**Principal’s Message**

**Term 2**
Welcome back everyone. Like every term there will be much to achieve for our students throughout Term 2 2014. I know there are a number of ‘big ticket’ items that are planned including the Stage 3 Mogo Camp and the SISA Physical Activity program. My thanks to our ever busy teachers for providing the organisation and support for these activities.

**Playground**
Last term information was provided through this newsletter and at P&C meetings regarding the trial closure of Sheargold Park and the daytime locking of the majority of external gates. As with all things ‘new’ there will be some time necessary for adjustment, including the logistics of ensuring smooth operation. We envisage evaluating the new processes during and at the end of term. Please be patient.

**Student enrolments**
There have been several recent new enrolments to our school. All our new enrolments are enthusiastically welcomed and I am hopeful will very much enjoy their Unanderra experience. Recent enrolments are contributing to a steadying of our numbers around the 460 student mark. At 460 students we can confidently continue to provide 18 classes. There would remain very little change to our class structure until we reached 475 – 480 students, which is unlikely to be the case in 2014 or 2015.

**ANZAC Ceremony**
We held our ANZAC Ceremony this morning. It is important that we commemorate this occasion as close to the actual day as possible, and that we provide all our students access to this important Australian event. My thanks to our captains and to Mrs. Morgan for their organisation and efficient leadership.

**April 29, 2014**

Our school is very fortunate to have a thoughtful layout as we comfortably fit the entire school within the concrete playground closest to the flag poles. The raised dais beneath the footbridge provided a wonderful vantage point for our captains to lead the ceremony.

**Stage 3 Camp**
The vast majority of our Stage 3 boys & girls will embark on their 3 day camp to Mogo tomorrow. School Camps are always memorable experiences, I can still fondly recall my own Year 6 Camp to Broken Bay way back in 1979. I look forward to hearing many positive stories about the experiences of our students next week. I wish all our students and their supervising teachers a safe and enjoyable experience.

**Payments and Permission**
Please be reminded that all permission notes will carry a due date that must be adhered to. Late payments cannot be accepted, except in exceptional circumstances and with prior negotiation with the convenor of the excursion or Mr. Redfern.

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**Quote**
A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus, but a molder of consensus.

*Martin Luther King, Jr*

Craig Redfern
Principal
Family Occupation and Education Index (FOEI): Each family received a Parent Details Pack last term. The purpose of this is to collect information and ensure the school has a high level of completeness and the accuracy of parental background is current. This data determines the allocation of the new school funding model, ensuring that resource allocation is fair and best meets the need of all students at all times. Please complete the enclosed parent details forms and return them to the school office this week. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Carolina Wilkinson, Administrative Manager

Stewart House Clothing Appeal and Envelope Drive: Please return all donations of good, clean, wearable clothing, shoes, manchester and blankets by 7th May, 2014. The bags should be placed in the school Hall to the right side of the stage.

The prize for this year’s Donation Drive is a $4,000.00 family holiday to the destination of your choice. If you would like to enter, simply fill in all contact details, enclose a $2 coin donation, seal the envelope and keep the tear-off receipt. Return the envelope to the collection box located in the Office foyer before Stewart House Day, Friday 9th May, 2014. Participation is voluntary. There are more envelopes and bags available in the office if needed. Thank you.

Robyn Matts, Stewart House Coordinator

P & C News

P&C Update: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 12th May, at 7:00pm. If you would like to have something included on the agenda for that meeting please drop your contact details and agenda item outline in the P&C box in the school office and I will contact you to discuss further.

Mother’s Day Stall: The stall will take place on Thursday 8th May. All gifts will be $5, and special gifts for Grandmother’s too. Volunteers will be contacted this week.

School Volunteers 100 point check: This is a reminder for all volunteers at the school. If you haven’t already done so you are required to carry out a 100-point check. Forms are available from the school office, and upon completion original documents must be presented to the office for verification. Thanks to all our returning volunteers and to all new volunteers at the school, your help is greatly appreciated.

Dajana Castagna, P&C President

School Banking Sign Up Day: If there are any parents who want to sign their children up for school banking, our next sign up day will be this Thursday 1st May at 8.30am under the Cola. Bring your Drivers Licence or your child’s birth certificate for proof of identification.

