Sad news
Families and friends of Alstonville High School may already be aware that on Saturday morning, 7th December, James Rigby, (Year 12 2012), died as a result of a motorcycle accident between Canberra and Batemans Bay.

James was a valued and loved member of our student body who had embarked upon a successful career with ADFA in 2013. He will be missed by staff and students from Alstonville High School. James will be remembered for his cheerful and optimistic personality, his loyalty to his friends, his steadfast and hardworking attitude.

James’ parents – Steve and Margaret have been very actively involved with Alstonville High School volunteering many hours for school working bees, helping with canteen and the uniform shop, participating in P&C meetings and generally helping whenever there has been a need.

Our thoughts are with James’ parents, his friends and family during this very sad time.

Presentation Day Assembly
Monday 16th December
Please come and help us celebrate all the achievements of our students at our Presentation Day assembly on Monday 16th December in our hall. We would appreciate it if parents / carers could be seated by 9:30am.

A funeral service will be held at Goonellabah Crematorium off Rous Road at 3.00pm on Saturday 14th December. Further detail will be contained in a funeral notice to be listed with the Northern Star. We would ask that any students currently attending Alstonville High School who are planning on attending the service consider wearing formal school uniform as a mark of respect for James and his family.

A wake will be held at Meerschaum Vale community hall following the funeral service.

Nelson Mandela
On Friday 6th December Nelson Mandela passed away. Nelson Mandela has served as a powerful symbol of one person’s ability to make a positive difference in the world. His message of unity and hope is one that has been used by many school teachers hoping to inspire students to make a positive
With the introduction of a new student wellbeing module we are starting to experience the benefits of being able to view comprehensive information on students through one portal. Over time this will enable us to better cater for individual student wellbeing.

Once again I must thank our School Administrative staff for all their hard work and patience as we work our way through a significant range of technical gremlins associated with this initial roll out. We are not only working to introduce improved systems for our school and our students, but we are also working to ensure that the implementation process for the majority of schools who start using this system in 2014 goes smoothly.

Congratulations

Congratulations to our boys and girls 15yrs Water Polo teams who travelled to Newcastle for the finals of the CHS State wide knockout. Both teams made the semi-finals with the boys finishing 3rd and the girls 4th. Well done!

We also congratulate our Under 14’s Boys Cricket team who have made it to the final game of the National Bank Cup. See more details further on in this newsletter.

Congratulations also to our year 10 students who participated in Peer Support training. The feedback from staff and students involved was that this training was both enjoyable and very beneficial. Thanks must go to Mr Holmes and his team for organising this very important program. They also were involved in fundraising on the weekend in an attempt to help lower the cost of the Peer Support camp.

A group of our year 9 boys participated in our first Boy’s Leadership camp. This followed on from our leadership camp for year 8 boys. It is very satisfying to see our boy’s leadership program growing each year and the support from staff, families and members of the community who have volunteered their time is greatly appreciated. Mr Rollison (our School Counsellor), Mr White, and Mr Larrescy are some of the staff who have persisted in developing this program over two years. They have been very impressed by the attitude and enthusiasm demonstrated by the boys.

David Silcock
Principal

### Recognising student achievement

On Thursday evening the 13th December we will be holding our annual year 10 awards ceremony and dinner dance. This event aims at congratulating our year 10 students for the effort and achievements represented by four years of high school study. It is a reward for their achievements to date and an encouragement for them to continue to work to the best of their ability into the future. The vast majority of young people continue through to the end of year 12 or its equivalent because this provides them with the widest range of post school possibilities.

On Monday 16th December we are holding our presentation assembly for students in years 7, 8, 9 and 11. This event also aims at acknowledging the hard work and achievements of students from these year groups, even if not all students are called to stage. It is an opportunity for us to showcase student talent. The assembly starts shortly after 9.00am and we would love to have lots of parents, carers and friends of our students in attendance to help us support, encourage and congratulate our students.

### Alstonville and Wollongbar P&C Fun Run

The Alstonville High School and Wollongbar Primary School P&Cs will be holding their annual fun run on Saturday March 15th 2014. Information about this event will soon be posted on the Fun Run Website http://www.alstonvillewollongbarfunrun.com.au/

In the meantime we would appreciate hearing anyone associated with Alstonville High School who can help out with the event. In particular we would appreciate volunteers who can help with the BBQ, act as a marshal for one or more event, or help with the set up and pack away. If you are interested in helping with this terrific community event please contact Alstonville High School and leave your details with the front office or via email.

### LMBR Update

We are starting to make headway with our introduction of new software and systems. We have started receipting payments and using our new cash desk. We have also started to make payments to suppliers through the new online payment process.

We thank families who are receiving refunds from the school for your cooperation. The first time a family makes this request they will have to complete a form to allow us to make payments into family accounts. We no longer have the capacity to write cheques. Families will also have the option of converting refund payments into credits for future payments. This option may prove to be more convenient.
Art work included in Artexpress Exhibition
Liam Haley yr 12 has had his Visual Arts HSC Body of Work titled, “Sink or Sail” has been selected for inclusion in the Artexpress Exhibition 2013/14. His work will be on display at The Armory Sydney Olympic Park and next year in the Glasshouse Regional Gallery in Port Macquarie as part of the Regional Exhibition tour.

Art success in Ballina Prawn Festival Art Competition
Art students have also featured in the award winners at the Ballina Prawn Festival Art Competition. There was an overwhelming response to this competition, with Alstonville High schools Holly Davis, Emily Griffin and Caleigh Hansen all winning awards.

