

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS 2010

The following is a summary of the highlights by the school and students this year. This has been another outstanding year and successes cover all areas.

2010 HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE ANALYSIS

Coonabarabran High School students have once again excelled academically across a variety of subjects. Three students achieved Australian Tertiary Admission Ranks (ATAR) in excess of 90; the dux of the school, Emma Doel, Isabel Enks and Tessa Morrissey.

From a very small cohort of 39 students, 8 students achieved 10 Band 6 Outcomes (highest level) in the following subjects:

Music, Ancient History and Legal Studies.

Numerous students achieved success in both academic and vocational subjects receiving very positive individual results.

Our outstanding subject was Legal Studies, taught by Ms Mary Doolan, with 16 students of which 12 achieved either Band 5 or 6. Ms Doolan was one of many teachers who's dedication provided ongoing additional support for her students outside of school hours.

Additionally, 16 students have already been accepted into the University of New England and Charles Sturt University based on Principal's Recommendation. Students have gained entry into courses as diverse as Accounting, Zoology, combined Criminology and Law degrees, Pharmacy, Speech Pathology, Nursing and Teaching. In relation to the latter, two students have been awarded Teaching Scholarships to support their studies at the University of New England. Such a high rate of students obtaining early entry to university is an outstanding achievement and again reflects the quality of students at Coonabarabran High School.

The school community is incredibly proud of the achievement of their HSC class. It is extremely satisfying to see hard work so justly rewarded.

2010 SCHOOL CERTIFICATE ANALYSIS

Eighty three Year 10 students were successful in obtaining their School Certificate in 2010. The subjects which demonstrated on or above State outcomes relative to the State mean and in the two highest achievement bands (bands 5 and 6) were English, Australian History and Australian Geography.??? All of our students demonstrated 'competency' in the Computing Skills examination with 45% achieving Highly Competent results.

Band 6 grades were obtained from the following students:

English: Gemma Evans, Victoria Lee, Alexander Tighe

Mathematics: Alexander Tighe

Science: Gemma Evans, Alexander Tighe, Jayden Wood-Nicholsen

History: Chris Frith, Alexander Tighe

Geography: Chris Frith, Craig McGlashan, Alexander Tighe

Computing Skills (mark above 90%): Victoria Lee, Craig McGlashan, Russell Murray, Alexander Tighe, Jayden Wood-Nicholsen

NAPLAN

YEAR 7

- * The Year 7 cohort, mean outcomes, in all aspects of NAPLAN (Literacy & Numeracy) were below the state average, however they performed above the average growth when compared to the Western Region average in Reading, Grammar & Punctuation and Numeracy,

- * The Indigenous student mean was above the state average in Numeracy and above the Western Region in Writing, Spelling and Numeracy.

YEAR 9

- * The Year 9 cohort mean outcomes in all aspects of NAPLAN were below the State average, however they performed above the average growth compared to the Western Region mean outcomes in Reading, Writing, and Grammar.
- * The Year 9 Indigenous cohort achieved mean outcomes above the State and Western Region mean in Reading, Writing, Grammar and Numeracy.
- * The Year 9 average growth from Year 7 (2008) to Year 9 (2010) was above the State mean growth in all aspects of NAPLAN except for Spelling (slightly below)

ENGLISH

- * 91 students from Years 7 to 12 participated in the 2010 English International Competition and Assessment for Schools. Coonabarabran High performed exceptionally well, especially as students participated right across Australasia. Our results were as follows:

High Distinction

Ashley Reynolds

Distinction

Jessica Murphy
 Hadyn Baker
 Alexander Tighe
 Victoria Lee
 Chris Frith
 Lachlan Macintosh
 Tessa Morrissey

Gemma Evans
 Connor Hincks
 Stephen Sanders
 Luke Edwards
 David Tighe
 Jessica Staniforth

Credit

Gabrielle Teale-McEvoy
 Patrick Tighe
 Jayden Wood-Nicholson
 Rachel Storer
 Leda Greenwood
 James Bowden
 Seth Baker
 Patrick Shepherd-Hagemann
 Jack Reynolds
 Elizabeth Graham

