In the North Island of New Zealand, in the region of Taranaki, there is a little town called Waitara. Located approximately 15 to 20 km northeast of New Plymouth, Waitara boasts a population of around 6,500. It was here on November 21st, that five Optiminds teams from Australia were officially welcomed into the local ‘Marae’ (traditional meeting house) by our Maori host, Mr John Niwa.

Fifty students and teachers were privileged to call the Marae home for three days while they experienced the warm and generous hospitality of John and his family, as well as his extended Optiminds family. For ten years now, this cultural exchange has been enjoyed by students from Australia as the culmination of success in regional, state and national stages of the event. All Australian teams were regrouped to include local students from the Manukorihi Intermediate School where John’s daughter teaches. Although the problem solving challenges were structured in a similar way to the Australian challenges, this time there was no final selection process. All teams prepared their solutions at the school, and presented them later in the sanctuary of the Marae where the judges gave extensive feedback for any future challenges.

It wasn’t all work, though! A magic moment presented itself when a group of Maori elders on an art tour of the North Island, approached the Marae to ask if they could visit. We got to see the official welcome from the inside as we were now part of the family (Whānau). What an amazing experience of culture, oratory and song. The sharing of food was another highlight especially when we were treated to a hangi where pork, chicken, stuffing, potatoes, pumpkin and kumara cooked away slowly while we toured the coast between Waitara and New Plymouth, and visited the snow-capped Mount Taranaki. John said, “If you can see the mountain, it is going to rain. If you can’t, then it IS raining”. Yes it was raining, but we did get a glimpse of Taranaki’s magnificent white cap from the lookout near the school.

The six Year 9 students who got to experience this NZ odyssey (Bridey Condren, Genevieve Lambert, Meghan Malone, Erin Palmer, Alexandra Westcott and Eden Whittaker) have taken away memories that will last a lifetime. They proved to be exemplary ambassadors for our school and our country and our school community is very proud of them. Although this is the first time North High Optiminds students have been invited to New Zealand, we hope it will not be the last. — Mrs Sue Ilich
Congratulations to our latest recipients...

**Year 9**

- **Tanna Foden-Jukes** – Week 7
  Tanna was nominated for his excellent effort in Maths.

- **Paige McNichol** – Week 8
  Paige was nominated for her continued improvement in Maths.

**Year 10**

- **Emiley Dean** – Week 7
  Emiley was nominated for being part of the Informal Committee.

- **Jazmin Scott** – Week 8
  Moira was nominated for being part of the Informal Committee.
FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Seniors 2014
Our Seniors of 2014 left the school with memories that will last them a life time. The Graduation Ceremony saw a full house of well wishers with parents, friends, families, staff and visitors attend to see our Seniors acknowledged. They were proud, they were focused on the future, yet they were united in their departure. We wish all our Year 12 students all the very best for their futures.

Year 10 & Year 11 Students Depart
Many of our Year 11 students set off on their camp early this week, while all other Year 11 students were provided with a program to explore further Certificate courses, work experience and school programs. Our Year 10 students focused on completing exams and preparing for their Informal night. We wish all our Year 11 and Year 10 students a safe and relaxing break to recharge for a focused 2015.

Junior Secondary
We welcome our incoming Year 7 and Year 8 students into school next week for their orientation day. It is a very exciting time for our new students as they prepare to leave their Primary Schools and join together to become part of the large and vibrant environment of North.

Our plans are well progressed in readiness for 2015 with final developments being completed with structural changes to the environment taking great shape. It is a very exciting time in education!

End of the School Year
It is still important that all students are attending school every day up until the very last for each of the appropriate Year levels. There will be learning everyday until 3pm on Friday 12th December. We will work from a promoted timetable on Monday of the last week of school for all Year 8 and Year 9. This will mean that students will be provided with their 2015 timetable. Every day is an important day at school!

Planning for the New School Year
We have already been planning for 2015 and our learning targets have already been set.

Vision 2015
We are all improving our performance; we are all visibly learning; we are all building a positive culture.

Mission 2015
Junior Secondary targets: 85% A-C, 20% A, <15% D/E
Senior Secondary targets: 95% A-C, 20% A, <5% D/E
Senior Secondary targets: 100% QCE; 80% OP 1-15, 20% OP 1-5, OP 1 => 3, QCS A => 20%
Junior Secondary targets: 100% of eligible students at or above NMS, 25% U2B Numeracy, 20% U2B all other domains, ever student improves by 44 points
Whole School Attendance target: 93%, >40% above 95%, <15% less than 85%
Student Disciplinary Data: <20 per 1000 students on short term suspensions per term; <5 per 1000 students on long term suspensions per term; 0 students excluded; 0 students enrolment cancelled.
Closing the Gap: 100% of indigenous students to be achieving and attending as per non-Indigenous students.
Staff: 100% of staff with Performance Review Plans

Respectful Resilient Confident
These are the values we would like all our graduates to have when they leave Mackay North SHS.

