

Clare Connection

STUDENT NEWS FROM CLARE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Term 2 Week 6

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From the Principal's Desk

It seems like only yesterday that I was writing this email to say welcome back to school for the start of Term 2 and here I am lamenting somewhat about the fact that we are on the other side of half way of Term 2. I know it is said too often, but where has the time gone? With time slipping away, a reminder, just in case you have forgotten, that Monday 8th June is the Queen's birthday public holiday. Unfortunately, that means Week 7 is a very short week here at school but that hopefully everyone will be super energetic for Week 8. Right?

This fortnight has been filled with lots of exciting learning opportunities for the students, teachers and parents. We participated in National Simultaneous Storytime with over 1.2 million other students, we were very excited about the arrival of our hive of Blue-Bot robots, we have also been graphing, sewing, painting, crafting, dancing, singing and so much more.

Many of you may be aware that since the beginning of the year we have been undertaking a bit of a clean out and tidy up around the school. This process has involved the hard work of many people and as a result, our storerooms, classrooms, library and office are looking fresh and inviting. Thank you to everyone who has helped out with these projects. When everyone gets involved, it really helps to establish a feeling of pride in maintaining our shared spaces.

Claire and Heather are currently working through the stocktake and clean up in the library and what a remarkable difference that is making to the overall look of that learning space as they sort, shuffle, rearrange and scan every, single book in the library. It is a HUGE job and I am very thankful to them both for the time they are spending in there to ensure our collection is well managed and looked after. Please remember that parents and community members are welcome to visit our library and borrow books and resources. Simply contact the school and Claire can set you up with a borrowing profile.

Mr Patterson undertook professional learning during Week 5 to get the buzz on how to utilise Bee-Bot robots in the classroom to enhance and support learning and engage students. He worked hard all day, only coming out of his classroom to refuel. We are all very excited about the introduction of robotics in our learning program.

Ms Barrow

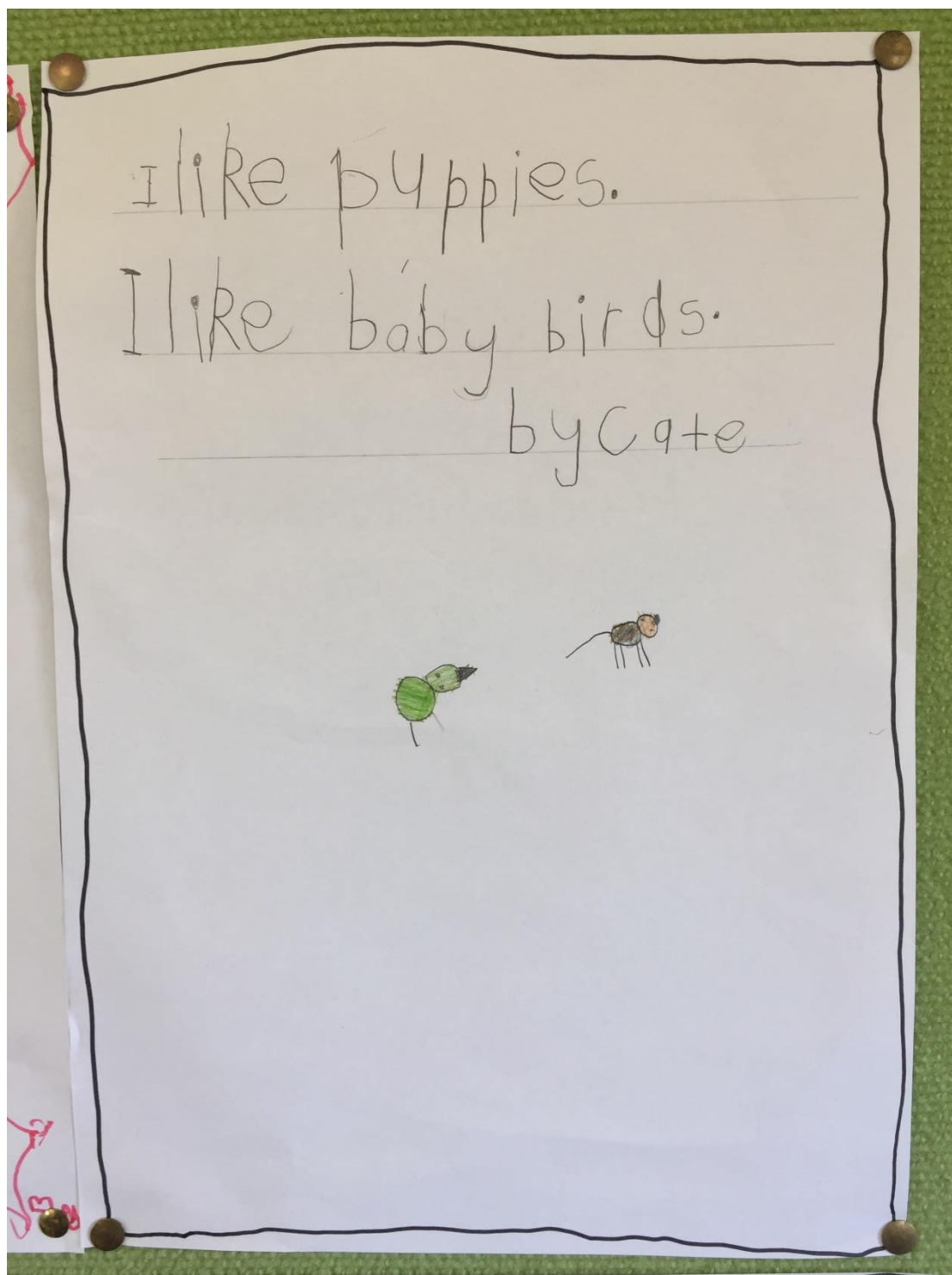
Kindergarten Orientation:

This week our extended kindergarten orientation program commences. At this time, we have one student, Patrick, starting kindergarten next year and in order to provide him with the opportunity to get to know the expectations of 'big school' he will be commencing an extended orientation program. This extended program was implemented last year and the success of the program has ensured that we are able to offer it again in 2020. The program will help in providing Patrick with the opportunity to develop the social skills necessary to learn effectively in a group. He is very excited to be starting his big school journey and it is always nice to welcome more students into our learning community. This program also provides a valuable opportunity for our current students to demonstrate leadership and support for our new student. Welcome to big school Patrick.



Writing:

The Kindergarten students have showcased some of their brilliant writing skills with their recounts with illustrations. The progress of our youngest students this year is both rewarding and inspiring to see. They should all feel very proud of all the work they have completed. We have included their recounts for you to admire. It is important to remember that these children could not write independently at the beginning of the year.

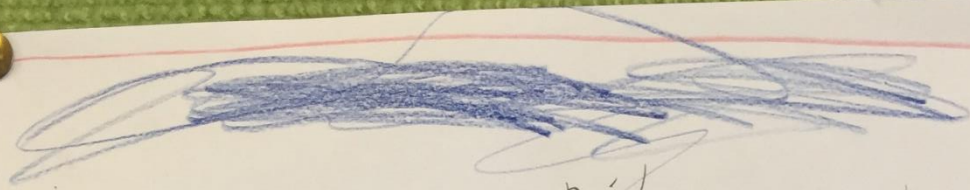


I made a
chicken.

It is a girl.

Her name is
Annie. by Edie.