Congratulations All your efforts with the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program in Term 1 have resulted in your school placing in the top ten schools for commission in the South Coast & Southern Highlands. 7th Unanderra Public School Keep up the great work!

Elizabeth Ilievski and Dajana Castagna, Banking Coordinators
P & C Uniform Shop: The P&C Uniform Shop Committee would like to thank our school community for their patronage. We are also extremely grateful for the assistance of our team of loyal volunteers who have given up their time to look after our shop.

As with all things, a time for change has come and we are advising as of Term 3 this year our doors will be closed and that school uniforms will be purchased from Lowes Figtree.

- There are some exciting advantages to this happening.
- Convenience to access uniforms during retail hours
- Full credit card and lay-by facility
- Lowes Figtree is open during school holidays, weekends and most public holidays
- You can purchase your uniforms ONLINE @ Lowes and have them delivered
- The advantage of LOWES loyalty card or Ezyway Credit card.
- Additional discounts as advertised by Lowes during their sales

Lowes are also giving Unanderra Public School parents a special 2 year discount. In the first year, 10% discount off the purchase price of all distinctive Unanderra school items. In the second year, 5% discount off all distinctive Unanderra school items.

We are also pleased to share the exciting news that the School Sport Uniform change has been approved and will be available at LOWES Figtree during Term 2, date to be advised. This will now be a Navy/Sky Blue Microfiber Polo with the school logo and Unisex Navy Microfber short with school logo. Girls have the option of wearing a Navy Skirt/Skort with school logo. The school hat will also be the Navy Surf Hat to match our new smart sports uniform. Our Unanderra children will look fantastic when out representing our school.

During Term 2 the Uniform Shop will be running out our stock at SALE prices. Get in quick to take advantage of any SALE stock. All current uniforms will be able to be worn whilst the school completes the phasing out process of the Sky Blue sport t-shirt and Royal blue rugby shorts. It is understood this process takes time and the school will allow changed uniforms to be worn for the next 2 school years whilst we transition to the new sports uniform and navy hats.

Mandy Marks & Amanda Hampton, P&C Uniform Shop Committee

Information for Parents from the Department of Education and Communities:

Books To Boost Brains: Literacy skills often progress suddenly in leaps and bounds. The secret is to keep kids of all ages reading over the weekends and school holidays. Even 20 minutes a night can make a huge difference to their reading, comprehension and general knowledge. It’s also a great way to settle their minds down before sleep (for adults too!). If your child hasn’t found a book that grabs their imagination, why not try them on a series book from the Premier’s Reading Challenge list? Here are top suggestions for all ages, including young adult: [http://bit.ly/1dLSGC0](http://bit.ly/1dLSGC0)

Kik, Vine, Instagram – Are They Safe? It’s no contest – kids discover and understand new social media long before we adults do. If your child is thinking about creating a new social media account – or complains that “everyone else is doing it”, you can get the facts a glance from School A to Z’s technology glossary. You’ll also find information about age restrictions and things to watch out for: [http://bit.ly/188OerY](http://bit.ly/188OerY)

Community News

Comic Gong: Wollongong Libraries presents Comic Gong on Saturday 17th May at 10:00am to 4:00pm. There will be an Artists’ Alley, Stalls, Workshops, Cosplay Exhibition, Cosplay Competition, Prizes, Caricature Artist, Airbrush Tattoos, Photo Booth, Face Painting plus more. Visit our website for more information.

2013-2014 Family Energy Rebate: $125 towards What is the Family Energy Rebate? The Family Energy Rebate helps to cover the costs of energy bills for NSW households with dependent children. In 2013 – 2014 the rebate gives: A $125 credit against electricity bills for eligible applicants who receive electricity from an electricity retailer. A $137.50 direct payment to nominated bank accounts for eligible applicants who live in a caravan or mobile home park and receive electricity from the park operator. Am I eligible for the Family Energy Rebate?To be eligible you MUST: Be eligible for Family Tax Benefit A or B during 2012- 2013 and have received a relevant payment; and Be the primary account holder of an electricity retailer, OR a long-term resident of a caravan or mobile home park and receive electricity from the park operator. For more information or assistance PHONE Service NSW 137788 EMAIL fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au WEB[www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/info/familyenergysavings.html](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/info/familyenergysavings.html)