



YASS HIGH SCHOOL

We value respect, responsibility, safety and learning.

Principal: Sandra Hiscock

Relieving Deputy Principal: Ruth Riach

From the Principal

Another very busy but productive year draws to a close. I'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all those who are a part of the school community - students, staff, parents and supporters - for your commitment, energy and efforts over the last year, which have yielded impressive success for students and the school across the board.

It's very hard to single out the main highlights of such a full year - it's worthwhile going back through InTouch just to realise the extent of them – but I'd like to mention a few at least.

Our cross-faculty Year 9 Integrated Learning project received a 2015 National Innovators Education Award. This project marked the first full utilisation of our new building's open plan learning spaces upstairs and stunning technical facilities downstairs to which staff and students have adapted so well to.

Our first Korean Exchange visits "changed lives" according to some students and the visit from Korean students benefited all in an understanding of another culture.

We reached the state finals of the Science and Engineering Challenge for the second year running and we were well-represented and successful in the national maths and chemistry competitions and for the first time in the Da Vinci Creativity Decathlon in Canberra.



IN TOUCH

Dec 11 2015

Our unique Community Studies classes continued their special projects around the town.

Our creative and musical students were to the fore with inspirational exhibitions and performances at school and around the district, especially in the musical *Bye Bye Birdie*, at CaPA Night, *Sculpture in the Paddock*, *Knitting for Nepal*, and local shows – the list goes on.

Yass High's fabulous Show Team exhibited across the state, sweeping all before them.

This year's NAPLAN results revealed some significant improvements, especially for the Year 9 cohort, Year 10 VALID were outstanding and last year's HSC achievers all went on to appropriate tertiary studies and/or careers.

Last but not least, Yass High students always excel at sport and 2015 was no different!

Best wishes for the festive season and a safe and happy holiday!

From the Deputy

I think we should all have a little homework during the break. This is your homework:

- Listen to one music album from start to finish (not a "best of") without interruption
- Talk to an elderly relative or friend. Ask them what they were doing at your age. Listen to their answers and reflect on the differences between their lives and yours
- Volunteer for a charity or group
- Read at least one book
- Cook for your family



Enjoy your holiday and come back ready for learning in 2016 with our new group of year 7 students.

Captain's Corner

G'Day all! It's getting close to the end of the school year, not much longer to go now until Christmas! Also, good luck to all of the students attending Presentation Night and the Celebration Assemblies this week.

This week's Teacher of the Week is brought to you by our HSC Legal Studies class, because this week's Teacher of the Week is Ms Ventrella. Legal Studies student Samantha Sharpe wrote the following so YHS can say farewell and good luck to Ms Ventrella.

"Ms Ventrella is one of the best teachers we've had. She has picked up our class, who did not have a specialist teacher for term 1, and she had us catch up on the work and exceed expectations. She gave up so much of her own time helping us with our work, making study notes for the class and preparing additional work and notes to help us for our exams. She has definitely taught the class more than just legal studies, she taught us vital skills for the HSC and has shown us what we are capable of. Ms Ventrella has organised trips for us to gain experience in the legal field for our future and has been a great help in steering us in the right direction- especially for our aspirations. She is kind, funny and fashionable and has been an exceptional teacher and her students will miss her dearly."

What amazing words to describe an amazing teacher! The students of Yass High will miss you very much Ms Ventrella.



Because it's the end of term, and this is our last Captain's Corner for the year, we thought we would give you a couple of great jokes for you to use over the Christmas holidays!

- What does Santa suffer if he gets stuck in a chimney? Claustrophobia!!!
- What do you get if you cross Santa and a duck? A Christmas Quacker!
- Who is Santa's favourite singer? Elf-is Presley!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from us Captains! We hope you all enjoy your holidays!

The Idea of North

Last week the Vocal Group and Year 12 students travelled to Goulburn to attend a vocal workshop presented by the ARIA award winning a cappella group *The Idea of North*. Students were treated to a short performance by the group and learnt about warm-up and voice care techniques before moving into part-singing rehearsals that culminated into a wonderful finale performance in four parts with students from many local high schools. Students who attended the workshop were also given a free pass to the evening concert. A big thanks to Goulburn conservatorium for facilitating the workshop.



Integrated Learning

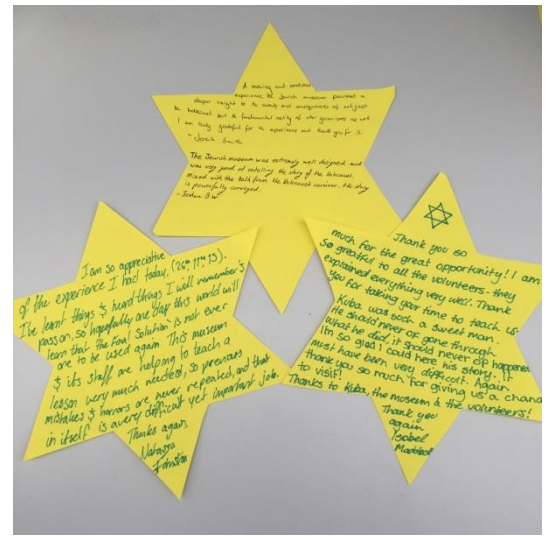
The success of the Integrated Learning program at Yass High School received state attention last week with a grant to support the sustainability component in 2016.

