Principal’s Report

As the way it is with Home Hill SHS, activity in and outside the classroom has been vigorous and engaging for all students and staff. I believe we have an excellent mix of activities that support our educational programs as well as develop the citizenship and other skills which students will find extremely valuable for their future. It is clear that students who participate in a variety of learning and extra-curricular activities do actually perform better academically and socially. I am certain that explains a lot about the secret of the success of our school.

On that note, congratulations to Beachmount for their inspired win in the Swimming Carnival. Well done on the excellent participation rates and also for the terrific leadership shown by our house captains. And of course, my sincere thanks to Ms Tramayne Horan for her excellent leadership in running the event, well supported by our staff. Also pleasing to have good parental support on the day.

Unfortunately I missed the carnival due to the Principals’ Conference in Brisbane. However that event was a great chance for all state school principals in Queensland to come together as one and for our team of nearly 1300 to experience excellent professional development and coherent messages about the future. We left with a unity of purpose and a vigour to drive hard to achieve the absolute best for every child in our schools, regardless of where they come from and what their individual circumstances are; and that is beauty and strength of state education.

One of the key messages of the conference was about ensuring we are consistently trying to improve capability. As teachers we know there is always something new to learn, and Instructional Coaching is one of our priorities this year. Your students may tell you that they have seen me or other staff observing classrooms in action – this is part of that observation and feedback culture critical for developing best practice. Can I tell you that the observers learn as much about teaching from watching our teachers as the teachers get in the feedback from observers? We do have very good teachers here, and this initiative is about ensuring we are all reflective learners, all keen to gain new insights into the amazing and inspirational practice known as ‘teaching’.

I encourage parents and carers to have a look at their child’s student planner. This is jammed pack full of great information including the focus of the week, but also shows where homework and other reminders are entered. Students also have their ‘term targets’ for achievement in their subjects. I encourage parents and carers to discuss these targets with their children and see what part you can play in helping them achieve that. A child’s education is truly a shared venture between school and home.

I look forward to catching up with you all throughout the term.

Steven Miskin
On Thursday 19 February, parents and friends were audience to a well-executed Leaders’ Investiture ceremony at the Burdekin Memorial Hall. Our students conducted themselves in an exemplary manner and should be proud of the way they represented the school. Special guests included Federal Member for Dawson Mr George Christensen, Mayor Bill Lowis, Home Hill Primary School Principals and their representatives and P & C President Mr Richard Wall.

Badges were presented to our Seniors, Student Council Executive and Form Representatives, Junior and Senior House Captains, Indigenous Leader, Junior Secondary Captains and finally, School Captains Cassandra Loizou and Ryan Attard. Emily Cannavan and Rebecca Cerqui entertained the audience with One Direction hit song “Steal My Girl”. At the end of the proceedings, a scrumptious afternoon tea was provided by Mrs Kerr and her Hospitality students.

Thank you to Ms Mavanna, for the wonderful job of organising the ceremony and to all our guests for making the time to come along and be part of the presentations. Your presence was greatly appreciated.
Senior Tutoring (Mathematics, Science & HPE)

Do you want help with homework or to study for a test?

When: Thursdays 3-4pm
Where: G1 Lab

All year levels welcome.
During the first week of term, Home Hill High School celebrated International Year of Soils at the annual Australia Day Ceremony. The guest speaker, NQ Dry Tropics’ Ms Jaymie Rains inspired the students with her speech about the importance of soils to the whole world as well as the local community.

As is the local tradition, the year 12 Art students presented Mr Miskin with an artwork that represented the international theme. Following the parade Jenna Attard and Darcy Walters planted a fruit tree in the school grounds to commemorate Australia Day.

**Australia Day 2015 Resource Centre Display**

Year 11 and 12 Options students and other interested students created the Australia Day Display in the Library/Resource Centre complete with typical Aussie thongs, giant flies, Backyard BBQ, Beach Chairs, Umbrellas, Aussie food, Australian and Indigenous flags and banners, Aussie slang, and Ocker Oz attire. The 2015 International Year of Soils artwork also took pride of place in the display. There were also interesting books about Australia featured. Staff and invited guests and students enjoyed the Australian-themed morning tea held amongst the display.

By Nathan Tsaousis
Year 11
Home Hill High is now an Agribusiness Gateway School!

In 2015, Home Hill State High School advances the opportunities for our students by becoming a pilot school for the Agribusiness Gateway School program. In partnership with Rabobank, the Ayr Client Council, Bowen Gumlu Growers Association and Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), Home Hill State High School was able to secure the right to be the first school in the Burdekin to participate in this exciting and progressive opportunity.

