

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS 2014

The following is a summary of the highlights of our students and school this year. This has been another outstanding year and students have enjoyed success across a broad field of endeavours.

ENGLISH

2014 has been a successful and productive year for the English Faculty and our students.

- * In the 2013 HSC English examinations, students achieved excellent results in the Extension One, Advanced and Standard courses.
- * A number of students from Years 7 to 12 participated in the 2014 English International Competition and Assessment for Schools. Coonabarabran High performed exceptionally well, especially as students participated from right across Australasia. Our results were as follows:

Writing Competition:

- Aimee Sanders, Year 10 - Credit

English Competition:

3 students received a Merit:

- Year 7 - Hannah Deshon
- Year 8 - Jessie Dumble
- Year 10 - Aimee Sanders

12 students received a Credit:

- Year 8 - Mary Barac, Isobelle Fox, Jarrod Lambert, Mackensie Newton, Ellen Nilsson, Annabelle Park
- Year 9 - Maddison Hincks
- Year 11 - Jesse Doolan, Sara Hincks, Caitlyn McHugh, Stephen Sanders, David Tighe

3 students received a Distinction:

- Year 8 - Ian Whittall
- Year 9 - Daisy Andrews
- Year 11 - Luke Edwards.

- * Our students continued to showcase their outstanding writing ability in a number of competitions where their prowess with words was acknowledged as follows:

Henry Lawson (Gulgong) Writing Competition

- Brittany Doolan - First
- Emma Tudgey - Third
- Georgina Elton - Fourth
- Olivia Colantonio - Highly Commended
- Katie Young - Commended
- Alison Green - Commended

Additionally, for the second year running, our school was awarded the prize for most successful high school in the competition.

Mudgee Valley Writers' Competition

- Jesse Doolan - First

Henry Lawson (Grenfell) Writing Competition

- Clayton McKinnon - Second
- Anna Nash - Highly Commended

- * 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:

Highly Commended Duologue Year 9

- Hayley Korff and Brooke Meier

Highly Commended Duologue Year 10

- Katie Young and Kindelan Murray

Best Duologue Year 9/10

- Alison Green and Daisy Andrews (Year 9)

Best Duologue Year 11

- David Tighe and Stephen Sanders

Highly Commended Scene Year 9

- Jasmine Evans, Molly Atkinson, Eugenie Martin

Best Scene Year 9

- Gabi Webster, Alana Lawrence, Emily Kelly, Hannah Smith

Highly Commended Scene Year 10

- Emma Tudgey, Alexandra Eastburn, Keisha Donovan

Best Scene Year 10

- Melanie Dow, Annie Nash, Rabecca Cole, Mitchell Fosdick, Jack Masman

Highly Commended Year 11

- Caitlyn McHugh, Jesse Doolan, Steven Leask

Best Scene Year 11

- Luke Edwards, Sara Hincks, Brittany Soussa

Runner-Up Best Actor Year 9

- Alison Green

Best Actor Year 9

- Gabi Webster

Runner-Up Best Actor Year 10

- Annie Nash

Best Actor Year 10

- Katie Young

Runner-Up Best Actor Year 11

- Luke Edwards

Best Actor Year 11

- Jesse Doolan

Reserve Champion Duologue or Scene (overall)

- Gabi Webster, Alana Lawrence, Emily Kelly, Hannah Smith (Year 9)

Champion Duologue or Scene (overall)

- Luke Edwards, Sara Hincks, Brittany Soussa

Young Shakespearean Artist of the Year

- Jesse Doolan

- * 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 11 student David Tighe won his way through to the 2014 District finals of the Rotary District 9650 Public Speaking Competition with a great speech which called for the reform of the United Nations Security Council. Shanoa Hartley represented the school in the 2015 competition round, speaking eloquently about the need for society to accept diversity.
- Year 7 student Brittany Doolan represented the school in the statewide Legacy Public Speaking Competition. She delivered an inspiring speech on the importance of mateship and her impromptu topic for the day was 'Bad habits die hard'.

Debating

- Coonabarabran High School took on the Premier's Debating Challenge with style and gusto in 2014. This year saw our school enter three teams 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.

- **Year's 7 & 8**
The Junior Debating team, coached by Mrs Birrell, consisted of Hannah Deshon, Jack Patterson, Ethan Hoffman and Emily Wallace who were chosen after competing for the positions at school try-outs. The first debate was held against Coolah and the team was very excited about travelling away to compete and even more excited when they secured a win! For the next two debates in Dunedoo and Coonamble, there was a slight change in the team with Ethan being replaced by Mary Barac. The team actually got to travel to both of these destinations and the students really enjoyed the interaction with their opposing team and the different school environments. The young debaters delivered well-structured arguments and have established themselves as strong contenders for future debates.

- **Year's 9 & 10**
There were quite a few students in the Year 9/10 Debating team this year, all bringing with them their different abilities and passions for speaking. At certain times in the debating experience, Gabrielle Webster, Mitchell Fosdick, Shanoa Hartley, Gabrielle Karagiannis, Emma Tudgey, Gus Elton, Annie Nash, Lily Dumble and Katie Young used their talents to argue such topics as 'That contact sport should be banned for people under 18' and 'That we should legalise voluntary euthanasia'. The bane of their existence was having to argue the negative case in every single debate, always the toughest stance. Debating over the VC, the students, coached by Mrs Bell, happily met and competed against Coonamble High School, Trangie Central School and Broken Hill High School. The students are commended for their efforts this year.

- **Senior Debating**
This year the Coonabarabran High School Senior Debating Team tasted many successes in the Premier's Debating Challenge 2014. The team, consisting of Caitlyn McHugh (1st Speaker), Stephen Sanders (2nd Speaker), David Tighe (3rd speaker), Sara Hincks (Thinker) and Clayton McKinnon (Thinker), won their first four debates. The team, coached by Mrs Macintosh, debated teams from Dubbo Senior High School, Broken Hill High School, Condobolin Rural Technology and Orange High School over a variety of topics and were successful in each round. The Coonabarabran Team then experienced a narrow loss in the Zone Final against Bathurst High School.

