

# AGRICULTURE NEWS



## BOWRAVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL FARM



Located on Borefield Road approximately 800m from North Arm Road, the School Farm has been an integral part of Bowraville Central School since the early 1980's.

Bob Ellis & Kerri Argent pioneered the farm & infrastructure and have added machinery sheds, outdoor classrooms and cattle yards, as well as segregating the farm into five workable paddocks.

The 4.5 acre property backs onto the North Arm River system and is a mixture of river flats and sloping hills.

Onsite there is a piggery which is currently being used to house poultry there is an orchard with pecan, macadamia, grapefruit, orange, mandarin and kiwifruit trees. A market style vegetable garden is in production as well as greenhouse for plant propagation .

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The farm currently houses four Red Poll Stud Cattle, we have one cow with a bull calf and two heifers which students show at local Agricultural shows.

We have nine Dorper sheep, which are bred to self shed their fleece, so we do not need to worry about shearing .

Our poultry shed currently houses commercial layers and at times we have raised broilers (meat chooks).

We have one goat who has just had a kid and twelve naughty little pigs who have broken out of every fence we have put them in.

# Thank You Comet



For donating a Windmill Tail Fin which we have plans to use as our new Farm Sign.

Sign writing is to be added shortly



Year 10 Students Gwen & Jess have been raising Broiler Chickens this term at the farm. They recently served up roast chicken & gravy rolls for lunch to the whole school.

The event was well recieved with students from K-12 ordering and feedback was positive.

The money from the sale of the rolls has gone back into the school farm.

## BCS Agriculture Cattle Club

### About

Thursday afternoons after school 3.45 - 5.30

Cattle are housed at the school farm. Cattle Club members are involved with the day to day care and feeding of the cattle and work with them after school. Cattle Club students are also invited to attend the annual Red Poll training camp in Uralla where they gain experience in the practical handling of cattle stock.

### Contact

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### Skills

Cattle breaking in  
Show Prep  
Animal handling skills  
Teamwork

Students are trained in all aspects of cattle showing including breaking in cattle, halter training and leading and presenting cattle for judging. Students learn what the judges are looking for when judging cattle

# CATTLE CLUB - EVERY THURSDAY AFTER SCHOOL

# Primary Industries

AHC20116 - Cert 2 Agriculture

During Term 3 Primary Industries students had the opportunity to undertake a course in Quad bikes.



Laurie Gallagher from Taree TAFE brought 4 Quad bikes to Bowraville to teach safety, maintenance and how to safely ride through courses and on slopes. Thank you to the Racecourse Committee who kindly allowed us to use the centre of the racecourse to undertake the practical component of this course.



All students enjoyed and excelled in the practical gaining a Certificate of Attainment for this competency. Year 12 students have now completed their Certificate 2 Agriculture and I wish them all the best for their future.

It has been a pleasure to return to BCS and deliver the last year of their PI course. I'll continue in Term 4 with Year 11 students, then I am re-retiring.

Written by Jeanette Perkins



## Year 10 Agriculture- Beekeeping

To collect just **1 kilo** of honey, bees will need to :

- \* **make approximately 150,000 flights**
- \* **fly between 250,000 to 450,000 km**  
(True! - and that's the equivalent of more than 10 times around the World!)
- \* **visit more than one million flowers**

**A single frame from a hive :**

- \* **has 2,500 hexagonal cells on each side**  
**(5,000 cells in total)**
- \* **can hold up to 3kg of capped honey**

**A strong productive beehive :**

- \* **has between 30,000 and 50,000 bees**
- \* **in one year, produces between 50 to 80kg of honey, depending on site and seasonal changes.**

As part of Year 10 Agriculture, students have to choose an agricultural enterprise and research it. This year, three students identified that they would be interested in learning about bees. On Tuesday, the 11th September 3 students Zeth Grace, Ethan Davidson and Matthew Williamson-Roe as well as Ag Teacher Ms Wilson and Farm Assistant, Sharon Aitkins all attended Little Star Bee Sanctuary to undertake 'The Introduction to Beekeeping Course'.

After an in-depth discussion regarding the advantages and disadvantages of GPS and a few stops to ask directions after a GPS failure, we arrived at Little Star Bee Sanctuary, nestled into the hillside of the Missabotti Valley. We were met by our Instructor Steve and his wife Trudy. We introduced ourselves to the other participants and settled in for the day, to begin our learning journey.

We listened attentively as Steve introduced us to his philosophy on natural beekeeping and outlined what we would be learning throughout the day. We learnt about the different lifecycles of the bees and were shown how a Langstroth Beehive works and is assembled. Steve discussed the health of bees in Australia and how pests and disease are one of the biggest threats to the beekeeping industry.



