



Toora Bungles

Tooraweenah Preschool Christmas Party News, with Nominated Supervisor, Marie Jacobsen

Tooraweenah Preschool had its 'Preschool Party in the Park' (aka our 'Covid-Safe Christmas concert') on Friday December 4, a fabulous night with all of our preschool friends doing a sterling performance. Each child had picked a favourite song to sing, which we presented, some with percussion instruments, others with actions, before performing our version of a favourite story, "Out In The Bush".

We presented the 'Class of 2020' with some certificates before we concluded with our fun dances, "The Kangaroo Rock" and "The Silly Sausage Dance". We enjoyed some fun Covid-safe audience participation before Santa arrived on a clean and well-polished Tooraweenah fire truck to spread some Christmas cheer to our preschool friends and all of the children who were there.

It was a fabulous night and we are so blessed to have such a lovely preschool within our community and to be in such a supportive community.

Hamish, Hannah, Harper and Bonnie



Santa checking the names of all the nice children from Tooraweenah Preschool



The editor's apologies for omitting the preschool report in December. Please see page 5 for that report and a further preschool photo.

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Tooraweenah Public School with Principal, Karen Smith

Presentation Night and Year 6 Farewell

Our combined Presentation Night and Year 6 Farewell was a great celebration. It was wonderful to have parents attend along with grandparents of our Year 6 students. Thank you to Leonie Harvey from *The Little Gecko Coffee Shop* for the beautiful meal and the Farewell Cake for Year 6.

Congratulations to all students who received recognition for their achievements in 2020. Award recipients were as follows:

Class Awards

Year 1	Encouragement	Sam Trickey
Year 2	Academic Achievement	Holly Wykes
Year 3	Academic Achievement	Daisy Wykes
Year 4	Academic Achievement	Lexi Trickey
Year 4	Endeavour	Indiana Brown
Year 5	Academic Achievement	Lily Smith
Year 6	Academic Achievement	Tallis Brown
Year6	Endeavour	Taylor McDonell

Sports Awards

Juvenile Boy Swimming Champion	Sam Trickey
Junior Girl Swimming Champion	Lara Duff

- 11 Yrs Girl Swimming Champion
- Senior Boy Swimming Champion
- Juvenile Boy Cross Country Champion
- Juvenile Girl Cross Country Champion
- Junior Girl Cross Country Champion
- 11 Yrs Girl Cross Country Champion
- Senior Boy Cross Country Champion

Winning House

- Zell Award for Academic Achievement
- Gilgandra Shire Trophy for Sporting Achievement
- Bendigo Bank Award for Contribution to School Life
- CWA Lorna Jenkin Scholarship
- P&C Prize for Courtesy and Honour
- Lester Thurston Tooraweenah Trading Award for Attendance
- Lions Club Encouragement Awards

Special Awards

- Taylor McDonell
- Tallis Brown
- Sam Trickey
- Holly Wykes
- Lara Duff
- Taylor McDonell
- Tallis Brown
- Garling
- Tallis Brown
- Lara Duff
- Tallis Brown
- Tallis Brown
- Lily Smith
- Lily Smith
- Brock Trickey and Lara Duff

Class Awards: Sam, Holly, Lexi, Daisy, Indiana



Tallis Brown



Lara Duff



Lily, Tallis, Taylor

Mrs Hutchison, Tallis, Taylor, Mrs Jenkin, Brock, Mrs Smith



International Women's Day 2021

A Family Event

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Around The Traps with Lester

Tooraweenah LPO

With Covid-19 virus restrictions, the Post Office is operating normal hours; we will try to maintain normal service. Please keep up our social distancing and sanitizing to keep us all safe and hopefully we can remain Covid free. Rainfall for Tooraweenah for December 2020 was 83.0mm over six days, with a year to date total of 731.4mm over 76 days.

Pub Community BBQs

The BBQs are not operating during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Toora Lions Club

The club will not be holding its monthly meeting at the Mountain View Hotel in January as it has a break during January each year. Thank you to all members who assisted

with the raffles during December and to everyone who helped with the Mardi Gras at the Tooraweenah Recreation Ground on December 19, a great finish to a year that had many challenges, mostly due to Covid-19.

Lions Clothing Bin

Residents who take advantage of the Lions Clothing bin are reminded that it is for clean clothing only.

Death of Marge Stroud

Marge Stroud, who passed away on Christmas Eve, was the wife of the Tooraweenah Lions Charter President Roger Stroud (dec). They and their family lived at 'Glen Iris' Tooraweenah. Marge was the mother of Graham (dec) and Lyndal. Sympathy is extended to her family.

