

Youth

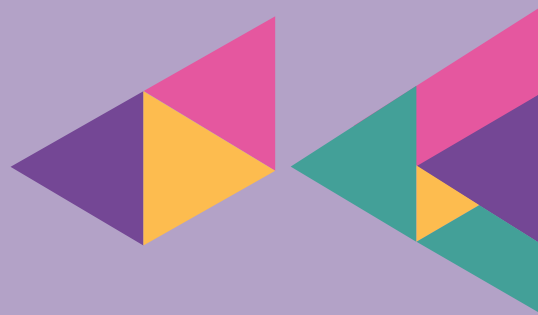
chronicles

Edition 2 - Issue 3



"Stories of young people achieving great things in our region"





Welcome to the Youth Chronicles Magazine

Here you can find the latest news direct from our region's young people.

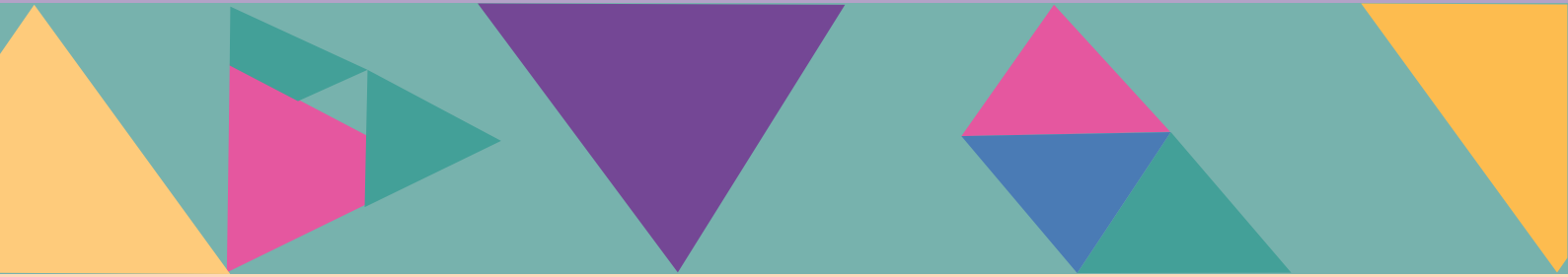
This publication is produced through a partnership between Bundaberg Regional Council, our region's high schools and youth service providers. The Youth Chronicles is released three times a year in May, August and November and contains stories about some of the great things our region's young people are doing and achieving.

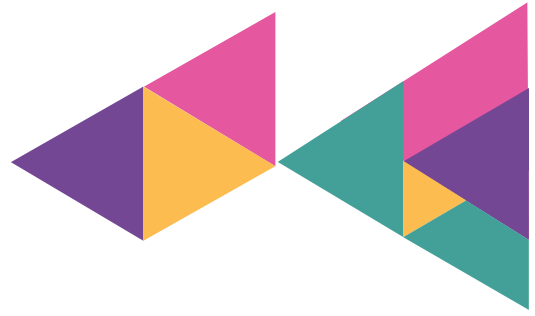
Through region-wide collaboration stories are shared not only from our regions high school students, but also from those young people who are no longer attending school. Every high school in the region is given the opportunity to provide two pages for each edition, with many schools getting the students involved in designing the pages, writing the stories and taking the photos. Youth service providers are also providing stories and photos which are compiled on two pages.

The Youth Chronicles magazine is made available online at www.bundaberg.qld.gov.au/youth. An electronic copy is sent to each school to share and a limited number are printed and distributed throughout the community.

This is our second year of this initiative and we would really appreciate your feedback on the content and quality along with your thoughts on the projects youth have been involved in. The feedback is valuable in ensuring continuous improvement as well as allowing the young people in our community to hear a different narrative about their contributions in the community they live.

To provide feedback or if you would like more information, please contact our Youth Development Officer on 1300 883 699 or youth@bundaberg.qld.gov.au





Youth Chronicles
Edition 2 - Issue 3
November 2019

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BURNETT YOUTH LEARNING CENTRE	2
GIN GIN STATE HIGH SCHOOL	4
BUNDABERG CHRISTIAN COLLEGE	6
BUNDABERG STATE HIGH SCHOOL	8
ST LUKE’S ANGLICAN SCHOOL	10
BUNDABERG REGION YOUTH SERVICES	12
COMBINED SCHOOL NANNING VISIT	13





BURNETT

YOUTH LEARNING CENTRE

'Elliot Farm' 3693 Goodwood Road PO Box 4170 Bundaberg South, Qld 4670

Phone: (07) 4159 7579 Mobile: 0408 775 390 Email: office@bylc.qld.edu.au Web: www.bylc.qld.edu.au

HEYWIRE

A massive WELL DONE! to two of our students who submitted a story to the Heywire competition lead by ABC in conjunction with the Australian Government. Heywire is for youth aged 16-22 who live in regional and rural Australia; encouraging them to share their personal stories about life outside of major cities. Two of our students took part and submitted their stories which was a great effort.

