**Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 19th Feb</td>
<td>Welcome BBQ from 6.00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 29th Feb</td>
<td>Young Leaders Day 5/6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 4th Mar</td>
<td>Clean Up Australia Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 11th Mar</td>
<td>Hunter Wetlands Excursion</td>
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**Canteen Roster**

Please remember to have your lunch order in by Wednesday afternoon to allow time to purchase all the fresh ingredients.

This Week Ruth
Next Week Ruth

**P&C Meeting/AGM**

The Annual General Meeting for the P&C was held yesterday with a new committee elected. The roles are as follows:
President: Mrs Debbie Clement
Secretary: Mrs Leah Gale
Treasurer: Mrs Nicole Crossland
Vice President: Mr Pat Lannen
Canteen Manager: Mrs Ruth Jones
Uniform Co-ordinator: Mrs Nina Leonard

I would like to sincerely thank Mr Pat Lannen for his wonderful efforts as president over the last few years, and I’m sure the present committee will welcome his advice and assistance this year as Vice president.

**Forest Working Bee/ School’s Cleanup Day**

On Friday, 4th March (Week 6) we will be participating in the School’s Clean-up day, as a part of Clean up Australia Day. The children will be cleaning up around the school (K-4) with Yrs 5 and 6 cleaning up along Paterson Road. (The attached permission note needs to be handed in before leaving the school grounds). We will then record our results, analysing the types of rubbish found. All children will need gloves for the day. We have also organised our Forest Working Bee for that day, which will be followed by a BBQ for the workers. We ask for as many volunteers as possible to assist us regenerate our forest area, so badly damaged in last year’s floods and this January’s flooding as well. Trailers, whipper snippers, chainsaws, wheelbarrows... are all needed as we will be planting, laying mulch, trimming trees, cleaning up broken branches etc. We would like to start the day around 9.00 am, and with “may hands making light work!” we should be finished in a few hours. Please let me know if you can help, so we can organise the day appropriately.

**Annual School Report Survey-reminder**

Attached to last week’s newsletter was a “School Life” Survey which will be used as a part of our Annual School Report for 2015. The survey is rather open ended with written responses requested. Only those parents who were part of our school during 2015 will be given the survey. All survey responses are to be returned by Friday, 4th March so the School Council can collate the responses.

**Hats**

Due to a price increase school hats are now $6.00
On Friday, 12th February our Year 3-6 students did exceptionally well at the Small Schools Swimming Carnival. As usual, the feedback from the pool has been fantastic! I would also like to thank all parents who assisted throughout the day, making the day run so well. Mrs South from Mt Kanwary P.S. has again apologised for not having the Handicap Trophy there (which we won) but she has since returned it with enough lollies for each child—we will give them out at the assembly on Friday afternoon (just in time to take home!). She also sent a letter with the trophy as follows: “To all the lovely students at Iona P.S., I just wanted to congratulate you all on being the winning school at our Small School’s Swimming Carnival on Friday. You all swam fantastically!! I’m sorry again that I forgot to bring the trophy along but I know you’ll now proudly display it all year! Well done again and best wishes to those students going to the zone swimming carnival next Tuesday”.

The Champions for the day were: **Senior Girls**: Kimberley; **Junior Girls**: Lily C.; **Junior Boys**: Zac; and **11 yrs Boys**: Oscar. The **qualifiers for the Zone Carnival, which will be held on Tuesday, are:**

- **Seth D**: 9 yrs 50 m freestyle;
- **Kimberley**: 12 yrs 50m Freestyle, 12 yrs Breast Stroke, 12 yrs 50m Back Stroke, 12 yrs 50m Butterfly, Senior Girls Relay team
- **Leila**: 12 yrs 50 m Back Stroke; Senior Girls Relay team
- **Gabby**: Senior Girls Relay team
- **Lily C.**: 9 yrs 50 m Freestyle; Junior Relay Team
- **Sophie S**: 9 yrs 50 m Freestyle; Junior Relay Team
- **Sophie D**: Senior Girls Relay team
- **Tilly**: Junior Girls Relay Team
- **Lachlan L**: 11 yrs 50m Freestyle; 11 yrs 50m Back Stroke; Junior Boys Relay Team
- **Connor**: Junior Boys Relay Team
- **Kyan**: Junior Boys Relay Team
- **Zac**: 10 yrs 50m Freestyle;
- **Oscar**: 11 yrs 50m Freestyle; 11 yrs 50m Breast Stroke; Junior Boys Relay Team
- **Shaleaa**: 8 yrs 50m Freestyle; Junior Girls Relay Team
- **Lydia**: 8 yrs 50m Freestyle.

Some new records were set on the day -they were:-

- **Lily C.** 9 yrs 50 m Freestyle 47.69 (old record 50.71);
- **Zac** -Junior Individual Medley 5.22.15 (no previous record);
- **Junior Girls Relay** 3.55.91 (old record 3.56.42) and **Senior Boys Relay** 3.18.28 (old record 3.25.16). Congratulations to these swimmers-their records are now in the official program given out each year.

**Iona P&C Welcome BBQ 2015 - Tomorrow**

As is tradition at Iona PS, at the start of the school year, the P&C hosts a BBQ at the school. The BBQ is to be held on Friday 19th February starting at 6.00pm. Please bring along your own meat, drinks, chairs and also a salad or dessert to put on a table to share.

It is a great fun night and gives our new families a chance to meet our old families. The kids have a great time playing with their school friends. Hope to see many families there, any questions see Pat Lannen.

I do ask that all families refrain from bringing alcoholic drinks to this BBQ as we have many school children here on school/departmental grounds. I appreciate your efforts in the past and your understanding of this request.

**Dungog High School Information Evening-reminder**

Year 5/6 students and their parents are cordially invited to attend an information evening at Dungog High School on Wednesday 24th at 5pm in the MPC. The evening will allow guests to hear what Dungog High has to offer, speak with staff and enjoy a free sausage sizzle.

Among the staff attending will be the 2017 Year 7 Advisor Mrs Justine Shumack and our Transition Coordinator Mrs Denise McKinna. If you would like to attend, please RSVP Dungog High School, with the names of your family members on 49923022 by Friday, 19th February to ensure your place for the night.

**Head Lice**

Head lice outbreaks sometimes occur at school-we have some cases reported this week. If your child has head lice please treat your child and inform us. Daily combing of dry hair with conditioner can get rid of head lice. You should continue to send your child to school.
Tell them from Me – survey (4,5,6 students ONLY)
The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.
The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.
I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.
A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Friday 26 February. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

Environmental Committee Meeting-report
Our Environmental Team met on Tuesday morning, with many plans already in action, and many plans to continue throughout this year. The following items were discussed- the building of a chicken shed; using the old vegetable garden as a sand pit with a shade cover; continuing the renewal process with the front garden, the new plans for the new vegetable garden were outlined and discussed; moving the current rubbish pile with the green waste removed each month with a monthly roster of interested parents; the purchasing of a school trailer with a cage; adding another water tank to cater for the extra gardens in place; a lattice to build “Recycled plastic bottle flower” display near the current sports shed, and future plans for the weather shed area.

PBL- Positive Behaviour Learning-weekly
Last year, on our school website I added some information about our PBL program. The information comes under the “Curriculum and Activities” section at the top of the school web page, and within that there is a special section for “Positive Behaviour Learning-PBL”. The program is explained in this section with an outline of the lessons we are targeting this term.
Each lesson taught to the children will also be attached to this section. Again, we ask that you have a look at this PBL section and familiarise yourself with the values we are targeting at our school within this program.
This week’s lesson was “I share the playground fairly (rules)” where we discuss how to play together in such areas as the COLA and the main playground area. The main themes include: Be Safe; Be Respectful and Be Responsible.

2016 Registration
Paterson River Netball Club still has positions available in most teams, especially 12, 13, 14.
All playing abilities are welcome
Net Set Go (5-10 years) $120
Juniors (11-17 years) $135
Seniors (18+ years) $160

For more information please ring Jess on 0497498654 or contact us at Facebook Paterson River Netball Club
STAGE 3 Clean-Up Australia Day Permission Note

My child, ....................................................., has permission to participate in Clean Up Australia Day outside the school grounds on Friday, 4th March. I understand he/she will be supervised by Mr Sheppard during this activity.

Signed:.................................................................

P&C Fundraising BBQ – Clearance Sale, Saturday 27th February

Location: - 301 Tocal Rd, Mindaribba. (10km North of Maitland on Tocal Road, property on left hand side) Beware of rail crossing when turning off Tocal Rd.

The date for our BBQ is fast approaching. The sale starts at 9am and should be complete by about 2pm. Thanks to those who have already volunteered to help. If anyone else is available please let me know ASAP or see Alison. We only need 2-3 hours of your time.

We hope to be on site and have started cooking by 8am. Anyone who can be there prior to that to help set up that would be great. We have arranged to have everything (BBQ, tables and eskys with drinks) delivered on site by this time.

If you can or cannot help on the day then we need cakes, slices and biscuits to sell. These can be left at the canteen on Friday arvo, or taken out to the site on Saturday. Please could as many families as possible help with this. We have arranged a coffee van to be on site as well.

This is a great opportunity for raising funds for the P&C. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks,

Pat Lannen
Please step up for Woodville School of Arts Hall

The Annual General Meeting for the WSoA, last December, couldn’t go ahead because so few people turned up. So it’s been rescheduled for 7pm, Monday, 29 February, at the hall.

If we don’t get a quorum this time then we no longer have a duly elected committee which means the WSoA as an organisation cannot operate legally - and that means the hall cannot operate legally because our insurance would be void.

The main beneficiaries of the hall - as ever over more than a century - are the children of Iona Public School. So please come and give much-needed support to our community-owned hall.

All committee positions will be declared vacant on the night and a new committee must be elected. We’ve been operating without a secretary for several months since Viv Read moved inter-state, and current president Lis Smark is due to step down after four years. Other non-office bearer committee positions must also be filled.

Since all our renovations and painting the hall has entered a new era of popularity with hirers, and as a result the prospect of some financial stability compared with previous times. So it’s a rewarding time to be associated with our historic community centre. There is so much more that we could do there with a larger and enthusiastic band of helpers. Running the hall is no big deal when there are enough of us.

Please support us in whatever way you can on the night – to ensure a quorum or to offer your time and skill in some other way. If your membership has lapsed you can renew it on the night ($20 individual; $30 household) and still vote for the committee. The meeting will take about an hour.

Thank you for taking time to read this!

Lis Smark

WSoA pres.

For more information: 4930-3440; 0408 660 638; or woodvillesoa@gmail.com