**Secondary Presentation Day 2018**

**Greg Wilson**

Welcome official guests [Names of dignitaries]

I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, the Githabul people, and pay my respects to the Elders both past, present and future – on what is and always will be Githabul land. I also pay my respects to any Elders present. Together we walk towards the future – thanks to [Name of Aboriginal Elder] for their welcome

Welcome parents, staff and students to the Secondary Presentation Day for 2018.

Today is an opportunity to reflect, as well as to recognise the great achievements of our students in so many areas – academic, sporting, cultural and social.

Earlier this year [Name] brought two letters to the school linking the old Picture Theatre and Woodenbong Central School. During World War II the school used the Picture Theatre as a classroom. Subsequent conversations with [Name] and other projectionists regarding the role that the Picture Theatre has played in Woodenbong has led me to reflect on the school, our connections and relationships with the community, as well as the opportunities we provide our students.

A sense of community always rates very highly in any feedback we receive. This is valued by parents, students and the staff at Woodenbong Central School. This does not happen by accident and is something that all sections of our community continue to work on.

Relationships are always important at WCS. Relationships are the glue that hold us together, get us through the tough times and make the good times even more special.

Woodenbong CS has always been involved with our Communities in many ways including Australia Day, Anzac Day, bike weekends, agricultural displays and Steers. At times of need, we play our part. Whether that be at funerals or during water shortages – by ensuring facilities are available for our students to shower and have clean clothes.

There are exceptionally strong bonds between our community and our school:

* + Children, mothers, fathers, grandparents and great grandparents – within living memory we have students in our high school whose parents went to school here, whose grandparents went to school here, and whose great grandparents went to school here. I’m not sure if they were all taught by [names of two teachers], but a few generations certainly have.
  + Staff at Woodenbong Central School not only work here, they went to school here or their children/grandchildren do. For most staff this is more than just a job.

Over time, the nature of schooling has changed but at least one thing remains constant – the desire to provide the best education the school can for the students at Woodenbong Central School. Relationships and connections make this process easier.

The Picture Theatre of World War II no longer exists. Woodenbong pre-school is on the site of the old picture theatre, timbers and the structure of the old picture theatre can be found in McMillian’s shed, and we have a new Picture Theatre Hall (which is about to be air conditioned). The school still uses the Picture Theatre for functions including our Year 12 Farewell and Variety Night. The old Picture Theatre may no longer exist but important values of connections, relationships and a sense of community still do – permeating into others.

Woodenbong Central School now plays a bigger role in stewardship with our community. It is a role we are proud to play, and one we are cognisant of its importance.

The Picture Theatre also makes the most of their opportunities. When the old Picture Theatre closed down, the team worked to make a new one. When the opportunity came along for a Cinemascope projector, they jumped at it. The Picture Theatre Hall provided the community with opportunities. The independent nature of the theatre at that time meant that it had film releases not seen in Lismore or Kyogle. It also provided many social opportunities. WCS is continuing that tradition of providing opportunities for our community.

We provide our students with many opportunities – to learn, hone skills and to find areas of interest and a passion for learning. When given the chance our students shine.

2018 has been a particularly successful year for the students at Woodenbong Central School. There have been some wonderful achievements as we will see later.

Today not everyone will be recognised. However, all our students can be proud of their achievements this year.

In 2018 students from Woodenbong Central School experienced success in a number of areas including sporting, academic and cultural. These include:

* We continue to do well in external academic competitions and examinations.
* The video clip our students made has been recognised at a National level and the Muli project won a Premier’s Award.
* Our students continue to do well in sport at regional, State and International level.
  + This year [Names of two students] represented Australia in America at Futsal.
  + Next year [Names of three students] have the opportunity to go to Brazil for Futsal
  + Clay pigeon shooting at Tamworth and Yapoon.
* Several students competed at both the Royal Brisbane and Sydney agricultural shows. We should acknowledge that [Name of teacher] led the way for a schools’ display competition at Sydney Royal Easter Show.
* Students chosen for the Young Achievers Program. We are the only NSW school in this UQ program.

We have great students willing to participate whole-heartedly in these opportunities. However, it is our great teachers and our supportive community that ensures our students have those opportunities. As a small school we can be flexible, we know our students, and we help them find and develop paths towards their post-school destinations.

In 2019 we will continue to innovate to build on the gains of the last few years, as well as continue to build on our traditional strengths, e.g. sports, agriculture and the community.

The collaborative efforts of students, parents, teachers and our wider Communities make Woodenbong Central School a fantastic school. Woodenbong Central School is a place where we all work together to achieve the best for our students.

I would like to thank those who give up and volunteer their time for the benefit of our students. Volunteering for the benefit of others has been a significant part of the culture of our community. However, it needs to be nurtured, modelled and acknowledged. So thanks to everyone who has given up time to read with our students, to provide scripture, donated cattle, or gave to time to drive students or to provide musical instruction. My thanks to each and every one of you.

Congratulations to all of today’s award winners.

I would ask us all to make the most of our opportunities. To continue to build our connections and relationships to ensure that Woodenbong Central School remains connected to our Communities and that our Communities are very much a part of the school. We also need to remember that our collective values, and efforts, are responsible for where we are at today. We must continue to work collaboratively to make 2019 even better for our students.

To all members of the Woodenbong Community I wish you a safe and happy Christmas and holiday period.

Thank you

**Contributor details**

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Greg is Principal of Woodenbong Central School, a position which he has held since 2008. In addition, he is a Member of the SPC Executive with responsibility for Learning and Business software, Aboriginal Education, Learning, DoE systems and he also represents the SPC on numerous Program Control Groups.