Principal’s Message….

It is with great pleasure that I have the opportunity to write this report as Acting Principal in the absence of Deborah Kachel who is on well-deserved long service leave. Deborah is currently touring the U.S. and Canada with her family and will return on June 16th for the final two weeks of the term.

Since the last newsletter our students have been engaged in a wide variety of activities and opportunities. In the senior school (Yr. 10, 11 and 12), numerous excursions have been conducted to compliment classroom content, with Year 11 Study of Society and Geography classes, Year 12 Certificate III in Fitness, Film T.V. and New Media and Legal Studies classes all gaining practical experience on day trips. Year 12 Biology completed fieldwork on a three day camp to Cape Tribulation. The Year 10s have just completed a week of work experience to gain a valuable insight into potential pathways at the completion of their studies. Many thanks must go to our wider school community and local employers for supporting our school and offering such a worthwhile experience to students. Greg Hamilton, our Senior Pathways Co-ordinator, supported by Gay Hoffman must also be acknowledged for their efforts in making work experience a reality for our Year 10s.

In the junior school Year 9 students completed NAPLAN in week four. They approached this mandatory diagnostic testing with enthusiasm and maturity and we look forward to receiving and analysing the results in September/October to inform our teaching/learning and best support all students. An individual NAPLAN Report will be mailed to parents/guardians at this time. The Year 8 students have just returned from a four day camp. This saw 100 students lead by Ben Vikionkorpi, as Year Eight Co-ordinator, along with seven other staff members travel to Laura and Cooktown. The Year 8s had the opportunity to take in locally, nationally and internationally significant aboriginal rock art among the sandstone escarpments of Laura before travelling to Cooktown to relive its history.

The Year 8s were outstanding and a credit to themselves, their family and our school. This was also testimony to the care, commitment, hard work and organisation of Ben, again supported by Gay Hoffman and the other staff in attendance.

Our music students enjoyed a three day camp beginning at school on Friday May 9 and culminating in a performance at Whyanbeel on Sunday. Congratulations must be given to our instrumental music teacher Jenny Guyatt, supported by our Year 9 Co-ordinator Anita Harrold, for another successful camp.

Sporting pursuits have also been in abundance in the last month. This began with the school cross-country which saw Kurranji take line honours and valuable house points.
However, it may be pertinent at this point to reiterate that the four school houses Yawu, Kurranji, Jalbil, and Bilngkumu are not merely sport houses. Students contribute points toward their house for attendance, effort and behaviour as well as school representation in academic, cultural and sporting events. These houses are integral to a sense of school spirit and engagement far beyond the sporting arena and culminate in a Champion House Day to reward students for their holistic achievement at the end of the year. There will be more sporting information to follow in the ‘From the Sports Desk’ article. Two of our Senior School Captains, Junior School Captains and two senior students involved in the Indigenous Leaders of Tomorrow Program accompanied me to a community luncheon at the Mossman Gorge Gateway Visitors and Training Centre recently. We were privileged to meet the Governor General, Sir Peter Cosgrove and his wife Lady Cosgrove. The students had the opportunity to talk over lunch with both the Governor General and his wife, fielding questions from them about school life and career aspirations. I must say that this was quite a humbling experience, watching the confidence and ease of genuine conversation demonstrated by our students while exuding respect for such dignitaries. Again our students represented themselves, their families and our school admirably.

Unfortunately this was not transferred to the football field for our curtain raiser to the first State of Origin. The staff took on the Year 8s in a game of touch football in wet conditions and defeated them 6 – 0. It was a pity that Queensland could not emulate the prowess of the staff. Game two against the Year 9s and 10s taps off on Wednesday June 18th with game three seeing the Year 11s and 12s take on the staff in the final week of the term.

The weeks ahead hold much in store. Our annual Inter-house Athletics carnival is on June 5th, preparations continue for the arrival of Year sevens in 2015, interviews are being conducted for a new school chaplain, block exams for Year 11 and 12, assessment, year 9 camp and reports. It is important therefore for us all to work together with heightened expectations for our students’ attendance, punctuality and disciplined use of class time. To this end a member of administration is now visiting classes at all times to support all staff and every student to achieve their best, while striving to improve every day.

I look forward to continuing to work together with you to the benefit of our students and further providing the outstanding opportunities our great school offers as illustrated in this report.

