New Beginnings
Agriculture goes out on its own

It was with great excitement that present a new Agriculture Department. Staff arrived progressively over the first half of the term and the new Certificate II in Agriculture is being delivered as a part of the Belmont Alliance among CQUniversity, Agforce Queensland and RGS. Emerald Agricultural College is currently delivering the programme, and we see this programme expanding over time.

The School Farm will now focus on the Junior and Primary programmes as required, and the review of Agriculture courses is the number one priority to ensure students are receiving not only the best possible learning opportunities, but also receiving exposure to industry, innovation and industry best practice.

I would like to take the opportunity to publically acknowledge the work of Desley Pigeon in managing the subject area in recent years and we also would like to acknowledge the work of Dan Cook for his work as farmhand prior to starting back with the RGS Transport Department this term. We wish them both the very best of luck in their future endeavours. I would also like to thank casual teacher Karen Sedgwick, who has accepted a permanent role at another school.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Headmaster and Barb Bishop, a consultant who was involved in the transition of the department into a standalone entity and the initial formulation of the vocational education strategy for the Faculty.

We have also launched a new webpage where all the latest Agriculture information can be found:
www.rgs.qld.edu.au/agriculture

We are confident that we will be giving the very best Agricultural Education has to offer to the students at RGS and look forward to meeting you.

Hardy Manser
HoD Agriculture
hmanser@rgs.qld.edu.au

Faculty Faces
Hardy Manser – Head of Department

Hardy began his career in the veterinary and animal health sector, working for various veterinary practices and Elanco Animal Health.

Hardy undertook studies in the Veterinary Sciences and Veterinary research at Sydney University, completed a Bachelor of Science (Biological Sciences) at Hawkesbury Ag College (UWS), has a Masters in Agricultural and Rural Development, and completed his teaching qualification via Charles Sturt University. He also is a member of a number of professional associations, and is the current vice president of the Queensland Agriculture Teachers Association.

Hardy has received professional scholarships and has published a number of commercial research reports and dissertations and has presented at conferences internationally in the areas of Bovine Hepatic Abscessation, Epigenetics and Foetal programming to improve production.

Hardy has worked internationally, and worked for Education Queensland for seven years, with some of those as Head of Department (Agriculture) at Beaudesert State High School.

Hardy has also worked in community roles including a Lieutenant in the Queensland Fire and Emergency Service, President of the Lithgow Show Society, and State Operations and Field Commissioner in the Australian Air League.

Hardy, and his wife Sheree, are excited to be living in Rockhampton and hope to be involved with the local community and the RGS family.
Sam Beggs – Show Team Coordinator and Senior Agricultural Science

Sam Beggs began her career as a Veterinary Technician, working with both small and large animals. She began her teaching career at Roma State College in January 2010, primarily teaching Agriculture and Science. In January 2013, Sam transferred to Beaudesert State High School. It was at Beaudesert that Sam became show team coordinator for the Beaudesert State High School Cattle Show Team.

As well as joining the Agriculture Department at RGS, Sam is also working in Girls Boarding.

When not working, Sam can often be found participating in a wide range of hobbies, including craft, horse riding, archery, and the new (or ancient, depending on your point of view) sport of horse archery.

Dan Wadsworth – Junior Agricultural Science and Show Team

Dan Wadsworth, from Seattle, Washington, is a first year teacher. In 2012 Dan completed his BS majoring in Zoology from Humboldt State University, California. After a few years of working and travel he touched down in Australia to complete his GradDipEd at CQU. University. Most weekends Dan can be found scuba diving, trekking, cycling, or attempting to photograph wildlife. Dan will help with the Show Cattle Team. Dan’s other school based activities including snorkelling and diving with the Reef Guardian Programme.

Lloyd Baker – Farmhand

Lloyd joins us with experience working on cattle stations, operating plant and experience with Queensland Rail. He has a young family who are involved in showing cattle and enjoys fishing.

Belmont Report
Certificate II begins at Belmont Station

Over 40 seniors have begun their Certificate II in Agriculture at Belmont Station, as a part of the Belmont Alliance.

Students have been involved in cyclone recovery fencing and have successfully completed their units in WHS and Motorcycling. Students have also undertaken showing and fabrication units at Port Curtis campus.

A special thanks goes to Phil Orchard, Agforce Property Manager for his support of the program, as well as Mr. Brett Pearson, EAC Instructor.

We are currently preparing for the launch of the Certificate III in Agriculture in 2016.
Show Team Report

I would like to thank everyone for their fantastic effort so far for this year’s Show team.

2015 Show Cattle Captains Lucie-Anne Kirk and Tylah Bonisch, have been doing a fantastic job, as have many members of the team who have stepped up to help out in leading our team.

