



The Oak Leaf

Armidale High School

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Principal's Report

Agriculture at Armidale High School

You may have already seen some of the fantastic results that the school has been achieving through the Agriculture Department. Armidale High is one of the few public schools within the region that can offer such a comprehensive program in the area of primary industries.

We had some fantastic results at the recent Northern Schools Prime Lamb competition last week and just prior to that Armidale High received the 2017 Junior Landcare Award. This is a terrific reflection on the commitment of Mrs Rebecca Smith and all the students who take Agriculture as an elective course.

On any given day you will see students spending their recess and lunchtimes tending to the animals. The recent arrival of 9 delightful piglets has been a real drawcard for the kids (and adults!).



Professional Experience Hub (PEX)

Armidale High School is one of 15 schools in the state that have been working with their own teaching staff and their partner universities to ensure that we are effectively preparing pre-service teachers for when they take up positions in the classroom.

We are currently hosting 8 pre-service teachers for their professional placements and later this week myself and two other staff will attend a forum in Sydney to share our experiences with schools and universities from around the state.

It is a privilege for Armidale High to be involved in a project like this one and to have such an influence on shaping the teachers of the future.

Additions to the uniform

At a recent P&C meeting some samples of an Armidale High School hoodie were presented for parents to offer feedback. It was felt that this would be a welcome addition to the current range of uniform options and would be seen favourably by the student body.

A navy blue and maroon option (both embroidered with the school crest) were presented and it is anticipated that the price point will be in the vicinity of \$39.95. I must stress that this is NOT a replacement for the current wool school jumper or the sloppy joe that are still part of the uniform and are available for purchase. The hoodie is an optional item for the winter months. The samples have been presented to the students and the majority have indicated that the maroon hoodie would be the preferred option. We will keep you informed as to when the hoodies will be available for purchase.



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Vale Mr Hatte

The Armidale High School community was saddened at the recent passing of Mr Allan Hatte, a former teacher of Armidale High School.

A casual observer might have assumed this quiet man would be a quiet classroom teacher, but this was far from the truth. Mr Hatte could transform a Social Science lesson using his theatrical timing and sense of fun to turn a 'dry' topic into something unforgettable - often employing the element of surprise. He held the attention of his student's with his unique teaching style ("give me your eyes"), with his humour and connection with young people. He brought real life experiences to the classroom, where the teaching aids of the times, would be met by bemused looks in today's classrooms. Perhaps the electronic classrooms of today would not have allowed Mr Hatte's gifts to shine so brightly.

Students at Armidale High from 1985 to 2007 counted themselves lucky if they found themselves in Mr Hatte's class, being coached in a sporting team, or being challenged and mentored as cast or crew of the Rock Eisteddfods. Many extravaganzas were produced and coordinated by Allan Hatte, along with wonderful staff from across the school - Drama, Art, Music, Industrial Arts and the Support faculties. The posters of the productions line the walls outside the HSIE staffroom on the top floor of Central Block. The HSIE staff of the times, were his sounding board while the creative work was happening.

Believing that by 'putting in a 110 percent effort... then great things can happen' led Armidale High school to many amazingly successful productions. For many students their commitment to the Rock Eisteddfod was the memory they cherish most from their school years. High school parents would remember the excitement and nerves, the thunderous acclamation, the absolute joy that the whole school community experienced, as the final production came to the stage.

Allan and Jennifer's children, Ellie and Brendan, are both past students of AHS.



Be assured that the significant contribution Mr Hatte made to our school will not be forgotten. In his vocation as a teacher, he truly did make a difference.

Vale to a special man, a colleague, teacher and friend.

NAPLAN testing

I would like to acknowledge the way in which students in year 7 and 9 approached the NAPLAN tests last week. It was very encouraging to see that students were willing to use their time effectively and attempt all sections of the papers over the three days. Year 9 students are the first cohort to be tested under the new Minimum HSC Standards and once again it was fantastic to see that everyone kept things in perspective and gave their best effort. We anticipate these results being available in September.

Carolyn Lasker
Principal



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Captain's Corner

Mr Alan Hatte was an ex-AHS teacher who taught HSIE for many years. He was loved by students and teachers alike. The school captains, Georgie and Subhanu, along with Ms Lasker had the privilege of attending his funeral on the 9th of May.