Kind regards,

Stephen Guthrie
Acting Principal

As part of The Flying Start for Queensland Children initiative, the introduction of Junior Secondary and the move of Year 7 students into high school in 2015, I will endeavour to provide some background and information of the philosophy behind Junior Secondary.

Junior Secondary is a phase of education in state secondary schools for Years 7, 8 and 9, which helps to ensure the bridge between primary and secondary school is safe, strong and consistent for all students.

- Junior Secondary focuses on age-appropriate education, and support for students' wellbeing and transitions.
- Junior Secondary is underpinned by six guiding principles - distinct identity, quality teaching, student wellbeing, parent and community involvement, leadership and local decision-making.
- All Queensland state high schools began the implementation of Junior Secondary for Years 8 and 9 from 2013.

There is a lot of information that can be found on The Flying Start for Queensland Children website (http://flyingstart.qld.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx#2), however I am going to go through the first guiding principle ‘Distinct Identity’ in a little more detail and explain some of the things the high school has in place.
By Kael Preston (8D)

The 2014 Year eight camp saw us travelling to Laura and Cooktown. We left on Tuesday the 27th May and arrived back at home on Friday the 30th. The camp was really exciting and was well planned. The purpose of the camp was to improve teamwork and confidence in many aspects of life. It challenged us physically through lengthy walks and climbs around Laura to Turtle Rock. We also hiked to the Giant Horse gallery. Each trek was challenging taking around three to four hours to complete. Once we arrived at Cooktown we had the opportunity to experience, ghost tours at the Cooktown Museum, the Cemetery challenge, and other interactive activities.

The ghost tour at the Cooktown Museum was my favourite activity. I was impressed by the paranormal stories told by the guide that lead us around the museum and the jump-scares really set the scene. Overall the camp was really awesome and the historical monuments and aspects were really fascinating.

Written by Kael Preston 8D

This principle refers to students feeling a sense of belonging and connectedness to their school and to feeling safe and confident in this environment. Identity in this context refers to their status as lower secondary students, distinct from either primary or upper secondary students.

Some Mossman SHS examples:

- Head of Department – Junior Secondary / Senior Secondary
- Junior Leaders
- Different uniforms
- Different diaries
- Junior / Secondary School Student Councils
- Junior / Secondary School Assemblies

UPCOMING JUNIOR SECONDARY ACTIVITIES

- Friday 13th June - ‘Yarning Up – Get into Uni’ performance by La Luna Youth Arts aims to promote university as a viable pathway after finishing school
- 25-27 June – Year 9 Camp at Chillagoe

Please remember that myself, the Year level co-ordinators and form teachers can be contacted at the school or on email, if there are any problems or concerns.

Tracy Butland
HOD – Junior Secondary, HPE / Sport
Wow, what an action packed camp. Early Tuesday morning the excitement was in the air as we left for camp on the loaded up buses. We arrived at Lakeland, set up our tents then ate our lunch and drove to Laura where we did a three hour hike up a mountain to see Turtle Rock and some ancient rock paintings. That evening we did some activities to help develop life skills and how we interact and meet new people.

The next morning we were up early to pack up and have brekkie by 8:30am. We were on the bus back to Laura for a scenic four hour mountain walk to see the Indigenous rock paintings of the Giant Horse. It was really fascinating to see such ancient forms of art and storytelling. After the walk, we bought some lunch and we were on the road to Cooktown. We arrived at the PCYC, setup our beds and walked to the Bowls Club for dinner.

After dinner, some walked back to watch the State Of Origin and others stayed back to do the Ghost Tour and Barefoot Bowls. The Ghost Tour was interesting and believe it or not ... scary! We learnt about the lifestyle of those who lived there back in the day and the Barefoot Bowls was definitely an activity new to many. The next morning we were up early again and my group started off with the cemetery challenge which was actually quite fascinating but sad to learn these peoples life story and how they died. Then followed a historical walk spoken by Mr Reinhold about how Cooktown became what it is today. We had lunch and completed our day with the Grassy Hill walk to an amazing scenic lookout. We ordered in pizza’s and our night activities were screen printing and indoor sports.

The next day we left straight after brekkie and had a wander around the museum where the ghost tour was. The next thing we knew, we were straight back on the bus back to little old Mossman where we arrived about 2:30pm Friday afternoon.

The purpose of this camp was to build our confidence and skills in many aspects of life that we will need. The camp challenged me physically and mentally in every activity. I thought I was going to die doing those long uphill walks but even though it was straining, I really enjoyed it and I felt a sense of achievement that I had accomplished something I would never ever have previously done. I also had a chance to get to know everyone and how they acted and presented themselves outside of school.

