Moonta Area School; Learning, Caring Sharing; the future is in our hands.

Every school that I’ve been at has some sort of motto such as this one. A good measure of a school is whether the school motto influences the work or if people follow it in their work. That is, if they ‘walk the talk’. Having been at Moonta since July and at a number of other schools in my time, I believe I have a small amount of experience to enable me to comment.

Let’s pull this motto apart. First of all Learning. I hear teachers and support staff talking about learning all the time. Whether it is in formal or informal conversations they have student learning at heart. To students of Moonta I can say that all your teachers and support staff want you to do your best. They are not happy when you do not try and are extremely happy when you do. They share your successes and disappointments; particularly your disappointments.

I see solid learning happening throughout the school both in formal lessons and in extra curricular activities. The recent Year 10 Australian Business Week is an example of powerful learning as is
literacy improvement for many students. Learning is a focus for all formal meetings whether they are about finance and facilities through to individual meetings with parents and students.

What about caring?
The students of Moonta are privileged in having a caring school. Intertwined with all the work I have talked about in learning it is the term ‘well being’. It is not just used but is acted upon. I have witnessed older students caring for younger ones as well as peers caring for each other. I have seen staff and volunteers go above and beyond what is normally expected. I have been here after hours when staff members have gone out of their way to meet with parents who cannot meet during the day. These days there are programmes in place which assist whole families, not just children. The breakfast club is a good example of this amongst many good examples. The school works with multiple outside agencies to assist young people and their families.

Sharing, the third part of the motto, is second to none at Moonta Area School. Another name for it is ‘teamwork’ or ‘working together’. With nearly 600 people here on a daily basis it is very easy to get into little communities. Not so. I have observed; no felt, a whole school ethos with students, staff and parents working together for the good of all. When there are problems people work to find a solution and improve the situation for the better. The team ethos here is worth bottling and it is something that the school community would be wise to hang onto.

These things don’t just happen. They are generally the result of hard work and persistence. It is the work of past and present members of the school community and it is fitting that I mention the work of Mr Dean Angus former Principal who is busily developing, I hope, something similar up the road at Kadina.

We also need to acknowledge Mr Vince Ivens contribution to this school of 8 years as well as 38 years dedication to public education in general but particularly at Maitland Area School where he spent 24 years. His story is elsewhere in this newsletter and we wish him well for the future. I suspect, in fact I know, that you have not seen the last of him yet!

What of the future? As your motto says it is in your hands. You have an absolutely sound foundation to make it whatever you want it to be and I wish you all well, as well as the compliments of the Festive Season.

School Magazine 2012
I must congratulate Nina Penna on the quality of this years school magazine. It is a great record of all the events, activities and learning that happens in an Area School.

Staffing
Congratulations to Ms Shelley Hier who has won the position of early years Coordinator for a five year tenure.
Mr Wayne Slattery who will be joining us next year teaching a Year 7 class.
Those leaving are:
Jo Davey nee Shepherd who is teaching at Maitland Lutheran School
Mr Aleksander Miernik and Ms Alison Schmid who are both completing their tenures.
Ms Jade Lauer who is going to Karcultaby Area School as a secondary science teacher.
Mr Vince Ivens who is off to the world of retirement (maybe!)
Thanks to all for the contribution they have made to students and this school.
As for me, I’m off to Riverton High School as an Assistant Principal working with a former colleague of mine and Principal of this school, Ms Glenys Munro.

Have a great, safe Festive Season enjoying time with family and friends.
R-12 Presentation Assembly
Vince began his illustrious teaching career way back in 1974 at Nuriootpa High School where he taught Geography, History and English from Years 8 to 12. On his very first day of school he wore cherry red platform shoes, a purple paisley tie and purple flares! He also had long hair in those days and lots more of it! He was much admired by the students who responded well to his warm, friendly manner, interest in sport and musical talent. He once took thirty students on a camp to KI where they cycled for 200km around the island, carrying all their own supplies, as back-up vehicles weren’t required back then.

He then spent a year trekking around Europe before migrating to Pt Pirie in 1978, staying there for two years while he taught Social Studies in addition to Geography, History and English. He also won a grant to write a book about transition education. Once more he was a very popular teacher both at school and out in the community where he was the fitness coach for the Savoy Soccer Club and played football for Wanderah.