Such are the wonders of modern technology; four of the five debates were conducted by video conference, with the team performing nobly despite the technological barriers.

Congratulations to the team.

* Year 12 English students attended HSC revision lectures in Dubbo in June.

* In July the school, once again hosted a successful Writers' Festival; what has now become the annual 'Feast of Words'. Visiting presenters included the welcome return of author JC Burke and screenwriter Patrick May. Excitingly too, for the first time, the school had a poet in residence for the festival. Bush poet Manfred Vijars enthusiastically shared his passion for poetry with students and staff. Additionally, this year witnessed the inaugural Living Libraries component of the festival; community members, Alec Bruce, Russ Stinson, Maria Rickert, Ron Sullivan and Maureen Sulter shared their stories with students. These sessions certainly added to the richness of the festival. Overall, the focus for three days was on writing and the beauty of words.

- * In September, English lecturers from the University of Sydney visited our school to discuss HSC texts with Extension, Advanced and Standard English students. Professor Will Christie and fellow academics Alex Hankinson and Elias Greig shared their invaluable insights into HSC prescribed texts with our Year 12 students.
- * HSC Extension 1 English students attended a study day in May at Newington College hosted by The English Teachers Association of NSW.
- * HSC Advanced students attended a performance of 'Hamlet' and took part in a study symposium, at the Seymour Centre Sydney. HSC Standard students also travelled to Sydney to view a performance of their prescribed text, 'Shoe-Horn Sonata'. Equity funding supported both of these worthwhile excursions.
- * In November, the Advanced English class were the guests of the Sydney University English Faculty as part of their Outreach Program. Students attended lectures and workshops on Shakespeare, were given a guided tour of the campus and information to encourage them to consider Sydney University for their tertiary studies.
- * Senior students in the Standard course experienced the world of war poet Wilfred Owen brought to life by the players in Poetry in Action.
- * Year 10 students enjoyed the opportunity of seeing Shakespeare's *Macbeth* performed at Gilgandra High School in October
- * Students benefited from the experience of viewing George Orwell's seminal novel *1984* brought to life on stage at the Regional Theatre in Dubbo in April. In 2015, the Year 12 Advanced English class will study this novel as part of their HSC studies.
- * Mr Gardiner continued in his valuable role as Support Person to the students participating in the Xsel Program.
- * HSC students were strongly supported in their studies via film nights and additional revision workshops.
- * The Multi-Lit and Fluency Reading Programs have continued to successfully support student learning.
- * Faculty staff maintained their commitment to ongoing professional learning and have attended and organised numerous Saturday workshops in Dubbo conducted by the Western Plains English Teachers Association. Additionally, staff also attended various other lectures and workshops throughout the year, thereby ensuring that their students have access to great ideas and teaching strategies to support their success in the English classroom. This year was a particularly critical year in regards to ongoing professional learning as 2015 will see the new HSC Prescriptions examined for the first time as well as the implementation of the National Curriculum in Years 8 and 10.
- * 2013 saw the welcome addition of Mrs Tegan Aitkin to the English faculty. Her professionalism and energy made a positive contribution to both her colleagues and her students. 2014 also marks Mr Gardiner's last year at our school. Since his arrival in 2008, he has made a most valuable contribution to the teaching of English and to our school and community more broadly. Our best wishes go with him as he continues his career in Nowra.

MATHEMATICS

- * Our faculty has engaged students in curriculum designed to develop the mathematical skills and understanding to lead productive lives and to provide a strong foundation for future studies. The faculty supports all students through numeracy programs such as QuickSmart and enrichment through mathematics competitions, extension activities and our Feast of Pi.

- * **Junior Programs**

This year, the mathematics faculty implemented the Australian curriculum (NSW) for Years 7 and 9. Years 8 and 10 will be delivered next year. Valuable lessons have been learnt this year. We will initiate changes to better support student engagement and success during 2015.

The mathematics faculty also implemented an interactive web-based online platform for self-paced revision and homework, providing students with the opportunity to use this site anywhere. All students have free access to the website. This resource has been used successfully by many students, especially the booster pack for our Gifted & Talented students.

- * **Senior Programs**

Our current Year 12 Mathematics General-2 (MG-2) students are the pioneers of the new General Mathematics program. The MG-2 is a 2 unit Board Developed Course (BDC) and counts towards a student's ATAR. A new non-ATAR stream called Mathematics General 1 is now available to students who wish to study mathematics without having to sit a HSC examination.

We also have students completing higher level mathematics courses including HSC extension programs.

- * **Mathematics Competitions**

Mrs Deshon served as the competitions director for all mathematics competitions in 2014. Our students once again showed their potential in a range of mathematical competitions and were well deserving of the awards they received for their efforts.

The ICAS Mathematics Competition was very challenging and the following students are to be congratulated upon receiving:

Credit

Claudia Maiden

Ian Whittall

Jarrold Lambert

Clayton McKinnon

Johst Bowmaker

Nicholas Bowden

Stephen Sanders

The Australian Mathematics Competition was very challenging and the following students are to be congratulated upon receiving:

Credit

Hannah Deshon

Stephen Sanders

Sara Hincks

Kevin Lee

Samuel Edwards

David Tighe

Clayton McKinnon

Proficiency

Brittany Doolan

Daisy Andrews

Angus Lambert

* **Numeracy Support Program**

The faculty embeds numeracy outcomes in regular programming and teaching to cater for all students. However, students identified as having high needs receive support through a targeted numeracy program (QuickSmart), led by Mrs Redden and her team of very capable and committed tutoring assistants. Our special thanks to Mr Macintosh, Mrs Norton, Mrs Heaney, Mrs Stanton, Mrs Lawson and Mrs Doel who provide support to identified students during scheduled mathematics classes.