The member for Goulburn, Pru Goward on behalf of the NSW Government's Environmental Trust presented us with a plaque and a cheque for more than \$3000 to restore the park area with some environmental friendly initiatives.



Holocaust Museum Excursion

On the 26th of November, 62 students from years 9 and 10 travelled to Sydney to visit the Jewish Holocaust museum. Although confronting it was a very important learning experience. We were split into groups and taken through the museum by volunteers with a personal connection to the Holocaust. Students were very inquisitive and their questions were answered with conviction and determination to make the facts known.



We were then taken into a classroom where we were asked about our opinions on difficult historical questions. There were excellent answers given, showing the dedication of our teachers in educating us about the Holocaust at school. To finish off the visit we were taken to meet an extraordinary man by the name of Kuba. Kuba is a Polish Holocaust survivor who has lived through the horrors of Auschwitz-Birkenau. He spoke with a calculated tone being sure not to miss anything important to make sure we could learn the whole story.

Kuba finished his incredible tale by responding to a question with pride, "I look at my children and my grandchildren and I think 'I won the war!'" The entire experience, while very intense was incredible and important to see. It was definitely worth the trip and I would highly recommend it to all students when the excursion is run again in the future.

Natasza Johnston



Meeting of the Makers at Yass High

The new building at Yass High School has begun to take on new life as a “MakerSpace” with the introduction of some very high tech 21st century devices. Two new 3D printers have been installed in the computer room and a new CNC router installed in the woodwork workshop.

Last Friday, our “Makers in Residence” were invited to a day of learning on this very cool equipment. We welcomed Rusty Barberis, Al Phemister, Bob Buffington, Ralf Hansson, David Alchin, Paul Wilkinson and Brett Sizeland, from the Re-Engineering Australia Foundation who shared his expertise and time.

Makerspace is a concept sweeping the world where skilled community members design, prototype and manufacture items using tools that would otherwise be inaccessible or unaffordable in an innovative collaborative space.

CNC Routers are Computer Controlled cutting tools which can translate a drawing on a computer to a solid piece of timber, foam, plastic or light metal. Instead of routing by hand, tool paths are controlled via the computer. 3D printers extrude successive layers of material formed under computer control to create an object. The first object built by the IT students was a chess piece with amazing detail including an internal spiral staircase.

Our new Trade Skills Centre and Interactive Learning spaces have been designed to work as “MakerSpaces” well into the 21st Century.



What's happening in Textiles?

Year 12 Textiles students, during their HSC year, produced a major textile art work and portfolio. These pieces were a culmination of having studied textiles since year 8 and learning many skills and design processes over the 5 years. The splendid art works are a testimony to this group's creativity and dedication. Congratulations must go to these students for a wonderful display of work.



Ashleigh Witt made a textile art quilt of the map of the world featuring the textile techniques of each country, such as felting from Russia, shibori from Japan, batik from Asia and silk painting from China.



Rebekah Gallagher made a superb double bed quilt inspired by work of the artist William Morris, featuring many quilting techniques such as applique and hand and machine

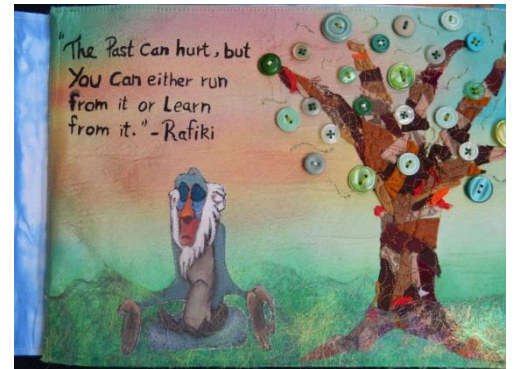


Victoria Olsen made a textile art work of a dragon, hand dyed and hand embroidered with handmade felt spikes and silk wings.



Jowil Al Samara made a fabric book based on the Lion King using many textile techniques.

Bridgette Wales made a beautiful hand painted silk scarf inspired by the colours and culture of Spain



Kate Wales made a bag with an environmental sea theme, featuring hand dyed fabric and handmade netting.



Year 7 History Excursion to the Japanese Embassy in Canberra

As part of their study into Japanese History, 17 students from 7P visited the Japanese Embassy in Canberra on the 7th of December. After a short bus ride from school, we were brought inside the consulate and given a short introduction by the friendly members of the embassy staff.

During the introductory session, we learned about what role the embassy plays in Australian/Japanese relations and what life in Japan is like today. The next part of the tour allowed us to examine various elements of Japanese culture, from food to forms of entertainment typically enjoyed by Japanese people. After being introduced to the type of clothing that would form a typical school uniform of a Japanese student, many of the students took the opportunity to try on the examples available.



