



# YASS HIGH SCHOOL

We value respect, responsibility, safety and learning.

Principal: Linda Langton

Deputy Principal: Louise Pinson

## From the Principal

I am delighted to be contributing to my first InTouch as Principal of Yass High School.

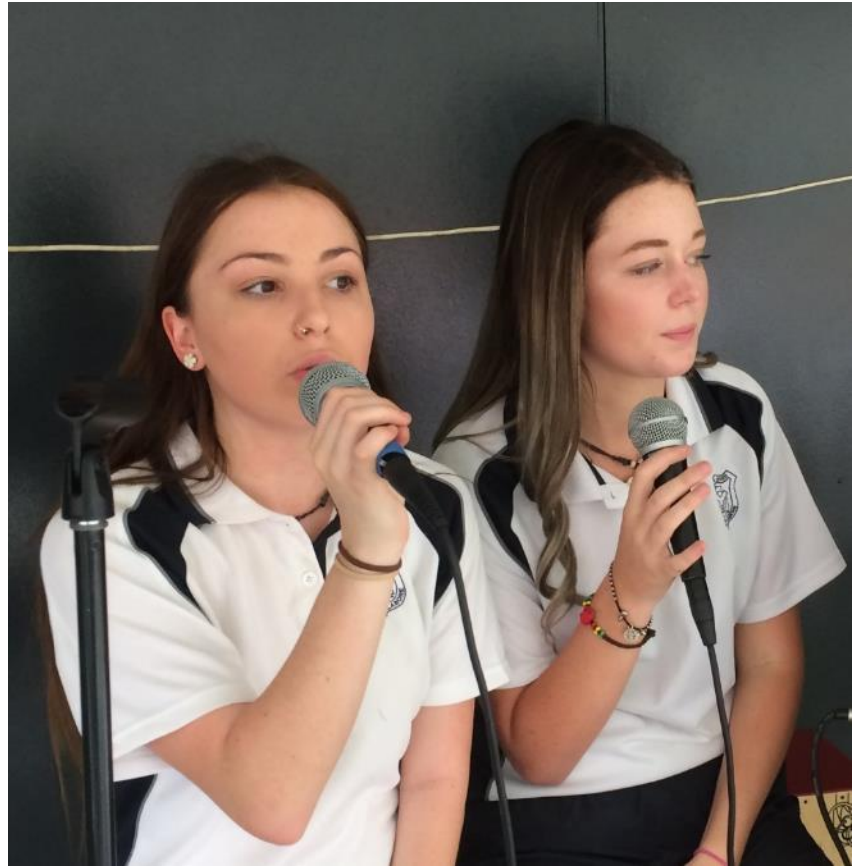
My first week has revolved around a 'getting to know you' theme. I have been meeting and talking with teachers, students and parents as I settle into my new role and become part of this vibrant community.

I have been overwhelmed by the welcome I have received this week. Students have been very happy to have a chat with me about their learning, their goals and their school. I have enjoyed the impromptu visits to my office by students keen to introduce themselves. The friendly and open nature of all the young people at Yass High School is a credit to the school and to their families.

I would also like to acknowledge the support and acceptance from the staff. Sandra Hiscock was very generous with her time and knowledge of the school in the weeks leading to her retirement and Louise Pinson has continued my 'induction' with information on all aspects of the school. The teachers have shared with me their commitment to student learning and achievement, as well as their obvious care for the welfare of all our young people.



My role as Principal is to ensure that every student achieves success and is well prepared for their future life. I will do this by supporting teachers in the important work of guiding student learning through continued professional development to build expertise and embrace new approaches. I will support students to be reflective and enquiring learners with aspirational goals. I will ensure that every student is known, valued and has strong goals for success. I am privileged to share this journey with you all.





## From the Deputy

Brad Fittler was recently chosen as coach for the NSW state rugby league team. When interviewed he mentioned not his many successes but his year as coach at the Roosters, 'I learnt more in that year (a shocking season) than I did in all the good years.'

We are often afraid to take on a task, a challenge or the chance to learn something new because we are afraid we might fail when, in fact, we may have the most to learn, or gain, in these moments.

A teacher told me recently that she starts the year by writing the word FAIL in capitals on the board, explaining to students that it stands for First Attempt In Learning.