* **Transition**

Mrs Debbie Redden led the transition program to support students arriving into Year 7 in 2014. Her Learning & Support report will provide more information.

* **Whole School Programs**

The faculty engaged in a number of school-wide programs to support student learning, engagement and success. This year's activities included: Pi week (10 - 14 March), Feast of Pi (23 - 24 July), National Mathematics Day (22 August) and Literacy and Numeracy week (25 - 29 August).

* The **Feast of Pi (π)** was a celebration of one of the most recognisable mathematical symbols, π . This was an extremely successful event that energised the whole school. Please read the separate report.

* The **National Mathematics Day** Program engaged students with brain twisting paradoxes. Some were counter-intuitive, some were tricky and others were just baffling! Some of the fun activities included: "The Ghandi Series", "The Liar's Paradox" and "Proof that $2 = 1$ ".

SCIENCE

* Our Science & Engineering Challenge team, consisting of Year 9/10 students, participated in the Challenge at Narrabri and from there were selected to represent the North West Region at Newcastle. Students work in groups of four to solve a variety of problems related to the disciplines of Science and Engineering. Our students performed very well during the challenge and a fun time was had by all. The Science & Engineering Challenge has become a regular fixture on our calendar and it is also a great opportunity to expose students to university life and the University of Newcastle in particular. This year we were beaten into 8th place by many selective Sydney schools. This is non-the-less a great achievement by our students.

* This year Mrs Eshman and Miss Moore hosted the Primary School Years 5 & 6 for an introduction to Science & Engineering. During this activity the students were required to construct and test a load bearing bridge and an earthquake proof building.

* There have been a number of activities to assist and enhance the learning in the classroom. These include subject-specific excursions in the senior school, regular Skype sessions and video conferences and team teaching. We also took advantage of the expertise in the school during the Feast of Pi and many of the junior science and senior Physics classes enjoyed the entertaining and informative sessions by Professor Fred Watson. Whilst on the theme of Astronomy some of our students attended the Rotary sponsored RYSTARS for some intensive exposure to current astronomical research.

* Our HSC students again enjoyed an excursion to Armidale for the UNE Science and Maths booster sessions. This is a great opportunity for students to complete some of the more difficult practical work associated with their senior science courses. UNE make the experience very accessible to all students as accommodation and meals are provided and travel is subsidised. It is a great opportunity for students to have a sneak peak at university and campus life.

- * Throughout the year the Science Faculty have been busy programming for the implementation of the National Curriculum in 2014 for Year 8 and Year 10. The Science staff will take this opportunity to wish all students the very best for the year.
- * This year an excursion to Sydney was organised for senior Biology, Earth & Environmental Science, Physics and Chemistry students, in an effort to enhance their learning outcomes for these subjects. Activities covered were:
 - visits to ANSTO, the Australian Nuclear Science & Technology Organisation to learn about how radioactive elements are examined
 - the Australian Museum to visit the Mega fauna and explore environments through time with a focus on evolutionary processes
 - the Powerhouse Museum to enable students to gain a greater knowledge and understanding of ecological issues
 - Museum of Human Disease where students were able to observe hundreds of specimens from all parts of the human body that had suffered diseases
 - Taronga Zoo to study adaptations in a variety of species and finally a trip to Luna Park to give the Physics students the opportunity to practically study the concepts they will examine in their studies such as the use of electricity and magnetism with dodgem cars

Both students and teachers found this excursion very informative and it is planned to make this a regular bi-annual excursion.

- * Whilst our participation in external competitions has been slightly down on previous years, we have achieved the following results:

Big Science Competition

High Distinction

Ian Whittall	Stephen Sanders
Jarrold Lambert	Charlie Knight

Credit

Richard Knight	Edwin Samuel
Oliver Lucas	Callum Hain
Jack Isedale	Angus Lambert

Australian National Chemistry Quiz

Distinction

Charlie Knight	Stephen Sanders
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Australian Science Olympiads - Chemistry

Credit

Stephen Sanders

Australian Science Olympiads - Earth & Environmental Science

High Distinction

Stephen Sanders

Congratulations to these students on your commendable achievements.

- * Miss Moore's Year 7 Class travelled to the Warrumbungles and worked with Mrs Leathart to study the rock formations of the National Park. While there, the students gathered information on the creation of the mountains, performing interpretive geology. They visited various locations and observed the geological features to form a theory on the creation of the mountain range. The students were introduced to the process of stone tool knapping and use. Mr Johnston was generous enough to act as the bus driver and extra supervisor.
- * Mr Morrissey will be leaving us into retirement next year so the Science staff and students would like to thank him for his valuable contribution to our faculty and school.

HUMAN SOCIETY & ITS ENVIRONMENT

The HSIE Faculty welcomed Mrs Tegan Aitkin who brought her passion for teaching to both her Year 8 and Year 10 classes. Additionally, Mr James Moffat took up a full-time position in the faculty. His enthusiasm has made a positive contribution to the faculty and certainly helped him to successfully guide the school's first Society & Culture class to their HSC Examination. The class' Personal Interest Projects were a credit both to Mr Moffat's dedication and to the diligence of his students.

