GRASS Science Investigation Awards Success

5 finalists, 5 prizes! Duval students took out a number of prizes in this year’s GRASS (Growing Regional and Agricultural Students in Science) Science Investigation Awards held at UNE on 10 September. David Wilson (Year 10) took out the top prize of Senior Scientist of the Year, and Karl Simpson (Year 10) was awarded the prize for Best Primary Industry Themed Project - Senior.

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DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 19 September> Year 12 Valedictory
- 19 September> Last day of Term 3
- 7 October> Term 4 commences for students and staff
- 13 October> HSC exams commence
- 15 October> P&C Meeting, Staff Common Room
- 23 October> Immunisation Yr 7 Boys and Girls and Yr 9 Boys
- 6 November> Year 6 Orientation Day

Remember, our core values underpin everything we do.

L2L
This has been a tremendous couple of weeks for Duval, with students representing us at the Da Vinci Decathlon and the GRASS Science Investigations at UNE. Both of these are prestigious events, drawing competitors from the top state and private schools throughout the region, and I'm happy to say that our entrants put them all to shame. Some of our students sold badges for Legacy last week and others were involved in the rehearsals for the upcoming 'New England Sings' on Sunday, 2 November.

Year 12 students have been involved in their HSC Practical Exams, with stellar performances in Music and Drama especially. Huge congratulations to Will Harrison for his OnSTAGE nomination! I am very proud of all of the people at Duval High School - principals always are, and always think their school is the best in the state - but I'm especially proud of those who take up the opportunities for extra-curricular activities, whether academic, sporting or cultural, which all go towards making the school experience that much more enjoyable, meaningful and profitable for you.

A case in point is our Industry Partnership with Big W. The industry partnership project is designed to offer students the opportunity to experience exposure to a work environment. In this program students are engaged by Big W Armidale Store and provided with an orientation to the Retail Industry, and will then be exposed throughout the term of the program (6 weeks) to different department operations where they will work in and become a part of the team. Through practical experience students can then make an informed choice when considering subject choices for further education. This opportunity allows students to experience the workplace and what it feels like to be a part of a working team. Students who participated with distinction in the program this term include Alex Oliver, Brandon Giles, Brittaney Davies and Paige Meredith.

Another example is our Rifle Shooting team. Not many schools in NSW have Rifle Shooting as a sport - you can count the number of Government schools who do on one hand - but if that's where a student's talents lie, then I see it as being up to the school to encourage them to achieve their best, just like we would in every other area. Therefore it gave me great pleasure to present team jackets at assembly last week, on behalf of the P&C, to the Duval Target Rifle Shooting team, who competed in the State Benchrest Hunter Championships last May, and were successful in progressing to the National Championships to be held in Coffs Harbour on 20-21 September. The six students - Ben Dawson, Wil Shorter, Karl Simpson, Alicia McManus, Douglas Rowe-Dawson and Melanie Frost - have worked extremely hard to attain this level and are looking forward to representing themselves and their school. Special thanks to their coaches, Sonia Frost and Tom Keys, for their guidance and support. We wish the team the very best of luck in Coffs Harbour.

And so another Year 12 comes to the end of their school education! We'll be celebrating this outstanding achievement with them through our Year 12 Carnival on Thursday and Valedictory

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on Friday, and all of us wish them the very best for the exams and their future!

A couple of brief comments about this week for the younger students - the Year 12 Carnival day is an opportunity for you to enjoy spending Thursday afternoon with Year 12, prior to the serious business of the Valedictory on Friday. However, bear in mind that it is Year 12s' day - their last day of lessons and participation at Duval High School - so don't spoil it! There is no such thing as muck-up day in NSW schools any more. By all means enjoy the carnival, but remember that any silly or destructive behaviour will not be tolerated. The same goes for the Year 12 Social. It's a great opportunity to enjoy a social night and dance with the outgoing Year 12, but again silly behaviour is unacceptable.

Only one more week to go until the holidays! I know you're looking forward to them, so have fun, but remember at all times to be safe so we can see you back here again next term for more great teaching and learning!

Stafford Cameron

GRASS Awards (continued from page 1)

As well as the top prizes, three of our Year 7 students also took home prizes. Kyanna Villano was runner-up in the Best Primary Industry Themed Project - Junior category, with Georgia Vaughan and Adam Lucas taking out both Junior Encouragement Awards.

Competition was fierce this year, with over 200 entries from schools around the northwest region. Students had to explain their projects to scientists from UNE and were judged on a range of criteria including scientific accuracy, interpretation of data, and how well they presented their data. All our students did themselves and the school proud on the day and with 5 winners from just 12 entries, Duval students have once again shown what a talented group they are, and how well they compare with students from this area. Well done to all the students who entered!

P&C NEWS

A big thank you to the families, especially the dads, who helped move mulch on the Fathers' Day weekend. We are making steady progress, with wall painting planned for the next working bee. Anyone who is handy with a brush or roller, it would be most appreciated if you could lend a hand. A notice will be in the newsletter and/or app.

