

# Mundulla Primary School



GROW IN KNOWLEDGE

our school values:

excellence  
respect  
responsibility  
integrity  
co-operation  
creativity

Newsletter 9

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL:



While we had our External Review recently we also had an audit of our attendance. Each year the Department for Education sets a target for schools for attendance. This year it is 95% attendance. We are currently meeting that target. This is great as it means that everyone is attending school regularly so that learning can continue without interruptions. We hope that with winter really starting we are able to continue our high rate of attendance at school although the lurgies that come with the cold weather may impact on some students. It can be difficult when students are regularly away as they find it hard to keep up with what is happening as most days a lot is achieved with students moving forward in their learning.

The audit also considered our policy and processes for attendance to ensure that we were consistent with other places and are following the department requirements.

Our staff attendance is high too, with very few days absent through illness thankfully. Where we do have absences they are usually for required training and development, which can impact on small schools a lot. For example if a Junior/ Middle or Upper primary teacher is required to attend meetings we only have one of each to send rather than being able to spread the meetings across a number of teachers. This term has seen some staff being required to

attend a range of during and after school meetings which might make you think they are just away all the time! The learning that takes place is valuable and gives the staff new perspectives by mixing with teachers from other sites. Next term a group of teachers will be meeting here for the STEM 500 Maths group.

Damien and Joann attended a Playground Visual Inspection course recently. Just in time for some minor breakdowns and damage in the playground to be assessed. The shade sail on the playground has been removed after being damaged in the high winds and rain we had recently. The replacement will not be immediate, but it will happen. The clatter bridge is being repaired after it broke so that it meets the requirements for size of chain so that finger entrapments cannot occur.



Year to Date (2018)

The average daily attendance rate, Year to Date, derived from student attendance data received from the school systems as at 15/06/2018.



Previous Week

Attendance rate derived from student attendance data received from the school systems as at 15/06/2018.

Currently our attendance is at 95% for the year.

## CALENDAR

25 – 29 June	SAPSASA Hockey
27 June	Spaghetti 7pm FAC, 7.30pm Governing Council meeting
28 June	9am Playgroup 'There was an old lady who lived in a shoe'
3 July	Jolly Phonics Parent Session
4 July	Pumpkin Soup, Chicken Noodle Soup
5 July	9am Playgroup: bring along your teddy to make it a cubby
6 July	Last day of term. Early dismissal 2.30pm. Student Reports. Newsletter
23 July	TERM 3: STUDENT FREE DAY
24 July	Students return to school
27 – 29 July	140 years celebration

## IN THIS ISSUE

From the Principal  
Celebrating 140 Years  
Suzanne (PCW)  
Spare clothes supply  
School & Community Notices

📍 cnr Hinge & Kennedy Streets  
Mundulla SA 5270

☎ 08 8753 4064, 08 8753 4164

📞 08 8753 4191

✉ dl.0297.info@schools.sa.edu.au

🌐 www.mundullaps.sa.edu.au



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

Jenny had the finances and other matters well in hand when our financial audit was carried out this term too. With a couple of minor changes to procedures, everything is being processed and accessed correctly and is up to date. An audit of school finances are carried out each year.

The year 6/7s were invited to work with Andrew Lorimer-Derham at the High School this week. Andrew is a self confessed maths Nerd who had a range of maths games for the students to try.



Staffing news: Sue Hill has been granted long service leave from the school from the 28<sup>th</sup> August until the end of the year. This means that we will be going through the process to replace her for the time of the leave. Sue will work for the first 5 weeks of term 3 before her leave begins.

Richanda Fiegert will be leaving us at the end of this term. She has been working in the Junior Primary Class since 2017. We wish her all the best in her extended role at her 'other' school.

All the best to our hockey players representing the district in Adelaide next week. We know you'll have a great time and learn lots.

With only 2 weeks to go until the holidays I know many students are looking forward to the break, especially those heading away or with plans for at home.

Cheers  
Joann

CELEBRATING  
140 YEARS

### **JEFF PACKER (1963-69) Some memories of my Mundulla School Days.**

I continue to have a soft-spot for Mundulla Primary School and Mundulla in general although I left in 1975 to study Electrical Engineering at what was then the SA Institute of Technology (SAIT), subsequently to become University of SA and now I understand contemplating a merger with the University of Adelaide – what's the world coming to!

