



# Fernleigh Public School

## NEWSLETTER

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Term 2 Week 5

29 May 2025

### NSWPSSA Swimming Championships - Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre

Last term Alex, Juni, Lolly and myself made it to the State Championships for the swimming relay. It was the first time for Lolly and Alex but it was the second time for Juni and I.

On the day I felt fine but lots of others felt nervous as the crowd roared at each race. There were at least five hundred people packed in the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre. As we sat there in our North Coast section, it got closer and closer to our race until they finally called it.

We got ready and made our way to marshalling. They slowly took us down to the pool and got us in our heats. We got put in the third heat which means we raced last. They took us to our lane and as soon as we got to our sides the race started. We swam as fast as we could and in the end we didn't come first but we didn't come last. We managed to scrape 17 seconds off our previous time in Kempsey.

Can't wait to come back next year!

*Written by Caleb (Year 5)*



## What's Happening

When	What
Every Tuesday	Library (Bring your library bag)
Thursday 5 June and Friday 6 June	Students day off in lieu of extended hours
Monday 9 June	Kings birthday public holiday
Wednesday 11 June	Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
Tuesday 24 June	Australia's Biggest Morning Tea
Tuesday 24 June Wednesday 25 June Thursday 26 June	Parent Teacher Meetings (more information regarding bookings to come)
Thursday 3 July	Athletics Carnival
Friday 4 July	Last day of Term 2
Monday 21 July	School Development Day - Staff only
Tuesday 22 July	First Day Term 3 for all students
Tuesday 29 July	P&C Meeting @ 8.15 am
Wednesday 6 August	Writers Festival @ Bangalow Showgrounds
Friday 8 August	Headlands PSSA Athletics Carnival
Friday 22 August	FNC Athletics Carnival @ Kingscliff
Thursday 28 and Friday 29 August	Students and staff day off in lieu of extended hours
Wed 10 September	Jarjum excursion to Broken Head
Monday 22 to Friday 26 September	School Swimming and Water Safety Program @ Lennox Aquatic Centre
Friday 26 September	Last day of Term 3
Monday 13 October	School Development Day - Staff only
Tuesday 14 October	First day of Term 3 for all students

*Together We Grow 'Stronger and Smarter'*

## 2025 ANZAC Day March in Ballina

On the 25th of April (during the school holidays), 13 students and 2 teachers met at the Court House in Ballina to March in the ANZAC March. This was the first time our school had ever participated and it was a very special experience. As we walked down the main street, people started smiling and waving. As we were walking I looked over to the crowd and saw Miss Ruby waving and jumping to get our attention. Juni and I were leading Fernleigh PS down main street. There were so many people and lots of schools marching with us. There were bagpipes playing and drums beating. Once we got to the RSL club Juni and I lined up to lay the wreath at the cenotaph. We had to do it in front of lots of people and our school watched proudly as we laid the wreath. It was a momentous day for me and my school.

A special thank you to **Miss Munro** for organising our school's involvement in this important event. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

*Written by Elkie (Year 6)*





## Pumpkin Scones from Garden to Bake Sale

Our students kicked off the term with a fun and meaningful activity—baking delicious pumpkin scones for our Election Day Bake Sale, using pumpkins grown right here in our school garden!

From harvesting to mixing and baking, the students were involved in every step. It was a great hands-on experience that combined learning with creativity and teamwork. The scones were a big hit with the community, and we're incredibly proud of our young chefs for their hard work and contribution to a successful day!

\*\* Visit our school website gallery [Pumpkin Scones from Garden to Bake Sale](#) to see more photos.





