Successful Transition
great results
Ms Cheryl McMahon Executive Principal

It is with a great sense of satisfaction that I once again welcome you to the first Creeker magazine for the year, and that satisfaction mainly comes from the successful transition of our wonderful Year 7s into high school.

I am most grateful of the enormous efforts of Head of Junior Secondary, Andrea Evans, Deputy Principal Craig Hegarty and Deputy Principal Donna Lancaster in ensuring that this transition was a smooth one. Students have now found their feet; high school has become an everyday, normal experience for them. We continue to explore ways in which we can best cater for the needs of these young students so that we can do an even better job next year.

You will notice a change in format from past Creeker Magazines. This Creeker incorporates some brighter and more modern layouts, making it more readable with links to stories and photos on the school Facebook page. Please let us know what you think of this new look.

It was also gratifying to have many great results from our departing cohort of Year 12 students in 2014, with 7 students gaining the equivalent of an OP1, the highest possible score. This result compares very favourably with other schools and means that we have students with choices for prestigious university places.

Our building program continues apace with expansions to the Skills Centre deck, new storage facilities at the Student Centre and replacement tiles and concrete at the Aquatic Centre. The landscape master plan is nearly complete with plans for improved gardens, bus shelters, student outdoor classrooms and outdoor sporting courts for students. We continue to pursue these “big ticket” items so that students have first class facilities for learning.

We also have plans for a new floor in the Dance Studios and improved ventilation in all General Studies areas.

Teachers at this school have been on a journey of improving pedagogy for the past three years, following the program outlined in the Art and Science of Teaching. This is a regional initiative, though Mountain Creek is a leader in innovative practice in terms of ensuring that all teachers have a consistent set of processes in place in their classrooms.

Recently, the school began to develop a very clear set of practices around observational learning. We have been assisted by experts in this area to ensure that we demonstrate best practice and that this is a culture embraced by all staff.

As we move into the winter months, my hope is that you are finding the experience for your child at this school engaging, challenging and enjoyable.

on the cover
Year 7 students, Amber McAlmont, Lily Perry, Mccoy McMillan and Dylan Ann Hamn. Photography by Wayne Clark

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Irish Buckleys Gold

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Whodunit Super Sleuths
young science achievers
Mr Chris Buswell IB Science Teacher

In Term 1 2015, 27 students from Mountain Creek State School took part in the Young Achievers program – a 5-week workshop aimed at increasing the science-based enquiry skills of high achieving students.

As part of this year’s experience, which focused on Forensic Science, Young Achievers were joined by a group of inspirational students from the Year 11 International Baccalaureate (IB) course.

The Years 11’s played a key role in teaching and mentoring the young scientists during the program.

The enthusiastic students began by processing a mock crime scene, employing the use of iPads to carefully photograph and collect trace evidence.

They then deconstructed and processed the crime scene using various laboratory tools such as microscopes, Bunsen burners, chemical and physical tests to analyse the evidence.

In Week 10, the students presented a multimedia document of their evidence, attempting to solve the crime and help convict the perpetrator.

This year we have seen the intellect and curiosity of budding young scientists at play.

Young Achievers partnership with IB students was a great success and all students involved should be congratulated for their efforts.

Fraser Island Geographers
year 11 camp
Ms Kylie Taylor Senior Geography Teacher

On 22 October 2014, 49 Year 11 Geography students dragged themselves out of bed to catch a 5.30am bus to River Heads.

Shortly after arriving on the island, we were very fortunate to see a mother and her four young dingo pups – a first for everyone, even our drivers.

So began what many students now describe as the best camp they have ever been on. We were blessed with beautiful weather as we explored the amazing beauty of this World Heritage listed island.

Highlights included swimming in Lake Wabby after a hot slog across the Hammerstone sandblow, exploring the colourful Kira Sandblow, walking through the rainforest along the ‘invisible’ Creek, floating down Eli Creek, swimming in fresh water lakes, running up and down sand dunes, singing on the buses, the food, Mr Wong’s scary stories and our fun informative drivers, Kev and Gaz.

In addition to having a lot of fun, we also worked hard to collect data about the impact that tourists are having on some of the island’s popular destinations.

It was great being able to see first hand that things we were studying as it made much of our school subjects easier to understand.

