Issue 13  "Learning is our priority"  31st October 2014

50 Years Celebrations
What a great weekend we had last weekend with our 50 Years Celebrations! So much time and effort went into all of the activities and I thank everyone who played a part in making the school look even better, organising events, conducting events, providing food for the morning tea, entertaining at functions, collecting all of the money involved and coordinating bookings – the list goes on. It was a huge team effort and I thank everyone for their contributions.

The students were joined by past students, staff, Scone Public School students and staff, and community members for the commemorative walk from Scone Public School on Friday morning. We thank Howards Bus Company from Murrurundi (the first bus company to bring students to our school) for their sponsorship enabling our students to get to Scone Public School and Scone Public School students to return after the walk. A special thank you is extended to Mr Greg Jopson and Mr Ron Shields, both ex teachers of our school, who volunteered to drive the buses for no payment.

Thank you to all those community members and students from other schools who lined the streets and cheered us on as we made history of a different kind. The walk would not have been possible without the support of the Upper Hunter Shire Council, especially Geoff Bush, also an ex student of our school, the SES and the local police and highway patrol who ensured our safe passage back to school. Can you believe that Geoff even managed to stop the trains so that we could walk uninterrupted?
Upon arrival back at school, the school captains, Tom Darlington and Hollie Collison, helped me plant a time capsule. It has been placed in the care of the local Historical Society to be opened perhaps in 25 years time.

Our students moved to the back oval to see Mr Hill and Amelia Meier being raised into the air on a cherry picker to take a photo of all students and staff at the school currently in the shape of the number 50.
Thank you to all the parents and staff who provided an amazing array of food for the P & C to put on an outstanding morning tea in the Library for the community. At that morning tea, our youngest student Chloe Russell of Year 7 and the oldest ex member of staff in attendance over the weekend, Mrs Audrey Temple (nee Wynn) cut a celebration cake which many students got to taste.

Chloe Russell and Mrs Audrey Temple (nee Wynn)

The school was open for the remainder of the day and the SRC conducted tours on the half hour. They were kept very busy, and were well received by those who took the tours.

On Friday evening there was an official opening at a cocktail party in the Library. Mr Mark Young, Director of Schools, opened our celebrations and Sophie Dawson (Year 11) and Ebony Taylor (Year 10) joined ex student Aaron Rothmunde on flute. Ex student Thomas Smith also performed.

Aaron Rothmunde, Thomas Smith, Sophie Dawson and Ebony Taylor

On Saturday, the school was open and the SRC conducted tours. There was an afternoon tea for past and present staff members in the Library, along with an historical display. Many people spent hours revisiting their school days, reminiscing and comparing tales as they searched through the memorabilia on display. We thank Mrs Looby, Mrs Frost and Mrs Eather for the great display of past photos and items of interest.

Past principal Chris Hick, current principal Lindy Hunt and past principal Peter O’Neill

Saturday evening saw over 200 people meet at the Golf Club for the celebration dinner. Mrs Banks had put together what appeared to be hundreds of class photos from right across the 50 years of our school’s history and we thank her for that.

Past principal Peter O’Neill, current principal Lindy Hunt and past principal Mr Lance Coffey

On Sunday morning another 100 people came to brunch at the school. The Westpac Helicopter - Scone Support Group and the Rotary Club of Scone catered for the meal, and we thank them for providing that service.
Learning is our priority

A 50 Years Celebration DVD is being produced. If you would like to purchase one, you can ring the front office with credit card details, or call in to the school between 8.00 am and 4.00pm to pay for a copy. They are $10 each.

The school also has for sale 50 Years Celebration Travel Mugs. They can be purchased through the front office in the same manner as the DVDs.

I would especially like to thank the coordinating committee for all of their hard work over the last year to bring the weekend together. The feedback from those who attended has been really positive. It was a great thing to do for our school and community.

