

COONABARABRAN HIGH SCHOOL and P&C NEWSLETTER August 2019



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Ms M Doolan, Relieving Principal

www.coonabarabranhigh.com

Ms Karine Williams P&C President

Ms Mary Doolan Relieving Principal's Report



One of the characteristics of our school is the broad range of extra-curricular/enrichment activities that students enjoy, and the outstanding achievements which flow from these opportunities. Some highlights of the last four weeks include:

- Talisen Magee (Year 10) has won the 9/10 section of the prestigious Whitlam Institute: What Matters Competition.
- Samuel Abbott (Year 12) was ranked in the top 10 in an international essay competition run by the British Museum.
- Angus Lambert has just returned from London having participated in the International Youth Science Forum.
- Harry Williams has been selected to participate in next year's National Youth Science Forum.
- Annabelle Shannon and Lachlan Eshman have just returned from the Department of Education's Head Office in Parramatta as part of the Secretary for a Day program.
- Our unique Ag Skills Day was again a highly successful day, bringing together experts from our community, students from neighbouring schools and our own students to hone their knowledge and skills about this vital and dynamic industry.
- The Feast of Pi saw students benefit from the UNE Voyager Discovery Bus and UNSW STEM Outreach program.
- Our Robotics team recorded their most successful achievement at the recent Duel Down Under competition in Sydney, qualifying for the semi-finals.
- Sixteen students have qualified to compete at Combined High Schools athletics.
- Some of our students shared their knowledge of the Gamilaraay language with young people at Yuluwirri Kids as part of their NAIDOC celebrations.

My thanks to all staff and students for their support and active engagement in the above events. A reminder that Study Centre now operates Monday-Thursday. This is a great resource and a demonstrated support to students' learning. It has been great to see the strong take up of our new school jackets and hoodies evidenced by the growing sea of navy blue on morning assembly. Whilst attendance at school each day is clearly of prime importance to ensure that students maximise their opportunities for success, there is a strong body of research which supports that the wearing of school uniform builds a sense of belonging for students and fortifies a culture of respect within the school community.

CELEBRATE CHS!!

Making our mark!

Date: Friday 6th of September **Time: 7pm onwards**

Venue: Coonabarabran High School Hall

Gold Coin Entry

Refreshments will be available to purchase during the break

Come celebrate Coonabarabran High School students' success!

Principal's Report continued from page 1...

Both jackets and hoodies can be purchased from the accounts office for \$55.

Week 6 of term is School Administrative and Support Staff (SASS) Recognition Week. This is a timely reminder to both recognise and express our gratitude for the myriad and vital roles that these staff undertake in our school. Put simply, our schools could not run without their knowledge and expertise. At Coonabarabran High, the SASS include our teacher's aides, farm assistant, general assistant, Library, Science and TAS Faculty assistants and our administration team.

On behalf of our school community, our thanks for their dedication to our students, staff and community. Next Thursday at 6pm in our hall will be an important night for Year 10 as they consider their subject selections for senior school. We hope to see a good roll up of parents and carers to this informative and important evening.

A reminder that our Term 3 Staff Development Day will be held next Friday 30 August to facilitate staff training. Students do not attend on that day.

Finally, our P&C meet next Monday at 5.30pm in the school library. A recent indication of the invaluable support that the P&C provide to our students was the fundraiser on Sunday 11 August in support of the Year 10 excursion next term. New members are most welcome!

Wishing all a rain filled second half of the term!

MaryDoolan

Congratulations Talisen Magee winner of Year 9/10 Whitlam Institute: What Matters Competition



Rain is the hot topic around here. It's all anyone is talking about. Maybe it's always been a hot topic. Australian farmers throughout history have always encountered drought.

Happiness measured in millilitres.

"When is it going to rain?"

"Did you get any rain at your place?"

"How much rain did you get?"

"Did it miss you?"

Stories of huge, looming, billowing clouds forming are told. These enormous, imposing, Armageddon like clouds that fill the horizon, contain no water. They carry with them only huge amounts of dust. Thankfully they don't last too long and only come around occasionally. They do leave everything very dusty after they pass though.

