

# Port School

Term 4, 2017



**Moorditj Kaart**  
'Strong Mind'

**Moorditj Noyt**  
'Strong Spirit'

**Moorditj Koort**  
'Strong Heart'

Cover Artwork by: Moorditj Maamun- Bus Program



## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Port's reputation of being a solid and supportive community is rapidly growing. It has shifted from being a good alternative for students who are having difficulty fitting into mainstream education, to a school that is not only a great place to be, but one that also offers the potential for amazing outcomes and presents great opportunities for transitioning into the workplace.



Next year is looking good. The planned extension to our Administrative Block will commence and improvements to our grounds will continue. Furthermore, we hope to establish a fitness gym and, later in the year, construct a stand-alone classroom.

Because of our growing reputation as a place where students can thrive, we currently have a waitlist of over 55 new students for 2018. This lengthy waitlist has meant that we have had to rethink how long we are able to support students who are not engaging in our programs. They are potentially blocking places that could be offered to a family who are desperate to get their child into Port School.



Port will continue to be a school that endeavours to take all newcomers, but will be more selective about who will keep their place. We believe that we offer best practice in supporting students overcome their reasons for disengagement and to help them reach full potential. Students do, however, need to embrace this opportunity. If, after implementing our strategies to support change, a student's attendance and behaviour continues to decline, then it is counter-productive to continue enrolment at Port.



Obsession with drug culture remains the area of most disengagement and negative role modelling in our community. Port School is willing to enrol and support students with drug addiction issues, but will draw the line at supporting those who bring their drug obsession into the school environment. Continuing to support a student who continues to abuse would, in many ways, help to enable this behaviour and put our more vulnerable students at greater risk.

But, for those student who choose to engage with our programs, attend school every day (including arriving at school on time), we have the means to get our students into paid School Based Traineeships and assist them to be work-ready upon graduation.



I wish you all hearty Seasons Greetings and look forward to seeing all students on Wednesday 31 of January 2018 for the first day of school.

**Regards**  
**Barry Finch**



## DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S

Having completed eight years at Port at the end of this term, I have to say, "This has been by far the most favourite job of my career to date." Having come on board as a Design Technology teacher in 2010, when Barry started as Principal, my role at Port has certainly diversified over time. Being part of the senior management team for the last several years, assisting in changing the shape of the organisation, with the Board and Barry, has, and continues to be, an amazing journey.



Despite being biased, I firmly believe that Port students and their families have an all-encompassing, state of the art, near best-practice service. This truly offers a student-centric, cohesive and collaborative approach, which meets individual needs.

How many schools can say they have increased their roll by over 60% in 8 years and still have a waitlist of 50% of its current number? Stakeholders and partners speak highly of the team and what we offer. The Port brand is firmly embedded in the CARE school world and beyond, now a trusted, tried and tested real time option for those students that just need a bit more. I know I said it in last term's newsletter, but our current team is inspirational and, this year, has worked above and beyond for our students.



The list of Port's offerings and arms to the business continues to grow, as does the team. I only talked to Barry and the board last week saying, "Have you stepped back, taken a breath and looked at what this thing called Port has become?"

I was delighted to be part of the sixth Malaysia excursion this year, again making a difference to students in both countries. Our relationship with Klang School and Klang Apex Club is a fantastic international alliance.

## THINGS THAT MADE MY SCHOOL YEAR **AWESOME!!**

My 2017 highlight was attending a school camp with our YPC mums and their bubs, a first in WA, providing a challenging and amazing program over two days at Fairbridge Village. Our young ladies are inspiring, beautiful and warm hearted. Being a mum and studying is no mean feat and these girls rock, with the support of the YPC & ELC teams. Being part of their world more and more this year has helped me understand their challenges and helped address those needs, with our teams, to ensure both they and their babies have every opportunity for the best possible future.



Thank you all, students, parents and staff for a great year. Have a wonderful Christmas & New Year and please stay safe whilst having fun during the holiday break.

**Mike**

# HEALTH AND WELLBEING

## PORT SCHOOL WOMEN'S WELLBEING CAMP 2017

An absolutely awesome experience was shared by a large group of Port girls, when we participated in the Girls' Camp, earlier on this term, in Week 3!

Together, we headed along to Woodman Point for a program crammed with outdoor adventures, physical and mental challenges, and three days of friendship, laughter and yoga-induced agony in every inch of our bodies! I discovered muscles where I did not even know I had muscles!!!



Not only did we get together and celebrate many aspects of feminine identity and relationships, but the camp allowed us to take ourselves beyond our own personal comfort zones and to test our boundaries, to forge stronger relationships with our peers and teachers, and to listen and take in the wisdom of amazing guest speakers and performers. Many of our girls commented how relevant each session was to their own lives and how each of the speakers touched on something that really spoke to the core of their hearts. Our celebrity guest singer songwriter, Ruby Boots, did not leave a single dry eye in the house, as she weaved her own life story of struggle and perseverance to success, with a beautiful array of her favourite songs. The girls were 'blown away' by her honesty, courage and talent.



Port girls celebrating the successful closure of Camp at the C Tower – Perth's finest revolving restaurant...

It was a truly amazing experience to see girls lose their phobias of not wearing make up, not being attached to their phones 24/7, and taking part in risky and thrill-seeking activities, like the 'search and rescue' mission, the raft-building and sailing challenge, not forgetting the flying fox!





# Wheel of Well-being





**We concluded our adventure camp with a luxury ladies' luncheon at the renowned C –Tower, Perth's only revolving restaurant, where we feasted on house gnocchi or chargrilled breast of chicken, whilst taking in breathtaking 360 panoramic views of Perth in all its glory!**



**All in all, this experience was an incredible reinforcement of feminine identity and friendships. It was also a powerful affirmation that girls can be strong, courageous, competitive, and feisty whilst also being caring to themselves and encouraging and supportive to each other! Well done to every single person that participated! Happy Days girls!☺**






## STUDENT SUPPORT

Dear students and staff,


On behalf of the counselling team, wishing you a mindful Christmas and a happy start to the New Year. Hope that you enjoy your holidays, be safe and also find time to look after yourselves. Looking forward to continuing our work and offering support in 2018. Please find below 8 tips on thriving in the digital age. However, we would like to challenge you to use these school holidays to spend more time connecting and making memories with others.

8 tips for



**APS**  
Australian Psychological Society  
Believe in Change

### Thriving in the Digital Age



**Avoid the pitfalls of excessive social media use** - with these 8 tips from psychologists you can make the most of life online.

