On the 15th September the Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh group went on a four day walking expedition through the Yuraygir National Park, from Sandon River to Station Creek. Leaving from school, we arrived at the Sandon Camping Ground at about midday. From there we crossed the Sandon River in a canoe and after a series of back and forth trips everyone got to the other side. Mr Steward then left us with Ms Dempster-Newman to take the canoe to the next river crossing and we met up with him later in the afternoon. We then set off on our journey, walking around rock pools, over rocks and across beaches continuing under the hot sun until we arrived at our first camp at the Illaroo Rest Area and Campground. We set up our tents and used the barbeques to cook dinner. The second day we packed our equipment and headed for the next camp. We started today’s trek by walking through the campground and stopped at Minnie Water for a break and some food, like ice cream and lollies. Continuing along another long beach we finally arrived at the second camp at Diggers Camp. After settling down into our new camp we went snorkelling around the rocks and swimming in a nice, enclosed beach. The third day of our trip, we unpacked our equipment and started the day by walking on a track leading through some dirt. We walked this track until it ended up at another beach, along which we walked across to reach Wooli. We stopped at another shop and bought more food and drinks and continued to the rock wall where we took another few canoe trips over the Wooli River to get everyone to the other side. Once everyone reached the other side, Mr Steward left with the canoe again to go to our next camp. We continued on, walking along more beaches and over rocks to reach the last camp. There we settled at the bank of the beach and set up our tents and cooked dinner. On the last day, we packed our bags and camping gear and commenced our last beach walk. We walked over rocks higher than we have walked in this trip to finally arrive at Pebbly Beach. Continuing from there, we walked across Station Creek to finally reach the Station Creek Rest Area where we were picked up and driven back to school. Our Duke of Edinburgh group is one step closer to getting the silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. A big thank you to Miss Dempster-Newman for coming on this trip, the parents for driving us back and forth, and to Mr Steward for organising and running the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and for all of the driving back and forth to allow us to make the river crossings. Everyone who attended this trip had a fantastic time and it was a great experience.

Frederick Henstock

Mr Steward would like to congratulate two former students, Alex Bryant and Robert DeLong for recently gaining their Gold Duke Of Edinburgh award. The boys currently attend university in Sydney and Wollongong.

Frederick Henstock, Lochlan Paix, Ashley Ferguson, Frederick Henstock

Relaxing after a long walk
Dear Parents and Community

This term we will be preparing our new school plan. This plan will set out what we, as a school community, consider to be the educational priorities that reflect the goals and learning needs of our students from 2015 to 2017. To do this we will be asking for the views and opinions of all of our stakeholders. I look forward to talking to you more about this during the term.

Over the past few weeks I have signed a number of warnings of non-completion of course requirements or ‘N’ award letters for students in Years 7 to 12 and I would like to provide the school community with some general information on this process.

An ‘N’ award letter is sent when a student has not fulfilled course or assessment expectations. When an ‘N’ award letter is sent it is a notification that the student is not meeting course requirements and that they are expected to submit this non-completed work within two weeks to their classroom teacher.

A student will be ‘N’ awarded if they are NOT meeting the criteria for satisfactory completion of a course as set out by the Board of Studies. A student is considered to have satisfactorily completed a course if, in the principal’s view, there is sufficient evidence that the student has:
- followed the course developed or endorsed by the Board;
- applied themselves with diligence and sustained effort to the set tasks and experiences provided in the course by the school;
- and achieved some or all of the course outcomes.

What all of the above basically means is that all students are:
- expected to turn up to school every day and attend class;
- expected to participate in all activities set out by the classroom teacher and
- expected to attempt the work set out by the classroom teacher (which will include at home assessment tasks).

If you have a child who is struggling with their work and finding it hard to complete course requirements please contact me at the school and I will help you get assistance for your child through our learning support team so that your child will meet course criteria.

If you have received an ‘N’ award letter recently and would like it clarified please call me at the school and I will be happy to talk to you more about it.

**MY HIGHLIGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT:**

I have two highlights to share in this newsletter. The first was the captains’ induction assembly that we held on Tuesday as we as a school community celebrated Jayde, Connor, Mercedes, Blake, Dakota and Dylan taking their oaths of office as our school leaders for 2015. The second highlight was the first 6 to 7 transition day that was held on Thursday as we welcomed our Year 7 2015 cohort into the school as they began their high school journey.

