Fifty-eight student leaders received their badge and recited the pledge of office during the formal ceremony on Thursday 9 February 2012, in front of their proud parents/carers, friends, invited guests, the student body and staff. They committed to being role models of the Learner Code: Safe, Respect, Personal Best.

Already our leaders are hard at work. The Student Executive compered the ceremony with the School Captains delivering their inaugural address outlining the vision for 2012; the Community Service Vice Captain has organised Interact’s first fundraiser; the Sport Vice Captain and House Captains are busy organising the Interschool Swimming Carnival; the Vice Captains are organising the first disco; the Student Council Vice Captain and Student Council are already meeting; the Cultural Vice Captain is polishing the Drama Festival and promoting and recruiting for the Musical. And this is the start of the year!

We wish them well and will toast their success at the end of 2012.
From the Principal
by Mr Craig Whittred, Principal
Editorial - Newsletter No.2 16/02/12

Well as we come to the end of Week 4 the 1st Term of the year is really taking off. Students in Years 8, 9 and 10 will be coming to the end of their first five week unit of the National Curriculum. Teachers will be preparing the students to complete assessment in English, Mathematics and Science. This will be the first time students from Ayr State High School and across the State will be assessed to the new national standard. We are looking forward to seeing the students’ achievement data from that round of testing.

Last Thursday was our Student Leader Induction ceremony. It was a very uplifting event. Our whole school witnessed the leaders of 2012 be presented with their badges and certificates and pledge an oath to signify their commitment to our school community in the coming year. Apart from our staff and students many parents and family members, Indigenous elders, and representatives from P&C, as well as our Mayor, witnessed the occasion. I would like to thank them for their support of our school and the future leaders of our community.

On Monday this week we had a special whole school parade to commemorate the Australian Governments delivery of The Apology speech for the Stolen Generations. The parade was organised and run by our Indigenous Vice Captain Amber Sutherland. Amber was supported by a small group of dancers who did a blend of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island dance. It was also great to see members of our community attend the parade as well.

Tuesday afternoon sport has started again this year and it is great to see the students from Ayr State High School represent us so well with their commitment and sportsmanship. Although meetings have kept me away for the last couple of weeks and I have only seen a small part of the games, I would like to thank the teachers involved for giving up their time to help support our students. Next week we travel to Bowen on Tuesday afternoon and hopefully we will give them a bit of touch up!

This week is our Swimming Carnival and I am really keen to see this event. The students and teachers have been getting war cries ready and have been decorating the school in house colours. I wish everyone the best, although I hear that Banks are the team to beat! Yours in education

Craig Whittred
Principal

March From Ayr State to Ayr High School
by Mrs Saskia Vollema-Creek

On the first of March, 1937, approximately 271 students were marched from Ayr State School to Ayr State High School. Floods that year delayed furniture and students had to remain at Ayr State School until the newly built High School was fully equipped for classes.

The original march left Ayr State School, marched down Railway Street, then along Queen Street, turning right into Young Street and then left into Wickham Street to the High School. They marched into the front entrance (‘A’ Block) and coconut branches were bent over to make a Path of Honour. Past students such as Norma Smith (nee Freeman), remembers marvelling at the big cement staircases that led to their classrooms upstairs and how the classrooms smelt new and were spacious and airy.

In 1987, the march was re-enacted as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations. This march was led by two former female pupils wearing uniforms which were recreated. The march once again was re-enacted in 2007 as part of the 70 years celebrations and was enjoyed by current and past students alike.

To kick start the 75th Jubilee celebrations, we will be re-enacting this march once again, with a completely new cohort of students at Ayr High. The march will once again allow students to establish links with the school’s past and be a part of celebrating Ayr High’s 75th Jubilee. Ayr High has a rich history which all students should be aware of.

We welcome all students (past and present) to participate in the 75th Jubilee march. Everyone must gather at the front of Ayr State School (Graham Street) by 8.20 am to leave at 8.30 am. Vintage cars are being organised for those who find it difficult to manage the walk. A morning tea will be provided after the official photo on the front steps of ‘A’ Block.
Burdekin Crew Flies High in Sydney

The first week back at school saw the Burdekin Crew take off to Sydney for four days, to perform at the 10th annual Yabun Festival. The Crew, which was formed last year as part of the Song Nation Project aimed at engaging Indigenous students, performed in front of a packed crowd at Sydney’s Victoria Park on Australia Day.

The Crew was selected to perform by the Gadigal media group, which runs ‘Koori Radio’ and the ‘Koori Mail’, who were impressed by the Burdekin Crew video clip on ‘youtube’. The ‘Crew’ were the only interstate act to perform on the Young Black and Deadly youth stage. They were truly sensational. The feedback from the audience was all very positive. Everyone wanted to know who they were and where they came from. They did our school and our community very proud.