Study for the 2015 HSC has begun.
Year 11s have started their HSC studies this term. This is a very good time to remind them of the commitment they need to demonstrate in order to meet the challenges that this year brings. Completing summary sheets for EVERY course, for every topic, is essential as they progress through each unit. Completing all assessment tasks to the best of their ability is essential, as the marks contribute to their final HSC mark. Attending school EVERY DAY and attending ALL CLASSES is absolutely essential to ensure they get all of the information they require, are involved in class discussions and can clarify anything they may not understand. Ensuring that all study periods are used effectively in the school Library, so that there is maximum use of time is vital as well. Planning what they do in each of these lessons and actually “doing what they plan” will lead to enhanced understanding and improved outcomes.

All Year 11 students have selected a teacher mentor and meetings have started. These meetings are tailored to individual student needs, and teachers are volunteering to be mentors to our HSC students. I thank them for always going above and beyond for our senior students.

Yearly Examinations over the next two weeks.
Years 9 and 10 start examinations next Wednesday 5th November. Years 7 and 8 will start theirs a week later on Wednesday 12th November.

All students have a timetable for their exams. Please note that some are in whole year groups in the MPU, while others are in class groups during class time.

Diary Cover winner
Thank you to all those students who submitted ideas for the school’s 2015 student diary cover. Congratulations to David Roy of Year 8 whose design will feature on our diaries in 2015.

October is Mental Health Month.
During October our students have been involved in a range of activities to increase their awareness of mental health. Years 9, 10 and 11 participated in workshops run by The Black Dog Institute. The SRC has designed and delivered workshops for Years 7 and 8 on bullying, anxiety and depression and distributed resources should they ever be needed. SRC and Youth Council members were involved in Hat Day with the Rotary Club of Scone and successfully collected approximately $2000 for the Australian Rotary Health Foundation to support research into and awareness of mental health.

Emily-Jane in Finnish newspaper.
Emily-Jane Evans is a Year 11 student who does a school based traineeship in the Equine Industry. Part of her 4 units of study is work placement each week at Arrowfield Stud. Recently the school was visited by a Director from a Finnish Education area. He visited Emily at her workplace. It just so happened that she was responsible for some of the brood mares and one was called Miss Finland. As a result, her photo was published with Miss Finland in their local paper when the Director returned and reported on his experience here in Australia.

Student Representative Council 2015
Congratulations to the following students who have been elected to the SRC for 2015.

Year 8:  Hailey Hillsley
          Bradley Moores
          Matilda Jones,
          Darcy Pittman

Year 9:  Grace Coombes
          Jonathan McMahon
          Amelia Meier

Year 10: Nick Crackett
          Campbell Murray
          Jake Speck
          Georgia Hillsley
          Kirsten Smith
          Rachael Tillemans

Year 11: Joel Bates
          Rachel Pittman
          Tegan Tickner
          Campbell Jones
          Isaac Smith
          Crystal Crowfoot

Year 12: Hollie Collison
          Sophie Dawson
          Ianna Malcolm
          Tom Darlington
          Lucy Kemp
          Taylah Rossington
Why does attending school and doing well mean more these days?

Many families are going through the trauma of losing jobs because of the down turn in the mining industry. There are now far fewer employment opportunities in the mines for school leavers, so students need to be looking at other avenues of employment.

With youth unemployment of 14.5%, as of last week, in the Hunter Valley, this is a very good time to be at school and working hard to achieve the best possible results. If students are doing this, completing tasks to the best of their ability, participating in learning in a positive manner, completing all work both in class and at home, and getting positive comments from their teachers, they stand a better chance of getting a job interview to begin with.

In order to become good employees, students need to have the essential employability skills as well. They need to aware that they:

1. need to be at work on time,
2. dress appropriately for the particular job,
3. need to be able to communicate effectively with people and be polite and respectful to customers,
4. are able to work as part of a team,
5. follow instructions and workplace work health and safety procedures,
6. use their initiative when they run out of things to do
7. ask for assistance if they don’t understand what is required, and
8. use mobile phones and other social media responsibly.

