

Newsletter

QUIRINDI HIGH SCHOOL

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12TH 2021



Term 1 - Week 3

WELCOME



QHS is thrilled to welcome four new teachers for 2021: Scott Hobson (Mathematics), Chelsea Bayliss (TAS - Timber, Metal and Art), Savannah Scott (English) and Caitlyn Beverley (Mathematics).

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As the principal of Quirindi High School, I take a great deal of time to reflect on the achievements and progress of the students. All staff at QHS have a keen interest in the paths students take beyond school. We watch with anticipation and hope that the skills they have developed as members of Quirindi High School are what they need for their next step. Knowing that all of our students move out of year 12 as productive members of our society is important. Our aim is to help create tolerant adults with values that will see them become successful members of our society. We do this by offering a huge number of extra-curricular opportunities and extension within the curriculum.

As I walk around the school, I can see the progress students make in their own self-regulatory behaviours, in the way they persist and the curiosity they demonstrate. Students at QHS develop resilience in learning and life which empowers them for the world beyond school. Our students are able to reflect on learning and are willing to face a challenge and accept the risks that come with these.

I welcome year 7 to their high school journey and know that after their 6 years at QHS, they too will leave ready for the adult world.

Ian Worley
Principal



LAKE KEEPLIT EXCURSION



CLONTARF MEET & GREET



BACK TO THE BUSH



YEAR 12 READY TO GO!



TEACHER TRAINING

QUIRINDI HIGH SCHOOL

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WELCOME NEW TEACHERS



QHS is thrilled to welcome four new teachers for 2021: Scott Hobson, Chelsea Bayliss, Savannah Scott and Caitlyn Beverley.

Mr Hobson hails from the Central Coast, studied at the University of Newcastle and was teaching Mathematics at Lambton High School last year

before joining us here. He will be taking Year 7 to 12 and said he is looking forward to the experience.

"I focussed on the Curriculum in 2020 and I'm looking forward to expanding my teaching across a diverse range of student cohorts this year," commented Scott.

Miss Bayliss, grew up in Tamworth before heading to the University of Newcastle on a Rural Teachers Scholarship.

Miss Bayliss is placed with QHS for 3 years in the Technology and Applied Studies and will be teaching Timber and Metals for Years 8 to 12 as well as Year 8 Art.

Miss Scott, hails from Kurri Kurri and completed her studies at the University of Newcastle. She will be heading into the English Faculty to teach Years 7,8,10 and 11 Standard.

"I have previous casual teaching experience and was drawn to QHS for the community spirit the school offers and the friendliness of the people of the region," she said.

Miss Beverley left the beaches of Coffs Harbour to study Mathematics at the University of New England and will be teaching Years 7,8,9 and 11 Standard.

"I'm excited to be here and looking forward to meeting all the students and the teaching experience," said Caitlyn who enjoys listening to music and playing string instruments.

Welcome to QHS teachers we are delighted to have you with us.

ONE OF A KIND OPPORTUNITY FOR TEACHERS

Improving teacher efficacy across the entire school is a focus at QHS.

Continuing to develop opportunities for 2021, QHS has introduced a targeted professional development program designed specifically for casual teaching staff.

This unique program is offered to enhance support and inclusion of casual teachers amongst the QHS community.

As part of the unique program, any QHS casual teacher can attend Staff Development Days or training, and for those who have worked a particular amount of days throughout the previous term or calendar year, they are invited to attend the day in a paid capacity.

"We recognise the important role our casual staff play at QHS, as without them, we would not be able to attend our own professional learning, have faculty time to prepare engaging units of work and we certainly would have struggled to deliver the high-quality learning from home experience we did during last year's COVID lockdown without having them on board to assist with teaching at school," said Head Teacher Administration, Mrs Craswell.

Casual Teacher Feedback received from the schools 2020 review indicated that there was a real desire to improve professional practice and join in on the specific training we use at QHS, including Visible Learning and Learning Dispositions.



As a result, Mrs Craswell, developed a day of training centred around the unique needs of casual teaching, including sessions on the QHS context, classroom management, Visible Learning, how to make accommodations and adjustments and mandatory training.

These sessions were presented by a wide variety of experienced staff including Deputy Principal Catherine Loughrey, Head Teacher Support Michelle Radoll, Head Teacher Instructional Leader Jen Lees and Head Teacher TAS and NESA Accreditation Mentor Natasha Cowan.

