



# Korowal School

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NEWSLETTER

15/3/2010

Vol 33 Issue 3

CALENDAR 2010	
Tues March 16 <sup>th</sup>	Class 3/4/5 pomegranate group excursion to M.C.A.
Wed March 17 <sup>th</sup>	HSC excursion to Art Express
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 10 and 11 workshop with The Warehouse.
Thurs March 18 <sup>th</sup> 3.30 pm	School Fair meeting. Year 6 classroom.
Wed March 24 <sup>th</sup> 7pm	Information Evening for year 7 2011
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Pathways Preliminary exams
Sat March 27 <sup>th</sup> 10 - 1	Information Morning
Sat March 27 <sup>th</sup> 11am	School Fair meeting. Refectory.
Thurs 1 April	Last day term 1
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Last day to register for scholarships without incurring late fee
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Term 2 starts – all students
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> May	ACER scholarship exam
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> June	School Fair
Fri 25 June	Last day term 2
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Staff development day
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Term 3 starts – all students
Fri 24 September	Last day term 3
Mon 11 Oct	Term 4 starts – all students
21 & 22 October	High school staff development days
Thu 9 December	Last day term 4 for high school
Fri 10 December 1.15pm	Last day term for primary school

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Kindergarten 2010

Our new Kindies are settling in wonderfully. As well as beginning their exploration of Letterland, they are investigating numbers, shapes and space; learning about different types of homes, participating in Italian, P.E., Art and Library lessons with specialist teachers AND planting something every week. Most importantly, they are learning how to be part of a group that aims to work together kindly and co-operatively.

### After School Play

It is lovely to have so many parents come to school in the afternoons. It is a perfect time to meet other parents, have a formal or informal chat with your child's teachers and to meet your child's friends.

We offer supervision after school for children who are travelling home by public transport and for children meeting their parents at the "pick up" zone in the turning circle. Unfortunately, we do not have the staff to supervise the area around the play equipment outside the 3,4,5 rooms. If your child is playing there, please be in that area too – accidents do happen! We also ask that you support our efforts to provide

a safe and happy environment and do not let your child engage in rough play or play with sticks and stones, etc.

Children who have not been collected by a parent/caregiver by 3.40 will be asked to wait on the verandah in front of the Office.

### Lost Property

We have a large laundry basket just inside the entrance doors to the Primary School full of unnamed, unclaimed clothes, lunch boxes and bags. We will need to clear it out soon, so please feel free to come and check for anything your child has “lost” or remind your child to look him/herself.

Writing your child's name on clothes and lunch boxes really does help us to return property.

(Nancy)

### Train Travel

Two aspects of train travel that were not included in the risk assessment/management document that was emailed home, have been brought to my attention and will now be added to the school copy. They are:

<p><u>missing stop or no parent at station to meet child</u></p>		<p>Student to stay with Keith or Vaughan who will phone school to make necessary arrangements.</p>
<p>Child needs to go to toilet at station</p>		<p>Instruct children to go to toilet before leaving school. Keith or Vaughan will make judgement according to time available before expected train arrival. If enough time, child will go with a buddy.</p>



### Peer Support Program

The Primary School Peer Support Program is underway following the successful completion of Peer Support training by Class 6 students earlier this term. Our Peer Support program consists of 11 multi-aged groups of children from Years 1-6 and is held on alternate Monday afternoons in teacher-supervised Primary School classrooms. The Class 6 students have all demonstrated responsibility and kind, inclusive leadership in their roles as Group Leaders. Following Peer

Support sessions Class 6 students discuss their experiences together, providing an opportunity to share challenges, successes and suggestions. Our Peer Support groups are each named after an Australian animal. This term Peer Support focuses on creating a positive sense of group identity, constructing a group agreement and fostering supportive, positive relationships within the group through a variety of activities including games, art making and guided discussions. (Talulah)

## HIGH SCHOOL

### Swimming Carnival

Thursday of the Swimming Carnival dawned cool and misty and with assurances from all the Local Weather Experts that "these clouds will rise and pass" the High School students intrepidly ventured into the shrouded surrounds of Lawson Pool. Sunshelters were erected and coloured sunscreen painted in a competitive manner across faces and bodies as each year strove to "outshine" the others. With a collective brrrr, clothes were shed and with a collective aarrhh bodies dived into the "warmer than air temperature" water and gallantly struck out, limbs akimbo, to reach the other end first. In the true manner of Korowal collective support, everyone cheered for all the swimmers, especially those being towed under by the invisible currents.