What our small town lacks in rain, we make up for in community spirit. Bales are donated, volunteers helping out however they can. It is in these times that a town gets to know itself and show itself to others. I arrived at school to see my friends all talking and I walked up to them. I remember talking to them about the drought and one of them brings up the weather forecast which would be the same as it has been for a while: NO RAIN.

Drought in a Small Town...A common Australian Experience

*Although it's only early in the day, it's already starting to heat up. The heat feels as though it's bouncing off the streets. It's going to be one of those days when the sweat sits on your forehead and runs down your back and your mouth is as dry as a desert.
Weather forecast: NO RAIN.*

I started the familiar journey to my country high school. Dead lawns that were once green and lush, and thirsty trees fill our town. A picture, not of neglect, but a statement of the severity of the drought. The heat of this day is rising still. It's a dry heat here, or so I am told. I see an elderly lady carrying a heavy, full bucket of water to her roses in an attempt to keep them alive. The ease of a garden hose is a banned luxury.

Every second ute that drives by is carting a square water tank on its back. This is a dry little town of lost gardens and water restrictions.

It makes me think about all the animals that the farmers are struggling to take care of with the lack of water and not to mention their crops, if they even have any left. Stories of livestock being hand fed everyday are common. No holidays, no break, no days off for these farmers.

I continued past the empty Castlereagh. How the mighty has fallen. Cracked earth is the only remnant of a once abundant landscape. Memories of fishing here return to me. Days spent in the green grass beside a full, fast flowing river. Now it's dry and empty. I see a lone duck optimistically swimming in the one remaining puddle.

P&C President's Report

This has been a quiet term for Fundraising activity, but the P&C are working on a number of opportunities—one is coming soon so please keep an eye out for more communication on this. It will be a 5-10 minute activity that we will be asking parents and the community to do online.

I am looking forward to another fabulous CHS Showcase evening on Friday 6th September, where our students have the opportunity to share their many talents with the rest of the community—hope to see you there.

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

Karine Williams

**Next P&C Association Meeting
will be held
Monday 26 August
5:30pm School Library
ALL WELCOME**

COONABARABRAN HIGH SCHOOL P&C

July 2019

OPENING BALANCE \$15,239.79

EXPENSES

Float
Horse Expo

Total \$0.00

INCOME

Memberships
Float Repay
Cherry Drive
Dark Sky Feast
Horse Expo
C/Bran Show Gate Takings

\$1,168.15

Total \$1,168.15

CLOSING BALANCE \$16,407.94

Profit (Loss) for July \$1,168.15

Profit (Loss) for 2019 \$7,114.48

ME Working Bee



Students from the CHS ME program participated in a working bee on Thursday 25 July. Together with their mentors they cleaned up the Aboriginal Garden and quad areas with great enthusiasm.



The morning was enjoyed by all, especially the cake and quiche at morning tea.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the morning possible.



COONABARABRAN HIGH SCHOOL

P&C MEETING 29TH JULY 2019



Welcome:
Meeting Opened
5:30 pm

Attendance (as per attendance book)

Present: Gary Erickson, Duncan Graham, Philip van Schalkwyk, Ansie van Schalkwyk, Sue Hincks, Skye Lambert, Mary Doolan, Semret Goitom, Karine Williams.

Apologies: Stephen Turner

Motion: The apologies be accepted.

Moved:	Skye	Seconded:	Semret	Carried:	Yes
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Previous Minutes:

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

Moved:	Skye	Seconded:	Ansie	Carried:	Yes
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Business arising from Previous Minutes

Nil

Guest Speaker / Special Notices

Mark Fosdick – A potential funding opportunity has come to his attention
Local Volts is establishing a new business where you can share electricity and is ready to test website
“localvolts.com” and people who access and attempt to buy or sell through the P&C website \$5.00 will
be given to the P&C
P&C will need to specify a start date for the thirty-day promotional period
Karine will check out website and activate as appropriate.

