



YASS HIGH SCHOOL

We value respect, responsibility, and honesty.

Principal: Linda Langton

Deputy Principals: Andrew Facer & Ruth Riach

From the Principal

2021 Year 12 Graduation

It was with great pride that we finally graduated our Year 12 cohort on Wednesday 8th December. The delayed date due to COVID caused a nervous wait while restrictions around gatherings were clarified. It was wonderful to be joined by our parents in the Hall for the last Graduation as the new Hall will be operational for this event in 2022.

This was the first group to move through both senior years in the midst of a pandemic...a situation that has changed the world at every level, forever. This imposed change has helped this group become effective users of technology and directors of their own learning. They have developed the ability to manage their time, set goals, determine an output and share their understandings with others; 21st century skills essential for the workforce of the future.

Thank you to parents and families for your support of your children as they completed the 13th year of their education. Thank you for working in a trusting partnership with the school as we prepared them for their HSC and life beyond school.





Thanks also are extended to the following people for making this evening such a memorable occasion:

- Year Advisers: Ms Panton and Mrs Wykes for their constant care, sage advice and unrelenting belief in each Year 12 student;
- Mr Facer for guiding their personal and academic development from children to young adults
- Ms Bills for her superb organisation of this event
- Mr Munn and his Entertainment students for the technical and stage set up
- Mrs Dunn for her preparation of awards
- Ms Wykes for the guidance and advice she has offered for life after school
- Every teacher who has known, cared for and valued each of these young people throughout their time at Yass High.

The highlight of the ceremony were the visible relationships that exist throughout the Yass High School community. As a school we are delighted that we were able to host a Graduation event for Year 12 that parents could attend in a year that has been characterised by change and uncertainty.

Thank you to our students, staff and parents for the support that you have given the school this year.

Mrs Linda Langton

Pink Day – Another Huge Success

On the 26th of November the community of Yass came together to raise much needed funds for the Yass branch of CanAssist and NBCF. The total amount we raised was just over \$7300! This would not have been possible without Ms Bills and the Community classes for organising the day and the local business houses for their generosity.

On behalf of the community classes we would like to thank Charlie Beck, Daniel Ginders, Jacinta Bramley, Shaylee Dunn, James Glassford, Imogen Bradley, Jordan Firth-Crisp and the Jones-Hope family for going above and beyond and donating a substantial amount of money.



We would also like to thank Yass Jewellers, Yass Country Kitchen, Kaffeine, Aussie Hotel Bistro, Country Charm, Merchant Campbell, Priceline Pharmacy, Millers Pharmacy, Bello Beauty, DJ's Butchery, Woolworths, Yass Valley Bakery, McDonald's Yass, Belle Mere, Firth's Furnishing, Comur House, Full Circle Serenity, Yass Bowling Club, Bargain Base and Sydney Thunder for kindly donating prizes for our raffle.

Also a special mention to Berinba and Yass Public, Robyn Phillips, Claire Howlett and Rachel Crane for their tremendous support in the community. Without everyone's help, Pink day would not have been possible.

Everyone should be very proud of the difference they have made in the lives of others through their generosity.

Thank you all so much.



Remembrance Day 2021

As part of this year's Remembrance Day commemorations the Community Studies classes and Year 11 Construction decided to join forces to create a LEST WE FORGET memorial to say thank you and to recognise the sacrifice our armed services have made for us. The Community and Construction students designed and made wooden letters to spell out the statement LEST WE FORGET which was to be used as part of the flag raising ceremony and minute's silence carried out on Remembrance Day. The Community students painstakingly cut out hundreds of red paper poppies which they then glued on the wooden letters. The end result proved to be a befitting tribute to all those who have served and continue to serve our wonderful country.

The respectful attitude with which all students carried out this task was inspiring and they are to be congratulated for everything they did to ensure the final product looked amazing.



2021 Aboriginal wrap up

2021 has been a rollercoaster! We had lots planned, but COVID had other ideas for us. Despite this, we still had a great year of celebrating Ngunnawal culture and country. 2022 looks set to be even better!

We started the year with Buddy and Dale from Gugan Gulwan and our Indigenous Woodwork Group. Gugan Gulwan continue to provide us with lots of support and we are so grateful to have partnered with them to provide opportunities for our students. One such event was the 'More Cultural Rehabs, Less Jails' talk some of our senior students attended in Canberra, where we heard Jeffery Amatto speak about his experiences. Our students found this candid talk very impactful.

