Head of Department Report
A changing industry in a changing world

If you search google images using the term “Agriculture”, technology features high in the imagery. Technology in agriculture is not only an emerging factor in modern production practices, but is now a major and developing factor in the RGS curriculum along with a focus on the dimensions of learning and skills such as critical analysis and resilience.

I have also had the opportunity to consult with industry and education stakeholders in my role in the Queensland Agriculture Teachers Association, so as to facilitate the retention of an Agriculture syllabus in Qld. As a state we are now in the process of writing an innovative and world class curriculum in Agriculture, as well as at a school level insuring our students are placed in an opportune position to engage in Agricultural careers in a rapidly evolving industries involving Beef, Cropping, Dairy, Poultry and evolving international markets.

The faculty bases itself on a modified US FFA model of Agricultural Education.

This model provides students with unique and relevant experiences so as to facilitate and support their journey to career readiness and further training regardless of their destination.

2016 sees the continuation of this journey for the faculty and I am proud what RGS Agriculture has to offer your Children and I thank you for your support in the ongoing development of our faculty.

Belmont Report
A new intake hits the ground running

Around 40 Senior School students in Years 10 and 11 have commenced studies in the Certificate III in Agriculture.

Studied under the successful Belmont Educational Alliance, which includes RGS, AgForce Queensland and CQUiniversity, and runs this year in partnership with Northern Skills Alliance, the students have undertaken best practice training majoring in Beef Production and feedback from students thus far has been positive, with many pleased with the instruction they have received pushing them from their comfort zone and exposing them to similar and alternative methods and an awareness of a more corporate approach to Agriculture, especially in terms of farm safety.

RGS has undertaken significant capital investment this year in the Certificate programmes, with students now accessing AgForce equipment and infrastructure, along with a new RGS classroom at Belmont, 12 motorcycles proudly supported by Wurths Rockhampton, new chainsaws, and a new tractor Farm and Garden Products.

Students are also supported in these studies with the very generous support of the John Villiers Trust.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the John Villiers trust on behalf of our students for making this programme possible with their support.

Hardy Manser
HoD Agriculture
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Industry Partnerships

In addition to the Belmont Alliance, The Rockhampton Grammar School has worked hard to align itself with industry so as to support its students in receiving the best possible opportunities.

Industry Support: A new faculty vehicle highlights the importance of Agriculture to RGS operations and its prime commercial partners in the delivery of Agricultural education.

One of our principle sponsors, Allflex has generously supplied the school with a large quantity of personalised tag requirements and the work of Andrew Doljanin is acknowledged and greatly appreciated.

Agricultural Studies and Science Report

Term 1 saw students gain an appreciation of the Agricultural industry and the production of agricultural products, with senior students learning the anatomy and physiology of ruminant digestion. In Term 2, Junior students assessed the sustainability of traditional soil production when compared to innovative technologies such as Aquaponics, while Year 9s looked at the sustainability and welfare perspectives of egg production systems. The seniors explored the cost benefit of targeting particular markets in animal production as well as aspects of sustainable resource management including a visit to the local BoM office.

Tony Newman from Merial also attended the school and generously took the time from his busy schedule to provide our students with an outline of parasite control in Beef production and this work formed the basis of some real world assessment for students. I would like to thank Tony and Merial for their support and look forward to expanding this relationship.

RGS Agriculture also continues its role as a Gateway School

Agriculture is continually developing commercial arrangements to support its programmes in Agricultural Education. Check out www.rgs.qld.edu.au/agriculture for the latest news on our partnerships.

