

An Independent Public School

Morawa District High School

NEWSLETTER

Issue 3, May 2015

EVENTS COMING UP

WACE Exams
Week 6

Secondary Assembly
Fri 29 May

WA Day Holiday
Mon 1 June

Public Speaking
Competition
3 June @ 10.30am

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Morawa District High
School



Tonia Carslake



From the Principal

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

100 YEAR CEMEMORATION OF ANZAC

On the 24 April we held a 100 Year Commemoration ANZAC assembly together with the WACAM, to recognise those who have served and are currently serving in war and peace keeping missions. **Warren Coaker, former student and Major** in the SO2 Force Modernisation (Combat), Headquarters Forces Command, Australian Army delivered a very inspiring address to the students about the importance of the Army and the opportunities and services it provides to our country and the world. He discussed his journey with the Australian Army and encouraged students to give back to their country. Mr Dick Sasse delivered the Ode in his usual dignified manner. Thank you to those community members who attended this service.

'COUNTRY LIGHTS' SCHOOL BALL

The annual school ball for the WACOAM and MDHS was held on the 9 May. It was a huge success and fun was had by all. The hall was completely transformed into beautiful space, filled with fairy lights, lanterns and floral arrangements. It was great to see the students in all their finery and dancing so splendidly. Thank you to the DJ 'Lenny' for the great music and to all staff who helped out on the evening with supervision and clean

up. It was a pleasure to be a part of it. A huge thank you and congratulations to Ms Lee Jones and Ms Amanda Gaunt for their excellent organisation and coordination of this event and to all staff for their assistance in preparing for and supervising on the evening.

ASSESSMENTS THIS TERM

This is a big "assessment" term, with NAPLAN in Week 4, for the students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9; the Year 11 and 12 first semester exams in Week 6 ; and the Year 7- 10 first semester exams in Week 8. A calm and positive attitude and a well-organized study routine, along with sensible eating, exercise and sleeping, should be part of all the students approach to tests and exams. Staff provided students with an energizing breakfast before the NAPLAN tests to ensure everyone was ready for the day. We wish them all success in demonstrating all they know in each subject.

These tests provide parents and school with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the *time of the tests*. We also use this information to forward plan our teaching and learning programs in Numeracy & Literacy.

ATTENDANCE

It is a legal requirement for students to attend school (Pre-primary – Year 12). The "Student Attendance and Educational Outcomes: Every Day Counts" report was prepared by the Department of Education by the *Telethon Institute for*

Child Health Research, UWA in May 2013. It tables some interesting points.

Key Findings

- 1) It is critical that good attendance patterns are established in the early years – data suggests that if they are not established then a child's high school attendance will be far worse.
- 2) On average, academic achievement on NAPLAN tests declined as absence rates increased.
- 3) Students with a higher level of unauthorised absences perform consistently lower than those with authorised absences.
- 4) Educators cannot improve attendance alone. This can be achieved by only allowing students to be absent for a valid illness. Absence for birthdays, holidays in term time, appointments that could be done out of hours, for a day of rest after a busy weekend are not valid reason for non-attendance at school.

It is vital that children attend school every day for the sake of their future successes, academically and emotionally as well as in regards to employment choices.

It is very important that parents help children to develop good attendance record from the very beginning by ensuring that they attend kindergarten or school whenever possible.

Some student's attendance continues to be of concern. Congratulations to all those students who made their attendance targets in Term 1. Across the School our average student attendance rate has increased by 3.4% last term from term 4 2014. Thank you to everyone who is encouraging their children to come to school regularly. It is essential that you notify the school if your child is absent for any reason or if you need assistance in getting your child to come to school. Parents should receive their children's attendance goals on the back of the attendance letters this week. All Student Councillors and House Captains must maintain regular attendance.

IPS SCHOOL REVIEW

I would like to extend my warmest thanks to our School Board Chair, Mrs Karen Chappel, Board Members, the P & C, parents, staff and students for your input and support during the IPS Review. The reviewers, Mr Lindsay Usher and Mr Michael Duncan, were very pleased with what they found at our school during their visit. Their interviews with staff, parents, board members and students clearly verified our self-

review and they were highly positive about all aspects of the school. We received positive feedback on many things including the student learning environment, our rigorous self-review, our partnerships, strategic thinking and planning, strong leadership at all levels, physical and financial resource management and our outstanding brass music program. The reviewers concluded that given our context, Morawa DHS was an exceptional school. They had many great suggestions for future strategic planning, so we look forward to the formal report which will be available in a couple of months' time.

