

# COONABARABRAN HIGH SCHOOL and P&C NEWSLETTER 17 May 2019



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Ms M Doolan, Relieving Principal

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Ms Karine Williams P&C President

## Ms Mary Doolan Relieving Principal's Report



Well at last we've had some rain! May it continue!! Term 2 is traditionally a busy one and 2019 is no exception. Students in Years 7 and 9 are in the midst of completing the NAPLAN tests. Ahead of mandatory online tests in 2020, we transitioned to the online testing platform this year. The benefit of this has been the additional technology support provided to our school. The transition has not been without challenge but will mean that students sit a more responsive test and obtain their results in a more timely manner. The NAPLAN tests are just one diagnostic tool that teachers can use to identify areas of strength and those in need of development in terms of students' learning in literacy and numeracy. This term also heralds the arrival of the Trial HSC Examinations in weeks 9 and 10. By bringing the Trial Examinations forward from Term 3, we will have more time to target the strengthening of students' content knowledge and skills in the lead up to the HSC Examinations which commence in October. A great opportunity for our Year 12 students is the Dubbo HSC Enrichment Lectures held on Thursday 6 and Friday 7 June. Past students always rate these lectures as a strong support to their success and we encourage all students to attend.

Our North West Equestrian team is in the throes of preparation. Our community is so fortunate to be the host venue of this stellar event and our school has benefited significantly over the years from the Expo Committee's generous support. Our P&C utilise this event as a major fundraiser by running "The Hut" canteen at Expo. More volunteers are needed so if you have a couple of hours to spare between May 31 and June 4, we hope that you might volunteer via the link on our school website. Alternatively, please ring the school and we can add your name to the roster.

You would appreciate that the safety of our students is paramount. Accordingly, kindly note the following to ensure safe practices in and around our school car parks, particularly at high flow times before and after school:

- i) The top car park is not for dropping off and collecting students. Please do this via the bottom car park
- ii) The speed limit in all car parks is 10 km/h
- iii) When dropping students in the bottom car park, the northern gate (closest to the bus bay) is the entry and the southern gate is the exit. We appreciate that current signs are too small and larger ones are on their way.

Junior examination week commences on Monday 27 May. These examinations are an important assessment and also very good preparation for the demands of senior school. Students have been given a note outlining when their examinations are on. Apart from undertaking private revision at home, our Study Centre which operates each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon in the library until 5.00 pm is a great resource for students to utilise so that they can be confident in their preparation and give these examinations their best effort.

As the pages within attest, there have been a host of wonderful activities, opportunities and learning taking place in our community; from robotics, to softball to our fabulous Feast of Words and musical concert last term. Such events enrich students' learning and the vibrancy of our community.

Finally, a shout out to our fabulous canteen ladies Mrs Sue Hincks, Mrs Trish Watson and Mrs Vicki Zakrzewski and our SRC led by Mr Chris Rollo. The drought buster blue and green mufti day which closed last term was very positive and the blue and green delicacies made by the canteen, absolutely delicious. **The SRC's stewardship of Youth Week was also excellent. Thank you!**

## Hoping to see some new faces at P&C Monday night, 20 May @ 5.30 pm. They are such a strong support to our school.



Students supporting Drought Buster Mufti Day

# P&C President's Report

Coonabarabran High School  
P&C Meeting 25 March 2019

Welcome:  
Meeting Opened

A huge 'thank you' to everyone who made the International Food Festival at the Dark Sky Event in early April a success – all the people who prepared and donated food, the students who helped out on the night and to the community that supported our fund raising effort.

Preparations are well underway for our next major fund raiser – the Canteen at the NW Equestrian Expo on from 31 May to 4 June. We will be one of 2 canteens running over the weekend event and around 100 school are participating from across the country. Many of you will be involved in all the activities that make this a huge event for Coonabarabran. If you aren't already involved, we would love your support helping us to run the canteen over the weekend. You can find a roster on the school website. If you are unable to give us time, a small donation of food (e.g. flour, sugar, butter etc to make cakes) or cash will also help to make this a successful event.