Sydney was an amazing experience for all the students involved, as they were provided with the opportunity to do some sightseeing of Sydney’s famous landmarks and were able to rub shoulders with famous celebrities. They were escorted over the four days by comedian and entertainer Sean Choolburra and his wife Jodie, the program manager. They worked with Indigenous rappers and hip hop artists like ‘The Street Warriors’, got to try some circus stunts and met and had photos with Jessica Mauboy.

It was a memorable and life changing experience for all the students involved. The crew is now busy working towards their next major performance, ‘Creative generation, state schools on show’, to be held in Brisbane in July and the annual Vibe Alive Festival to be held in Townsville in June.

New Staff for 2012

by Ms Lesley Olsen, Deputy Principal

We are pleased to welcome new faces this year to replace a number of staff who are on leave or who have moved to new horizons.

- Ms Heather Scott is welcomed as a new member of the English/SOSE/HPE staff. Heather is an ex School Captain of Ayr State High School. We welcome her return. She is a great role model for current students.

- Mr Luke Jones is our new music teacher. He brings current experience working in the live music industry and expertise in string instruments.

- Ms Sayuri Shirakoma (Sensis Shirakoma) is the first Japanese teacher for Ayr State High School. Ms Shirakoma is keen to engage students in the study of her native language.

- Ms Margo Johnson is welcomed as a Maths teacher and will shortly encompass Maths classes in her timetable. She is currently working in the Visual Arts, having some training in this area.

We trust our new staff members enjoy their time in the Ayr High community.

Sport News

Interschool Rugby League 07/02/11

U15 Boys:
vs BCHS Win 16 - 10

Open Boys:
vs BCHS Loss 20 - 22

Interschool Netball 07/02/11

U15 Girls
vs BCHS Win 16 - 15

Open Girls
vs BCHS Loss 22 - 27

Interschool Rugby League 14/02/11

U15 Boys:
vs HHSHS Win 16 - 10

Open Boys:
vs HHSHS Win 54 - 4

Interschool Netball 14/02/11

U15 Girls
vs HHSHS Loss 14 - 21

Open Girls
vs HHSHS Loss 8 - 27

Interschool Volleyball 13/02/11

U15
vs BCHS Win 77 - 21

vs HHSHS Win

Open
vs BCHS Win 50 - 39

vs HHSHS Win

Interhouse Swimming Carnival

Friday 17 February

Come in house colours and support your team. Enclosed shoes required.

Year 11 Work Experience

by Mrs Vicki Toohey, HOD - Business IT & Humanities

Work Experience for Year 11 students is scheduled for 8-11 May this year. The Year 11 students have been issued with a form to indicate their preference for placement. This form is due back on Friday, 17 February. Student preferences should reflect their Senior Education and Training (SET) plan. If undertaking a school based traineeship, students may elect to use the work experience week to work for their employer or select a different career to investigate if desired. Forms are available from the office if necessary.
A special parade was held on Monday 13 February, to mark the anniversary of the Apology to Australia’s Indigenous peoples and, in particular, the Stolen Generations, delivered by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in 2008. This day has great meaning for the whole Australian community and is a day to celebrate and reflect on our journey so far, to become a united and reconciled country.

In honour of the anniversary Indigenous students’ Vice Captain Amber, Sutherland delivered a speech and some of our Indigenous students performed a combined Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance to mark the occasion.

Do you want to have fun and perform on stage with other students?

Do you want to have fun with your friends?

Then apply to be part of our 2012 Musical!

by The Musical Directors

After the great success of 2010’s production of ‘Back to the 80’s – The Totally Awesome Musical’, Ayr State High School is once again putting on another great show, ‘The Great Australian Rock Musical’. This musical pays tribute to great Australian rock legends such as ACDC, Cold Chisel and Midnight Oil. Everyone is welcome to join the musical as part of the cast, backstage or band. Students wishing to be part of the band will need to see Mr Stucetas directly. Otherwise, an application form will be distributed during form next Monday. Students will need to fill this out and return it to the office to be included on the cast list. The roles on offer are:

Chorus members – these cast members do not have solo songs and will perform basic movement and dances for the show. There is no audition required and all are welcome to be part of the chorus.

Dance Troupe – there is an audition required, therefore previous experience is preferable. To audition, students need to prepare their own dance to a song nominated by the teachers.

Leads – there is an audition for lead performers. An audition pack will be provided containing a song to prepare as well as dialogue, which does not have to be learnt by heart but needs to be familiar to applicants.

There are also some characters in the musical who do not have solo songs, however do have chorus songs and dialogue.

Audition packs for both lead and dancing roles will be available from Monday 20 February from Miss Longworth in A15 staffroom.

The audition process is different this year for leads and dancers. From next Monday, there will be a schedule on the drama notice board with after school times listed. Students wishing to audition will need to nominate a time by writing their name on the notice. Students who cannot make an after school audition, should speak to Miss Longworth to organise another time during school.

There is a $30 fee which applies to be part of the musical which covers costs such as photocopying, make up and props.