The School Leader Induction ceremony was held at the high school on Wednesday 10 February with many parents and community members present to witness the presentation of badges. The 2016 Year 12 students walked in with Principal Mr Watson to the song they have chosen for the year, “The Verge” by Owl City. The retiring Balonne Shire Mayor, Mrs Donna Stewart, addressed the assembly and stated how much she will miss being a part of the high school’s ceremonies.

Ned Jones and Jessie Twidale were presented their School Captain badges along with Vice Captains Jessie Chapple and Kelepi Matapa. The school’s new Indigenous Ambassadors, Shari Woodbridge, Casey Smith and Brodie McGuire received symbolic badges as did the Junior Secondary Leaders Jarica Lamprecht and Lauren Fraser. The Year 12 Senior Leaders and Seniors received their school badges before the Student Council Executive and Year Level Student Council Representatives were also presented.

Morning tea was then enjoyed by students, parents and staff after the brief ceremony. Congratulations to all the badge recipients.
FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Maximizing Outcomes - Student Resource Scheme

The Student Resource Scheme provides additional resources to further support students at school and in the home, a major component of the scheme is textbooks. For 2016, $35,000 in additional funds have been injected into the scheme to provide students with textbooks that are able to be taken home so that they can re-enforce the learnings of the day and support parents in assisting them. A key focus has been the junior school in English, Maths, Science and Humanities. Families who elect not to participate in the scheme are encouraged to contact the school office as soon as possible to receive the year level list of materials that need to be purchased.

A Focus on Learning – Mobile Phones and School

Mobile devices and phones are increasingly impacting on the home, in the workplace and at school. It is important that students and parents understand that through the recording of personal conversations or daily activities and/or the further distribution (e.g. via Multi Media Messaging Service, Bluetooth) of such material will result in disciplinary action and contravenes the Invasion of Privacy Act 1971 (Qld). Picture and video sharing apps unfortunately place students in a situation where they can fall foul of school policies and the law. Please take the time to remind your children of the appropriate use of mobile devices both in and out of school. Devices are discouraged at school and the school cannot take responsibility for any loss or theft.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

It is week 4 and already the year is well and truly underway! As we progress throughout the term it is important to remember a few key things:

Uniform - wear the uniform with pride

Formal school uniform needs to worn every Monday and Wednesday. This includes appropriate black shoes and socks.

Making Every Day Count - Attendance and Signing Students out

Attendance at school has one of the biggest impacts on a child's education. Even missing one lesson where a key concept is taught can have a serious impact on the next sequence of lessons. In the event of an absence or a student needing to leave early, a parent or guardian must first contact the office before a student can be released.

Positive Behaviour for Learning

Our Positive Behaviour for Learning focus for this week is ‘Be responsible – I will move promptly to class’. In care this week students discussed the benefits of arriving to class on time and practised moving quickly when the bell rang. This week teachers will be looking for students who are demonstrating responsibility by arriving to class on time. Please have a discussion with your child at home regarding responsibility and the importance of arriving to class on time.

Lastly, a special mention must be made to our school captains Jessie Twidale, Ned Jones, Jessie Chapple and Lepi Matapa for their outstanding contribution to our Leaders’ Induction Ceremony last week.

FROM HoD SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

Congratulations to all those students recognised as Captains, Vice Captains, Senior Leaders, and members of the 2016 student council. I look forward to working with you all over the course of the year.

The senior school has hit the ground running! Our year 11 and 12 students have been working in tutorials to develop time management strategies and set goals for the future. Our OP eligible students have commenced their weekly QCS preparation program and the year 10s have commenced their Certificate II in Active Volunteering. Upon completion of the course, students will receive 4 credit points towards their Queensland Certificate of Education. Students will be actively volunteering within the community throughout the year.

For students to achieve the best possible outcomes in the senior school, regular school attendance is imperative. Research consistently highlights the relationship between school attendance and academic achievement. Our attendance target in the senior school is 95%. Please help us by making sure your child is at school every day. Currently the attendance rates in the Senior School are –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>85.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>84.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>89.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A 95% attendance rate means a student is away from school approximately 2.5 days per term or two weeks per year. A 90% attendance rate means the student is away one day per fortnight or four weeks per school year and this is likely to have a strong impact on results.

Students need to be present at every opportunity at school. This includes being on time to school and each lesson. No student should be leaving school without following the correct procedures of parents/guardians notifying the school and signing the student out via the school office.

Best of luck to Jessie Wilkinson, Keeley Neighbour, Jessie Chapple and Jessie Twidale who will be vying for the title of Lions Youth of Year. Interviews will be conducted on Sunday 28 February in the school library commencing at 12.30pm.

Speeches will take place at the RSL on Tuesday 1 March. Cost is $35 per person and tickets can be purchased from Betta Electrical.