**We welcome all new members to join our P&C to bring new ideas and participate in the school community.**

*Karine Williams*



## NEW EXECUTIVE FOR P&C 2019

The following executive officers were elected at the last P&C AGM:

President: Mrs Karine Williams

Vice President: Mrs Anne Fosdick, Mr Steve Turner, Mrs Skye Lambert

Treasurer: Mrs Skye Lambert

Secretary: Mr Gary Eriksson

Congratulations to the new team! My thanks to the outgoing executive, and in particular Ms Meril Sana for her enthusiastic commitment to this organisation which does so much to support our school community.

## Next P&C Association

Meeting will be held

**Monday 20 May**

**5:30pm School**

**Library**

**ALL WELCOME**

Attendance (as per attendance book)

**Present:** Gary Erickson, Duncan Graham, Merrill Sana, Sue Hincks, Anne Fosdick, Ansie and Philip van Schalkwyk, Karine Williams, Semret Goleim, Mary Doolan, Stephen Turner.

**Apologies:** Tina Peck

**Motion: The apologies be accepted.**

Moved: Sue      Seconded: Semret      Carried: Yes

**Previous Minutes:**

**Motion: The Minutes are a true and accurate record of the previous meeting.**

Moved: Sue      Seconded: Semret      Carried: Yes

**Business arising from Previous Minutes**

- Insurance requirements for Dark Sky event – completed

**Guest Speaker / Special Notices**

- 
- 

**Correspondence**

**In:**

1. P&C Magazine

**Out:**

1. Event Notification for P&C insurance – Dark Sky event on 6 April

Motion that the Correspondence be accepted.

Moved: Merrill      Seconded: Semret      Carried:

**Reports**

**President's Report (optional)**

As published in the newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report**

1. Current Balance \$9383.46 – unchanged from last month
2. Audit – documents provided to Auditor

**Motion: The treasurers report be accepted**

Moved: Gary      Seconded: Ansie      Carried:

**Canteen Report**

Started well, so far \$7,200 ahead.

**Motion: The Canteen Report be accepted.**

Moved: Anne      Seconded: Ansie      Carried: Yes

**Principal's Report and**

- Schools gratitude to merril for her contribution to the school while she was president
- Feast of words – see newsletter – 4<sup>th</sup> April dinner.
- PBL update: Online survey for parents has been well received
- Elevate study skills spoke to students about the skill for studying – student and parent portal to access from home
- For the current year 11 some have to do additional tests to catch up their NAPLAN results

Coonabarabran High School  
P&C Meeting 25 March 2019

- All year 10's will be doing the HSC Minimum standard tests online
- Moving to NAPLAN Online this year, more keyboarding skills to support students
- Survey – Tell them for me, feedback from students to department about their learning experiences
- Mark Walton – Music concert 10<sup>th</sup> April
- Drought is still impacting our community and there will be an out of uniform day on last day of school.
- Showgate proceeds \$2336.31

**Deputy Principal's Report**

- Year 7 of to Warrumbungles
- Year 9 and 10 going to Siding spring observatory
- Year 12 half yearly reports
- Castlereagh zone winter trials. – Driver revive want to give \$50 to each child who makes it into the Northwest Trials
- 8 students going state swimming
- Year 10/11 HSIE crew going to Vietnam over the holidays

**General Business:**

- Memberships \$2.00 per member paid.
- Dark sky event
  - Catering is going well for the Dark sky international food catering –
  - Mary has spoken with year 9 students to help with serving
  - Free pottery classes for kids
  - Tickets have been prepared
  - Motion: Float of \$1000.00 to be ready for ticket sales.
  - Moved: Semret, Seconded Sue
- Horse Expo
  - Karine and Ansie to meet with Rebecca from NW Expo
- Toilet complaints – Mary has made progress with getting some action to improve them.
- Ansie congratulated the school on the Parent Teacher night. It was a great night
- 

