Dear Parents and Friends

Our Vision and Values

Over the last six months I have written in my principal message about the school review. Every four years each school in the state has a review that is conducted by an independent education review company. Their job is to use data and seek feedback from the staff, parents and students about how the school is going. Our review was conducted in November and I am pleased to say that the review company highlighted some outstanding things that the school is doing to improve student learning. All of our goals and targets that were set back in 2013, with respect to student learning, were achieved. This is well worth celebrating and I congratulate the students and teachers for this success.

As we move into our next Strategic Plan, it’s time to take a look at our vision and values. The vision essentially answers the question, “Why are we here?” and the values ask, “What do we believe in?” In my discussions with staff, parents and students, I am finding a theme emerging that hopefully resonates with you all. The theme is about children developing the skills for life.

On the first curriculum day of the year I asked the staff to tease this out a little bit. I wanted to find out what kinds of behaviours, attitudes, skills and knowledge children needed to be a successful learner and Australian citizen. Through our discussions, we came up with a vision statement that summed up what we thought:

At Bayles Regional Primary School, we believe in educating passionate, committed and persistent learners to develop the skills for life.

This short vision statement encompasses many messages. Firstly, the teachers believe they are here to make a positive difference in every child’s life – if they didn’t, they wouldn’t be here. It is recognised that the teachers are here to educate children, to impart knowledge and create an environment where children can develop skills and attitudes to make an impact on the world. In order to do this, the children have to take some responsibility for their learning. Being passionate means to have a strong desire and enthusiasm for something, and it’s our job as educators to allow such passions to flourish. Learning also takes commitment, especially when learning something new can be challenging. This then brings in the persistence part which is the mindset that tells you to keep going through tough times. Every child has a right to be challenged because that’s when learning occurs. It is the child’s passions, their level of commitment and their persistence to keep going that will help them develop the skills for life. That is our vision.
Principal's Report (Continued)

Our values are the commonly held beliefs that make Bayles unique. They are the glue that holds us together. I’d like to emphasise the idea that Bayles Regional Primary School has a “Culture of Learning”. If we think about learning then, what are the values we want our kids to uphold? Once again, based on feedback from staff, students and parents, some common elements have emerged. The values of respect, persistence, excellence and integrity continue to shine through as values of Bayles. However, the new values of collaboration, collective effort and community are seen as critical aspects of the school’s culture of learning. If you think about these seven values I hope you agree that they align with the “Bayles way” so that our students - your children - can develop the skills for life.

Farmers of the Year

Those of you who are in the dairy industry know only too well how difficult it has been for the last 12 months or so. As I mentioned earlier, in times of hardship and challenge it is passion, commitment and persistence that hold people in good stead, not just in school but in life as well. One such family, the Finger family, have been rewarded for their initiative by earning The Weekly Times and Coles 2016 Dairy Farmer of the Year. Articles in the Weekly Times and the Sunday Herald Sun spoke about the changes they had to make to maintain their business and how it has kept them afloat, such as switching from milking twice a day to only once a day to save on costs. On behalf of the school, I’d like to pass on my congratulations to Lauren, Simon, Matthew, Claire and Rachael for this prestigious and well-deserved award.

KWR Australia Day 2017 Awards

Once again we have reason to celebrate our fantastic school community, with past and present families well represented at the recent KWR Australia Day awards. Kye R and Ella W were our two school recipients, past student Ella R received the Secondary College award and Stacey (mother of both Ella R & Kye R) and Valmai Walker (past family) were well deserved recipients of the community awards. If you didn’t see the write-up about these recipients in the last Blackfish, we have attached it at the end of the newsletter.

School Council Update

The process for electing the new school council members has concluded. We did not have to go to a ballot process this year because we had the same number of nominations as vacancies. I am pleased to announce to the community that we have two new members, Meagan Seabrook and Olivia Lineham, and two returning members, Heidi Kilpatrick and Stacey Rouse. I congratulate these parents and look forward to working with them, along with our existing school council members, to support me in making this the best school possible for our students.

As we welcome new members, we also have members who are leaving school council. I would like to thank Amanda Dalton, Andrea Pickering and Kirstin Hichisson for their commitment to serving on school council. A special thanks goes to Kirstin who served as our council president for a period of time. Being a member of School Council requires much time and effort and I applaud these parents for volunteering to make this school a better place for your children.

Kind regards

Mr Mat Anderton

Junior School Council

Junior School Council organises different events and fundraises for various charities. One person is chosen from each year level from Year 2 - Year 6. These people are responsible students that are chosen by their teachers to represent their grade level. They will be expected to be leaders within their grade level and bring ideas to our meetings.