The only thing that many students claim they would like to change is to make the camp longer, so they could enjoy more of this amazing island.

Happy Campers @ Lake Wabby
Mural Maestro

turning heads

Ms Jess Stansbie HOD Creative Industries

2014 Mountain Creek graduate Art student Dalton Williams’ mural in AR01 has certainly been turning heads.

What started as a school assessment piece in his Visual Art Studies class, has progressed into a frequent talking point, drawing excited interest from students, teachers and staff alike.

Coming back as a visitor in 2015 to complete the mural, Dalton was committed to seeing it through to the end.

The stunning artwork depicting a wolf is typical of Dalton’s style and indicates that he is only at the very beginning of a promising career in The Arts.
Star Concert Performers
SHEP @ the con
Ms Jess Stansbie HOD Creative Industries

Alyssa Pagomenos, Max Dawson and Matthew Duggan attended State Honours Ensemble Program (SHEP) at Griffith University, Queensland Conservatorium in the last week of the September holidays 2014.

These students attended the university's South Bank campus, for three days, starting each day at 7:30am, for over five hours of rehearsals and practice, and culminating in a magnificent concert performance on the fourth day.

Max on oboe and Matt on clarinet were invited to join one orchestra, and Alyssa on alto saxophone joined another orchestra.

Alyssa was elected Principal Saxophone, the leader of the saxophone section.

She was also asked to play soprano sax for one piece which she did very well, impressing the conductor and assistants with how quickly she could sight read an unfamiliar piece.

Alyssa was also allocated solos to perform on the night, a huge honour at this high level.

All three students represented the school exceptionally well.

MADD Festival Showcase
it’s a MADD world
Ms Jess Stansbie HOD Creative Industries

Every year, early in Term 4, Creative industries showcase the year's best student work across Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Art.

The 2014 MADD event however looked a little different from past events, taking on the format of a festival.

A big thank you to the Creative Industries team and all other staff and students who assisted in putting this huge event together.

Student creative work presented was both of high quality and highly engaging.

Rachel Breezes Her Way
... into NIDA
Ms Jess Stansbie HOD Creative Industries

2014 Mountain Creek graduate and Creative Industries Excellence Award winner Rachel Breeze was accepted into the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) this year to study Musical Theatre.

Rachel tells us a little more about her pathway into NIDA: “The Creative Industries culture at Mountain Creek was a major part of my high school experience, beginning in Year 8 when I was accepted into the Creative Industries Academy Drama program.

“Being involved in various performance-based events throughout my time shaped where I wanted to go after high school, so I was thrilled when I found out I had been accepted to study at my dream university this year.

“My classes at NIDA will train me in acting, singing and dancing, whilst also preparing us for the industry by inviting guest tutors and professionals who mentor us.

“After an intensive year here, I aspire to continue my studies in London. Studying at NIDA this year is fulfilling a long-term goal I have worked towards and is another step towards my dream of becoming a professional performer.”

Congratulations, Rachel, on your achievement. We look forward to hearing and seeing more of you in the future.

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Welcome Year 7
first day at high school
Mr Craig Hargrave Deputy Principal

Term 1 2015, Mountain Creek Staff welcomed our inaugural class of 300 Year 7 students to high school.

This was the largest group of inaugural Year 7 students enrolling at a high school on the Sunshine Coast, and a significant change to the school’s educational landscape.

Our staff have worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth transition for not only the 300 Year 7 students but also the 230 Year 8 students who also entered high school for the first time.

Preparations for the first Year 7’s have included construction of a specialist Year 7 Precinct, with electronic signage to promote student activities and display daily notices.

