

Newsletter No. 03 - 07 March 2008

The Investiture Ceremony for our senior students was held on Wednesday 27 February 2008.

It was attended by Mr Col Meng as our guest speaker. Mr Meng was a former student and it was great to hear his recollections of his school days. It was very pleasing to see the number of family members and friends who came along to support the students for this very special occasion. Mr Meng stressed the importance of setting clear goals and I'm sure students will do well if they take that advice on board. Thank you also to Ms Greiger for her organisation of this occasion and to the P and C for their sponsorship of the morning tea.

The Interhouse Swimming Carnival will be held on the 20 March 2008. See inside for details. It is sure to be a fun day.

The P&C AGM was held on Monday night with a host of new parents attending. The contribution of parents is greatly appreciated. A full report is inside.

Our Music Camp is on at Seaforth this week and I am sure that under the direction of our music staff that our music program will continue to provide great entertainment. It is great to see our students getting these opportunities and I look forward to the concert later today.

Five of our students attended the Constitutional Convention on Thursday to discuss our Constitution and its relevance to modern Australia. The students enjoyed the experience.

On Parade on Wednesday we heard of a host of activities that our students are involved in from debating to sports and community work. It is great to hear that our students are involved in a host of extra curricula activities. Sometimes parents are concerned by what is on offer at state schools and I am happy to report that there are many opportunities for students who seek them. Encourage your student to get involved.

Because of the recent flooding there was a hold up in the Assessment Planners. Your student would have received an assessment planner for Semester 1 last week. Please work through the planner with your students to develop effective study plans, and work ahead of assessment dates. Discuss this with your child so they are well prepared.

Finally, congratulations to Todd Blanchfield on his selection in the Australian Under 19 Basketball team to tour Germany.

Well done Todd!

M J O'Hanlon
Principal

PRINCIPAL

Mr Matt O'Hanlon

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Ms Donna Drinkwater

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Mr Bruce Heggie

REGISTRAR

Mrs Desley Livermore

GUIDANCE OFFICER

Mr Lindsay Hains

SCHOOL NURSE

Ms Anne Crowley

CHAPLAIN

Mr Phil Hall

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

COUNSELLOR/S

Gordon Quakawoot &

Val Wright

SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Caitlyn Dinsdale

Patrick O'Hanlon

SCHOOL VICE CAPTAINS

Maggie Webster

Matthew Tandy

SPORTING HOUSES

CHATAWAY

DENNISS

FORGAN

MACKAY

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

Monday - Friday

8:00am - 11:00am

- Easter Holidays -
Good Friday 21/03/08
Easter Monday 24/03/08
- School resumes Tuesday
25/03/08
- School Holidays—
07/04/08—11/04/08
- Student Free Day—
Monday 14/04/08
- School resumes Tuesday
15/04/08

QSA Evening Information Seminar

QSA Evening Information Seminars for parents and community members: Introducing the Queensland Certificate of Education.

Online registration available on QSA Website:-

<http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/syllabus/4532.html>

This information evening will provide an overview of the implementation of the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE). The presentation will help parents and community members to understand the principles underlying the QCE and the credit rules that govern eligibility for the QCE. A variety of scenarios will be discussed to demonstrate the relevance of the QCE and the broad range of possibilities for learning towards the QCE.

Who Should Attend?

- * Parents of students in Year 10
- * Parents of students in the senior phase of schooling, Years 11 and 12
- * Employers of young people
- * Teachers unable to attend daytime workshops
- * Interested members of school or community groups

Outline

- * General information on the QCE for students, parents, schools and other learning providers
- * Options and pathways offered to students by the QCE

Cost Free

Agenda Registration (7:00pm)

- * QCE at a glance / QCE overview
- * - Learning Account
- * - QCE and Senior Statement
- * Scenarios
- * Questions & issues

Close (8:00am)

Date and Venue

QCE07 Mackay 13 March 2008

Time:- 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Ocean International, 1 Bridge Road, Illawong Beach, Mackay.

Walk-in visitors welcome

Vaccination Catch Up Day

If your child was away or missed their vaccination, there is a "Catch Up" day at Mackay Child Health Centre on the 19 March, 8:00am - 4:30pm. No appointment necessary.