However, I digress!

At the outset I have to say that my memories are nowhere as clear as those of Glen Murch that I read on these pages recently – clearly, he has lived a clean life with a mind like a steel trap – I will claim early on-set dementia for most of my primary school memories fading.

I was born to Tasma and Keith Packer in 1957, while they were living at Waltham Farm which is now the Old Mundulla Vineyard of the Blaxland Wine Group. This is a curious evolution of the farm, given that my Great Grandfather had a strong connection to the liquor industry, and would allegedly, return from an evening or afternoon at the Old Mundulla Hotel (the very first incarnation) resting in the back of the cart as his horse was left to find its way home via the Mile Lane (now Packer Avenue)!

I'm claiming that as the first autonomous vehicle in SA which must have been in the 1920s!

Anyway, I digress again!

Back to my memories of Mundulla Primary School!

My early years were spent on Waltham Farm with my parents, and grandparents, and I can distinctly remember when I started school, riding my bike into Grade 1 (1963) under the care of Mr Ridge. I have a vivid memory of riding through a very thick fog one morning only to get to the farm gate and looking back toward the homestead to discover it had disappeared! So, I promptly turned around and pedalled back to make sure it was still there!

So, a shout-out to all the snowflakes that get delivered to the front gates of the school by their Mums/Dads today!

I can remember the very first day of school for our year was particularly eventful – someone, who shall remain nameless, fell on Grant Mosey and broke his arm! Someone else, who also shall remain nameless (unless his nearest and dearest wants to give him up) walked home and hid under his bed because school was all too much!

I went to school with three cousins Christine Golding, Graeme Downing and Barbara Altus in the same year.

It must have been early on that same year that Mum took in her first teacher/boarder, Val Beacham (?) (later Duffield) and she had a little Mini-Minor, so I managed to get a ride to school for a time.

I remember one occasion driving home from school with Miss Beacham we spotted a pair of plovers somewhere in a paddock along what is now Barton Steer Road. Anyway Miss Beacham thought it would be cool if we could find the eggs and take them to the school next morning. We found the eggs and I put them in my jumper and carried them in the car until we got home. Upon entering the kitchen, the eggs promptly fell out of my jumper onto the floor. Needless to say Miss Beacham wasn't happy! I was only able to reflect on that much later but here she was, a city girl, her first gig out of teachers' College in the country and this was her big chance to show she wasn't such a city girl!

It was also that year that my father passed, and my grandparents (bless their souls) sold the farm (so my likely career as a farmer disappeared in a puff of smoke) and Mum had to build a house and move us into Mundulla where she set up her hair dressing salon at our new home which, coincidentally, was right next to the school on the corner of North and East Terrace, Mundulla!

So, from then on, I only had to crawl through the fence to get to school – no problems with the fog there! Although the school did upgrade the fence so my brother, Adrian and I had to walk around the road. I have memories of many of my school friend being sent home with me after school for Tas to cut their hair!

I remember my first school crush was Jenny Hinge – so I hope her family aren't reading this.

I remember two school buses would bring the out-of-town kids to school every day: the Little Bus and the Big Bus – no seriously you couldn't make this stuff up! We would occasionally stay with our cousins the Downings (Robin, Tim and Graeme) and would get to go home on the Big Bus – that was cool.

I can also remember going to Rob Excell's birthday party (10<sup>th</sup>?) on the Little Bus and while the birthday party was cool I think Rob tangled with a Yakka bush that day which wasn't so cool.

I remember with fondness all my teachers, particularly Jim Myatt who I think was the headmaster through all my time (1963-69) at Mundulla. His family became great friends with ours and I remember his children Maxine, Judy, Bernie and Anthony and although Bernie was a year or two older and Anthony younger I can recall spending time with them. We must have had one of the early TVs in Mundulla because the boys would come over regularly to watch TV (Combat, Robin Hood and such like) before they got their own TV.

I can distinctly recall standing in line waiting to read to Mr Myatt, which must have been a thing – reading aloud from a reader while standing next to his desk having been sent with a group from next door in Mrs Crisp's classroom. Anyway, I can't recall who was reading at the time, but they made a mistake and I laughed aloud only to be called forward by Mr Myatt, who duly administered a couple of short sharp whacks on my open hands with his wooden ruler! I'm pretty sure that might have been the only time that happened to me, but I certainly witnessed that and the cane to the back of the legs, on numerous occasions and I understand that's not a thing any longer – go figure! You'd think teachers would have been paid a loading for that – probably not then, it was all part of the job and a very fine job they did.

