**ANZAC Commemoration Assembly**

*by Ms Andrea Aleksic, Junior Secondary Deputy Principal*

The assembly was conducted by School Captain, Matt Wight, assisted by Natalie Holt, Eden Wone and Ryan Taylor, Year 11 form representatives. The welcome to country was made by Year 10 student, Louis Ansey. Our special guest was Captain Gregory Sisson, currently posted as Electrical Mechanical Engineering Officer at Headquarters 3rd Brigade where he co-ordinates and manages all engineering aspects related to maintaining capability of 3rd Bridge's large and diversified fleet of military equipment. He spoke about the meaning of ANZAC day and why Australia pauses to remember those who have served in wars and other conflicts for nearly 100 years. Captain Sisson was accompanied by Sargeant Paul Falkner. Other invited guests were Mrs Rosemary Menkens, Member of Parliament - Burdekin, Mayor Bill Lowis, ex Navy Veteran, Mr Bill Christie, ex Army Vietnam Veteran, Mr Leon Stucas, ex Navy of 24 years service, Mr Paul Walsh, President of Ayr State High School P&C and Mrs Tina Hancock, President of the Performing Arts Support Group. This year the address commemorated the Veteran Affairs theme of the return of Australian forces from Afghanistan. The poster provided a comparison between the contemporary soldier and the first ANZACS. Three wreaths were laid by our guests. Once again the Air Force Cadets were a prominent feature of the assembly. Under the command of Cadet Under Officer Scott Worlien, twenty cadets took part as the guard. Kacee Bromham performed a heartfelt rendition of Sarah Bareilles’s song “Brave”, while our choir led the assembly in singing the national anthem. The significance of the symbols of the Ode, Last Post and Reveille was explained by Maddie Collins, Sophie Sutcliffe, Kacee Bromham and Shona Scalia. The most solemn part of the service, The Last Post and Rouse, was played by Mr Leon Stucas followed by The Lament, on bagpipes, by Mr Bill Christie. Thank you to all those who contributed to our Commemoration service and especially to the students of Ayr State High School who were respectful and considerate as members of the assembly.
Welcome back to Term 2!
It has already started at a cracking pace. We returned for the short week to kick the term off which included our school’s commemoration of ANZAC day both at our own assembly at school on Thursday and also at the Dawn Service, Parade and Community Service. At all of these events the students of Ayr State High showed the highest respect for the occasion and presented themselves, their families and our school in an exemplary manner. Thank you to the Air Force Cadets and our school choir for making our assembly so special. Also thank you to the Student Executive for attending the Dawn service after a late return from camp along with the 15 or so other students who voluntarily represented our school at the dawn service as well. Thank you to the 85 students who participated in parade and thank you to the staff who supported our ANZAC commemoration. This year we saw a combined speech presented by a school leader from BCH and Ayr High on behalf of the youth of our community as well as a combined presentation of the National Anthem. This was an initiative that the schools have been working on with the RSL to commemorate the 100 anniversary of the years of the First World War. Congratulations to Matt Wight and Zoe Muir for representing our school in such a fine fashion.

Last week we saw the running of our school Cross Country and Fun Run. It was great to see such high participation rates in both events! Congratulations to Cook house for winning the event.

On Friday evening we saw the presentation of the Drama Festival. Congratulations to all those involved in our performance which was outstanding.

I have been stopped in the street numerous times over the weekend and told how good our presentation was, with most people saying it was the performance of the night! Well done guys I can’t wait for the Musical!!!

Next week our Year 9 students will be sitting the NAPLAN tests. I am very confident that the students will acquit themselves well. The NAPLAN testing provides students, parents and our school with a good measurement of how individuals are performing in the area of literacy and numeracy compared with their peers across the country. I encourage all students to try their best on all of the tests.

Our attendance focus has continued resulting in all year levels improving their attendance from last year and averaging over the 90% range. We still have some improvement to go but this is a great start to the year!

Finally the P&C Association is deep into their planning of the Ayr State High School’s Parents and Citizens Gala Sports Dinner. The Dinner will be held on Friday 13 June. Guest Speakers will be Mr Laurie Spina the original captain of the North Queensland Cowboys and Mr Michael Luck the current Performance Manager for the Cowboys. The night will also have some lucky door prizes, raffles and memorabilia auctions. Tickets will go on sale from the school office this week and will be offered to current families and then to the wider school community. There are only 200 tickets available so get in quick! This is the major fundraising event for the P&C for 2014 so come along and support our school.

Craig Whittred, Principal

Welcome to Ayr State High School
Our school acknowledges the Bindal and 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.

Year 9 and Calculators for NAPLAN

NAPLAN is fast approaching, 13 to 15 May. All Year 9 students are required to bring their scientific calculator to school for the calculator section of the numeracy test. Please check that your child has a scientific calculator and that it is working eg the battery has not gone flat. If your child has mislaid their calculator, ensure they have one by the time of the test. If this is a problem, please contact the Numeracy ST-LaN, Mrs Gemellaro.