Date of Next Meeting  
5:30 pm 29 April 2019 (High School Library)  
Meeting Closed:

# Another Coonabarabran Student Goes Solo!

Congratulations to Year 10 student, George Bell, for piloting his first solo flight in TVW ('Tango, Victor, Whiskey'); the Coonabarabran Aero Club, Piper Warrior. In the last school holidays, Catherine (George's Ward Air Instructor) decided that he was ready to take on the Coonabarabran circuit area solo. His first solo flight was one year and one day since he started training with Ward Air. Although a little worried at first when the instructor left him to pilot the plane alone, he said he just remembered his training and went through the motions, landing safely and happily on the ground around ten minutes later. The next day, with conditions slightly more windy, George was able to complete three more complete circuits of the airport solo.

George has been participating in the school's Flight Simulator Program that was set up by fabulously committed members of the Coonabarabran Aero Club, quite a few of whom give up their time each week to guide high school students through the rudiments of flying. The Flight Simulator was set up some years ago through the generous support of the National Australia Bank. George says that the program is what sparked his interest in flying. So, it was a very exciting day for George and the Aero Club to see their initiative to get people interested in flying and have another of their student pilots reach the next phase of their flight training.



# SHOOSH FOR KIDS



Shoosh for Kids is a collaborative effort between the Office of Sport and State Sporting Organisations to promote positive behaviour to members, clubs and associations.

The general rule is if you haven't got anything nice to say, not to say anything at all.

Visit the Office of Sport website to find out more and show spectators and members where you stand on poor spectator behaviour during awareness week, 20 - 26 May. Let's keep kids coming back to junior sport!







[f](#) [t](#) #shooshforkids | [sport.nsw.gov.au](http://sport.nsw.gov.au)

Shoosh for Kids is proudly supported by:



## Some tips for adults at kids sport:

-  Keep it fun - don't take it too seriously
-  Be enthusiastic - but don't scream and shout instructions from the sideline
-  Emphasise trying hard - not winning
-  Cheer and acknowledge good play from all sides and teams
-  Accept decisions from officials. They're human - they make mistakes.
-  Let coaches do the coaching.
-  Always remember - volunteers run kids sport.
-  Understand, uphold and support your club's code of conduct.
-  Allow your child to play for themselves. Let kids make decisions, on and off the field.
-  Think before you speak - your words may harm others.

SHOOSH FOR KIDS



#shooshforkids | [sport.nsw.gov.au](http://sport.nsw.gov.au)

# 2019 Feast of Words 19

Another Feast of Words has come to a close at Coonabarabran High School, with the final sessions taking place on Friday afternoon. This year we had a total of five presenters, who all added to the legacy of wonderful words floating around the place, continuing a tradition which began in 2011. The 50 word novel competition was again a success with most students and many teachers working on this year's theme, silver. Each year we select two entries from the junior school (Years 7, 8, 9) and the senior school (Year 10, 11, 12), one highly commended and one overall winner. The results of this year's 50 word novel competition are:

**Junior School: Highly Commended – Ayla Hoffmann; Overall Winner – Ava Hippisley**

**Senior School: Highly Commended – Bill Dare; Overall Winner – Cobey Smith**

**Staff Winner: Tina Pech**

Our Feast sessions began on Wednesday with Year 6 students from Coonabarabran Public School, St Lawrence's and St John's Baradine coming to the school on Wednesday morning to participate in sessions run by Mrs Michelle Birrell and Ms Natasha Bell. Students learnt how to craft their writing in a more conscious and detailed manner, explored the idea of the hero's journey and created characters with costumes and dialogue.

It was wonderful to have the skills and personality of Kath Dwyer back in the school, with students from Year 7 through to 12 benefiting from her sessions on picture-books.

Thursday began with journalist Jessie Davies regaling the students with all things bloggy – discussing with them and leading them through activities involved in the publication of words to the outside world.

