

KOROWAL SCHOOL Newsletter



Kindergarten and Year 10
planting trees on Tree Day

CALENDAR 2011

When	Where	What
Fri 12th August		No classes for primary.
Sat 13th August		Open Day
Wed 31st August		Korowal Survey closes
Fri 23rd Sep		Last day term 3
Mon 10th October		Term 4 begins
Thurs 20th and Fri 21st October		No high school classes High school staff development
Thurs 8th Dec		Last day term 4
Fri 9th Dec		Staff development day

The Korowal Newsletter is assembled and edited by Annie Carment, who can be contacted at acarment@bigpond.net.au or on 0431352022. It is published every fortnight during term time.

Friday Barbecues

Many thanks to Paula Harvisson who has volunteered to coordinate a barbecue each Friday, at lunch time, just in front of the 3,4,5 classrooms near the play equipment. Meat eaters and vegetarians will be catered for. If you are able to assist on any Friday, please leave a contact number at the school office for Paula.

Canteen

We are now able to open the canteen Mondays through to Thursdays. It is not too late to let Trish know if you are able to help, even on an occasional basis.

Please remember that the canteen is closed on Fridays.

OPEN DAY

This Saturday August 13th, 10 am - 3 pm.

Please come along not only to see your child's work, but to tour the whole school to see how our teaching/learning programs cater for the different ages and stages. We'd love you to bring friends and relations too. We currently have a few vacancies in all classes except Class 6.

Help required in cafe

We will have our traditional cafe, where we will serve cakes, turkish sandwiches, tea, coffee, etc. We may even have a sausage sizzle!

For our cafe to be a success we really really need helpers to do a variety of tasks.

These include - donating cakes, (drop off at school Friday or Saturday morning) There will be a container in the office foyer.

- helping to set up the cafe on the Friday afternoon from 2pm.
- making turkish bread sandwiches from 8am ish on the Saturday morning.
- helping serve, even for one hour. on the Saturday, anytime between 10am and 3pm.
- clean up and pack away from 3pm-4pm.

If you are able to assist or contribute in any of these areas it would be so appreciated.

Please contact me, Tracy (Ruby and Violet's mum), asap on 4782 9946

0438 507 515

fwacy@yahoo.com.au

Please remember

- **There are no classes for primary school on Friday August 12th** as we will be setting up the classrooms for Open Day.
- **There will be no sausage sizzle this Friday.**
- **Drama classes for Friday** have also been cancelled, Cairo will be in touch about this.

Courtyard mosaic

Visit the art room on Open Day to add your touch to our mosaic that will be installed the art courtyard.

Whooping Cough

We have been informed of a case of whooping cough in our school. The advice from the NSW Health Department is simply to observe your child for any symptoms and take him/her to the doctor if you are concerned. The following link will provide lots of information:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/infectious/pertussis.html>

In case you don't have time to follow the link, these are probably the most important facts, taken from the NSW Health Department fact sheet:

- whooping cough is potentially fatal for babies under 6 months of age
- the initial symptom is a persistent cough (the "whoop" doesn't develop until the infection is well established)
- antibiotics administered early can reduce the risk of infecting others

If your child is diagnosed with whooping cough, the school requires that s/he stays home until the course of antibiotics has been completed (usually it is a 5 day course).

Thank you for your co-operation.

Thank you

We wish to thank Scott Turner for selling some of our old radiators on ebay. The money raised will be used to buy more soft fall to put around the play equipment.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

If you forgot to get your order in on time, it is not too late. Please leave a message at the Office for Toni to contact you. Could people who intend to pay via bank deposit do so if they haven't yet? There are quite a few orders not yet paid for.

Primary School News

K,1,2 Pow Wow

We had planned a Pow Wow to mark the end of our Native American Main Lesson last term. We had to wait until last Thursday for the weather to be co-operative enough for us to have this event. It was a beautiful evening: soup, story, songs and chatter around the camp fire, somewhat spoiled by the unfortunate accident on the GWH which prevented some of our parents and students from getting through.

