Principal’s Report

Completion of Formal Exams

By now all formal examinations have been completed for the Higher School Certificate and Years 7 to 10. This does not mean that assessment tasks for Years 7 to 11 have finished as there will be in class assessment tasks and separate course assessment tasks. Therefore it is mandatory for all students to attend every timetabled lesson and to attempt and complete all tasks in class.

Year 6 / 7 Orientation for 2016

This week is an exciting week for those students who will beginning Year 7 with us in 2016. On Wednesday afternoon these students will begin their transition experience, so that over the next three weeks each student will complete six different activities. The transition allows current Year 6 students to familiarise themselves with the areas and building of the school, meet with other Year 6 students from other schools and to meet with some staff and students.

Year 12 Formal – Thursday 12th November

This week is the final celebratory event for the Year 12 Class of 2015, with their Formal Ceremony. I invite the whole school community to be involved. You are able to view the students as they arrive and enter the venue at the Lismore Workers Club from 5pm. All Year 12 students will be excited as they arrive in carefully planned transport and dressed to be admired. Year 12 students, their guests and staff will then be part of a private function within the venue to celebrate the completion of this stage in education. It is very much expected that the next newsletter will feature a selection of photographs which will show the glamour of the evening.

Technical Data Network Upgrade

Over the past two weeks networkers have been in the school improving and establishing new network cables. Already it has been commented upon by staff and students that the speed of the internet and intranet has increased. It is very much hoped that over the next week, and especially in the last week of this term when all networking is complete and all new and updated servers are on line, that the access and speed of technology throughout the school will be beyond expectation.

Music Department Staff

Mr Sean Robinson has been appointed to the end of Term 4 2015 to replace Mrs Colleen Bowles upon her leave to retirement. Mr Robinson comes to the school with a wealth of experience across a range of musical performance and experience. Mr Robinson is further supporting the work of Mrs Bowles in both classical and contemporary practice and performance with all students. Strengthening the work of the
school, a string tutor from the Lismore Conservatorium of Music is coming to the school each Tuesday lunchtime to work with students in both individual and group work. I very much welcome and thank Mr Robinson for taking up this role within the school.

**Student Learning Support**

It is most important that the work and learning that is happening in class rooms is fully supported right through and including the last week of Term 4. I request that each parent take the time to talk with their son/daughter as to what they are learning in class and allow them to explain the concept or idea of the lesson. In talking to students in the school I know that this is happening in the majority of homes each evening, but I still want to encourage all to be part of this active revision.

**Primary Industries Construction Underway**

![Construction Site Image](image)

John Douglas
Principal

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**Congratulations to Jenna Clement**

Jenna has been nominated to have her Industrial Technology Multimedia Year 12 Major Project included in InTech 2016. This is the annual exhibition of outstanding Major Design Projects developed by HSC Industrial Technology Students.

The 2016 exhibition will be held at The Sydney Showground Homebush from Friday the 24th June to Sunday 26th June 2016. Some of the exhibits will also be on display at the Power House Museum in Sydney from February through to May 2016.

Jenna and the 2015 Multimedia Class have continued with the high quality Multimedia projects and successes from previous years.

Jenna’s work “Reminiscence” demonstrated a wide range of multimedia skills presented in a short film featuring a very well-crafted story. All that have seen this film recognise that Jenna is a gifted film maker and we wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

*Geoff Colnan / Multimedia teacher*

**U 14’s Cricket State Knockout.**

On Thursday 29th October, Alstonville High School played Kadina High School in overcast conditions at Hepburn Park in Goonellabah. After losing the toss we were sent into bat on a wet field. A number of wickets were lost quickly with some strong bowling by Kadina until Riley Wood stabilised the ship with some good batting and the team finished well with Sean Boulton not out and Owen Bensley batting out for a total of 67.

With a small total to chase Kadina hit the field with some strong opposition in the field which was well organised and co-ordinated by our captain Caleb Watson. Some quick wickets fell with some strong bowling by Zen Preddey, Toby Bridges, Austin Fay and Owen Bensley. Unfortunately some missed opportunities with dropped catches meant Kadina ended with the win. Congratulations to all involved with a lot of growth and development visible within the side over the course of our games this year.

Thanks to parents and teachers who supported the event, with a special thank you to David Boulton the umpire.

*Ben Holmes*

**Careers Excursion- Medicine and Allied Health Day**

On Friday 23rd October Year 10/11 students: Lewis McNally, Ben Whitehead, Elektra Hart, Gabby Stanek and Carly Mackerras, participated in a “Health Professional Day” run at University
Centre for Rural Health at Lismore and supported by CONNECT. Sessions included information on: what do they do at UCRH, students currently studying in medicine or allied health, qualified clinicians panel, UMAT/GAMSAT and concluded with rotating workshops relating to suturing, CPR, medical imaging, fracture bandaging/plastering and medication knowledge with Webster packaging. A fun and informative day was had by all. Many thanks to the medical staff and CONNECT for giving up their time. Once again our students were great ambassadors for themselves and the school.

Karyn Akers / TAS

URGENT!!!!
Do you have any offcuts or lengths of cotton fabric you do not require anymore?

If so we are in urgent need of updating these in our TAS Textile faculty. Could you please drop them into the Front Office and the ladies will ensure they find their way to us. Thank you.

