## Coming Events - Term 1

### Week 7

| Monday, 9 March | NO CANTEEN  
|                | Easter Raffle tickets go home  
|                | Blue Whale Fundraiser starts  
| Tuesday, 10 March | Student Banking  
|                | Whole School Assembly: 1:50pm  
|                | • School Band Performance  
|                | NO CANTEEN  
| Wednesday, 11 March | Uniform Shop Open: 8:30 – 9:30am  
|                | Enviro Working Bee: 9:00am-11:00am  
|                | Fundraising Meeting – 6:30pm  
|                | P&C Meeting – 7:00pm  
| Thursday, 12 March | Selective HS placement test  
| Friday, 13 March | Years 3-6 Assembly – Primary COLA  
|                | Family Fun Night  
|                | 5:30pm–7:30pm  

### Week 8

| Monday, 16 March | Harmony Day- Orange Mufti Day  
|                | • Wear something orange  
|                | • Orange Slushy day  
|                | • Gold coin donation for SCARF  
|                | NO CANTEEN  
|                | Kinder Vision Testing notes returned  
| Tuesday, 17 March | NO CANTEEN  
|                | Kinder Vision Testing: 9:00am  
|                | No Assembly  
| Wednesday, 18 March | Uniform Shop Open: 8:30 – 9:30am  
|                | Enviro Working Bee: 9:00am-11:00am  
| Thursday, 19 March | No Newsletter  
|                | Blue Whale Fundraiser – prizes drawn  

### Week 9

| Monday, 23 March | NO CANTEEN  
| Tuesday, 24 March | Student Banking  
|                | Whole School Assembly: 1:50pm  
|                | NO CANTEEN  
| Wednesday, 25 March | Uniform Shop Open: 8:30 – 9:30am  
|                | Enviro Working Bee: 9:00am-11:00am  
|                | Fete Meeting – 6:30pm  
| Thursday, 26 March | Selective HS placement test  
| Friday, 27 March | Years 3-6 Assembly – Primary COLA  
|                | Easter Raffle tickets due back  
|                | Yrs 3-6 Cross Country  
| Saturday, 28 March | Bunnings BBQ – Helpers needed  
|                | Election Day Cake Stall – Helpers needed  

### Week 10

| Monday, 30 March | NO CANTEEN  
| Tuesday, 31 March | NO CANTEEN  
|                | K-2 Easter Hat Parade TBA  
|                | No Assembly  
| Wednesday, 1 April | Uniform Shop Open: 8:30 – 9:30am  
|                | Enviro Working Bee: 9:00am-11:00am  
|                | Easter Egg Mufti  
|                | Easter Egg Wrapping  
|                | Draw Easter Egg Prizes  
| Thursday, 2 April | Last Day Term 1  
|                | Have a safe and happy Easter break!  
| Friday, 3 April | GOOD FRIDAY  

### Week 1

| Monday, 20 April | STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY  
| Tuesday, 21 April | NO CANTEEN  
|                | No Assembly  
|                | Photo envelopes go home  
| Wednesday, 22 April | Uniform Shop Open: 8:30 – 9:30am  
| Thursday, 23 April | Uniform Shop Open: 8:30 – 9:30am  
| Friday, 24 April | No Newsletter  
|                | Student Banking  
|                | Anzac Day Ceremony  

### Week 2

| Monday, 27 April | NO CANTEEN  
| Tuesday, 28 April | NO CANTEEN  
|                | No Assembly  
| Wednesday, 29 April | Uniform Shop Open: 8:30 – 9:30am  
|                | Enviro Working Bee: 9:00am-11:00am  
| Thursday, 30 April | Newsletter  
|                | Student Banking  
|                | District Cross Country - Dapto  

### Week 3

| Monday, 4 May | NO CANTEEN  
| Tuesday, 5 May | Whole School Assembly: 1:50pm  
|                | NO CANTEEN  
| Wednesday, 6 May | Uniform Shop Open: 8:30 – 9:30am  
|                | Enviro Working Bee: 9:00am-11:00am  
| Thursday, 7 May | Newsletter  
|                | Student Banking  
| Friday, 8 May | Years 3-6 Assembly – Primary COLA  
|                | Student Banking  

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**Term 2**
PRINCIPAL’S WELCOME:

FAMILY FUN NIGHT
Next Friday, 13 March between 5.30pm – 7.30pm, the P&C have organised a fabulous Family Fun Night full of fun for the kids and providing the opportunity for parents to meet up with each other.

Enjoy a sausage sizzle or steak sandwich and a drink while the children are entertained with a variety of entertainment.

