FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents /Caregivers and Students

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2015. Quality communication between the school and home is an important process in building and sustaining confidence throughout our immediate and wider school community and therefore we will continue to produce three newsletters per term.

Yeronga SHS started 2015 as a “High Equity – High Quality” Independent Public School. As such, we will need to establish a School Council which will comprise parents, staff, students and seconded community members. At the last P & C meeting, I foreshadowed the following process and composition that will lead to the establishment of the inaugural School Council.

• Advertisement in school newsletter, school website and school Facebook site
• Process endorsed at Annual General Meeting of the P & C (next meeting – 9 March 2015)
• Request for nominations for two parent representatives
• School Council composition - the P&C President and the Principal are two mandated official members, plus two elected parents, two elected staff, two elected students plus appointed seconded members as required
• Election of two parent representatives at the third P & C meeting of the year (20 April 2015)
• School Council meets four times per year
• School Council members serve a two year term.

If you are interested in being part of the School Council, I encourage you to contact either me or the P & C President, Mrs Jennifer Wrigley, to discuss any issues that you may have.

Congratulations Gabriel

It is with great pride that I share with the Yeronga community the wonderful news that Gabriel Ukuno was honoured with the national “New Australian of the Year” award recently. See Jess Walker’s article on page 4 for more details.

Enrolments

Our Day 8 school enrolment was 669 students. This figure is 55 more than last year’s Day 8 figure. However, as in previous years, our enrolments will continue to grow to approximately 700 throughout the year. Our steady but increasing enrolments have enabled the school to receive additional human and financial resources and provide for more flexible curriculum offerings. The addition of the Year 7 cohort into the school has been eagerly anticipated and well planned and with the new Year 7 and 8 students, all new cohorts have settled in very well.

Congratulations to the Seniors of 2014

• 100% of students who were OP eligible received an OP 1 - 15.
• 107/108 students who completed QTAC applications have received offers to a variety of tertiary institutions. Other students have been successful in gaining entry to various TAFE courses and apprenticeships and a significant number of students have gained full-time employment. It is also very pleasing to note that approximately 70% of students received their first QTAC preference.
• 100% of Year 12 students graduated with their Queensland Certificate of Education (significantly better than the state average of approximately 82%).
• More than 40 students had guaranteed University entry as a result of their successful accelerated studies program.
• 18 students completed a Diploma in conjunction with their Year 12 studies.

Our results in 2014 in the top OP bands were the best they have been in the last 15 years and significantly better than the state average. (Our OP 1 - 5 was TRIPLE that of the state average.) More importantly, the majority of our 2014 graduates are in their preferred course of study or training area, or they have started work. This exit achievement reflects our school’s commitment to academic standards and appropriate and tailored pathways through excellent teaching and learning and a commitment to our school Vision “Quality Pathways to Success”.

Literacy and Numeracy Improvement Funding

Our school has again received substantial funding as part of the “Great Results Guarantee” program enabling us to develop and consolidate evidence based strategies and actions to further improve literacy and numeracy. It will also strengthen and obtain consistency in our pedagogical practices across the school.

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<th>Address</th>
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<th>Email</th>
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<tr>
<td>159 Villa Street YERONGA 4104</td>
<td>3249 1400</td>
<td><a href="mailto:office@yerongashs.eq.edu.au">office@yerongashs.eq.edu.au</a></td>
<td>Mon, Tues, Thur, Friday 7.45 - 8.45am</td>
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<td>PO Box 3203 YERONGA 4104</td>
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Recently, all Year 7 – 9 students were tested in PAT M (Maths) and PAT R (Reading) tests. These tests are nationally recognised by ACER (Australian Council for Educational Research) and provide a point in time evaluation of how students are travelling in the areas of “Numeracy and Literacy”. Later in the year students will be tested again to gauge the level of improvement made. Our intervention and support strategies last year saw students significantly improve in both areas.

It was also pleasing to note that a significant number of students were found to be reading at a Year 11 or 12 level and these students are targeted for our “Exceptional Learners’ Program.” Many students are reading well above their age thanks to some great work being done in our local feeder primary schools as well as encouragement and support from home. There is a saying that “Leaders are Readers and Readers are Leaders” - I ask that you assist your child to be a leader by ensuring that he/she regularly reads at home.

The Year Ahead
As Yeronga SHS forges ahead as a quality learning organisation, our dedicated and enthusiastic staff are eagerly looking forward to another successful year of providing a high quality education for your children. I wish to assure the school community that my focus will continue to be on “academic achievement”, as well as on providing the appropriate supportive learning environment that suits the needs of all students, whether they be academically or vocationally oriented.

A motto that students hear regularly will be that we are about “the business of learning” and that this is the “main game”. As usual, we will continue to focus on learning by an unrelenting focus on the SPs - Being Punctual, Being Prepared, Being Positive, Being Productive and Being Proud.

I look forward to your continued support in 2015 and encourage you to contact me, or other members of the school’s executive team - Bob Logan, Di Goodison or Jessica Walker, at any stage throughout the year if you have any queries or concerns. There are so many exciting things happening in the school and I encourage you to join us in the 2015 learning journey and be part of the Yeronga State High School family.

Terry Heath
Principal

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Teaching and Learning at Yeronga SHS in 2015

This year marks the culmination of two years of development around a common approach to teaching and learning in our school. Early in 2013 we decided that it was important for all of our teachers to have a shared method of instruction so that students could easily move from one class to the next and experience the same learning routines and expectations. The common approach would make learning easier. Following this decision we looked at a number of different teaching models to decide which best suited our school. The model we chose is called ‘Explicit Teaching’ and up to this point we have been gradually increasing the understanding of staff about this approach. This understanding has been supplemented by teachers participating in a 20 hour course called Teaching ESL Students in Mainstream Classes facilitated by our Head of Special Education Services Ms Jessica Walker who is a qualified trainer. The course uses the explicit teaching method and make teachers aware of the specific needs of learners from different language and cultural backgrounds and what activities and techniques are best used to address these. To date approximately one half of our teachers have completed this course.

For 2015 we are undertaking an expanded coaching scheme to skill our educators in Explicit Teaching. This means that all teachers will have the opportunity to practise strategies, be observed by colleagues and get advice on how they might modify their teaching practice. Also Ms Lexie Buswell, appointed this year in the Master Teacher role, will be overseeing the implementation of coaching and our explicit teaching agenda. Lexi has a wealth of experience and is supported by a very keen group of teachers and HODs.

