The Great Aussie Bush Camp

In Week 7 of this term, Year 9 went to The Great Aussie Bush Camp! We started our journey early in the morning. Some of us weren’t very happy waking up that early! The bus drove away and we were all brimming with excitement. The excitement was paused a little as we had to go back for Chidimma!

We arrived at the camp, tired after a long journey. There were very funny or ‘interesting’ instructors who greeted us. There was Davo, the legend, Sarah the funny Canadian and a

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DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 9-16 December> Term V Activities
- 16 December> Last day of school for students
- 28 January, 2016> First day of school for Years 7 & 12
- 29 January, 2016> First day of school for Years 8-11

Students who were unable to attend Presentation Night to receive their Awards may collect them from the School Office this week.

Congratulations Team Duval on an excellent year of upholding our core values.
PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

Congratulations one and all on another brilliant year at Duval High School - to those who received awards at the Merit Assembly yesterday; to the ones who will be recognised at Presentation Night tonight; to those who have displayed the values of Community, Respect, Excellence, Safety and Teamwork in 2015; and to those who have simply done their best at school. This is all anyone can ever ask of you, and I am proud of you.

2015 has been another stellar year for Duval High School. We believe that this year’s HSC results will be as good as, or better than, they have been in the past. Part of the credit for this must go to the large number of teachers who participate in HSC marking, possibly the best professional development available for HSC teachers! Part of it is due to the sheer quality of the Year 12 cohort of 2015, and especially their leadership group, the Captains and Prefects, and the fact that this year we already have two post-examination performance nominations – an HSC Onstage Drama nomination for Citi Emojong, and an HSC Encore Music nomination for Eleanor Logan. For a school to achieve one nomination is cause for celebration – to achieve two is an absolute triumph, and I acknowledge the outstanding efforts of Mrs Katy Walsh and Mr Bruce Myers in supporting these students. Significant numbers of our students have also achieved Principal’s Recommendation for early entry to university, 49 of them at our own University of New England, but also to other institutions in NSW and interstate.

We have continued to achieve success in what I consider to be our three main school focus areas – academic excellence, sporting excellence and cultural excellence – and none of this would have been possible without the efforts of our committed and wonderful staff, and I thank them all for their hard work and dedication to both the young people of this school, and public education as a whole.

I wish to thank the P&C and their President, Caroline Winter, for being so very active and supportive in 2015. The P&C have, as always, been a tremendous advocate and partner for the school, providing support for school-parent communication, for faculties and for all students at the school through their insurance arrangements. They have worked behind the scenes all year on projects including the joint-funding application for the school bus shed, regular working bees and various fundraising ventures. Their efforts are truly appreciated by the entire school community.

The School Canteen is truly healthy and successful and has contributed some $20,000 to the P&C again this year, to be spent on improvements to the learning environment at the school, and for the benefit of all your children. My special thanks go to Suellen Simpson, Vicki Shorter and Belinda Piddington for all the hours of their own time they put in to providing good, healthy food for the children at Duval. However, they do so much more, lending support and a kind ear to children with any concerns, gently reinforcing discipline in the canteen lines, and generally doing everything they can to promote Duval High in our community.

I also want to take the time to acknowledge those who work behind the scenes – the School Learning Support Officers who work with our most challenged students; our AEO and the Norta Norta tutors who work specifically to help raise the literacy and numeracy achievements of our Aboriginal students, but who actually end up helping out wherever they can; the School Administration Support Staff and Julia, our School Admin Manager, who keep the place going in the face of ever-increasing bureaucracy. The place simply could not function properly without all of them!

I would like to conclude, as always, by thanking you, the parents, family, friends and carers of these young people before us. It is through your support, encouragement and care that tonight’s award winners have reached this level of success. They deserve the kudos and plaudits for their achievements, but then again so do you! I wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year, full of good times with family and friends, and look forward to seeing all of you back here at Duval High School next year.

Stafford Cameron

8 December 2015
couple others. We were tired but we weren't
tired enough to not be excited for the giant
swing though! Even though it looked very scary,
all of us gave it a good go. There were a lot of
activities every day which kept us all busy and
quite tired actually. That didn’t stop us from
giving the night security a hard time though! Oh
Warren... I’m sure he liked us on the inside!

