Principal’s Message

What great follow up rain yesterday afternoon. We had a heavy shower here in Blandford and hope the outlying parts of our community received some decent falls.

Congratulations to Darcy who won the Blandford PS section of the Upper Hunter Shire, Mayor for a Day writing competition. Darcy attended the reception at the Scone Shire Council Chambers on Monday afternoon to read his entry. The overall winner and runner up were from Scone and Aberdeen Public Schools. Well done Darcy for a very thoughtful and well written essay.

Miss Sidney continues to work with our Y3-6 class, introducing some new online activities and ways of learning in the senior room. The children are working on Australian Democracy, with our trip to Canberra as the highlight of this unit of work.

The Variety Bash came by our school last Tuesday with much excitement generated along with tonnes of lollies and goodies.

We saw, talked to, and were photo bombed with Wilbur Wild, Smurfette and Papa Smurf, a car load of Dalmatians dogs, some very polite and well dressed Canadian Mounties, five Elvises, Dorothy and the Tin Man, Jessie and Woody and many other fun visitors. The folks from the Variety Bash were so generous with goodies for our students which had been donated to the Variety Club, by a range of businesses.

Our Year 6 leaders presented Gary, the manager of our stopover, with our donation of $55 which was gratefully received. It was very good to witness our children being givers as well as receivers.

Mrs Cooper’s class are studying Transport this term and are heading off to Murrurundi tomorrow for an afternoon excursion to see the steam train passing through our community.

We have planted a summer crop in our vege garden over the past two weeks. With many helpful hands the children have planted:

Broadbeans, snow peas, lettuce, sunflowers, corn, radishes, rainbow chard (this is really pretty spinach) potatoes and some kale. Our carrots are growing well and new compost is cooking away in our compost tumbler.

Thanks to our young gardeners.

Best wishes and good luck to our Regional Athletics Team who are heading off to Newcastle on Friday to compete in the relay, 800m and 200m events. Thanks to Mrs Teague for managing and training our team - we are very grateful for your continuing help and expertise.

Isabel Fox Principal
Region Athletics Carnival

Regional Athletics Carnival this Friday 29th August at Glendale in Newcastle. Our team is as follows: P5 relay team—**Darcy, Emily, Lachlan and Anekah**. Emily will also compete in the 200m and Anekah in the 800m. Good luck children and enjoy your day of sports and competition.

Reminder—Uniforms

- Sports socks should be the type that come above the ankle, not the low cut tennis style socks please.
- Hats are compulsory now that the weather has warmed up. **No hat, No play** - has been the order of the day this week.

Students of the Week

**K-2**

Emily—improvement in reading and sounds

Rory—fantastic attitude in all areas

Feezan—terrific homework

Laurie—great work in mathematics

**Y3-6**

Charlotte—excellent effort in maths

Lachlan—on task in

Canberra Excursion 1st-5th September 2014

Final information notes were sent out yesterday with the final itinerary. Our Y3-6 students have raised $125 from their cake stalls to help with incidental costs during the week. Well done all cooks and shop keepers!

We are all very excited about our trip, with lots of activities and new sights to see. A lightweight spray jacket in case of rain would come in useful (even a $2 poncho if you don’t have a jacket handy).

See you on Monday at 5.15am for a 5.30am start!

**Fathers Day Stall -THIS THURSDAY at lunch time—28th August.**

Remember our Fathers Day stall this week. All gifts are $5.00 including gift bags.

Children may buy extra gifts for Grandad or Pop, after everyone has firstly purchased for Dad.
Weekend Workshop—Make a Movie

The Upper Hunter Youth Council are holding a Make a Movie weekend workshop on 18 & 19 October. We are looking for expressions of interest from Upper Hunter students aged from 11 to 16 who would like to take part in an interactive, youth oriented workshop hosted by professional film makers. The workshop, entitled Write it, Shoot It, Show It will take students through the process of short film making. The workshop will utilise readily available equipment and help is available should interested students not have the necessary gear.

- Dates  – Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 October
- Times  – 9:00am until 4:00pm with a viewing evening following completion of the course on Sunday
- Venue  – St Joseph’s High School, Aberdeen
- Cost  – $40 per participant. This covers the course and lunch each day. The viewing evening will be a nominal fee for attendees.

To participate you need to send an email to: Mary Spora, Youth Mentor mspora@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au.

