



Week 9 Term 4

7th December 2012

COOTAMUNDRA HIGH SCHOOL

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Principal's Report

With the end of the year fast approaching, this will be the final newsletter for 2012. I would like to personally thank and congratulate the entire school community for their efforts, dedication, professionalism and commitment to the many opportunities available at Cootamundra High School. We have had some great successes in the classroom, on the sporting fields, on stage musically and with dance, leadership and community involvement. These successes will be highlighted at Presentation Night on December 17 and in the annual report that will be mailed out to parents at the end of next week.

Our students have continued to enjoy great success and opportunities over the past weeks. This included the unbelievable Schools Spectacular held at the Sydney Entertainment Centre on November 23. An amazing performance of 3500 public school students. The dance troupe and choir girls had an amazing experience and came home tired and excited. This event will be shown on ABC TV on Sunday 16th December and on New Years Eve.

Excursions for commerce and legal studies and geography have travelled to Sydney and Mt. Kosciuszko last week. Not only did all of the students learn a great deal about the various subjects, their behaviour, friendliness and level of responsibility was once again extremely high. In fact the manager of the lodge the geographers stayed in emailed the school singing their praises.

PRINCIPAL: Mr Garry Mason

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Mrs Janine Nelson

Well done.

Next week five Year 9 boys - Joseph Trinder, Andrew Clements, Matt Angel and Adam Martin - are off to Newcastle University for a LIVE IT program focussing on maths and science opportunities at university. This is a great opportunity for them to be exposed to possible future career paths. I am certain they will enjoy the week and learn a lot.

On Friday December 14 we will be having a morning tea for over 100 students who have successfully gained a Cootamundra High School Award in our Positive Points system. This result of our new system is really exciting as it shows that the overwhelming vast majority of our students
(Please Turn Over)

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Principal's Report continued...

continue to try hard, seize the opportunities, enjoy school and now reap some rewards.

On Tuesday Dec 18 we will have our Term 4 awards assembly where many students will receive their certificates in our Positive Rewards Scheme and other awards that students have achieved in the many different activities with the school.

On Wednesday 19th December I will have the privilege, along with Mayor Doug Phillips, of hosting a morning tea for the six students and their parents who have achieved the highest award in our positive points system - The Cootamundra Community Award.

To achieve this students have to gain 800 points over the year. This recognises commitment, behaviour, work ethic and involvement in many activities throughout the school. These six students are: Sarah Godman (Yr 12), Erin Holder (Yr9) and the following Year 7 students; Maddison Sedgwick, Tahlia Gatto, Ebony Davey, Chloe Janssen. Congratulations to all of these students for your wonderful efforts this year.

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2013 will see some significant changes in staff with Mr Shoard taking extended leave prior to retirement in 2014. His commitment to maths and his passion for seeing students succeed have been demonstrated time and time again. Thanks Daryl for your enormous contribution to Cootamundra High over many, many years.

Mr Green from HSIE is also taking extended leave prior to retirement in 2014. My thanks to John for his continued dedication to teaching, especially in Legal Studies.

Bryce Jacobs, who has been overseeing and teaching in our Re-engagement Centre for the past 18 months, is leaving for the Newcastle region. Bryce - your support, encouragement and guidance for the students under your care has been inspirational. They have certainly benefitted from your work - thank you.

Finally, as you know, I am retiring at the end of this year and wish to give a heartfelt thanks to the entire school community and the Cootamundra community in general for your support, patronage and commitment to ensuring students at Cootamundra High School get an unbelievable education and have the skills and abilities to take on the world.

THANK YOU.