I think I only had three teachers during my time. Mrs Ridge looked after the early years, her daughter Mrs Crisp, the middle years and Mr Myatt as the headmaster, the senior years.

I can remember borrowing Mum's lawnmower and bringing it over to school to regularly mow the grass – I thought that was cool!

I can also recall the day in July 1969 that Neil Armstrong first walked on the moon and at least the senior school was spread out across Mundulla to watch the landing at those houses with TVs, and a bunch of kids got to go to our place.

I can recall a couple of peppertrees at the back of Torrie Hunt's place across the road from the Mundulla Hall and just down the road from school that the Grade 7s got interested in. They were particularly popular with some in the brief time between the siren sounding for the end of school and the busses picking up the out-of-town kids to go home. However as happens with Football trips, *"what happens under the pepper trees, stays under the pepper trees!"*

I remember Glen Murch's recollections of the bus kids going to the Mundulla Shop to pick up the fresh whole white loaves of bread to take home with them and many of those loaves arriving home in significantly different condition to when they were collected. I was never quite sure how those kids thought they were going to get away with it, nevertheless I envied those kids and their loaves of bread!

After School was probably more memorable (funny about that), riding around town on our treadleys, heading down the swamp with an axe to chop down a tree and build a fort, chasing ducklings with the likes of Kevin Obst, Allan Milligan and Graham Hillier. You tended to come home when it got dark and we managed to have plenty of stuff to do without an iPhone or iPad, or even a watch!

Finally, while it was after we had gone to high school in Bordertown I can clearly recall Kevin Obst wiping out the old red telephone box in front of the Mundulla Shop with his dad's brand-new Toyota Crown. He was just getting his driver's license had stopped in front of the shop for can of coke, reversed out of the angle park bumped it into drive (it was an auto) and failing to get all the angles right just bumped the phone box at precisely the right spot and demolished it! I understand he has gone onto much bigger and better things!

So after Bordertown High School, I went on to study Electrical Engineering from 1974, completed my degree in 1977, I got a job as an electrical engineer at Leigh Creek – at the time I didn't even know where Leigh Creek was and had to do some frantic research at the state library prior to my job interview, I needn't have bothered because ETSA was having trouble getting people to move there, which worked out for me. My plan was to stay there for as short a period as possible and then transfer out to somewhere more civilised!

Well 8 years later I eventually left Leigh Creek, having met my future wife Kerry. We moved to Mount Gambier and then Adelaide with ETSA. We have two daughters, Ellie (a writer in Amsterdam) and Jessie (a Nurse in Adelaide), we live in Adelaide and get back to Mundulla to see Adrian and Joann less than we should. I have worked in private practise for over 20-years in the energy industry and am shattered that I will miss the event in July as I will be in Europe visiting Ellie; so good luck to all of you who manage to attend.

Having waited 140 years for this one I guess I'll have to settle for 150 years and put that one down in the diary.

Mundulla continues to punch well above its weight and has been churning out top quality people for 140 years and you tend to only remember it through the prism of your 'own 7-years', but it's been doing this for long before my time, and well after, and continues to do so! It has been fascinating to look at some of the class photos from before my time and to realise that many from our parents' generations also went through Mundulla Primary School. In that sense the School has been like Grandad's axe: it's the same axe but it's had several new handles and a couple of new heads over the years!

The Mundulla community has endured while many, especially in regional areas have not. It is solidly founded on the two pillars of the Mundulla Primary School and what you now call the Sport & Rec; in my time the football and netball clubs or sporting clubs in general, although cricket and tennis were simply how the footballers/netballers spent the summer. One can only hope that the Mundulla Primary School thrives for at least another 140 years!

So, Congratulations to all past and current staff and students it's a magnificent milestone and deserves to be celebrated – enjoy!



## Family Support is the Number 1 Developmental Asset for young people.

Showing your children that you love and support them is a great foundation for their future success in life.

The staff at MPS have done after hours training in Youth Mental Health First Aid four evenings during the past two weeks. It has been very thorough and practical.

