Principal’s Note

The WSS Annual General Meeting was held on May 25 with Glenda Gorringe, Kim Geiger, Leonie Gilby and Charlotte Gorringe in attendance.

The P & C Executive for 2016 is President: Kim Geiger, Secretary: Charlotte Gorringe and Treasurer: Leonie Gilby.

I would like to thank these four ladies for their help and support in undertaking roles that at times can be both demanding and challenging.

Jenny Hughes

Did you know? Research shows that in Queensland, higher student attendance at school is associated, on average, with higher student achievement.

Why is regular attendance at school important?

Regular school attendance will mean that your child gets a better chance at life. Your child will achieve better when they go to school all day, every school day:

- they learn better
- they make friends
- they are happier
- they have a brighter future.

Why must I send my child to school?

Under Queensland law, you must make sure your child of school age is enrolled and attends school all day, every school day unless they have a reasonable excuse. Illness, doing work experience, competing in a school sporting event or going on a school excursion are reasonable excuses for being absent from school. Principals decide if the excuse given for your child’s absence is reasonable.

Avoid keeping your child away from school for:

- birthdays, shopping, visiting family and friends, if they sleep in, looking after other children, minor check-ups or care such as hair-cuts.

Routine medical or other health appointments should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.

While it is a last resort, it is important to understand that you may be prosecuted if your child is not attending school regularly.

Jenny Hughes

Goodbye to Robert, May and Noah Beilby

We shall miss you. I hope that your new home is all that you wish for. Thank you for all that you have done at our school, Robert and May. Noah, do you realise that you will have to play for New South Wales?
Writers Corner

This term we have been studying persuasive writing techniques and writing in paragraphs. As a culminating activity the children were asked to choose a negative or positive position on a local environmental topic and to write an article stating their position. After writing the article they had to edit their work and type it onto the computer. With their permission I have included their articles in this Newsletter.

Years 3 to 6.

We Need the Fence

Why do you need a cluster fence? The fence helps us keep the wild pests out of our properties. Kangaroos and goats eat all of the grass, there is none left for the stock. The dingoes are costing a lot of money for the property owners. That fence needs to be built right now!

Dingoes, they are killing all of the stock and the stock numbers are getting smaller and smaller. When the fence is built we will be able to keep the dingoes out. We can shoot them, trap them and bait them. Then we will have the stock numbers grow again. The cluster fence has a thing that is called an apron. It sounds a bit silly but it is a very good idea as the dingoes can only get out of the fence but they can’t get back into the properties. This will protect the stock.

Increased stock numbers means more jobs and more jobs means more money for the community. Now is the time for the cluster fence!

Koby (3)

Cluster fencing is a Great Idea

Do you know why we need a cluster fence?

Wild dogs, wild pigs and kangaroos are selfish wild creatures that destroy farms. This cluster fencing will save cattle, sheep and horses from the wild jaws of a dingo. The dingoes are costing landowners heaps of money. We need that cluster fence now to keep our cattle, sheep and horses as safe as possible.

Do you know why we need to stop these vicious dingoes? In 2008 – 2009 PetSmart Connect found out that farms in QLD lost 67 million dollars in stock. The dingoes don’t eat the sheep, they just kill them for fun. We need a cluster fence to keep the savage dingoes from killing the sheep for sport.

These vile wild dogs are a danger to children and adults. There are times when they are a threat and at other times they are not a threat. Do you know why these violent dingoes are dangerous to us? They try to kill us so that’s why we should never go near a dingo unless you’re going to kill them for killing our sheep.

Why are property owners losing so much money? They are losing money because the savage dingoes are out of control. We don’t know why these vicious dingoes are killing these harmless sheep for fun. I think they are crueller than the most dangerous animals in the world. The stock are dying. We need heaps of money to build a cluster fence to keep the dingoes out. Money is very important to the stockowners so they can buy food in the towns.

The cluster fence needs to be made because it is a good idea to keep the dingoes out. Money is very important to stockowners to feed and water their stock. Dingoes kill sheep and cattle! That is why we need a cluster fence now so the dingoes don’t kill for fun anymore.

Aisalee (4)

The Cluster Fence

Heartless killers, murderers and slaughters! Dingoes are an animal that needs to be eradicated for good. The dingoes have destroyed 1 000’s in the wool industry. Time to take action by building a cluster fence. This will lock the properties in from the dogs.

