Robertson Show 2014

Students Making A Difference

Year 12
Elly Bourke
Aaron Collins
Dylan Dunn
Aria Henderson
Allissa Parker
Rhiannon Young
Rachel Zveglic

Year 12 Primary Industries students were excellent ambassadors for Moss Vale High School at Robertson Show yet again.
Principal’s Report

Attendance
In my newsletter article this week I wanted to touch on a VERY important subject and that is school attendance. It is so critically important that every student is at school every day simply because by being at school students will obviously learn more.

At school we have a range of strategies that we use to support students and their parents with respect to attendance. These range from a vast and varied curriculum that supports students in their learning, professional development for teachers to support student engagement, our very successful positive behaviour for success initiative, our VIVO rewards system, specialised teacher positions to support student attendance and the ongoing support of our Home School Liaison Officer.

It is exceptionally important that we as a school work with parents at every opportunity to ensure students are at school every day so that learning is maximised. If you have any questions regarding student attendance, or would like support with student attendance, I urge you to contact the school.

Professional Learning
As a school, we are exceptionally lucky to have such a dedicated and committed group of teachers and administrative staff. Last Wednesday afternoon at school we held a special afternoon of professional learning for staff. The staff participated in workshops focusing on the Improving Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership, the teaching of the specific ALARM teaching strategies as well as looking at how to support and teach authentic Aboriginal perspectives in our classrooms through specific Aboriginal learning strategies.

The afternoon was VERY successful and I think that it is very important that our school community is aware of the commitment and dedication of our staff who work exceptionally hard to ensure that the education that our students receive is always of the highest standard.

Uniform
I want to compliment all our students on the respect that they display each day in themselves and in the school by wearing our school uniform. Our school uniform looks fantastic at the moment with a wonderful effort by our students in wearing the correct uniform most days. Our students of course are supported by our wonderful staff and also supported by our parents in wearing correct school uniform.

Wearing school uniform is so very important in showing our community the respect and pride that we have in ourselves as well as our school. Wearing uniform also helps reinforce the important value of responsibility within our students. We are very focused on the teaching of values at our school and ensuring our students have these important strengths for life outside of school.

Thank you to everyone who helps supports our students and the wearing of school uniform. I urge parents to contact the school if you need support in making sure your child in wearing school uniform. Its helping each other though effective team work that will help continue to see our students become wonderful young people!

Get involved!
Our next P & C meeting will be held at school starting at 5:00pm on Tuesday, 18 March. Our school holds its P & C meetings on the third Thursday of every month.

I would like to encourage ALL our parents to get behind the P & C and get involved by coming along to the meetings, learning all about what is happening at school and meeting some fantastic people. Being involved in your child’s education is critical. As a school it is so important that we work very closely with our parents and so it would be great to see you involved.

School App – staying connected . . .
I want to encourage everyone to download the Moss Vale High School App onto their smartphone. This is a great way to keep in touch with our school and keep informed with what is happening at our very busy Moss Vale High School.

Peter Macbeth
Principal
Deputy Principal’s Report

Year 12 Exams
I would like to acknowledge and congratulate Year 12 for their mature approach this week during the mid-course examinations. All students came well prepared for each exam and arrived well before the starting time. I hope that Year 12 can continue this committed approach to their HSC studies over the coming terms so that they can all achieve personal and academic success in their final year of high school.

School Assembly
There will be a whole school assembly on Thursday, March 20th, at 9 am where a significant number of students will be awarded certificates for achievement in our school Merit System. These students have been given a letter of invitation for their parents to attend the assembly. I would like to congratulate the hundreds of students in our school who have now achieved a level in the Merit System for working consistently well in a variety of areas in their school career. I am also pleased with the number of students who are receiving Vivos from their teachers for outstanding work and excellent behaviour. We will be running a Positive Behaviour for Success excursion at the end of term to reward those students who ALWAYS do the right thing and always demonstrate SAFE, RESPECTFUL and RESPONSIBLE behaviour.

Positive Behaviour for Success (PBS)
Please keep the evening of Thursday, April 3 clear to come along and learn more about our PBS program and the difference that it has made to our school culture. The evening will start at 6 pm in the school library with light refreshments provided and a letter will be sent home early next week with full details.

Hands-off/ Contact-free rule
An important part of our school culture and PBS program is our focus on SAFE BEHAVIOUR. We clearly tell students, on a regular basis, that everyone must observe the ‘hands-off/contact-free’ rule. This is the only way that we can ensure the safety of each and every student where we have 600 adolescents who are prone to acting impulsively, without careful consideration of the consequences of their actions. We will not accept the excuse that students are simply ‘mucking around’ or ‘boys will be boys’. The dangerous and inappropriate behaviour that is often linked to ‘mucking around’ can very easily lead to a serious injury.

