Year 8 Report

This term has certainly been extremely busy. We are now moving towards students starting assessment in many of their classes. Could we please ask that parents check diaries and have a chat to students about the exams and assignments that are coming up? Two major activities have taken place over the past fortnight – International Women’s Day and the Year 8 Activities Days. Year 8 girls were invited to attend a breakfast with the Year 12 girls and celebrate International Women’s Day. They were supplied with incredible food, cooked ably by Senior male staff and students. We were very grateful for their efforts. Our principal, Ms Skeahan spoke as did our school captain, Tess van Der Veen. Student Council representatives Dana Cositgan (year 8) and Kate Cook (Year 12) cut the cake.

In the words of Tess, “You may not think coming here to school today was anything special. Just another day. For some the countdown may already be on until 3 o’clock. But just by coming to school today you are exercising a right that was fought to obtain. So today let’s all honour those who have fought for the rights we take for granted. Let us celebrate the achievements of women in our community, treat other women with the respect they deserve and support those who continue the struggle for the rights of women as we celebrate International Women’s Day. Here’s to powerful women. May we be inspired by them, may we encourage them, may we be them, and may we raise them.”
The Year 8s recently took part in three days of activities as part of their introduction to Year 8. They completed activities both at school and in the community: skating, rock climbing, cyber bullying talks, kayaking, raft building and archery at Kinchant Dam and learning more about our indigenous cultures at the South Sea Islander Cultural Hut. This is part of the transition program to help students meet new people and make new friends, while enjoying some fantastic activities along the way.

Holly Isaacs (8N1)
The rock wall was really fun, watching all your friends climb and then facing your fears yourself. Overall Year 8 week was fun and enjoyable.

Bailey Wessler (8N1)
The cultural activities were interesting and amazing. We threw boomerangs and learnt about Aborigines and South Sea Islanders. My team won the rafting competition which was a race around a point and back to the bank. The rock wall was fun too. My favourite activities were the rafting and canoeing at Kinchant Dam.

Zac Allen (8S1)
My favourite thing about Year 8 week was going to the Long Hut and skating. At the Long Hut we learnt about different cultures and also had damper. I am not a very good skater but I still enjoyed going skating.

Jackson Holley (8S1)
My favourite thing I did on Year 8 week was the rock wall climbing. I love the feelings of exhilaration and excitement you get. I loved the whole week cause some of the things I’ve never really done before so that’s good!
It has been a very successful start to the school year and I am very pleased with the efforts in many respects. We have had students working hard in classrooms and I am delighted with all that I am learning about North.

There are many noteworthy efforts of many students and we are proud to celebrate their successes publicly. However, it is also very important for us to recognise our quiet achievers who present each day to school and go about their business of learning and contributing to their classes in a positive way.

Our teachers have been working hard with high expectations for all students and, with exams and assessment completed now for Term 1, they will be marking and preparing report cards. These reports, along with the details of the parent teacher interviews booking process, will be distributed after the Easter break. When you receive your students’ report cards, please take the time to talk with your students as you review their progress.

We will be looking very closely at all our student’s results and especially our Senior students’ academic, effort and behaviour results. For our Year 11 and Year 12 students every assessment piece must be completed with a guaranteed effort. We will continue our academic review meetings and, where necessary, parents or carers will be invited in for further discussion.

Students will be receiving feedback on their most recent assessment performance by their teachers and be given time to review the goals they set for themselves, to reflect and to re-evaluate their goal setting for Term 2. Constructive feedback is fundamental to good learning.

What does Hattie call the ‘power of feedback’?

Feedback is most powerful when it is closely connected to specific learning and assessment and when it provides students with:

- Meaningful information about the strengths and weaknesses of their performance (against targeted essential learnings and standards)
- Clear advice about how they are able to improve
- Reinforcement of what they have done well.