BAND LIFE MEMBERSHIP HONoured MR DICK SASSE

On Thursday the Band Committee honoured Mr Dick Sasse with a Life Membership of the Morawa DHS Brass Band. Students performed some of the pieces they are practicing for the WABA State contest in June and the Band committee provided a yummy afternoon tea for everyone who attended. It was a special day.

Fifty three years ago the Morawa Junior High School Brass Band began under the guidance of Mr Dick Sasse and Mr Sam Maher. The first Band Committee was formed in 1964 to provide fundraising and financial support to purchase instruments for the Band. Mr Sasse was the inaugural Band Committee president from 1964-1965.

Over the years Mr Sasse has been an integral part of the brass band scene in Morawa, both with leading the Town Band and being a strong supporter of the school band. Mr Sasse has always maintained high expectations for the school band and its young musicians. The Band has had several hundred musicians pass through its doors, and each of these band members owes a thank you to Mr Sasse's vision in starting the remarkable tradition and unique reputation that the Morawa school band enjoys today. Congratulations Mr Sasse. Financial support to purchase instruments for the Band. No doubt times when he felt the band lacked the depth of quality he would have liked, on the whole I am sure he is appreciative of the effort that the students put into the band. The Band has had several hundred musicians pass through its doors, and each of these band members owes a thank you to Mr Sasse's vision in starting the remarkable tradition and unique reputation that the Morawa school band enjoys today.

SEMESTER 1 REPORTS

Semester 1 student reports will be issued at the end of this term. With this in mind it is imperative that all students focus and commit to their learning. This will ensure that they have a successful and rewarding term. Year 11 and 12 students have examinations just around the corner, requiring lots of additional study. We all wish them well as they prepare for and sit their examinations in Week 6 of term. Thank you to parents for your ongoing positive support and encouragement of students towards their academic and social endeavours.

YEAR 5/6 ASSEMBLY

The Year 5/6 Assembly will be changed to 12 June to accommodate the Winter Sports Carnival (Primary) which will be held on 19 June.

PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

The final Public Speaking competition is being held on Wednesday 3 June at 10.30am in the Performing Arts Room. This is a powerful learning experience for children to be involved in. Confidence in public speaking is a valuable tool for all to have. Students need lots of opportunities to prepare and present their speeches as well as to listen to and watch others speak. Please find below some tips to share with your children as they prepare their speeches:

- Students need to choose topics that are of interest to them and which they have developed an opinion on.

- The speech needs to be researched and written by the student.
- Your child needs to have the opportunity to present and practice their speeches to the family before the Public Speaking Competition.
- Encourage and show them how to use palm cards.
- Remind them that good speakers make eye contact with the audience.
- Being prepared is the key to successful public speaking.
- Help them develop a good pace and correct volume for the room.

WINTER UNIFORM

With the colder weather coming upon us, it is important for students to be prepared with winter uniform. New jumper and cardigans have arrived. Please contact the front office to place your order or if you would like assistance in purchasing it.

I look forward to this busy and exciting term, as they all are, here at Morawa District High School.

Kind regards,

Mrs Tonia Carslake

Impact of Missing School Chart Where do your children sit?

Period of Absence from	Rate of Attendance	Equivalent Schooling Missed	Level of Educational Risk
Year 1-10			
Average of 5 days per term	90%	1 year	Regular Attendance
1 day per week	80%	2 years	Indicated Risk
1.5 days per week	70%	3 years	Moderate Risk
2 days per week	60%	4 years	Moderate Risk
3 days per week	40%	6 years	Severe Risk
5 weeks a term	50%	5 years	Severe Risk



MDHS BRASS BAND LIFE MEMBER MR DICK SASSE

On Thursday 14 May at band rehearsal, Mr Dick Sasse was presented with a Life Membership to the MDHS Brass Band in honour of his long standing commitment and contribution to the band over the years.