A highlight of the year was the successful application of Year 10 student Rose Pearce-Collins being accepted into the Australian National University work experience program, to spend a week at the observatory at Tidbinbilla. Unfortunately this has been postponed until next year due to COVID. We look forward to hearing all about it from Rose after it finally goes ahead.

We were also very proud of Celia Chambers attending a Defence Youth Program, with the opportunity for lots of new skills and knowledge to be learnt.

Kurt Marshall pushed himself way out of his comfort zone to participate in a NSW National Parks program for indigenous students which saw him spend 5 days in and around Jindabyne being trained and mentored in Outdoor Education and Tour Guiding work.

In July we headed to Sydney to see the world famous Bangarra Dance Company performing at the Sydney Opera House. We also got to ride on trains, walk around Sydney, eat yummy food and check out the sights. We are looking forward to another trip next year, details TBA.

Sadly, COVID interrupted our NAIDOC Celebration Day and we had to postpone this to next year due to restrictions on visitors coming into school. However, we did run a very successful NAIDOC colouring competition, with entries from across the primary schools in the Yass Valley as well as our very talented high school students. Special guest judges Auntie Pam Bell and Mel McDonald had a very difficult task on their hands picking winners!

We were honoured to be joined by several Ngunnawal Elders, and lead by Mr. Scott Bell in a Closing the Gap walk around the Yass Gorge, where we learnt a lot about the history of Ngunnawal people, and life on the river. We hope to make this a regular event!

Our Indigenous Laptop Program continues, and students who need the use of a laptop for their studies in 2022 are encouraged to contact the school to enquire about this. If you are a student who currently has one of these laptops can you please return it the Library ASAP so that software updates can be done.

The Girls Yarning Circle ran for several months during the winter and provided a safe, culturally appropriate space for our young women to talk about issues that are on their mind. The Digeridoo Circle for the boys was also a place for cultural celebration, although it was another casualty of COVID.

Students were invited over the year to apply for academic camps, open days, scholarships and university taster events. Students and families are reminded to keep their eyes out for these as we send home notes and information next year. They are great fun and a good way to learn more about pathways after school.

We have a lot planned for 2022.....watch this space!



Mel McDonald – Our new SLSO

Students of the Fortnight

Connor Lyall (CAPA)



Excellent improvisation and
Performance in Drama

Floyd Cummings (HSIE)



Consistent application and
enthusiasm for learning. Outstanding
results in the final examination

William Mihaljevic (Science)



Outstanding achievement in Year
7 Science Semester 2 exam –
top result in Year

Luke Barlow 10 (English)



Outstanding achievement in
English throughout 2021

Sophie Bramley 9 (Maths)



Always positive and shows
excellent perseverance in class

Captains Corner

Already in our first few weeks of leadership, the SRC has been engaging in Remembrance Day, Pink Day, Year 6 Orientation Day, and the preparation for the junior celebration assemblies. For Remembrance Day the YHS leadership team wrote a thank you letter to the surviving war veterans to acknowledge the freedoms they fought for so that we can now enjoy today.

Of late we have become aware of an increase in vandalism around the school. Some of these offences have occurred in the bathrooms. As the leaders of Yass High, we would like to see our fellow students taking care of school equipment through respectful, responsible and honest behaviour. We urge you all to think of the other students using the bathrooms and school property and use it thoughtfully.

We also have concern for the health of the small number of students who may be choosing to vape. It is an unhealthy habit not only for those vaping but also for those who are innocently exposed to the fumes. We would like you to think of your own health and the health of others in regard to this. Please respect our school environment by acting responsibly and being honest about your actions.

Our Donations

Old Yass High school uniforms donated to the School for the Deaf in Dili, East Timor.

When the decision was made several years ago to transition to a new school uniform we found ourselves with a large number of redundant shirts. These shirts were no longer part of our uniform, and would not be suitable for sale in an op shop or second-hand clothes store. According to the ABC almost 305,000 tonnes of textiles were discarded in NSW last year, and only 800 tonnes were recycled. About 240,000 tonnes were sent to landfill. We thought it would be very wasteful for these shirts, some of which were brand new, to end up buried in the Jugiong landfill.

A plan was hatched, with the help of Rotary and DFAT the shirts have made their way to the School for the Deaf in Dili, East Timor. Badges with the deaf school's logo were printed, and will be sewn over the Yass High logos.