I really enjoyed and benefited from this camp in many ways. My favourite part was probably just spending the time with my best friends (even the ones from primary school). On the bus from place to place, climbing steep mountains and learning about past and present events that have shaped Cooktown were also highlights. I would really like to thank each and every teacher that supported not only me but also others on this camp and I say this on behalf of all the grade eight that all your hard work was greatly appreciated. Also a big happy birthday to the seven people whose birthday fell on the camp days especially Mr Reinhold who turned a milestone of 50yrs! Such an awesome camp!

Written by Jasmine Kirk Year 8
Well I guess this is all about camp!!

I was a little concerned that only 2 days out from camp, there were still only about 50 forms and payment returned. I began to think that camp was not going to go ahead. Much to my delight though, a flood of paperwork was received by the due date (and quite a few after the deadline).

We finally got 100 students on the dot, 55 boys and 45 girls keen as mustard for camp. We separated the boys and girls for the bus trip, tent set up, the walks to Split Rock / Turtle Rock and Giant Horse, and also for ‘men’ and ‘women’s’ talk. They were able to interact with our communication and speed dating activity, which saw some students taken out of their comfort zone.

Upon arriving in Cooktown, the boys and girls were then grouped back together, so that we could see the interactions that existed with their new found knowledge of how to be a man / woman. We were really looking for respect for each other and a willingness to help each other out in various contexts. We did this through helping cooking and cleaning, watching State of Origin, barefoot bowls, James Cook Museum Ghost tours and a day tour, cemetery challenge, historical James Cook walk, indoor sports and the Grassy Hill challenge. It was really pleasing to see a large proportion of very respectful behaviours / interactions, personal and group responsibility and a willingness to help out, without even being asked to!!

Overall, although the students were tired from the walking, there was a very positive feel to the camp, and all teachers involved were very impressed with our group of year 8 students. We were definitely able to see some future leaders in the group, and we hope that more students will step up and take on leadership, not only at school, but in all aspects of their life.

A massive thank you must go to all the teachers for giving up their time to attend camp and support our students. Thank you very much Mr Cox, Mr Reinhold, Mr Guthrie, Mrs Butland, Miss Uhlik, Miss Wichman and Miss Eileen Burchill. Your help was really appreciated.

**Assessment:**

Yes, it’s assessment time, and your child will be having a great deal of assignments / exams / multi-modals / and / or other forms of assessment due in the next few weeks. You are probably hearing your child say ‘homework? I don’t have any homework?’ which is not really the case. If your child has not been given any specific homework, then the expectation is that they are reviewing the day’s work, and taking some initiative in completing their assessment or study at home. We give our students as much time as we can to complete their assessment at school, but to assist this process, the students must work on these at home, if they are to be successful. Please encourage your child to develop good study habits by taking initiative to complete their assessment at home.

Thanks for taking the time to read the year 8 news.

I’m glad I got to know your child better by their attendance on camp.

Ben Vikionkorpi
Year 8 Coordinator
The past 15 weeks have seen the year 12 students in Visual Art exploring their inner world and the changes they have gone through. The topic was Internal Flux, and is about personal and internal changes over a period of time and how we respond to them. The students have experimented and explored a wide range of ideas that gave them opportunities to specialise in subject matter, media and techniques that they were passionate about. These studies then led to a body of work that was very personal.

Students were also influenced by at least three artists, and have completed substantial amounts of research to develop their folio. One of these students is Jessica Hamill, whose artwork explored her inner feelings and how they have changed her attitude over a period of time. This blossoming was akin to the butterfly – spreading its wings to fly following an extensive time being cocooned. This growth and expansion is represented by the spread wings that have been stitched and layered, shaped and formed then worn in the place that means a lot to her. The printed images are then developed further with meandering lines and patterns relating to her changing feelings and random thoughts. The arrow represents progression, moving forward, regardless of the direction. The neat presentation reflects the artist’s passion for perfection in life however knowing it’s not always possible and proud to accept that.

This artwork is an indicator of the intense fascination our art students have with personal expression and artistic exploration. Well done Jessica and all of year 12 Art.

Written by Nada Petrasevic - Art Teacher
**Workshop Machinery for tender**

Tenders are invited for the following surplus workshop equipment situated in the Manual Arts Dept at Mossman State High School.