Here are some snippets to share with you:

Then, I found Barry's farm. Barry's farm is a school for kids like me, that don't do well in normal school and need something a little different, more hands-on and chill. The day I first came to Barry's I had a huge amount of anxiety but the people here were the coolest pack of people, it literally took just a couple of days here to be mates with pretty much everyone and the teachers are pretty cool too. When I first came to Barry's I told myself that I'm going to be fit by the end of the year. This was my clean slate. Again. But for real this time. – J. R.

I will never forget my first time working on the fish farm, I was swimming with thousands of silver perch at 6 o'clock in the morning. It was a cold winter's morning at the farm which is located on the outskirts of Childers, Queensland. To my surprise, it was warmer being in the water with the fish more so than being out in the cold wind. This was a very different day to what my usual day off school involves. – Z. P.

To add to the excitement of these beautiful stories being shared; we would like to offer a big CONGRATULATIONS! to Zane for being one of the Heywire winners! Each year, the ABC for each region picks a story to represent their local area and Zane's story was chosen to represent our wonderful part of the world here in the Wide Bay Burnett.

Zane has won himself the opportunity to work with ABC staff to produce his story for ABC radio and abc.net.au. Furthermore Zane has won an all-expenses-paid trip to the Heywire Summit in Canberra in January next year! The Summit was created to give a voice to youth in regional areas around the nation. Over the week participants undertake leadership workshops and meet with members of parliament, government departments and community leaders. The 'Heywirers' work together in teams to develop ideas aimed at improving the lives of young people in regional Australia. The ideas are presented at Parliament House in front of an esteemed panel.

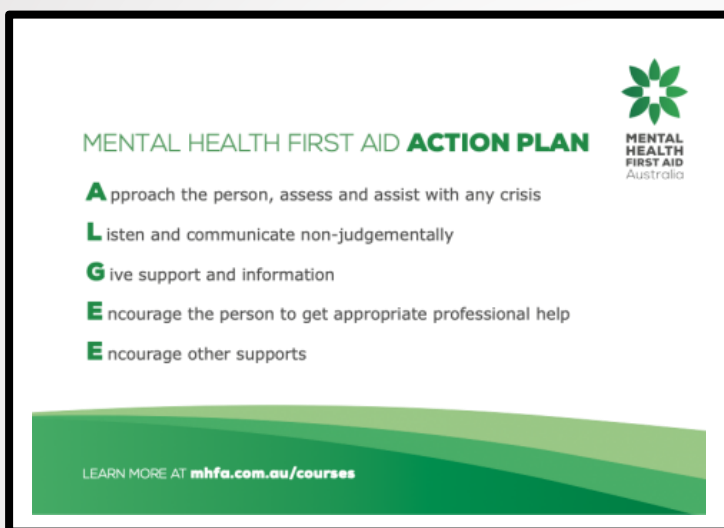
What a fabulous opportunity – all of us here at BYLC couldn't be prouder of both of our students!

Youth Mental Health First Aid

At the beginning of this term, staff at BYLC participated in a two-day intensive workshop delivered by Mental Health First Aid Australia. The course taught us how to assist adolescents who are developing a mental health problem and/or are in a mental health crisis.

It was an enlightening course which covered adolescent development, signs and symptoms of the common and disabling mental health problems young people can face, the startling statistics behind youth mental health and – most importantly – where and how to get help when a young person needs support as well as what research has been shown to be most effective.

Something we hope to never have to use, but will value nonetheless, is how to provide first aid in a crisis situation around mental health using the ALGEE method.

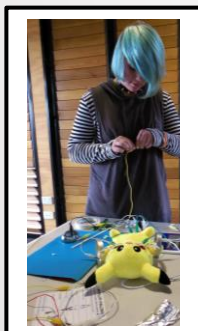


QUESTACON!

KITCH CULTURE!

IRON AND CLAY!

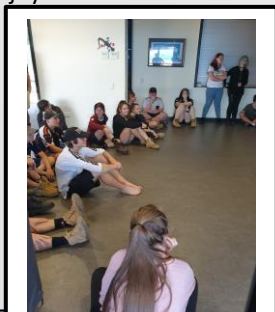
A quick note to end with the excitement of many visitors!



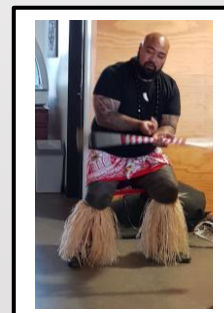
Questacon is the National Science and Technology Centre and were touring with their “Smart Skills” workshops – visiting BYLC in August this year. Questacon is “a smart way to have fun”. The day provided our students with a hands-on way to be introduced to innovative design ideas with digital and practical prototyping.