Last year our students had the honour of listening to Kathy Kelly at a school assembly about her family’s tragic experience of losing their son Thomas from a senseless act of violence; a single punch to Thomas’ head. We continue to seek the help of our parents in reinforcing the message that aggression and violence have no place in our society and will NOT be tolerated in our school.

We simply want to keep all of our students safe and for them to treat everyone in a respectful manner.

Patricia Holmes
Deputy Principal

Some of the Show Team at Robertson Show
**Moss Vale High School Merit System**

**VIVO**

- **60 Vivos**
  - Red Award
  - You get an extra 10 Vivos for telling the Deputy that you have reached a Red Award which takes you to 70 Vivos

- **160 Vivos**
  - Green Award
  - You get an extra 10 Vivos for telling the Deputy that you have reached a Green Award which takes you to 170 Vivos

- **320 Vivos**
  - Bronze Award
  - You get an extra 10 Vivos for telling the Deputy that you have reached your Bronze Award which takes you to 330 Vivos

- **480 Vivos**
  - Silver Award
  - You get an extra 10 Vivos for telling the Deputy that you have reached Silver Award which takes you to 490 Vivos

- **640 Vivos**
  - Gold Award
  - You get an extra 10 Vivos for telling the Deputy that you have reached Gold Award which takes you to 650 Vivos

- **950 Vivos**
  - Platinum Award
  - You get an extra 10 Vivos for telling the Deputy that you have reached Platinum Award which takes you to 960 Vivos
Reports on 2013’s Activity Week

**Snorkel Adventure**

In 2013, some 20 students and six staff went to Green Patch at Jervis Bay to explore the protected marine park. It was an opportunity to camp and snorkel at a truly remarkable place that is well protected and maintained by the National Parks. There was lots of excitement and organisation but what we saw was fantastic.

The instructors knew how to provide a rewarding dive and took us on many different types of experiences, such as deep water, shallow water and even a night dive using powerful torches.

The instructors also knew that some animals could be safely held such as the Port Jackson Shark. Students were able to hold and touch these beautiful animals as well as swim around in an abundance of fish and other marine life.

Students also learnt teamwork and to be aware of other divers and how to keep an eye out for them ensuring everyone was as safe as could be. Back at the campsite, there was plenty of chill out time or games on the beach such as footy, swimming, volleyball or cricket.

The students (and teachers) represented Moss Vale High School extremely well and earned positive compliments from the instructors and rangers on numerous occasions.

We are offering the same opportunity again in 2014 and guarantee a positive experience for all concerned. Look forward to seeing you there in 2014.

*Signs of a good time being had, lots of smiles, and look at the colour of that water!*

*In deep but it’s all good. There are two instructors and a canoe ready at hand*

*We all saw fish and “some were this big”*
Eighteen students and four teachers headed off for a fun packed few days, to enjoy Sydney’s best attractions. Day 1 started with a bus trip to Penrith’s Cables wake boarding park. Students were fitted out with life jackets, helmets and either a knee board or wake board then it was time to hit the water. Everyone had a ball and was extremely exhausted by days end. A trip to Penrith Panthers Leagues Club to feast on pizza sealed a fantastic day.

Day 2 was an early rise to enjoy some bacon and egg rolls before another action packed day. Stop 1: Manly Wharf for stand up paddle boarding. After a one hour lesson students were then given one hour free time to enjoy and discover the beauty of Manly Wharf and the bay. The weather was gorgeous and the water crystal clear, the only thing better was what was to follow. After some fish and chips and a short stroll down the pier our next activity awaited us, parasailing. The most amazing moment, of the entire activity was parasailing over the gorgeous harbour. Breathtaking views and an exhilarating ride made for a perfect day. Some had to overcome their fear of heights, however, with a deep breath and the encouragement of all others they were able to enjoy the experience. After parasailing it was time to head to Taronga Zoo. Upon arrival we were set up in our rooms and introduced to some resident reptiles before heading off for a night tour. The scenery was unreal and the sunset absolutely gorgeous, the beds, well that’s another story….

