

# Woolgoolga High School

## Newsletter

Issue 20 · December 16 , 2016



## Woolgoolga High School celebrates best HSC results for many years!



### *Congratulations on your ATAR results*

Alisha Phoonie	98.05
Tarun Mills-Izard	94.95
Bianca McNeill	93.25
Zoe Schmidt	90.70
Emily King	89.75
Jackson Wolfe	89.35
Katie Langhorn	88.95
Bronte Donohoe	88.6
Patrick Mullan	86.7
James Bhorla	81.95

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## From the Principal's Desk

Our HSC results arrived yesterday.

### **What a present for the school!**

I cannot believe how quickly the year has passed. I wish all students, staff, parents, caregivers and community members a happy and safe Christmas.

The Annual Presentation Assembly was an outstanding success and I would like to once again publically thank all of our community for continuing to support our very successful school.

The Dux speech by Simran Maan in particular was inspiring and thought provoking. It was great to see our local Federal Member for Page, Mr Kevin Hogan attend as well as our Director of Public Schools, Jenny Murray.

Congratulations once again to our many worthy award winners.

Our HSC results arrived yesterday. **What a present for the school!** Alisha Phoonie was placed on the HSC All Round Achievers List. A list where students achieve a Band 6 result in five subjects at the HSC. Congratulations Alisha.

Year 12 achieved 19 Band 6 results and 62 Band 5 results from a small cohort of 77 students. This is outstanding for our school. I want to congratulate all of our Year 12 students and all of our staff for the fantastic effort they have put into achieving at the highest level at the HSC. Many of our students have already been offered places in university courses many have gained employment and many are targeting their next level of education through pathways such as TAFE.

All students at Woolgoolga High School have been prepared for their individual futures. They are an exceptional group of young adults and the whole school feels proud of their achievements. It is easy to be a proud Principal when you have such fine students to work with on a daily basis.

Have a great Christmas everyone.

Until next time  
Guy Wright  
Principal



**IMPORTANT COMING EVENTS**

Dec—Fri 16	Last day for students
Dec—19 to 20	Staff development day
Jan 2017— Fri 27	Staff return
Jan 2017 — Mon 30	Years 7, 11, 12
Jan 2017— Tue 31	Years 8, 10

**The WHS P & C  
meets on the  
second Tuesday of  
every month at  
6.30pm**

*Wishing everyone  
a safe and happy  
holiday season*

School resumes in 2017: Staff—Friday 27th January  
Years 7, 11 and 12—Monday 30th January  
Years 8 & 10—Tuesday 31st January



Uniform shop special opening hours:

January—23rd to 25th  
from 9.00am to 12.00pm

January—30th and 31st  
from 9.00am to 12.00pm

February—1st to 3rd  
from 8.10am to 11.30am



# SUCCESS CROWNS EFFORT

Alex Feeney, an ex-student of Woolgoolga High just graduated with first class honours from Sydney University Medical School (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery).

After being inspired during work experience in Year 10 with physiotherapist Martin Giles, Alex began really working hard at school with the goal to achieve the 95 ATAR he needed to study physiotherapy.

Alex completed his HSC in 2005 with an ATAR of 97.3, just behind that year's dux, Nick Morley. After a gap year which included working in the mines at Mt Isa, he went on to graduate as a physiotherapist in 2011. After two years as a practising physio he was accepted into Sydney University Medical School.

He was one of the few students to make the Dean's List for academic excellence 4 years in a row.



## Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery Honours Class I

- Marie Bashir Prize (Top student at clinical school)
- John Glenton Watson Prize (For Leadership and Goodfellowship)
- Kuringai District Medical Association Prize (Top in internal medicine)
- Leon Clark Prize (Top in obstetrics and gynaecology)

Alex will start his career as a doctor at John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle in January.

## Homestay Hosts Wanted

We are looking for caring families and individuals to provide a wonderful home away from home for international students attending Woolgoolga High School.

Must be able to provide meals and a Working with Children Check for all adults.

Hosts receive \$270 per week for a single room. Short (1 term) to long (4 terms) stays are available.