Ian Roberts / Head Teacher CAPA

School Magazine 2013
There are a number of brand new “Up Close – 2013” school magazines for sale for only $20 from the office. This magazine includes a multimedia DVD and is of the highest quality. At this price, they will sell quickly.

Simon Chate

Public Speaking Update English
Recently finalists from the School Speak-Off competition presented their speeches at a Rotary dinner and a Probus morning tea at the Alstonville Bowling Club. Each of the speakers spoke with confidence and composure and was well received by their audiences. Thank you to the families who attended these functions in support of our students.

The following students are to be acknowledged for their excellent presentations:

Year 7 Mobina Rowhani and Josh Green
Year 8 Emily McEwan and April Hamilton
Year 9 Leah McDuff and Belle Lei
Year 10 Jason Campbell

On behalf of the English Faculty we would like to warmly thank Rotary and PROBUS. It is through their continuing support of the Public Speaking program at Alstonville High School that we have the opportunity to connect our classroom to the community. We would also like to thank these organisations for their generous financial support which awards students for their hard work and achievements and assists in providing English resources for the school.

Students stand for a photo after presenting their speeches for the Rotary Dinner.

Pictured from L-R: Peter Swain (Youth Co-Ordinator of Rotary Alstonville) Valentina Carey (English Department AHS), Jason Campbell (Year 10), Leah McDuff (Year 9), Belle Lei (Year 9), Emily McEwan (Year 8), Mobina Rowhani (Year 7), Gordon King (President of Rotary Alstonville)

Valentina Carey – English

North Coast CHS Sports Awards
Below are two of our Alstonville High Students who were recognised for outstanding performance in school sport throughout 2013.

Gabrielle Stanek Yr 8

Julian Aenishaenslin Yr 10
**Galbraith Boys Sporting Success**

Recently Ben Galbraith represented Queensland in Melbourne in the National Championships in Water Polo. During November Zak, Ben and Josh Galbraith were members of the North Coast Water Polo Championship team that came 4th overall. Ben and Josh have been chosen to go to Newcastle for the 16s State Finals. This is a great achievement for all three boys.

**Under 14’s Boys Cricket Success**

Congratulations to the Alstonville High Boys Under 14’s Cricket team who have made it to the final game of the National Bank Cup. The team has had victories over Maclean, Kadina, Evans Head and Southern Cross. They will now face Melville High School in Kempsey in the Regional Final, which will be played tomorrow Thursday 12th December at Grafton.

The team has represented themselves and their school at the highest level while participating in these games. The team has been very dominate in their previous victories; have dismissed all their opponents for less than 50 runs. We are hoping that this momentum will continue in the final.

Members of the team are:

- Kyle Yager yr 7
- Jarrod Sherlock yr 7
- Matthew Job yr 7
- Jordan McNally yr 7
- Harry Binney yr 7
- Damien Culverhouse yr 7
- Daniel Young yr 7
- Dylan Stone yr 8
- Jackson Forster yr 8
- Lewis McNally yr 8
- Ben Hudson yr 9
- Paviksham Siribalamurali yr 7
- Ryan McGrath yr 7

**Waterpolo**

The NSWCHS Secondary Boys Waterpolo Championships were held from the 25th to the 28th November at Parramatta. Alstonville High was represented in this team by ten of our students:

- Daniel Sawyer yr8
- Ben Galbraith yr9
- Josh Galbraith yr9
- Isaac Sheehan yr9
- Tom Fleming yr10
- Liam Hair yr10
- Felix Margraf yr10
- Jonathan Cusack yr11
- Zac Galbraith yr11
- Nick Stanek yr11

The North Coast Boys team finished with 3 wins, 3 losses and 2 draws to finish 5th out of the 8 regions that competed at state. Four of our students were selected into NSWCHS State Waterpolo Teams; Liam Hair 1sts team, Jonathan Cusack and Felix Margraf 2nds team and Nick Stanek Honour Team. Well done!
P&C, Canteen & Uniform News

The P&C would like to wish everyone in the school community the very best for the festive season. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers, sponsors and friends both within the school and the wider community for their support throughout the year. We look forward to working together with you all to continue to improve and progress our school in 2014.

Canteen News

The Business Committee would like to thank the Hospitality students for the wonderful morning tea they provided for the volunteers morning tea. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Volunteers are needed for the 2014 roster.
Please ring Robynne on 6628 1797 if you can assist.
Lunch provided.

Volunteers are needed for January Uniform Sales. See dates below.
Please phone Robynne 6628 1797

Uniform Sales 2014

Wednesday January 22\textsuperscript{nd} 7.30am - 1pm
Thursday January 23\textsuperscript{rd} 8.00am - 1pm
Tuesday January 28\textsuperscript{th} 8.00am - 12MD
Wednesday January 29\textsuperscript{th} 8.00am - 10am
Friday January 31\textsuperscript{st} 8.00am - 10am

A limited variety of stationary needs will be available at the January sales

UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS
8am - 10am
Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Thank you for your support
Australian Seabird Rescue Talk

Australian Seabird Rescue will be holding talk and tours of our sea turtle hospital on 6th January on weekdays at 10am through until 24th January. The cost of the tours is $5 per person and go about an hour.

Address 264 North Creek Road Ballina.

Kathrina Southwell
General Manager
Australian Seabird Rescue Inc.
264 North Creek Rd
Ballina NSW 2478
Ph: 02 66 862 852
Fax 02 66 869 652
www.seabirdrescue.org