The shirts took quite some time to arrive at their new home, because along with the disruptions caused by COVID, East Timor was hit by devastating floods earlier this year with loss of life and significant damage to farms and infrastructure.

The images here show the shirts being presented to and gratefully received by the school.



Year 7 2021

We have made it to the end of the year. Well done to all the students in Year 7, on getting here, and for all your achievements. You have done your last assessments, had the awards assembly and we are into our final week of activities.

I would like to recognise, what we didn't give certificates for: the personal, physical and emotional growth everyone has achieved this year.

When I think back to the first days and weeks with this cohort, it seems much longer than a year. Initially, timid, shy and quiet, they certainly found their voices. They are a great bunch of students. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know them, and I feel privileged to be able to support them to figure out who they are, and to help them achieve their goals. There are mixed emotions as we approach the final day of the school year - as you can see by the photos. Some students are limping over the finish line, absolutely exhausted. While others, are jumping about, full of beans!



A huge thank you to all the wonderful parents who worked so very hard to support your children this year, especially during lockdown! Getting these kids to adulthood “with brains in their heads and feet in their shoes” (Dr Seuss), ready to conquer their dreams is a team effort. Sometimes it might feel like your child doesn’t see or appreciate the effort you put in. But I have. And they will, one day. Thank you.

Year 7, thank you for a great year, have a restful and peaceful break. Be kind to yourself and to the people around you. Read your school reports carefully. They will help you to know where you can improve. Come back ready to do all again and more next year for Year 8 2022.



Year 8

It has been another tough year for our Year 8 students as they navigated through more Covid-19 related lockdowns and learning from home. Everyone did an amazing job to keep focused and resilient throughout that time. I am really proud of everyone and their efforts.

Some notable achievements from our group were some of our awesome athletes. Makayla Langfield, Bodie Doyle, Denver Field, Patrick Koen, Addie Hinds, Alivia Kruger, Tobey Smith and Felicity Shannon all excelled in their chosen athletic pursuits with a few even going to represent the South Coast and NSW. We are a proud sporting school and community, and it is great that the future looks so bright in this area.

Not to be outdone, our academic students also shone this year. Isabella Frean, Tashi Phillips and Imogen Bradley all excelled and earned the Principal's Award of Academic Excellence for consistently achieving to the highest of standards. On top of this a further 7 students earned Principal's Awards of Excellence for achievement this semester alone with even more School Awards for those who excelled in a majority of subjects. Our academic future is also very bright and all students should be proud of their work in class.

Our Indigenous students have also been excelling as leaders in the community both at school and at home. I am looking forward to the amazing feats these students will achieve as we continue along the learning path here at school.

I want to say a heartfelt congratulations to all of Year 8 for all the hard work, friendship and amazingness in 2021. Enjoy the well-earned break before coming back in 2022 as Year 9 students. Stay safe and look after those who look after you!

2021 Pathways Program

This year at Yass High school we trialled a new and alternate program that has provided opportunities for a mixed group of Year 9 and 10 students to be exposed to and engage with the world of work and work experience. The program began as the Pathways class in 2021 and may be more widely known as the Pathways and School to Work Transition Class in 2022.

This program has been very successful for many of our students who engaged with a range of activities such as workshops with previous students of Yass High School employed in the community, visits to farm sites, and community businesses, and engagement with TAFE Programs. Most of the students embarked on work experience at least once a week and many of those students have gained either full-time or part-time employment as a result of these opportunities. Some of our students are already looking at School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships in 2022. All other students will attend regular work experience which will allow them to experience work one or two days a week and attend school 3 days to focus on targeted literacy and maths programs.

We already have students successfully enrolled in Certificate II and III in Agriculture thanks to the hard work of our Careers Adviser, Ms Wykes, who is heavily involved in the program. Students will also participate in their electives and a specialised COGS-based curriculum.

We have many students already newly enrolled in the 2022 program and we are excited for the many opportunities that will arise for these students in their work experiences.





Year 10

Year 10 was a big step up from Year 9. Our subjects started to prepare us for senior school by relating our studies to the HSC and our period of online learning developed us into independent learners.

We got to experience what it was like to be a leader through peer support and organising special events, making memories and bonding as a year group. Throughout it all, we have managed to push through and have successfully completed our last year of junior schooling.

This year has helped us to gain a new perspective of senior school and the responsibilities we will soon gain.

