PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

NATIONAL SORRY DAY

Some people mistakenly remember National Sorry Day as the anniversary of former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd’s Apology to the Stolen Generation. Although the two events are inextricably linked, the origins of National Sorry Day lie in the early 1990s. Some may contend that it is rooted in events from an even earlier time. During the 1990s, there was increasing pressure on the Federal Government to hold an inquiry into the past treatment of Aboriginal families and their children. The inquiry did eventually happen, and in 1997 a report entitled Bringing Them Home was tabled in parliament. A year to the day later, the first National Sorry Day was held.

History lessons aside, there is much we can learn from Kevin Rudd’s apology as we prepare to recognise National Sorry Day at Batemans Bay High School this week. It serves as a reminder of what we as a school, as part of a state-wide education system, need to do. Read the excerpt below. It comes from the last four lines of the apology. I challenge anyone to argue against the intent, applicability and significance of the message.

A future where we harness the determination of all Australians, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to close the gap that lies between us in life expectancy, educational achievement, and economic opportunity.

A future where we embrace the possibility of new solutions to enduring problems where old approaches have failed.

A future based on mutual respect, mutual resolve and mutual responsibility.

A future where all Australians, whatever their origins, are truly equal partners, with equal opportunities and with an equal

stake in shaping the next chapter in the history of this great country, Australia.

Replace the word “Australians” with “students”, and I think you’ll see the relevance.

Greg McDonald
Relieving Principal

SAFETY RECALL

DER Laptop Chargers and Power Cables

It has been brought to the school’s attention that a small batch of cables used with some DER laptops should not be used. The TSO has accounted for all bar five of the problem cables. They can be easily identified as they are the only power cables with a two pin connection to the charger (see photo). All other DER laptop chargers have a triangular three pin connector and are not affected.

Students are advised to check their DER laptops. If an offending power cable is found, do not use it and return it along with the charger to Mrs Beach immediately. A replacement will be organised.
What's On Term 2

Week 6
Mon to Tue
25 - 26 May  ELC Leadership Camp at Tuross
Mon 25 May  Nangai Mai Workshop Sydney
Mon 25 May  Year 7 Vaccinations
27 May to 3 June  Reconciliation Week
Thur 28 May  Sorry Day Assembly
Thur 28 May  Aboriginal Debating and Public Speaking Workshop in Library

Week 7
Mon 1 June  Fast & Fresh - Drama, Canberra
Wed 3 June  School Athletics Carnival
Wed 3 June  Regional Tennis

“The ABC’s Heywire competition is calling for stories by Year 10, 11 and 12 students from rural and regional Australia. They’re encouraged to submit text (400 words), audio, photos or video about life in their neck of the woods.

Heywire is not about being the best writer or media maker as the ABC will work alongside the winners to help produce their pieces to be broadcast on the ABC. It’s about showing the rest of Australia what life is like for young people in your part of the country”.

Visit the Heywire website:  abc.net.au/haywire for further information. The Heywire website is where students can see last year’s winning entries and upload their own entries this year.

The Heywire competition closes Wednesday, 16 September 2015.

Scott Simpson
HT English

Welcome to Max, our now 14 week old Jack Russell. He is the star of our dog therapy program in special education.

Look out for our article in next week’s School Matters!
On the first week of school holidays Kateia Barenaba went to Glenelg beach in Adelaide to represent NSW in the Beach Volleyball Competition. Kateia and her partner Harriet were successful in winning their pool, moving them through to the quarter finals where they were unfortunately defeated by Victoria. They placed 5th out of 25 teams.

Kateia has also been successful in making the Australian Junior Volleyball Women’s Program. Kateia has just returned from Thailand where she has been playing for the last three weeks. The tour consisted of training twice a day with the occasional scratch match against Singapore. The competition was held at the Bangkok Volleyball stadium where the team versed Bangkok and other Thailand school teams. After the girls won their pool they moved into the pool cross-overs where they lost the next two games and were eliminated from the comp.

We congratulate Kateia and her future endeavours.

On Thursday, 21 May, the U/15's boys aussie rules team hosted a match at Hanging Rock against Vincentia High School. The boys were comprehensive winners, taking out the match 94 – 6. The game was played in an excellent spirit, despite the one-sided score. Both teams had some excellent passages of play and there were plenty of tough contests throughout the match (Harry O'Keeffe can certainly vouch for that).

A huge thank you has to go to Connor Art for his effort to umpire the full match on his own. He received praise from both coaches for a great job. The boys play Narooma next round on Tuesday, 26 May.

Bryan Firth, Coach
Cert III in Horsemanship provides relevant units of competency to equip you with appropriate skills and confidence to benefit horse and rider and promote safe riding and handling practices. Pathways to employment opportunities in the equine industry.

The course can be completed part time, with flexible study and assessment.

Face to face learning, including weekend clinics or online.

To enrol and for more information go to: www.horsecourse.com.au

Batemans Bay Writers Festival
5-7 June 2015
Coach House Marina Resort
6-7 June
Bay Festival Hub Marquee

For the full program, session planner, more information and bookings: www.batemansbaywritersfestival.com

ENDEAVOUR WORMS
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School Matters regularly includes community information and advertisements. The School does not endorse or accept responsibility for these activities. Attendance at or use of these services is at the discretion of the students.
25 May 2015

*Sorry Day Assembly*

*Dear Parent/Caregiver,*

To acknowledge and commemorate the important occasion in Australian history that is Sorry Day, we here at Batemans Bay High School would like to welcome you to an assembly on Thursday, 28 May at 11:30am. It is our wish that as many Aboriginal community members as possible are able to attend and share this occasion with the fantastic young men and women here at Batemans Bay High School.

The assembly will be treated to a special performance by Ngaran Ngaran Dance group, a Dhurga Welcome to Country, a didgeridoo performance by Roderick Slockee, and some stories by Aboriginal community members sharing their personal beliefs about the significance surrounding Sorry Day.

To conclude the assembly, the relieving Principal Gregory McDonald will pay his respects to Aboriginal community members and acknowledge the role Sorry Day has played in closing the gap in Aboriginal Education.

Immediately following the assembly, as our guests of honour you will be welcome to join Batemans Bay High School faculty members and senior Aboriginal students for refreshments.

If yourself and any family members are able to attend please return the attached note below as soon as possible to ensure we cater for all attendees. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at Batemans Bay High School.

Michael Cameron and Liam O’Sullivan  
Norta Norta Teachers

Kylea Rowing  
Norta Norta Leader

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(Please detach and return with your child to school)

I …………………………………………………………………….. will be attending the Sorry Day Assembly at Batemans Bay High School at 11:30am on 28 May with ………… number of guests.