Recently we surveyed a group of Year 7 students. This is what they said about their transition to high school experience:

The first day at high school was a bit scary because it was super big and there were so many children. When I first bought something from the café I was surprised how good the food was. I enjoyed all of the subjects and hanging out with my friends.
Amber McClymont 7S

My experiences here have been very good so far. The café here is much better than primary school. Although I don’t have many people from my primary school class here, I have made many new friends.
Diyana Amir Hamzah 7M

Year 7 in high school isn’t exactly what I was expecting, but in a good way. One of my first impressions was the number of people. Never did I think that I would be in such a massive school with only my diary to guide me to class. But with a routine, it’s easy to find.
Lilly Penny 7A

On my first day of high school I was a bit nervous, but everyone was so welcoming and friendly. I made friends on my first day and got used to high school within a week. There was a lot of opportunities for sport and performing arts. Mountain Creek is a great school with really nice students and teachers.
Micah McNeice 7G

On the first day of school at Mountain Creek, I was a bit nervous but excited. There are many opportunities for extra-curricular activities.
Callen Chevren 7A

On my first day of high school, I was nervous but excited. It’s a really big school and I sometimes felt lost. The seniors are really helpful and showed us where our classrooms were.
Georgia Schulz 7G

My experience at high school is great. I have learned a lot already. The café is awesome and the homework is preparing us for Year 8. I think this school is great.
Chloe Lee 7M

The first time experiencing high school is pretty exciting. There’s more work. It’s a bigger school so there’s more new people to meet and also more hands-on stuff like Science.
Gibson Evans 7F
Congratulations & Farewell class of 2015
Ms Tisha Valentine HOD IB

They gathered: the Class of 2014, their parents, brothers and sisters, school friends and teachers to celebrate, remember and farewell fifteen students who took the IB pathway.

Guests were entertained by Mr Calvin Hunter and the Stage Band, then the audience heard the dreams, reflections, both the funny and the serious, from the Class of 2014.

The graduands shared advice for the next generation of IB students:
- Don't hope for sleep or free time more than you hope for success. There is always plenty of time to sleep and relax later but you only get one opportunity to do IB. Tom Barry
- You may not be 100% sure of your pathway, but be 100% committed to seeing it through. That way, you will feel a pride in what you have achieved and do some of those things you never really thought were possible. Finlay Gordon
- When you go to the library, make sure you do study instead of just complaining about having to study. Ashlee Caddell
- Stay true to yourself; don't be scared or feel guilty about taking a weekend off. However, when it is time to work, work hard and try not to make excuses. Hayley Mallinder
- The 'light at the end of the tunnel' is not the sun, nor an oncoming train; it is simply a down light, or a check point, if you will, to the next stage in life. Sam Weiss-Marsch

A number of students received special awards from the Australian Association of IB Schools in recognition of excellence and merit:
- Tom Barry Certificate for Excellence for score of '42'; Certificates of Merit in recognition of '7's (highest possible score) in Spanish AB, History, Environmental Systems and Societies, History HL, Physics HL and 'A' in Extended Essay.
- Pete Bettini Certificate of Merit for 'A' in Extended Essay in Psychology.
- Finlay Gordon Certificate of Merit for 'A' in Extended Essay in Chemistry.
- Hayley Mallinder Certificate of Merit for '7' in Spanish.
- Jack Rogers Certificate of Merit for 'A' in Extended Essay in Environmental Systems and Societies.
- Sam Weiss-Marsch Certificate of Merit for 'A' in Extended Essay in Psychology.

Outstanding IB Students gain p&c recognition
Ms Tisha Valentine HOD IB

Each year the Mountain Creek P&C recognise a number of outstanding IB students by supporting their pathway through the IB Programme with scholarships.

Year 10 students Liam Carvin and Connor Madden, and Year 11 student Hannah Lindsay were awarded academic scholarships in recognition of their academic achievements in 2014 and potential for success in the IB programme.

Lucie Barnett, Year 12, was recognised with the 'Spirit of the IB' Scholarship for outstanding academic results, balanced with genuine involvement in a range of in and out of school organisations and projects, and a sense of social justice beyond her years.

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Filmmaking Journey
creativity + collaboration
Sam Weiss-Marsch & Pietro Bettini IB Students 2014

As part of the IB Diploma Programme, some IB students choose to study an Arts subject; Visual Arts, Music, Film or Theatre in 2015.

Each of these subjects demand creative input and collaboration amongst classmates.

We were assisted by Kirsty Tschirpig, Lucie Barnett, Tristan Sluce and Riley Cope.

This experience has given us an opportunity to see other perspectives, use our strengths, work together, complement each other, and build new friendships.

Creativity Action Service core component
Ms Tisha Valentine HOD IB

They play AFL, netball, practice yoga, work out at the gym, swim laps in the pool, walk the dog and take part in fun runs.