Apply online at [www.staydownunder.com.au](http://www.staydownunder.com.au)

For further information contact Stay DownUnder on **(02) 8901 4499**

Or school co-ordinator Mr Phil Dalton **(02 6654 1500)**





## Community & Family Studies Participating in the local “Share the Dignity” program

**Help us to Share the Dignity by giving the gift of a little luxury to women experiencing hardship this Christmas!**

This was the message via social media that sparked our class interest in a project which we could be involved in to give back to the community.

Christmas is a joyous time of year where we get to spend time with family and friends, exchange gifts and feast on festive banquets and treats. Some people in our community are not so fortunate and feel more alone and vulnerable at this time of year. It's an incredibly difficult time for the homeless, especially women; including teenage girls, and those women fleeing domestic violence.

Woolgoolga High School's Senior Community and Family Studies class showed some love and support to those less fortunate and provided them with the dignity of knowing someone understands and cares for them.

As a society, we seem to manage the needs of children at Christmas, ensuring they're cared for and made to feel special, but the same can't always be said for those women who put the needs of others before their own or those who are less fortunate.

The "It's in the Bag" Christmas campaign asked the community to donate a handbag that you no longer use, fill it with items that would make a woman feel special and even pop a thoughtful note into the bag to show her that someone cares and that she matters. A combination of essential and/or luxury items can be included which will make any woman feel loved.

Woolgoolga High's staff and students got behind this initiative and donated many goods and bags. The girls spent a morning filling the bags with items such as pads, tampons, cleansing wipes, tissues, deodorants, perfume, soap, shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrush, hair ties and hair brush, sunscreen, gift vouchers, meal vouchers jewelry, trinkets, lotions, creams, notebook and pen, lip balm, socks and undies or face washers.



**Making up the bags with goodies.**

Thank you to everyone who donated items and for helping us to Share the Dignity #itsinthebag. The aim was to provide homeless and at risk women nationally with bags filled with items to help women with the bare necessities that all women should have to allow them a sense of dignity at a time when they need it most. No woman should suffer the indignity of choosing between eating and buying sanitary items. Our class was proud to be a part of something so worthy and I was impressed by the way the students in the class genuinely cared and showed empathy for others.

Teacher: Mrs Fluechter December 2016



Last year's camp (Great Aussie Bush Camp) was fun but we were always busy, this year's camp was more relaxing and we really got to know each other better"

## THUNDERBIRD PARK

A wonderful group of Year 10 students went to beautiful Mount Tamborine during week 6 of this term. The views as we travelled up the mountain were nothing short of spectacular.

### YEAR 10 CAMP 2016



There were team challenges galore that the students needed to complete to gain access to the "Mountain Mudda". The students even convinced their Year Advisor, Mrs Dorahy, to Jump in the Mud!

Our first activity was Raft Building. The students were taught skills step by step, and worked amazingly in teams to produce some "interesting" designs. Some of them were quite effective – for a short time at least.







We were lucky enough to have a natural rock pool to clean off in afterwards, that's if you enjoy bathing in icy cold water!

We also had the amazing "Tree Top Challenge" experience. Students were so supportive and encouraging towards each other – and Declan even kept Mrs Dorahy moving forward when she was struggling with some of the tasks. There were zip lines and tightropes – plenty to test strength and endurance. It was very safe and all students were trained before they were allowed to hook onto the course.

The feedback from the Activity coordinator at the camp was very positive. Jamie said this group "was the best High School Group they have had all year", particularly when it came to working in teams. I am so proud of them, and look forward to many more positive experiences with this year group over the next 2 years. The students spoke about how much they enjoyed the "free time" sitting around the rock pools and the natural environment. Many had a chance to speak with students they didn't really know that well prior to camp.

"Last year's camp (Great Aussie Bush Camp) was fun but we were always busy, this year's camp was more relaxing and we really got to know each other better" was the response when asked which camp the students enjoyed the most.

Thanks to Mrs Beedie and Mr Blair for coming along, and to the staff for assistance with organising the camp, and those who covered our classes at school. I am sure the students will cherish these memories and friendships for life.