Please ring 4968 3863 and ask for Yvonne / Lucy if you have any queries.

Health News

Just a word about sun safety. Skin cancer and skin damage are caused by being exposed to the sun's harmful ultraviolet radiation. The key to preventing skin cancer is to protect your skin from the sun by practising sun safe behaviours.

There are 6 simple steps you can follow to reduce your risk of skin cancer and protect your skin:

- o Minimise your time in the sun between 10:00am & 3:00pm.
- o Seek shade
- o Wear suitable clothing that provides good sun protection
- o Choose a broad brim legionnaire-style or bucket-style hat that will protect your face, neck & ears (hats available in the uniform shop at MSHS)
- o Wear sunglasses

Apply SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before you go out into the sun.

Mosquito-Borne Viruses

Since the recent floods there may be more mosquitoes breeding in our neighbourhoods. Stop the mosquito breeding and you can stop diseases like Dengue Fever and Ross River Virus.

Empty containers that hold water

Wear personal insect repellent

Use surface spray inside your home

See a doctor if you have any symptoms such as an acute illness with fever, headaches, joint pain, muscle pain and rash.

Dengue mosquitoes breed in containers that hold water including:

Pot plant bases

Tyres (discarded, with no rims)

blocked roof guttering

bromeliads
tarpaulins and black plastic
buckets, tin cans and plastic containers
fallen palm fronds
Bird baths and water features
Vases and containers used for growing-
plant cuttings
Boats
Rainwater tanks (with missing or dam-
aged screens)
Coconut shells
Drain sumps.

The dengue mosquito does **NOT LIVE OR BREED IN SALTWATER, SWAMPS OR RIVERS.**

For more information: contact the Tropical Public Health Unit in Mackay 49686611 or visit the website www.health.qld.gov.au/dengue

Anne Crowley

School Based Youth Health Nurse

Public Speaking News

On 26 February, Justine Plate represented Mackay State High School and competed in the Lions Youth of the Year Competition at St Patrick's College, Mackay.

The aim of this competition is to foster and develop the potential leadership qualities of today's youth. Qualities sought after in the students, apart from academic attainment, are those of leadership, personality, sportsmanship, public speaking and good citizenship.

These qualities were judged through a personal interview with the students and the presentation of prepared and impromptu speeches.

The Judges enjoyed Justine's prepared speech about encouraging clothing stores to act responsibly and not to contribute to the epidemic of eating disorders by incorrect sizing.

Well Done Justine!

Senior Apex Inter-school Debating

Congratulations to the members of the Senior Debating Team:- Kirby Mackelvie, Georgia McCullagh, Tereana Suhle and Genevra Jarmaine, who successfully argued "That young people should have a nighttime curfew" against North Mackay High at St Patricks College at 6:00pm last Tuesday night (04 March).

This will be followed by an impromptu debate against Holy Spirit College on the 18 March. This will also be held at St Patrick's college at 6:30pm. All Welcome.

Ann Wall

Public Speaking Coordinator

North Mackay Little Athletics

Want your child to build character and social skills? Want Family, Fun and Fitness? Why not give Little Athletics a try.

Our aim is to encourage children aged 3 to 15years to 'have a go' and improve their own performances, while in a fun and social environment. We provide them with the opportunity to develop the skills for running, throwing, jumping and walking, as well as encouraging positive sportsmanship.

.Sign on - Information/ Try Out Day

Time: Between 10:00am – 1:00pm

Date: Sunday 13th April 2008

Pioneer High School Oval

Closed-in footwear must be worn to our try out day.

Competition days are held every Sunday, between 8:45am and 12:30pm, at Pioneer High School grounds with access from Bedford Road and Celeber Drive.