Mrs Elizabeth Macintosh held sessions throughout the day exploring a range of texts with students from Years 7 through to 10. When we think of novels or stories, we often think that their power comes from the way a text is structured or the interesting characters created within, but Mrs Macintosh challenged students to investigate the effect individual words have on a story, and see the power that words have to create atmosphere and mood.

Paul Stafford helped students develop characterisation in stories through use of the senses in writing.

A successful dinner was held on Thursday night with many members of the school and wider community attending for a great meal at the Acacia Motor Lodge. **Thank you to all those who attended the dinner; your support is very much appreciated.**



# Anzac Day Service



The school community is very proud of the students who represented us at our local ANZAC Day commemoration service. Our School Captains Kiara Hawkins and Liam Russell each read a prayer, Felicity Maher sang beautifully and together with our Vice Captains, Matilda Harris and Angus Lambert, the Captains laid a wreath to honour the service of the men and women who have served our nation. Matilda Harris proudly led the march as flag bearer.

All of the students were respectful and attentive to the solemnity of this occasion and were fine ambassadors for our school.

# Celebrating Youth Week



## Supernova Star Squad Take 'Andromeda' to new Heights



It was a fantastic and intense weekend at Sydney Olympic Park for the South Pacific Regional Robotics Competition. The Supernova Star Squad took Andromeda, the robot they had designed and built to compete against 87 other teams from around Australia and from all over the World. The team looked very spiffy in their team shirts (design by Hannah Meier) and acted with 'Gracious Professionalism' ('clap'-whooooo) towards every opponent and alliance team. Our Drive Team demonstrated impressive skill and diplomacy. Our Mechanical and Electrical Teams were all over repairs and modifications. Our Scouting Team kept tabs on the other robots; feeding back important information to the Drive Team. Our Safety Officers kept us safe. Last but definitely not least, our Promo team collected the most badges and impressed the judges with our QR Coded badges making it possible for people to be taken straight to our beautiful website designed by our Media Team. Check us out at <http://supernova-star-squad.weebly.com/> and keep an eye out for the new and improved Andromeda for the Duel Down Under held in July this year.

**A big thank you to Carl Holmesby for mentoring the team and our bus driver Mr Nott!**

### **Speed limit for vehicles on school grounds**

Please be advised that in line with Department of Education policy, the maximum speed limit on all school grounds is 10km/hour. The safety of all members of our school community is paramount.

## Moorambilla Letters of Offer



During Term 1 a group of students participated in the annual Moorambilla Skills Workshop. Following this workshop, a group of 33 students have been offered positions in this year's Moorambilla workshop and concert program. The names of the successful students are as follows:

Alexander McWhirter	Felicity Maher
Bianca Bragg	Monique Bragg
Ava Hippisley	Brodie Regan-Christison
Amy Maher	Artemis Pech
Siarne Davis	Mya Stone
Riley Mills	Riley Fleming
Amali Edmondstone	Tully Andrews
Hunter Andrews	Liam Russell
Wyatt Ernest	Jaxson Mitchell
Jezekiah Brown	Josie Strong
Claudia Heaney	Rachael Evans
Benton Ernest	Josie Bartlett
Sha'e Davis	Polly Habbits
Neo Imrie	Olivia Meier
Wolf Stone	Lachlan Eshman
Koben Vincent	Armand Pech
Jasmine Bartholomew	

Well done to all of these students! As all of the registrations for the Moorambilla program have to be done online, students can see Mrs Rossler if they need assistance with accessing a computer and/or the Internet. We will organise a session after school before 1 June 2019 for students to complete the registration online at school. We will also be doing lots of fundraising to assist students so please support us! **Aimee Rossler**

## Mark Walton, Café Latte orchestra and our Music Students

Mark Walton together with the Café Latte orchestra visited Coonabarabran High School on Wednesday 10 April. Mark has been teaching nine students via Skype every Monday, Wednesday and Friday since last year and on Wednesday, the students had the first opportunity this year to have a face-to-face lesson with Mark. The students – Megan Hain, Ellah Bowmaker, Olivia Meier, Monique Bragg, Sam Pickette, Declan Eshman, Riley Fleming, Caleb Smith and Alexander McWhirter – each had an individual lesson with Mark.

