



# YASS HIGH SCHOOL

We value respect, responsibility, safety and learning.

Principal: Sandra Hiscock

Deputy Principal: Louise Pinson

## From the Principal

The Binit Binit (wise owl) learning community, principals and teachers from all local schools, met last week to set the direction with three focus groups for our joint learning projects for 2017.

The Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) group is looking at coordinating a number of performances including a combined concert in Education Week; the Middle School group will focus on transition programs for years 5, 6, 7 and 8; and a joint Literacy project will run as a significant part of the 6 to 7 transition program. Primary schools will look at how they can access high school facilities in term 4 each year, helping high school teachers better plot student learning data to maximise and support learning into year 7. The Gifted and Talent team have 6 major projects in mind to better cater for the diversity of our gifted students, including elite sporting sessions, a writers camp and a maths olympiad. With the local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG,) principals are also planning a combined NAIDOC event that includes cultural activities, music, dance and health promotion.

Our local IGA has generously proposed to sponsor a Stephanie Alexander garden at the school, including teacher training. Further information on this to follow.



## From the Deputy

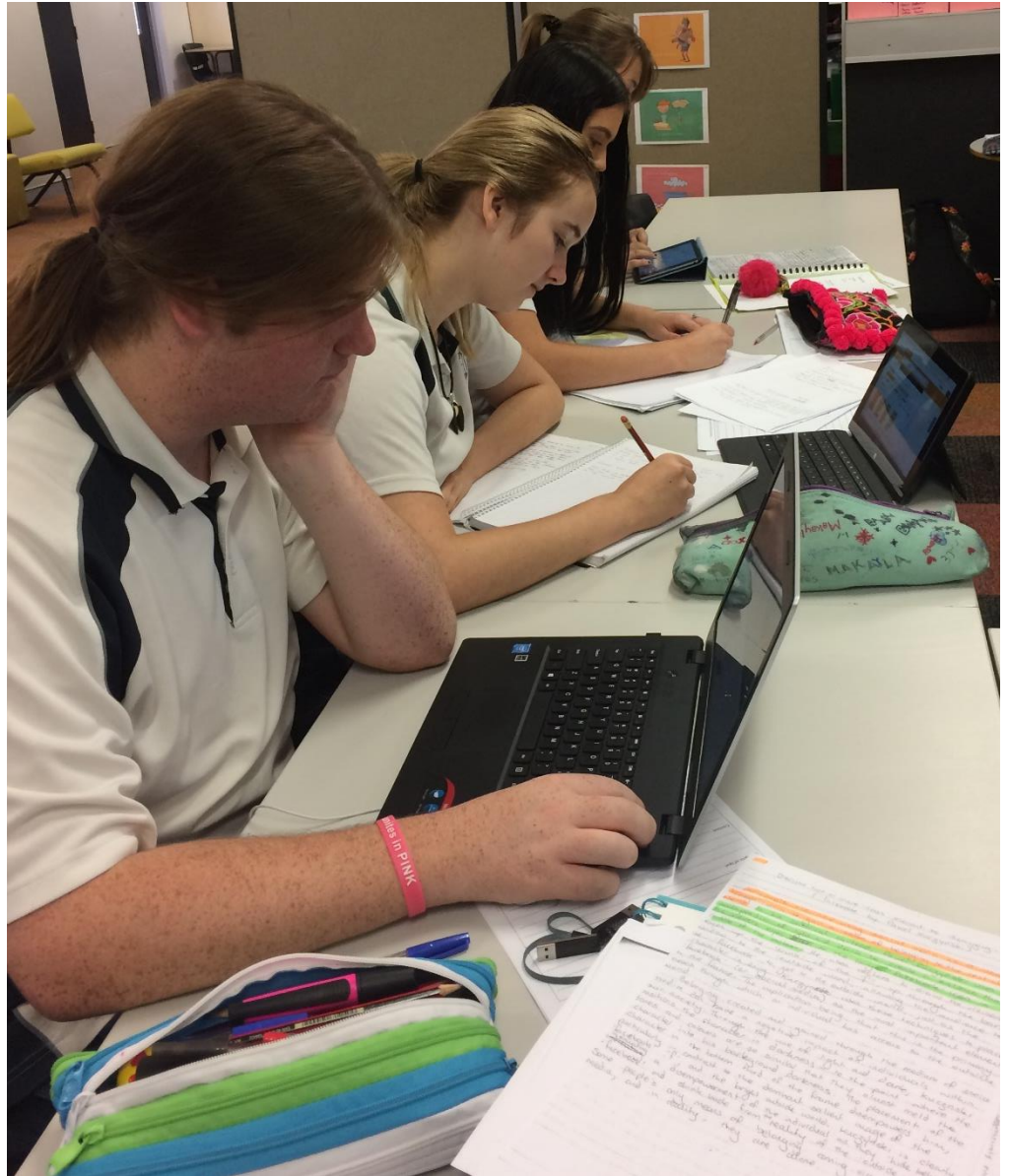
Students are learning a lot about themselves in Wellbeing lessons across the school.