- 2 x Hercus 260 Metal Lathes. Approx. 500mm between centres, 260 mm swing, each with some accessories.
- 1 x Woodfast Jig Saw.
- 1 x Woodfast Bandsaw, 360mm wheel size.

All the above are 415V three phase machines in fair condition.

- 1 X Metabo ADH 1626 240V, 260mm Planer / Thicknesser combination machine in fair condition.

For more details or to arrange an inspection phone Jim Murdoch, 40841333.

Tenders close 20th June 2014 and should be addressed:
  Machinery Tender
  Attn. Cindy Chamberlain
  Mossman State High School
  PO Box 178
  Mossman 4873

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**Governor Luncheon**

On Wednesday the 14th April the Senior and Junior School Captains along with the Indigenous Leaders of Tomorrow were invited to an honorary luncheon at the Mossman Gorge Gateway to meet the newly appointed Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove and his wife Lady Cosgrove.

We had the privilege of meeting both Sir Peter Cosgrove and Lady Cosgrove, who were interested in knowing each of our pathways after we finish grade 12. It was also interesting to find out from Lady Cosgrove that whenever Sir Cosgrove goes anywhere there is always a group of body guards following him – as we saw at the Gorge on that day. It was a great privilege and all leaders that attended were very grateful for this experience.

Written by
Hayden D’Adonna (12D)

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**P & C Uniform Committee Report**

On behalf of the P&C, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the community for the huge response we have had to our 2015 uniform survey. We had 296 online responses and 189 in store responses to the survey. Option 1 of the polo shirts and option A of the shorts proved most popular. Images of the most popular designs are below. Now the survey results are finalised it is up to the P&C committee to have the final decision on the new uniform. We appreciate the feedback provided throughout the survey and will take this into consideration before the final uniform design is agreed upon. Thank you again for taking the time to complete the survey and have your say in the design process, we will continue to keep you informed as the process nears completion.

Kind regards,
Sharon Case - P&C Secretary

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**Date Claimers**

- Year 11/12 Block Exams
  16th - 20th June
- Year 9 Camp
  25th - 27th June
- Term 2 Finishes
  27th June
- Naidoc Week
  14th – 18th July
- Creative Gen.
  15th -19th July
Welcome to the June edition of ‘From the Sports Desk’. Our Inter-House Cross Country has been completed and the 1st round of the Open Age Cricket Competition has happened. As we go to print the Inter-House Athletics Carnival is being held; the next stage of the Open Cricket competition is being organised and a Junior Cricket competition is also being developed. Early next term is the TCN Athletics Carnival, and once again, we have had more students make Peninsula sporting teams.

**Cross Country:** Firstly, a massive thank you to the Watsons for allowing Mossman High the use of the roads around Brie-Brie to run our Cross Country. It was a great course, with the non-hilly but bumpy, glaring white roads testing out our students.

The students were a little concerned this year that they would not be getting wet on the course (like they usually do at Drumsara), however, with the kind assistance from Andrew Petrack and his ever reliable fire crew, the students were well and truly soaked with the fire hose as they came back into the school grounds. A big thank you must go to Mr Cox for organising this.

We had a record number of teachers running the Cross Country this year, setting a wonderful example for the students, and providing another challenge to the Cross Country. Thank You Mr Buckley, Mr Wall, Mr Reinhold, Mrs Butland, Miss Uhlik, Miss Wichman and Ms Oliver.

Well done to this year’s Cross Country Age Champions!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
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<tr>
<td>U/13 Che Innes-Collins</td>
<td>Kaleesha Savage</td>
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<tr>
<td>U/14 Daniel Plumbe</td>
<td>Krystal Schulz</td>
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<td>U/15 Alan Hart</td>
<td>Samaria Denman</td>
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<td>U/16 Michael Schulz</td>
<td>Eleisha Mealing</td>
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<td>Open Hayden D’Addona</td>
<td>Shaynee Filmer</td>
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**TCN Cross Country:** This year we took a team of 37 students down to the Aeroglen touch fields for the TCN Cross Country Carnival. It was a wet and sticky day, with patches of torrential rain, but fun was had by all. The students were all well behaved and some great performances were seen.

Three of our students stood out, making the TCN team to compete at the Peninsula trials later that same week. Congratulations to Hayden D’Addona (2nd), Shaynee Filmer (5th) and Josh Plumbe (4th) for making the TCN team.