Whilst feedback has the potential to contribute significantly to improved student learning, it is also an effective evaluation and decision-making tool for teachers. It allows teachers to appraise the degree to which the learning programs and teaching strategies they implement meet the needs of their students, and to modify them accordingly.

This week, I thanked all of our staff, and many individually, for all the hard work that always accompanies Term 1 and the start of a new school year. I know we have all been very busy learning some new and different processes and systems of working. It has also been a particularly steep learning curve for me, as I am sure it has been for our Year 8 students, with much embedded North tradition and the need for us to understand the intricacies of these ways of working. Thank you all for your support.

There is a lot on the 2014 agenda and it will require all of us, staff, students and parents, working together, learning from each other and learning with each other, to gain the best results for our students. It is an exciting time in education and I am inspired by the potential North has to offer.

Finally, to our amazing North Marching Band who will travel south in Week 1 of Term 2 for the State Anzac March in Brisbane, our thoughts and pride are with you all.

To our North community, have a safe and relaxing Easter break and ready yourselves for a sensational Term 2.

Jennifer Skeahan
Principal

North High Autumn Fair — 23rd May 2014 — 6.00pm — 9.30pm
50 years of the North Mackay High Community
Senior Review

*End of Term 1 signals three major events for your students in Senior Secondary. Our Year 12s are a quarter of the way through their final year, hopefully having laid the foundation for success. Our Year 11s, having finished their first term, have now experienced the demands and rigour of Senior Program and hence the challenges involved with their final two years of Senior at North High. Our Year 10s have completed their first tentative steps of Senior Secondary.*

With exam blocks and assignments over for Term 1, we believe that it is time for your student/s to reflect on how successful they have been with achieving the goals they have set themselves in terms of achievement in their subjects. What components of their learning process are have worked well? What components can they improve so as to achieve at their best?

Reports will be issued in Week 1 of Term 2 providing you with the opportunity for you and your student to sit down and review their achievement, behaviour and effort in all their subjects. If you feel that your child is not moving in the right direction or if you have any concerns, we urge you to utilise our parent/teacher afternoon/evening on Tuesday 29th April to discuss your concerns with their teachers. Having parents, teachers and students working toward having your student/s striving to improve their learning processes should help get them moving in the direction that will see them achieve the goals they want.

On behalf of the Senior Leadership team I would like to sincerely thank the Year 12’s for the manner in which they have conducted themselves in their first term of leadership. The school leaders have led from the front at carnivals, fund raisers and competitions, with significant victories on the way. They have been backed up ably by a Senior group who have taken to heart the Senior motto of “leadership without a badge”.

Mr Tim Condren
Deputy Principal, Senior Schooling

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**COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES WANTED FOR QCS SUPERVISION**

QCS tests will be held at our school for Year 12 students on Tuesday 3rd September and Wednesday 4th September. We need people to be Community Representatives present at these tests.

There is a base payment for the two days. If you are interested in putting your name forward or want to know more information please phone Mr Tim Condren at the school. (Phone 4963 1666)

Applications forms are available at the school and close on Thursday 22nd May 2014.

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**General Purpose Fee – North High 1972**

A general Purpose Fee of $3.00 per pupil, second child in family $1.00, third child $1.00, maximum $5.00 per family is levied to cover the cost of sporting materials, books and magazines for the School Library and learning aids. This is payable during the first week of school. Materials used by the students in Woodwork, Sheetmetal, Technical Drawing and Homecraft are chargeable to the students.

An extract from “Prospectus—Mackay North State High School—1972”
SPORTS REPORT

CROSS COUNTRY PREPARATIONS BEGIN...

With the holidays approaching, preparations have begun on the next instalment of the battle for interhouse supremacy in 2014 – the Cross Country! This will be held during school time on Wednesday 30th April, and will be a normal school day. So now is the time for students to begin training to tackle the 5km course! All students are expected to attend the carnival. Stay tuned for more information...