Kitch Culture also came to BYLC and shared the value of culture through storytelling, cultural arts and music. Samoan Toa (Warrior), Kitch shared with students the power in knowing your history, your culture, your village. It was a day that all of our students enjoyed and resonated with.

We also had another visit from Iron and Clay this year; a music group with a touch of ministry; sharing stories and music to inspire young people to know their value. It was a great day for students to reflect on their self-worth and enjoy some excellent music.



We do so love when people
come and visit us at BYLC!



Burnett Youth Learning Centre – ‘Accept the Challenge – Succeed with Hope’



GIN GIN STATE HIGH SCHOOL

NAIDOC Celebration 2019

Our NAIDOC celebration started early on Tuesday 23rd July with many community members coming together and offering their support to GGSHS with cooking, decorating and the setting up of information stalls and activities. This year's NAIDOC theme was **"Voice Treaty Truth" let's work together for a shared future**. As we look back over the years of struggle and hardship for Indigenous Australians, it is wonderful that we can come together to celebrate the journey and opportunities that are now available.

We started our NAIDOC celebration with a whole school traditional smoking ceremony followed by performances from the Taribelang Dance team, didgeridoo presentations and guest speakers. The willingness from the Taribelang Aboriginal Corporation to share their culture and stories was a highlight for both staff and students. Our guest speakers included Mr Ken Riddiford CEO of the Taribelang Aboriginal Corporation and Shereene Currie, a motivational speaker and cultural educator within many school settings throughout Queensland. They both spoke passionately about their culture and the journey that has shaped them to become who they are today.

There was a variety of stalls and activities available to students throughout the day.



Taste testing seemed to be the most popular activity with crocodile, kangaroo and redclaw available. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our local community for all your support and attending the 2019 NAIDOC celebration. Without your ongoing support, our day would not have been as successful as it was.

Creative Generation 2019 Symphony Orchestra

In the first week of term, I performed in Creative Generation 2019 Symphony Orchestra. Creative Generation (CGEN) is often described as Queensland's largest annual youth performing arts event, with the cast comprising about 2000 students. This year was the 15th anniversary of CGEN, meaning that the lighting, dance, music and special effects were even more spectacular ever before. I am so honoured to have been a part of such an incredible production!



I definitely encourage other aspiring musicians to audition, as CGEN provides the opportunity to perform amongst other extremely talented students in a semi-professional environment.

Bethanie Barns

PRINCIPALS REPORT

Term three at Gin Gin has seen some wonderful opportunities for our students to engage with the local and international communities.

Early in the term our School Captain Keziah Mitchel participated in the London International Youth Science Forum. Keziah was one of five hundred students from seventy countries selected to participate in the forum. This experience has shaped the future ambitions for Keziah while also bringing valuable knowledge and experience back to our school.

Gin Gin State High School students were also part of a regional group of students who travelled to Nanning China to participate in a Sister City exchange orchestral performance. The Bundaberg Regional Council have been strong advocates of the relationship between the Bundaberg region and Nanning. This was a wonderful experience for our two students, Bethanie Barns and Lachlan Acworth.

Senior students from our school participated in the Relay for Life event during the term. The main fund raising event was a "Bucket Tip" on staff which proved to be very popular amongst the students who paid for the privilege of tipping cold water over their selected staff members.

This term also included our NAIDOC celebrations with the entire school participating in a smoking ceremony with elders and other indigenous members educating our staff and students about the significance of dance and ceremonies.

Our students have participated in a range of activities this term, while also maintaining a strong academic focus. As we move into the final term of 2019 I look forward to seeing the results from a year of hard work and dedication from our students, staff and community.

Paul Stehbens

Athletics Carnival

Another magnificent win to mighty Manumbar who have been crowned champions of the Athletics Carnival for 2019. It was a successful day for all students involved with many students achieving new records or personal best achievements.

Age champions from the carnival were also recognised for their outstanding contribution to their respective houses. Age champions for each age division are as follows;

AGE	BOYS	GIRLS
12 YEARS	Kash Thomas	Brodi Clark
13 YEARS	Jack Blackley	Mia Wochnik
14 YEARS	Drew Kitt	Indy Morse
15 YEARS	Max Engstrom	Tegan Wright
16 YEARS	Dann Kitt	Tessa Wochnik
17 YEARS	Matt Frohloff	Tysharna Bradley

The day ran smoothly which was a credit to all the staff and volunteers who have assisted with the preparation and running of events. Thank you to Gin Gin Athletics club for providing access to your facilities and supplying athletics equipment. We appreciate your help and support.