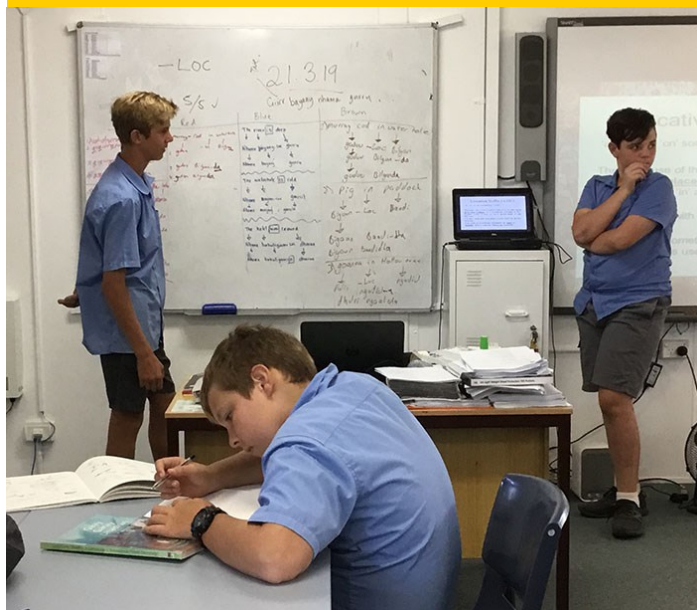
In the evening, these nine students, the CHS Jazz Band as well as other CHS music students performed in a concert in the school hall. There were some lovely performances and all students should be congratulated not only on their performances, but also their preparation and commitment. The members of the Jazz Band in particular have been giving up many lunch times to get ready for their performance and should be commended for their time and effort. All the students who participated did the school proud. Mark ended the concert with a beautiful performance of some pieces included in one of the books he published. The CHS Jazz Band then performed a piece entitled *Pokare Ana* (arranged by Mark) together with the Café Latte orchestra. A huge thank you goes to Mark and the Café Latte orchestra for stopping in Coonabarabran on their tour to Broken Hill, and for making the time to work with the students. The students who performed in the concert are as follows:

Milly Smith, Tashani Clarke, Larni Smith, Matilda Pickette, Olivia Meier, Megan Hain, Ellah Bowmaker, Monique Bragg, Declan Eshman, Sam Pickette, Riley Fleming, Caleb Smith, Alex McWhirter, Lachlan Eshman, Lawrance Little, Lachlan Meier, Shafin Salim, Bill Dare, Blake Murnane, Jayden Moore, Felicity Maher, Liam Russell and Vance McDonald.

**Aimee Rossler**



## Year 8 Indigenous Language Studies



Students in Year 8 are now learning Gamilaraay language as part of their mandatory language (other than English) studies in Year 8, under the enthusiastic guidance of Mr Craig Ashby and Miss Melinda Quigley and with support from Mrs Alison Stanton our AEO. The students have made great gains in their learning and have embraced learning about the language and culture of the Gamilaraay People.

“Having a great time, send money...”



Molly Shannon, Ruby Allison and Hugo Bunner

"Having a great time, send money". This is the quote that John Sawyer said in the Raznse briefing day (Rotary Australia New Zealand student exchange program) on February 16th. My name is Ruby Allison, (pictured in the middle) one of the 3 Coonabarabran High School students who are leaving for New Zealand on 6th April. The two other candidates are Hugo Bunner and Molly Shannon. We were all informed who our matches were on 1st of December 2018. We keep in regular contact and count the days until I fly over to Whanganui to stay with my student match.