Karen Dorahy, Year 10 Advisor

## Year 8 Movie World Excursion

What a great day!

Movie World was the destination for the end of Year 8 excursion.

Students enjoyed the rides, movies, characters, shows and food. It was a long day packed with fun, smiles, laughter and good times.

Congratulations to all students for excellent conduct throughout the day.

Thanks go to teachers Ms Drinan, Mrs Duver and Mr Robins.

That's All Folks—Rob Pursch, Year 8 Advisor





## Students' Photographs

*There are many occasions where we would like to publish photographs of students involved in various school activities, including reports for the local papers, school newsletters, and the annual report and on our school website.*

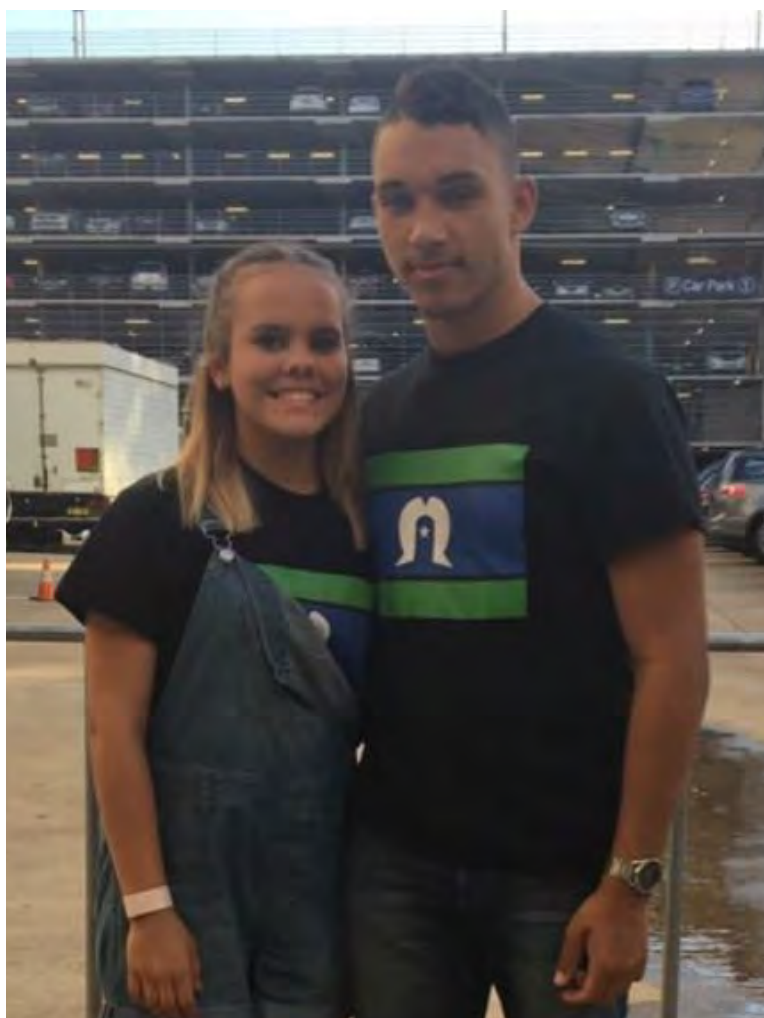
*If you do not wish your child's photograph to be used for these purposes, please notify the school in writing.*



## Aboriginal Education News



*This was an awesome experience that we will never forget.*



### RUSSELL RYAN & LA'SHANDA PIERCE – SCHOOL SPECTACULAR

We would like to congratulate La'shonda Pierce and Russell Ryan for being accepted into the Aboriginal Dance Company B!

Aboriginal Dance workshops were held at Woolgoolga High School in February this year, La'shonda Pierce and Russell Ryan had been short listed for the Aboriginal Dance Company. Following this they were both selected to be a member of the Aboriginal Dance Company B that featured in the 2016 Schools Spectacular – *Dream Big*.

