

William Ross State High School Newsletter



The Wrap

William Ross Articles & Publications

ANZAC DAY



On the 24th and 25th of April, students at William Ross took part in one of Australia's most significant commemorative occasions, the ANZAC Day Centenary. It all began on Friday the 24th of April, when the school held its annual ANZAC Day Parade. Firstly I would like to thank Corporal Mark Thompson for donating his time to come to this event, as it was fantastic for the student body to hear and reflect upon war experiences. I would also like to thank the student body for being respectful and attentive throughout the entire parade.

The second part of William Ross's celebration of the ANZAC Centenary was the Dawn Service and the annual school march. Although it was a 5:30am start, it didn't stop members of the Student Council and student body paying their respects to those who fought for our freedom. It was also wonderful to see so many students take time out of their day to represent the school in the annual school march at The Strand. Overall, 73 students attended this event, not including the dedicated teachers who came along to support and take part in the march.

I would finally like to say a special thank you to Ceri Briant, our Defence Transition Mentor and all the other teachers who put a tremendous amount of work into making these two days so special and memorable.

Andrew STRACHAN
Senior Student Council Ambassador



From the Principal



“CHANGE IS INEVITABLE”

As many parents are aware, changes occur daily in all large organisations. Change and flexibility in staffing is acknowledged as the greatest challenge in achieving results. The Department of Education experiences such challenges, continually addressing staffing requirements to meet the needs of our schools on a daily basis. At William Ross we have recently experienced significant changes. Our Junior Deputy Principal Mrs Prichard has been appointed Acting Principal of Bowen State High School for the remainder of 2015. Our Senior Deputy Principal Mrs Kaye Corcoran will be taking maternity leave in the near future. In support of these changes we extend a warm welcome to Mr Stephen Buttsworth who will be the Senior Deputy Principal and Mrs Paula Adams-Thompson as Junior Deputy Principal. Stephen and Paula will be a part of the William Ross State High School administration team for the remainder of 2015.

CONGRATULATIONS

It is with great pride that I congratulate all students for their acknowledgement at the ANZAC service at the William Ross ceremony on Friday April 24. This occasion was undertaken with the highest level of respect in memory of the ANZAC tradition. I would further recognise the many students who, in William Ross uniform, attended the Dawn Service and the many more who marched as a school contingent in the formal ANZAC Day march before the Townsville community.

Schools are members of their local community. As such they support and contribute to the values of their community. At William Ross we will always undertake events that reflect the expectations and involvement of our students within the community.

WHY IS SCHOOL IMPORTANT?

Why is it so?

A student would spend a minimum of 35 hours a week at school under the care and direction of teachers. It is touted that adolescents spend more of their waking hours each year in direct contact with their teachers than their parents.

What to make of this?

We should encourage more parent-teacher conversations about what teachers ‘see’. Our school has always welcomed parents into our school. Each year we provide opportunities for interviews to take place.

Each semester we provide an Interim Progress Report and an end of semester report card. Is this enough?

Parent-Teacher Nights are examples of these conversations and we will always encourage and support opportunities where productive and informative conversations assist and progress student learning within the classroom.

What else?

It is clear that parents want to know more about how their child is progressing. Parents want to know: can their child handle the work; what could be done to help the student’s understanding and engage more productively; is behaviour a problem and the like. What is not clear is **when** these questions should be asked because it is different for each child.

Challenge:

As a school we are more than willing to accommodate requests from parents to improve the communication channels between the teacher and the parents. To date our teachers are making contact with a range of parents. In return, the challenge to parents is to initiate the same to make contact with the teachers responsible for your child’s future. It will be rewarding for you and your child in that learning journey through secondary school and adolescence. Remember these are the years that determine their future pathway.

Parent – Teacher (School) Interaction:

While there are multiple opportunities to have direct teacher – parent conversations there also exists an avenue where parent concerns and whole-school issues can be discussed openly with like-minded parents. This school’s Parents and Citizens (P&C) Association conduct a monthly meeting where whole-school behaviours are discussed and recommendations are forwarded to the school administration for action. Now with our P&C Association running our school Tuckshop (very successfully) and our school Uniform Shop, it is clear they hold a vital role in the wellbeing of all students. Their contribution to the future strategic direction is critical. At the next meeting, 7:30pm Tuesday 19th May, we welcome all parents to attend, to support and to participate in the future of our school.

School Fees

If “**education is supposed to be free?**”– why do parents pay school fees?

Education Queensland provides the buildings and teachers (tuition) free and the costs are met by the Queensland Government. Previously the purchase of text books and support resources was met by parents (supplemented by a government cheque).