SPORTING REPRESENTATIVES

Congratulations to the following students who were recently selected to represent Mackay at the Capricornia trials for the following sports:

BASKETBALL
19yrs Boys
Mitchell Cain

SQUASH
19yrs Girls
Sophie Devine
Tia McLennan

As well as these representatives, we have many students who have gained selection in Capricornia teams for their chosen sport. Congratulations to the following students for this achievement:

CRICKET
19yrs Boys
Mason Kohler
Steven McGiffin
Soham Patil
Bradley Russell

SQUASH
19yrs Girls
Sophie Devine
Tia McLennan

SWIMMING
Darcy Hargreaves (50m Freestyle, Backstroke and Butterfly, 100m Freestyle, Backstroke and Butterfly, 200m Freestyle, Backstroke and Individual Medley)

Women's Auxiliary – North High 1972

A group of enthusiastic ladies who derive much pleasure and companionship through their various activities. Meetings are held at the school on the first Tuesday of each month at 2.00pm. New members are urgently needed.

An extract from “Prospectus—Mackay North State High School—1972”

The Rising Sun

In 1902, a badge was urgently sought for the Australian contingents raised after Federation for service in South Africa during the Boer War.

The original design, which was created and produced in haste, was modified in 1904. This badge carried a scroll inscribed “AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH FORCES” and it was worn through both World Wars.

There have been two new designs since then, in 1949 and 1991.

© Warrant Officer C JOBSON 1998
http://www.anzacday.org.au/education/tff/rising_sun_badge
21/4/2008

Lest We Forget

Mackay North High students, led by the North Mackay High Spirit of Remembrance 2014 Commemorative Tour group, will again march in the annual Mackay Anzac Parade. Please support them, along with the people they commemorate, as they pass by you on ANZAC Day, Friday 25th April.

The North High Marching Band practises for many weeks before embarking on the trip to Brisbane for the State Anzac March. (See above) This is their 20th year.

Students Remember
PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

KMEIA CHORAL FESTIVAL

What a fantastic night of choral entertainment was enjoyed by the capacity audience last Monday night at the Mackay Entertainment Centre! The night featured many of the region’s primary school choirs as well as a large 100 voice community choir in which our vocal group figured very prominently. Two renowned choral directors from Brisbane, Mr Anthony Young and Dr Debra Shearer-Dirie, led the choirs through piece after piece of inspiring and challenging repertoire.

Mr Anthony Young brought with him nine of his senior choristers from St Laurence’s College who were billeted by our families. Sincere thanks to the Iorio, Rodgers, Eisenmenger and Evans families for their kindness and their hospitality.

Congratulations to all members of the vocal group, not only for the excellence of their performance, but also for your polished presentation and exemplary behaviour. It was wonderful to see so many of our parents there supporting our students. A big congratulations to Kate Cook and Yolanda Aay who accompanied the choirs on Monday night – great work!

Special thanks go also to Mrs Horton for all her hard work preparing our ensemble for the performance.

Kathy GEORGE
HOD – Performing Arts

ARTWORK OF THE MONTH
Pencil Portrait of a Famous Person in Pencil Using Tone

YEAR 9 APPLIED ART

Ricky Francis

Liam Carey

Carly Erichson

Mikhaella Miller

Year 9 Applied Art students learn many different drawing styles and one of their projects was to create a realistic portrait of a famous person in pencil using tone.

Reminder: SMS to Parents re Student Absences

North High has begun sending SMS to mobile phones after Period 1 with regard to student absences and “Late to School”. Please reply , as soon as possible, directly to these messages giving the reason for, and duration of, your child’s absence. This will save another phone call from the school to your phone and will ensure that you and the school know exactly where your child is and help ensure their continued learning and safety.

Remember: Make every day count in 2014
Firstly, I’d like to start by saying that I feel honoured to have worked with this group of young men to undertake what has been a complex and gruelling task. These guys have represented themselves, their state, their region and their school with a level of class and professionalism well beyond their years. Whilst they weren’t crowned National champions they were in the mix and made the judges job a difficult one. To put this into perspective, they were up against teams from schools that have had world champion teams or have been coached by them, whilst this was the first time our boys had competed. REA have released the overall raw results for our boys and they have performed in an outstanding fashion.

