



## CASSILIS PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 10

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025

### From the Principal's Desk

Well who can believe this is the last newsletter for the term, and what a busy couple of weeks it has been, and will continue to be, here at school!



A huge thank you to our wonderful Cassilis PS staff, led by Mrs Nairne, for coordinating such an incredible 2025 Small School Cross Country carnival last Friday. It truly was an event that showcased our special Cassilis community spirit, with so many parents, grandparents, family, friends and community members coming out to assist, both in the weeks and days leading up to the big day and on the carnival day itself. Events like this cannot run in the successful manner in which it did without the support of our helpers – so a huge thank you to every person who contributed by volunteering their time, resources and finances to make the carnival such a success.

We look forward to continuing the celebrations with you all at our **End of Term Assembly** and annual **Easter Hat Parade** being held next **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 1pm**.

Visitors this morning may have noticed temporary fencing going up in parts of the carpark and playground. This is to allow the carpark drainage and Block A pier remediation works to take place these last 2 weeks of school. We ask parents to continue to follow our new carpark safety procedures during this time.

Being my last newsletter at Cassilis, I wanted to say what a privilege it has been to have had the opportunity to work at the school as both Assistant Principal Curriculum Instruction (APC & I) and Acting Principal. I have loved meeting and working alongside the incredible teaching and support staff we have here at the school and am proud of developing together teaching and learning processes that enhance practice and promote differentiated opportunities for all the students in our multi age class. It is just delightful to see the classroom flourishing the way it is and have had the opportunity to see all the students grow in confidence both socially and academically over my time here.

Thank you to the parents and community for your support also over the past two years and I look forward to following all the great things that this wonderful school accomplishes over the coming years. Cassilis will always have a special place in my heart.

I will be handing over to Mr Ben Fifield who will be the new Acting Principal in Term 2 (with the possibility of extension). Mr Fifield comes to us at Cassilis from Cudgegong Valley Public School with three years experience in the Assistant Principal role and a broad range of K-6 teaching and learning experiences. He is a highly collaborative leader who is really looking forward to working with the school staff, students and community.

**Natalie Hurd**  
**Acting Principal**

### **UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS:** (refer to *Sentral Parents' forum*)



**April 4 Toybox**

**April 9 Assembly and Easter Parade 1pm**

**April 11 Last day Term 1**

(April 25 Anzac Day)

**TERM 2** begins with Staff Development days on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April

**Students return**  
**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April**

**May 2 Zone Cross Country**

**May 30 Pittman Cup Sports Carnival, Sandy Hollow**



## STUDENT OF THE WEEK

**Week 8** Student of the Week is **Ella Stanley**.

Ella, we applaud you for applying yourself in all learning areas with a positive attitude.



**Week 9** Student of the Week is Eli Cherry, who has shown outstanding participation in all Cross Country preparations.



Congratulations Ella and Eli on these fantastic achievements.

## NEWS FROM WEEK 8:

### HARMONY DAY & SENIORS DAY 21<sup>st</sup> March

...and the rain came down !!!

Our day began with Mrs Rose welcoming all visitors in the McMaster Room, and Cooper confidently led Welcome to Country.

All students, staff and several visitors wore the **colour orange**, which signifies inclusion, social communication and meaningful conversations. This added to the fun and cheerful atmosphere.

Harmony Week is a celebration of diversity, inclusiveness and respect, the overall theme being “**EVERYONE BELONGS**”. The theme for 2025 is “**Harmony - we all have a role to play**”.

Australia is one of the world's most successful multicultural countries and our cultural diversity is at the heart of who we are.

**Seniors Week** was recognised in the same week this year, so our celebrations included activities where seniors and family members could interact with our students.

It was wonderful having so many friends and family members attending, and seeing the creative craft items the students had made in preparation for the day. These included crepe paper flowers, and measuring and cutting the wool for Friendship Bracelets. The day's celebrations incorporated Seniors Week activities with our favourite seniors.

Mrs Rose then asked several students to read from a beautiful, themed book called “We Are All Equal”. Activity stations were set up around the classroom, where everyone could take turns making items to display. Our Harmony Tree on the back wall quickly filled up with students' hand shapes cut from flag-printed paper, and this was surrounded by felt dolls with various felt clothing items attached by the students.

