

## Mullum students win bravery awards



Congratulations to Gavin Arthur, John Garrard, Tierney Brennan, Luke Essery, Casey Brennan, Courtney Essery and Sam Martin, who are all either current or ex-students of Mullumbimby High School. All were presented with a group commendation for bravery from Surf Lifesaving Australia for their part in a rescue that occurred

in dangerous seas and under extremely difficult conditions at Brunswick beach in 2007.

Special congratulations must go to Casey Brennan who, for her efforts in swimming through dangerous seas to effect a rescue, was presented with an individual award for bravery from Surf Life-

## Diary dates

### Week 5

#### Education Week

- Wed 28/5:** Rock Eisteddfod heats—Gold Coast Arts Centre 7pm
- Thu 29/5:** Regional boys & girls squash Ballina  
ICAS Science Comp
- Fri 30/5:** RSL 'Australia My Country' comp entries close

### Week 6

- Mon 2/6:** Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards entries due
- Tue 3/6:** **HPV vaccinations dose 2 for Yr7, 8, 9, 10 girls**  
FNC Dance Festival
- Wed 4/6:** School Athletics Carnival  
Digital Story Awards entries due
- Thu 5/6:** **Motivational 'The Power of Every one' Yr7—11**
- Fri 6/6:** **Vaccinations Chicken Pox Yr7**

saving Australian. Casey was initially recognized for her efforts at the Australian Surf Lifesaving Championships in Perth earlier in the year.

These awards are nationally recognized awards for bravery, and for current and ex students of our school to receive these brings great credit to them, their families, the Brunswick Surf Club and our school.

The commendations were presented at the Brunswick Surf Club annual presentation evening last Saturday May 17. Congratulations to you all.

Ray Linabury

## Jeda's incredible journey



**Congratulations to Jeda Greenlaw who has won a place in the NSW swimming team to participate in the Pacific School Games in Canberra at the end of this year. Jeda represented Mullumbimby High School in the 17+ age group in both the 200m and 400m freestyle and swam personal bests in both events, finishing fifth in the 200m and second in the 400m. Jeda and her family would like to thank the many local community members who have supported her in her many raffles, and also the Mullumbimby High School P&C for their extra support.**

## Footy news

Congratulations to Jacob Miller who played for the NSW Blues U16s in the curtain raiser to the first State of Origin in Sydney. Jacob scored two tries in a Blues victory that set the pace for the big boys to follow.

Our U14s recently took on Ballina High in round two of the Buckley Shield after previously thrashing Byron Bay 74-6. The boys played with real commitment, Kurt McDonald and Jack Govett charged hit up after hit up and scores were level at half time. Ballina came out stronger in the second half, however, and won the game 20-14. Well done to all players and a big thank you to Mr Allery for coaching and Scottie for driving and team motivation.

Jacob Miller, Sam Martin, Matt Mulcahy and Jacob Greenhalgh are participating in state selection trials in Newcastle this week. Good luck boys, and best wishes to Dane Chisolm in overcoming injuries that prevented his representation.

Country Cup Gala days are coming up for the U13s and U15s at the Giants ground on June 10, and hopefully our open boys team will have the chance to play the winner of Twee River and Kingscliff High in round three of the University Shield. Lots of footy to look forward to! Go Mullum!

*Ron Land*

## Vandalism: the writing's on the wall



### Alice Hall

During the April holidays the science labs of our school were trashed and valuable school resources were destroyed. The vandals were allegedly ex-students, have been caught by the police and will be punished accordingly. This sort of crime leaves a really negative impression on our school; not only students and teachers, but to the whole community.

This kind of vandalism and graffiti has happened before and you've got to ask yourself: 'What's the point?' In an already resource stricken school, who would want to

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## Young dancers show great poise



Three of our students who have been studying dance through Distance Education have achieved outstanding success recently by gaining selection for a number of prestigious dance ensembles. Molly Phillips, Ally Jones and Rhiannon Cave-Walker all travel to dance classes every Thursday afternoon after school.

Molly has been selected for the North Coast High Schools Dance Ensemble to perform at the North Coast Dance Festival in Lismore,

and at Twin Towns during the three day Principals' Conference with the possibility of a group audition in Sydney later this year. Both Molly and Ally Jones will both take part in the School Spectacular in Sydney and all three girls are involved with the Rock Challenge as part of the Mullumbimby High School Rock Eisteddfod team.