Students need to have investigated the job they are applying for, made phone calls to enquire about it, looked it up on the internet and asked someone in a similar position what it entails. They need to be able to say why they have applied for the position and why they would be the best person for the job.

Is your student leaving school this year?

If so, they are entitled to a set of records summarising their achievements called a ROSA (Record of School Achievement). However, they are not automatic anymore, students have to apply for them because the final Higher School Certificates is what the Board of Studies produce at the end of Year 12 automatically. So, those who wish to leave, need to let Mrs Paine in English know ASAP. She can apply online on behalf of the student, until 7th November. After that date students will need to apply for it themselves.

Lindy Hunt
Principal

Congratulations Nick Wagner

Year 8 student, Nick Wagner recently competed in the SSAA (Sporting Shooting Association of Australia), Lever Action Competition in Townsville. There was three days of competition against approximately 50 people from all over Australia and some competitors from England.

Nick gained first place in the following categories:
- Centrefire 2 gun
- Rimfire 2 gun
- Classic 3 gun

Nick is now the Under 15 Juniors Australian Champion.

Congratulations, Nick!
**Fashions on the Field**

Next Tuesday, 4th November 2014, the Student Representative Council will be holding “Fashions on the Field” day to raise money for the Friendly Faces Helping Hands Foundation.

As we live in a rural area, this is a foundation that could really help families in our local community if tragedy strikes.

Imagine discovering someone close to you has a life threatening condition requiring immediate treatment in a major metropolitan facility. As if the news is not devastating enough, now imagine the strain of finding accommodation, parking, food, and other necessities in an unfamiliar and daunting city. Families from rural Australia face this traumatic situation every year, with little or no support. This is where Friendly Faces Helping Hands helps people.

This is an out of uniform day for a **gold coin** donation. Everyone is encouraged to dress up, wear something appropriate that could be worn to the races, come as a jockey or wear a hat. Be creative and join in the fun. (Students are reminded to bring protective footwear for their practical classes.)

At recess, there will be a sausage sizzle, with drinks, milkshakes and chocolates for sale. A competition will be held for the best dressed boy and girl in both the junior and senior school. This will be held at lunch in the quad and judged by Miss Carrigan, Mr Newling and Mr Dransfield.

Prizes include a $50 voucher from the restaurant at Scone RSL, 3 amazing gift packs from the chemists, chocolates and there are still more prizes to come. This is a good cause, so please support it.

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**Notice in all Osborn Buses**

Attention all students

Under no circumstances are aerosol cans to be sprayed on this bus.

Immediate suspension of travel will occur

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The Friendly Faces Helping Hand Foundation is going to be the recipient of all profits raised from the SRC run Fashions on the Field fundraiser, which will be held on Tuesday 4th November 2014. As we live in a rural area this is a foundation that could really help families in our local community if tragedy strikes.

Imagine discovering your child or spouse has a life threatening condition requiring immediate treatment in a major metropolitan facility. As if the news is not devastating enough, now imagine the strain of finding accommodation, car parking, food, and other necessities in an unfamiliar and daunting city. Families from rural Australia face this traumatic situation every year, with little or no support.

Friendly Faces Helping Hands website will help to minimise the overwhelming feelings of isolation that rural people suffering health problems and chronic illness feel, and allow them to navigate the available facilities in preparation for their treatment away from home and there speedy return to our Rural Homes and Communities.

The website [www.friendlyfaces.info](http://www.friendlyfaces.info) is available for everyone and will assist people with the necessary information to support them through this difficult time.

**Wanted Volunteer Face Painters**

Scone and Aberdeen Neighbourhood Centres are looking for students who would like to volunteer and learn to become face painters for Christmas events in both Scone and Aberdeen. Sparkles the Clown will teach volunteers the art of face painting.