The Gateway to Industry Schools Program is the Queensland Government’s key industry-school engagement strategy and is a component of The Department of Education, Training and Employment’s state-wide industry engagement and workforce development strategy to support the long-term development of a highly skilled workforce in Queensland.

In an exciting first for the Burdekin, the Home Hill State High School year 7 cohort will participate in the “Seed, Grow & Show” project. Students will grow corn and watermelon crops at the Ayr Research Station over a 13 week period, culminating in a display of produce in the Burdekin Show.

The school’s year 7 students will visit the Ayr DPI Research Station in Term 1 to plant the crops and then again in Term 2 to harvest the crops. The Ayr DPI Research Station will look after the crops between the two visits. The students will be involved in a range of learning activities during the excursions, including the examination of food webs and the classification of organisms. Students will be sent fortnightly updates so they can watch their crops develop. It is anticipated that a greater understanding of the agricultural industry and the career opportunities available for our youth will strengthen the industry and the community.

In 2015, the school aims to embed agriculture in a broad range of the school curriculum, creating resources that can be used in subjects like Maths, English, Science and Business with an agricultural flavour to encourage students that may not have considered Agribusiness as a career to do so.

Home Hill State High School also proposes to run a “Work Inspirations” Program. The program provides opportunities for students and school communities to engage in the diverse range of careers across businesses based on primary industries. Students will gain valuable experience in the industry while still at school, providing them with the tools and knowledge to make informed decisions about training and employment upon leaving school, and at the same time raising the profile of careers in the Agribusiness sector.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of Rabobank. Rabobank have assisted with funding the year 7s to participate in the Seed, Grow & Show Program and the Work Inspirations Program. We also sincerely thank the staff at the Ayr DPI Research Station; Bianca Fullarton from the Bowen Gumlu Growers Association, who has been instrumental in setting up the program; and the Ayr Client Council members who initiated the idea and decided on Home Hill State High as the best candidate to pilot the program in the region.

From the partnerships forged through the above mentioned programs, opportunities for work experience, structured work placements and school based traineeships or cadetships with agribusiness industries at all levels become increasingly possible.

Home Hill lies at the centre of one of the most productive growing areas in Australia and the school is well placed to engage students with industry to prepare the next generation of agricultural professionals.

These exciting initiatives will encourage and educate students in this most important area critical to Australia’s economy.
Are you a scientist, IT professional or an engineer? Would you enjoy inspiring teachers and students in science, maths or information technology? Would you like to become a volunteer scientist, mathematician or IT professional? We’re looking for scientists, mathematicians, engineers or IT professionals who are interested in working with staff and students – it would be great to have someone from our local community.

Scientists and Mathematicians in Schools use a broad definition of 'scientist' which includes professionals working in a science, maths, IT or engineering-related area, encompassing research and applied scientists, technologists and engineers, medical and allied health professionals and mathematicians.

There are no fixed hours – it’s up to you and the teacher to decide how you can contribute.

Register or find out more information online at www.scientistsinschools.edu.au.

Scientists and Mathematicians in Schools is an Australian Government initiative, managed by CSIRO Education and Outreach.

If you’d like to contact the Scientists and Mathematicians in Schools in your region, they’re on 47538635 or email them at sis.nqld@csiro.au.

On the first of March, 37 students and 6 teachers gave up their Sunday morning to participate in Clean Up Australia Day. Like many across the country, the students set out to clean up the school grounds, as well as several streets and avenues around Home Hill. As usual, the competition for the most interesting piece of rubbish was held, with ping pong balls, a stuffed toy, a rusted screwdriver, a skateboard wheel, a bent pole and both halves of a credit card being some of the rubbish found. The finders of the stuffed toy and the credit card were awarded vouchers from McDonalds, one of the Clean Up’s sponsors. At the end of the clean-up, all students were treated for their hard work in the heat with pizza, fruit and cordial thanks to student council, softdrink courtesy of Mr Cannavan and Brumby’s buns from Cassie Loizou. It was a successful day for all.

Karli Linton
Need help managing stress or anxiety?

If your child or teen has difficulties with anxiety or just seems to have too many worries, we would like to introduce you to BRAVE Self-Help – an interactive, online program for the prevention and treatment of childhood and adolescent anxiety. It was developed by a group of researchers from the University of Queensland and now, with the support of beyondblue, this program is now freely available to all young people aged 8-17 years old who are living in Australia. BRAVE Self-Help provides strategies for children and teenagers to better cope with their worries. There are 4 programs available, one for children aged 8-12 years, one for teenagers aged 12-17 years and one for parents of children at these ages respectively. The program can be accessed as often as you like, from the comfort of your own home. For more information, or to register for the program, please visit www.brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au.

