Dear Parents and Community

This week is School Administrative Support Staff (SASS) Staff Recognition Week. Our SASS Staff are integral to the success of Nambucca Heads High School. Our SASS Staff are spread throughout the school in the following positions: School Administrative Manager, School Administrative Officers, School Learning Support Officers, Aboriginal Education Officers and our General Assistant. This year’s theme for SASS Staff Recognition Week is ‘Our jobs, Your children, Their future’ and this is a very apt theme as the work all of our SASS Staff do every day greatly enhances your child’s opportunities for success at school.

On behalf of the whole NHHS school community I would like to acknowledge and recognise the work of our SASS Staff. Thanks to: Corinne Potter, Vanessa Barbour, Gina Crooks, Susan Hamilton, Felicia Jarrett, Annette Welsh, Peter Lewis, Gayle McNamara, Lyn Neal, Mark Neal, Kim Robbins, Dianne Ryan, Lizzy Russell, Barry Simmons, Ken Smith, Barry Dobson, Edrica Jarrett, Robyn Burrows, Gary Lee, Heidi Besmehn, Sharon Wilson, Brock Janssen, Jeanette Thorncroft, Leanne Johnson, Mark Duckett, David Dedman and Linda Batten.

Our Year 12 students have finished their trials and are now busily revising for their HSC exams. All of the practical HSC subjects have been submitted and last week the first markers arrived to see our drama students perform their pieces. Music will be held next week and the Design and Technology markers and Art markers will be in the school over the coming weeks. Our textiles works were sent down to Sydney for marking a few weeks ago. **Year 12 students** - there is still over 5 weeks until your exams begin, this means there is plenty of time to implement a concerted study timetable in order to best prepare yourself for your exams. Please use this time wisely.

As always please contact me at the school if you have any issues in regards to your child’s education.

**Highlight of the fortnight:**

Bailey Rixon being crowned our inaugural NHHS Spelling Bee Champion. The school gym was a hive of excitement as Bailey triumphed over 14 other students from Years 7 to 11 and one unnamed principal who was an abysmal failure at the activity! Thank you to Mrs Nowland for organising the event and to all students who participated.

*Simon McKinney
Principal*
We recently welcomed the Commonwealth Bank Foundation to deliver their free, financial education StartSmart workshops to our Year 10 students. Delivered in class to students by a facilitator, StartSmart changes the way young people learn about money. By making money management interactive, engaging and fun, our students were equipped with the confidence and competence they need to make smart decisions about money. Our school has proudly joined the Commonwealth Bank Foundation’s in its mission to improve the financial literacy of Australia’s young people. Overall, the program proved to be a highly beneficial experience for students and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. For more information on the program and each of the workshops we encourage you to visit www.startsmart.com.au.

Year 12 will soon finish their trial HSC Exams. Students should now start to organise their post school options. Applying to Universities Admission Centre (UAC) to record their University preferences opened on the 5th of August. Early Entry Applications are due to the Careers Adviser by the 11th of September.

Parents please ensure your child reads the information which has been emailed and given out, in paper form at school, to students. It includes important dates and information about the processes involved. Depending on where and what a student wishes to study there may be exceptions to the above date eg. University of Wollongong, closed 28th of August.

Of particular interest is the information for UNE (University of New England) and SCU (Southern Cross University). Many of our former students have attended these Universities. They also provide very attractive Early Entry or Principal Recommendation schemes which students are encouraged to apply for. See links below. http://www.une.edu.au/study/study-on-campus/get-early-entry http://scu.edu.au/futurestudents/index.php/29

UNE visited our Year 12 students on Tuesday 1st September to discuss issues like Early Entry, Scholarships and Accommodation. UNE is a direct application with no need to register with UAC (unlike nearly all other entry methods). SCU and CSU have already spoken to students and require a UAC registration.

Parents, who wish to find out more information, please feel free to contact the Careers Adviser with any questions.

The SRS (School Recommendation Scheme) is another way students can gain entry to Universities which may result in conditional or unconditional offers. The SRS may be based nearly entirely on the recommendation of the school or may require additional criteria to be met. For example certain marks in required subjects. Each of the participating SRS Universities (10 in total) will have its own policy. Newcastle will be participating for the first time in 2016. Students must register with UAC to access this scheme and also to be considered for main round ATAR offers (based on pupils HSC results)

Pupils should go to the UAC site and register if they intend to go to Uni. It costs $32, with an on time application being able to be done by the 30th September (fees increase after this date). UAC link: http://www.uac.edu.au/undergraduate/

Year 11

Pupils will be interviewed at the end of this Term. After Term 3 pupils will commence the HSC Course work and may consider changing their course of study by dropping Units where applicable. Students are encouraged not to make a rushed decision. Around 1/3 of HSC students study 12 units in Year 12 (required to do at least 10 Units). This may give a student a “safety net” with only the top 10 ATAR Units counting towards a student’s ATAR results.

Year 10

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 (23rd – 27th November), second week (30th November – 4th December). Parents please encourage your child to participate in this valuable program and complete your paperwork ASAP.

