NYSF - what an experience!  
by Mr Kerry Flynn, HOD - Science & Mathematics

Matt Wight recently returned from the 2013 National Youth Science Forum held in Perth. He was selected after an intensive process conducted by the Rotary Clubs of Ayr and Townsville and was supported by a RSL Youth Grant. During his time in Perth, Matt:
• visited many research institutes at Curtin University and University of WA
• dined with the Chief Scientist of WA, Lyn Beasley
• participated in a range of social activities and networking – 142 strangers no more!

These are all wonderful experiences that have and will assist in Matt’s social and academic development.

Matt impressed the organisers such that he has been selected to apply to be a staff member for the 2015 NYSF. What a wonderful opportunity.

Ayr High values the opportunities that participation in the NYSF offers to our students. Matt has continued the fine tradition of students from Ayr High being successful in gaining a place at this prestigious forum. Applications for the 2014 NYSF will be opening soon and we are looking forward to some of our high flying science and maths students engaging in the selection process.

Pink Stumps Day Bowls Over Ayr High

by Blake Hollywood, Sports Captain

In 2005 Glenn and Jane McGrath established the McGrath Foundation to raise money and awareness for Breast Cancer.

Last Friday 28 February saw the students of Ayr High don the baggy pink in support of Pink Stumps Day. Students and staff donated funds to support the foundation. A cricket match was also played between the Year 12 cohort and a mixed team of students over both lunch breaks with the mighty Year 12’s convincing winners. There was plenty of action on the pitch with a collective group of Year 12’s and 11’s working hard on the side lines selling icy cups and raffle tickets for a Glenn McGrath signed cap. Together, the school raised $1081.20 (double last year’s result) - an amazing effort from the Ayr State High School community, with all proceeds going to the McGrath Foundation.
From the Principal
by Mr Craig Whittred, Principal
Editorial - Newsletter No. 3 06/03/14

The 2014 year has defiantly started with great speed with which sees us already past the halfway point of Term One. One of our major focuses this year is to improve student attendance rates. We have implemented the Success for all Students policy since the beginning of the year and I am very happy to say that we have seen a strong improvement in student's attendance. The average student's attendance is 94.4% an increase of 4% for the same period as last year. We have had a significant increase in students who are attending at the 95% or above rate which is fabulous and puts those students in the zone for improved results.

This Monday evening was our P&C association’s AGM meeting with Doug Sockhill being voted in again as President of our P&C. At the meeting we discussed the declining number of parents volunteering to work in the canteen. Last year our tuckshop made a considerably reduced profit which was a very modest $3000. Over the year the sales were slightly reduced but our expenses on wages had considerably increased due to the lack of volunteers. Mr Sockhill said, “With the support of parents we would be able to double or even triple our profit margins. We are committed to keeping the prices down to allow all students to access the tuckshop so we really need to focus on reducing our wages by having more parents volunteer in tuckshop.” All money raised by the P&C is funneled back into the school supporting a range of different initiatives including sports uniforms, purchasing of computers etc. The usual times for a volunteer at the canteen is from 9.00am - 2.00pm but support in the busy time between 10.00am and 12.00pm would be greatly appreciated for those parents who have other commitments. If you are willing to volunteer at the tuckshop please contact the school office and your details will be passed on.

Last week the Year 12 Student Leaders led by Blake Hollywood successfully organised Pink Stumps Day to raise money for the McGrath Foundation. As a school we raised a considerable amount of money and for those who were involved out on the oval a great amount of fun. The day showed some great school spirit which I am sure will carry over into the swimming carnival this week. Phillip as usual are talking themselves up, I have heard a rumour that Macquarie feel it is their year and Cook are quietly confident. Being the impartial Principal that I am, from my observations Banks look like the real deal for sporting supremacy in 2014! Good luck to all teams. Remember that attendance at the Swimming Carnival is compulsory so come and participate in any way you can to help your team on the day.

Yours in education
Craig Whittred

LIP Leader Lunch Time Activities
by Mrs Maree Milne, Teacher

The Leadership Integration Program Leaders are becoming firm members of the lunch time programs on Friday afternoons. As part of their role as a LIP Leader, the students organised themselves into groups and are hosting an activity every Friday during second lunch. So far, we have had year 11 girls organising a volleyball competition, Year 11 boys organising rounds of Futsal and Year 10 girls teaching students a dance routine in the A6 drama room. The LIP Leaders are enjoying their new responsibilities, while they are being watched and guided by the Year 12 LIP Leaders. The program is for all students during Friday at second lunch and there is a different activity each week, which will be announced during Tuesday morning assemblies.