This event did make me feel that a sing song and soup around the camp fire could be a lovely annual/bi-annual event. A fireworks night without the complications of fireworks (insurance, need for approval from relevant authorities and neighbours, presence of fire brigade, cost of fireworks and how much to charge to cover costs, what to do if it's wet or windy and all the advertising has gone out, how much food etc etc). Keep it simple is becoming a favourite mantra!

I'd be interested in feedback regarding the idea of the camp fire and sing song.



New Enrolment

We welcome Kane Phillips who has joined our year 3 group. His sister is in Class 7, so it is particularly lovely to have the whole family with us.

(Nancy)

The Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge is on again! It's a challenge where kids across Australia try to read fifteen books from one of the Premier's Reading Challenge lists and five books of their choice.

There is a different list for each age group. It is a fun and educational challenge. It is a challenge NOT a competition it is not competitive and is about reading different types of books.

Some of the books included in the challenge are *Sting* by Michael Huber, *Titanic* by Carole Drinkwater, *Beware of the story book wolves* by Lauren Child, *Emily Eye Finger* by Duncan Ball, *Boy Overboard* by Morris Gleitzman, the *Minpins* by Roald Dahl and lots more great books! There are books for light reading to long adventure books there are classics and there are new books and also a few graphic novels It has books for all kids.

By Kalyani Saint (year 5)

Pyjama Day

On Wednesday the 22nd of June we had a pyjama day to raise money for the year twelve formal.

Twenty percent of money collected went to Ella in year 6. Everyone wore pyjama's and brought a gold coin donation. It was great fun to see all the kids in pyjamas, and even some teachers wore pyjamas! It was a fun day and by the end of it there were a whole heap of dirty pyjamas.

By Sarah Herrmann (year 5)

**Korowal AGM
26 May 2011**

Report from the Chair

This is my second Annual General Meeting report as Chair of Korowal School Council. I would like to begin by acknowledging with great sadness the passing of Kathi Beck – a much loved and valued member of our Korowal school community. On behalf of the School Council I would like to extend our sincere condolences to Rob and Amy. As a school community we grieve her death, but we also give heartfelt thanks for her immense contribution to Korowal. What is Korowal but the fruit of many different individualschildren, teachers, parents and support staff. Korowal and the Korowal school community is much the richer for the contribution made by Kathi.

At the last AGM I began by saying what a privilege it was to be part of such an inspirational human centred school. With the passing of another year I would like to affirm that this has not changed for me. We continue to have an amazing school community comprised of our beautiful children, dedicated, highly skilled and hard working teachers and support staff, and our committed parents, many of whom have made considerable sacrifices to ensure their children can attend Korowal.

On behalf of the School Council I would like to thank the school community for their contribution over the last 12 months. Thankyou to each of you who have made a difference, extended a helping hand, gone the extra mile or inch! It all weighs in. After all Korowal is what we put into it.

2011 marks the third year of our school in our new home in Hazelbrook. The last 12 months has seen further improvements to the school and its grounds and facilities that we should all be very proud of. With the transition to our new site, the school became financially independent taking on a significant mortgage. This independence brings significant financial responsibilities in terms of repaying our mortgage and maintaining our school facilities. Significant work has been undertaken by our School Coordinator and Council to develop a School Plan. This plan is in the process of being renewed and updated to ensure we have a clear vision and action plan for Korowal over the next 4 years particularly relative to the education of our children (our main focus), our school buildings and facilities, the strengthening and sustaining of our school community (teachers, support staff, parents and children), our governance and leadership and of course addressing our financial sustainability into the future.

It will be important for the School Council and the School Executive to engage with the school community over the next 12 months and obtain their input into our School Plan so that it becomes real and we are all involved in shaping our future. An important reason why we need to plan ahead is so we can be informed to make good decisions now!

