PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

FAREWELL MR SIMPSON
It is with sadness that I formally acknowledge the retirement of our current principal Mr Neil Simpson. For the past fourteen years, he has calmly guided the school through many changes and challenges, and also on to achievements too numerous to mention. I can personally attest to the role of secondary school principal as being complex, demanding and rewarding in equal measures. Mr Simpson’s success and longevity can be attributed to his tireless work ethic and student focused approach. He never lost sight of the reason for becoming a school leader, and that is to give students a brighter future. I can confidently say that Mr Simpson leaves the school in a much better position than when he arrived.

A new substantive principal is expected to be appointed before the beginning of 2016.

INTERACT
Thursday night saw a wonderful gathering of students, parents and community members with the annual Interact changeover dinner. The school Interact group is a collection of students intent on tackling the issues that matter to them most. Unlike many high schools where the role of student leaders is ill defined, Batemans Bay has two distinct student bodies charged with making a difference. The SRC has a specific leadership function, representing the students in face and voice, while the Interact club is a true community service group with fundraising and promotional interests inside and outside the school.

The dinner was entirely organised and catered for by the students, showing maturity and organisational skills beyond their years. Samantha Hanlon was installed as the new president and will be ably assisted by Georgia Laverack, Emily Clout, Byron Manning, Claire Meacham and Claire Turnbull. Thanks must go to the Batemans Bay Rotary Club for their active support. Alan Russell and Maureen Manning from Rotary deserve special recognition for their guidance and mentoring. You can be sure to hear more of the new Interact team’s projects in the near future.

EVALUATION AND PLANNING EVENING
As mentioned in previous newsletters, the time to review the school’s progress is now upon us. An evaluation and planning evening will be held on Monday, 30 November at 7pm in the school library. Parents can expect to find out how the school is faring in relation to the indicators identified in the school plan and will be able to consider the school development projects proposed for the coming year. Not all parents may be able to attend, but everyone will be able to be part of the process in the week following the meeting by simply contacting the school via telephone or email.

Mr Greg McDonald
Relieving Principal

Year 7 SWIM SCHOOL (Sport)
Thursday, 3 December
Time: 11 - 12.40pm
Venue: Batemans Bay Swimming Pool
Transport: Bus
Cost: $7 per week (pool entry and bus)
Tanika Golbach with new President Samantha Hanlon

Georgia Laverack with Eurobodalla's Mayor Mr Lindsay Brown

Our retiring Principal Mr Neil Simpson

Relieving Principal Mr Greg McDonald
A Celebration of Gonski

The Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales (P&C Federation) represents Parents and Communities of over 783,000 public school students in New South Wales and is committed to ensuring the best education for all of our children. A properly resourced public school system for our students is the only way that all students are able to obtain a world class education.

At a gathering to celebrate achievements from early Gonski funding at Merrylands High School on Thursday. Jason Vials, President of P&C Federation said “Despite new Federal Education Minister Birmingham’s comments, there is ample evidence of the good and great results coming from the initial Gonski funding in NSW. All he needs to do is ask parents; ask teachers, ask Principals. The NSW Department of Education is happy to provide that information, as is NSW Minister of Education Adrian Piccoli. I wonder who he is talking to, we are not shy of telling these good news stories!”. ‘

‘Every child deserves the chance to shine! The next Bill Gates or Fiona Wood is sitting in a classroom in Bankstown or Bourke. Regardless of location, parental background or economic situation, every child should be getting the support and funding they need to achieve their potential.’ Mr Vials continued.

‘Our new Prime Minister acknowledges the value of the Gonski model, but is concerned about affordability in these tough budgetary times. We need to choose a 21st century education system over a 20th century road, or perks for rich superannuants.’ Mr Vials continued.

President Vials concluded, “Our children and our country need the full implementation of Gonski if we are to achieve the agile and innovative country Mr Turnbull says he wants. As a country we must proceed with the full implementation of the independent Gonski recommendations.”

Sydney, NSW, 29 October 2015
For Further Media Information Contact:

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Website: www.pandc.org.au ABN: 37 439 975 796
Kon possesses a real love of learning. He is undertaking four extension courses in his HSC year, including the English Extension 2 course. This is an impressive achievement for a student whose first language is Greek, not English.

INDIGENOUS STUDENTS GETTING READY FOR WORK!

We would like to congratulate a number of year 10 Indigenous students on their achievements of gaining a school based traineeship for 2016. Chloe Towney, Daylan Goodsell and Kalem Davis-Wighton will commence their traineeships at the beginning of next year working towards gaining a certificate in different fields of study over a period of two years giving them a step towards starting their careers. Congratulations!

What’s On Term 4

**Week 8**
- Mon 23 Nov  Wellbeing Day Year 7 Hanging Rock
- Mon 23 Nov  Wellbeing Day Year 8 MPC
- Mon 23 Nov  History Excursion
- Mon 23 Nov  Assessment HSC Dance Core Composition P5-6
- Tue 24 Nov  Performance Assembly P3-4
- Wed 25 Nov  Rock Climbing Year 9 1-3pm
- Wed 25 Nov  White Ribbon Day
- Thur - Fri
- 26-27 Nov  SRC Leadership Camp - Durras

**Week 9**
- Mon-Wed
- 30 Nov - 2 Dec Year 10 Sports Leadership Camp
- Mon 30 Nov  Evaluation & Planning Evening 7pm school library
- Thur 3 Dec  Orientation Day
- Thur 3 Dec  Possum Skin Cloak
- Thur 3 Dec  Year 7 Swim School
- Fri 4 Dec Peer Support Training Year 9
Meet the Media Group

A group of enthusiastic students have decided to form a Media Group. The members come from both Year 7 and 8. They will write, conduct interviews and produce articles and photos for your school newsletter. Some of us hope our involvement will help us become powerful writers and journalists. You may have seen some of our work in previous issues. Watch out for our reports and stories in coming editions. Students who are interested in joining the Media Group should see Ms Rayner in English.

Report by Lachlan Rickards

Back Row: Lachlan Rickards, Laney Francis, Codey Carpenter
Front Row: Abbey Duncan, Alexandra Stewart, Wynta McLachlan
2015 Mayor's Writing Competition

The Eurobodalla Shire Council Libraries would like to thank each student who entered their story into the 2015 Mayor's Writing Competition. We had an amazing 330 entries this year! Each story was read by the Judges who had a hard time deciding the winners. Everyone can be proud of their contribution.

The Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience is a free, traveling exhibition that tells the story of Australia’s involvement in World War One and our subsequent century of service.

This once-in-a-lifetime event will be staged at the University of Wollongong Sports Hub from 11 – 20 January 2016. It’s an ideal summer holiday activity for families in the Illawarra region.

Over 40,000 Australians have already been through the Experience in Albury-Wodonga, Tasmania and Ballarat and the response has been overwhelmingly positive with locals saying it is “brilliant”, “amazing”, “a must see” and a “mammoth task executed perfectly”.

Visitors can walk through recreated First World War environments, featuring innovative displays and interactive elements which showcase over 200 artefacts from the Australian War Memorial, the majority never before seen by the public.

Entry to the Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience is free, but booking is essential as places are limited. Find out dates, locations and booking details at www.spiritofanzac.gov.au.

Follow us on social media using the hashtag #spiritofanzac.