

## Outback Report

Delivering excellence, innovation, opportunity and success

Uabba Street, Euabalong West, N.S.W. 2877  
T (02) 6896 6649 F (02) 6896 6691  
E-mail: euabalongw\_p.school@det.nsw.edu.au



Issue 15 – Term 4 – Week 10

Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> / 12/ 2010

### 2010 Swimming Carnival

Euabalong West students make a splash

Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of December, was the date of our rescheduled swimming carnival. A lucky date as it turns out as there was no thunder or lightning and our friends from Naradhan were able to get past the subsiding floodwaters and make it in.

The day was a huge success and I would like to say a big thank you to all of the parents, friends, holidaying Yanco students and teachers for their efforts. The day ran smoothly because of your help. As well as a second thank you to the Naradhan P&C for catering it was a lovely lunch as usual.

I was extremely impressed with all of our students, whose behaviour was fantastic and participation in each and every race was magnificent. The day really is about getting into the pool and putting our new swim school skills to the test and all students did their very best.

Champions on the day were as follows:

**Goldfish Champion** – Grace Wilkes-Bowes

**Seahorse Champion** – Kane Daunt

**Dolphins Champion** – Jed Toohey- Templeton tied with Laurie Watts

**Marlin Champion** – Zoe Potter

Well done to all those champions, your swimming was excellent. The carnival was won overall by our friends at Naradhan. Congratulations and well done to you all. Naradhan's name will be the first to appear on our new small school swimming trophy. We look forward to competing against you again next year.

At this stage next years Lower Lachlan district carnival is tentatively booked to take place on Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> of February, which will be week four of our first term. After reviewing the student's times Euabalong west will be entering four of our students, Natasha Casey, Natalie Glover, Laurie Watts and Nathan Arnold, congratulations to those students.



# Euabalong West

Delivering excellence, innovation, opportunity and success

## Presentation Night

Wrapping up 2010

Presentation night is TONIGHT! We are super excited and ready to entertain you with our circus feats. Those students who are going home early will be released at 12:30pm. We ask that all students be back at school in blue school uniform at 5:30pm to be ready for our 6:00pm start.

Thank you to all those people who donated to and sold tickets for the presentation night raffle, your support is appreciated by everyone here at school.

We will be having a visit from the man in the bright red suit after supper, if you have something to slip into his bag for the children please bring it to the office before the presentation night begins. After the presentation we will be having supper, thank you to everyone who has cooked and is bringing a plate in tonight to share, we are looking forward to trying all of your culinary master pieces.

## Calendar of upcoming events

What's happening?

### Week 10

Wed	15 <sup>th</sup> /12/2010	Euabalong West School presentation, students to be back at school by 5:30pm to be ready for a 6:00pm start.
Wed	15 <sup>th</sup> 12/2010	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL, for students
Thursday	16 <sup>th</sup> /12/2010	Teachers attend compulsory training at Rankin's Springs
Friday	17 <sup>th</sup> /12/2010	Miss J attending maths professional development at Rankin's Springs

### Week 1, Term 1, 2011

Monday	7 <sup>th</sup> /02/2011	Students return to school for their first day of 2011. Kindergarten students beginning at the same time.
--------	--------------------------	--

## Fish Ladder

An expedition into the unknown

Students last week went on an expedition to the Lake Cargelligo Weir; they were off to see a fish ladder in the process of being built and discover exactly what a fish ladder was. Along with students from Naradhan public school they braved the mud and rain to explore this new idea.

They discovered that as more weirs are being built along our river systems damage was being done to our native fish population, which swims upstream to spawn. The fish ladders are channels built around the weirs so that our native fish can get past them and head upriver.

The added bonus of the fish ladder is it provides an opportunity to trap Carp, an introduced species of fish that is a pest with breeding patterns similar to the rabbit and its population is out of control. The students were surprised to find that the captured carp would be used for many things but most exciting was that the fish skin would be used to make boots. We are thinking these boots might be a nice addition to our school uniform.

The fish ladder is due to be completed early next year after being held up by heavy rain, we are looking forward to heading back out to have a look at the finished project.



# Euabalong West

Delivering excellence, innovation, opportunity and success

## Annual School Report:

Looking back at our achievements

Our Annual School Report is complete; all of our families will be receiving a copy during the holidays as they are headed to the central printers today. I wanted to say a big thank you to all those families who participated in the science focus group and returned the surveys that were sent out. I know you are very busy, especially at this time of year and I appreciate the effort.

These surveys and focus groups allow us to reflect on what we are doing, what you would like to see happen in your school and how the students and staff feel about their work environment.