They sing, play trumpets and trombones, dance, act or maybe they paint back-drops or hand out musical programmes.

They may join the History Club to promote, educate and commemorate, the Eco Club to initiate a recycling program or drive action by promoting Earth Hour.

They may debate, compete in theatre sports, represent a country at a model United Nations forum to debate an issue on the UN’s agenda.

They mentor budding Maths students, help in Science Engineering challenges, teach Young Achievers to solve crimes through forensic science or introduce Young Scholars to high school life.

They may also travel to exotic places such as Costa Rica, Laos, Vietnam, Borneo or China to help local students in classrooms, dig drainage holes or investigate sloth or panda rehabilitation programs.

They are IB students ‘doing’ CAS.

CAS is at the core of the IBDP experience, providing a refreshing counterbalance to an otherwise rigorous curriculum.

CAS is challenging, enjoyable and a personal journey of self-discovery that recognises each student’s starting point.

International IB Students sharing culture
Tara Buse & Rinn Thorogood 12IB Students 2014

Internationalism has been a fundamental part of our experience of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.

Throughout the past two and a half years of our IB endeavours we have been exposed to various multicultural experiences.

Learning a language, communicating with others and experiencing the traditions and values of other cultures has enabled us to embrace multiculturalism in our everyday lives.

Exposure to new cultures and customs has helped us develop a global perspective and appreciation of other people’s life experiences.
IB World Conference alumnus reflects
Ms Trisha Valentine HOD IB

A former Creeker has unexpectedly revisited her high school days while managing a recent international IB student conference.

Melanie Martin, who completed the IB Diploma Program as part of the first cohort in 2006, was Project Officer for the 2014 IB World Student Conference at The University of Queensland.

"I was thrilled to work on the conference program and logistics," she said.

"It was a wonderful experience to work alongside highly committed people and see our efforts come to fruition during the conference week; the students were a delight; they were completely engaged during the conference and excited to meet other people taking the IB Diploma Program ... many came away from the experience with friends for life.

"IB gives students a framework to develop time management, critical thinking and a global outlook.

"The academic rigour and broad cross-section of subjects allows students to unpack problems from multiple perspectives, while instilling a lifelong commitment to volunteerism and learning."

Since 2006, Melanie has taken part in a semester in Belgium, backpacked around Australia, worked for various law firms, and now in Global Engagement at The University of Queensland, where she is also completing a Masters in Communication for Social Change.

Global Citizens enriching diversity
Ms Trisha Valentine HOD IB

In 2015, Mountain Creek has attracted international students from Germany, New Caledonia, Taiwan, and Japan choosing to complete their entire IBDP in Australia.

Students from Mexico have joined classes for one semester as part of their IB Programme.

Further contributing to the diversity is the recent enrolment of students and their families from The Netherlands, Canada and UK.

This diversity leads students to develop a desire to study a language, such as Japanese, Spanish, Russian, Dutch, German, French and Italian, as part of IBDP.

Manon te Riele, a current Year 12 IB student has chosen to apply for Australian Citizenship and celebrated in a civic ceremony in March this year; she now holds dual citizenship for The Netherlands and Australia making her a true citizen of the world.