**Simon McKinney**
Principal

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**CALENDAR**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>20th October—5th November</td>
<td>HSC Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st October</td>
<td>Senior School Southern Cross University Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st October</td>
<td>Year 11 Visual Art Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd October</td>
<td>Years 7 and 8 Boys Cricket, P&amp;C Meeting commencing 5.00pm School Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd October</td>
<td>Immunisation Year 7 and 9 Boys</td>
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<td>23rd—24th October</td>
<td>7’s Rugby Union</td>
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<td>28th October</td>
<td>Student Leadership Conference</td>
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<td>30th October</td>
<td>Year 6 Zombie Day</td>
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Each term in weeks 3, 6 and 9 we have a literacy focus across all of our subjects to help improve the learning outcomes for all of our students. Our Literacy focus for Term 4 is grammar and our focus for Week 3 will be the use of **nouns and adjectives**. We would like parents and caregivers to be involved in our skills weeks and to help by looking through the following information from the School A-Z website and discussing their use with your child.

**Nouns**

**Common Nouns:** Common nouns are the names common to people and things - eg woman, flower, dog. *The woman has a flower in her hair.*

**Proper Nouns:** Proper nouns are the names of a particular place or person - eg Australia, Professor Lee, Pitt Street, Broken Hill or titles of films, books, songs, magazines, plays. These nouns need to start with a capital letter. *In 2018 the Commonwealth Games will be held in Australia.*

**Collective Nouns:** Collective nouns are the names of a group of people and things - eg a hive of bees, a class of pupils, a bunch of flowers. *It is lovely to receive a bunch of flowers.*

**Abstract Nouns:** Abstract nouns are something we can't see or touch but are often feelings or emotions - eg friendship, enthusiasm. *The teacher asker the pupils for some more enthusiasm.*

**Compound Nouns:** Compound nouns are made of two nouns together that have a meaning different from the individual nouns, eg light-house, cupboard, bookshelf, butterfly. *There is a new bookshelf in the bedroom.*

**Noun Groups:** Noun groups are a group of words telling who or what is involved. It may include adjectives and nouns linked together, eg *The little black and white spotted dog ran home.* A noun group can also include adjectival phrases and clauses - eg *The house with the broken windows is for sale. The house that we saw yesterday is for sale.*

**Adjectives**

An adjective is used to describe someone or something. It gives more information in a sentence. There are several types of adjectives.

**Describing Adjectives:** These are the most common and describe a person, place or thing - eg intelligent, beautiful, tall, spindly, obese, shy, green, athletic, clever, shiny. *The shiny coin flashed in the sunlight. The beautiful, white cat strutted across the garden.*

**Proper Adjectives:** These are proper nouns used as adjectives - eg *Australian native animals are unique. The June rain is ideal for plants.*

**Adjectives of Order:** These tell position - eg first, third, last - *He was the last boy in the queue. She was in third place in her age race.*

**Possessive Adjectives:** These tell who something belongs to - eg my, his, her, their, your, its, our - *This is your magazine?*

**Numbering Adjectives:** These tell how many - eg two, thirty, many, several, lots of, each, every, most, several, few - *There were several girls in the play. There were five levels in the building.*

**Compound Adjectives:** These are adjectives joined by hyphens - eg half-ripe, feather-light, fast-moving, well-developed. *The feather-light sponge won first prize.*

**NHHS ARCHIBALDS**

For more than ten years Nambucca Heads High School has held its annual Archibald Prize Portrait contest. Students enter portraits of teachers or other students. There were a large number of entries with some outstanding talent on display. First place in the senior school went to Savannah Peterkin for her sketch of Ms Kristle McKinnon. Savannah’s entry also won the People’s Choice award. First place in the junior school went to Tasman Malouf with a portrait of Mr Michael Major. The entries have been on display in the front foyer of the school and have attracted some very favourable comments from the general community. Ms Holliday remarked that only the best portraits were put in the exhibition and so if your entry was on display it was of a very high standard. Students received certificates at our assembly on Tuesday with the major prizes being awarded at our school Presentation Day which will be held on Monday 15th December.

