Rostrum Voice Of Youth Finals
by Mrs Linda Attard, English teacher

On the evenings of 12 and 13 May, our school’s auditorium was filled with audiences ready to witness our junior and senior students, showcase their public speaking skills. Ayr High’s 2015 Rostrum Voice of Youth heats were very well attended again this year, with 19 students competing over the two nights – we had the most number of students nominating from any Burdekin school. Each student spoke convincingly across a range of topics including ‘Community Spirit’, ‘Friend or Foe’, ‘Mind Games and ‘Bridge Over Troubled Waters’.

The senior division winners were Katurah Saunders and Hayden Menso, with junior division winners announced as Sarah McDonnell and Mackenzie Holmes. Katurah impressed the adjudicators with her impassioned speech on the impacts of social media on teenagers, while Hayden’s excellently-crafted presentation challenged the audience to think about the evolution of music and its effects on society and our youth.

No less impressive were Sarah and Mackenzie, who also presented rousing speeches that both motivated and enthralled audiences.

These four students, along with winners from Home Hill High and Burdekin Catholic High, then went on to the Burdekin district final which was held at Home Hill State High School on Thursday 28 May. The high calibre of competitors was evident in the quality of the speeches that stirred the audience’s passions, with Mackenzie being named runner up in the junior section of the Burdekin competition.

The 2015 Rostrum season has been a rewarding and memorable occasion. The camaraderie of students was very special and it was great to see so many of our students support our competitors. Many students have revealed that they will be back next year to give it another go.

All students who participated in the competition are to be congratulated as they did themselves, their families, and their school, very proud. It was an absolute privilege for me to work with such a dedicated and talented group of young people.
As we come to the end of Semester one I reflect back on some of the achievements of the students at Ayr State High School. We have had achievements on the sporting field, another series of outstanding performances at the Burdekin Eisteddfod and the Dramafest was a great testament to our student’s creative skills. Academically we have seen our students participate at the highest levels including Liam Shannon representing our school at the National Youth Science Forum. We also had another record number of participants in the Rostrum Voice of Youth competition, all of whom provided thought-provoking and entertaining speeches at the highest level. These are just a few of the highlights as there are too many to write about them all and it reinforces what a diverse and talented group of students we have here at Ayr State High School.

We also had the tragic passing of our Year 12 student Breannah Piva. This was a devastating blow to our school community. We continue to support our students and staff in the grieving process after losing someone so young and vibrant. We are working with Breannah’s peers to plan a memorial service for her to be held early next term. We continue to send thoughts and prayers to the Piva family in this very hard time.

Attached to the Ayring is a letter about a major fundraiser for the school’s P&C Association. This year we are participating in the Rotary Community Raffle. Every ticket sold brings vital funds into the P&C to help support school upgrades. Over the past few years the P&C have supported the purchase of computers and Laptops, sporting equipment and team apparel and numerous other activities. The money raised this year may go towards school grounds beautification, more student seating etc. Please help support the school and provide better resources for your children by buying your Rotary Community raffle tickets through the school.

I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday and I look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 13 July ready for another successful semester. Yours in Education

Craig Whittred
Principal

Welcome to Ayr State High School

Our school acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land. 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.

Keep a watch on our school these holidays

Parents and students can help take care of our school by reporting any suspicious after-hours activity to School Watch on 13 17 88.

By keeping an eye out we can work together to create a safer school community and help to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in our school. If you see something suspicious, please don’t intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter.

P&C Meeting

Monday 13 July 2015
7.30 pm
Resource Centre
All welcome

Rock and Water
by Mr Craig Mathews, Behaviour Management Teacher and Chappy Scott

During Term 1 and 2 as part of the Care Program students in Years 7 and 8 have been participating in the Rock and Water Program. This Program is concerned with developing positive social attitudes and skills in children using physical activity. It is aimed at increasing the self control, self awareness and self discipline of the individual as well as enhancing self esteem and enabling the children to work as an effective member of a community.

The Rock and Water Program uses “strength” building activities, both physical and mental, which give the students a variety of skills and strategies to use when confronted by different social situations including bullying and peer pressure. Students are also taught basic self-defence with a very strong emphasis on the ethics of self-defence and of living together in harmony.