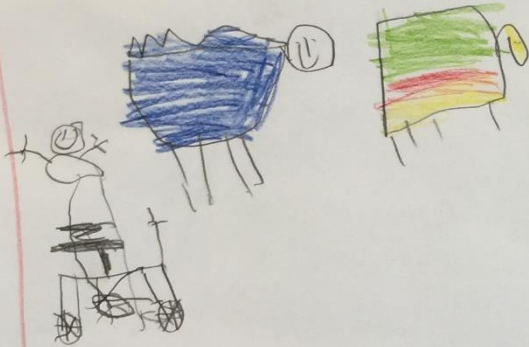




I wv. n + must e p i h yenny bike

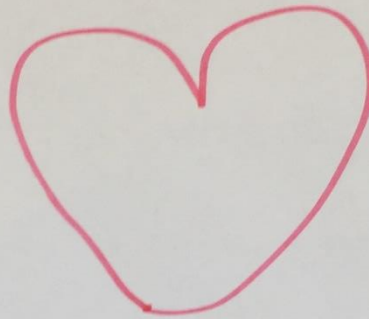
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By michael



I made a chicken billya and

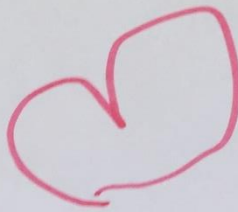
her name is Halley.



28.5.20

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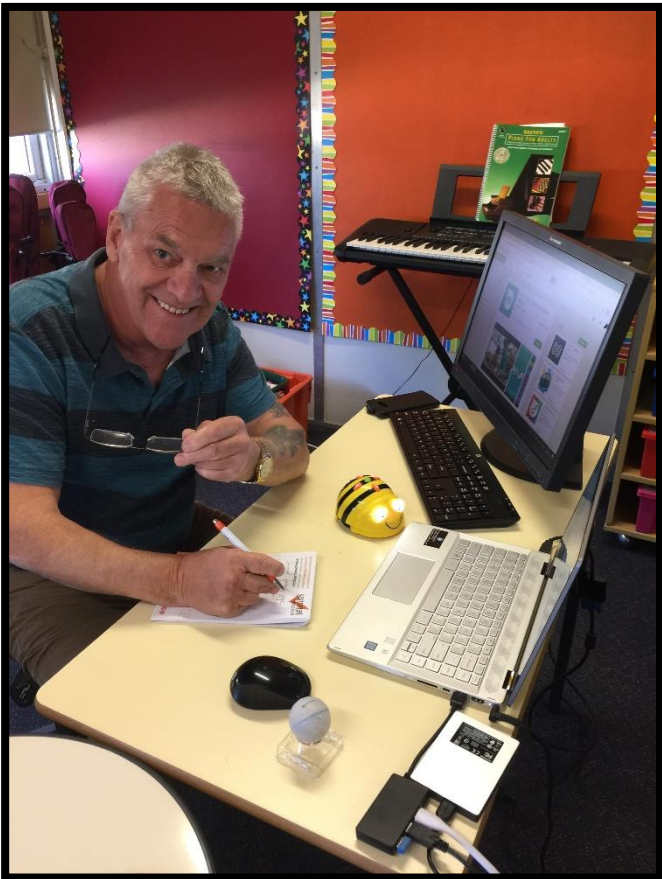
CHICKENDIVAS



d'U London Rees

STEM, SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGLISH, MATHS:

A big thank you to Ms Barrow who ordered our brand new hive of Bee-Bot robots to allow the integration of robotics based learning in the classroom. The students have had a wonderful time naming their Bots and learning to control them using coding. The Bots can be used across a wide range of learning areas to support engagement. The students have quickly to the basic concepts of coding with direction from Mr Patterson. The students were then able to demonstrate their new skills to their parents. We are all very exciting about our future learning opportunities in robotics.