As I often remind students, you can control nobody's actions but your own so it's important that you understand what your own strengths are and also those areas that need developing.

One common area for development in many of us is self-discipline. We like to do what we want when we want to but sometimes this is not compatible with the main focus of schooling: to learn.

Some students find it hard to be self-disciplined about phone usage. At Yass High School, our expectation is that phones are 'off and away' in the classroom or learning space. Here are some suggestions which may help with the temptation to have a phone out:

- Turn your phone right off on your way to period 1. That way you won't be distracted by vibrations.
- Ask your parents to contact the school on 62261711 if they have a message for you during the day.
- Tell family and friends you will only be checking messages at break time.
- Leave your phone with me or at the Front Office and pick up at lunch time, or the end of the day.
- Try leaving your phone at home and seeing what life is like beyond the screen!



## Captain's Corner

Hey guys, we're halfway through the 1st term of 2017, only 5 more weeks to go! Thank you to all the students who attended O Day in the quad last week. We hope you are all attending and enjoying the clubs you signed up for, especially those who signed up for SRC. We also hope to see you at our meetings at Monday lunchtimes in F2.

Teacher of the week is a little different this week, instead of selecting a teacher we have chosen the school's general assistant Mr Wilkinson for his hard work around the school, as well as the time he put in through the holidays. The school is kept looking great thanks to his dedication, and he always does a great job keeping the school in working order even when mishaps occur.

Thanks for your wonderful work, Mr Wilkinson.



Joke of the week:

Q: What happened to the banana that got burnt?

A: He peeled.

Remember, SRC meets in F4 every Monday lunchtime. Come along and help make a positive difference to your school.

## R.A.G. Holmes Music Scholarship

Congratulations to students Grace Mather, Annabelle Hansson and Jonah Smith on winning the RAG Holmes music scholarships for 2017. Zach Johnson, who is completing his HSC through Distance Education, is also a recipient of this cash prize. The scholarships will be used to support the students as they strive for excellence in music, and they also have tickets to every Yass Music Club concert for 2017. They were presented with their



scholarships at the Yass Music Club concert featuring singer David Hobbs on Saturday night, and the students had the opportunity to discuss their music with him after the concert.

As part of their scholarship, all scholarship winners will perform in their own concert later in the year.



## ISTEM

Over the past few weeks at school, students in the year nine ISTEM class have been learning about the fundamental principles of STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. This includes regular challenges requiring students to design and construct a product from a given set of materials to specific constraints.

The class performed very well in the most recent watercraft challenge with all groups achieving success.



## Numeracy and Literacy - NALE

The numeracy and literacy experience (NALE) at YHS has taken off this year as we strive to improve all our results over every year of schooling. To do that we are making sure we have a literacy and numeracy focus across the whole school, consistent in every faculty and year group, that changes every 2 weeks.