"The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. All of our casual staff commented that they felt valued, supported and appreciated as a result of the targeted training. They are really excited to continue in the professional development journey and we have put in place further support systems to help them reach their goals throughout the year."

For any teachers interested in joining the QHS Casual Teaching Staff Professional Development Program, please contact the school on 6746 1177 and ask to speak with Mrs Craswell.



GETTING *to know* CLONTARF

QHS Clontarf Academy hosted their meet and greet barbecue recently for parents/carers teachers and students.

"It was great to see the parents/carers attend and take the opportunity to look around the facilities at the school. The event offered them an insight into what we offer," said QHS Clontarf Academy Director, Daniel Bain, who added, Teachers were also welcomed, and it was great for parents/carers to meet the Teachers and see all the extra effort they go to at QHS."

The academy is looking forward to the year ahead.

"Our Academy has had a few changes this year, so it was great to meet the parents/carers in person, so that together we can help the boys reach their full potential," said QHS Clontarf Director Dan pictured with Aaron Sampson and Jessie Verdouw from the Academy.



LIFE'S ADVENTURES

2019 Year 12 QHS student Beau Mulholland is one of several students over the past few years to head North for a thrilling work/life experience.

Beau has recently joined a team at one of Georgina Pastoral's 426,000acre Waygu breeding properties near Tambo in Queensland.

"The lifestyle and atmosphere here is unreal. As

well as learning new practices right throughout the station, a great part of the experience is working along-side a terrific group of people every-day," said Beau pictured with Shelby and Breanna.

Great job Beau... so good to see you embracing life with your usual enthusiasm!

TEAM BUILDING excursion



QHS students have had a tremendous time on their Year 7&11 Bonding Excursion.

On day 2, students undertook the 'Keepit Commando Run', including the hilarious mud run.

"We were exceptionally proud of the way they supported one-another. Teams had to complete the course together, they really stepped up helping and cheering one another on. It has been a truly bonding time for them all, and a great way for our Year 7 students to get to know one-another," said QHS Girls Adviser, Mrs Lawson.

Year 11 buddy students took the leadership reins, guiding and supporting their Year 7 buddies.

"One of our junior students didn't think they could get through 'Keepit Commando Run' and the teams united to cheer that student on, it was inspirational to see," said QHS Boys Adviser, Mr Beresford.

After a tummy filling dinner – followed by all students helping with clean up and in the kitchen – and a good night's sleep, participants were on-deck at 7am for a busy day of activities including: Archery, Slip'n'Slide, sailing, stand up paddle-board, kayaking and more.

Well done students and teachers on creating friendships to last a lifetime.







QHS MUSIC

Music Teacher, Mr Turner encourages all QHS students to register their interest to join the QHS Concert Band.

Rehearsals have commenced in the Music Room, Period 2, every Wednesday in the Music room with both Mr Turner and Mr Garrett.

"It has been enjoyable seeing where students are up to in regard to their abilities. The Band covers Baritone, bass guitar, saxophone, drums/percussion, electric guitar, flute, clarinet and trumpet.

Week 4, Term 1 will see the start of the Small Music Ensemble – held during lunchtimes, offering flute, clarinet and saxophone, run by Mr Turner and Miss Eykamp.

A String Ensemble will also run at the school – under the guidance of Principal Worley and the Rock + Vocal group is soon to commence.

"We are looking forward to embracing the schools Learning Disposition of Reflection in our learning and progression of the band music ensembles as Being a reflective learner involves making learning a more conscious process. It helps students become an active learner by asking questions and thinking critically about their own ideas," Mr Turner commented.

All students wanting to be in a small ensemble group (flute, clarinet, saxophone, vocals, violin, rock) and if you are wanting to join the QHS Concert Band, please see Mr Turner.

LEAGUE STARS *Inspiration*



QHS year 7/8 students had a treat on Thursday, when National Rugby League professionals Kirra Dibb and Kurt Gidley attended the school.

NRL Development Officer, Ashley also attended as part of the 'Back to the Bush' resilience project by the NRL.

Resilience is one of the QHS key Learning Dispositions, so the school was pleased to have the professionals (who all followed covid guidelines) attend recently.

"Resilience is about being positive and bouncing back after difficult times. Trying your best and learning and growing. It's also about being thankful for what you have," said Ashley in opening the event.

Students were also encouraged to think about what support systems they have in school including: Teachers, Year Advisers, Counsellor, friends, and teammates.