Garry Mason

Calendar of Events

Wk 10	Mon 10 Dec to Wed 12 Dec	'Liveit' Yr 9 Boys Newcastle University Excursion
	Wed 12 Dec	Yr 7 and 8 Jamberoo Excursion
	Fri 14 Dec	Rewards Students Morning Tea
Wk 11	Mon 17 Dec	Presentation Night
	Tue 18 Dec	Rewards Assembly P & C meeting
	Wed 19 Dec	The Cootamundra Community Award Morning Tea Last day of school year for students
	Fri 21 Dec	Last day of school year for staff

Yr 12 Formal

Yr 12 Formal Photographs are available at Moore Clothing

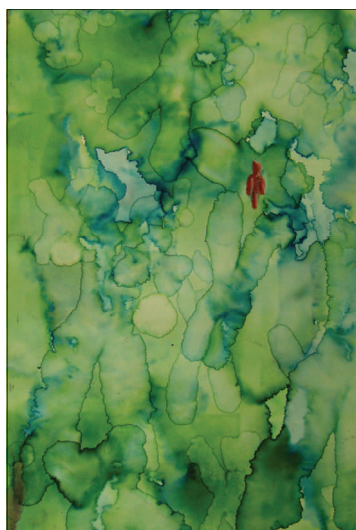


Front Row: Sarah Godman, Katie Perry, Brianna Brinckley, Alexandria Trinder, Claudia Raleigh, Hannah Douglas, Rachael Sullivan, Marnie Maher, Laura Bruce, Georgia Squire, Kalina Bone, Sarah Collingridge, Emma Liu

Middle Row: Brenton Forsyth, Tommy Connell, Emily McClintock, Jessica Bell, Hope Perry, Jordan Fuller, Ricky Lee Atkinson, Alex Jones, Ryan Millar, Brendan Gale

Top Row: Sam Jennings-May, Tim Masters, Nathan Visser, Luke Bailey, James Barrett, Max Holder, Noah Trickett, Tom Maurer, Zac Scholls, Aaron Cronin, Ross Raffaele, Max Munstone, Ryan Schade

Yr 12 Major Artworks



To the left: Two of Tim Master's series of 12 mixed media artworks.

Above: One of Hannah Douglas's series of 6 digital photographs

Commerce / Legal Studies Excursion to Sydney

The Year 9 Commerce class and the Year 11 Legal Studies class travelled to Sydney as part of their studies. The Australian legal system was the main focus of the visit (though I understand that the students were able to investigate many retail outlets during their short stay.)

We began the day with Year 11 students visiting the Supreme Court of NSW where they were able to witness a world renowned forensic scientist give evidence in a manslaughter case. While Year 11 were at the Supreme Court, Year 9 Commerce students were conducting a marketing exercise and researching the history of Australian currency at the Reserve Bank of Australia.

Following the morning activities the students proceeded to Parliament House where Katrina Hodgkinson graciously found time to leave the chamber to address the students on her role as the Member for Burrinjuck and a Minister in the Government.

The students were then able to watch a lively debate on an amendment to a Bill which dealt with feral animals and would have enabled people to



shoot ducks. This debate was followed by a raucous Question Time where the Premier informed the House that he knew where Cootamundra was. Both sides of the House tried to involve the students at every opportunity and each side concluded that the students from Cootamundra were more intelligent than those sitting opposite them in the chamber.



Students with Katrina Hodgkinson (Member for Burrinjuck)

Following Parliament House the students booked into their accommodation. The evening meal was taken in Chinatown before the students completed a very full day with a walk across the Harbour Bridge.

The next morning students were up early in order to visit the Police and Justice Museum where a Police Prosecutor took the students through two mock trials, explaining the procedures in depth for the students. A tour of the museum enabled the students to learn of some famous cases and to see some of the weapons which had been used in actual crimes. The visit was interesting in that it also helped to explain the development of Sydney society from the earliest days of settlement.



Commerce / Legal Studies Excursion to Sydney



Students were able to grab a quick lunch before all students moved on to the District Court. Here students were able to watch two interesting cases - both of which involved illicit drugs.



Following the District Court we visited Madame Tussauds where we had our photographs taken with many famous



identities, then went back to the hostel for a brief rest before going out on the town and rounding off the day by watching the latest James Bond movie.

The next day started with a visit to Paddy's markets before moving to the Rocks for lunch. After lunch we travelled to Manly on the ferry where many students took the opportunity to swim between the flags. While at Manly many students visited Oceanworld

where they learnt about many marine animals and were able to observe many rays and sharks in close-up.

As evening approached we made our way back to Central Railway in order to catch the night train back to Cootamundra.

