Bonshaw
This term we continue our collaboration with Bonshaw PS. We will be trialling a joint approach to delivering quality learning in Science by combining stage groups from our schools. Ms Magann and I will now take responsibility for programming, teaching & learning and assessing and reporting within stages across both schools. I will be working with Stage 2 and 3 students at Mingoola PS and Bonshaw PS, while Ms Magann will work with students in Early Stage 1 and Stage 1.
We will continue to use a combination of face-to-face visits and virtual collaboration using our technology resources.
This collaboration is proving both valuable and enjoyable for students of both schools.

Premier’s Debating Challenge
The combined Mingoola/Bonshaw debating team – the ‘Border Beraters’ begins combined training this Thursday, in preparation for our first debate on Tuesday 28 April, 11am at Mingoola PS. Parents and community are invited to attend Round 1 of the Premier’s Debating Challenge to support the students of all three schools.

School Bus
It appears that we may be close to selling our school bus, enabling the school to purchase a more modern and appropriate vehicle to current and anticipated needs.
While the funds used to purchase both the existing and new school buses are school funds, I feel that consultation with the P&C on the changeover deal is appropriate. Therefore I will seek to meet with the P&C before agreeing to a sale price for our bus.
Should a P&C meeting prove difficult to arrange prior to the sale of the bus, I will speak to members individually.

ANZAC
On 25 April, Australia will remember those who have served in the armed forces.
Each year, schools surrounding Tenterfield are invited to participate in the ANZAC Day march in town. Students planning to participate in the march should meet Mr Pryce on Manners St between TenFM and the intersection with Logan St, opposite the Telegraph Hotel at 10am. Dress is school uniform.

NAPLAN
Students in Years 3 and 5 will complete the National Assessment Program, Literacy and Numeracy in Week 4 this term.
The NAPLAN test situation can often be stressful for students. To prepare them for the test routine, we will have a couple of practise runs to familiar students with the
test procedures and environment. Ahead of and during the test week, I encourage students to get ample rest, eat well and bring extra food on test days.

**Annual School Report**

The Annual School Report (ASR) is due to be published on the school website next week. I encourage anyone interested to view the document, which is the last report linked to the old model of school planning. The 2015 ASR will report progress on the strategic directions and milestones laid out in the 2015-17 School Plan.

Paper copies of the ASR are available from the school office upon request.

**School Plan 2015-17**

The final draft of the School Plan 2015-17 is now available for viewing and comment. Parents and community members are invited to read the plan and give feedback as appropriate.

Please be aware that this final phase of consultation is only short, as the final plan is due for submission at the end of this month. I hope to be able to speak to all parents about the contents of the final draft of the plan, prior to finalising the document next week.

The final draft can be viewed at [http://goo.gl/dy3Iut](http://goo.gl/dy3Iut)

The input received during the initial consultation phase of last year should be visibly reflected in the strategic directions and 5P pages of the document. I am happy to discuss the plan with anyone.

**Cross Country**

Please remember that the Small Schools’ Cross Country carnival will be held at Mingoola this Friday. This is an open event and parents and community are invited to attend to support all runners.

Please take care when driving near the school on Friday.

**Outback Scripture**

Jack and Gwen Cowell of the Outback Scripture Patrol will visit our school on Monday of Week 3. Mr and Mrs Cowell travel considerable distance to provide specialist religious education to a number of schools in our region.

A permission note is attached to this newsletter. Please return it to school by the next week.

School Zone Sign

The NSW Government has provided funding for the placement of school zone signs with flashing lights at all schools by the end of this year. Installing these flashing lights in school zones has been shown to improve driver awareness of the need to travel at a lower speed to ensure the safety of children and others coming and going from the school area.

A flashing school zone sign was installed on Mingoola School Rd during the holidays. Please take time to admire it as you safely drive to and from school.

**Mr Cam Pryce**

Principal