Correspondence

In:

Notification Insurance is Due
P&C Magazine

Out:

Condolence card for Anne Fosdick
Feast of words grant request
Stem project funding
Correspondence from Elisabeth Macintosh – morning tea lunch and afternoon tea quote from canteen
Email to Teresa Brett, thanking her for her donation.

Motion that the Correspondence be accepted.

Moved:	Sue	Seconded:	Semret	Carried:	Yes
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Reports

President's Report (optional)

As published in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report

Kitty transferred show gate funds from school to P&C
Profit year to date is \$7,114.00

Motion: The treasurer's report be accepted

Moved:	Skye	Seconded:	Ansie	Carried:	Yes
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COONABARABRAN HIGH SCHOOL

P&C MEETING 29TH JULY 2019



Canteen Report

So far our profit for 2019 is \$6,540 accounts looking healthy. With the new single touch payroll system transferring accounts to Reckon to assist with the increasing complexity of the canteen accounts and payroll.

Currently paying for telephone services and rental – Mary will check

Motion: The Canteen Report be accepted

Moved:	Sue	Seconded:	Skye	Carried:	Yes
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Principal's Report

Staffing Update

Brenda Young has extended her leave

Unsuccessful getting a replacement PE teacher, means Mel Jenner has returned to PE

NESA Audit feedback

Communication

Attendance

Stage 6 (year 11 and 12) assessment

They were very happy with our systems and process

Education week –

Secretary for a day,

Ag Skills,

Feast of Pi on Friday. Dinner at Feathers on Thursday night

School Painting Update – School maintenance is being pushed by the premier and lots of painting will be happening

Parent teacher night – tomorrow night from 4 – 7 pm

Staff PL – PBL and Bridges out of poverty

Generates a universal matrix defining acceptable behaviors

Bridges out of poverty – teacher training for disadvantaged children – about developing relationships.

CHS ME (Mentoring Experience)

Has begun, looks at students who have possibility of disengagement with learning

Has been positive.

Festival of Big ideas – Thurs 22, Fri 23 August

HSIE – some keynote speaker on Thursday and activities on Friday

It is the extracurricular activities that make our school special

Jackets and hoodies

Now available and are well accepted.

NAIDOC celebration was phenomenal, there will be link to the video on the website.

Deputy Principal's Report

School robotics returned from Dual down under and were semifinalists

Positive feedback coming in from trials – students have come back with a positive attitude

Wednesday sport is now revision for year 12 HSC

Single cup – 13th August

Prefect election process has begun – Teacher and Peers to nominate candidates

CHS Showcase – 6 September

Northwest athletics this Friday

Staff development day on 30 August and is a Pupil free day.

General Business:

Flight Simulator

Running out of funds – NAB initial sponsor has been asked to extend their sponsorship

Cost of upgrades to computer is \$3,500.00

Equipment is currently 9 years old

Possibly use funds raised by local volts promotion to help fund upgrades.

2357 partnership are looking for someone to do a food stall at the Sunday markets

Car club contacted Ansie to do a food stall at their car boot sale on 10 August at racecourse for fundraising for year 10 excursion.

Ansie proposed a valentine day ball for 2020

Proposed catering for a concert proposed by 2357 partnership.

Date of Next Meeting
5:30 pm 26 August 2019 (High School Library)
Meeting Closed: 7:34 pm

AG SKILLS DAY



Introducing students to, and promoting awareness of the diverse range of skills in the agriculture industry through hands-on experience in small groups

The contribution of the Year 12 Primary Industries students, Ag classes and the cattle leading team means Coona High is ready to welcome the thirty eight workshop presenters and students and staff from Coonabarabran, Binnaway, Mendooran, Baradine and Gilgandra who attending this 2019 Ag Skills Day. It was a welcome sight when the first of the Primary Industries class arrived to help set up at 6:30am. The weather is always topical and this year all four seasons and an intermittent polar blast was the experience.