Mrs Nairne showed students and visitors how to make Friendship Bracelets with wool, and Mrs Cornish assisted with cutting out hand prints and suggesting words to create an Acrostic Poem using the letters H.A.R.M.O.N.Y. As the rain started to fall quite heavily, visitors and students had their photos taken on the verandah using the specially decorated photo frame, then danced under the C.O.L.A.

It became obvious that transferring the morning tea goodies to the C.O.L.A. would result in a drenching, so we all shared food and beverages in the staff room. Thank you to all who brought delicious treats to share. Harmony and inclusion were demonstrated in many ways.

Much gratitude is extended to all visitors who came along to our day of celebrating 2025 Harmony Day and Seniors Day, and to all our caring staff and volunteers for their hard work.

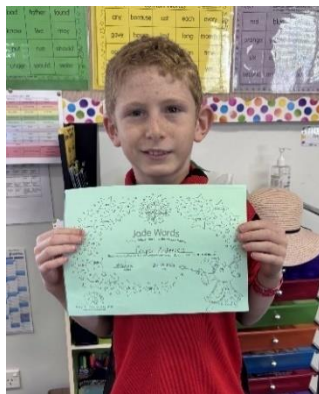
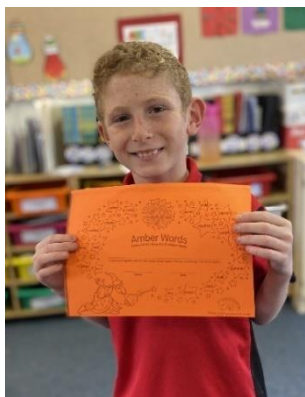
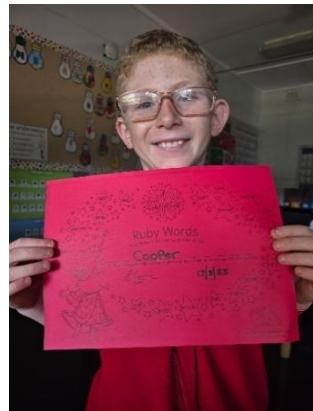
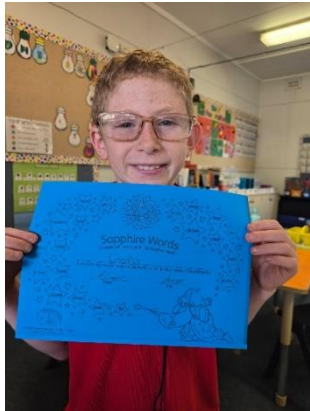
We look forward to next year's celebrations.

Enjoy the photo collage of special moments captured, further on in our newsletter.

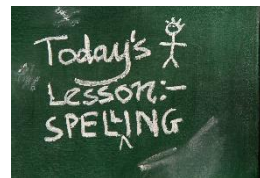
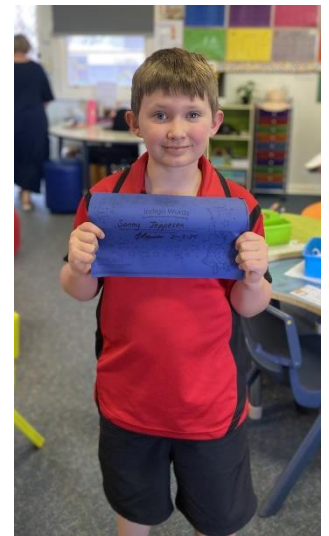
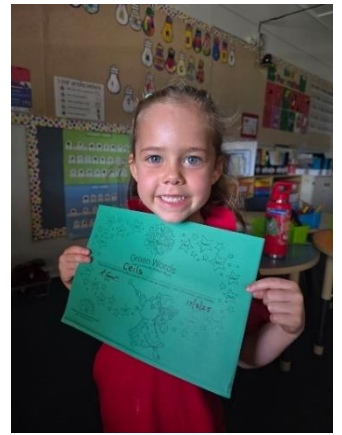
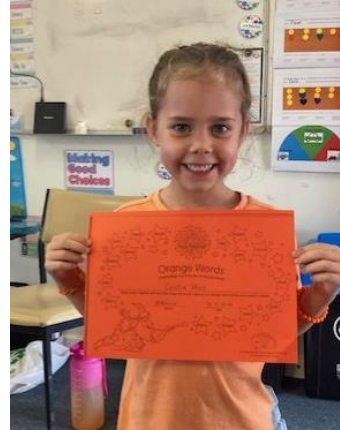


### MAGIC 100 WORDS – GREAT ACHIEVERS

It was fantastic to recognise **Cooper** for successfully achieving his certificates for **Ruby Words** and **Sapphire Words** in week 8, as well as for **Amber Words** and **Jade Words** prior.



