Dear Parents and Caregivers,

To the greater community of Cooktown P-12 State School it is my pleasure to address you through this final Newsletter for 2016 as we celebrate a most successful year.

This Newsletter affords us the opportunity to focus our attention on the highlights of many achievements and initiatives by students throughout 2016. It is also an opportunity for us to review, reflect, and consider the educational landscape of our school and to give thanks for all who contribute to its success. We can only scratch the surface of all that is achieved in an academic year in a report such as this but I am confident through our Newsletter, News Paper Articles and other media that Cooktown P-12 State School's significance in the lives of so many is affirmed.

In closing a wrap up from Principal Mrs Leanne Rayner:

At the close of 2016, I acknowledge our school community’s clear strengths – the wonderful school spirit and positive culture that thrives amongst the student body, the role modelling and professionalism inherent in our staff, the substantial commitment through time, personal and collective effort and philanthropy from our parent body and broader Cooktown community, and the support and commitment of our P & C Mrs Nikki Darvell and her executive committee and all our parents who attend and aim to ensure our school remains relevant and successful in ever-changing educational and legislative contexts.

At Cooktown we continue to inspire and empower our students through our holistic approach to learning and teaching. Our curricular programmes, co-curricular activities, service to communities at local and leadership opportunities are vital for our students’ and our society’s future development. We cannot underestimate the importance of our daily endeavours.

Put simply, our shared Vision is: To inspire, challenge and empower each other through the promotion of learning excellence, fostering wellbeing and resilience, developing strong and authentic relationships, serving others with integrity and dignity and working collaboratively to build community.

Agility is a buzzword prevalent in the corporate world that I am beginning to hear more regularly in schools and amongst school leaders. Whether it be organisational agility, adaptability to change, flexibility in the use of technology, or the ability to develop multifaceted skillsets in an increasingly unpredictable job market, there is no doubt that the education we provide for our current students must equip them to be agile into the future. Our vision is to support our students to become creative, critical and independent thinkers who are reflective, intellectually curious and passionate about learning, and teaching others.

Another buzzword is courage. Courage to make a difference, courage to try something new, courage to take a risk, courage to stand up for your beliefs.

The Greek philosopher and scientist Aristotle believed “One will never do anything in this world without courage. It is the greatest quality of the mind next to honour.”

Our School’s exceptional teachers do not merely teach, they educate (they understand that teaching is a vocation) – helping students think, challenge, reflect and, hopefully in the process, to find and tap into their own beliefs and their own uniqueness. What an honour this is. Albert Einstein asserted “Only a life lived for others is worth living.” A heartfelt thank you for your dedication to ensuring high student outcomes which has resulted in the fact that Cooktown P-12 State School out performs all schools including and north of Mareeba.
Tonight I bid a fond farewell to those who leave us at the end of this year. Thank you to these marvellous inspirational teachers – Mrs Deb Potts, Mr Mitchell, Mrs Mitchell, Ms Gordon, Ms Taylor, Mrs Clark, Mr Kinley, Mrs Bates, Mrs Ottone, Mr Ottone, Mrs Stack and Mr Stack. May your future endeavours be amazing.

I would sincerely like to thank our BSM and office staff who work tirelessly to make our school run smoothly and assist in assuring nights such as awards nights run smoothly. Thank you Carol, Jacinta, Michelle, Vicki and Shaan. To our teacher aides thank you for your extraordinary work in supporting our teachers and students.

I give a very special mention to Mrs ‘J’ who has worked tirelessly in our school for over 27 years and who supports every staff member over and above.

I know I speak on behalf of all students when I pass on our gratitude and sincere thanks to all staff across our entire school.

To all parents and caregivers, I thank you for entrusting us with the extraordinary responsibility of supporting your child through their growth and development. We cannot achieve all we do, without your commitment as partners in your child’s education – a fundamental contributor to student success. We thank you.

Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow

Recently, our Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow focus group had the incredible opportunity to spend a day working with Krista and Rob Watkins of Natural Evolutions fame. Krista and Rob shared their own entrepreneurial journey from backyard shed to state of the art factory facilities and now international recognition. The group studied lean business models and commenced the brainstorming for their own products and potential business launch.