As parents, we may wish to protect our children from failure but, given support, it can be something which builds character and resilience. A parent I know encouraged his daughter to continue with gymnastics not because she had a special talent but because it did not come easily. 'She's learning how to cope when things are hard,' he explained.

A growth mindset accepts that we cannot do everything right the first time but rather we learn to adopt a positive approach to challenges, saying we may not be able to do them 'yet' but we will work out a way.

Congratulations to our many students and teachers who embrace and promote a growth mindset.



## Captain's Corner

Well this is our last Captain's Corner for the year, and we want to wish everyone a safe, happy and relaxing break.

Our Teacher of the Week is Jenny Rajchert, who has dedicated her time every day for as long as we can remember to making our school an inclusive and safe place to be. She has run Brekky Club every morning, and is always ready with a smile and a milo, juice, toast, fruit or cereal for every student when they head up there before school. She has helped us as Year 12s transition as smoothly as possible from Year 11, and knows all the rules of NESAs and the HSC inside out. She will be taking leave for much of 2018 to travel around the world, so has been training Renee Gerken and Louise Pinson to fill her shoes. All the best from YHS!



Joke of the week:

Q. What does Woolworths become if it burns down?

A. Coles!



## **Congratulations Tracey Bills**

Tracey Bills has been awarded the NSW Combined High Schools Sports Association (NSWCHSSA) gold life membership for outstanding contribution to the association. This is the most prestigious award that a staff member can achieve in the school sport representative pathway.

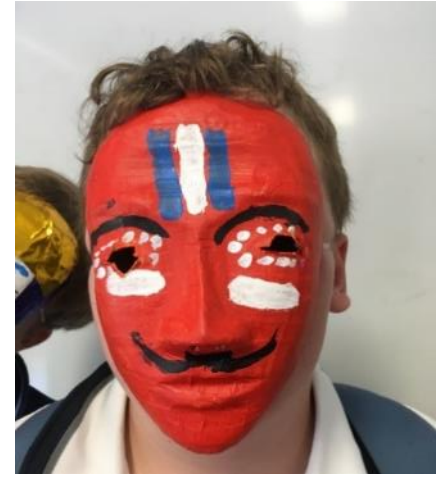
The presentations was be made at a function last Friday 24 November 2017, at the ANZ Stadium, Sydney Olympic Park. Congratulations from us all at Yass High School.





## Fun and Games in Indonesian Class

In Year 7 Indonesian we have had some fun this term. We started by making *topeng* (masks). Each student designed and decorated their own traditional Indonesian mask.



We then moved on to our unit on traditional sports and games. We learned how to play *sepek takraw*, which is huge in Asia and is like cross between volleyball and soccer. Some of us were naturals at it!

We then made our own *congklak* boards, and played this ancient game. Archaeologists tell us that *congklak* is the oldest board game in the world, and they have found versions of it dating back to 7000 BC.





## Victor Chang Award

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of November, Amy Kelly was presented with the Victor Chang Award for commitment and effort in Science at a ceremony held in Wollongong. She was one of 36 top Science students recognised from South-East NSW selected for the award. When nominated in September, Amy was top of both Biology and Chemistry classes at Yass High. Amy not only always does her best in her studies, she also seeks to improve her work and takes the time to assist other students as well.

The Victor Chang Award takes the form of a certificate recognising the recipient for their achievements and an invitation to spend time at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute to learn first-hand about its activities and about careers in science. The award aims to encourage the next generation of scientists to pursue a career in medical research.

The Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute is dedicated to finding cures for cardiovascular disease and has earned its place on the global stage as one of the most respected heart research facilities in the world. Renowned for the quality of its breakthroughs, the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute uses innovative transplantation techniques and conducts complex molecular and genetic analysis, to discover better ways to diagnose, treat and ultimately prevent the onset of heart disease.





