



ETTALONG  
PUBLIC SCHOOL

HOMENOTE

KARINGI ST ETTALONG BEACH NSW 2257

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| [www.ettalongps.nsw.edu.au](http://www.ettalongps.nsw.edu.au)

Term 1 Week 5

25 February 2020

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Fri 28 Feb	Clean Up Australia (school) Day. Wear mufti for gold coin donation.
Tues 10 Mar	Zone swimming carnival
Wed 11 Mar	Discos; P&C AGM 7pm
Thur 12 Mar	Selective HS test for 2021
Fri 13 Mar	Spider Day

Dear Parents and Carers

Congratulations to Brae, Caleb and Zac who have all made it through to the rugby league U/11's. Three students from our school chosen for one team is a terrific effort. Commiserations also to those who tried out and went so close.

In keeping with Ian Kiernan's wish to Clean Up Australia, we will again hold our annual Clean Up the School Day on Friday. Students are also invited to wear mufti (no uniform) for a gold coin donation which our P&C will put towards their next acquisition for the school.

After a nasty bike accident here last week, it is a timely reminder that it is mandatory for all students who, if riding a bike or a scooter to school, *must* wear a properly fitting helmet. Only students in Years 3 – 6 may ride to school unaccompanied for safety reasons but all students, whether accompanied or not, must wear a helmet if riding a scooter or a bike.

Does anyone have any spare time to assist in classrooms, the canteen or in the school's uniform shop please? We will welcome you with open arms whether you can give a little amount of time, or a lot! Please phone or call in to the office if you can help.

We send a huge thank you to Bakers Delight at Woy Woy who have offered to provide bread, free of charge, five days per week, for our popular Breakfast Club. Breakfast Club is open from 8.30am every school day and all students are welcome to sit with friends and share a bite to eat before starting their busy school day.

Library borrowing has commenced so please encourage your child to spend some time reading, each night. Children need a library bag to protect borrowed books. This can be as simple as a shopping bag, but the library also has bags available for sale at \$5 each.

Students commenced using Maths textbooks yesterday. If you haven't yet sent your payment, please do so tomorrow.

Maintenance work on our school is continuing this week and includes a new roof on the Araluen cottage. The Department of Education triages maintenance in schools then advises of the work planned. Whilst I may have other ideas, I trained as a teacher, not a builder so I am grateful for any work that improves our fabulous school.

A friendly reminder to any adults entering our school, including staff and parents, that smoking is not permitted near the entrance gates. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Lynn Balfour

Principal

## 3R's AWARDS FOR 2019

Class	Name	Class	Name
KS	Ziggy S	KT	Alana E
	Madie B		Bradley G
KZ	Kayla P	KM	Matthew R
	Aston F		Daisy H
1H	Reben L	1F	Jasmine S
	Vivian H		Emma M
	Henry G	2C	Jaxon G
1L	Georgia H		Coby Q
	Brooklyn M	1/2P	Lily T
2S	Allayna p		Sawyer S
	Logan T	K/6JS	Patrick F

## PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS



Congratulations to these students who have been consistently demonstrating the 3Rs  
**Respect, Responsibility, Ready to Learn**

Brooklyn M	1L
Cayden H	5B

## PLAYGROUND POSITIVE WINNER

Cash T-K	2C
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## CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA NEWS



This Friday 28 February is Ettalong Public School's Clean Up Australia Day. Students will be cleaning up the school playground and collecting rubbish. Students are asked to bring a pair of gardening gloves for the day's activities. This year will also be a mufti day with a gold coin donation. The money raised will go to the school's P&C.

Thank you  
Environment Committee.

## SRC NEWS

SRC training day is Wednesday 26 February - SRC badges will be handed out in assembly on 28 February

## LIBRARY NEWS

Library class rolls are now organised for Years 1-6, so these grades are now able to borrow books from the library. Children will need to have a suitable library bag for these books. The library still has a collection of Ashton Scholastic bags for sale at \$5 each.

## BREAKFAST CLUB NEWS

Thank you to Barkers Delight for giving us bread for Breakfast club 5 days a week. We also need tinned fruit, cream cheese, jam and honey.

Thank you to our wonderful helpers Jo, Chris, Stephen, Noel, Robert and Pat

## CANTEEN NEWS

New menu is ready for pick up and starts 01/03/2020.  
We have frozen apple juice cups for \$1.00



## Play Rugby League at The Bunnies!

We want kids ages 5 -17 years to come and play footy for fun and fitness. We promote a safe family atmosphere where the kids can learn teamwork and self-confidence!

Register online at [www.played.com](http://www.played.com)  
 OR at Ettalong Diggers 11am-3pm  
 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020  
 Any enquiries please contact our  
 Club Registrar  
 Cae Burgess – 0410 433 112



**Physie and Dance at Ettalong**  
 CLASSES FROM 3 YEARS TO LADIES  
 TWO FREE TRIAL LESSONS  
 Classes from just \$5  
 Affordable registration \$88  
 ACTIVE KIDS AND CREATIVE KIDS PROVIDERS  
 Contact Fiona on 0401769985 for more information





## PARENTING TIPS

### Kids need good men in their lives

While rummaging through my bookshelves at home recently I stumbled across Romulus, My Father by Raimond Gaita, a book that had a huge impact on me as a father.

Romulus, My Father is a lovingly told memoir of a hard-working father who remained faithful to his family and friends despite his wife's affairs, her mental illness and dealing with the hardships of earning a living in 1950s and '60s rural Australia. It's a tale of love, friendship and character.

One line in the book, "I know what a good man is because I saw it in my father," struck an instant chord with me. It was a reminder that kids need to have close experiences with men who have real depth of character and strength if they are to adopt those qualities themselves and also look for them in partners.

### Role models of quality

Sadly, children and young people are less likely to see these qualities in many of our current political leaders and other public figures. Self-interest and shallowness of character, at least in a public sense, seems to be standard fare at present.

Like Gaita, I had the good fortune to have a father who was also a good man. He wasn't wealthy, famous or ambitious. Rather he was kind, considerate and generous. He had experienced an unhappy and – I suspect though he never spoke of it – abusive childhood but he was determined that his children would never experience the same treatment that he received.

As a disciplinarian he was soft but that didn't mean he was a pushover. He'd stand his ground with his children over issues that really mattered, such as how we siblings treated each other, displays of dishonesty and disrespect, and taking shortcuts in our studies or with work. He was a community-minded man who, through his example, taught his children the importance of serving and giving to those who didn't have the same serving of luck that we did. He was also an involved father who, despite being busy, always had time to play cricket and football after work with my brother and me. He was never too busy for his children.

### A compass and a map

Significantly, my father gave me my moral compass in the form of the value system that he lived by. His many sayings including his most popular mantra: "If you can't say a good word about anyone don't say anything at all". That still rattles around in my head today. Through his active community involvement, his devotion to family and his propensity to have a good laugh, he gave me a map to follow on how to live a good life.

I don't have a monopoly on being raised by a good man. If you were raised by a good man then count your blessings because you had a wonderful head start in life. Your task is to make sure your father's legacy lives on in your own children. You'll do that by being a man of strength and character, and by being a wise, loving presence in your children's lives whatever their age.

If, through whatever circumstance, you didn't have a good man close to you in your life as a child, then start the process with your own kids. Many men who have gone before you weren't close to their own fathers, or had fathers who were ineffectual, but they became great fathers despite their circumstances.

With public life increasingly producing male role models of dubious quality, it's up to dads and other significant males in the lives of children and young people to be good men, strong men and men of honour.

That's the legacy that we leave.