"Why is a support network important? It's important as it gets you through the hard days and they cheer on your achievements. Your support network can help in picking you up when times are tough and remind you of your reasons

for achieving your goals," said Kirra.

Students were then asked to reflect about who is in their own support network and encouraged to value those people and connections.

"Every morning, I scan the world for positives that we may take for granted. I am thankful for family, health, the freedoms and choices of Australia and the opportunities we all have," said sporting legend Kurt Gidley, who added... "QHS has a history of producing NRL stars and the school should be proud of that history."

"I am grateful for being at the forefront of women's sport at a time when it is becoming more acknowledged for its inclusion and its professionalism," added Kirra.

Students asked a range of questions relating to the professional football industry and enjoyed a day where they all took a moment to discuss the benefits of trying, learning and being grateful.

Thank you, Mr Chambers for coordinating the event and to the NRL for visiting our school.

Thank you also to Billy Nixon for acknowledging the great presentation by the sports stars on behalf of QHS.



VITALITY & ENTHUSIASM

QHS teachers have a strong history of going above-and-beyond for their students, including QHS Teacher Librarian, Mrs Owen, who at the beginning of 2021 commenced her 30th year of teaching.

Not only is this an outstanding milestone, but this year marks the start of the entire Owen family attending the same school, with Mr Owen Teaching in the HISE Department and Molly (Yr 10), Lily (Yr 9) and Ruby (Yr 7) all attending the school.

Mrs Owen, caught up with Jack Goodwin on his first day of High School in Year 7. Having taught both Jacks' mother, Tracy and father, Davin when a young teacher, Mrs Owen said she was delighted to welcome Jack to QHS.

"After completing my degree at the University of New England, I began my teaching career at Walgett High School in 1991. I was Jack's parents, Tracy and Davin, English teacher and Year Adviser, during my time there. It's great to be a part of families journeys through their high school education," said Mrs Owen.

With a swathe of teaching under her belt including English/History/HISE Teacher/Casual Teacher/ Head Teacher/Relieving Disadvantaged Schools Program Consultant and Teacher Librarian, Mrs Owen has taught at a number of High Schools including, Walgett, Oxley, Wee Waa, Corallie, Moree District Office, Narrabri, before attending QHS in numerous

roles since 2010 including her current role as QHS Teacher Librarian and English Teacher.

"Being involved in a number of different schools, has offered me the opportunity to see a variety of ways schools operate and the chance to work with a diverse range of staff. Working in smaller High Schools earlier on also gave me the chance to assist in many and varied roles." Mrs Owen added that the greatest part of her work was the students own success.

"Seeing students succeed is fabulous. Watching them develop their own course in life and choose their own path for the future, whether it be an apprenticeship, TAFE, University or other is rewarding."

When asked for some tips and hints for parents, Mrs Owen added:

- *Log into the QHS Parent Portal timetable on Sentral and check the daily notices relevant to your students year group – stay updated and informed about your student.

- *Join the QHS P&C – it's a fulfilled and proactive committee and a great way of being involved in your students schooling life.

- There is a meet and greet with the QHS P&C being held at the Quirindi Bowling Club on February 23rd from 5.00pm to 6.00pm.

- *If you have any questions regarding your student, contact the school and they will put you in touch with the relevant person.



*Be proactive in your child's high school adventure.

On his first day at QHS, Jack Goodwin enjoyed chatting with Mrs Owen and said that heading into the next level of his schooling, while daunting at first was proving positive so far.

"I feel independent and more grown up. The maths is harder which I like because I like the challenge."

Jack said he was looking forward to joining some of the school clubs and the possibility of joining the school band and sporting teams.

"I'm still learning my way around the school and it's been terrific that my friends from Primary School are also at High School with me. I'm also looking forward to making new friends."

Well done Jack and congratulations Mrs Owen.

WELCOME BACK YEAR 12



As well as welcoming new Year 7 students, Principal Worley and Deputy Loughrey welcomed Year 11 and 12 students back to school.

"You are the senior students of the school and you set the benchmark for the younger students. Expectations are high for you as you have chosen to be here and the other students look up to you in-regards-to study and social aspects," said Deputy Loughrey.

Principal Worley, added "It's time to use the Learning Disposition of Self-Regulation, you are in charge of your learning, including what you don't yet know," said Principal Worley, as part of his student welcome.