The students impressed all they met with their courtesy and good conduct. Student behaviour was exemplary throughout and it was a pleasure to be able to take such a well-behaved group of students away on an excursion.



Martin McCarthy (HSIE Department)



Library Assignments

Year 8 have been busy in the library this term. They have been researching Native Americans and have written letters, both as a settler and a Native American.

Settler's Letter

Dear Abigail, Wednesday 7th, 1877

Isn't it great that we've discovered gold near California? Those Indians didn't have a clue that they were literally sitting on top of a goldmine. They waste valuable land and don't even use it properly. Well, at least the Indians have finally moved to a reservation on the Missouri. The government will give them the supplies they need like money, food, clothes, houses and blankets. That's where the Indians deserve to be anyway after murdering our soldiers and the highly honoured General Custer. It makes me mad to think that all our innocent people in the Battle of Little Bighorn last year where killed. Indians are so stubborn and they deserve to have their chief 'Crazy Horse' killed. Out of the two main Indian tribes, the Cherokee are the most civilised. Anyway, I hear so much about the railway that goes right across the country. It would be really good and helpful for the farmers and cow towns. One day, I'd like to ride on it myself. Except, I also hear that it can be unsafe, because the savage Indians de-rail them sometimes. The Indians say that their traditional way of life is being destroyed, but it isn't. We've come to America and Christopher Columbus discovered it; this land is rightfully ours.

The Indians really are savage. They dress in feathers, animal skins, teeth, beads and painted clothing. Apparently, the objects that they wear are sacred and protect warriors in battle. They even stole one of our cows, and their excuse was that it was lame and abandoned. The list goes on... But we are doing the right thing and putting the Indian children in our schools so they can learn proper skills, like woodwork.

It's been great living on the Great Plains. Even though it is really cold in Winter (down to -40°C) and hot in the Summer (up to 45°C), it has lots of prairies, wooded valleys and streams. It's perfect for building settlements and houses. The main source of food for the Indians here are Buffalo, but we are growing vegetables too. Occasionally, we trade with the Indians with horses, pots and pans for clothing, blankets and even food sometimes.

Hope you're well and your family is alright in this struggle between us and the Indians.

Yours sincerely,
Peter (settler) **(Letter by Natalie Berg)**

Native American Letter

Dear Winged Horse, 2/5/1877

I do not like it here on the Missouri reservation. Why where we forced by soldiers to move from our sacred land? We have been here for generations, traditionally hunting Buffalo by spear and arrows, while the settlers use guns and horses. It makes me so mad to think of the hundreds of treaties broken by the white people and all our innocent warriors killed in the Battle of Little Bighorn last year.

As you know, it is our culture to hunt and gather food, make useful items out of buffalo hide, and tell great stories around the campfire. Well, here these traditions are discouraged. Children get taken away from their families and put into schools run by white people, learning European ways. They aren't allowed to see their parents. Not even in the school holidays. We are totally dependant on the government. They said they would give us money, food, houses, clothes and blankets that we need. Greedy soldiers however, keep most of the supplies, making it very hard for us to live here. It is hard to survive on the reservation, due to the lack of food that is here. There are also European diseases such as Smallpox and Cholera that are killing our people, and we can't use our herbal medicines to cure them.

I have a child now, which makes me a squaw. The elders have named him 'Little Hawk'. He is my light in the darkness, since my husband died a warrior in battle. Soon, my Little Hawk will be taken away from me and put into schools run by white people. Even though this reservation offers very little, I will try to raise him the best that I can. If we were still living on the Great Plains, I would have made many clothes, shoes and blankets made out of buffalo hide and animal skins for him.

Anyways, I hope you are well and that we will all find hope in this struggle between us and the white people.

From,
Brave Bear (Sioux tribe)
(Letter by Natalie Berg)

Library Assignments

Settlers' Letter

Dear Avery,

I am taking care of the land today as usual. It's lonely without you and Thomas. It's also close to the anniversary of both of your deaths. I remember when all this happened.

But for better or worse, I'm not sure anymore.

