



Lord Howe Island Central School

Creating an environment to develop successful learners and confident individuals



February 10, 2016

'Today for Tomorrow'

Upcoming Events

12/02– Swimming Sport
15/02– Sch Council AGM
17/02– Fish Fry fundraiser
19/02 – Swimming Sport
24/02 –Gym Starts
26/02 – Swimming Carnival
04/03 – Singing Workshop
07/03 – Clam Survey
07/03 – P&C Meeting
14/03 – Big Music week
16/03 – Ned's Beach Gig
18/03 – Golfie Gig
21/03 – Sch Council Meeting
25/03 – Good Friday
28/03 – Easter Monday
01/04 – Sen Cits Morn Tea
01/04 – Assembly
04/04 – P&C Meeting
07/04 – Nth Bay Sch Camp
08/04 – Nth Bay Sch Camp



Starting school is an important step in a young child's life and it has been fantastic to see the older kids, teachers and families pulling together to ensure a smooth transition back to school. We hope everyone found our parent information session informative and useful. If you do need to see your child's teacher, it may be difficult to see them before school as often they are in meetings or preparing for lessons. It is always advisable to call the school so you can make an appointment.

Today our K-2's headed into the library to hear a story from published author Jennifer Simons. After reading her book she engaged the kids with some creative writing. The kids really enjoyed the experience.

As part of our Science, History & Geography lessons our 3-6's enjoyed a special visit yesterday from Craig Thompson and scientists, Prof Peter Harrison & Dr Steven Whalan from Southern Cross University. Whilst Craig's documentary was playing the team led a fascinating discussion on the Coral Spawning research that is taking place on our back door. The kids really made the most of this unique opportunity.

Later in the afternoon Mark, Aka the General, ran some very engaging CPR lessons in the library with our senior boys. A big thanks to everyone that was involved in these great experiences for our kids.

Student Representative Council - Congratulations to Brodie Galloway from K-2R, Natalie Chia from 3-6M and Isabella Vowles from the Secondary room for being elected as our SRC school leaders for 2016.

Pick Ups and Drop Offs - There are many vehicles and bike riders on the road at school finishing time. There has also been a few parents in cars picking up students on Lagoon Road close to where we send the students home on their bikes. Please make sure that any pick-ups and drop-offs before, during and after school by vehicle are done on the oval side of the school. The front of the school is only for students travelling to and from school on foot or by bike. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Happy Birthday - Mrs Roberts celebrated her birthday today. I know everyone will join me in wishing her all the best for her special day. Happy Birthday Mrs Roberts!

Thought for the fortnight "Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it".
Dennis P. Kimbro

Kind regards Trev Mason



Transition Program gives students the best start

The Best Start Assessment data is in for our Kindy's. We are definitely off to a great start again this year. The 2016 Transition to School program started last Friday with a healthy group of six students. Good luck everyone involved.

P&C News - The P&C held its AGM and first meeting for the year last week on the 1st of February. A big congratulations to the 2016 committee:

Kelly Galloway - President

Liz Wright - Vice President

Melissa Vowles - Vice President

Amy Hickey - Treasurer

Andrew Logan - Secretary

The P&C is a genuine way to enhance communication and get involved with the school. The meetings provide a great forum to discuss what is happening and have a say on how things are done. The next meeting is on Monday 7th of March at 4.00pm in the library. All parents & community members are encouraged to attend. If there are items you would like on the agenda, or if you would like to receive minutes via email please contact Andrew on 6563 2353.

Fish Fry - The P&C are busy organising the 2016 Parent Fish Fry job list. The note will come home on Friday. The Fish Fry fundraiser event will be held next Wednesday, 17th February, at the School from 5-7p.m.

Parent Information Night - Some constructive feedback from last year suggested that parents wanted to know a little more information about what content was being taught in the classrooms in order to support their child's learning at home. Despite the heavy rain yesterday afternoon we managed a good turn out of parents at our Parent Class Information sessions. This is part of our strategy to share what is happening in the classrooms. A big thank you to the teachers for all your preparation and work at such a busy time to ensure a professional informative session for mums and dads.

LHICS Performance and Development Goals This year are our school goals from the school excellence framework are;

1. Practices and processes are responsive to school community feedback.
2. The school is recognised as excellent and

responsive by its community as a result of its effective engagement with members of the local community such as parents, families, local media and business organisations.

3. The School will embed and develop explicit systems for collaboration; classroom observation; the modelling of effective practice and feedback; to drive and sustain ongoing, school-wide improvement in teaching practice and student outcomes.

4. Quality teaching and professional practice are evident in every learning environment, providing students with opportunities to connect, succeed and thrive that are relevant to their stages of learning and development.