**Peninsula Cross Country:** Travelling to TAS at Whiterock, Hayden, Shaynee and Josh were keen to impress in very trying and wet conditions. Needing to finish in the top five to make the Peninsula team, these students knew what they had to do and performed accordingly. Two of our students were successful, with one missing out by one place. Congratulations to Hayden (4th) and Shaynee (4th) for making the Peninsula Cross Country team, and also to Josh for finishing 6th, being the first shadow for the Peninsula team. Great effort all, you’ve done yourself and Mossman proud.

**Athletics:** As mentioned, our Athletics Carnival is being held as we go to press.

We are running the carnival as a standards carnival, meaning that students get points for the standard they achieve, not the place they finish. This means that more students are in with a chance of becoming age champion. A full wrap up of the carnival will be given next newsletter.

**TCN Athletics:** The TCN carnival will be held Week 1, Term 3. This means that all paperwork, payments and uniforms must be sorted before we go on mid-year vacation. Paperwork and invoices will be issued soon after the completion of our carnival.

Students don’t automatically qualify for the Mossman SHS team just by finishing in the top three for their event. They must meet certain standards, based on results from previous TCN carnivals, to qualify for the Mossman SHS team. This standards based selection lets students know that they will be competitive at the next level. Hopefully this will improve our overall success at the next level, both at a team and personal selection level.

**Sport Representatives:** A number of students will be representing Peninsula in the next few weeks for their chosen sports. Good luck to each and everyone one of at your respective state titles.
Mossman State High School is one of the many schools around the state which participates in the Indigenous Leaders of Tomorrow program. It is a program that allows young indigenous leaders throughout the state, to come together and learn many skills such as; leadership, team work and the day to day hardship that we must face, when having to leave school, and get out in the real world. Getting into the program wasn’t easy! The students of Mossman State High School had to work hard, show commitment, and prove that they had leadership quality. When the day came to who would be selected, only a very few of the Mossman State High Indigenous students got the opportunity to attend the Indigenous Leadership Program which commenced on the 21st of May. The program ran for three days, allowing the young indigenous students to participate in many different types of leadership activities giving them the chance to build friendships, widen their knowledge and prepare them for the big world.

Activities included inspiring guest speakers, a trip to JCU Cairns, high ropes, talks with community elders and a formal dinner. The camp was a successful pathway that opened windows and changed minds. It really gave hope to the youth that there is more than just the gates of their school grounds, or that there is more than just their community airstrip and that you don’t have to limit yourself to one thing. Why settle for the sky when there are footsteps on the moon? “Reach for the stars”, because there is more than what lies between you and your dreams.

Written by
Uki Burchill, Year 12
Indigenous Leader of Tomorrow participant

Open Age Cricket: Our Mossman State High School 1st XI Cricket team travelled to Trinity Bay SHS to play two T20 games; one against St Augustine’s, and the other against T’ Bay.

Playing St Augustine’s in the first game of the year, after Saints had already had a game under their belt, was always going to be a tough task. Our boys started exceptionally well, restricting Saints to just 86 runs from their first 14 overs. However, the Saint’s opening batsmen had been in long enough and now decided it was time to get going. He single-handedly put on 100 runs in the last 6 overs, and in the process, passed his 100 and 150. This was also against our top line attack, including Peninsula and Australian bowlers. They were powerless to stop his attack, taking Saints to 186 off their 20 overs. It was great to watch but also very painful.

Our batsmen definitely knew they were capable of making this score; they just needed to show patience and display a bit of smart batting. They were able to do this fairly comfortably for the first part of the game, being continually ahead of the required run rate. However, a steady loss of wickets saw this slow-up and the pressure build. Reaching 4 – 126, we were still in with a chance, but the next 6 wickets fell for 9 runs, to be all out for 135.

The next game against Trinity Bay saw the tables turn. This game allowed our new year 8 recruits get some game time, and they didn’t disappoint. Trinity Bay were restricted to 95 off their 20 over allocation. Ethan McCullough and Hayden D’Addona opened the batting, and looked extremely comfortable. Ethan was the only wicket lost for the game, after we had already passed their score, and he had amassed an 80 + total. Hayden also chimed in hitting his first ever six.

Coming away with 1 win and 1 loss is not bad, but they’ll have to do better next time in order to progress through to the next stage of the competition.