Lions Roar with Lion Mock



Leonard William McKenzie, affectionately known as 'Macca', Tooraweenah Lions Club's committed and selfless volunteer in Tooraweenah and Gilgandra communities and great friend, lost his battle with life on

November 29 2020. Wonderful tributes to Len were given at his farewell service at Tooraweenah Showground on December 7. Lions members formed a guard of honour for the stalwart of Toora Lions Club. Club members extend our thoughts and condolences to Moira and family.

For those who had the privilege of knowing and volunteering with Macca, there was never a dull moment at working bees. His capacity to get things done and organise all sorts of club activities and events, had no bounds, with an abundance of enthusiasm. Macca held every position in Toora Lions Club

over almost 40 years of dedicated service. He was a life member of the club, Zone Chairman for many years and actively involved in Lions District 201 N4 Cabinet. As Lions Club members we treasure Macca's memory.

After many months of 'self isolating', our members returned to activities in December with raffles at the Mountain View Hotel and a Mardi Gras event at the Tooraweenah Recreation Ground, the club's first fundraising activity since going into and out of Covid-19 lockdown. We appreciate community support for our activities as we plan to return to some degree of normality.

On behalf of our club's executive team, Kathryn Larkin, Lord Lester and Jane Gesell, Toora Lions extends to everyone in our community the wish for a happy, healthy, and a hopefully prosperous, New Year.

Councillor's Corner with Cr Brian Mockler

Welcome to 2021. Another nine months until next scheduled Council elections. Now is the time to start considering standing for a position as an elected councillor to advocate as a community representative. The wheels of motion in the public sector move slowly, particularly with Council applications for State Government funding to repair flood damage caused to roads due to a series of rain events. Council has received notification that a flood damage claim has been approved in the total amount of \$10.689million. Flood damage-approved works are due to commence in earnest by February.

Included in the funding is replacement of Jacks Creek bridge. Expect an announcement next edition from Council on the flood damage works' schedule and priorities.

The taxi rank in Gil CBD will be relocated to Miller Street adjacent to the Community Plaza. Community consultation has been undertaken and planning is in progress with the funded redevelopment of both the Target building into a Library and Community Hub and the Cooe Heritage Centre.

Lester Thurston has been appointed as an alternate delegate to Tooraweenah Management Committee.

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In late November 2020 the Tooraweenah district suffered the loss of three of its well-known and respected residents, with the deaths of Sam Blackman of 'Gundair', Len McKenzie of 'Kanandra' Gilgandra and Lana Gale, late of 'Glenore' Tooraweenah.

Sam Blackman's family will contribute a more complete account of Sam's life in a later edition of the Toora Bungles. At present we acknowledge his death in this brief message:

Sam Blackman grew up and attended primary school in Tooraweenah, later taking over the family farm in the beautiful Uargon Valley. Sam and his wife, Jill, have three sons, Simon, Timothy and Mitchel and loved grandchildren.

Len McKenzie and his wife, Moira, with their children Andrew, Joanne and Donna moved from their farm near Gilgandra to the Tooraweenah district where they worked for Col and Jenny Zell for several years. In the 1980s Len and Moira bought 'Mountain View' on the Dilly hills, Len farming there and later working in the district while living at their most recent home near Gilgandra.

Len joined the Tooraweenah Lions Club and became one of its most loyal, hardworking members over a period of forty years, with the unflagging support of his wife, Moira. Apart from frequent working bees and firewood collection days, Len helped with Lions catering at countless events and functions in the district, ably assisted by Moira. Len also took delight in delivering a Lions Christmas Cake and bottle of wine to each senior in the area at Christmas, bringing goodwill and good-natured banter to the recipients. For many years Len collected the clothing left in the Lions Bin in Tooraweenah. During his decades of service he was presented with almost every Lions Club service award and held every position locally as well as others in the wider Lions organisation. He was justifiably awarded the inaugural Tooraweenah Citizen of the Year in recent years.

In September 2020 Len underwent surgery in Sydney for a heart valve replacement, but battled lung complications for the following two months in and out of Gilgandra and Dubbo Hospitals. His life ended, surrounded by all his family, on Sunday, November 29 2020. He will be missed for his generosity of spirit to his friends and neighbours, his good nature, sense of humour, common sense and hard work and his loyalty to the Tooraweenah district.

Lana Gale, née Levings, late of Cooee Lodge Gilgandra and formerly of 'Glenore' Tooraweenah, was born in Dubbo and worked at Lourdes House Dubbo after leaving school. While visiting Tooraweenah in 1960, Lana met Bob Gale and married him the following year. By 1965 they had their first three children, Tim, Dennis and Megan. After moving home several times, they settled in the aerodrome house at Tooraweenah with Lana responsible for mowing the airstrip, a seventeen hour job, and shooting snakes that appeared among the thousands of turkeys they raised. Later Bob and Lana bought 'Glenore' Tooraweenah.