It was 1840 when we got here. You were a fur trader. Thomas was only one. The demand for fur was dying and we became poor. Land was sold to settlers for a cheap price in 1840. We'd both decided it was best and saved whatever we could to buy land. We had struggled along for a while, farming the land. We knew we had to keep Thomas alive, no matter what.

Soon Thomas had grown up, twenty three he was when the long railroad was being built across the country. He'd decided to get some extra cash for us, travelling to help build the railroad. You left soon after him, worried sick. I had to stay home and take care of the crops. Every day, I would wait for your return. I spun clothing, grew your favourite food corn and cared for the land as you would, all in waiting for your – and Thomas' – return. But neither of you ever came.

Six years passed and my hope was wavering. I stayed up late and rose early to sit on your old wooden chair outside, using precious candles to flicker light on the porch, to guide your way back home. I waited hours watching the horizon.

Finally, last year, a soldier came to our house and I finally knew what happened to you and Thomas.

You were killed. Thomas too. Dead. By the people who land we were living on. I'd almost left then. But I heard stories of the Indians believing spirits reside in the land. So I stayed. If you and Thomas are still here somewhere, so am I.

So that was our story, Avery. For what we did, I can't say it was for better or worse. Nor can I believe the Indians killed you and Thomas without reason. I don't really know what's right or wrong anymore.

I just know that I want a better future for everyone, regardless of who they are or whose side they're on.

Sincerely, your wife,

Jane.

(Letter by Megan Chau)

Native American's Letter

Dear Father,

I haven't talked to you in a while. Perhaps it's because we have been in danger for quite some time. Ever since they came.

Now I don't suppose you know who 'they' are. We're not entirely sure ourselves. The warriors of our tribe, the Sioux, call them 'Yellow Hair' and things like that. Everything fell to chaos when they came. They took everything from us.

Stories say the horses were brought to the Great Plains in 1680. Since then, many of us became greedy, unhealthy and forgot the important things. We have lost our skills of weaving equipment and being resourceful. I am an old woman now. By now, I would have taught my daughter all I knew. But she has become greedier, wasteful like many others. I taught bow and arrow to youths. I at least want this skill to remain with them.

It is now 1876. The 'Yellow Hair' people have come to our land, claiming it for themselves for a long time. We were moved to smaller areas, reservations. Diseases came with the Yellow Hair people. They spread easily in our small areas. My days are becoming numbered. However, I am determined to live until the day I see our victory. Each day, this goal becomes distant. The war has been raging for almost a year.

Warriors have gone to Little Bighorn. They, too, are determined to win this war, the Battle of Little Bighorn. It seems like we might be able to survive for just a bit longer. Red Cloud, Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull, our chiefs, are fighting hard for us. But I am doubtful, Father. We have won the battle, but not the war. My days are passing quickly and soon I will die. I write this letter to you now, my final letter. I ask you to protect our tribe and hopefully, soon, the young youths and children can grow up in a brighter future.

Sincerely, Hawk-Eye.

(Letter by Megan Chau)

Library Assignments

Settler's Letter

Dear Father
15/5/1870

As you know we are going west. I can't wait to be able to use the land of The Great Plains. I hate that the Indians are so stupid to think that we don't own the land. We've captured many as slaves and killed a few too. It's been hard out in the open, in the cold. Some of our fellows couldn't survive the cold. My backside is sore from riding horses all day.

You know, Father it's been difficult fighting against the Indians for the land they think they belong to. We think the Indians are wasting the land, they don't even know how to grow crops! General Custer has got a good plan to force the Indians on to Reservations so then we can do whatever we like on the land. General Custer is thinking we should attack the Cheyenne tribe soon.

How are my mother and sis? I know they didn't want me to go, but I'm doing what's best. I'm sorry you couldn't come but I had to protect you. You would be better at looking after Mother and Sis than me.

Us fellows have to be ready at any time. Guns loaded, expecting every sound is an Indian and people doing sentry duty at all times. My mate got an arrow in him, but I think he'll be okay.

The Indians wear disgusting clothes! They wear feathers on their heads and they have long greasy hair! Seriously!? I hate to admit it but the Indians do have some skills, but as soon as we get them onto the Reservations, we'll tame them. We'll make them cut their hair, grow crops for food, not discuss anything with their chief and make all the tribes live together.

