Coolabunia State School – celebrating 125 years of learning  Saturday 28 May 2016

From “The Builders” written by local poet (in 1991 for the school Centenary), school and community member - Geoff Missingham (deceased)

“In the tall spotted gum the koala is sleeping
Over broad camphor laurels Old Sol is new peeping
In the red bottle-brush the honey birds are singing
When I hear the peal of a school bell ringing…”

After great agitation throughout 1890, the Minister of Education challenged the Coolabunia community with supplying the timber for the school building, forms and desks. On completion, slates, books (for the 18 eligible students of 6 families) and 40 pounds per year were provided for a teacher. The first teacher was Mr Fred Horne, a local and former pupil teacher in Yorkshire, England.

And so on 16th June, 1891, Coolabunia’s first day of instruction and the beginning of what will soon be 125 years of learning, community spirit and pride began.

Since then, over 1940 students have enrolled and experienced the “Coolabunia way” of learning. This means living the school motto “Strive to Achieve”, making the best of every opportunity, looking for a bright future and learning to give back to the community.

The school has a current enrolment of 132 students, who are drawn from the Coolabunia, Kingaroy and Nanango districts. Families choose to be part of our school for many reasons, but ultimately, it is the 125 year old “Coolabunia way” that is the lure.

This has challenged the leadership and teaching through the years. The school has been blessed with a long list of staff members who have worked beyond expectations for their students, their school and their community. They have been ably and enthusiastically supported by families, both old and new. Coolabunia State School is at the hub of its community. Its challenge for the future is to learn from its past, embrace change and be forward thinking.

In 1991, the school celebrated its Centenary. This was an outstanding success. The grounds were ‘alive’ with excited chats, fond memories, smiles, laughter and the reuniting of old friends.

On Saturday 28 May, 2016, the school will be celebrating 125 years of education. Planning is well underway with school and community members determined to make sure no one is forgotten and everyone has the chance to gather and remember the good old times at school. People may wander across the globe, but they cherish and remember their school days.
There will be an official opening, static & working displays of olden times and skills, “The Last 25 Years” book which will record the continuing growth of the school, student performances, memorabilia sales, meeting the oldest student, student photos and lots of opportunities for everyone to socialize and remember their Coolabunia State School days.

To make this event a great success, the organising committee is busily contacting as many past students and families as possible through word of mouth, email, the media and Facebook. We want as many Coolabunia students and families here next year as possible.

How can you help?

- Get in touch with family, friends and old classmates and start talking about what you used to do, building up an excitement about coming next year.
- Go looking for memorabilia from your time at school – can you bring it with you?
- Write down some of your funny, interesting and quirky memories of your school days – then send them to us. We want to post them around the school on the day and also put a book together.
- Copy and send or drop in ANY PHOTOS from your time at school or previous generations.
- Call the school with information, contacts or questions.
- Call the school with YOUR SUGGESTIONS for activities.
- Come to a 125th meeting – 3rd Tuesday each month 7.30 in the Library.
- Follow us on Facebook “Coolabunia State School 125 Year Anniversary”
  - Please post photo, comments and stories

Contacts

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