There is always a huge diversity of skills offered at the Ag Skills Day. We are fortunate to have so many people who give their time, are passionate about agriculture and donate animals or equipment to make school a more interesting, relevant experience for our students. Repeat workshops such as Mud Brick Building delivered by Wes Leedham and Carl Holmesby; Firearm Safety by Kevin and Robin Barrington; Fire Safety with Joan Poyser and Andrew Young from the RFS; Sheep husbandry with Kate Davies; Kerry Birrell's much anticipated Horse Care sessions; the incredible Wool workshop with Phil Hensby; Pig Assessment with Richard Cole; Fencing and Electric Fencing with John Tilborgs and Marty Wilkin respectively; Welding with Ken Zingel, Greg Larkin and Richard Fleming; Steer Assessment with Mark Doyle; Farm Safety with David Hunter from the NSW Ambulance Service; James Fleming, complemented by UNE Voyager Discovery Bus, introduced students to soil testing; Kirsty Robberts explained soil fungi; Ange Bunner involved students in Regenerative Agriculture; Callen Thompson covered weed management, Anthony O'Halloran showed how to extract native oils through distillation; Richard Avendano worked on crop technology, Antony Varugu tested the steadiness of student hands when they selectively bred chickpeas as part of his research at Narrabri Research Station; Kevin Keeler was a first timer running pipe fittings; Kevin Bell and Craig Ervine brought their magnificent sheep dogs; Ed Ford returned with Rope Making; the Voyager band also involved students in different sampling and identification of pollinators and measurement of vegetation biomass and diversity. Kelly Leedham and May Fleming introduced Bird Identification to the Ag Skills Day.

We are indebted to the Community for the generosity they show each year in providing such a valuable learning experience for all our students. We are also most grateful for, and rely heavily on, Equity funds which are distributed by the State Government to our school to support student education and counter the socio-economic disadvantage of our school due to isolation and the economy. **The school canteen once again supplied a sumptuous banquet.**



Feast of Pi

UNSW Outreach Program

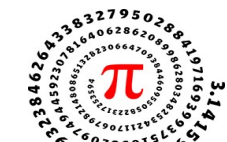
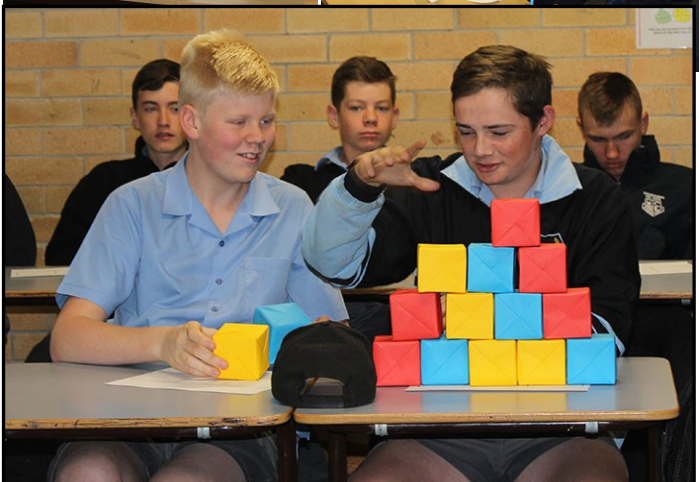


On Monday 29th July, Coonabarabran High School hosted a team of scientists and mathematicians from the UNSW Outreach Program. They provided three activities for students to participate in – the digital planetarium was set up in the hall, and there was also a chemistry and mathematics workshop.

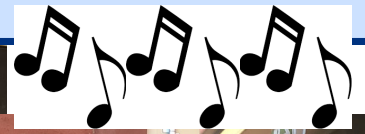
All our junior students were allocated a time slot to attend at least one activity. All the activities were engaging and practical and were very well received.

This was the first of two major activities that will be held as part of the CHS 'Feast of Pi' annual event.

Unfortunately, the annual Feast of Pi dinner had to be postponed due to unforeseen circumstances.