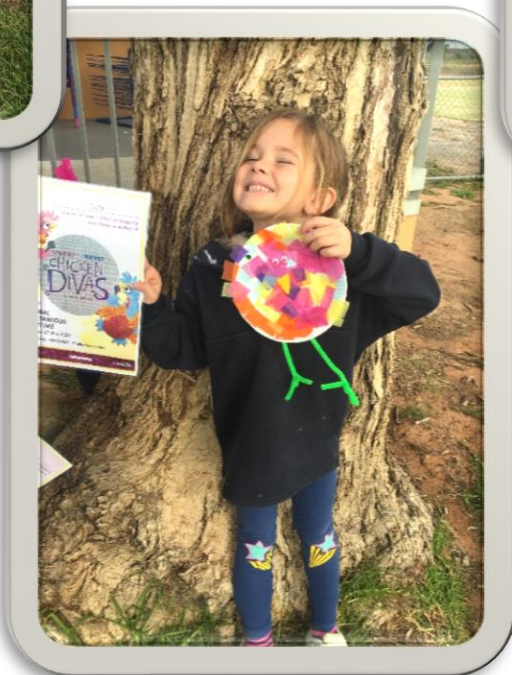




National Simultaneous Storyline:

On Wednesday 27 May, we all participated in National Simultaneous Storytelling Day. We were lucky to have this day coincide with Hay Mobile's visit as the pre-school children joined us for the event. We were able to connect with a live reading of the story by the author online and then undertook another reading in our classroom. The students were able to be part of an event that had over 1.2million registered readers across the country. All of the students were presented with certificates of participation for this event. It was a very exciting day.



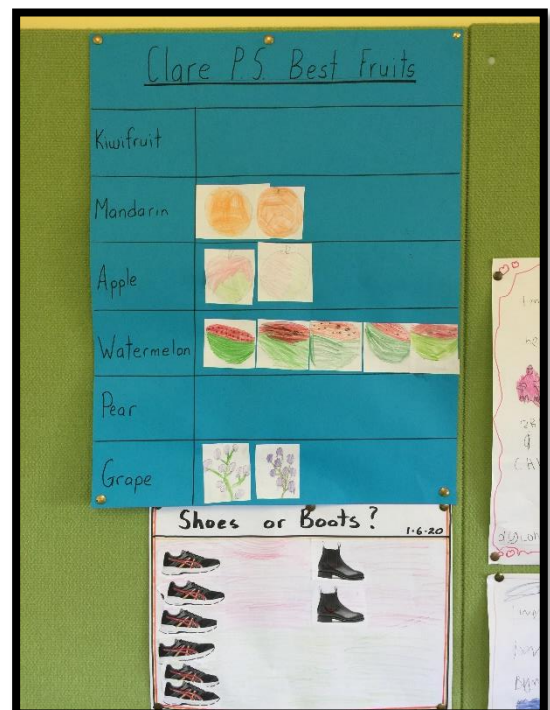
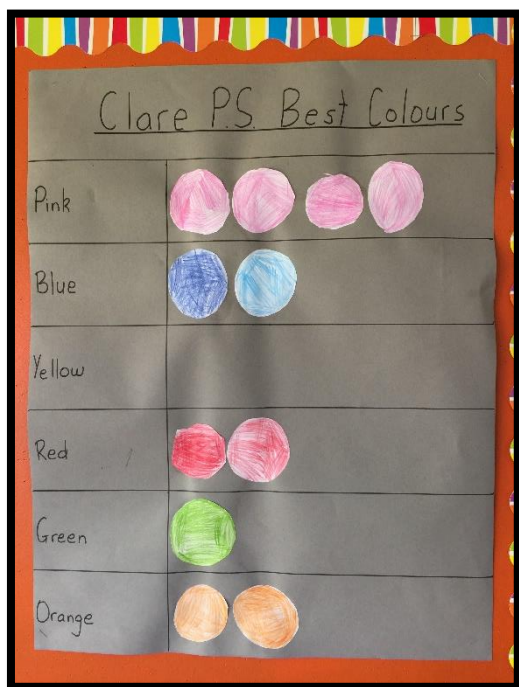


