Thank you to everyone who assisted last week to make our NAIDOC celebrations and School Fete such a success. We couldn’t have done it without you. To the families especially that assisted in or- ganising the cultural activities, you were able to provide the students with lots of important infor- mation that will certainly make them become stronger and wiser. Along with the School Fete, this gave our students the opportunity to operate their own stalls, manage money and advertising as well as demonstrate plenty of good listening and speaking skills. Congratulations on a job well done, everyone! We are all very proud of your efforts!

The two days of celebration could be summed up when one of the students said “It’s been the best day of my life!”

We look forward to running more events next year and building on our partnerships with families and community members.

Goodbye and Welcome

As the end of the school year is almost here, it’s time to say goodbye to the following staff members who will be leaving Kowanyama in a few days:

Miss Emily Knowles
Miss Lauren Hagebols
Sir Pharan Akhtarkhavari
Sir Nate Brown
Sir Hamish Robb
Miss Nikki Burrell
Sir Dan Lindenmayer
Miss Sarah Shaw
Miss Flo Cornish
Sir Chris Cornish

On behalf of the students and families, I would like to once again thank the staff members for the outstanding commitment they have each made to the school community during their stay here in Kowanyama. I know they will each leave Kowanyama, well prepared for the next part of their journeys in their new locations. Their dedication, enthusiasm and commitment is admirable. Thanks again, everyone—you have left your mark here. Best wishes for the future.

As we say goodbye to some staff members, we also welcome a new group of teachers for 2015. I know the community will join with me in formally welcoming the new staff members soon after their arrival in January, 2015:

Miss Jody Phelps
Miss Amy Adcock
Miss Sarah-Jane Noonan
Miss Ashleigh Weller
Sir Jaxson Pleydelle
Miss Felicia Van Der Meer
Miss Olivia Lo Schiava
Sir Steven McLaughlin
Miss Shannon Killer

Not all teachers have been assigned to their classes yet, however I can announce the following classes that will be in place next year: PrePrep, Prep, Year 1, Year 1/2, Year 2/3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6, Year 7-9 and Year 10. I am also pleased to announce that as well as a Sports teacher, we will also have an Art teacher next year for all classes.

Because our focus is on teaching and learning and helping our students to achieve their very best, our new teachers will also be supported by Miss Kate Abberton, Miss Anne Shannon and Miss Kristy Aicraft who will be working throughout 2015 as mentors and coaches.

As Sir Dan is leaving for Mt Isa, Miss Emma Haines will be working as the school’s Head of Department next year. After her five years in Kowanyama, I know Miss Emma will be able to continue her great work in this school—in a new role.
Position Vacant
As Chris Cornish will soon be leaving Kowanyama, a Groundsman (School’s Officer) position has become available.

Applicants must:
1. Have an open drivers’ licence (not a Learners’ Licence)
2. Have-or be able to obtain a Blue Card (Working with Children check)
3. Work 5 days a week—every week, apart from annual leave (usually not the same as school holidays)
4. Have good general knowledge regarding repairs and maintenance
5. Be able to follow directions and also show initiative

Written applications need to handed in to school before Friday 05 December. Please contact the school for more details.

QLD Christmas Exchange
The Prep class have been busy writing letters and making Christmas presents for schools involved in a Queensland Christmas Exchange. The Exchange is a group of 25 schools from all over Queensland. Each child has been allocated a school to send a letter and gift to. That school has then sent the same back to us. It has been very exciting finding where each school is located on the map of Queensland, and receiving letters and gifts in the mail from all of them.

4WD Bus for Kowanyama State School
Early next year, we will be taking delivery of a 4WD bus that will enable us to take our students on excursions to homelands as well as to places such as Cairns, Pormpuraaw, Weipa and Normanton. Next year, I will share the plans on how our bus will be used. Most importantly, the bus will be used as a reward for teachers, students and their families for excellent attendance. Even though our attendance rates have improved this year, we need to stay focussed on our students being at school 100% of the time. Approximately 35 of our students are already at this level and because of this, I know everyone can do it.

As we need a good name for our bus, there will be a competition organised early next year to determine the best. A prize will be organised for the winning entry.

Happy Christmas everyone!
Ross McHutcheon
Principal

Well the time has come to say GOODBYE. I wish to thank all the Kowanyama families and Kowanyama Teachers and staff that I have had the privilege to work with and for in supporting your sons and daughters / students to apply, attend and stay at Boarding School during my time as your Community Support Officer for TSS.

I will miss you all greatly and will be keeping up with how you are all going. I am sure I will hear about great things in the future that these young people will go on to achieve.

Keep positive, believe in yourselves support your children to get a good education and Kowanyama will be a place of not just “Many Waters” but a place of successful proud generations to come.

Once again THANK YOU and love and best wishes to you all.

Miss Flo

School Attendance
Thank you to everyone for assisting us to improve the attendance rates for our school. We all know that Education is our Future. Our students and the Kowanyama community deserve this! Is your child at school today?