Principals Report

The 2013 Senior class graduated last Friday with 141 Year 12 students receiving their graduation packs including a range of VET Certificates, CPR certificates, 2013 School Magazines and most importantly the congratulations and recognition for an excellent finish to their secondary education. There were record numbers of parents and family who attended, making this a very special and memorable occasion. I mentioned at the ceremony that these students had made some very large achievements but one of note was achieving an outstanding 90% of all Achievement Ratings of A, B or C, exceeding the school-wide target of 85%. This is also complemented with many students also qualifying for Cert 1, 2 and 3 in vocational fields as well as QCE, and in December many will be advised of their OPs.

I was invited to attend the celebration at City of Mackay Rotary Club of the establishment of the Interact Club at Mackay State High 50 years ago. This is the first Interact Club in Queensland and there were many of the Rotary members both present at the meeting or who sent through letters, who were very proud of their involvement in Interact as their first community service contact. Chelsea Mather, President in 2013 was accompanied by 3 other Executive members and was presented with a new Charter for the Club, now given pride of place in our Office foyer.

Continued over
The strength of the student body was evidenced by the record number of Year 11 students who nominated as Prefects for 2014. Twenty-eight students made short speeches to their peers and also to the staff a day later, followed by elections. Congratulations to Brianna Nixon, Jessica McGair, Aaron Glanville, Baylee Griffiths, Pagan–Leigh Camilleri, Zac Thorpe, Hannah McCullagh, Danielle Fair, John O’Brien, Ashleigh Plath, Brendan Barnard and Moses Uluivi. I am sure that these Prefects will do an outstanding job and that several of those who were not successful, will fill key roles across the school.

MRAEL assists the schools in Mackay with placements for Work Experience and being the single point of contact. While doing this, they also seek feedback from students and employers to allow outstanding employers and exemplary students to be recognised. Several students of Mackay State High in 2014 were nominated for these ten awards with Mackay State High taking our three awards. Bree-Emily Keioskie (Education & Child Care), Laura Bugeja (Business, Office and IT) and also Nikita Punch (Hospitality & Tourism) were our award winners. Awards for employers were also awarded to:

- Small Employer Winner – Resthaven on Quarry
- Medium Employer Winner – City Fitness Health Club
- Large Employer Winner – Haynes Mechanical
- Small Employer Runner Up – Best & Less Mackay
- Medium Employer Runner Up – Auto Corner
- Large Employer Runner Up – Orionstone

Thank you to these and other partnering employers who make the Work Experience program possible.

Mackay State High is to be included in a Regional Project to develop the Reading and related Literacy skills to a higher level with some of our high-performing Year 9 students to participate in Project 600 Reading during a couple of lessons each week during Semester 1 of 2014. As information becomes clear around the trial group, parents and students will be invited.

Mackay State High School
School of Mathematical Excellence

Following our outstanding success in Mathematics this year (60% of year 12’s have achieved a VHA or HA), Mackay State High School is proud to announce the 2014 launch of the new School of Mathematical Excellence. The key component of the school is the Masters of Mathematics Pathway.

We are selecting 50 of the most highly performed year 7’s to participate in a program of the highest standard Mathematics education available in the Mackay district. Our most successful and experienced teachers will deliver an accelerated program punctuated by newly developed specialist modules of Mathematics not available anywhere else. Topics will include fractals, cryptography and topology as well as themes of critical thinking, teamwork and study skills.

The program culminates with Senior Mathematics B and C taught on campus. This year, 11 of our 25 Maths B students gained a VHA; the highest rate in the district.

If you are interested in your child participating, please refer to the brochure available at the school office and contact Head of Maths Department Clayton Campbell on 49579179.
Mackay State High School has a set uniform endorsed by the school Parents and Citizens Association. We have worked hard to ensure that the uniform is functional and affordable. When purchasing uniform items we would like to advise parents that uniform shirts or shorts are only available at the Uniform Shop, located near School Tuckshop. Parents may choose to purchase shorts that are plain navy and suitable style.

Please check with the school administration if you have any questions or concerns relating to the uniform requirements.

GENERAL UNIFORM
The uniform is to be worn to school daily. Students are not permitted to wear bicycle pants or coloured shorts under their uniform.