Teacher, Mr Chambers also spoke to students, outlining that there is an outstanding amount of goodwill from teachers to help students beyond

the classroom... "so ask for help if you need, seek out assistance. Make sure the experience you have is positive."

Year 12 Adviser, Mr Hamilton welcomed Year 12 students to the start of their 2021 schooling, indicating on the new white board some upcoming dates of significance for the students, including Trial HSC exams and Assessment dates.

"Stay organised, focussed and in touch with your Teachers and Teachers Coaches," he encouraged.

Year 12 students were buoyed by the news that the 'QHS Den' will soon be undergoing a repaint and new furniture is set to arrive soon, ensuring a professional atmosphere for students to work and study in during their study lessons.





LIBRARY LOVERS

QHS Librarian, Mrs Owen is running a fantastic 'Love Your QHS Library' participation promotion. Students can earn chances to win a \$10 QHS Canteen Voucher by participating in one or more book related activities (listed below) over the next two weeks.

- * Borrow a book (not a textbook) = 1 ticket for each book
 - * Get caught reading in the Library during break times = 1 ticket each time
 - * Return any overdue library book = 1 ticket for each book
 - * Return any overdue textbook = 1 ticket for each book
 - * Write a post-it note in the library about why you love our library = 2 tickets
 - * Write a post-it note recommending a great book to read and add it to the Library Reading Tree = 2 tickets
 - * Participate in a Library 'Shelfie' - take a selfie with your favourite book and add why you love it - print or email your 'Shelfie' to Mrs Owen = 5 tickets
 - * Write a book review on Oliver Library = 5 tickets
- Winner will be announced in Week 6



QHS DIGITAL SIGN

Our popular digital school sign is still out of action as we wait on a part for repairs/upgrade.

Specialists have been onsite to assess repairs/upgrade and we thank you for your understanding.

We look forward to broadcasting our updates and student achievements to the community in the not too distant future.

What's on...

17 February 2021

PLP Day - Aboriginal Studies

Opening of town mural Up and Up Foundation

23 February 2021

P&C Meet and Greet Quirindi Bowling Club
5-6pm

25 February 2021

Boys and Girls U15 NSW Touch Football Trials
University Showcase

28 February 2021

Rotary District Cluster Public Speaking

4 March 2021

2021 QHS Swimming Carnival 9am- 3pm

10 March 2021

GRIP Leadership Conference - SRC 2021
Walhealth Health Checks

12 March 2021

Willow Tree Horse Sports

15 March 2021

Tut Roadshow

31 March 2021

Years 7-12 Parent Teacher Evening 4-7pm

1 April 2021

Last Day of Term 2

Term 1 2021

Wk 4 - 15th Feb - 19th Feb

Wk 5 - 22nd Feb - 26th Feb

Wk 6 - 1st March - 5th March

Wk 7 - 8th March - 12th March

Wk 8 - 15th March - 19th March

Wk 9 - 22nd March - 26th March

Wk 10 - 29th March - 1st April

QUIRINDI HIGH SCHOOL 2021 SCHOOL TIMETABLE

MON, TUES, WED & FRIDAY

Roll Call	9.05 - 9.20	15 min
Period 1	9.20 - 10.35	75 min
Recess 1	10.35 - 10.50	15 min
Period 2	10.50 - 12.05	75 min
Recess 2	12.05 - 12.20	15 min
Period 3	12.20 - 1.35	75 min
Lunch	1.35 - 2.05	30 min
Period 4	2.05 - 3.20	75 min

THURSDAY-SPORT

Roll Call	9.00 - 9.10	10 min
Period 1	9.10 - 10.25	75 min
Recess 1	10.25 - 10.40	15 min
Period 2	10.40 - 11.55	75 min
Recess 2	11.55 - 12.10	15 min
Period 3	12.10 - 1.25	75 min
Lunch	1.25 - 1.55	30 min
Sport	1.55 - 3.20	85 min



Join OUR Community!

Come and join an energetic team of like-minded parents making the best of opportunities for our students.

It truly is an amazing committee who have the genuine interests of the school and all students at heart. The P&C is the voice of the parent's, we encourage any parents who would like to be involved to come along and join the fantastic committee.

Their first meeting for 2021 will be held on Tuesday 23rd February, at the Quirindi Bowling Club from 6pm.

The AGM will be held Tuesday 30th March at Quirindi Bowling Club 6pm.

Everyone is Welcome!