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Issue No 13

Newsletter of Ayr State High School

Friday 3 December 2021

# Graduating Class of 2021!

by Miss Heather Scott, Year 12 Co-ordinator



The Year 12 students of Ayr State High School returned to school on Friday of week 6 to reconnect as a group and begin their Graduation Week activities. The week culminated in a Graduation evening on Thursday 18 November at the Memorial Hall in Home Hill, and a farewell assembly and lunch the following day.

This year our first activity was on Friday 12 November with the resurrection of the Community Services Touch Game. Due to a range of circumstances, this game has not been played for a number of years. However, Sports Captain Connor Brown was keen to see it become part of the school calendar again. The Police, Ambulance and Fire Services answered the call and arrived with some of their best and most talented touch players and their secret weapon, Mr McMullen (Eliza's father), who the Year 12 students were thrilled to go up against. The Year 12 students thought they had the game won, but the Services definitely made them work. As the game went on, more reinforcements and players arrived and with that, the game ended in a draw on the bell. After the game, the Services generously gave up their time to talk to the Year 12s about being safe and looking after each other during Graduation Week. Grad Week started and the students hit the ground running, with preparations for their Graduation evening - painting, gluing, constructing and dance practice. They were then off to East Ayr State School where they spent the morning working with the primary students, creating puppets, ICT activities and other classroom tasks. The morning ended with a disco in the hall where all the classes came together with the Year 12s for some dancing. Everyone had a ball and no one wanted to leave, but it was back to school for a presentation by Paula Mottin from Nutrien Harcourts who spoke to the group regarding renting/leasing a property. This was valuable and timely advice with many having to consider this in the coming months. Mr Ballin and Cassandra also gave presentations to the Year 12 cohort, both providing advice and guidance. Thank you to everyone who gave their time during this week.

The Graduation theme for 2021 was Travel. Once the Year 12 students had decided on how they envisaged the hall, myself, Mrs Buffa, Ms Ruge, Ms Hoey, Mr Prideaux and an amazing group of students got to work. Makeleigh O'Shea, sister of Demi and past student, also joined the team and took on the task of designing and painting the nameboards, which were amazing. Jo Lewis, mother of Hannah, created the most incredible Graduation Cake that looked and tasted beautiful. During the evening, the students received their Graduation Certificate from Mr Whittred and the cake was cut by Demi O'Shea and Steven Abraham. Our School Dux, Giselle Le Feuvre, gave some insight into the past six years with plenty of humour. Lucy Creek, Sarah Phillips and Demi O'Shea recited a poem which was another snapshot of the Graduates time at Ayr High.

On Friday, the Graduates were presented at a whole school assembly. Giselle, Lucy, Sarah and Demi presented their respective speech and the poem. Mr Whittred also gave his speech to the Graduates. The presentation then concluded with the seniors singing their song, *If Today Was Your Last Day* by Nickelback. Students were then sent off with a bang followed by a delicious BBQ. Thank you to Mr Pickersgill, Mrs Woods and their team of Year 11 helpers who prepared Friday's celebrations.

We wish the Graduating Class of 2021 all the very best for their future and remind them that they are always part of the Ayr High Family.

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# From the Principal

by Mr Kerry Flynn, Deputy Principal  
Editorial - Newsletter No. 13 03/12/2021



As the 2021 school year comes to an end, we can look back on a number of fantastic Ayr High Family achievements. Our Musical was an absolute highlight. Macquarie winning Champion House, our Rugby League teams winning all grades, the Cross Country and Colour Fun and most recently, our Year 12 Graduation celebrations along with Big Day Out, were all highlights to a very successful year.

Importantly, our students also achieved in a range of areas which were acknowledged at our Sports, Cultural and Academic Awards. We instigated changes to our Monday timetable that has seen an increase in staff collaboration and learning. Furthermore, we introduced a new Student Code of Conduct which has a focus on Restorative Practices and ensuring positive relationships. This has seen a significant improvement in student behaviour and engagement. Many students in both Year 11 and 12 have already secured apprenticeships and offers of employment starting in 2022.

Our successes were supported by two key groups; our Parents and Citizens' Association and the Music Support Group. This year, the P&C made some personnel changes in our tuckshop and Robyn and June have done a remarkable job. There has been a massive improvement in quality and quantity of food offered to

students and staff alike. Consequently, a significant increase in profits has been made and the P&C have now purchased three chilled water bottle filling stations to be installed over the holidays. The Music Support Group have financially supported our Musical and our Performing Arts initiatives including students participating in the State Honours Ensemble Program. I would like to thank all parents/carers who have been involved in either group, your efforts are making a real difference to our school.

