



# YASS HIGH SCHOOL

We value respect, responsibility, safety and learning.

Principal: Sandra Hiscock

Deputy Principal: Louise Pinson

## From the Principal

This time of year is important for our Year 10 and Year 8 students who are going through the process of choosing their subjects for the next two years. Subject selection needs to be a thoughtful balance between 1. what students enjoy and are interested in; 2. what might best keep their options open for future careers and further study; and 3. what best suits their aptitudes – the things they are able to do well. The school puts a lot of effort into offering as much choice as possible as well as trying to optimise individual student choice. Fiona Wykes and myself will be interviewing Year 10 over the next two weeks and parents are most welcome to join in. Year 8 Subject Selection Evening is 29th August.

It is also time to choose our student leadership team for the coming twelve months. The process will begin this week when some Year 11 students will nominate for captaincy positions. They will then go through interviews with a panel, present themselves to the school on assembly then endure the formal ballot vetted by an impartial scrutineer. The successful captains go on to lead the student body, become role models for younger students and represent the school at functions and in the community.

Well done to our Community classes for their organisation of the Can Assist Fundraiser, Pyjama Day. Congratulations to Kaitlin Luff and her younger sister who donated their hair to make wigs for cancer patients.



August 11 2017

## From the Deputy

Developing Resilience: Recently, students in Years 10-12 were privileged to have the opportunity to listen to Kate Fitzsimons who spoke to them about how her life changed when her sister was killed in a motorbike accident in Bali. Rather than pursue a career in the corporate world, she made it her mission to tell young Australians about how to ensure they were safe when travelling abroad. Kate explained how she moved on from her grief to find a new meaning in her life.

Kate was inspired by Victor Frankl, who endured years in a German concentration camp during the Second World War. He explained '*Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way*'.

Some of her messages may be helpful for students who find themselves coping with difficult or worrying situations:

- Often, you cannot change the circumstances but you can change the way you think about them
- It is thoughts that create feelings, not circumstances
- Let go of the things you cannot change
- Choose thoughts which are positive and help you develop into a better person
- Your brain is like a muscle – use it often to think positively and it will get easier
- Commit to look for the good
- You can't build resilience from a place of resistance

Students are encouraged to reflect on Kate's words and their relevance to their own experiences. She is a great supporter of the growth mindset. Don't think 'I can't do this' but think, 'I can't do this **yet**'. There is always someone at Yass High to support you.



## Captain's Corner

Today's the day that captain nomination forms were due, and we want to wish the best of luck to all of the Year 11 students who have put their name down to take on the role.



Last Friday was a big day for all the students involved in education week. 11 schools from around Yass and the wider community came together forming the Binit Binit Learning Community, the night consisted of singing, dancing and acting. Yass High School was the proud host of the night and we thank everyone who helped the night run smoothly.

Pyjama Day was also held on Friday, thank you to everyone who wore their pyjamas and donated to the CanAssist foundation.

Teacher of the week goes to Jacquie Hansson and Ruth Riach!

These two amazing teachers put in so much work over the past few weeks putting together the Binit Binit night as well as all the work they do outside school hours for students in their classes.



## JOKE OF THE WEEK

Q: Why do cows have hooves instead of feet?

A: Because they lactose.

## STEM@YHS

STEM, or science, technology, engineering and mathematics, refers collectively to a broad field of distinct and complementary approaches to knowledge. Each has a critical role to play in its own right, but also enables discovery and progress in other fields.

Year 7 students took a new step in their learning of coding last week, when they were introduced to the new mBot – a smaller Arduino device using wireless technology for programming. Students were required to write the scripts to make the robot move and beep on their command. All students were very engaged and had lots of fun with a final all in Robot War!



## Young ICT Explorer's Challenge

For the first time in our history, Yass High School was represented at the Young ICT Explorer's Challenge. This is a nationwide event seeking the best and most creative uses of technology by students. Often these students continue their projects into the future and eventually develop projects for the technology industry.

A team consisting of Millicent Duncan, Pierce Gourlay, Tiernan Roberts and Charlie Johnson travelled to the judging event at the University of New South Wales as one of the top ten teams in the state. The students presented their Minecraft Mod project to the judges which was very popular among other teams and had the judges very interested in their achievements.

Congratulations to Milli, Pierce, Tiernan and Charlie!



## Engineers Without Borders Workshop

ANU student demonstrators visited YHS to run two workshops with students from years 7 to 10. The challenge was to produce a water filter system that would deliver clean water from muddy water. The teams had 30 minutes to build the filter.

