



# GREENETHORPE PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Main Street

Greenethorpe NSW 2809

Phone – 63436324 Fax – 63436236 Email – [greenethor-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:greenethor-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

Principal - Mr Garry Heath AH. 0431 011229

Term 2 Week 5 – Thursday May 31st, 2018

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

*Yesterday, I attended my first meeting in the Cowra Principal's network. This change is due to boundary movement in the various education clusters. I must say it was a pleasure to have a short drive (Eugowra) to attend the meeting rather than my usual trip to Gunning. I now have a new director, Mr David Lloyd, who I will be working closely with to ensure our school continues to flourish and improve. It was really pleasing to meet other small school principals and to discuss our school plans, both the common elements and the differences. Once again, this networking opportunity had very positive outcomes.*

## RECONCILIATION WEEK

*Although it may not get the attention afforded to NAIDOC week, this week is Reconciliation week. I thought I would share this blog with you which was taken from Wingaru News. I have shared this because I just don't think we really understand the significance of Sorry Day and Reconciliation week for so many Aboriginal people who are still hurting.*

With Mother's Day just gone and Sorry Day fast approaching, I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge all the mums of the Stolen Generation: the mothers whose children were taken, without cause, and in many cases never returned. For those mums, Mother's Day isn't about sleep-ins, flowers and carefully selected gifts that symbolise love and thanks. It is about a loss that never goes away.

Often discussion around the Stolen Generation is about the children who were taken and the trauma they endured. Horrific stories of loss, abuse and never belonging. We often hear about children who never saw their mums again, some finding their

families not long after their mothers had passed and many never finding their way home.

These heartbreaking stories of injustice, have another side – that of the mother. The mother who had her children ripped away and in many cases never returned. The mother who spent every Mothers Day since mourning loss rather than celebrating with her children. She did not get the handmade cards that many of us take for granted. She did not get the cold toast and too sweet tea that we swallow with a stiff smile on our lips. She did not get the carefully selected trinkets that her child chose just for her. She did not get those moments that most other mums get to treasure.

Growing up, I knew that my Aunt had had her children removed. I heard stories of the school holidays when all the cousins got to spend time together at another Aunt's house. My mum talks of those holidays fondly and the time she got to spend with her cousins brought fun and mischief for them all. Of course there were strict rules about my Aunt not being allowed near her kids.

Years later mother and children were reunited and I had always known them as together. So while I knew they had been apart, I hadn't put any thought into the impact that separation had on all of them.

In my early 20s I spent a lot of time visiting my now elderly aunt in hospital. I would take my grandfather to visit his sister and listen to their stories. Auntie had dementia and would often slip between the present and the past, confused about what was happening. It was during these visits that I

really started to understand the long term trauma she had endured. Not only did she have to go through the removal of her children, and the loss she felt every day while they were gone, the dementia meant that she also had to relive their removal time and time again.

During these visits she would often confuse me with my mum and on many occasions would make me get in the cupboard or under the bed to hide me from the Protection Board. She would be visibly frightened and upset that they were coming and they were going to take me, just as they had her boys. I did as she asked and my Pop tried to comfort her but I knew that there would never be true comfort for her – the removal of her kids was too traumatic.

This Mother's Day my boys bounded into my room before the sun was up, shouting "Happy Mother's Day", thrusting themselves at me with great excitement. I hugged them tightly and thought of all the mums who had Mother's Day stolen from them. I cannot imagine their loss – it is too great.

To the Mothers of the Stolen Generation, we have not forgotten you. We mourn your loss, we acknowledge your stories and the atrocities you suffered. We admire your strength.

We are sorry.

### **SPORTS LEADERSHIP DAY**

Once again, tis day was a great success and the students from Young High who planned and supervised all the activities, are to be commended for the professional attitude they displayed to the whole event. All our children played a wide range of vigorous sports and were very tired on the bus trip home.

### **RECITATION DAY**

We have two children attending the Festival recitations this year. Charlie-Rose and Dixie have both been busy learning their poems in readiness for the day. Good luck girls.

### **DEBATING COMPETITION**

Good luck to Charlie Rose and Thomas who are off to Murringo on June 15<sup>th</sup> to participate in the first round of our debating competition. Many thanks to Stacey who has offered to provide transport for the day.

### **TECHNOLOGY TRAINING**

I am excited about the opportunity to attend some Technology Training at the Henry Lawson High School on 29<sup>th</sup> June. Hopefully this course will support my commitment to ensuring the students at Greenethorpe are given every opportunity to experience new and exciting technology as it evolves at such a rapid rate.

Date	Event	Venue/Time
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Literacy and Numeracy Progressions Training	Charles Sturt University Bathurst All Day
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Recitation Day Henry Lawson Festival	Grenfell Public School
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Website Development Training day	Cowra Public School All Day
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Debating training and Competition	Murringo All Day
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Teaching Technology Training	Henry Lawson High Grenfell All Day



**A Masterpiece in the making**