Good luck to all three girls in their pursuit of a future in dance.

## Vandalism: a community perspective

I am so disappointed with the latest round of vandalism in our school. Vandalism flies in the face of my priorities for my kids and so I take it personally when faced with it in our school. I want the best for my kids while they are at Mullumbimby High School. Any one who has read anything that I have written in the school news knows that. My time at the school is spent working on this priority for my kids and also for all kids.

I know that the staff of our school works with great dedication to achieve the same for all students. I know how hard it is to get the resources we have. I know how hard the staff and P&C work to ensure our kids have as much as they do.

I know that our budget, as all budgets, has limits. I know how the demands for money always exceed our ability to find money.

Then to have some of these valuable resources trashed and to have our newly acquired buildings damaged, after it took so many people so long to get them. It is more than disappointing!

Our school is so good. Our buildings are so pleasant. Our staff so dedicated. Our resources so hard fought for. Our academic results so excellent. Our kids so great.

I say that vandalism is not OK in our community and not OK in our school. I trust that you agree with me on this and will support our efforts to protect our school. Now we are looking at tall fences and security cameras.

Please remind your kids of their good fortune to have what they have. Please watch over our school and report any suspicious behaviour to the school and/ or

## Canteen Roster

### Wed 28/5:

Gai-Moana Perrot  
Yani Wakefield  
Lorraine Tranter

### Thu 29/5:

WE NEED HELP THIS DAY

### Fri 30/5:

WE NEED HELP THIS DAY

### Mon 2/6:

Gail Marsden  
Rebecca Rixon

### Tue 3/6:

Kate Govett  
Debby Gower  
Niki Kitta-Connell

## Vandalism..

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trash these resources disadvantaging numerous students' right to a quality education? When something like this happens it disempowers parents and teachers, whose aim it is to assist us in reaching our goals and our dreams. What is the root of this anti-social behaviour? I think this happens because a small majority of people just don't care.

Graffiti can be a really interesting expression of human emotions in urban landscapes, or it can show the dregs of a society with no inspiration. The Byron Youth Service and Young Men's Group have recently undertaken a project to graffiti the far stairway of G Block. This is one positive way people can display their point of view. Deb Pearse, the Youthlinx coordinator in charge of the initiative, said the project taught the older boys to act as role models for younger ones, and that graffiti can even be an artistic outlet. Vandalism is a boring and uninspired way to express yourself—if you must say something at least produce something unique and interesting instead of mindlessly lashing out at anything and everything.

police. Our kids deserve the best. Thank you,

Anne Bowden  
P&C President

# Setting the stage for a great debating tradition



On Friday 9 and Friday 16 May our senior debating teams made their debut on the competition platform. They debated against Murwillumbah, Tweed River and Wollumbin High schools, and were adjudicated by distinguished adjudicators Ms Louise Owens, Mr Michael Lines-Kelly and Mr Marc Vining.

Our students spoke logically and persuasively, and acquitted themselves most creditably in their debates. They used their hour of team preparation time effectively and prepared interesting arguments which they delivered with aplomb. As they were required to speak for 10 minutes each, this was no mean feat!

Murwillumbah High has an illustrious debating history having won the Premier's Debating Challenge just two years ago defeating the cream of NSW schools, so it was no disgrace to see them walk away with the laurels! Tweed River and Wollumbin High also defeated our teams, but we had a few close debates with each of the visiting schools; an impressive result because each of our competitors has a continuous history of debating, whereas most of our speakers were debating for the first time.

Our thanks go to the visiting teams for coming to Mullumbimby High and enabling our junior debaters and interested students to observe. By watching good formal arguments and engaging in debating ourselves we can re-establish a tradition of debating at Mullumbimby High, and develop a strong bank of excellent thinking, organisational and communication skills.

Thanks also to our adjudicators, the English faculty and Mrs Kris Rummery for the excellent lunch she provided. It was a great opportunity for our students to get to know people with common interests.

The Premier's Debating Challenge will continue with one more senior debate and with the Year 10 competition commencing in the next few weeks – look out for dates and times on the green sheet or in this newsletter.

*Elizabeth Maddox*

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