As a faculty we provided a number of opportunities to enrich the knowledge of our students both in the classroom and beyond, including:

- * Year 11 and 12 Geography students travelled to Sydney to conduct a study of urban dynamics. Students benefited from being able to relate their in-class learning to experience of the real world, and enjoyed sampling the sights and sounds of much of the city.
- * Year 10 students investigated geographical issues in the local environment creating short films of their field work and findings, demonstrating their multiple skills as both investigative geographers and budding film makers.
- * Year 9 Geography students had the opportunity to participate in a regional public speaking forum. Students participated in a public debate held in the Warrumbungle Shire Council meeting room. Mrs Kenny later travelled to Sydney with Alison Green, Molly Atkinson, Daisy Andrews, Eugenie Martin, Teagan Barron and Gabrielle Webster to join other schools of the region in a forum hosted at NSW Parliament House. These young women eloquently discussed issues pertinent to their local community.
- * Almost all Year 8 students were lucky enough to participate in the "Zoo Snooz" at Taronga Western Plains Zoo. This gave students an opportunity to study the role of zoos in management of endangered species and look at some special breeding programs.
- * Year 8 History students spent long hours developing their own board games with a special focus on the medieval period which they had studied. The students then put their games to the test in a mega game-athon in the hall which concluded with students voting for the best overall creation.
- * Year 12 Legal Studies students, accompanied by Ms Doolan, travelled to Sydney to attend the annual HSC enhancement lectures conducted by the Legal Studies Association of NSW.
- * The current Year 12 Legal Studies class benefited from the generosity of past students Clayton McKinnon, James Nash, and Jaimi-lee Bennett who delivered a perceptive tutorial on study tips for the HSC.
- * The school's Mock Trial Team, coached by Ms Doolan, successfully won their way through 5 Mock Trials - undefeated - to be ranked in the top 32 schools in the State! This was a wonderful achievement given that the Law Society of NSW's state-wide Mock Trial Competition began with 200 teams.

This year the team comprised of barristers Stephen Sanders and David Tighe, instructing solicitor Holly Verrender, court official Ben Yarnold and star witnesses Sara Hincks and Jenna Cormie and have presented themselves in a confident, well-groomed manner, even when facing quick-firing experienced opposition.

Throughout the six trials the team has faced, they have experienced a range of court proceedings, having undertaken both prosecution and defence roles in criminal matters and also acted as counsel for the plaintiff and for the defendant in civil matters. They successfully acted as defence to a civil claim of negligence brought by the owner of a dog named "Freddie" who supposedly leapt a fence to sink his fangs into the arm of a passer-by.

They have become accustomed to prosecuting mean old men for waving shotguns at people, and have even defended innocent old ladies from unjust charges of shoplifting.

While Sara gained infamy for playing the role of an idiotic teenager who might have assaulted someone while walking home from the pub and hence was sentenced to life imprisonment and then resentenced to death; the team have faced teams of remarkably more experience and met them with cool heads, often winning not only the competition points but also on the law.

In every matter, the team presented as impeccably groomed, well prepared and increasingly, skilled advocates. At all times they were wonderful ambassadors for the school, competing in good spirits. There is a well-worn adage that "failure requires no preparation". This team gave proof to that statement as their commitment to each case was exemplary

- * Year 12 Legal Studies, Ancient History and Geography students attended the annual HSC Lecture Days in Dubbo in June.
- * The 9/10 Aboriginal Studies class has been extremely busy both around the school and in the community participating in a number of culturally important events, liaising with Gamilaraay Elders. This course is an invaluable part of Coonabarabran High School's curriculum, giving students an opportunity to explore Australia's unique Indigenous culture. Students explored issues of autonomy, self-determination and human rights. They investigated the important role of Aboriginal Art and Literature in preserving culture. Students participated in an Indigenous Art Program and planned a very successful NAIDOC Day which involved community members, local Aboriginal Elders and whole-school participation. Students have also immersed themselves in local Indigenous history with visits to Burra Bee Dee with the Society & Culture students from Year 12.
- * Year 9 and 10 Commerce were involved in the Australian Securities Exchange' Stock Market Game where students participated in the selling and buying of shares on the stock market. They explored issues in living independently and how the law influences society. Students also designed websites and market stalls for promoting products.
- * In October the faculty hosted a visit from academics from the University of Sydney's History Department. Students were able to attend workshops centered upon local history (Year 8) and explore the possibilities which flow from studying History at university (senior students).
- * The new National Curriculum was introduced into Years 7 and 9 this year. Year 7 investigated the mystery of Narrabeen Man, and explored the ancient societies of Egypt, Rome and Greece. Students built pyramids, wrote letters in hieroglyphics, created gods and marched in a Roman Battalion. They were introduced to the sounds and intrigue of Ancient India and created murals of global environments.
- * Year 9 created museum displays which demonstrated their understanding of the Industrial Revolution and the Movement of People around the world. They also explored a local soldier in World War I and investigated their local community of Coonabarabran. Students brought their history studies to life with a Federation Day in Term Two. Students dressed in period clothing and took on the roles of key historical figures from the period. They debated the pros and cons of federation and discussed the lifestyles of various social groups.
- * The HSC Geography class undertook a field trip to 'Toorawandi', Coonabarabran where Mr Michael Doolan shared his expert knowledge of beef cattle production to enhance the students' knowledge of this integral part of their coursework.

TAS (TECHNICAL & APPLIED STUDIES)

- * The Metal's students worked solidly for an entire week in our Trade Training Centre manufacturing an impressive array of projects including: a Tray back for a Ute, a sheep crate, a cattle box for a truck, a trailer and tractor implements. The hours worked contributes toward the 70 hours of mandatory work placement.
- * The partnership established between Coonabarabran High School and Coonabarabran Aero Club has meant that a flight simulator is now operating within the school environment. This program supports the Aeronautical Engineering component of the course worth 25%. The support of the Coonabarabran Aero Club members, in particular Colin Mercer and Geoff Gasior, has made the operation of this project possible and is truly appreciated by the staff and students.
- * Our Hospitality students have continued to increase and practice their industry skills. Examples of activities that they undertook and events they catered for during the last twelve months include: the International Feast, a Rotary Dinner, Barista Training, the Biggest Morning Tea and catering for the Senior Citizens at the Musical.
- * Year 11 Design & Technology students worked on three main projects this year: cardboard furniture, Home Designer CAD program and designed a range of jewellery. The class has built a solid foundation for their HSC major project by developing their design skills and expectations for the folio component of their project.
- * Year 12 Design & Technology class students designed and created the following projects:

Nicholas Baker

Custom Ute Tray

Dean Evans

Bench Press

Samuel Douglas

Games Table

Ciaran Crowley

Gaia skateboard

Ellie Capewell

Easy fit for seniors

Jaimie-Lee Bennett

Childrens' Rural Hospital

Entertainment Kit

Patrick Bennell

Small Italian Guitar

Hayley Yarnold

Up cycled fashion

Annie Woo

Safety Backpack

Saxon Whipper

Multipurpose Outdoor Cooker

Sam Redfern

Musical festival

Brittany Kelly

All in one home styler

William Hain

Mobile Tool Chest

CaraghFretwell

Just in case (mobile phone case)

- * Year 12 Industrial Technology (Timber) students' constructed quality products, including a folio. The students made the following major projects:

Luke Doel

- Black Jack/Poker Table

Samuel Douglas

- Retro Styled Coffee Table

William Hain

- Country Styled Hall Table

Torey Maynard

- Mechanic's Six Drawer Tool Chest

Saxon Whipper

- A Pair of Garden Deck Chairs

LOTE (Language Other Than English) *Bahasa Indonesia - Indonesian Language*

- * 2014 marks the second successful year of Indonesian language and culture studies at Coonabarabran High School. The course delivers a basic level of Indonesian language and cultural understanding to our year 8 students. This year has seen the inclusion of a year nine elective group who chose to continue with their Indonesian studies. The aim of the program is to teach Indonesian language and familiarise our students with the many complex and diverse communities of our near Northern neighbour, across the thousands of islands that make up the world's largest archipelago that is Indonesia.
- * This year also saw the return of Indonesian shadow puppeteer Pak Sumardi who visited our school to entertain our students and afford them the opportunity to view authentic Indonesian culture in real time at the school. We hope to continue bringing other cultural events to the school which will reinforce student language learning while exposing our students to authentic cultural experiences.
- * This year I entered a number of our student's assignments into a state wide Indonesian language writing competition. The competition is offered and judged by the Australian – Indonesian Association, the Modern Language Teachers Association of NSW and the Indonesian Consulate in Sydney. This year saw a record number of entries into the competition 153 in total from 13 different schools around NSW. I am extremely pleased and proud to announce that **Jackson Sulter** has been awarded first place in the stage 4 category with **Brodie Draper** taking second place and **Kate Masman** receiving a High commendation. These students deserve high praise and congratulations for their excellent efforts, *terima kasih banyak murid-muridku; kamu membuat gurumu sangat senang!* (Thanks a lot to my students; you have made me a very happy teacher!)

AGRICULTURE

- * Coonabarabran High School Agriculture and Primary Industries students have been involved in all facets of production in the plant and livestock production systems in the Ag Plot as well as attending extra-curriculum excursions to Coonabarabran Show, Baradine Show, Quirindi Show, Dubbo Show, The Royal Brisbane Show and the Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza.
- * Years 9, 10 and 11 have all been involved in planting crops in the old Primary School oval area which is part of a three year plan to restore the pasture in this area. These crops are also part of the cropping trials carried out by these students' work to observe effects of planting densities and legume inoculation.
- * This year has also seen the involvement of the Support Unit groups which have been working at the Ag Plot throughout 2014. Along with feeding all the livestock and helping to sell eggs to the canteen, these students have also learned some handy fencing skills as they repaired the fence across the gully which had been flattened during numerous flood events over the past years.
- * Students from Years 7-12 exhibited cattle at the Coonabarabran and Baradine Show. Students prepared and exhibited four steers owned by the school, Jezabel a Limousin Heifer owned by Col & Lorna McGilchrist as well as four Charolais heifers and two bulls owned by Terry and Maylene Griffen, 'Temana' Charolais Baradine. Students had overwhelming success in both the stud classes and paraders competition at Coonabarabran Show:
 - Under 13 Years
 - Kiara Hawkins 1st
 - Matilda Chapman 2nd
 - Mackenzie Raen 3rd

- Under 14 Years
 - Natalie Young 4th
 - Louisa Ale Van Schalkwyk 2nd
- Under 15 Years
 - Lachlan McEvoy 3rd

* On the 2 August 2014, 13 students and 5 steers made the long journey to one of the biggest shows in the country, The Brisbane Royal Show or otherwise known as the EKKA. We had one of most successful shows yet:

- In the Paraders Competition Mackenzie Raaen and Kiara Hawkins were awarded Highly Commended ribbons for their efforts and Caitlyn Green and Oska Brooker were selected for the finals of their age group.
- On the Hoof, 'Moody' a Charolais Cross Devon steer bred by Steve and Lisa Moody, was placed 2nd in Class 16. 'Snapper' our Limousin steer was placed 3rd in Class 18. In the Open Section, 'Commando' was place 7th in a very strong class of 35 steers.
- On the Hook, Commando our Limousin cross Angus steer, scored a huge 93 points out of a 100 placing him first in Class 3 and Champion Light Weight Steer of the Brisbane Royal Show. Commando had the second highest carcass point score of the 320 steers entered in the competition. He was also awarded the Meat Standard Australia Eating Quality Award for Class 3. This was an outstanding achievement.

* Pig showing was again a feature of the year with students attending Dubbo and Quirindi shows. The team of enthusiastic first timers to pig showing included Hannah Stuart, Jack Patterson, Aaron Harvey, Silver Bunner, Phoebe Hayman, Emily Wallace, Matilda Harris and Jon Kelly. These students have been quick to pick up the art of showing pigs and have been rewarded with the school's youngest pig Dulcie receiving Champion Junior Sow at Dubbo, beating sows twice her age. However, as is the way with showing animals with different judges, she only managed Reserve Champion at Quirindi, being beaten by a whisker by Richard Cole's Riverglen Sarah which was one of the five pigs generously loaned to us by Riverglen Berkshires of Forbes for the Quirindi Show.