The Scene Project Outcome Day

Term 3 Year 9 and 10 Drama classes travelled to The Moncrieff Theatre in Bundaberg to participate in the *Scene Project* outcome day. The Year 9 students attended to perform their version of the script “The Shot” to the *Scene Project* participants from Kepnock SHS and ISIS SHS, with their hard work finally paying off, while the Year 10 students were there to view the Queensland Theatre professional performance.

Over the past semester, the Year 9 students have studied, re-written, rehearsed and now preformed their interpretation of “The Shot”. The students first read the script, then were separated into small groups where they had the task of choosing an image and writing a scene exploring the photos. The next step, and rather a challenge, was choosing our favourite scenes, shortening them, and adding them together to make one larger script. Then there were roles and choreography to manage, which of course the Year 9’s glided through beautifully (with only a few hiccups). We were lucky enough to have Queensland Theatre artist in resident, Jason Klarwein, visit us for a whole day workshop to help polish our script and, after some minor tweaks and edits, rehearsals began. just can’t get in the classroom. Kepnock and Isis also performed well, with each performance completely unique.

We had to bring our characters and scenes to life with attention to detail and work on our voice and movement skills. Symbolism was a key element explored throughout the performance and each student was able to deliver with high energy, emotion and realism. Gin Gin’s performance was unique, and this was an amazing opportunity for the students to work on an industry sized stage in front of a real audience. Kepnock and Isis also performed well, with each performance completely unique.

Queensland Theatre professional actors also showed us their interpretation of “The Shot” as well, effectively using ultraviolet lights, and props and music to create mood and tension successfully—it was truly a masterpiece. The actors were incredibly skilled, and in particular, actor Shideh Faramand performed a particularly emotional scene, evoking tears with her portrayal of the mother of a Syrian toddler who had died. At the end of the performances, the schools sat down and discussed what they liked about each other’s performance and how they came up with their ideas and this provided a realistic and worthwhile learning opportunity for the students involved.

Overall, this project was a great experience for Gin Gin High Drama students. It could not have been achieved without the hard work and dedication of the students involved, our teacher Miss Mayocchi and all those at Queensland Theatre who helped put the program together.

Relay For Life

On Saturday 10th August, a devoted Gin Gin Relay For Life team took part in an 18-hour non-stop event to support those affected directly and indirectly by cancer. The Relay For Life event was held at the Bundaberg Recreational Precinct where the team kept our Alice in Wonderland themed ‘mushroom’ baton moving the entire time. The students began their fundraising prior to the event by having a free dress day and a sausage sizzle. Staff also volunteered their dignity again this year in a ‘Dunk the Teachers’ event whereby the highest paying students had the privilege of pouring a bucket of gooey water over their selected teacher.. The students also volunteered their time to help sell hot chips to raise money - not just for our team but the whole of the Bundaberg region.



During the event, there were a number of ceremonies. The most touching of these was the ‘Candlelight Ceremony’. During this part of the evening, everyone wrote a message to someone they have lost to cancer, or someone who is fighting cancer. These messages were then lit up along the track. To be able to stop and read the touching messages while walking the track was a moving and poignant reminder of the purpose of the event. There are many people within our region who are affected by cancer and it was important for everyone to see that there is a large support network for sufferers and carers.

We had a total of \$2000 as a goal for our team. We went above and beyond our goal, reaching a total of \$3710. This means we are able to help 70 cancer patients receive free advice and programs for strength development during and after treatment. We were able to help 30 cancer patients, carers and families by paying for their accommodation. With the remainder of the money we were able to help pay some of the bills for cancer patients.

Mayor’s Telstra Innovation Awards

Our team Ever Onward successfully made the finals of the Mayor’s Telstra Innovation Awards last term. The Mayor’s Awards is a new competition implemented by Bundaberg Regional Council this year to encourage the development of innovative ideas in our region. Moselle Findlay, Keziah Mitchell and Sebastian Schulke were exceptional in the final pitch of their flood multi-app idea, explaining in-depth the many benefits of investing in this type of information hub to help save lives and better prepare our community for disaster.

There were many other ingenious ideas presented on the evening but Ever Onward and while we were excited to be involved in such a great competition and pitch our ideas for investment, we didn’t come away with the prize. We look forward to next year’s competition and are very grateful to Bundaberg Regional Council and Telstra for this wonderful innovative competition for our region.