**Shirt**  All students are to wear the tri-coloured polo shirt with the school badge. Students are not permitted to wear t-shirts under the polo shirt. *Sporting Academics and Key Groups have an extra curricula activities shirt. Only students currently enrolled in these activities may wear these shirts as part of the set uniform.*  
*Training shirts, Tour shirts etc. are not to be worn as part of the uniform.*

**Shorts**  Unisex Navy Mackay SHS Sports shorts. Boys navy boxer cut style with elastic top. Girls navy tailored style shorts, skorts or culottes or skirt.  
*Fashionable variations and basketball shorts are not acceptable.*

**Formal Uniform**  The school has a formal uniform which students may wear to school as a complete unit – details are in Prospectus. It is not acceptable to wear items of General uniform in combination with formal uniform.

**Winter Wear**  The school tracksuit or a plain navy or maroon tracksuit may be worn with the school uniform during winter. This is not to be worn under the summer uniform.  
*Year 11 & 12 students only may wear the nominated senior jersey. Hooded sweatshirts are not acceptable. Plain flesh coloured stockings only may be worn.*

**Hat**  A school hat/cap is available and students are strongly encouraged to practice sun safe practices.

**Socks**  White ankle length. A range of socks are available at Uniform Shop.  
*Football socks and multi coloured socks are not permitted*

**Shoes**  Predominantly white or predominantly black joggers with solid soles and enclosed upper, preferably leather or leather-like not nylon mesh, are to be worn. White shoes must have white laces, black shoes with black laces; coloured laces are not acceptable. For safety reasons, students will be refused entry to all workshop, laboratory and kitchen areas if wearing incorrect footwear.  
*Skate type shoes, volleys basketball or high top shoes are not acceptable.*

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**ACCEPTED EXAMPLES**

**NOT ACCEPTED EXAMPLES**
1:1 eLearning Program

Mackay State High School 2014 Years 9-12 students will again have the opportunity to study using technology through the 1:1 eLearning Program. For an investment of $200 per year, your student will receive:

- a school laptop to use at school and at home
- access to the latest educational and productivity software
- subject specific applications and digital resources
- on-site qualified technical help and support services
- connectivity through our high density wireless network
- Accidental Damage and Theft insurance (Excesses apply).

Parents/caregivers can choose to pay the $200 laptop fee for 2014 Year 9-12 students now or at the beginning of the school year in January 2014. By paying the fee early, students currently in the program can retain their laptops over the summer holidays and new students to the program can be assured of early placement in the program. The fee can be paid at the General Office in person, by credit card over the phone or direct debit (please phone General Office for payment details).

Early payment dates are:

Year 11 students - payment required by 11 November 2013
Year 10 students - payment required by 18 November 2013
Year 9 students - payment required by 25 November 2013

Party Safe

Everyone enjoys going to or hosting a great party. For young people it is certainly a part of growing up and celebrating special occasions with their friends.

The Queensland Police Service Party Safe program allows you to register your party with police, providing police with some great advice and resources to help you organise a safe and lawful party. It also ensures that, if things do go wrong on the night, police have the information necessary to quickly and effectively deal with issues.

To find out more about Party Safe, and some great ideas to help you make your party safe, lawful and enjoyable for everyone concerned including parents, hosts and guests, go to

www.police.qld.qld.gov.au/party

Upcoming Events

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>25 -28 November</td>
<td>Year 11 Camp</td>
<td>25 November</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting</td>
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<td>29 November</td>
<td>Year 10/11 Last Day</td>
<td>9 December</td>
<td>Orientation Day</td>
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<td>13 December</td>
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The benefits of playing chess to students’ learning are well known.

Chess Grandmaster Susan Polgar States that “Countless researchers and studies have shown over the years that chess does indeed strengthen a child’s mental clarity, fortitude, stability, and overall health..........Test scores improved by 17.3% for students regularly engaged in chess classes, compared with only 4.6% for children participating in other forms of enriched activities” (http://www.susanpolgar.com/susan-polgar-foundation-benefits.html)

The school staff and Library have a long history of fostering the development of chess skills, with chess sets being available for use in the library; and they well used by students of all ages.

Last week we were lucky to witness a spontaneous chess competition between a Year 12 boy (Tom Bugeja) and a Year 8 girl (Lauren Morgan), and as you can see they attracted quiet a crowd of spectators and supporters.

