FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

It was great to see a number of parents attend the advertised Farewell Assembly and morning tea held on Wednesday 19th August in honour of Pastor Terry Natt who has been the Chaplain at Meningie Area School for the past ten years and is retiring from the Ministry and leaving the district.

As with our regular assemblies students were presented with recognition certificates for work achievement, the MAS Choir presented one of the songs that they will be performing at the Festival of Choirs towards the end of September, the Reception /Year 1 classes presented work on the theme ‘Dinosaurs’ that they are currently learning about, Mrs Hood talked about the Science Week activities running in the school this week and Mrs Clarke, our Librarian, talked about the up and coming Book Week activities in Week 6.

Mrs Appelkamp (Governing Council Chairperson) spoke about the work, support and commitment Terry has made to Meningie Area School. A copy of her speech is within this edition. She was assisted in making a presentation to Terry by Lauchlan Brown and Alex McPherson of a framed series of local photographic scenes, the work of our 2008 Year 12 photography students.

As Beth Marsson was away, her prepared speech on behalf of the students was read by Bethany Jurgs. It too has been included in this edition.

Terry then spoke to the students. He talked about being respectful and supportive of each other, not just within the school, but in the wider community.

On behalf of the whole school community, I add my thanks to Terry for the work he has done within the school over so many years. In preparing my remarks, I spoke to staff and students alike and asked what we will miss about Terry.

These are a few of the replies;
- He always had time for everyone and nothing was too much trouble.
- Always welcoming and caring about the students.
- Caring, interested and straightforward with the students.
- Approachable.
- A familiar face and someone who all the students could talk to.
- Willing to help, always cheerful.
- Students trust him.
- Calm and compassionate.
- Most importantly Terry has a great sense of humour.

We wish Terry well in the next stage of his life’s journey and we shall surely miss him.

Staffing
We are pleased to advise that Mr Bill Busbridge has taken up the temporary Science / Maths position for the remainder of Term 3 while Mrs Raelene Sherwin is on leave.

Bill began part way through this week, and is quickly getting his head around the Curriculum. Bill has a strong background in Science with practical application. He has taught in a number of schools throughout South Australia.

In more recent times, Bill has lived and worked in Leeton, New South Wales, where he and his wife ran a farm. In addition to this, Bill worked in the rice, fish and fruit industries.

Shane Megan, a Student Teacher from Adelaide Uni is here at Meningie Area School for the remainder of Term
3. Shane will be working with Mrs Kathy Quinn and Ms Elyssa Freeth as his supervising teachers.

We welcome both Bill and Shane to our community.

**Opinion Surveys**

A few weeks ago you would have received information through the mail about responding to a Parent Opinion Survey. Such surveys are an important part of the School’s Self Review and planning cycle. We value your response. We also appreciate that not everyone has easy access to a computer so that a response can be made on line. As it says in the correspondence sent out, a hard copy of the survey can be obtained at the Front Office. If you would like to respond to the survey on line, there is Free internet access through the community library, where all staff are only too willing to assist you in your response.

A reminder that Parent Surveys need to be completed by Friday 28 August 2009.

**Science Week**

Our Junior School leader Katrina Hood was responsible for organising a week of Science activities for this week being Science Week. Activities were based around the theme for this year ‘Astronomy’. Lunchtime activities included science videos for younger students and quizzes. A great display has been set up in the Multi Media Room. Thankyou Katrina.

**Staff T&D**

A really worthwhile day was spent by staff last Friday 14th August. Staff worked with DECS Curriculum Officer Bev Jones to look at ways to engage students in Curriculum, using Data to support planning and learning, as well as Assessment and Reporting.

Last night staff began the first of two 2½ hour workshops aimed at developing skills in the use of Interactive Whiteboards. As Governing Council has recently installed 4 Smart Boards at Meningie Area School, these training sessions are an invaluable opportunity for all of us to get up to speed with this technology, and its application within the classroom.

Monica Williams

**Pastor Terry Natt**

**Governning Chairperson Judy Appelkamp’s Speech**

“I would like to welcome students, staff, parents and our special guest Pastor Terry Natt. On behalf of Governing Council of Meningie Area School I would like to take this opportunity to thank Terry for his work and support for this School Community.

It has been 10 years that you have made yourself available to our School Community, supporting and counselling many. In these last 10 years we all have experienced above normal stress with job losses, business instability, surviving droughts, and the loss of our rights to have water in our lake and the erosion of student numbers and staff within our school. Terry has experienced above normal work load supporting our school and broader community of Meningie and surrounds.

I take this time to acknowledge and thank the local Lutheran Church and Parish for releasing you with pay, enabling you the time to support our School Community when it has been needed.

We wish you all the best for your retirement from full time Ministry and may you have many blessings in wherever your future life takes you.

Thankyou and God Bless.”

**Bethany Marsson’s Speech**

Bethany Marsson was asked to say a few words about Pastor Terry. Unfortunately she could not be at the Assembly held for Pastor Terry Natt so Bethany Jurgs kindly read out the following on her behalf.

“Pastor Terry. I feel privileged to have known Pastor Terry for many years. At a ministry level Pastor Terry has been part of many significant family events, whether it be conducting wedding ceremonies, baptisms, funerals or confirmation services, Terry has definitely been a support throughout my family’s life, becoming a close family friend. An example of his compassion and loyalty was shown by how he treated my grandfather. Grandpa was an elderly member of the community who Terry respected greatly, visiting him on a regular basis in hospital. We knew Grandpa would enjoy these visits as it put a smile on both faces. The loyalty and heart felt memories shared between Grandpa and Pastor Terry, formed a strong bond that remained consistent for many years. Even during our time of loss, he provided sincere support and was willing to help our family.