A reminder that:
- Department of Education and Communities policy states that school grounds are ALCOHOL and SMOKE FREE ZONES.
- Skateboards, scooters and bikes are not allowed on school grounds at any time, including after school functions.
- All children must be accompanied by their parents for this event.

I look forward to seeing you there. It should be a fantastic evening!

VISION SCREEN TESTING FOR KINDERGARTEN
NSW Health will be conducting their annual Kindergarten Vision Testing on Tuesday 17th March 2015.

Kindergarten parents need to return completed consent forms by Monday, 16 March, 2015.

This is a free service and is funded by the S.E. Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service.

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM – LITERACY AND NUMERACY, 2015 FOR YEAR 3 AND YEAR 5 STUDENTS
A letter to parents is included in this newsletter outlining the details of this program. Please read it carefully and note the dates on your calendar.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PLACEMENT IN YEAR 7 FOR 2016
All High School Application Forms handed out today, must be returned to school by Friday, 20 March, 2015. It is very important that these are received on time. Thank you for your co-operation.

CHANGE OF DAY FOR SCHOOL BANKING
Parents, please be aware that the School Banking Day will change from a Tuesday to a Friday from the beginning of Term 2.

FIGTREE COMMUNITY OF SCHOOLS - ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT CLASS 2015
Year 5 students are invited to apply to attend the Figtree Community of Schools Academic Enrichment Class 2015. The class will be located at Figtree High School for one day per week (Wednesday) for 15 weeks during terms two and three. The class will consist of selected Year 5 students from the 8 primary schools in the Figtree Community of Schools. Students will need to sit for an entrance test to be selected.

If you are interested in your child applying for this class, please pick up an Application Form from the front office.

Completed Application Forms need to be returned to school by Tuesday 10 March 2015.

SCHOOL CAR PARK
For safety reasons, access to the St John’s Avenue carpark is for staff and delivery trucks ONLY.

Students are never to be picked up or dropped off on school grounds (irrespective of the weather conditions).

MORNING PUNCTUALITY
Please note that school begins at 8.55am, so please ensure your children are at school on time, as lateness creates disruption to your child’s learning and classroom programs.

If your child is late for class, you must get a Late Note from the office before you take your child to class.

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL
As part of the NSW Department of Education and Communities’ School Attendance Policy, any student who will be absent from school for a period of greater than 15 school days must apply for a Certificate of Exemption from attendance at school.

This could include reasons such as family emergency, student’s health or family holidays.

Please note: absences due to extended holidays are recorded as days absent from school.

Forms can be requested from the front office. In cases that involve applications for exemption due to health reasons, a medical certificate must be issued for the dates of the exemption. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact myself or the ladies in the front office.
DOGS PROHIBITED IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS
Parents and community members need to be mindful when they are walking their dogs not to enter our school grounds, as this could impose an on the spot fine for having your dog in a prohibited place.

In the past we have had a Council Officer patrolling our school giving warnings to dog owners. He may return and fine owners of dogs not under effective control and / or in a prohibited place.

Have a great week.

Regards,
Christine Schnebeli
Principal

SPORTS NEWS:

SWIMMING
Congratulations to all the 37 students who represented our school at the District Swimming Carnival. All the students did a great job on the day and helped our school finish 3rd overall in the district.

Congratulations to Dannika and Jade who came 1st and 2nd respectively in the 11 years girls and 12/13 girls District Championship.

Congratulations and good luck to the six swimmers who have gone on to swim at the South Coast Championship Senior Girls Relay 1st (Jade Steenkamp, Dannika, Charlotte and Abbey). Jack, Flynn, Dannika and Jade will compete in individual events.

A big thank you to Mrs Jones, Miss Perusco and all the parents who supported our team at the District carnival.

Ribbons and trophies will be presented at next Tuesday’s assembly – 10 March.

BASKETBALL
Congratulations to Jade Steenkamp on her selection in the South Coast Girls’ Basketball. Well done!!

CROSS COUNTRY
Cross Country for Years 3-6 will be held on Friday, 27th March.

Many thanks for your support

Peter Davies – Sports Coordinator

Wanted
Unused small hotel toiletry products
Is it just me, or do you also own a bathroom cabinet full of unused small hotel toiletry products?
It seemed like a good idea at the time, but soon you run out of space and eventually you stop packing them in your suitcase. As you know, these small items are already billed in your room rate, so what if you found something purposeful to do with them?

Hygiene packs for homeless people are currently made up and distributed through various community and youth centres around NSW. These small items (UNOPENED soaps, shampoo, conditioner, bathwash, lotion, toothpaste, cotton buds) mean a great deal to those who are homeless or have to live rough.