Day 3: breakfast, pack up and head out for an early morning feed with some of the animals before a couple of hours to explore the zoo. By 11:30 we were on the bus and heading for our last activity, the Sydney Harbour jet boat ride. We were a little late, Sydney parking and with a bus?? Anyway we made it to the jet boat, loaded up and headed out onto the harbour. It was exciting and a laugh a minute. Everyone enjoyed themselves. After some good old McDonald’s it was back on the bus and heading for home. The activity and the students were fantastic and a well-deserved rest was on the cards.
Mowbray Park
Farm stay

I had fun at Mowbray, it was cool. I loved the horse riding and the food was yummy.  
**Michelle Haynes**
Year 9

Our Support Unit students along with some caring mainstream participants enjoyed an exciting and action-packed Camp at Mowbray Park (just out of Picton). As the name suggests, students enjoyed a range of great Farm activities that included: Viewing and Feeding Farm Animals, Shearing Demonstrations, Horse Riding and a Farm Tour.

Other activities included: Canoeing, Archery, Bushwalking, Tennis and Swimming.

Both staff and students stayed in lodge style accommodation and were provided with three hot meals a day along with both morning and afternoon tea.  
**Mr T.Vandervoort**

“Yee Haa” said
**Jake Turnbull**
Year 9
Southern Highlands Fun

Southern Highlands Fun centred around having fun in our local area. Mrs Holmwood, Mrs Jones and myself took a great group of Year 7 to Year 10 girls over the three days of activities.

The first day saw us bowling at Mittagong and shopping at Highlands Marketplace. We had heaps of fun and had lunch at the bowling alley. We came back to school for a movie and afternoon tea.

The second day saw us in Bowral to see the film, “Cloudy with Meatballs 2.” We did a little bit of shopping in Bowral before the movie. We all enjoyed the film, made even more fun sharing the cinema with local primary schools.

On the final day we attended the new aquatic centre in Moss Vale. We had the centre mainly to ourselves, which made for a very relaxed time. After the pool we returned to school for movies and a pizza lunch.

Southern Highlands Fun was just that, a lot of fun. Thanks go to Mrs Austin for organising it all, to Mrs Jones and Mrs Holmwood for all their care and hard work. Finally thanks go to our wonderful students, whose sense of fun, positive attitude and respect for each other and staff made the whole experience utterly enjoyable.

Mr Sanders
Activity Leader
**HSC English Student Study Day**

On Friday, February 28, more than thirty Year 12 students travelled to Sydney University to consolidate their knowledge of the Area of Study: Belonging. Accompanied by Ms Davidson and Mr Vasilakis, there was just enough time to board a bus from Central, avoiding persistent rain, and arrive for the first of three lectures. Students attended presentations by experienced HSC markers, teachers and lecturers on different aspects of HSC Paper 1. This included composing creatively, analytical writing and both prescribed texts for our students: Jane Harrison’s *Rainbow’s End* and the poetry of Emily Dickinson. We were also able to take advantage of O Week activities at the uni, especially those who collected a number of free stress balls.

All students behaved in a responsible and respectful manner throughout the day, with organisers from the English Teachers Association commenting on the positive approach shown by Moss Vale High. There was a real sense of purpose for many students who said that “it all seems real now” and the day “cleared up confusion about different sections” of the paper and specific expectations. Students also said:

- it was good to get a different perspective
- the lecture shed new light on Dickinson's poems
- they enjoyed the thorough information delivered step-by-step
- they had a broadened understanding of key texts
- they now know exactly what markers are looking for.

We look forward to the next study day for Paper 2: Modules on June 13 at the University of Technology in Sydney.

*Ms Burke*

*Head Teacher English*

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**Where are they now?**

**Moss Vale High School achievers and school leavers**

Our school has a number of high achievers who have gone on to a range of interesting careers and further education. One who was in touch with us recently, was Laurence Chappell from the class of 2013. Laurence excelled in many subjects at school, particularly History, and Languages (French & German) by Distance Education and supervised in the Library. He has taken on a double degree Bachelor of Arts/ International Relations at ANU, Canberra, and is living on campus in Burton College. His subjects include Mandarin Chinese, German and European History.

This followed time spent over the Christmas break in France and Germany, where he did further studies in German. He has joined in many of the activity groups offered on campus, and is particularly looking forward to Mountain Biking and “Inward Bound” outdoor adventure. He was keen to pass on good wishes to his old school, and to mention the advantages he found in applying for Educational Access to the Universities, as it gave him bonus marks to add to his already excellent ATAR results. We wish Laurence well, and look forward to any other interesting stories of ex-students.

*Mrs M. Williams*

*Teacher Librarian*
For the last two terms, Term 4, 2013 and Term 1, 2014, the following students have been working tirelessly in Primary Industries to prepare cattle for the Robertson and Moss Vale shows.