On Wednesday afternoons Terry would travel from Coonalpyn and visit our community, including Meningie Area School. He would walk around with a happy smile on his face while talking to children, who were delighted for the opportunity to communicate. Occasionally when we would have a conversation the topic of families would arise which created laughter and happiness as Terry always enjoyed talking about his beloved sons, nephews and nieces.

I would like to wish Pastor Terry all the best as he retires from the Ministry and pursues his calling to work in Adelaide.

Pastor Terry, you will definitely be missed here at Meningie Area School.”
**5-a-Side Soccer**

**5-a-side Soccer**

On Tuesday the 18\textsuperscript{th} August 2009 several students from Meningie Area School went to Coomandook to compete in the Upper South East Lightening Soccer Carnival. The carnival was played in sunny conditions. Each team played 8 games of 20 minutes. Participants were:

**Girls Team:** Caitlin Gemmell, Amy Bland, Madi Wenke, Jackie Gibbs, Amber Gibbs, Alana Standley, Megan Herrmann and Samara Gemmell.

**Boys Team 1:** Justin Smart, Sam Bird, Jack Appelkamp, Oliver Crossman, Michael McKechnie and Joe Bird.

**Boys Team 2:** Tim Eckert, Stuart Harper, Jake Promnitz, Zac Vandenbrink, Jamie Thompson and Rhys Marles.

All of the Meningie teams did very well considering that they had no prior experience playing soccer and kept up the pressure even in the latter matches when they started to get very tired. In the girls competition Meningie finished 4\textsuperscript{th} in the finals after they had two wins, one draw and four narrow losses during the minor rounds. In the boys competition Meningie finished 10\textsuperscript{th} and 11\textsuperscript{th}. Both teams had two wins, but Meningie 1 played slightly better, finishing just ahead of Meningie 2.

Thank you to Russell Starr for his help supervising students, to Judy Appelkamp who drove the bus to the venue, to Chris Biddle and Dylan Vandenbrink who did an excellent job umpiring, and Hannah Pittendreigh, Marni Hood and Tamika Williams who assisted with umpiring and scoring.

Lisa Davis  
(PE Teacher)

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**Book Week BOOK SAFARI**  
**Monday – Friday**  
**Week 6**

**Events:**
1. Colouring in competition.
2. Vertical class activity sessions.
3. Dress Up Parade Tuesday Assembly 10.30  
   Dress up prizes to most original boy and most original girl.  
   This doesn't mean you need to hire a costume.  
   Think of what you can do with paper boxes, plastic and cheap wigs for 2\textsuperscript{nd} hand clothes.
4. Dress up prize for best teacher costume.
5. 2\textsuperscript{nd} Hand Book Sale – adopt a book for 10c or 20c for old library books.

ENJOY BOOKS! ENJOY BOOK WEEK!
Bioremediation Bus Trip

Pictured are the Lake Albert people (including students from Meningie Area School) who were among seventy people who took part in a Bioremediation Bus Trip last week visiting revegetation trial sites on Lakes Alexandrina and Albert. See last week’s The Lakelander for full story.

photo courtesy of Department for Environment and Heritage

Experience life as an overseas teenager during your summer holidays!

World Education Program (WEP) Australia is in its last round of accepting applications for students to go to Germany, Italy, Spain, France and French-speaking Belgium this summer.

Lifelong memories – lifelong friends!
Live with a host family, attend an overseas school and make new friends from around the world.
‘Begin your exchange journey with an open mind and heart. Don’t be afraid to leap into a world of unknown; you will be rewarded with more than you thought possible.’
- Chloe Sinclair went on a short-term program to France in November 2008

Don’t miss out! Find out more:
Request your information pack: Go online www.wep.org.au or call us for the cost of a local call 1300 884 733. Attend WEP’s Open Door Day: 15 August / 12pm – 4pm
Meet WEP staff and returned students to talk about your opportunity to discover the world on a student exchange.

World Education Program (WEP) Australia is a not-for-profit student exchange organisation registered with the Education Departments.

Asthma Friendly Schools Program Newsletter

Asthma Top Tips for Teens!

Whilst parents and family are there to help, teenagers should be aware that they too can successfully and responsibly manage their own asthma. Tips to help teenagers manage their asthma include:

- Always carry your reliever puffer with you. Use it when you have asthma symptoms. If you are using your reliever medication more than 3 times per week to ease asthma symptoms it may be a sign that your asthma is not well controlled. Check with your doctor.
- Talk with your parents, school nurse and doctor about a written Asthma Action Plan and visit your doctor at least every six months to review your asthma.
- Remember to take your medications – they are your key to freedom from asthma.
- Use a spacer with a puffer to minimize side effects and deliver more medication to your lungs (a spacer is a device shaped like a tube into which you fire medication from a puffer and inhale)
- Know and avoid your triggers
- Exercise to stay healthy
- Know your asthma symptoms and how to treat them
- Recognise signs of worsening asthma and follow your written Asthma Action Plan
- Tell your family and friends about your asthma and how they can provide Asthma First Aid