2015 at WWHS has been extremely successful with lots of interesting extra-curricular activities, sporting events and further opportunities for our students. Our school continues to lead the way as an educational institution that caters for the needs of all students in our community. It has been extremely exciting to be part of a school that is implementing quality teacher training to enhance the learning of all students. We are constantly seeking methods and strategies to cater for different student learning styles and we have been modifying our teaching and learning spaces to accommodate best teaching practice. The effectiveness of our training and the increasing expertise of our teachers are already having a positive impact on student learning.

The forefront of our teaching has been personalising student learning and supporting the “wellbeing” of our children. This has resulted in stronger relationships between our teachers and students with very few incidents of negative interactions. Our school continues to be recognised at a district and regional level for the positive behaviour and learning of our students. Our school milestones for 2016 will be incorporating further strategies for strengthening literacy, providing quality feedback and more explicit teaching.

Unfortunately, we will not have the brilliant leadership of our Principal Ms McGrath, as her family have relocated to Wagga Wagga and she will begin her role as Principal of Kooringal High School in 2016. Ms McGrath has led the way in the state for incorporating best teaching practice and leadership. Her skills are recognised across many schools in NSW and principals are utilising the systems that she has incorporated at WWHS. Ms McGrath has been a fantastic leader at WWHS and she has been actively involved in many roles in our community. Ms McGrath continues to be a leader of educational change and she is a vocal advocate of public education and will be a massive loss for our school and to the West Wyalong area. She fortunately leaves a legacy of quality teacher professional learning and a positive, inclusive school environment achieving very good results.

Mr Lloyd has also been successful in obtaining the Head Teacher Mathematics position at Mount Austin High School. He will be a huge loss to our school, particularly due to his expertise in Mathematics and his ability to get the best out of his staff and students. He is an excellent leader and is an integral part of our executive team. Mr LLoyd has led our school leadership team and he always develops a terrific rapport with his students. He has regularly filled the position of relieving Deputy Principal and we will certainly miss his skills and collegiality. Mr Manchur has successfully gained the position of Mathematics Head Teacher, beginning in 2016 and I am sure he will continue the excellent work in the Mathematics faculty.

Due to staffing limitations, we also have to say a fond farewell to our middle school teachers Mrs Cooper, Mrs Sutcliffe and Mrs Collins. Mrs Cooper and Mrs Sutcliffe have been an important part of the middle school program since its inception twenty plus years ago. This program has been acknowledged as a program of best practice and these teachers have played a significant role in the success of this transition program. We thank our middle school teachers for all of their hard work and dedication. The middle school program will continue to grow in 2016 with more focus on integrating Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Although we are part of significant staffing changes, we are well equipped for the future.

Finally, a huge thankyou to all of the staff and students at WWHS for a great 2015 and I look forward to the challenges in 2016. Best Wishes and Merry Christmas!!

Mr Sheens, Relieving Principal

2015 PRESENTATION DAY
This Friday December 11, at 12.30pm, the West Wyalong High School presentation day will be held in the MPU. Those students receiving awards have been notified. Parents and friends are most welcome to attend.

YEAR 9 COLOUR DAY
Tomorrow, Year 9 students are organising a colour fundraiser for Juvenile Diabetes Research with a gold coin donation.
Students in each year are to wear a colour.
Year 7- Yellow; Year 8- Pink; Year 9- Blue; Year 10- Red; Year 11- Green.
RYPEN PROGRAM

We attended RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment) at Borambola Sport and Recreational Centre over the weekend of November 20-22nd, 2015. Over the course of the weekend we listened to a range of guest speakers who taught us about social skills, job interview techniques and how to get more involved in our community. We also participated in group bonding activities including canoeing, raft building and rock climbing.

We really enjoyed this great experience. We learnt many new skills, made new friends and had a lot of fun. Thank you to Rotary and West Wyalong High School for giving us this wonderful opportunity.

Report by Paige Amarant & Jessica Payne

YEAR 9 EXCURSION

Year 9 recently enjoyed an overnight excursion to Dubbo Zoo and Wellington Caves. During our two days away, we enjoyed a tour of the Cathedral Cave which was 150 steps below the ground. For many students it was their first time underground, and they loved the experience. Next, we visited The Royal Flying Doctors and enjoyed an informative tour and movie about their day to day operation. On behalf of Mrs Hetherington’s Year 9 Commerce class, Hollie Jewell presented a cheque for $520 which their class had raised to support the RFDS. Next stop was Dubbo Gaol and everyone was amazed by the stories of how harsh our custodial system was in the past. Following that, we checked into the zoo for a Zoosnooze experience. We enjoyed a late night guided tour through the Australian animal section, camped in safari tents at Billabong Camp and, the next day had an early morning walk through the Asian section. With the temperature heating up fast, we unanimously decided to cut our bike tour around the rest of the zoo considerably shorter. We concluded our excursion with an hour trampolining at Flipout. Whatever energy Year 9 had, was soon diminished and the teachers agreed the bus trip home was notably quieter than the day before. A big thank you must go to Mr Grintell, Ms Maslin and Mrs Hetherington for supervising the group and making it all possible.