Our next P & C meeting is Monday 16 February 2015, please take the time to come along and learn more about the School. We are currently seeking a president, if you are interested in learning more about this role please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jennifer Skeahan
Principal
Senior Schooling – Year 10 2014

The Year 10s have been busy right up until their very last day of the 2014 school year. After a busy few weeks of assessment, the students celebrated the end of the school year with the Year 10 Informal. It was fantastic to see the students dressed up and looking very responsible – it was a great night!

It has also been great to see so many of Year 10 students improve their overall attendance rate this term and really show their support and understanding of the ‘Everyday Counts’ message that we discuss with them so often. Students who showed an improved attendance rate were recognised and rewarded this week – well done!

As the school year draws to a close for our Year 10 students, it is important to remember that 2015 is the beginning of some new and exciting directions for our students. The Senior Education and Training Plans and interviews that the Year 10s completed back in September have encouraged students to understand the career direction they would like to follow.

For those students continuing into Year 11, there will be a range of new subjects that they have selected to study in 2015. For those students who have taken on employment or chosen to enrol with other education providers for further study, please ensure that you provide the school with documentation outlining these commitments. It is so important if students wish to leave school to undertake a particular career path they must be ‘learning or earning’. Parents need to arrange an appointment with Mrs Grieger before a student leaves the school for work or to compete a training course.

We wish all our Year 10s and happy safe holiday and see you back in Year 11 in 2015!

Jane Grieger
Deputy Principal (10) jgrie16@eq.edu.au

YEAR 10s MAKING EVERY DAY COUNT IN 2014

Well done to the following Year 10 students, who finished the year with 95-100% attendance.

Allen, Damon
Allen, Matthew
Balchin, Paige
Batistuzzi, Tiffiny
Bear, Courtney
Bear, Madison
Billington, Jayden
Bisual, Ezzy
Blackley, Kristy
Bolton, Brandon
Boppana, Shravya
Borg, Peta
Borg, Zayne
Burn, Hudson
Cameron, Michaela
Christensen, Jonelle
Christensen, Natalie
Coleman, Laura
Conroy, Lochie
Correa-Umbairia, Juan
Dean, Emiley
Dewar, Faith (100%)!
Dimond, Kate
Doolan, Mina
Drew, Shania
Evans, Jarod
Falt, Emma
Farquhar, Lachlan
Feng, William
Fitzsimon, Brigette
Fiyen, Talia
Galapon, Dan
Grant, Nathan
Griffith, Benjamin
Gurnett, Westley
Hammer, Kyle
Hancock, Grace
Hatchett, Moira
Hawke, Jake
Hodgson, Stanley
Howlett, Ryan
Hudson, Brad
Hudson, Connor
Jansen, Paige
Johnson-Kanu, Sam
Joslin, Jakob
Kajewski, Jack
Kemp, Tayla
Kennell, Ezra
Kohler, Lane
Lawn, Tyler
Lewis, Hannah
Lindemann, Joshua
Lunn, Noah
Machen, Cherida
Madam, Jordyn
Maes, Christie
Manning, Samantha
Marshall, Michael
McNally, Jesse
Milles, Kristopher
Mitchell, Shannon
Nicholson, Victoria
Nixon, Sarah
Pain, Joshua
Pepich, Tahiliah
Phillips, Kahil
Pickering, Jazlyn
Powell, Kassandra
Price, Bradley
Pullen, Cobi
Quince, Brett
Ramsamy, Cyra
Reck, Nadia
Reuss, Montanna
Romagnolo, Layton
Russell, Caitlyn
Rutherford, Thomas
Scott, Jazmin
Sheehan, Jacob
Sign, Luana
Simpson, Caitlyn
Smith, Cameron
Sullivan, Kody
Sutherland, Jordan
Thomas, Ronan
Villalba, Ryan
Wilson, Joshua
Wilson, Mackinley
PARENTS OF YEAR 10 &11 STUDENTS CHECK OUT THE 2014 NEXT STEP REPORT

Next year your child will be entering the final years of their high school education and looking at what their next steps towards a career will be. The Department of Education, Training and Employment released the 2014 Next Step report which collected the initial work and study destinations of over 39,600 young people who completed Year 12 in 2013. This report covers the variety of options young people have pursued after they completed school which might be helpful to students examining their options.


