Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 11th April</td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade last day of term</td>
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<td>Fri 25th April</td>
<td>Anzac Day at Morpeth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 28th April</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<td>Tues 29th April</td>
<td>Students return for Term 2</td>
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Christie Lyn Foundation Raffle

1st Prize Sunset Cruise for 4 people on “Champagne on Ice” donated by PRD.
2nd Prize Ipad donated by Alina & Chris Mackee.
3rd Prize Homemade Patchwork Quilt by Gayle Sheppard. Quilted by Shirley McLennan

$5.00 each or 3 for $10.00 available at the office.

Easter Hat Parade-tomorrow

We will be holding our Easter Hat Parade and Easter Egg Hunt on the last day of school for this term. We also have a pre-school section for the parade.

As we have only recently held a showcase afternoon on Grandparents’ Day, this year we are keeping the afternoon very simple. Starting at 2:00 pm, there will be a range of stalls run by some of our students. The students wanted to do something to contribute to the Christie Lyn Foundation and asked if they could make ‘things’ and sell them at school. The results of their efforts will be available for sale on Friday. They start at 20c each. At 2:15 pm, we will commence our Easter Hat Parade with the children modelling the hats they have made at school. Following the parade, we will have our Easter Egg hunt. The students have been reminded that they don’t keep the eggs they find – they are all pooled together and shared out equally.

This is an out of uniform day (for a gold coin donation) with the donations going towards Stewart House.

Stockland Stars

Thank you for your support of this Stockland Green Hills promotion. Our school came fourth in the small school category. Had we come third, we would have won $1000.00! So close. Maybe we’ll have better luck next year.

Anzac Day at Morpeth - Reminder

We will again be participating in the Anzac Day March at Morpeth, on Friday 25th April (the last week of the school holidays). We are to assemble at Campbell’s Store, Cnr Tank and Swan Streets at 10.45 am. All children attending are to wear their full school uniform.

School Vacation

Friday is the final day of school for this term. Teachers will resume on Monday 28th April, undertaking some professional development activities at Largs in the morning before returning to Iona to continue with further professional development activities in the afternoon.

Students return to school on Tuesday 29th April.
Nick Earls
4/5/6 students thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Maitland Town Hall to listen to the talented author, Nick Earls. He gave us great insights into his writing.

Stewart House
We have been advised that our school is to receive a Gold Trophy from Stewart House in recognition of the fundraising we conducted last year. The Gold Trophy is awarded to schools which raise greater than $10.00/student on a per capita basis, and includes student donations and fundraising, as well as staff contributions through the Salary Contribution Scheme. Thank you so much for supporting our efforts with this special charity, which only helps disadvantaged students in public schools.

Zone Cross Country
Our large cohort of students competed very well at Tocal under extremely hot conditions last Thursday, and as usual, were fantastic representatives of our school, and wonderful sportspeople. Congratulations especially to Lucy who was successful in qualifying for the next level and will compete in the Regional Cross Country Championships in Week 2 of Term 2. Thank you also to our wonderful P&C for providing the catering at the venue.

Forest Working Bee-reminder
We are planning a forest working bee for early next term where we will be cleaning up our forest area. This includes renewing our bark chip paths, clearing out branches and debris, planting new vegetation and creating a new vegetation area (under Ms Hamer’s guidance) using some of our Environmental Education funds and a grant we received from the HRCMA. The date is Friday 9th May (Week 2 Term 2) starting at 9.00 am. We will organise a sausage sizzle for the day as well. As they say, “many hands make light work!”

Iona Workshop 15 May
Iona Public School – your future your say
The Principal invites you as a member of the school community to participate in an evening to map out the schools priorities for the next 5 years. It is important that we capture the views of the school community to develop a position statement and report on the type of school Iona wants to be. This report will be a key document to influence decision makers in the department of education and elsewhere to ensure our community is heard and that its’ views are taken into account.

Where... Iona Public School; 4/5/6 classroom
When... Thursday 15th May from 7.00 – 9.00 pm

Light refreshments and supper will be provided.

Please RSVP to the front office 49301415 by Friday 9th May.

I encourage you to take this opportunity to shape the future of your school.

Thanks
Darren and Sarah Bayley
Awards

**Merit Awards** were presented in:-
K/1
Jessica for presenting neat and careful work
Seth J for great results in spelling and dictation
Zali for working well in spelling and dictation
George for great participation in sport
Annabel for being a great listener
1/2/3
Danny for putting a great deal of effort and care into his art
Ashley for wonderful work in writing activities
Fang-Chi for great work in maths
Felix for trying hard to complete all classwork
Katelin for always producing quality work
Grace for using journal writing independently
4/5/6
Tom B for excellent results in his maths test
Lucy for an outstanding performance at Zone Cross Country
Bailea for outstanding classroom behavior effort
Georgia for exceptional bookwork in all subjects

**Peer Nominated Citizenship Award**
Madeline for caring for younger students

**Teacher Nominated Citizenship Award**
Tilly for supporting younger students at school

**Library Award**
Eaden for being an engaged reader

**Environmental Award**
Nash for being helpful in environmental groups

**Healthy Food Award**
Callum for eating a variety of foods

**Birthdays:-**
Sophie S turned 7 on 30th March
Abagail turned 5 on 3rd April
Liam turned 12 on 5th April
Felix turns 8 on 11th April
Will turns 8 on 12th April
Lily turns 7 on 12th April
Shaleea turns 6 on 15th April
Critically acclaimed prolific author Nick Earls will bring his humour, intelligence and wit to the fore when he visits Maitland this week as part of the Maitland City Library’s Look Who’s Talking program.

Named as one of the top 10 greatest living Australians, Earls will come to Maitland to put the concept of normal under the microscope.

“Nick Earls is a gifted storyteller who will change our concept of normal,” city librarian Keryl Collard said. “Welcome to Normal [Earls’ collection of short stories] is the book that nearly didn’t happen – but that is the story only Nick can tell.”

Earls’ books include best-selling novels such as Zigzag Street, Bachelor of Kisses and Perfect Skin. His work has been published internationally in English and in translation.

Nick Earls will appear at East Maitland Bowling Club on Thursday at 6pm. Tickets are $20. For more information visit maitland.nsw.gov.au/library or phone 4933 6952.
BUSH POETRY COMPETITION

Entry form & Rules

As part of the 2014 Tocal Field Days we are holding a Bush Poetry Competition. The aim of the competition is to encourage children to use their imagination to write bush poetry.

The theme of the competition is ‘Australiana’
There will be two sections in the competition.
Section 1 is open to children up to and including Year 4
Section 2 is open to children in Years 5 and 6

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The work must the original work of the child and should be limited to 4 verses (but can be less)
- Finalist will be selected to perform their poem in the Children’s Park area at Tocal Field Days on Friday May 2, 2014
- The judges decision will be final
- All poems will be printed and included in a photocopied booklet which will distributed to all schools that participate
- All children entering the competition will receive a certificate
- Closing date is Friday April 11.
- Entries can be faxed, mailed or email to;
  Mail - Tocal Field Days 815 Tocal Rd, PATERSON 2421
  Email - fielddays@tocal.com
  Fax 4939 8807

- The winner in each section will receive
  1st - $50 cash prize plus a copy of the Bush Poet Bob Skelton’s book -
  2nd - $30 cash prize plus a copy of the Bush Poet Bob Skelton’s book -
  3rd - $20 cash prize plus a copy of the Bush Poet Bob Skelton’s book -

- A second copy of the book will be awarded to the winners’ school.

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<tr>
<th>Students Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>School Attended</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Address</td>
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<td>School Phone number</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Year (e.g. Year 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title of Poem</td>
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Please attach your poem to this form. CLOSING DATE 11 APRIL 2014

DECLARATION

1. This poem is all my own work
2. I give my permission for my poem to be printed in a booklet which will be distributed to all participating schools.
3. I understand and give permission for my poem to be printed in the Maitland Mercury if I am one of the finalists

__________________________________________________________________________

Signature of student
Awabakal’s Twilight
Awabakal Nature Reserve
Bring the family and search for some elusive nocturnal Australian animals. Listen to some stories about the night sky along the way.
When: Friday 11th April 2014
Time: 7pm-9pm Grade: Easy
Meet: End of Ocean Street, Dudley
Cost: $8 Child, $10 adults, $28 family

Art in the Park-Bush Art
Blue Gum Hills Regional Park
Bring along all the family to meet an Aboriginal Discovery Ranger who will introduce you to painting in the bush art way. Take home your own creation!
When: Wednesday 16th April
Time: 10am-12pm Grade: Easy
Meet: Blue Gum Hills RP Car Park
Off Minmi Rd, Minni
Cost: $10 per person- includes all materials

All Ages bike riding on Ash Island
Hunter Wetland National Park
Ever wondered what was across the bridge? Join a Discovery Ranger on an easy bike ride exploring the flats of Ash Island. Realize the tranquility of the Hunter River & pack lunch to picnic along the riverfront.
Bring your bike and helmet.
When: Saturday 12th April 2014
Time: 10am-Noon Grade: Easy
Meet: Ash island. Across the bridge follow to carpark at schoolmasters house
Cost: $8 Child, $10 adults, $28 family

WilderQuest
Easter Bunny v’s Easter Bilby
Awabakal Nature Reserve
Join a Discovery Ranger to search for the Easter Bunnies homes and compare how alike they are to Australia’s very own Easter Bilby. Lots of exploring and Easter art for all the family.
When: Monday 14th April 2014
Time: 10am-Noon Grade: Easy
Meet: carpark at end of Ocean St Dudley
Cost: $15 child, discounts for more than 1 child. Adults FREE

Bird Watching-Stockton Sandpit
Hunter Wetland National Park
Join our Discovery bird expert at Hunter Wetlands NP to discover the many species of birds that call this special place home.
When: Tuesday 15th April 2014
Time: 10am-Noon Grade: Easy
Meet: Under Stockton Bridge in the carpark
Cost: $8 per person

Celebrate Heritage Week
FREE TOUR
Blue Gum Hills RP
Join a Discovery Ranger for a journey along the Heritage Walking Track following the Minni-Back Creek rail embankment to Brown’s Colliery No. 2 mine. You will pass by a 1870s ventilation shaft, engine foundations and open cut mining remnants. Light refreshments will be supplied at the Village Green Picnic Area, which also provides shelters and free BBQ for your use.
Cost: FREE When: Thursday 17th April
Time: 10am-12pm Grade: Easy
Meet: Blue Gum Hills RP Car Park
Off Minmi Rd, Minni

Roll & Stroll with Bubs & Tots
Glenrock State Conservation Area
Wheel and walk the well graded flat path to Flaggys Creek. Enjoy your morning tea while the kids connect with nature as they read an Australian Bush story by the creek.
When: Wednesday 23rd April 2014
Time: 10am-Noon Grade: Medium
Meet: NPWS Carpark-Off Burwood Rd Kanibah
Cost: $10 per family

WilderQuest-Rockpool Ramble
Glenrock State Conservation Area
Learn more about the fascinating wild world of rock pools. Where do the animals live? How do they survive? Discover the answers with us at Burwood Beach.
When: Thursday 24th April 2014
Time: 9am-11am Grade: Easy
Meet: Merewether Baths
Cost: $15 per child, discounts for more kids

For bookings and information call: NPWS 49464112