Bundaberg Christian College

Education with Wisdom

Bundaberg Christian College
Education with Wisdom

Making a Difference



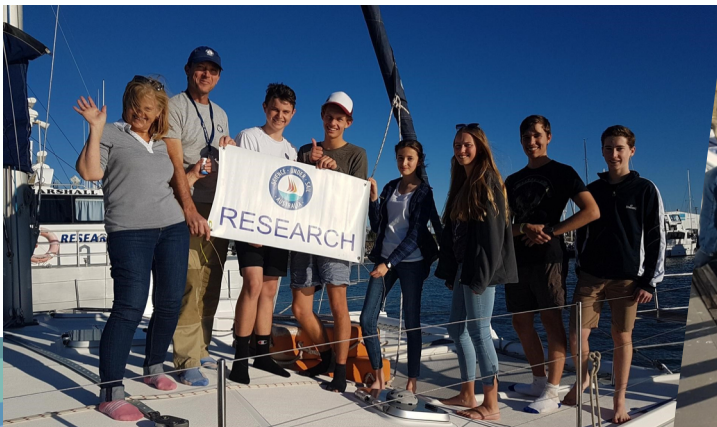
Year 11 Legacy Conference

The annual Year 11 Legacy Conference was held recently at the Bundaberg Bible Chapel. The program was led by the Peer Power Team who guided the students in developing a cohort legacy to work towards in 2020. Through challenging group activities, opportunities were provided to develop teamwork and leadership skills that underpin good working relationships. A fun part of the conference involved a 'Mock Formal'. Students were encouraged to wear old or dated formal wear, either from parents, older siblings or from the OP shop. The emphasis was on fun and learning a few skills along the way. Mr Marsman and Chappy Kelli guided the students in introducing their formal date to their parents, and Mrs Murdoch clued us all up on table etiquette and how to let your hair down later on the dance floor. It was an exciting two days and the Year 11 students are to be congratulated for establishing an aspirational vision for 2020 as they step up to take on the leadership of the College.



Science under Sail

Seven Year 10 and 11 Science students set sail aboard the 'Velella' with Dr James Udy, adjunct professor at QUT and accompanied by Mrs Engelbrecht. The four night, five day sailing trip to the Capricornia Bunker group of Islands on the Great Barrier Reef provided our students a wonderful opportunity to collect authentic scientific data. The team mapped seagrasses as part of a broader Reef Research investigation. BCC were one of six Queensland schools selected to contribute to this worthwhile program.



THE PRIDE OF THE WHITE & BLUE

Bundaberg Synfonietta Concert

BCC students, past and present, have had the honour of performing in the recent Bundaberg Synfonietta Concert conducted by local maestro Barry Davis. The audience was treated to compositions from three local composers, John Rotar, Logan Tinney and Andrew Udal, each outstanding in their own compositional style. Thanks to Matthew Haaksma, Deakin Darby and Andrew Udal for the high level of professionalism that you showed on the night. Bravo!



BCC Celtic Band



The BCC Celtic Band recently performed at the Palliative Care & Stroke Rehabilitation Unit at the Bundaberg Base Hospital. Patients and staff enjoyed our usual mix of traditional Celtic tunes, John Denver and the Beatles. Highlights included the influx of patients as they hear the music and ask to be wheeled out to the concert, the heartfelt conversation and thanks of patients, the delighted reaction of the medical staff, and spontaneous clapping and singing along by the patients. I would like to thank the students for their maturity and willingness to be involved in an act of service.

Noah Hayes receives ADFA Award

Noah Hayes' commitment to his role in the Australian Army Cadets has not gone unnoticed. He was recently presented with the prestigious "ADFA Education Award 2019" for outstanding performance in the recruiting process and achievements in Year 11. Noah has already been accepted to ADFA in 2020 and we congratulate him on that. This award is one of only 23 presented nationwide. Noah is a dedicated young man who has achieved greatly. Not only has he excelled in receiving this award, he has led the local Bundaberg Army Cadet unit and has had the lead role for Queensland.



Wondai Show from the Cattle Yard

A BCC team of 10 students ranging from Years 8-11 traveled to the Wondai Show with 11 head of cattle. On arrival the students got straight into work: set up camp, wash and groom cattle, prepare cattle beds and organise feed and water as required, followed by Junior Judging and Handling.



During the Studd Cattle Competition, the cattle earned three 1st places and one 2nd place. Junior Paraders and Stud Beef Judging placed one 1st and one 4th. All of our paraders did a fantastic job, the 10-14 years are to be commended on their work in their division - two heats with a grand total of 50 competitors! BCC took out 2nd place in the schools competition for their cattle handling and maintaining our cattle bays. Well done team!

First place in his class for one of our BCC steers, Reflex, led by Cody Muller - with Sam Attard stepping in to hold the ribbon.



Spotlight on Youth

NAIDOC Celebrations



Students, staff and students from our visiting Sister School, Kashiwa Minami High School, celebrated NAIDOC Day with traditional dances and songs, face-painting, foods and other activities! Thanks to the community visitors and organisations, as well as the local politicians, for their support.



Many thanks to the staff who coordinated the events!