One of the main things that I took away from the competition was that the team were, for the most part, ‘the people’s heroes’. Every person that visited their booth was positive and impressed, particularly Michael Myers, who started this competition in Australia, and loved their take on the challenge and spent almost half an hour with the lads discussing how their car was like Louis Hamilton’s 2007 World Championship car.

Technical realities arose that the boys understood and accepted with maturity. At the competition, the car didn’t perform to its potential due to the fact the final race cars hadn’t been run in, as the axles were only delivered to the team the week we left for Canberra (even though they were ordered five weeks in advance). It was promising to note however, that the car produced faster times every run it made and would have positioned higher in the rankings if it had not also carried a 0.1 second penalty due to a minor scrutineering issue.

As an activity this challenge is complex and demanding, not only for those competing but also from the support team perspective. In saying this it is without doubt a rewarding undertaking and can inspire students in all facets of STEM that transfers to their school curriculum subjects and can provide them with future career pathways. I must give a huge thank you and acknowledgement to Wendy and Peter McDuff without whom I couldn’t have managed to pull this off. They are a pair of dynamos! Also thanks to Mark Quinn for his invaluable assistance with this project and to all the parents and staff that supported the team, again, thank you.

The raw scores and positions for the team have been sent from REA. These figures reflect their position in each category in Australia. Apart from the racing side of things, the boys were in the top five for most categories and top ten in one, which is an outstanding effort.

We also need to thank all our supporters and sponsors, especially MRAEL for their assistance with flights to and from Canberra; Pat and Sam Mulhern at Expert Laser Solutions for assistance with the pit display; Andrew Nelmes from CAT for his assistance with the engineering and virtual testing of the car; Ziggy’s Engineering for manufacturing the axles and wheel system; BATA Industrials for donating work boots; Rio Tinto for support in our uniform purchasing; Officeworks for all our printing needs; Uniform Solutions for just that: uniform solutions; Mackay North Rotary for their fiscal support and overall encouragement of the team; the Mackay North SHS P&C for fiscal support; Simon Transport for looking after all our shipping needs; and Leanne Hixon from Manufacturing Skills QLD for coaching the team in their Verbal Presentation Techniques which got them to fourth in Australia in this category. To all these supporters and more, the team and I would like to say “Thank you” and to let you know that we couldn’t have achieved this without your assistance.

Mackay North was also represented in Canberra by Josh Pain as he and Brandon Bolton are the current Queensland State Champions in the Cadet class and their car was on display in Canberra. Josh and his father Don flew down at their own expense so that Josh could experience the National Finals and see the standard of the competition. This is indicative of the dedication of all the students involved in REA F1 in Schools at North.

By the way, the boys have informed me that they are going to compete again this season and have already begun designing their next car and booth.

Chris Gonnella
## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

### TERM 2

| Week 1 (Beg 20 Apr) | Tues 22 Apr | First day of Term 2
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
|                     | Tues 22 Apr | Marching Band leaves for Anzac Trip 8.00pm
|                     | Thur 24 Apr | Marine/Aquatics Excursion
|                     | Thur 24 Apr | QCS Practice Year 12
|                     | Thur 24 Apr | Mid-semester Reports Issued
|                     | Fri 25 Apr  | Anzac Public Holiday

| Week 2 (Beg 28 Apr) | Tue 29 Apr | Parent Teacher Interviews from 3.10pm
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
|                     | Wed 30 Apr  | Interhouse Cross Country from 1.45pm
|                     | Thur 1 Apr  | Year 12 Biology Camp1

| Week 3 (Beg 5 May)  | Mon 5 May   | QCS Practice Year 12
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
|                     | Tue 6 May   | Year 12 Biology Camp 2
|                     | Thur 8 May  | Year 12 Biology Camp 3
|                     | Fri, Sat, Sun 9,10,11 May | Middle School Honours Program

| Week 4 (Beg 12 May) | Mon 12 May  | Harijuki Day
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
|                     | Tue, Wed, Thur 13,14,15 | Naplan Year 9
|                     | Tue, Wed, Thur 13,14,15 | Legal Studies Tour
|                     | Fri 16 May  | Year 12 QCS Practice