Parents purchased the necessary textbooks, resources and support material necessary to undertake each particular subject for every year of school.

While some textbooks may have been 'handed down' to younger brothers and sisters (if that text still met the course of study), purchasing every text was an expensive financial burden for families.

Schools now operate a Student Resource Scheme and parents can choose to pay a flat fee to the school so the school provides all curriculum resources for students reducing the overall costs to parents. Under this scheme, parents acknowledge and accept the conditions and payments to support the school on enrolment. It is imperative that all parents accept and meet their obligation to the school and their child's education by ensuring all fees are paid in a timely manner so the school can provide the best curriculum and student outcomes expected. The Student Resource Scheme is an agreement between the school and the parents. If your fees are still to be paid, that payment needs to be made to sustain the agreement for the school to provide curriculum resources to your student. If any parents wish to discuss any matter, I am only too willing to make time available.

Allan EVANS
Principal
tevan38@eq.edu.au

I am a great believer in the value of education. The future belongs to the next generation and I want to help make that future the best it can be.

I want every student I meet to become a great person who will make a positive contribution to the world they live in.

I have a keen interest in school sport. I am currently the Chair of Queensland School Sport Basketball. I have been fortunate enough to have coached the Queensland 18 years and under schoolgirls' team since 2000 and in December last year I coached the Australian Schoolgirls team that toured in the USA. My other sporting interest is cricket and I am lucky enough to be travelling to England next holidays to watch the Aussies play England for the Ashes.

I have a simple motto which I stole from an athlete. It applies to all aspects of life, including to a student's time at school: "Good. Better. Best. Never let it rest until your good is better and your better is best."

I look forward to working at William Ross State High School and helping students be the best they can be.

Steve BUTTSWORTH
Deputy Principal
sbutt24@eq.edu.au

From the Deputy Principal Senior Secondary



A NEW FACE AT WILLIAM ROSS STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Hello. I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Steve Buttsworth and I will be at William Ross for the remainder of 2015 in the Deputy Principal role. For the past six years I have been the Deputy Principal at Home Hill State High

School. Prior to that I was a Head of Department at Townsville State High School.

I was at Town High for 20 years. I actually started my teaching career many years ago at Kirwan State High School before moving to Town High. That seems like a long time ago now.

Much has changed over the years in schools but the one thing that has not changed is that learning is the focus of everything we do. Nowadays students are learning how to live in a rapidly changing world. Learning never stops and that is why school is so important – it is where you learn how to learn.

From the Deputy Principal Junior Secondary



It is a privilege to be joining the school team as Acting Deputy Principal of Junior Secondary at William Ross State High School for the remainder of 2015.

Prior to my appointment I was the Principal Education Advisor of Junior Secondary in North Queensland for the past three years.

This involved supporting all secondary schools in the region for the move of Year 7 to high school in 2015. Prior to that I was Acting Deputy Principal of Junior Secondary at Northern Beaches State High School for two and a half years.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AUDIT FOR STUDENTS

Our Junior Secondary team have analysed student performance data (academic, behaviour and attendance) for Term 1.

Students who have failed core subjects (English, Math, Science and Humanities) will be interviewed.

These interviews will highlight intervention and support strategies that will best support student's progress towards being successful in their studies. Year 8 & 9 students will be aiming to stay on track to achieving their Junior Certificate of Education, which is a school based certificate, at the end of Year 9.

Parents of Junior Secondary students who have been identified during this review process will receive a letter requesting an interview with a member of the Junior Secondary team.

It is important that parents and students attend the interview to discuss a support plan to improve academic performance. If you are unable to attend please call Alyson Dove on 4726 7666 to re-schedule. I appreciate your support with this process and I look forward to working with you and your child.

Term 2 is shaping up to be an extremely busy term for the junior school.

**JUNIOR SECONDARY OPEN DAY
19 MAY 9:00 – 11:00am**

Year 6 parents are invited to an Open Day. Included in the open day will be:

- Classroom tours
- School information
- Meeting our Junior Secondary team
- Morning tea will be provided

Please RSVP to Alyson Dove on 4726 7666 / adove9@eq.edu.au by Friday the 15th of May.

AVATAR LESSONS – 20 MAY

Year 6 students from our primary partner schools are able to sign up to participate in some practical lessons from 3:30pm – 4:30pm. Invitations will be given to all Year 6 students at their current school and it is important for interested students to fill in the form and return it to their school office. On completion students will receive a certificate of attendance.