Swimming Update - we have been busy practicing swimming strokes for Friday for sport in preparation for our swimming carnival. The Swimming Carnival is on Friday 26th of March. To accommodate setting up and the tides we will be starting the carnival at 10:00am.

School Council - The LHIC School Council Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday. Congratulations to our newly nominated parent representative Audrey Ball and also to newly elected staff representative Kylie Martin. The agenda includes discussion around the LHICSC constitution, the 2015 Annual Financial Statement, the 2016 Planned Resource Allocation Model (RAM), the 2016 Budget Outline and the School Chaplaincy Program.

School Chaplaincy - Lord Howe Island Central School is seeking to fill our School Chaplain position for 2016 to 2018. The tenure is for 3 years and includes 400 paid hours per year. Potential applicants are asked to complete an Expression of Interest (EOI). All EOIs are to be sent via email to Darren McMahon at admin@yourdream.org.au from Your Dream Incorporated. The EOI application process will close on March 7th. The LHICS utilises Darren McMahon from Your Dream Incorporated to manage and support the School Chaplaincy position and process. The final applicant will be decided by the LHICS Council on the 21.03.16. Please contact Trev Mason at the school or via email on trev.mason@det.nsw.edu.au for the Position information sheet.

LHI Parents & Citizens Association
DISCOVERY DAY FISH FRY ROSTER
WEDNESDAY, 17th February 2016

Below is a roster & times required for the 2016 Discovery Day Fish Fry. If you have any questions or are unable to fulfil your rostered position for this very important fund raising event please arrange a swap with someone &/or call Kelly on ph. 6563 2443 so changes can be noted.

ADVERTISING: Lord Howe Island Central School Students / P&C committee - Kelly Galloway

ORGANISE & DELIVER FISH (4.30pm): Kelly & Keith Galloway

SET UP FRYERS & BBQ (3.30pm): Keith Galloway & Anthony Wright

SALADS PREPARATION (1pm): Janice Chia, Melissa Vowles, Inga Brasche, Helen Mason, Chris Wilson, Eva Chlumsky

DESSERT PREPARATION: Dani Rourke (approx. 25 serves), Dave Chlumsky (approx. 25 serves), Greg Battle (approx. 25 serves), Amy Hickey (approx. 25 serves), Gary Payten (approx. 25 serves), Janet Sia (approx. 25 serves)
(Delivered by 4.30PM to school)

RUBBISH: Bin drop-off & pick-up to be organized by "Dump Boss" John Tofaeono

BREAD: - Emily Riddle - Pick-up from Anchorage and buttered **(Delivered by 4.30PM to school)**

TABLE SET UP & DECORATIONS (3pm): Bronwyn & John Tofaeono, Trev Mason, Audrey Ball, Lucy Kuilman

COOKS (4.30PM): Keith Galloway & Jim McFadyen - fish prep, Daimien Ball - BBQ, Anthony Wright & Anthony Riddle - fryers, Sean O'Heir - chips @ Bowlo

MONEY COLLECTORS (4.45PM): Simon Martin

FOOD COURIERS (4.45 PM): Luke Hickey & Andrew Logan @ school, Todd Vowles @ Bowlo

FISH SERVER (4.45 PM): Megan Bennett

CHIP SERVER (4.45 PM): Kylie Martin

SALAD / BREAD SERVER (4.45 PM): Liz Wright

SWEET SEVERS (5.15 PM): Racheal McFadyen

DRINKS - TEA / COFFEE / SOFT DRINKS (4.45 PM): Shane Deacon

WASHING UP (5.30PM): Anthony Wilson, Natania Drew, Andrew Walsh, Teneile Meehan, Seini Roko
(Please bring at least 3 tea towels each)

CLEARING TABLES (5.30PM): Year 5 / 6 / 7 / 8

CLEAN UP (7PM): Dominic Chia, Emma Crombie, Cam Lay, Simon Meehan, Melissa Walsh, Stevie Sia

Please Note : The N.S.W. P&C Federation has advised that we need to make all parent/helpers at any fundraising / working bees to be aware that they need to be a current member of the association if they are to be covered by the Federation insurance policy in the event of an accident. A \$2 membership fee/per person can be paid to our treasurer Amy Hickey before or on the night, to ensure you are covered.

MANY THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR HELP IN MAKING THIS EVENT A SUCCESSFUL EVENING!!!!

The Isolated Children's Parents' Association (ICPA)

What is ICPA? - The Isolated Children's Parents' Association (ICPA) is a voluntary, not for profit organisation that has its roots firmly embedded in rural and remote Australia. ICPA was founded in 1972 in Bourke, NSW following the outcry over the closure of the Bourke Hostel. The hostel had provided much needed accommodation for children living on remote properties so that they could attend local schools in town.