- 1. Check less**  
Constantly looking at social media increases stress and reduces productivity. Limit your checking.
- 2. Post positively**  
Angry words online hurt mental and physical health. Do your bit to build a positive environment online.
- 3. Be proactive**  
Positive social media use can contribute to stress and anxiety. But being an active contributor can boost your wellbeing.

- 4. Block the bullies**  
Be selective. Remove those in your online social network which harm you.
- 5. Don't compete**  
Be genuine on social media. Studies show those who are authentic online are less stressed and better connected.
- 6. Take a break**  
Constant access to technology creates a risk of never really 'clocking off'. Turn off work alerts in your down time.
- 7. Guard your sleep**  
Using social media in bed can lead to sleep and wellbeing problems. Turn off screens an hour or more before bed.
- 8. Connect offline**  
When you online world becomes too take over, put the phone away and connect face-to-face.

Learn more about the psychology behind these tips at [compassforlife.org.au](http://compassforlife.org.au)

Dave, Molly, Michelle & Charl  
**STUDENT SUPPORT TEAM**  
 Student Services - Tel: 08 9335 6323  
 Email: [admin@portschool.wa.edu.au](mailto:admin@portschool.wa.edu.au)

ANNUAL REMINDER:



The holidays are a tough time for a lot of people. Please check on your friends.



## MATERNITY LEAVE

Dear Port School Community,

As you all know I am expecting my first child in December. Although I am thrilled to be having a baby it is with some regret that I will be away from Port School for the early part of next year. I have had an amazing time these last few terms and I am so touched at how welcoming the staff and students have been. I am especially humbled by the resilience of our students and how willing they are to face adversity with positivity and commitment to growth and change. I hope you all have a wonderful school holiday and I look forward to returning to school in the third term. Happy holidays!



**Best wishes,  
Molly**



December marks the end another successful year of the Port Outreach program. This year's program has engaged over thirty students who wouldn't normally have access to an education. For the first time this year, over the holiday break, the school will maintain contact with students and offer the outreach program to those who are particularly isolated and have high support needs. Holidays can be a challenging time for some students. Port recognises this and offers a connection and education program for some of its most isolated students.

The long-term goal for Outreach students is that they eventually join the school program at Port. Three students this year have indicated they are ready to make the transition next year. This is a huge step and highlights the success of the program, which had managed to connect isolated students with the school community again.



The Keys for Life Program has grown very quickly and is now operating independently of Outreach; it has been a huge success. In collaboration with the City of Cockburn's RYDE program Port students have an opportunity to attain their Learners permit and complete their 50 hours of supervised driving experience with a volunteer Driving Mentor. Many young people find it difficult to complete the 50 hours of driving experience now required for a Western Australian Driver's License. This might be because they haven't got access to an appropriate vehicle, or a qualified person to spend all of those hours in the passenger seat. The program will connect Learner Drivers with a volunteer mentor and automatic vehicle, so that they can get their license and all of the opportunities that come with it.

The Outreach program aims to mirror the daily program of the school and helps students access the main learning areas: Health and Well Being, Maths and English. Students have been participating in boxing programs, accessing fitness programs through the gym and healthy eating programs. They have also attended music and dance programs, and drumming classes once a week at Penny Lane Studios. Another student receives one-on-one support to complete the CGEA in Maths and English, attending classes and performing at the Glee Club in Subiaco, hoping to enrol at the WA Academy next year to complete the Certificate 2 -Salon Assistant. Outreach classes are run every Thursday at the Rockingham Library and on Wednesdays at the Cockburn Library in Spearwood. We have students who are regulars, at the library and then attend the school for individual tuition. We also have students at Next Generation in Bibra Lake, where they can complete CGEA work, as well as Aqua aerobic classes, tennis coaching and general fitness classes.



This month, the Outreach team has been working to help a group of talented singers in the school prepare for an end of year recital. The cohort of girls has been working hard to overcome personal challenges of anxiety, confidence and natural stage fright to bring this special debut to the school on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

The Outreach team works collaboratively with our Vocational Education team to support students with their school-to-work transition. Helping students navigate TAFE enrolments, completing White Card credentials and attending job interviews is all part of the Outreach brief. Next year we hope to develop stronger links in the community with LAC and partnerships and Vocational Training Organizations and to strengthen our transition program. The team is looking forward to an exciting New Year!

**Jane Hawdon & The Outreach Team**

For more information contact the school on 9335 6323 or [admin@portschool.wa.edu.au](mailto:admin@portschool.wa.edu.au)



# STUDENT NEWS

## School Holiday Events!

**Pop down to the Cockburn Youth Centre:** The Cockburn Youth Centre offers social, recreational and education programs for young people, aged 10 - 17 years, and operates as a drop-in/hangout space for young people, aged 10-24. Young people are encouraged to get free membership to book into programs.



For more information contact the Youth Development Officer on:

Email [youth@cockburn.wa.gov.au](mailto:youth@cockburn.wa.gov.au)

Phone [08 9411 3444](tel:0894113444)

**Cockburn's Got Talent** - applications  
9/10/2017- 19/01/2018

Categories include

- 5-10 years
- 11-17 years
- 18+ years

Winners from each category will go to the finals, which take place at Cockburn Cultural Fair on Saturday 8 April

Follow this link for more info:  
[www.cockburn.wa.gov.au](http://www.cockburn.wa.gov.au)

CARNIVAL OF EVENTS

HAVE YOU GOT TALENT?

We are looking for extraordinary talent, circus acts, singers, magicians, anyone who has talent!

FREE ENTRY

**COCKBURN'S GOT TALENT**

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE FEBRUARY 12

Visit our Events webpage to download an entry form.  
[cockburn.wa.gov.au/carnivalofevents](http://cockburn.wa.gov.au/carnivalofevents)

## Student Comments

*I have been at Port school since the 14/10/2015. I have learnt so much from this school, not only from the teachers but from the students as well. Port has opened many doors for me in my life and I am thankful for that. I have also gained a lot of amazing new friends who will always be part of my life. The teachers at Port are always there when you need them; they will try and help you through everything. I have so many good memories at Port and I have to say I will miss everyone here. I'll miss making memories with everyone, so thank you Port for everything you have done for me. Thank you for all the things you have let me experience, such as Malaysia, Jurien Bay camp, The Girls camp, teaching primary school kids etc.*