Connor Graham
 Mikaela Hadfield
 Alice Fosdick
 Clayton McKinnon
 Kevin Lee
 Nathan Cox
 Blake Cox
 Lilian Betts
 Caitlyn McHugh

- * 41 students from Years 7 to 12 participated in the 2010 Writing International Competition and Assessment for Schools. Coonabarabran High performed exceptionally well. Our results were as follows:

Distinction

Imogen Morrissey

Jemmae Dow

Gabrielle Teale-McEvoy

Rhiannon Bowden

Credit

Ashley Reynolds

Joshua Cluff

Chris Frith

Landon Brady

Jack Reynolds

David Tighe

Emily Green

Tayla Cormie

Zach Cluff

Lilian Betts

Stephen Sanders

- * Coonabarabran High School entered Year 7 students into the International Competition and Assessments for School in Spelling for the first time in 2010, reflecting the continuing emphasis on literacy skills across the faculty areas. 6 students entered the competition and our results were as follows:

Distinction

David Tighe

Credit

Stephen Sanders

- * 2010 has also seen our students achieve outstanding success in various literary competitions. Alyssa Verrender was named the *Western Region Sydney Morning Herald Young Writer of the Year* (and state finalist). Ruby Bouwsema won the *Senior Section of the Whitlam Institute What Matters Writing Competition* and Gabrielle Teale-McEvoy received a Highly Commended in the same competition. Ruby has now been invited, as one of only 16 young writers nationally, to be part of the Reach Out Reporter Program, run by Reach Out, an initiative of the Inspire Foundation. Chris Frith won the Banjo Paterson Children's Poetry Awards (for under 16 years) with his poem entitled 'The *Downpour*'. Madeleine Byst was placed second in the Henry Lawson National Student Literary Awards for years 7-10 students with her winning poem '*A Place Called Sobibor*'.

* Our senior students benefited from a visit by the Bell Shakespeare Company who led them into new insights regarding their study of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*. The performance group Poetry In Action brought the poems of Wilfred Owen and Peter Skrzynecki to life, again enriching the studies of our HSC students and also demonstrating to our junior students the power and dynamism of poetry. The Australian author JC Burke spoke to our students about the art of writing and her novel *The Story of Tom Brennan*; a HSC text which Year 12 Standard English will be studying in 2011. In relation to the latter, senior students will benefit from new texts for study in the HSC course which were able to be purchased due to the generosity of P&C funding.

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

Scenes:

Year 9 Encouragement - Simon Bouwsema, Johanna Vogt, Holly Norton, Mikaela Hadfield

Commended - Latoya Kuras, Edward Wilkin, Wil Devenish

Best Scene - Jack Reynolds, Emily Green, Monique Tanner, Danielle Andrews
Year 10 Encouragement - Nerida Hannah, Chris Frith, Jessica Cormie
Year 10 Commended - Madeleine Baker, Lucy Dowling, Rachel Storer, Meghan Silk
Year 10 Best Scene - Naomi Revelly, Seth Baker, Jayden Wood-Nicholson, Craig McGlashan, Melanie Mills
Year 11 Encouragement - Natalee Trow, Rhiannon Taylor, Jessica Flint-Collins
Year 11 Commended - Patrick Tighe, Rowan McKinnon, Dominic Stafford, Ashley Reynolds
Year 11 Best Scene - Alyssa Verrender, Gabrielle Teale-McEvoy

Monologue Award: Nicola Murphy

Duologues:

Year 9 Encouragement - Tamika Collier, Nathan Verrender
Year 9 Commended - David Seabrook, Connor Graham
Year 9 Best Duologue - Alice Fosdick, Jemmae Dow
Year 10 Encouragement - Jenna-Lee Broeksema, Landon Brady
Year 10 Commended - Hugh Ryan, Gemma Evans
Year 10 Best Duologue - Alex Tighe, Victoria Lee
Year 11 Encouragement - Philipa Elton, Danielle Napier
Year 11 Commended - Bonnie Coulter-Buckley, Ruby Bouwsema
Year 11 Best Duologue - Alyssa Verrender, Gabrielle Teale-McEvoy

Reserve Champion Scene: Jack Reynolds, Monique Tanner, Emily Green, Danielle Andrews