Congratulations Manon!
International Understanding

International Focus

Visiting Meiji Meidal High School students from Tokyo

Bodicchi, Daniele
Italy

Batista, Mendoza, Jorge
Mexico

Brunner, Niki
Germany

Bosch, Costa
Germany

Bruno, Tommaso
Italy

Costa De Silva, Nani
Brazil

Crozet, Thibaut
New Caledonia

De las Fuentes Esquivel, Emiliano
Mexico

De Simon, Caterina
Germany

De Zaslav, Carlotta
Italy

Dorotico, Villa, Carlos
Mexico

Dos Reis Neto, Pedro
Brazil

Dreier, Anna-Marie
Germany

Florez Aguirre, Viviana
Mexico

Fujimoto, Miku
Japan

Gjerdal, Signe
Norway

Gralepsos, Thomas
New Caledonia

Granum, Martin
Norway

Haeger, Julia
Germany

Hirata, Masa
Japan

Jonsson, Eydis
Norway

Kodach, Nicole
Germany

Kleemeyer, Ben
Germany

Kravczyk, Sandra
Germany

Lam, Eva
China

Lazar, Lily Maria
Germany

Leon, Arevelo, Angel
Mexico

Marchado, Ferna, Maria
Brazil

Macades, Infantre, Atzel
Mexico

Magalhaes, Lins, Junior, Ronaldo
Brazil

Magalhaes, Nunes, Guilherme
Brazil

Marques, Fortes, Alexandre
Brazil

Meza Martinez, Luis
Mexico

Mendes Matarazzo, Rubens, Maria Luisa
Brazil

Neef, Janine
Switzerland

Nakayama, Yuuni
Japan

Namatsu, Junga
Japan/India

Nila Leon, Leslie
Mexico

Nyland, Jda
Norway

Okumoto, Kizio
Japan

Onega Alfaro, David
Mexico

Onega Priaminta, Joso
Mexico

Pagani, Marquez, Federico
Mexico

Ramirez Noemen, Aljandra
Mexico

Rau, Kolja
Germany

Resch, Theresa
Germany

Rivera Luna, Diego
Mexico

Rundin, Carla
Germany

Samedra Ruiz, Jorge
Mexico

Sandovol Rodriguez, Jesus Danu
Mexico

Sasai, Yui
Japan

Scorina, Lorenzo
Italy

Schaller, Ferdinand
Germany

Schellhauer, Moritz
Germany

Soares Vazca, Pereira, Pamela
Brazil

Stelzer, Weiße
Germany

Tschepikoff, Nik
Germany

Uemura, Kaichi
Japan

Veigl, Jennifer
Germany

Vogeli, Tim
Switzerland

Watanabe, Massumi
Japan

Weigert, Hannah
Germany

Zapata, Elizabeth, Ximena
Mexico

Zinmecker, Jonathan
Germany
Hands Across the Water
welcome + farewell
Ms Kirsty Levy HOD International

This year we have seen an increase in our international program to 64 students.

We are joined by a cohort of IB and study abroad students returning from Tec De Monterrey school campuses in Mexico and we have been joined by students from Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Denmark and New Caledonia.

Students have been welcomed into their host families and into classes where they have already experienced trips to the Barrier Reef with Marine Science and a day trip to Fraser Island.

We welcomed Mr Wayne Clark into the program, taking up the ESL teacher role.

Wayne has been a valuable addition to the program and recently produced a fantastic farewell video for students sadly departing for their home countries at the end of Term 1.

During the Easter break, our students travelled on EQI trips to the Outback and to Sydney.

Both trips were an amazing experience as students learned about Australian culture and immersed themselves in the unique scenery and sights our beautiful country has to offer.

In Term 2, we have a trip to Australia Zoo organised for students to get up close and personal with native wildlife.

Australia Zoo will be followed with a visit by Kerry Neill from Goombakar who will present a traditional indigenous culture session to students.
Trivia Night Super Success

The third annual Trivia Night was a huge success again this year, with over 90 people in attendance.

With the theme of ‘superheroes’, staff, parents, members of the community and senior students filled the Student Centre to raise funds in the name of the Creative Industries.

The night was a fantastic success, raising in excess of $1200 for the school’s “Colour the Walls” project, with many prizes donated by local businesses and parents.

Congratulations to the winning team, The Kryptonites: Jacqui Andrews; Wayne Clark; Marilyn Hilton; Ken Law; Claire, Julie, Roy and Lee Bruynius.

Links With Salvos

On 18 February, School Captains Alex Barns, Lara Culley and Maddi Korac attended a Salvation Army Breakfast to hear about the extensive community programs the Salvos provide for what is often a set of community needs hidden from public view.

Salvation Army also runs the Sunshine Coast Independent Living Service (SCILS) program for students who may not necessarily fit the traditional schooling model.

Youth worker Des Dougherty sat with our leaders and described some of the important features of the SCILS program.

SCILS is a not-for-profit organisation and charity that has been supporting people with disabilities.

Clients may access services in their own home, on-site in purpose built facilities, or in the community.

The students impressed the Salvo team with their commitment and maturity, and pledged to continue to seek ways in which the school community can support such programs.
National Youth Week engaging young people
Ms Vicki Baxell Communications Officer SCRC

The 2015 National Youth Week (April 10-19) theme, "It starts with us", is a call to action for young people to get involved in their communities.