Last year when the school was announcing about the student exchange program, I was hesitant to do it as it was only my first year being in Coonabarabran in 2018. But I decide to just do it and try, as teachers always encourage you to try new things and well if your mum is a teacher then you get twice the encouragement. After piles of paperwork (not really) and a few interviews I was waiting about two months to hear back from the Rotary to see if I got accepted and a match. The date we were getting an email for that was on 1st December 2018, 4 days before my 15th birthday.

I'm beyond excited to be flying over for the 3 month exchange program. I just want to thanks the district 9650 for donating some money to the Coonabarabran students to help us and for purchasing us the snazzy cool jackets, t-shirts, jumpers and backpacks.

*by Ruby Allison*



## Miss Suthons' visit to Year 11 Music



The Year 11 Music class is currently doing an overview of Renaissance Music. On Wednesday 8 May, Ms Di Suthons visited the class and demonstrated her two viola da gambas to the students. These instruments are typical of the Renaissance and Baroque Eras in Music. The Music students were lucky enough to get to try out the instruments as well and were taught the basics of viola playing by Ms Suthons. I'd like to thank Ms Suthons for making the time to visit us and show us her instruments, and for allowing the students to try them out. **Aimee Rossler**



# Senior Debating



On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March the senior debating team consisting of Harry Williams, Cobey Smith, Annabelle Shannon and Luke Bonello headed off to Gulgong for our first round of debating for the year, regrettably Hannah Meier, who is also a member of our team was unable to make this trip. We hopped in the school car and prepared for another legendary road trip. We arrived in Gulgong at 10.30am and were greeted by Ms Lisa Turner, coach for the Gulgong team. We then went to meet the opposing team and select our topic. The topic decided on was 'That the ATAR for University entrance for a teaching degree should be increased'. We were the affirmative side and we headed into lockdown and prep time.

The actual debate was both illuminating and entertaining as both teams argued their points well. This was Luke's first time debating with us and he did a great job as third speaker bringing our argument home and sealing our win.

Our team was then invited to have lunch with the Gulgong side where our students all chatted enjoying each other's company. The Gulgong team were friendly and welcoming and so it was with some reluctance that we finally left.

Overall, the day was a resounding success on all levels and we look forward to our next debate which will be held here in Coonabarabran.

## A frozen heart by Ayla Hoffmann

Her heart is as hard and as cold as silver, slowly sinking deeper into darkness.  
She pushes everyone away and locks her feelings inside.  
The pain in her chest gets worse every day but she doesn't care.  
She pushes forward not worrying about her feelings, saying she'll never love again.

# 50 Word Novel winners



Junior School: Highly Commended – Ayla Hoffmann; Overall Winner – Ava Hippisley  
Senior School: Highly Commended – Bill Dare; Overall Winner – Cobey Smith  
Staff Winner: Tina Pech

## The Milky Way by Ava Hippisley

“Warrambul,” the elder says, “the Milky Way in the stars, as silver as it’s ever been, shines the night away, until the sun comes around and brings light to day. But still there’s the Milky Way, dancing like swinging leaves in the water. The Milky Way shines forever for you.”

## The Forgotten Screams by Cobey Smith

Look at them,  
Dining in their castles,  
While we, the forgotten,  
Become a mere thought.  
Why must one's worth  
Be defined by their birth?  
I can hear it. Can you?  
Whispers becoming screams  
Rumours becoming an uprising.  
You were fed by the silver spoon,  
And that will be your doom

## The Sword by Bill Dare

It shone like a diamond in a case, so beautiful.  
It zinged and zoomed through the air like a bird  
in the wind.  
Sharp enough to make even the strongest of armour  
look like paper.  
This sword perfectly crafted of silver that had  
such ornate drawings on it.  
Beautiful.

## We see you by Tina Pech

You are the foundations  
Of dreams,  
Creators of reality,  
Shining examples,  
Blazing a silver trail of  
Successful invisibility  
Behind you.