Their selection required them to travel to Sydney for a week of rehearsals leading up to a week of performances which culminated in the main event at the QUDOS Bank Arena from November 24 to 26.

Woolgoolga High School staff and students would like to congratulate La'shonda and Russell and wish them all the best for their future dance endeavors.





## Lachlan Nash

### Winner of the Patrick White Indigenous Writers Competition

The Aboriginal Education Council of NSW have a proud history of delivering educational opportunities and outcomes to Aboriginal people with programs which contribute to achieving its' vision of a highly educated and empowered Aboriginal population.

One of these opportunities is the Patrick White Indigenous Writers Award. Patrick White was the first Australian writer to receive a Nobel Prize for literature and these awards have been designed to

encourage Indigenous Australian students to use their reading, writing and creative skills to produce short stories, plays and poems.

Using the theme "Dreaming" Lachlan Nash of Year 10, submitted three poems for consideration and was selected as one of only three talented writers to receive this award in recognition of his outstanding writing skills.

Lachlan has been encouraged to continue to write by the judging panel and also by his mentors here at Woolgoolga High School. WELL DONE LACHY!

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## Tanisha Wallace

### Rising Soccer Star

On the 4<sup>th</sup> November Tanisha travelled to Nowra to attend the National Indigenous Championships along with 12 other women's teams from across Australia.

In a wonderful display of her skills Tanisha was selected to represent the Australian Indigenous Women's Team which will travel to New Zealand next year. This is a wonderful achievement which has resulted from many years of training, hard work and dedication to her sport.

The National team will also compete in the International Indigenous World Championships which will possibly be held in Canada in 2017. She is the second youngest member of the team and is very excited about the prospect of travelling the world in a professional capacity.





# AG FARM NEWS

## Produce

This term students have been really busy on the farm. We have grown some amazing vegetables, reared some cute chickens and rabbits and had a few dramas with some unwanted visitors.

## Woolworths Woolgoolga

Our Visits to Woolworths Woolgoolga have been a highlight for many studying Agricultural Technology, as we get to go behind the scenes and look at the complicated ending to the “paddock to plate” journey they have been learning about. We found that it’s not all easy at the marketing end, with customers demanding only the very best fresh produce. We discussed the cool chain marketing process, the importance of adding value to products and the substantial influence packaging can have on what consumers buy. I would like to thank the store manager, Paul and his assistant managers Andrew and Andrew, for taking the time to show our students around and explain the operational side of the business. All the students I spoke to found the visits really interesting and worthwhile.

## Sandy Beach Primary School Visit

Every year Sandy Beach Primary School visits our school farm. This year I was very proud of our year 9 Agricultural students who were on hand to help show the children around. They particularly enjoyed getting up close to our Dorper sheep (some of the sheep were taller than the children), handling our chicks and chickens and playing with the rabbits. Another highlight is sitting on the big Kubota tractor. Several of the Year 9 students can still remember their visit to the Ag farm with the primary school.

Our school vineyard has not been as productive as it could be of late and we are very lucky that Neville Cleary has volunteered to plant out hundreds of the cuttings taken by Year 9 in the autumn. Hopefully we will be able to obtain some good grape yields in the future. Thank you Neville, your help is much appreciated.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our hard working farm assistant Jason Lloyd who works tirelessly to keep the farm in such good order. We are very lucky to have such dedicated help with our school farm. His jobs are numerous and varied and involve working at weekends and in the hot sun and rain. They even involve snake wrangling, which I am defiantly not keen on.

Happy Christmas—Christine Duver, Agricultural Teacher







The clothing pool is in need of second hand school uniforms for emergency clothing etc. Donations of pre loved school uniforms in good condition which are no longer required are gratefully accepted at the front office.