An information pack will be forwarded with more details. As there will be some preparation to do before the course all those interested are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

Vacation Care

22 SEPTEMBER to 3 OCTOBER

SOOSH is geared up for the next exciting Vacation Care program that starts on Monday, 22 September and runs through till Friday, 3 October.

We have some awesome activities planned such as Bare Foot Bowls. The Nutty Professor Science Day, where we can experiment with goop and slime. Take over the kitchen cooking pizzas and cupcakes as we get Ready, Set, Let’s Cook. Wheelie Wednesday is back by popular demand! We will share our talents with the residents at Strathearn. Not to mention a trip to the Hunter Valley Gardens, Putt Putt Golf & Aqua Golf.

There is so much more to do. Come and enjoy all there is on offer. For a great day out call SOOSH on 6540 1177. Book early as numbers will run out fast!

Programs are available at SOOSH Upper Hunter Shire Council offices or online: www.upperhunter.nsw.gov.au

NSW Bike Week Event

Sunday 14th September – Free fun for the family!

Are you ready for a long bike ride? Join the 50km supported bunch ride, starting at 8.30am from the Bill Rose Sports Complex to Cressfield Stud for coffee and cake, then return to the complex for a sausage sizzle.

For the younger riders come and try the new 2km track around the sports complex, starting at 10.30am. See how many laps you can do in 30 minutes. There’ll be a sausage sizzle and giveaways for junior riders.

For more information contact Nicky Western at nwestern@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au or 0414-806074
**BELTTREES HORSE SPORTS—CHANGE OF DATE**

Please note the change of date for the Belltrees Horse Sports which was to have been held at the Moonan Sports Ground on 24th September 2014.

Change of date to Friday 7th November. Entry forms are available at the office. If you have already entered and are not able to participate on the new date, please let Mrs Clinch or Ms Fox know ASAP. Entries due to Blandford School by tomorrow.

**Reminder—Gymnastics Notes**

Please return all permission notes and money for gymnastics activities for the K-2 class. There are still quite a few outstanding.

**Steam Train Excursion K-2 Thursday 28th August 2014**

Mrs Cooper will board the bus with K-2 students this Thursday at 2.30pm, to travel to Murrurundi station. The children will stand on the overpass bridge to watch the steam train pull into the station and then watch it depart for Quirindi. We hope you don't get any soot in your eyes!

They will all travel back to school with Mr Cooper in time for the afternoon bus. This great opportunity to see a form of transport from the past fits perfectly into K-2’s unit of work on “Transport”.

Please make sure permission notes are returned by tomorrow morning.

**Musica Viva for K-2 Tuesday 2nd September**

Next week K,1,2 have a very special treat on Tuesday the 2nd September. The class is going to our last Musica Viva concert for the year to see the Indonesian trio Makukahan at Murrurundi RSL hall. The class have been participating in activities such as Batik, singing, researching Indonesia and recognising Indonesian music and its amazing instruments. A note is attached.

**Library News**

The students had an enjoyable time during Book Week as we had a visit to our school library from Fiona Marshall the Librarian from Murrurundi Library. Mrs Marshall read some of the shortlisted children’s books that are in the library, talked about what is available at the library and gave out awards for a writing response Years 3 to 6 participated in during Book Week celebrations. First place and a pen, for future writing, went to Charlotte and encouragement awards went to Seth, Bridie and Chelsea. I was very pleased with the standard of work written by the class as they had to transport themselves back in time and they had a time limit.

**P&C Wood Raffle**

The winner of the latest wood raffle drawn on Saturday 23rd August was Jackie Smith. Thanks to everyone for purchasing tickets. The grand total raised was $890.

Thanks also to Jenny & Allan Bettens and Marty Wilson for cutting and delivering the wood and the P&C ladies for selling tickets in Murrurundi and Scone.

**Notice of the next P&C meeting. Thursday September 11th 4pm in the school library as usual.**
**Golf for Sport - Friday 29th August**

Hopefully the weather will be fine for our second last golf afternoon this week. Please let Ms Fox know if you are able to take students up to Murrurundi on Friday. We will need space for 17 students and a couple of parents to stay and help with a group.

Many thanks to our parent helpers over the past few weeks.

**Holiday Tennis Lessons**

A note is attached for tennis coaching at Murrurundi during the school holidays. Return notes by 15th September to UH Shire Office in Murrurundi.