Champion Scene: Imogen Morrissey, Jodie Murphy, Gabrielle Teale-McEvoy

Best Actor Runner Up:

Year 9 - Connor Graham
Year 10 - Alex Tighe and Naomi Revelly
Year 11 - Patrick Tighe

Best Actor:

Year 9 - Jemmae Dow
Year 10 - Hugh Ryan
Year 11 - Madeleine Storer

Young Shakespearean Artist of the Year:

Gabrielle Teale-McEvoy

- * In June a number of students had the opportunity to write, direct and film their own short film as part of the *In the Bin* three day workshop. The highlight was the short film festival which concluded the workshop and featured the students' impressive films.
- * Throughout the year, our student's voices graced the airwaves at 2WCR... 99.5 on your FM dial!
- * Coonabarabran High students really do have the gift of the gab and student achievements throughout the year in the areas of public speaking and debating have certainly served to prove the veracity of this statement.

- * **Public Speaking:** Year 8 student Nathan Cox won his way into second place of the Junior High School section at the Grand Final of the NSW Beef Spectacular Public Speaking Competition sponsored by the Department of Primary Industries and held in Dubbo. Year 11 student Imogen Morrissey competed through to the inter-zone level in the Harvey World Travel, Rotary District 9650 Public Speaking Competition. To get to this prestigious stage of the competition, Imogen had to win at both local and zone levels. The competition continues this year with Rhiannon Taylor being selected to represent the Coonabarabran Rotary Club.
- * **Debating:** Coonabarabran High School took on the Premier's Debating Challenge with style and gusto in 2011. This year saw our school enter six teams (one from each year group) in this state-wide competition. The competition was structured into three levels; Years 7 and 8, Years 9 and 10 and the Senior Division, Years 11 and 12. Our Year 7 team comprising, Roland Stinson, David Tighe, Caitlyn McHugh and Caitlyn Bowden (and with a cameo appearance from Joe Elton) convincingly won their way to the title of Regional winners. In Year 8, Mikayla Munns, Clayton McKinnon, Nathan Cox and Olivia Eastburn took on the challenge and proved themselves to be fine debaters. The Year 9 team also saw some new debaters enter the fray. Latoya Kuras, Chloe Sutherland, Alice Fosdick and Jemmae Dow proclaimed to the world that if there is one thing that chicks can do it is talk! Wil Devenish was also a valued member of the team for one of their debates. The Year 10 debaters had a triumphant year of debating. Victoria Lee, Alexander Tighe, Landon Brady, Chris Frith and Naomi Revelly convincingly won their way through to claim the title of Zone winners. Katie Lee, Gabrielle Teale-McEvoy, Alyssa Verrender and Rhiannon Taylor represented Year 11. This team debated with an intelligence and passion consistent with the talents of its members. And lastly to our Year 12's. The team, comprising the velvet voiced Jessica Staniforth (first speaker), the conjuror Isabel (Imagine) Enks (second speaker), the 'big finish' Claire Bennell (third speaker) and the power behind the throne Amelia Adam (team thinker) finished their debating career as zone runners up; a wonderful achievement.
- * Year 12 English students attended HSC revision lectures in Dubbo in June. The current Year 12 English (Advanced) class attended the English 'Big Day Out' in Sydney in November. Amongst other highlights they were treated to lectures by John Bell on Hamlet and Peter Skrzynecki on his poetry; both HSC set texts.
- * Important days on the Literary Calendar were duly celebrated: Banjo's birthday, Valentine's Day, Shakespeare's birthday, International Left Handers' Day, Literacy Week.
- * Year 9 English enjoyed viewing their novel study, John Marsden's *Tomorrow, When the War Began*, on the big screen in Dubbo.
- * Term 4 saw the buzz go back into spelling with an inter-house spelling competition running during PR time. Timor house won the Grand Finale proving they can out-spell their peers.
- * Mrs Sheila Dean was a welcome "re-addition" to the faculty, focusing on Literacy as well as classroom teaching. Her wealth of experience has been a positive support to students and staff. Mrs Rebecca Partridge commenced full-time teaching in the faculty and brought with her an unattainable (but enviable) standard of organisation!