## Cross Country highlights

On the 8th of May the annual Cross Country Day was held at the wonderful school of Teven Tintenbar. It was a day filled with excitement, joy and cheering. The overall result from Fernleigh was amazing!!! Caleb, Juni and Ilithyia all came first, an amazing accomplishment for our school. It was a massive mud pit but we all enjoyed it. One week later District Cross Country was held. Ten of our amazing students arrived, full of excitement. Darcie, Edmond, Alex, Lolly, Mila, Caleb, Gemma, Natalia, Victoria and Juni all tried but sadly didn't make it. Mrs G made an awesome cheer squad and we all enjoyed the day!

*Written by Mila (Year 5)*

**A big thank you to all the parents who came along to support and cheer!**

We are so proud of every student who took part, gave it their best, and showed great sportsmanship. A huge shout out goes to all the parents and carers for your support, cheering on the sidelines, your involvement makes such a difference to our events and our school community. Together, everyone made the carnival a memorable and positive experience for all. Well done, Fernleigh!

Below are a few highlights – visit our school website gallery [SCCoSS Cross Country Fun](#) to see more photos.





## Turtles Classroom

Term Two has been a very busy and exciting time in the Turtles Room! We have been exploring a wide range of learning experiences that have sparked curiosity, creativity, and connection across all areas of our day. The students have settled in beautifully, and we are excited to welcome three new friends—Eli, Zev and Bjorn—who have joined our class. It has been lovely to see everyone making them feel right at home as we dive into a new term of learning and fun.

In English, we have been diving into the magical world of fairy tales. The children have really enjoyed retelling classic stories like Little Red Riding Hood and Jack and the Beanstalk, imagining how those characters and settings might look in the world today. More recently, they have been working hard on writing their very own fairy tales, filled with creativity, imagination, and plenty of personal flair!

In Science, our focus this term has been on The Living World. We have been learning about animals, life cycles, and the features that make something alive. There is lots of excitement building for our upcoming excursion to the Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, where we will have the chance to see and learn about these living creatures up close, and build on everything we have been discovering in class.

In Art, we have been exploring the theme of living things, and created our own interpretation of the Big Bad Wolf enjoying the moonlight. We experimented with shadowing techniques, learning how to use contrast and detail to create mood and depth in our work.

Talk Time continues to be a much loved part of our weekly routine. It provides a special opportunity for the children to share meaningful stories, special items, and their own personal connections to The Living World. These moments help us learn more about one another and strengthen our sense of community in the classroom.

A fun and exciting new part of our timetable this term has been the Amplify Music Program, which the children have absolutely loved! They have been learning about beat, rhythm and pitch exploring the different elements of music through singing, listening, using instruments and moving to a wide range of songs. It has been a joyful and energetic addition to our week.





## Whales Classroom

The Whales are blitzing through term 2, taking everything in their stride. It has been lovely welcoming Kahana into our class with her wonderful personality and knowledge. With so many excursions and sporting events, we've been trying our best to get some learning in. Lucky, we love and thrive in the chaos.

In Art we have started learning how to use smudging techniques with oil pastels to blend colours and create soft, textured effects. Our artworks are all about birds, and each one has a special touch of blue to tie them all together in a fun and creative way. So far we have created angry emu's, cranky turkeys and are starting some owl eyes next week!



For Science, we have been exploring the amazing world of living things, focusing on the life cycles of plants, insects, and animals. It has been especially exciting to learn about tough creatures like extremophiles that can survive in some of the harshest environments on Earth. We're now looking forward to our excursion to the Wildlife Sanctuary, where we'll get the chance to discover even more about the incredible ways animals live and grow!



## GRIP Leadership Conference (Years 5 and 6)

On Friday the 23rd of May, the day of GRIP leadership came around. We were all so excited to go to Twin Towns for this special occasion. All of year five and six went, along with Mrs Farrell and Miss Munro. There were 12 of us in total, 10 over-excited kids and 2 equally excited teachers ready for a big day of fun, craziness and (of course) lots of learning.

