From the Acting Principal

As we are busily cleaning up the school in preparation for the holidays, this fortnight's newsletter will just be a short one. Last night's Christmas concert was so enjoyable. We had many people from around the district as well as family and friends supporting the students. At one point we had all of the former students take to the stage and sing the school's war cry. Everyone agreed that it was incredible to have so many past students back together at the school and they all remembered the school song!

Congratulations to last night's award recipients. They were:

Grady Wight and Cam Frankish - Leadership Award
Grady Wight— Swimming Encouragement Award
Lane Parker — Athletics Encouragement
Grady Wight— Citizenship Award

Thankyou to the families who have provided ongoing sponsorship for these awards including Sue and Peter Bambling, Kathy and Ian Singleton, Rose & Ivan Phillis, Marie and the late Arthur Small.

A highlight of the award’s ceremony was the boy’s robotics performance which they performed for the crowd without a hitch. Congratulations Grady, Lane and Cam. You have all worked very hard programming the robots and fine-tuning them as well as practicing your own dance. We were very proud.

Thankyou to all of the staff and everyone else who helped in setting up of last night’s concert. For those who were able to attend, I’m sure you’ll agree that the lights, decorations and the overall set-up was a perfect backdrop to a lovely night. Santa's visit topped it all off and was a great surprise for some little (and not so little) faces. A school like Mackenzie River only becomes what it is with the support of the people around it and last night was a real testament to the group we have.

Wishing you and your families a safe and joyous Christmas.

Catherine Phillis
CELEBRATING A MILESTONE

It is hard to imagine committing yourself to the same job for 25 years but luckily for us, that is what our Administration Officer, Patricia Walker, has done. On Monday, a group of staff, parents and community members were able to congratulate Pat on her milestone by presenting her with a gift on behalf of the P&C and school. Over her time at the school, Pat has seen many students come and go including all of her own grandchildren. She said that the kids were definitely the best part of her job. We would like to congratulate Pat again on this achievement and thank her for her dedication to Mackenzie River.

CONGRATULATIONS MR MUTTON

I am very pleased to announce that former Mackenzie River Principal, Mr Troy Mutton, has been announced as the new permanent principal of Nebo State School. Mr Mutton has done great things at Nebo in the last 12 months and though the students miss him they are very happy for him. Please see his letter to the students and community at the end of the newsletter.

SCHOOL SECURITY

Coming up to the school holidays, security of the school is always foremost in our minds. Fortunately, we have a great community and from many discussions I’ve had with people everyone keeps a watchful eye out as they are travelling down the Beef Road. If you do notice anything suspicious or out of place, please contact the School Hotline on 131788. You are also welcome to call me on 0428556793 or dial ‘000’ in an emergency. If you are at all concerned, it is better to be safe than sorry.

CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS!

Another year done and dusted – incredible! Time stands still for no man and so we have come to the point where the boys are saying their last goodbyes and making their final memories of Mackenzie River State School. We are so proud of them and all that they have achieved. Most of all, we are proud of the people they are growing into. On behalf of all of the staff I would like to wish the boys the very best for 2017. We are excited to see the next chapter of your lives unfold and watch as you continue to grow.
Hi all. It is with mixed emotions that I write to let everyone know that I have been officially appointed as the Principal of Nebo State School for the 2017 school year. After my emotional display on the last day of schools last year, I genuinely mean mixed! While this decision does present a professional opportunity after being seconded from Mackenzie River, more personally, it has presented Sarah and I with the opportunity to live together for the first time in four years. While that is very exciting and although I was only at Mackenzie River for one year, I will always think of Mackenzie River very fondly. I found the kids, parents and the community to be the most supportive of any of the schools that I have been at and can honestly say that I found that one year, the most rewarding of my professional career. I would like to extend my thanks to everyone at Mackenzie River for being so welcoming to begin with, and for your incredible warmth, hospitality and generosity across the year. I dearly miss our Friday night P&C meetings and the associated community gatherings, and while I know the future of the school is uncertain at this stage, I sincerely hope the community gatherings continue, but now without the formalities of a meeting; the State of Origin is just around the corner...

To the current students, Cameron, Grady and Lane. You should be so very proud of your efforts at the Brigalow Swimming Carnival and the way you sang your War Cry with love and passion for your school. I’m sure you made your parents very proud, not only with that song, but with all of your accomplishments and efforts this year. I have seen from a distance you young men grow in confidence and maturity and although you are all heading off on different adventures next year in different schools, I know and trust you will be doing amazing things, because you are Mackenzie River kids! You may be leaving the school, but never forget it – it is truly a little oasis and I look forward to hearing about your achievements and accomplishments in the years to come.

I would also like to extend my thanks to Catherine for accepting the position on such short notice last year and for continuing there throughout this year. You have done an incredible job, and given the uncertain nature of the school at the moment, I could not think of someone that was more suited to lead Mackenzie during this turbulent time. I think it is most fitting that a respected, long serving community member had the opportunity to lead the school in the 2016 school year, so thank you for the incredible job that you have done. An enormous thank you to all of the other school staff as well. To Pat, Jo, Tammy, Tanya and Sarah – you have brought a wealth of experience to your roles and the school simply could not have functioned without your ongoing commitment and support. Thank you.

Finally, as we head off into the last few days of the school year there is only one more thing to say, I hope you all have a safe and very Merry Christmas and New Year. All the best, from Sarah and I.

Troy Mutton

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Mackenzie River Newsletter

Term 4, Week 10 — 08/12/2016

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Based in Rockhampton

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