DNA to the Max
by Mr Kerry Flynn, HOD - Science & Maths

On the last day of term, two classes of Year 10 science students had the opportunity to experience university standard equipment in a CSIRO DNA extraction exercise. Students extracted the DNA from a patented genetically modified barley crop – called ‘CSIRO Barley Max’. At the same time, students also ran an electrophoresis trial on the barley to identify whether the barley was being used in various food products without CSIRO authorisation. This real world application of the genetics work undertaken in Term 1 allowed students to appreciate the usefulness of science learnt in school.

A special thanks to Melissa from CSIRO for coming to our school to workshop with the students and to JCU for their financial assistance with running the program.
In the early hours of Tuesday morning, 22 April, the Year 12s set off for camp at the Kinchant Outdoor Education Centre before the sun had even risen. The four-hour long bus trip brought them to the grounds of the centre, where a jam-packed three days of leadership and team-based activities were planned for them. The students were divided into five groups: Freddos, Maltesers, Mars, Milky Way and Kit Kat. For the majority of the camp, these groups remained together to complete activities aimed at developing communication and team skills, as well as developing leadership. Some activities also aimed to encourage the Year 12s to step out of their personal comfort zones, especially the high ropes course and giant swing. Through encouragement from fellow team members and overcoming fears, the majority of students completed personal challenges and developed a sense of trust between themselves and their peers.

Other challenges, including the Rescue and Survivor challenge, were completed by house teams as opposed to groups. In the Rescue challenge, six participants from each house were selected to be rescuers and victims, where three modes of rescue were employed: swimming, paddleboarding and kayaking. Phillip won this challenge with a large lead, giving them an advantage over the other houses in the Survivor challenge. In the Survivor challenge, the houses were to complete several individual trials in order to complete their totems, which would allow them to complete the final leg of the journey; building a “raft”, on which to transport a missing tribe member. Phillip again won this challenge (no surprises there), earning themselves bragging rights and first preference for dinner time; it was definitely worth the struggle! The fraternity between the Year 12s was displayed when the houses clapped and supported each other toward the finish, even forming parties which ran with the houses and offered valuable emotional and physical assistance.

All in all, the three days were full of many tests and challenges, both personal and as a whole for the Year 12s, as well as fun-filled activities which helped further develop the leadership, teamwork and interpersonal skills of the young adults. The Year 12 students would also like to give a big thank you to the teachers who assisted with the camp and provided support and encouragement for students, as well as the Camp Kinchant staff who facilitated the activities. It was an experience that has developed memories which will remain with the students well into their adult lives.
Commemorating ANZAC Day
by Ms Andrea Aleksic, Deputy Principal

On ANZAC day, Ayr State High School, was well represented at the services held at dawn, Brandon and Giru and by students and staff at the march at 9 am. Thank you to all who marched and to their families who enabled them to be present.

Commemorating ANZAC Day allows Australians to: HONOUR the service of Australia’s veterans; REMEMBER the sacrifice of the fallen; THANK those who have returned; and RENEW our bonds of community and our understanding of the ANZAC traditions of courage and comradeship.

Year 9s Honour the ANZACS

As it is the centenary of the start of World War One, this week Mrs Vollema-Creek’s and Mrs Paine’s Year 9 History classes walked to ANZAC Park to analyse the local community’s commemoration of the supreme sacrifice by local ANZACs. As part of their unit about World War One, Year 9 students sketched, labelled and examined the three war memorials located in the Ayr ANZAC Park. Many of the Year 9s marched in the parade last Friday out of respect for soldiers who gave their life defending or representing Australia in military conflicts in the past one hundred years and the excursion to ANZAC Park enhanced their understanding of the symbolism of the memorials. They now look forward to learning more about Australia’s role in the First World War and an excursion to the RAAF Museum and the North Queensland Military Museum in Townsville will occur later this term. They will also have the opportunity to enter their assignment in the Simpson Prize competition which closes later this year.

Celebr8 Year 8
Thursday 8 - Friday 9
May 2014
Alva Beach

Year 9 NAPLAN
Tuesday 13 - Thursday 15 May 2014

Upcoming Events

2 May Drama Festival Performance (Burdekin Theatre, 7.00 pm)
5 May P&C Meeting (Resource Centre, 7.30 pm)
6 May Harmony Day
Student Exec Council Meeting (2nd break)
8 May Yr 10 SF4NQ “Skills on Show” Careers Day
School Disco (Showgrounds Hall, 7 - 10 pm)
8-9 May Celebr8 Year 8
9 May Yr 12 RSA - Hospitality
12 May Yr 12 RSG - Hospitality
13 May Interschool Cross Country
13-15 May Yr 9 NAPLAN
15-17 May Yr 11 Biology Camp
17-27 May Burdekin Elstedd fod
20 May FOGS
Yr 10 OCE & SET Plan Info Evening
21 May Yr 8 & 10 Boys and Girls Vaccinations
27 May Senior Secondary Student Council Meeting (2nd Break)
29 May Junior Secondary Student Council Meeting (2nd Break)
30 May Yr 8 Arts/Technology Rotation No 2 ends
Record nominations have been received for this year’s annual Rostrum Voice of Youth speaking competition, with Ayr State High School entering 23 students from Year 8 to Year 12. It has been quite a few years since Ayr State High School has participated in this competition, but look out Rostrum, WE ARE BACK!!!