In 1980 Vince won the Student Counsellor position at Maitland Area School, a position he held for 24 years. He was also the Aboriginal Education resource teacher and worked very closely with the Pt Pearce community, coaching basketball there and driving the school bus. He began teaching Work Education, organising work experience and running the SRC, a role he continued for the entire 24 years. He also team taught Drama with Vicki Earles, who later became his partner in life. Vince was always happy to be involved in any theatrical or musical events in the school and was regularly seen dressing up to fit his role. He wasn’t afraid to be seen in a pair of leopard skin tights under the bright lights! He very much enjoyed singing and acting with the students, and can lay claim to teaching guitar to the famous Jona Weinhoffen, who was recently named in the top fifty guitarists of all time.

Another love of Vince’s is fitness and at Maitland he particularly enjoyed the 1500m race every Sports Day, even keeping a graph-like chart of his times and always wearing his “fast” red shorts. The students relished his participation and appreciated his competitive spirit.

In 2005 Vince won the secondary School Counsellor position at Moonta Area School, a role which reflects his commitment to students’ well-being. Vince initiated many programs, always putting the students first in any decision making. He has done his utmost to support students and provide them with the opportunity to grow and learn, becoming a trusted and respected confidante. As part of his role Vince has worked closely with the SRC and Student Voice team, supporting students to have a say, organising numerous fundraising events and running countless socials, (over 100 during his career), all to benefit students.

For many years Vince has been our school’s Music Co-ordinator, establishing the music room, teaching guitar, forming the school band and organising music concerts, as well as various other musical performances. Vince has always considered watching students progress and develop a love of music to be a very rewarding aspect of his job. He has performed with his students on many occasions, needing little encouragement to dress up as a ballet dancer or rock star, for the amusement of staff, students and parents.

In latter years Vince’s role has included the positions of VET, ICAN and Work Experience Co-ordinator. He worked tirelessly to support students in gaining entry into courses and work placements so that they could develop the knowledge, skills and qualifications to pursue careers and avenues of work in which they were interested. This has even involved coming to school on his days off to help students, put programs in place and attend meetings. He has gone above and beyond the call of duty because he loves the interaction with students and staff. We will miss him terribly but we wish him good health and much happiness in retirement, and we thank him for his wonderful contribution to our school.
On the 21st of November, ten students were chosen to go to Adelaide for a Japanese excursion. They went to Sushi Train for lunch. Next they went to China Town for a treasure hunt in a grocery store. After that they went to a beautiful Japanese garden. A man named Peter toured them around the Japanese garden. Soon they were on their way home.

“The sushi was great,” said Charli.

MOONTA STREET IS IN ADELAIDE!! yelled Chloe.

By Charli Hancocks and Chloe Smith

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It was with pleasure that I was privileged to witness Willis Daveson, Year 10 student, awarded with the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure’s Walpaara Anpa Award (a laptop computer) at Tanadanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute recently.

Since 2007 the department has awarded 10 laptop computers annually to Aboriginal students across the state that have successfully completed year 10 and are enrolled to complete years 11 and 12. These awards aim to encourage students to remain engaged in school and to achieve their South Australian Certificate of Education.

This year marked the 60th laptop awarded to Aboriginal students across South Australia. To celebrate this event His Excellency the Governor of South Australia presented the 2012 recipients with their award.

Accompanied by his mum, Sonya Rankine, sisters Carron and Soraya, ACEO Michele Appleton and SSO Jenni Harvie we heard addresses by Elders, Uncle Louis and Uncle Syd Strangways, Mr Rod Hook, CE of DTEI, Mr Paul Caica, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation and of course the Governor.

Ex Moonta Area School student Soraya Rankine responded on behalf of past winners having won a computer herself whilst at MAS.

By Charli Hancocks and Chloe Smith
Miss Reid’s Year 1/2 and Mrs Perkins’ Year 3/4 Classes visited the Moonta Aged Care facility on Wednesday 5th December. We sang 4 Christmas carols and presented the residents with Christmas cards and Christmas tree decorations for their rooms. The residents enjoyed our visit, as always, and we enjoyed their hospitality (and the ice-creams!).