Twilight Christmas Markets, Rose Garden, Aberdeen – 6th December from 5pm

Community Christmas at Elizabeth Park, Scone – 13th December from 5pm

Interested students contact me on 65 45 2562 – I would be happy to provide a certificate or letter for their resume for volunteering at a community event.

Lee Watts, Manager
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST AN OVERSEAS STUDENT?

Experience another culture, make new friends and improve your language studies at home

Hosting – An Experience for Life

Student Exchange is looking for host families across Australia to welcome overseas students into their home

www.studentexchange.org.au
1300 135 331 (cost of local call)
"G’DAY USA Program"

The G’DAY USA Program is a short term Cultural Exchange which offers High School students and staff the opportunity to travel, as a group, to the USA during the Christmas School holidays.

Scone High School is an active participant in the program and once again is offering the opportunity in the January 2016 school holidays to students 14 years and over.

Educational World Travel has been offering the "G’DAY USA Program" to High School students since 1988. Since that time they have become one of the largest Exchange Organisations operating in Australia.

Living with an American family provides our students with a greater awareness of the differences between our cultures. Additionally, of particular importance is the educational benefit gained from attending School classes with the host students and becoming involved in class activities on a first hand basis.

The Program is invaluable in providing students with a greater sense of responsibility, self-reliance and self-esteem. Travellers return with an increased awareness of the importance of working cohesively in a team environment.

A Typical Cultural Exchange of 20 days includes the following:

- Travel/Medical Insurance.
- Return economy airfares.
- 10 days living with an American Host family
- 7 nights Hotel Accommodation - quad share.
- Continental breakfasts daily whilst at hotels.
- All bus transfers in the USA as per the Itinerary.
- Entry fees to Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm and Universal Studios.
- Sightseeing day tour of San Diego and San Francisco (includes coach).
- Four days sightseeing during hosting period. Specific inclusions to be advised once the host city is allocated.

If you have any questions about this opportunity for your son or daughter please don’t hesitate to contact Ms Hunt by Friday 7th November to register your interest. A parent information night will be scheduled soon, we will notify you of the date and time.

Get creative for Christmas

Have fun making your own gingerbread house for Christmas. Everything is supplied – gingerbread, lollies, wrapping and ribbon, along with instructions and lots of ideas. Great for the family or to give as a gift. Hear a short Christmas talk and enjoy afternoon tea. Invite a friend and get your tickets now for this afternoon event for women on Saturday 29 November 2 – 5pm at Mercy Hall, St Mary’s School, Waverley St.

For tickets contact Jenny on 0409 818977 or Alison on 0498103944 AH or Hunt a Book

Tickets cost $35 and must be prepaid by 26 November.
UPPER HUNTER SHIRE COUNCIL - MEDIA RELEASE

28 October 2014

Roll into Aberdeen Skate Park

Roll, ride, scoot or skate into Aberdeen because the town’s new skate park is open.

After years of fundraising, planning and design decisions, the concrete has been poured and young people are enjoying the ride.

The skate park surrounds will be grassed in coming weeks.

That is just the start of the improvements that are planned for Jefferson Park.

Upper Hunter Shire Mayor Michael Johnsen said the park was already a popular location and there was potential for it to be an even better recreational destination for all ages.

The skate park could eventually be part of an exciting multi-use family facility with a learn to ride track, playground, half court and tennis courts.

A concept design of this new recreational facility has been developed and can be viewed at Council offices or on our website www.upperhunter.nsw.gov.au.

Aberdeen All Stars have been fundraising for a ‘Learn-to-Ride’ bike track in Jefferson Park. They have raised over $20,000 in the last 18 months and are aiming for $30,000.

The group have engaged with Hunter Mutual Heart of Our Community program which could provide additional funds for the project through votes on the Heart of Our Community website. This is a similar process to the Old Court Theatre project, which gained $10,000 through the Heart of Our Community program towards the renovation.