Races were swum, obstacles collected from pool depths, waiters delicately balanced trays of cups as they surged through the maelstrom of bodies, whistles were blown and bodies were towelled, food was munched and ... then the sun came out to accompany the hurrahs from Year 7 who broke the traditions of bygone days to WIN THE CARNIVAL.... their participation was awesome, enormous and great fun and they have deservedly earned the treat of an excursion to Jamberoo at the end of term. WELL DONE YEAR 7 and may this be the start of a great new tradition for you.....

(Pam)

I had the pleasure to attend the High school swimming carnival. It was delightful to observe the high level of participation from the students and the fun and enjoyment of all concerned. My thanks the David Clucas for organising the events and to Barbara Fitzgerald for coordinating the carnival.

Congratulation to Year 7 who were crowned the most active participants on the day. Their reward is a class trip to Jamberoo with teachers Kim Poole and Pam Staples. (Mark)

### Sport

Last Thursday the students began their second round of Sport options for Term 1. The new cycle includes African Dance for Year 10, Hockey for Year 9, Lawn Bowls for Year 8 and Tennis for year 7. These are conducted both at school and at the oval and Tennis courts at Gloria Park. We are very fortunate and thankful to have the Hazelbrook Bowling Club offer their green and volunteer coaches to us. (Barb)



## SCHOOL FAIR Sat June 5<sup>th</sup>

(Note the change of date – June 19<sup>th</sup>, as originally planned, clashes with the Winter Magic festival)

This will be our first fair, and major event, at our new home. It is an exciting prospect

for the school community and we hope that every family will get involved . We have had an initial meeting last week, and realized that evening meetings are not convenient for many parents. We have arranged two more meeting times to allow as many parents as possible to be involved in this initial phase of planning the Fair. There have already been some fantastic ideas. We need more input and stall ideas. The Fair is an opportunity for fund raising, but most importantly it is an opportunity to bring the Korowal community together with the broader community and celebrate our beautiful school.

Please come along to one of the meetings, or contact Tracy Barrett (Ruby and Violets' Mum) if you would like to be involved. Whatever time and energy you can contribute would be so welcome.

The meetings will be held on -

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 3.30 pm in the class 6 room, and

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 11 am in the Refectory.

After these meetings we can communicate by email for those who wish to do so.

You can contact me on 47829946 or [fwacy@yahoo.com.au](mailto:fwacy@yahoo.com.au)

(Tracy. Events and fund raising committee)

### **IT'S TIME TO GET CRAFTY!**

At the School Fair on June 5<sup>th</sup> there will be a stall selling craft items made by members of the Korowal community. Between us there is a wealth of skill – knitting, sewing, crochet, mosaic, basketry, hand made cards – whatever your skill is, please try to produce a few small, saleable items for the Fair. As the Fair is in winter, beanies, scarves, gloves etc. should sell easily. If you would like to run your idea past Tracy, you can contact her (details above), otherwise just get crafting!

### **R.F.S. FUNDRAISER - Red Balloon Season**

The school is participating in the Red Balloon Season fund-raising initiative.

The initiative aims to raise funds in support of the Rural Fire Service Blue Mountains.

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March (and the week prior) students will be selling balloon pack locally and in the school car park.

The intention is that the balloons will be blown up and attached to the front fence/gate of the purchaser's home property on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March as a sign of support for the RFS and also to commemorate the Black Saturday fires in Victoria 12 months ago.

The cost of balloon packs will range from \$2 to \$10 and up to \$29 for a family/business support pack.

As an ex volunteer fire fighter I strongly support this community initiative and encourage your participation.