The mission of the newly formed Association then, as now, is access to an appropriate education. Distance is a major barrier to accessing education for geographically isolated students and a major cost to families. ICPA lobbies very strongly to overcome barriers to education experienced by isolated children and ICPA councillors may hold one or more of the following portfolios:

Early Childhood

Early Childhood is a very important part of a child's development in forming pre-learning and socialisation skills through play. It is in the pre-school environment where early intervention can take place for those children with difficulties, so that by the time they reach school, the problem has been identified and acted upon.

Unfortunately in rural and remote Australia, accessing an early childhood service can be difficult and expensive. Mobile children's services are available in some areas which helps relieve this access problem but they are limited in their service delivery by funding. Some distance education centres also offer a pre-school programme for home tutors to deliver but there is little or no assessment of the child by the trained staff from the distance education centre. Both the Federal and State Governments provide funding for these services and it is dependent on the funding body as to what services are available for families.

Rural Schools

Rural schools, primary and secondary, play a very important part in educating our children and this is one area that ICPA-NSW has been lobbying for to improve the standards of these schools. Rural towns need good education in their communities to encourage businesses and trade people to not only stay in these towns but also to encourage people to come to their town. ICPA-NSW has been working with the Government and Teachers Federation to improve education in rural and remote areas and has written submissions and talked to the Government over recent new initiatives such as Local Schools Local Decisions (LSLD), Connected Classrooms, Connected Communities and Rural and Remote Education Blueprint.

Rural small, one and two-teacher schools provide a valuable service to primary-aged school children within a reasonable distance from their homes. They are often the hub of a community and cherished by them - if the school closes, the community also dies.

Special Education

Children can have special learning needs such as reading difficulties through to the gifted and talented. ICPA-NSW has been involved in the implementation of the Centre for Effective Reading, which provides help with literacy to those rural remote children in need. ICPA works to improve the availability of programs for isolated families.

Travel

Travel is involved from home to school and usually comprises private vehicle travel and school buses. Most school children in NSW travel for free on public transport. Rural and remote families must bear the majority of the cost of private transport to school or bus stops. Bus routes are dependent on numbers of children, and ICPA lobbies to keep bus runs open as long as possible. The demise of the bus run is often the demise of the school.

Distance Education

Distance Education is affectionately known as "school of the air" and is a vital part of each state's education system. Without Schools of the Air and without "home tutors" (mostly Mum), outback children of Australia would have no access to education other than boarding away from home during term time. Technology is catching up in distance education with the advent of satellite and computer delivery of lessons; however the implementation is expensive and takes time. A lot of the outback stations have no grid power and therefore have to rely on diesel generator power for this technology to work.

Communications

Good communications are vital to the survival of rural and remote Australia. ICPA strives to achieve the same standard of communications for rural and remote residents as is available for the majority of Australian homes.

Improvements in communications infrastructure such as satellite and wireless, have resulted in small rural schools being able to videoconference for lessons and virtual excursions, even where optic fibre connections are not available. This technology is also providing improved internet speeds and reliability for rural and remote families, as well as more equitable costs

Boarding Facilities

Some isolated families must send their children away from home for schooling. Boarding can take the form of government boarding schools, private boarding schools and school term hostels. Some families set up a second home in a nearby town for better access to the local high school. Other families arrange for private board for their child.

Recently, ICPA-NSW has lobbied against the unfair Fringe Benefits Tax on metropolitan boarding school supervisory staff and the GST on boarders' food. These taxes are passed on to boarding families and add considerable cost to school fees.

ICPA-NSW also holds an information booth at the current NSW Boarding Schools Expos which are held in four large regional towns each year. These expos are a wonderful way for rural families to access information on NSW and Victorian boarding schools, and to access allowance information from ICPA-NSW.

Education Allowances

State and Federal Governments have various allowances available to geographically isolated children to assist with the additional costs if a child has to live away from home to access an appropriate education. ICPA has been instrumental in helping form some of these allowances which are now available to those most in need. Centrelink is the first point of call for federal allowances such as the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) scheme and Youth Allowance, and the NSW Department of Education & Communities is responsible for the Boarding Scholarships for Isolated Students (BSIS) and the Living Away From Home Allowance (LAFHA).

Tertiary Education

Affordability is one of the greatest deterrents for rural and remote students accessing tertiary studies of their choice. ICPA is striving to achieve an access allowance for rural and remote tertiary students.

ICPA advocacy continues

The Isolated Children's Parents' Association has achieved a lot in the last 41 years in raising awareness of the issues faced by geographically isolated parents in accessing an appropriate education for their children. As educational standards are raised and educational outcomes and expectations increase, so too does the work of ICPA as it demands of government equitable access to a high standard of education. It is for this reason that ICPA is just as, or even more relevant now than it was in 1972.