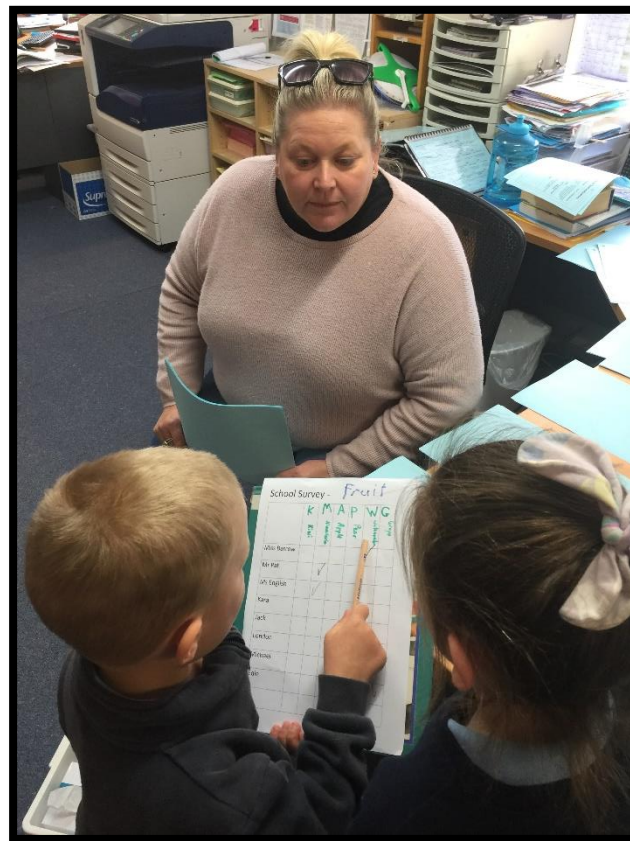
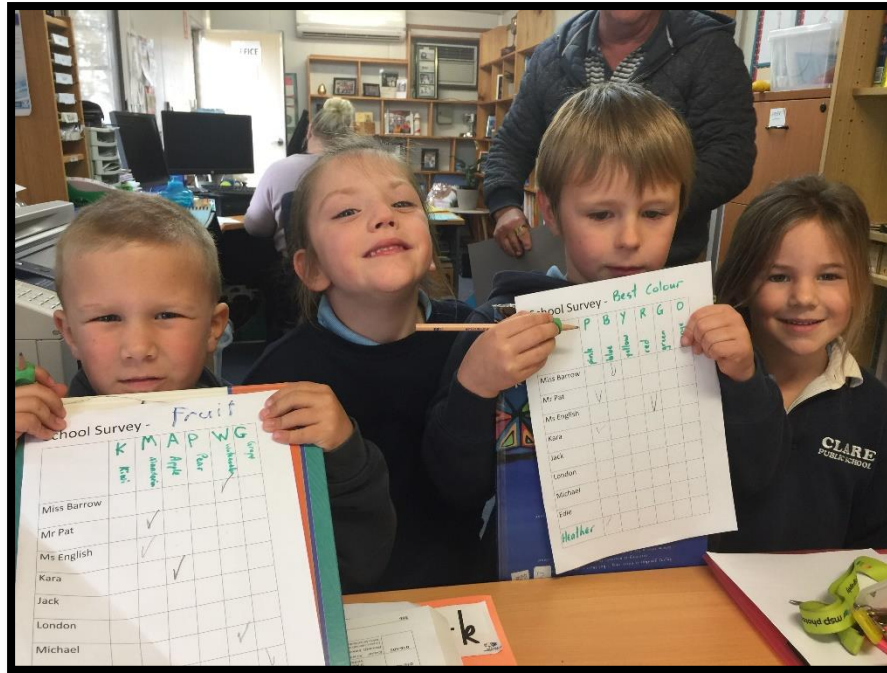




MATHS:

We all know how important it is to be able to take a survey about important issues and show the results in a graph. Students this week collected lots of data about shoes, favourite colours and favourite fruits and have constructed graphs showing this information. They used polite, direct interviewing skills to gathering their data before discussing the best way to represent the information in a graph. Great job everyone.