Mr Horan - Careers Adviser

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**CALENDAR**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>7th—11th Sept</td>
<td>Year 11 Preliminary Final Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th Sept</td>
<td>Zombie Day Year 6 to 7 Transition Day</td>
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<td>8th Sept</td>
<td>Year 8 Aboriginal Studies visit to Gaagal Waangaan(South Beach)</td>
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<td>9th Sept</td>
<td>Poetry at Play Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 involved, HSC Music Practical Exam</td>
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<td>10th Sept</td>
<td>Year 7 Vaccinations, Zone Futsal Port Macquarie</td>
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<td>11th Sept</td>
<td>Year 12 Hospitality/Food/Tech/Textiles Excursion</td>
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<td>14th—17th Sept</td>
<td>Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Bushwalk</td>
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<td>15th Sept</td>
<td>Year 12 Farewell Social 6.30pm—9.00pm</td>
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<td>16th Sept</td>
<td>Year 12 Breakfast and Presentation Assembly from 8.00am</td>
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<td>18th Sept</td>
<td>Last Day Term 3 and for Year 12 school as they know it</td>
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**CAREERS**
On the 6th August Year 9 students began their Duke of Edinburgh program with a practice kayak on the Nambucca River. Students spent the day working as a group, learning leadership skills and learning what is necessary when going on a longer expedition - like keeping your backpack to a minimum weight, packing necessary equipment, making sure you carry enough food and water for the trip. Year 9 students have been on a three day expedition this week on the Emu Track walking from Sandon River to Pebbley Beach. As part of this scheme students will learn leadership skills, how to work as a team and how to push themselves out of their comfort zone.

There has been a great response from Year 9 to the Duke of Edinburgh scheme however, if you haven't spoken to Mr Steward yet and you think you would like to join it's not too late, just see him when he is at school next.

The kayaking on the Nambucca River was fantastic and the students would like to thank Mark Duckett for showing them through Gaagal Waangaan.

On Friday August 21st, students from Year 9 and 10 Marine Studies and Year 10 PASS visited the Trout Hatchery at Ebor and then went onto Guyra to do some trout fishing. We left at 7am on the new school bus which was captained by Jennifer Barnett. Because of the early start we stopped at Bellingen for coffee and then headed to Ebor. At the trout hatchery students watched a video and then were given a tour to show how the trout are bred and raised to be released into local streams. All students thoroughly enjoyed the tour and were able to feed the trout. We then went to Guyra to do some trout fishing. All students had the chance to catch fish although we used normal rods, rather than fly fishing as we had thought. Almost all students caught very large trout and they all had their photos taken with their fish. We stopped at the big merino in Guyra for another photo opportunity and then made our way home.  

Thanks to Ms. Barnett for her excellent driving skills.

Ryan Purnell  Olivia Desic  Ted Wikaira Pehiriri  Kiarra Cohen, Caroline Higgins  Grace Mackney

TROUT HATCHERY AND FISHING
Tuesday 18th August was Vietnam Veteran's Day. This is the day that we remember Australians who served in the Vietnam War between 1962 and 1972. The 18th August was also the day that Australians fought a major battle against numerically superior enemy forces at Long Tan. Sam Gilmore and Sophie Blair represented our school at the Vietnam Veteran's Day Memorial Service at the new cenotaph in Macksville. Sam and Sophie laid a wreath and were exemplary in the way they represented the school.

Thank you to Mr Elsley who attended the service with the students in Macksville.

Science Week
This years theme for Science Week was 'Making Waves - The Science of Light'. Students were able to participate in a number of activities that used light and reflection with some activities resembling a magic show. One activity had the students trying to touch a little pig, but was the pig really there? Another saw students learning how to use highlighters as an invisible pen and then there was the flying broom effect.

ICAS Competition
The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) are independent skills-based assessments with a competition element. Commonly referred to as the UNSW tests, ICAS is unique, being the most comprehensive generally available suite of academic assessments and school tests for secondary school students. Eamonn Lee is to be congratulated as he received a Distinction in the Science component of the competition. Over one million student entries are accepted from over 6,300 schools in Australia and New Zealand annually. In addition, students from over 20 countries including Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa and the USA participate in ICAS each year.

Eamonn Lee

Nambucca Heads High School SRC will be holding a BBQ at the Woolworths Supermarket on Sunday 19th September. If you are in the area call in and support the students fundraising efforts.
Nambucca Heads High School held a Spelling Bee during Week 5. Students first competed in Year groups to find the top three from years 7 to 11. Once the final fifteen were decided the next step was a spell off at assembly to make the final five, which became six with the inclusion of Mr McKinney. After some anxious moments and great spelling it came down to two, Annabelle McCullagh and Bailey Rixon. The winner.........Bailey Rixon of Year 9. Congratulations to Bailey and everyone who took part. It was a lot a fun and the students were particularly happy when Mr McKinney got tangled up spelling Deodorant. Each of the final five received a $50 voucher. Thank you to Ms Nowland for organising the spelling bee and also to Riley Hayden who was the quiz master extraordinaire.

The musical is well under way, everyone involved is very excited about the production. Rehearsals are being held during lunch and sport times and these will increase as the big date draws nearer. Amazing music, fabulous costumes and great hair! Don’t forget to save the date. The premiere will be on the 19th October with several evening and matinee performances over a two week period. Tickets will be on sale soon from the front office.
The Year 12 Visual Art students have submitted their major works as part of their HSC. As you can see their work is of a very high standard. Their teacher Ms Angela Bagordo is extremely pleased with the girls work ethic and attitude to their pieces.

**Mercedes Peterkin:** My HSC Art major is about reflecting my thoughts through patterns. It describes how when I draw it is therapeutic and very relaxing. My drawing also shows how one can get lost in thoughts and patterns. Each drawing resembles a mandela, but in my own style. The three dimensional cut outs on the artwork are about the certain objects that stand out in life. The artwork is all about detail. I have called my artwork 'Pattern of Thought'. It resembles the meditative state I am in when I draw.

**Savannah Peterkin:** My HSC Art Major is a piece consisting of nine sketches of members of the Youth Commonwealth Games team that I will be competing with in. Each member has their speciality athletic event faded into the background. I wanted my work to show the new breed in world sporting events.

**Erin Wattison:** My HSC Art Major reflects the mortality of human kind and the things we leave behind. Specifically, my paintings relate to the loss of my grandmother and the objects she left behind and the memories that live on through myself and the many lives she touched.