Further excellent achievements were also made by Cecilia, progressing through **Green** and **Orange Words**.



Sonny was very pleased to learn his Indigo **Words**.

Congratulations to Cooper, Sonny and Ceils for taking these big steps in Literacy, especially as we are still only in Term 1!! We are very proud of you all.

### P&C NEWS

**April Meeting being held at 5pm tomorrow – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April in the school staffroom. Everyone Welcome!**

As Mrs Hurd announced in the last newsletter, we are proud to have the Executive Committee return for 2025. Their achievements for the last year have been amazing, working tirelessly, together with their members and the school, to help make improvements to how we enjoy our school environment.

## SCHOOL SPORTS - CROSS COUNTRY

Our Annual Cross Country Carnival has been completed for 2025. The weather was kind, with cooler temperatures. It was very pleasing that the rain held off.

We were fortunate to have participants from Lue, Sandy Hollow and Martindale schools.

Sandy Hollow Public School was the winning school with the highest number of points scored on the day. Martindale Public School won the shield for Highest Average Points based on school enrolment numbers. Congratulations to all students who took part, and to those who earned the winning points.

While our school didn't win a trophy on the day, most of our students earned a ribbon for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place in their age groups. We are very proud of their efforts.

All students, staff and visitors had a wonderful day hosted by Cassilis Public School, which was successfully organised by Mrs Nairne, Mrs Morton and Mrs Rose, with immeasurable and very welcome contributions from a wonderful group of volunteers and staff. We are very grateful for all you have done.

Thank you to Nutrien Ag Solutions of Merriwa for the fantastic donation of water bottles for everyone. Your support is much appreciated.

We would also like to sincerely thank our landholders who generously allowed us to use their properties for the event. Without this assistance, we could not conduct and enjoy such an important event in our school calendar. The Cassilis Bowling Club kindly made a sizeable donation to the P&C towards purchase of the canteen food, resulting in welcome funds received from the sale of sausage sandwiches, fruit, sweet treats and drinks.



**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**Cassilis Public School 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

*Cassilis Public School*

150 YEAR CELEBRATION

SATURDAY **4** AT THE SCHOOL  
2025

More details to follow

**NSW PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE 2025**



Artwork by Matt Ottley

NSW Department of Education

**2025 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge**  
Start reading now!

[www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au](http://www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au)

**Key dates for students in K-10:**  
 Challenge opens Monday 24 February  
 Challenge closes for student entries Friday 22 August



**ROCK'N**  
at the racecourse

**GOOD CORN LIQUOR | CARROT BOWEN & THE COLLECTIVE | BALLZ N ALL | BEC WHITE & NICK WALL | LOCAL STAR LAWSON THOMPSON**

SATURDAY APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> 2025  
2PM TO MIDNIGHT

**10 HOURS OF LIVE MUSIC!**

THREE RIVERS RECREATION GROUND, COOLAH

FOOD VANS • BAR (NO BYO)

FREE CAMPING (SOME POWERED SITES, OPENS FRIDAY)

FIREWORKS • LAZER TAG  
FREE FACE PAINTING

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE OR AT THE GATE  
18- \$50, 13-17 \$30, CHILDREN 12 & UNDER FREE

SPONSORED BY ACEN Australia

FIND US, FOLLOW US FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ROCK'N AT THE RACECOURSE • AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED

AD BY SHAW PINK CREEK



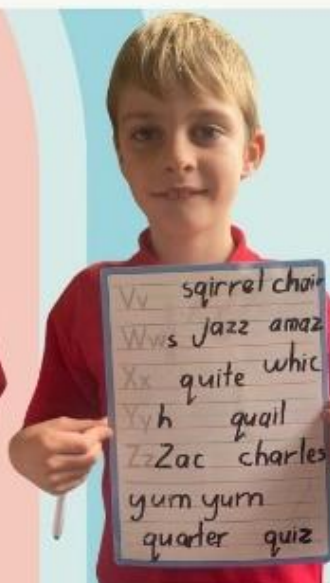
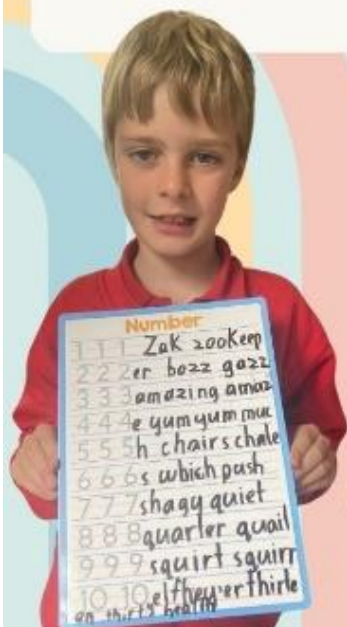
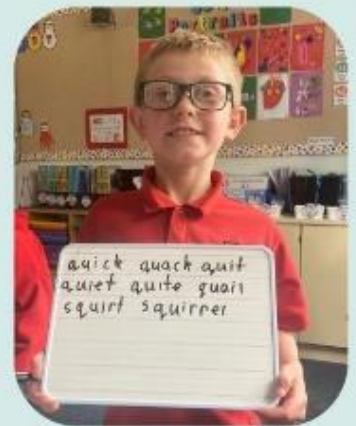
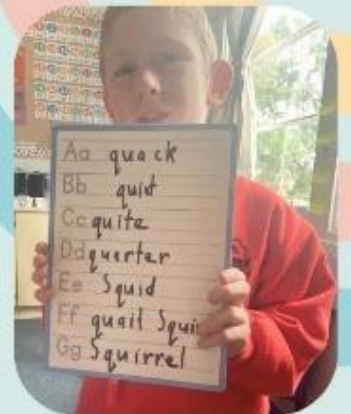
# Handwriting

## THE IMPORTANCE OF HANDWRITING

At Cassilis Public School, we place a strong emphasis on explicit handwriting instruction to support our students' literacy development. Research shows that handwriting plays a crucial role in learning to read, spell, and write. It also enhances overall academic success by stimulating neural pathways linked to letter recognition and composition skills.

Our handwriting lessons focus on three essential components: posture, pencil grasp, and letter formation. Ensuring that students sit correctly, hold their pencils using a tripod grip, and form letters correctly from the start sets them up for success. In Kindergarten, handwriting is closely connected to phonics lessons. As students learn letter sounds, they also practice forming those letters correctly.

In a recent lesson, the Joeys practiced writing on the whiteboard table, while the Roos used whiteboards with dotted thirds to refine their letter formation.