MATHEMATICS

- * A very busy and productive year occurred in Mathematics in 2010. We saw a significant number of changes, both to staff and to opportunities thanks to the National Partnerships program. We welcomed Ms Emma Dwyer and Mrs Debbie Redden into the faculty, replacing staff on leave and retiring. Ms Dwyer has Coonabarabran High School as her first permanent employment and Mrs Redden came to us after teaching at the local Catholic School. Both are very valuable additions to the teaching staff.
- * We also welcomed Mrs Robyn Hayward, who was appointed under the National Partnerships strategy as a Head Teacher for Numeracy. Her experience and knowledge has benefited the students of the school as with her appointment, we were not only able to create an extra class in Years 7, 9 and 10, thus reducing class sizes and allowing greater teacher-to-student time, but we could also provide a lesson dedicated towards numeracy and preparation for the NAPLAN state-wide testing which Year 7 and 9 complete each year. Last, but not least, we also welcomed Ms Anna O'Brien to the faculty for all of Term 4, covering Mr Fraser's classes while he is on long service leave.
- * Students participated in a number of Mathematics competitions this year, achieving the following results:

Australian Mathematics Trust

Distinction

Alexander Tighe

Credit

Steven Sanders
Connor Graham
Patrick Tighe

Kevin Lee
Victoria Lee

Proficient

David Tighe
Jessica Murphy

Nicola Murphy

UNSW Global

Distinction

Alexander Tighe

Credit

David Tighe
Connor Graham
Patrick Tighe

Kevin Lee
Victoria Lee
Jessica Murphy

- * Students participated in NAPLAN in both Year 7 and Year 9. While the results indicate further progress is desirable for both Year 7 and Year 9, a positive aspect is our level of 'value adding' or student growth exceeding the average growth for the state.

SCIENCE

- * The major change has been the Laboratories. With BER funding, we have updated three teaching areas, preparation room and our staff room. The rooms now have a fresh look that mirrors modern research laboratory layouts. Gone are the old island benches, to be replaced with modern side-benches for investigations and separate learning spaces within each room. Each room is moving towards specialty, being fitted out for Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Earth & Environmental Science. The staff room has received larger teacher desks, a meeting space and better preparation and resource storage facilities. The prep room has improved equipment storage and chemical preparation areas.
- * Students represented themselves and the school in The Rio Tinto Science Competition this year.

High Distinction

Steven Sanders

Distinction

Kevin Lee

Credit

Patrick Tighe

Madeleine Storer

- * Students represented themselves and the school also in the Chemistry Competition.
- * Our senior students in both Earth & Environmental Science and Biology attended a major excursion to the Warrumbungle National Park to learn about scientific measurements of Australian ecosystems, geology and biota.
- * Our junior students participated again in the Science & Engineering Challenge held in Narrabri. This year their efforts gained a 2nd place and the right to represent the area at the next level in Newcastle. At this, they performed very well but did not progress to the final level. Well done to the Year 9 and 10 students in that team.
- * Through the generosity of the P&C, our students will benefit from new equipment acquired for demonstration and learning. The school telescope has been upgraded from a 100 mm to a 275 mm computerised unit. This will allow for clearer views of the night sky and gives students the capability to image what they see with a digital camera. Studies of galaxies, nebula and asteroids are now well in our reach.
- * At the other end of the scale a digital microscope was also purchased. Images can now be seen and demonstrated on the Smart Boards. Students can take and keep digital records of their observations. This will be a great asset for Biological instruction.
- * For Chemistry, a computer spectroscope has been purchased. With this, solutions can be studied and accurate records of the chemicals they contain. Physicists will be able to study emission and absorption spectra of grasses. Even the gas in our sun's atmosphere can be identified.

HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT

- * Year 11 Geography students undertook local catchment fieldwork studies in the upper Castlereagh River Catchment and visited the Warrumbungle National Park as part of their Year 11 course work.
- * Year 12 Business Studies and Geography students undertook fieldwork studies on Blueberry Farming at Coffs Harbour in May as part of their course work studies.
- * Year 9/10 Commerce students participated in the Australian Share market game and competed in the Office of Fair Trading competition on Consumer Issues. They also visited the Dubbo District Court as part of their unit of work on Law and Society and Crime.
- * Year 12 Legal Studies, Economics, Ancient History and Business Studies attended the annual HSC Lecture day in Dubbo in June.
- * Year 8 Geography students camped overnight at Western Plains Zoo as part of the 'Zoo Snooze' program. At the Zoo they participated in an evening walk, early morning feeding of animals and undertook studies of endangered animals. While in Dubbo they visited the Western Plains Cultural Centre as part of their studies of Contact History.
- * Year 11 Legal Studies students participated in the state-wide Mock Trial Competition sponsored by the Law Society of NSW. The team performed very well throughout the competition, finishing runners up in the North West Zone.
- * Year 7 History visited the Western Plains Cultural Centre at Dubbo.
- * Year 11 Ancient History and Year 9/10 Archaeology students visited Sydney in March where they visited the Nicholson Museum, the National Maritime Museum and the NSW State Library.
- * Year 12 Legal Studies participated in HSC lectures run by the Legal Studies Association of NSW at Westmead in July, as part of their preparation for the HSC.
- * Dr Brian Brennan visited Coonabarabran in June to provide lectures to senior Ancient History and Modern History students.
- * Year 8 HSIE students participated in the Climate Clever Energy Savers Program. The following students were successful in achieving a \$1,000 grant for the installation of timed light switches:

Holly Norton	Danielle Andrews	Wade Sutherland
Edward Wilkin	Connor Graham	
- * Year 11 Legal Studies participated in Law Week activities at the Macquarie Regional Library (Coonabarabran Branch) in May, targeting research skills.
- * Years 7 to 12 participated in various competitions. Our results were as follows:

NSW History Competition
High Distinction

Chris Frith

Rachel Storer

Distinction

Craig McGlashan
Clayton Harrigan

Madeleine Byast
Mathew Frith

Credit

James Bowden
Madelyn Dumble

Lucy Dowling
Holly Purdy

Australian Geography Competition

High Distinction

Alexander Tighe

Marcus Young

Distinction

Makayla Munns
Aiden Daniels
Luke Mack

Emily Young
Connor Graham
Logan Whale

Credit

Simon Bouwsema
Patrick Shepherd-Hagemann

Jenna-Lee Broeksema

NSW Geography Competition

High Distinction

James Bowden
Alexander Tighe
Steven Baker
Marcus Young

Gemma Evans
Jayden Wood-Nicholson
Connor Graham

Distinction

Seth Baker
Craig McGlashan
Naomi Revely
Alice Fosdick

Victoria Lee
Nicola Murphy
Jemmae Dow
Nathan Verrender

Credit

Codie Toomalatai
Jake Chambers
Thomas Lather
Benjamin Douglas
Amee Wrench
Russell Murray
Madeleine Baker
Landon Brady
Madeleine Byast
Madelyn Dumble
Chris Frith
Leda Greenwood

Patrick Shepherd-Hagemann
Eathan Reeks
Teigan Higgins
Samuel Bowen
Shane Bourke
Aiden Daniels
Holly Purdy
Luke Mack
Clayton Harrigan
Logan Whale
Danielle Andrews
Emily Green

Nerida Hannah
Melanie Mills
Rachel Storer
Chelsea Edwards
Wil Devenish
Mathew Frith

Holly Norton
Mikaela Hadfield
Tamika Collier
Edward Wilkin
Jack Reynolds
Zachary Cluff

Australian Business Studies Competition

Credit

Laura McLean
Aaron Norton

Georgia Hunt
Timothy Wilkinson

LOTE (Language Other Than English)

- * Mrs Rebecca Partridge was a welcome addition to the LOTE teaching staff.
- * Ms Kathrin Schulz, German Teaching Assistant, spent Term 3 at Coonabarabran High School and helped in increasing language proficiency levels and gave students access to a native German speaker.
- * At Pilliga Pottery, a Gifted & Talented overnight excursion was held. Students had access to native-German speakers, the German culture and opportunities to cook German meals and view German movies.

Tournament of the Minds

- * The following seven students won the Regional Maths & Engineering Challenge at the University of New England:
Alice Fosdick
Victoria Lee
Jim Nash
David Tighe
Alexander Tighe
Clayton McKinnon
Steven Sanders

These same students then continued to Sydney University to compete in the State finals. While not successful, however, the students were commended on their task.