Over the last 12 months the School Council has worked particularly hard on the strategies and actions required to ensure the financial sustainability of the school. This work has just begun and more effort will be required over the coming 12 months to address our financial challenges. However, with challenges come opportunities and we need to use this time to reinvigorate our school and build the foundation that will enable the school to continue long into the future. I would like to thank members of the Finance committee in particular Mark Thomas, Richard Elkin, Bev Milner, Greg Lucas and also Barbara Fitzgerald who acted for Mark during his leave of absence.

The Korowal School Council is a democratically elected body comprised of equal numbers of parents and teachers. All school policies and significant financial decisions are subject to the approval of the Council. I would like to acknowledge the Council for their leadership and work over the past 12 months, in particular Richard Elkin, Deborah Keenahan and Annie Carment who resigned and other members of the Council including Mick Barrett, Yvonne Edgren, Mark Thomas, Barb Fitzgerald, Nancy, Oosterhoff, Steve Garthwin, Greg Lucas and Vittorio Cintio our Secretary.

To support the work of the School Council a Human Resources Committee has been established. I would like to thank Deborah Keenahan (chair), Vittorio Cintio, Mick Barrett and Peter Spolc for their contribution and hard work on this Committee in such areas as developing our recruitment and Code of Conduct policies and procedures, implementing the administrative review and progressing work on our performance appraisal system. A review of the schools Administration Systems and Practices was undertaken over the last 12 months. This review has resulted in considerable learning and reflection on best courses of action. And more learning and reflection will no doubt be required as we attempt to make good decisions within limited resources in the best interest of our school.

I would like to acknowledge the Occupational Health & Safety Committee for their ongoing dedication to ensuring the safety and health of the school. Thank you to Steve Garthwin, Yvonne Edgren and Jill Day. I would also like to thank Annie Carment for her ongoing contribution to the school on so many fronts not the least being our school website, newsletter and marketing work.

I would like to finish by thanking Mark our School Coordinator and the other members of the School Executive – Nancy, Barb and Steve in particular and all the teachers and support staff in the school for their ongoing contributions to making the school what it is ...a joy for our children to attend!

**Rosemary Dillon
Chair Korowal School Council**

Coordinators Report AGM 2010 - 26th May 2011

The year since our last AGM has passed so quickly. As I think back over the past 12 months I reflect on the degree to which we achieved the goals that we set ourselves for the year, and those issues and challenges that arose which added to the complex mix of events and activities that carried us through the year.

One of the most obvious achievements was the management of all the capital works programs that needed to be completed in order for the school to deliver its educational programs with comfort and efficiency.

We were able to complete the oval, construct a Basketball court, instal a very cosy heating system, build a verandah across the northern end of the primary school, extend the classrooms for K12 and finally have our new school hall (nearly) completed.

Although the funding was from the Commonwealth government the school opted to project manage these capital works in order to extract the maximum value and to achieve the best quality of outcome. These tasks were taken on by existing members of the school community with the same spirit of determination that carried us through the relocation process.

At the same time our review of business operations lead to changes in personnel, roles and responsibilities. There remains however ongoing work to be done at at School Council level in reviewing management and financial policies in order to achieve the financial security that is part of the Council's responsibility.

Our enrolments increased slightly this year and it appears this trend will continue. We put a lot of time and energy into communicating and marketing our school. On matters of principal we have engaged the debate, for example on Naplan, and our response is a matter of public record.

We believe that our school offers education based on principles that remain timeless and immutable. As we strive to make these principles evident in the everyday practices of the school we believe that we attract families that share these principles in common. In a world of increasing political and emotional complexity we trust that our students learn vital lessons in how to be in the world as strong citizens and contributors to healthy communities.

We want the world to know we exist and that communities, or schools, can create for themselves their own visions of sustainability and endurance. The year ahead will be interesting in seeing how we develop relationships with the wider national and international education community.

We sought and achieved re-registration with the Commonwealth Government to be eligible to enrol overseas students. After the debacle of the overseas student programs for tertiary students in Australia last year, the compliance requirements for this process were onerous. It is our intention to actively seek enrolments from students in the Asian region as part of our relationship building with our regional neighbours.