The new $110,000 skate park project has been funded the Upper Hunter Shire Council ($60,000) the NSW Government Funding under the 2013/14 Sport and Recreation Participation and Facility Grant Program ($25,000), and fundraising by a dedicated group of young people and their supporters, the Deen City Youth Group ($25,000).

Submit a suggested name for the new Aberdeen skate park and you could win a $100 Seven complete skateboard from wiK’ed Frogs Board Room in Singleton. All ages are welcome to enter. Email suggestions to council@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au by 12 November 2014.

Caption:
Chris Murphy, 16, Riley Herbert, 18, James Dunn, 18, and Upper Hunter Shire Mayor Michael Johnsen were among the many checking out the new Aberdeen skate park on the first day.

Michael Johnsen
MAYOR
“Learning is our priority”

2014-2015 Family Energy Rebate

Apply before Midnight 16 June 2015

WHAT IS THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?
The Family Energy Rebate helps to cover the cost of energy bills for NSW households with dependent children. In 2014-2015 the rebate gives:

- A $150 credit on electricity bills for eligible applicants who hold an account with an electricity retailer
- A $165 direct payment to nominated bank accounts for eligible applicants who live in a residential community (caravan or mobile home park) and receive electricity from the park operator.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE REBATE?
To be eligible you MUST:

- Be a NSW resident; and
- Have been assessed by the Federal Department of Human Services (DHS) as being eligible for the Family Tax Benefit (FTB) A or B at any time during the 2013-2014 financial year, and have received an FTB payment in respect of that eligibility; and
- Be an account holder of an electricity retailer, or a long-term resident of a residential community (caravan or mobile home park), whose name appears on the electricity account for supply to her or his principal place of residence.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE I APPLY?
Before you apply, here’s a quick checklist. Have you:

- Lodged your tax return for 2013-14 with the Australian Taxation Office or informed the Department of Human Services (DHS) if you are not required to lodge a tax return?
- Received confirmation from DHS as to your eligibility for Family Tax Benefit A or B for 2013-2014?

HOW TO APPLY

- ONLINE – it takes just two minutes to submit an application. Processing starts immediately.
- PAPER – download a form from the website, complete and submit by email, fax or post. Use this form if you receive your electricity from the operator of the residential community where you live.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE
PHONE Service NSW 13 77 88
EMAIL fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?
The benefits of the exchange are many and varied. Students gain considerable self-confidence, tolerance and self-reliance through having to accept greater responsibility for themselves and their actions.

Students have to adapt to unfamiliar and different surroundings and ways of life which are different from that of Australia. For some, it will be the first extended period of separation from their own family. The experience provides the opportunity to develop many useful social ‘survival skills’.

The exchange provides a unique opportunity for young Australians to experience at first hand the many cultural aspects of a different country, a new way of life, and in many instances, another language. The friendship students make will be life long and important in achieving the aims of the exchange – the building of goodwill and understanding between countries.

WHAT TO DO NOW?
If you are interested in making an application, you must do this on the appropriate application form. The initial application form is available on the District website: http://www.youthexchange.net.au. Initial application forms are also available from the Chairman of the District Youth Exchange Program Committee.

The Youth Exchange Chairman must receive your completed application form, a copy of your latest school report, a recent ID colour photograph (50mm square) and an application fee of $50. Cheque or money order must be payable to ‘Rotary District 9670 Youth Exchange Program Committee’ or FTT 858: 112 8179. Account No: 1538400335 (please email the Chairman if sending by FTT). The application form should reach the Chairman by 1st April.

For more information and application forms please contact:
District 9670 Chairman
Denise Parkes
Rotary Club of Charlestown Inc.
464 Fords Road,
Limeburners Creek NSW 2324
Mobile: 0417 263 303
email: deniseparkes39@gmail.com

Rotary District 9670
Australia
Youth Exchange Program

Information for students
2015-2016

www.youthexchange.net.au
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

WHAT IS IT?
The Rotary International Youth Exchange Program is arranged by Rotary Clubs for young people to experience a year of education overseas in a wide choice of countries. It also offers many other opportunities, both during and after the exchange is completed.