REEF GUARDIANS



Year 7 EXCEL class will participate in an important field study on Lady Musgrave Island. As a local Reef Guardian school, our Year 7 EXCEL class was invited to be a part of a unique learning experience on the Great Barrier Reef. Having this unique UNESCO World-Heritage site on our doorstep provides the perfect opportunity for real-world, hands-on educational experiences. Thanks to a partnership between the Australian Government and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, Lady Musgrave Experience is partnering with our school to help create a community of custodians for the reef's future.



The learning activities encourage students to gain an appreciation of the importance and complexity of the reef, and how their everyday actions can impact its health and longevity. Students will become citizen scientists, learning to observe and record valuable reef health and biodiversity information. This data can be used by scientists and marine park managers to better understand and help manage the reef to ensure it is around for future generations to love and enjoy.



QUOTA STUDENT OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to Kasey C, winning the local Quota Student of the Year! Kasey and Alex B competed against students from other schools. Thanks to those staff who supported them both!



digIT 2020



Congratulations to Year 9 student, Brianna L, who has been awarded a place in digIT 2020, a six-month mentoring program which will give her a great head start in the IT industry! Well done, Brianna!

CONSTITUTION CONVENTION

Some of our indigenous students had the honor of speaking at Parliament House for the South East Qld Schools Constitution Convention for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Students. Well done, girls!



LITERACY RULES



Congratulations to our Year 7 and 8 teams, winning 2nd and 3rd place in the Literacy Planet Competition! Well done!



Through hard work, the stars



READING IS MY SUPER POWER



Over 200 students and staff were involved in 2019's Read to Grow event at Alexandra Park, with over 1000 students from local primary schools and daycare centres attending. Students read, performed, painted, taught and generally interacted with their audiences! Many thanks to the staff who organised the event and stalls!

Many thanks also to the locals who catered and cooked, Woolworths for providing fresh fruit, as well as the Emergency Services and medical staff who attended.



STEM: Year 9 students had a taste of STEM activities as part of QMEA's Science Week involvement.

Science Fair: With the help of many students, teachers and other staff, BSHS held a very successful Science Fair for primary school students to attend this term.

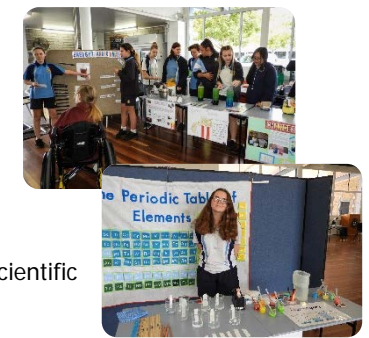


Over 400 students from 6 local primary schools came to Bundy High to experience a taste of SCIENCE!!!

Science classes from Years 7 to 11, and our Science Club, put on a variety of scientific displays and interactive demonstrations for the visiting schools.



All the visiting students were very keen to try each of the experiments and displays that were on show and the feedback we received was very positive. All in all the event was a great success.



SPORTING SUCCESSES

Congratulations To Our Reps

Kaylah P on being selected in the Under 16's Thundercats netball team and Kiara V on being named a training partner.



Cadance for her Wide Bay Touch triumph!

Cooper N (Year 7), Captain of the CQ Bulls 12 Years Touch team that successfully won the State title! Well done, Cooper!



BDSSSR Years 8, 9 & 10 Teams.



Well done to the U15 BSHS boys futsal team on their outstanding efforts at the State School Championships in Brisbane.

Well done to Year 9 Student Hannahlin W who represented Wide Bay at the 14-15Yrs QSSRL Titles in Carina. She was



joined by BSHS Rugby League Co-Ordinator Mr Handley who coached the side.

Tenpin Bowling

Congratulations to those students who competed in the 2019 Queensland Interscholar Bowling Challenge. They placed 12th and 13th respectively in a field of 23 Secondary Teams.

Bundaberg Team 1 were Hayden, Izaak and Thomas, Team 2 were Skye, Ryan and Chloe. Thomas and Ryan - both boys bowled a 162 and Izaak bowled a personal best of 141. All bowlers showed great sportsmanship on the lanes and bowled their best throughout the day.



NRL Schoolboy Trophy The Queensland NRL Trophy Schoolboy Final between reigning champions Bundaberg SHS and North Queensland qualifiers Trinity Bay SHS took place at a picturesque Langlands Park. Despite valiant efforts by our boys, Trinity Bay took the trophy. We look forward to next season. Well done boys!



Through hard work, the stars



Students have Spirit in the Opti-MINDS National Finals

Five St Luke's Anglican School students participated in the State and National finals for Opti-MINDS in Brisbane October 12-13.

The team promoted their idea to improve sustainability to a marketplace of their peers. They also competed in 3 hour and 10 minute challenges, where they produced unique and thoroughly entertaining responses to the judges' questions.