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ANNIE JR—MUSICAL UPDATE

Roll up, roll up musical enthusiasts, one and all. The St George State High School musical “Annie Jr” is well under way.

Last week auditions were held and many eager actors came and trod the floorboards for Ms Garner, Ms Hayward, Miss Wood and myself. Casting will be complete this week and then rehearsals will start. Watch this space for more exciting news and the rehearsal schedule.

Miss Natalie Taggart
FROM HoD JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

As the new A/HOD of Junior Schooling I am delighted to be part of the school and the broader community. Since arriving in St George I have experienced many genuine welcoming and friendly words giving me a sense of excitement for the future. I hope to make a substantial contribution to the values of education and student’s health and wellbeing.

The Leader’s Induction ceremony for 2016 was honoured that both our Mayor, Mrs Donna Stewart and Assistant Regional Director were able to join us for this important occasion. Mrs Stewart gave praise to the strength of St George SHS leaders and their future contribution to the community at large. This is the second year St George SHS has elected Junior Secondary leaders with Jarica Lamprecht and Lauren Fraser being elected by their peers. Jarica’s goal is to get everyone on board with school activities and Lauren wishes to demonstrate values of Integrity, Honesty, Confidence and Respect. Congratulations Jarica and Lauren!

Students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 had the opportunity to engage in engineering activities with four undergraduate engineering students from Queensland University of Technology and University of Queensland. The program, Engineers without Borders, helps students to understand the importance of clean water through classroom activities. Students were exposed to scenarios from various regions such as Asia, New Zealand, Africa and Australia to help them contextualise a valuable resource, water.

I am looking forward to working with staff, students and parents. If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mr Wayne Batiste
Acting HoD Junior Secondary Schooling

ICAS Competitions 2016

The following ICAS competitions will be run at our school in 2016. All competitions are open to students in Years 7 to 12 except for Digital Technologies which is only for students in Years 7 to 10.

Students need to collect a permission letter from the office detailing the competitions they wish to enter. They must return their permission form with the correct money by Wednesday 23 March 2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Sitting date</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies</td>
<td>Tuesday 17 May</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Tuesday 31 May</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Monday 13 June</td>
<td>$17.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Tuesday 2 August</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Tuesday 16 August</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interested in studying to be a Medical Doctor?

Is your child in Year 11 and considering a career as a Medical Doctor? The University of Queensland offer three rounds of one day work experience programs at the Toowoomba Rural Clinical School Campus. If your child is interested, please see Mrs Woodrow, Guidance Officer, to discuss an application.

University Open Days 2016

Each year the various universities host open days where parents and students are welcome to attend, look at the facilities that the universities provide and discuss future study options, scholarships and the like with university staff. Following are the open days for the various universities so you can plan for any trips away. Please check with the individual university website for further details about the days.

6 MAY: UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND (UNE): Armidale Campus
23 JULY: AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY (ASC): Brisbane Campus
31 JULY: QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (QUT): Gardens Point Campus
31 JULY: QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (QUT): Kelvin Grove Campus
7 AUGUST: UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND (USQ): Toowoomba Campus
7 AUGUST: UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND (UQ): St Lucia Campus
7 AUGUST: UNIVERSITY OF SUNSHINE COAST (USC): Sippy Downs Campus
14 AUGUST: UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND (USQ): Ipswich Campus
21 AUGUST: UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND (USQ): Springfield Campus
21 AUGUST: UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSALDNH (UQ): Gatton Campus
21 AUGUST: QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY (QUT): Caboolture Campus

If you would like information regarding course offerings and eligibility, please make an appointment at the front office to see Mrs Woodrow, Guidance Officer.

2015 SCHOOL MAGAZINE

Limited copies available ONLY $20.
Available also Magazines from previous years.
$20 each - Heaps of photos

COMMUNITY NOTICES

- ST GEORGE NETBALL ASSN sign-on day 5 March 10am to 12noon. All team nominations forms are due on or before this time. Forms available from Jasmine Clevin at Lifeline and Vicky Parker at St George SS. Ph Vicky for more info on 0427 817 270
- ZUMBA! Wednesdays 5:30-6:30pm @ St George RSL. Starting Feb 10th. Contact Brittany on 0438 777 422 for more info.
- ST GEORGE RSL CLUB Order a commemorative paver for the Memorial Wall. Contact Karen Berry 0474 522 256 or email: klb60@live.com.au.
- GUITAR LESSONS Acoustic or electric, bass & vocal. Small group & private lessons. Sytles—Blues, Jazz, Rock & Pop. Alan Espie Ph. 0487700711.
- STORY TIME @ THE LIBRARY (2nd Tuesday of every month). Whilst the stories and activities are aimed at two to five year olds, all children are welcome to come along.
STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME

Please ensure that your child has returned the Student Resource Scheme Form that enables students to access text books for classes from the library.