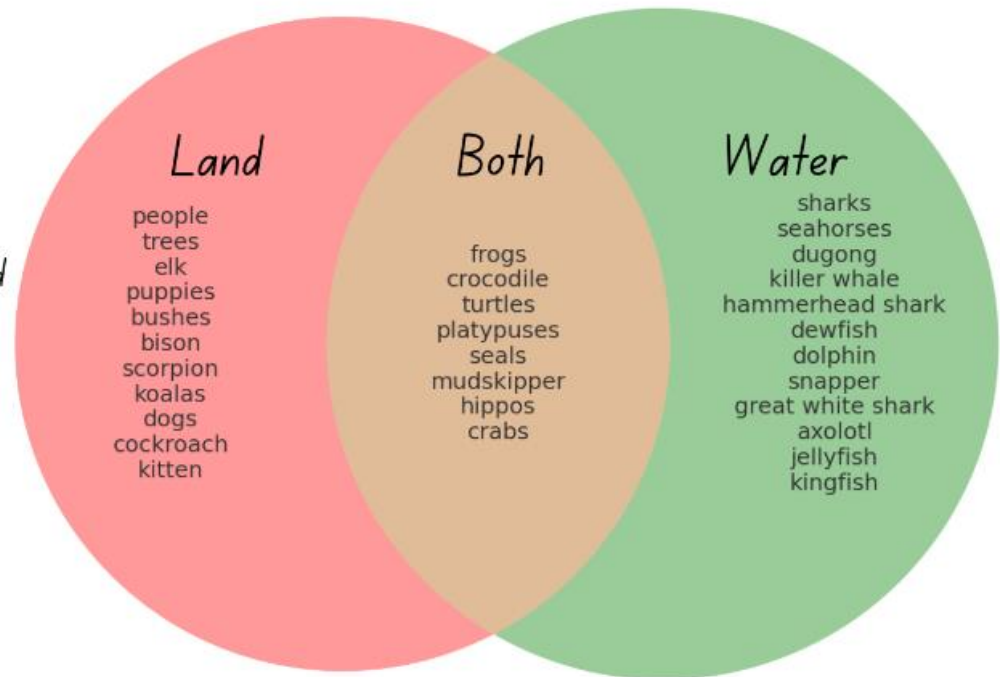
# Living Things

Students have been exploring the concept of living things and where they can be found. Using a Venn diagram, they identified living things that exist on land, in water, or both.

A key challenge was to consider whether a freshly picked flower is living or non-living, encouraging critical thinking. To conclude, students revisited the question, *What is a living thing?*, sharing their ideas and clarifying any misconceptions.

Students also taught Ms Bowen some fascinating new information—she had never heard of a mudskipper, an amphibious fish that can live on both land and water! In a kismet twist of fate, during lunch play, students discovered a brown toadlet in the sandpit—an excellent real-life example of a creature that thrives in both environments. This was eerily similar to the baby red-belly black snake spotted by students on the very same day the topic of living things was introduced in Science!

Cooper has also recently spotted an Eastern Bearded Dragon in the playground. Students gathered at a safe and respectful distance to observe the lizard up close, marvelling at its spiky appearance and camouflage. This real-world encounter deepened their understanding of how living things adapt to their environments.



Left: Brown toadlet  
Right: Bearded dragon



# Living Things

## Exploring What Animals Need to Survive



In Science, students have been investigating the essential needs of animals and how they are met in different environments. They are learning that all animals require air, water, food, and shelter to survive.

We have been exploring the responsibilities of pet owners. Students read What Does My Dog Need?, sparking conversations about whether all animals have the same needs as pets. They then recorded a list of pets owned by classmates and analysed how their needs compare.

To deepen their understanding, students created profiles for different pets, identifying what they require to stay healthy and happy. As a hands-on extension, they designed their own "class pet shop," using playdough and modelling clay to craft model pets before completing profiles about how to care for them.

Through these activities, students are not only developing scientific knowledge but also fostering empathy and responsibility for animals in their care.

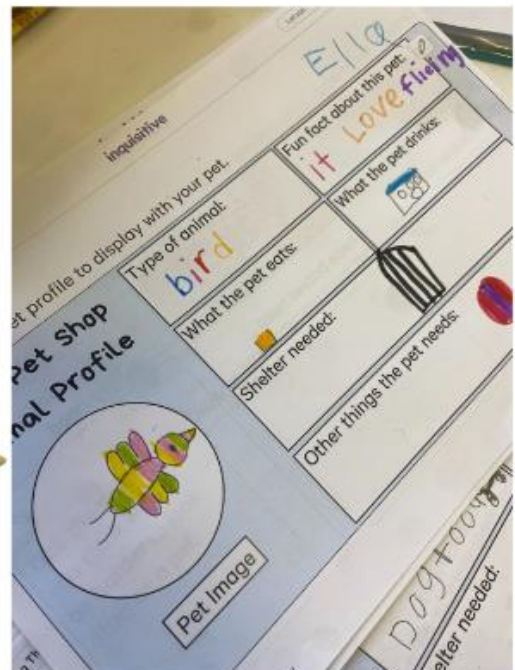




# Living Things



Our range of pets on display was many and varied! We had a few dogs, a cat, a horse, and a bird, as well as a snail, a jellyfish and a turtle! Ella's playdough bird is also displayed impressively in her Pet Profile.



# Harmony Day



# Seniors Day





# *Harmony Day*



# Seniors Day

