



## **Calendar**

Term 1 - 2024	
2 April	Taronga Park Zoo
9 April	3 Way Conferences P&C Meeting 8.15am
12 April	Last day of Term
Term 2 - 2024	
29 April	SDD – Term 2 – Staff only
30 April	Students return Term 2
22-24 May	3-6 GABC

Welcome to the last newsletter of Term 1. We do hope that everyone had a restful Easter and wish everyone a wonderful holiday in a fortnight. A reminder that students return on Tuesday 30 April as Monday 29 is a Staff Development Day.

## **ANZAC DAY – 25 April**

Once again, we have been invited to participate in the ANZAC Day March on Thursday 25 April at Morpeth. Students are asked to meet in Green Street at 10:15am and will proceed down Swan Street at 10:45am for a service at the Cenotaph at 11am. Please wear the blue school uniform.

## **Chickens for the Holidays**

We need a family to take our chickens home for the holidays. Could you please call the office if you are able to take them. They will need to be collected in the last week of term. We thank you in advance!

## **Staff News**

Ms Tully has decided to extend her leave for Term 2. Mr Burgess will continue to work on K-2 Monday to Friday. Ms McDonnell is also continuing her leave. Mrs Barber will replace Mrs Bird on Tuesdays until further notice while she continues in the APCI role.

## **Lunch Box Request**

Could all parents please ensure that if your child requires utensils to eat their lunch to pack them. We are running out of utensils at a great rate of knots!

## **Nationally Consistent Collection of Data**

All schools in Australia, including Iona Public School, participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on school students with disability. The national data collection is an annual collection that counts the number of school students with disability, and the level of reasonable educational adjustment they are provided with. This national data collection collects information about students with disability in a consistent, reliable and systematic way.

The national data collection draws on and reflects the ongoing work teachers and education staff do to support students with disability. If you would like any further information around the NCCD, or do not wish your child to be included in the data collection, please contact the school. Additional information about the national data collection is available on the Australian Government Department of Education's website at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/inside-the-department/teaching-and-learning/students-with-disability/personalised-support-for-learning/national-disability-data-collection>

## **School Cross Country**

Our Cross Country will be held on Friday 5 April at 2:00pm – weather permitting. Students are asked to wear normal school uniform and joggers on the day. Parents and community members are welcome to attend to cheer our students on.

### Student Digital Technology Agreement

Please ensure that forms are returned by the end of this week for your children to be able to access digital devices at school.

### 3-Way Conferences - Reminder

All teachers will be holding 3-way conferences on Tuesday 9 April 2024, from 8:30-4:30pm. Parents will be able to book a time with their child's teacher to discuss goals and needs for 2024. These interviews are a very important part of your child's learning and student attendance is expected. Each meeting will be 15 minutes, if this day or length of appointment does not suit, please email your teacher to arrange another time. Please contact the office on 4930 1415 to organise a time.

Melissa.robinson4@det.nsw.edu.au

[Harrison.burgess5@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Harrison.burgess5@det.nsw.edu.au)

### P&C Meeting - Reminder

Thank you to all those who turned up to our last P&C meeting. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 9 April at 8:15am in the library.

### Canteen

If you can continue to help with canteen in Term 2, please place your name on the new roster or call the office for us to place your name on the list.

### Class News

#### K-2

Everyone is very excited about our Easter break! Despite the short week, we have still been hard at work and smashing goals across all KLA's.

Everyone's Easter hats looked awesome! The kids were happy to show them off at the Easter hat parade! A massive thank you to those parents who came in and gave us a hand on Monday.

#### Reminders:

- **Home readers:** Thank you to everyone who continues to bring in their home readers every Monday, we have had some great numbers and students are very close to some reading awards so keep it up!

Happy holidays everyone!! I hope you all have a fantastic break.

### 3-6

It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of Term 1. We would like to congratulate all our Year 3 and 5 students who completed NAPLAN over the past few weeks. We hope everyone had a lovely Easter break and even better holiday in the coming weeks.

### Year 5 Opportunity Class

Please see the flyer at the end of the newsletter if you are interested in applying for an Opportunity Class in Year 5.



Clementine turned 8 on 1 April

Lara turns 10 on 12 April

Oliver turns 8 on 17 April

The logo for "swop it" features the word "swop" in a pink, rounded font and "it" in a blue, rounded font. Below the logo is the tagline "everyday in the lunchbox" in a smaller, green font.

**Busting lunchbox myths!**

Marketing and health claims can make choosing everyday foods very confusing.

Did you know that whilst a muesli bar contains healthy ingredients, the added sugar and fat make it a sometimes food?