The Line Managers

To support our students, we have “Line Managers” for each year level. The Line Managers are members of our school leadership team and are there to communicate with parents about individual students in particular year levels. If parents have a concern or a question about their child’s progress in a specific class, they should contact their child’s teacher first. If the issue is more involved than one class, or is about the child’s well-being or overall progress, then contacting the Line Manager is the best course of action. Following this pathway allows the school to deal effectively with situations, as the Line Managers work closely with their year levels. Communication is very important and we certainly want to work closely with parents if there are issues that need to be sorted. If parents and carers find communication is becoming difficult at any time, then please pass this information through to the school office so it can be resolved.

The Line Managers for 2015 are:

Year 7: Mr Miskin
Year 8: Miss Clark
Year 9: Mr Scalia
Year 10: Mrs Gall
Year 11 & 12: Mr Buttsworth

2014 Coronas are still available from the school office for $20 (cost price).
Year 11/12 Leadership Camp and Selection Process change for 2016!

After much consultation, we have decided to move the Leadership Camp into year 11 this year, rather than in 2016. We have found that the placement of the camp at the beginning of year 12 is disruptive to start the year off and is often plagued with rain.

This year, the 2016 Student Leadership selection process will begin much earlier with Student Leaders being selected in Term 4 and announced at the Valedictory parade for year 12s, just following the year 11 camp. In addition, there will be leadership work undertaken for our year 11s prior to the camp.

The camp will still be held at Magnetic Island in the last week of school for the year 11s, running from Monday 16 to Wednesday 18 November. At this stage our intention is to bus students up to Townsville early on the Monday morning, with parents and carers to collect students on the Wednesday afternoon.

We believe this change will significantly improve the leadership selection process and minimise disruptions for students and staff.

BYOX UPDATE – Software Offer

As part of the roll out process for the BYOX program, the following software arrangements are available to students at Home Hill SHS.

- FREE Microsoft Office installation
- Discounted Symantec Antivirus

Log into the following website http://students.learningplace.eq.edu.au/middle/Pages/default.aspx

This will take you to a page in the Learning Place, where you will see two items, as shown below. Simply follow the hyperlinks to install install Microsoft Office, or to take advantage of the discounted Symantec antivirus offer. Students will log on using the same username and password they use at school.

This term, students are welcome to bring their own laptops to school to use as standalone computers. The school currently has seven mobile laptop labs as well as two full computer rooms and a bank of computers in the Graphics room, so that students are well provided for in terms of IT equipment. We are still in the process of procuring the necessary software and hardware upgrades to enable students to have their personal devices connected to the school network, and anticipate that this will be operational in Term 2.
Discos with that!

On Tuesday 10 February, the first disco for the year was held. The turnout of students was great, with many dressing in the theme of “Discos with dat”. Prizes were won by Jakson Garner in coloured corners and Abbey Brennan & Bryony Williams for Knights, Mounts and Cavaliers. Best dressed went to Brhee Christensen & Kirra Simpson for the 7 & 8 division, 9 & 10 was won by Ashlea Gaia & Eilish Farris. Taking out first from 11 & 12 was the year 12 Netball team. Congratulations to you all for an amazing start to the discos. Hope to see you all at the next one. A massive thanks to Mrs Thomas and Mrs Armstrong and all the other teachers that helped out on the night.

Dana Falco & Andi Gelling.

On Monday 23 February, six year 12 students participated in the 2015 Lions’ Youth of the Year quest. This year’s participants included Ryan Attard, Cassandra Loizou, Sophie Loizou, Rachel Marano, Christina Postma and Ben Walters.

Throughout the day of competition, each senior student was interviewed by a panel of community representatives at the high school, before delivering a prepared speech and two impromptu speeches in the evening at The Crown Hotel - Home Hill. Prepared speeches included topics such as ‘Social Media,’ ‘The Hunger Games,’ and even ‘Australian Identity.’ The judges were most impressed by the entrants, commenting that, each entrant had his/her own set of strengths.

Christina Postma was declared Lions’ Youth of the Year for 2015, however Sophie Loizou was named winner of the Public Speaking category. Christina will progress to the next round of the competition. Good luck Christina.
Hi and welcome back to another busy year. Also a special hello to our new families to the school.

It will be a challenging one with the new year 7s joining us for the first time. I will be working in the classroom with them on health issues. I will be working with students throughout the year on ways to help with their personal wellbeing which includes aspects from physical, emotional, social and spiritual components.