(Mark Thomas)

### **POSITION VACANT (Volunteer of course!)**

*Do you have excellent skills at co-ordination and organisation? Are you able to allocate tasks? Do you want to help the Canteen, but can't get to school during school hours? We have the job for you!*

The Canteen is looking for a volunteer to enlist and co-ordinate parents/grandparents. This person would co-ordinate an ongoing roster of day to day helpers for the canteen, as well as researchers for new products and equipment. There are people in our community interested in helping who either can't get to school, or simply prefer using computers and ebay. All of these very important tasks are necessary for the Canteen to reach its potential.

If this sounds appealing to you, please contact Barb or Nancy as soon as possible. Phone or email the school office.

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT: Popular Culture

Last Wednesday afternoon we held a whole school staff development session where we looked at the question 'What is the place of popular culture at Korowal and why do we care?' It is always challenging to create the time to come together and reflect on our philosophy and practice. When we do, it is energising and insightful. A focus question such as this enables us to examine the many facets of our methodology and the opportunities that are available to us as educators and as part of the Korowal community. We will be collating the information gathered and summarising our response in the near future. We can then share this with you. Meanwhile, we had a great afternoon together.

## TESTIMONIALS

Thank you to all of the parents who emailed their thoughts about Korowal to me, and to the teachers who facilitated the students' expression of their perceptions. They were displayed at the Penrith Schools' Expo last weekend and will be used on the website and in our prospectus. If you have not yet put pen to paper or finger to keyboard, please do so – they are always extremely useful. They can be emailed to me at [acarment@bigpond.net.au](mailto:acarment@bigpond.net.au) or left in my pigeon hole in the staff room. Here are some samples what we collected last week. (Annie – publicity and marketing)

### Testimonials from parents

(students' comments will appear in the next newsletter)

*"To be able to educate my son in a school that values kindness, respect and care for all beings AND the environment is such a special gift in this age of measuring, ranking and comparisons. My son does excellent work in all his subjects, which is great, and yet is only a part of who he really is"*

*" My teenage daughters have blossomed under the guidance and philosophy of the dedicated educators at Korowal. It is every parent's treasure to see their children develop in to young adults, confident to question and explore and as a consequence, have the ability to make considered choices for their own actions and subsequent contribution back to the community."*

*"School as it should be. Inspiring, innovative teachers, small classes and a warm, caring atmosphere. No desperate hot-housing or potentially demoralising grading of children. Learning as fun and fun in learning. And happy, confident kids."*

*"When you walk into Korowal, you really get the overwhelming sense that the children here are really allowed to enjoy the benefits of being a child. They are schooled in a beautiful and nurturing environment where individuality is embraced, creativity flourishes and a true appreciation of the environment and fellow humans is at the core of a unique educational experience."*

*"Because we have travelled widely my son has been to a few schools over the years, many of them public, some private. He started this year in Korowal and already this school is where he is the happiest at, and the most fulfilled, both creatively and academically. Korowal has wonderful dynamic teachers who inspire the children in many areas on a personal level. It focuses on the significance of learning where each lesson is valued, where the teaching/learning relationship is a pleasure, a gift and a right in itself. This contrasts very much with the competitive result driven schools he has attended in the past".*

*"I have nothing but good things to say about Korowal. Mature, respectful treatment of all students by all staff – and the staff expectation that students will return that respect - marks out the school from my son's previous school experiences. Students are encouraged to set their*

*own learning goals, and Korowal staff support them in working to achieve those goals. My son will leave Korowal not only with a good HSC mark, but also with a raft of independent learning strategies and the confidence to find his own direction in the future. There is no doubt in my mind that a small school with small classes offers a better learning environment for our children."*

*"I have always believed that to excel at something, you must love doing it. This concept applies to both the teaching staff at Korowal and the students at the school. Our children love going to Korowal. This is a school where your child will never be just another face in the crowd."*

*"My Son has just started at korowal in year 7 he came from a public primary school ,and his enthusiasm and love for school since he started at Korowal has been wonderful to watch. I myself came to Korowal in year 11 after many years in the state system and I recognise his building confidence and joy at being honoured as an individual by his peers and teachers as the same feeling that stayed with me throughout my 2 years at Korowal. I am overjoyed that I can give my son a schooling experience that empowers him and assists him in discovering his strengths in a warm, friendly, high spirited environment where students are encouraged to debate, have opinions and have respect and caring for each other."*