**Photography Competition**

For the next photography competition Ms Holliday has made it a “Free Choice” or if you would like to work to a theme it will be Technology. Photography competitions are held throughout the year with a point score system. At the end of the year major prizes are awarded.
**Year 12**
Year 12 have started their exams, so good luck! Pupils who have any questions about UAC preferences or any other issues please feel free to contact the Careers Adviser. Parents are also more than welcome to make contact.

**Year 11**
Year 11 students may be making subject selections as they begin their HSC studies. Pupils must take home the **subject change note** to allow this to happen. They must speak to the Head Teacher / s involved and the Careers Adviser who also need to sign this note. The note then needs to be signed by Parents / Guardians and returned to Ms Marshall.

**Year 10**
**WRALS information.**
The 2014 WRALS (Work Related And Life Skills) Program for Year 10 will commence on Monday 17th November. Pupils will be offered the opportunity to gain valuable skills and experience during this time. They can start the production of a very substantial Curriculum Vitae and Resume by involvement in this program. Pupils have been given Permission Notes and Selection Sheets for the WRALS program. A brief overview is below.

**PARENTS PLEASE support this initiative by ensuring your child’s attendance and participation. The program relies on the booking of Resources, Individuals and Groups well in advance. These bookings are based on the forms pupils return indicating their choices. If your child has returned a note stating their choices it is assumed they will attend.**

See the list of activities offered below. Activities will only run where numbers meet requirements. Some activities have limited spaces, which will be allocated on 1) return of note and 2) money (where required by pay by date)

**Week 7**
*Credentials Week – Choose activities for each day in week 7*
Monday 17th November - Friday 21st November
Activities include; Responsible Service of Alcohol / Responsible Conduct of Gambling Courses, Barista Course, Construction Projects at Bellwood, Masterchef (Cooking Workshop), Volunteer Aged Care, Indigenous Art Project, Boat Licence Course, Work Health Safety Course, First Aid Course, Rural Fire Service Workshop – **students have been given a selection sheet.**

**Week 8**
*Work Experience (compulsory)*
Monday 24th November – Friday 28th November

**Week 9**
*Work Experience (compulsory)*
Monday 1st December – Friday 5th December

**Week 10**
*Senior school and interview preparation - All pupils to attend*
Monday 8th December - All My Own Work / Resume preparation
Tuesday 9th December - Police presentation / Mental Health, Sexual Health and Drug Use presentations
Wednesday. 10th December - Job Application / Interview Skills
Thursday 11th December - Year 10 Interviews and Presentation Day for Certificates (until lunch)

Parents please support this very valuable program to maximise your child’s experience during Year 10.

**Work Experience** - Students are reminded that their Work Experience needs to be finalised. Any students who have not organised this need to see Mr Horan if you require assistance. The dates for Work Experience are; First week (24th – 28th November), Second week (1st – 5th December). Parents please encourage your child to participate in this valuable program and complete your paper-work ASAP.  

Mr Horan - Careers Adviser

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**ASSESSMENT ALERT**

Following on from Mr McKinney’s report re-N awards Nambucca Heads High School would like to remind you of an innovative and convenient way for you to know when your child has an assessment task or assignment due. We now have available for you a new smart phone application called Assessment Alert which allows you to download all of your child’s assessment/exam due dates to your smartphone and synchronise them to your calendar and receive regular alerts before they are due. We encourage you to take advantage of this product. If you have an iPhone, iPad or iTouch simply go to [Apple App Store](http://AppStore) or if you have an Android device visit the [Google Play Store](http://PlayStore) and follow the prompts. It is simple, easy to use and will help students and parents become more organised and engaged with their studies. Please visit: [http://assessmentalert.com/](http://assessmentalert.com/) and click on the play the intro video to see how it works. Set Up guides for Parents/Students can be found at: [http://assessmentalert.com/news/](http://assessmentalert.com/news/)

