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This newsletter aims to keep you informed about every aspect of our relocation. If you have questions or concerns please contact Annie Carment on 47573239 or acarment@bigpond.net.au.

CHANGES TO PLANS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

We will settle on the property as planned next Friday 29th August but will defer the working bee until Sunday 7th September and the ceremony until a date to be decided. See details below.

IT'S ALL HAPPENING!

Settlement on our new school will take place next Friday 29th August at 10am. We will then be the proud owners and custodians of "Oaklands" – soon to be known as "Korowal".

Our capital funding has been confirmed by the office of the federal Minister for Education.

Repair work and preparatory building work has already begun. Our major building project begins in earnest next week. Builders, carpenters, cabinetmaker, tiler, roofers, stone mason, painters, plumbers, electricians, and road builders will be working around each other in order to complete the project by December.

After extensive discussion and thought we have settled on a site and building plan which accommodates all of the classes and specialist teaching spaces in a way that comes close to meeting everyone's needs – and satisfies the requirements of the building code, board of studies, rural fire services, disability legislation, heritage authorities, fire brigade, water and electricity authorities, RTA and Blue Mountains Council. (We have found our way through the labyrinth!) The final plans for this first phase of building will be on display outside the office and will soon be on the website.

It is satisfying to know that we will be able to complete the project using local tradespeople who are already known to us - many of whom have close connections with our school community.

FIRST WORKING BEE

Our first working bee will take place on Sunday 7th September from 10 am (which also happens to be Father's Day, so bring your father!) A newsletter in the preceding week will provide details about what work is required, what to bring etc. For various reasons it is not practical to hold the working bee next weekend as we planned. If you can't make the first working bee, don't worry – there will be any more.

CEREMONY

Some people have expressed an interest in a cleansing ritual and smoking (not inhaling) ceremony at our new school – the Native American term is a "smudging" ceremony. Rachel Benmayor, who has a long connection with Korowal, has agreed to conduct this. We had planned for this to take place next weekend. However, the ritual requires free access to all of the buildings, which is not available yet because building work has begun in some wings and the vendors will be using the gymnasium, laundry and garages for a few more weeks. It will be postponed until a more suitable time. Rachel is looking for a small group who would find this process meaningful to accompany her. If you would like to be involved, please contact Annie Carment.

On the last Saturday of the summer holidays, when all the hard work is done, we will hold a **welcoming open day/ picnic/ party and welcome to country ceremony** before the start of the school year.

MOVING

Is scheduled for the 10th 11th and 12th of December. Packers, unpackers and cleaners will be required in the days before, during and after the move. Plans are well underway.

TRANSPORT AND OUT OF HOURS CARE

Thank you to those families who have completed the survey form mailed to you For those who have not yet done so, please consider the questions in the survey and return it to school as a soon as possible.

In the next few weeks we will also be phoning to ask you about your family's transport and care choices for next year and to discuss any questions you may have about the new arrangements for transport, school times and out of hours school care needs. This will enable us to finalise arrangements with the Blue Mountains Bus Company, the Ministry of Transport and with MOOSH (mid Mountains out of hours care service)

FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

If you pledged money to our **“Sharing The Load” fundraising campaign**, now is the time to forward your donation to the school, or to discuss a payment arrangement with Narelle. You should have received details in the mail confirming the amount you pledged and telling you how it can be paid.

If you have not yet pledged an amount and are able to do so, please contact Narelle. Our budget for this year’s building project is extremely tight, and building projects usually exceed their budgets. Every dollar donated will be spent on science labs, classrooms, art spaces, music rooms, playgrounds, necessary road works, computer cabling, toilets, etc etc all absolutely necessary for the education of our students.

Sunday November 23rd is the date for our **major term 4 fundraising event** – jazz and blues at the Wentworth Falls school of Arts will coincide with the launch of our Korowal Kompilation CD. Rachel Hannan, The Field and The Snaketown rattlers have volunteered to perform for us. Food and drink will be available.

RAFFLES:

YOU could win.....

- 2 nights luxury B and B accommodation for 2 at Segenhoe Inn, at Aberdeen in the Upper Hunter. (Two accommodation packages to be won)
- A gorgeous Zimbabwean wall hanging - see it in the office.
- Tickets on sale in the office.

Our major fundraising event for this term is our

TRIVIA NIGHT

AT Leura Golf Club ON Sat 13th September – (very soon!)

Games...prizes...lots of trivial fun

All proceeds go towards the cost of engaging professional REMOVALISTS

Entry will be \$15 per head and numbers are limited to 16 tables of 10. Please book tickets through the school office.

THANK YOU

Jurjen Teernstra, builder; Tom Kortegast, carpenter; Annabel Hollins-Cliff, photographer; Bygone Beauties, Leura for their donation to our raffle; Cat’s Meow, Leura for their donation to our raffle; Bennett’s Printing, Katoomba; The McGowan/Braithwaite open day poster team; Mark Andrews at Bob Debus’ office for organising speedy confirmation of our federal funding.