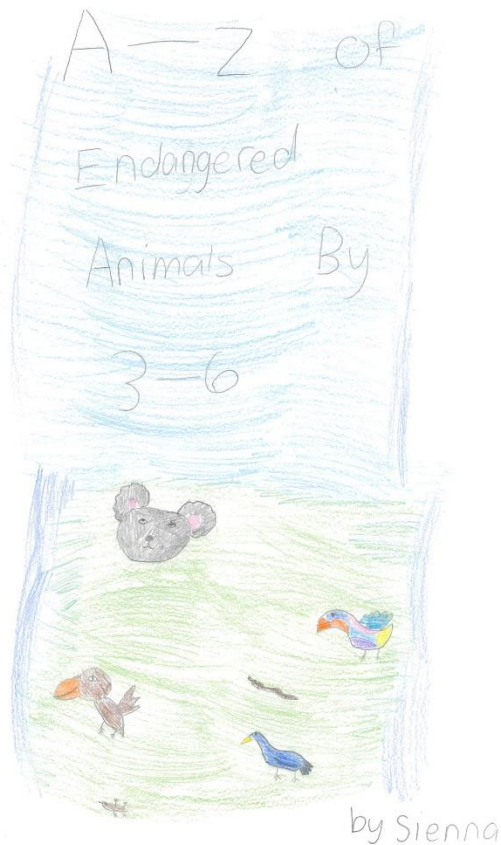
Swap from muesli bars to sunflower or pumpkin seeds, roasted fava beans, wholegrain cereal bites, reduced fat yoghurt or fresh fruit.

**SWAP FROM** Muesli bar

**SWAP TO** Wholegrain cereal bites

For more lunchbox myth busters scan the QR code or visit [www.swapit.net.au/myths](http://www.swapit.net.au/myths)

A square QR code located at the bottom right of the flyer, with a blue arrow pointing to it from the text above.



G is for.....



### Gouldian Finch

Conservation Status: Endangered	Population: less than 2500
---------------------------------	----------------------------

The Gouldian Finch has lots of colourful colours on it and is a very pretty bird. The Gouldian Finch grows to 129-141mm long. The Gouldian Finch is one of the smallest birds in the world.

The Gouldian Finch live in savanna woodlands mostly with in the top of Northern Australia and very rarely in Western Australia.

The Gouldian finch eats ripe seed grass and half ripe grass seed and insects.

The Gouldian Finch is endangered because of habit changes fires and hotness.

Fun facts the Gouldian finch is the only bird that makes nest out of grass. There is less than 2,500 left today in the wilderness.

By Emma and Phoebe

B is for.....



### Brown-Headed Snake

Conservation Status: Endangered in NSW	Population: 44,400,000
--	------------------------

The brown-headed snake is found in the Sydney Basin in New South Wales, Australia. The snake's choice of habitat depends on temperature, age, sex, and breeding status. In the cooler months, adult and juvenile snakes reside in the cracks of sandstone outcrops on exposed cliff edges to maximise warmth.

The broad-headed snake feeds infrequently on small reptiles and mammals. Snakes in captivity can maintain or gain weight when fed one to two newborn rats per month.

Once quite common in the area, the Broad-headed snake is currently listed as endangered in New South Wales and vulnerable under Commonwealth legislation. Aside from the loss of habitat through increasing urbanisation, it is also under threat from the removal of bush rock for landscaping. Less shelter and their prey are getting less and less because there is less habitat.

Fun Fact: The brown-headed snake has a dark blackish brown head, and they have broad paler band at the back of the head. They grow less than a metre long.

By Lucy and Thomas

K is for .....



### KOALA

Status: Endangered	Population: 628,010
--------------------	---------------------

Adult koalas weigh 4-15kg and eat 500 grams daily [about the size of a small lettuce] and their diet mostly consists of eucalypt leaves and a few of other species such as brush box, paperbark and bloodwood.

They live up to about 12 years and are 2-3 feet in average.

Koalas are spread across Queensland, NSW [New South Wales] and Victoria, where there is a wide spread of tree, mostly eucalypt.

These fuzzy friends once almost went extinct with only 45,745-82,170 in the wild. They are hunted by feral cats and dogs, which is a vital part of their shortening habitat along side bushfires, climate change and disease.

INTERESTING FACT: Koala means 'No Drink'!

By Sarah and Bonnie

## K is for.....



### Koala

Population: 43 000-100 000

Conservation Status: **CRITICALLY ENDANGERED**

Koalas have a large round head and big fluffy ears and a big black nose. Their fur is normally a shade of grey with the inner arms, chest, bottom and ears white. Their weight varies from 4-15kg. Their length being 60-85cm.

They can only be found in southeast and eastern parts of Australia, along the coastlines of Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, and Victoria. They prefer to live in open woodlands and forests.