Guess who won??? Both competitors personified all the qualities of good sportsmanship. Congratulations you were both winners.

Some Chess apps

Dinosaur Chess (Learn to Play!) http://www.dinosaurchess.com/website/default.shtml
Dinosaur Chess App is a great way for kids to learn to play chess. It goes step by step, with lessons introducing the pieces and their roles.

Chess Academy for Kids by Geek Kids

An easy, step-by-step way for kids to learn this classic game. Kids can review the 140 brief tutorials about each move, piece, rule, and strategy, and then play against a live opponent at home or against the app itself. The app tracks learning progress, which can help motivate kids to improve their game once they've learned the basics.
SCHOOL BASED APPRENTICESHIPS/TRAINEESHIPS AVAILABLE

- Brodon Mye from Novaskill has the following school based traineeships available for indigenous students currently in Year 10:
  - Tyre Fitter
  - Fitness
  - Light Vehicle Mechanic x 2
  - Fitter Machinist
  - Media
- A local Hairdressing Salon is looking to employ a school based Apprentice Hairdresser.

FULL TIME POSITONS AVAILABLE FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS

- Sommerfeld and Sons Pty Ltd a local Brick & Block laying company is looking to employ a full time apprentice to commence as soon as possible. The successful applicant will be given the opportunity to do a week’s work experience as a trial for the position.
- A rare opportunity exists for a position as a Security Electronics Trainee with a successful Mackay technical security company. We are primarily involved in the supply, installation and service of alarm, access control and camera systems. It would suit the type of person that may be thinking about an electrical apprenticeship though may have thought it not quite challenging enough. It does allow the person to work and live in the Mackay region.

2014 CQ TAFE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

- Students in Year 10 who are interested in attending TAFE one day per week in 2014 as part of the school program. A copy of the Schools Program Guide listing the courses being offered in 2014 is available, Programs being offered in Mackay for 2014: Certificate III in Children’s Services; Certificate III in Information, Digital Media Technology; Certificate II in Manufacturing; Certificate II in Electro-Technology; Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance; Certificate II in Tourism; Certificate 1 in Engineering;

gogettajob.com.au is a new job website aimed at 14 to 20 year olds. Check it out!!

It is new to the Mackay region but give it time and this will be an excellent tool for job seekers whether it be that you are looking for casual work while at school or for school leavers.

Mrs Andrea Dearden’s office is in P09
4957 9152
adear20@eq.edu.au
Vocational Education Training Co-ordinator

Mrs Sharon Barnard’s office is in P08
4957 9134
sbar53@eq.edu.au
HOD Senior Schooling

MESSAGES: Parents are reminded that arrangements for social, work commitments or travel home from school should be made with your student before they leave home in the morning. We are a very large school and delivering non-urgent messages disrupts the smooth running of our school and the learning of students. If a more pressing situation arises in the school office your message may be delayed.

A reminder that students mobile phones are not to be used during School hours, it has become apparent that students are contacting parents this is not acceptable and not in accordance with our eDevice policy and could result in confiscation.
Netbox Blue promotes Cybersafety

With our 1:1 eLearning program ever growing and the increased use of the internet and social media sites with the student laptop access at home and in school, many schools are now using specialist software to further protect and educate students regarding responsible use of electronic and digital media.

It is important to educate our young people about wise decisions around online activity on devices that are key to learning both at school and at home. That is why our school has made the decision to engage a social media and website management service known as CloudControl® Social, as provided by Queensland company Netbox Blue, an accredited Preferred Supplier to the department.

This software detects specific words, phrases and text patterns typed from, or received to, common social media sites and websites. These patterns are then matched to categories such as profanity, self-harm, drugs, aggression, religious and racial slurs, predatory behaviour and eating disorders. When inappropriate content in a conversation or search is detected which may indicate potential harm for the sender or recipient, the program will block, alert or allow information to pass depending upon the parameters our school sets. These alerts will allow staff to act quickly by providing support and guidance to those involved.

I do not see this tool as a policing measure or way to catch a young person out, but as a tool to alert and protect and re-direct our students with the ultimate goal of increasing awareness, keeping students alert and building responsible digital thinkers. The service will be installed onto school based computers and staff laptops by the end of this year.