Taking up the challenge is Year 12 student Harrison Thompson, who says he wants to make a difference and a contribution to the region’s future.

“I have been fortunate to have participated in the UN Youth Queensland State Conference 2015 where I obtained a global perspective. The Sunshine Coast Youth summit taught me a local perspective,” he said.

“The state-wide Theatre Sports competition is an event with a major following on the Coast ... My goal is to promote this competition at a regional level to get young people from the Sunshine Coast involved in an enriching and fun experience.”

Harrison said he was also heavily involved in the Generation Innovation program which aims to help Sunshine Coast Youth aged 15-25 start up and fund their own businesses.

Harrison is in the process of applying for grants to fund projects such as Beautiful You Gerbera Day which promotes the importance of self-confidence and self-esteem for young women.

“I am also a Committee Member of the local Cancer Council and help organise Kawana Relay for Life, which has raised $5000 in the past few years.”

World’s Greatest Shave research support
Ms Elizabeth Mulligan Year 12 Fraser HOS

This iconic event is one of Australia’s biggest fundraisers.

Each March more than 150,000 people get sponsored to shave or colour their hair to support Australians with blood cancer and fund research.

Each day on average, 31 Australians will be given the devastating news that they have leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma or a related blood disorder.

That’s more than 12,000 people in 2015. Although survival rates are improving, blood cancers like these are the third biggest cause of cancer death in Australia.

The Leukaemia Foundation receives no ongoing government funding, so supporting this event makes their "Vision to Cure" and "Mission to Care" possible.

On 9 Monday March, the Mountain Creek school community was present to support Tamzyn Reddick, Ben Geurtsen, Ayisha Collins-Olfield, Michaela Bird, Mr Chris Buswell, Jose Ortega, Loren Gordon, Mr Jusin Prichett and Alex Le Sueur, be shaved, while they supported the Leukaemia Foundation.

Mr Wayne Clark photographed the event with, as Ms Elisa Brown from the Skills Centre and Mark from Mark’s MoCoLab, Hair Helps savers lose their locks, and raise over $4000 for this worthy cause.

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Mirabel Programs

Mirabel Programs supporting young people
Ms Kerry McClanaghan Youth Health Nurse

Mirabel programs support children who have been impacted when their parents have died or have ongoing drug related issues.

These children may be living in foster care, with grandparents or with extended family and often have very limited resources.

Mirabel aims to restore a sense of self-worth and hope for the future, in those they help.

Ms Robyn Flanagan’s Year 8 and 9 students have been making soft toys to donate to young children, to support their recovery.

Students loved the owls they made and would have loved to have kept them but were also more than happy to support Mirabel children.

Literacy Success

Literacy Success engaging with reading
Ms Lee Bruynius Literacy Co-ordinator

In 2015, Mountain Creek has undertaken a range of pro-active initiatives in an effort to better cater for the literacy needs of students.

This has included enlisting the help of literacy experts and guest authors, as well as continuing the Reading Success program, specifically aimed at helping target groups of students to achieve success and confidence in their reading abilities.

We again welcomed teen-author Tristan Bancks to share with students his insights into the story-writing process.

During Tristan’s creative writing workshops, students are able to experiment with story writing techniques and even had the opportunity to share and get feedback on their own ideas.

Students also joined a Creative Writing Safari with Tristan to experiment with real-world stimuli and iPads to create short stories.

The Mountain Creek Literacy Team has developed a range of engaging resources to help students in their weekly English and Literacy Success lessons.

By continuing these programs in the school, it is our goal that students will be able to track their own improvement, recognise the value of reading in their lives and ultimately experience opportunities that come from reading with confidence.

Building students’ confidence in reading is central to their enjoyment of reading, and helps to establish a positive reading culture.
Focus Adventure Days
challenging young people
Mr Lindsay Baker HOD Junior Secondary

In Term 1, Year 7, 8 and 9 Focus classes headed off for Focus Adventure Days.

Year 7 and 8 students visited Ewen Maddock Dam Camp to participate in a Commando Course and High Ropes Challenge Course with both days culminating with students 'carving it up' at the Bli Bli Cable Ski Park.