As well as the Master Teacher role, we have created two Head of Curriculum (HOC) positions in literacy and numeracy. Our leaders, Ms Tiffany Ostwald and Mrs Paulina Armstrong, have the roles of supporting teachers to enhance literacy and numeracy in classrooms as well as implementing programs to assist students who have needs in these areas. The programs for the students are strengthened through the employment of an additional six teacher aides who work one on one with learners.

Our commitment to the Explicit Teaching, Coaching, Master Teacher and HOC Literacy and Numeracy initiatives is a long term one which is backed by school and specific Federal and State government funds for the next three years. The reasons we have taken two years to get to this stage and are committing resources for the next three years are two-fold. First is our strong belief that the QUALITY of teaching and learning is the one factor within our control which has the greatest influence on student outcomes and the second is that in order for us to achieve this quality we need to make sure the changes we are making are SUSTAINABLE, not rushed and implemented thoughtfully.

We are looking forward to the fruit of our endeavours about which I shall keep you informed in future newsletters.

Bob Logan
Deputy Principal - Senior Secondary
Welcome Year 7s, 8s and 9s

A warm welcome to all our new families and students, especially our Year 7s and 8s who are beginning to settle into the routines of high school – timetables, elective classes, student planners etc. When I addressed the students at their first Year Level assembly, I spoke about how starting a new school can be a time of high anxiety and stress. But embarking on a new journey also presents us with opportunities to try new things, make new friends and to some degree, start afresh. If for any reason your child is still anxious about school, or encountering problems with settling in, please head straight to my door so we can address the issues. I’m here to make your child’s time in the Junior Secondary school a safe and rewarding experience.

Year 7s 2015  First Day of High School

An individual Student Assessment Planner should have arrived in your mail box this week which shows the spread and type of assessment scheduled for your child during semester one. Pin it up somewhere visible for quick reference during the semester.

Student timetables are being finalised this week as literacy and numeracy testing for Years 7, 8 & 9 has been completed.

Laptops or Tablets have been issued to all students who have made arrangements for payment of school fees and returned their device at the end of last year. Please note that we have placed a HIGH filter on Junior Secondary students’ devices so they cannot access Facebook or Youtube.

Problems with your laptop or tablet?
Bring your device to the Resource Centre before school 8.00 to 8.45am or during first and second breaks.

Di Goodison
Deputy Principal - Junior Secondary
Welcome all new students and families to Yeronga State High School!
We have many new students in the EALD Unit. Many are entering into Year 7 and 8 but some have enrolled into Years 9, 10, 11 and 12. The countries they have come from include Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Philippines, Burma, Sri Lanka, India, China, Taiwan, Somalia, South Sudan and Eritrea. We are beginning this year with a population of students who were born in 49 different countries – we are very proud of our diversity and we look forward to celebrating it in our biennial Multicultural Day Festival which will take place in Term 3, Friday 14 August – more information about this amazing day will be forthcoming. For now, note it in your calendar as a ‘must attend’ event.

Congratulations New Australian of the Year 2015 – Gabriel Ukuno
Earlier this year we received some wonderful news that our entire school community can celebrate – our Communities Liaison Officer, Gabriel Ukuno, was awarded with the title New Australian of the Year for 2015. This award is determined by the Australia Day Council and as you will read below, Gabriel is a most deserving candidate. We nominated him because of the incredible work he does with young people and families in our school but as we started to write his nomination and gather more information, we discovered that his influence stretches far and wide. I hope you enjoy reading some excerpts from his nomination below.

Gabriel Ukuno is an inspirational man who epitomises the very essence of Australian culture – he acts to do whatever he can to ensure all people are given a “fair go” to become the best they can be and contribute positively to the rich fabric of Australian society. He seeks to unite all Australian people by removing racism and prejudice through creating a dialogue of understanding and respect. Gabriel models his ideals and principles in all contexts. He is unfaillingly polite and respectful of others – all he meets are put at ease by his natural and unassuming nature, yet his presence demands respect as he will always speak up with knowledge and passion when presented with ignorance or inequity.

Some of Gabriel’s many achievements:
1999 – formed a support group in liaison with Red Cross to provide assistance to new Sudanese refugee arrivals
2000 – elected Executive Chairperson of Sudanese Fellowship
2002 – was a leader in establishing St Bakhita pastoral care – remained the head of the Brisbane Sudanese Catholic Community until 2013
A founding member of Queensland African Communities Council
2004-2008 – took an active role in assisting the Queensland Police Service in reaching out to and engaging Sudanese youth
2007-present day – employed by Education Queensland as a Communities Liaison Officer to support newly arrived students and their families engage in State School Education
May 2011 – took a lead role in forming the South Sudanese independence taskforce.

Sunshine Coast’s Graduate Women’s Lexis English School Program
Over the holidays, Matina and Gldiya (Year 12) were selected to attend the exclusive Sunshine Coast’s Graduate Women’s Lexis English School Program. They had a wonderful time and gained much from the experience, as you can see from their report on page 18. Later this year, four female EALD Year 11 students will also be chosen to take part in this program.

Jessica Walker
Head of Special Education Services
3249 1433
jwalk382@eq.edu.au
My role as Year 8 Co-ordinator is to be a common communication channel between parents and carers, students and teachers. Whist I have spoken with the students about my role and have explained that I am available to talk to about any concerns they have at any time, I would like to encourage parents and carers to contact me with any issues they have with their children’s well-being or education.

In their first month, Year 8 students have encountered diagnostic tests, sport selections, the inter-house swimming carnival, immunisations, photos and The Inter-year Project (TIP). In TIP, Care Classes work with Year 11/12 peer mentors developing friendships, communication skills and having fun. These sessions run for 30 minutes once a fortnight for the first term. I enjoyed a tour of the Year 8 elective classes last week and saw some excellent work (see photos). Next week, Year 8 are in for an Historical treat as they participate in the Medieval History Incursion – look out for “King” Heath touring the school observing his subjects.

I look forward to working with Year 8 students, parents and carers throughout the year. Once again if you have any concerns, no matter how minor they may seem, please contact me using the details below.