Congratulations to our Junior School Council members for 2017!

Captain from Year 6 — Peyton D
Year 5 - Portia B
Year 4 - Abbey W
Year 3 - Archie T
Year 2 - Alisha K
On Monday the 20th of February, on what was a very cold and wet day, 10 of our students participated in the District Swimming competition. With no formal training beforehand, students did laps in their own time to get themselves competition ready and committed themselves to swimming after school or on the weekends. I would like to thank the parents for driving their children to the swimming pool and working with them to build up their skills before this event.

On the day, we were up against a lot of very talented swimmers, but had a successful day overall with students coming 1st, 2nd or 3rd in their heats to proceed to the finals in Freestyle, Backstroke and/or Breaststroke. Even though these students were tired, they did a great job in their finals events. We have 2 students on the standby list to go to Division at Noble Park. Fingers crossed the first place getters have qualified for too many events, which will leave room for our second place getters to experience a Division Swimming Carnival.

Well done to all of our 9/10 girls relay students who swam well in what was a very hard race and to our students that competed in the Championships race, which is two laps of the swimming pool.

A job well done everyone! It was great to see you all cheering on from the side lines and encouraging all those that needed it. Especially to the parents that braved the cold to support our school.

Bree Hynd
Welcome back from the M.A.R.C. librarians! In 2017 students will continue to participate in Library classes on Wednesday. During their library session students will learn library and research skills and be involved in literature-related activities.

During their library session students will borrow and return books, as well as learn library and research skills and be involved in literature-related activities. All classrooms have a tub for returns that is available for students to return their books on any day.

After two weeks the book becomes ‘overdue’ and your child cannot borrow another until the overdue item has been returned. This is to encourage students to get into a routine of bringing their books to school for library on a regular basis. Students may choose to return books weekly.

If a book is lost and, after having searched, it cannot be found, we request that parents return the overdue note just to acknowledge that the item can’t be found at home and your child may continue to borrow (the lost book can then be deleted from the catalogue). There is no fee for lost books, but should you locate the lost book, please return it so that it can be re-catalogued and put back into the collection for other children to borrow.

Please encourage your child to be a responsible user of the library. Have a set place at home to leave library books and remind your child to bring them to school. We look forward to visiting in the Library truck very soon!

Tony Latham & Peter Matthews
M.A.R.C. Librarians

The Bayles Music Festival is on again this year on Saturday 4th of March and the school choir has once again been invited to sing.

This is a free community event from 2.00 - 9.00 with performances, market stalls, food and drink (see flyer at the end of the newsletter).

The school choir will be performing a repertoire of songs in the community hall at 3:55 pm. A notice will be sent home soon for choristers.

Please come and support them whilst enjoying the festivities - we would love to see you there!

Late Arrivals or Early Leavers
Don’t forget to come to the office first and sign your child in/out. Each child must have their own slip to take to the classroom.

First Information Day For Year 7 2018
Thursday 4th May 2017

M.A.R.C. LIBRARY
KOOWEERUP & DISTRICT OP SHOP

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO FILL THE FOLLOWING SHIFTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>10.00am - 1.00pm</th>
<th>1.00pm - 4.30pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 3rd March</td>
<td>Shona &amp; Kymberlee</td>
<td>Shona &amp; Kymberlee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 20th March</td>
<td>Claire &amp; Melissa</td>
<td>Shona &amp; Kymberlee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 3rd April</td>
<td>2 Volunteers Needed</td>
<td>Nicole &amp; Jacqui</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(during School Holidays)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 21st April</td>
<td>Nicole &amp; Jacqui</td>
<td>2 Volunteers Needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 6th May</td>
<td>Amanda D &amp; Karina A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00am - 12.00pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 22nd May</td>
<td>Belinda &amp; Nicole</td>
<td>2 Volunteers Needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are able to help with shifts at the op shop, please contact Stacey Rouse on 0418 316 204 or Andrea Pickering on 0409 023699

Koo Wee Rup Australia Day Awards

Kye R
Kye is a student in Year 5 at Bayles Regional Primary School. Kye has been nominated due to dedicating himself to raising money for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. Kye's generous and courteous nature is something that is valued by his friends, family and teachers. Whenever there is a community event, Kye will be there to support the school in whatever way he can. His commitment to Bayles Regional PS and surrounding community is to be commended.