Results for 2015 thus far include:

**THE CAVES**

*The first show: Members of the show team getting ready for competition*

**LED STEER**
- Jr Steer: 3rd and 4th
- Srn Steer (out of a very large class): 2nd and 4th

**JUNIOR PARADING**
- Under 13: 5th Peter New
- Under 15: 4th Sylvia Godwin
- Under 16: 1st Gemma Brennan
- 3rd: Matilda Patterson
- 5th: Bonnie Maynard
- 16 and U25: 3rd: Lucie Kirk
- 4th: Tomas Flohr

**JUDGING**
- Under 13: 1st Tom Powell
- Under 16: Tied 3rd: Kineta Lang
- 16 and U25: 1st Lucie Kirk
- 2nd Tom Flohr

**BEEF 2015**
Refer BEEF 2015 story

**CALLIDE VALLEY SHOW**

**LED STEER**
- “Mojo” – Reserve champion and first in class
- “Tommy” – 3rd in class

**YOUNG PARADERS**
- 13 and U:
  - 1st: Sylvia Godwin
  - 2nd: Mackenzie Leeson
  - 3rd: Mitch Howe

- 14-15 Yrs:
  - 1st: Lachlan Sypher
  - 2nd: Matilda Patterson
  - 3rd: Annalee Godwin
  - 4th: Brendan Jones

- 16-17 Yrs:
  - 3rd: Tom Flohr
  - 4th: Tylah Bonich
  - 6th: Lucie-Anne Kirk

**YOUNG JUDGES**
- 13 and U:
  - 2nd: Mitch Howe

- 14-15 Yrs:
  - 4th: Bonnie Maynard

**RIDGELANDS SHOW**

**LED STEER CLASSES**

- Junior owner/Exhibitor under 18 years:
  - 1st: “Sherriff” (Led by Sylvia Godwin)
  - 2nd: “Tuff” (Led by Kineta Lang)

- Led Steer over 500kg:
  - 3rd: Mojo (Led by Mitch Howe)

- Champion Led Steer:
  - Sherriff (Led by Sylvia Godwin)

**YOUNG PARADERS CLASS**

- 12 years and under:
  - 4th: Clayton McLucas
  - 5th: Tom Pownall

- 13 years:
  - 1st: Sylvia Godwin
  - 2nd: Mitch Howe
**JUNIOR JUDGING CLASS**

12 and under  
- 2nd Tom Pownall  
- 4th Clayton McLucas

13 and under 15  
- 4th Sylvia Godwin

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**ROCKHAMPTON SHOW**

On 10 and 11 June the Rockhampton Grammar School Show Cattle Team attended the Rockhampton Show. All of the students represented the school exceptionally with their behaviour, participation and teamwork.

The Show Cattle Team had entrants in the Junior and Open Led Steer, Junior Heifer, Junior Judges and Junior Paraders Classes.

Across the two days of competition our students won numerous prizes across the age groups in each competition.

The highlights of the competition included:

- Rural Supplements Schools Challenge.  
  - 1st – Rockhampton Grammar School  
  - This competition was based on the accumulation of points from students competing in Junior Heifer, Junior Led Steer, Junior Judges and Junior Parader classes. Many thanks to the Show Cattle Team, and any other students competing with their family and friends under the banner of The Rockhampton Grammar School.

- Rural Supplements Champion All-Rounder  
  - 2nd Place (Tied) – Lucy Kirk  
  - 4th Place – Sylvia Godwin  
  - The winners of this competition had the highest accumulated points in the four junior competitions.

- Redskin Droughtmaster Award  
  - 1st – Lucy Kirk  
  - A competition based on the accumulation of points from the Junior Judging and Junior Paraders Classes. The prize for this competition is a steer donated to the School.

- Brendan Jones’ selection as the representative Junior Parader for the Rockhampton Show to compete in the Regional Competition

- Annie Glasson’s selection as the representative Junior Judge-Trade Cattle for the Rockhampton Show to compete in the Regional Competition

- Lucy Kirk’s selection as the representative Junior Judge-Trade Cattle for the Rockhampton Show to compete in the Regional Competition

Our individual student results are as follows:

**PARADING**

13 years  
- 1st Sylvia Godwin  
- 5th Mitch Howe

15 years  
- 1st Brendan Jones  
- 4th Annalee Godwin  
- 5th Lachlan Sypher

16 years  
- 1st Tom Flohr  
- 2nd Lucie Kirk

**JUNIOR JUDGING – TRADE CATTLE**

12 and under  
- 2nd Tom Pownall  
- 3rd Peter New

13 years  
- 2nd Sylvia Godwin  
- 5th William Tyson

14 years  
- 5th Matthew Richardson

15 years  
- 1st Annie Glasson  
- 2nd Annalee Godwin

16 years  
- 1st Lucie Kirk

**JUNIOR JUDGING – STUD CATTLE**

12 and under  
- 4th Clare Saunders  
- 5th JodiLee Swan

13 years  
- 1st William Tyson  
- 3rd Sylvia Godwin

14 years  
- 4th Sarah Cragg

15 years  
- 1st Bonnie Maynard  
- 5th Annie Glasson

16 years  
- 1st Lucie Kirk

My congratulations go to all of those who competed at the show.