The team: **Rhiannon Young, Alissa Parker, Rachel Zveglic, Aaron Collins, Elly Bourke** and **Dylan Dunn**. All are to be congratulated on their fantastic efforts and total dedication and commitment to an often hard and tiring task. The feeding, watering, grooming, breaking and leading in all sorts of weather takes courage and ‘big guns’! These guys are not only more experienced cattle handlers but have much bigger muscles!

It really has been such a pleasure to work with these quality students. They have developed into such confident young men and women who now have the industry based skills to equip them in their future endeavours should they wish to work with large animals.

At Robertson Show our students shone. They worked continuously, as a cohesive team, demonstrating their skills in preparing and displaying the cattle. A special thankyou goes to **Alissa, Rhiannon, Rachel** and **Kristen Williams** (ex- student) who stayed with the cattle to ensure their safety. The other members of the team arrived bright and early on the Saturday to prepare the animals for a day of parading. The day was very long so we had some very tired students by the end.

**Rhiannon Young** received 1st place and **Aria Henderson** was awarded 2nd place.

To gain a first and a second with their heifers was fantastic given our students are very new to the showing scene.

Once again I would like to thank the following people for supporting such a worthy and valuable learning practice at Moss Vale High. Firstly we have been so lucky to be supported, yet again, by Warren Miller. Warren kindly supplied the school with four beautiful heifers, two Charolais and two Angus heifers. In addition Warren supplied all of the feed requirements enabling us to run this program.

I would also like to thank Brooke Roberts, our fantastic farm assistant. Brooke has been invaluable, assisting us along the way and giving up his time again and again to support us at the shows. Thanks also to Kevin Stone who has safely delivered the cattle to and from the various destinations. A huge thank you to Kristen Williams, an ex-student, who has invaluable with her assistance.

A very proud teacher!

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**Ms McNeill**

*Agriculture teacher*
Active Reading: Responsible Learning
Our National Literacy Partnership

Over the next seven newsletters we are going to share with you our Sensational Seven Comprehension strategies. These are strategies that all teachers at Moss Vale High School are using in their classrooms to support your child’s continued development as engaged and effective learners. Perhaps you would like to try some of the ideas or simply remind them of a strategy or two when they are tackling a learning activity.

Example questions/statements:
What do you know about…?  
Do you remember our study of..?  
This knowledge is relevant and significant because…  
In this unit you will learn about … and be asked to…  
What do you understand by…?  
The vocabulary you will need to understand and demonstrate your learning is…

Be ready...

Students are ready to learn, they have a meaningful context and purpose for the learning that is to take place. Students think about and discuss what they already know about the topic. New vocabulary specific to the topic is identified and explored.

What can you do?
Ask your child about one new thing they have learnt during the day?  
Ask what they found challenging in their day and talk it through and/or encourage them to seek further help from their teacher.  
Perhaps you can help them connect it to something else they know or can do.  
Compare what they have learnt to something in your world.  
Encourage your child to find and use new vocabulary?  
Perhaps leave a dictionary next to the remote control. Once they are open they are hard to put down.
Harmony day- Colourfest Film Festival
An hour of short films followed by coffee & conversation
A FREE event celebrating diversity
Light refreshments will be served

Hill Top Community Centre- Cnr of Rosina & Cumbertine Sts - **Sunday, 16 March** 2 - 3.30pm
Moss Vale Council Civic Centre Theatrette - Donkin Ave - **Thursday, 20 March** 5 - 6.30pm
Bundanoon Memorial Hall – Railway Ave- **Friday, 21 March** 4 - 5.30pm
Robertson Community Technology Centre (CTC) - 58-60 Hoddle St– **Sunday, 23 March** 2-3.30pm

“Many Stories- One Australia”

Bookings for catering purposes- please contact Celeste Coucke on 4868 0761 or celeste.coucke@wsc.nsw.gov.au

Wingecarribee Shire’s “Harmony Day” celebrations have been organised by the ‘Friends of Diversity’ and sponsored by Macarthur Diversity Services Initiative and Wingecarribee Shire Council.
WINGECARRIBEEO FAMILY SUPPORT – ACTIVITIES TERM 1, 2014

THE INCREDIBLE YEARS
Parents and Babies Series
10.00-12.00 noon
TUESDAYS
4th February to 8th April
Free childcare provided for group participants on-site with early childhood workers – please ring to book your place.

A parenting program for parents with babies or toddlers, or expectant mums & dads. Learn how to understand your baby’s communication, promote development, play and identity. Lots of useful information presented in an easy to understand way.