* Students attended the Upper Hunter Beef Bonanza at Scone and the cattle team members were extremely successful. The results included:

Paraders Competition

- 12/13 Years
 - Matilda Chapman - 2nd
 - Shaun McNeilly - Finalist
- 16/17 Years
 - Caitlyn Green - Finalist
 - Jonty Raaen - Finalist

Junior Judging

- 14 Years
 - Oska Brooker - 3rd

Steer Classes

- Woody - 2nd Class 9
- Moody, Bella & Hooker - Highly Commended

Meat Judging

Caitlyn Green, Jonty Raaen, Zac Smith and Lachlan McEvoy all successfully competed in the Intercollegiate Meat Judging Competition

VISUAL ARTS

- * The Visual Arts Department yet again showed the artistic talents of students at Coonabarabran High, beginning with the musical “How the West was Warped”, in Term 2. Students created amazing backdrops and sets to enhance the spectacular music and performances for each night.
- * The junior and elective Visual Arts students have explored intriguing themes through their practical and theory work. The Year 10 students have recently finished their bodies of work, demonstrating their skills and abilities through a range of mediums. Senior Visual Arts and Photography students have created fantastic artworks through painting, drawing and digital media. Many of the works were displayed in the office foyer, offering inspiration and a great opportunity for students to exhibit their creativity.
- * To help assist students to unlock their creativity, former student and recent graduate of UTS’ Music & Design course, Annie McKinnon, made a welcome return to speak about the design process. Elective Visual Arts and Photography students participated in workshops where Annie spoke about the process of taking an idea and forming it into a creative work. By sharing examples of her current arts practice and discussing iterative design, students were able to see first-hand how the design process evolves into a finished product. Mind maps, sketches and minimalist sculptures were fundamental in exploring the iterative process. At the end of each day the students had produced exciting work that had unlocked the creative potential inside each of us. Thanks to Annie for her time and sharing her expertise with the students.
- * In August Mr Shand organised and spoke at the VADEA *Inspire* conference in Dubbo. Over 30 Visual Arts teachers from Western NSW schools attended this satellite conference, as part of the Visual Arts & Design Educator’s Association’s ongoing regional program, where they heard talks from a number of experienced teachers about educational practice in Visual Arts. This was followed by *Indulge*, held at the Western Plains Cultural Centre, for an exclusive look at the new exhibitions on display. Kent Buchanan, Cultural Officer at WPCC, gave a behind-the-scenes tour to attendees.
- * Thank you again to Miss Rankmore for her assistance in teaching the junior Visual Arts students. The students have produced great work and I hope they will be inspired to continue visual arts in years to come.

MUSIC

CURRICULAR

- * **Year 7** have prepared and exhibited an amazing array of wonderful, creative composition writing for the Graphic Notation topic. The compositions were on display in the library and well worth browsing and admiring Year 7 creative ideas. Year 7 have been studying Musical instruments and Musicals as well as making practical music with their singing. A highlight of each Semester was the progress all Year 7 made in learning to play the acoustic guitar. Well done, Year 7.
- * **Year 8** chose instruments to learn from those available in the Music Department. The three class bands range in choice from bass guitar, electric guitar, acoustic guitar and drum kit to djembe (African Drums), flute, trumpet, piano, keyboard and mallet percussion (mainly xylophone, glockenspiel and metallophone). To read the music chosen by the class, each person has to understand how to read a music score for their particular instrument. To this end, Year 8 also study notation and pitch and learn some of the music language of Italian along with common signs and symbols.

- * **Years 9 and 10** have enjoyed exploring different styles and periods by travelling through time and space in the music Tardis. Individual musicology research and composition writing have consolidated and extended their music knowledge. Performance is a much enjoyed lesson and the results of their practice can be seen in the annual Sunset concert at the end of the year.
- * **Year 11** have enjoyed their classes together and all have worked diligently and consistently. They have explored the requirements of the Senior Music course and consolidated their preparation for their final year of secondary schooling. Year 11 students have taken advantage of the opportunities to perform in school assemblies.
- * **Year 12** were busy in Term 3 preparing for the HSC Practical examination which holds 70% of their total marks. Accompanied by Mrs N Doolan our two Year 12 musicians, Jaimi-Lee Bennett and Nathan Cox, rehearsed consistently and diligently, presented their HSC repertoire in lunchtime concerts and two evening performances, and were prepared thoroughly for an exciting HSC examination. Performances and viva voca were quite stunning and those who came to their HSC preparation concerts were thrilled with the standard of performance and the range of their repertoire. Congratulations Year 12.
- * Assemblies are always a great opportunity for music students to practice their performance skills. This year we have enjoyed items from Jaimi-Lee Bennett and Nathan Cox, David Tighe, Caitlyn McHugh and Katherine Harris.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

- * The Choir, a small but committed group of singers, have worked away at a range of repertoire. This repertoire included a Russian piece "Polovstian Dance" by Borodin, "Communion" from our Australian composer Peter Sculthorpe and a series of Gospel songs. Our students joined many other singers of all ages to present a wonderful concert in the Sydney Town Hall. This was not only a great experience for our choir but also allowed us to support Westmead Children's Hospital with the funds raised from the concert. This year over \$20,000 has been raised for the Music Therapy Unit in Westmead Hospital.
- * The Moorambilla Festival again held in Baradine and Coonamble has given students the opportunity to work with amazing professional musicians such as Talkoz and The Song Company. Angus Lambert, Annabelle Park, Daisy Andrews, Tyler Shoobert and Gabrielle Webster were successful in completing a vigorous audition process. The concert at Baradine and the Gala Concert at Coonamble filled the senses with stunning visual movement and disciplined drumming as well as exciting singing. An exhilarating display contributed to by our Moorambilla students.
- * The Orbital Swing Band is a school and community group of musicians. Our High School instrumentalists who join the band then have a large program of preparation and performance for a variety of community events. Some of the events this year were Australia Day (at Binnaway and Coonabarabran), ANZAC Day (Coonabarabran), Siding Spring 50th Anniversary and concerts at both Coonabarabran and Baradine. Our 2014 High School band members are Hannah Smith, David Tighe, Nathan Cox, Clayton McKinnon, Jaimelee Milliner and Miss Moore.
- * Our School Musical "How the West was Warped" was full of fun and preceded by consistent, diligent effort from the cast and crew. The Musical Band met once a week to rehearse and their commitment and diligence were apparent in wonderful performances. All the students involved worked hard to learn lines and songs, movements and dance. The team effort of staff and students (cast and crew) created a truly memorable musical.
- * Chatswood Intensive English High School visit gave Year 9 an opportunity to practice their drumming skills and perform some African rhythms.

