Principal’s News

Fifty people including parents, grandparents, students, ex students and staff collaborated last Saturday morning for a transformational ‘School Blitz’ working bee resulting in new gardens and pressure cleaned walls and cement areas around the school. Thank you to everyone who contributed and especially those who brought in plants from home to be replanted. Special thanks to the Ward and Payten families from Swinging Bridge Wines for the donation of over 80 metres of garden edging. Many thanks also to Rob Ellis, our General Assistant who used his horticultural skills to expertly arrange the various plants, and the leadership of the P&C including Cathy Ellis, Angela Thornberry and Leanne Harrison who organised much of the event in partnership with Kath Balcombe. Interested parents and students are invited to view the action via photos taken on the day on the monitor in the foyer of the school. Some of these pictures are shown right.

Many thanks also to parents who found time to come along to the successful parent teacher night last Thursday. It was pleasing to see an increased number of parents compared with previous years, able to find time to discuss their child’s learning with teachers. Also pleasing was the number of students who came along. In the end students are the reason we are all here and it is great to see them taking a leading role in further developing their learning. Special thanks to the P&C parents including Mike Harrison and Cathy Ellis who cooked a BBQ for all present.

The installation of our new file server supporting the computer network capped off a very big weekend. The new server is significantly faster and much larger than the previous device to better support the
on-going expansion of technology across the school. Users, including students, will have a slightly different logon to learn today. The old server will be reconfigured into a ‘terminal server’ enabling remote access to the school system by staff from home outside of school hours. The new server will also have enhanced backups ensuring the security of data in case of emergency. Many thanks to Nicole Bugeja for her work leading the installation of the new technology. Nicole has literally been working seven days a week on site to make it all happen, ultimately also to enhance student learning.

Thanks also to the parents of students in year eleven who took advantage of a meeting with year adviser Ms Yvonne Cousins and myself to review their progress into senior school last week. I was very impressed that all students interviewed could identify a goal or range of goals beyond school. Goals help to sustain students through the pressure and stress of senior school and facilitate higher levels of motivation as school has a definite purpose.

Congratulations to all students for the terrific disco last week. It was pleasing to see so many students dress up for the occasion and display terrific cooperation. Well done also to our new SRC who organised the event.

Later this week, and during the April school holidays, I will be travelling with representatives from the Staffing Directorate to Universities in Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong to present the 2012 Graduate Recruitment Campaign. The aim of the university visits is to talk with final year teaching students about the benefits of working and living in rural and regional areas of NSW. The intention is to convince the highest achieving students to apply for jobs in areas west of the Great Dividing Range.

Last week we met with contractors to finalise arrangements for the beginning of construction of the new Trade Training Centre — i.e. commercial kitchen and agriculture additions. A ‘compound’ will be constructed in the front of the existing food technology room in the next couple of weeks and includes boarding off the walkway between the canteen and food tech room to enable the complete separation of contractors and the wider school community and therefore enhancing safety etc. Due the size and complexity of the project, including the requirement to adapt the limited internal height to meet contemporary building standards, our hospitality room will likely be out of action for two terms. Arrangements are currently being made for students to undertake practical aspects of their courses at other commercial kitchens. There will obviously be some inconvenience in the short term with a long term state of the art commercial kitchen and enhanced primary industries resources on the farm.

Good luck to our sporting teams who will compete against Oberon High School at Oberon in the first round of the Rural Cup for 2011 on Thursday this week. Many teams have been training for weeks at lunch and recess times. I am sure this week will be no exception!

David Lloyd (Principal)
**FACULTY IN FOCUS - TAS**

Year 12 Agriculture class have this week set up a worm farm. The scraps from the canteen and the food technology class room can now be utilised as ‘worm food’.

**Impressions of Canowindra High School**

Working as a TAS teacher in regional NSW for the past two and a half years I have had many interesting and informative experiences in a varied and colourful range of regional schools. All of the schools that I have been employed in have been warm and welcoming to teachers like myself, the most accommodating I have found so far has been during my short time here at Canowindra High School. From the first BBQ to the small things to make a more comfortable stay, everyone at the school has been very kind.

I have been very impressed with the pupils, with their attitude to learning, politeness and generosity. Canowindra by far is the most impressive for behaviour I have seen so far. It may have something to do with the size of the school, or just the fact that country children are more chilled out.

The pupils have impressed me with their knowledge of subject matter and their skills with tools and equipment in the workshop, working also in a safe and professional manner. It has been all too brief a time here, but I will take with me happy memories of a country high school called Canowindra (now I have almost got the pronunciation correct).

Mr Simon Shiells (Relieving TAS Teacher Term 1)

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**Cake Stall**

The P&C are holding a Cake Stall at the JSMH on Saturday – Election Day starting at 9 am.

A plastic plate in a plastic bag will be handed out in DEAR on Wednesday for all students to take home and return on Friday or Saturday morning with cakes, biscuits, sliced, home-made jam or relish etc.

Thank you for your support.

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**## IMPORTANT WESTERN SCHOOL SPORTS ASSOCIATION RULING ##**

**Students should check the following!**

School Exam Dates:

Assessment Task Dates:

Family Holiday dates:

Possible clashes for finals of other sports with this:

Any student attending trials must be willing to represent Western SSA at the respective state carnival for this sport. Anyone who withdraws from a Western SSA team citing any reason covered above will receive a 12 month suspension from all WSSA activities to include this sport in 2012.

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What’s On

Week 9 B Week

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<tr>
<th>Tuesday 22 March</th>
<th>Yr 10 Scripture</th>
<th>Period 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 24 March</td>
<td>Rural Cup in Oberon</td>
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<td>Saturday 26 March</td>
<td>NSW State Elections</td>
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What’s On

Week 10 A Week

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Tuesday 29 March</th>
<th>Try-A-Trade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 30 March</td>
<td>Canteen RED DAY League – Univ Shield - Bathurst</td>
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<td>Thursday 31 March</td>
<td>Rugby League Trials – Blayney</td>
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