I look forward to sharing our Entrepreneurs continued journey and business launches over the next few months.

Robotics Club Endless Summer

The Cooktown State School Robotics Club will be hard at work over the summer period as they are preparing to complete at Robogames in the USA next April. The Team has completed the first of five robots they plan on using at the competition. The robot pictured is our line following robot. It will have to follow a line as quickly as possible in the competition. We have yet to start building some of our more ambitious robot projects but this is why we will be working through summer.

The club is also still actively fundraising at this time and will be fundraising through the summer holiday. Trivia nights at the RSL are scheduled for 30th November 14th December and 28th December. Come along and have some fun at just $5 per person to play and for teams of up to 8 people can join in. The Robotics club has meat tray raffles at the Sovereign on Friday nights from 6pm – 8pm. Tickets are $2 or 3 for $5. There is a movie night on Thursday 24th November. Entry is only $5 and there will be snacks and drinks available for purchase.

At this time, we would also like to thank the following businesses, community and individuals who support our fundraising efforts.

Cooktown RSL, The Sovereign Resort Hotel, Cooktown Bowls Club, CWA Cooktown and Cairns Groups, Target, James Cook University, QSITE Far North Chapter, Queensland Government, Cooktown State School, Qld Senator Jan Mclucas, Hon Member for Leichardt Warren Entsch.

Herman Rijken

Mareeba was an excellent, close game with our girls going down by three tries. In both the Under 14 and Girls games, it was clear that Atherton and Mareeba had the edge in terms of fitness and structure due to the opportunity to play in a regular competition.

The Under 16 boys kept their Atherton and Mareeba counterparts much quieter and, with a few subs borrowed from Atherton were able to beat the Atherton side in a very close game. Once again, the sportsmanship displayed by the boys and girls in attendance was outstanding and we look forward to continuing the competition in the 2017 school year.

HeliServices Cup Rugby League Competition

Last Friday, November 4 saw the Cooktown Crocs play in the inaugural HeliServices Cup Rugby League competition. This competition commenced with an Under 14 and Under 16 boys competition as well as an Under 15 girls League Tag competition played against the might of Mareeba and Atherton State High Schools.

The Under 14 boys faced fierce competition in both games against Atherton and Mareeba and did well to keep the teams below 30 points in total. The girls League Tag game against
4/5T Nursing Home Visit

Yesterday my class 4/5T went to the retirement home for Grandparents Day. We made cards, goats’ milk soap and 3OS made Bliss Ball treats for them. Once we got there, we went inside and one of the nurses showed us through the hospital to meet the grandparents. We met Evelyn, John, Peter, Juergan, Maurine, Relena, Frank, Loris and Alice.

First we had to choose a grandparent to adopt. I chose John who was very sleepy. After John and I had a little chat I went to talk to some other grandparents. We gave the soaps and cards to them then we gave them the bliss balls. I asked if they all loved their cards and they all said yes.

The first game that we played was ring toss. A couple of the grandparents had a go too and they did great. We were given different coloured playdough to play with there, then we played mini bowling and one of the grandparents knocked down all the pins.

We had a look at Jugen’s garden which was beautiful. When we had to leave I did not want to because I was having a great time.

I love grandparents because they are some of the most important people in our lives. They take care of us like when my mum was sick my grandma and pa looked after my sister and I.

By Bonnie Lane-Ritchie, Makayla Bass and Caitlin Wood.

Guidance Gossip

In 2017, Cooktown State School (P-6) will be implementing KidsMatter Primary, a flexible, whole-school approach to improving children’s mental health and wellbeing for primary schools. It can be tailored to schools’ local needs.

Through KidsMatter Primary, schools undertake a two-to three-year cyclical process in which they plan and take action to be a positive community; one that is founded on respectful relationships and a sense of belonging and inclusion, and that promotes:

- Social and emotional learning (including evidence-based social and emotional learning programs).
- Working authentically with parents, carers and families.
- Support for students who may be experiencing mental health difficulties.