As we move into 2022, we continue on our improvement journey that is focused on the continued development of staff and student understanding of Learning, Wellbeing, Positive Relationships and Goal Setting. We will continue to strive to improve student attendance as the first steps towards achievement and continue to bring to life our belief statement of SUCCESS: Every Student, Every Day. I would like to thank my staff for their efforts over the year. Their commitment to the students of Ayr High and their own development as professionals is second to none.

I would also like to thank parents/carers and families who have participated in any way to support the continued development of both our students and our school. Without your efforts, the Ayr High Family would not be the success it is.

Finally, to our students, this has been

## 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.



another big year for you all. I always encourage you to strive for your own Personal Best. Once again, I have seen you all make steps forward in your development into the quality young men and women we see graduate from Ayr High each year. You will now have a break from school, but as January rolls around again, I encourage you to think about what are your own Personal Bests that you are going to focus on in 2022. These can be at school, at home, in sports or the arts or any facet of life, most importantly though, understand that the next step is only the next step. You are surrounded by people who care about you, both parents/carers and staff, who are all willing to support you to achieve your Personal Best.

School will resume for students on Monday 24 January with the school office opening the week before on Monday 17 January 2022.

To everyone, have a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. I look forward to seeing everyone back here next year ready to have yet another outstanding Ayr High year!

Yours in education

Craig Whittred  
Principal



Friday 10 December  
2021

Yr 7, 8 and 9 Students Last Day



Like our Ayr  
State High  
School page

[facebook.com/ayrshs](https://facebook.com/ayrshs)

Australia Day  
Public Holiday

Wednesday  
26 January  
2022



**SUCCESS**  
Every Student,  
Every Day



End of Semester  
Reports

Reports for Year 10 and 11 students  
will be mailed on Wednesday 8  
December 2021.

Reports will be issued to Year 7, 8 and  
9 students on Thursday 9 December  
2021 at the end of the school day.  
Reports will be mailed on Friday 10  
December if not collected.

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.



# Congratulations to the elected House Captains for 2022



## Interschool Sport Term 4

### Hawks Softball Success

*by Miss Alix Leckenby, Coach*

As the Interschool Softball season commenced once again, Ayr SHS had nine keen girls signed up to play against Home Hill SHS. Most of the girls had never played a game of softball before, but were excited to get on the pitch to train and show Home Hill their skill. In the first game, the girls were developing their newfound skill of sneaking, while Aria continued to surprise with her accurate pitching skills. With the persistent fielding from Amanda, Chelsea and Layla, the girls went up winning 13 runs to 7. The next week came around and with small changes to the fielding set up, the girls were raring to go. Liyah took position on third base to shut down Home Hill SHS's runs, Charley continued to persevere as backstop and along with her strong connection with Lacey on first, the girls managed to limit Home Hill's runs to only 3. The whole team continued to show their foremost batting skills, including Maddy and Tyla who continued to inspire with their fantastic sneaking. Ayr High dominated, winning the final match 12-3 which resulted in them once again taking out the Interschool Softball Championship. Congratulations to all the girls who participated and demonstrated the true Ayr High spirit. GO HAWKS!!



### Hawks Cricketers Win Final

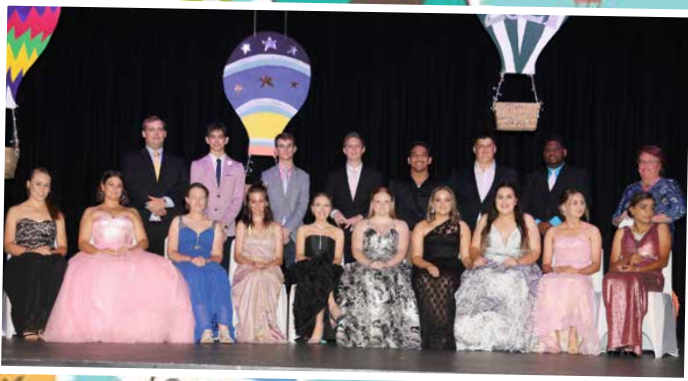
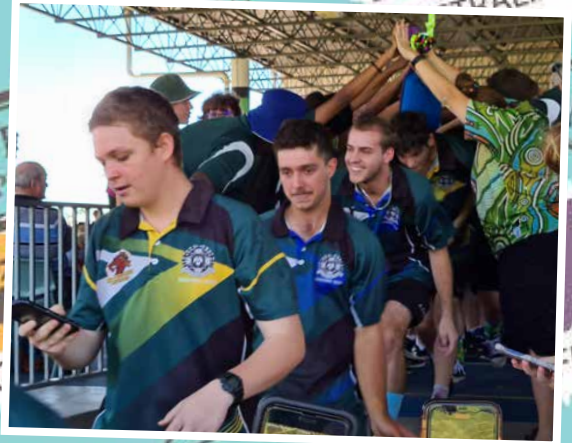
*by Ms Courtney Carrigan, Sports Co-ordinator*

