Welcome back to Term 2 everyone. After my long holiday, it is certainly great to be back at Kowanyama. As many of you would have noticed, we now have a new school bus. This one will have a different role to the older one that we will continue to be used for the morning and afternoon bus runs. After speaking with various Elders in the community, we have selected the name “Lerrn Yamln” for the bus. It will always be there to remind us of “Children Travelling” or “Kids on the Move” and will be used as a reward for excellent attendance and positive behaviours. Already, a number of our classes have made good use of the bus by travelling out to various places on Home Land.

Last Friday, the Year 5 and 6 students were taken out to the grid for a small celebration that included a delicious cake. This was in recognition of their excellent attendance and behaviour throughout the week. We plan on having activities like this every week for the class with the best attendance.

School Attendance—Term Rewards
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In Term Three, the first trip will involve a School Camp to Brisbane—including a bus trip to Cairns and a flight to Brisbane. This Camp will be open to Secondary students as well as students in Year 6. During our time in Brisbane, we plan on visiting Parliament House, the Queensland Museum as well as Stradbroke Island. I am hoping there will be plenty of students available to attend. Participation in all of these trips relies on attendance, work commitment and positive behaviours. As we all know, many of our students are already doing this. With your support, I know this can be achieved by every student in the school.

Congratulations to Year 5 for getting 98% attendance last week! Well done everyone—we are all so proud of you.

NAPLAN—Testing
Across Australia, students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in literacy and numeracy tests every year. These tests, assess students in various aspects of literacy and numeracy, such as reading, writing, spelling and number. We use the test results to modify our teaching program, to meet the needs of the students as they work at improving their results. A report is also sent out later in the year. Once we receive these reports, we’ll organise for teachers to meet with parents to discuss the results and to look at ways for families to also assist their children at home. In order to prepare students to do their very best in the tests, students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will be provided with a breakfast on each of the days from 12—14 May. Please contact the school for more information.

Cross Country
As a result of sorry business, please note the change of date for the school’s Cross Country. This exciting event on Friday 08 May should be finished by the middle of the day. I look forward to seeing all students, families and community members on this day.

Bravehearts
Yesterday, we were excited to welcome guests from Bravehearts to the school. The purpose of the visit was to introduce Ditto to the students. ‘Ditto’s Keep Safe Adventure Show’ is to teach children protective behaviours in a fun and engaging way. Everyone had a great time, listening carefully to the important messages about personal safety and protection. Thank you to Bravehearts for conducting this performance free of charge.
Culture Studies
Kowanyama Secondary boys took the new bus to dig up ironwood roots needed for their spear making project. Thanks to Warwick (Chook), Chrissy and Ralph (Be-mi) for helping us.

Laura Dance Festival
With our new school bus, we now have the opportunity to travel to the Laura Dance Festival on the second last weekend of this Term. Students selected to attend, will need to ensure they have been participating in the practice sessions. The school will support this activity by sending teachers, providing transport for students as well as paying registration fees for the event. I’m certain the entire community will be enthusiastic about our participation in this event.

Domestic Violence Lessons
Thanks to Jatinder Kaur from RFDS for organising some sessions for our students on this important topic. With assistance from RAATSIC and the Police, lessons will be conducted on 15 May. Families are also welcome to come along to the lessons:
- Prep—Year 3: 12.00—12.45
- Years 4—10: 1.00—2.00

 Regards
Ross McHutcheon
Principal

Horse Handling
Secondary students were invited by Luke Quaid to learn about the principles of horse handling. It’s great to see some enthusiastic Kowanyama people getting involved in this project.