To recognise their creativity, tenacity and teamwork, they were awarded with Spirit of Opti-MINDS award. The students are grateful for Mrs Stone's assistance in preparing them for this competition, and for Miss McHugh, Mr Collins, and their parents for accompanying them on the trip.

Right: St Luke's Opti-MINDS team in Brisbane. Back Row: Danielle Robert, Tamryn Bosch, Nelson Brown. Front Row: Fletcher Grabbe, Bharathi Kumar



St Luke's Students travel to sister school in China

By Lewis Drake, Year 9

On the 11th of October, at 6am a handful of students from Year levels 5 to 7 began their great adventure.

The group of students traveled to Hong Kong briefly

before arriving in Shenzhen, China, where our sister school Kehua is located. The students will spend some time with students at Kehua School before heading to Beijing to visit Tencent where many Chinese technical advances, such as WeChat have been developed.

A special thanks to Mrs Lassman and Mr McKenzie for organising and accompanying the students on this amazing and unforgettable trip.

Left: St Luke's students and teachers liaise with teachers and students from sister school Kehua in Shenzhen, China



Musical Students Perform in Sister City Nanning, China

By Aanya Kosgallana

Two of St Luke's students, Marianna Konopka and Johanna Brey, were selected to travel to China with the Bundaberg Youth Concert Group. Whilst on the trip the students were involved in multiple performances held in Nanning, Bundaberg's sister city. Marianna and Johanna performed with a number of other international and Chinese groups. The final performance was in the Xingning District where it was attended by an audience of about 1500 people but it was also presented live on TV and radio where it was listened to by close to 60,000 people!



Above: Johanna Brey and Marianna Konopka travelled to Nanning, China to perform with the Bundaberg Youth Concert Group

"Being immersed into the culture and visiting all the beautiful places around Nanning inspired me," Johanna says. Students were able to visit several sight-seeing destinations and famous landmarks in Beijing such as the Great Wall, Summer Palace, Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, and the Olympic Stadium. Both students described the trip as an amazing experience and are grateful for the once in a lifetime opportunity.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Mia Pafumi participated in the YMCA's 24th Youth Parliament Program in early October. This program invites selected young people from all 93



electorates to debate youth bills and raise important issues. This was a fantastic opportunity for Mia to gain insights in parliamentary processes.

Above: YMCA youth Queensland Youth Parliament Member, Mia Pafumi joined David Batt MP in Parliament



Congratulations to Grade 9 Student Dylan Wick, who has been offered a place in the 2020 digIT course, which will be held at the

Queensland University of Technology in January 2020. digIT is a six-month program that combines two residential camps and a mentoring program, for Year 9 and 10 students with an interest in ICT, and who also performed well on the Computational and Algorithmic Thinking Competition. Central to these camps will be the development of algorithmic thinking and coding skills.

Bundaberg Region Youth Service's Stories

The following stories have been provided to us with the permission of the services and the young people they relate to.

THE GENERATION OF TODAY

YOUTH NEWS

Member highlight: Youth Development Action Team



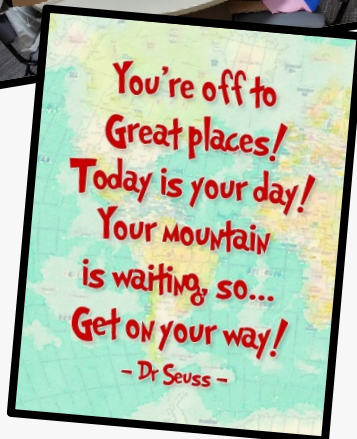
I am Emily and I am a part of the Youth Development Action Team (YDAT) for the Bundaberg Council. I helped to create the Youth Summit in 2019 where questions on violence and bullying were answered by the youth in the Bundaberg region. It was an amazing event that I was extremely proud to be involved in and as quoted by Andrea Bax (The Youth Development officer for Bundaberg), I am 'The cog in the engine'.

Although the YDAT is a very important thing in my life, I am also involved in various other groups within our region.

This includes being part of a magnificent group with the PCYC Bundaberg. This group is called Blazers and are unbelievably supportive. As being a part of this group, we are constantly working towards our Duke of Edinburgh awards where we work in many different areas including skills, community service and physical recreation. To help to increase our hours for Physical recreation, we preform Chinese Lion and Dragon dancing that bring prosperity to the area. The Blazers group is one of the best opportunities that I have had so far and am so grateful to be within a community that supports growth and development.

I am also extremely happy to say that I attend such an amazing school that also helps flourish individuals. At Bundaberg North State High School, I am currently working in an amazing team called the 'Better Buddies Anti-Bullying committee' where we work to make Bundaberg North State High School a bully-free zone. The team works extremely hard and I love everything we do and stand for. So many hours of time goes into this committee and I am excited to say that I have helped with many of the projects.