## Here's to You, Yass Community

Yass High School together with Southern Region BEC would like to express our gratitude to the local businesses and surrounds that have supported our students who have taken part in the Structured Workplace Learning Program in 2017:

Academy of Interactive Entertainment  
Bailey's Garage Pty Ltd  
BL & SA Oldfield Carpentry  
Cafe Dolcetto  
CCS Group  
Clementine  
Corkhills Engineering Pty Ltd  
David Cleary Electrical Pty Ltd  
Deepwater  
Dick Smith Investments  
DPS  
Duncans Plumbing  
ET & JA Gruber Fencing  
Foran Building Company  
Galutzi Café  
Glenbower Pty Ltd  
Glenryan  
IGA Yass  
James Alley Building and Carpentry Services

JSL Builder  
Jasique Building & Earthworks  
Juicie Lucie  
Kaffeine 2582  
Landmark  
Merino Café  
Murrays Fabrication  
Natalie Blundell Equestrian Centre  
NJB Contractors  
Rollonin Café  
Six 8 Coffee Roasters  
South East Local Land Services  
Thyme to Taste  
Yass Country Kitchen  
Yass Mufflers & Radiators  
Yass Valley Aged Care – Horton House  
Yass Valley Automotive & Offroad  
Yass Valley Council  
Yass Veterinary Hospital

The Structured Workplace Learning Program is for students enrolled in HSC industry recognised courses. These Vocational Educational and Training courses have compulsory work placement requirements for successful completion of the HSC.

The coordination of Structured Workplace Learning is funded by the State of New South Wales through the Department of Education under the Structured Workplace Learning Program and delivered by Southern Region Business Enterprise Centre. For more information visit [www.srbec.com.au](http://www.srbec.com.au)



## Year 8 Visit the Zoo

Year 8 enjoyed their recent visit to the Australian National Zoo and Aquarium in Canberra. Students were able to engage directly with many animals, and learned a lot from zoo staff.





Students learned that

- there are 400 Sumatran tigers left in the wild – Lubomir
- hyenas can steal food from lions and the aquarium was fun, especially the shark! Emily F
- snakes don't blink, as they have no eye lids. - Kaitlin L
- emus have little wings, they don't have muscles so they can't use them and they have sharp points on the end. I enjoyed the zoo because I love animals – Grace B
- the reason the sun bears are endangered is because people cut off their paws and put them into soups. - Nick D
- the sun bear is the most aggressive animal at the zoo and is the smallest bear.– Corinne G
- India is connecting their forests so that the tigers that live in them can breed and increase their population. – Tori W
- I learnt that the male emus look after the eggs and I enjoyed looking at the penguins and meerkats and the tour was also fun – Mitchell S



## White Card Course

Our Vocational Education students were getting industry ready with their White Card at TAFE Illawarra Yass last week. Ralf Hansson, Ian Munn and industry specialist Scott Mazachelli presented the brand new course to work safely in the construction industry during a full day course designed to produce safe, responsible, confident and competent workers.

Local employers appreciate the industry training opportunities given to students at Yass High School Community Trade Skills Centre. The pool of workers serves a vibrant growing industry in the Yass Valley.

An increased number of students are completing their white card this year in preparation for the Entertainment course which will be running for the first time at Yass High School in 2018. This course will support the active arts and entertainment industry in the Yass Valley.

Our school has a proud reputation in Primary Industries, Construction, Metal and Engineering, Information and Digital Media Technology, Hospitality and Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways.





## UC4 Yourself Experience

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November, 18 Year 10 students travelled to Canberra University to experience what Uni is like.

They were greeted by their Aspirations Leaders and listened to some guest speakers who gave them some great insights into how they combined study, work and play to succeed, and get to do what they set out to achieve.

The first session was with the Uni Health Faculty. Students were able to organise real human bones to make an accurate skeleton, view and touch a real human brain, and see a dissection of a real human torso, some were much keener than others to participate in this session!



Then they went on a scavenger hunt to familiarise themselves with the Uni campus, lunch in the Uni concourse, having a good look around the subjects and courses on offer at the Uni Expo and lastly a look around the various, and sometimes luxurious types of University accommodation available if they lived on campus.

The whole day was interesting and very informative, giving students options and pathways to success for the future.





## What's Happening in Textiles?

Year 8 have been extending their skills this term and have experimented with ice dying and indigo dying to create some spectacular shorts. The colours are incredibly bright and varied and there are no items like their garments as they are all unique. Congratulations to all the students who put in a lot of hard work to dye, cut and sew to complete their shorts.





## When Work Placement Works Well!

“Butt Livestock & Property were very fortunate to be approached by Jason and his year adviser Teresa Baines to be part of a workplace program with Yass High School, earlier this year.

The program has allowed Jason to pursue workplace practical experience and develop his skills, knowledge and understanding in the Agricultural sector. It has also provided him with a greater acceptance and understanding of the importance of school and education.

