75 years since Ayr High was opened for business

by Mrs Saskia Vollema-Creek

Seventy-five years ago, Ayr State High School welcomed approximately 275 students through the doors of the newly completed Ayr High and Intermediate school. On Thursday 1 March, several past and present students participated in the 75th anniversary of that historic march from Ayr State School to Ayr State High School. One past student, Mrs Mary Williams (nee McConnachie), participated in the event. 75 years ago, Mary was one of those 275 students who walked from the primary school to the newly built high school. This time however, she rode in style in a vintage car.

An official photo was taken and it mirrors the one taken in 1939 of the whole school. Does anyone remember this photo being taken and why? The committee has been impressed so far with the response from the community. Many people have generously passed on old school photos with names and other memorabilia eagerly sought by the school to enhance their current historical collection. Several Manual Arts teachers over the past few years have contributed to the building of lockable display cabinets to securely house some of our historical collection of photos, books, badges and programs. Anyone who wishes to donate any school memorabilia to be placed on permanent display can do so through the school office. Please include your details and any stories that may go with the items.

As part of the celebrations, a 75th Jubilee Magazine will be on sale later in the year. We are seeking contributions by past students and teachers about their time at the school. If you would like to contribute, please drop them into the Office or email them to magazine editor, Saskia Vollema-Creek at svoll4@eq.edu.au.

Celebrating our history, showcasing our future.

Coles Sports for Schools

by Ms Courtney Carrigan, Sports Co-ordinator

Last year Ayr High students and families participated in the Coles Sports for Schools Program by collecting vouchers at Coles Supermarkets. As a school we collected an amazing 22,450 points (7000 more than in 2010). After finding out our points balance (late in Term 4, 2011) we went shopping for brand new sports gear for our school. The gear arrived last week! The following items were purchased – athletics equipment (discuses, shot puts), stopwatches, a timer, basketballs, a bucket of tennis balls, first aid kit, an AFL kit, a Netball kit, a Soccer kit, equipment bags and electronic whistles. These items will benefit students in HPE lessons and Interschool sports. Thank you for your support during this program.

7 NIGHTS P & O CRUISE

7 Nights P & O Cruise from $610* per person quad share!
Don’t miss out on this great special!!
Contact Harvey World Travel Ayr for further details on 07 4783 2122!

For Bookings Contact Pierina, Timmone, Kirsten, Susan or Rosanne or contact us now via Facebook!
As Term 1 draws to a close we have many of our students completing assessment across all subjects in the school. I encourage all students to remain focused on their studies right to the end of term.

Last week our Year 12s participated in their Year 12 camp. Students challenged themselves and each other in many activities and learnt skills that will help them through their final year of formal schooling and into later life. I was very happy to hear the praise that the teachers and camp staff gave to the group on their return saying that they were one of the best groups to go through the program.

On Tuesday night we had our Parent/Teacher evening for Term 1. It was terrific to see so many parents being involved in their children’s education. As teachers we know and appreciate how valuable supportive parents are to a child’s education.

Last night was a very successful disco, the students all had a great time and the rain didn’t dampen anyone’s spirits. It was great to see students dressing up and getting involved with the theme (although the two Year 12 boys who dressed as Kylie Minogue’s dancers may have to watch out what type of attention they attract!)

Next Tuesday is our Year 8 Meet and Greet night. I encourage all parents to come along and meet the teachers and see what your sons and daughters have been up to over the last term. Also on the same evening is an information session for Parents and students in Years 11 and 12 who are looking at achieving an OP score. At this session we will unpack factors influencing OP scores and also discuss ways that parents can help their children to achieve the best OP possible.

This has been an extremely busy start to the year and as we come to the end of term the students may be feeling a bit worn out. I want to again express how important it is to be coming to school every day. Even if you have finished assessment, teachers will be starting on new work or consolidating previous work for next term. Being here every day, every lesson is the first step in getting a great education, so let’s make sure we are all here right to the very last day.