Visual Arts Department

- * Two-thirds of the Visual Arts candidates achieved above state average in their Visual Arts HSC Examination in 2009. Two Year 12 students, Rachel Elton and Rachael Kelly, achieved Band 6 and both students' major works were nominated for ArtExpress, with Rachel Elton's work chosen for ArtExpress and displayed at Tamworth Regional Gallery during May of this year.
- * Students in 9/10, 11 and 12 Visual Arts and Senior Photography classes attended an excursion at Tamworth Regional Gallery to view ArtExpress.
- * Year 9/10 participated in Artwork, a workshop developed through the Western Plains Cultural Centre.
- * Students from the Year 11 Visual Arts class attended a seminar with contemporary video and installation artist, Anthea Behm at the Western Plains Cultural Centre.

community members and local businesses and community services. The 2010 Indigenous Girls Dance Group “The Mii Mii Girls” was formed and students were left feeling a sense of identity and pride.

- * 6 students were awarded Indigenous Youth Leadership Scholarships, a testament to the fine calibre of students at our school. They are Kimberley Stanton, Melody Rankin, Dyllon Tighe, Wade Sutherland, Latoya Kuras and Les Cain and will join our existing scholarship holders Taneya Watton, Shaye Cain, David Sulter and Aleesha Connell. Taneya Watton, David Sulter and Shaye Cain attended the National Leadership Camp run by Rising Generations during the June/July holidays. The students enjoyed this valuable experience which has built on their leadership skills.
- * On 22 November 2010 Taneya Watton, David Sulter, Shaye Cain and Aleesha Connell attended Young Leaders Day held at Darling Harbour where they participated in an inspirational interactive day which included speakers such as NSW Premier, Kristina Keneally, Matthew Cowdrey OAM, Anh Do and more. The day was facilitated by the Halogen Foundation.
- * Throughout the year IYLP scholars participated in a number of events within the community and volunteered to work with students from Yuluwirri and Coonabarabran Primary School.
- * Brandon Nixon our only Indigenous Youth Leadership holder for year 12 participated in the inaugural formal graduation ceremony held at parliament house on 25 November and was presented with a certificate by Minister for School Education, Early Childhood & Youth; The Hon Peter Garrett AM,MP. Brandon was also invited to become an Ambassador for the Indigenous Youth Leadership Program.
- * Mrs Kelly Nash, Will Robinson and Jill Norton had the pleasure of participating in the opening of “The Sculptures in the Scrub” – Pilliga Forest, Baradine. A formal ceremony was followed by a tour of the gorge and barbecue. We are lucky enough to have Ken Hutchinson sculptor of the Axe Heads, Sculptures in the Scrub create a masterpiece for our school which has recently been completed. The sculpture symbolises the sharing of knowledge between Aboriginal and European cultures through dance.

TAS (TECHNICAL & APPLIED STUDIES)

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

Isabella Hermann	Water Safety Posters for Young Children
Sam Reeks	Pig Harvesting Crate
Marcus Inder	Folding, Portable Basketball Ring
Georgia Hunt	Wake, Skate and Disc
Daniel Crowley	Inspirational Mental Health Comic
- * VET- Hospitality saw the Year 12 cohort complete the new Hospitality course from the updated syllabus.

- * VET- Metal and Engineering, 2010 saw the students who began the course in stage 5 successfully complete 2 units of study towards their HSC in their preliminary year. Previously this course was only offered to students in stage 6.
- * With a successful submission for a Trade Training centre, construction is scheduled to commence in February 2011. This will see the refurbishment and extension of the existing metal workshop and a completely new building for hairdressing. This is for the delivery of the frameworks in Metal and Engineering and Hairdressing.