Years 7, 8 and 9 = $180

Years 10, 11 and 12 = $150

Payment of fees are divided across Terms 1, 2 and 3 (not 4) and must be up to date for students to attend camps and other extra-curricular activities.

YEAR 11 & 12 LAPTOP AGREEMENTS

Year 11 and 12 students should have also returned their Student Laptop Charter Agreement

Laptop Fee for Year 11 and 12 = $150

The St George State High School swimming carnival was held on 3 February. It was our first day time carnival in a number of years and was attended extremely well. The three houses showed an abundance of team spirit with Mrs Hyland having to ask Leichhardt to quieten down several times. The competition was hardy but in the end Mitchell was the house with the goods, taking out the carnival over Leichhardt and Nixon. Well done to all those involved, staff and students.

Age Champions

12yrs Preston Thurston and Chelsea Reid
13yrs Jacob Walters and Olivia Cochrane
14yrs Jade Smith and Shakaiya Thurston
15yrs Daniel Moran and Olivia Hoolihan
16yrs Daniel Brischetto and Kingsleigh Anderson
17yrs Peter Brischetto and Madison Spackman
Open Kelepi Matapa and Stephanie Schiller
From the Master Teacher

St George SHS is very proud of the exciting and engaging learning that is happening at the school. In particular, staff and students are working together to build and deepen literacy and numeracy. One of the ways we are deepening students’ literacy and numeracy is to set strategically designed weekly literacy and numeracy homework for English and Maths.

It is great to see that Junior Secondary Students have settled into the school routine and have been diligently working on their weekly homework. Some ways you can support your child with their homework and bolster their literacy and numeracy development are by:

- Setting clear expectations that homework will be completed to the best of the students’ ability
- Setting a regular routine for homework
- Designating a quiet place for homework to be done
- Talking to them about their homework and giving them a helping hand
- Encouraging students to see their teacher if they are unsure or having difficulty

Junior Students will receive their Homework Folder Monday (Week 4). This folder will be utilised by students to keep homework tasks, assessment task sheets, student diaries, and for communication between school and home.

Yr 8 Science in the lab

Year 8 Science students enjoyed their first experiment in the Science Lab this week. They tested copper and magnesium metal with hydrochloric acid to see which would react. Bubbles were observed when magnesium metal was added to the hydrochloric acid and it eventually completely disappeared. There was no reaction with the copper. The conclusion was that you should not use hydrochloric acid to clean any Mag wheels . . . unless you want them to be a lot smaller!

Mrs Jane Moran
Master Teacher

VANDERFIELD

Backing Our Youth

We all know that School Chaplains support young people. But who funds the programs that chappies want to run?

In 2016, your local Vanderfield Dealerships are lending a hand, aiming to raise $50,000 between January and June, with the Backing Our Youth campaign. You can get involved in raising funds, simply by visiting your local Vanderfield Dealership. There is Backing Our Youth merchandise, including T-shirts and caps for sale, and Vanderfield is also donating a percentage of machinery sales, all in aid of Chaplaincy in regional and rural Queensland. Your buying power is supporting resilience of young people in the bush!

There are wonderful things happening at this school everyday. Like us on Facebook and see for yourself.

St George State High School

Mrs Karen McKechnie
Science TIC

Do you have children at Kindergarten, any local school, Boarding School or in Tertiary Education?

ICPA has been lobbying for your children to access an equitable education for the last 44 years!

What is it? ICPA stands for Isolated Children’s Parents’ Association. www.icpa.com.au It is a national, non-profit, voluntary group of members who lobby for the rights of all rural and remote students from any education system to have equity of access to a continuing and appropriate education. This ranges from early childhood to Tertiary. Children may be educated in rural schools (State, Catholic or Distance Ed) or have to live away from home to access high school or tertiary education.

Key Areas Lobbied on: Special Needs, Access to Health Services, Tertiary, Curriculum, Boarding Schools, Distance Education, Early Childhood, Communication including Internet and mobile access, Transport and Teacher Training.

Who Can Join? Any individuals or families living in rural Australia can join their local branch. Educational Institutions and organisations can join our Lone Members branch.

What Does My Membership Pay For: Your membership pays for your federal, state and branch fees. These funds assist in covering costs associated with operating the organisation. All positions in this organisation are voluntary, so your fees go directly to helping lobby the different departments and organisations.

Why Join? By joining you can be directly active in trying to access the same education for our students in our rural communities, as the students that live in the city. If there is something you think needs fixing, then you can pro-actively take your education concerns and issues to a State and federal level rather than feel powerless to create change for the better. We encourage you to join as the strength and influence of a lobby group lies in the size of its member base. The bigger the group represented the better hearing we will receive from the government.

St George Branch Information

What do we do at a local level:

Bursary - Each year children of members who are in Grade 6 sit a Bursary exam. The winning child receives $300 to go towards their secondary education.