Yours in education

Craig Whittred
Principal

Welcome to Ayr State High School
Our school acknowledges the Juru community as the first owners of this country. Today, they are still the custodians of the cultural heritage of this land. Further to this, our school acknowledges there are other Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and South Sea Island people who have lived, worked and contributed to the cultural heritage of our community.

From the Principal
by Mr Craig Whittred, Principal
Editorial - Newsletter No.4 16/03/12

P & C News
by Doug Sockhill, P&C President

The Parents and Citizens Association AGM was held on Monday 6 March. Unfortunately we have three key positions yet to be filled. The majority of last year’s committee members have not sought to renew their positions as they no longer have students attending Ayr High. If these positions aren’t filled, the P & C cannot operate effectively. It is also highly probable that the required quorum will not be met at future meetings, thus resulting in the P & C Association folding. To date the following positions are vacant:

Treasurer
Minutes Secretary
Correspondence Secretary

Ayr State High School P & C Association manages funding to benefit every student at the school. Past major contributions have been spent on air conditioning, computers and MPS resurfacing. Subsidizing students who represent the school in sporting and academic endeavours, contributing to sporting team uniforms are a couple of the minor monetary contributions. P & C meetings give parents an opportunity to find out first hand what is happening in the school and to have a voice in certain aspects of school life.

I urge you, the parents, to get behind your school’s P & C, so that we may continue to give all Ayr High students the best opportunities possible.

The next meeting will be at 7.30 pm Monday 26 March in the school library. Meeting times are usually kept to a minimum, often finishing around 9.30 pm. Every parent is most welcome to attend these meetings. Anyone who may be interested in taking on one of the above positions and would like more information before the next meeting, please contact me on 0419 476 916.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing committee members, Jim Fahey, Sonia Duncan, Rhonda Williams and Sandra Saunders for a job really well done.

Parent and Student Information Evening
Tuesday 20 March
6.30 pm
SMC Auditorium
The session is for OP eligible Year 11 and 12 students.

Maths & Science Tutoring
Wednesday afternoon
3.15 - 4.15 pm,
C11 Lab
All year levels welcome

Do you want help with homework?
Do you need help with studying for a test?
Northern (NQ) Selections  
_by Ms Courtney Carrigan, Sports Co-ordinator_

Well done to the students who demonstrated their skills at NQ trials for Rugby League, Football, Basketball and Hockey on Monday 5 March. Congratulations to Jack Brock (Year 12) and Shane Kennedy (Year 11) who were selected in Northern squads and will participate at their respective Queensland Championships in May. Jack was selected for Rugby League (a tremendous feat with the squad predominantly made up of students from Ignatius Park and Kirwan High) and will travel to the Sunshine Coast. Shane was selected for Basketball and will travel to Rockhampton. Well done to all students. We wish Jack and Shane well as they progress to the next level.

Cross Country & adidas School Fun Run  
_by Ms Courtney Carrigan, Sports Co-ordinator_

The annual Interhouse Cross Country and adidas School Fun Run will be held on Wednesday 18 April (Session 4). The Cross Country starts at 1.30 pm and is raced in four divisions: Junior Boys and Junior Girls (4 km) and Senior Boys (6 km) and Senior Girls (4 km). In order to compete, students must collect a permission form from their House Captains and return it to Ms Carrigan by Tuesday 17 April. This year we are running the adidas School Fun Run again which will act as a major fundraising event. Students were given Sponsorship Forms on Tuesday 13 March and are encouraged to seek sponsorship from the generosity of family, friends and the local/wider community. Students can even invite family and friends living interstate or overseas to sponsor them with the new online fundraising option.

The adidas School Fun Run supports health education by raising vital extra funds (sports equipment, uniforms) for our school while making fitness fun. All students competing will receive a free Juicies frozen treat (iceblock) after completion of the Fun Run. Students are rewarded for their efforts with quality prizes for monetary totals from $10 - $600+ and highest fundraiser. In the Sponsorship Form you will find many other benefits such as opportunities to train online with sports stars and the chance to win a family holiday in Disneyland! We encourage all parents/caregivers to support the health and education of their children by helping them obtain sponsor support. Your generosity and support is greatly appreciated.