Year 9’s trialled a new activity, with students heading off to Tunnel Ridge Ranch for a horseriding lesson, 1-hour trail ride and afternoon visiting Bli Bli Cable Ski Park.

It is enjoyable to see Focus students working as a team to challenge themselves and participate in a range of individual and team activities.

ANZAC Day Premier’s Prize
trip of a lifetime
Ms Kate Fox HOD SSOE

In 2014, then Year 8 student Jessica Cherry entered and was later awarded an ANZAC Day Premier’s Prize.

This competition required students to create a multi-media presentation based on a question surrounding Australia's and New Zealand's involvement in war across the generations.

Jessica’s presentation took a unique angle focusing on women who helped create our nation through their service in times of war.

The prize is an all expenses paid two-week trip to Europe to visit major historical war sites and to celebrate the 100-year anniversary in Gallipoli at a special ceremony where she will be one of the key memorial wreath presenters.

International Women’s Day
make it happen
Ms Breé Brockenshire HOD Senior School

On Thursday 5 March, School Captains Maddi Korac and Lara Culley attended International Women’s Day High Tea at Maroochydore RSL.

The girls were treated to inspiring presentations by Ms Fiona Simpson MP, Ms Mel Summer, winner of the National Telstra Business Awards, and Squadron Leader Samantha Freebairn, the first female Air Force pilot to return to operational flying after having children, and winner of the Queensland Telstra Business Women’s Award for Business Innovation for her Graduate Pilot Scheme which incentivises military aviation to women.

The girls enjoyed the experience and were inspired by the stories and triumphs, and hope to also be an inspiration for their peers.
School Leader Induction
future leaders

Mr Andrew Stone Head of Senior School

On Friday 13 March, our School Captains represented the school with dignity at the Senior Investiture Ceremony for Year 6 school leaders at Mountain Creek State School.

In a moving ceremony, Alex Burns, Maddi Korac, Paul Soward and Lara Culley presented badges to the proud leaders who will carry the torch into the future.

Mountain Creek State School's captains are Matthew McGill and Brooke Day, with vice-captains, Sam Evans and Sienna Haxton.

Young Scholars
future achievers

Ms Andrea Evans Head of Junior School

Mountain Creek recently welcomed new Years 5 and 6 Young Scholars to our school.

On 12 February, students received shirts and equipment for the program, given a school tour by Seniors and were shown key facilities.

Young Scholars will participate in activities and experience various faculties and facilities.

It was great to see our Seniors, many of whom were past Young Scholars themselves, helping out with a program they have such fond memories of participating in when younger.
Superb Sun Bears future scientists

Ms Jane Cameron Media Relations USC

Three University of the Sunshine Coast Environmental Science students recently had the wildlife experience of a lifetime when they spent a month volunteering at the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre in Malaysia as part of their studies.

USC students Hayley Beck, Caitlyn Turner and Emma Hambleton worked at the centre, established for the care, rehabilitation and release of orphaned and ex-captive sun bears, a species listed as vulnerable due to habitat loss, hunting and live trade.

Caitlyn, 20, of Buderim, started volunteering at Australia Zoo when she was at Mountain Creek in Year 12. She dreams of working in animal rehabilitation overseas one day.

Lecturer in Animal Ecology, Dr Scott Burnett, said Environmental Science, Ecology and Animal Ecology students can assist with research and conservation projects at a gorilla reserve in South Africa, in the Amazon Rainforest, the Andes, coastal Ecuador and sun bear care facilities in Malaysia, Cambodia and Laos.

“Conducting field research overseas also fosters resilience in our young researchers who must learn to adapt to cultural and field conditions in unfamiliar environments,” said Dr Burnett.

For more information about this project, visit: http://sunbears.wildlifedirect.org/

Laura Chong passion for fashion

Mr Andrew Stone Head of Senior School

Laura Chong, 2003 School Captain, is the founder of online fashion label The 400 co www.the400co.com.au, and has just opened her latest store in Chapel Street, Melbourne.

On a recent visit to Mountain Creek, Laura’s main message to non-OP students was that “your passion can be your career” and while school is about subjects and achievement, experience and passion can also be the basis for any future you may want for yourself.

