Faculty in Focus - Agriculture

Generation 2050: Project Feed The World by Emily Price.

I recently participated in the inaugural Generation 2050 conference in Armidale, an event that brought 100 of the top agricultural school students from around Australia together with a focus on agriculture and the future of agriculture for young people in Australia and around the world. I left on Sunday 1st December, flying from Orange to Sydney, and then from Sydney to Armidale, this was a very thrilling experience in itself as I had never travelled on a plane.

The first day consisted of a tour of the UNE campus, where we would be staying in Duval College, and lectures that introduced us to the idea of agriculture being the way of the future, and the many agricultural courses that are available for study at the UNE.

The next three days were jam-packed with activities; we attended numerous lectures discussing and learning many new things, in all areas, including meat science, animal husbandry, vet science, cropping science, livestock production, wool production and many other aspects regarding farm life. We participated in numerous farm visits to properties in the local area that were incorporating the latest technologies and farm management practices in their own management systems to increase production capacity.

The information we encountered was incredible, eye-opening to each and every one of us, planting ideas into our heads, giving us opportunities to learn new things. We also visited many laboratories, conducting experiments on a variety of components in agriculture, including worm egg counts and looking at different blood samples of sheep.

The formal dinner and dance that followed on the final night was a great ending to a wonderful few days that left us all tired, but so grateful for the opportunity that we had experienced, with new found friends from every state and territory, new ideas about the future of farming and an eagerness to get into the agricultural industry.

It was a fantastic experience and I would recommend it to any students interested in agriculture, as it was truly a rewarding experience. A huge thankyou to Mr McLaughlan for organising everything and making it all possible!
Final Social for 2013

On Thursday 5 December the SRC hosted the final social for 2013. The theme was ‘Country vs City’ and there were prizes for the best dressed in each category. The winner for city were, Joshua Flannery and Lucy Harrison and for country were Jacob Anderson and Bill Whalan. We would like to thank Mrs Myers for organising the event and the teachers and students who came to support it.

Annie & Lucy

Principal’s News
Thank you in advance to the parents, students and staff who will be attending our Presentation Awards evening on Tuesday night. It promises to be a wonderful night of celebration and acknowledgement of the outstanding achievements of our students. Nights such as these would not be possible without the support of our entire school community and I would like to acknowledge and thank those people, organisations and businesses who contributed to the awards. Congratulations also to the many recipients on their success across the many and varied areas.

The HSC results will be released this Wednesday and the school is looking forward to hearing of our students’ success. Already many of our Year 12 have found employment or been accepted to university under the early entry program. Irrespective of the outcome I would like to congratulate these young people for their effort and wish them success in their chosen career pathway wherever it may take them. The school will make further comment on the HSC results in our first newsletter next year.

Next year we commence the school year with a full complement of staff and with very few changes to this year. However, as is the case most years, there will be some staff leaving us at the end of this week. I would like to thank Miss Lyndall Ryan, Ms Kerry Leigh, Ms Loretta Colla and the many other casual teachers who have stepped into various roles throughout the year and allowed for the continuity in education for our students. In addition to these teachers, I would like to give a huge thank you to Miss Kathy Davis and Mrs Michelle Burn for their amazing contributions to our school over the past three years under the national partnership funding. Unfortunately this funding has now ceased and the positions will no longer exist, however, I look forward to welcoming both teachers back as casual staff knowing they will bring a wealth of experience and expertise. The final staff member not returning next year is Mrs Heather Davidson. Heather has been an exceptional educator in our school for many years and one who has constantly provided our students with the opportunity to expand their interest and capabilities, to have a go and above all to be the best they can be. Heather’s talent and passion in the classroom and compassion for students will be missed and we wish her every success in her future life’s journey.

As this is the final newsletter for the year I would like to publicly thank everyone for their involvement in our school over the past twelve months. It has been a year of both success, challenge and change but with the support we always receive from our parents and community we can confidently say it has been a year where all students have been provided with an education second to none and the opportunity to shine. On behalf of the staff I thank you for allowing us to share in your child’s education and I look forward to further enhancing this relationship between home and school next year.

I wish you all the best for the festive season and New Year. Please have a safe, happy and healthy holiday.

Neryle Smurthwaite
Principal
Year 10 Excursion

Last week Year 10 had their excursion to Narrabeen Sport and Recreation Camp in Sydney. The students had a fantastic time and returned home happy but exhausted! Some great memories were made and close bonds formed. What a way to end the year together. Aww
**IMPORTANT DATES**

- Presentation Night is Tuesday 17 December 2013 in the Jack Sherwin Memorial Hall commencing at 7pm
- Last Day for all students this year is Wednesday 18th of December, 2013.
- Schools resumes in 2014 for students in Year 7, 11, 12 on Wednesday 29th January and Year 8, 9, 10 on Thursday 30th January

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**Canowindra Swimming Club**

With the much anticipated opening of the Canowindra Pool on Saturday, Canowindra Swimming Club will commence its first night of swimming this **Friday 20 December**. There is no need for swimmers to sign up this week for races as everyone will have to swim time trials over the new length of the pool **BUT** swimmers still need to be at roll call at **5.45pm**. Swimming NSW are currently changing the existing registration program so if you are not yet registered a swimmer you may swim this week but will need to fill out paperwork to cover insurance. Please see Lisa at the pool for this form. Hope to see everyone.

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**Merit Award Draw**

Harry Whatman was the lucky winner of a Thomson 8 Gigabyte Tablet PC, valued at $130 today. He was fortunate enough to win this as part of Canowindra High School’s ongoing merit award scheme, which is committed to promoting positive behaviour and citizenship at Canowindra High School. All students who receive merits that can be awarded for our core values of; Excellence, Respect and Responsibility and Participation are eligible to go into a weekly draw for five dollar canteen vouchers. These vouchers are provided under an ongoing commitment from Canowindra High School P & C. However, this year the school has decided to raise the bar and each week after a merit has been drawn they are stored for two further semester draws. We have been lucky enough to secure two substantial prizes from Target in Cowra; Manager Linda Walker has indicated this is an ongoing commitment that promotes positive behaviour among students towards school and learning, something that Target feels is worth promoting. The school would like to thank both the P & C for their financial support and Target Australia for their donation of a TDK Bluetooth Alarm Clock and Thomson 8 Gigabyte Tablet PC. We look forward to this program continuing in 2014.

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**P & C NEWS**

Another busy year has come to a close for the P & C. Thanks to the hard working committee members and parents for attending meeting and giving their valuable input.

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**Due to the delayed opening of the pool Year 7 Lifesaving will now be Week 3 2014**