To build students’ independence and growth mindsets to learn alone, it is essential that their learning extends to settings well beyond the classroom. One of these learning environments is at home. For students to reap the maximum possible benefits from their learning at home, a special place to study is highly desirable.

Just as we have specific work areas in our workplaces, this area to study should ideally be used only for that purpose. Over time their brains will build patterns that associate that place with study, thus developing it as a habit and reducing barriers to getting started. Plenty of colour in this area stimulates students’ brains; splash it with colour.

Many families find space a problem and a special study area very difficult to provide.

In these cases, the best scenario is to create as many of the features for an efficient learning/study area as possible, for example:

• well lit, quiet, warm and comfortable,
• a copy of their Personal Timetable and a Forward Planner on the wall,
• well-resourced with stationery and a computer, away from distractions, especially TV, mobile phones and loud music on their iPod,
• quiet rhythmic music can actually enhance learning.

Studying in front of the TV is a total waste of time, because very little, if any, of the subject matter will be absorbed by students and embedded in their memories. Their brains’ attention cannot compete with the brightness, noise and movement on a TV screen.

Also, studying in bed is not beneficial. Firstly, the brain relates bed to sleep, not study, and efficient learning won’t occur.

Secondly, studying in bed will effect sleep patterns and reduce the students’ quality of health.

If you have any questions or would like to talk to me, I am available at the school on Tuesday and Wednesday. You can ring me or contact the office for an appointment. My contact numbers are 47905666 or 0428825565. My email is lgeor61@eq.edu.au.

I look forward to talking to you through the year.

Leah George

School Based Youth Health Nurse
Swimming Carnival

The skies were blue, hardly a cloud in the sky - it was finally here the day of the Interhouse Swimming Carnival. Friday 27 February 2015, the Home Hill Swimming Pool was swamped by students keen to start the annual swimming carnival. Themes for the houses this year included Beachmountians – *Ganster’s Paradise*, Upstartian’s - *Tie Dye* and Inkerman’s - *Wildlife Warriors*. The swimming carnival was a massive success with many students participating at their highest level and numerous records set by the inclusion of our year 7s, not to mention past records broken!

Beachmount once again showed their dominance in the pool breaking back from Upstart’s overhaul last year. However, it was one very close race to the finish line with Inkerman placing 3rd with a total of 463 points, Upstart in 2nd on 743 points, which left the winning team with a total of 778 points. Congratulations Beachmount! The house captains, seniors of all houses and junior secondary house captains should be congratulated on their high spirited chants, general organization of their younger charges and motivation levels.

We cannot go without thanking newly appointed subject area co-ordinator – Miss Tramayne Horan, without her this day wouldn’t run as smoothly. Therefore on behalf of Home Hill State High School and the house captains, we would like to give a big thanks to her and the other teachers for making this day as enjoyable as it was. Also, a big thanks go to the managers at the Home Hill Pool – Jo and her team and the Home Hill Swimming Club for letting us use their equipment. Also, a special thanks must go out to the parents who attended to support and to the students themselves for an excellent day in the water.

**The age champions for 2015 were:**

**Boys 12 years** - Flynn McKaig (Beachmount)
**Girls 12 years** - Leia Vass (Upstart)
**Boys 13 years** - Liam Cannavan (Inkerman)
**Girls 13 years** - Danielle Rehbein (Upstart)
**Boys 14 years** - Callum Ricca (Upstart)
**Girls 14 years** - Tayla McKaig (Beachmount)
**Boys 15 years** - Jackson Garner (Beachmount)
**Girls 15 years** - Naomi Loizou (Upstart)
- Kyla Falco (Upstart)
**Boys 16 years** - Nathan Tsaousis (Beachmount)
**Girls 16 years** - Dana Falco (Beachmount)
**Boys 17 years** - Chris Previtera (Upstart)
**Girls 17 years** - Cassie Loizou (Upstart)

**Record Breakers**

Dana Falco had an outstanding day breaking the following records:

- Girls 16 years 50m Butterfly in a time of 31.39. The previous record was 34.00 (M Falco).
- Girls 16 years 50m Backstroke in a time of 34.00. The previous record was 35.20 (B Rossato).
- Girls 16 years 50m Freestyle in a time of 29.50. The previous record was 30.02 (M Falco).
- Girls Open Medley in a time of 2:40.79. The previous record was 2:41:24 (M Falco).
- Girls Open 100m Freestyle in a time of 1:05:12. The previous record was 1:05:97 (M Falco).