## 2017 SPORTS DATES

SPORT	DATE	CARNIVAL	VENUE	TERM
SWIMMING	Wed 1 Feb Wed 8 Feb	WHS Swimming Carnival – Whole School	Woolgoolga Pool	1
	Wed 1 March	MNC Zone Swimming Carnival	Coffs Harbour Pool	1
	Tue 7 March	NC Regional Swimming Carnival	Kempsey Pool	1
	Sun 2 Apr to Tue 4 Apr	NSW CHS State Swimming	Home Bush Aquatic Centre	1
CROSS COUNTRY	Fri 7 April	School Cross Country	Woolgoolga	1
	Mon 15 May	MNC Zone Cross Country	Grafton	2
	Fri 9 June	NC Regional Cross Country	Murwillumbah	2
	Fri 21 July	NSW State Cross Country	Eastern Creek	3
ATHLETICS	Wed 3 May Thur 4 May	School Athletics Carnival - Day 1 School Athletics Carnival - Day 2	Woolgoolga Sports Ground	2
	Thur 15 June	MNC Zone Athletics Carnival	Coffs Harbour International Stadium	2
	Fri 4 Aug	NC Regional Athletics Carnival	Lismore	3
	Wed 6 Sept to Fri 8 Sept	CHS State Athletics Carnival	Homebush	3

**PLEASE NOTE: DATES AND VENUES ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINTING BUT ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK CLOSER TO EVENT.**

## LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

### What “DYS” is that? (Part One)

#### Dyspraxia

- Dyspraxia is a “*motor learning difficulty that can affect planning of movements and coordination*” ([www.news.com.au](http://www.news.com.au)).
- It has also been referred to as DCD - Developmental Coordination Disorder.
- Fine motor issues include difficulty with handwriting, using everyday items (eg. toothbrush).
- Gross motor issues include poor coordination and children are often clumsy.
- Perception issues include spatial difficulty, eg. problems recognising left and right, distance, height, estimating, etc.
- Concentration problems due to poor short term memory.
- They can't multitask and often have trouble completing tasks.
- Organisation issues as they forget things and lose belongings.
- Young children will have demonstrated delayed milestones, eg. crawling, walking, jumping.

#### Dysgraphia

- Dysgraphia is a neurological disorder affecting fine motor skills which in turn affects written expression.
- It can be a language based disorder (that is, difficulty putting thoughts onto paper in written words) or a non-language based disorder (that is, a problem with the fine motor skills impacting holding the pencil and writing).
- Writing is generally illegible, with inconsistent letters of different sizes, shapes, slanted, printed, cursive, etc.
- Writing can be described as “all over the place”.
- Writing is hard work and slow for the child. As a result they often tire easily. Words are left out or sometimes letters are left off the end of words.
- Spacing between the words is irregular.
- Children find it hard writing down their thoughts.
- Dysgraphia generally emerges when the child is first introduced to writing.

*References: LDC Factsheets, “Dyslexia and LD” [www.speldvic.org.au](http://www.speldvic.org.au), “Do I have Dyspraxia?” [www.nagcbrtain.org.uk](http://www.nagcbrtain.org.uk), “Dyspraxia” by D Cardeiro, [www.healthonline.com](http://www.healthonline.com), “Common Warning Signs of Dysgraphia in Children Pre-K to Grade 2” by NCLD Editors [www.ncl.org](http://www.ncl.org), “What is Dysgraphia?” <http://dsf.net.au>, “What is dyscalculia?” by A Wilson, [www.aboutdyscalculia.org](http://www.aboutdyscalculia.org), “Advice for Parents of Children with LD” by D Sharry [www.news.com.au](http://www.news.com.au), “Dyslexia Basics” by International Dyslexia Association [www.ldonline.org](http://www.ldonline.org)*

**Have you read this article...** Tourette Syndrome camp an eye opener for young sufferers: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-11-19/tourettes-camp-an-eye-opener-for-young-sufferers/8035924>

**Have you seen this book...** **204 Fold & Say Social Skills**, by D Mahler. Available from [www.silvereye.com.au](http://www.silvereye.com.au) \$49.95. This is a collection of little books presenting everyday social situations from school, home and the community.

**Have you googled this website...** [www.sourcekidsdirectory.com.au](http://www.sourcekidsdirectory.com.au)

This directory site is jam-packed full of great businesses with products and services perfect for children and youths with special needs across Australia.





