Narrabri High School Principal, Mr Geoff Myers, and Deputy Principal, Mr Wayne Knight with 2013 student leaders: (from left) Emily Baxter (Vice Captain), Aphrika Gregson (Captain), Matthew Nott (Captain) and Dean Wilson (Vice Captain).

Principal’s Report
A new school year is upon us and I am sure that the entire Narrabri High School community looks forward to 2013 with a sense of anticipation and confidence. The holidays brought extreme weather conditions with days of searing heat and some storms with fierce winds and rain. We did lose a large tree which was uprooted from the area between A and B Blocks but, by and large, the school grounds have held up wonderfully well. The groundsman, Mr Duncan, is to be congratulated on their fantastic condition.

Year 7
As we move into 2013 I would like to welcome students new to the school, particularly those in Year 7. They arrived from their primary schools with a great reputation and they have already made a wonderful impression. They have been impeccably presented in uniform and have shown themselves to be well mannered, respectful and conscientious. I believe our enhanced orientation procedures played a large part in readying students for the transition to high school. It was also heartening to see so many parents present to support the children on their first day. I look forward to that support continuing and assure parents that they are always welcome at Narrabri High School.

I particularly welcome parents of students new to the school to our first P&C Meeting of the year, although, of course, parents of all students are most welcome. The meeting will take place in the School Library (enter via Selina St gates) next Monday night. This year we will be trialling a new, earlier, start time of 6.30 pm.

There are some important activities planned for Year 7 in the near future. A barbeque will be held to welcome Year 7 students and their parents on Tuesday 19 February at 6.30 pm and the Year 7 Bush to Beach Camp will be held at Nelson Bay on 13-15 March. Details of these upcoming events will be sent home with students shortly.
New Staff
Narrabri High School welcomes a number of new staff in 2013. Mr Warby has been appointed to the English staff and Mr McConnell joins the Mathematics staff. Ms Cameron is a familiar face, having worked extensively with us in temporary roles, but has now been appointed to the Mathematics faculty in a permanent capacity. Mr Ambler assumes the position of relief teacher assigned to the School. We wish all our new teachers a rewarding time at Narrabri High School.

Mr Ambler, Mr McConnell, Mr Warby and Miss Cameron

Upcoming Events
Please check the calendar provided towards the back of each newsletter. You will note that Thursday, February 28 was originally scheduled as the date for our annual twilight swimming carnival. Unfortunately, construction work at the pool will mean that the Carnival cannot take place at this time. This is unfortunate, as this event has become a popular feature of the school year. All going well, we will look to reschedule this event in Term 4 and investigate how Year 12 can be included.

March 8, has been designated for school photos. Please ensure that your child is well presented in school uniform on that day.

And speaking of our uniform...I have been most impressed by the attire of the majority of our students. They are neat, tidy and immediately recognisable as members of Narrabri High School. There are, however, still a few students whose dress is cause for concern. In particular, some students insist on wearing canvas shoes which are unsafe and not permitted in classes with a practical component. I am also concerned that some female students are 'arranging' shorts and shirts in ways that, at times, exposes the midriff. This not acceptable and student who persist with this practice will be sent home to change into more appropriate attire.

The district has a new police liaison officer in Robyn Smith. Ms Smith will be at the school next Wednesday, February 20. The officer will address the assembly on matters relating to children’s safety.

The Narrabri High School Concert Band has an enviable reputation throughout the State and I was pleased to learn that several of its members have been selected in the West of the Divide Regional Concert Band to travel to Hong Kong later this year. Students selected to tour are: Tim Rex, Jock Smith, Jade Hamilton, Hanah Lonergan, Kristelle Pearson, Lucy Norcross and Dawson Anderson.

Back: Tim Rex, Jock Smith, Jade Hamilton and Hannah Lonergan. Front: Kristelle Pearson, Lucy Norcross and Dawson Anderson

New members, particularly from Year 7, are most welcome to join the School Band. At the end of last year I attended a number of presentation evenings for our local primary schools and I was very impressed at the talent displayed by the performing bands. I trust that those students who have moved on to high school will continue to enjoy performing and contribute to our Concert Band. An afternoon will be arranged as an introductory session for interested students. A sausage sizzle will be conducted at that time to welcome new (and old) members. Parents are very welcome to attend, meet the conductors and listen to the students at work.