# Coonabarabran High SPORT

## Coonabarabran Open Girls Surprise the Critics at the NW KO Gala Day



The Open Girls' Basketball team started with a great win in the first round against Narrabri. It wasn't a high scoring game but it was super intense and the girls were able to rebound their way to a win. The second round game didn't lack in intensity either. Quirindi were expecting this game to be a push over but it was far from it. The Coona girls out rebounded this team of representative players and really put it to them down the court. Unfortunately the score didn't reflect the effort and passion displayed by Coona. Stand out players were Matilda, Niamh and Wilmie. Surprise packets were Aleah and Finlay.



## Coonabarabran High Lawn Bowls' Team



The Coonabarabran High Bowls' team consisting of Thomas Bowman, Sam Bowman and Tyson Heywood have made a consistent start to this year's North West Knockout. The first round the boys played away to Narrabri, coming away with a 20-18 win, in a game where Coonabarabran would have a booming end, going 6 or so shots up, only for Narrabri to claw it back. In the second round Coonabarabran came up against Quirindi, who knocked them out last year, in a see-sawing nail biter. Both teams were well served by solid skips, however, the game kept turning on who of the other bowlers currently held sway. In the end Coonabarabran took the honours 22-19 which puts them in the semi-finals against an, as yet, un-named team.



## North West Golf Trials success

On the last day of term one, Harrison Milford, Keely Milford, Bailey Milford and Matilda Chapman travelled over to Tamworth to play in the North West Golf Trials. It has been a few years since Coonabarabran High has had such a strong presence at the trials, which is great for the sport in Coonabarabran. The students were all paired off and took to the course to do their best and at the end of the day all four students were selected to represent North West at the Combined High Schools Golf Championships. This is a fantastic result especially as Harrison is only in Year 7 and we wish them well in Yamba on 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> June at the State titles.



## 2019 Cross Country Age Champions

On 1st May all students from Coonabarabran High assembled at the Racecourse to take part in the Annual Cross Country. The cool conditions looked good for some fast times as the uncharacteristic warm days of the past few weeks had mellowed slightly leaving a slightly overcast day for the run. It is always a surprise to see how fast the first runners make it around the track and their training in PE classes last term helped them tackle the course with ease. The following were the age champions;

	Girls	Boys
12	Ellah Hanney	Dustyn Owers
13	Kayla Smith	Kurt Rutter
14	Alex Letts	Nash Walker
15	Amarlee Vallette	Matt Wood
16	Claudia Eastburn	Harrison Willoughby
17	Octavia Whale	Connor Hughes

The top 4 students in each age group along with these winners are eligible to represent Coonabarabran High at the North West Regional Cross Country at Mullaley on 14th June. The house points were Tibuc 214, Mopra 188, Timor 185 and Nandi 179.



## North West Winter Trials

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 45 students who had made Castlereagh Zone teams in Open and U/15 Rugby League, Open Boys and Girls Football and Open Netball, travelled to Armidale to seek selection in their respective North West teams. It was a long and gruelling day with the students going through games in front of the selectors before possible and probable teams were picked. Quite a few Coonabarabran High students made it through to this level, which is a great achievement and at the end of the day, Brad Fuller U/15 Rugby League and Niamh Whittall Open Girls Football were chosen in their respective North West Teams. We congratulate these students and wish them luck representing North West at the state carnivals.

# Vietnam trip



On 17 April 2019, twelve Coonabarabran High School students participated in a 9-day tour of Vietnam where they explored historical and cultural sites across Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Students enjoyed exploring the food and culture as well as obtaining invaluable first-hand information about Vietnamese life and experiences of the Vietnam War. Of particular interest were the visits to the Ho Chi Minh mausoleum and Presidential Palace complex, the Hoa Loa Prison Museum (better known as the Hanoi Hilton), visiting a local school for disadvantaged and street children, exploring the Mekong Delta through a Homestay, the commemoration ceremony at Long Tan, and meeting a Vietnamese veteran from the Vietnam War. Excursion organiser Dr Michael Armstrong commended the students for their excellent attitude to experiencing and trying new things, for their respectful manner, and for making the most of the opportunities they were provided.