I hope people will get on board with this worthy cause. It makes you feel great to think that those little bottles of goodies are going to make someone feel a little happier.

Please bring them into school and we will deliver them to The Wollongong Homeless Hub to be made up into hygiene packs.

Thanking you in advance 😊

FIGTREE HIGH SCHOOL EXPO NIGHT – FEEDBACK SURVEY
Figtree High School would like to thank all the students and their families who attended our Year 6 Expo Night on Wednesday 25th February. We were very fortunate that the weather cleared up for the night.

To help with the future planning of this event we would appreciate a family member completing a quick online survey. The link to this survey can be found as part of a post on the Figtree High School Facebook page and our school website or by using this address provided here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9JQG2HF
HOME READING HELPERS
Thank you so much to the parents who have offered to help cover our new home readers – we have been overwhelmed with your generous offers. The books have still not arrived, but as soon as they do we will send them home with contact.

Helen Bush and Melissa Beswick
Home Reading Coordinators

CANTEEN NEWS:

CANTEEN NEWS

CANTEEN CLOSED: Every Monday & Tuesday

TRADING HOURS: 8:30am to 2:00pm

Wednesday to Friday

The Canteen Menu is now available at both recess and lunch.

Please order all hot food prior to 9:00am.

Cheers,
Gail – Canteen Supervisor

ISER JUNIOR BAND PROGRAM

Students from Years 4-10 in Public Schools in the Illawarra and South East Region of NSW who have been learning an instrument for a minimum of 2 years are invited to apply to be part of the Junior Band Program.

The program begins with a 3 day/2 night residential camp at Stanwell Tops Conference Centre from Sunday 24 May to Tuesday 26 May.

Organisers are looking for students who play one or more of the following instruments and can read music at least to a grade 2 level. Guitarists MUST be able to read music, either "tab" or notes and know some basic chords and progressions.

String Instruments, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone, French Horn, Keyboard, Guitar-Electric/Acoustic, Bass Guitar Percussionists and Drummers.

Further information and application forms can be found on the Regional Website:
www.southerarts.det.nsw.edu.au

Applications close on Friday, 1 May 2015.

If you have any questions please contact either:
*Greg Costello – Coordinator
Mt Brown PS - gregory.costello@det.nsw.edu.au
*Alison Garvie – Assistant Coordinator
Helensburgh PS – aqgarvie@aapt.net.au

Please Help
The Blue Whales

Mount St Thomas PS
Student Fundraiser

Help us, help the Blue Whales
by buying a raffle ticket.

YOU COULD WIN!!!

1st Prize: a San Churro Voucher
2nd Prize: a Skateboard
3rd Prize: a Pillow Pet + a bucket of Skittles
4th Prize: a lucky prize for a lucky winner!

Tickets are 50 cents each or 5 for $2.00
We will sell the raffle tickets before school and at lunch each day from Monday 9 March until Friday 20 March 2015.

We will also be selling individually wrapped amazing scented soaps for $1.00 each kindly donated by the Berrima Court House.

Raffle tickets will be drawn on Friday 20 March 2015 at 9:00am.

Money raised will be donated to the Greenpeace Foundation, where they go to great lengths to stop the extinction of the Blue Whales.

By Maddy, Charlotte, Elsie and Anais
P&C NEWS:
Attached to the newsletter this week is the proposed agenda for the next P&C meeting. If you have any questions regarding the proposed agenda please email Michelle at mstpca@gmail.com.

If you would like to RAISE AN AGENDA ITEM at a future P&C meeting then you will need to put the agenda item or concern in writing along with your name and contact details one week prior to the meeting at which you wish to raise the issue. Leave this at the office with Denise/Nadine or similarly email the agenda item to mstpca@gmail.com.

The next meeting will be held on:

**P&C Meetings**

**Wednesday, 11 March 2015**

6.30pm- FUNDRAISING MEETING

7.00pm-P&C MEETING

Venue: Staffroom

Please come along – all new members are welcome!