The Rotary program is recognised as the best student exchange program by schools, parents, and students themselves because of its sound infrastructure.

Students stay with host families who are arranged by the hosting Club. In the majority of exchanges there is more than one host family, the preferred number being three or four. Host families may or may not be members of Rotary, but are all Rotary approved.

WHO CAN APPLY?
Any male or female secondary school student. The children of Rotarians are welcome, but of course gain no preference in selection.

Applicants must be in year 10 or year 11 in the year they make application to be eligible for the program. The preferred age of applicants is between 15–17 years.

Applicants should be making sound progress at school and have a general interest in people and places. They should possess a good general knowledge of Australia - its political system, socio-economic policies and its involvement in international affairs.

Applicants must have displayed high standards of personal conduct and attitudes which are widely accepted in our community. They should have an outgoing personality and be interested in culture and outdoor pursuits.

Rotary is looking for young people who can act as personal ambassadors.

HOW ARE THE STUDENTS SELECTED?
Students are selected by Rotary Clubs on the basis of their application and a personal interview. Applications close with the District Youth Exchange Chairman on 1st April. Clubs will receive their allocated application form by mid-April and will interview students by late April.

The successful applicant from the Rotary Club is then nominated to the District Youth Exchange Program Committee. This Committee then interview nominated applicants in May before arranging exchanges with overseas Districts. Students have the opportunity to nominate any preferred countries of exchange from those available. However, there are limited places available in any one country, and a preparedness to accept an exchange in any of the available countries is necessary.

ROTARY PROVIDES TRAINING
Rotary Clubs have an important role in the exchange. Both the hosting and sponsor Clubs will provide one of their members to act as a Counsellor. The Counsellor's role is to maintain close contact with the student. This is expected to continue throughout the exchange period, not only with the student but also with the student's family, keeping everyone informed on the progress of the exchange.

The District Committee provides a briefing program for a wide range of subjects including personal development and public speaking. This aims to prepare the student for the exchange. Parents of students are also required to be involved in the briefing program.

HOSTING AN INBOUND STUDENT
While it is not obligatory, your parents will be encouraged to host or organise hosting for an Inbound Exchange student for a period of three months. This hosting is to be approved by the Host Rotary Club of the Inbound student.

ARE THERE OTHER OBLIGATIONS?
Students are required to adhere to the rules of the program, as applied in the country of exchange. These relate to personal behaviour and the expectations of being an ambassador for themselves, their family, their country and Rotary. During the exchange year away, students are required to attend and complete a year of secondary level schooling.

EDUCATION CONSIDERATIONS
All out-bound students will be required to return to secondary education in Australia. They may be credited for any credits earned whilst away, however, this needs to be checked with The Board of Studies before departure. The question of breaking school before the HSC year is a matter of personal choice between the student and their families. The real bonus for education is the cultural experience that students gain from the exchange itself.

WHAT DOES AN EXCHANGE COST?
Actual costs will vary depending on the country of exchange, and the student's personal spending habits.

Student and family provides:
- An administration fee
- Return overseas airfare, as arranged by Rotary to the country of exchange
- Insurance under the Australian Rotary Youth Exchange policy
- Internal travel in overseas country, including Rotary organised student tours
- Day-to-day personal expenses, postage, phone calls, internet, clothing, textbooks etc.
- A small emergency fund (redeemable at the end of the exchange, if unused)

Host Rotary Club provides:
- Board and lodging with host families
- Some schooling expenses
- Approximately AUD$120, as a monthly allowance

Sponsor Rotary Club provides:
- Green Rotary Blazer
- Rotary Club Banners for exchanging