A koala's main diet is a variety of eucalypt leaves and a few other types of species including, lophostemon, melaleuca and corymbia species.

Some of their main threats include habitat loss and fragmentation, climate change impacts, disease, inappropriate fire regiments and feral cats and dogs.

#### Fun Fact:

Koalas might have a sweet appearance, but they make some of the most unsettling noises in the Australian bush. They use additional vocal cords making deep bellowing or grunting calls.

By Alyah and Elliot

## N is for.....



### NUMBAT

Conservation Status: Endangered

Population: Around 1,000

The numbat is a marsupial and has reddish brown and big snowy stripes. It has a black stripe from its eye to its ear. The numbat can get as tall as 27.4 cms. and weigh up to 715gs. It has a brown bushy tail which can grow up to 21 cms long.

The numbat is found in only eucalyptus forests now but earlier on they lived in many places including mulga woodlands, spinifex sandplains and dunes.

Numbats are insectivores and eat only termites. An adult numbat must have up to 20,000 termites a day. They cannot get into termite mounds, so, they wait until the termites come out.

Numbats are endangered due to foxes and habitat loss. The fact that they are endangered can also be because of feral cats.

**Fun fact: Numbats are one of the only diurnal marsupials. This means they are awake in the day.**

By Clementine and Ivy

## L is for lemur

Conservation States: endangered

Population: 2000



A small lemurs diet often contains fruit, insets or sap. Larger lemurs eat leaves, flower, nectar and bark.

Lemurs like to live in the rainforest in Madagascar. They spend most of their time on the rainforest floor. They tend to spend lots of time in the mid canopy.

Lemurs range from 2.5 inches to 2.5 feet tall. Lemurs live up to about 16 to 19 years old but lemurs that live in the wild live to about 18 years of age. Lemurs kept in captivity live to 30 plus years old.

Almost all of the 107 species of the Lemurs are endangered. One of the main reasons for the disappearance is that their habitat is getting destroyed through deforestation.

Fun facts: There are over 100 species of the lemur in Madagascar. Madagascar is the only place lemurs call home.

By Lara and Thea

## Hunter Drama School Holiday Playground

Ever wondered if drama was for you? Why not try Hunter Drama's Musical in a Day or Play in a Day these April school holidays?

Learn from all-time favourite musicals and plays including Shrek, Seussical, Wild West, Time Travellers and Beauty & the Beast.

At just \$60 per workshop spots will fill fast. Book now at <https://hunterdrama.com.au/school-holidays/>



Family Support Newcastle and Samaritans invites parents and carers of young people aged 10+ to this FREE 6 week group:



# Tuning in to Teens





WHEN	DATES	WHERE
Mondays 5:30 - 7:30pm	13th May to 24th June 2024 (no group 10th June)	73 Elgin St Maitland Wonnarua country

**Discussion include:**

- Develop new ways of talking with and understanding your teen
- Support your teen to manage difficult emotions
- Develop your teen's skills in managing conflict
- Being kind and caring to yourself
- Join online from the comfort of your home

**To register or enquire call**  
**Rachelle on 0407 891 650 or**  
**Mark on 0491 060 916**

*Free children and young people's group available. Light supper provided.*

The Family Relationships and Skills program is funded by the Australian Government through Family Support Newcastle  
 Youth Engagement officer is funded by DCJ through Samaritans




Student resource

NSW Department of Education

## Thinking about applying for an opportunity class? Year 5 entry in 2025

### What's different about an opportunity class?


Opportunity classes are special classes for students who have high academic potential. They are offered in Years 5 and 6. To be considered for a place in an opportunity class, your parents/carers need to apply, and you need to sit a test. Most students will leave their current school to attend a school with an opportunity class.

Opportunity classes help you learn more quickly and explore concepts more deeply, so you are challenged. They follow the same curriculum as other schools. You will still be able to explore your other interests such as creative and performing arts, sport, debating and social justice. You would be in a class with like-minded peers in an environment that accepts and celebrates high ability.

### Is it right for me?

-  Do you learn quickly and easily?
-  Are you curious and creative?
-  Do you enjoy deep investigations?
-  Do you love being challenged?
-  Do you prefer to learn with like-minded peers?
-  If you answered **yes** to any of these, ask your parents/carers to **apply** for you!

### I'm interested! What should I do?

- 1** Scan the QR code to visit the [student resource hub](#) and learn about opportunity classes and the test. 
- 2** If you have questions, ask your teacher or the schools you're applying to so you can make an informed decision.
- 3** Tell your parents/carers to **apply online by 20 May 2024**. You don't need coaching to get into an opportunity class.



education.nsw.gov.au/oc