PBL Focus for 2013
PBL stands for “Positive Behaviour for Learning” and is the cornerstone of Narrabri High School’s Discipline and Welfare programs. There will be two main thrusts to the School’s program this year. One will introduce a new positive recognition scheme which will provide a structure which not only acknowledges high achievement, but which also recognises the efforts of that large number of students who quietly go about their business and who contribute so meaningfully to the School’s good name. Some details of this program are outlined elsewhere in this newsletter.

The second focus of PBL in 2013 will be designed to address an increasing trend towards unacceptable language in the School, particularly in classrooms and playground.
HSC Success
As we commence a new year we might also reflect on the high note on which 2012 ended. What wonderful results our HSC class achieved! There were some outstanding individual achievements. While details are provided elsewhere in this newsletter, Narrabri High School students achieved eight top 10 placings in the New England Region in a range of subjects. These outstanding results serve to emphasise that Narrabri High School creates a learning environment that encourages and promotes success. Students are able to thrive and achieve.

Quite a number of our Year 12 students were subsequently awarded scholarships from various sources, but special mention must go to Joshua Wilson, who was awarded the prestigious Auscott Scholarship, and Joseph Druce, who won the inaugural Bruce Loder Scholarship.

Joshua Wilson
Joseph Druce

With so much on which to report, it is hard to believe we have only been back at school for two weeks. I know 2013 will continue to be a busy and successful year and I encourage all students to involve themselves in the many and varied activities that Narrabri High School has to offer.

Geoff Myers
Principal

HSC 2012
While not matching the dizzy heights attained last year, Narrabri High School students performed exceptionally well in the 2012 Higher School Certificate. Joshua Wilson and Leon Merten were standout performers but there were a host of solid results from a number of students. Exemplifying this overall solidity were the results in Music and Hospitality where, although there were no Band 6 grades, every student in the class attained Band 5.

Once again, a Narrabri High School student topped the New England Region in at least one subject. Joshua Wilson was 1st in the New England Region in Industrial Technology and had his major work short-listed for the prestigious InTech exhibition. His Band 6 in this subject complemented the Band 6 he achieved in Extension 1 Mathematics and his 6th in the region in Extension 2 Mathematics which he achieved as an accelerant in 2011.

Nicholas Smart also had his major work in Industrial Technology short-listed for InTech and backed up his practical skills with an examination result that saw him attain 4th place in the region for this subject.

Apart from the outstanding Industrial Technology results, there were a number of students placed in the top 10 in the New England region in other subjects. Leon Merten and Isobella Revell achieved 6th and 7th places respectively in the very demanding Mathematics Extension 2 course. Both students also excelled in Extension 1 Mathematics, where Leon was placed 2nd in the region and Isobella tied with another Narrabri High School student, Shelley Higgins for 6th.

Band 6 is the highest band awarded in the HSC and is awarded to students who score between 90% and 100% in a subject and students are recognized on the State’s Merit List. Narrabri High School had 4 results in this range. It was also pleasing that there were over 30 results in the Band 5 range, and this again highlighted the overall consistency of the 2012 results.

Vocational pathways in the HSC are becoming more popular in recent years and in 2012 almost 40% of students attempted one or more vocational courses. High levels of achievement were also evident in

P & C Meeting will be at a new time of 6.30pm in the Library on Monday, 18 February.
vocational courses, where Joshua Wilson attained 4th place in the Region in the Construction course.

Reflecting its status as a comprehensive high school, Narrabri High School is also proud that two special needs life-skills students, Kelly Cherry and Terry Watson, achieved their HSC in 2012.

From the Deputy Principal's Desk

Narrabri High School's Anti-bullying Plan

During 2010 a group of staff, students and parents representatives reviewed the school’s Anti-bullying plan and developed a new plan which is now being implemented at Narrabri High School. This newsletter looks at some of the reasons for having an Anti-bullying plan, what constitutes bullying and some advice to students and parents on how they can report and deal with bullying issues.

At Narrabri High School bullying is taken very seriously and is not acceptable in any form. Students should be able to expect to spend the school day free from the fear of bullying, harassment and intimidation. Any inappropriate behaviour that gets in the way of teaching and learning at the school and interferes with the well being of students cannot be accepted.

Bullying:
- devalues, isolates and frightens
- affects an individual’s ability to achieve
- has long-term effects on those engaging in bullying behaviour, those who are the subjects of bullying and the onlookers or bystanders.

Teachers, students, parents, caregivers and members of the wider community have a responsibility to work together to address bullying.