Junior Secondary News and WAVE Program

We are looking forward to the full implementation of Junior Secondary at Mackay North State High School in 2015. This is a very exciting milestone in education and one which the staff of Mackay North State High School have been working towards tirelessly and enthusiastically. With great change, comes significant but rewarding work. Thank you in particular to our curriculum Heads of Department and our Junior Secondary curriculum planning team, Mrs Cathy Gilbert, Mrs Jenny Sambell, Mrs Janine Jarrett, Mr Simon Henderson, Ms Elise Auriac, Mrs Liz Rodgers and Mrs Pat Nelson and our incoming Year 7 teachers. The effort that these teachers have put into the development of an engaging and intellectually challenging curriculum and development of specialist skills distinct to Junior Secondary is credible. This includes the implementation of iPads into our Junior Secondary curriculum which presents as another milestone in education for our school.

The Junior Secondary team are also in the process of developing Passion Projects for 2015 to further engage students in a wide variety of opportunities and experience a sense of belonging to our school. This will also include opportunities for parents and the community to engage with the school.

In 2015 Mackay North State High School will launch the WAVE Program which will be our school wide Wellbeing Program as discussed in previous newsletters. The WAVE Program is centred around Wellbeing; Academia; Values; Education. Congratulations to Mackenzie Quinn, current year eight student, who is the official winner of the logo design competition for WAVE. This will be the logo utilised for all WAVE documents and promotion. Thank you to all students who submitted a logo as part of this competition.

Tuesday 2nd December will be the official Orientation Day for future Year 7 and 8 students.

Rebecca Denney (HOD Junior Schooling)

Year 8 Science Competition

From left: Cameron Harmer; Benjamin Davies; Dana Costigan; Molly Bristow; T'Shayah Shardlow and Lillian Harold

STUDENT AND FAMILY DETAILS

If your address or contact details or family circumstances change, please notify the school immediately. Your nominated emergency contacts for your child and their phone details must also be kept current. This is in keeping with the Education Queensland’s Duty of Care Policy. Your student can ask for an appropriate form from the office or one can be e-mailed to you.
This year a few Indigenous students from Mackay North State High School took part in the Knukella Binbi Beerkou Program (Meaning - See Good Tomorrow). The program was developed in partnership with Central Queensland University, Marabisda and The Local Traditional Elders of the Yuwi Yuibera Tribe. 80 Year 10 Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and/or South Sea Islander students from across the region attended the CQ University Mackay campus on a weekly basis to complete a Certificate II in Skills for Work and Training, their Construction White Card and a First Aid Certificate. Every Wednesday since Term 2 these students were committed and dedicated to the program and should be very proud to have succeeded. They finally graduated on Wednesday 19th November! These Certificates play a massive role in the students’ education and their futures. Each student will begin Year 11 in 2015 with at least 4 QCE points. Congratulations!!!

Laurel Dodd
Community Education Counsellor and Youth Support Co-ordinator
ldodd45@eq.edu.au

Junior Secondary uniforms for Years 7 and 8 will be for sale from the school office from Monday 1st December. Cost: $33.50
North High Students Gain Duke of Edinburgh Award

North High students, Hamish Mc Duff and Darcy Van der Drift, recently completed their Adventurous Journey, as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Program. The two Year 11 students were joined by other students from Whitsunday Anglican and Whitsunday Christian College, to hike 25 kms from Eungella to Crediton Hall over two days.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is an internationally recognised development program for young people aged 14 to 25 and introduces participants to a range of opportunities to gain new skills and experience through challenging and rewarding activities which benefit the individual as well as their communities.

Email addresses
Year Level Coordinators
YEAR 7  ylc7@macknortshs.eq.edu.au
YEAR 8  ylc8@macknortshs.eq.edu.au
YEAR 9  ylc9@macknortshs.eq.edu.au
YEAR 10 ylc10@macknortshs.eq.edu.au
YEAR 11 ylc11@macknortshs.eq.edu.au
YEAR 12 ylc12@macknortshs.eq.edu.au

HODs
HOD JUNIOR SECONDARY  hodjnrsec@macknortshs.eq.edu.au
HOD SENIOR SECONDARY  hodsensec@macknortshs.eq.edu.au

ARTWORK OF THE MONTH
YEAR 10
IMPRESSIONIST PAINTING

Kristy Blackley
Jazmin Balfour

Luana Sign
Talia Fiyen
Tori Brennick
Mackay Engineering College held its Celebration/Graduation night on Monday 3rd November at CQU. The night was to congratulate our year 12 students on their completion of their Trade training course and to award them for their performance over the 2 year course.

Mackay North State High School students who successfully completed the Mackay Engineering College program have obtained a Certificate I Engineering and a Certificate II Manufacturing with most students also obtaining a Certificate I Resources & Infrastructure Operations.