- * Young Australia Workshop organised three interesting professional concerts for our students. The first "Beating around the Bush" was all about drums and percussion instruments, so it was loud, rhythmic, interesting and enjoyed by all.
- * "The Revenge of the Synth" featured keyboards giving a "potted" history from Baroque harpsichord to the latest keyboards of modern times.
- * Our final concert was "Fretwork". The guitarist took the audience through many guitar styles and techniques and was a master of guitar performance. Student's comments included "amazing", "cool" and awesome!
- * This busy year will culminate in the annual Sunset Concert performed by our Year 9 and 10 Music students early in December.

SUPPORT UNIT

During 2014, activities in the Support Unit included:

- * A number of students participated in TAFE and TVET courses including Automotive and Welding. These courses involved a whole day either weekly or fortnightly during which the students gained a lot of practical experience
- * The Feast of Pi was celebrated in the unit with some fantastic activities organised by Ms Rankmore.
- * During Feast of Words the Unit hosted two visiting authors; filmmaker Patrick May and bush poet Manfred Vijars. These two gentlemen provided the students with very interesting activities
- * Students also participated in the RDA riding every second Wednesday. This is an excellent program facilitated by Mrs Young.
- * Students in D7 were invited to participate in the BreakThru Athletics Carnival. This was an excellent day enjoyed by all students.
- * During the year students have also worked hard to improve their literacy and numeracy by participating in targeted programs such as QuickSmart, Team English, IXL Maths, Reflex Maths and the Raz-Kids reading program.
- * Thinking Skills, Social Skills and Functional Literacy programs were added to the timetable and students from across the school were invited to participate.
- * During sport, some students participated in the Rural Fire Service Cadet program; this involved training each Wednesday during sport and a full day of training during Term 3.
- * Several students participated in various work placement experiences over the course of the year in such diverse areas as child care, hairdressing, mechanics, automotive, office work and community service.
- * More iPads were purchased to extend the learning experiences and opportunities for students.
- * Once again photographs and artworks completed by the students were hung in the school's administration area, and achieved success in art/craft competitions.

Our School Learning Support Officers, Mrs Yvonne Rice, Mr Dennis Coe, Mrs Michelle McEvoy, Mrs Mary Lawson, Mrs Sue Norton, Mrs Lee-Ann Doel, Mrs Kelly Heaney, Miss Megan Rice and

Mr Ian Nixon have worked tirelessly throughout the year with students from all facets of school life to improve their learning experiences.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

2014 has been an enriching year for Aboriginal Education at Coonabarabran High School. Our Indigenous students been given opportunities to celebrate their culture and contribute to our school community. Some of the highlights include:

- * Ten students applied for an **Indigenous Youth Leadership Program Scholarship**. All were rewarded with an interview.
- * **NAIDOC at Coonabarabran Primary School** - our Year 9 and 10 students participated in the implementation of Traditional Aboriginal games.
- * At this year's **NAIDOC Week** our Indigenous students were involved in various activities supported by Year 9/10 Aboriginal Studies students and the whole school celebrated NAIDOC with an assembly. The flag was raised by Steven Watton, Lukas Connell while Blake Cain and Harley Wood spoke about the meaning of the flag. Allynta Sutherland and Audrey Watton talked about the theme for NAIDOC 2014 which was **Serving Country & Beyond** which honours all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who served Australia in both World Wars. Tori Dundas and Quade Anderson spoke about the significance of the Smoking Ceremony while Daniel Needham-Cain and Blake Cain performed the Smoking Ceremony with the guidance of local Aboriginal Elder Pat Chatfield. We also had guest speakers Mrs Madge Nixon, Jason Russell and Deb Munson. Mrs Nixon told Year 7/8 students about her father's involvement in World War I, Mr Russell spoke about his art and Ms Munson spoke about her programs within the community.
- * Daniel Needham a Year 10 student spoke at **National Sorry Day** and its importance to the local community.
- * Some of our students attended and participated in the **Yarn Up** at Neilson Park.
- * Community NAIDOC - Marshandra Naden and Allynta Sutherland were involved in the steering committee. Allynta was also involved with the organisation of the school dance troupe.
- * Over a period of 4 weeks our Indigenous students from Years 9 and 10 were involved in a **Cultural Art Workshop** with local artists Jason Russell and Paris Norton. This program was funded by the Warrumbungle Shire Council and the student's art work is being displayed at the tourist information centre.
- * Years 10 and 11 students attended **University of Western Sydney** with a weeks' worth of workshops and activities centering on being able to access university and were lucky enough to participate in the university NAIDOC celebrations. Three of our junior students were accepted into the university summer programs.
- * The cooking of traditional food at our annual **International Feast** were foods such as Emu, Kangaroo and Crocodile.
- * Some of our Year 10 students were able to be involved in the visit from Chatswood High School Intensive English Centre with an **Indigenous Art Workshop**.
- * Years 9, 10 and 11 students were invited to attend a significant ceremony at the Tourist Information Centre to see the return of a breastplate to our community and the opening of the Coonabarabran Local Aboriginal Lands Councils **Keeping Place**.