With Linda

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP
10:00-12.00 noon
WEDNESDAYS
5th February to 9th April
Free childcare provided for group participants on-site with early childhood workers – please ring to book your place.

Are you feeling overwhelmed, stressed, struggling with anxiety or depression? Are you living with ASD kids? Is your child’s behaviour getting to you?

We are running a support group for parents who would like to chat, build friendships, or reduce your worries about being a parent.

With Linda and Hannah

PLAY & CHAT SUPPORTED PLAYGROUP
10.00-12.00 noon
THURSDAYS
6th February to 10th April
A playgroup providing help to develop parent’s skills and insight into the role of play in children’s learning and social development. Early Childhood staff available for support and advice about your child’s needs and any parenting or other concerns you may have.

Please bring a hat and piece of fruit to share.

With Karena

COMMUNITY WALKS FOR THE YOUNG & THE YOUNG AT HEART
Start at 10.00 for about 1 hour
Do you want to get motivated, get a sense of being part of the community and increase your fitness at the same time? Are you new to the area and want to meet people?

TUESDAY BOWRAL
With Mardi
Start in the car park of Bowral Swimming Pool for the Cherry Tree Walk

WEDNESDAY MOSS VALE
With Patricia
Meet at Leighton Gardens

THURSDAY MITTAGONG
With Mardi
Start at the corner of Helena Street and the Old Hume Hwy opposite the Tourist Information Centre.

Men’s Group Bowral
Tuesday Nights 7pm-9pm
Call to book or for any enquiries
David Del-Sole 4862 3595
Harry Koster 0408 402 946

Aboriginal Supported Playgroup
10:00-12.00 noon
MONDAYS
10th February to 7th April
Please ring 4862 1777 to book in

YOUNG PARENT GROUP
FOR ALL YOUNG PARENTS
INCLUDING EXPECTANT MUMS & DADS
10:00 to 12 noon
FRIDAYS
7th February to 11th April
Get together with other young parents, share info, experiences, support. Enjoy activities and learn about parenting, child development and relationships. Guest speakers, outings and activities.

With Karena
Moss Vale High Newsletter

**TO:** MOSS VALE HIGH

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Please excuse the absence of my son/daughter: _____________________________________ on (dates) __________________________

Total number of days absent: ________________

The reason for the absence/s (this reason must be specific, not just "he/she was sick"): ________________

Parent Name: ______________________________

Parent Signature: ___________________________ Date sent: _______________

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**CHANGE OF ADDRESS / CONTACT DETAILS**

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New Phone No's: Home: __________ Work (M): __________

Mobile (M): __________ Work (F): __________ Mobile (F): __________

Email: __________________________

DATE YOU CHANGED ADDRESS: __________________________________________

PARENTS / GUARDIANS NAMES YOU ARE LIVING WITH: _______________________

Do you currently have a bus pass? ________________________________

**NOTE:** A new bus pass application must be completed when a student has: a change of address, a change of name, change of school, change of details or comes under joint custody.
Parent Online Payments
Commencing 29 July 2013

What is QuickWeb?

- Secure online payment facility hosted by Westpac
- Accessed from the home page of the school’s website
- Make a payment “button”

Visa or Mastercard credit or debit cards only accepted

Timing

- The payment must be made before 6pm for the school to receive the funds the next day. i.e. pay before 6pm on Monday, the school will have the funds on Tuesday morning.
- If the payment is after 6pm then there will be a delay of a day in the school receiving the funds i.e. pay after 6pm on Monday, the school will have the funds on Wednesday morning.

Entering payment details

- Student’s name, class or year, date of birth
- Payer’s name, contact phone & email
- Select what you want to pay for by checking relevant box
- Payment description must be accurate
- Payment amount must be completed
- Asterix * indicates a mandatory field
Payment description

- Voluntary Schools Contributions – enter voluntary contribution
- Subject Contributions – enter particular subject eg Maths
- Excursion – enter excursion number (from excursion note) or name of excursion eg Opera House
- Sport – enter number from permission note or name of particular sport eg Softball
- Creative and Performing Arts— enter particulars eg Dance, Drama
- Sales to Students – enter item you are purchasing eg calculator, Waratah magazine
- Other – eg P & C membership, Yr 12 formal or can be used to pay whole amount eg Fees 2013

Note: Permission notes still need to be completed and sent to school

Online payment receipt

- Print and/or Email – you can change the prefilled email address if you wish
- Note the receipt number for your reference, and write this on any permission notes you are sending back to school.
- You do not need to send a copy of your receipt to the school

More than one student to pay for?

Separate payments need to be made for each student to ensure correct identification of student