Congratulations to our U15 cricket team who won the Interschool cricket final this term - winning by 27 runs. The score was: Ayr High - 4/150 (15 overs)  
BCHS - 123 (14.3 overs)

The boys showed great camaraderie, excellent catching in the outfield and should be extremely proud of their efforts. It has been many years (well over 10 years) since Ayr High has won the cricket, so a fantastic achievement by all. WELL DONE HAWKS!!!



# Year 12 Last Day and Grad





# Year 12 Graduation



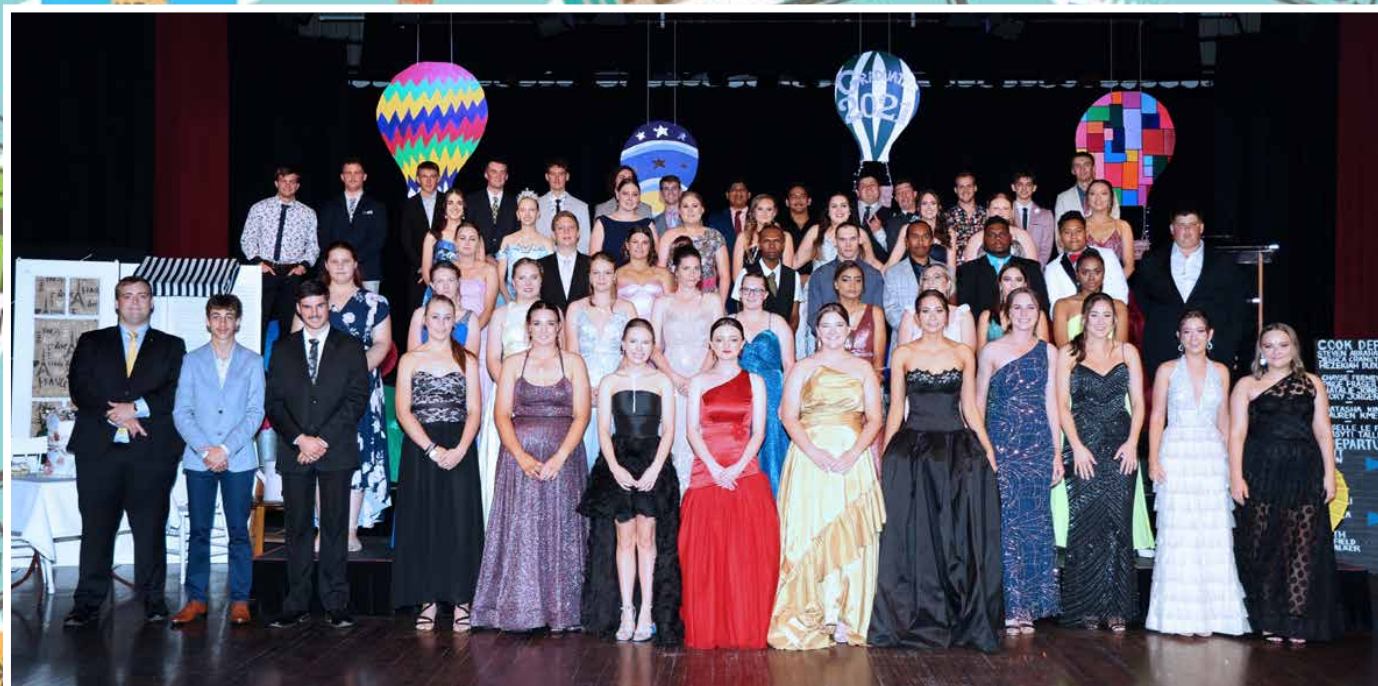


# Year 12 Graduation





# Year 12 Graduation





# Students Enjoy Big Day Out!!

*by Mrs Allyce Becke, PBL Committee*

Last Friday saw Ayr State High School's annual Big Day Out. This event is a celebration acknowledging all our students hard work throughout the year. This year saw our first student PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) Committee organise the event and run many of our stalls. This committee was comprised of students from Year 7 through to Year 12, with some Year 12 students making a return to help out on the big day. Thank you to those students for organising a great day, and to the staff who also supervised the stalls and activities. A very big thank you to Dazzling Blue who donated a YETI cup for our raffle.









# Andrew Kierle Award

by Mrs Vicky Bromham, DAT Teacher

The Andrew Kierle Award is presented to a Year 10 Design and Technology (DAT) student who loves cooking and fulfils all the requirements of the DAT course. The award is sponsored by Mrs Judy Kierle, former Ayr High Home Economics Teacher and is named in memory of her son. This year, the recipient was Ryan Burns. Ryan has a love of cooking and always brings his ingredients to class. His behaviour was exemplary in DAT and he is always respectful, kind and thoughtful to peers and staff. His progression in DAT skills during practicals saw excellence in the end products. Congratulations Ryan!




School Savvy NQ is a Centacare NQ initiative, which supports access to school uniforms and school supplies for children in families struggling financially in the busy back to school period, at the start of the school year.

## Get involved!

f @schoolsavvynq

- DONATE SCHOOL UNIFORMS & SUPPLIES**  
Each October we start our appeal for donations
- DROP GOODS INTO A DONATION BIN**  
Your local Vinnies has a specially marked School Savvy collection bin  
See our webpage for all locations
- SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR FREE**  
With a like & share on facebook
- UNIFORMS ARE WASHED AND PREPARED**  
With the help of volunteers and Orange Sky Laundry
- POP UP SHOPS OPEN IN JANUARY**  
All uniforms and stationery packs are priced from \$1-\$5