Interim School Reports
by Ms Lesley Olsen, Deputy Principal

Next week on Tuesday students will be issued with the first reports for 2014.

In the report pack will be information about booking an interview with your child’s teacher. Interviews are held from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm on Tuesday 18 March. An online booking system is used for your convenience or your child can approach their teacher to arrange a time that suits you. The school office can help if you experience difficulties arranging a parent/student/teacher interview.

Music Support Group Meeting
AGM Monday 17 March
7.30 pm, Resource Centre
All welcome.

P&C Meeting
Monday 5 May 2014
7.30 pm, Resource Centre

Download the free QSchool App to stay connected to news and events.
Interschool Volleyball Roundup
by Mr Shane Baxter, Teacher

The last round of volleyball was played on Monday 3 March. In both age groups, U15 and Open, Ayr High and BCHS were fairly even. The U15s were unlucky, having won the same number of games as BCH, to lose on a countback (217 - 219 points). The Opens were determined to beat BCH having been given a lesson by them last time. They accomplished this easily to create the same scenario as the U15s and won the countback (240 - 237 points). Our Opens are therefore the Burdekin champions. Well done to all involved.

Student Wellbeing Focus
by Mr Andrew Ballin, HOD - Student Support Services & HPE

Wellbeing Focus: Time Management and Prioritising
Learning Goals - at the end of this week your child should have:
• An understanding where their time goes each day/week and an awareness of what are the ‘musts and options’ in their lives during a typical week.
• A plan for managing time to allow for maximising learning outcomes and balancing competing agendas in their daily life.
• Knowledge about the difference between homework, study, revision and assignment work as well as appropriate strategies to enable them to achieve at high levels in each subject.

Prioritising is a life skill that enables students to become self-monitoring in using their time more effectively. Reflecting on and then arranging their daily/weekly activities and commitments in order of importance shows that they are striving, thriving and flourishing. The reality is that most students find it very difficult to just sit down to complete a Home Learning Session unless it is planned ahead of time. The ‘spontaneous’ approach of just letting it happen doesn’t work, even though our students may disagree because they may believe they have their acts together. The best way for students to build their resilience is to prioritise their activities and then design a structured timetable that includes all the activities that occupy their time, including:
• Sport training
• Part-time jobs
• Study and home learning
• Family commitments
• Social networking sites
• Leisure activities
• Favourite television shows and games

Because students’ brains are not fully developed, they need our support and guidance in learning how to arrange activities in the right order. It’s not that they won’t do it, they haven’t the anatomical brain capabilities to do it consistently as yet. Their positive attitudes towards achieving life balance will benefit them considerably, particularly when they are willing to become more discerning in identifying ‘musts’ and ‘options’ in their lives and the time they allocate to each of them. Prioritising will actually create more ‘me’ time for them. A great way for parents/carers to support the development and performance of students is to be part of developing a weekly plan for managing various commitments. This approach allows students to be more aware of family commitments and it opens the door for parents to easily check and support students in their progress at school, and in life.

Interhouse Swimming Carnival
Friday 7 March 2014
Come in house colours and support your team.
Enclosed shoes required.

Maths & Science Tutoring
Wednesday Afternoon
(3.15 - 4.15 pm)
Thursday Afternoon
(3.15 - 4.15 pm)
D1 Lab
All year levels welcome
Do you want help with homework?
Do you need help with studying for a test?
Local Business Operators Share Their Tips With Business Students
Mrs Marg Sladden, Year 10 Business Management Teacher

The Year Ten Business students stepped outside their comfort zones on Thursday 27 February when they hosted visits from community members who were owners of successful local businesses. The students had spent some weeks studying a unit of work titled “Introduction to Business”. An integral part of this unit was to learn what makes a small business successful and to understand that businesses have different types of legal structures (sole trader, partnership, company or franchise). A culminating activity was for students to test their understanding by allowing them to conduct interviews with owners of our local businesses. It was a very enlightening experience where students learnt about the diversity of business structures, strategies and methods of operation of both retail and service providers of the Burdekin. This proved to be an unique and worthwhile learning experience. It was only possible because of the generosity of local business operators who were willing to spend some of their valuable time sharing their wealth of business knowledge and experience with our students. Sincere thanks to the following people who participated:

Nrgize
Andrea Piotto

Red Rooster
Michael Taylor

Clove
Chantelle Stenning

Jetsetter Travel
Rane Reguson

SPORTF1RST
John Bonanno

Andersen Real Estate
Nora & Peter Andersen

Upcoming Events

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>7 Mar</td>
<td>Interhouse Swimming Carnival (All Day)</td>
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<td>10 Mar</td>
<td>Yr 10, 11, 12 ADF Recruiting Talk for interested students (SMC, 9.15 - 10.00 am)</td>
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<td>11 Mar</td>
<td>Yr 8 Meet and Greet (5.30 pm, Auditorium)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Interim Reports Issued (S4)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Interschool Rugby League/Netball (3.30 pm)</td>
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<td>13 Mar</td>
<td>Student Exec Council Meeting (2nd break)</td>
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<td>14 Mar</td>
<td>School Disco (7 - 10 pm, Showgrounds Hall)</td>
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<td>17 Mar</td>
<td>Music Support AGM followed by March Meeting (7.30 pm, A12)</td>
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<td>18 Mar</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
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<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews (5.00 - 8.00 pm)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Interschool Rugby League/Netball (3.30 pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-21 Mar</td>
<td>Music Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Mar</td>
<td>Yr 8 Arts/Technology Rotation No 1 Finishes</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Mar</td>
<td>Yr 8 Arts/Technology Rotation No 1 Starts</td>
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<td>Yr 12 RSA - Hospitality students</td>
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<td>25 Mar</td>
<td>Interschool Rugby League/Netball (3.30 pm)</td>
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<td>27 Mar</td>
<td>Extended Form (9.10 am) Cross Country/ Fun Run</td>
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<td>1 Apr</td>
<td>Interschool League/Netball Final (3.30 pm)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Senior Secondary Student Council Meeting (2nd Break)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Apr</td>
<td>Junior Secondary Student Council Meeting (2nd Break)</td>
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Year 8 Take-Home Laptop Program
by Mrs Vicki Toohey, HOD - Business/IT/Humanities

As this is week 6, the Year 8 students who have signed up for the take-home laptop program will be allowed to take their laptops home on Monday 10 March providing the following conditions have been met.

- Each student will be allocated a locker so that the laptop can be stored securely before and after school and during breaks. **Each student needs to supply a lock and two keys for this locker to their Form Teacher.**
- **Each student needs to provide a suitable bag** to transport the laptop to and from school and to classes. Bags are available from school at no additional cost if necessary.
- The take-home fee of $100 is fully paid or a payment plan has been entered into with the Business Services Manager.
- Students must be able to **demonstrate appropriate care and responsibility** for their laptop. This will be determined by their teachers.

Students must ensure that their laptops are brought to school every day, fully charged.

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East End Centre, AYR
Year 9 Drama Class Gets a Snapshot of a Career

by Mrs Maree Milne, Drama Teacher

This year, the Year 9 Drama class is getting a taste of a range of different careers into which Drama has a pathway. This term, the students have been working on voice and character, and last Monday had a visit from local Speech Pathologist, Janai Chandler. Janai has been working as a Speech Pathologist for many years and also completed many Speech and Drama exams while she was at high school. She spoke to the Year 9s about what her job entails, as well as why Drama is a pathway which relates to her chosen career. Throughout the year, the Drama class will get visits from a range of professionals including directors, event organisers, teachers, journalists and lawyers.

Australian Defence Force Academy Roadshow

Date: Monday 24 March 2014
Time: 5.45 pm for a 6.00pm start
Location: Ground floor – Defence Force Recruiting, 143 Walker Street, Townsville
RSVP: To book your seat please contact: Penny Ross - 4726 0205 or pross@dfr.com.au

The Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) combines Military and Leadership training with a world class degree from the University of New South Wales for the future leaders of Australia’s Navy, Army and Air Force.

The key benefits of studying at ADFA include:
- Range of undergraduate degrees available
- The best student-to-teacher ratio in the country
- No HELP debt and paid a salary to study
- Guaranteed career upon successful graduation

Please be advised if you are travelling to Townsville for this Information evening, travel costs will be at your own expense.

Student Council Update

by Jordan Holmes, Student Council Vice Captain

In every Form class, two representatives have been selected to be a part of the Student Council team. They will listen to their class about ideas on facilities in the school that need to be fixed as well as a school project. I will work with these Form Reps in order to be ‘the voice of the people’. We have already had two meetings where several ideas have already been brought up including, new sporting uniforms, and repairing the toilet facilities. I have great plans for this year and I am glad to have such a supportive team with me.