*Kristal Brebner*

# CLASS OF 2017

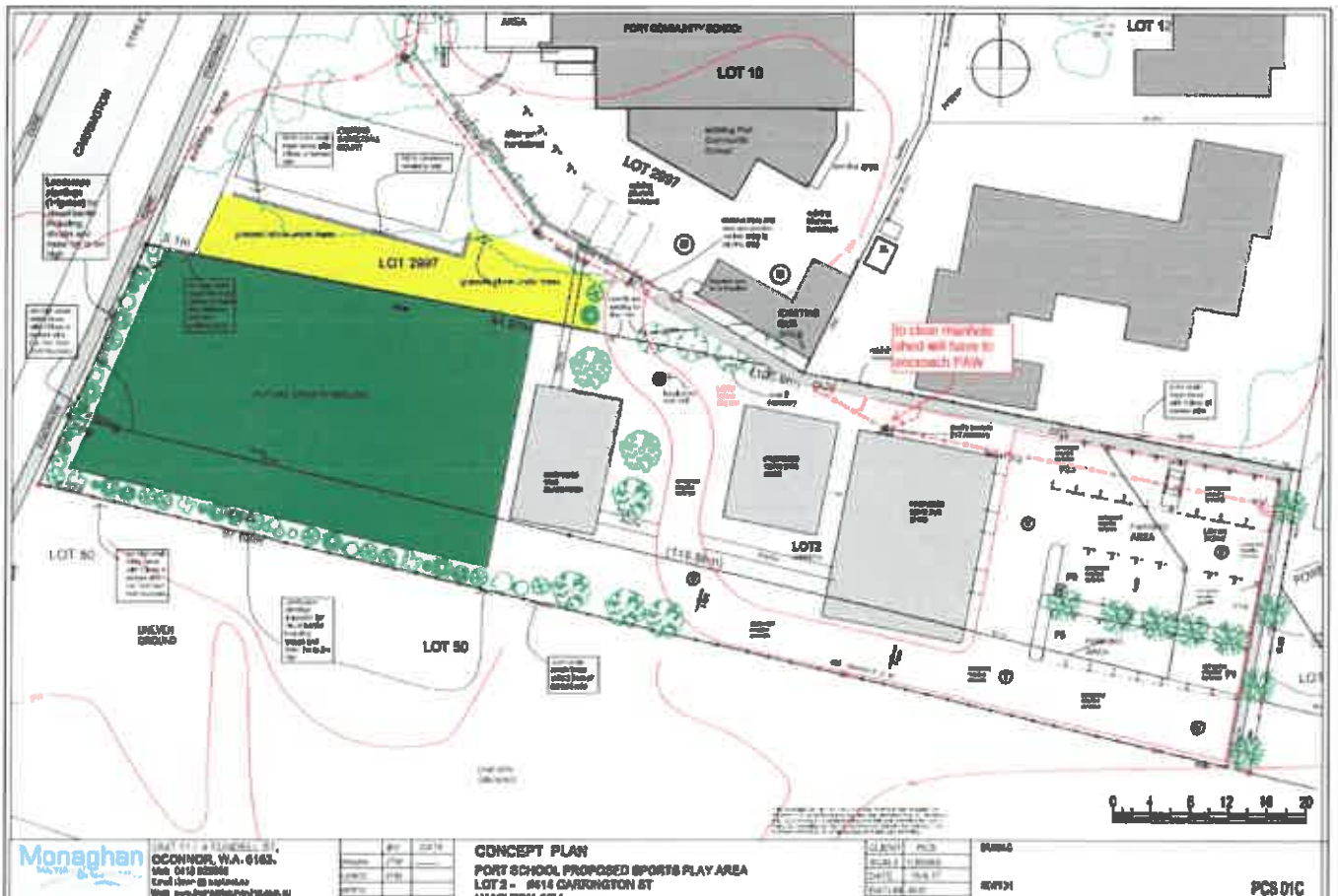




Things have certainly ramped up with the Main Roads land development. The fencing is now complete, securing our boundary. The additional staff car park is taking shape, albeit a little dusty at the minute; it will create a good space for our ever-increasing team. The school's exciting new Oval is currently being laid and will be in place ready for use in Term 1 next year. This will provide a great outdoor space for sports and games, also relaxation in the sun, in shade under the trees, or on the gentle slope coming off the basketball court.



The Board and Principal are looking at other development opportunities on the land, including a large bus and trailer garage, a fitness gym and even the potential of an additional classroom for possible use as a senior, middle school, or multi use classroom.





# BREAKING NEWS

**The Lawn is down and wow, it's looking amazing**



The lawn creates so many exciting opportunities for 2018 and beyond; there are options of grass-based sports, games, picnics, lunches under the trees, morning outdoor fitness training, or a spot of art whilst enjoying the outdoor air. Come and have a look for yourselves and see the amazing changes.



# THE WORKSHOP

## CONSTRUCTION

Paul Holland joined us in the workshop this year. He brought along a range of new projects, in particular a number of introductory objects for those entering the workshop for perhaps the first time. Some students have developed their own projects, ranging from small pieces through to a large skateboard ramp.



We have taken a different tack in the workshop by restoring scooters and checking all the systems, such as electrics, braking and power. We have also refurbished them cosmetically: the last one was painted bright pink! These are great projects, as the students learn a lot about basic automotive mechanics. This will stand them in great stead, should they wish to pursue a career down this track.

Work on the boat will kick off again next year with the trailer being nearly completed. It will be a push to finish the details of the hull, then ensure the motor is functioning well, installing it, as well as gearbox, the propeller shaft and steering gear.



We look forward to next year, to even more projects being done, and a few additions to our range. Well done to all who were in the workshop this year. We look forward to seeing you next year.

*Phil Brooks & Paul Holland*





# TeamSport

Port Celebrated the life of Australian cricketer Phil Hughes. He sadly lost his life three years ago, after a tragic accident whilst playing. A hard fought and well-spirited two innings battle ensued with Mike Gilbert vs this year's new addition, Eileen Vlahovich. At lunch Mike & his team were a run adrift. Not to be taken lying down, catches came, bails were knocked off and the day came down to a last over finale that past captain Megan Fitzgerald would have been proud of. Indeed, it was so close that it was only on the day's final ball that Mike's team lost: Matt Hopkins hit a boundary for Eileen and her team to win by just one run. Despite the loss, Mike commended both teams for a truly well-spirited competition and once again another fabulous memorial match. Great day everyone and Player of the Match, Draydon

**Match Winners:**  
Eileen's Team

**Player of Match:**  
Draydon Woods

**Best Batsperson:**  
Cameron Lloyd

**Bowler of Match:**  
Riley McPhee

**Thanks to Participants:**

**Mike's Team**

Saaya  
Stephle  
Dylan  
Luke  
James  
Josh  
Connor  
Tristan  
Brandon  
Draydon  
Riley