The graduating students from the MEC are: Sheldon Bates, Jayden Bugia, Curtis Cheetham, Mark Chetcuti, Shaun Edwards, Jesse Fleming, James Harris, Zachary Manning, Kyle Peterson, Blake Purvis, Jacob Reynolds, Jesse Scott, Jarod Vella, Brandon Watts and Mitchell Worthington.

Certificates were presented to the team leaders: Mitchell Worthington and Jayden Bugia.

The Mackay North State High School student with the best performance for 2014 was Mitchell Worthington. This was awarded to Mitchell as he showed excellent work ethic, commitment to task, and safety awareness throughout his time at Mackay Engineering College

Mitchell was presented with tools from Auslec, Whitelaw Tooling, BOC, Wallers Precision Tooling, and total Fasteners.

Also awarded during the night, was the most outstanding work experience student. This award was presented by Kylie Bollard of MRAEL to Jayden Bugia. Jayden was nominated by Expert Laser Solutions.
Sports Awards 2014
Special Awards
BLUE AWARDS

Hamish Blacklock  AFL, Lawn Bowls, Rugby Union, Soccer, Volleyball
Tim Hottes  AFL, Rugby Union, Soccer, Surf Lifesaving, Track & Field
Daniel Isaacs  AFL, Lawn Bowls, Rugby Union, Soccer, Volleyball
Steven McGiffin  AFL, Cross Country, Soccer, Track & Field, Volleyball
Holly Ryan  AFL, Netball, Track & Field, Touch Football, Volleyball
Sara Storeshaw  Cross Country, Netball (School & Vicki Wilson Cup), Track & Field, Volleyball
Gabrielle Wheeler  AFL, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Track & Field, Touch Football

HOUSE CAPTAINS – Certificates of appreciation

Bagley  Georgia De Boni    Mark Chetcuti    Caitlyn O’Neill    Cody Filewood
Fitzgerald  Chloe Burston    Callum Brown    Aisa Rodgers    Thomas Mandall
Norris  Majella Gibbs    Damian Volker    Zoe Eisenmenger    Vernon Oosthuizen
Spiller  Alex Roberts-Gooch    Joshua Chiswell    Breanna Howard    Jared Austin

CHAMPION HOUSES - School Carnivals

Swimming  Norris
Cross Country  Bagley
Track And Field  Norris
Overall Champion House  Norris

CHAMPION TEAM OF THE YEAR  Vicki Wilson Cup (Netball)
PIERRE DE COUBERTIN AWARD  Josiah McCarthy
PSW SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR  Sara Storeshaw
PSW SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR  Steven McGiffin

1:1 laptop program payment dates for 2014/2015

If you make the payment of $200 for 2015 by the due date, your child may be able to use the device throughout the Christmas holidays and be prepared for their 2015 school year. If you do not wish to participate in the early release program, please note below the mandatory return date of the device, bag and charger for our yearly stocktaking, maintenance and storage program.

Participation Schedule for Laptop Program Students (2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current 2014 Grade</th>
<th>Year 11 &amp; 10</th>
<th>Year 9</th>
<th>Year 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laptop return if payment not made by due date</td>
<td>28 Nov 2014</td>
<td>5 Dec 2014</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payment due before</td>
<td>8 Dec 2014</td>
<td>8 Dec 2014</td>
<td>8 Dec 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have any inquiries please do not hesitate to call John Doolan on (07) 4963 1619 during school hours or email me at jdool22@eq.edu.au anytime.

Please note, all other compulsory Resource Hire Scheme fees and individual subject levy charges must be up to date in order to be eligible for the Take-Home Laptop Program.
Enrol Now

Mackay North State High School

In-catchment enrolments for Years 7 & 8 in 2015 are being finalised NOW!

For further information phone 49631666

Mackay North SHS Catchment Area
www.qgso.qld.gov.au/maps.edmap
CHANGES TO THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS TAX FILE NUMBER PROGRAM IN 2015

The Secondary Schools Tax File Number (TFN) Program will not continue beyond 31 December 2014. This means that School TFN forms will no longer be processed beyond this date.

How students can apply for a TFN from 1 January 2015

The Australian Taxation Office in partnership with Australia Post is making it easier for individuals to apply for a TFN.

Students can now apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office.

Applying online is the fastest and most convenient way for students to get a TFN. More information on applying online can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for 'QC27248'

Students who are unable to visit a participating Australia Post office will need to complete the application form Tax file number - application or enquiry for individuals form (NAT 1432). More information about lodging this form can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for 'QC22604'

The ATO will continue working with teachers to educate students about tax and superannuation. The curriculum resource Tax, Super & You is a free, easy to use, online educational resource aligned to the school curriculum of each state and territory. This resource can be accessed at taxsuperandyou.gov.au

Steve Vesperman
Deputy Commissioner of Taxation