At the end of the tour, we were taken through the gardens next to the Ambassador's residence and took a moment to take in the beauty of the sculptured environment next to the consulate. The gardens featured a number of interesting elements including native Japanese trees, a river running through the park and a number of amazing lanterns. Before we returned to school we travelled to the Canberra Nara Park for a picnic and spent some time walking through the various outdoor art installations and cultural buildings held on site. It was an enjoyable way to spend the day and gave students a chance to stretch their legs before the trip back to school.



Year 9 History - Vietnam Presentation by Air Commodore Dennis Green

As part of their study into the Vietnam War, 19 students from Year 9 were given the opportunity to listen to Air Commodore Green speak about his experiences in the Air Force and his knowledge of the Vietnam War.

His visit to the school was for just under an hour and during this time he covered a great deal of content, providing an insightful level of detail about the conflict from his unique military point of view. His depth of experience and knowledge provided students with a unique opportunity to link the understanding they had developed over the past term with the technical and tactical perspective that Air Commodore Green possessed.



**Yass High School
Student of the Week
November 2015**



**Jack Randell
Year 10**

For Exemplary Manners,
Representing the School with
Kindness, Respect and Courtesy

**Yass High School
Student of the Week
November 2015**



**Rachel Glassford
Year 10**

For Assistance in Peer
Leadership Course

Textiles Year 7 and 8

Technology mandatory classes are intended to prepare students for a future where there will be many technological problems to solve and many jobs requiring people with skills to find the solution to these problems.

In textiles, all students are taught skills in sewing and fabric decoration and product construction. They are required to design a solution and follow their idea to manufacture an item. Year 7 produced bags and year 8 were required to make a soft toy monster.



Josh McIver, Rebecca Wright and Jack Gallagher with their textile creations.

Congratulations must go to the students for there were many outstanding creations, the result of much hard work. The end of the rotation always concludes with students making a tie-dyed item, a popular activity to end the unit.

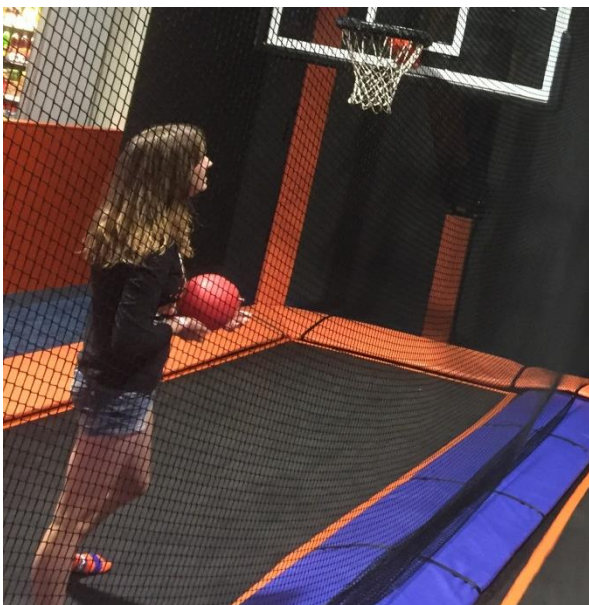


Ksarna Barnsley, Nicole Tack, Cate Wells, Sam Coffey and Hayden Johnson with their projects.

Year Nine Rewards Excursion

This week a selection of year nine students were rewarded with an end of year rewards activity at SkyZone Trampoline Park. The students who attended were rewarded with an invitation based on their ability to uphold and proudly promote the Yass High School Values.

Combined with some time to shop and enjoy lunch, students thoroughly enjoyed their time at SkyZone bouncing on the many trampolines, jumping into the foam pit and playing multiple rounds of dodgeball.



Yass High School Students of the Week December 2015



Lucia Koller, Tara Friend, Tayla Chapman, Caitlyn Douven, Caitlin Faes,
Alyssa Wright, Brodi Smith, Lauren Harris, Jessica Swaffield,
Samantha Sharpe (Missing—Verdi Barberis, Rebekkah Hartwig,
Breanna Wilson, Annabelle Johnson)

Year 11 Hospitality

For Outstanding Service in
Catering for the
School and Community

Coming Events

Date	Event
Mon – Wed 14/12 – 16/12	Activities Week at YHS (wear uniform, bring appropriate clothing for your activity)
Tue 15/12	Rewards Excursion Years 7 & 8
Thur 17/12 Fri 18/12	School Development Days (Pupil free)
Wed 27/1/16	Staff Development Day (Pupil free)
Thu 28/1/16	Years 7, 11 and 12 return to school. All new enrolments from all years between 9 – 11 am
Fri 29/1/16	Years 8, 9 and 10 return to school
<u>Click on the school website for the online calendar</u>	
<u>Remember Assessment tasks dates due are available on school website assessment calendars</u>	