Ella W
Ella is a Year 6 student at Bayles Regional Primary School. Ella is a studious, well-mannered and friendly girl who strives to be the best she can be at all times. She demonstrates all the attitudes and behaviours that the school values: Respect, Persistence, Excellence and Integrity. The school has nominated Ella for this award due to her commitment to the wellbeing of the school community, as well as for her positive disposition towards her education such that she is a credit to herself and her family.
Valmai Walker

Valmai was born on a farm at Yannathan, and has lived in the district ever since. She has always had a keen sense of community service and began her voluntary work as a very young woman, joining the Lang Lang show committee in 1954. She is still on the committee, performing stewarding and judging duties each year at the show as well as competing in handicraft, cookery and floral sections. In the fifties she was on the committees of both the Yannathan Public Hall and the Yannathan Tennis Club. After she married Vic Walker, they purchased the Service Station at Bayles where they became a huge contributor to the township. They were instrumental in setting up and running the Bayles Fauna Park, which is still visited and enjoyed by many people each year, and heavily involved in the Bayles Rural Fire Brigade. Valmai was a founder member of the Bayles Catering Team which supported firefighters during turnouts.

Valmai and Vic encouraged their four children to join the cubs and scouts and Valmai was a great supporter when Vic became a venturer leader, continuing their roles long after their own children had passed through. Many local young men will tell you of the friendship and encouragement that came from Vic and Valmai through the scouting group.

They were also closely involved with the Bayles Primary School, and their joint knowledge of ex-pupils and teachers was invaluable when the school celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2008. Valmai has been a long time member of Lang Lang Garden and Hobby Club holding many executive positions. Valmai has a keen interest in the history of The Swamp and has been an active member of the KWR Swamp Historical Society for many years serving for some years as President.

Valmai was secretary of Bayles Public Hall Committee for ten years and is still on the committee, attending regular meetings. She is a member of the Lang Lang singers. She regularly helps the Backpaks for Kids programme, through the Koo Wee Rup Anglican-Uniting Church where she has been a long time member of the congregation. Valmai was a prime mover behind establishing the Bayles Kindergarten which is still thriving.

The members of the many organisations to which she belongs all comment on her loyalty, dedication and work ethic over an extraordinarily long period of time. Valmai works with quiet determination to get the job done properly and promptly. The communities of Yannathan, Bayles, Lang Lang and Koo Wee Rup would all be lesser communities without the voluntary work she has done over her lifetime.

Stacey Rouse

Stacey has been involved at Bayles Regional Primary School for 9 years and during that time has dedicated herself to the school by volunteering her time helping in the classroom, organising school events and working bees, and being a parent member of School Council. She has taken on the role of the school’s historian, maintaining newspaper articles, newsletters and photos as a reminder of all the great things that happen at Bayles.

She is a member of the Parents Club and is the coordinator of the KWR op shop rosters for the school as well as volunteering herself. She is actively involved with the Catani Tennis Club where she is the secretary. She collects Woolworths cards and fills all the kids at the schools lists then collects all the leftovers and buys albums fills them and then gets them to the children’s hospital and once getting them overseas to an orphanage.

After losing her mother at the start of 2016 she started a Facebook community encouraging members to post uplifting messages, or just to let them know they are not alone. For the past 5 years she has held events for the cancer council which range from girls nights in to a full scale market at the Bayles Hall with all funds going to cancer charities or the Royal children’s hospital.

Lots of people do what they can for their community but Stacey goes beyond giving a helping hand and throws herself with such passion and fabulous organisational skills finishing whatever she begins not only with love, care and passion but with a smile for those who need it; she really is a quiet achiever preferring for others to have the limelight while she works tirelessly behind the scenes organising.

Passing her passion and commitment on to the next generation, Stacey is the mother of Kye and Ella both of whom were nominated by their respective schools for awards today. The Bayles/KWR community would not be quite the same without her and we are very grateful that she is there with a smile to cheer our day.

Ella R

Ella will be in Year 9 this year. She has been nominated for the award because she clearly exemplified the College’s core values of personal best, respect, responsibility, honesty and integrity. She has remarkable determination and persistence and been very successful in raising the standard of her work so that she is now an A student. Her teachers say she is extremely courteous, always polite, friendly and helpful. She is also very mature in her approach to her schoolwork and her understanding of how to work with people. She particularly excels in geography.
BAYLES MUSIC FESTIVAL

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

Presented By
BERWICK & DISTRICT FOLK CLUB

Two Stages
Community Involvement
Local Schools
Market Stalls
Food & Drink
Free Parking

2pm - 9pm
Saturday
4th March

Headline Act:
COOLGRASS

www.badfolk.org
email: badfolkclub@gmail.com
Interested artists/stall holders contact BAD Folk above
SUPERHERO FUN RUN 2017

8.00AM SUNDAY 2ND APRIL
ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE

Take the challenge and Run or Walk 4km/8km on the Tan Track.
Entry Fees: Families $95, Adults $45 and Children $25

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.IRABINA.COM