*"By emphasising the holistic qualities necessary to the 'education' (a word deriving from 'leading forth' or 'bringing up') of children and young people, Korowal succeeds in nurturing qualities which the conventional curriculum scarcely seems to even recognise. And previous HSC results stand as living proof that Korowal also excels in teaching the limited and compartmentalised 'subjects' stipulated by the state's view of education. But there is so much more than this to 'leading forth' human qualities in young people. And where Korowal is special is precisely the areas which can't be measured by any other than human-centred means. One example among many is the presence of special-needs children as fully integrated members of primary and kindergarten classes. Their special contributions are recognised as much as their needs, and the other children are given the opportunity to learn from and around the experiences of the special-needs members of the class".*

*"My daughter has blossomed since she started attending Korowal Primary School. It's more than a school, it's a caring community that is created there. My daughter is encouraged and assisted to not only excel in all areas academically, but equal weighting and deep significance is put on social skills, respect, morals and values, and personal identity."*

*"Korowal is the school I would have liked to attend when I was a child – it's as close to an ideal school that it's possible to get. Not only does it provide a rich and rounded education for my two boys, we all feel ourselves to be a part of the Korowal family where individuals are noticed, appreciated and respected."*

*"Thank you for my son in his new environment. This reminds me of how the Gurus in India were in the olden days. They accepted their students with an open heart and mind, they nurtured them through new social norms, they protected them from the inappropriate habits through knowledge and above all they took the responsibility to see them prosper. I believe my son has found his Gurus in his teachers. His journey has been a long one, from India to here however his journey has lead him to his true gurus."*

*"There is something magic happening at Korowal, which is no doubt a reflection on the enlightened teachers and staff who work there. Inspiration usually comes from inspired people – we could not be happier with the school!"*

## **ORGANISING COMMITTEE: functions, events, canteen.**

Last Wednesday evening a Functions Committee meeting was held to look at the needs of the Canteen, School Fete, Open Day and other school functions that will occur throughout the year. Thank you to the parents who attended. We are aware

that evenings may not be the best time for many of us, so other times and dates are being nominated. We are keen to get a parent from each year group to be the "Class Parent", a person that can be contacted to co-ordinate communication for each year, as we wish to engage families in our major functions. Sometimes we can simply miss out on receiving the information! Ensuring that we all get the notices and calls for help will be the key aim of the class parent. If you would be prepared to take on this role for a class, please contact me.

(Barb)

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR 2011

- Current year 6 students - scholarships for 2011, 2012, 2013 - academic, art, drama, music.
- Current Year 9 students- scholarships for 2011, 2012, 2013 - academic, art, drama, music.
- Current Year 10 students – Whitton scholarship for all-round ability (by interview)
- Current year 10 students – Nelson Mandela languages scholarship (by interview)
- Date after which registrations (ACER scholarship exams) incur a late fee: Friday 9th April 2010.
- Examination Date: Saturday 8th May, 2010.
- Value of scholarships: The Mandela Scholarship pays \$750 per year. All other scholarships pay 25% of tuition fees.
- Please register online for the ACER scholarship examination held at Korowal School, via the school's website. For all scholarship information go to: <http://www.korowal.nsw.edu.au/Information/Scholarships/tabid/500/Default.aspx>

## Would you like to build your home next door to Korowal?

Korowal owns a block of land adjoining the playground at the lower north-east corner (near the new soccer field) and fronting Hall Parade. We are about to put it on the market. It is 1200 sq. m. in size. Part of the land is zoned bushland conservation and part is zoned environmental protection/ private. It has a northerly aspect and no other house will be built on the land to the north of the existing block. If you would like to find out more, contact Annie Carment on 0431352022 or [acarment@bigpond.net.au](mailto:acarment@bigpond.net.au).

## MARKETING EVENTS in MARCH

Please tell your friends about the following opportunities to find out about Korowal.

