



# Korowal School

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## Newsletter March 5<sup>th</sup> 2009 Vol 32 Issue 2

CALENDAR	
March 9 - 12	Year 6 excursion to Canberra
March 13	Bob Debus (federal MP) visit to school
March 14 10am – 1pm	Information Morning
March 19 7 pm	School Council meeting
March 25	Pathways HSC preliminary exams begin
April 1	Pathways art excursion
April 7 - 9	Year 10 camp
April 9	Last day term one
April 28 (Tuesday)	First day term two for students

### Board of Studies Registration and Accreditation

Teachers are currently preparing for our 5 yearly inspection from the Board of Studies. We wish to thank all staff for their tireless efforts. This is an exceptionally busy time for all. Not only are we settling into our delightful new location but also preparing for our inspection. In order to operate as a private school we undergo regular reviews from the Board of Studies. Our current registration and accreditation expires at the end of 2009. The system has changed since our last application in 2004 and we are currently updating all working documents, policies and procedures. Phase one is due to the Board of Studies on March 31<sup>st</sup>. The inspectors will conduct a follow up visit to Korowal on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Government Funding

The “stimulus package” recently announced by the federal government contains funding for school maintenance and small infrastructure projects, for capital works in primary schools, and for secondary school science and language labs. Some of the funding components are competitive, others will go to every school. All of the funding seems to be aimed at encouraging new projects rather than repaying the work we have already done. We are in the process of exploring the funding criteria, prioritising our wish-list, and submitting applications.

### Community Relations

Over thirty years in Leura our school established a mutually respectful relationship in the locality– with neighbours, local businesses and public transport providers. Now we must begin again to establish respect and trust in our new neighbourhood. The secure future of our school depends on this. We hope that our new community in the mid Mountains will see our students as respectful, confident, polite and happy, because these are the characteristics we aim

to encourage. If we establish this reputation our new community will support us – by enrolling their children, watching out for our property, and being tolerant and generous neighbours.

We are the new arrivals. Judgments are being made on the basis of how we behave on public transport, in local streets, while waiting for buses, and on the edges of our property that adjoin other properties.

Teachers are engaging with students on a regular basis about issues of appropriate and respectful language and behaviour.

It would be very helpful if families could also raise these issues at home in a way that you feel is appropriate for your child/ren.

## Turning Circle

Please park rear to kerb in the parking bays.

The “**pickup & set down only**” zone is a facility we did not have at Leura. It is designed to assist with collection of children when you need to get away from school quickly. You may stay in your vehicle and wait for your children to come to you. If you want to take advantage of this, your child/ren need to be told that you will collect them from this area so that they know that they have to go directly to the turning circle, where a teacher on duty will direct them to you in your car. Please do not leave your vehicle unattended in this area as it blocks the flow of traffic.

Thank you for your support - we are still trying to make our systems as smooth as possible for everyone.

## Public Transport

At school the students are learning about **acceptable behavior** regarding the use of public transport so that the safety and comfort of all passengers is considered. This includes keeping the noise level down by talking to friends who are next to them and not shouting across the carriage or bus. We appreciate your support in re-enforcing this message at home.

**Safety Issues:** We are also concerned that some children are rushing towards the train in the mornings, rather than waiting for it to stop, and running from the train. Please talk with your child/ren about the need for safe practices at train stations and bus stops. Thank you.

## Working Bee

We had a great turn out at our working bee last Sunday, consequently many of the tasks listed were completed.....

- Remove dead angophora branch beside hall - done
- Repair and clean leaking gutters – to be completed
- Mount pin boards in classrooms – many but not all
- Mount towel racks in primary bath rooms - done
- Mount toilet roll holders and hand towel dispensers in staff toilets - done
- Attach door latches on front doors and remove padlock - done
- Paint pedestrian crossing on path – no
- Replace /repair kitchen fly screens - done
- Repair big tables next to music room - no
- Rake soft fall under play equipment - done
- Cleaning: library entry door/ library windows/ G3 classroom windows (music area) - done
- Remove ivy from back of music room - done
- Move sleepers from shed to driveway - done
- Put reflector posts at side of driveway – no
- Move boxes from under hall to fundraising store - done



Clear concrete etc from soccer field – no  
Cut & paint tagged weeds - done  
Replace light globes for external lighting - done  
Tidy storage areas near maintenance workshop - done  
Sweep pathways - done  
Assemble whiteboards - done

Many thanks to all our helpers. We really do appreciate your support.