After our morning introduction it was time to put on our beekeeping suits and take the scenic walk up the hill to the apiary. We arrived at the apiary to witness the spectacular sight of a bee swarm. This is a natural part of the lifecycle of bees that can occur for many different reasons. The sight and sound of over 50,000 bees swarming was certainly a memorable moment.

The swarm subsided and they all re-entered the box then it was our turn to be shown how to use the smoker and a Jtool to enter the beehive. We all had a turn at opening a box, stacking it correctly and taking out a frame. Steve then identified the brood, the capped honey, the pollen, the larvae and the uncapped honey. Some participants started the hands on activities with a little trepidation. However, this was quickly replaced with excitement and enthusiasm to remove frames and be around the bees.

We were lucky enough to see a Queen Bee and witness the birth of a baby worker bee who began working less than 30 seconds after it emerged from the cell. Once we had collected enough frames to harvest some honey, we headed back down the hill to the learning space where we were shown how to extract the honey using low cost equipment, as well as the more advanced equipment available on the market.

We then enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Trudy and poured ourselves a jar of honey from the frames we had collected and harvested ourselves. I recommend this course to anybody who is interested in bees and beekeeping or anyone looking to take up an exciting hobby. Steve's passion, enthusiasm and knowledge shone through all day and it was such a pleasure to be a part of the course.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the day and they are all keen to explore beekeeping in the future, Ms Wilson & Sharon are also pretty excited to explore beekeeping and possibly having our own hives onsite at the farm. We envisage that this will just be the start of an educational relationship between Bowraville Central School and Little Star Bee Sanctuary.



Zeth - My favourite part was being allowed to explore the hive and pull the frames out. Steves philosophy of looking after the bees first, really made sense to me.

# Student & Teacher Learning



## Paddock 2 Plate



Lachlan & Mitchell in Yr 10 successfully grew, harvested, graded and sold over 80kg of Potatoes. The boys have planted a 2nd crop of potatoes which should be ready to harvest late November



Year 9 & 10 Ag students have been busy preparing for the inaugural Paddock to Plate Event at the school Farm.

## Horticulture Teacher Training.AHC20416

Ms Wilson recently travelled to Dubbo to undertake a Cert 2 in Horticulture.

Part of the course involved visiting the local Sprayerbarn where 40mtr boom sprayers with the newest technology were demonstrated.

Students have picked and juiced over 100 litres of juice from the grapefruit and orange trees in preparation for the event.

Limited tickets will be on sale to the general public 13th November

# Dorrigo All Breeds Dairy Heifer Show

On Saturday 15th Sept, eight students from our BCS cattle team went to Dorrigo All Breeds Heifer Show. We achieved some outstanding results including Toria Kete 2nd, and Beau Davidson 4th in Junior Parader and Chyenne Cameron 4th in Senior Parader.

The students received some expert tuition on Cattle Parading from Janine Eagles of Ginni Creek Ayrshire who demonstrated Royal Show Level Showing to the students.

After the cattle parading, one of the breeders commented on the quality and skill of our students in handling their cattle. Over the season we have quickly become known as a polished team of enthusiastic students, who are helpful and willing to learn.

The highlight of the day was the Fancy Dress Class. We had some fantastic costumes. Jessyka Cameron with her rainbow party cow and Tori Harrison & Candi with their Santa and Reindeer cows. Beau Davidson was dressed as a bank robber being chased by the police cow, and Samara Hunter's cow pulled off an amazing Harry Potter Costume. Toria Kete was pretty chilled with her tie dyed hippy cow.

Thank you to all the owners who allowed our students to borrow cattle for the event.



# BOWRAVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL

## ABOUT



Bowraville Central School is a Kinder to Year 12 campus within the Nambucca Valley, Mid-North Coast, New South Wales. Our dedicated staff work with community to create a safe, supportive and challenging learning environment for all students.

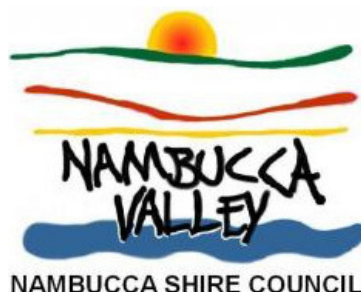
The school is an important focal point within the community and is widely recognised for its range of innovative programs and academic achievements.

To find out more - please contact the school.



### Special Thanks

Nambucca Shire Council - For the generous donation of soil to fill our newly built raised garden beds.



### Special Thanks

Sable Engineering & Metaland Pty Ltd for the kind donation of metal for our new chicken coop.