Music

- * Auditions occurred at the end of 2009 for exceptional performances in the HSC Practical Examinations. Alexander Lee provided a wonderful performance of the Alto Saxophone. He was asked to play at the Sydney Opera House in March this year as part of the concert showcasing some of the best performances and compositions for 2009.
- * Auditions continued this year as an outstanding performance in the HSC Practical Examination 2010 was created by Isabel Enks. Isabel has been asked to nominate to perform in the "Encore" concert at the Sydney Opera House in 2011.
- * Mrs Doolan's Year 7 Music class held a successful concert for family members in Week 7 of this term.
- * Year 8 have a concert featuring their playing on acoustic guitars and performing in their class band.
- * Band lessons occur in Year 8 when every student is allowed to choose an instrument to play. The drum kit and electric guitars are popular. Other instruments played in Year 8 include violins, acoustic guitar, keyboards, pianos, double bass, alto saxophone.
- * Year 9/10 have performances as part of their syllabus. It is the tradition of this school to say farewell to the Junior School with the end of Year "Sunset Concert".
- * Year 11 and Year 12 have given many performances in assemblies and prepare for their practical HSC Examination with 2 evening concerts.
- * The Orbital Swing Band is made up of a large proportion of High School students. These students rehearse every week for 2½ hours or more when a special event approaches. Our student band members have performed in many community events this year. Here are some of the events:

Coonabarabran Show
 Baradine 75th Anniversary Show
 Senior Citizens Picnic
 Anzac Day
 Sesqui-Centenary Celebrations for Coonabarabran
 AAO Conference
 OSB Reunion

- * The band was created to accompany our musical "Sheik, Rattle 'n' Roll". Key members of the Orbital Swing Band played for the musical (other band members were performing on stage).
- * HSC Music Day for Senior Music - Year 12 travelled to Tamworth for an intensive day's work covering Aural, musicology and performance requirements of the HSC Music Syllabus.
- * Choir students travelled to Armidale in August for a day and a half rehearsal to learn the music being performed in Sydney.
- * The second choir excursion involved travel to Sydney where two days of rehearsal culminated in a Celebration Concert in the Sydney Town Hall. The Choir was accompanied by an orchestra and in one piece by the Town Hall organ. Repertoire included excerpts from Handel's "Messiah", the "Te Deum" by Berlioz and a Beatles Medley of 5-6 pieces.
- * Hughie Ryan has performed in the Sydney Opera House as a percussionist with the State Wind Band. This is his fourth appearance in the Festival.
- * After a rigorous audition process, Coonabarabran High School was fortunate to have a large number of students nominated to attend the "Maxed Out". Students who attended the workshops and performances were: Jack Ayoub, Simon Bouwsema, Caragh Fretwell, Yue Liang, and Joshua Masman.
- * Formal Assemblies are always an opportunity to hear our students present a wide range of music. This year we have enjoyed wonderful performances from singers, instrumentalists, soloists and ensembles.
- * The start of term 2 saw a visit by the University of Newcastle Wind Orchestra. Schools from Dunedoo, Gilgandra, Coolah, Baradine and Coonabarabran attended the three-day workshop and performed in a 'School' Concert on the final day.

Agriculture

- * The agriculture plot has seen an increase in numbers of Berkshire pigs and rare breeds of chickens. Coonabarabran High School Berkshires is the name of our stud and is now the proud owner of not only Champion Vicky but also her daughters. These sows have all started their breeding career with some sizeable litters born at the beginning of Term 4.
- * Chickens are also bursting out of their shells every few weeks, as Marty Wilkin, our Farm Assistant, attempts to meet the high demand for laying hens and rare breeds of chickens including Brahmas, Black Spanish, Belgian D'Uccle and Japanese Bantams.
- * The wide range of chicken breeds now present at the school, are due to generous donations by Mark Tully of Blue Hills Rare Breeds and a more local patron, Pat McCallum of Coonabarabran. Without the support of people like this, the school would find it hard to replace the breeding stock lost earlier in the year. These breeds form the basis of the breed maturity study by Year 10 Agriculture.