Our community has so many different opportunities for youth in the region. Many people work tirelessly behind the scenes to make things happen and I suggest for anyone reading this, to go out, seek adventure, seek a challenge and get outside your comfort zone! Us, the youth of this region, are the stepping stones to the future. We can make a change, whether it is small or large, so get out there and enjoy your time!



R U OK?

On 12 September we recognised R U Ok? Day across the region, with morning teas held in Bundaberg at BRAG Park, Gin Gin at the Old Neighbourhood Centre and in Childers at the Childers Library.

To help us out on the day in Childers, a group of Isis District State High School students came along and helped us get the message out on the day but also for helping get the message out in their school that we all need to check in with each other more often.



Young people achieving great things in our region



Nawshaba Ahmed, Tessa Bryden and Mercedes Thomas, Leanne Kemp and Mayor Dempsey

Leanne Kemp Opportunity for MTIA students

On 26 August 2019 teams that took part in the Mayors Telstra Innovation Awards were invited to a special meet and greet with QLD's Chief Entrepreneur Leanne Kemp. Each team that attended also had the opportunity to pitch their idea to Leanne.

Leanne shared her global success stories with students but also revealed that her very first idea had been developed at a similar age and admitted, "the idea was a bit of a disaster". Leanne also highlighted that ever since her first idea she has committed to a process of experimentation because she realised that you never get it right the first time. The idea is the easy piece, then its building the product and understanding the customer.

Justine harper a student form Bundaberg Christian College said it was wonderful to hear form Leanne „ it was great o extend our idea after teh challenge was done and see how if we wanted to take it nto the future what we could do.

Council encorages everyone with innovative ideas to look out for varied events including the Hinkler Innovation Series and Start Up weekends to gain support and incite in how to get your ideas of the ground.



Young people learning to Cook in Gin Gin

Recently the IDSS Crew in Gin Gin started a Youth Cooking Group on Wednesdays after school and they spoke to some of the guys about the program.

Here's a little bit of what they had to say:

- Thomas (14) - It is tasty and I get to learn to cook.
- Dylan (15) - I get to socialise and make new friends
- Paddy (14) - I enjoy cooking and get to make new foods
- Rebekah (14) - I get to socialise with other people my age
- Abby (12) -I like to socialise and enjoy cooking and getting to eat it as well.
- Karrisa (7) - I get to try new foods

Participants have enjoyed being able to now read and follow recipes, after a few wrong measurements occurred we learnt how to fix them. We also get to help and learn from each other as some of us are better at some things than others. It feels really good when we all work on a recipe together and then get to share and enjoy our results together and even take any left overs home to share with our family. We don't just read recipes and cook, we also get the chance to talk and chill with each other and get to know new people and make new friends. For more information on this project call IDSS Gin Gin on 0434 554 824.





Local Students Proudly Represent Bundaberg in our Sister City, Nanning

After a successful inaugural visit to Nanning by Bundaberg SHS Brilliantes in 2018, to open ASEAN, for the 20th anniversary of our Sister City relationship, our Regional Council negotiated with the Nanning Government to begin providing more local students with such an opportunity.

So, at the end of Term 3, the first visit of a combined strings group of students from local high schools to Nanning began. Our local high school music teachers each chose students to participate and students rehearsed throughout Term 3 to ensure they were ready for the daunting task of performing across Nanning District over a four day period as guests at their local cultural festivals.

Similar to last year, the students were treated like rock stars – they could not believe their eyes or their ears as they stepped down from the bus after arriving at the Bundaberg State High School Sister School - Nanning #4. Local students lined the verandahs of the 5 story school and cheered our students into their school. Each school performed and then students spent quality time getting to know their counterparts. It was sad for all of us to leave the school, and students thought of the visit as one of their trip highlights.

Over the next 3 days, the students performed at 3 festivals alongside highly acclaimed International acts. They were excited to be on the big screens beside stages, took on rehearsals and sound checks like old pros and were shocked to know that over 30 million people may be watching them and that they were being live streamed at one point to a 66 000 audience. It was all taken in their stride eventually and by the end of the tour students were readily accepting photo opportunities from their fans and encouraging the local young people to engage in conversations and lots of selfies!

We were proud that our students were keen to understand the history of Nanning in addition to warmly engaging with members from the 12 local ethnic groups who were eager to ensure long term social chatter was available to them. In addition, the students were local media stars in no time and the fact that some of us had toured twice, made us even more important celebrities. Feedback from local government officials was heart warming and the students were thrilled to engage with like-minded students from the other side of the world. Our student reflections noted how friendly our sister students were and how they were so proud to represent Bundaberg.

Our students did us proud and will spread the word to ensure other young people are able to goal set to ensure they have both means and a plan to achieve that goal. Many came away with fabulous memories and a plan to return one day.

They are all to be congratulated on their progress this year and we wish those Year 12s leaving us, all the best.