We arrived in Twin Towns just in time, after a huge car ride and lots of random pop songs. We hurried up the stairs to a huge room, where we were seated in the front row. The people gave us little booklets that had activities and stuff in them. We were all pumped as we waited for it to begin, watching the hundreds of other kids file in and sit down. Suddenly lights shone brightly and a man stepped on stage. It was about to start! We all listened quietly as he introduced the purpose of GRIP and what our day would be like. As the first session went by we learnt how to be a good leader by communicating and making friends. We also played heaps of games in the middle of the serious stuff and (the games even had morals!) It was so fun!

After the first session we had a 25 minute lunch break, so we went and sat down by the boardwalk to eat our lunch. It was beautiful to sit out there by the water! We loved it! Anyway when we went back inside, we got ready for another session of fun, games and lots more learning!

Soon it was the second break (after all, time flies when you're having fun) and we went back out to sit by the boardwalk again. This time was more interesting because another school had lost their handball in the water so we decided to play with them. Miss Munro obviously brought a handball, so our whole break was way more fun!

We were a minute late when we arrived back in that huge room as we had gone to get badges from the little GRIP stall outside the doors (mine says I LOVE MY SCHOOL! And it is beautiful). We all had so much fun as we danced and shouted for the last time and then we were done. Just like that. We walked down the stairs for the last time. But of course Miss Munro wouldn't just finish like that. She decided that she had to buy everyone an ice cream! We walked out of the GRIP Leadership feeling like we'd just won the lottery and went to take pictures of us standing on the border separating NSW and QLD! We finished the day off with another big car ride with some more fun music and lots of chatting! We arrived back at school with joy in our hearts as our parents arrived to pick us up.

*Written by Juniper (Year 6)*

\*\* Visit our school website gallery [GRIP Leadership](#) to see more photos.



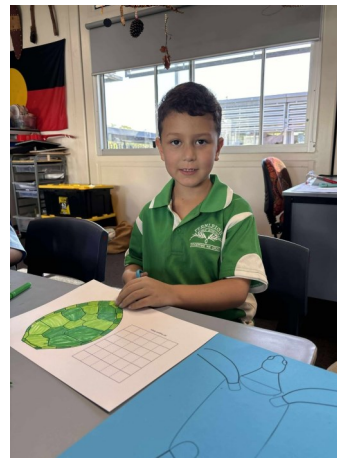
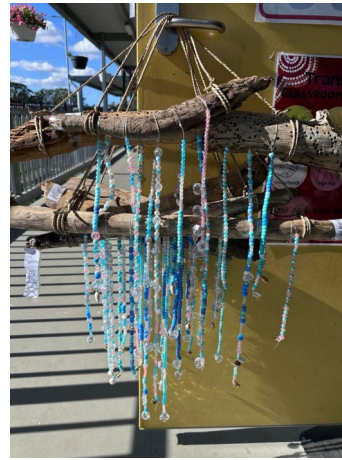


### SCCOSS Art and Craft Day

On Friday K-4 went to the Arts Day at Cabbage Tree Island School. We arrived on the bus and everybody was happy and ready to spread joy around the school. Everybody was excited and ready to have fun. There were weaving, painting and beading art activities for us to try. Everybody had fun, made friends and had a sausage sizzle. These are the Schools that were there: Tregeagle, Broadwater, Wardell, Rous, Empire Vale, Wyrallah, Cabbo, Coraki and of course Fernleigh. Thank you Cam for driving the bus.

By Darcie

\*\* Visit our school website gallery [SCCoSS Art and Craft Day](#) to see more photos.





## Celebrating Outstanding Attendance!

A huge congratulations to all our students and families! Thanks to your ongoing commitment and support, Fernleigh Public School has achieved an outstanding attendance rate of 90.4% — higher than both the state average and the record across our local network. This is a fantastic result and a reflection of the strong partnership between home and school.

Regular attendance is essential for academic success, wellbeing, and strong social connections — and we are incredibly proud of the efforts made by our whole school community. Our next goal is to build on this success by improving the number of students arriving on time each day. Every minute counts, and arriving at school ready to start the day sets our students up for a positive and productive learning experience.