Awards - At each school’s Presentation Night an ICPA award is presented to a child.

St George High School the award is for perseverance and persistence in Year 8 and 9
St George Primary School the award is for perseverance and persistence in Year 1 to 3
St Patrick’s School the award is for a Year 6 student who maintains a High Standard in their schoolwork.

Bega/State School the award is for perseverance and persistence in Music.

Breaker Camp - 2016 will be the inaugural year of the St George ICPA Breaker camp. Members’ children will be invited to attend a 4 day camp where they will participate in swimming, gymnastics, dance, art, tennis and wrestling under the guidance of professional coaches or tutors.

Conferences - Each year St George Branch sends delegates from our branch to both State and federal Conferences. This is where members get to debate motions in relation to people in rural areas accessing an equitable education for our children. The motions that are passed at Conference are then lobbied by ICPA State and Federal Councils with the relevant Government Departments and Organisations.

How much is membership: $45 per year per family or individual.

Do I have to attend meetings? No you don’t have to attend meetings, but by attending meetings you can have your say on the different issues that arise.

For more information please contact:

Brie Boyle (Secretary) on 4626 5952 or brieyboyle@hotmail.com

Mrs Jane Moran
Master Teacher
SMS MESSAGING FROM THE SCHOOL

SMS messaging for unexplained absences at the point of roll marking has been operating since 2015. It is planned that the SMS messages will be sent between 11:00am and 11:30am each day, please let us know before this if your child is absent from school.

Are your contact details up to date? Having correct contact details is crucial in the event of emergency, illness and for general contact. If you have recently changed phone numbers or moved home, you can call the school office on 4620 8222 or email our office staff on admin@stgeorgeshs.eq.edu.au with your correct contact details.

Young Carers

One in 10 young Australians has some level of responsibility as a carer in their own home — every school has young carers, on average 2 or 3 in every classroom. Young carers are children and young people up to 25 years of age who help care in families where someone has an illness, a disability, a mental health issue or who has an alcohol or other drug problem. The person they help care for might be a parent, a sibling, a grandparent or other relative, or may be a friend. A young carer might help out with cleaning, cooking, with administering medications, therapy, medical and other appointments, with keeping the person safe or watching out to make sure that they’re feeling okay. These young people rarely have a choice in their role. Although this caring responsibility can be a very positive experience, it can affect their education and training, employment and social development. It is important that we identify and support our students who are young carers and assist them to balance their caring responsibilities with their schooling.

A key organisation that offers support to young carers is Young Carers — Carers Australia. This is an information and referral service. The website at http://youngcarers.net.au/ provides excellent resources and links for young carers, parents, guardians and teachers. They also have a young carer counsellor available on 1800 242 636 if young carers need to chat. The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) supports the Young Carers Respite and Information Services Program which assists young carers who need support to complete their secondary education or vocational equivalent due to the demands of their caring role. Information on this program can be found at http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/our-responsibilities/disability-and-carers/program-services/young-carers-respite-and-information-services-program Other support is also available. Children and young people can call Kids Helpline (http://www.kidshelp.com.au/) on 1800 55 1800. Lifeline provides 24-hour telephone crisis support on 13 11 14. They also have an online web counsellor available (https://www.lifeline.org.au/Get-Help/Online-Services/crisis-chat). More information for young carers is available on Disability Online at http://www.qld.gov.au/disability/news/young-carers/ and from Carers Queensland (http://carersqld.asn.au/services/young-carers-program)

Mrs Annette Woodrow
Guidance Officer

Apply now to be a 2016 Census Area Supervisor!

The Australia Bureau of Statistics is seeking motivated and community minded project managers to work on the 2016 Census and make a difference in your community.

Area Supervisors are:
• Non-office based positions requiring travel
• Casual temporary positions, with flexible working hours.

As an Area Supervisor, you will:
• Recruit, manage and train a small team of temporary Census field staff
• Implement and manage the Census delivery and collection processes and procedures
• Undertake a range of administrative tasks, including the receipt, handling and storage of a range of Census materials
• Earn $34.76 per hour (inclusive of 28% loading).

As an Area Supervisor, you must:
• Know your local community
• Hold a current driver's licence
• Be comfortable using computer, tablet and mobile devices
• Comply with ABS work health and safety policies
• Hold Australian Citizenship or have the legal right to work in Australia.

Job seekers from diverse backgrounds, including non-English speaking backgrounds and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, are encouraged to apply.

More information is available from the ABS website.
Apply online at abs.gov.au/careers

Wingara Mura-Bunga Barrabugu Camp

Year 9 student Georgie Waters graduated from the Wingara Mura-Bunga Barrabugu summer program over the Christmas holidays. The program was hosted by the University of Sydney. Well done Georgie for representing our school!