Celebrating our history, showcasing our future
by Mrs Saskia Vollema-Creek

Sport has played a large role at Ayr State High School and sporting achievements have been numerous over the decades. In the late 1980s, cheerleading was popular. The cheer squad was formed in 1988 under the guidance of Mrs Helen Anderson, wife of former Deputy Principal, Mike Anderson, and Miss Tessman. The girls performed at many events such as School Carnivals, Fetes, the Water Festival Mardi Gras as well as the Honeycombes Holden Launch. One past student, Michelle Darker (nee Williams), vividly remembers being part of the entertainment prior to the first Rugby League game played in Townsville between the Broncos and the Eels. That night they were also the cheer squad for the Brisbane Broncos forming the tunnel for them to enter and exit the field during the game.

On Saturday 5 May, Ayr High will be celebrating its 75th Jubilee. From 10 am to 3 pm, the grounds of Ayr High will come alive with past students and teachers visiting the school from all over the country. Throughout the day visitors will enjoy various entertainment culminating in official presentations at 2.30 pm. These will include a burial of a time capsule and the cutting of a Jubilee cake by the oldest past student present. A full program of events will be advertised soon. Memorabilia will be on sale after the Easter holidays and will include items such as coasters, key rings, postcards, drink flasks, stubby coolers and tote bags.

In the meantime, people can continue writing down their memories about their time at Ayr high or dropping in memorabilia such as photos and past magazines. We still don’t have magazines from 1970-1975 and we need more class photos (preferably with names) from the 1960s. Later in the year, the 75th Jubilee magazine will be on sale and we are keen to include memories of past students from all decades. Just drop them into the office or email them to Saskia Vollema-Creek on svoll4@eq.edu.au. You can also visit our facebook page: Ayr State High School - 75th Anniversary 2012 and leave your comments there.

Human Powered Vehicle Championship
by Mr Peter Jensen

September 15 and 16 will be important dates for a team of Year 11 and 12 boys as they prepare for the 24 hour Human Powered Vehicle Championship, an event run as part of the annual Maryborough Technology Challenge. Teams are to design and build a vehicle, with eight drivers competing to achieve the greatest distance in the 24 hour period from noon Saturday to noon Sunday. One hundred teams started the event in 2011, the winners achieving in excess of 750 km.

LtoR: Justin King, Darcy Breen, Corey Mason, Tiernan Harris and Ty Hancock with their “work in progress” vehicle.

STATE OF ORIGIN PACKAGES AVAILABLE NOW
Call Harvey World Travel Ayr on 4783 2122 for further package details!!
• Game 1 – Melbourne, 23 May 12
• Game 2 – Sydney, 13 June 12
• Game 3 – Brisbane, 04 July 12

DON’T MISS OUT!!
For Bookings Contact Pierina, Timmone, Kirsten, Susan or Rosanne
or contact us now via Facebook!
As we come to the end of Term one, I look back and I am very proud of the achievements of our students across many areas. In performing arts we have had the “Burdekin Crew” represent us in Sydney, students involved in the Battle of the Bands and our music ensembles, and also last night we saw our outstanding performance at the Drama Festival.

In sport our whole school participated in our Swimming Carnival as well as our afternoon sports in Rugby League, Netball and Volleyball. Congratulations to our U15 Rugby League team and our Senior Netball Queens on their victories over Bowen on Tuesday. We have also had students participate at regional and state level competitions for Rugby League, Triathlon and Cricket, to name a few. Academically, I have been really impressed with the students’ focus on their studies. Our Year 12 students have begun their preparations for the QCS test and our Year 9 students are well prepared for the upcoming NAPLAN tests in Term 2.

Data was also returned from our 2011 Year 9 students, as part of their concern Year 9 SOSE studies, which is an outstanding achievement for our school. We also have a number of students successfully engaging in VET studies and also School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships. These opportunities provided by the partnership with local employers and the school provide real and tangible employment opportunities for our students prior to leaving school, ensuring a positive transition from school into workforce.

In terms of personal growth both our Year 8 and 12s participated in their respective camps during Term 1. On these camps they challenged themselves and each other in a variety of activities. I am pleased to say that for both groups I have been contacted personally by the camp operators and given high praise for each group, with the Year 12 group being labelled as the best the facility had seen.

I am looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead and now that I have been at the school for a term I can say with real confidence that with the staff that lie ahead and now that I have been at the school for a term I can say with real confidence that with the staff and students at Ayr State High School we truly have the right people to create outstanding results.

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.

Have a happy and safe Easter.

Craig Whittred
Principal

School Jumpers in 2012 - Be prepared for cooler days

In 2010 the P&C Association endorsed an official school jumper. This is the only jumper acceptable. It is a dark green jumper, available from the school office for $30. If your child needs to wear a jumper for warmth please make it the official school jumper.

IT Update #5

Maths Textbooks

Take-home laptops should have the maths textbook for all year levels on them. To locate the textbook, go to All Programs and look in the Textbook folder. If you don’t believe your laptop has the textbook installed, please see Brent as soon as possible.