I'm sorry to say but I'm gonna miss out on your 40th birthday. I might be back by my 20th birthday, but if I'm not....then you'll probably know why. I want to thank you for teaching me the things I know today and I will probably see you soon...

Yours Sincerely
John (Soldier)

(Letter by Mikayla Johnston)

Jamberoo

Jamberoo Action Park Wednesday 12th December

The excursion to Jamberoo Action Park will leave the school at 6.00 a.m. prompt. Students are requested to be here at 5.45 a.m. so that rolls can be marked. Students must not be late or they will find that the bus has gone without them.



Any outstanding monies must now be paid. Please check with the office if you are unsure if there is any money owing for your child's participation.



A chicken wrap and a juice has been purchased on behalf of the students for lunch, some money may be useful as students will probably stop en-route for breakfast and an evening meal.



It is anticipated that the students will return home to Cootamundra by 8.30 p.m.

Students should bring a hat, sunscreen and a water bottle with them on the day.

Students are requested to leave any valuables at home as no responsibility can be taken for these items. Lockers may be available on the day depending upon the number of visitors to the park.

School uniform is not required. It is recommended that students:

- do not wear their best clothes as it is likely that they will get wet at some time during the day,
- bring an old T-shirt for the slides and rides and
- bring a change of clothes.

Students are expected to follow their teachers instructions at all times.

Students prone to be travel sick should inform their teacher and sit at the front of the bus.

Martin McCarthy (Organising teacher)

Year 11 Geography Kosciuszko Excursion

an ADVENTURE really!!

From the 28th to 30th November the Year 11 Geography class undertook our annual excursion into the Kosciuszko National Park to study Cave ecosystems at Yarragobilly and alpine ecosystems between Thredbo and the Top of Mount Kosciuszko. Here are some of the students thoughts about the trip

- “Fantastic excursion, amazing experience, brilliant things to see & do, definitely worth going – it was great!” (GREAT became the word of the excursion)
- “It was great! Do it again any day”
- “Experiences were amazing and will last a lifetime.”
- “Climbing Mt Kosciuszko was an inspiring experience that I will remember for a lifetime.”
- “The mountain climb was great, the experience that you get entering the cave and just the memories with the class will be memorable – it was Great!”
- “The excursion to Mt Kosciuszko was fantastic, the whole experience was brilliant. I highly recommend it to every Year 11 Geography student next year.”
- “The whole experience was great! The mountain & caves were beautiful & I have great memories from the excursion”

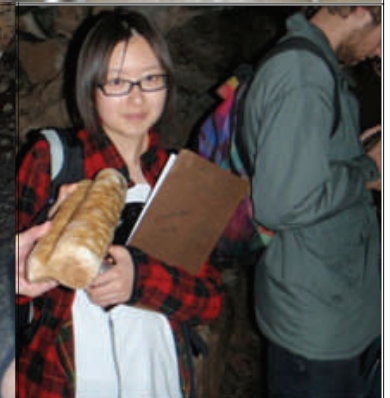
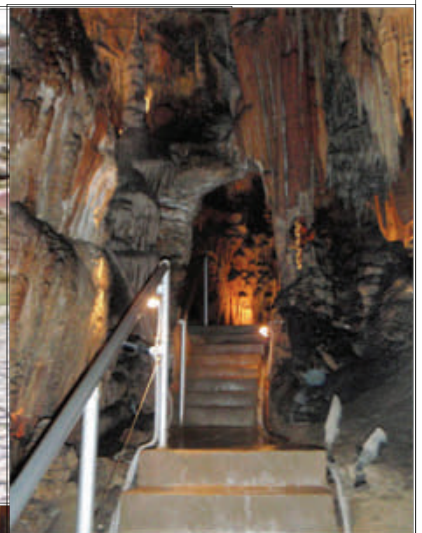
The students displayed exemplary behaviour for the whole trip. The manager of the Ski Lodge where we stayed at emailed these comments to the school:

“As a Lodge manager and seeing many school groups come through the front door, Cootamundra High has always left a wonder shine behind them. The school should be proud of each and every one of them.