Any layer we can build in to assist wise use of the cyber world and protect our students from exposure to others whose use is less well intentioned or as ethical, is what I hope to be more reassurance about the way we care and protect them.

More detailed information is available on the Netbox Blue website at http://netboxblue.com/dete

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Building Resilience

All parents want what is best for their children. Sometimes though, in our endeavour to protect our children, we take control of a situation, and make decisions, that are not always in our child’s best interest.
LIFEGUARD TRAINING COURSE IN MACKAY

Surf Life Saving Queensland is offering a limited number of positions free of charge in a Lifeguard training course held over 5 days during the end of year school holidays: 2nd-6th December 2013. To be eligible you must be: 17 years of age or older

Able to swim 400m in less than 8 minutes

Interested in working as a casual Lifeguard with SLSQ

This course covers the following awards: Bronze Medallion, Cert II in Public Safety, Advanced Resuscitation Techniques, and Applied First Aid.

For more information or to apply

contact: hridland@lifesaving.com.au or (07) 49535116

by 5.00pm Monday, 25th November 2013.

50 year Reunion

for Mackay State High School

Grade 8 - 1964

First Grade 8's to go to High School

An invitation is extended to students from that year, and their partners, to attend the reunion on Saturday, 26th July, 2014.

Please register your interest by contacting

Jenny Parnell (Scott) at
graham.scott7@bigpond.com or
Sandra Wait (Bartlem) at
morris.sandra@hotmail.com or
Rhondda Laverack on 0400837722

Do you have children who love to sing, dance, act and perform on the stage? Enrolments for the 2014 Conservatorium Academy Music Theatre classes are now open!

These classes are held on Saturdays in the fully equipped theatre and studios at the Central Queensland Conservatorium of Music at CQUniversity Mackay.

Mini Music Theatre (Prep & Grade 1); Music Theatre A (Grades 2 - 4); Music Theatre B (Grades 5 – 7); Music Theatre C (Grades 8 – 12).

Teacher: Hannah Blomfield, B Theatre (Music Theatre)

Register your child early to secure a place. For an information booklet & registration form email: academy@cqu.edu.au or phone 4940 7800.

Book Reminder

As the year is drawing to a close, we are looking for books. If you have any books at home that belong to the English Department please return ASAP. If you have not returned your books you will be invoiced!
Mackay State High School
Junior Secondary
Bringing Year 7 on board

Mackay SHS offers students a dynamic and exciting learning program, provides a safe, supportive and happy environment and a responsive transition program for students and families. Recent student outcomes include OP 1s, Australian Sporting selections, Gold Awards for Bands and outstanding results for Cattle Show team.

Mackay State High offers a safe and supportive school

We make you welcome with:
- Year Coordinators and Form Teachers providing daily personal support
- Senior buddies who visit Year 7 & 8 classes weekly and act as mentors and older friends
- Guidance Officer, Chaplain and School-based Health Nurse
- Head of Department for Junior Secondary
- Junior Secondary Leaders who play a vital role in communication with our younger classes
- Junior Secondary teachers
- Junior Secondary Deputy Principal
- High behaviour expectations including promotion of positive behaviours and student leadership
- Valuing a wide diversity of cultures

An engaging and comprehensive curriculum

Our staff team focus on high expectations, applying our quality teaching model, with strong relationships with students.
- A strong core curriculum in English, Math, Science and History
- Modern resources
- Great team of friendly and dedicated teachers
- Scholarship program from our P&C
- Large range of electives for all interests e.g. Agriculture, Manual Arts, Arts, Technology, Home Economics and programs to support those with Special Needs
- We cater for students of all abilities and individual needs, and promote “Pride in doing your best”

A fantastic range of extra-curricular opportunities

There is something for everyone!
- High quality Instrumental Music programs
- Sporting Academies
- Cattle Show team
- Year 7 and Year 8 Leadership camps
- Competitions such as Optiminds, Rock Pop Mins, Debating, ICAS, Estaddocic
- Community engagement

It starts at Primary School

Our transition program starts with visits and talks to State Schools, making close links with your child’s teachers to share feedback on progress, strengths and needs. Our staff host an Information Evening, Open Day and, along with junior and senior students, actually visit schools and work with students and teachers in their classrooms.

Mackay SHS has a strong reputation for high academic standards and support of the wider community. We hope you will be part of this. Come along and enjoy our school!