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**UNIFORM SHOP**

The school uniform shop is open every

Wednesday 8:30am - 9:30am

**New lunch wallets available NOW at the uniform shop for $8.00 and insulated lunch wallets for $12.00. Many colours to choose from**

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**MOUNT ST THOMAS P&C ASSOCIATION PROPOSED AGENDA MEETING - 11th March, 2015**

**Minutes of Previous P&C Meeting:**
- Vote to accept the minutes of the P&C minutes February 2015.

**Business arising from Previous Minutes:**
- Audit Process and accept audit recommendations (Nicole)
- Vote to accept the previous P&C minutes – October 2014 (Michelle)
- Vote to accept the previous P&C minutes – November 2014 AGM (Michelle)
- Vote to accept the previous P&C minutes – December 2014 (Michelle)
- Vote to accept the Student Representative Sponsorship proposal (Shellie)

**Agenda Items:**
- Vote to accept Deanne Richardson as the Fete Convenor (Christine Schnebli)
- Vote to accept the Sponsorship brochure for the Fete (Danyelle)

**Next Meeting:** 13 May, 2015 7:00pm

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**FUNDRAISING NEWS:**

**FAMILY FUN NIGHT**

**Friday, 13th March 2015**

5:30pm – 7:30pm

Come along and enjoy a free BBQ with your family and school friends. There will be a great DJ/disco with lots of dancing and fun games.
Saturday, 28\textsuperscript{th} March 2015

**BUNNINGS BBQ**
8:00am – 4:00pm
Bunnings Wollongong

&

**ELECTION BBQ**
9:00am – 2:00pm
School Grounds

This year, both our Bunnings and Election BBQs fall on the same day!

We need your help at either one of these BBQs to help cook or serve food to our customers.

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**EASTER RAFFLE & MUFTI DAY**
Wednesday, 1\textsuperscript{st} April 2015

A note will follow next week with raffle tickets.

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**FETE NEWS:**

Below is a list of **STALL COORDINATOR** vacancies that need to be filled.

- Kids Chocolate Wheel
- Face Painting
- Drinks Trailer
- Side Show Alley

All of these stalls are fantastic fundraising opportunities for the P&C at the fete and the kids absolutely love them!

Please email Shellie at mstpca@gmail.com if you would like to be a stall coordinator for the stalls listed above. Full training and support is provided.

The next fete meeting will be on:

**FETE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY,**

25\textsuperscript{TH} MARCH 2015 - 6:30pm

Please come along – all new ideas welcome!

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**COMMUNITY NEWS:**

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**Little Figgies Playgroup**

Figtree High School's
Year 11 Exploring Early Childhood class
is running
"Little Figgies Playgroup"

The sessions will be every second Monday of the school term.
The dates for Term 1: 16/3/15 & 30/3/15

**Time:** 11-12pm

**Where:** Design and Planning Room (Ground level - Industrial Arts block)

**Cost:** 1 piece of fruit per child. Morning tea provided for parents/caregivers.

Toys, painting, play dough, dress ups, arts and crafts!

Tell your friends and come along and join the fun!!

For more information contact Mrs Wale (TAS Teacher) on 4271 2787

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**ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS:**

**PLANTS AND VEGIES FOR SALE**

Lovely fresh plants and vegies from our school garden are available to buy from the office with all fundraising proceeds supporting our environment. Currently we have.....

* Mixed plants - $2.00 each
* Strawberry & Rosemary plants - only $1.00
* Frangipanni plants - only $2.00, $3.00 & $4.00 each

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**ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS:**

We are continuing our weekly Wednesday Gardening Group to maintain and improve our grounds. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us, especially our new Kindy families.

**WHEN:** every Wednesday 9:00am – 11:00am.

**WHO:** parents, grandparents, friends, relatives, neighbours, etc. Anyone with a spare hour or two! Come and help make our school even more beautiful for our students and the community, join a friendly group and meet great people! There will be regular reports and updates in the school newsletter.

Last year's wonderful group put in a massive 729 volunteer hours in our school environment. A fantastic achievement. Come and join us, you will be most welcome.

Please fill in the interest form below and return to the office. For more information ring me on 42297010.

See you there!

Rosemarie Bowden – Garden Coordinator

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**Dear Mrs Bowden**

I am interested in helping with the Wednesday environmental group at school.

**NAME:**

**CONTACT No.:**

**CHILD:**

**CLASS:**

**CONTACT No.:**
Medallions, Swimming Awards, Banners, Super Mountso Bands and Merit Awards will be presented at the Whole School Assembly on Tuesday, 10 March, 2015 commencing at 1:50pm.

MERIT AWARDS:
KEIRA 1: Samuel
KEIRA 2: Lucy Dooley, Eliza
KEIRA 3: Leon, Thomas
KEIRA 4: Milo, Bella
OUSLEY 1: Cooper, Matilda
OUSLEY 2: Anastacia, Gabby
NEBO 1: Ella, Flynn
NEBO 2: Tessa, Sinali
NEBO 3: Joel, Andrea
NEBO 4: Braxton, Elsie
KEMBLA 1: Nicole, Matt
KEMBLA 2: Guy, Ronan

KINDERGARTEN - YEAR 2 BRONZE AWARDS:
These awards will be presented at the Tuesday assembly (10 March) commencing at 1:50pm.