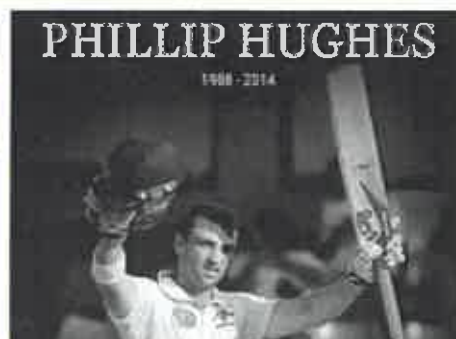
**Eileen's Team**

Georgia  
Cameron  
Seb  
Matt  
Rhys  
Jarrod  
Jay  
Magnus  
Josie  
Leslie  
Sharnie

**Staff:**

Brad – Umpire

Coaches – Mike & Eileen





# Port's

# ROCK the BOAT

PARTY & CRUISE  
2018















PARTY & CRUISE











PARTY & CRUISE





## **CATCHING UP WITH PAST STUDENTS**

Barry & Mike were delighted to see Tahneal Norris one of Ports past students come back and visit earlier in the term and hear about her new life, partner, house building and how her job is going. Proud to hear you're doing so well Tahneal, we certainly want to capture your story for our 25th anniversary yearbook and celebrations in 2018.



Tahneal was at Port for several years around 2011 – 2013 and we have even found a few old pictures below !!



*Attacking the boxing bag at Round 1 Fitness*



*Spot of welding with Tim*

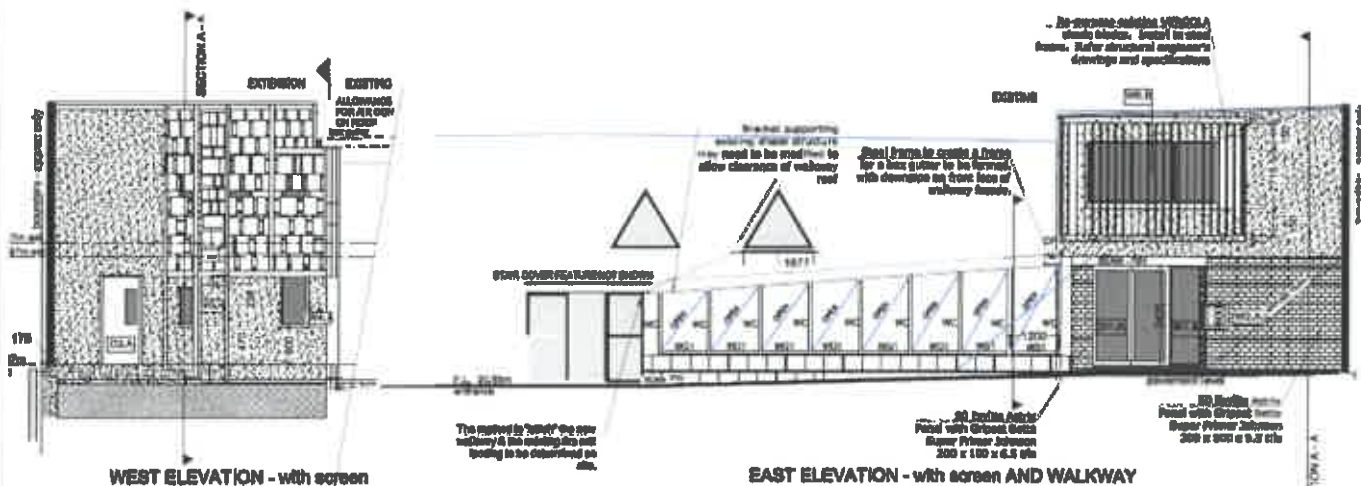


## ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK EXTENSION

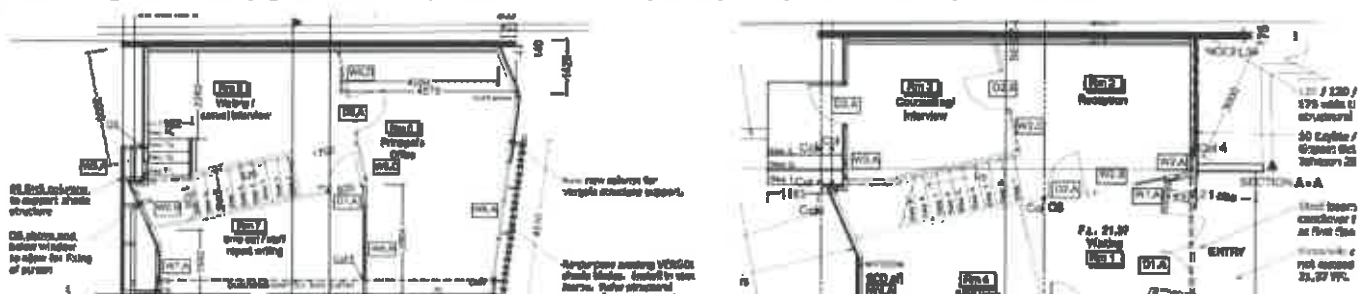
**After a year of planning with architects, building surveyors and approvals, we are now finally in a position to sign contracts with DEVCO Builders, who were successful in winning the tender process to complete these new works. The facility on the Northern boundary will house a new Principal's office, main entrance reception, counseling room, as well as create new staff working areas and meeting rooms.**



The building works are likely to start in the new year. We aim to have minimal disruption to the school's operations during the six month build timeframe. We appreciate your patience during this time. If we have any hold ups in the main driveway, it may be difficult to utilise the turning circle.



**Please feel free to drive around to the back of the school and into our new main car park (whilst admiring our newly grassed oval), where there is plenty of space to turn your vehicle.**



# EMPLOYER COMMUNITY "IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE"

Congratulations to Port's inaugural group of  
School Based Traineeship Graduates

**CAMERON LLOYD**  
PORT KEMBLA TILES



Cameron successfully completes his Certificate 2 Construction (Tiling) in December 2017. He will continue working with Port Kembla Tiles.



**HAYLEY O'NEILL**  
ACTIV



Hayley has completed her Certificate 3 Individual Support and has already commenced her career with Activ



**MAGNUS SINGLETON HOOPER**  
ORMSBY GUITARS



Magnus completes his Certificate 2 Furniture Making in December 2017. He will continue as a full time employee with Ormsby Guitars



**CALUM EARNSHAW**  
SHEET METAL FABRICATORS



Calum is progressing from his Certificate 2 Engineering. From December he will be a full time Engineering Apprentice (cert 3) with Sheet Metal Fabricators





## ENGLISH

It is hard to believe that we are saying goodbye to 2017. It is even harder to say goodbye to some of our beloved senior students, but I know that they are moving on to bigger and better things. I cannot express just how proud of them I am. Well-done Port leavers of 2017! The rest of the cohort has been scrambling to complete all class work and assignments; typically, a very busy time of year for our students ... report time! 😊



We approach the holidays - 6 weeks is a long time indeed - when we tend to spend more time in front our screens. So, bear in mind the effect technology has on our brains. Some of the short-term effects include sensory overload, lack of restorative sleep, and a hyper-aroused nervous system. The area of the brain most affected includes the important frontal lobe, which governs executive functions, such as impulse control, organising, planning and prioritizing.