Deputy Principal Louise Pinson has done a fantastic job reminding staff and students of the focus areas through the daily notices, and she has been brushing up on her mathematical skills at the same time.

Next fortnight (starting with Monday Week A), students and teachers will be covering how to synthesise information to identify a theme for literacy, and will develop their addition and subtraction techniques in all areas.

The mathematics faculty has visited different staff rooms across YHS to demonstrate how students work out their answers – it can be different from when teachers and parents were students.

Parents and carers could reinforce this at home by having students work out how much change is required when grocery shopping, or talk about the themes in a television show together.



Thanks Brianna and Ben for showing our focus areas this week.

## Illawarra South East Performing

On Friday 17 – Sunday 19 February the Illawarra South East Performing Ensemble held their repertoire camp where the students in the ensemble learnt the repertoire for this year's tour program. Corinne Green was selected for this prestigious ensemble and travelled to Wollongong for the camp.



The students had to work extremely hard and also had to work together in order to put together a one hour show in three days ready for taking on tour to schools throughout NSW in 2017. The band members needed to learn over 16 band charts, the dancers to 8 pieces of choreography and the vocalists 8-10 pieces of music.

The students were required to spend the 3 days in constant rehearsal from 7am – 9pm with very little down time. This enabled the students to put on a 1 hour show for the parents on Sunday afternoon. The team of dedicated teachers who worked with the students throughout the 3 days all remarked on the success of the camp and the parents who attended the Sunday afternoon parent concert were all blown away by how much the students had learnt and the level of professionalism of the group even in this short amount of time.

Every student involved in the ensemble demonstrated outstanding commitment, teamwork and dedication to mastering their required parts. Their behaviour and attitude throughout the three days was exemplary and every student was a pleasure to have on camp. All the ensemble teachers were extremely proud of each and every ensemble member.

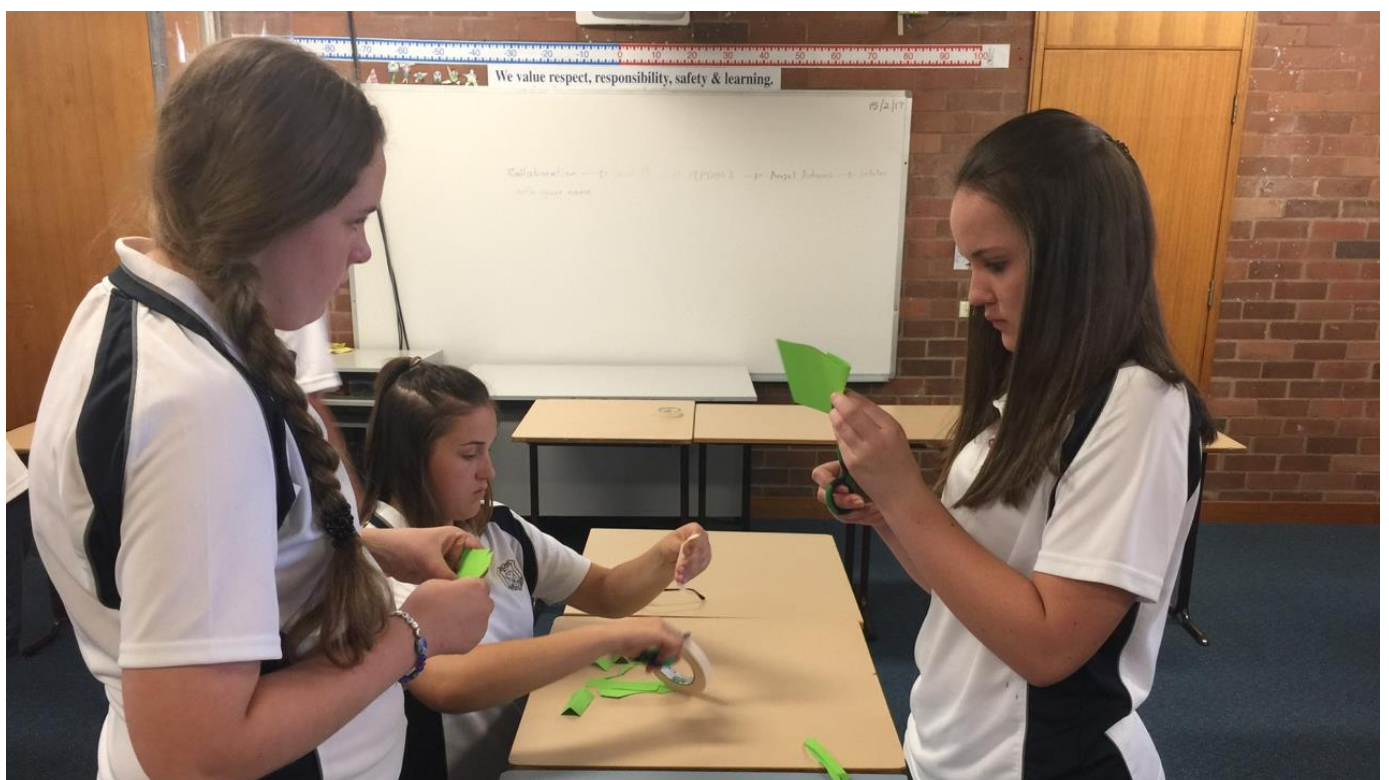
Well done, Corinne. We look forward to the tour later in the year.