Matt Petersen
A/Head of Department - Junior Secondary
Year 8 Co-ordinator
mpete21@eq.edu.au
Ph: 3249 1454

It is my pleasure to welcome the very first Year 7 students to Yeronga SHS. 2015 has brought the scampering and scurrying of Year 7s but nonetheless their scampering and scurrying around the school has them kicking all the right goals, as they each begin ‘Paving their Pathway to Success’. This tremendous group of young people have started the year off with a bang and embraced all the new challenges thrown at them. They have settled in, forged new friendships, mastered the new timetable and are at a lovely high school... so they say.

Recently our Year 7s went on a History excursion to the Antiques Museum at the University of Queensland and we may just have some future archaeologists on our hands. This week will see them dabbling in the field of Forensic Science. I wonder if we will have any budding scientists among us. All the best for 2015 Year 7 and make this one a year to remember.

Tiffany Ostwald
Year 7 Co-ordinator
tostw1@eq.edu.au
Welcome to the senior school, Year 10s. This is a very important year for the cohort as it lays the foundation for their studies in Years 11 and 12 and into the future. Students have settled into their classes and daily routines. The majority of students remember to bring their computer tablets and daily planners to school every day. I would like to congratulate the students and their parents on how wonderful the students appear in their formal uniforms with senior Kes.

Our Year 10 leaders have been elected and will be busy throughout the year in this role. Students elected academic, cultural, and sporting leaders who will assist with school activities such as academic competitions, student council, debating, dances, drama and music nights, sporting events, social network, Y-tours, Anzac day ceremony, Open Day, Multicultural Day, Senior Subject Selection night and weekly year level assemblies. I look forward to working with the leaders throughout the year.

Congratulations to:
Academic leaders – Hohepa and Emmanuel
Cultural leaders - Hannah and Maya
Sporting leaders – Chloe and Abu

As I write this article I am preparing to take the Year 10s to QUT Explore Uni day on Wednesday, 18 February at the Gardens Point campus. This is an annual sojourn for Year 10s and includes a range of talks, hands-on activities and role model interaction to dispel some of the myths about university and TAFE. I can’t wait to write about our day for the next newsletter!

I have also had a number of students coming to see me about school based traineeships/apprenticeships and part time jobs. Currently in forum classes students are working on creating their resumes, writing a cover letter and interview skills. I hope to see many of the students gaining part-time employment in 2015.
FROM THE YEAR LEVEL CO-ORDINATORS

**Year 11**

With the holidays now a distant memory, the Year 11 students have well and truly begun their two year journey towards the end of their high school lives. Our cohort this year is at a record high, with 181 students at last count. It is hard to imagine that in two years’ time, our Year 11s will be graduating from school.

Year 11 brings about an increase in expectations for the students. For some students, the increase in workload may come as a surprise. It is important for students to stay on top of their studies, ask their teachers for help and get their assessment work started early. Students can also access the Study Mates Volunteers for assistance with their school work every Monday afternoon in the library.

This year many of our students are attending TAFE or doing traineeships and apprenticeships one day a week. It is very important that these students stay up to date with their school work while they complete their studies off campus.

I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with such a diverse and talented group of students.

Sam Dilly  
Year 11 Co-ordinator  
sdill47@eq.edu.au

**Year 12**

The magic of the Senior year has officially filled the air at Yeronga High School. The Year 8 students who started high school after the 2011 Brisbane flood have grown up to be sophisticated young adults who understand the importance of their education and the responsibility they have to show as the leaders of our school. The class teachers and I feel privileged to work with this outstanding group of students as we all love to work with young adults who have a clear focus.

At the Induction Ceremony on assembly recently, Cr Nicole Johnston and P & C President Jennifer Wrigley presented our school leaders and the senior class with their badges. After the school pledge, the Year 11 and 12 The Inter-year Program (TIP) leaders received their badges. The TIP leaders are a group of students who work with the Guidance Officer, Mr Milford, and Head of Department of Junior Secondary, Mr Petersen, to facilitate the TIP program that helps the Year 7 and Year 8 students settle into high school.

The “Meet and Greet” afternoon held last week was supported by the senior leaders who cooked the BBQ and served the parents, teachers and Year 7 and 8 students. The TIP leaders interacted with the junior students by playing games while the parents were in the library meeting the teachers. Thank you to all the senior leaders and TIP leaders who helped to create a welcoming and buzzing atmosphere.

The senior jackets have arrived and are now available for collection at the student counter. The jacket is a senior student privilege and honour bestowed on them and it is also a way of recognising the senior students for their leadership.

Brad Barratt  
Year 12 Co-ordinator  
bbarr37@eq.edu.au
Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) Summary

- 111 students from the 2014 senior cohort submitted a tertiary application through QTAC. This includes two International or Visa students who receive offers directly from the universities and therefore are not included in the data below.
- 102 students received an offer of a tertiary place in one of the offer rounds.
- Six students applied for courses which commence in Semester 2 2015 and therefore will not receive their offer from QTAC until 4 June 2015.
- Only one student did not receive an offer to a tertiary place through QTAC.
- Of the students who received an offer, 70% were offered their first course preference and 86% received an offer to either their first or second preference.

Overall, an outstanding result for our students who now have the opportunity to pursue their career goals.

The Interyear Project (TIP) Update

The TIP Program for 2015 commenced on Monday, 2 February when TIP leaders from Years 11 and 12 met with their groups from Years 7 and 8. TIP leaders are to be congratulated for both their commitment to the program and the courage to facilitate a group activity. Students in Years 7 and 8 will meet with their TIP leaders on five occasions throughout Term 1. Below are photos of the TIP Leaders working with some of the groups on the first day of school.

Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT)

The UMAT is developed and used specifically to assist with the selection of students into medicine and health science degree programs at undergraduate level. Within Queensland, only two tertiary institutions include the UMAT in their selection criteria. Bond University requires a UMAT result for entry into Medicine, while the University of Queensland uses the UMAT for both provisional entry into Medicine and entry into Dental Science.