**MACKAY SHOW**

My thanks to all who assisted in the organisation of the two day trip to the Mackay Show on Wednesday and Thursday. To Joh and her staff, for catering; to Wayne for organising transport, Hardy for his assistance over the two days, and for his assistance in organising the trip; and everyone else who assisted in making this trip possible.
We had a very successful show, and are proud of our show team students for how well they represented the school.

**Wednesday:**

**JUNIOR PARADING**
Two of our senior students organised their own animals for the competition

15-16 years
- 1st Brendan Jones
- 5th Tom Flohr

As winner of his age group, Brendan Jones went on to compete for champion parader, he placed as Reserve Champion.

**JUNIOR JUDGING - STUD**

A large number of our students were selected to speak in the stud judging and the students came away with a number of places.

15-16 years
- 1st Annie Glasson
- 2nd Brendan Jones

13-14 years
- 1st Mackenzie Leeson
- 3rd William Tyson
- 4th Angus Radel
- 5th Kineta Lang
- 6th Mitch Howe

12 years and under
- 2nd Clare Saunders

Annie Glasson won Champion Stud Judge and went on to represent Mackay Show in the Regional Finals

**Thursday**

**JUNIOR JUDGING – TRADE CATTLE**

15-16 years
- 1st Brendan Jones

13-14 years
- 2nd Mackenzie Leeson

12 and under
- 2nd Clare Saunders

Brendan won Champion Trade Cattle Judge and went on to represent Mackay Show in the Regional Finals

**REGIONAL FINALS – TRADE CATTLE JUDGE**

Annie Glasson and Brendan Jones competed in the Trade Cattle Judging Regional Finals
- 2nd – Brendan Jones
- 3rd – Annie Glasson

**REGIONAL FINALS – STUD CATTLE JUDGE**

Annie Glasson competed in the Regional Finals and was two points away from 4th place

Thank you to all those who have participated in the show team this year – what an excellent start to a new team.

Sincerely,
**Miss Beggs**

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**Starting point:** The show team will grow this year, with its operations including managed feedlot fattening and regular handling.

**Curriculum**

The first few weeks of year have seen a rewrite of all of our programmes. Agriculture now has a home in the technology
syllabus of the national curriculum, and consequently, students are now involved in the development of designed solutions to agricultural problems, which result in the production of a product, environment or service. Focus themes include -

**Senior Agricultural Science:** Students are exploring sustainable production using scientific exploration and reasoning in the areas of production horticulture, hydroponics and aquaponics, poultry production, Beef and Lamb production, and Agricultural Technology.

**Yr 12 Agricultural Science:** Students are currently undertaking a Compodose growth trial with the generous support of Elanco Animal Health. This research showed that treatment steers did 99% better than the control average. Industry claims 15% improvement, so we were very happy with that result.

**Primary School:** The programmes have been interlinked with the redevelopment of the Primary School Ag site due for redevelopment later this year.

**TC Marcia**
The region suffered at the hand of TC Marcia. The Port Curtis Campus was no exception to this. The hay sheds, classroom and Aquaponics system suffered significant damage and many trees were down with a massive cleanup effort required. A huge thanks to students and staff involved in the cleanup, with a special thanks to Miss Sam Beggs and Mr Lloyd Baker who lead the cleanup.

![Marcia: She certainly made a mess of the farm – a large number of trees down](image)

**Gateway Schools to Agribusiness program**
We are very pleased to announce that the School has been accepted to participate as a part of the prestigious Gateway Schools to Agribusiness programme. This programme is designed to support those schools that demonstrate best practice in terms of incorporating industry exposure, Vocational Education and Training and whole school delivery of Agribusiness curriculum outcomes. The Gateway programme provides up to $5000 per annum of financial support to the school to fulfil these aims. The first semester funds are being used to redevelop the School’s poultry resources.

**Beef Australia 2015**
The School had a significant involvement at Beef 2015, with over 150 Primary students visiting, Senior students participating in the schools educational tours, a commercial display as well as our cattle display. Staff presented at Beef, and students did our School proud in all areas of competition – including the Young Farmers Challenge.

The results at Beef were as follows:

**TEAM JUDGING:** 3rd (Tie) - Annalee Godwin, Bonnie Maynard, Sylvia Godwin, Kanita Lang

**LED STEER:** 5th - 525-600kg class - "MOJO" Led by T.Flohr

**YOUNG FARMERS CHALLENGE:** Senior Team - 2nd in heat

**PARADING:** Seven students in age group finals. LucieAnn Kirk received finals ribbon but wasn’t placed.

**JUDGING**
12 and Under - 4th (Tie) Isabella Hanson and Peter New
13-14 Yrs - 3rd Clayton Mclucas
15 Yrs - 2nd Brendan Jones

![Display: The Engineering class did themselves proud producing some brilliant resources for the teams display](image)
Calm Cattle: It was a long week for the steers but they were made as comfortable as possible by the team members who did an excellent job.

Doing RGS proud: The show team members did us proud.

VIP Visit: Her Excellency, Penelope Wensley, former Qld Governor, Mr. Manser and Tylah Bonisch.

Girls Judging: Students looking smart in their formal team uniform

All over: The show team at the end of a great week (below).