Season Begins: Sunday, 20 April 2008

Contacts: Juliene Benson: Phone 0428 213 293

Work Experience Program

Our Structured Workplace Learning program has achieved great successes for our students in past years, and this year we will continue to work hard towards positive experiences for our students. The dates of work experience include:

28 April – 09 May – Year 11 and 12

21 July – 01 August – Year 11 and 12

11 August – 22 August – Year 10

Letters have been sent home with interested students in Years 11 and 12 this week for the first block. Arranging placements for large numbers of students is a time-consuming process and we need to begin arranging the program about 7 weeks before the work experience begins. Work experience is optional for years 10, 11 and 12;

however some students may need to participate in work experience to complete the requirements of the Certificate I in Work Education being completed by all year 10 students. It provides the students with access to a work environment and exposure to industries that we can not provide them within a school setting.

Mackay Region School Industry Links scheme (MRSILS) is the company which arranges all of our work experience placements. Their fee for this service is \$30 per student per placement. If you have any queries regarding our Work experience program, feel free to contact Robyn Robinson at the school on 49579179

P & C News

It was wonderful to see a good turnout at the P&C AGM. It was great to see some new faces as well as continuing members. All positions were filled. Special thanks to the new faces who came along to volunteer as well as those continuing in executive positions. The new executive is as follows:

President: Peter Rounsevell

Vice President: Janice Quadrio

Secretary (minutes): Lorelle Beckman

Secretary (correspondence): Shelley Schmidke

Treasurer: Judy McKay

Assistant Treasurer: Arthur Dick

QCPCA Representative: Helen McCullagh

Thanks to those of you who have volunteered to help out in the tuckshop or the uniform shop, particularly those of you new to the school or new to these much-appreciated roles. The service of the tuckshop and uniform shop is made possible by our very able convenors, our couple of paid employees and the wonderful band of volunteer helpers.

Uniforms are currently available from the school uniform shop in P block from 8:00am –11:00am each Monday to Friday. Also for those who have difficulty getting to the uniform shop, there are order envelopes available at the shop that your student can take home, you can fill out and the order and payment can then be processed.

Some of our plans for the year ahead include a trivia night on Saturday 24 May, walkathon and talent quest late in 3rd term, continuation of paying off the air-conditioning loan, and grounds and facility improvements and beautification.

P&C meetings are held every 4th Monday at 7:30pm in the board room (accessed by a door at the back of the Admin building). All are welcome.

Parent Responsibilities.

Parents' responsibilities through school-based apprenticeships and traineeships (SATs)

Family support is vital to ensure young people succeed at balancing the school, work and training involved in a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship (SAT).

SATs allow students to work for an employer and train towards a recognised qualification, while they are still at school. They are a great way for young people to explore their career options and develop skills and confidence in their areas of interest.

Parents have an important role to play in enabling young people to successfully make the transition from student to employee.

Legislation requires that school-based apprentices and trainees aged under 18, and who are under the care and control of a parent or legal guardian at the date of signing their training contract, must include a parent or guardian's details and signature on the contract.

In cases where the parent or guardian is a party to the training contract, the parent/guardian must ensure that the school-based apprentice or trainee upholds all of the responsibilities attached to the contract.

How parents can help

- Talk with your child about their career goals and the apprenticeship or traineeship which will best support these goals.
- Seek support through their school to discuss how a SAT may assist with QCE points, gain TAFE credits and underpin tertiary study.
- Develop strategies to balance the additional workload of school, work and training.
- Consider and discuss transportation - how will your child get to his or her workplace?
- Discuss the responsibilities involved in being a paid member of the workforce.
- Talk to your child about their day at work and discuss how school subjects relate to their job.
- Encourage your child to talk about issues they may be facing during their SAT and devise possible solutions.

For more information, visit www.apprenticeshipsinfo.qld.gov.au or phone the Apprenticeships Info hotline on 1800 210 210.



FULL-TIME APPRENTICESHIPS & TRAINEESHIPS

POSITION OF THE WEEK MECHANIC

School Based Bicycle Traineeship

Do you have a love for Bicycles?