Year 12 students who intend to apply for any of the programs listed above must register for UMAT by Friday, 5 June 2015. Further information is available at [http://umat.acer.edu.au](http://umat.acer.edu.au)

FROM THE SCHOOL BASED YOUTH HEALTH NURSE

My name is Anabela and I would like to introduce myself to parents, carers and the community. I am the School Based Youth Health Nurse (SBYHN) at Yeronga SHS. I am employed through Children’s Health Qld (Qld Health Department). SBYHN’s are health professionals who provide primary health care, thus maintain a preventative rather than treatment focus. SBYHN’s work in partnership with Education Qld, to promote health and well-being of secondary school aged young people. SBYHN services are confidential and voluntary.
Welcome to the new school year at YSHS. There is always a sense of anticipation for students, parents and teachers with the start of school, especially this year with the Year 7s joining us.

To all the new families at Yeronga SHS I would like to welcome you on behalf of the P and C. To the returning families welcome back to what will be another great year.

The P and C at Yeronga SHS is a small but strong group of parents who work in partnership with the school. Keep a watch out in each newsletter for what the P and C is up to. We have already met for our first meeting for 2015 and we were very pleased to have some new parents join us as well as the 2015 student school leaders. It was our pleasure to have these very enthusiastic and articulate young people join us and we look forward to hearing from you again.

It was my great privilege to be a part of the Senior Leaders Induction recently and to shake many many hands!! I wish all of our Year 12 students the very best in this important year.

On behalf of the P and C I offer our most sincere congratulations to Gabriel on being awarded the National New Australian of the Year Award. What an amazing achievement for a very humble and deserving man and how wonderful to have Gabriel as part of our school community.

Please think about joining us for our next meeting on Monday, 9 March at 6.30pm in the Professional Lounge. We will start with the Annual General Meeting but please don’t let that put you off! No one will have their arm twisted to take on a job. The usual monthly meeting will follow at about 7.00pm. I look forward to seeing many new faces. In the meantime, if you would like to contact me, please feel free - 0432434495  jennifer@inhand.com.au

Jennifer Wrigley
P & C President

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FROM THE P & C ASSOCIATION

FROM THE P & C ASSOCIATION

FROM THE P & C ASSOCIATION

FROM THE YOUTH SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR/STUDENT WELFARE WORKER

A very warm welcome to 2015 to all Yeronga students and staff.

Hi, my name is Tracey Beck Gude. I am the Youth Support Coordinator and Student Welfare Worker at Yeronga State High School. I work in F Block Monday through to Thursday from 8.00am - 4.00pm in the office next to the Guidance Officer.

My role is to identify and provide appropriate assistance to students experiencing barriers or difficulties at school, or at home which may put them at risk of leaving school prematurely. Students are assisted to resolve social and personal issues, and to develop skills to support and strengthen their educational engagement. Links with the broader community are developed so students and their families have greater access to support and assistance.

Referrals are through the school staff or feel free to drop in if you need some support. Looking forward to a great 2015!

Tracey Beck Gude
Youth Support Co-ordinator/Student Welfare Worker

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FROM THE YOUTH SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR/STUDENT WELFARE WORKER

The SBYHN primarily works in joint consultation with young people on issues that may affect their health and well-being, secondly, with staff and the whole school community, implementing the family partnership model of care. This includes individual consultations (assessment, support, health information, and referral options) and group consultations. The SBYHN contributes to the whole school approach to health promotion / education and provide health information and resources. The SBYHN also contributes to the development of an environment and school culture, that supports health and well-being. The Youth Health Nurse works and liaises with Qld Health Children’s Services, other government and non-government services, GP’s, the community, and other services.

Anabela Perpetuo
School Based Youth Health Nurse
It was wonderful to meet many of our new parents and carers last Tuesday evening at our Welcome Evening. I shared a message of encouraging and developing a “Growth Mindset” which according to Dr Carol Zweck is the idea that we all have the ability to improve through hard work and dedication – brains and talent are just a starting point. You can read more on Mindset at www.mindsetonline.com/. Productive partnerships between students, parents/carers and teachers are vital to the overall success of our students over the course of their secondary schooling. If you were unable to attend this meeting or did not get the chance to ask any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by calling or emailing – details below.

I would also like to encourage parents and carers to regularly check student diaries and assist them with their organisational skills as they make their transition to high school and increase their independence. In addition to an organisational tool, our diary is filled with school policies, study, health and well-being tips as well as some general reference material. It is an excellent resource that should be used daily.

Year 7 & 8 Camp
I am delighted to report that almost three-quarters of Year 7 & 8 students are getting set to pack their bags for camp in week 6. I am looking forward to getting to know the students outside of the classroom and having a great time at Lake Moogerah. Please ensure that your students have all the necessary equipment including old clothes for the “mud run” and crockery and cutlery. Please contact me if you have any questions about camp.

Matt Petersen
A/Head of Department - Junior Secondary
Year 8 Co-ordinator
mpete21@eq.edu.au
Ph: 3249 1454

SENIOR SCHOOLING NEWS

The start of the year is such an exciting time down in the Senior Schooling department.

School based traineeships/apprenticeships (SATs)
Many of our students are continuing school based traineeships/apprenticeships (SATs) that they started in 2014, while others are completing ones started last year.

There has also been a number of new SATs advertised with senior students keen to apply for the opportunity to gain a national vocational qualification whilst at school. Most students who undertake a SAT go to work one day per week (and get paid!) and attend school on the remaining four days and study their school program. On the work day students receive on the job training and then have to complete a number of competency booklets to reflect their learning. SATs come in many disciplines from Cert III Business Administration to Cert II in Animal Studies, to Cert II Automotive. The key is for students to apply for SATs in areas of interest.

TAFE
Numerous Year 11 and 12 students are undertaking TAFE studies this year – mostly at Southbank TAFE. Successful completion of a TAFE in schools course gives guaranteed direct entry into any of TAFE’s diploma courses when they graduate – giving them a great qualification and a university pathway.

UNI
Seven of our Year 12s have successfully gained entry into the Start QUT program where they will study a university subject this semester. Good luck to all.
Senior Support teachers
All students who undertake any additional programs have access to a senior support teacher. Miss Hamoon, Ms McDonald, and Mrs Eckert-Hurworth are available to assist students. If students or parents have concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Year 12 students
I am currently reviewing the results of all Year 12 students. It is pleasing to see that most of the students are on track to gain their QCEs at the end of the year. I will contact individual students who need to alter their subjects in order to gain a successful outcome.