Alison Stanton, AEO (Aboriginal Education Officer)

SPORT

- * Harley Wood won the Gold Medal in the 15 Years High Jump, Long Jump and Triple Jump at the Combined High Schools Athletics Carnival, an outstanding individual achievement.
- * Jack Masman was a member of the North West Boys Tennis team which placed third at the Combined High Schools Championships.
- * Coonabarabran High School won the Single Cup for the 7th year in a row.
- * At the North West Swimming Carnival Jack Isedale (14's 50m Freestyle) placed first.
- * At the North West Cross Country Carnival David Tighe won the Senior Boys event.
- * At the North West athletics carnival Harley Wood set new records in the 15 Years Triple Jump and Long Jump. Kiara Hawkins (13's 100m); Breeana McNeilly (15's 400m and 800m); Cody Brady (16's Shot Put); Harley Wood (15s High Jump, Long Jump, Triple Jump) gained first placings.
- * The 15 Years Girls Netball team won the North West Knockout and placed 15th in the state overall.
- * The Open Girls Netball, Open Girls Softball, Open Boys Basketball and Open Rugby League teams all reached North West semi finals.
- * David Tighe, Jack Masman, Gina Elton and Harley Wood were selected to represent North West in two different sports.
- * Overall 29 students represented North West in the following sports:

Swimming

Elizabeth Varley
Ned Isedale

Phoebe Hensby
Jack Isedale

Rugby League

Sam Douglas
Harley Wood

Saxon Whipper
Ben Harris

Netball

Olivia Eastburn
Lakeyia Woods

Makayla Munns

Soccer

David Tighe

Teaghan Barron

Squash

Jack Masman
Kate Masman

Josh Masman
Hayley Walton

Cross Country

David Tighe
Matthew Kenyon
Mariah Pennell

Shaun McNeilly
Gina Elton

Tennis

Jack Masman

Athletics

Breeana McNeilly
Mitchell Fosdick
Kiara Hawkins
Zak Kelly

Harley Wood
Lane Hawkins
Gina Elton
Annabelle Park

NORTH WEST EQUESTRIAN EXPO

- * The 25 strong Coonabarabran High Team, with parents in support, competed with great camaraderie and courage over the 5 days of Expo. The Expo Committee has congratulated the students for the excellent sportsmanship and good manners they displayed as well as the skill each competitor demonstrated which enabled them to be part of this amazing event.
- * An equestrian team requires a huge, sustained effort from parents as well as riders leading up to events, and continued commitment while the event is running. Parents provide the volunteer work force which enable competitions to run, and are vital to their success.
- * Parents and community members also provide the support allowing our two training days to run. We are incredibly lucky to have the calibre of expertise among parents and community members which made these days of such value. Mr Chris Cormie, Mr Duncan Graham, Mrs Cathy Raaen, Mrs Jenny Smith, Mr Paul Redden, Mrs Tric Knight and Mrs Kylie Deshon are among the dream team available to instruct our riders. Duncan, Tric and Kylie also take on Head Steward responsibilities at Expo. We also have parents who we don't see much in the camp, but are on the Expo Committee.
- * The Expo team is a combined effort of all parents and riders. Everyone contributes in a variety of ways to help make each person's experience a good one.
- * Our team achieved some wonderful team and individual results. These include:
 - The Coonabarabran Chamber of Commerce Trophy for Beat Presented Large School
 - Richard Knight: Overall 15 Year Champion, 1st on the A Grade One Day Event and placings in the 15 Years AM7, Power and Speed and A2 Show Jumping earning him the 15 Year Show Jumping Champion
 - Riders placing in their respective One Day Event competitions were: Lily Abbott (B Grade), Daisy Andrews, Sally Deshon, Isobelle Fox, Annie Nash, Sam Smith (C Grade), Georgina Elton (D grade)
 - Riders placing in their Combined Training were: Emma Tudgey, Antonia Knight, Mariah Pennell, Angus Lambert and Rohan Tym.
 - Riders placing in Show Jumping were: Sam Smith (AM7 and A2), Antonia Knight, Mackenzie Raaen and Hannah Stuart
 - Riders placing in Working Horse Challenge were: Sophie Stuart, Sam Smith and Charlie Knight
 - Sporting results include: Sam Smith (Bending), Hannah Deshon and Mackenzie Raaen (Flag)
- * For the second year, our ultimate Team of Four, made up of Sam Smith, Sophie Stuart, Madeleine McNeilly and Jonty Raaen, brought home a blue ribbon on the Hacking day, and the team comprising Georgina Elton, Charlie Knight, Hannah Deshon and Mackenzie Raaen received a 4th placing. Mariah Pennell also won a ribbon in Hacking.
- * Emma Tudgey's placing in Monday Dressage was an individual outstanding achievement. Emma was the only student from Coonabarabran High to enter in this specialist dressage event. Mackenzie Raaen's 4th placing in the Individual Barrel Time is also outstanding. Six hundred and sixty riders enter Expo, and the majority enter in the Team Barrel Race. Mackenzie's fourth placing is an incredible achievement.

- * Special mention must be made of: Lucy Redden whose achievements on her new horse show the calibre of her riding skills; Sam Abbott who is also on a new horse and who showed maturity and flexibility in the face of the tight scheduling of events; Sam Edwards who has shown commitment to improving his riding skills and is becoming a force to be reckoned with; Matilda Chapman who is new to riding and shows wonderful potential in competitions and Kelly Phillips' achievement of nursing her horse, Ben, so he was healthy enough to compete.
- * The contribution of Mrs Jenny Smith to the management of the school team is huge. She knows exactly where everyone should be at any time over Expo. Her plaiting skills were integral to the success of the school on the last day of competition. Mrs Michelle McEvoy also deserves acknowledgement for the organisation of the team uniform. We did look beautiful.
- * We also need to thank Mr Johnston and Mr Enks for support of the school riding team, as well as all staff at the High School. When we are away from school, others take on our responsibilities so we can attend with the school team. We appreciate all that the whole school community does to support the school team.
- * It is with a tinge of sadness that we celebrate Sam Smith, Sophie and Antonia's contribution to the school through their riding and leadership over the last six Expos. They have represented Coonabarabran High with pride and enthusiasm, setting a wonderful example for all of us.