One resource we were introduced to is the 40 Developmental Assets. They are positive experiences, preventative measures and qualities that young people need to grow up healthy, caring and responsible. They also buffer youth from risk. The 40 Developmental Assets are easy to find on the internet and look like a useful tool for parents wanting to grow their parenting strengths and increase awareness of areas to develop in their parenting. No one is perfect, but growth is positive.

On the website, it states that about 68% of young people, ages 11-18, say their family life provides high levels of love and support.

Some of the top ways to show love and support to our children (and all people) is

- hug them
- tell them you love them, regularly
- pay attention to them, without your phone in your hand
- listen to them, really listen to understand what they are feeling and experiencing
- take an active interest in what they are doing.

One recommendation is to try and have at least 1 hour per week with each child doing something the child wants to do where you can have quality time together.

We all get tired, have challenging times, get frustrated, feel sad and have other problems sometimes in life which can make supportive and loving parenting harder. In the short term we try to deal with those issues in positive ways. If those problems or feelings last longer than a couple of weeks, it's probably time to talk with someone and get some help. We cannot live well or care for our children well if we have problems that are taking up lots of our emotional energy.

Your positive relationships with your children can greatly strengthen them for future success in every area of their lives.

If you would like someone supportive to chat with, I am here to help you and your children.

Suzanne

### MY REGULAR DAYS AT SCHOOL ARE:

Thursday  
9:00am - 2:00pm

Friday  
11:30pm - 3:30pm

### CONTACT DETAILS:

Phone:  
08 8753 4064  
(front office)

Email:  
suzanne.duff585@  
schools.sa.edu.au

**Spare Clothes Supply:** Wet weather not only brings welcome rain but also puddles and mud. Our supply of spare clothes is low so if you have any size 4-10 trackpants/tights that are no longer required and you would like to donate them, we would be very grateful.

# School & Community Notices



**KIDS TIME OUT**

**BUSH NIGHT !!**  
**Cook a Sausage!!**

**Friday June 29<sup>th</sup>.**

**Cars Leave U C 6.30 pm. SHARP**

**Contact 0429405570 For Ride.**

All Children Years 2-7 Welcome.  
Cost \$ 2.00 per child.

Bordertown Vineyard Christian Fellowship.  
Enquiries ; Ros & John Patterson. Ph. 87521516.



Girl Guides Victoria presents  
**GIRLS WILD**

**Rock Climbing | Campfire Cooking | Craft Games | Rock Art | Music and more**

**ADVENTURE DAY**

**A day of adventure for girls aged 9-12**

Friday 13th Jul 10 - 3 pm  
Little Desert Nature Lodge

Enquiries to Helen Hobbs, Ph 0429 888 250  
kanivaguides@gmail.com  
<https://www.trybooking.com/394221>  
bookings close Fri 6th July



**Cost \$10**

## Celebrating 140 years of education in Mundulla

### Program

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

**12pm - 3:30pm Open School**

Informal Dinner at Mundulla Pub (make own bookings)

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

**10am - 3pm Open School**

**10am - 3pm Registrations**

Local Football/Netball/Hockey

**6pm Dinner at Mundulla Hall**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

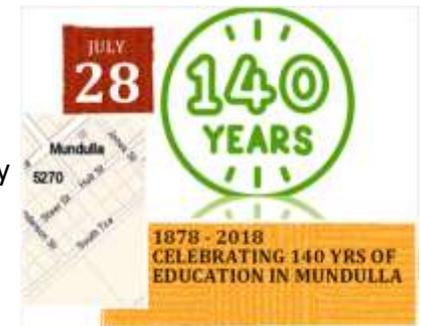
**10am -2pm Open School**

**10am School Assembly in Pergola**

**10:30am - 12pm Brunch and Family Fun**

Printed bricks and souvenir glasses are also available for purchase.

Registration/order forms available by email [mps1405270@gmail.com](mailto:mps1405270@gmail.com), on school website [www.mundullaps.sa.edu.au](http://www.mundullaps.sa.edu.au) or from front office.



<https://www.facebook.com/mundullaps> or search @mundullaps  
Like the page to get updates on school events and activities.



"Parents/Carers must use the School Crossing along with children. Please do not dart across the road in front of or behind buses, parked cars etc".