AMEB Music Exams



Five Music students who are currently having Skype lessons with Mark Walton played AMEB Music Exams in the past week. On Wednesday 7 August, Alex McWhirter played his Grade 2 Trumpet exam. Four students played their exams on Tuesday 13 August – they were Olivia Meier (Grade 2 Clarinet), Ellah Bowmaker (Grade 1 Clarinet), Megan Hain (Grade 1 Clarinet) and Declan Eshman (Grade 3 Saxophone). All these students put a huge amount of work into their preparation and spent many hours rehearsing after school and on weekends – that's apart from having Skype lessons during their lunch times. A HUGE thank you goes to Mark Walton, who has not only taught the students, but who has – and continues to – inspire them to do their best. **Aimee Rossler**

Science Week

Can you have too much 'sciencey' Fun? The Science Faculty says no way! It was great to see so many students explore the science what was on offer at lunchtime during Science Week; there was the 'Paper Plane Challenge', the 'Robotics Obstacle Course', the 'Water Rocket Blast Off', for the movie buffs, a film discovering the amazing world of slime, and who could forget (as it is still all over the dais) the 'Non Newtonian Fluid Fun'. Thank you to everyone who got involved. Congratulations to the winners of the Cryptic Science Inquiry Questions. Happy Sciencing!



Robotics update

The Duel Down Under was yet another full-on but totally worth it experience for our robotics crew 'The Supernova Star Squad'. After a very productive and stressful first day of attaching the new 'cargo' arm mechanism (courtesy of Jack), trouble shooting issues like; it's too high, how do we replace the battery now, crazy coding and controlling the robot (just to name a few). All worth it! The team progressed further than they have so far in the competition (second semi) which was an amazing effort. Thanks to the dedication of the team, the mentors including Carl and The Observatory, our bus driver Mr Rayner, and the chocolatey goodness package and help from the Newton's.



Coonabarabran High School Robotics Team

schools tree day



Schools Tree Day in Australia occurs on Friday July 26th. As part of their studies in Geography, students in Year 7 participated in a competition that required them to produce a creative piece for Tree Day. Students focused on deforestation and rainforest protection. They produced some wonderful work, including songs, speeches, and poems.

Jack Foster was awarded with best overall effort, receiving a Coonabarabran Bakery voucher in recognition. He presented his speech on assembly, Thursday 25th. Jack's speech was engaging and informative, and he is to be commended on his confidence. The following students also received a prize for their efforts:

Best researched: Bree O'Neill and Maisie Bell
Most creative: Austin Alberts, Cooper McGlashan and Luke Richards
Bravest: Lauralee Peters

Congratulations to all students who participated and well done!

Secretary for a Day

Local students ready to have voices heard
at Education HQ

Year 11 student Annabelle Shannon and Year 10 student Lachlan Eshman have been selected from more than 120 applications for the 2019 Secretary for a Day.

The valuable two-day program brings students from across the state to the department's offices in Parramatta in the first week of August, as part of Education Week activities.

This year's participants will work with Education Department staff to achieve positive change for schools and student learning and have the opportunity to influence system development.

As part of the program Annabelle and Lachlan will also take part in creative and cultural advocacy and leadership workshops with industry and education experts.

Education Week is a statewide, annual event that aims to showcase and celebrate the achievements of NSW's public school system, its students and staff.

Check out education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools

At Coonabarabran High school, we will be marking Education Week with two important events, our annual and unique Ag Skills Day on Thursday 8th and our celebration of matters STEM, the Feast of Pi on Friday 9th.

Congratulations to Annabelle and Lachlan, selected to take part in 2019 Secretary for a Day