# Woolgoolga High School

**Guy Wright (FACE)**  
**Principal**

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## FRASER ISLAND CAMP 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians of the 2016 Year 9 student cohort,

These students may have the opportunity to attend a 5 day camp to Brisbane, the Gold Coast and the World Heritage listed Fraser Island in September 2017! This is a wonderful opportunity and one which I hope many students will take up.

The excursion dates are currently planned from **Monday 18th September 2017 - Friday 22nd September 2017**. This will be four nights and five days inclusive and there are spaces for between

30-100 students! This excursion is designed to be an enrichment experience for Year 10, encouraging self-confidence and team work, in addition to providing an educational foundation which will support them academically in both Years 11 and Year 12. The cost of the excursion will be approximately \$675.00, which is expensive, but for five days and four nights, reasonable. All meals - with the exception of lunch on the final day - are included, as is transportation, motel style accommodation and entry into all venues.

More details about the camp will be released and sent home early in 2017 along with dates for a payment plan. This information letter is purely to give you all plenty of time to start saving or give you ideas for a possible Christmas present!!

Have a great Christmas everyone. Looking forward to Year 10 in 2017

Kind Regards,

Chris Hansen Year Advisor

# Community News



**School Holiday Camps for kids aged 7-17**



**WHEN:** 9am - 3pm  
**Game Coding Camps**  
 Wednesday 4th January  
 Wednesday 11th January  
**CIY.Club Full Day Session**  
 Thursday 5th January  
**Minecraft Modding Camps**  
 (Ages 8-17 years)  
 Thursday 12th January

**WHAT:**  
 CIY.Club are running a range of one day school holiday camps for kids aged 7-17 who have a passion for coding and technology.

**WHERE:**  
 Pioneer Cottage,  
 Coffs Harbour Showgrounds  
 123 Pacific Hwy, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

**BOOK NOW:**  
[bit.ly/coffsharbour](http://bit.ly/coffsharbour)

For more information visit [www.CIY.Club](http://www.CIY.Club) or contact Tanya Griffin via M. 0432 702 336 or E. [tanya@scopelEducation.com.au](mailto:tanya@scopelEducation.com.au)

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**0429 661 953**

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**After  
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*All ages, All abilities, All subjects  
Qualified Teachers  
Individual or small group*

**2/7-9 Market St, Woolgoolga  
Phone: 6654 8397W or 66522222CH**



paid advertisement

***Woolgoolga High School Silver Awards  
are generously sponsored by:***

***Years 7, 8, 9 receive vouchers from***

**McDonalds Restaurants  
Pacific Highway Coffs Harbour**

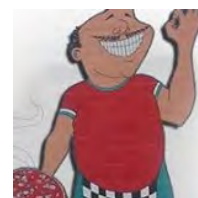


***Years 10, 11, 12 receive vouchers from***

**Riptide Pizzeria  
Fawcett Street Woolgoolga  
Phone: 6654 8989**



**Woolgoolga Pizza Place  
Beach Street Woolgoolga  
Phone: 6654 2744**



# Parent Online Payment (POP)

## Now Available At Woolgoolga High School

A secure Westpac banking facility has now been added to the Woolgoolga High School website to allow parents/carers to make online Visa or Mastercard credit or debit card payments for things like voluntary school contributions, excursions, sporting activities or sales to students.

Look for the *\$ Make a Payment* button next to *Contact Us* at the top of our homepage.

For those experienced in paying online, the process will be familiar. Detailed instructions are available by opening the *Parent Online Payment Instructions* on the *Information* tab on our website.

We hope that you will find this payment option convenient. Payments can still be made at the Woolgoolga High School Office by cash, cheque or EFTPOS before school and during break 1.

<http://www.woolgoolga-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

## Canteen—Eat Fresh

<http://www.woolgoolga-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/parent-information>

See menu with price list on the school's website

Volunteers needed to serve in only 1 hour increments:

8.30am - 9.30am

11.00am - 12.00 noon

1.00pm - 2.00pm

If you can help please ring the school on 66541500 or follow the link on the school's website to complete the expression of interest.