We performed
6 White Boomers,
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,
O Tannenbaum / Oh Christmas Tree
and We Wish You a Merry Christmas.

6 White Boomers
(Rolf Harris)

Mmmm, ice-cream!
Holidays can be a great time for children - and teachers - to rest and for families to encourage different learning strategies within their homes. Summer holidays are a wonderful opportunity for families to enjoy activities together. Children return to school from the long holiday more mature and keen for the new year after weeks of close contact with the family and friends.

Without some attention to learning however, the summer weeks of down-time can bring problems later, when teachers have to spend time re-teaching concepts students have forgotten. The summer break can be especially difficult for younger children who have only recently got used to the daily school routine. They are new learners, and the new skills and routines take a lot of reinforcement, so it's harder for them to come back after the break and start up again where they left off.

Parents may like to spend a short time each day going over some of the things their children have learned at school. Make it fun, but also help to reinforce what children have been learning. Enjoyable activities with letters and numbers and reading a lot can help keep learning alive.

There are many educational activities that families can do to help make the transition back to school easier. Cooking, shopping and reading, planning activities, working out costs, making phone calls, writing thank-you letters are all very important to keep children engaged so that their minds stay fresh for when they return to school.

Try using the newspaper as a learning tool, even with younger students. They can find the items you need in supermarket advertisements. Get them to circle words they recognise in stories or photo captions.

Take children for small day trips that are fun, educational and energetic. Buy postcards so they can write to friends and grandparents about what they have seen and done.

All school resources borrowed by students during the year should now be back in the library. If your child has items still checked out to them an invoice will be included in their report. We ask that you return the items listed or pay for them before the new school year begins so that students can start 2013 with a clear record.

Many students returned all items on time and their names were put in a lucky draw. The winners were Chloe Oxspring, Kayne Raymond, Mataya Pollard and Lenny Buttle who all received a bag of books and goodies. Students can now borrow for holiday reading.

Remember – the library operates until 24th December and from 2nd January 2013.

Opening times are - Sunday 1.30 – 4.00pm; Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9am – 4pm; Thursday 9am – 6pm. There are lots of new book titles, along with magazines, DVDs and public computers so make the most of your Community Library facilities during the summer.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the library team – Tricia Stringer, Dave Steele, Di Daulby, Janet Johnstone, Janine Bennett, and Jane Sutton.

We have just had another very successful year with over 60 families attending either the under 12 month or the toddler sessions. Our last get together for this year had a Christmas theme and included a morning tea and a book for each child. Read & Rhyme will resume on the first Tuesday in February next year. It’s a fun time with singing, dancing and stories. All are welcome and it’s free.

For more information call the library on 88 251 511.
Another successful year of Premier’s Reading Challenge has been completed, with 261 students from Years R to 11 finishing. Students were awarded with certificates and medals at assemblies during Week 7. We congratulate all students who were involved throughout this year and encourage further involvement during 2013.

Di Daulby

Lucy’s Champions for Hope
Donations to support Lucy in travelling to America for surgery to help stop the progression of Parry Romberg Syndrome have been received from the Moonta Area School community. The Governing Council supported the drive to accept donations to support Lucy to help her receive this medical assistance. The school community donated $241 to Lucy’s family, which was greatly appreciated.

National Year of Reading
Photo competition
A competition has been held throughout this year encouraging members of the community to provide photos of reading activities. These photos have been on display in the Library as they have been received. A group of independent judges viewed the photos and we are happy to announce the winners of the competition:

Individual photo: Winner – Sally Young, Runner up – Charlie Deane-Shaw
Group photo: Winner – Helen Sluggett, Runner up – Ruby Markham
Humorous photo: Winner – Barb Lihou, Runner up - Gemma Ivens
Year 7 Quorn Camp

Thanks to Wendy Muir, Michele Appleton, Mr Alek and Margie. We had a great time.