We all tend to over-indulge at Christmas and it's not just with food! Keep you brain happy and switch off the screen from time to time. Take a walk, head to the beach, or make your English teacher a very happy woman and read a book!

***A safe and happy Christmas to you all  
Joy***

## AWARD SPONSORS

We are delighted to have support for several of our end of year awards again this year with kind donations from business and partner organisations.



Excitingly we bring in our Early Years students who graduate this year and are heading to Kindy next year. Port's ELC has secured sponsorship of \$250 for two children, along with Kindy readiness packs. These have been kindly sponsored by Adrian Grundy from Murdock Education and Rachelle Tucker from the Australian Childcare Alliance of WA (ACAWA)



Bringing quality to education recruitment



Additionally, Member for Fremantle; Josh Wilson MP has also kindly sponsored a school award.







This term, we took 15 boys on a men's healing camp to Nowanup, a property about 2 hours east of Albany. Nowanup is part of a massive bush regeneration project that aims to replant and revegetate a corridor of bushland that reconnects the desert with the coastline. The property is run and maintained by Noongar elder Eugene Eades, who was also our gracious host for the week. The regeneration project started some 12 years ago and was originally about healing the land. But, over the years Eugene has actually found that, through healing the land, he is healing people.



Eugene has a lot to give, and we were very lucky to be able to take this group of young men out there to spend time with him. Eugene put us all up in his house and shed, and instantly made all the boys feel welcome and humbled in his presence. He opened his doors, his heart and his mind for us, and we all walked away from the experience better men for it.

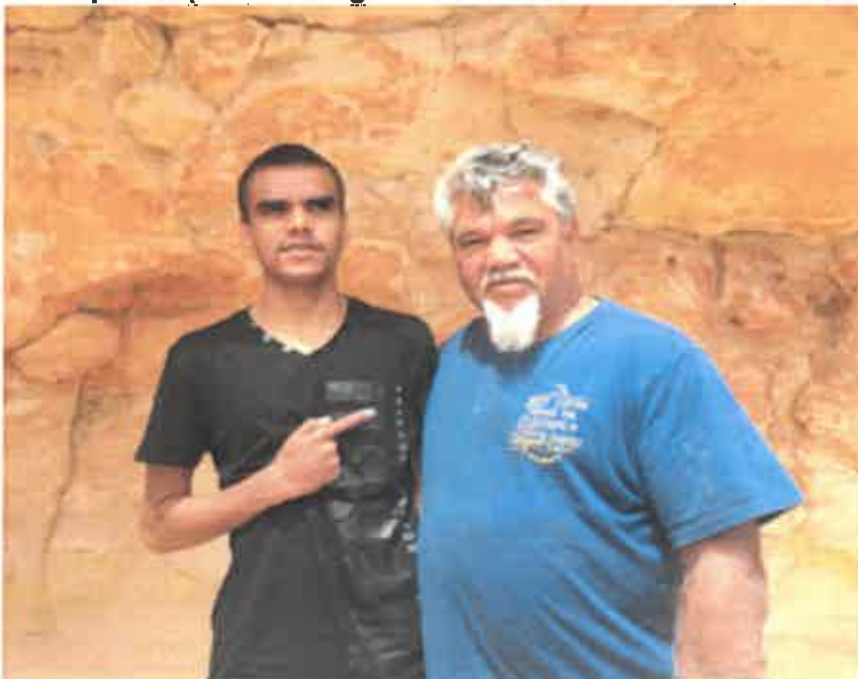




**On the journey we walked Bluff Knoll, the highest mountain in WA, we fished down the coast at Bremer Bay, we sang songs, we cooked food, we painted, we told stories, we shared, we learned about land and country, we laughed and we cried. Some of the boys connected with each other on levels I would never have imagined up here in the city. All barriers, boundaries and preconceived notions of each other were dropped. Out there we were all equal... well, except Eugene was boss!**



**I can honestly say it was one of the most humbling and special weeks of my teaching life. One that all the boys took positive things out of and one that will live on in our hearts forever.**



**Thanks fellas!!  
Tom, Matt, Trist & Grayem**



# ART ROOM ANECDOTES

**"If I create from the heart, nearly everything works: if from the head, almost nothing." - Marc Chagall**

The amazing Art students have worked incredibly hard this term and all year. I feel blessed to work with this talented bunch! I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year at Port School as the new Art teacher and I will be back again next year with lots of new project ideas and inspiring guest artists to work with us.



This term students could choose from two themes. Firstly, the 'Reverse Painted – Landscape', which required them to use experimental painting techniques on a very large canvas. Students were asked to create a colourful, patterned, semi-abstracted image of their favourite landscape, or part of a landscape eg. a favourite flower, tree, landform, or animal.





Rosetta Santucci was the inspiration for these unique and brave works. Secondly, the project choice was to create an artwork for the 'Art Competition – Drive In Cinema design' for AYLA (Assisting Your Life to Achieve). This organisation is opening a not-for-profit Drive-In Cinema in the heart of Cockburn. The brief for the competition (which was open to several local schools in the area), was to create an artwork that expresses your unique view on Community, Friendship and Equality. Students were able use any media on a 2D surface for this competition. Several chose to enter this competition and we wait with 'bated breath' to hear how our students faired and if we have a winning designer here at Port. So.....stay tuned in 2018!



There are a few special artists who are leaving us this year and I will personally miss their energy and support over the year. So to Kristal, Hayley and Charlie, all the very best for your futures next year, beyond school. I hope you continue with your art making, in your spare time. You are all very creative and talented, so use your art making as a way to explore your ideas, emotions and to allow yourself some personal time out.



Happy holidays to all of the students, be sure to stay safe and I will see you in 2018!