A challenge for all independent school is to develop mechanisms for ensuring continuity of educational process and practices as new staff enter and older staff leave or retire from the school.

Whilst Korowal has a commitment to our founding principles, it also has a commitment to be open to change and evolution. As new members of staff join our community it is vital that they have a place to challenge and debate current practices and policies. All staff support this ideal and spend a considerable amounts of their time in reflection and review as part of our structured professional development.

A test of this proposition occurred in the last year with the resignation/retirement of long-serving and experienced members of staff, Bob Tucker, Catherine Dignam, Jennifer Read and Mary-Ann Marshall. We recruited new teachers, Lisa Harding, Greg Brooks and Maria Bubna-Litic in the high school and Kizz Boyd, Bec Wilkinson and Sarah McGowan in the Primary School.

Each of the new teachers has, with delightful capacity, commenced their work this year bringing a recognition of what Korowal requires of them as classroom practitioners but also participating in the ongoing discussions on the purpose of the school, and how they, as individuals, sustain it, now and into the future.

A measure of our community, that it is in fact a community has been the degree of support offered, firstly to Ella Moon, a student in Year 6, who has been ill for a very long time and her parents. Secondly to the illness and finally death of our dear colleague Kathi Beck. As I prepare this address the funeral arrangements for Kathi are taking place and I have the privilege of experiencing the whole community respond to her family's request to have the funeral service at school.

My colleagues, in both teaching and general staff do a remarkable job. The goodwill expressed through their conduct and dedication is the sustaining force of the school. I also find my interactions with parents and of course the children reminds me that my dedication to the school is worthwhile.

There are some people who need specific acknowledgement.

Firstly, Annie Carment. Annie's role as a full-time volunteer has continued this year with her dedication to the schools marketing, including producing the newsletter, arranging all our media advertising, managing the website and ensuring all our good news is communicated as far and wide as possible.

Secondly the Executive team of Nancy Oosterhoff, Barbara Fitzgerald and Steve Garthwin who have taken on an increasing range of tasks and responsibilities to enable me to take on new roles. Particularly their role in supporting and sustaining the new members of staff.

Trish Fitzgerald's operation of our canteen attracts lots of praise and acknowledgement not only from students and staff, but also from the volunteers who work with her and many school visitors. Trish's care and concern about the quality of the food produced and its relationship to the education of the whole community is much appreciated.

The Fair was a great success and I thank Tracy Barrett for her role in managing this important event.

Thank you also to Pieter Oosterhoff for his role in designing and coordinating a replacement heating and cooling system for our main school building.

My acknowledgement also to members of the School Council for their support.

Next to last my thanks to Hilary Wale, Susan Pearce, Cath Walker who have held fort in the office and in particular Bev Milner, our Bursar who provides invaluable financial and business operations guidance.

I also welcome Robyn Spark as a new teachers assistant in the Primary School.

I also have to comment on the extraordinary event of 4 members of staff who have had babies in recent months. Vanessa Avery, Talulah Vane (teachers), Carradene Hannan (our gardener), **Heather Comacho (office)**

To all our parents, students, ex-parents and ex-students, thankyou for your support and contribution either of love, labour, donations or goodwill. The success of this school and the ongoing story of Korowal belongs to all of us.

Mark Thomas
School Coordinator



CONNECTIONS



Youth Circus classes!!!
 Learn unicycle, juggling, poi, staff, Diabolo, clubs, spinning plate, contact juggling, clowning and more... Ages 6+
\$10 Every Thursday 6 - 7:30pm

Wentworth Falls school of Arts
 217 - 219 6WH Wentworth Falls

Contact Rusty: 0406875404
 E-mail: circus_ninja@rocketmail.com

Supported by UBCAP
 (Upper Blue Mountains Circus Arts Program)



Circo Blurto is a dedicated, hard working troop of young performers who train weekly to show and share their newly honed skills at festivals, workshops, events and kids parties.

Contact us to add some circus sparkle to any occasion!