Year 10 was incredibly fun!



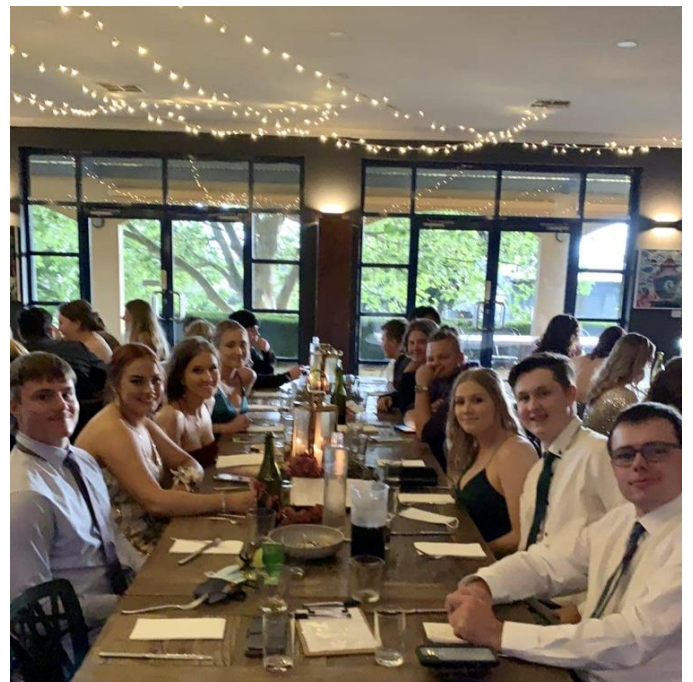
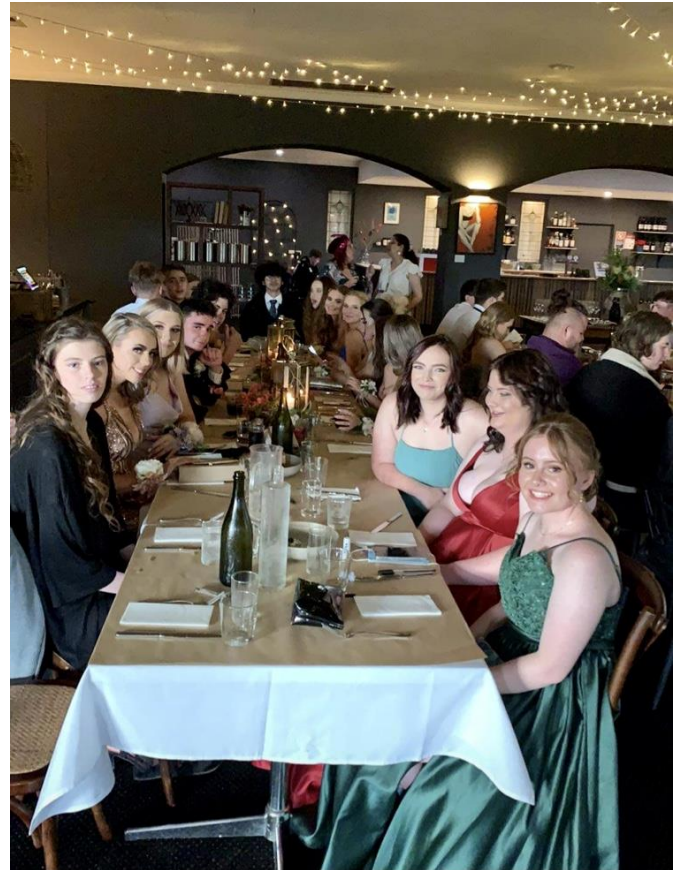
Year 12 Formal

Year 12 finally had their Formal at Olleyville Restaurant, Murrumbateman on the 9th December.

Everything actually went to plan! The rain held off so students could get photos by the Riverside and at the Court House. The restaurant was beautifully decorated by Ms Panton and the food was delicious. The speeches were hilarious and the photobooth a huge success.

Year 12 had a wonderful night to recognise their 13 years of schooling and transition into adult life.

Congratulations and wishing you all the very best, 😊 Ms Wykes



New Multipurpose Hall Update

Yass Valley Council have approved the DA for the construction of the new multipurpose School Hall (23/11/21). Joss Constructions have begun site establishment, demolition of the current basketball court area will begin in the new year. The new hall will contain a basketball court, stage and storage; along with new staff and student amenities. It is anticipated once staff and students return to school in 2022 construction will have started.