The P&C is in the process of making a decision about spending a larger sum of money on a major project for our school. An idea being researched is for a shed to house the buses, but please send your ideas in to the P&C via the school office, email or phone, or better still, come along to our next meeting, which will be Wednesday, 15 October at 7.00pm in the Staff Common Room.

Wishing everyone a good rest these holidays, and effective study for our HSC students! Look forward to seeing or hearing from you re P&C matters.

P&C Committee

NAIDOC MARCH

On Friday, 6 September a group of Duval High School Indigenous and non-Indigenous students participated in the Armidale Dumaesq Council annual NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee) March. NAIDOC is traditionally celebrated across the nation in the first week of July every year. However this time clashes with school holidays, so it was an initiative of the Armidale Dumaesq Council to hold a special NAIDOC celebration in the month of September to cater for all school students and for them to take part in the street march and a fun day of music, culture and sport.

This year was no different as our students stood proudly behind the Duval High School banner and led the march from Central Park, down into
Moore Street and back up Faulkner Street to the Town Hall. After the flag raising, speeches and a light morning tea for the Elders, all groups then proceeded to Doody Park for the NAIDOC celebrations. Lunch was provided for everyone, a band played and there were lots of stalls from local organisations promoting their services. The day was enjoyed by all.

HSC VISUAL ARTS MAJOR WORKS

'I Am the Artist' - Cameron Baker

'National Selection' - Lauren Barrett

'Majestic' - Keenan Brooks

'I Am the Artist' - Cameron Baker

'Change my Race' - Katie Broomfield
Menarche' - Erin de la Motte

Land: Without Boundaries, Without War - Caitlin Grafton

Living the Life of Both Worlds - Kristin Lowe

Nightwalk' - Will Roberts

SK8' - Hayden Rolfe

Kintsukoroi' - Alice Rummery
‘Missing! Reflections on the Australian Gothic’ - Kasumi Scott

‘Track 01’ - Amber ter Hedde

‘North Korean’ - Evie Weir

‘Bohemian Rhapsody Revisited’ - Jess White

‘KRS13’ - Lachlan Wright
SPORTS NEWS

Tennis

Last week Keira Walford represented the North West region at the Combined High Schools Tennis Carnival held in North Parramatta. Not only did Keira make it to this level, but she was awarded Player of the Carnival. A huge congratulations on this wonderful achievement!

Athletics

At the recent Combined High Schools Athletics Championships held in Sydney, a number of Duval students represented North West. Of particular note was Stuart Geddes’ success in the 14 years 1500m and 800m. Stuart won a bronze medal in the 1500m in a time of 4:30.69 and placed 6th in the 800m in a time of 2:12.06, both PBs. Also worthy of mention is Turner Lynch who just missed out on a medal, placing 4th in the 14 years 400m, also with a PB. Congratulations boys, and to all who proudly represented North West and DHS.

Shooting

The Duval Rifle team were proudly presented with State/Nationals jackets on Friday, 12 September at assembly. These jackets were very generously funded by the P&C. The team consists of Ben Dawson, Wil Shorter, Karl Simpson, Doug Rowe-Dawson, Alicia McMannus, and Mel Frost. We were all extremely excited and grateful to the P&C and would like to extend our thanks. Also sincere thanks to Mr Cameron for his tireless support of our team and sport. It is great to have his support and encouragement. We will be competing in the National Hunter Championships this coming weekend at Coffs Harbour, having progressed through from the state titles last May. We always try to represent Duval in the best possible way and hope to be successful this weekend. Many thanks once again and wish us luck!

The Duval Rifle Team

Table Tennis Club

If you come down to the school Gym most recess or lunch-times, you will find a keen group of students playing table tennis. The club is open to all students (and staff) who want to try out a new sport, have fun, develop their skills, receive informal coaching or train seriously for the school team. All are encouraged to come along. On a wet lunchtime we have had 30 there, all enjoying a fun sport, but there is still room for the club to grow.

Duval has quite a tradition of competitive table tennis. Last year, with only one old table available for practice, we made the state finals with a group of dedicated Year 12s and two outstanding Year 8 students. Thanks to donations
and handy repair work by Mark Harris, we now have 16 bats and 4 tables available for the club. This year a new school team of Year 11 students improved rapidly but were knocked out in the 3rd round by eventual regional champions Macintyre High School. The very next day, the whole squad was back in the gym: “We have to train for next year, sir.”

In Term 4 we are planning to run two informal competitions in-school: a singles handicap knockout and a ladder. These are free to all-comers and will have small prizes available. I would like as many students and teachers as possible to join in - be there! Watch this space for details!

Jamie Suddaby

Netball

The Duval Club had a very successful year in 2014. Not only did we receive the club shield for the best club, but all teams made the finals. Well done to the Green Machine, Thunderbirds, Top Shots and Falcons.