Jason works Wednesdays at the SELX, taking delivery, counting, drafting and penning of sheep and lambs. He records the sale and then completes deliveries of these to the buyers and processors. Sale days are busy and require a lot concentration, recording, and effective oral and written communication. Jason works within our team but also with 11 other Livestock Agencies and has shown that he is a very capable and valued member.

Over the last 12 months we have been able to see the benefit that this has provided Jason and enjoy the personal satisfaction in watching his commitment to school and workplace skills improve.

We are very much looking forward to having Jason as part of our team again next year as he enters Year 10, but also what the future may hold for him after school.”

- Phill & Sally Butt, Butt Livestock & Property





## Connect/Peer support

On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 98 year 9 students walked down to the Yass Memorial Hall to participate in leadership training for the two days. They broke into groups of 14 and teachers led them through activities that helped them identify leadership qualities and how they would help Year 7s next year in the Connect - Peer support programme that is run in the first term.



There were reflective activities, group games and lots of challenging situations as well as delicious food. Thanks to all the teachers and staff who helped make the day a success and all the Year 9s who elected to become peer support leaders.





## Fortnightly Focus

This fortnight we will be looking at working with percentages and interpreting the meaning of a phrase and inferring meaning from a clause. Thanks Rachel and Jack for displaying the focus areas this fortnight.



## Y Tally

Congratulations to the following students for displaying the school values and receiving the most Y's this year. Don't forget to pick up your canteen vouchers!

Year 7 – Maddison Leahy (167)

Year 8 – Samantha Pascoe (154)

Year 9 – Tiernan Roberts (138)

Year 10 – Makayla Cameron (148)

Year 11 – David Alexander (177)

Over the whole year 70,166 Ys have been awarded to students for displaying the school values. Well done everyone!!!

## Mental Health Is Nothing To Be Ashamed Of.

If you need help please don't be afraid to look up or call one of these helplines. They're confidential which means they don't tell anyone else anything unless you're in trouble. Please don't keep these things to yourself. Tell someone you can trust and get the help you need.



**Lifeline** - is a suicide prevention line that you can contact if you or someone you know is struggling with suicide or self harm.



**Beyond Blue** - Phone: 1300 22 4636

Email: <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

Beyond Blue is a mental health organisation but they can also help make people aware of bullying and the effects of chronic illness on mental health.



**Headspace** -

Email:

<https://www.headspace.org.au/young-people>

/ Headspace is the National Youth Mental Health Foundation and tries to get in early and help teenagers and young adults in an attempt to make people aware of mental illnesses and assist them when they can.



**Kids Helpline** - Phone: 1800 55 1800

Email: <https://kidshelpline.com.au/teens/>

Kids Helpline is a website and foundation designed to assist and support teenagers with mental health needs.





YOU ARE INVITED TO A

# CHRISTMAS *Celebration*

YASS COMMUNITY CAROLS  
**SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2017**  
VICTORIA PARK YASS

ACTIVITIES START 5PM

FACE PAINTING | JUMPING CASTLE  
KIDS GAMES | ICE CREAMS  
BBQ | SIX8 COFFEE | JUICIE LUCIE

CAROLS START 6PM

For more information and  
the latest updates visit  
[facebook.com/yasscommunitycarols](https://www.facebook.com/yasscommunitycarols).

Combined Churches of Yass  
Supporting the Yass Valley Community



## Coming Events

Date	Event
Tue 5 Dec	Orientation Day – Year 7, 2018
Thu 7 Dec	Rewards Excursion
Tue 12 Dec	Scripture – Levi McGrath concert 10:00am, 11:30am
Wed 13 Dec	Celebration Assemblies Year 7 11:30 Year 8 9:15 Year 9 10:10 Year 10 12:30
Thu 14 Dec	Presentation Evening
Thu 14 Dec	HSC Results released
Fri 15 Dec	ATAR scores released
Fri 15 Dec	Last day of school
Mon 29 Jan 2018	School Development Day – Staff Only
Tue 30 Jan	Years 7, 11, 12 and new students return
Wed 31 Jan	Years 8, 9 and 10 return
<u><a href="#">Click on the school website for the online calendar</a></u>	
<u>Remember assessment tasks dates due are available on school website assessment calendars</u>	

**Have a safe holiday break, see you in 2018!**