Welcome to the new school year
It is great being back again this year in the fantastic Yeronga school community. I hope that the new year brings renewed hope and a fresh start. Please let me know if I can be of any help to your family. I am here to provide pastoral care, social and emotional support, mentoring, and spiritual support.

Coping with Detractors
Leisel Jones is regarded as one of the greatest breaststrokers ever and she has had a very successful career winning 9 Olympic medals. She is the only Australian swimmer to compete at 4 different Olympic games. Leisel recently spoke about the media attention and the critical public that she had to deal with throughout her career as a professional swimmer. Despite her great success, she suffered from depression and poor self-esteem after being thrust into the spotlight at such a young age. When she was at the 2012 Olympic Games in London, Leisel had to face hurtful comments with Australian journalists reporting that she was fat. Instead of thinking about her upcoming race, she just wanted to crawl under a rock and hide.

The lyrics of Taylor Swift’s single “Shake it off” released in 2014 are about how she copes with the negative attention that she attracts. In an interview for Rolling Stone magazine, she states that "I've had every part of my life dissected—my choices, my actions, my words, my body, my style, my music. When you live your life under that kind of scrutiny, you can either let it break you, or you can get really good at dodging punches. And when one lands, you know how to deal with it. And I guess the way that I deal with it is to shake it off." Swift is a great role model because she has found a way of coping with what she calls her “detractors”. She says, "I've learned a pretty tough lesson that people can say whatever they want about us at any time, and we cannot control that. The only thing we can control is our reaction to that."

While our teenagers don’t usually have to cope with the opinions of such a large public audience, they are still dealing with their own detractors, along with an increasing academic workload, relationships, peer pressure and expectations from school and at home. Some can push through those demands quite successfully but others struggle and have difficulty developing and using coping skills. So how can we help our teenagers to cope better and build their self-esteem? ReachOut.com (an online youth mental health service) has a “mega list of coping strategies” that you can check out. Kidshelp.com.au suggest these behaviours:

♦ Learn to see opportunity in all things
♦ Accept change as part of living
♦ Keep things in perspective
♦ Be realistic
♦ Maintain a healthy lifestyle through physical activity, eating well and doing stuff they enjoy
♦ Nurture a positive self view
♦ Maintain supportive relationships and spend time with others
♦ Learn communication skills
♦ Create strategies to self soothe
♦ Take action and work towards goals when needed
♦ Talk to someone and get help if/when needed
♦ Develop an attitude of tolerance, acceptance and flexibility.

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

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It is great being back again this year in the fantastic Yeronga school community. I hope that the new year brings renewed hope and a fresh start. Please let me know if I can be of any help to your family. I am here to provide pastoral care, social and emotional support, mentoring, and spiritual support.

Coping with Detractors
Leisel Jones is regarded as one of the greatest breaststrokers ever and she has had a very successful career winning 9 Olympic medals. She is the only Australian swimmer to compete at 4 different Olympic games. Leisel recently spoke about the media attention and the critical public that she had to deal with throughout her career as a professional swimmer. Despite her great success, she suffered from depression and poor self-esteem after being thrust into the spotlight at such a young age. When she was at the 2012 Olympic Games in London, Leisel had to face hurtful comments with Australian journalists reporting that she was fat. Instead of thinking about her upcoming race, she just wanted to crawl under a rock and hide.

The lyrics of Taylor Swift’s single “Shake it off” released in 2014 are about how she copes with the negative attention that she attracts. In an interview for Rolling Stone magazine, she states that "I've had every part of my life dissected—my choices, my actions, my words, my body, my style, my music. When you live your life under that kind of scrutiny, you can either let it break you, or you can get really good at dodging punches. And when one lands, you know how to deal with it. And I guess the way that I deal with it is to shake it off." Swift is a great role model because she has found a way of coping with what she calls her “detractors”. She says, "I've learned a pretty tough lesson that people can say whatever they want about us at any time, and we cannot control that. The only thing we can control is our reaction to that."

While our teenagers don’t usually have to cope with the opinions of such a large public audience, they are still dealing with their own detractors, along with an increasing academic workload, relationships, peer pressure and expectations from school and at home. Some can push through those demands quite successfully but others struggle and have difficulty developing and using coping skills. So how can we help our teenagers to cope better and build their self-esteem? ReachOut.com (an online youth mental health service) has a “mega list of coping strategies” that you can check out. Kidshelp.com.au suggest these behaviours:

♦ Learn to see opportunity in all things
♦ Accept change as part of living
♦ Keep things in perspective
♦ Be realistic
♦ Maintain a healthy lifestyle through physical activity, eating well and doing stuff they enjoy
♦ Nurture a positive self view
♦ Maintain supportive relationships and spend time with others
♦ Learn communication skills
♦ Create strategies to self soothe
♦ Take action and work towards goals when needed
♦ Talk to someone and get help if/when needed
♦ Develop an attitude of tolerance, acceptance and flexibility.

Blessings
Jennifer Bennett
jenniferb@chappy.org.au
NEW STAFF!

Paulina Armstrong - Head of Curriculum Numeracy
I am a specialist teacher at Yeronga SHS to assist teachers and students in developing numeracy, initially focusing on junior secondary (Years 7-9). I have a great passion for encouraging students to take responsibility for their own learning by setting attainable goals which build on their individual strengths. By explicitly teaching and modelling the next step in learning, students can experience greater success. I am of Dutch heritage and trained in Chinese medicine, so have a strong affinity with Chinese and Japanese cultures. I am also a nature lover and enjoy long bushwalks in the beautiful Australian bushland with my husband.

Drago Stubican - Numeracy Teacher Aide
I am a Numeracy Teacher Aide at Yeronga State High School and will be working with students in improving their numeracy skills. I come from Croatia, arriving in Australia in 1992. I enjoy playing chess and playing sports, including basketball and skiing.

Sharlu Chand - Numeracy Teacher Aide
I am a Numeracy Teacher Aide at Yeronga SHS. I am here to help students to improve their numeracy skills. I come from Fiji - I arrived in Australia in 1995. I enjoy playing netball and like to go fishing with my family.