#EdWeek19 education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools

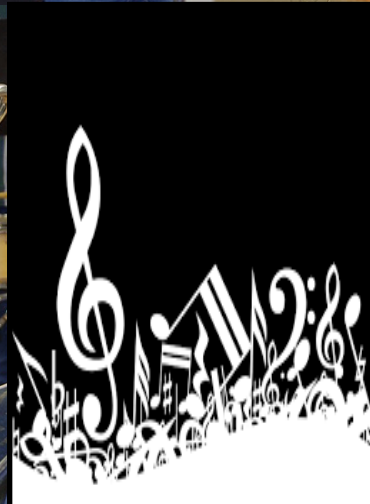




New England Band and Vocal Camp at Lake Keepit



Six CHS students participated in this year's New England Band and Vocal Camp at Lake Keepit. Declan Eshman (saxophone), Lachlan Eshman (trombone), Riley Fleming (saxophone), Shafin Salim (percussion) and Megan Hain (clarinet) participated in the Band Camp, and Lauralee Peters participated in the Vocal Camp. Students arrived at Lake Keepit on Sunday 4 August and participated in band/vocal workshops until the end of the camp on Friday 9 August. The camp concluded with a concert for all the parents. Students at the band camp also had intensive tutorials with instrumental tutors. The band camp was organised by the Department of Education's Arts Unit. All the students had a great time and learnt a lot. The school also received a lovely email from the organisers commenting on the fact that the "students were fantastic" that they were "great representatives of their school". A huge thank you goes to all the parents for all their support and help with transport. Congratulations to these six students! **Aimee Rossler**



SAM ABBOTT BRITISH MUSEUM WRITING COMPETITION SUCCESS!!



Coonabarabran High School would like to say a huge congratulations to Yr 12 Ancient History student, Samuel Abbott, on his shortlisting in a recent British Museum writing competition! Samuel wrote a provoking and well re-

searched piece assessing the significance of the Exodus script in understanding Egyptian history. His winning 1500 word paper provides him with lifetime membership to the British Museum and access to their famous archives.

Well done Samuel!

Yuluwirri Kids NAIDOC Day

During NAIDOC Week Mr Ashby and Mrs Stanton along with some of our year 8 students attended Yuluwirri NAIDOC Day. The students helped to teach Gamilaraay Language, which they have been learning in LOTE to some of the children. It was a great morning. **Thank you to Yuluwirri Kids for inviting us.**



ASPIRE



ASPIRE is an outreach program run by the University of New South Wales. The program recognises regional teens face unique issues in relation to higher education, such as missing out on vital resources and information about university due to location. Students from Years 10-12 participated in a variety of ASPIRE workshops on August 15 to help them understand post-HSC pathways. The sessions were informative and students were well behaved and enthusiastic. Thank you to all staff and students who ensured the day was such a success!

Year 11 Biology excursion



On Monday 19th August the Year 11 biology class visited the Warrumbungles to carry out field work as part of the ecosystems module of work. During the day students developed their skills in a range of techniques used to study living and non-living components of the environment. By the end of the day the students could competently use a range of devices and techniques to collect reliable data.

Coonabarabran High SPORT



North West Athletics Carnival 2019



On Friday 2 August, 38 Coonabarabran High students made the annual trip to Tamworth for the North West Athletics Carnival. The conditions were great with sun and a light wind to keep the temperatures down. Expectations were high and it proved correct with a record number of students qualifying for the state carnival. The spirit of the team was shown when the students were asked to help out Miss Benson running the Javelin, as the school supplying students had to withdraw at the last minute. Our students made sure she was taken care of throughout the day even making runs to the canteen to keep Miss Benson fed and watered. Well done Coonabarabran High students, you are a caring bunch. We wish the best to the following students who will represent North West at the Combined High Schools Carnival on the 4 – 6 September in Sydney.

Claudia Eastburn	2 nd 1500m
Meg Underwood	2 nd Long Jump
Charlie Isedale	2 nd Discus
Lachlan Eshman	2 nd Triple Jump
Octavia Whale	2 nd 200m, 2 nd 400m
Charlotte Thompson	1 st Javelin
Alirah Watton	1 st Shot Put
Maddi Heywood	1 st Javelin
Dustyn Owers	1 st 800m
Matt Kenyon	1 st High Jump, 3 rd Long Jump
Niamh Whittall	1 st 400m, 1 st Triple Jump
Harry Willoughby	1 st 800m, 1 st 1500m
Kurt Rutter	1 st High Jump, 1 st Javelin, 1 st Discus
Siarne Davis	1 st Shot Put, 2 nd Discus

Junior Basketball



After an amazing effort against Quirindi both the Boy's and Girl's Junior Basketball Teams just missed out on making it to through to the final. Both teams played above and beyond, it was delightful to watch. Mission for next year...hit more baskets!



SINGLE CUP 2019