010, the result of demonstrating ongoing high quality teaching. Accordingly, it was identified as a school which would demonstrate, develop and share high quality teaching, leading to improved student outcomes. This was to be achieved through:

- promoting and demonstrating quality teaching through classroom practice

- working with other surrounding schools to strengthen the quality of teaching

- providing quality supervision and mentoring and support to early career (beginning) teachers

- developing strengthened links with universities, including in the area of initial teacher education of pre-service teachers

In 2013, the Centre for Excellence program was extended into a third and final year. The program in 2013 continued to provide support in a number of areas.

**English**

\* Support provided for the 2-day English in-service organised by Ms M Doolan and the Western Plains English Teachers Association. This in-service focused on the introduction of the Australian Curriculum in Years 7 and 9 in 2013 and on exploring the new prescribed texts for the 2015-20 HSC. Ms Doolan has continued to build the quality of teaching and professional development of English teachers, both within Coonabarabran High School and the Western Region.

\* Support was also given to assist in the running of the Coonabarabran High School Writer's Festival conducted in July, providing professional development workshops to staff in areas such as journalism, film and creative writing.

\* Support given to continue the strong links developed by the English Faculty with the Sydney University English Faculty, enabling professional development for staff and lectures to CHS English students on their HSC areas of study. This year visiting History lecturers also talked to Year 9 and 10 students.

**HSIE**

\* Coonabarabran High School hosted a 2-day History Professional Development in-service course in association with the History Teachers Association of NSW. Staff from Coonabarabran High School and 7 surrounding schools participated in an introduction to the Australian Curriculum and programming units of work, strategies for developing literacy, and workshops providing feedback on the 2012 HSC Modern History and Ancient History examinations.

\* Ms Doolan also provided targeted professional support and assistance to Narromine High School in Legal Studies via a Transfer of Duty.

**Science**

\* A Science professional learning day took place in March with a focus on the familiarisation of the new Science 7-10 Australian Curriculum due for implementation in Years 7 and 9 in 2014. Fourteen staff from seven surrounding schools began identifying topics and programming units of work on the day.

**Support New Scheme (Beginning) Teachers**

\* Running an Induction Program for new teachers upon their arrival at Coonabarabran High School.

\* Running professional development workshops throughout 2013 to develop professional knowledge and practice. Workshops focused on areas such as Communication with Parents and Community, Classroom Management, Excursions/Excursion Procedures, Reporting Processes and Procedures, Group Work and Future Professional Learning.

\* Supporting teachers with their Accreditation at Professional Competence/Proficient Teacher level. An Accreditation Workshop was held at Coonabarabran High School with a focus to:

- Reviewing procedures/requirements for the successful completion of Accreditation at Professional Competence/Proficient teacher by permanent, temporary and casual teachers.

- Reviewing evidence collected by teachers, identify the standards met.

- Annotating their collected evidence.

- This year 19 staff from Coonabarabran High School and 9 surrounding schools participated in the Accreditation Workshop.

**University Links**

\* Co-ordinated the practicum experience for pre-service teachers studying at University.

\* Induction program provided for pre-service teachers participating in the professional experience program.

\* In 2013 participating teachers came from the University of Wollongong, University of New England and the Australian Catholic University.

\* UNSW Aspire Program - Co-ordinated links between Coonabarabran High School and the University of NSW. The program aims to motivate students to undertake further education beyond school and raise awareness of professions available beyond school and opportunity to study. This year, University staff visited Coonabarabran High School in March and August to conduct workshops with all classes in the school. A group of students in both Year 8 and Year 11 participated in programs, run by the University in Sydney (Year 11 - April, Year 8 - June). All Year 9 also participated in a 1-day workshop run by the University in Dubbo in October.

\* Sydney University, through links established with Coonabarabran High School since 2011:

- visited Coonabarabran High School to provide professional development to staff and lectures to students in senior English in August.

- Year 11 Advanced English students travelled to Sydney for lectures in November.

**NORTH WEST EQUESTRIAN EXPO**

Our large team of 27 riders was very successful at the 4-day North West Equestrian Expo and there was a very good atmosphere of camaraderie amongst the riders. All riders displayed excellent sportsmanship and represented the school very well. A couple of highlights included Charlie Knight winning the highest overall point score for his age group, Sam Edwards winning a rug at his first EXPO, the senior team of 4 riders (Maddy McNeilly, Sam Smith, Simon Bouwsema and Sophie Stuart) coming first in their class and Sally Deshon winning a much coveted rug in the One Day Event.

All the riders won lots of ribbons and rode well. The rest of the team comprised Danielle Andrews, Antonia Knight, Shannon Richards, Jonty Raaen, Georgina Elton, Richard Knight, Annie Nash, Emma Tudgey, Matilda Clifton, Jed McEvoy, Hollee Watts, Isobelle Fox, Lily Abbott, Lucy Redden and Sophie Stinson.

Those who ran the event and all those who pitched in and helped to organise, or just lent a hand on the day, must be congratulated for their hard work and dedication. A final thank you to Michelle McEvoy who took on the important role as the school's equipment manager and to Kylie Deshon who successfully managed the school team.

**VALE MR DRAPER**

After 28 years of faithful service at Coonabarabran High School, Mr Draper retired from teaching in November. His absolute professionalism, depth of knowledge, concern for students and passion for teaching has deservedly earnt him the respect of his colleagues and his students. Mr Draper has embodied all that is good in public education through his dedication, good humour and unwavering support of both staff and students. He will be sadly missed and the school community wishes him every happiness in the next phase of his life.