Thank you all for leaving The Happy Wanderers Lodge so clean and tidy, I take my hat off to you all. I also loved your little messages in the visitors book, thank you again.

Your folks should be proud of you all, you all shined in my eyes and I wish you all the very best for your future to come.”

– James Rufford, Manager, Happy Wanderers



Duke Of Edinburgh

Cootamundra High School began its involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh program last Thursday and Friday with an overnight camp at Bethungra Dam. The Duke of Edinburgh is an enriching program which invites young people between the ages of 14 - 25 to participate in a range of activities over a period of time, for which they receive significant accolades for their achievements. The areas which the Duke of Edinburgh acknowledges individuals achievements in are Fitness/Physical Recreation, Skill, Volunteering and Adventurous Journey.

When individuals meet the achievement criteria in these areas they are awarded Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards, which are very prestigious and internationally recognised awards.

As an initiative run through our Engagement Team, Cootamundra High School began our involvement as a Duke of Edinburgh provider by hosting an Adventurous Journey at the Bronze level for a group of seven Year 8 students, a couple of Year 10 students and a Year 12 student. The students who were able to take advantage of this first opportunity were Ben Camilleri, Travis Sheppard, Kobi Brdshaw, Aden Newman, Mitchell Coleman-Hardy, Jason Cronin and Connor Oslizlok. They were accompanied by Tom Richmond, Matthew Berkrey and Ross Raffaele as peer group leaders.

The Adventurous Journey required students to hike (navigating using a compass and topographic map) with their camping pack from Bethungra out to the Bethungra Dam, set up camp, develop fishing skills, prepare and cook camp food, have responsibility for clean-up/pack up and having minimal impact on the environment. Students worked together in groups to complete some initiative tasks, promote teamwork skills, communication and problem solving skills. Considering the very hot nature of the weather, quite a bit of time was spent in the dam cooling off and playing around.

Please contact Mr Brendan Gale with any inquiries about the Duke of Edinburgh program and opportunities for Cootamundra High School students in 2013.

Community Notices



Event Volunteering

Applications are now open to join the 2013 Team

First Round Applications close **Friday 30 November 2012**

Volunteering has been a part of the Sydney Royal Easter Show (SRES) since its inception, with many of the judges, officials and support staff volunteering their time to make each Show a success. The last Show saw our Sydney Royal Easter Show Event Volunteers excel at what they do best, making the Show an educational, exciting and engaging experience for all Showgoers.

Why volunteer?

All our volunteers receive:

- 14-day access to the Show
- Free Transportation (conditions apply, full details will be provided at induction)
- One (1) single-day entry ticket to give to a friend or family member
- An official volunteer uniform (Belt-bag, Hat, 2x Polo Shirts)
- Meal vouchers for each of their shifts
- Exclusive access to the Volunteer's Green Room
- Job specific coaching/training

What can I do?

- Bring a 'can-do' attitude, a welcoming smile and a willingness to help wherever needed
- Assist us across a variety of roles including General Ushers, Show Information, Children's Activities and Administration
- Complete a minimum of 8 shifts over the 14 days of the Show, with at least 4 shifts across busy days (i.e. weekends/public holidays) or a minimum of 6 shifts across all busy days

What do I do next?

Simply contact the Volunteers Team on (02) 9704 1297 or email us at volunteers@rsew.com.au and we will send you an application form to complete.

Local Sporting Champions

Grants to help young people pursue their sporting dreams

Young people find it difficult to meet the ongoing and significant costs associated with participation at sporting competitions, particularly those from regional areas.

The Local Sporting Champions program is an Australian Government initiative designed to provide financial assistance for young people aged 12-18 towards the cost of travel, accommodation, uniforms or equipment when competing, coaching or officiating at an official national sporting organisation (NSO) endorsed state, national or international sporting championships or a School Sport Australia state or national championships.

Applications for Grants can be made by individuals and sporting teams.

For further details please contact:

Joanne Camp Coota High Ph: 6394 2711 or

Kirstie Clark Cootamundra Community Hub Coordinator at Intereach Ph: 1300 488 226 or 6942 8800.