Morawa Dhs & WacoaM School Ball

Jerri-Lee & Antoine



Nakeetah, Sharnez & Destiny



Ashlee & Matthieu



Purple Power



Danielle, Madison & Darcie

Hayley & Brittney



Hannah, Ashlee & Emma



Mikaela, Austin, Shannon, Tia, William, Emma, Lucy, Hannah, Sam & Cheyenne

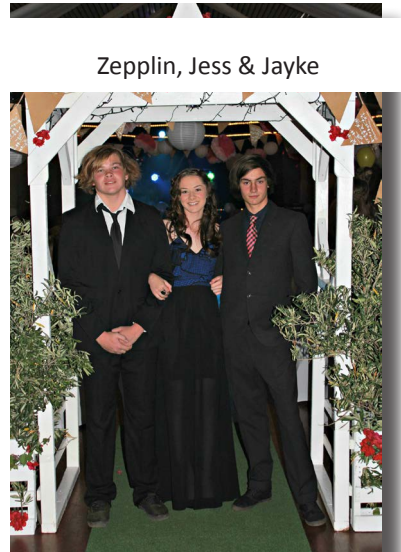
Country Lights



Gemma, Brodie & Kyralee



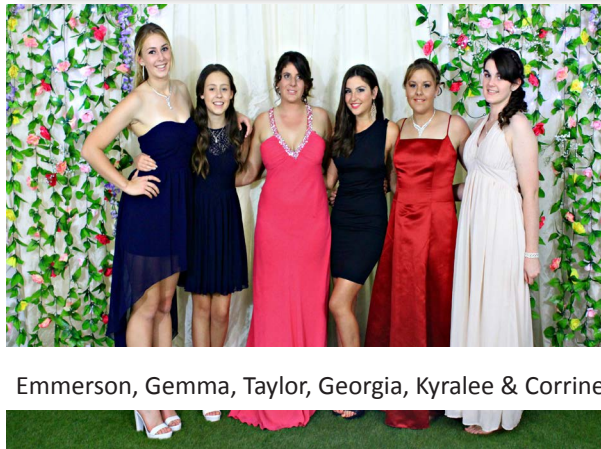
MDHS Belle & Beau



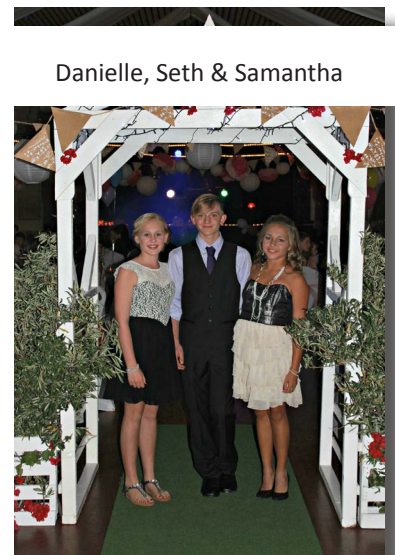
Zepplin, Jess & Jayke



Matthieu & Matthew



Emmerson, Gemma, Taylor, Georgia, Kyralee & Corrine



Danielle, Seth & Samantha



Caitlin, Ben, Dakota, Jaiden & Nikki



Shannon & Molly



Midwest Family Support Network

1300 6932 6459

Parkerville Children and Youth Care is the lead Agency for the Midwest Family Support Network which commenced in 2013 and is working closely with partner agencies to support families who reside in the City of Greater Geraldton and Northampton and Dongara communities.

The Midwest Family Support Network is funded by our corporate sponsors, Karara mining and Aurizon and the Department for Child Protection and Family Support provides support through provision of a child protection leader for the network.

The Midwest Family Support Network is a new way of working to co-ordinate family support services and provides support to children, young people and families who are experiencing problems that are causing them stress.

What does this mean for families, children and young people?

- Families no longer need to search for services, go from service to service retelling their story to find the help they need or put their name on numerous waiting lists, hoping for some assistance.
- Families are connected to a network of services and supported straight away.
- Parents, children and young people up to the age of 25 years can phone 1300 MY FAMILY (1300 693 26 459) for information and assistance between 9:00am and 4:30pm weekdays or visit the team located at 18 Chapman Road, Geraldton.

The Midwest Family Support Network will:

- Provide advice and assistance when you are experiencing difficulties to help you solve problems or to stop them getting worse.
- Help you identify supports and talk to you about how these can help you with your difficulties.
- Only share information about you with other agencies with your consent.
- Help you connect to and access the right services easily and quickly, without you having to retell your story over and over.
- Work in partnership with you and across agencies to help you reach your goals.



Chaplain's Chat Corner.....

Revd Ric Payne, School Chaplain

Hello to Students, Staff, and Parents at Morawa District High School!

Welcome back to another term and welcome to those who may be just starting at MDHS.