**Dee**

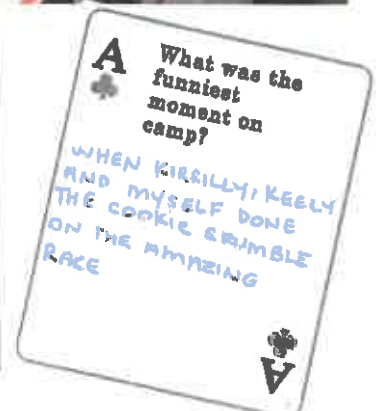
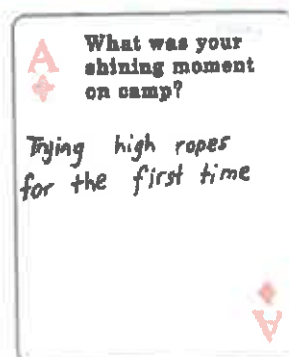


# MUMS & BUBS CAMP

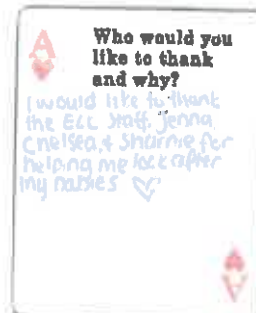
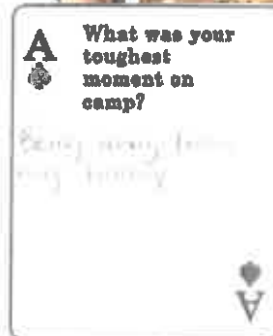
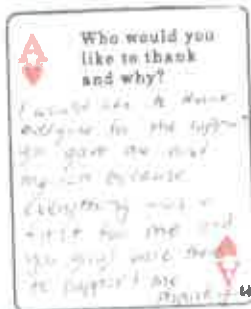


**@ FAIRBRIDGE VILLAGE, PINJARRA**

One of the aims of the Young Parent Centre is to provide a broad range of educational and learning experiences for the young mums in the centre. We planned and organised the first ever Mums and Bubs camp to Fairbridge, Pinjarra in November. The overall aim was to provide an opportunity for the young mums to experience a camp with their child and to participate in a range of activities and parenting programs.







### TESTIMONIALS

The YPC gave me, my son and all the other young mums the opportunity to create unforgettable memories. We got to experience new things and become closer with, not only fellow peers, but also the staff and our own children. I had an incredible time on camp and it has been one of the best two days spent with my son. I'm incredibly thankful to everyone who made this possible for us. **XX Shayana Klely**

It was such an amazing experience being away from home. I had a great time trying new things and making memories. I have never been on camp before. It was a great experience getting to know other mums and their kids. I made more friends and I would love to go on one again. I have so many wonderful memories to take home and it was an amazing opportunity for me and my son. I just want to say a big thank you to the YPC and ELC staff for creating his opportunity. **XX Albertine Kande**

Thanks to Jenna's hardwork and organisation we were lucky enough to be able to take part in the first ever mums and bubs camp. It was an amazing experience. One of the highlights was our last night, when we threw a little disco for the babies. Seeing how happy they all were was definitely my favourite part of the whole camp. **XX Jamila Davis**

Partly sponsored By **Simone McGurk School Fund Grant**



**Simone McGurk**  
State Member for Fremantle

P: 9336 7000 E: [fremantle@mp.wa.gov.au](mailto:fremantle@mp.wa.gov.au)

Proudly supporting schools in our community.





## COOKING

Another excellent year in the Port School kitchen with the students' skills developing and demand for meals at an all time high!



We have gone from serving lunch two days a week to four, with the Hospitality crew providing outstanding feasts on Mondays. Phil the Frenchy does his best to stretch the palates of the, sometimes not so grateful, students on Tuesdays.



## LET'S COOK !

We still like to follow a seasonal approach and utilize the school garden and vegetable patch where possible, adding that freshness and pop to the meals.



The students are continuing to take pride, not only in their ability produce food of a very high standard, but also in their capacity to make it looking stunning on the plate.



It's also been great to see the kitchen being used by all students and staff so frequently. We are all making great use of an excellent facility.

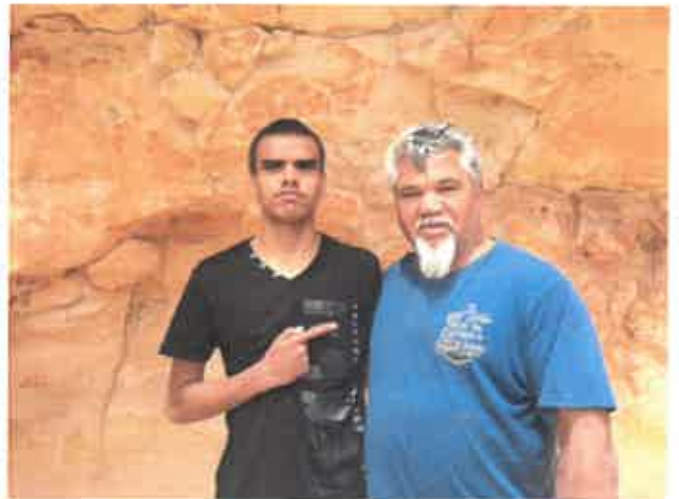


## **MOBILE CLASSROOM**

**The Mobile Classroom continues to grow, develop and evolve into a collaborative, engaging and meaningful space for young boys to participate in quality education.**



**Term four provides more opportunities for outdoor environment exploration and play, so we embrace that fully on the Mobile Classroom.**



**This term's highlight was clearly our Camp to Nowanup to spend time on country with Noongar elder Eugene Eades. The boys absolutely thrived in this environment and their engagement in all activities was unrivalled. We will continue this connection with Eugene and are already planning a camp for 2018.**





## **AMPHITHEATRE PROJECT**

It's been a journey, but we are almost there. We started construction of the amphitheatre as a project for our Cert 2 in Conservation and Land Management, and have spent the last two terms building the limestone steps that form the amphitheatre.



We were lucky enough to design an artwork when on camp, that has been transposed onto the concrete floor of the amphitheatre. The artwork can be seen below: the middle circle represents Port School, and the 6 outer circles represent communities that we all come from. When the project is finished the middle circle will also serve as a fire pit.



I just want to give a special mention to Luke Roser on this one. He has been my right hand man throughout this whole project and has been a reliable and dependable employee. We couldn't have got this done without you mate, and you should be very proud of your effort.