Dana will also be representing North Queensland in the state trials. Good luck in Brisbane Dana!
School Information

The Queensland Government has passed amendments to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act (1998), banning the use of smoking products, including tobacco and electronic cigarettes, in all enclosed and outdoor areas at state and non-state schools in Queensland—including primary, secondary and special education facilities—and for five metres beyond the boundary of school land.

The new laws take effect from 1 January 2015.

These laws offer further protection to the Queensland public—and in particular, children and young adults—from exposure to harmful environmental tobacco smoke.

Children’s health is particularly affected by environmental tobacco smoke, with exposure increasing the risk of ear infections, respiratory illness and asthma.

The new laws apply at all times—during and after school hours, on weekends and during school holidays.

The five metre ‘no smoking’ buffer will ensure that smokers extinguish their smoking products well before they approach school land.

Smoking in motor vehicles where children under the age of 16 are present has been banned in Queensland since January 2010.

School land is defined as:

- Land on which a state school provides education programs under the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006.
- Land on which a non-state school provides primary education, secondary education or special education under the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2001.
- Land on which a state or non-state school provides other educational facilities, instruction or activities, for example sport grounds. This includes land that is owned or leased by the school.

Five metre buffer includes:

- A five metre no-smoking area around the perimeter of the school, beyond the school land boundary; including all structures in this area, such as bus shelters and car parks.

Five meter buffer excludes:

- Residential and business premises that share a boundary with the school grounds; meaning that if the land shares a boundary with a residential or business premises, the five meter buffer does not extend into this land.

Further information

For information about Queensland’s tobacco laws, contact 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or visit www.qld.gov.au.

For information or support to quit smoking, call Quitline 13 QUIT (13 7848) or talk with your general practitioner or pharmacist.
Industrial Technology and Design

The year has started off with a bang in Industrial Technology and Design. We welcome Mr Justin Muldoon into our department, teaching year 7, 8 and 10 ITD classes. For the first time our year 7 students have been in the workshop and they are moving along really well, so well in fact that they have completed their first class project in record time and have moved onto their second, so parents should be looking forward to seeing their rope puzzles coming home soon.

Our year 8 have also been very enthusiastic with their workshop classes and have been coming in before school and lunch times just so they can put those finishing touches to their projects and they are starting to look really good. The students need to be commended for the effort they are putting in.

As for all the other ITD classes they have seen the introduction of On Guard Safety training for the first time this year and so far (once we ironed out a few bugs) have been completing this training at home as well as in class and you will this this on their assessment calendar as Safety Modules. So if your student has training that is coming up they are able to access it 21 days before it is due at the following website:

http://www.1300acepro.com/OnGuardACEPro2014/content/login.asp?schoolKey=homehillshs.qld

We have also introduced Industrial Graphics as a new subject into the ITD department this year. This is the first year that Home Hill State High School has offered Industrial Graphics and so far it has been a big hit with our year 11 students. Industrial Graphics is different to Senior Graphics as it is directed more at trade-based industries. Through this course, students will be exposed to a number of different types of drawing that they would encounter in different trades like general manufacturing, building and construction, engineering and cabinet making. The course is designed to help students to read, understand and interpret drawing in a given industry. This will leave them in good stead when coming to working in these trades after leaving school.

Next term we look forward to seeing our year 10s race CO$^2$ dragsters and if they are fast enough, compete in the Queensland Championships at the Maryborough Technology Challenge later this year. Our year 7 - 9s will see the introduction of basic electronics into their class completing different projects using some form of electronics or electrical mechanisms.

STUDENT COURSE AND ASSESSMENT PLANNERS

All students have now been given a printed version of their course and assessment planner. This document lists on a week to week basis, all the subjects the student is studying, and the topic of work they are working on. It also shows the student their assessment dates for tests, assignments, orals and reports. Students can access their course and assessment planner themselves by logging on to https://oslp.eq.edu.au at school or at home.
Online Catalogue

The Home Hill High Online catalogue is accessible from anywhere, and on any device the internet is available. All 17,000 odd of our school resources for students, staff and parents are listed on the catalogue. There are also tab links and GoTo links to websites such as Cosmos, ABC Splash, Burdekin Shire Council, Townsville and State Libraries, the Learning Place, Google Safe, Google Scholar and many more. You can even use the Drop box facility to save, share and email yourself, and others, titles you select from our catalogue. You can also place holds on the books you want to borrow when returning to school.