Dan Ward - Teacher
Hello one and all. My name is Mr Ward and, as some of you have already guessed, I come from the UK. For those with an interest in geography, I come from a city called Lincoln in England. I moved to Australia just over a year ago and am now teaching Science, Maths and HPE at the best school in the universe!! I enjoy most sports, in particular football (soccer) and badminton and have a keen interest in two wheeled transport with an engine. The weather over here is FAR more suitable to motorbike riding than the UK and I often go for a ride in the mountains of the hinterland.

Jacqi Bottger - Teacher
I am returning to the school after 3½ years leave and will be teaching Year 10, 11 and 12 students in English and Social and Community Studies, sharing these classes with Mr Large. I have taught EAL/D at Yeronga SHS since 2007 and have also spent time teaching at Milpera SHS and Sunnybank SHS. I am looking forward to getting to know my students and doing some great work together this year!

Lexie Buswell - Master Teacher
I grew up in Gladstone and have just moved from Cairns in North Queensland. In high school I played for the Australian volleyball and QLD Softball teams. My teaching subjects are History and HPE. My interests include playing and coaching volleyball, hockey and softball as well as travelling overseas.

Sebastian Huston - Teacher
Hello Yeronga community! I am a graduate teacher from QUT in Kelvin Grove. Having spent the last 5 weeks here, I realise how extremely lucky I’ve been. Not only in securing my first job as a teacher, but that it was at Yeronga! I am overwhelmed with the amount of panache and personality thriving in this place, and being an English and Drama teacher, I’m grateful that I get to see so much of it. Yeronga is an exceptional school. The support and positive spirit the students have created here models for the world what a community such as ours can offer. I’ve never been anywhere like this.

Ellie Lundin - Teacher
I feel very privileged to be part of Yeronga SHS and work alongside the exceptional teachers and staff at this school. I teach English and History to Year 7 and 8 EALD students as well as Accelerate Language Program to Year 8 students. Previously, I worked at Sunnybank SHS and also at Milpera SHS where I got acquainted with many students who are now continuing their education here, at Yeronga. I am very happy and proud to see how much they have achieved. I am passionate about the subjects I teach so I will always find time to engage in a conversation about English language and literature or to have a chat about History. I am also very fond of Visual and Graphic Arts, reading and photography. I hope you dream BIG and aim HIGH this year. I wish you every success with your studies now and in future.
SENIOR LEADERS - 2015

School Captains
Eden and Leone

Vice School Captains
Aliya and Denise

Student Council President
Merry
Student Council Secretary
Hussein

Sports Captains
Melinda and Amber

Cultural Captains
Christian and Feven

SPORTS HOUSE CAPTAINS

[Images of sports house captains]
2015 is shaping up to be a great year at YSHS for numeracy.

Numeracy is a life skill. Being numerate goes beyond simply ‘doing sums’; it means having the confidence and competence to use numbers and think mathematically in everyday life.

I have been given the great privilege of working at YSHS as the Head of Curriculum Numeracy. In this role I will be supporting the teachers and students in developing numeracy in all aspects of schooling. I would also like to welcome Sharlu and Drago, our new Numeracy Teacher Aides, who will be supporting teachers and delivering intervention programs to students.

Together we are working hard to enhance numeracy in the school a number of ways, by:

• building a school wide problem solving method which provides students with multiple strategies to approach a question
• diagnostic testing students to fully understand the specific needs of each of our students and using this information to further target our teaching and provide opportunities to extend students who excel,
• delivering a number of different intervention programs to fill gaps in student knowledge, to increase atomicity of number skills and extend students to further succeed (such as the Upper Two Band program in image below)
• building expertise in teaching numeracy within the staff to ensure that students receive continuous support in every subject.

I am looking forward to working with the whole school community to ensure our students have numeracy skills for life. Keep your eye out for tips and hints in the next newsletter on how you can develop numeracy at home.

Paulina Armstrong
Head of Curriculum - Numeracy

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**LITERACY AT YSHS**

**What’s new in the Literacy world?**

Here at Yeronga we are striving to make a difference so that our students become literate and independent learners. This year will see us continue to focus on reading through the ‘Reading for Success’ program and there will be more information about ‘Reading for Success’ in our next newsletter. We are also dedicating some in class time to hone in on developing reading comprehension skills. On top of this we will have additional literacy support to our Year 7s and 8s to ensure a smooth transition to high school. This term we would like to encourage reading at home and below are some tips to help parents encourage their children to read or talk about reading:

• make reading accessible and visible
• share and talk about books on a daily basis
• make time for reading.

What if you have a reluctant reader who refuses to read? Why not try an audio book version or make a scavenger hunt game using the book. Remember parents to always *Pause Prompt and Praise* when reading with your child. I would also like to recommend a fantastic young adult novel series - The Phoenix Files by Chris Morphew.

Tiffany Ostwald
Head of Curriculum - Literacy
Lions Youth of the Year Quest

On 11 February, our two Vice Captains, Aliya and Denise, participated in the Ekibin Lions Club Youth of the Year Quest Final. Entrants in the quest are required to attend a private interview with the panel of judges, during which they are judged on their leadership, sporting and/or cultural activities, citizenship and community involvement, academic record, general knowledge and personality.

On the finals evening, students deliver to the audience a prepared speech of five minutes duration and two short impromptu speeches. They are given no time to prepare for their impromptu responses, which is an enormously challenging task. The questions asked of Aliya and Denise were: “Death as punishment: is it appropriate?” and “Do the advantages of modern communication, such as texting, Facebook and Twitter, outweigh the disadvantages?” The students did a fantastic job, responding to these questions with maturity, intelligence and humour. Their prepared speeches were inspirational.

Congratulations to both Aliya and Denise. While neither won on the night, they both performed extremely well and represented their school brilliantly. Well done. I am proud to be their teacher and coach.

Debating

This year we have entered three teams into the Queensland Debating Union competition:

Year 9 (coach – Ms Heineger) - James, Skye, Sebastian and Ruby (Year 8)
Year 10 (coach - Mrs Maguire) - Harry, Hohepa, Placide, Emmanuel, Nyssa, Sophie and Daniel
Year 12 (coach – Ms Whiting) - Freweini, Melinda, Dylan and Deanna

The first debate will involve the Year 9 team on 4 March. Good luck to all debating teams in the coming rounds over the next three months.