**Paula ADAMS-THOMPSON
A/Deputy Principal**

DATES TO REMEMBER

Every Tuesday	Maths Tutoring (Q Block) 3:00 – 4:00pm
Every Wednesday	English Tutoring (Library) 3:00 – 4:00pm
Every Thursday	Science Tutoring (B5) 3:15 – 4:15pm
5 – 6 May	Parent Teacher Interviews
19 May	Junior Secondary Open Day 9:00 – 11:00am
20 May	AVATAR Lessons 3:30 – 4:30pm
25 May	Year 8 & 10 Vaccinations

From the Junior Secondary Team



As we commence a busy term 2, I would like to welcome everybody back from a hopefully relaxing and well-earned break.

IMPROVING OUR PERFORMANCE

NAPLAN is fast approaching (week four).

- Tuesday 12 May - Language Conventions & Writing
- Wednesday 13 May - Reading
- Thursday 14 May - Numeracy (calculator & non-calculator)
- Year 7 and 9 students will be provided with a BBQ breakfast on these days beginning at 8:00am in the Junior Secondary Precinct. Students will be organised into their PEC classes to sit the test, those who are withdrawn or exempt will still be required to attend school and will complete an alternate program of instruction.
- The national assessment program – literacy and numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN is a skills test. It tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to be successful in the Senior Phase of Learning and beyond.
- Students in Year 7 and 9 will participate in tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.
- The NAPLAN data gives students, parents, teachers and schools valuable information about how students are progressing. As a school, we use NAPLAN data to inform our planning and instruction and actively engage targeted strategies and intervention to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes for all students. The learning that our Junior Secondary students engage in builds the foundation for the success in the senior phase of learning and beyond.
- NAPLAN tests are a routine part of the school calendar. However students may be withdrawn from the testing program by their parent / carer if there are religious beliefs of philosophical objections to testing. This is a matter for consideration by parents / carers in consultation with the school. A formal application must be received by the School Principal prior to the testing.

- All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests. Students with a disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided in the classroom. A formal exemption may be granted for a student with significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing condition, or who has recently arrived in Australia and is from a non-English speaking background.
- If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Session	Tuesday 12 th May	Wednesday 13 th May	Thursday 15 th May
1	Language Conventions 45 mins	Reading 65 mins	Numeracy (calculator allowed) 40 mins
2	Writing 40 mins	Normal S2 class	Numeracy (non calculator) 40 mins
3	Normal S3 class	Normal S3 class	Normal S3 class
4	Normal S4 class	Normal S4 class	Normal S4 class

Natalie ANDERSON
A/HOD Junior Secondary
nmand0@eq.edu.au

From IT Department



FUTURE SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS

William Ross State High School will be producing a new eNewsletter format with Schoolzine. The purpose of moving to this new format is to engage the school community more effectively and provide parents, students and the community with a more effective and content rich newsletter format. This new format will include video, image galleries, online bookings and feedback forms, calendars and much, much more. To **subscribe to our eNewsletter** complete the following Subscription Web Form:

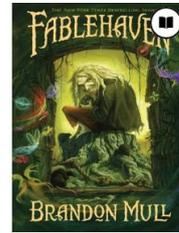
<http://williamrossshs.schoolzineplus.com/subscribe>

We have more exciting news... students at William Ross can now access the OverDrive eBook Library, which is an initiative of Education Queensland. The Queensland State Schools eBooks Digital Library is a collection of eBooks and audiobooks which may be downloaded to computers and compatible mobile devices.

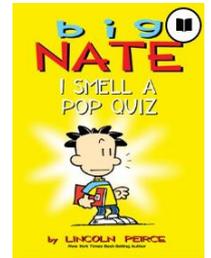
This new service is powered by OverDrive and gives students access to hundreds of online books. It's **FREE**, easy to use and is available 24/7. The library has thousands of eBooks, in addition to books that support the Australian Curriculum. Current titles include:



Fragile Eternity
Melissa Marr



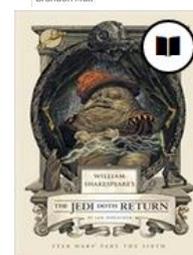
Fablehaven
Brandon Mull



I Smell a Pop Quiz!
Lincoln Peirce



The Outer Planets
Britannica Educational...



William Shakespear
Ian Doescher

To access the eLibrary using a computer or laptop:

- Go to <http://educationqld.lib.overdrive.com> Sign in with your MIS-ID (your school login)

To access the eLibrary using tablets or other mobile devices:

- Go to: <http://app.overdrive.com> download and open the free OverDrive app. The app is available for Android, iOS (iPhone / iPad / iPod Touch), Windows 8, Windows Phone and Kindle Fire tablets.
- Follow the prompts to sign in, or sign up for a free OverDrive account. If you're under 13, select "I am under 13 years old" instead.
- Tap "Add a Library".
Find Library - Queensland State Schools
- Sign in with your MIS-ID (your school login)

Once the app has been downloaded, students can search, sample and then download an eBook. Downloaded books can also be read offline using Adobe Digital Editions. If you need assistance or require more information, please contact our IT Manager, Ms Norgaard. Phone: 07 47267 666 or email: rnorg4@eq.edu.au .