Faculty staffing

Term 1 saw our Ag assistants hit the ground running, with Sheree Manser and Roger Croser joining the staff. Roger was on leave for much of Term 1 and we were pleased to have him back on deck for the Term 2 show season. Term 2 saw the departure of Miss Sam Beggs from RGS. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sam for her work here at RGS. Miss Mel Jansen assisted the faculty in Term 2, covering Miss Begg’s classes, and in Semester 2 this role will be undertaken by Mr. Ian Bywater, prior to a permanent replacement being appointed for 2017.
Show Team Report

With Sam Beggs out of action as show team coordinator following an accident on her property, faculty staff pitched in to make the season as seamless as possible for the students. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the faculty staff in what was an amazing effort and it was pleasing to see so many new students develop a strong passion for showing. Our Agricultural Assistants Sheree and Roger make a formidable team bringing a wealth of showing and administrative experience to the team.

This season students attended a number of shows including World Brahman Congress.

The results for the team include:

The Caves
LED STEER <500kg
B1 – 3rd
B2 – 5th

LED STEER OVER 500kg
Bruski – 3rd

JUNIOR PARADERS
U13
Hayden Hanson – 2nd
Dusty Lasker – 5th

U16
Remi Streeter – 2nd
Matt Richardson – 3rd
Grady Hansen – 5th

JUNIOR JUDGING
U13
Hayden Hanson – 2nd
Jemma Lang – 3rd

U16
Remi Streeter – 1st
Mackenzie Gleeson – 2nd
Clare Saunders – 3rd
Matt Richardson – 4th
Peter New – 5th
16 and Over
Annie Glasson – 4th

Brahman Congress
2nd – Paraders age group

Ridgeland
- RGS Show team member Remi Streeter was the guest judge for stud stock.
- RGS student Tom Flohr was the guest judge for compact breeds.
- 21 show team members attended the show. Massive parent complement.
- Ken Rutherford from Redskin Droughtmasters complemented the school on how good our animals look, and we are doing RGS proud. He was exceptionally happy with the animal he donated as a prize at last years Rocky show which we won and have trained and finished.

LED STEER
- Hilfiger – 1st place Over 500kg Led Steer and Champion led Steer (RGS Retaining Championship)
- B1 (Donated by the New family) – 1st place under 500kg Led Steer
- Grady Hansen – Grand Champion Bull with his stud bull
- Matt Richardson – 2nd for Led Steer

JUNIOR PARADERS
- 12 & 13yrs
  - Hayden Hanson – 2nd
  - Clare Saunders – 5th
- 14yrs
  - Clayton McLucas – 5th
- 15yrs
  - Matt Richardson – 2nd
  - Grady Hansen – 5th
- 16yrs
  - Matilda Patterson – 1st

JUNIOR JUDGING
- 1213yrs
  - Grace Clancy – 2nd (First time ever judging)
  - Jemma Lang – 5th
- 1415yrs
  - Peter New – 3rd
  - Joe Connor – 4th
  - Sarah Hayes – 5th
- 1525yrs
  - Grady Hansen – 2nd

Yeppoon
While assisting stud, Collinthia Park, Mackenzie Gleeson 1st, Annie Glasson 2nd in Heifer class, compact stud breeds.

LED STEER
Under 500kg - 1st place - B1 - paraded by Grady Hansen Over 500kg - 3rd - Broski

JUNIOR PARADERS
12 and under
1st - Hayden Hansen
2nd - Laura Maher
3rd - Jemma Lang

13/14 yrs
Stirling Parker – 2nd
Kinetic Lang – 5th

15 and over
1st - Remi Streeter
2nd - Grady Hansen
5th - Sarah Hayes

17 to 21
2nd and Regional rep, RGS Student, Brendan Jones

JUNIOR JUDGING
15 and over
1st and regional rep – RGS student Brendan Jones 2nd - Remi Streeter 5th - Sarah Hayes
Under 15
1st - Hayden Hanson
3rd - Kineta Lang

WHIP CRACK
1st - Makenzie Gleeson
2nd - Reny Streeter

Rockhampton
LED STEER
Over 541kg
2nd - Sammy, led by Megan Kent
5th - Kenny, led by Annie Glasson