Bullying can be defined as intentional, repeated behaviour by an individual or group of individuals that causes distress, hurt or undue pressure. Bullying involves the abuse of power in relationships. Bullying is aggressive behaviour that involves unwanted, negative actions. Bullying involves a pattern of behaviour repeated over time. Bullying is intentional.

Bullying involves all forms of harassment (including sex, race, disability, homosexuality or transgender), humiliation, domination, intimidation and victimisation of others.

Bullying behaviour can be:
- Verbal eg name calling, teasing, abuse, putdowns, sarcasm, insults, threats
- Physical eg hitting, punching, kicking, scratching, tripping, spitting
- Social eg ignoring, excluding, ostracising, alienating, making inappropriate gestures
- Psychological eg spreading rumours, dirty looks, hiding or damaging possessions, malicious SMS and email messages, inappropriate use of camera phones

Cyber bullying is a form of bullying using text or images posted on personal websites or sent by mobile phone or email. Cyber bullying is a particularly insidious, powerful and devastating form of bullying. Although cyber bullying generally happens outside school, its affects what happens in school, contributing to poor school performance, depression and even suicide.

Parents are encouraged to talk with their child to discuss bullying and to encourage their child to follow the school’s reporting procedures. The school will deal with all reports of bullying. Parents are requested to find out the facts from the school and not to make contact with other parents or involve other students in the matter.

Students who are being bullied MUST report it to a teacher, whether it happens in the classroom, in the playground or sport or any other space where the school operates. The teacher(s) and/or Head Teachers and/or Year Advisers and/or Deputy Principal and/or the Principal will work through the bullying issues to come up with a satisfactory resolution for the victim.

Wayne Knight
Deputy Principal

AGRICULTURE

With the recent rain, the Ag plot has considerably greened up. Our new Agriculture and Primary Industries classes have started to prepare the vegetable plots for this year’s gardens. In addition, students are selecting and beginning to prepare our Stud cattle show team. Calves and being handled and broken in and one of our cows and a bull are being readied for the upcoming show season, we area also planning to prepare steers once again for carcass competitions this year.
With dry conditions last year during the bull sale season, we did not sell our stud bulls as planned. If anyone is interested in viewing our bulls, they are for sale, and further information can be arranged by contacting the school.

The highlight for the Show Team last year was year 12 students, Grace Jackson and Mariah Moss both qualifying to represent the ASC group 14, in the State Junior Judging Finals, which will be held at the Royal Easter Show at the end of March this year. These girls are busy preparing for this competition and are currently fund raising to offset the expense of travelling and staying in Sydney while the competition is on. Please support them however you can and wish them the best of luck.

Positive Reinforcement Program (PRP)

For some time the PBL team has been investigating alternative merit systems for Narrabri High School that are fair, equitable and manageable and which provide all students with opportunities to achieve in a positive manner.

The system that was in place involved handing out and recording yellow slips. It was becoming somewhat ineffectual in that it was cumbersome and time consuming and there were students who were not receiving the positive recognition they deserved.

The Positive Reinforcement Program (PRP) is being trialled this year. It entails every teacher acknowledging students in their classes by ticking the names of those who contribute in various categories during a timetable cycle. The categories are based on the School’s PBL logo: Respect, Involvement, Success and Engagement. It is hoped that all students in the class should be able to achieve at least one tick in one of the categories. The student’s ticks will be tallied monthly and will be displayed in their year area notice board. Students have the capacity to achieve bronze, silver or gold levels depending on the number of ticks that they collect. There will be prizes at various times throughout the year but to be eligible for a School Medal, a student must achieve a gold level and have participated in extra-curricular activities.

NSW SCHOOL-BASED VACCINATION PROGRAM 2013

Each year NSW Health offers the vaccines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the school-based vaccination program.

In 2013 the following vaccines will be offered:

- Hepatitis B vaccine for all Year 7 students who have never received a course of hepatitis B vaccine when they were a baby

- Varicella (chicken pox) vaccine for all Year 7 students who have not previously received varicella vaccine or had chickenpox disease.

- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine will be offered to Year 7 male and female students, and to Year 9 male students, as a 3-dose course over a six-month period. Students who commence HPV vaccination in Year 7 but do not complete the course may be offered catch-up doses at school into Year 8.
Parent Information Kits will be sent home to parents/guardians. To consent to the vaccination of their child, parents/guardians are advised to read all the information provided, complete the Consent Form and return it to the School. Please ensure that children eat breakfast on the day of the vaccination clinic.