Volleyball Champs  
_by Mr Shane Baxter, Coach_

Week six and we’ve notched up our first Interschool sports victories. Our Open and Under 15 mixed Volleyball teams were keen to play right from the start of the year and with many of them being in last year’s teams, they wanted to at least maintain last year’s successes. There was good camaraderie within the teams and this helped with their commitment to doing well. The Under 15s finished undefeated beating both BCHS and HHSHS twice. This team has teamwork beyond their years and holds great promise for years to come. The Open team was also successful beating HHSHS twice and BCHS in the first round. BCHS played very well to beat us in the second round but we won the count back on aggregate scores. For the first time in many years we won both competitions.

The Burdekin Volleyball Association again convened a very enjoyable competition at the Samaritan Centre at St Francis School. Each week they allocated points towards a “Most Valuable Player of the Competition”. The overall winners were two players from Ayr State High School – Josh Great in the Open team and Kurt Boxall in the Under 15s. Well done to both players and both teams.
Hannah Casswell, 2011 Sports Vice Captain recently travelled to Brisbane, still representing Ayr State High School three months after graduation! Hannah received the “Queensland Future State Great” Award representing Northern District Secondary Schools as one of only twelve recipients across the state.

In 2011 Hannah represented North Queensland in Softball and Cross Country and in Tennis Hannah represented Queensland. This wide range of talent assured Hannah the award.

At Ayr State High School we are very proud of Hannah’s achievement and thrilled to see her once again wearing her Ayr State High School uniform!

Right: Hannah is photographed with cricketing great and chairman of the Award Committee, Ian Healy.

Good nutrition is important throughout life, but never more vital than during the developing teenage years.

Young people need the right foods for many reasons:
- To give energy to participate in activities
- To provide essential nutrients to ensure correct growth and development
- To supply fuel for concentration and learning
- To create healthy habits that will last all their lives.

It is a sad reality that Aussie kids today are a long way from the fit image that they had a couple of decades ago. With our sedentary lives and grab and eat style of eating, our kids are suffering from health problems never seen in earlier generations. We are witnessing a situation where around 25% are overweight and many are so unfit that they are unable to complete standard fitness tests.

Lunch can provide a major part of the daily nutrient intake, so it needs to be healthy and filling.

Think about the following food ideas to be included for a healthy, nutritious and interesting lunch that provides bursts of energy throughout the day:
- Crisp salad veggies
- Fruit - cold and delicious
- Dried fruits - great for nibbling on
- Cheese sticks and slices - good calcium source
- Healthy snack packs - like tuna and crackers or cheese and crackers - there are some great choices at the supermarket and they can be a change from sandwiches
- Low fat muffins or slices
- Pretzels and popcorn
- Frozen juice, water or long-life milk drinks - helps keep lunches cool and quenches their thirst

So let’s encourage healthy eating with great lunch choices. Stay healthy.

André has been successful in gaining a place in the National Aerospace Challenge Program through the Australian Air Force Cadets.

Only 20 students, Australia wide, have been selected for this prestigious program which will be conducted at Amberley Air Force Base in the Easter holidays.

André will have the opportunity to compete for one of three places in the RAF Aerospace Challenge in the UK.

We wish him well!
Celebr8 Year 8 Camp to Magnetic Island

On the last day of February 79 excited Year 8 students and seven enthusiastic staff headed to Magnetic Island for three days to celeb8 all that is Gr8 about being in Year 8! The awesome celebration began with the bus and ferry trip from Ayr to the Island. Despite early weather concerns, the excitement escalated on the ferry as the rough ride closely simulated a roller coaster and the students added the appropriate sound effects to this 20 minute trip. Upon disembarking, the open air Sun-buses transported our noisy crew to the picturesque Magnetic Island Outdoor Education Centre where, once unpacked, we began to activ8 our house spirit by beginning the rotation of activities.