By Skye Watson and Natasha Hubbard.
Monday 3rd of December the year 8 classes went to Port Vincent for an aquatics camp. While on the camp we participated in various water activities, such as knee boarding, kayaking, sailing, windsurfing, snorkelling and surfing. We stayed at Port Vincent Caravan Park for 4 days and 3 nights. Knee boarding, kayaking, sailing, windsurfing and snorkelling were all held at the Port Vincent beach next to the caravan park while the surfing was held at Berry Bay on the final day. We went on two night walks getting different views of Pt Vincent and exploring the local area and on the Wednesday night we went out for dinner to the Ventnor Hotel.
Our Year 9 class went on camp to Adelaide for 3 days. We stayed at Warradale camp site. On the way there, we stopped at go-kart mania, where we had 10 minutes on the go karts and laser skirmish.

That day we also went to Marion Aquatic Centre and for tea we went to Watermark for an all you can eat buffet. The next day we went paintballing and went to the beach house, which used up our entire day and for tea we had a barbecue back at the camp site. The last day, we went shopping at Marion and watched a movie and then we got on the bus and headed home. Overall the camp was very enjoyable and we all had a really good time.
During Week 8 of this term the Year 10’s competed in Australian Business Week. Moonta Area School had 3 teams – Night Light Hotel, The White Stallion and Avalon Estate. The students had to create a luxury hotel and run it through a computer simulation for the entire week. They were judged on a trade display and they had to create a 30 second video advertisement. This culminated on Friday with each team vying for the judges interest and their dollars as well. It was a fantastic week with the eventual winner of each category being

BEST TRADE DISPLAY: **Avalon**

BEST VIDEO ADVERTISEMENT: **Avalon**

TEAMWORK & COMMITMENT: **The White Stallion**

BEST SHARE PRICE: **Avalon**

Congratulations to the overall winner: **Avalon**

Special thanks must go to David and Robyn Alsworth from The Moonta Lions Club; David Hodge and Bruce Schmidt for their help with judging. Also, thank you to Neil Dyer from the State Bank for his help mentoring the financial groups during the week.

A very special thank you must also go to Moonta Lions Club for their generous donation to help run Business Week.

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**Sports Fusion Clinics (our 14th Year)**

Coaching Clinic’s for students aged 5-14 years.

Prince Alfred College, Dequetteville Tce, Kent Town

During the January School Holidays.

One Clinic Only

**Monday 7th - Thursday 10th January 2013**

Choose from: Tennis / Cricket / Basketball / Soccer / Combo

Emphasis is on skill development and maximum participation. We want all students significantly better equipped to enjoy and pursue sport for many years to come. Low player/coach ratio, abundance of equipment, experienced and enthusiastic coaches.

Sport swap – chance to try another sport and game play (optional after lunch)

Cost of the 4 day clinic either 9 a.m. – 12 noon $145 or 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. $195

Family discounts available. For details and to enrol [www.acnsport.com.au](http://www.acnsport.com.au) or phone 1300 134 154
Year 10 Hospitality – Children’s Birthday Cakes

Jasmin Elvin – “Alice in Wonderland”

Sarah Hutchinson – “Minnie Mouse”

Rhyian Baker – “Elmo’s World”

T’Leigha White – “Winnie the Pooh”

Courtney Adams – “Sponge Bob”

Noel Quinn – “Winter Wonderland”

Steve McGinley – “Car Party”

Haunted Castle

Chris Johnson – “Insects”

(L) Sarah Muir – “The Wiggles”

(R) David Kulmer – “Aliens”

(L) Sarah Muir – “The Wiggles”

(R) David Kulmer – “Aliens”
The following proposals were approved at the meeting held Monday 10th December:


2. YP Zone Knockout Competitions –
   - Open Football /Netball – Maitland
   - 8/9 Netball
   - Open Basketball
   - Year 8 Basketball
   - Wednesday 15th May 2013, Term 3, Week 3
   - Wednesday 22nd May 2013, Term 2, Week 4
   - Wednesday 5th June 2013, Term 2, Week 6
   - Wednesday 21st August 2013, Term 3, Week 5

3. Sporting Dates –
   - MAS Sports Day
   - Thursday 7th March 2013, Term 1, Week 6
   - Pre-Sports Day events
     - Javelin
     - 800m/600m
     - 1500m/P Long Run
     - Interschool Sports Day – Kadina
     - Mile End Athletics (D1 Grade)
     - MAS Cross Country
     - YP Cross Country
     - Thursday 28th February – Friday 1st March 2013, Week 5
     - Monday 4th March 2013, Term 1, Week 6
     - Tuesday 5th March 2013, Term 1, Week 6
     - Wednesday 20th March 2013, Term 1, Week 8
     - Monday 8th April 2013, Term 1, Week 11
     - Friday 10th May 2013, Term 2, Week 2
     - Unknown at this stage, Term 2 2013

School Dress Orders
If you have ordered a school dress, we have been advised that they will be ready in January - We hope to have them at the front office for you to pick up the week before school starts.