WORKSHOPS ★ WORKSHOPS ★ WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOPS
OF OUTSTANDING
QUALITY!

CONTEXT ART
FORUM
2012

APRIL 14-20, 2012

In the Blue Mountains of NSW
Venues: Korowal School & Springwood High School

EARLY BIRD BOOKINGS CLOSE DEC 1, 2011... But **DON'T WAIT!** Workshops Filling Fast!

www.tafta.org.au Email: tafta@inet.net.au

WHAT ARE THE WORKSHOPS? - WHO ARE THE TUTORS?

2 - DAY and 4 - DAY Workshops offered by:

- SUZANNE ARCHER** (Aus) **DRAWING AND PAINTING** *The Role of the Found Object*
GEMMA BLACK (Aus) **CALLIGRAPHY** *The Celts and Uncial & Colour, Collage and Calligraphy*
WIM DE VOS (Aus) **SCULPTURE - Perspex Design** *2- and 3-Dimensional*
DON HILDRED (Aus) **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY - ESSENTIALS & INTERMEDIATE**
KEITH LO BUE (USA/Aus) **COLLAGING THE FOUND OBJECT & PRECIOUS LITTLE**
TRACY LUFF (Aus) **SCULPTURE IN FLUTED CARDBOARD** *Draw With a Knife - Parts I & II*
GRAHAM MARCHANT (UK/Aus) **IMAGERY FROM NATURE & STILL LIFE** *Jewels of the Patterned World*
GAIL MURPHY & BETTINA NISSEN (Aus) **STORYTELLING - FINDING THE THREAD**
ADELE OUTERIDGE (Aus) **THE ARTIST'S BOOK** *Make A PERSONAL JOURNAL & BOOKS & BOXES*
MICHAEL WINTERS (Aus) **DRAWING** *A Long Hard Look at Things & A Must For Any Medium!*

2 - DAY WORKSHOPS ONLY April 14/15

- JILL ELIAS** (Aus) *Papermaking in & from the bush*
FIONA HAMMOND (Aus) *Bead the Surface*
BARBARA SCHEY (Aus) *Buttony*

4 - DAY WORKSHOPS ONLY April 16 - 20

- MARY HETTMANSPERGER** (USA) *Altered Woven Jewellery*
KIM THITTICHAI (USA) *Hot Textiles, New Surfaces for Stitch*
KATHRYN WARDILL (Aus) *Glass Bead Making*

6 - DAY WORKSHOP ONLY April 14 - 20

Traditional Wood Carving with **GEOFF HANNAH & LAURENS OTTO**

DATES:

- 2 - Day Workshops on Sat/Sun April 14/15
- 4 - Day Workshops: from Monday at noon, April 16th to the finish at noon on Friday, April 20th
- Open House Option Friday afternoon 2 - 6pm

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR MORE WORKSHOPS ►►►

TAFTA - The Australian Forum for Textile Arts, Ltd., a not-for-profit arts organisation www.tafta.org.au
 TAFTA acknowledges the support of the Blue Mountains City Council - TAFTA Work Phone: 07.3300.6491





Hazelbrook Cricket Club is a friendly and successful club located in the Mid Mountains, playing within the Blue Mountains Cricket Association. If you would like to become a member of our club please visit us at one of our registration days.

When: Saturday 13th and 20th August and Sunday 21st August

Time: Between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm

Where: Gloria Park, Hazelbrook

Age Groups: Milo in2 Cricket, Under 10s, Under 12s, Under 14s, Under 16s and Senior Grades

Fees: Milo in2 Cricket TBA, Under 10s \$80 plus a free playing shirt, Under 12s -16s \$105 and Senior Grades \$145 (students and families are entitled to discounts)

Contact Information: Phone Stephen 0414 598 460 or by email at hazelbrook_cricket_club@yahoo.com.au or for more information  Hazelbrook Cricket Club on Facebook or visit our website at <http://hazelbrookcc.nsw.cricket.com.au/>

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