The link to the Online catalogue is as follows: [http://homehillhs.cmeweb.libcode.com.au/](http://homehillhs.cmeweb.libcode.com.au/)

Use it! It’s Awesome!! 😊

Library Monitors

Library Aide, Mrs Josie Harper and I are very grateful to the wonderful students who assist us before school and during the breaks with duties such as returning, loaning and shelving books, book searches and displays and other tasks. Thank you to our Library Monitors.

Reading Rocks!

Reading is our major school Focus for Learning for 2015 and it is both a regional and state-wide focus for Education Queensland also.

There are many reasons why Reading is important for everyone, but in short...Kids who Read, Succeed. Just 15 mins of reading before bed each night can make a big difference. Reading a variety of text types (genres) is important too so magazines, the newspaper and a kindle or iBook are not necessarily off-limits.

The purchase of Fiction and Non-Fiction books that students are interested in, and are suitable for a variety of reading levels, is high on my priorities. If a student will read it, I will endeavour to locate and purchase it! Suggestions for books are welcome.

Studies have shown that students are more likely to read if their parents do. Parents and guardians are welcome to borrow from our extensive collection.

Reading Rocks! Give it a go before bed tonight!

Lisa Todeschino
Teacher-Librarian
Well it has been an exciting and very busy start to the year. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know all our new year 7 and 8 students. They bring so much energy to the school. I especially enjoyed hanging out with them at our recent school disco. I think I learnt some new dance moves already this year. But unfortunately (not) I have no photos to prove this.

For those of you who are not aware, I have been running two programs so far this year. One of them is Lunch Club.

**LUNCH CLUB**

Lunch Club is a free service offered every Monday during second break. Each Monday, myself and my Lunch Club help team prepare lunch for the entire school to enjoy if they wish to. The lunch provided alternates between pancakes, savoury mince burgers, sausage sizzle and everyone’s favourite, bacon and egg burgers. Cold juice is also available each week. Lunch club is only made possible due to the financial sponsorship given by local churches and the Home Hill Bakery. So far the feedback I have received from students and staff has been extremely positive. They just love Lunch Club. If any parents/carers would like to donate food, like eggs or fruit etc, than that would be greatly appreciated.

**CHAPPY’S CHILLAX ROOM**

Another program that I have been running again this year is Chappy’s Chillax Room. At this stage, this program is only for year 7 and year 8 students. Every Friday during first break, students join me in Chappy’s Chillax Room where we dance up a storm on the Nintendo Wii game of Just Dance. Students have to follow the dance moves to songs that are up on the big screen.

Prizes are given out to participants who try their best and just have a go. Chappy’s Chillax Room provides a fun structured activity for students to do in the lunch break. Even some teachers have come along and tried out their dance moves. I just love it when I see a room full of students doing the same dance moves and just having fun doing it without judging each other.
Throughout this year, I will aim to continue to support students, parents and staff through whatever difficulties they may be facing, whether big or small. I use my background in psychology and counselling in providing this support. I just love working with adolescents and supporting their parents. If I can support you and your son/daughter in any way throughout 2015, please do not hesitate to contact me at school for a chat. I will be continuing to work three days a week on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Also, you may not be aware but Burdekin school chaplains have to do a significant amount of fundraising to be able to maintain the days we currently work in our Burdekin schools. Your support in fundraising would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to approach me any time with any fundraising ideas you may have. This Saturday 7 March, at the Home Hill Memorial Club, The Clash of the Canefields Boxing Tournament is being held. This is a drug and alcohol free event. And best of all, all profits from the sale of food and drinks goes towards supporting the work of your local Burdekin school chaplains. So come along and support this local event. Doors open at 5.30pm for a 6.30pm start. Hope to see you there.

Bless ya
Chappy Jennie.

YEAR 12 LEADERSHIP CAMP

Year 12 camp was a highly anticipated escape from the confines of Home Hill High, in which the seniors of 2015 were to undertake a series of activities and challenges that put our leadership abilities to the test. The first day started off with a ferry journey to our destination, Magnetic Island. Upon arrival we unpacked the bus, received a quick introduction and were sent off to our dorms in order to get ready for P night. But dinner first! After we were filled with delicious homemade lasagne, we celebrated Scalia’s 21st Camp Day – That’s right, he has been on 21 year 12 camps. After the festivities died down, the real fun began. The P Night Pyjama Party. Many onesies were unveiled, with Miss Horan and Jamaine taking an infamous onesie team photo. Mrs Kerr also brought out her best pair of leopard print satin pyjamas.