- BE PART OF THE SCHOOL SAVVY APPEAL**  
All proceeds from the shop go towards purchasing more supplies

Centacare NQ  
1300 672 273  
centacarenq@centacarenq.org.au  
www.centacarenq.org.au



## QLD All Schools Athletics Selection

by Ms Courtney Carrigan, Sports Co-ordinator

Bailey Parker, Year 10, was recently selected in the Queensland All Schools Merit Team. Bailey was selected based on his stellar performance in High Jump at the North Queensland Track and Field Championships, which was held back in week 8 of Term 3. In the absence of an Australian Schools Championships for 2021, Queensland Athletics felt it was vital to recognise performances of those who have competed this year in what has been another tough year for our school athletes. Based on this result, Bailey also receives automatic qualification to the Australian Junior Athletics Championships. Congratulations Bailey!



## Year 12 Information

### Year 12 Results

From 9.00 am Friday 17 December, all results contributing to the Queensland Certificate of Education will be available in student learning accounts on the Student portal 'myQCE' <https://myqce.qcaa.qld.edu.au/index.html>.

Students who have registered with QTAC to receive their ATAR - results will also be available on Friday 17 December <https://www.qtac.edu.au/>.

Students have been advised to ensure that the email contact attached to these portals are their own private email (not the school email).



## Uniform Donations

We would appreciate the donation of your Ayr High school shorts, T-shirts, formal uniforms and jumpers. Items of clothing can be left at the school office. Thank you.





# World's Greatest Shave

by Mrs Nyree Woods, Interact Co-ordinator

Monday 29 November, saw the final shave event at Ayr State High School for 2021. The very successful year-long campaign went off with a bang when Year 12 students Lucy Creek and Paige Fraser returned to school to cut or shave off their lovely locks. Just coming back to school after graduating is, in itself, commendable. To be brave and make the shave in recognition of those affected by blood cancers, is awe-inspiring. Teacher, Mrs Jessamy Nicolaides, also shaved off her lovely locks in support of a friend whose young family has been affected by cancer.

The whole school community has been involved throughout our Worlds' Greatest Shave, capably overseen the whole way through by Chelsea Ravizza, the 2021 Community Services Vice Captain. Nothing was too big a job for Chelsea. She sought donations from local businesses to raffle during the year, and actively promoted each shave event to the school community. Thank you for everything you have contributed, Chelsea.

