**Year 12 Graduation and Farewell**

**Graduation**

On Friday November 15th the Graduating Class of 2013 had their final day at the Brolga Theatre. It was a fantastic day for these students to be acknowledged for all their achievements over the last years of high school. The ceremony was beautiful with music performances by Year 12 students, Brianna Ryan, Nicolette Harper and Alexander Gergos. There were heart touching tributes and thanks from Year 12 students, Elissa Gray, Morgan Lockrey, Sam Riggs and Nicolette Harper. A PowerPoint presentation of these students over the years was also shown by Morgan Lockrey, ending with their grad song “Roar”.

I want to thank all the parents and families for attending this celebration of their students. A special thank you to Mrs Tracey Scott for the Parents Response, which was very touching!

The day ended with a lovely lunch with parents and friends at the Westside Tavern. Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2013! All the best in the future and remember to believe in yourselves and chase your dreams!

**Scholarships**

There are many scholarships available for the Year 12’s to apply for:
- Charles Hawker Scholarships opens December 9th. This demonstrates a commitment to the wider community and is based on personal qualities as well as academic ability.
- The Australian Veterans Children’s Assistance Trust is a not-for-profit organisation that helps children and grandchildren of the Australian ex-service community with the costs of full-time tertiary education. Applications opened August 18th.

If your student is interested in applying or needs more information, they can come and see me at my staffroom.

**Raymont Lodge-Residential College**

This College is an activity of the Queensland Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia and it provides comfortable and safe accommodation services for tertiary students within a supportive community based on Christian values. They are located in Auchenflower, which is close to major universities and colleges in Brisbane. They are also located a few minutes walk from major train and bus routes. If you are interested and need more information you can visit [www.raymont.com.au](http://www.raymont.com.au) or contact the college on (07) 3377 9903.

**Year 12 Pre-Order Palma/Thomsen Photos**

Any student who would like to purchase a Palma needs to pay $20 at the office to pre-order a copy which will be available in December. Reminder to any students who ordered photos from Thomsen’s at Formal need to pick up their packages from the office.

Mrs C Taylor (Year 12 Co-ordinator)
FROM THE PRINCIPAL

This week year 10 & 11 students leave us and on behalf of all the staff at Maryborough State High School, I would like to thank you for your continued support and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday.

The 2013 year in review

Throughout 2013, our priority has been on improvement. In the classroom our focus has been on excellence in teaching and learning.

We have been involved in a range of professional development activities ensuring we, as teachers, are engaged in quality teaching and that our educational programs are current, relevant and engaging.

We will continue with the improvement agenda in 2014, by continuing to implement a teaching and learning framework, “The Art and Science of Teaching”.

This framework aims to:

• Deliver a system of individual clear learning goals connected to student feedback and evaluation in the classroom
• Ensure effective teaching in every classroom and
• Build background knowledge for all students.

An improved learning environment

This year, we have improved our grounds and facilities. New plants have been added to some of our gardens and thanks to our P & C, the area in front of our tuckshop has new shade sails, providing much needed shade. Students in the Trade Training Centre built four new picnic tables for our shade area.

We have continued to repaint our buildings, our junior secondary area was refurbished and all junior secondary classrooms now have interactive projectors. We are in the process of refurbishing E Block, in readiness for our year 7 & 8 students in 2015. This includes the planned installation of air-conditioning into classrooms.

In 2014 we will continue to develop our facilities to ensure we have the very best learning environments for our students.

Some highlights

• Gala and MADO concerts showcased our very talented “Arts” students.
• Two students attended the National Youth Science Forum.
• One student received direct entry into University for his success in Aerospace Studies.

SCHOOLWIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

• Three students won the Extended Experiment competition
• Junior science students won the crystal growing competition
• Two students were nominated for the State Boeing Award
• Our concert band and stage band achieved silver and bronze at Eisteddfod
• Dance students won second and highly commended in the Eisteddfod
• Hospitality students catered for over 50 functions
• Sport academy class begins in 2014

We have had a great year and look forward to another successful and enjoyable year in 2014.