JAMmeD (Junior Art Music Drama) preparations are well underway and all of the captains look forward to seeing the exhibition.

We hope Years 7,9 and 11 (and their parents) have all recovered from examination-itis, and are ready for the busy term ahead. Don't worry about your marks, my Marine Biology grade was below C-level (sorry for the pun-ishing wordplay)!

FUN FACT OF THE FORTNIGHT:

If 33 million people held hands, they could make it all the way around the equator.

Sai Subhanu Abbaraju & Georgie Cooper

Wellbeing at Armidale High Batyr presentations

Of every 30 students in Australia.....7 will be dealing with a mental health issue, yet only 2 will reach out for help and 5 will suffer in silence.

On the 30th and 31st of May, students from Year 9, 11 and 12 will be able to attend a one hour, engaging presentation by Batyr. Batyr is an organisation focussed on addressing issues that impact the mental health of young people, and promoting resilience and help seeking behaviour.

Batyr aims to engage, educate and empower young people to have positive conversations about mental health. Batyr offer a range of programs that 'give a voice to the elephant in the room and aim to smash the stigma surrounding mental health and encourage young people to reach out for help when they need it.

Read more at <http://www.batyr.com.au/about-us/#7mizulr1e14OWYr3.99>

Debating thrives at Armidale High School

As part of the Premier's Debating Challenge, the Armidale High School Year 9 and Year 10 debating teams participated in a Round 1 debate last Monday in the school library.

In a close debate, both teams debated well the proposition that NAPLAN testing should be banned. However, the winning team from Year 10 presented a very compelling Negative case that NAPLAN should not be banned. Both teams will next debate Farrer Memorial High School from Tamworth and will have one more opportunity to debate each other in this round of the competition. Murray Cox from Newling Public school who was the adjudicator; both teams benefiting from his insights and suggestions which will serve them well in future debates in the NSW competition. Thanks also to Ms Partridge and Mr Bugden for their organisation and support.

On this occasion the Year 9 team comprised: Olive Tutt, Juliet Knuckey, Stephanie Hancock and Elizabeth Zemlyanoy. The Year 10 team included: Riley Doak, Ben Ridges, Jesse Streeting, Challa Gow



Year 7 Coffs Harbour Excursion

Last week year 7 went to Coffs Harbour for their yearly excursion, and except for a day of rain and some chilly nights, it was a experience for all involved. Some of the activities we participated in were: ice skating, water sliding at the Big Banana (even though it was drizzling!), walks along the beach, jumping at 'flipout', bowling and more.

Some year 10 peer support leaders came along to help with tents, organise games and activities and get to know the students before commencing our peer support program this term and have reported positive experiences with all year 7 students. We have also been complemented by other campers and the camping grounds owners on our behaviour and decorum throughout our stay, which reflects the stellar behaviour and manners that our students possess.

Now we settle in for hard work and study for the rest of the year with renewed friendships and love of learning and keenly await next year's excursion, which the students are already asking about!



Peer Support

Armidale High School's Peer Support Program links students from Year 7 and 10 with the aim of creating an inclusive and welcoming environment that eases the transition from primary to secondary school. Students from both year groups have participated in a range of activities, such as transition days, welcome barbeque, school camp and several ongoing activities that have developed positive and constructive relationships for all students. Peer leaders have engaged actively with the younger students and this had led to open and meaningful interactions and dialogue between year groups. Peer Support is integrated throughout the curriculum and is important in developing and maintaining a positive and inclusive school environment.

To find out more about Peer Support, go to following website for more information.

<http://peersupport.edu.au/about-peer-support-australia/who-we-are/>

Year 8 Maths Day

On May 12, Mauatua Barff, Bailey Brady, Emilie Gates, Isabella Gooch, Josh Hyde, Amber Leitner, Connor Lovelock and Ella Vu attended the annual Year 8 Maths Day, run by the New England Mathematics Association and held at Lazenby Hall, UNE. They formed two teams of four, working on a variety of problem-solving activities in competition with teams from many other schools across the region. As it is every year, the day was full of challenges and fun. We thank our UNE pre-service Mathematics teacher, Miss Kranz, for accompanying us and taking on the role of our second team-supervisor.