The School will be working closely with the YHS P&C in 2022 to raise funds to allow for the current COLA structure to be rebuilt in an alternative location on the school grounds. If you wished to contribute funds, materials or labour, to this project please contact the school or the P&C to further discuss.



We are looking forward to both of these projects, especially the new hall, being completed. Further information regarding the new hall can be found at: www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au

Thank You

Yass High School, together with **Southern Region BEC**, would like to express our gratitude to the following local businesses that have supported our students who took part in the **Work Placement Program in 2021**:

Yass & surrounds

Cafe Dolcetto
Country 2 City Metal Roofing
David Cleary Electrical Pty Ltd
DPS Yass Pty Ltd
ET & JA Gruber Fencing
James Alley Building and Carpentry
Kaffeine 2582
Murrumbateman Veterinary Hospital
Six 8 Coffee Roasters at Trader & Co
Statement Landscapes
Thyme to Taste
Yass Valley Aged Care - Horton House
Yass Veterinary Hospital



Look out for this window sticker and be sure to support the local businesses who are supporting our students!

The coordination of the Work Placement Program 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

2022 GERRIC Student Programs

January Online Learning

12-14 Jan 9:00am - 3:00pm Online

Interested in supporting students?

Join us. Limited spaces remaining, follow the QR code for more information and to register urgently



Dear parents/carers,

We are excited to confirm that GERRIC Student Programs will be running online from 12-14 January 2022.

Registrations are now open for both our junior and secondary programs.

Please visit our website [here](#) to secure your ticket now.

Feel free to get in touch with any further questions. We look forward to seeing you online soon.

Best regards,

UNSW Professional Learning Team

Six workshops confirmed for our junior programs

Junior Scientia workshops Year 3-4

- How to Talk so People will Listen with Megan Dredge
- Games People Play with Timothy Huang
- Think Like a Leader! Philosophy, Ethics and Diplomacy with Lucy Birts

Junior Scientia workshops Year 5-6

- Speed Maths for the Creative Mind with James Lau
- Smell, Hear, Touch, Taste, See, Imagine: The Art of Creative Writing with Madeleine Boyle
- Debating and public speaking skills with Patrick Fisher

Tickets at: https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/2022-gerric-student-programs-tickets-207681289327?aff=odeimcmailchimp&mc_cid=8e662f8490&mc_eid=91d13f6793

TAFE/VET?

UNIVERSITY?

GAP YEAR?

EMPLOYMENT?

APPRENTICESHIP?

**HOW WILL I
AFFORD IT?**



WHO CAN I TALK TO?

HOW WILL I AFFORD IT?

WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

MAKE IT ~~IMPOSSIBLE~~

RURAL & REGIONAL INSPIRATION HUB



**Exams done? Gap year or a few gap years complete?
Looking to join the workforce?**

When thinking about taking on further study, there are so many things to consider! This can be especially true when you are from a rural or regional area.

Don't worry we've got you covered!

The **Make it Possible** online hub is designed to inspire and assist rural and regional students. Here you will find all the info, links and advice in one place to make it possible.

**For inspiration, help
and advice visit
www.cef.org.au/make-it-possible**



Proudly
supported by



Let's 'Yarn' about Support After Suicide

13-17 December 2021

All community members and service providers are invited to a 'meet and greet' to explore the post suicide support available in the region and hear from those with a lived experience of suicide bereavement.

Refreshments and networking opportunities included.

Thirrili Indigenous Suicide Postvention Service & StandBy Support After Suicide work together to support all those bereaved or impacted by suicide across Australia.

Thirrili Indigenous Suicide Postvention Service
1800 805 801
www.thirrili.com.au

StandBy Support After Suicide
1300 727 247
www.standbysupport.com.au

Multiple locations:

- Wollongong
- Nowra
- Batemans Bay
- Narooma
- Bega
- Eden
- Cooma
- Queanbeyan
- Yass
- Goulburn

For more details on venues, dates and times:
sensw.eventbrite.com.au



THIRRILI

Proudly supported by the
National Indigenous Australians Agency



StandBy - an initiative funded by the Australian Government
Post Suicide Support - an initiative funded by the NSW Government



We acknowledge the traditional Custodians of the land on which we operate, and pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.
Our organisation is a place where human rights are respected and people of diverse genders and sexual orientation are welcomed and supported.