Some important dates for 2014:

• Pupil Free Days: on 22nd, 23rd & 24th January
• Australia Day is on Monday 27th January
• School begins for Year 8 & Year 12 students on Tuesday 28th January
• School begins for Year 9, 10 & 11 students on Wednesday 29th January
• There will be no Pupil Free Days at the beginning of term each with the exception of the first week.
• The Queen’s Birthday weekend holiday will be on the 9thJune
• Labour day is the 6th October
• Pupil Free Day in Term 4 is on the 20th October

First Day Procedures:

Tuesday 28th, January
Year 8 and Year 12 students will begin their 2014 school year on Tuesday 28th January. All students and parents will meet in the Multipurpose Hall at 8:45am for a short assembly. Following the assembly the parents will be invited for morning tea in the outdoor learning centre while all students move to classes. Classes will finish at 2:55pm.

Second Day Procedures:

Wednesday 29th, January
Students in Years 9, 10, 11 and 11 will assemble in the Multipurpose Hall at 8:45 am for a brief address and will then be divided by the year coordinators into connect groups. Students will then move to connect class with their connect teachers. Year 8 and 12 students will have classes as normal. Classes will finish at 2:55 pm.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

The Maryborough area is hosting a visit by a group of 15 Japanese students in a program conducted by AIU from the 27th December to the 5th January. We are URGENTLY seeking families who can host a student. Families will be paid a stipend of $270 for hosting a student. No Japanese language is required. If you are able to host a student or would like more information please contact Andrew on 0458989591 or email LeaniT@live.com

USQ Information Day

USQ Fraser Coast Campus, Upstairs C-Block
Friday 18 January 2014

Visit our USQ Information Day, meet with staff, ask about your area of interest and find out how we support you. Chat with staff about what it’s like to be a uni student at USQ. And if you didn’t achieve the OP you hoped for or haven’t studied for a long time, our Open Access College staff will be there to explain how the Tertiary Preparation Program can get you into the degree program of your choice. TAFE students and graduates can find out about direct pathways into USQ programs and possible credit. And with all your questions answered, you could start your studies as early as February. So come along and see what USQ can do to help you to succeed!

Date: Saturday 18 January 2014
Time: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Venue: USQ Fraser Coast, 161 Old Maryborough Road, Pialba

Find out more: www.usq.edu.au or call 1800 269 500

SUCCESS IN MATHS B

(For students going into Years 11/12 2014)

JANUARY 20 - 23rd INCLUSIVE 9AM – 12NOON

USQ FRASER COAST - ROOMS C210 & C211

NO COST

This intensive 4 day workshop is aimed at students entering Year 11 Maths B or Year 12 Maths B in 2014 and will take place the week before high school students go back to school.

Designed to review the basic skills necessary to succeed in Maths B, the course is self-paced with students given a series of booklets to work through and on completion will complete a diagnostic test.

To register for this workshop please email the following details to events@frasercoast.usq.edu.au

Attendees full name
Contact telephone number (preferably mobile)
School they attend
Grade they will be going into 2014

All registrations will be acknowledged by return email. If you wish to speak to someone about these workshops please phone 4194 3142 before the 20th Dec. After this date phones will be unattended due the Christmas break.

DRUMBEAT

Last Thursday morning a Drumbeat drumming group from BF performed two numbers on parade then walked down to Station Square to perform again. Here the drumming group enjoyed some improvisation creating their own rhythms as well as performing pieces they had learned previously. Drumbeat is a program focusing on empowering social relations through musical performance.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

A big thank-you to all who have worked hard in the Dukes program this year. Twelve students completed their Bridge 1 award and they will receive their Bridge 2 next year. Students have already expressed interest in joining the program next year. Year 8 & 9 students can join at Bridge level and I am particularly interested in some year 10’s joining at Bronze level.

Fraser Coast Carols in the Park

Sunday 8 December 2013 Queens Park, Maryborough
5:30pm to 8:30pm

Join in Carols in the Park, a FREE open air concert in stunning Queens Park. The concert will showcase some of our finest Fraser Coast performers and feature everyone’s favourite carols. Presented by Fraser Coast Opportunities, the night will include a visit from Santa and will come to a thrilling end with a massive firework spectacular. Choose to buy dinner and treats from the food vendors or bring your own picnic basket. BYO blanket or folding chairs. Please note that the event is smoke and alcohol free.