All of the children involved have participated enthusiastically and have enjoyed the fun, physical nature of this program. They have also exhibited an understanding of how to avoid potentially dangerous situations and deal with issues appropriately.
The Interhouse Athletics Carnival will take place early next term in week 2, with most events being split over the week. The 3000 metres will be the first event taking place on Monday 20 July at 11.20 am (girls) and 1.10 pm (boys) and the 1500 metres will be run on Wednesday 22 July at 1.10 pm. Field events will be performed on Thursday 23 July at 12.00 pm, while the all day carnival will be held on Friday 24 July. Students nominated in their Houses last week for the following events: 100, 200, 400, 800, 1500, 3000 metres, 4 x 100 metre relay, long jump, triple jump, high jump, javelin, discus and shot put. Parents and families are welcome to attend the carnival to support their children. Good luck to all competitors.

A consequence of the decision we make to conduct assessment in the last week of term 2, and hence keep students engaged until holidays commence, is that the End of Semester Reports are not available until week 2 of term 3. The reports will be issued to students on Wednesday 22 July. Details of parent-teacher interviews will be included with the reports.

Young Athletes Travel Subsidy

Open from 1 July 2015 (replaces the Young Athlete Assistance Program). Funding is available to support the attendance of eligible athletes and officials at specific events:
- state or school events—$200
- national or national school events—$400
- international events—$600
Apply for one eligible event at each event tier, once every two calendar years.
Applicants must be under the age of 18 at the start of an event.

For more information and to check your eligibility, visit www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding or telephone 1300 636 191.

This subsidy could be available for students who have represented Northern (NQ) school teams and subsequently needed to travel to the State Championships. Please see the website above for further information and eligibility.

End of Semester Reporting to Parents

by Mrs Lesley Olsen, Deputy Principal

A consequence of the decision we make to conduct assessment in the last week of term 2, and hence keep students engaged until holidays commence, is that the End of Semester Reports are not available until week 2 of term 3. The reports will be issued to students on Wednesday 22 July. Details of parent-teacher interviews will be included with the reports.
**Top Shots**

Four Ayr High students were successful in winning the Top Squadron Award at a shooting competition conducted between all Air Force Cadets Squadrons in North Queensland. Cadet Warrant Officer Dean Webber, Cadet Warrant Officer William Webber, Cadet Corporal Matteo Devescovi and Cadet Sergeant Brody Memery are pictured right receiving the award from Squadron Leader Ken Whelan, Executive Officer at 1 Wing - North Queensland. The team represented their local Squadron (109 Squadron - Burdekin) at the competition and scored the highest average points of all Squadron teams in the competition.

In addition, Dean, Matteo and Brody were awarded Crossed Rifle badges for achieving average scores of 85% and above in the competition - effectively achieving marksman status.

The competition in Townsville is used as a basis for selection of a four person team to compete in the National Rifle Competition in Sydney in September. Dean, Matteo and Brody have been selected as three members of that team. They will compete at the Sydney Olympic Shooting Centre against seven other teams from all over Australia to determine the best team in the country for 2015. While in Sydney they will be accommodated at RAAF Base Glenbrook in the Blue Mountains which is the home of Australian Air Command.

Cadets from 109 Squadron have been conducting shooting activities since early last year with regular practices at the Burdekin Pistol Club Range. Regular practice has seen great improvement in many members of the Squadron making them now a competitive force in the northern competition.

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**Work Experience for Year 10 Students**

By Mrs Lesley Olsen, Deputy Principal

As part of confirming career pathways and course or subject selections for the Year 10 students as they progress into Year 11, all Year 10 students will be participating in five days work experience.

Although the actual week of work experience is not scheduled until term 4 (12-16 October), the process of finding placements needs to begin early in term 3.

Students will be asked to indicate the sort of work they would prefer to sample in the work experience week. The forms will be processed in the order in which they are returned. Prompt attention to this will provide the best chance for students to be placed in their preferred option.

Mrs Vartuli, in the school office, facilitates work experience. She works very hard to find suitable places for all students.

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**SET Plan Interviews for Year 10 Students**

By Mrs Lesley Olsen, Deputy Principal

All Year 10 students must attend an interview to discuss their career and learning pathway.

These interviews are being held from Wednesday 15 July to Wednesday 22 July.

Interviews can be booked online. Go to the school website www.ayrshs.eq.edu.au click on Parent/Teacher interviews and follow the prompts.

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**School Jumpers in 2015**

*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.
Open Minds Join ABC Open
by Hayden Menso, ASHS Photography Crew

On Saturday 30 May, Ayr High’s Photography Crew attended a Photography Workshop at the Burdekin Library hosted by ABC Open. ABC Open is an initiative of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, where online participants can upload their photography, video or writing to monthly projects, to be possibly used on the ABC, with the main focus on presenting the story behind the author’s work.