In 1968 Lana began driving the Tooraweenah school bus, a job that was to last thirty-four years. 1972 saw the birth of Ben. Caring for Mrs Gale senior for many years, Lana's experience at Lourdes House served her well.

Lana worked very hard all her life and after forty-five years of marriage, lost her husband Bob to leukaemia. She sold 'Glenore' and moved into Gilgandra. After a fall, Lana became a resident of Cooee Lodge in 2018. She was very well cared for at the Lodge but became ill in November 2020 with the prospect that she would not survive surgery. Lana was moved to Palliative Care and died in the evening of November 30, her husband Bob's birthday. Her family expresses their gratitude to Liz Estens, Lana's close friend for forty years, to Brian Mockler for his help and to the wonderful staff of Cooee Lodge who go "above and beyond" caring for all of its residents.

"Time is life, nothing more, nothing less.

The way you spend your hours and your days is the way you spend your life."

John Boykin *The Gospel of Coincidence*

Contributors to Toora Bungles

If convenient, please email copy of news and reports as an attachment in 'Word' document format, in Calibri or Times New Roman size 10, 11 or 12 font. There is usually no need for underlining or special spacing. Thank you.


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Tooraweenah Preschool with Nominated Supervisor, Marie Jacobsen, December 2020 Report

Preschool friends had a special visitor at the end of last year when Miss Shannon brought in her pet joey, Skippy. The children were fascinated and watched carefully as he had a little hop around our room. The children enjoyed watching Skippy eat grass and also some of Hamish’s oats from his crop in our garden patch - with permission from Hamish as he “didn’t have a header here to harvest it”. It was fun watching Skippy hop back into the little bag that he used for a pouch.

We were also hatching some eggs, with Miss Shannon bringing in a variety of eggs and her large incubator. We had the numbers written on our calendar so we knew when our 21 days were up and hopefully we will have some baby chicks from these eggs (unless there is a surprise egg in there!). Thank you so much Miss Shannon for sharing this experience with us as part of our ‘egg learning journey’, enjoyed all term.



At the end of term we decided we would hatch some ‘magic blue eggs’ – from a box that can only hatch when placed in water for 24-

48 hours. This experiment created a great amount of interest. We were very excited watching these eggs starting to crack and we hatched three green and yellow lizards that seem to keep growing the longer they are in the water.

The children enjoyed playing at our completed dry river bed, practising their balancing skills as well as their fishing skills with our fun fishing game. Our cubby house was a very busy ‘Fish’n’Chip’ shop! Our new bridge area is almost finished and then our bike tracks will all link together via this bridge.

Friends from “Connect Five Children’s Services” were able to come in for a play and look at preschool towards the end of the year. The children especially enjoyed seeing what we have at our preschool and playing and engaging with our programme, from drawing and stamping to playing at our farm set.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Tooraweenah Community for their constant support of Tooraweenah Preschool. We are very grateful for this and acknowledge that without this support, things would be very different for our fabulous preschool. Best wishes to everyone for the Christmas Season.

Hints From The Dog House: Brendan Butler, Oakfield Kelpies

With summer well and truly upon us, one of the worries of working with our trusty canines is the threat of the dogs suffering from heat stress. In our need to get things done in a hurry it is easy to miss the stress signs our mutts are giving out. Our local vet Dr Nadine Allen from Gilgandra Veterinary Clinic has this great advice about heat stress:

“Heat stress develops when animals are unable to cool themselves quickly enough. Not managed, it can progress to heat exhaustion and heat stroke which can be life threatening. Dogs cannot sweat like humans to lose heat and cool down. Instead, they pant and sweat only through small areas like their paws. Early signs of heat stress consist of heavy panting and seeking water. If work continues, then dogs can become unsteady on their feet, drool saliva, become less responsive and

coordinated and potentially develop seizures. Signs need to be recognised early and managed to avoid catastrophe.

“Avoid heavy work in the heat of the day. Humid conditions are also a trigger for heat stroke development. Ensure regular breaks and access to water and shade to maintain blood pressure and assist with cooling. Do not wrap dogs in wet towels as this can trap heat, though they can be placed so they can lie on them. If symptoms are not resolving quickly then seek veterinary attention immediately.

“Working dogs are bred to be quite tolerant of heat but will want to keep working to please their boss. Be vigilant on hot, humid days and take care of your dogs so they can continue their good work.”

Here’s to a cool, moist 2021.

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