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**Eftpos Facilities**

**Commencing in Term 4 NHHS will have EFTPOS facilities available for the payment of school fees, excursions and other school events. There will be no “Cash Out” available.**
Year 9 Drama has been studying the play “Space Demons” since Term 3 this year. They will be performing the play with matinee sessions for local primary students and night time performances for parents and friends in Week 7 of Term 4 (week beginning 17th November 2014.) The main four characters in the play are Andrew Hayford (played by Max Galo), Ben Challis (played by Sarese Paull), Elaine Taylor (played by Pyper-Rae Wagstaff) and Maria Ferrone (played by Courtney Molloy). The plot starts when Andrew’s dad returns from a trip to Japan with an exciting new prototype video game. Andrew, who is an enthusiastic gamer, shows it to his best friend Ben and they play the game together. Later, two other players are introduced to the game, Mario Ferrone and Elaine Taylor. It is revealed that it is possible to get transported into the game by means of a special gun, which only works when a strong beam of hate is directed at someone. Soon the four characters get trapped inside the game and they must decide whether to work together or face the demons alone. To find out the answer come along and enjoy a great evening. Tickets will be on sale in the coming weeks and can be purchased from the school.

Recently Year 9 students studied a body of work entitled “Zombie Attack”. With Ms Lockyer and Ms Waters acting as “Head Zombies” the students, who were also dressed up as Zombies, learnt about some different diseases commonly known as zombie diseases. There were tables set up around the room with information about different types of diseases. The students were given a booklet with clues. They then had to work their way through the booklet identifying each zombie disease. Diseases that were highlighted were: Spanish Flu, Spider Bite, Leprosy, Tetanus, Rabies, Alzheimer’s, vCJD and Sleeping Sickness. The session was a lot of fun and extremely well presented by Ms Lockyer and Ms Waters. The best dressed zombies went to Samantha Davidson and John Knevett. This experience was also a training session for the students as the Zombie experience will be included as part of our Year 6 to Year 7 transition.

Recently three students—Jayde Hill, Savannah and Mercedes Peterkin - competed at the Combined High School’s athletics carnival held at Olympic Park, Sydney. The girls performed extremely well in very hot conditions. Jayde finished her event, the 5000m race walk, with a personal best breaking the record by some 30 seconds. Savannah finished 2nd in the Long Jump, 3rd in the 200m sprint and 4th in the 100m sprint. Mercedes finished 10th in the 100m sprint with a personal best time, 5th in the 200m sprint, 9th in the Long Jump . Jayde will now travel to Adelaide in December as part of the NSW team.

ReachOut—Life after Year 12 Exams

To support Year 12 students currently sitting their HSC exams ReachOut.com with the support of some prominent Australians have joined forces to tell their stories of life after Year 12 exams at theresslifeafter.org. For each one of them, Year 12 exams were a beginning not an end. For some who excelled, life has turned out very differently than they planned. For others who didn’t quite get the marks they wanted, life’s taken them in different and interesting directions. Either way, they all agree that there’s plenty to look forward to once it’s all over. For more information go to ReachOut.com

Free Autism Workshop Like all school-age students, children with autism spectrum disorder benefit from strong, positive relationships between the home and school. Positive Partnerships uses evidence based materials and practical resources to help support these relationships by facilitating workshops for parents and carers in your local community. Sessions will include understanding behaviour and sensory processing as well as strategies that can be applied in home and school settings. For more information go on line at www.positivepartnerships.com.au to register for the workshop. Dates: 12th&13th November 2014 -Venue Australis Sanctuary Resort, 250 Pacific Highway (South), Coffs Harbour.
The Year 9 Elective Japanese class travelled to Coffs Harbour to experience all things Japanese. The day started at the Japanese Gardens with an amazing walk around taking in the Japanese Pavilion and the Japanese waterfall. These gardens are a wonderful example of traditional Japanese Gardens and are well worth a visit. Next up it was lunch at the Jetty Sushi Rail, which was delicious. As a bit of a treat, although not really Japanese, we couldn’t go past the Cold Rock shop. To finish off a wonderful day we walked along the ocean jetty, unfortunately no jetty jumping was allowed. This was a lovely day and a great way to experience some Japanese culture. I would like to thank all the students for their behaviour and to Michele Mackenzie and Rebecca Cannon “DOOMO ARIGATOO’ for helping on the day.

Sensei (Angela Tate)