



## EXPANDING HORIZONS

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**Not to be limited to what is nearest, but to be able to see beyond.**

**ISSUE 25**

**16th August 2010**

### STUDENT OF THE WEEK

**RAGGEDY RANGE: DEVON FLANNERY for always being ready to assist others (including Miss Clouston!) Well Done!**

**ROUGH RIDGE: BECKY SCOTT – Your performance in Jack and the Beanstalk was impressive. Good on you for trying new things.**

Dear Parents and Caregivers thank you to all the Parents that attended the Parent Interviews last week to discuss both progress and general wellbeing at Poolburn School. As stated last week they are hugely beneficial to staff as they are a window to your child away from the four walls. It is always pleasing to hear positive feedback from all angles (Parent/Child/Teacher) as it is ultimately this relationship that provides the groundwork for future learning. Please remember not to wait for formal interviews if you have concerns, suggestions or even praise to give, as all three help towards the bigger picture of your child(ren's) feelings about School. I attended the Central Otago Principal's meeting on Thursday and again on the top of the agenda was the implementation of the planned National Standards. This is a highly important issue facing education with huge implications for our children's future schooling. Whilst talk of "meeting standards" seems convincing and irrefutable, it would appear commonsense to listen to and consider the views of those people working day to day in the field of teaching and learning also. The Central Otago Principal Cluster has decided to join with the other provinces in speaking out against the current roll out of National Standards. They have unanimously come to the conclusion that:

- The Standards in their current form are flawed.
- That there is a lack of evidence that they will achieve their stated aim of raising achievement
- That all local schools have made a genuine attempt to implement the National Standards but the flaws have become increasingly apparent.

- That the level of Professional Development provided to support the Standards has been of poor quality and the training has represented a significant cost to schools.
- That the large amounts of money from the education budget that has been used to promote this initiative would have been better spent on providing learning support to children we already have identified as requiring it through our existing assessment and monitoring programmes.

The Staff and Board of Trustees at Poolburn School will continue to look into, adapt and change ways of reporting and assessing to meet with the changing times. As a B.O.T. we have discussed not utilising the National Standards as a "rule book" but as a tool to help raise student achievement. It is important to remind oneself of the world our children are growing into and not to fall back into how it was for us. In their most simplistic form "meeting a Standard" could in fact simply be "teaching to the test".

**CROSS COUNTRY** We have our Small School's Cross Country on this Friday. Both Millers Flat and Omakau have put out the challenge and it would be nice if we can see a few of our new green and black uniforms surging up in front. All are welcome on the day and we will run a sausage sizzle and prize-giving at the completion of the races.

Start: 11:00 am Schools meet  
 11:15 am Walk the Track  
 11:30 Juniors begin – Work through ages (Year1/2 Boys.Girls /Year 3/4/Year 5/6/Year 7/8  
 Completion: Sausage Sizzle / Prize-giving.

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August** Cross Country Poolburn Hall 1<sup>st</sup> Race 11.30am  
**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August** Skiing note sent home  
**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** Cancellation Ski Day

**Central Otago Agricultural & Pastoral Assn AGM** to be held on the 23rd August 2010 at 8pm at the Omakau Commercial Hotel.  
 Apologies to: Bernie Allen 4473993 or [coap@xtra.co.nz](mailto:coap@xtra.co.nz)



**NEWS FLASH**  
**“Night Time” robbery at Elders Cromwell!!!**  
**They wanted our shearing gear and work clothing more than you.**  
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**“Daylight Robbery” price, while stocks last. Magnum P/O 20L - \$345inc**  
**It’s a steal!!!!!! Phone Ian 0274 905891 or Shop 03 4450174**

## ATHLETICS

The next athletics season is almost upon us! The Alexandra Athletics Club is holding its AGM on Tuesday 31 August, 7.30pm at 75 Dunstan Road, Alexandra. For more information please call 448 9360. We would welcome new supporters!

### Football Coaching Sessions

#### Sunday 29th August at Dunstan High School

Sessions are 1.5 hrs long, age specific and incorporate skills and football fundamentals

**U6-U8's** 10.00-11.30am

**U9-U10's** 11.45-1.15pm

**U11's-U14's** 1.30-3.00pm

Cost per session is \$15 per child.

Numbers are limited and registration is essential.

For more information:

email: [bookings@footballcamps-queenstownrovers.com](mailto:bookings@footballcamps-queenstownrovers.com)

or call Jamie on 021 0634681

Facilitated by Queenstown Rovers Football Club



**Seminar: Thursday 26 August - 2 til 4 p.m. Supper Room at the Omakau Hall**

**Topics: \*Improving Profitability - using benchmarking and budgeting as tools \*Succession and Estate Planning - its never too soon to start thinking about it.**

**Speakers:** Janette Matheson and George Collier from Ibbotson Cooney. Both are Chartered Accountants with a strong interest in things rural. Janette will cover benchmarking and Budgeting, George will discuss options for Succession and Estate Planning, including Equity Partnerships Hosted By: RWNZ Central Otago

**Women in Agribusiness Everyone Welcome!!** An indication of numbers would be appreciated! **Cost:** \$5 Women in Agibusiness members, \$10 non members

**Replies please to:** Gill Naylor [naylordg@farmside.co.nz](mailto:naylordg@farmside.co.nz) 03 4473642  
**Becks**



**An opportunity for teachers in primary and early childhood to meet together and share. The Journey of community of learners in a development of outdoor environment** A self review process examining the development of the

outdoor learning environment at Cromwell Barnardos Early Learning Centre. Centre staff delivered this presentation at the recent Dunedin Early Childhood Research Hui.

**TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 6.00pm—8.pm Central Otago REAP**

**Rooms, 17A Brandon Street Alexandra** A light meal will be served a 6.15pm  
\$15 per person R.S.V.P essential by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September at the latest

Phone 03 448 6115 or 0800 267 327 or email to [admin@coreap.org.nz](mailto:admin@coreap.org.nz)

#### UP INCOMING COURSES THRU REAP

- **U3A History of Our Area 27 August**  
Speaker: Louise Joyce
- **Healthy Cooking on a Small Budget - Alexandra**  
Classes starting 11 October for 5 weeks
- **Healthy Cooking on a Small Budget - Cromwell**  
Classes starting 30 August for 5 weeks
- **Computing Skills for Grandparents**  
Afternoon classes beginning 13 September
- **FREE Career Planning for 18 – 25yr olds**  
Phone or call into REAP and make an appointment
- **One to One Literacy & Numeracy Tuition – FREE**

For more information please contact Central Otago REAP  
03 448 6115 or 0800 267 327

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*quote of the day*

“

We either make ourselves miserable or we make ourselves

”

strong. The amount of effort is the same.