When schools take on KidsMatter, they build on the work that they are already doing in these areas.
To assist the Action Team plan for 2017, we require the input of parents. Below is a survey link that takes approximately 5 minutes to complete.

http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary/parentsurvey

If you have any questions, please speak to Trent Kirk (Guidance Officer) or Bri Morgan (5/6 Teacher).

School Uniforms

Our school is well on the way to phasing in the new school uniforms, they look absolutely fabulous and thanks to all the parents who have already made the change. 2016 was the transition year and in 2017 we expect full implementation of the school uniform. See the photos below for which colour combination your child needs. Remember, the school shorts with either a Cook or Kennedy trim are also part of the uniform and students are expected to wear these.

Uniforms may be purchased from the school on Wednesdays between 8:30 and 9.30am and 2.30 and 3.30pm

Each day, students are expected to wear their uniform hat, shirts, shorts and closed in shoes. If your child is not able to please send a note or phone the office.

Return of freehold land to the Traditional Owners

The Michael Family

On October 25 and 26, Shaun and Tilahni Michael along with Zania Gordon represented their families as part of the State Government’s return of freehold land to the Traditional Owners – the Michael family.

The ceremony was held at Battle Camp Station – Baingarrawarra - and was attended by Queensland State Government representative and Queensland Treasurer, Curtis Pitt, as well the families of the Traditional owners. Shaun and Tilahni’s father, Conrad (Troy) Michael was one of the Traditional owners who signed the handback paperwork presented by Curtis Pitt on behalf of the State Government along with other Traditional owners.

As part of the handback process, Troy also renamed this particular National Park – Ngaynggarra which means Scarlet Gum (Didgeridoo) tree.

Cooktown State School are very proud of Shaun, Tilahni and Zania for supporting their families – and representing their school – at this very auspicious occasion!

The Budding Engineers of 7/8L have been hard at work designing and building their own bridges. Their Task was to first draw their design based on real world examples with an emphasis on strength. Each group were allocated a set amount of resources in which to construct their bridge. We used our knowledge of shape and angles to identify the strongest designs. It was great to watch the students brainstorm their ideas before working co-operatively to achieve their goal. Upon
completion, we will test each bridge for strength to see which one can hold the most weight!

Timber Donation

Cape York Timber has kindly donated over $1000 worth of valuable hardwoods to the High School Manual Arts Department. Our Students can now get the experience of working with these Woods and learning the durable properties and attractive colours in them.

French International Students

BRING HOME A BIG BROTHER OR SISTER AND BRING FRENCH CULTURE TO LIFE!

Why not volunteer to host an International Student from France next year? We have a small group of delightful French Students coming to Australia for 10 weeks to immerse in local Australian Culture, experience our High Schools, sports, environment and lifestyle. All the French students are around 15 years old, speak excellent English, have their own spending money, cover all school expenses, and we arrange all aspects of their program. They are looking forward to joining an Australian family for a short term. It’s fun and interesting to help these young people achieve their Australian dream. If you’d like to know more, please email your interest to Rob at Inter Cultural management on rl@scce.com.au.

Awards Night Years 4-12

Last Thursday 10th November we held our awards night for years 4 – 12. This year our school showcased some of the many talented students with a drama performance and two live bands the Buhman trio Peta, Brandon and Veronika and Farnan trio of Holly, Jake and Amber. We appreciate all the hard work by these students’ and their families rehearsing and setting up in their own time the performances were enjoyed by everyone and we received a lot of positive feedback. The staff and students of Cooktown SS P-12 would like to thank the following businesses for their fantastic support with sponsoring this year’s Presentation Evening. Without these businesses, this evening would not have been such a great success.

Cape Crusaders, The lions Club Cooktown, James Cook University, Endeavour Lodge Cooktown, Cooktown Bowels Club, Cape York Natural Resource Management, Scott Earthmoving, IGA Cooktown, IGA Community Chest, Kookaburra Educational Resources, Cook Shire Council, Skill 360.

And of course last but not least a big Congratulations goes out to all our award recipients your dedication and commitment throughout the school year has been recognised and awarded keep up the exceptional work.