- * Students are also on the increase as Year 9 and 10 Agriculture are now in separate classes for the first time. With the incredibly wet winter, these students and Year 7 Agriculture classes were thwarted in their vegetable growing efforts as the Ag Plot was inundated in water and plants succumbed to water logging. This also saw the end of the Year 11 Agriculture's winter cropping trial with the legume crops all but wiped out due to the paddocks being under water for two months.
- * Mathew Frith has proved himself as a Property Planner extra-ordinaire, winning the North West Property Planning Competition for a second year in a row. His talent in this area is an inspiration to all his peers (and his teacher), especially those who know what a difficult task this is to achieve. Mat's efforts were recognised in a ceremony at Ag Quip this year, and applauded by his peers who were also enjoying the day inspecting the new and latest technologies in agriculture.
- * Lastly, we can't have an Ag report without mentioning the cattle showing! Our year always begins with the local shows Binnaway, Coonabarabran and Baradine. Warren and Carlene Scifleet were again our cattle patrons, allowing us to show their beautiful Limousin heifers. Our dedicated Cattle Leaders were kept busy washing and grooming these nine head of cattle and their efforts were paid off. Most Successful Exhibitor at Binnaway and Champion Parader at both Binnaway and Coonabarabran Show was Jessica Bryant.
- * Other ribbons were won by many students, too numerous to mention them all separately. However, suffice to say these students deserve a big congratulation for all the time and effort they put into improving their cattle handling skills, whether these efforts result in a ribbon or not!

Ag Skills Day

- * The rain fell in buckets on the Ag Skills Day this year. We had 32 workshops for students to attend, but unfortunately, were only able to run these workshops for the morning session before everyone who was out in the elements became saturated.
- * The variety of opportunities offered to the students was outstanding. Once again, the presenters provided inspiration through the enthusiasm and knowledge each imparts in their area of agriculture. This enrichment to the education of our students cannot be underestimated.
- * Thank you to everyone involved in the day, through the donation of equipment or animals, and especially through the donation of time and expertise.
- * Thanks must also go to students who travelled from Binnaway and Baradine to attend this day with us.

Chess

- * The school Chess Team competed in the NSW Junior Chess League's competition. The team contested six rounds and played off against Narrabri High School and eventually took out third place in the North West Region section of the competition.

SPORT

- * The Open Girls Netball team were the North West Champions for the 5th successive year and finished 15th in the State overall.
- * The Under 14s Netball team reached the North West Final.
- * The Open Rugby League, Open Boys Touch and Open Girls Touch teams reached North West Semi-Finals.
- * The Year 7/8 Boys Touch team reached the final of the Tamworth Gala Day.
- * The U16s Rugby Union team won the North West 10-a-side Knockout.
- * Coona High won the Single Cup for the third year in a row.
- * Elise Baker represented North West in both Squash and Athletics
- * Timothy Wilkinson was a member of the North West side that won the CHS Carnival and went on to represent NSW Combined High Schools.
- * Overall, 19 students represented North West in the following sports:

Individual Swimming

Phoebe Hensby Emma Thompson

15s Touch

Teagan Cain

Squash

Gabrielle Olsen Elise Baker

Soccer

Luke McNeice

Netball

Corrine Towney

Golf

Joshua Douglas

Lawn Bowls

Timothy Wilkinson

Tennis

Georgie Knight

Cross Country

Vanessa Kenyon Ellie Capewell

Athletics

Elise Baker	Samuel Bowen	David Flood	Ricky Fowke
Jacob McDonald	Rebecca Silk	Dyllon Tighe	Joshua Cluff

EQUESTRIAN EXPO:

- * Coonabarabran High School's equestrian team completed a busy week of competition at this year's EXPO event. A team of 24 riders from Years 7 to 12 competed in all events with some great success, and in a spirit that was a highlight of the entire event.
- * Some of the highlights included the Polo Cross team of Jess Cormie, Sara and Sophie Stuart winning the A Grade plate final. This is a fantastic effort from the girls as some of the A grade teams include Australian representatives and most play on a far more regular basis than our team.
- * Another first was the Team Barrel event which Coonabarabran High was able to win for the first time ever. This is a highly competitive event which has teams of three competing against the clock for the fastest combined time; the event has over one hundred teams and is a highlight event, well done to the team of Sara Stuart, Jess Cormie and Sam Smith.
- * As a team we wish to thank the organising committee of the entire event for their efforts organising such a well run and enjoyable event. Our fellow competitors who came from three states we thank you some wonderful competition and the sportsmanship which was displayed over the entire competition. We also wish to congratulate all of those who gained places in events. Special thanks to Mrs Davis who helped manage and organise our team during the event and our families who are such an important part of our CHS equestrian team.