SA Dental Service Information: The Kadina Community Dental Clinic will be closed over the holiday period. Closure dates: 24th December 2012 and reopening on 7th January 2013. In case of emergency care during office hours please contact Elizabeth GP Plus Dental Clinic on 74485 4000. For after-hours Emergency advice please call Health Direct on 1800 022 222 (free from landlines). The Dental staff wish all their clients and families a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.
**Moonta & District Progress Association**

- **Christmas Raffle:** A wheelbarrow full of goodies. Tickets $2.00, on sale at various businesses around town, outside Foodland on Sat. 8th December and at the Christmas festivities in Queen Square on Sunday 16th Dec. Drawn at Santa’s Cave on Saturday 22nd December.

- **Christmas Pageant:** Sunday 16th December. Starts 5:30 at the Community Activity Centre, parades down George Street arriving at Queen Square at 6:00pm bringing Father Christmas to his cave in the Square.

- **Carols in the Park:** 7:30pm
- **KooKy Kidz Xmas Market:** 4:00pm onwards
- **Santa’s Cave:** 17th - 22nd December. Town Hall Super Room 10:00 am - 12:00.

- **Christmas Lights:** National Trust tram tours 14th - 24th December. Trams run at 9:00pm nightly. Bookings essential @ National Trust, 8825 1891. Prizes will be announced and awarded at Santa’s Cave on Saturday 22nd December. Sponsored by District Council of the Copper Coast.

**Krunkit Scooter Riders Come to Moonta** - Sunday 16th December, 2 p.m. Westbeach Krunkit Scooter riders will be putting on a display at the Moonta Skate Park in conjunction with Moonta Mitre 10 and Krunkit scooters. Gold coin donation with $2 sausage sizzle and $2 cans of drink. All proceeds will go to the Lucy Hancocks’ Champions for Hope campaign. For further details phone Matt, 0417 885 874.

**Moonta Netball Club** - AGM Wednesday 6th February 6:30pm in the Clubrooms. Positions vacant: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Canteen Manager, Card Secretary and Vice President for YPNA. See future issues of Country Times for more information.

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**Public Notices**

**Tennis Coaching**

John Boddington, a Life member of Tennis Coaches Australia-SAITennis Australia Coaching and a qualified Tennis Australia Club Professional coach will be conducting Tennis Coaching Vacation Clinics at Coobowie in the 2013 January School holidays from January 14th to 17th and 21st to 24th. In the past he has conducted special clinics at the request of a number of clubs on Yorke Peninsula. John has had vast experience in coaching children as can be seen by the résumé which appears in the Enrolment Form. These clinics provide a sound basis for those learning to play or wishing to improve their game and are more beneficial to pupils than other clinics which consist of a much larger number of students even if they are for a longer duration as the students in John’s classes are involved on court with John for the complete session. The clinics consist of two sections - one for the younger children where modified techniques are utilised and for the older children where conventional methods are employed. Groups will be kept to either two or four students or students may have Individual sessions - which again ensure that the pupils are involved for a maximum amount of time. Further information and Enrolment Forms may be obtained from John on (08) 8264 1100 or mobile 0418 804 877 or by e-mailing northest@adam.com.au. Forms are also available from the school’s Front Office.

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**Australia Sports Camps - Cricket**

Immanuel College, Novar Gardens 17 – 19th December

Ages 7 to 17 years from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. each day.

This program is accompanied by our Minis program for 5-6 years providing coaching form 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon each day for $120. Overseen by experienced and enthusiastic coaching panels in each sport. Appearing this summer will be Greg Blewett and Callum Ferguson.

Free call: 1300 914 368
admin@australiansportscamps.com.au