Roz NORGAARD
HOD Humanities
rnorg4@eq.edu.au

From the Senior Secondary / VET Department



SMART FUTURES FOR NORTH QUEENSLAND (SF4NQ) CAREERS EXPO – YEAR 10 STUDENTS

All year 10 students start the Senior Education and Training Plan (SET Plan) process this week by attending the SF4NQ Careers Expo at Reid Park. The careers expo will

be held on Thursday May 7th and is the biggest event of its kind in North Queensland. Students have the opportunity to explore a wide range of careers in both industry and tertiary pathways.

SF4NQ plays an important role for students in narrowing down their career options and understanding the pathways to these occupations. Students should use this excellent opportunity to inform their year 11 and 12 subject selections.

All year 10 students received permission notes for this event last week and are expected to attend. Transport and entry to SF4NQ is free of charge. Students must return permission notes to their PEC teacher to attend.

CERTIFICATE II WORKPLACE PRACTICES – WORK PLACEMENT REQUIRMENTS

All senior students at William Ross State High School undertake Certificate II in Workplace Practices. Just a reminder that students must undertake at least 80 hours of work placement / work experience to achieve competency in this certificate. Work experience forms are provided to every year 10 and 11 students in their Workplace Practices folder and can also be obtained from Mr Dove's office. It is the responsibility of students to find an employer and negotiate work placement dates. Students who have part time jobs can use this as credit for their 80 hours work placement and need to fill out a Third Party Evidence Report (these are also in the Workplace Practices folders and are available from Mr Dove's office). Any student questions regarding work placement should be directed to their Workplace Practices teachers or Mr Dove.

Shane DOVE
HOD Senior Secondary / VET
sdove5@eq.edu.au

From the Arts Department



Congratulations to Year 11 Certificate II in Visual Arts (Digital Imaging strand) who have their work currently on exhibition at Perc Tucker Gallery in Flinders Street. This class has been mentored over ten lessons by Ben Greene, a Townsville based digital artist in the creation of portraits using the

pen tool and other applications in Photoshop. This was arranged in conjunction with the gallery's "Artists in Schools" programme and gave students the opportunity to work with an artist in the industry. If you are in the locality drop in and admire the work of these students.

Our concert band under the direction of Paul Temple and Lisa Arnold performed admirably at the school's ANZAC ceremony. Thank you to all band members for the time spent practising and polishing the musical pieces.

Great news for students studying Film, Television and New Media with work commencing on our new dedicated film studio in M block. This addition to our teaching spaces will give a sense of authenticity to the work the students undertake in this subject.

Isabelle SHATTE
A/HOD The Arts
isash1@eq.edu.au

Youth Support

A big thank you to all the students and teachers who came to the live animal display at first lunch in the Student Centre on Tuesday 31st March. The event was organised by Natasha Butler, the Youth Support Co-ordinator and ran in conjunction with National Youth Week. We welcomed Jackie from the Hands on Wildlife Rangers, who came and showed us four different animals: a baby crocodile, a full grown glider, an olive python and an eastern bearded dragon. We learned a lot of new things about these animals and everyone was so happy and enjoyed the live animal display. A big thank you to Ms Butler for organising the event and another big thank you to Jackie for coming to our school and showing us the animals.





From the Chaplain



Hello and welcome to Chappy's Corner!

There are a few things that I wanted to review. The first thing is how wonderful term one was. I had the privilege of getting to know year 7's and 8's. I co-facilitated a program called "Girls with a Purpose" which was all about conflict resolution, social skilling and giving the girls a sense of resilience, confidence and a sense of purpose for their future. I've worked with our P&C, attended the swimming carnival, ANZAC Day Ceremony, been a part of our Student Council, block sport games, supporting and being there for students and much more. I LOVE MY JOB.

Unfortunately due to finances my work days will be cut from three days to two days. I will be at William Ross on Mondays and Wednesdays. There are things we as a community to do to keep the Chaplaincy program thriving. Included in this newsletter is a form for parents to fill out to donate to the Chaplaincy Program at William Ross. If you're wondering what a Chaplain does visit www.suqld.org.au/snapshot.