Laura began her career as a lawyer but could not ignore the passion she had for fashion and design. “I am not special, I just worked hard and had the guts to go for my dream” she said.
Hayley Mallinder  
**UNSW scholarship recipient**

Ms Trhoa Valentine HOD IB

Hayley Mallinder, IB Class of 2014, has realised her goal to study International Commerce at University of New South Wales, gaining a valuable scholarship.

Her scholarship recognises her school academic results, leadership record, cultural and artistic involvement, in school musicals and the community youth theatre, BYTES.

Hayley is now saving to support her next goal: to study part of her degree programme overseas ... Congratulations Hayley!

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Danielle Evrat  
**wicked star returns**

Ms Jess Stanable HOD Creative Industries

Danielle Evrat, past student and Wicked star is currently on tour with the hit musical, but still took time out to visit our school and share her experience with students.

Danielle came back to Mountain Creek to work with Year 10 Dance students who are fortunate to be learning a Wicked dance routine for their Musical Theatre performance assessment.

Year 7 Academy Dance students are also showing outstanding improvement having spent five weeks working with Danielle on their first dance performance assessment.

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Emma Walsh  
**UQ scholarship recipient**

Ms Margy Chatburn Director of Advancement UQ

Emma Walsh, former Mountain Creek student, has been awarded a scholarship at Emmanuel College on the strength of earning a University of Queensland Excellence Scholarship.

Apart from being gifted academically, Emma is a keen surf lifesaver and competitor, as well as a talented musician.

According to Principal Professor Stewart Gill, Emmanuel College is keen to welcome students of Emma’s calibre into its community.

Emma is currently studying a Bachelor of Pharmacy at University of Queensland.

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Aaron Cuthbertson-Blay  
**aspiring business owner**

Mr Andrew Stone Head of Senior School

Aaron Cuthbertson-Blay graduated in 2011 after completing the Mountain Creek School Tech program.

While enrolled in Year 11 and 12, Aaron successfully completed a school-based apprenticeship with Ben Frisby Plumbing reducing his apprenticeship by over 12 months.

Aaron has since completed his apprenticeship in less than 3 years and has aspirations of completing his Certificate IV in Plumbing to enable him to run his own business one day.

We would like to congratulate Aaron on his successes and wish him the best for the future.
Central District Swimming age champions
Mr Tim Wilson HOD HPE

At the recent Central District Swimming Championships, Mountain Creek finished a close second with many very talented swimmers representing the school with both pride and a burning desire to perform to an excellent level.

Four young swimmers achieved Age Champion at this carnival:
- Bella Shipp 12 & Under Girls
- Oliver Monaghan 13 & Under Boys
- Kyanna Ayres 14 & Under Girls
- Aaron Mansfield 16 & Under Boys

These students plus four others qualified for Sunshine Coast Regional Representation and have competed in the Queensland Schools Championships in Brisbane.

Year 7 Interschool Sport a winner at the creek
Mr Andrew Denny Sports Co-ordinator

Mountain Creek is proud to be a part of the introduction of Year 7 into the Central District Interschool Sport Competition.

Over 130 Year 7 students compete in summer sports in Term 1 such as AFL, Basketball, Cricket, Oztog, Softball, Tennis and Touch on Thursday afternoons.

The competition structure consists of eight schools divided into north and south pools.

We are very pleased and fortunate to be a part of this district leading the way by providing quality sporting opportunities for our junior secondary students.

Trish Buckley Gold regional volleyball win
Mr Tim Wilson HOD HPE

At the recent Trish Buckley Sunshine Coast Volleyball Championships two Mountain Creek teams won their divisions to get the Gold Medal!

The Open Girls Team, coached by Tim Wilson, went undefeated and won a close battle in the Grand Final with Kate Kershaw named ‘Player of the Series’.

The Senior Girls team lost an early match but went undefeated to also claim the Gold Medal in their division. Jaccia Ayres was named ‘Player of the Series’.

These are fantastic results for the Creek teams who have been training hard all year!
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academic programs

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home of...

- JTV Dance Studio
- Sunshine Coast Youth Orchestra (SCYO)
- Mountain Creek Aquatic Centre
- Benefit Health & Fitness/CrossFit

Mountain Creek

elite sports programs

- Rugby League
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Netball
- Australian Football League

Mountain Creek

the creeker team

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