CREATIVE ARTS :

Our dinosaur eggs and the baby dinosaurs are just about ready to hatch! The eggs are finished and the students were demonstrating some fantastic beginner sewing skills, sewing their baby dinosaurs together. I am very excited to see these projects come together.

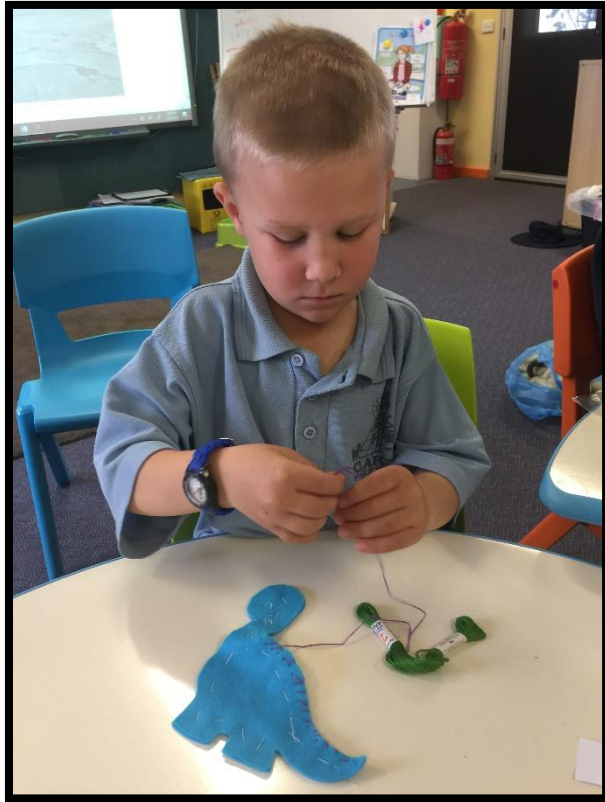
Winter started with a bang on 1st June and with the end of Autumn, the students completed joint construction of some Autumn artworks with leaves collected on Ms English's walks around Ivanhoe. The students worked very well together and created beautiful artworks.

Students have been learning the school song with the hope that we will be able to have a school assembly at the end of term and showcase some of our new skills and singing ability.









UNIFORMS:

Some of our new uniform has already started to arrive. The uniform pieces that did not need embroidery work have started to arrive and we are awaiting the embroidery sample for approval before the final pieces can be sent. I am hopeful that we will have our new uniforms before the end of term, hopefully by week 8. Fingers crossed again.

Council Consultation:

It was pleasing to welcome Balranald Shire Council back to the school for an after-hours community consultation on the 2020/21 Operational Plan. It is very pleasing to have the local community using our facilities to host events such as these and although this visit came with many restrictions, primarily the small number of participants allowed, it is important that our school is recognised as a community meeting place. We had full social distancing procedures in place and the agreement of Council to abide by these measures ensuring that the meeting was able to take place. Our senior student Annabelle, welcomed the visitors as they signed in and took the temperature of all those who attended. Clare PS has extra copies of the documents presented by council if anyone would like to collect this information from the office.



TECHNOLOGY UPDATE:

Due to our remote location it can be quite tricky at times to efficiently operate the technology in our classrooms. This term has seen a strong focus on updating our technology to allow it to be more effectively used in our learning programs. This process has included transporting most of our desktop computers and laptops to Deniliquin due to the limitations of our satellite network. The education office in Deniliquin has been very obliging and supportive of our needs out here at Clare and have been working through rebuilding our computers, which is quite a time-consuming activity. We are accessing further support through Deniliquin to manage, and potentially replace, our iPads to allow these devices to better support student learning. Providing students with the opportunity for meaningful engagement with technology is imperative in preparing them for the world they live in. With this in mind, it is important that we do our best to ensure the equipment we have is able to support our educational activities. I greatly appreciate the support being offered by the Deniliquin office to get our technology back on track.