I, too, am just commencing as Chaplain here and am very much looking forward to getting to know many of you. Some of you will already know me as I was Chaplain here 2007 – 2010, and also engaged in Parish ministry, including as Parish Priest for the Anglican Church in Morawa -Perenjori, for many years prior to leaving in 2010. I was also CRE teacher here for 7 years.

My office is located at the bottom end of the quadrangle in the old canteen building where my door is always open to you! I will be in the school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8.30am until 3.30pm. I will let you know if my days/times change, for example if I attend PDs.

You may just call in at recess or lunchtime, or before/after school for a chat, or, you may make a more formal appointment to see me. Teachers are able to refer students to have a chat with me. Within each classroom there are green 'Chat with Revd Ric' cards which give students permission to come to my office during class time if they need to see me. All conversations are confidential.

I work as a member of the team which does amazing things in caring for our school community. My ministry grows out of listening to people, and being available to care for them whilst addressing the social, emotional, physical and spiritual needs of staff, students and families. I visit classrooms, facilitate lunchtime activities, roam the school grounds and am always available and willing to meet with you.

A Chaplain is a Christian who is motivated by their beliefs to serve with compassion and respect. A Chaplain provides pastoral care to the whole school community, educational and small group programs to address specific needs, an advocacy service for school community members, the building of connections with the wider community, and intervention and trauma support in crises and emergencies.

A Chaplain may deal with behavior management,

social relationship issues [eg: anger, peer relationships, loneliness and bullying], the development of self [ie: sense of purpose, self esteem, and mental health], issues of social inclusion and racism, support students 'at risk', assist people to 'bounce back' from situations of adversity, such as grief and loss, relocation etc, and of course, celebrate the happy moments of life.

As a Chaplain I serve in an ecumenical way, and am not permitted to attempt to sway people towards my own beliefs. I can work with many people from different cultures and religious backgrounds.

I have degrees in Education and Theology, a certificate and experience as a Spiritual Director, and have completed various programmes such as Gatekeepers Suicide Prevention, Youth Mental Health First Aid, Curtin University's Aussie Optimism Social Life Skills and Optimistic Thinking Skills programmes, the Friends for Youth programme, and am a Brian Gym facilitator. I am employed by YouthCare and am accountable to both YouthCare and the School.

Call in and see me...I look forward to meeting you soon.

Ric

School Chaplain

April 2015

Naplan Breakfast

Breakfast before NAPLAN Testing. A healthy and hearty breakfast is served to students before their NAPLAN testing -

wonderful brain food!



Banjo & Michael



Sophie, Lauren & Brooklyn

Parenting *ideas* INSIGHTS

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Be careful what you wish for as a parent

The focus on success and achievement doesn't have to come at the expense of our children's empathy and wellbeing.

What would you wish for? A caring child or a successful child?

If pressed to choose, which would you prefer?

If you were like the parents of kids in a recent study you'd go for successful rather than caring.

In a fascinating Harvard study referred to in a recent *Age* article, 10,000 kids were asked whether achievement and success, rather than caring for others, were their parents' main priorities. The kids overwhelmingly said their parents opted for success rather than caring.

I suspect Australian kids would come up with a similar response if asked. In my work with parents and schools over nearly 40 years I've never seen the educational and parenting landscape so competitive as it is today. The standard belief of 'Everyone can get ahead and be successful' has been replaced by 'my child needs to get ahead and be successful.'

Parents rightfully will go to great lengths to make sure their kids don't get left behind, but now academic success increasingly means achieving at any cost. Even at the expense of a child's well-being, and in extreme cases, at

the expense of other children's success.

A sign of the times

This is very different from even a generation ago when caring and respect for others were drummed into kids. "Do the right thing by others"; "Respect your elders"; "Take good care of each other" were common mantras that many of today's parents grew up hearing.

Now that these kids have become parents themselves they use achievement mantras rather than the empathetic statements they were raised on. "Always do your best"; "Think confident thoughts"; "Set your goals and work hard to achieve them" are typical of the comments that kids hear in today's more competitive environment.

The price of success at all costs

Washington Post parenting writer Ashley Trexler argues that putting happiness and success before caring and empathy is raising a generation of bullies. She claims that parents unknowingly encourage bullying through their focus on success at all costs, as kids are being encouraged to pursue power at the expense of empathetic behaviour.

We can have both

This is a controversial view based on the assumption that you can have either successful kids or caring kids. I believe you can have both. Parents and teachers can encourage kids to achieve, but also emphasise the importance of looking out for your mates, and taking care of others. Individual success doesn't have to come at the expense of well-being and the success of others. It does mean that we need to put caring for others firmly on our parenting agendas.