Let's continue working together to make every day — and every moment — count!

## Minutes lost = days lost per year

A couple of minutes here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

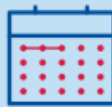
they miss days per year

**5** mins  
per day



=

**3** days



**30** mins  
per day



=

**18** days



**Patterns of lateness  
can have a serious  
impact on your child's  
education.**

## Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child  
misses just...

they miss weeks  
per year

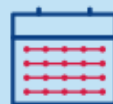
and years over their  
school life

**1** day per fortnight



=

**4** weeks



=

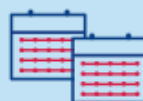
Over **1** year  
missed

**1** day per week



=

**8** weeks



=

Over **2.5** years  
missed



## Bake Sale Success—Thank You!

A huge thank you to our amazing school community for your support of the P&C Bake Sale held on Saturday 3 May at Newrybar Hall. The event was held alongside the voting day and was a fantastic success - we're thrilled to share that \$1011.57 was raised for our school!

We are so grateful to everyone who baked, donated, and helped out on the day. From delicious cakes and slices to cookies and sweet treats, your contributions flew off the table and were a hit with voters and locals.

A special shout-out to all the wonderful parents who gave their time to help set up, serve, and pack down. It's this kind of community spirit that makes our school such a special place.



## P&C Update – 2025 Office Bearers

At our **May P&C Annual General Meeting**, all office bearer positions were declared open and **re-nominated for 2025**. We're pleased to share that our current team will continue their roles for another year:

- **President:** Fabia McWilliam
- **Vice President:** Chelsea de Rooy
- **Secretary:** Rebecca Kinsey
- **Treasurer:** Mollie Titterton

We are so grateful for their ongoing dedication and leadership. A big thank you to all members of our P&C community who contribute their time, ideas, and energy to support our school. Your involvement makes a real difference in the lives of our students and helps keep our school thriving. AGM minutes are available to read on our school website [Fernleigh PS P&C Meetings](#).

Our next P&C Meeting will be held Term 3 Week 2 Tuesday 29 July at 8.15 am. This is a great chance to hear what's happening at school, get involved, and help shape plans for the year ahead. Whether you're keen to join the P&C or just want to listen in, everyone's welcome! We'd love to see you there.





## Car Park Guide for Parents & Carers

Student safety is our priority and to ensure a smooth and safe drop-off and pick-up experience, please follow these important car park guidelines and share with all relevant parents, grandparents and carers. Your cooperation helps us keep every student safe. Thank you!

### Car Park Entry

- Enter the car park from the southern end (see attached map).

### Parking Instructions

- Park your vehicle safely in the designated parking area, from School stall back to the staff parking area.
- After parking, accompany your child/ren to and from the school gate.
- Children should always exit the vehicle from the school side, not the roadside.

### Kiss and Go Zone (Alternative Option)

- Located directly in front of the school gate.
- You may stop (not park) here to drop off or collect your child/ren.
- Stay in your vehicle — this zone is for quick entry and exit only.
- One vehicle at a time in this zone.
- Do not double park or block any part of the driveway.
- Leave sufficient space for the school bus to park safely.

### Wet Weather Procedure

- The Kiss and Go Zone remains in use during wet weather.
- Enter the car park and wait in the queue.
- Stay in your vehicle.
- Staff will bring your child/ren directly to your car.
- Proceed forward only when safe to do so, one vehicle at a time.
- Leave adequate room for the bus.

### Important Safety Reminders

- At pick-up time, please help keep the gate area clear and ensure your children stay with you once they are outside the gate. When 'catching up with other parents', please be mindful not to block the gate or pathways for others.
- Do not park across the road from the school.
- U-turns in school zones are illegal.
- You may turn around at Nashua Road.
- It is permitted to turn south from the car park exit.