The workshop, hosted by North Queensland ABC Producer Michael Bromage, focused on techniques utilised to take the perfect photo, whilst bearing in mind its use and focus. Members, Hayden Menso and Lachlan Giarrusso (both Year 11) and teacher Mrs Vollerma-Creek attended, and thoroughly enjoyed the session. “It gave us a new perspective of photographic techniques, and how they can be utilised to convey a story” Lachlan said. “It allowed us to have a new view of the community we live in, and how we can portray a story through our daily lives.”

The Crew aim to use the experience of ABC Open to further their school photography, used at various events and occasions throughout the school year.

ABC Open hopes to make Photography Workshops in the Burdekin a monthly event, in order to expose and enhance the local photographic talent in the region.

To view our works online, visit https://open.abc.net.au/people/19960 (Hayden) or https://open.abc.net.au/people/19961 (Lachlan).

Changes to Year 7 Tuckshop Ordering
by Kimberly Cameron, HOD Junior Secondary

As our Year 7’s are now settled and familiar with the school’s landscape, we have decided to increase their independence for Semester Two. Year 7 students will no longer order their lunch during form time, but will extend their integration into the school community by lining up in the Year 8/7 line for both lunches, if they wish to buy tuckshop. During the last week of term all Year 7 students will be taken through the new tuckshop line process to ensure all students are familiar and comfortable with the expectations for Semester Two.

I wish to thank the tuckshop staff, form teachers and teacher aides (Miss Loretta Lena, Mrs Wendy Patane and Miss Luisa Scodellaro) for allowing our Year 7 students the opportunity to order their lunches in Semester One, as a lot of work happens behind the scenes to allow this process to run smoothly.

Attendance Expectation
by Mrs Lesley Olsen, Deputy Principal

As a school community we have worked hard to instil the habit of regular school attendance. Students are advised at regular intervals of their attendance rate. The expectation for all students is 95% attendance. This equates to 10 days absence during any school year. Exemptions are made for significant medical absences.

In 2015 only students who are meeting the 95% attendance rate will be invited to the Student’s Ball or the Graduation Dinner.

Year 10 - 12 students were advised this week if they are not meeting this requirement.

P&C News

Time to save your spare change for: AYR ROTARY CLUB COMMUNITY RAFFLE

With this Ayring you should receive a letter regarding the Rotary Community Raffle which officially begins on July 4.

Please support your school by purchasing a ticket from us and asking others to do so. 100% of the funds raised by us come back to us. Tickets will be issued via your designated responsible student once correct money and form is returned. Allow a week’s turnaround.

This is a great opportunity offered by the Ayr Rotary Club. Success with it will mean taking part for years to come.

Enquiries Ann Sockhill asockhill@live.com or 0400536113

Download the free QSchool App to stay connected to news and events.

Access to newsletters, calendar events, news feeds, forms and documents.

Parent-Teacher Interviews
by Mrs Lesley Olsen, Deputy Principal

Parent-teacher interviews will be held on Monday 27 July from 3.30 pm to 6.30 pm in I Block.
The SOBS on-line booking system will open for parents at 5 pm Wednesday 22 July and will close at midnight on Sunday 26 July.
Parents who need assistance to book interviews or need to make an alternative time to meet with teachers should contact the school office.
AYR STATE HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION – COMMUNITY RAFFLE

This year Ayr SHS P&C Association will be participating in the Rotary Club Community Raffle. All profits raised by us come back to the P&C. This has the potential to be a great fundraiser should we get the support of our school community. So we are hoping that every family can assist by buying at least one ticket at $5 each for a chance to win:

First Prize $10,000  Second Prize $5,000  Third Prize $2,500

Being cash prizes enables families to sell tickets to interested relatives and friends from afar!

If your family/friends wish to buy tickets complete and hand in the coupon/s and form below with correct money in envelope supplied. Coupons will be exchanged for tickets and handed to the nominated student (form below) who will be responsible for passing the tickets on to you. You can be notified that this has occurred by supplying your email address and/or mobile number.

On the form also is a section for those who prefer to make a donation instead.

For those of you interested in selling tickets to the wider community on our behalf please indicate below or contact Ann Sockhill on 0400 536 113 or asockhill@live.com. There are strict guidelines which we will follow to avoid loss of tickets as every ticket has to be accounted for. Genuine offers of assistance would be very much appreciated.

Looking forward to your assistance in making this an exciting fundraiser!

Doug Sockhill (President)   Craig Whittred (Principal)

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NAME AND CLASS OF STUDENT RESPONSIBLE:

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