Here are five ways to do this:

1 Develop a language for caring

Parents invariably develop a deep language around the things they value. If caring is important then you need to develop language for caring (look after your brother; do the right thing; do unto others) just as you have probably developed a language around success (persist, work hard, do your best).

more on page 2 >>



Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael's **NEW Parentingideas Club** today at parentingideasclub.com.au. You'll be so glad you did.



... Be careful what you wish for as a parent ...

2 Model caring behaviours

Parents need to model caring, relational behaviours if they want children to develop these behaviours. Positive displays of intimacy such as a kiss and a hug for every family member as they walk out the door each day is a great way to teach healthy caring behaviours. It's the small acts of kindness and caring that happen on a consistent basis that has the most lasting impact on kids.

3 Focus on co-operation rather than competition

It's easy to develop competition between kids. As a parent all you need to do is praise one child and criticise another and you've established the conditions for competition. It's far harder to develop cooperative behaviours, but it's worth the effort. Encourage kids to help each other; ask them to do jobs in pairs so they learn to work together; and teach older children to give way to younger children rather than always have their own way. Caring kids learn that not everything goes their way and that they need to compromise and give way to others in the name of being social and getting on.

4 Encourage nurturing behaviours

In the past families were larger than today and they had a natural advantage in developing caring and empathy. Elder kids would invariably have to look out

for, or look after younger siblings, often at the expense of their own interests. In an era of small families kids have fewer natural opportunities to look after each other. However parents can develop nurturance by encouraging children to look out for younger friends and relatives; to care for pets and also to be respectful of older relatives and friends.

5 Pay attention to children's emotions

Now more than ever it's important for parents to be attentive to children's emotional lives, and also to develop an awareness of their own feelings and the feelings of others. Empathetic kids rarely use power and bullying to get their own way. Empathy always starts with an awareness of a child's own emotional state.

As parents we want our kids to grow up to be successful and achieve their full potential. It's the default position for most parents. But that doesn't have to come at the expense of caring for others. In these times of small families and a more competitive landscape parents need to work harder than ever to develop nurturance, caring and respect for others in kids.

Michael Grose



Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael's **NEW Parentingideas Club** today at parentingideasclub.com.au. You'll be so glad you did.



parentingideas.com.au

Town Centre Opening

Our Brass Band was asked to perform at the
Opening of the new Town Square.
We had very positive feedback from the community members
who attended this event.



Relaunch

Breakfast Club is starting again as of next week!

WEDNESDAY (19 May): Secondary Student

WEDNESDAY (20 May): Primary Student

8.00-8.30am in the Home Ec Room

you - toasties and milo





ANZAC Day



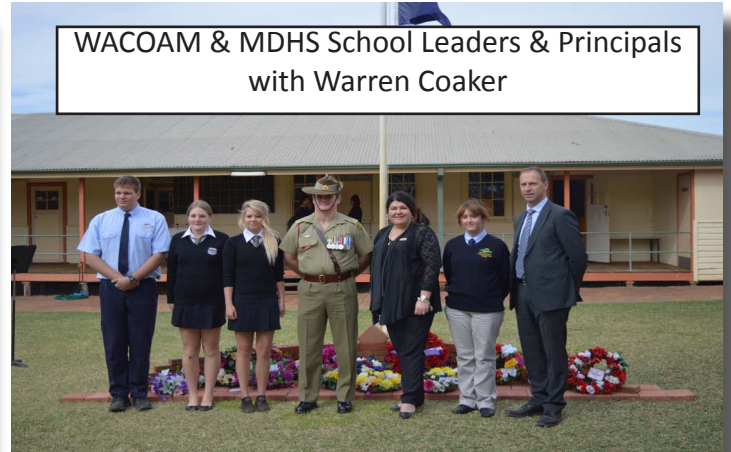
100 Year Commemoration

Anzac Day – 25 April – is one of Australia's most important national occasions. This year was the 100th anniversary, the centenary, of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War. We were privileged to have former student and pioneering farming family member of Morawa, Major Warren Coaker, from the Australian Army, here to address us at our ANZAC assembly.

Throughout the week leading up to ANZAC Day, students learnt about what ANZAC day means. A day when we remember the the landings of Australian and New Zealand soldiers or ANZAC's, as we now call them, on the beaches of Gallipoli, Turkey. ANZAC day is not about glorifying war. It is the day we remember all Australians who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations and those who are serving today.