Teachers Federation Native Garden Grant:

A range of beautiful native plants have been purchased with the funding received from the Teachers Federation. The plants were purchased from "In the Garden", the local nursery in Balranald. It is always rewarding to be able to support local businesses and Bronwyn was appreciative of our support. She also donated an extra blueberry bush to our collection of plants. Thank you very much Bronwyn.

Kitchen and Amenities Block:

There is not much to report on this front unfortunately. I remain very hopeful that the amenities block will be put in during the upcoming July holidays. With any luck, the kitchen construction may begin in July as well, however we continue to await confirmation from the Department of Education. Fingers and toes remain crossed at this time.

QUOTES:

Student reading a persuasive text about the importance of being safe during Corona Virus and avoiding germs... "I think you should always stay safe because of the Corona Virus because Ahhhhhhhh choooooo (sneezes a big germy sneeze)"

Student 1: "Her desk wasn't messy, she just couldn't find anything."

Student 2: "Yeah, she just had a Dad look"

"I'm not smelling the butt chair! That's not safe."

FREE resilience webinars for parents, targeting Regional NSW:

<https://peersupport.edu.au/our-programs/external-events/>



Balranald Branch

Balranald ICPA invites members and the community to participate in the following 2 free workshops via zoom
These workshops will be facilitated by author & journalist, Stephanie Dale, from The



Write Road. Our thanks to the Highways & Byways program for funding this event:

www.highwaysandbyways.org.au

THE WRITE ROAD
The Write Road is an award-winning writing & communications initiative that has been delivering workshops & training around the far west since 2014. The Write Road specialises in writing for wellbeing.

Workshop 1: 11th June 10 am Community Connect 2.5hrs

Learn how to:

- * use Zoom and social media in a relaxed, engaging atmosphere
- * learn how to build online communities in fun and friendly ways.

This workshop includes:

- * Zoom basics - how to both participate in and facilitate Zoom meetings

- * simple tips, tools and tricks for making the most of Facebook in a short space of time, engaging social media and safety with our children and online media

Note: these workshops are suitable for beginners as well as more experienced social media users - advanced users will learn to short cut your time on Facebook and gain facilitation insights, it's worth your while!

2.5 hours

Workshop 2: 18th June 10 am Creative journaling and zoom recap

Creative Journaling: everyday writing for everyday wellbeing

Writing is a powerful tool for navigating challenging times.

This workshop will lead you through journaling basics for problem solving and making peace with challenging situations.

(This workshop will include a Zoom recap.)

2 hours

Stephanie has countless hours of experience working with zoom and helping others connect to their creativity through writing. Due to the overwhelming challenges we're facing today, exploring education to expand online is the next best step forward.

To register to attend these workshops please either email your name and which workshop (you can attend both) to

balranaldicpa@gmail.com

Or phone: 0350206765

RSVP 1st June

Tune In and Tune Up

Free Drought and Wellbeing Webinars

Join Australian Red Cross in a five-part series of free webinars exploring drought and wellbeing. We have invited expert speakers along to share their insights with us so we can better support our own communities, ourselves and our loved ones in these tough times.

The webinars are free but limited to 500 attendees so click below and register for one or all five today!

1. Maintaining wellbeing through drought & prolonged stress (10-11am Wednesday 17 June)

Gain a greater understanding of the effects and signs of prolonged stress, the science behind stress and practical ways to maintain wellbeing, support your community and loved ones.

Speaker: Dr. David Younger

Click or copy URL to register: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tp4OIoUIT9G3CHkri6pW4A

2. The drought cycle; adaptation and strengthening resilience (10-11am Wednesday 1 July)

Hear about the drought cycle, the cumulative challenges communities often face and key considerations at different stages of the drought cycle. Learn a bit about the psychology around adaptation in the face of this long-term stress and how to strengthen resilience and manage wellbeing through tough times.

