

Principal's Welcome

It gives me great pleasure to be able to present this report for the school newsletter from the principal's desk. Mr Grant is busy at the Ekka with the Cattle Club at the moment and will then enjoy a well-deserved rest before returning to work in week 7. Mrs Wenban has been on leave since week 2 but will return to work in week 5. While I am acting as Principal, Mrs Richardson will take on Deputy Principal duty and Mr Hall also acting as Deputy Principal until Mrs Wenban returns.

I recently got the opportunity to read the year 9 and 11 reports. Generally the reports were very positive with the average report being very sound in most areas. There were some outstanding levels of achievement while some students still have areas for improvement. At our recent whole school assembly we talked about the effect improving effort, behaviour and attendance has on the overall level of achievement. If improvements are made in these 3 areas, improvements will be proportionate in levels of achievement. Improvement in effort, behaviour and attendance is not beyond anybody's capabilities and is a good starting point for students who are serious about achieving at a higher level.

Thank you to those parents who took the opportunity to meet with teachers at the recent evening of parent-teacher interviews. It was fantastic to see so many parents taking an interest in their children's education. We appreciate the effort and strongly encourage all parents to contact teachers when clarification and communication is needed.

Our most recent whole school assembly was devoted to acknowledging and celebrating some of the fantastic achievements of our students. We congratulated students who have achieved excellence in regional sports selection, equestrian excellence, ICT excellence, performance excellence in the C-generation production, and construction of signing tables for the Police Academy and bandstands for Mrs Pozzi at Stanthorpe State School. It was great to be able to share such a positive experience with our student body. Over 50 students were recognised. Well done everyone!

Huge congratulations to Rob Yates and his merry band of PE teachers for a very successful school athletics day. The event was well attended and the enthusiasm shown by students and staff made the day a great success. There was a very nice balance of competition and fun. It



Mr Sean Cole

was fantastic to see both students and teachers contributing to make this a special day. Congratulations to Finch house on their win.

Finally, 2 of our students have taken out the Darling Downs Culinary Challenge. Congratulations to Brianna Woods and Michelle Gutateo who represented our school so well in becoming this year's regional Champions. A special mention should also go to Jacob Roche and Cordell Lane who received a merit award in the same competition. Brianna and Michelle will represent the Darling Downs at the State Championship next week at the Brisbane Exhibition. Congratulations girls and good luck!

What's coming up:

- Border District Sports 13 August.
- P&C Meeting New date TBA.
- Year 10 to 11 subject selection Week 5, 13 August.
- Year 11 Camp Week 6.
- Year 8 to 9 subject selection Week 7, 27 August.

Key Priorities

1. Improved student achievement
2. Improved student attendance
3. Improved parent and carer engagement
4. Targeted quality professional development with a focus on Explicit Instruction
5. Implementation of and preparation for the Australian Curriculum in the classrooms

Culum competes in national ICT competition

The 2014 Australian Microsoft Office Specialist National Championship was held on Friday 20th June at Microsoft's office in Brisbane and Stanthorpe State High School's Culum Maitland was there competing against the best students in Australia. Earlier this term Culum completed a Microsoft Office Specialist exam and his score and time were so impressive, it won him a place in the National Championships. Even though Culum didn't place, he was thrilled to take part as there were only 10 students chosen to compete. Culum's mother and father joined him for the day and after the exams, they attended an award ceremony and lunch at Rydges. "I have a certificate that says I am one of the top 10 students in the country in my knowledge and skills of Microsoft PowerPoint" stated Culum after the ceremony. "This is something I can put into my resume." Since the championships, Culum has completed another Microsoft Office exam achieving Microsoft Office Specialist in Word.



Real life Maths investigation

Mathematics is an important part of working life and life in general. The Year 11 Prevocational Maths class visited the Queensland College of Wine Tourism to complete a survey of how mathematics is used in the different departments. The staff were surprised when they took stock of their use of maths. The range was extensive; amongst other uses the winery calculates proportions in wine blends, the USQ science department use flow rates, the vineyard calculate tonnage, the USQ tertiary teaching staff collect data and use percentages, the administration calculate wages and pay bills, the bistro complete orders and the kitchen take stocktakes and calculate proportion in recipes. The students enjoyed their final calculation – how many chips they could eat before the bus arrived to return to school! Thanks to the QCWT staff for assisting in this unique survey.



On the Fire Front - Certificate II in Public Safety

By Amy Henderson

As part of Stanthorpe State High School's great career opportunities and potential pathways for students, Year 12 students are offered the opportunity to complete a Certificate II in Public Safety (Firefighting Operations). This certificate not only gives students four valuable QCE credits but lifelong skills, experience and friends.

The Certificate II focuses in rural fire fighting but gives connections to students who wish to pursue a job within the fire brigade. Students are given their own fire fighting uniform and become a member of the Queensland Rural Fire Brigade. They are expected to attend brigade meetings and training days in order to complete their certificate, help build skills and to learn what to do when faced with extinguishing a fire.

In the pictures taken, students had to make a fire break using a rake hoe and

put a foam line out. They then lit the pad-dock and put it out – all the time under supervision of experienced fire fighters! Doing this activity taught students how to do a controlled burn and make a fire break using different methods. After the fire was out students learnt different little tips to help them determine where the cause of ignition was and which way it was travelling (this was to help if they put out an already existing fire or deliberately lit fire).

Students also learn how to communicate when on a fire ground (using radios and hand signals), they learn how to operate pumps and all equipment associated with the fire trucks. Students are also taught how to manually bowl out and wind up hoses, as well as many other great skills associated with being a fire fighter.

Overall the Certificate II is a wonderful opportunity for students. It is great fun,

but also has a very serious side with lots of work that needs to be and is expected to be done.