Angela Maguire
Acting Head of Department - English/LOTE

THE CONOCO-PHILLIPS SCIENCE EXPERIENCE

20 - 23 JANUARY 2015

Five Yeronga students (Harry and Hartley from Year 9 and Khadijeh, Elmira and Majid from Year 10) were fortunate enough to be able to attend a fantastic science experience which took place at the three major Brisbane Universities. We were able to find out what type of projects real scientists are actually involved in.

Day 1 was spent at Griffith’s Nathan campus. Discussions took place on Chemistry and Microbiology and we were very interested in some of the topics being studied by the undergraduate students.

Day 2 found us at the Garden Point campus of QUT. This was the most modern of the campuses. We found out information about engineering and technology, including the different branches available to students.

Day 3 was spent at the University of Queensland (UQ) at St Lucia with a Biological context of the study of cells involving extracting DNA. A party was held that night involving all the students and staff which was a lot of fun.

Day 4 was again held at UQ and this time we had a competition about running a company - we had to make a product that hadn’t been invented yet. It was an amazing experience and students came up with some awesome ideas. We shared our product concepts at the end of the game.

This was a fantastic four days of science and social activities. We would like to thank the school and Conoco-Phillips for the opportunity to attend.

Majid and Elmira
Year 10 students
This term Year 8 have got off to a great start in their Textile work. We have been investigating cotton and wool production in Australia and experimenting with different weaving and knitting techniques. The students are developing proficiencies in hand and machine sewing, preparing for their design project.

Our key learnings are:
- hygiene and safety when sewing
- design process
- sewing machine proficiency
- adding colour and texture through embellishment.

Karen Bate
Home Economics Teacher

FROM THE HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

Textile Technology

This year, the council is focusing on using sports to increase the inclusiveness of the school. They will also be looking at ways to support the student body through its focus on welfare and fundraising events. The first event that the councillors will be organising will be the Dodgeball competition. We would like to welcome the Year 7 and 8s into the Yeronga family by encouraging them to get to know others in their year level better. This is just one of the many activities that the Council has in mind.

You are encouraged to approach your student representatives or the SRC teachers if you have any ideas and we will definitely discuss them during our meetings.

Di Goodison and Daljit Kaur

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

The Student Representative Council (SRC) is proud to formally welcome new representatives into the family after receiving their badges. They will be joining us for our fortnightly meeting on Thursday. As a student representative body, the councillors will be a voice for their Care Classes at all times. They will be working closely together to establish partnerships with school management, staff and parents for the benefit of the school and its students.

You are encouraged to approach your student representatives or the SRC teachers if you have any ideas and we will definitely discuss them during our meetings.

Di Goodison and Daljit Kaur

Senior External Results

The following students were delighted to receive their well deserved language results in December:

- Maria - Modern Greek VHA
- Armen – Punjabi VHA
- Youssef – Arabic HA

The Senior External Examination is an opportunity for native speakers of prescribed languages to receive an OP result towards their QCE. A pass in a foreign language also contributes an extra point towards entry into some Universities.

Year 12 students who are interested in becoming candidates for the 2015 November Senior External Language Examination are invited to consult Mrs Stewart in E Block staffroom.

Liz Stewart
Distance Education and Senior External Supervisor

LOTE NEWS

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Liz Stewart
Distance Education and Senior External Supervisor
Welcome back to Term 1, 2015. We trust that you all enjoyed a well deserved break with family and friends and have returned to school full of enthusiasm and ready to embark on serious study and International Student Program adventures at Yeronga High.

Welcome to our three new students for 2015. They are Stephen, Glen and Leon from China. We currently have 15 International fee paying students. Thank you for welcoming them into your classes for the new year. We are privileged to have an ISP Centre where students can come in and study quietly, meet up with their friends and heat up their lunches. The students can also receive support from Mr Huang and discuss any problems with Ms Pudlyk to do with their homestay families and living away from home problems.

Our Department has already welcomed two professional groups from the Korean Gyeongsangnam Educational Training Institute. The groups attended classroom observation of teaching/learning activities and classroom management and enjoyed interaction with teachers and students. All departed with positive comments and happy smiles.

We look forward to the continued expansion of the ISP Program at Yeronga High.

Students at Yeronga are celebrating Chinese New Year

2015 - the Year of the Goat

Those born under the sign of the goat are said to be artistic, calm, reserved, happy and kind.

The Chinese Program at Yeronga SHS was only established in 2014 and the program is very popular with students. We now teach Chinese to students in Years 7, 8 and 9 as well as a combination Year11/12 class studying Chinese.

On 16 February 2015, we welcomed a unique Lion Dancing Group to come to our school to celebrate Chinese New Year. Our students are doing different activities in the Chinese classes to celebrate the New Year.

Keep an eye on this newsletter. More news about our exciting Chinese classes are coming this year including our anticipated China Trip in 2016.

We wish you all a great Chinese New Year for 2015.

Song Huang
Chinese Teacher
On 11 January we started our two week program with the Graduate Women. We were picked up from my house at around 11.30am by Divinia, one of the Graduate Women, and we drove straight towards the Sunshine Coast. After two hours we stopped at the Sunshine Plaza for a late lunch. We then drove to the home of our first homestay family - Marilyn and Brian. They live in a very beautiful house with the most beautiful view of Buderim and we were very pleased with their welcome. The house was filled with magnificent paintings by their daughter Gretchen, who had a very bubbly personality. After we were escorted to our rooms and settled down we were taught how to play snooker. It was the first time for both of us and it was a really fun game.

12 January was our first day at the Lexis College. We had to sit an exam to determine which level of class we belonged to. After the exam we had a small interview with the Head of Department and we were placed in the second highest class, which was the upper intermediate. The College had some after-school activities and one of them was a treasure hunt which was set up for Monday. We took part in it and we won a cheesecake from the Cheesecake Shop as we were the winners of the day. After the big day we were invited to the home of one of the ladies for some afternoon tea and met more ladies who were part of the Graduate Women. As we were considered “special guests” we were looked after very well.

On the second day of our stay we went to another house for afternoon tea, but before that our host took us to look at a view of the Mooloolaba Beach and it was beautiful. After the beach tour we went to her house and she taught us a game of Mah-jong. We later had a tour of her garden and I can tell you that it was one of the most beautiful gardens I have ever seen. It was very colourful.