Absence Hotline

4790 4353
If your child is away either:
- phone the hotline
- text message or
- hand in a note, on return, to Mrs Slattery at the office.

School Disco

Thursday 13 March
7.00 - 10 pm
Showgrounds Hall
Come in theme: ‘When I Grow Up’

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Tuesday 18 March 2014
5.00 pm - 8.00 pm

All Year Levels
Music Camp
19 - 21 March 2014
As we roll into the “business” end of the term, all year levels have begun, or will soon begin, work on their English assessments. At this point in the term, the 4P’s provide a timely reminder of the importance of preparation: Pre-planning Prevents Poor Performance. As advertised, the English team offer tutoring in A4 on Tuesday afternoons for both junior and senior students. This tutoring is available every Tuesday throughout the year and we are happy to help all students with their English work.

The response we’ve had to the Rostrum Voice of Youth competition has been great! There’s still time to enter, but interested students will need to quick step their way to Mrs Attard in A5 asap! For students whose talents reside in the written word, there are a number of writing competitions that have opened, such as the Write-A-Book in A Day competition which raises money for children’s hospitals. Also on offer is the Write-4-Fun short story competition which has generous cash and entertainment package prizes. If non-fiction is more your style, then the Commonwealth Essay Competition may appeal to you. Regardless of your literary and spoken talents, there is sure to be an extra-curricular activity to suit. Further information can be found on the pin board outside A5 (near the Japanese room), or from English teachers.

As part of the regular Random Acts of Reading initiative, I have included another book review in this newsletter in the hope that I will inspire our students to read. This time, the novel selected is for more mature students. Again, keep in mind that the books reviewed are ones that I find entertaining to read; I am not promoting them as examples of great literature, nor am I suggesting that they will appeal to all students. Happy reading!

Random Acts of Reading

**Novel Reviewed:** The Book Thief  
**By:** Markus Zusak  
**Genre:** Reality Fiction  
**Age suitability:** 14+ years  
**Who would like this book:** young adult readers who enjoy well-written stories with mature storylines.

On occasion, great books are made into mediocre films. The Book Thief, by Australian Markus Zusak, is one such novel. Whilst the celluloid adaptation is pleasing to watch, it barely holds a candle to Zusak’s wonderfully lyrical literary masterpiece.

The first element of Zusak’s novel to grab the reader’s attention is the narrator: Death. As a story-teller, Death is engaging, compassionate and absorbing; he reassures us that “even Death has a heart”. In Death’s words, the novel is a story about: “one of those perpetual survivors – an expert at being left behind. It’s just a small story really, about, amongst other things: a girl  
some words  
an accordionist  
some fanatical Germans  
a Jewish fist-fighter  
and quite a lot of thievery.  
I saw the book thief three times.”

Through Death, we are vicariously positioned to share in the book thief’s (Leisel Heminger) life as she and her foster parents, the Hubermanns, struggle to survive in Nazi Germany during the Second World War. Leisel, who is illiterate, goes to live with the Hubermanns. Here, her foster father, Hans, teaches her to read and she develops a love of reading – to the point of thievery. She shares her love of reading not only with Max (who the Hubermanns are hiding from the Nazis), but with her community as they huddle together in bomb shelters.

Whilst Zusak provides some details about the historical context in which the novel is set, the focus is on Leisel’s life and how she is subjected to the whims of fate – such as the loss of loved ones, Hans’s conscription into the army, and how precarious life is under Nazi rule. Zusak does his imaginative best to ensure that his story stands out from the predictable cache of war novels that already exist. The novel’s compilation of anecdotes is tinged with quiet horror. At its most effective, Death’s narration is terrifyingly matter of fact: “For the book thief, everything was going nicely,” Death observes, as the extermination camps flourish in the summer of 1942. “For me, the sky was the colour of Jews.” The reader is continually overwhelmed by Zusak’s masterful use of language, and it is the rich imagery and original use of figurative language interwoven with the brutal reality of life during the Third Reich that ensnares the reader and holds them fast. Indubitably, Zusak’s unique style of narration, coupled with the novel’s resonating themes, will make this novel a future classic.

The Book Thief will appeal to young adult readers and makes for an engrossing and unusual real. If you are the kind of reader who is engaged by the storyline as well as the style of writing, then this book is for you. I recommend Zusak’s masterpiece for mature readers 14 years and up.

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**English Tutoring**

**Tuesdays**

3.15 pm - 4.15 pm

A4

☺ Your friendly English teachers are available to help you with homework and assessments.