The Great Aussie Bush Camp gave us lots of
opportunities to test ourselves and get over our
fears. Abseiling, the leap of faith and the giant
slide were all scary activities but we gave them a
good go and came out feeling happy and
satisfied with ourselves. The rock and water
program taught us how to protect ourselves and
how to get through some of life’s problems.

I was disappointed when the day came that we
had to pack up and leave. We said goodbye to
the instructors and boarded the bus ready for a
long journey home. All in all, we came out of
that camp with new knowledge, new
understanding and possibly new friends! Big
thanks to The Great Aussie Bush Camp!!

_Muhaymin Khan_

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**YEAR 11/12 BUSINESS STUDIES**

Last week the Year 11 Business Studies (pictured
over page) class had a talk with the Marketing
Manager of Triple J. We got the chance to ask
questions about how Triple J is run and how it
has developed and managed change over the
years. The class now has a case study to use for
the HSC. The class thoroughly enjoyed the
experience that was a once in a lifetime
opportunity.

_Lucy Commens_
**SHOOTING NEWS**

Throughout 2015 the Duval Rifle team has enjoyed shooting many disciplines each week and competing at various competitions. The team made presentations to both the SSAA Armidale branch members and Tom Keys from the SSAA Guyra branch, thanking them for their mentorship, volunteering each week to help and coach them, as well as a big thank you to Mr Lacey for driving the team around all year.

As the rifle team’s coordinator, I have been extremely impressed with the team’s achievements and behaviour, making 2015 a very successful year for junior shooting. Our thanks also to Mr Cameron for his tireless support.

Pictured is Karl Simpson receiving his 2nd place medal for his latest success in the Northern NSW IRB Competition held at Armidale on 29 November.

_Suellen Simpson_

**Melanie Frost**

Melanie was asked to compete in the Rimfire Benchrest Association Australian National Grand Prix held in Sydney on 13-15 November at the International and Olympic Shooting Centre in Sydney. This was the first Qualifier for the Australian Team WRABF World Cup to be held in Slovenia in 2017. Melanie shot extremely well in difficult conditions and placed 4th in the juniors. From her efforts she will now go on to compete in Melbourne in November 2016 for the second qualifier. Melanie will also be competing in Coffs Harbour in early February 2016 at the National Rimfire Championships which will be the second qualifier for the 2016 World Rimfire Championships and the PRSC 2016.

**NEW ENGLAND AND NORTH WEST INDIGENOUS YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (IYLP): 1-3 DECEMBER**

The IYLP is an initiative by the University of New England to provide an opportunity to indigenous students to teach about leadership as well as building on their own personal skills. The program was run by David Widders from Armidale. The students were given talks from a number of guests who included Shaun Chilboora, a well-known Aboriginal stand-up comedian and Kyah Simon who is a soccer representative with the Australian Matildas soccer team. Both presented talks to the students on how they became successful in their achievements. Students also participated in group discussions, quiz time and also a drumming workshop which was conducted over the three days. Students also participated in sports activities at Sports UNE.

Darcy Moran and Lauretta Swan of Duval High were chosen to participate along with roughly 35 other students from around the region. Leonie Donovan, our AEA, also attended as a supervisor.

The program was highly successful and hopefully Duval High School will be included in the next Youth Leadership Program.
ATHLETICS

Over the weekend Stuart Geddes competed at the Australian All Schools Championships in the Under 16 2000m Steeplechase. The championships were held at Melbourne’s Lakeside Stadium.

Stuart had settled into his rhythm and had placed himself in the lead pack and felt good. On the second last lap at the water jump, one of Stuart’s fellow NSW athletes fell badly, causing Stuart to misjudge the water steeple and fall awkwardly into the deep water. By the time he resurfaced he was at the back of the pack and had lost time.

In the last lap, Stuart moved his way through the pack to place 5th in a personal best time of 6:15.78. Stuart was amused at the time, thinking he had lost a lot of time at the fall. He will now start his preparation for the National titles early next year.

Congratulations Stuart!

~ Christmas in the Mall ~