BRONZE:
KERIA 1: Denali, Zehya
KEIRA 2: Hannah, Jazlyn
KEIRA 3: Flynn, Indigo, Scarlett, Nahlini
KERIA 4: Mylee, Bella, Lincoln, Shye
OUSLEY 1: Georgia, Christopher, Vivi, Jolon, Gabby
OUSLEY 2: Finn, Isabel

YEAR 3 - YEAR 6 BRONZE AWARDS:
These awards will be presented at the Friday informal assembly (13 March) in the COLA area commencing at 1:40pm.

BRONZE:
NEBO 3: Esmee, Isabella, Charlotte, Patrick
NEBO 4: Abbey, Zoe, Ava, Georgie, Lois, Maddison
KEMBLA 1: Arabelle, Sophie, Samson
KEMBLA 2: Lily, Trong, Guy, Mia, Jessica, Alice

READING BANNER
GOLD 2
Jessica, Kembla 2
READING

MEDALLIONS

BRONZE
Fletcher, Ousley 2
Finn, Ousley 2
Jolon, Ousley 2

SUPER MOUNTSO
RESPECT BAND
Kate, Nebo 3
Sierra, Nebo 3

SUPER MOUNTSO
RESPONSIBILITY BAND
Issac

SAFETY BAND
Tatiana, Nebo 3
National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy 2015

LETTER TO PARENTS

In May 2015 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy skills of students across Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student’s level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Student background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student’s right to privacy is maintained.

The NAPLAN tests will be conducted from 12-14 May 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TUESDAY 12 MAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY 13 MAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY 14 MAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
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</tbody>
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In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not to be used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

Friday 15 May – A ‘catch-up’ day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day.

Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if they:

- are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or
- have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests.

All other students are expected to participate in the tests. Disability adjustments which reflect the student’s normal level of support in the classroom may be provided. Large print, Braille, coloured paper versions and electronic tests are available to meet the needs of individual students.

Access to disability adjustments or exemption from the tests must be discussed with the school principal and a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents in consultation with the Principal. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests, a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Please make an appointment with the principal of the school your child attends if you would like to discuss your child’s participation in NAPLAN.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at [www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent_Carer_support/index.html](http://www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent_Carer_support/index.html).
SCHOOL SAFETY NOTICE TO DRIVERS

There is NO EXCUSE for disobeying traffic control signs and road rules in the vicinity of a school. There are NO APOLOGIES for issuing infringement notices to offenders. Parking dangerously, blocking sight lines, blocking buses and crossings puts children’s lives at risk.
Please read and understand the following traffic controls around your school:

**NO STOPPING**
Under no circumstances are you permitted to stop on a length of road to which a NO STOPPING sign applies.
(Penalty: exceeds $310 + two demerit points)

**NO PARKING**
You are permitted to stop in a NO PARKING zone only while you are engaged in dropping off or picking up passengers.
You must stay within three metres of our vehicle.
You must not stop for more than two minutes.
(Penalty: exceeds $170 + two demerit points)

**BUS ZONE**
You are not permitted to stop in a BUS ZONE unless you are driving a public bus.
(Penalty: exceeds $310 + two demerit points)

**CHILDREN’S CROSSING**
You are not permitted to stop within 20 metres before the crossing and 10 metres after the crossing
(Penalty: exceeds $410 + two demerit points)

**DOUBLE PARKING**
You must not stop on a road between the centre of the road and another car that is parked at the side of the road to wait or pick up or drop off passengers.
(Penalty: exceeds $310 + two demerit points)

**THE COST OF TAKING YOUR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON YOU**
SUNDAY 29 MARCH
Wollongong Harbour

Splash N Dash Festival

Run City Beach Kids 2.5k
Run City Beach Fun 5k
Run City Beach 10k

Sign off summer with a Splash n Dash Run

Illawarra Credit Union

splashdash.com.au

Facebook: #runtheong

All kids get a Finisher Award!!
WHOLESALE NURSERY
CLOSING DOWN -
1 NEVILLE AVE, RUSSELL VALE

SALE STARTS MONDAY
9 MARCH...
ALL PLANTS MUST GO
30-40% OFF RRP

Open: Monday - Thursday 7.30am to 4pm
Friday 7.30 to 2pm
Closed: Weekends and Public Holidays
Off Street Parking - Follow the Signs

East Coast Nurseries has supplied plants to Landscapers & Retail Nurseries locally for the past 37 years. Now, for the first & last time, our nursery is open to the public.