We hope to have another working bee before the end of term. More information next newsletter.

## Betty Armstrong Music Appreciation Award

Maurice Cooper, one of the previous owners of our school property, has given us a music appreciation award in memory of Betty Armstrong, who was a senior teacher at Katoomba High for many years and a supporter of the Blue Mountains Concert Society. He has donated tickets to each of the Concert Society's performances for 2009 – two seats close enough to see the pianist's hands. The first of these is on Friday March 6th and will be attended by Aloka Welch-Hammial. Aloka will be seeing the Australian Chamber Orchestra playing music by Bach, Sibelius, Dvorak and ACO director Pekks Kuusisto.

## Official School Opening Ceremony

Originally we had planned to hold our official opening ceremony in April. However with all that is currently occupying our time, we have postponed this event until spring, by which time we hope to have the front of the school painted and planted.

## Information Morning 14<sup>th</sup> March

On Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup> we are hosting an Information Morning at school from 10am until 1pm. This is an opportunity for families who are interested in finding out more about our school to visit, look over the school and meet the teachers. If you have friends and relatives who might be interested, please let them know.

## Organic Vegetable Garden

Korowal School has a rather large organic veggie garden, which is a work in progress being lovingly tended by a group parents, students and friends. It's situated across from the 3/4/5 classroom. It would be hard to miss as a very kind parent, Mick Barrett, has built a vermin proof fence and bird net covering around the whole garden which gives us a peace of mind knowing how many little creatures would love to dine out on the new veggie plants we have been planting out. We have brought in soil and compost and mulched very heavily which helps with the very hot weather we have been experiencing. We started the transformation mid through last year and a substantial amount of work has been done. We are planting winter vegies at the moment including "Melting Mammoth" snowpeas which were planted by our wonderful Ruari from class one, lettuce, herbs including parsley, chives, Lebanese and curly cress, yarrow and valerian. We will be planting a great list of vegies and herbs over the next few months including onions, shallots, spinach, more peas, more lettuce, broccoli, brussel sprouts, caulis, cabbage. We use only organic products including the plants, seeds, soil and compost. Most of the plants and seeds are heritage, non-hybrid, old fashioned varieties which allow us to save the seed for next year. We also have plans to create another veggie garden out the back of the science lab and a herb garden in the kitchen courtyard. Go and visit the "secret garden" on "courtyard one" which Jen and Zev and family are transforming into a little oasis.

We meet every second Saturday afternoon between 3 & 5pm unless it's raining. If you want to be part of this wonderful project please contact me. We send an email out the week before as a reminder.

Deb Hurley

47843157 [outthere@tpg.com.au](mailto:outthere@tpg.com.au)

## Water Tank Donation

Bluescope Steel has donated a 20,000 litre steel water tank to our school as part of its “tank-a-day” project where it donates a tank to a school every day.

It has been installed behind the science lab.

We have almost finished connecting it to the science lab roof.



## Donations to our building fund

... are tax deductible. Every dollar donated is spent on improving and caring for our beautiful school and its grounds. Every dollar donated is much needed and much appreciated. You can make a lump sum donation, or add a building fund component when you pay your fees. We can also organize a regular salary sacrifice donation. You can discuss these options with Hilary in the office, or with our new bursar who will join us at the end of March.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

### Class 6 Camp

Next Monday Jennifer will be going to Canberra with the year 6 students. They will spend 3 nights away and have 4 action packed days. We look forward to reading all about their experiences in our next newsletter.

### Hallway

Next time you come to school, please look at the beautiful collage created by last year's 3,4,5 students during their “Our Community” main lesson. Thanks to Paula for putting the finishing touches to it and to Greg for mounting it last Sunday. It is a wonderfully joyful work that gives us a great deal of pleasure!



In case you were wondering... we will be putting up pegs for the children to hang their coats and bags on – it's just one more of those jobs! Perhaps this could be done

at the next working bee....