Thanks!
Ben Vikionkorpi
Sports Coordinator

The members of the Concert band participated in our May Music Camp from the 9-11 May. The first day was held in the school music room where we worked intensely on the works that we will present at the Mossman Show in July and the Music Tour of the Primary schools in August.

On Saturday morning, 8am, the students arrived at Jenny’s Whyanbeel property with their tents and swags fresh to start another 2 days.

We worked hard all morning and after a delicious smoko and lunch, we headed up into the rainforest for a walk and swim.

That night we had a barbeque tea with awesome apple crumble prepared and donated by Maggie Nash. THANKS MAGGIE! After a quiet night of songs and marshmallows around the fire, we all had a great nights sleep and awoke ready for a frantic morning rehearsal to prepare for our parents concert at 1:30.

Many thanks to Anita Harrold for sacrificing her time and kitchen skills and to Bruce White for a great barbeque, not to mention breakfast pancakes.

The U18 futsal team spent an exhausting day in Cairns on May 20th, and were unlucky not to proceed to the next stage. The team showed excellent organisational and teamwork skills and were a pleasure to watch!

Relay for Life team, ‘Four Leaf Cure’ raised $640 from a Walk-a-thon held recently. They walked from Mossman State High School to Shannonvale Crossing, had a sausage sizzle and a drink and then walked back to the High School. A swim was also planned although unfortunately on the day no-one was brave enough to get in the water! On behalf of Ellie Butters, Damian Goodwin, Kelsie Nesbitt and Stephanie Byrne along with all the other members of the ‘Four Leaf Cure’ Relay for Life team, we would like to say thank you to everyone who donated or participated in this event. The team will be participating in the upcoming Relay For Life event in Cairns on Saturday 14th—Sunday 15th June 2014.
From the 14th to the 16th May, the year 12 Biology classes along with Ms Weber, Mr. Andersen and Julie Norman, ventured over the river to Cape Tribulation. Day 1 was spent at Jindalba Boardwalk in the rainforest and Marrdja Boardwalk in the mangroves. Cape Tribulation campground was home for the next 3 days, along with the resident friendly native rats which found Emily and Ebony’s tent, despite Ms Weber’s warnings not to leave food anywhere but the camp kitchen. Other students, including Steph, also made firsthand observations on the dietary preferences of the local wildlife when she discovered them munching on her Old Gold Dark Chocolate. A late afternoon downpour left many students with flooded tents, especially Aidan and William, who put the fly under the tent instead of over the top. Several students crowded themselves and all their gear into the safari huts onsite as alternative accommodation. Soldiering on, we conducted transect studies and data collections along the Myall Beach walkway before returning to camp for dinner. Two minute noodles were common food, no matter what time of the day. Evening showers prevented the group from spotlighting for animals after dinner, but Damian and Casey initiated a pool tournament in the camp kitchen that kept everyone entertained until bedtime.

Day 2 saw us heading out on the Ocean Safari boat for an adrenaline-filled ride to Mackay Reef and sand cay. We spent a few hours snorkelling, seeing a wide range of turtles, fish, stingrays and coral species. The Ocean Safari crew gave us a detailed talk about issues threatening the reef, such as Crown of Thorns Starfish, dredging, and nutrient and sediment runoff. It became clearer to us how the different ecosystems of rainforest, mangrove, and reef are interdependent and just how lucky we are to live in this part of the world. By 2pm we were all starving and had the best wraps of our lives back on land at the Ocean Safari Café. The afternoon consisted of some well needed rest before another transect study and data collection along the Myall Beach rock pools, revealing how various species adapted to the different intertidal zones. Hot wood-fired pizza from the campground restaurant was enjoyed by all for dinner and was topped off by roasting marshmallows over a campfire near the beach under a full moon.

The morning of day 3 was spent packing up wet tents and bedding before a macro invertebrate study in the camp kitchen classroom. We then headed to the Daintree Discovery Centre where we measured light penetrations through the different layers of the canopy. Soil sampling and further collection of macro invertebrates were conducted in the pristine freshwater creek. After a much needed sausage sizzle, we departed back to school, enjoying Mr Andersen’s sensational taste in music along the way.

Overall, despite the wet weather, Hayley’s “Chinese water torture”, Clair getting locked in the toilet, and Juliet witnessing half a gecko coming out of the tap, a great experience was had by all. Many thanks to our teachers who put in countless hours of effort organising to ensure the camp was fun and successful.

Written by the 12A and 12B Biology classes