HEALTH WORKSHOPS & SCOOD

On Wednesday the 25th November, students at West Wyalong High School participated in workshops about respectful relationships and staying healthy. The boys participated in the respectful relationships workshops which focused on raising awareness about violence against women. The girls participated in sessions about healthy eating, exercising, yoga, relaxation and mental health. In the afternoon the student leadership team ran SCOOD. The leadership teams demonstrated outstanding, collaborative skills in setting up their activities and food stalls. Activities included a scavenger hunt, donut eating, pillow fighting, water-balloon catching, a lolly guessing competition, dancing on the wii, a basketball competition and knocking over plastic cups with a stocking on your head. The leadership teams should be congratulated on providing these opportunities for the staff and students at West Wyalong High School. A great afternoon was had by all.
THINKUKNOW PARENT CYBER INFORMATION
Last week we hosted an informative video conference on Cyber security. The session was run by the Australian Federal Police and helped parents with hints, tips and advice on how to keep personal details safe from online fraud and corruption. Advice was given regarding children and their use of the internet. Parents with any concerns should go to http://www.thinkuknow.org.au or if it is a concern regarding using electronic devices at school they should call 69722700 during school hours and ask to speak to the appropriate year adviser.

CAREERS TRANSITION
Transition from School to Work can be both confusing and challenging for students. However, the Work Experience, Work-placement, School Based Apprenticeship & Traineeships (Sbats) and Vocational Education & Training (VET) Programs available through WWHS have proven very successful in helping students with their career decisions.

Our school has one of the highest participation rates of students involved in VET and TVET Courses in the Riverina region. The rate of students involved in Sbats is also one of the highest locally. We have students involved in industries such as Hospitality, Retail, Aged Care, Mechanics, Beauty, Engineering and Business Services.

Careers Adviser Mr Pokoney said “Our success in having students participate in these programs reflects the school's approach that we promote all career options here for students and that we are not university centric. Of course the HSC remains very much our focus but we also recognise about forty percent of students who leave school today across NSW aren’t interested in a university pathway.” he concluded.

This year has been particularly successful for the programs with six students leaving school to commence employment as a trainee or apprentice in their chosen field. A lot of the school's success depends on the very good partnership it has with the business sector. Students can access work experience all year round and this is often a key step in their decision making process.

LIONS YOUTH OF THE YEAR
Last Wednesday Darcy Broomby and Katie Ridley competed in the local Lions Youth of the Year Quest. The girls sat through a 40 minute interview with the judging panel where they were asked questions about the various volunteer programs that they are involved with at school, their career aspirations and their views on a variety of national and international topics.

That night, at the Bowling Club, the girls faced an audience where they had to attempt two impromptu questions and present a prepared speech. The impromptu questions were 1. World Leaders are meeting in Paris to discuss climate change. If you were there what would you say? and 2. Young people are leaving our country to fight for IS. What measures can Australia take to prevent this from happening? Both girls spoke well and provided good arguments for their opinions.

On the night Katie was awarded best public speaker, however Darcy Broomby won the overall quest. She will now go on to represent the District in February at Griffith. Our sincere thanks to all at the Lions Club for providing this wonderful opportunity for our students and congratulations to the two girls.

OUTSTANDING EFFORT
Last Tuesday many students were awarded for their outstanding work and effort during this semester. Several sporting awards and drama awards were also presented. Congratulations to everyone and thank you to parents and friends for their support on the day.

SCHOOL SPECTACULAR & MATILDA
On 26th and 27th of November 57 students and 3 teachers travelled to Sydney to see performances of Matilda and School Spectacular. We left early Thursday morning and headed to Sydney. After a long bus trip the students settled into the hotel and got ready to go to Darling Harbour for a dinner of their choice. We then went to see Matilda at the Lyric Theatre. The students thoroughly enjoyed the musical. Friday morning the students caught the train to Paddy’s Market. The students spent time and money at the markets before heading to the Sydney Entertainment Centre to see School Spectacular. School Spectacular was fantastic filled with great up and coming musicians performing various musical acts from different schools all around NSW. We arrived home late Friday night. The students seemed to enjoy both performances and the experience, and should be congratulated on their fantastic behaviour throughout the trip.

A special congratulations goes to Oliver Dawson who performed with Urban Dance Crew, and Jessica Butcher and Jordan Johnston who sang with the Combined Choir for School Spectacular. It was a great experience for these students to perform at this wonderful event.

BRETT WHITELEY STUDIO SCHOOL INCURSION

Year 11 Visual Art students participated in an engaging video conference incursion with the Brett Whiteley Studio as part of the DART program which forges state-wide connections with rural schools in NSW and Australia-wide. The virtual museum tour explored the exhibition Brett Whiteley: sculptures and ceramics, which showcased a broad range of the artists’ artworks. The students learnt valuable information about the artist and his artmaking, which will form a basis for one of their five artist case studies for their HSC in 2016. The students interacted with the presenter, Alec George, via text message submitting two excellent questions about Whiteley’s subject matter and artmaking practice. It was valuable to see the details of the artworks from a range of different perspectives and to experience the exhibition in a virtual manner - a truly 21st Century experience of art.

WEST WYALONG HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL STALL AND FLASH MOB

A big thank you to the West Wyalong High School students who volunteered their time to help out at our Christmas Carnival stall. On offer was face painting, Christmas themed tattoos and helium balloons. We are extremely proud of your wonderful behaviour and school spirit – you were great role models and representatives of our school. The proceeds from the stall will go to a school based cause. Also of note were the students who participated in the West Wyalong High School Flash Mob. The community were particularly impressed by your commitment and slick moves. Well done!

2016 SCHOOL RESUMES

Thursday 28th January for Years 8, 9 & 10
Friday 29th January for Years 7, 11 & 12.

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A SAFE & HAPPY NEW YEAR!