Last Saturday night the school and community farewelled Mrs Lynne McCosker at the St George RSL prior to her retirement on Friday 11 December 2015. It was a night to celebrate Lynne’s 35 years at St George State High School as a teacher, a Head of Department and Deputy Principal. The evening began with fellowship and was followed by a delicious hot and cold buffet. There were speeches from current and past principals, a past P&C President, current teachers, parents, past parents and representatives from other local schools before video messages were played from colleagues from Dirranbandi to the Gold Coast and Vietnam. A PowerPoint was then played with photos from 1981 through to 2015 at St George SHS. Lynne responded with a very emotional speech before cutting a beautiful mud cake that was enjoyed by all.

Lynne’s qualities of compassion, integrity, loyalty, friendship, caring andmothering nature were spoken about by each of the speakers. Lynne was ‘Gently Roasted’ with guests relaying embarrassing and funny stories. As Lynne is now retiring there were several suggestions that she could make extra money via supply teaching, setting up day care or turning pro in golf.

We wish Lynne the very best in her retirement, she plans to golf, garden, go glamping and spend a lot more time with her grandchildren and husband Phil.

Thank you to Judy Guzzwell who compered this special night and to everyone who helped make this night so special for Lynne.
Farewell to Lynne McCosker

After 35 years of serving the community of St George we say farewell to Lynne. There would not be a person in the community that has not been touched in some way by her energy and passion. Lynne’s amazing ability to be there for everyone will be sorely missed.

From Good to Great

Following the recent school improvement unit review, a number of areas of work have been identified for the next four years. Key areas will include Reading, Writing, Numeracy, a Positive Learning Culture and Student Pathways. The latter will under go a full review of offering and structure during 2016 with implementation occurring 2017.

Staffing Changes for 2016

The Senior Leadership Team

- Deputy Principal – Kelly Ott will be acting in this position for Semester 1. The Deputy Principal position will be advertised in Term 1 as part of the state-wide merit selection process for classified officers with the appointment date starting Term 3, 2016.
- Acting HoD Senior Secondary – The school will welcome Kelly Kuhz from Spinifex State College, Mt Isa
- Acting HoD Junior Secondary – Jane Moran will act in this role for the first 4 weeks of 2016 while the Expression of Interest process is occurring.

New Teachers: The following teachers will be joining us in 2016:- Veronica Scott, Ellie Keim, Dianne Smith, Sarah Goddard & Kym Weatherall.

2015 has been a great year for St George SHS and 2016 is going to be even better. Have a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

FROM HoD JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

The end of term has been busy with Junior Secondary students officially finishing all their assessment as well as hosting Year 6 students for their Year 7 Orientation Day. Thank you to Miss Taggart and Miss Weatherall for running the day and immersing Year 6 students in our Junior Secondary culture at St George State High School.

As the school year draws to a close there are several important things to be aware of:

- The tuckshop will be closed from 9 – 11 December. On these days a sausage sizzle will be cooked at second break for students wishing to purchase lunch.
- Enrichment Program is running in Week 10. Due to changes in service providers there have been several amendments to the original program. Students will need to return permission notes for the excursions that are being offered to be able to participate.
- Year 6 students were given Year 7 camp notes last week. These need to be returned to the office with payment at the beginning of the school year.
- Junior Secondary leadership nominations are being extended into early next term. More information on this early next year.
- All students will be required to wear formal uniform every Monday and Wednesday next year. This includes the first day back at school, Wednesday 27 January.
- The starting date for all students in 2016 is Wednesday the 27 January.

Have a happy and safe holiday!

FROM HoD SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students, parents, community members and the staff at St George SHS who have made myself and my family welcome. We have truly had an opportunity which we are fortunate to have experienced. I have really enjoyed our trips around the community and experiencing what St George has to offer. We will miss this community, and will take with us our experiences to our next adventure in Central Queensland.

In my role as Acting HOD Senior School, I was there to support students in their studies, and to keep the bar high on what they needed to achieve. I am proud that the students worked hard to achieve their QCE, and strongly believe that QCE attainment does improve a students’ chance at success post school.

For the upcoming Year 12s and future seniors to come…. Always strive high and focus on making a positive difference to your life. Remember that while the outcome is important – what makes us richer is the experiences we have while working towards our desired goals.
FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

How do you write the final newsletter article you will ever write? All I know is that it is the people who have made my journey the most wonderful experience it has been.

It is the students who have made it wonderful – I thank you and hope that somewhere, something that “Mrs McCosker” taught you might just be useful – and that you remember me then. To all students, past and present, especially to the Yr 12 of 2015, I wish you successful and rewarding years ahead filled with much fun and laughter also.

It is the families of our students who have made it wonderful – it is has been a privilege to have lived and worked in our small community which has given me the opportunity to meet and get to know so many over the years. Thank you so much for your support and encouragement.

It is the staff who have made it wonderful – many, many teacher aides, office people, lab assistants, librarians, groundsman and facilities officers, tuckshop workers, cleaners, teachers, senior mistresses, deputies and Principals who I have been privileged to work alongside. I have appreciated your professionalism, spirit, support and enthusiasm. Thank you seems so little but sincerely thank you.