The other thing we can do is on Sunday the 17th of May go down to McDonalds Fairfield Waters from 12:00 – 1:00pm. McDonalds will be giving a percentage of their profits made during that time to Chaplaincy. So make sure you go down and grab lunch at McDonalds Fairfield Waters that day! For more details see the following flyer.

Kristin MARTIN
Chaplain
kmart333@eq.edu.au

Cheeseburgers for Chaplaincy

McDonald's will donate a percentage of their profits to local SU QLD Chaplaincy between 12pm and 1pm on Sunday May 17.

Have lunch at McDonald's and support your school chappies! Easy!

Sunday May 17th 12-1pm

**Only at:
McDonald's Fairfield Waters**

Cnr of Stuart & Fairfield Waters Drives, Fairfield

Year 6 parents are invited to our Junior Secondary Open Day:

Junior Secondary Open Day

Tuesday 19 May, 2015 9.00am – 11.00am

Please meet Student Council Representatives at the Administration Office

Free tutoring
Year 7 Precinct
Programs of Excellence
Scholarship Opportunities
Leadership Opportunities
Success through Commitment

Please RSVP to Alyson Dove on 4726 7666 / adove9@eq.edu.au by Friday the 15th of May.

From the Community

Cancer Council Queensland's Seize the Day Study Awards are financial grants of \$200 to \$2500 to help with the costs of post-secondary education. You can apply for Seize the Day if you are a Queensland resident aged between 16 and 21 years who is planning to commence or continue post-secondary education next year and have experienced cancer personally or with a close family member. Applications are open from April to July each year, with recipients announced in December. To apply or for more information, visit www.cancerqld.org.au or call Cancer Council on 131120.



SO WHAT DOES A CHAPLAIN DO?²

School chaplains provide social, emotional and spiritual support in schools, out-worked through seven key role areas.

In chaplaincy, spirituality is integral to overall wellbeing. Promoting positive spirituality permeates all aspects of a chaplain's work.



● SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Chaplains complement other school-based support services focused on promoting student wellbeing. They do this through facilitating pastoral conversations and social and emotional groups and supporting whole school wellbeing activities.



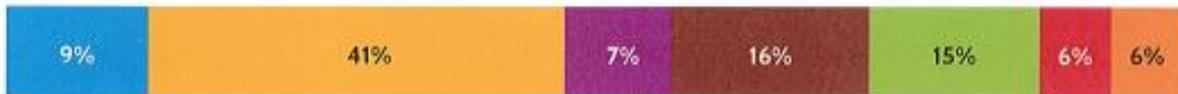
● MENTORING AND ROLE MODELLING

Chaplains model positive values, attitudes and behaviours to students and mentor students towards positive goals and outcomes. They help students become better role models for others and provide access to adult role models and mentors.



● EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

There is a close link between learning and wellbeing. Chaplains support the educational goals schools have for their students through in-class support, talking to students about school issues and running breakfast clubs.



● EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

So much goes on in the everyday life of a school and chaplains participate in many aspects of it. They coach sporting teams, go on camps and excursions, attend school events, help out in school musicals and support student leaders.



● COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

It takes a village to raise a child. Chaplains facilitate links between the school and local organisations like churches and community-based support services to enhance the support available to students, parents/carers and staff.



● SPIRITUAL SUPPORT

While spirituality permeates all aspects of a chaplain's role, chaplains also play a specific role in helping students to explore issues of faith and spirituality through spiritual conversations, groups and activities.



● TEAM CONTRIBUTION

Chaplains have a range of organisational and professional responsibilities on top of their direct practice work. These can include attending meetings, writing reports, participating in professional development and engaging in professional supervision.



WHERE CAN I FIND A CHAPLAIN?³

Chaplains are commonly found in their natural habitat - with students.

They spend over **80%** of their time during school lunch breaks with students - in the playground, in the chaplain's room, running chaplaincy activities or participating in school activities.





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Please debit \$ _____ from the above account each:

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A detailed Direct Debit Agreement will be sent to you prior to the first drawing.
If We the undersigned request you, Scripture Union Queensland (ID 057485), to arrange for funds to be debited from my/our nominated account at the financial institution nominated above according to the schedule specified herein.
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3. Cheque
Simply attach a cheque to this form and post in with the reply paid envelope supplied.
Please make cheques payable to "SU Qld Schools' Ministry Fund"
[] Please remind me/us of our pledge with a letter according to my frequency.

PLEASE ALLOCATE MY DONATION TO:
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Please note: You will receive an End of Year receipt for all your donations during the financial year by the 2nd week of July. If you would prefer to receive a donation receipt for each donation, please tick here []

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