**Tom**



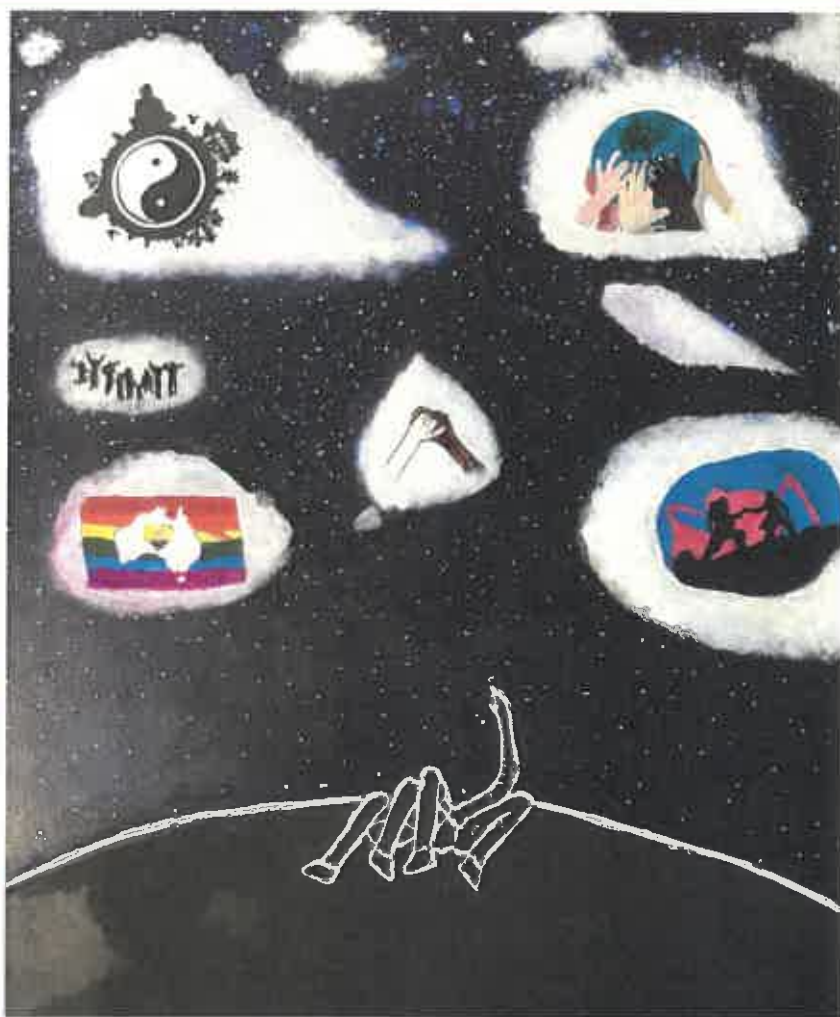




But Wait...  
**THERE'S  
MORE!**

## ART ROOM ANECDOTES

"If I create from the heart, nearly everything works; if from the head, almost nothing." - Marc Chagall





## EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

The highlight of Term 4 was our camp at Fairbridge, Pinjarra. This major milestone was a first-time experience for our families to venture away from the school for a few days and to share some exciting adventures with the other mums, bubs and educators.



We had the opportunity to stop at Peel Zoo to observe and to encounter close-up connections with animals. The reptile show was one of our most memorable activities, where most of the children were able to touch a live moving snake and lizard.



The camp was all about trying new experiences and achieving goals set by staff for our mothers and babies, which we successfully attained collaboratively. The ELC staff would like to thank the Port community for making this excursion possible and providing lasting memories for our families.

### Happy Book Reading



At the ELC we have introduced library visits into our Young Parent Playgroups, as well as incursions and excursions. Jenny, the librarian, has been coming fortnightly to the ELC and we have been on library outings to visit her Melville library complex. We have seen an increased interest from our children in reading books and singing songs. It is delightful to see their vocabulary improving and hear their great singing abilities.

### Putting Fires Out

The children started "putting out" pretend fires in their imaginary play. We extended their interest with fire hoses and fire shapes spread around the centre for them to find and put out. We had a safety fire drill and we were very lucky to have a random visit from the fire department, when the children could see a real fire truck and firemen.



### Christmas Excitement

Christmas is just around the corner. There is excitement and happiness in the air as we prepare for the rollercoaster buildup of Xmas activities. We have prepared an amazing Santa's cave filled with lights, Xmas memorabilia and Santa's own comfy chair. Also, we have started a recycled Christmas tree, and we are practicing our Xmas songs for the children to showcase their talents at the end-of-year Xmas party and graduation. PELC welcomes all families to our children's end of year celebrations to share our Xmas cheer.



To all our mums, bubs, extended families, educators, board of trustees and all groups who made 2017 a successful year,  
**Merry Christmas 2017!**



# TeamSport



**FRIDAY NIGHT**



FNF 4 {Friday Night Flag} was held on December 1<sup>st</sup> with Port School students playing against a combination of staff and young adults from the community. The young adults are well known to Port School through their involvement in our 'out of school' gym program. The game was played at Davilak Oval, with participants from both sides playing some exceptional flag rugby, as well as displaying excellent sportsmanship. It was pleasing to see one of our former students return and participate in the game. We also had our Principal and our Deputy Principal's children, Taylor Finch and Iestyn Gilbert, participate. Both played exceptionally well.

FYI they are both way more skilled than their dads.





# THE BENEFITS OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

*Physical education plays an important role in the physical, mental, spiritual and social development of our students. Students deserve to be physically educated as well as academically educated.  
Children have bodies as well as brains.*

This term in PE we have continued to challenge students with Fundamental Movement Skill exercises that have focused on object control activities. These activities have revolved around throwing, kicking and catching exercises. The exercises I have created have given students an opportunity to improve their decision-making, allowing them to problem solve, work in a team and develop their skills. This term I introduced a new activity based on the game of tennis. Port tennis is played indoors with a balloon style ball roughly the size of a large grapefruit. The ball we use tends to float and deviate when hit leading to an extremely challenging and fun activity. With the success of this activity, I introduced the Port school Open. Staff and students nominated to play in a singles competition, which culminated in a final. We have a Plaque that will be put up in the gym and will list the winner and runner up each year.



The Team Sports program exposes students to important lessons in personal values. They learn teamwork, leadership skills, appreciation of different abilities, respect for teammates, opponents and officials. Students also had the opportunity to build resilience by sharing positive and negative experiences. Activities this term have included Ultimate Frisbee, Running Ball, Flag Rugby, Hand Ball and our version of Gaelic Football, as well as some Multi-sport challenges. Our tribute match to former cricketer Phillip John Hughes was played on Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of November and we saw another narrow loss to the Michael Gilbert led team. (Eileen currently leading Michael 1 -0).



The School Gym Program will be running through the school holidays. All students are welcome. We will also be running some sporting activities. For more information I can be contacted on 0451 750424.

**Brad Rowden -Sports Chaplain.**

Attitude is a choice.  
Happiness is a choice.  
Optimism is a choice.  
Kindness is a choice.  
Giving is a choice.  
Respect is a choice.  
Whatever choice you make makes you.  
Choose wisely.