The rest of the first week of our stay was always busy, as every afternoon someone would pick us up from College and take us out. We went shopping, went to markets, visited the beach, went out for ice cream and went to the cinemas, just to name a few.

On our last day of the first week of our stay, we had to pack our bags and say goodbye to our first host family. It was sad saying goodbye.

We were collected by Kayla, our second homestay host. When we arrived at Kayla’s house, again my jaw dropped from how beautifully furnished the house was - it was also full of beautiful paintings. When we settled in we decided to have a swim in the pool because it was a hot day. Our first night at Kayla’s house was awesome. We had lasagne for dinner and we were taught how to play Rummikub. We stayed up late using her wi-fi and catching up on Facebook. In the morning we got ready for the second week of College. In the morning Kayla always made us egg in a hole and we loved it. The second week was similar to the first because we always had places to go and things to do.

On the second last day of our stay, Kayla bought little cards for us to write a thank you letter to our teacher and the HOD of the College. Friday 23 January was our last day of College and we were excited to finally come home to see our families, but we were also sad about leaving our friends.

On our last night we had a big dinner with guests. After dinner we played our last game of Rummikub and later we went to our room to pack our bags because our long trip back to Brisbane began early Saturday morning. Kayla drove us back to Brisbane and we slept the whole way back.

All we can say is a very big thanks to Ms Walker and the Sunshine Coast Graduate Women for giving us the opportunity of a life time. It will forever be in our memories. We wish to one day go back again for a visit.

Written by: Glodiya and Matina
Recently, the annual Yeronga State High School swimming carnival was held at Yeronga Swimming Complex. It was a sea of blue, red and green as everyone dressed up in their house colours - a great turn out from the whole school. Seeing everyone, especially the new Year 7s and 8s, participating in both races and novelty events was a joy to watch as well as be a part of. Although this year was the last of my swimming carnivals, I will always have the memories that I made each year from my own very first carnival to going out with a bang in my last.

Age Champion Girls 12 years    Ella
Age Champion Girls 13 years    Lione
Age Champion Girls 15 years    Chloe
Age Champion Girls 16 years    Kathryn
Age Champion Girls Open Age    Hayley
Age Champion Boys 12 years    Zac
Age Champion Boys 13 years    Coen
Age Champion Boys 14 years    Dylan
Age Champion Boys 15 years    Jarrah
Age Champion Boys 16 years    Daniel
Age Champion Boys Open Age    Josh

Final results:

Kaduma          641
Avoca            557
Shottage        424

Congratulations Kadumba!

Amber
Sports Captain

Staff theme: Hawaiian!
Another year is well under way and students are busy with a range of activities. For those who would like extra support with their academic studies, Study Mates is a homework club run by a willing group of volunteers who are available to help students with this work. Without these dedicated volunteers we would not be able to offer this assistance so we sincerely thank them for their generosity.

Study Mates is held in the Library on Monday afternoons from 2.45 to 4.30pm.

If you are interested in helping our keen students, we would love to meet you. Please phone Ros on 0421 076 303 for a chat.

Ken Myers  
Study Mates co-ordinator

***************

C G E N

Creative Generation - State Schools on Stage is on again this year and will celebrate its 11th year as Queensland’s largest youth performing arts event at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (BCEC). There will be four performances on Friday 17 and Saturday 18 July.

45 Yeronga State High School students have nominated to be part of the 2015 show and we wish them all the best with their auditions in the coming weeks as they compete for places against some of Queensland’s best Performing Arts students.

Key dates for CGEN students:

**Featured and backing vocalists**  
Monday 16 February – invitations issued for the first call-back audition.

**Choir**  
Wednesday 18 February – invitations issued for the core and massed choir.

**Dance**  
Monday 16 February – invitations issued for massed casting day (metro only).

**Stand-alone variety**  
Monday 16 February – invitations issued for the first call-back audition.

**Film crew**  
Monday 23 February – invitations issued.

**Drumline**  
Monday 23 March – invitations issued.

**Symphony orchestra and MOST**  
Monday 23 March – invitations issued.

**Teacher and student stage crew**  
Monday 27 April – invitations issued.

Tickets go on sale in the next couple of weeks. For more information visit [http://education.qld.gov.au/community/events/creativegeneration/about-cgen.html](http://education.qld.gov.au/community/events/creativegeneration/about-cgen.html) or contact Gordon Collis - email: gcoll26@eq.edu.au, phone: 3249 1430.

Gordon Collis  
Head of Department - The Arts
**Uniform Shop News**

Our Uniform Shop on the top floor of D block is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 7.45 am – 8.45 am. It has been newly refurbished and stocked with all your uniform requirements.

**WINTER STOCK available:**
- Jumpers $40.00, Track pants $35.00, Scarfs $10.00, Black Opaque tights $15.00.
- Lots of pre-loved uniforms selling for $10.00 each
- Maths calculators $25.00, school USBs $10.00, dictionaries $5.00

Maria Pudlyk  
Uniform Shop Convenor  
3249 1463

**EXTRA - CURRICULA ACTIVITIES**

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<td><strong>After school</strong></td>
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<td>Cricket Club</td>
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*Soccer club sometimes limited to specific teams training for special games - students to listen to school notices for more details - Cancelled if raining

Robotics Club starting in Term 2
Yeronga State High School is seeking a part-time computer assistant who will join our ICT team that is responsible for:

- Providing technical advice and support to students to resolve problems associated with school computing facilities
- Maintaining the school’s 1:1 laptop program for teachers and students - servicing equipment, assisting with software configuration and providing, organising and undertaking preventative maintenance and routine repairs of all computers and associated equipment throughout the school. Installing new equipment and software including network based facilities
- Delivering a client-focused user assistance service through efficient and effective use of information technology facilities

Closing Date: Monday 2 March 2015
Application: Email a brief resume outlining relevant work history, skills and abilities to dgood108@eq.edu.au

Additional Information
The Child Protection Reform Amendment Act 2014 requires the preferred applicant to be subject to a working with children check as part of the employment screening process. The department is legally obliged to warn applicants that it is an offence for a disqualified person to sign a Blue Card application form. Further details regarding the Blue Card system is available at: www.bluecard.qld.gov.au/

Confirmation of employment is conditional upon the preferred applicant being issued with a Blue Card from the Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA).