Community Engagement Survey
We are seeking a number of parent volunteers with children in Years 8 and 9 to participate in a small group discussion about our school. The school has volunteered itself to take part in research being undertaken by the Department of Education. The aim is to find out your opinions of the school and understand what you want from the school. The results will be used to help improve communication, satisfaction and ultimately the delivery of education.

The discussion is planned to take place on Wednesday, 23 March at 11am. If you are interested in attending, please call the school on 4478 3600 or email batemansba-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au to register.

Voluntary School Contributions
Government schools in NSW have a long and proud history, starting with the establishment of Kempsey National School in 1848. Since then, over 7,000 government schools have opened, although only 2,213 were still operational as of last month. One of the key events in the timeline of public education in NSW was the passing of a bill in 1880 that became the Public Instruction Act. This led to the introduction of compulsory education, the withdrawal of state aid to religious schools, and the creation of the first state secondary schools. These reforms were vigorously contested as not everyone believed that education should be “free, secular and compulsory”. However, despite initial opposition and frequent ongoing challenges to this doctrine, these principles remain a cornerstone of government schools to this day.

It might then seem nonsensical or spurious to request a voluntary school contribution for each child at the start of the year. It is important for parents to know that voluntary school contributions and elective fees go directly towards maintaining the curriculum. The vast majority of the funding attracted by the school is tied to salaries or particular educational programs with only 1% of the total figure granted to cover classroom resources. Without the voluntary school contribution, the quality of the classroom experienced would be lessened.

The school certainly doesn’t want to see parents paying for their children’s education twice – once through the taxation system and once again through charges imposed by the school. However, rest assured that the additional contributions are needed and spent wisely on resources such as textbooks, laboratory equipment and materials for practical classes. Further information on voluntary school contributions and elective fees has been mailed to parents.

Sporting Season
The school sporting calendar is full to the brim with the Combined High Schools competitions in most sports starting this term. This week alone sees students competing in cricket, rugby league, soccer, swimming and mountain biking. As much as we prize academic achievement, we desire to see students becoming involved in as many aspects of school life as possible, including creative and sporting pursuits. It is no coincidence that students who “have a go” outside the classroom are more successful inside the classroom, and even those with the busiest extracurricular schedules can still perform well at school provided they have good time management skills.

Good luck to all those representing the school this week and beyond.

Mr Greg McDonald
Principal
## What’s On Term 1

### Week 7
- **Monday 7 Mar** Snr Davidson Shield Cricket - Bomaderry
- **Wednesday to Friday 9-11 Mar** Year 12 Geography Field Trip, Killalea, Shellharbour
- **Wed 9 Mar** South Coast Regional Swimming
- **Thursday 10 Mar** Zone Rugby League trials - Bega
- **Thursday 10 Mar** NSW Junior Chess League - Library, round 1
- **Thursday 10 Mar** Thredbo Interschools Mountain Biking
- **Friday 11 Mar** Soccer Gala Day - Bay Public School

### Week 8
- **Monday 14 Mar** Knock Out Soccer
- **Tuesday 15 Mar** Open Night 6-8pm - Year 5-6 Parents and students
- **Thursday 17 Mar** Construction Induction Training
- **Friday 18 Mar** Zone Volleyball

### Uniform Shop

Our school uniform shop will

**Close Tuesday, 15 and Thursday, 17 March**

**Re opening Tuesday, 22 March**

### Student Achievement – *Lachlan Rowing Year 7*

Lachlan Rowing is already an accomplished tennis player and has wasted no time in displaying his talents since starting high school. He was selected in the South Coast team and has recently competed in the NSW Combined High Schools Under 15 competition, representing the school with distinction.
The zone swimming carnival was held at the Narooma swimming pool on Wednesday, 17 February. Everyone had a great time and swam outstandingly. Nathan and Clare Meacham had standout performances, being age champions for their age groups with their many wins. Kai Canham and Jacomb Graham both stole seconds and finished fourth overall in their age groups.

Congratulations to everyone who swam on the day and for having a great team spirit. The regional swimming carnival is in Dapto next week so good luck to those who will compete!

Report by
Jacomb Graham
We’d love to hear from you!
If you are a young person between 12 - 24 living in NSW, we’d like to know about your experiences visiting health services in this confidential survey from the University of Sydney.

sydney.edu.au/medicine/general-practice/access

Understanding Trauma

A workshop for Adult survivors of Trauma and Abuse

Where:
Batemans Bay Oaks Ranch
Mossy Point Road
(off Highway south of Mogo)

When:
Tuesday, 15 March
10 - 4pm
catering provided

4475 0800
southernevents@gph.org.au

FLY INTO A CAREER

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.