## Questacon Smart Skills Visit

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> of February, Questacon visited Yass High School to present their new workshop, Smart Skills, to groups of students from years 7, 8, 9 and 10. Students were given a creative challenge to build a device from paper, foil and tape that would stay aloft in a wind tunnel for more than 15 seconds. Using a process called “protostorming”, a combination of prototyping and brainstorming, the students were given 10 minutes to come up with 50 designs. Yass students proved to have superior skills at this producing more than 80 designs in the given time.



The next challenge was group based and involved getting their designs to do specific things in the wind tunnel including hovering, spinning around or flying out of the top of the wind tunnel. Using the knowledge from the protostorming, Yass students were able to come up with a number of interesting and innovative designs that astonished the Questacon presenters.





## Clubs and Groups at YHS

There are so many groups and clubs to be involved in at YHS, we have made a table so you can keep track. Thanks to Mr Anderson and the SRC for running “O” Day for students to sign up to the different activities. Here is a brief idea of what’s on offer – and there may be more next term!

Group	Teacher	Where
Brekky Club	Jenny Rajchert organises for breakfast to be available every day. In the hotter months, there is cereal, fruit and juice, in winter, toast and milo are added to the menu.	Every day before school in the library
SRC	Scott Anderson runs the SRC which is open to everyone who would like to contribute to the student voice at YHS	Monday lunch in F2
Art Club	Our art teachers, Amanda Moss and Amy Watson, run art club which is an opportunity for students to work on their own art practice or to complete class work in an art-friendly environment.	Friday lunch in Art 1
Sing!	Ruth Riach runs the vocal group where students learn songs for different events over the year. First up is the School Spectacular audition, with other concerts and festivals booked in already over the year.	Thursday lunch in the music room
English Club	Rebecca Dymond runs the English Club. The club is self-directed, and students generate the activity based on their own interests. These range from watching and discussing TV shows and movies, book clubs and even looking at how different languages can influence English.	Tuesday lunch in IL1
Band	David Greenwood is the mastermind behind the YHS Concert Band. Come along if you play a wind instrument, or would like to learn one – there are many opportunities over the year to extend your musicality and perform in the community.	Wednesday 3:30 – 4:30 in the music room
Anime Club	The Anime Club is coordinated by Renee Gerken and Kayla Gasperski and gives students an opportunity to immerse themselves in anime culture through graphic novels, film, animations and their own works.	Wednesday in R7 & Thursday in F4 weeks A & B, Tuesday B in IL4