Speakers: Dr. Jacki Schirmer and Dr. David Younger

Click or copy URL to register: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FFOAv1QYRN-VwS12m5EXWg

3. Wellbeing after the rains (10-11.15am Wednesday 15 July)

Hear from the Bureau of Meteorology on winter weather predictions and what rain means for the drought. Hear what the research says about wellbeing when communities are seen to be in drought recovery, strategies to help with things beyond your control and how to make the most of every day.

Speakers: Dr. Lynette Bettio, Dr. Jacki Schirmer and Dr. Kate Gunn

Click or copy URL to register: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kDSi0XWITPqH4ro25gybog

4. Family wellbeing in the face of ongoing stress (10-11.15am Wednesday 29 July)

Hear what the research tells us about adult relationships, family roles and children's experience through droughts, alongside practical tips on how to support children as well as adult relationships.

Speakers: Dr. Margaret Alston, Stephanie Schmidt and Dr. Margaret Nixon

Click or copy URL to register: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Bn-Q6FRBRAWdIRppLdQFcQ

5. Preparing for tough times (10-11.15am Wednesday 12 August)

Listen to a bit of an introduction on preparedness in the drought space and the importance of preparing the mind for challenging times. Includes tools and tips to support drought resilience and preparedness.

Speakers: Dr. Jacki Schirmer, Dr. Mel Taylor and Shannon McCormack

Click or copy URL to register: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_77YhW0vwTXaMnA0WH84ubw



Who we will be hearing from

Dr. David Younger

A Clinical Psychologist with extensive experience providing support and assistance to communities throughout Australia affected by natural disasters and emergencies. David places a focus on the social environment of community and the use of community networks and resources in driving support.

Dr. Jacki Schirmer

An Associate Professor at the University of Canberra. Jackie leads the Regional Wellbeing Survey that examines the views of rural Australians about the liveability and resilience of their community and wellbeing. Jacki's personal research interests focus on the social dimensions of natural resource management and the impacts of events such as drought.

Dr. Lynette Bettio

A senior climatologist in the Climate Monitoring team at the Bureau of Meteorology. Lynette examines and communicates on variability and changes to Australia's climate including long-term trends in rainfall and temperature and the interaction with extreme events.

Stephanie Schmidt

A Clinical Psychologist and farmer in South Australia. She lives with her husband and two young sons and is passionate about developing a resilient rural Australia. Steph combines her psychological knowledge with her lived experience of farming life to provide easy to understand strategies to improve health and wellbeing.

Dr. Kate Gunn

Kate grew up on a farm west of Adelaide and works as a Clinical Psychologist in the Department of Rural Health at UniSA, researching how best to promote farmers' wellbeing. She is the founder of www.ifarmwell.com.au, a free website designed to help farmers cope with things beyond their control (like the weather).

Dr. Margaret Alston

A Professor at the School of Humanities and Social Science at Newcastle University. Previously the head of Social Work at Monash University, she has a focus on rurality and gender and has published widely in the field of gender and disasters, social work and rural social issues.

Dr. Mel Taylor

An Occupational Psychologist based in the School of Psychology at Macquarie University. Her research focusses on preparedness, response and recovery to events such as pandemics, terrorism, emergency animal diseases, and disasters. Key areas of research interest are psychosocial response and recovery, uptake of protective behaviours and risk communication strategies.

Dr. Margaret Nixon

Has over 20 years experience in education and research in the field of children's mental health and wellbeing and trauma. She has worked in various education settings in Australia and overseas and is currently a senior trauma specialist at ACATLGN at the ANU.

Shannon McCormack

Has over 20 years in Agribusiness, including beef production, equine performance horse industry and a number of years in rural merchandise sales. Shannon studied a Dip Ag Bus and has managed agribusiness banking portfolios. Now working with the Rural Financial Counselling Service – Northern Region.

Can't join us? Fear not! Recordings will be made available at <https://www.redcross.org.au/drought-resilience-program>. Any problems registering please contact drought@redcross.org.au

redcross.org.au follow us    