The science focus groups with both parents and students was overwhelmingly positive, technology was recognised as being an important and well represented part of our school. Parents did wonder if there would be opportunities for themselves and other family members to come in and use the equipment and learn a little more about what our students are doing. We hope to incorporate this idea into next years technology program as we believe it's not only a great idea but a potentially fantastic way for parents and families to share in their children's learning.

Our second survey of the year was a school planning survey. Through this survey we have discovered several ways we could improve next year. While there was a general consensus that parents and students were part of the decision making process, particularly about events like excursions, carnivals and in-school activities there was a concern that families and the community were unsure about what the school was purchasing and how these purchases were being used to improve their children's learning.

In response to these concerns this information will now be recorded and shared as an agenda item at P&C meetings and as a regular addition to the school newsletter. We hope that this leads to families feeling better informed. If anyone has any other ideas they would like to see implemented please share them with us, we are constantly striving to make this a better school not only for our children but also for our families and community.

## Reports and interviews

Students achieving success

Student report cards will be distributed today. If you would like an interview to discuss your child or children's reports please call the school or Miss Jackson as she will be at school on the 20<sup>th</sup>/ 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of December. Alternatively you are welcome to make an appointment for the first week back in 2011 which begins Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> of February.

## Last Day of School!

15<sup>th</sup>/12/2010

Today is the last day of school for the students, teachers are required to attend on Thursday and Friday for compulsory training and professional development but as of the end of the presentation tonight our students are on holiday, have a merry Christmas and happy school free fun.

## Swim School

A splashingly good time

As always swim school has gone off without a hitch and those of you who were able to attend the school swimming carnival will be able to attest to the improvement in the swimming skills of our students.

All of our students showed a willingness to challenge themselves to do better and improve on last years achievements, but a special mention must be made of Logan Biggin and Natasha Casey, both of whom demonstrated some excellent swimming development.

A big congratulation also needs to go to our Kindy's and transition students who attended the days. They literally took to the water like ducks and impressed us with their bravery and developing skills.



# Euabalong West

Delivering excellence, innovation, opportunity and success

## Merry Christmas

We wish you safe and happy holidays

As you head into this long break on behalf of the staff and myself I want to say thank you again for all of your help and support throughout 2010. A small school truly couldn't run any where near as well without the assistance of its families and community.

A big thank you to the P&C and its continued fundraising efforts and support, of both the major excursions and the many in-school events, that take place each year.

Thank you to the mums, dads, grandmas and pas and family friends who have helped to ferry students to and from school to a variety of different school events through out the year.

A massive thankyou to our teachers, SLSO, office manager, bus drivers, computer coordinators, first aid officer, teachers aid, scripture teachers, finance manager, grounds assistant, cleaner, Mr Fixit, canteen coordinator, sports teacher and librarian all of whom are embodied for the majority of the time by just seven people:

Helen Gleeson  
Sue Lesker  
Wendy Brett  
Don Brett  
Sally Breen  
Trevor MacDonald  
Nicole Turner

Your contribution to our school is invaluable and I can not thank you enough for the time and energy you give to Euabalong West. You spend so much of your time going above and beyond we've begun to regard it as the standard operating procedure, on behalf of the community who don't get to see you behind the scenes and myself personally, thank you.

## This week's quote:

We learn more by looking for the answer to a question and not finding it than we do from learning the answer itself.

Lloyd Alexander

## Student of the Week:

These students are being recognised for their excellence. This week we congratulate:



Week 8



Week 9

Kaitlin Dykes for her excellent writing and developing ability to work independently and Natalie Glover whose helpful attitude and enthusiasm in the classroom has been an example to us all.

## Messages and Reminders

Keeping you in the loop

Encouraging your child to read at home during the holidays is so important; it helps keep them on track and continues to develop their skills. It also makes the transition back to school easier to handle and not such a shock to the system

1. Be yourself and involve your child in everyday conversations from an early age.
2. Read aloud to your child. It will help your child to learn the language of books and encourage the enjoyment of books and reading.
3. Talk about books together - make reading a shared, enjoyable activity.
4. See that there is a range of reading material for your child at home, both fiction and non-fiction.
5. Read to your child in your first language - research shows that using your first language will help your child when he or she learns to read English.
6. Try not to let television intrude on reading time - set aside some uninterrupted time to read with your child.
7. Listen to your child read every day, even if only for a short time.
8. Give books as treats and presents.
9. Discuss the meanings of stories and words.
10. Join your local library. Borrow books for yourself as well as your child.

More tips at [www.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au)