The children showed their sand sculpture skills with numerous entries of beach buggies and turtles and a fantastic giant crab, detailed mermaid and a very precise hula girl complete with grass skirt and Seaweed for hair. Phillip and Cook battled it out for the best sculpture. The first evening’s Trivia Night was a huge success. It was a noisy affair with students learning to not share their answers with the entire hall and learning to appreci8 different areas of interest by their team members.

Chappie Scott with the other staff close behind got everyone moving for a 6 am boot camp followed by the best pancakes for breakfast. The Gr8 food gave teams energy to climb Sail Rock and take in the panoramic views of Picnic and Nelly Bay. With some students tiring and others developing better communic8ion skills the teams of Cook, Macquarie, Phillip and Banks needed to recharge and amalgam8 for The Amazing Race. Macquarie were the outright leaders in this Ayr State High School version of the Amazing Race with the whole Yellow team running from clue to clue and locating their ‘treasure’ half an hour before the other teams.

100% particip8tion was given when involved in team skit practises with some interesting renditions of Michael Jackson dances and Roald Dahl stories! With dance offs, sing offs and box offs it was difficult to determine which house (if any) have acting skills! However, a good laugh was had by all with Banks having everyone in stitches at their theatrical abilities (or lack of).

After a less intense boot camp on the second morning and another fantastic breakfast the students packed up and were ready for a quiet trip back to Ayr State High School. With 3 generations recall school days at ASHS

Remembering the days of the old school yard
by Mrs Saskia Vollema-Creek, SOSE Co-ordinator

As part of the 75th Jubilee celebrations, Year 8s have been studying the history of Ayr High as part of the unit, “Remembering the days of the old school yard”. This unit introduced the students to the importance of documenting history by talking to people about the past. The culminating activity involves them conducting an oral interview with a person of their choice and writing an article about their time at high school. The main emphasis of the article is for the students to analyse how schooling has changed over time.

As part of the unit, Year 8 classes invited past students, such as their parents or grandparents, to share their memories of high school. In the process, the students were given the opportunity to practise their oral interviewing skills. These lessons proved to be a great success as the students now are busy documenting the high school memories of the person they chose to interview.
Issue No 4 - 2012

**Smart Start** by Mrs Claire Brock

On Tuesday and Wednesday of Week 7 of this term over 250 visitors descended on Ayr High to experience high school subjects under the banner of the Smart Start Program. These welcome guests were Year 6 and 7 students from Ayr State High School’s partnership primary schools with the excited young learners travelling from Ayr State, East Ayr, Maidivale, Airville, Brandon, Kalamia and Giru Primary schools.

A packed rotation of Science and English activities kept the students and staff fully occupied. Squeals of enthusiasm were heard from the Science Laboratories and outdoor learning areas as film canister rockets were launched and reached heights above the C block roof. Students also enjoyed learning about science concepts such as heat and pressure, whilst technology skills were enhanced with a workshop on Photo Story where the Year 6 and 7’s enthusiastically produced a visually and auditory appealing “story” about their favourite topic.

**Year 12 Chemistry students explore the chemical hazards in the home** by Mrs Teresa Gemellaro, Chemistry Teacher

Year 12 Chemistry students recently went on an excursion to Woolworths supermarket to gather data on the packaging and labelling of a variety of household products. Many of these commonly used products contain substances which make them a potential hazard in the home. The students will now research the chemistry of their chosen product and relate that to the hazards, ultimately providing recommendations on how changes to the product itself, or its packaging and labelling would assist consumers. The current context on Household Chemicals is just one of ten engaging chemical contexts students have the opportunity to learn from in the program at Ayr High School.

**Mr Walsh’s days of the old school yard** by Mr Andrew Kos, SOSE Teacher

On Friday 3 February, Mr Walsh visited our school to tell Year 8A SOSE students what school was like back in the 1960’s. We were privileged to have Mr Walsh attend and spend an hour telling a spell-bound audience tales of the cruel cane striking his hand and how classes were very different; no air conditioning or even any fans to keep students cool. The highlight of the talk involved the story of the cane and how it was used. The cane came in three different sizes, with the thinner version inflicting the most pain. In the final analysis, students agreed that today’s modern School is much better than the days of the old school yard.