### NORTH STAR

Congratulations to our latest recipients…

#### Year 9

- **Alyssa Tringali – Week 9**
  Alyssa was nominated for her participation in the student council.

- **Brianna McLaughlin – Week 10**
  Brianna was nominated for her outstanding effort and time-management skills in English.

#### Year 10

- **Yolanda Aay – Week 9**
  Yolanda was nominated for her outstanding effort and behaviour in English, as well as her role as a library monitor.

- **Kristy Blackley – Week 10**
  Kristy was nominated for her outstanding effort and research skills in Dance.
Children With Type 1 Diabetes - Are You Challenged by Your Child’s Diabetes?

Research into parenting children with type 1 diabetes.

The University of Queensland is conducting research into parenting children with type 1 diabetes. Parenting a child with diabetes presents many challenges (everything from the regular blood glucose monitoring and insulin intake, to more general parenting tasks). The aim of this study is to understand the factors that make the management of childhood diabetes particularly difficult, and to use this information to develop strategies that might assist parents in managing their child’s diabetes.

If you are a parent of a 2 to 10-year-old child with type 1 diabetes, we would love to hear from you!

By sharing your experiences (confidentially), you will be making a valuable contribution to the development of much-needed childhood diabetes management strategies for parents.

To complete the online survey, please log on to: https://exp.psy.uq.edu.au/type1diabetes

For further information about the project or to request a survey to be posted to you, please email Aditi Lohan (aditi.lohan@uqconnect.edu.au) or call (07 3365 7689) at the Parenting and Family Support Centre in the School of Psychology at the University of Queensland, St Lucia QLD 4072 (Fax: 07 3365 6724).

Thank you for your time and participation.

Aditi Lohan, Alina Morawska, and Amy Mitchell
UQ Parenting and Family Support Centre

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**The Creativity Zone**

**YIRS is happy to offer young people a chance to be creative in an up coming Program titled **DIGITAL ART** as part of The Creativity Zone. Young people will be working with local artist Donna-Marce Robinson.**

**TIMES:** 10.30am-12 noon
**DATES:** FRIDAY 28th April
**FRIDAY 4th April
**MONDAY 7th April
**MONDAY 14th April
**MONDAY 28th April
**VENUE:** YIRS, 60 Victoria Street
**COST:** FREE
**TRANSPORT:** Contact to organise

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**
**CALL Noeleen 49577949**
**EMAIL: Noeleen.Madriill@yirs.org.au

This workshop introduces Pixlr a free online editing program. Young people will learn techniques to enhance images intended for print and web use. Basic image manipulation skills to achieve high quality digital art images and gives you an opportunity to create new and exciting digital artworks by using layers to alter and manipulate photos.

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**WEP Student Exchange**

**Depart on an Adventure of a Lifetime!**

Choose from over 20 countries around the world to complement your secondary studies with an international, cultural exchange experience. You will be invited by a welcoming, volunteer host family to live and learn like a local teenager, attend school overseas and make new friends. You will return more mature, independent, goal-oriented and with memories and skills for life.

**Early Bird Special – Save $500!**
WEP is currently offering Early Bird discounts for programs starting in January ’15 to any of the following countries: Brazil, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Norway, Thailand or the USA. Application deadline: 30 May ‘14.

**Find Out More!**
Request an information pack, including WEP’s FREE application form.
Visit www.wep.org.au
Call 1300 884 733
Email info@wep.org.au