*Roy T. Bennett*





# Keys for Life

Keys for Life and the RYDE programs have been running this term. We have seen some great attendance as well as results. With four students passing their Learners permit so far and two going on to receive lessons through the Ryde program, we couldn't be happier! The Program has integrated a number of outside agency educational sessions, such as Legal Aid, Kiara Fire Station and Pre-Learner Driver Safety Course.



Sebastian Crowley with Station Officer Rob

With the high number of students benefiting, the programs will continue next year. The Keys for Life program is offered to any Port student aged sixteen years, or older. Ask Tristan or Dennis for more info.

## BEHIND THE WHEEL

The journey begins. Are you ready?

Preparing young people for safer driving is an important part of the Western Australian road safety strategy, as they are over-represented in road crash statistics each year. Keys for Life is a comprehensive, national award winning, evidence-based pre-driver program that assists parents, schools and agencies educate young people about safer road use. It provides licensing and graduation benefits.

The program is funded by the Road Safety Commission, administered by SDERA and

## RTO

A big year for the RTO (Registered Training Organisation) as we have increased the offering of courses available to Port students. We now offer;

- Community Services II and III
- Hospitality
- Sports Coaching
- Furniture Making
- Conservation & Land Management
- Visual Arts (planned for 2018)

These are all backed by Steph, who is our Placement Coordinator. She is always looking for work experience, traineeship and apprenticeship opportunities out in the workplace. Steph is also putting a lot of time into students who have expressed an interest in courses we don't offer, but are being delivered by outside agencies.



It is highly recommended that all year 10, 11, 12 students do a certificate course. It gives great employability skills, even if it is not exactly what you may want to do after you leave school. If you are still not sure of your direction then simply getting started on one is important, as many of the units within the qualifications are transferrable and don't lock you into one career path. Most importantly all of the qualifications deliver great employability skills.



All of these quals are great starting points for students lives post-Port; they are great courses written specifically for Port Students with fantastic support throughout.



**Training Accreditation Council**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

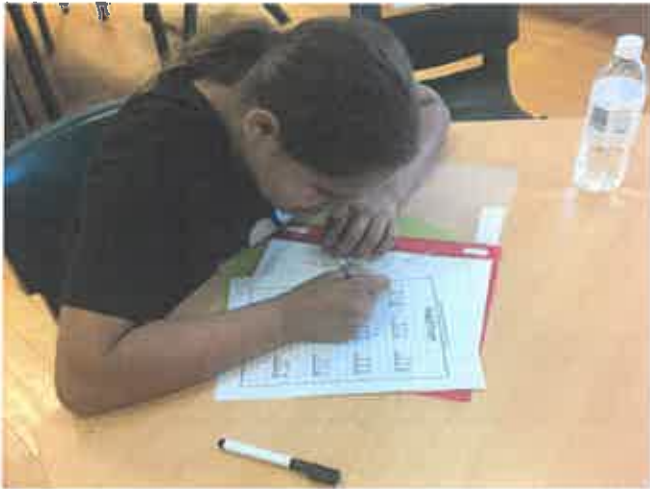


**NATIONALLY RECOGNISED  
TRAINING**



## MATHS

This term, students have been working hard to strengthen their functional mathematics skills. Students have worked individually, at their own pace, to master basic mathematical skills that are needed in real life situations. Once introduced to the concept, students have been consolidating their learning with games and puzzles related to the topic.



Students have made great progress, particularly with addition, where some students have gone from struggling to add single digit numbers to adding 5 digits and beyond, including word problems involving money situations. Students who are partaking in the CGEA I, II, and III have continued to work hard to complete their coursework.



All students should be proud of their achievements this year. I have had a wonderful time teaching at Port School in 2017 and I am looking forward to returning next year and assisting the students in advancing even further.

**Elleen**

Think of a number. Double it.  
Add six. Half it. Take away  
the number you started with.  
Your answer is three.

## CHRISTMAS RECIPE

### Christmas Ginger Bread

#### Ingredients

- 350g/12oz plain flour, plus extra for rolling
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 2 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 125g/4½oz butter
- 175g/6oz light soft brown sugar
- 1 free-range egg
- 4 tbsp golden syrup



#### Method

1. Sift together the flour, bicarbonate of soda, ginger and cinnamon and pour into the bowl of a food processor. Add the butter and blend until the mix looks like breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar.
2. Lightly beat the egg and golden syrup together, add to the food processor and pulse until the mixture clumps together. Tip the dough out, knead briefly until smooth, wrap in clingfilm and leave to chill in the fridge for 15 minutes.
3. Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Line two baking trays with greaseproof paper.
4. Roll the dough out to a 0.5cm/¼in thickness on a lightly floured surface. Using cutters, cut out the gingerbread men shapes and place on the baking tray, leaving a gap between them. For decorations, use a skewer to make a small hole in the top of each biscuit.
5. Bake for 12-15 minutes, or until lightly golden-brown. Leave on the tray for 10 minutes and then move to a wire rack to finish cooling. When cooled decorate with the writing icing and cake decorations.





# YOUNG PARENT CENTRE

Term 4 has been one of the most eventful terms we have ever had in the Young Parent Centre (YPC). There have been so many excursions, activities and learning opportunities, which have kept both staff and students extremely busy. The most important event we had this term, was the mums and bubs camp to Fairbridge. Over three days, 14 mums and their babies, packed their bags, portacots and everything else necessary, and headed to Pinjarra in the school buses. There were so many photos and activities that we have dedicated 2 pages in this newsletter just for the camp.



As we count down the days until Christmas and the beginning of next year, we are very excited to be welcoming a few new additions to the YPC. There are two babies due mid December, one due in January and Jenna, the Teacher in the YPC, is due mid February. To celebrate all the impending births, Michelle Zietsman, YPC Counselor, organised a "Breakfast at Tiffany's" themed baby shower at Woodman Point. It was fantastic to see both students and staff dress up to this theme inspired celebration. Many games were played and a high tea was prepared and served. As you can see, there is both a boy and girl due, with Jenna's baby yet to be determined.



We would like to congratulate all the young mums in the Young Parent Centre for the amazing work that has been produced this year. Congratulations to Sharnie Kiely, Namina Bangura, Kennedy Tolland and Keely Cotton on completing your Cert II in the CGEA. This is a massive achievement and a testament to your commitment to your studies this year.

A BIG thank you must go out to all our wonderful volunteers: Maria Quaggan from Visy Corporation, Cathy Hoen, Hayley, and Maddy Forsyth who have helped in the YPC all year. Your support is deeply appreciated and we thank you for giving your time so generously and we look forward to working collaboratively with you all next year. We would also like to thank, once again, the Red Nose Association for providing training on safe sleeping habits and to Baldvís Badminton Club for a sponsorship award.



**FOR A BETTER WORLD**