Each group was given a different country with a different budget to work within (ranging from \$22 to \$738). The instructions given were based on the literacy levels of the country, so some groups had less information to work with. They had to plan a filter system, then purchase equipment from a “shop”.



Affluent countries like Australia, had a large budget. Poorer countries such as Nepal, Samoa and Vietnam, had significantly less to spend. Of course, the price of each item was different in each country. The groups made, then tested their filter systems. They soon discovered the need for modification.

The Australian team was able to provide monetary aid to the developing countries. Each country team then demonstrated their filter to the whole group. The aim was to have fast-flowing filters that produced clean water. Resourcefulness proved to be more effective than wealth, with the better filter produced by the Nepal group.



## Yass High Has Lift Off

Yass High School is about to embark on its first mission to space this month. A group of students in Year 9 have created a scientific experiment to be uploaded and performed on the International Space Station. A key initiative in Yass High's new class ISTEM (Integrated Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics), the Design for Space module has proven a popular project enabling the students to participate in a real life space mission.

Partnering with Cuberider, students coded their Sagan control board using the python programming language. The board will take readings from a variety of sensors including temperature, time, luminosity, ultraviolet, magnetism, barometer, infrared, gyroscope and acceleration. Photos will also be taken using the camera. The aim of the experiment is to retrieve as much data as possible using every single sensor. The students hope to analyse the results to determine the effect on the International Space Station from a solar flare and any other unforeseen circumstances during Yass High School's fifteen minute window. Each student in the ISTEM class took charge of a particular sensor to ensure the code was functional and will take accurate measurements.

The Yass High School experiment is now in the testing phase with Cuberider and NASA, and will soon be loaded on the SpaceX CRS12 rocket for the August 15 launch.

"This was an amazing experience, and I learnt a lot!" – Amy Halley

"Excited for the next experiment!" – Harley Garside

"I think everyone should be doing ISTEM. It's awesome." – Charlie Johnson

"I can't wait to get the results; hopefully we can capture a solar flare." – Millicent Duncan



## Binit Binit Concert

Congratulations to all the students involved in the Binit Binit concert last Friday evening. It was lovely to see all the public schools in our area come together to celebrate Education Week 2017.





## Planetarium Visit

On Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> July Yass High School was visited by a mobile Planetarium. There was a large display of space memorabilia including a space suit, signed photographs, models of lunar landers, rockets, Mars rover, and Mars rock. There was also a large inflatable dome which took up much of the space in the hall. The first part of the presentation involved stories about the memorabilia and the history of the space race, with an emphasis on the Australian connections.

The second part of the presentation was where we crawled into the dome and sat on little chairs while an image of the night sky was projected onto the ceiling and they showed both the southern and northern hemisphere night sky and explained the differences.

Students said it was fun. It really inspired many of them to think about a future involving some aspect of astronomy and space.



## Regional Athletics

Last Friday YHS descended on the AIS track for Regional Athletics. We had lots of strong results, with Jacob Garner winning the 400m, and Lisa Johnson winning the discus and shotput to proceed to the CHS State Championships later in the year. Well done to all who competed, our school values were consistently on display on a cold and wet Canberra day.



## Science and Engineering Challenge

It was a very close contest at the end of point tallying in the Science and Engineering contest on Friday the 28th July, with Yass High coming second behind Goulburn High by only 11 points.



Students needed to use their knowledge of scientific and engineering concepts to develop solutions to a range of complex problems. The catapult activity had students building a catapult out of wooden dowel, twine and sticky tape. Grasping Straws had students designing and building a biomechanical hand out of PVC pipe, straws, string and sticky tape with the goal of picking up as many straws as possible.

At the halfway mark, Yass High was coming fifth overall, and we saw needed to buckle down on our efforts. During the second round of activities, Yass High gained significant points in the Flat Pack activity where students had to design a table and a chair out of paper and cardboard that can hold a certain amount of weight.

The Bridge activity had students build a railway bridge that needed to support a metal cart going across it while being as light as possible. Yass High created the second strongest bridge overall and gave us the points we needed to claw our way back to second place.

The Yass High Team is to be congratulated on their achievement and effort on the day. It was amazing to see students working so well in their teams and coming up with creative solutions to the problems given to them. Thank you to the Year 10 students who supported the Year 9's during their first challenge and for participating last year as well. And a thank you to the Year 9s for their passion and energy.



