7/8 SCIENCE
Year 7/8 Science have just finished up a unit on States & Properties of Matter. This week we’ve been working on an assessment task, requiring the students to select a topic and plan and perform a first-hand investigation either independently or in a small group. The topics students chose from were ‘How many washers can an aluminium boat support before sinking?’ and ‘Which materials will slow the melting rate of ice?’ Students were required to apply their knowledge of the physical properties of matter to help them find solutions to these questions via their investigations. There have been some very interesting results come out of this activity, particularly the aluminium boat investigations. The record for most washers held by an aluminium boat was up around the 150 mark.

Below: Colby Crofts, Jackson Benness and Chloe Brewer
Above right: Dean Otovic

9/10 AG TECH: COWS CREATE CAREERS PROJECT
This term, students in Yr 9/10 Ag Tech are participating in an Australia-wide Dairy Australia initiative, called Cows Create Careers. A “local” dairy farmer sends two dairy calves for students to look after for three weeks, and then the calves head back home.

During the project, students need to complete three mini-projects:
1. Either build a 3D model or create a ‘mootube’ movie relating to one topic from a list provided;
2. Conduct an investigation revolving around monitoring the health and weight gain of the calves, written as a scientific report;
3. Take a funny photo of themselves, with the calves.

Our group is planning and building a model calf pen/shed and surrounding paddock. Students are using the school digital livestock scales to monitor the weight gain of the calves, and are gaining skills in handling young calves while they’re at it.

Project submissions need to be made by the 15th September. Students will then attend an awards day in Cowra, early next term. Winning school groups are awarded monetary prizes after having their projects judged by a panel, selected by the project coordinators. This is a great initiative by Dairy Australia, giving our students a chance to experience a small part of an industry they may not have come into contact with otherwise.

Right: Chloe Hood weighing the calf
Below: Jason Lewis, Chloe, Sean Bradley, David Clarke and Jesse Jackson
YEAR 5 LEADERSHIP GROUP with Mrs Lisa Payne
The Year 5 Leadership team (Ryan Crofts, Ryan Wallace, Kadee Gerhard-Scali, Ruby Henley, Madi Cassidy and Prue West, above) have been busy this term. They prepared the planter boxes for the veggie garden with Sally Russell (from the Lake Cowal Conservation Centre, above) in Week 2, presented a slide show at the Open Day Assembly last week, and planted 130 trees yesterday as part of National Tree Week. The Bland Shire Council donated the trees, and Environmental Officer Glenn Neyland assisted with the planting along with David Kellett from the Riverina Local Lands Services. Jason Lewis was impressed with the job the school tractor did when he ripped the ground in preparation for the trees, and the students will now work with the Bland Shire Council to water the trees over the coming months.
Right : Ryan Crofts, Ryan Wallace and David Kellett. Below : Ruby Henley
KNITTING COMMENCES!

Year 5/6 have begun their knitting unit in Art this week. We have been fortunate to have some expert helpers to assist us in learning how to knit (and untangle the occasional messes!) and plan to finish our sample squares and move onto our show projects next Monday. Many thanks to Joan McKenzie, Brigid Izzard, Vanessa Williams and Mrs Hanrahan for helping out this week. Students are reminded to bring in their special wool for next Monday!

Right : Louise Hunter performing at the recent Ungarie Deb Ball. Louise also performed her songs for her HSC trial exams at the end of Week 2, and is working towards her final HSC performance towards the end of this term. Good luck, Louise!

Left : David Kellett shows Ryan Wallace how to plant out tree seedlings whilst Prue West looks on during yesterday’s Year 5 Leadership working bee!
LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXCURSION

On Tuesday Years 9-12 (above) travelled in to West Wyalong to take part in the Bland Shire Council’s Local Government Day activities. They started in the Library and were shown the on-line resources available to them, and each received a Library card which allows them access to these resources (top right). They enjoyed a sausage sizzle for lunch outside the Council Chambers and then went upstairs to the Council meeting chambers and listened to a number of Council staff talk about their careers in Council, followed by a Q&A session (right). The students also received “stress cones,” wristbands and lollies as incentives to ask more questions, and a quick tour around the upstairs offices.

The final activity was a trip to the Water Treatment works where Tony Carr gave an in-depth and entertaining talk and tour around the site (right, below).