I am very sad to be leaving but look forward to what the years ahead have in store for me, with a little more time for myself and family.

It is with sadness too, that we farewell many other staff at the end of the year. Goodbye to Luke Everitt, Lauren Thorn, Susanna Ratcliffe, Dean Anderson, Jo McGrath, Will Houtman and Jodi Hyland. Luke has taken up a position at Bremer State High, and leaves after 6 years here in which his enthusiasm, willingness and ability to work with students from classroom to youth events has been greatly appreciated by all. Lauren moves to Tin Can Bay close to family and “home”. We have greatly appreciated Lauren for the amazing support she has provided in a quiet and effective manner to students and staff alike over the past 10 years. Suzy and her family have an exciting and new few years ahead on Thursday Island. Though Suzy has only spent 2015 on staff, she has been greatly involved in the school and with the Rugby League boys and girls. Best wishes to Jodi – her life will be very different with the addition of baby Hyland. Thankyou Jodi for your enthusiasm and work, especially in 2014 and 2015 in preparation and delivery of a very successful start to Yr 7 in high school. Dean and Jo are moving to Moranbah State High School. Dean has worked hard with the Manual Arts students who have produced some impressive jobs over the past 18 months. Jo has worked tirelessly to ensure all of the senior students have achieved their best possible outcomes. Her amazing passion, enthusiasm and dedication will be greatly missed. Will Houtman has returned to his family in South Australia and has taken up a teaching position near Adelaide. To all, I hope you take fond memories of your times in St George; my personal thanks for your contributions to our school and community and I hope your next adventures are everything you hope for.

My best wishes to all for a truly happy Christmas and holiday period and I hope that you all enjoy time to relax and unwind.

Goodbye and thank you, I feel so proud and privileged to have spent my years at St George SHS!!!!

Mrs Lynne McCosker
Deputy Principal
Year 11 Leadership Camp

It started with a long bus trip to Apex Park Mudjimba on Sunday 22 October at 7am. Once there, it was time to unpack, watch an induction video and then hit the pool. Dinner followed and this was the first of many delicious home-cooked meals provided during the camp. Night came and the students enjoyed, and were challenged by, teamwork activities.

At 5:15 am the next morning, the cheery voice of Miss McKenna rang out to announce it was time for a morning walk. Everyone loved this part of camp, so much so that it happened each morning but the last. Then it was time for fun with rock climbing, abseiling and later high ropes. These saw many students challenged out of their comfort zones but later very proud of their achievements. Subsequent days saw the students canoeing, surfing, ten pin bowling, running a challenge course and doing a little retail therapy. On the final night of camp each student presented a short speech outlining their thoughts on leadership and how they envisage contributing to the advancement of our school in the future.

All the students participated extremely well in the week’s activities and proved that they will make a formidable cohort of seniors in 2016.

Anne Brimblecombe - Teacher
FOR SALE BY TENDER

St George State High School invites interested members of the staff and public to submit a tender for the purchase of assorted equipment which is surplus to the requirements of St George State High School.

Items offered for tender:

- Planetary Mixer – Brand: Robot Coupe; Model: 100
- Six Burner Stove/Oven – Brand: Blue Seal; Model: G50sr
- 10” Slicer – Brand: Noaw; Model: Tas
- 3x Individual Study Carols
- 1x Bench Unit with two draws and doors
- 1x Open Newspaper Unit
- 1x Low Bench with Shelves
- 20x Study Chairs

The Tender must reach the office of St George State High School by 1:00pm on Tuesday 15 December, 2015. The tender must be enclosed in a sealed envelope and marked as follows: CONFIDENTIAL - TENDER Business Services Manager, St George State High School, PO Box 209, ST GEORGE QLD 4487.
This year St George SHS entered three teams in the Australian Statistics Competition. Each entry was a powerpoint showing the results of a statistical investigation carried out by the students. Our Year 10 team consisting of Harry and Declan Scriven received Participation certificates as did a Year 7 team of Sam Killen, Billy Scriven and Kerrod Frizzell. The other Year 7 team made up of Charlotte Hayward and Latai Matapa received Highly Commended certificates. These are awarded in each state to the teams that, in the opinion of the State Coordinator, deserve recognition.

Congratulations to all our budding statisticians!

Anne Brimblecombe
Extension co-ordinator

The Senior Leader team consists of: Jake Blokland, Courtney Barr, Ryan du Preez, Emily Killen, Kanahe Matapa, Keeley Neighbour, Stephanie Schiller, Casey Smith, Madison Spackman, Paul Whitaker and Shari Woodbridge. Congratulations to all.

FOR SALE
Ag Department’s 10 chickens
$15 each
Phone Phil McCosker 0429 624244

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS
2016
Monday to Friday 8.00am to 4.00pm
from 18 January

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS
2016
Wed 20 Jan—8.00am to 2.00pm
Thurs 21 Jan—8.00am to 2.00pm
Fri 22 Jan—8.00am to 2.00pm