

# FERN BAY SCHOOL LEAPS AHEAD

Fern Bay PS is an exciting place to be in 2016 and they have started the year with some fantastic projects under the leadership of new Principal Drew Janetzki.

"This is just the beginning of my first year as the permanent Principal and with the support of our wonderful school community I am excited about the changes going ahead within our school as well as around Fern Bay" Mr Janetzki said.

Very passionate when speaking on one of the key visions, the Principal said: "To improve our school I want to work closely with our local community and network to ensure that our students have the best educational experience ever! There are some fantastic local organisations that have been so supportive towards our vision and our whole school community is very thankful."

Mr Janetzki said the school will be using a donation of just over \$800 to support extra curricula activities including excursions for all students and financial support for some great outdoor educational experiences at a significantly reduced rate.

The donation was made early this year by local businessman Sam Cruikshank (see photo front page), a product of Christmas ham raffles run by the unstoppable ticket selling efforts of Stef Rolston.

After only five weeks into the school year Fern Bay students have already been able to attend the Hunter Valley Gardens, Newcastle Art Gallery, Newcastle Museum

and Anzac Walk as well as the Blackbutt Reserve Educational Centre. Mr Cruikshank has also kindly allowed access to an 18 seat bus for future excursions or transport requirements.

Mr Janetzki says: "Transport is a major financial obstacle for many schools, with this kind of support it really opens up a lot of learning experiences outside of the classroom for all of our students. This really adds to the significance in students learning."

For next term the school has already organised several visits and workshops to the Civic Theatre. Term 3 will see the major excursion to a capital city or Canberra.

Fern Bay Public School has recently had a new Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA) built thanks to the joint financial support of Port Waratah Coal and Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group.

This important facility ensures that students have access to an area they can play in during wet weather as well as providing important shade on hot days.

With further financial support the school is planning to add some softfall and extra markings to make this an even more flexible playing area.

**The school would be very grateful to hear from any local organisation that feels it may be able to assist.**

Other exciting initiatives have included the painting of the outside administration/library and senior classroom.

This is thanks to the volunteers at Bunnings stores in Kotara, Wallsend, Belmont, Taylors Beach and Boolaroo as well as the team from Taubmans who also donated their time and paint towards this project.

It is amazing what some colour can do to improve a



excursions have been made possible due to the occasional loan of a bus to Fern Bay Public school thanks to local businessman Sam Cruikshank

learning environment and the school is very grateful to the companies' volunteers as well as the Fullerton Cove Mens Shed who have been able to assist with the preparation work on a big paint job like this.

Mr Janetzki is also excited about the Australian Government's Sporting Schools funding that has allowed all students free access to bike riding lessons, tennis and cricket lessons this term.

Next term they will have access to free basketball, rugby league, golf and athletics coaching. "This is all part of

ensuring our students have a active healthy lifestyle as well as access to leading coaches in each of these areas." "We are also lucky enough to have a new parent who loves gardening and has been able to revitalise our school veggie garden. Students have been able to learn about fresh produce and have sampled the cucumbers which have grown during Term 1, eating them during their Crunch and Sip break" said Drew.

Newcastle Golf Club has also been able to assist in delivering freshly made salads and wraps every Friday as part of our healthy canteen strategy. "Students are loving the freshly made healthy food and it is teaching our students about the importance of healthy eating and exercise."

Outside the school grounds is a brand new \$100,000 playground area. Students have been taking advantage of this and we will use it whilst waiting for the bus.

Fern Bay Public School is also in negotiations with Port Stephens Council to ensure there is a Before and After School Care Facility within the new million dollar community hall centre that is being built mid-2016.

An enthusiastic Mr Janetzki says: "We are leaping ahead and this is just the beginning of the year! This is the highest number of Kindergarten student enrolments we have ever had and hopefully with all of this infrastructure going ahead and a growing population, our school population will also continue to grow."

Fern Bay Public School is the locally zoned K-6 School for Fern Bay, Fullerton Cove and Seaside Fern Bay residents.

Stay tuned to the Portside as we bring you further developments at the school and of the Fern Bay community hall.

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