Staff of Textiles

School Lockers
All lockers that are currently hired need to be paid by Monday 15th February 2016 to secure a locker for 2016. These can be secured now by making payments to the office.
Hire fees are:
Old $7.50  New $20.00

Wendy Tolland / School Admin Manager

Leave Passes
Just a reminder to parents that notes for leave passes need to have the following information:

- Leave pass notes need to have the child’s full name and year
- A reason needs to be given, such as doctors appointment
- The time you want your child to leave and if they are returning

Notes should be presented before school for the issue of leave passes.

You may ring the front office if a leave pass is required for your child. Please do not send them a text saying that you will be waiting for them out the front of the school. They cannot leave the school grounds without an authorised leave pass.

Kerri Crethar / Welfare

North Coast National Lismore Show
On the 22 October 2015, year 10 Agriculture students and year 11 Primary Industry students attended the annual North Coast National Lismore Show. Our cattle were being exhibited in a led steer competition, aiming for a spot in the top 6 steers in the 260kg – 360kg live weight class. There was a great result from the Murray-Grey X Limousin steer who was placed 5th out of 12 steers in the category. Also a big thanks to all students, supervisors and helpers on the day (Rebecca Parker, Rebecca Hunter, Liam Davenport-Waite, Harrison Nipperess, Sophie Crawford, Gavin Wade, Brooke Convery and William Morgan) and of course our cattle carrier Wayne Bruggy - without him we wouldn’t have been able to get our steers transported to the show. We would like to also wish Gavin all the best on his continuing trip around Australia, and we thank him for filling in as the farm assistant over the last couple of week, taking a break from his travels.

Our Voice Sustainability Conference 2015.
On Friday 30th October, Alstonville High School student environmental group attended the Our Voice Conference at Southern Cross University, Lismore Campus. The conference is for young people, by young people to inspire each other to take action toward an environmentally sustainable future. The conference provides an opportunity for young people to be heard on a range of issues and ideas. Our Voice is an initiative of Southern Cross University, the Dorroughby Environment Centre and Rous Water.


On the day the students attended a number of workshops and then they presented short drama skits to engage young audiences about the hazards of littering and the environmental cost of drinking (plastic) bottled water (see article further on in newsletter). Students then facilitated discussions about the impact of our behaviour and encouraged solution based discussions as well as diversity, bee pollination and a love of nature.

Some of the feedback we received from the students included:

“…”

“…”

“…”

“…”

“…”

The students were outstanding ambassadors for the school and were well-received. Mrs Akers and I are extremely proud of each and every one of them, for their dedication and the manner with which they conducted themselves.

Ms Davenport
OUR VOICE CONFERENCE 2015 AT SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY

Alstonville High School Environment Group at the 2015 OUR VOICE Conference.

Alstonville High School students facilitating informed discussions about solutions and initiatives to promote sustainable practices in our communities.
Holley Sommerville shares her activism and online initiatives to change the world.

Students perform for their young audience.
Bottled Water

Australians spend over $500 million on bottled water every year. It has to be pumped out of the ground, packaged, transported and chilled before it gets to us. This creates over 60,000 tons of greenhouse gases a year in Australia alone. Do you think this is wasteful?

The manufacture and transport of the plastic bottles for all this water requires over 460,000 barrels of oil. Less than 40% of these bottles are recycled; the balance ends up in landfill or in our waterways.

Recycling just one bottle saves enough energy to power a television for 90 minutes. Recycling makes a big difference; the more we recycle the less raw materials we use.

When Australia was first introduced to bottled water in the late 1980s, we all thought it was a joke.

Bottled Water – Did you know?

* It takes up to seven litres of water and one litre of oil to produce one litre of bottled water.

* Tap water has 1 per cent the environmental impact of bottled water.

* Australians spent more than $500 million on bottled water last year.

* One bottle of water has the same impact on our environment as driving a car 1km.

* Most water bottles end in landfill.

* Discarded drink bottles account for 38 per cent of the total rubbish volume.

* The average cost of a litre of tap water in Australia .001¢

* The average cost of a litre of bottled water in Australia is $2.83

* Australians buy 118,000 tonnes of plastic drink bottles a year.

* It takes 8 years to recoup the cost of a bottle of water by refilling the bottle with tap water.

* Water bottlers (Coke & Schweppes) of Australia are fighting against legislation for a container deposit scheme. What? The system has worked very well in South Australia for 35 years. In 2008 the refund was increased from 5 cents to 10 cents and return rates jumped 20% from a good 70% to a brilliant 80%.

Canteen News

Council Regulations
Due to Council Regulations the canteen is unable to cook or reheat food bought from home by students.

Help Needed In Uniform Shop for Year 6 / 7
Orientation Half Day Thursday 3rd December
Parent volunteers are needed in the canteen Uniform Shop for the Year 6/7 Orientation Half Day on Thursday 3rd December.

If you can spare an hour or two could you please contact the school canteen.
Alstonville High School P&C Christmas Meeting

An invitation is extended to all P&C members, parents and staff of Alstonville High School to join us for our final P&C meeting for 2015

When: Wednesday 25th November, 2015

Where: Alstonville Bowls Club

Time: 6:00pm for a meal (self funded) followed by the meeting commencing at 7.00pm

RSVP: Alison Chessells (Secretary)

Via return email at – alstonvillehs.pc@gmail.com - by 23rd November