

Commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War

Local Emmaville resident Roy Colin Wells is an unassuming man- at 97 years old he still stands tall and is as sharp as a tack in both conversation and memory.



He, and his wife Edna, have loved ones gravitate to them as often as possible, a testimony to the bond that is shared between this family, who describe themselves as having a life that is “rich with love”. One of few remaining WWII veterans, Roy has many interesting stories to tell, so humble in nature though, he will say that he “didn’t do much”-

which is perhaps even more reason to explore this special man’s story.

After growing up at Emmaville, and attending ECS for his education, Roy enlisted into the armed forces on the 11th November 1941, at just 18 years of age (harrowing when the comparison is made with students of today, still at school when they reach their milestone birthday).



Roy’s sense of duty saw his journey begin at Rutherford, near Newcastle for training which “was a boot camp, alright”. In February 1942, Roy was assigned to a sapper unit with the Royal Australian Engineers and he commenced working up and down the NSW coastline building roads and bridges before being sent to Kapooka for specialist explosives training (expanding the knowledge that Roy already had from his mining experience).

The next stage in Roy’s journey came when he was assigned to the 7th Field Engineers at Coffs Harbour before being sent to a staging camp at Brisbane awaiting overseas deployment.



In early 1945, Roy's battalion arrived at Bouganville (an eastern lying island that is part of Papua New Guinea). It was here that Roy's specialist training came into play, working on bridges and roads as a specialist machine operator, frequently being tasked to help other units with their assignments. The Japanese often ambushed these operations; there was no safe place in the jungle, Roy saw mates

killed in action and felt that luck was on his side many times.

Even after the Japanese surrender to end WWII in the Pacific, Roy remained in Bouganville to continue with work that had to be completed. Afterwards, he was sent to Rabaul to help clean up and rebuild, foremost the airstrip which had been bombed during the war. Then, eight months after the war ended, Roy was finally able to make it home to Emmaville.

Moving forward, 75 years has passed since WWII ended, and Roy has had a fulfilling life with Edna and their six children, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Recently, in a small service, during current Covid 19 restrictions, Roy was acknowledged as part of the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. He received a commemorative medallion and certificate (bearing the signatures of our Governor-General David Hurley and Prime Minister Scott Morrison) in recognition of his service. To the on-looker it was obvious that Roy was taken aback and deeply grateful for this special commemoration, one that I feel most privileged to have been a part of.

Rebecca Grant

SECONDARY NEWS

As we near the end of the term, senior students are busy with end of course exams. Students in Year 12 are currently sitting their trial HSC exams, and from next week, students in Year 11 will be sitting their end of course exams for preliminary studies. We wish all of our students the very best for these important assessments.

Primary Industries Excursion

Recently students from Mr Davis' Stage 6 Primary Industries class assisted with lamb marking at the Lockwood's property near Deepwater. Everyone was excited and engaged in the activity, gaining work ready skills and completing some of the competencies towards their Certificate II in Agriculture for the Primary Industries course.

Community partnerships are integral to the success of VET (Vocational Education and Training) courses in schools. We rely on employers to host our students for compulsory work placement, and in this instance, students have been able to demonstrate and practice competencies by visiting a property. A sincere thank you to the Lockwood family for hosting our students.

Subject Selection

Students in Year 10 have completed their subject selections for 2021 and 2022. It is now time for students in Years 8 and 9 to ensure that they have handed their elective subject selections in to Miss Grant, so that planning for 2021 can commence.

Important information for HSC students

The following information is from the Department of Education.

Given that the HSC exams are fast approaching and to minimize disruption during this period, additional precautionary measures should be taken by Year 12 students and their families while outside of school and in the wider community.

This includes:

- Stay 1.5m apart where possible
- Wear a mask if physical distancing isn't possible
- Get tested ASAP if they have even the mildest of symptoms
- Tell the clinician doing the test they are a Year 12 student and to mark the referral 'Urgent - HSC student'
- Stay home and self-isolate until results are known
- Receive a negative test result
- Before returning to school; showing the school a screenshot of an SMS result is sufficient
Call the contact number provided by the clinic if results are not received within 36 hours

Reach Out

A reminder that Reach Out is a great service that offers a wide range of resources to help people who may need assistance. At the moment, they have some great information for students about managing stress, and developing good sleeping patterns. You can find further information at <https://au.reachout.com/>

*Miss Rebecca Grant
Head Teacher- Secondary Studies.*

PRIMARY NEWS

The past fortnight has been very busy in Primary, with loads of engaging learning activities, as well as Year 5 completing their Check-In Literacy and Numeracy assessments and Year 6 completing their VALID Science assessments. The data from these assessments play a valuable and vital role

in future programming and understanding where the students are at, particularly given we have not had NAPLAN this year.

A huge thank you goes out to Mr Rodwell and Mr Davis for doing all the ground work for our VALID and Check-In assessments.

Scholastic Book Club

Issue 6 Book Club brochures were sent home with students last week. All orders and money are due back at the office now.

SASS Recognition Week 2020

Our SAS staff play an important role in the school community. They are often the first people you see when you enter a school and are essential to maintaining positive relationships with students, parents and the community.

SAS staff work in school offices, in classrooms and libraries and maintain and care for school grounds and buildings. They are often the ones to tend to students when they unwell and they ensure the efficient management of school financial and administration functions.

In our Primary department, we make particular mention of the work that SASS do in their roles and thank them sincerely.

Dorothy: for the running of MaqLit and support and smiles given to all students and staff each day. Also for the copious hours spent after school assisting with learning resource development.

Gay: for the everyday immaculate deep cleaning of our classrooms and facilities. Not to mention going above and beyond to keeping us all warm every morning. Donna, Jenny, Tania and Jo: for being friendly faces to our students in the office each day.

Gary: for always being ready to assist with all general assistance.

Gailene: for filling in on a regular basis.

Christine: for filling our tummies each everyday with delicious foods.

Thanks to Dorothy, Jo and Jenny for their patience and perseverance during our Library borrowing sessions. Thank you for all that you do on a daily basis and for your dedication, professionalism and support. Without you, our school doesn't run!

Mrs Rebecca Sullivan
Assistant Principal

ECS is now accepting enrolments for 2021 Kindergarten. Please contact the office for an enrolment package.



Winners of the Tell Them From me Survey are
\$20 canteen voucher – Haylee
\$10 canteen voucher - Aiden

A reminder that permission notes for **stormbirds** are due back now, please return to the office ASAP.

Royal Far West will be visiting our school in week 9.