



# Newsletter

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## Principal's Message

Yesterday Rana and Hamish held a Remembrance Day service for our students. The 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month marks the end of World War I. We pause at this time each year to remember the millions of lives who have fought and died for their country over the last 100 years. I shared with the students how soldiers dug trenches and how life would have been living in those conditions. A bright red flower, the poppy, grew in the areas that soldiers had dug up. These spread throughout the battlefields when the war was over and are now worn on Remembrance Day to remember those who fought and died in WWI and all the wars that have followed.

**School Captains** - Congratulations to our school captain applicants. Their speeches were very well thought out and delivered. Our 2016 captains will be announced in the coming days after the student vote

**Swimming** - Our students have had a great experience at Shayne Reece Swimming this week. One of the most important things we do as parents is to teach our kids to swim. 'Play it Safe by the Water' is a Victorian Government initiative that aims to increase community awareness of water safety and change Victorian's behaviour in and around water. Water Safety Week is the main feature of the campaign, running from Sunday 29 November - Sunday 6 December 2015. You can discover what you can do to make sure your children are safe around water with various community activities and events run throughout the campaign.

When you and your children are playing around water it's important to make sure that both you and they:

- Are aware and prepared for conditions
- Read safety signs to understand dangers
- Swim between the red and yellow flags wherever possible
- Never swim alone

Children 5-14 years should always be in sight.

Together we can ensure that Victoria's coastlines and pools are a safe and fun environment for all Victorians.

For more information about the campaign see:

<http://www.watersafety.vic.gov.au/>

**Canberra Camp** - Is fast approaching for our senior students. We have sent home the final consent and medical forms for those who are attending this camp. Please return these to Mr Micallef as soon as possible so that he can finalise student arrangements.

**New Classrooms** - These are arriving shortly. Thankyou to Ms Jones and Paul for their efforts in removing the old shed over the last week. While construction is underway there will be some inconvenience to the school community. Please respect all boundaries that are set as these are there for the safety of everyone.

**Book Club** - Orders are due back this Tuesday, 17th Nov. Term 4

**Vandalism** - We had an incident on the weekend in which school property was damaged. If members of our school community know of or saw anyone in the school grounds over the weekend please call the Gordon Police Station on 5368 9202.

**Booklists** - Many parents have realised that 2016 payments have been significantly reduced. We are committed to assisting families with payment plans for 2016, however, we ask that the essential stationery and textbook items (first two rows) be paid before the start of term one. Parents who wish to purchase their own items must let me know by tomorrow.

A reminder that booklists will be handed to parents on the 27th January after payment is received. Please make a time to see me if this will be difficult so that we can make arrangements.

## **Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER)**

Grade 5/6 students from our school will soon be undertaking an educational tour of the national capital. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$30 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards these costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion. Please note that the rebate was taken into account when costing the excursion and the camp fee already takes into account this subsidy.

**Gr 6 Fun Day and Graduation Dinner** - Notes for the Gr 6 Fun Day will be sent home shortly. The Gr 6's will be spending the day at the Geelong Adventure Park on Friday 11th Dec. Please get those notes back as soon as possible. Graduation Dinner notes have been sent home, please advise Mr Micallef as soon as possible about your numbers for the night to finalise arrangements with the venue. This will be a wonderful night and we look forward to hearing their speeches.

**Concert** - Next Friday is our school concert. Can parents please let their classroom teacher know which performance that they and their families are attending. This will assist us with organisation at each event. A reminder that the Matinee performance is at 1:30pm and the evening performance at 6:30pm. Both will be held in the Gordatorium. A gold coin donation at the door would be much appreciated.

## **NO SCHOOL MONDAY**

*Have a great weekend  
Russel Cowan, Principal*

# November 2015

All dates are correct at time of going to print however they may be subject to change.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sa	Su
			12 Swimming NO ASSEMBLY School Council 6pm	13 SCHOOL AS NORMAL	14	15
16 Curriculum Day NO SCHOOL	17 Book Club Orders	18 Prep Transition Day 9am–12.30	19	20 School Concert Matinee 1.30 pm and Evening 6.30pm	21	22
23 Canberra Camp Gr 5/6	24 Canberra	25 Canberra	26 Canberra ASSEMBLY 2.45	27 Canberra	28	29
30						

# December 2015

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1 Somers Camp	2 Somers	3 Somers	4 Somers	5 Somers	6 Somers
7 Somers	8 Somers <i>Whole School Transition Day</i>	9 Somers	10	11 Graduates Fun Day	12	13
14 Graduates Dinner	15	16 Family Fun Night	17 Last Day of School	18 Pupil Free Day	19	20

## Parents and Community Committee

### **Cuppa and Chat next Wednesday 18 November**

Come and have a morning cuppa followed by a chat at the Gordon Hotel. They do an excellent breakfast if you need one, too! Starts at 9:10am; straight after drop off. It doesn't matter if you've never been to a morning session, we'd love to have you come. Finally, they have a kids play space; so bring your littlies.

### **Ideas for 2016**

It is that time of year again when we start to wonder what to do next year. We do have a schedule of planned events but if there is something you would like to suggest over the next week or so we can certainly consider it. Speak to one of our committee members about it.

### **Minutes of Meetings**

Did you know you can read the minutes from each meeting under the Parents Tab on the school website? Note: Minutes of the last meeting will not be published until they are accepted at the following meeting.

## **Crazy Camel Fundraiser**

Don't forget that we have a fundraiser going at the moment. Order forms have been sent home this week and we will hopefully have the students artwork on the walls of the Gordo at next week's concert for you to have a look at.

Calendars	\$13
Family Planners	\$15
Pillow Cases	\$22
Cards (8)	\$14
Diaries	\$18
Notebooks	\$18
iPhone Cases	\$15

# Our Prospective 2016 School Captains



**Rueben**



**Cameron**



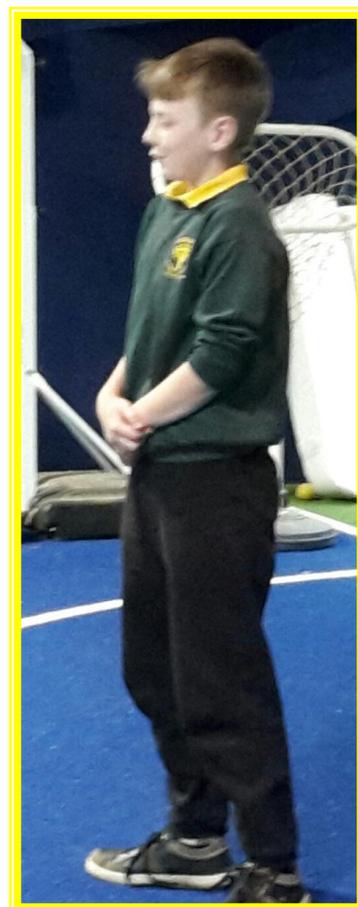
**Lauren**



**Conor**



**Matilda**



**Rory**



# We Will Remember Them

11-11-2015



Archer, Alannah, Ashlyn, Grace, Bailey, Teahre.

Some of our Gr 4 students have taken a great interest in the Palm Oil Plantation problem that we have been studying and decided to build a model of what they have learnt about this issue out in the playground during their own time. Well done.



Construction (destruction) of a palm oil plantation



De-forested palm oil plantation