Ayr State High School Music Support Group

Bingo

Saturday 2.00 pm
Anglican Church Hall
Jackpots $400, $300, $200

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?

Plantation Creek Water Quality

Concerned Year 9 SOSE students, as part of their unit on the water cycle, had the opportunity to study the water quality of Plantation Creek on Wednesday 14 March. We were fortunate to enlist the professional services of the Burdekin Bowen Integrated Floodplan Management Advisory Committee with Mr Dennis Stubbs generously donating his time and expertise. Students had to undertake water tests from samples of Planation Creek water that Mr Stubbs had supplied. Students analysed Ph, electrical conductivity, oxygen levels, nitrate and phosphate levels. The highlight was when students had to physically find and place micro and macro invertebrates (small often slimey and strange creatures found in the weed floating in the creek) into ice cube containers for further identification and classification. Students will now write a formal report analysing Plantation Creek water quality and providing recommendations to improve water quality.

Overall, students were surprised that the creek water was of a fair standard. On behalf of our school, I would like to thank BBIFMAC for being a valuable partner in the education of improving water quality in the Burdekin.

If your child needs to wear a jumper for warmth please make it the official school jumper.

Craig Whittred
Principal
Northern (NQ) Selections
by Ms Courtney Carrigan, Sports Co-ordinator

Cluster 3 NQ Trials (Rugby Union, AFL and Netball) finally went ahead on Monday 26 March after being postponed due to the flooding last week. Congratulations to René Le Feuvre (Year 9) who was selected for U15 AFL (a tremendous feat considering we are dominated by Rugby League in North Queensland). He said he was the shortest player picked but is ready to mix it with the best of them at the Queensland Championships in May in Cairns.

Congratulations also goes to Molly Barbagallo (Year 10) who was selected in the Open Girls Basketball Team at the Cluster 2 trials. She will travel to Rockhampton in May for the Queensland Championships.

Special mention to Chantel Mohle who was selected as a shadow player for Open Netball.

Well done to all students who trialled and we wish René and Molly well.

Teacher vs Student - Volleyball
by Kyle Taylor, Sport Vice Captain

The first teacher vs student game took place last Friday. It was an exciting battle with a large number of students coming down to watch the Mixed Volleyball event. The students started well but due to some inspirational serving from Mr Williams the teachers took the lead and took no pity on the students. The game ended 46 – 38 as the students were bitterly disappointed to have been beaten by the educators. Thank you to all the teachers who participated. Bring on the Term 2 match-up.

Cross Country & Fun Run
Wednesday 18 April 2012
Session 4

Permission Forms must be returned by Tuesday 17 April in order to run in the cross country.

Sponsorship Forms and money are due on Wednesday 18 April (this is the first week of Term 2). Easter holidays where families are travelling and visiting relatives/friends is a great opportunity to receive more sponsorship. The more you collect, the better prizes you and the school can receive.

Please Note
There is no Student Free Day at the beginning of Term 2. Students and staff return Monday 16 April.

Upcoming Events
2-13 April School Holidays
16 April Music Support Meeting (7.30 pm, A12)
18 April Cross Country/Fun Run (S4)
23 April P & C Meeting (7.30 - 9.30 pm, Library)
24 April Anzac Day Assembly (S1)
25 April Anzac Day Holiday
26 April School Disco
Interschool Basketball (3.30 pm)
30 April Music Camp
1 May Music Camp
2 May Music Camp
Yr 8 Vaccinations (9 am to 12 pm)
3 May Interschool Basketball (3.30 pm)
5 May 75th Anniversary Open Day
7 May Labour Day Holiday
8-11 May Yr 11 Work Experience
10 May Yr 10 Careers Expo SF4NQ “Skills on Show”

Chappy Corner
by Scott McLean, Chaplain

Hey everyone, the past few weeks have been flat out but rewarding at the same time. The Year 8 Camp was a great time to make connections with some students for the first time. I was able to join in some of the activities, take the students on a trek to sail rock, as well as run a boot camp. After camp I had to fly to Brisbane for a week intensive for my Diploma in Youth Work, this cluster was mainly based around group work which will be helpful in some of the programs I help out with. I am available to students or parents Tuesday to Friday if there is anything I can help or support them with.
Year 12 Camp - Camp Kinchant

The annual camp for Year 12 students is always a highlight as students learn to work together and with staff in challenging situations. When a group of students with diverse interests and personalities are able to establish a common bond with shared goals the power of the camp is apparent. This year’s students have come together with the motto “We will carry each other home”. The motto will be challenged as the year progresses and the strength of the bond will be tested but a solid foundation is always the best way to build a great and successful year.

Congratulations to the Year 12 students who showed courage, commitment and great empathy for each other. The new venue for Year 12 camp provided even more opportunities than usual for students to face and overcome difficulties. The high ropes course and the G-Swing were not only physically but also mentally challenging. Camp Co-ordinator, Miss Deanne Ruge was impressed by the maturity and team work of the students. She has attended many Year 12 camps but seldom been as proud of the way individual students accepted the challenges and become part of the cohesive Year 12 machine.