Complete a 2 Year Traineeship based in Mackay

Working 1 paid day per week

Undertaking minor repairs to bikes

you will obtain a Certificate II in Bicycles

Must be keen to learn

and committed to staying after the traineeship is completed

Excellent opportunity for the right applicant, with the chance to be able to run the retail shop in a couple of years time

Floor Covering & Finishing Apprenticeship

- ◆ Glass and Glazing Apprenticeship
- ◆ Business Traineeship - Year 11 - Illbilbie/Koumala area
- ◆ Business Sales Traineeship - 1 day each week & every 2nd weekend
- ◆ Agriculture Traineeship
- ◆ Retail Traineeship
- ◆ Hospitality - Every Friday 12.00pm to 9.00pm
- ◆ Hospitality Traineeship - Ice Creams, hot dogs & milkshakes

Civil Construction - Road

Construction and Maintenance

Gain skills from traffic control, drainage systems, repairing of pot holes and installing signs and barriers

2 positions available for this 3 year

Traineeship based in and around Mackay

Applicants would need to have a drivers

licence or gaining one soon

Have good communication skills

and a high work ethic

Age is open and trainee rates do apply

Gain a qualification while working -

Start an Apprenticeship or Traineeship

OTHER FULL TIME POSITIONS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

- φ Civil Construction Apprenticeship - Plant Operator
- ◆ Baking Apprenticeship - New or 2nd, 3rd, 4th year
- ◆ Solid Plastering Apprenticeship - Recent School Leaver
- ◆ Apprentice Chef - New or 2nd, 3rd, 4th Year
- ◆ Business Sales Traineeship
- ◆ Business (Estimator) Traineeship
- ◆ Business Traineeship - South Sea Islander or Australia Indigenous Applicants
- ◆ Bicycle Traineeship - 2-3 Days per week, age open



SPORTS CORNER



Key Dates

Friday 07 March 2008—Mackay Rugby League Trials

Thursday 13 March 2008—Mackay Open Boys Rugby Union Trials

Friday 14 March 2008—Mackay Cricket Trials (Open Boys, Under 14 Boys and Under 15 Girls)

Thursday 20 March 2008—Mackay State High School Swimming Carnival.

With the Swimming Carnival coming up soon, we want students to think about the events they may like to compete in and nominate for those events next week. This is the first major school sports event of the year so we would like to see as many people as possible supporting and representing their house in the carnival.

Students are to be at Memorial Pool by 8:30am. The cost for the day will be \$2.00.

We are looking for players for the following school Rugby Union teams (Open Boys, Open Girls, Under 15 Boys and Year 8 Boys). Anyone interested should put your name down in C7. There will be a meeting shortly to discuss teams. The season will be starting soon.

Congratulations must go to all students who represented Mackay at the Capricorn Region Touch and Volleyball Trials this week. Congratulations to Kendelle Fry who made the Capricorn Open Girls Touch Team and to Shannon Willett who made the Under 15 Capricorn Touch Team.

A special mention must go to Todd Blanchfield. Todd has been selected in the Australian Under 19 Basketball Team to tour Germany later this month. Well done Todd!

Netball Update

The 2008 Netball seasons for both Senior and Junior players in Mackay High teams are now underway. We started with a weekend long grading carnival for our two Saturday teams last weekend, and congratulations must go to all players and umpires.

Wednesday night grading started on the 05 March.

The Netball Academy girls are working hard, improving their knowledge of and skills in netball under the watchful eye of Miss Robinson.

We hope that all players and supporters enjoy this season! With 6 teams in total this season Mackay State High School has a strong netball interest and we are looking forward to some great results.

Teams/Managers/Coaches are:

Saturday Teams

MSHS White – Carynne Robinson

MSHS Yellow – Emily Rodgers

Wednesday Teams

MSHS Red – Emily Rodgers

MSHS Navy – Carynne Robinson

MSHS Gold – Michelle Radunz

MSHS Maroon – Emily Rodgers

Mackay Trials

Last Thursday we took girls to the Mackay District Trials for Under 15 and Under 19 teams. Girls successful in their selection and who will be attending the Capricornia trials next Thursday are:

Under 19

Chenaye Neale

Under 15

Krissa Nielsen

Emily Arnold

Farren Mackelvie

Marine Venter

Paige Moses

Mataya Suhle

Well done girls!

Fees

Netball fees are now past due – please ensure these are paid as soon as possible if not already. Money is to come to Miss Rodgers, **not the general office**. Please contact us if you need to confirm the amount payable.

School netball contacts are Carynne Robinson (49 579 139) and Emily Rodgers (49 579 144).