- There is an *Information Evening* for families interested in year 7 2011 on Wednesday Feb 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.
- There is an *Information Morning* for families interested in seeing our school and meeting staff on Saturday Feb 27<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 1pm.

The Federal Government has proposed that the new The National Curriculum be implemented in schools in 2011. There are trial programs being run at present in several schools throughout Australia. Within the next few weeks we will be updated on the latest developments in this area.

## Thank you Pieter

Pieter Oosterhoff (half of the legendary "Team Oosterhoff") is one of the unsung heroes who keeps our school going. He builds, crafts, fixes and plumbs. He worked almost full time during the months before the new school opened and afterwards. He is now donating his expertise in the area of heating and air conditioning – he has

designed our new heating system and is overseeing the tender process for the job.  
Thank you Pieter.

## DONATIONS TO OUR BUILDING FUND

Donations to our building fund have slowed to a trickle! All donations are tax deductible and very much needed. 50% of all donations to the fund are used to pay off the principal on our mortgage. This helps to reduce the interest that we pay. The other 50% is spent on much needed property and grounds maintenance. The funding that we have received for capital works can only be spent on the particular projects for which it is granted. All other work on our buildings and grounds must be funded by the school. You can add a building fund donation when you pay your fees. You can also donate any amount at any time via the school office. You will receive a receipt for tax deduction purposes.

## CAN YOU HELP IN THE SCHOOL GARDENS?

Our seven hectares of gardens and grounds can accommodate any number of willing volunteers. There is always work to be done – mowing, brush cutting, weeding, mulching, planting, landscaping etc. If you would like to help in any way please contact Jacqueline on 0416543511 or speak to her at school. If you are interested in helping with the vegetable garden, contact Annie on 0431352022 or [acarment@bigpond.net.au](mailto:acarment@bigpond.net.au)

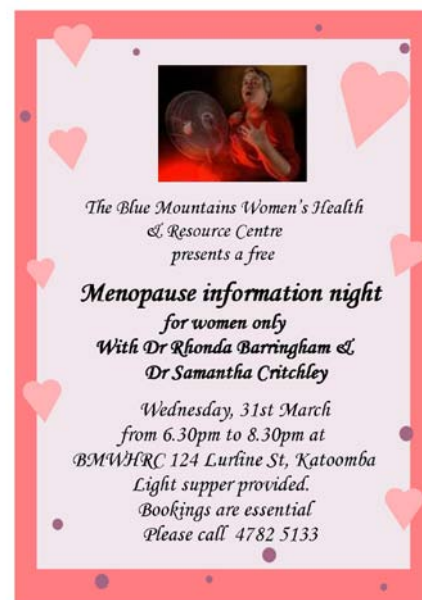
## TEXT BOOK TRADING

Year 8, Text Books for Sale please phone Rebecca 0432 278996

## CONNECTIONS

### *community events and notices*

noya's nook - blue mountains weekend/holiday let  
3brm- 2queen ,3single, sleeps 7max  
beautiful gardens, high set, walk to Korowal,  
kids area incl. trampoline, cubby house, central heating and  
fireplace, firewood included. pool in summer months.  
gourmet fully equipped kitchen, 2 bathrooms.  
\$150.00/night (min 3nights, 4 on public holiday weekends)  
\* still available Anzac weekend, Queen's birthday, and  
winter magic. some availability in school holidays  
please email [noyasnook@gmail.com](mailto:noyasnook@gmail.com) or phone  
noya 0412387000, or naomi 0410418990.  
photo gallery -  
<http://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sredir?uname=noyaelron&target=ALB>  
[M?id=5423932153500019249&authkey=Gv1sRgCNOI6Py35O-D2QE&feat=email](https://www.google.com/maps/@33.8155556,150.8955556,15z)



*The Blue Mountains Women's Health  
& Resource Centre  
presents a free*

**Menopause information night**  
*for women only*  
**With Dr Rhonda Barringham &  
Dr Samantha Critchley**

*Wednesday, 31st March  
from 6.30pm to 8.30pm at  
BMWHRC 124 Lurline St, Katoomba  
Light supper provided.  
Bookings are essential  
Please call 4782 5133*