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KOORI CORNER

University Tasters

On Thursday 11th May, Jess and Bruce took Amber, Gabby, Liam, Alyssa and Joanne out to the UNE to participate in the Oorala Centre UNE Business and Law School Experience day.

The students got to learn about the supports that are available at the Oorala Centre.

After that they participated in lectures where they got to hear what they could study in the Business and Law School and how these subjects will be very helpful in the way the future of employment is heading.

We are looking forward to the next Experience Day which will be focusing on the Science School.



Congratulations to former student Jaiden French who has been selected in the St George Dragons high performance unit. We look forward to following your success, especially when you switch to the Roosters.



The Armidale Local AECG meets twice a term at different locations. If you would like to be a member or go on the mailing list, contact Brad Widders at Armidale City Public School Or Bruce Dennison at Armidale High School

From Allira

The *Connect-The-Dots (CTD)* program assists students and families during the application process to obtain their birth certificate, bank account, Medicare card and tax file number. The CTD program will consist of 'sign-up' days, which the first day will focus on birth certificates, second day bank accounts etc. If you would like to participate in Connect the Dots, call Allira Cutmore at Armidale High School.

This is open to both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous families.

TO BE CONFIRMED

Allira will be running a registration day to sign up for a Free Birth Certificate. If you are interested in getting a Birth Certificate, please contact the school on 6776 7466.

Once numbers are known, a date will be set.



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State Touch Trials

Armidale High students, Liam Whitehill, Jacob Whitehill and Kasey Gaukroger represented North West at Mudgee last weekend for the State Under 15 touch trials.

Liam and Jacob played in the boys team and were very competitive with all regions throughout the two day carnival. Both boys received high praise from the North West coach for their effort in every game. Liam is always instrumental in setting up plays in the middle of the field and would not look out of place if selected in the state side. Jacob is still in Year 7 and really takes the older students on in with the pace of the game.

Kasey is a recent enrolment to Armidale High and played in the girls team. The girls were competitive in every game with defence being their best attribute. Kasey received the medal for player of the tournament for the North West Under 15 girls team.



Hockey Come and Try Friday evening hockey

The U9's development. Every Friday 4pm, about 15 mins of skills and about 15 min games. Mainly for kids that aren't playing in a team and are U9. If there is someone older who is brand new they can still come to the sessions. There are also competitions catering for U11, U13 and U16 also on

Friday evenings. Venue is at the New England Hockey Centre, Sports UNE.

Contact Lisa at

lisa_ken7477@bigpond.com

North West Rugby League

Congratulations to Jake Smith, Elijah Rasiga & Scott McIntyre for being selected in the Greater Western Rugby league Squad. They played very well at Coonabarabran as part of the North West team and surprised the selectors with a whole-hearted performance to nearly defeat the Western Side which was favoured to win by a comfortable margin. North West lead this Under 18 fixture with only a minute to play before Western scored to even up the scores. The conversion after the siren was the difference with Western winning 18-16. The boys now head to Toronto for the state trials and will be under the watchful eye of state selectors and NRL talent identification officers. Liam Whitehill played in the Under 15 game and performed well for North West. His side was also narrowly defeated 14-12 in the later stages of the game. Liam missed out on the Greater Western selection but gained valuable half-back experience from leading North West in his match.



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Lamb Judging

Last week the Ag students from Year 11 and 9 attended the regional Northern Schools Prime Lamb competition in Tenterfield. We entered 10 lambs and competed in the junior judging competition. This has been our most successful competition ever in that our lambs won the Grand Champion Pen of three for the hoof and the hook judging. We also won the Grand Champion individual lamb for both hoof and hook and second place for individual lamb hoof and hook. Our three pens of three lambs placed 1st, 2nd and 4th in the heavyweight class in both the hoof and hook. Our students also competed well on the judging with Karson Oehlers reaching the final six and Hannah Kirkwood winning the herdsperson award for our school. The students also came third in the farmer's challenge the night before and we all had a fantastic trip. A big thank you to our great students and also to Tenterfield High School for their hospitality.



Landcare

AHS also won a regional Landcare award for our Bushcare group BC2. They were nominated for all of their landcare activities around the school grounds, their involvement in Frog Dreaming and other community activities. Their award was for the Junior landcare group section and we will now be heading to Albury for the state finals.



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