A detailed account of camp life can be found at www.ayrshs.eq.edu.au with the online Ayring.

Future Coaches

Ms Thomas’ Year 12 Physical Recreation students have been developing their coaching skills in the sport of Softball. On Friday 16 March, they invited Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Baxter’s Year 6 class from Ayr State School to visit for a coaching clinic. The old and the young enjoyed the opportunity to coach and be coached. The Year 12s ran a series of ball work and base running activities and corrected and applauded as the Year 6s got fully involved. The extreme wet weather almost caused a cancellation but the students and Ms Thomas were resourceful enough to push ahead in the M.P.S.
Finally camp had arrived! On Tuesday 6 March we boarded the bus at long last to Camp Kinchant. As this was a new camp venue, we did not really have any idea what to expect. We just knew that first we had to get through a four hour bus trip.

When we arrived it was so hot, we couldn’t stand it. And yes, there were actually tents. This made a swim in the dam sound really good. The catch was that at the dam we had to create a synchronised swimming routine in our sporting houses. All houses performed very well, but we’re not quite sure we’ll make the Olympics. Hey Curtis, how do you spell Banks?

Tuesday night saw our first round of activities - low ropes, sock wrestle and designing our fashion outfit. The night was eventful – Brendan Huckett dislocated his shoulder in the sock wrestle, and scored a trip to the hospital with Ms Ruge. Doug Bero became the Milky Way Kid. And we all passed our final test – tent evacuation. This is where the fun really began.

At 11.45 pm Tuesday night we all got evacuated from our tents because of torrential rain. The tents were being inundated by water, and the lack of waterproofing was becoming really obvious. The boys scored a bed in a cabin with no fans or screens, and the girls moved to the floor of the air-conditioned dining hall. Surprisingly, the shift occurred with little fuss, as everyone was pretty exhausted from our big first day.

The fun continued on Wednesday and Thursday when we took on some of the more challenging activities. For most of these activities we had to wear a harness for safety reasons. The photos do prove without question that harnesses are not a good look on anyone!

We all conquered high ropes in our own way, with Trent Blackburn and Nick Ley completing the most challenging course 15 metres off the ground. They came back to camp bragging about how well they did. Apparently they spoke too soon, with Ms Thomas and Jordan Cisowski (who is clearly an Ergon worker in the making) giving it a shot the next day and beating their time. Poor Trent.

The G- Swing was very entertaining to watch with many people (including teachers) showing a side we’ve never seen. The G- Swing is 20 metres in the air and you drop at full speed, so you can imagine how their normal reactions may have been different. We also made catapults with Mr Cotter, shooting each other with tennis balls and water bombs. We all came out of the battle field alive, but with a few bruises – Jessica Chatfield had an impressive mark to show her commitment to the task.

The group initiative saw each team complete different tasks – some powered through, and some struggled to finish. Sam Row’s intellectual approach (“Just get one across – the other teams will never work it out”) and the trust fall were a highlight. The Tower of Terror also saw a new record of 17 crates for the highest stack – take that Year 7s! Maybe it was our good luck python?

Don’t get us started with the survivor challenge – we just didn’t know what we were in for. The survivor challenge is where we are split into our sporting houses and we have to find our designated teacher in the bush. We found ourselves confronted by challenges, running up and down hills, and having no clue where we were going. Every team managed to save their injured team member, with some teams ending up with a few more injured than they counted on! Macquarie worked exceptionally well, powering through the challenges and working together. The Kinchant Gods were well pleased, with most teams showing belonging, spirit and wisdom. We just won’t mention that “500 points”.

Thursday night was very interesting. We had a fashion show, a concert and an iron mouth challenge. For the fashion show the boys showed their feminine side, dressing up as ladies and showing that they didn’t mind a bit of attention. Many students came out of their shells, trying to amuse us for the concert or dazzling us with their beautiful singing voices. Talk show host Darian put the teachers under pressure in a couple of rounds of Celebrity Head. The Iron Mouth challenge was very revealing. The so called strong and tough guys Joel Chatfield, Tasstan Campbell and Trent Blackburn were all shown up by the girls. The boys took a whiff of the drink and ran for the bushes. However Shae Cannon, Bridget Sloan, Chloe Webber, Va Cole, Sharri Liebrecht and Caitlin Anderson owned the competition.

Friday came and we were all exhausted but didn’t want to go home. That morning we took the opportunity to finish camp on a high, writing personalised messages to each other. After four days of intensive activities, mud, sweat and rivalry between sporting houses, not to mention having to put up with seven teachers 24 hours a day (just kidding), camp was over and we were boarding the buses. Ms Ruge told us how proud she was of what we had achieved, and yes, Rugey did cry! (EDITOR’S NOTE – I had something in my eye – Miss Ruge)

Senior Camp was a success. It has taught us a lot about ourselves and each other. The relationships that we have built will remain with us forever. We have all benefitted from this experience and we are all very proud of what we have achieved already and will continue this throughout 2012. We will carry each other home!