The fence will have an apron to stop the animals from getting under the fence. The fence will be 150 cm high and the wire will be thicker than your everyday chicken wire. Clifton Cluster fence member Wendy Groves said, “The fence will be a lot stronger than any other fence. The wire is made out of steel. When you drive along a fence you can see where the animals have been pushing at the fence trying to get in. My fence will not have any dents.”

The kangaroos are another pest that the cluster fence is for. When the fence is completed they will cull the roos. When the roos are gone the sheep and cattle will have more food. When sheep don’t have food there is less fibre in their wool and there is not as much money. Then guess what happens? You got to spend money on feed instead of on your family.

The dingoes kill way more sheep than they can eat. Grazier Wendy Grove said, “The dingoes have wiped out half of my sheep.” The roos have nearly eaten all
of the food that sheep and cattle eat. Sheep and cattle aren’t just dying from dogs, they are also dying from starvation.

The sheep numbers are dwindling fast. The sheep usually mob up and the dingoes make the sheep split up into little mobs making them more vulnerable. Then more sheep get killed. The sheep run for it and the dogs run after the sheep then there is one less sheep to shear.

Graziers Wendy and Ross Groves are planning when the cluster fence is up they will bait, shoot and trap wild dogs then they will be able to have sheep. Do you think that the cluster fence is a good idea? Kitty (5)

**The Cluster Fence is a Pawsome Idea!**

I believe that the Cluster Fence is a terrific idea because it will prevent the endless, careless slaughter of stock from wild dogs; and also help make a balance with the heartless lawn mowers of the land, kangaroos. A cluster Fence is made with netting and an apron. This makes it pest and invasive animal proof in comparison to a standard suspension stock fence.

Graziers lose hundreds even thousands of stock each year due to wild dogs which means less farm income. They are not the only people who are affected by this carnage. Many individuals such as shop keepers and publicans are losing money and business, because the graziers don’t need as many workers due to less sheep numbers which in turn means less money for the proprietors.

Wild dogs are a major threat to all stock from a helpless little lamb to a fully grown bull! The reason why they can easily take down these over grown beasts with one bite is because they have so many bacteria in their life taking jaws causing a slow and extremely painful death from infection. Another reason why they’re slaughtering so much stock is not because they are hungry but it’s because they slaughter for fun! They’re careless, heartless killing machines who kill once they see their prey running. This is why expert Wendy Groves said, “Wild dogs must be eradicated by shooting, trapping and baiting once the cluster fence is completed.”

Kangaroos are a major threat to graziers because they eat out all of the feed thus the stock starves. While graziers struggle to control kangaroo numbers they can’t even spell a paddock. Once we have the amazing cluster fence we can shoot out some of them and make a balance. Remember kangaroos are native so without at least some, the ecosystem may get out of hand.

Even though the cluster fence is a great idea the finance is quite costly and that is why Ross Groves believes that, “It’s great to do a cluster fence instead of an exclusion fence so we can pay for the costs as a group.”

The cluster fence is a great idea because it will ensure stock welfare and keep a balance in the environment. The sheep and cattle industry will recover. Property owners will earn more money so they can employ workers, therefore the publicans and the proprietors will increase their profits. Why wouldn’t you think it’s an excellent idea?

Lily (6)

Years 5 and 6 are now reading the book and viewing the film “Red Dog”. As we all know, Red Dog’s death was caused by a bait so I will be interested to see if their points of view change in the next few weeks.

Thank you, Years 3 to 6. It is exciting to watch and read your writing development as you pass through the year levels.

**Homework Expectations**

**Spelling**
Years 1 to 6 students choose their spelling words on a Monday. They are expected to write the words out and learn them at home. I have found that the children have a greater chance of remembering and using their words in their writing for longer than a week if they learn them every night of the week. A rush on Thursday night to get the words learnt results in the words being remembered for the next day and then forgotten.

**Tables**
Years 3 to 6
4 times tables this week. We practice them every day at school but they need to practise them at home as well.

**Sight Words**
-Year 1
Say them each night.

**Reading**
Prep to Year 6
Everyone, every night.

Thank you
Jenny Boyne and Jenny Hughes