The next morning some energetic people went for a morning walk/swim bright and early at 6:00am, whereas the people who cherish their beauty sleep had an extra half hour to sleep in. Those who went for the morning activities swear it was well worth it, we just took their word for it. Breakfast was enjoyed by all before the five groups rotated between activities which included polygons, atomic blast, river crossing, spider web and wordles. These activities showed the groups that to succeed we must all work together to accomplish the desired end results. The afternoon proved to test the fitness abilities of some, with a bike ride, kayaking and team beach challenges. Many stacks were had on the bike ride, with Rachel losing her front wheel, Luke going over the handlebars and Brontie bouncing down the rocks, coming off her bike and taking Mrs Kerr with her. The kayak trip had Stevie wishing for the security of the sandy beach after she swore a fish tried to eat her!! The beach challenges proved a test; I swear we had thighs of steel after running up and down that beach.
Night fell and the highly anticipated B & S Ball was upon us. It was also Adrian’s birthday!! The guys looked as pretty as ever, rushing back and forth from their cabins to the girls in order to get their make-up just right. ‘Can I borrow a dress? Is my make-up okay? What about my hair?’ were highly used phrases that night. The girls put on their best, or shall we say worst, work clothes in order to achieve just the right amount of blokeness. The night commenced and two couples were brought before their one true love after the highly successful game show ‘Perfect Catch’. As the night died down we finally heard the highly anticipated scary story from Horan, needless to say Michael didn’t sleep that night.

The next morning everyone was to wake up at 6:00am to join Mrs Kerr for her morning swim or Miss Horan for her walk/jog. By the time we reached Picnic Bay, a murmur was moving through the students, ‘Where’s Nakoma?’ It turned out that Nakoma really did cherish her beauty sleep, as she didn’t wake up at all. After an amazing breakfast of pancakes, we got ready and headed for the bus stop to head off to our chosen outdoor activities. Most of the grade enjoyed holding a wide array of animals at the Koala Park, while an adventurous few went scuba diving or hiking. Mr Miskin risked it all playing a round of golf with the boys, and Courteney.

In the afternoon our activity groups got together to discuss the camp skits for that night. The ‘Iron Stomach’ took out first place with Group C putting members of other groups up to the challenge of stomaching some rather unenjoyable food. Even Maggie Island Camp co-ordinator Ms T had an interesting night as guest judge. Ryan was also crowned King of the name game. The next day was the Search and Rescue Activity which saw Group A taking out the win, after Horan became extremely distressed at the fact that every person who passed her wasn’t from the group that happened to be looking for her. We left the camp site by bus and went to Nelly bay for some refreshments, which included tubs of ice cream, milkshakes and chocolates. The ferry trip home was a rather quiet one, with a lot of worn out year 12s. Overall the Year 12 Leadership Camp was enjoyed by all and lifelong skills were obtained.

Jacquilyn Marano
Learning Support

Newly appointed teacher, Sally Pirie, has been busy working with year 7 and 8 Learning Support students. Recently they completed a Precision Academics Functional Literacy diagnostic assessment that showed a lack of phonemic awareness. This then hinders their ability to utilise the phonological skills taught in most Primary Schools. Without the brain being able to easily and quickly decode and encode speech sounds, students comprehension, reading and spelling will be limited. Sally aims to utilise a new program called ‘Speech Sound Pics’ as a speedy intervention for their reading, spelling and comprehension.

In 2014, Sally worked closely with Emma Hartnell Baker, who designed the SSP Program. She found that the reading data in her school improved dramatically. Home Hill SHS is extremely fortunate to have a teacher with this training and expertise. We look forward to seeing the results for our students this year.

Junior Secondary Meet and Greet

On Tuesday 24 February at 6pm, year 8 and 9, Junior Secondary parents were invited to Home Hill State High School’s official “Meet and Greet BBQ,” to be followed by an astronomy evening gazing at the stars. Unfortunately due to adverse cloud cover, the astronomy aspect of the night was postponed, however the barbecue continued on.

The event was well attended by both teachers and students as it was the perfect opportunity to put a few faces with names.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Mr Robert Scalia for his organisation of this event. His barbecuing skills weren’t too bad either.
Physics – Rockets

3... 2... 1... Blast off! Yes, it’s that time of year again. The year 12 Physics students, led by Mr Scalia (A.K.A. Rocket Man) have been working all term assembling their model rockets and last week was the long awaited launch date. The rocket launches that take place every year in term 1 are part of the summative assessment for year 12 Physics students and involves constructing a model rocket and launching the rockets to determine the effect of changing a certain variable – in this case the shape of the nose of the rocket. After the launch, the data obtained is analysed and a full report is written on the launches. For the sake of science, everyone hauled themselves out of bed early (some more willingly than others) and were on the school oval by 6am for the launch. Mr Scalia even got to do this three times, once for each group, and we all know that deep down he really enjoyed the early wake up call. Mrs Rita Papale has also become an honorary rocket scientist as she has participated in the launches each year since 2010. She has witnessed all three of her children’s launches over the years. Congratulations Rita!