Thank you to the entire school community for your support through the year. With your help we have raised just under \$10,000! This is a mammoth effort. Again, thank you to the local business houses who have donated items to raffle, Poppin' Popcorn and Bake'n'Take Brownies for making their \$20 Boss products to sell on the final day, Brooklyn Ivory for also returning with her delicious cookies made just for the day, staff and students who spent up big on the auction to be the lucky one to do the shave, and parents and friends who came along to support the brave shavers.

This is just one of the ways the Ayr High Family work together to try and improve the lives of others. Thank you all.



Paige Fraser, Mrs Jessamy Nicolaides, Luck Creek





# 3...2...1... Blast Off!!

by Mr Rob Scalia, HOD - Maths and Science

These were the words echoed across Ayr High's oval as eighteen very enthusiastic Year 5 East Ayr Primary students excitedly launched their model rockets. As part of Ayr State High's STEM Academy, these students designed, built and refined their model rockets in a 5-week enrichment program. This initiative is literally out of this world: a real-life, problem-based investigation combining the science of rockets with the challenge of building them using styrofoam cups, hot glue guns and scissors.

The Year 5 students learnt how to work together as a team and understand the underpinning physics concepts such as thrust, lift, weight and drag! It was also interesting to see students explore the rocket's centre of mass and centre of pressure and modify their rockets accordingly so they reached optimal height.

Congratulations to this group of students for their efforts and enthusiasm. It will be something that they will never forget nor will Mr Cathcart, Mr Scalia and Mr Abraham. Thanks to East Ayr Principal, Mr Wicks and the Year 5 teachers for their ongoing support of the program. Finally, thanks to the Year 11 students for helping out each week and all the parents who turned up on launch day...it was a real spectacle!



Yr 7 Family  
Meet & Greet  
Afternoon  
Tuesday  
8 February  
2022

Interhouse  
Swimming Carnival  
Friday 18 February 2022  
Week 4  
More information in 2022



Whole School  
Photographs  
Tuesday 22  
February 2022

## Water Bottle Re-fill Stations Have Arrived!!

by Mr Kerry Flynn,  
Deputy Principal

A joint initiative of the school P&C as well as the Student Council has seen the purchase of three water bottle re-fill stations for the school. The installation process has started and we hope that we will have all three functioning for the start of the new year. A welcome donation from the Ayr High graduating classes of 1973 - 1975 has also contributed to the costs of these new systems.



### Upcoming Events

9 Dec	Yr 7, 8 and 9 Reports Issued (S4)	
10 Dec	Semester 2 Celebration Assembly	
2022	Yr 7, 8 and 9 Students Last Day	
24 Jan	School commences for all year levels	
26 Jan	<b>Australia Day Public Holiday</b>	
31 Jan	Yr 12 Senior Mentor Meeting (AWP)	
3 Feb	Yr 12 Student Executive GRIP Leadership Conference (Townsville)	
4 Feb	Yr 7 Activity Afternoon (S3/S4 - LIP Leaders S4)	
7 Feb	Instrumental & Concert Band Practice (2.30-3.45 pm, A12)	
8 Feb	Yr 7 Family Meet & Greet Afternoon (5.30-6.30 pm, I Block)	
	Yr 10 Family Information Evening (5.30-6.00 pm, SMC)	
	Yr 11 Family Information Evening (6.15-6.45 pm, SMC)	
	Yr 12 Family Information Evening (7.00-7.30 pm, SMC)	
	Interhouse Swimming Carnival - Whole School nominations (2.30-3.00 pm)	
9 Feb	Choir Rehearsal (1st Break, A12)	
10 Feb	Artie Launch (S3)	
11 Feb	Choir Rehearsal (1st Break, A12)	
14 Feb	Instrumental & Concert Band Practice (2.30-3.45 pm, A12)	
15 Feb	Yr 10 Senior Mentor Meeting (S4)	
16 Feb	Choir Rehearsal (1st Break, A12)	
	Interhouse Swimming Carnival - Spirit Day - House Spirit Session (S4, House Areas/MPS)	
17 Feb	Student Investiture Ceremony (S1, MPS)	
	Schools In Excursion & Photos (S2, Ayr CBD)	
18 Feb	Interhouse Swimming Carnival (Ayr Swimming Pool, 9.00 am-3.00 pm)	
22 Feb	School Photographs	