Evie, Lilah, Caladyn & Samantha



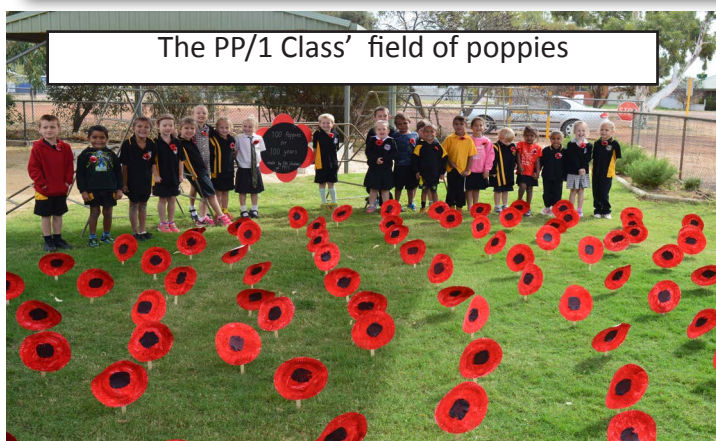
WACOAM & MDHS School Leaders & Principals
with Warren Coaker



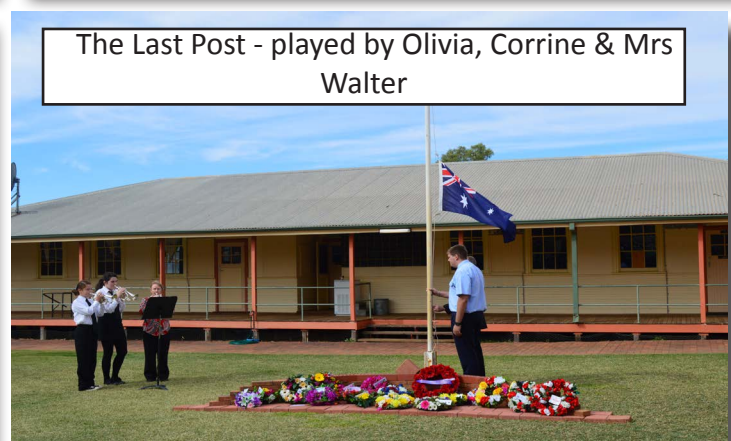
Mr Dick Sasse reciting The Ode



Observing a minutes silence

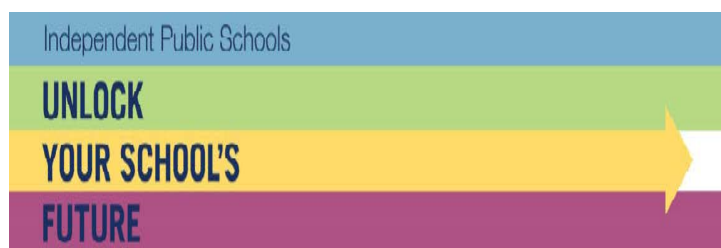


The PP/1 Class' field of poppies



The Last Post - played by Olivia, Corrine & Mrs
Walter

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.



The Independent Public School Board for the Morawa District High School is holding a Board meeting on Wednesday the 24th of June, 2015

This meeting is open to any parent, community member or school staff member who may wish to attend.

The meeting will commence at 4pm in the New Library, located at the District High School.

If you wish to attend, could you advise me (for catering and seating arrangements) via email Maryanne.Milloy-Rakich2@education.wa.edu.au or on 0428 810 436.

Thank you.

Maryanne Milloy-Rakich
Morawa IPS Cluster Assistant



Over the past week the following wonderful people have put in a crop for the Morawa DHS P&C. This was an amazing effort by those involved!

We would like to thank:

David & Jane Coaker—for putting in the crop, donating the seed, fertiliser, their time and machinery.

Mark & Sara Coaker—for donating the land and summer spray.

Cameron & Teresa Tubby—for donating the chemical, and for doing the pre-emergence spray.

Josh McBeath—for organising and being a major factor in this going ahead.

WEEK	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT/SUN
5	May 18	19	20	21	22	23/24
6	25	26	27	27	29 Secondary Assembly	30/31
7	June 1 WA Day Holiday	2	3 Public Speaking Competition	4	5	6/7
8	8	9	10	11	12 Primary Assembly	13/14