There were students responsible for assembling the rocket and equipment for each launch, pushing the trigger to launch the rocket and spotters to find and catch them. Although some rockets didn’t quite make it down...trees and buildings proved to be obstacles, the rockets still had to be retrieved. Altimeters are expensive and the data obtained from them invaluable. The rocket launches attracted an audience of keen parents and younger students and it was wonderful to see everybody getting involved and showing an interest. Despite looking a little worse for wear being up so early, the launches were a great success and it’s safe to say everyone involved had a blast. It was even worth trudging around in a sleep-deprived state for the rest of the day. Now for the not so fun part, the prac write up!

This is a message for next year’s 12 Physics. “May the winds be calm, may the sky be blue and may all your rockets fly straight and true.”

National Youth Science Forum 2015

I had always been intrigued by the way things worked, why things happened, and what I could do about it. Attending the Australian National Youth Science Forum in January this year was a dream come true.

I was one of 400 lucky students from 1200 applicants to be selected to attend across Australia. Each of us were put through a selection process, involving multiple interviews on science and society and teamwork activities. Rachel Marano and I were selected from Home Hill to attend the Townsville District selections, and from here, six of us were fortunate enough to be chosen to attend the session. I was asked questions such as “My thoughts on nuclear power”, and “What I think the greatest issue facing Australia currently is?” I quickly learnt that they weren’t looking for geniuses to attend, but more so well-rounded, bright, young members of the worldwide community with social skills. And lucky for me, I happened to fit the bill!

I flew to Brisbane on 18 January with Liam Shannon from ASHS and Juliette Keane from Townsville. We then met the remainder of the Queensland crew for Session C and began the 22 bus hour ride to Canberra. It was actually a lot more fun than it sounds, I promise! We stayed on campus at the Australian National University for two weeks, before making the long trip back home again.

The opportunities we received while in Canberra were unimaginable! We were welcomed with an address at Parliament House from the Chief Scientist of Australia, Professor Ian Chubb, who was so genuine and humble. Coming from a rural place himself, it really hit home that there are opportunities out there to be successful in the field of science. I was placed in a biomedical group of 14, with whom I attended six lab visits with. These included
visiting the Pathology Lab at Canberra Hospital, the John Curtin School of Medical Research and Australian National University laboratories. We had the chance to perform practical experiments with some very high-tech equipment, and were given a rare, behind-the-scenes look into real research occurring in real labs. We also attended seminars, giving us insight into areas such as quantum mechanics and nanoscience – areas we may not have considered previously, so interesting! We even had the opportunity to talk to a representative from CERN’s Large Hadron Collider in Geneva via video conference! As a group of 200 students, we were also given the platform to debate some hot topics in Australian Science, such as funding, nuclear technology and the ownership of genes. It was mind-boggling to think these people were my age.

The first couple of days that I was at NYSF, I actually questioned whether the forum was science related at all. We went swimming, visited the Australian War Memorial, learnt how to swing dance and went shopping. During the course of the two weeks, we also took part in a disco, zumba, watched fireworks from a mountain on Australia Day, visited Questacon and held a final night concert. I think that NYSF was as much science as it was social, and I have absolutely no complaints about that! It was unbelievable getting to know people from all states and territories of Australia, as well as International students from New Zealand, Brazil, Zimbabwe and South Africa. They are friends I will keep in close contact with for a long time. These people were pretty switched on when it came to science, although it was their interest in it that outshone their achievements. But above that, they were just normal people with other interests as well, and that’s what appealed to me the most.

No words could ever summarise how much attending the National Youth Science Forum meant to me. I remember sitting in the Australian Academy of Science’s “Shine Dome”, listening to my friends debate between each other in front of leaders in Australian Science on how to solve the issue of scientific research funding, and thinking, “I am so lucky to be sitting here right now. There are so many other people who would have loved this opportunity, but I’m here instead.” It was a little outside of my comfort zone, throwing myself into a sea of people I didn’t know, but I’m so glad I did. I gained so much. I’ve decided that a career in biomedicine/medicine is for me, I learnt the importance of politics in a science background but also in everyday life, I learnt how to be a better communicator, and I’ve seen that being a female from a rural background is not going to stop me from being successful in the field of science!

Christina Postma