STUD
Students placed with their own animals:
Heifer, 9 to 12 months
1st - Sarah Hayes
3rd - Grady Hansen

12 to 15 months
1st - Remy Streeter
3rd - Brendan Jones

15 months and over
1st - Grady Hansen

JUNIOR PARADERS
16 and Over
2nd - Brendan Jones (RGS student)
3rd - Tom Flohr (RGS Student)

15 years
1st - Remy Streeter
2nd - Sarah Hayes
3rd - Matt Richardson
5th - Grady Hansen

14 years
4th - Stirling Parker
5th - Will Tyson

13 years
1st - Clayton McLucas
3rd - Peter New

12 years
1st - Hayden Hanson
4th - Elijah Hoolihan
5th - Laura Maher

11 and Under
5th - Dusty Lasker

JUNIOR JUDGING
Commercial
16 and Over
5th - Annie Glasson

15 years
2nd - Sarah Hayes
3rd - Kody Mayes

12 years
4th - Hayden Hanson

STUD
16 and Over
2nd - Annie Glasson
4th - Brendan Jones (RGS student)

15 Years
1st - Remy Streeter (and Regional Rep)
4th - Grady Hansen

14 Years
5th - Will Tyson

12 Years
3rd - Laura Maher
4th - Jemma Lang
5th - Grace Clancy

OVERALL Individual Exhibitor
2nd - Remy Streeter
3rd - Sarah Hayes

OVERALL SCHOOL
1st - Rockhampton Grammar School

Mackay (Regional Final - Judging)
1st - Remy - Stud Judging – CQ rep at Ekka

Mt Larcom (Regional Final – Junior Paraders)
1st - Brendan Jones, RGS student – CQ rep at Ekka
3rd - Remy Streeter

Junior Beef
1st Age group Champion 14-16y – Remy Streeter
2nd Age group champion – Grady Hanson

Our Captains led by Annie Glasson did a fantastic job for the team and I would like to thank Matilda Patterson, Gemma Brennan and Annie for their fantastic work. Each contributed in their own way and provided very positive leadership to the team in what was a very big season for a team which had a lot of new members join.

Also, a special thank you to all the people and businesses that supported the Show Team in 2016- Allflex, Rural Supplements, Barry Russell, Heilbronn’s Rockhampton, Rocky Feed and Seed, AgForce Queensland, ABBA, Banana Station, Capricorn Veterinary Surgery, Echidna Embroidery, RB Sells, Poinciana Park Fodder Production, the New family, Redskin Droughtmasters and RGS maintenance, communications, catering, transport and boarding staff.

With Sam Beggs departure, the time was opportune to look at the strategic direction of the team, and whilst staff have been covering the coordinator duties, a new coordinator will be appointed in the new year and it is with great pleasure that I announce that Renee Rutherford has been appointed as team coach.

The team’s accomplishments will be recognised in Semester 2 at the Agriculture dinner.
Academic Articulations

It is with great pleasure that RGS Agriculture now offers its students pathways to programmes that facilitate further study in agriculture.

These articulations include:

A partnership with Murdoch University allows Certificate III in Agriculture graduates direct entry into the university’s OnTrack programme. RGS is the only institution to have this agreement in the field of Agriculture with Murdoch University. More information can be found at http://www.murdoch.edu.au/OnTrack/.

Successful completion of this programme gives guaranteed entry into the Bachelor of Agriculture and other selected qualifications at Murdoch.

RGS Agriculture students also have the option to apply to undertake WSU’s exceptional merit early entry programme, which by successfully completing the programme of study while at RGS in addition to normal classes, can gain an early offer of study into WSU’s Bachelor of Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security.

Other opportunities may exist with other institutions including the University of New England and Central Queensland University but require individual application and assessment is on a case by case basis.

RGS is proud to offer these articulations and opportunities to its students, and interested parties should contact Head of Agriculture, Hardy Manser at h.manser@rgs.qld.edu.au for more information.