## CHS Gymnastics

Congratulations to Aimee Vitler, Samantha Roberts and Claire Howlett for successfully representing the South Coast Region at CHS State Gymnastics. Aimee was the State Champion in her division on the Floor, and finished 7<sup>th</sup> overall. Claire and Samantha were successful in the team event, winning the gold medal for the South Coast.



Thanks to Michelle Vitler who coaches all three girls, for her hard work, dedication and ongoing support of gymnastics in Yass and various sports at Yass High School.



## Bell Shakespeare Opportunity



Want to be one of the 40 students from Year 8 who will have the opportunity to participate in a Bell Shakespeare student masterclass? Over two hours, a Bell Shakespeare 'artist in role' will guide you through Shakespeare's world and his works with unique practical exercises.

### How do you get involved?

Collect a note from your English teacher in class or from Ms Nicholson in IL staffroom. Notes and money need to be returned to the front office by the 21 August.

Remember spaces are limited, so first in best dressed!



## Literacy and Numeracy Focus Areas

Thank you Jaxyn and Alexander for displaying the Focus Areas this fortnight.



## Y Tally

Congratulations to the following students for receiving the most Ys over the fortnight in their cohort. You can pick up your canteen voucher from the front office before the next edition of InTouch.

Year 7 Rachel Polsen

Year 8 Maeve Hughes

Year 9 Piper McPherson

Year 10 Zoe Foley-Guerin, Paris Hulme

Year 11 Ashleigh Butler, Amy Kelly

Year 12 Jack Randell, Ellaine Dickens

## 2017 National Collection of Disability Data

Every year schools are required to complete a disability data collection that includes a range of learning difficulties that require adjustments in the classroom or for assessment tasks. Our LAST staff are in the process of collating the data this month. The information collated is confidential and is also used by staff to ensure that individual student needs are met.

If you have any questions about the data collection, please contact Mrs Margaret Mironov on 62261711.



The Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment ( RYPEN) is designed for boys and girls aged between 14 and 17 years, who demonstrate the qualities of decency, courage, persistence, sincerity and application in everyday life, and deserve development.

RYPEN is an intensive program consisting of presentations, learning sessions, workshops and sport and entertainment activities. Participants learn from achievers in the worlds of business, sport and entertainment in an informal atmosphere, and participate in teamwork activities.

Students may not know anyone at the start of the weekend, but will definitely leave with new friends and contacts when RYPEN finishes on Sunday afternoon!

Participants are accommodated in dormitory style rooms, and meals are provided in a communal dining room. Special dietary requirements can be catered for by the camp chefs. There is no cost to attend and where possible, transport to and from the program will be arranged.

### INTERESTED?

Fill out a RYPEN application form and return to your Rotary Contact (below).

**An application is at the YHS front office.**

### WANT FURTHER INFORMATION?

Contact: Scott Bourke, Director Youth – New Generations, Rotary Club of Yass.

P: 0451 062 615

E: [rcyass@gmail.com](mailto:rcyass@gmail.com)

*"It was the **best** experience, I met great new people and had my eyes opened to things I have never thought about before. I wanted to thank everyone that put in effort and supported everyone me as well as everyone else who came. One day, I hope and will try to motivate young people like you did for me."*

Courtney – RYPEN Participant

## Coming Events

Date	Event
Wed 9 – Fri 18 Aug	HSC Trial Examinations
Wed 15 Aug	Cuberider launch to ISS
Wed 16 Aug	Captain Interviews
Wed 16 Aug	Academy of Interactive Entertainment Airstream
Thu 17 Aug	Year 10 Waste Management Excursion
Thu 24 Aug	Year 8 Bell Shakespeare Masterclass
Mon 28 – Tues 29 Aug	Year 10 VALID Testing
Mon 28 Aug	Years 7 & 8 Tech Mandatory Rotation 3 Begins
Tue 29 Aug	Year 8 into 9 Subject Selection Evening
Wed 30 Aug	Sculpture in the Paddock Gallery Excursion
Thu 31 Aug – Fri 1 Sep	Sculpture in the Paddock Workshop
Fri 8 Sep	Year 7 Vaccinations
Mon 11 Sep	Scripture
Mon 11 Sep	Preliminary End of Course Examinations Period Begins
Fri 15 Sep	Sculpture in the Paddock Opens
Mon 19 Sep	NAPLAN Online Year 7 and 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>	