Social Justice Group	Do you want to make a change in the world? Join Emma McQueen, Kate Vale, Brendan Roberts and Annette Halley-Barberis to contribute to real world change across the globe.	Friday lunch in IL1
STEM Club	Ali Unal is running STEM Club, a chance for those students who are interested in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths combination to develop their problem-solving skills outside of the classroom.	Monday B lunch in F1
Maths Olympiad	Ali Unal is also running the Maths Olympiad, hoping to build on the phenomenal results from 2016.	Tuesday B lunch in F4
Drama Club	Sanae Panton runs Drama Club, encouraging students to developing their play-building skills through games and activities to improve their group work and improvisation abilities.	Thursday lunch in PA1
Chess Club	Tim O'Reilly organises Chess Club, developing students' skills and strategies in the game of chess. Opportunities to compete against other schools are available over the year.	Friday lunch in F3
AUSLAN Group	Kristy Serafin facilitates the AUSLAN Group with assistance from Amy Clifford. Students learn to communicate through the language of AUSLAN, and are supported through various events over the year where their skills are showcased.	Thursday (beginners), and Friday (continuers) during Reading from Term 2

## Y Tally:

Well done to:

Year 7 Mary-Lara Oakey - 21

Year 8 Bridgette Edwards, Heath Buffington and Jorja Rawson - 15

Year 9 Tiernan Roberts - 21

Year 10 Wayna Cuevas - 23

Year 11 Gemma Lees - 23

Year 12 Samantha Bumbar and Charissa Cresswell - 23

for having the most Ys in the last fortnight. If you are named here, bring your copy of InTouch to the Front Office for a \$5 canteen voucher before the next InTouch is published.

## Parking and picking up in the afternoon

A reminder to parents and carers to park only in the designated spaces on the left hand side of the exit road in the afternoon. Bus drivers have advised us that cars parked closer to the school are making it difficult for buses to turn. There is also some parking on the right hand side of the exit road.

Parents and carers are reminded not to pick up students anywhere on the entrance road as buses require this area to be free from parked cars.

Students must cross only at the crossings to access cars on either side of the exit road.

If parents/carers find the front of the school too busy in the afternoon, you can organise to collect students at Victoria Park or the pool carpark. Both of these areas can be accessed without crossing roads. Students should not walk through the staff carpark if choosing this alternative pick up spot.

Thank you for your assistance with keeping all our students safe.



**YASS RAMS RUGBY CLUB**  
EST. 1878

**RUGBY WANTS YOU!**

Calling all players turning 13 or 14 in 2017, the Yass Junior Rugby Club is looking for you!

Any players interested please contact Josh Leighton at [joshleighton@gmail.com](mailto:joshleighton@gmail.com)

## Coming Events

Date	Event
Mon 27 Feb – Wed 1 Mar	Jindabyne Camp – Year 10
Fri 3 Mar	Zone Golf – Goulburn/Yass
Fri 3 Mar	Art Express Excursion
Mon 6 Mar	P & C AGM 7:30 pm YHS Common Room
Wed 8 Mar	Zone Rugby League Trials – Moss Vale
Wed 8 – Fri 10 Mar	Blue Mountains Excursion – Year 8
Fri 10 Mar	Zone Hockey - Goulburn
Mon 13 Mar	Zone Touch Football - Crookwell
Thu 16 Mar	Zone Netball - Bowral
Thu 16 Mar	Work Placement Work Ready Day
Fri 17 Mar	National Day of Action Against Bullying
Mon 20 Mar	Scripture
Mon 20 Mar	Parent Teacher Evening 4 -7pm
Tue 21 Mar	Harmony Day
Wed 22 Mar	Integrated NMA Excursion – Year 9
<a href="#">Click on the school website for the online calendar</a>	
<a href="#">Remember assessment tasks dates due are available on school website assessment calendars</a>	