Many of these students have willingly given up several afternoons to participate in workshops, honing their powers of persuasion. All nominees deserve to be commended for their dedication and enthusiasm; I have no doubt that they will do our school proud.

Freeman Stan Simpson, who joined Rostrum in 1968, and has held every portfolio on the Rostrum executive, as well as the presidency for the last 16 years, kindly gave up his valuable time to come and speak to our Ayr High nominees. He not only explained how Rostrum originated, but also provided them with hints and tips on speech construction and delivery. This visit was very well received by each and every student.

Our Ayr High nominees for the 2014 Rostrum Voice of Youth competition are:

Year 8: Montana Buffa, Jack Delle Baite, Chiara Ferrando, Mackenzie Holmes
Year 9: Lauren Bozzetto, Kacee Bromham, Maddi Collins, Shona Scalia, Jasmin Timm
Year 10: Blaise Heron, Alix Leckenby, Tiam Walsh, Hayden Menso
Year 11: Tayla Hancock, Jessica Kaminski, Rene Le Feuvre, Liam Shannon, Luke Sockhill, Lexi Whyte
Year 12: Jordan Holmes, Harry Miller, Travis Mogg, Zoe Muir

Due to the large number of students participating, we will be holding two heats for Ayr State High School. These will occur on the evening of Monday 12 May and Wednesday 14 May, in the school auditorium, commencing at 6:00 pm each evening. Both Juniors and Seniors will be speaking on each night, with one Junior and one Senior winner being announced each evening. All are welcome to attend the heats and a light supper will be provided both nights. From here, these four students will then represent our school and compete against other local schools in the Burdekin Regional Final, which will be held at Ayr High on Wednesday 28 May.

SWPBS - Term 1 Hawk Point Draw

Student wellbeing is a major focus in our school community and one way this is enhanced is by encouraging our students to be the best Ayr High Learner they can possibly be. By being safe, showing respect and doing their personal best students received Hawk Points as an acknowledgement of their good efforts. These points may be placed in a raffle like draw each term. At our last assembly for Term 1 hundreds of Hawk Points were placed in two draws with the funding for these prizes being raised by Mr Rodney Williams and his selling of icy cups at various school activities.

Congratulations to all our great Ayr High Learners but especially congratulations to the students who were lucky enough to win a prize of fishing gear, itune cards, EB game cards, lollies or the grand prize of a Touch Tab Tablet.

Tablet, itune card and Fishing Rod winner Jack Vacher, surrounded by Wesley O’Rourke, Tracy Wilson, Adam Da Corte, Jaheel Cole-Beer, Franka Hicks, Jayden Caltabiano, Sarah Johnson, Kendall Fabian, Hayden Menso, Batya Doyle, Chelsea Sutcliffe, Meghann Finn.
AYR STATE HIGH SCHOOL CANTEEN MENU
(Current as at 5 May, 2014)

Canteen Rules:-
- No ports or bags through the Canteen line.
- Only 4 items per student
- $50 notes will only be changed towards the end of First Break.
- Canteen closes 10 minutes before the end of each break.

Everyday:
Sandwiches:  Chicken, Mayo & Lettuce $3.50
            Chicken, Avocado & Lettuce $3.50
            Ham & Salad (Lettuce, Carrot, Tomato & Cheese) $3.50
            Roast Beef and Salad $3.50
            Egg, Mayo & Lettuce $3.50
Chicken Caesar Salad Boxes $3.50
Chicken & Salad Wraps $3.50
Ham & Salad Wraps $3.50
Toasties (Except Wednesday):
            Chicken and Cheese (1/2 round) $1.70
            Ham and Cheese (1/2 round) $1.70
Pies and Pasties $3.50
Sausage Rolls $2.50
Sauce Sachet .30

Monday Special:
Slice of Pizza (Meatlovers, Chicken & BBQ Sauce, $2.20
            Ham and Pineapple)
Sushi $3.60

Tuesday Special:
Subway (6” Chicken Strip, BMT, Club) $4.00
Hot Dog $3.00

Wednesday Special:
Meat Pattie and Cheese Burger $3.50
Spaghetti/Pasta $3.50

Thursday Special:
Red Rooster Chicken Roll (Hot) $5.00
Red Rooster BLT Roll (Cold) $5.00

Friday Special:
Fish Burger with/without Mayonnaise $3.80
Fish Burger with Mayonnaise and Salad (Lettuce & Tomato) $4.00

Drinks:
Large Milks and Juice $3.00
Small Milks and Juice $2.00
Water $1.50

Second Break:
Various Ice-creams from $1.00 to $2.00
Small Packets Chips $1.00
Quench $2.00
Nutrient Water $3.50
Slush $2.50