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their consent for any reason may do so by writing to the school Principal. The Procedure for Withdrawal of Consent is available on the NSW Health website at www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation.

To improve vaccination completion, students will be offered any missed doses throughout the year where possible.

Please note that for HPV vaccine only, parents/guardians must record their Medicare Number (all 10 digits and the 11th number beside the child’s name) on the Consent Form, as this is required to record the student’s information on the National HPV Vaccination Register and, for female students only, link to the National or State Cervical Screening Program.

A Record of Vaccination will be provided to each student vaccinated at the clinic. Parents/guardians should ensure that this record is kept for future reference and should not assume that their child has been vaccinated if they do not receive this Record of Vaccination.

**IMPORTANT POINTS**

- ensure your child has eaten breakfast the morning of the clinic
- ensure your child is wearing clothing that enables the upper arm to be exposed
- COMPLETE CONSENT FORMS IN BLUE OR BLACK PEN ONLY

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**EpiPen**

The Department of Education and Communities has recently announced that all government schools will receive a general use adrenaline autoinjector (an EpiPen) for their first aid kit.

This does not replace the need for parents to continue to provide the school with an adrenaline autoinjector and ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis signed and dated by their doctor when their child has been diagnosed with anaphylaxis. Instead, the general use adrenaline autoinjector is intended to be used if:

- An undiagnosed student has an anaphylactic reaction at school
- There is a misfire of the adrenaline autoinjector that has been prescribed for a student
- A student requires further adrenaline autoinjector to be administered after his or her own adrenaline autoinjector has been administered.

Please contact the school if you would like further information in relation to this matter.

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**Horse Sports**

The Narrabri Equestrian Team attends numerous events throughout the year. Information about upcoming events will be in Student Notices. The North West Equestrian Expo is our biggest event for the year and is held over five days at Coonabarabran. Bookings for covered stables at expo will be taken towards the end of February. Please let Ms Crowley in PE know if you are interested in a covered stable, as they are allocated on a first in first served basis. Orders will also be taken later in the term for those students who wish to order a Narrabri High Saddle Cloth or an Equestrian Team Jacket. The school does have saddle covers that can be borrowed if you do not wish to order your own saddle cloth.

The school would like to thank Mrs Duncan for organising the Horse Sports in the past. Ms Crowley and Ms Lilliebridge are the new co-ordinators this year.
Newsletter by Email

Would you like to receive your newsletter by email?

Student Name: ______________________
Email: _____________________________

Please return to the Glass Office or email school on narrabri-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

The Newsletter is also available on the website:-
www.narrabri-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

The website is regularly updated with

Have you moved??

Can you please let the school know if you have changed any contact information since enrolling your child. Have you:-

- Changed address?
- Changed Work contact?
- Changed Mobile Number?
- Emergency Contact Numbers?

Can you please advise the school if you have changed any details.

In case of emergency it is essential that we have up to date details.

Thank you

Exploring Challenging Children

7 March, 2013
10am – 1pm
Centacare Narrabri
1/116 Barwan Street
Narrabri
Ph 1800372826
Enquires and Bookings

Calendar

February
18  P & C Meeting 6.30pm
19  Uni Roadshow
20  Year 11 Senior Success

March
4   North West Swimming
5   Property Planning Day
6   Year 12 Senior Success
8   School Photos
13-15 Year 7 Bush to Beach Camp
13   North West Touch 15yrs
     Year 11 Senior Success
20   Motivational Media
     Year 12 Senior Success
22   North West Rugby Trials
25-26 CHS Swimming
28   North West Winter Trials
29-1/4 Easter Break

April
8-11 Year 12 Half Yearly Exams
10  Year 11 Senior Success
15-26 School Holidays
29  Staff Development Day
30  Staff Development Day

May
1   Students resume Term 2
Congratulations to our SRC Representatives for 2013

Year 8 – Lidia McCauley, April Squire, Josie Wilson, Jacob Druce, Jack Penny and Lachlan Williams.

Year 9 – Carly Baxter, Courtney Boyd, Isabelle Madden, Will Brooks, Jake Goodhew, Lachlan Herbert

Year 10 – Gemma Ferguson, Josie Kirby, Georgia Phelps, Matthew Hall, Alex Hamilton, Angus Williams

Year 11 – Makayla Guest, Kayla-Lee Nehrkkorn, Ashleigh Rose, Tim Rex, Justin Shaw, Ethan Wright

Picture with Ms Brazaitis and Mr Myers.