Students learning to be the front line of defence against bush fire.



Saving Heritage Vine Cultivars: ‘An investment in the future’

On Monday 16th June, the Certificate II in Wine Industry students, under the Guidance of Mr Mike Hayes (Viticulturist and Winemaker from Symphony Hill Wines), collected vine stock from many drought tolerant and low vigour rootstock varieties as well as many specific clones of various wine cultivars such as Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon, Verdelho, Viognier and Lagrein from a block of vines established by the Queensland Vine Improvement Association at Henty Vineyard as well as source blocks at Symphony Hill Wines.

Mr Hayes instructed the students on how to take, label, treat and store the cuttings. The students will propagate the cuttings at the Stanthorpe State High School’s College of Agriculture nursery facility using a heat bed as well as bench grafting some of the varietal material on clonal rootstock during the period starting from late August. This will enable students to demonstrate a skill set to gain the competency ‘Undertake Propagation Activities’ and further develop skills that will help them gain their Certificate II in Wine Industry Operations.

The ultimate aim of the project is to further develop ties between the Queensland College of Wine Tourism and Stanthorpe

State High School as a leading school in the Gateway School to Wine Tourism program by establishing a vine bank on the Granite Belt consisting of Heritage Vine cultivars and Rootstocks that may be accessed by both the Queensland and Australian Wine Industry.



Students producing more than just furniture

The Year 12 students enrolled in Certificate 1 in Furnishings were commissioned by the Queensland Police Service to manufacture 30 individual desks to be used in the swearing-in ceremonies for the Queensland Police cadets. The project was undertaken at the Granite Belt and Border College of Trades at Stanthorpe State High School and began with the purchase of rough sawn Black Butt timber. The group of 12 students worked industriously to machine the timber to appropriate sizes, learn and

engage in timber production processes and techniques and develop skills to produce very high quality finished products under the Banca Ridge Furnishings umbrella. On completion of the project, the students, along with Teacher Mr Reuben Schmitt, Teacher Aide Mr Alan Craven, Head of Department Mrs Jo Marcus and Principal Mr Peter Grant, were invited to Brisbane to see the tables in operation, receive a tour of the academy and accept a token of thanks from the Police Department. Police Minister Mr Jack Dempsy

spent considerable time talking to the students about the significance of their efforts, and the tables they produced. The project has been an extremely rewarding venture; one which the students, ITD staff, school and community should be proud.

Simon Marsh said “it was a good experience that I really enjoyed. I learnt valuable skills about working as a team and the production process.”

Calib Hutchings stated that “the range of skills I learnt to do with cabinet making and the ability to work as

a team will help me throughout my life. I really enjoyed the whole process. Thanks Mr Schmitt for your great teaching.”

Jack Dempsy MP wrote, “It was an honour to meet the students at the handover ceremony on 12 June 2014 and to see the tables used for the first time by the Queensland Police Service at the Induction Parade that day. The students should be commended on the quality of each table made; the finished pieces are a testament to the skills of the students and their teachers.”



Certificate I in Construction opens Doorways

Stanthorpe State High School is one of only 11 schools in QLD selected to participate in the Doorways to Construction program. Doorways to Construction(D2C) is a government funded program designed to link senior high school students with employers in the construction industry. By providing students with real work opportunities and a solid foundation upon which to build skills, knowledge and experience, this pre-apprenticeship program helps students find the trade that is suited to them.

This year, ten Year 11 students were interviewed and selected to participate in program. Students are required to engage in a minimum of 160 hours of work experience in the construction industry. They are provided with a 'starter kit' which includes steel capped boots, high visibility shirts, ear muffs and safety glasses. Completion of the program provides graduating students with two credits towards their QCE, plus any construction based employer who apprentices a graduating student is provided with a \$4000 cash incentive. The current Year 11 and Year 12 D2C students should be commended for the professional way in which they have engaged with industry and their potential employers.



Creative Arts gift to Carramar

During the past few weeks students in Year 12 Creative Arts have been very busy learning new skills which involved learning old skills – in particular, how to knit. They decided it would be good to make a knitted blanket, which they plan to present to Carramar.

Some students prepared musical items which would be suitable for a more senior audience and decided that “Danny Boy” could be a better choice than the music that they are more familiar with.

Creative Arts teacher Mrs Negrevich was on hand to repair the many dropped stitches in the initial stages, but as the students gained more confidence with their knitting, her services were not required as much. For many of the boys in the class, knitting was something they saw Grandma doing and, having completed their blanket, many are now starting to make beanies and scarfs, which is part of their Wearable Art unit. Congratulations to the students of this class who have combined to create a useful item for others in the community.



Matt Sullivan, Layne Riley, Isaac Hartley-Simpson and Indy Willmann with the blanket knitted for the Carramar clients.

Year 9 Science - How body systems work

Students in Year 9 Science have been studying body systems as part of their work this term. Organs and their functions of the endocrine, nervous, digestive, respiratory and circulatory systems have been the primary focus, as well as the interactions between these.

Classes this week completed dissections to compare real body systems with diagrammatical representations. Students donned gloves and safety glasses (with many using tools such as scalpels, surgical scissors and forceps for the first time) to carefully observe the inner workings of a purpose-bred rat. Remarkably, the body systems of a rat are very similar in function and scale to those found in humans so comparisons were made.

This valuable learning activity gave students a real insight into the workings of the human body, and truly engaged them in their learning. Student comments included: “What IS this?” “Look how long the small intestine is!” “I’m a doctor.” and “Found it!”



Banca Ridge

2013

Petit Verdot

Gold Medal

at the

2014 Cowra

Wine Show

Congratulations

to the

Ag Department!