We appreciate the fact that you are now waiting outside for your children at the end of the day – this has reduced noise levels and congestion enormously. Thank you. We are looking at the possibility of using funding from Mr Rudd to carpet the hallway, which will help reduce the echo.

It is exciting to be in our own premises; we are still learning how to use our new spaces to their fullest potential and appreciate the generosity you have shown regarding changes/refinements that are made.

Please remember that I am more than happy to talk to you if you have any questions, concerns, offers!

Nancy



### Primary school doors

Amidst the chaos of moving and building during the summer holidays, Paula and Jill donated their time and talent to turning every primary school door into a work of art – each one depicting a different tree ... plums, gums, banksias, pomegranates ....



## HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

### High School Swimming Carnival

Last Thursday the whole of the high school attended the Lawson Pool for our annual carnival. It is always a happy event with many fun races and a few semi-serious lap races. This year the participation rate was exceptionally high. It was also the first time we have had our year 11 and 12 students participate. We all benefited from their inclusion. Throughout the day a tally of points is made for each year group. This is based on participation in both swimming and organisational aspects of the day. We are delighted to announce that Year 10 are the 2009 overall champions, and they will have a fun event for a day later this year as their reward. Congratulations and thank you to all who participated and helped to create a fantastic day at the pool.



## Huge Support for Bushfire Victims

The girls in Year 9 who organised a cake stall two weeks ago would like to thank everyone who either made or consumed cakes! A new record for a cake stall was established, with over \$360 raised for the Victorian Bushfire Appeal. This is a great effort from a school the size of Korowal.

I would like to congratulate the girls on their initiative, generosity, their organisational skills and their ability to work as an effective team. A great effort and an empowering learning experience.

Kath

## Mosaic project

A group of high school students is designing and will make two wall mosaics for the courtyard as a co-curricular activity on Friday afternoons. We'd like to recycle materials as much as possible, just like Gaudi in Barcelona, and are collecting old crockery for the mosaics.

If you have any odd plates, particularly brightly coloured or patterned ones, we could use them. Flat plates are much more useful to us than cups or rounded objects.

Just drop them off at the office and they'll be eagerly collected..

If anyone has some experience with mosaic and would like to be involved, the sessions are from 2.15 to 3.15 on Fridays. You would be very welcome. Please contact Kath in the Art room if you'd like more information or have other suggestions.

## KOROWAL KONNEXIONS

Community events, notices, businesses. Korowal does not specifically recommend or guarantee any of these events or services.

### VICTORIAN WILDLIFE FUNDRAISER

Virtual cat show – a little bit of fun for a great cause  
<http://www.virtualcatshow.com>

### *RUBY BLOOMERS host*

#### *An Evening of VAUDEVILLE*

*Benefit performance for Victorian Bushfire Victims.*

*7 March Wentworth Falls School of Arts*

*Tickets/enquiries 0408330388  
0432928014*

*Show starts 6pm*

*FEATURING Hands Heart & Feet, Liqueur Flambe, Big Fat Squid, Spooky Men's Chorale, Dan Druff... and more...*

### DESIGNER & TOP QUALITY CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

Are you sick of paying a small fortune for your kids clothing?  
Need winter gear that will last but won't break the bank?

I am a Korowal mum & run a home based clothing business.  
I cater for all sizes, newborn to teens & some adult sizes too. I sell

both new & preloved clothing for a fraction of their retail price.  
Labels like Pumpkin Patch, Fred Bare, Osh Kosh, Esprit, all the popular surf labels (Billabong, Quiksilver, etc) & many overseas labels like

Gap, Oilily, Petit Bateau & many more. Preloved clothing starts at \$3,

new clothing from \$10. Most items are under \$20. I have a huge selection in all sizes.

I also have a huge selection of great children's books from all the popular authors for \$2-\$5.

I am in Katoomba or you can also shop online.

Give me (Toni) a call on 4782 5595 or email  
[tonihut@bigpond.net.au](mailto:tonihut@bigpond.net.au)

Here's a chance to Belly Dance!

with Leyli

Classes are held at

5pm Wednesdays at St Canice's Katoomba

Lesley (Leyli) Kinney has been a dance performer and

teacher for many years. She has a PhD in Egyptian Dance

For class info or to make a booking

contact Leyli on 4782 2421