Welcome Back!

After our eleven week Term 1, we hope you all enjoyed a sensational holiday. The weather couldn’t have been more glorious. If you were like me, you took the opportunity to explore many areas of this fabulous part of the world with your families. I hope the Easter Bunny did as good a job at your house as it did at mine.

Anzac Day

I was delighted that nearly 50 Bilambil Public School students joined Mrs Butler, Mrs Stuart and me in the Tweed Heads ANZAC Day Ceremony. Our school marched with style and was very respectful for this important event.

NAPLAN

Next week, on May 14, 15 and 16, students in Years 3 and 5 will complete the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The program will take place at school in a familiar setting with familiar staff supporting them. The focus for our school is not to accrue skewed data by teaching to a test, but to authentically use the data that the test provides to assess how effective our school programs are; and to also ascertain the specific strengths and weaknesses that each student is having with their learning.

If you have any questions about the test, please see your child’s teacher but otherwise the timetable for testing will be as follows:

Please be aware the Naplan note that was sent home on Monday 5 May 2014 had the dates from 2013 listed. The correct dates are listed below. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Tuesday 13 May
Language Conventions  
(Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation)
Writing

Wednesday 14 May
Reading

Thursday 15 May
Numeracy  
(Number, Algebra, function & pattern, Measurement, chance & data)
Parent Teacher Interviews
The last week of Term 1 finished in style with many parents and friends joining us for Parent/teacher Interviews. The informal parent and staff interview feedback from these were very positive. Staff have used their conversations to develop a specific learning goal and target for each child in our school to be achieved by the end of the term. These will add to their class teaching and learning plan.

If parents have any questions about their child’s learning, they should contact their child’s teacher to coordinate a meeting.

School Development Day
The School Development Day on Monday 28th April, 2014 was a great chance for staff to meet together and undertake some required and beneficial professional learning. Staff undertook compliance code of conduct training and updated their Child Protection modules. Teachers examined and planned for implementing specific comprehension strategies in Literacy and consolidated the implementation phase of the enhanced behaviour focus program that we are doing this term. Admin staff undertook PC training for MSM.

School Fair
As this is the first newsletter since the fair, the school would like to thank the P&C, and in particular Mrs Anita Johnson, for the phenomenal job they did in coordinating and hosting the Bilambil Fair. Well over 2000 people came through our school on the day and the atmosphere and behaviour of all was simply fantastic to be a part of. Well done everyone on being able to put on and run such a sensational day for our whole community!
Bilambil’s messaging you now...

We are excited to introduce to our Parents and Carers a new web based communication application. This term we have entered into a contract with MGM that will enable our school to send instant alerts, event notifications and changes, emergency broadcasts and reminders in a speedy and personalised manner direct to your mobile phones. The school text will be succinct and only one page due to the costs involved, but we believe families will be appreciative of a more direct communication from their school.

The general broadcast messages that you will receive will state Bilambil Public School as the sender, and we ask that you do not respond to these general broadcasts. However if you receive an individual personalised message such as your child’s absence, we anticipate and look forward to your reply. Text responses, such as explanation of absence, can be recognised as formal school communication.

The system currently catalogues the mother as the primary carer. If this does not suit your family, please contact our office so that we can make any appropriate changes. It is obviously important that your mobile contact details are up to date with our office and if you do not receive any text messages from the school in the near future, then please contact us to confirm your details. Thanks!

Pirates ‘n’ Princesses show

Thanks to Mrs Hassot’s great organisation, students enjoyed a fantastic end to term 1 with our Pirates and Princesses Day. After the senior choir performed a Mrs Carruther’s original play, students did a variety of fun activities together before sharing lunch with their families and friends. We were delighted our little friends from Bilambil Pre-school and Billi Kids were both able to join us on the day.

And even the staff enjoyed being a Pirate or Princess for a day.

Senior Choir members Kiarni, Lily and Talia show their fierce pirate poses after the presentation of ‘A Pirate Cantata’ at the end of term one.

Lucy, Shelby and Lauren were convincing pirates for their performance with the senior choir.
Griffith University Day
Congratulations to the 15 Stage 3 students who attended to Griffith University Open Day late last term.
Their exemplary behaviour and active participation helped introduce university as a potential post schooling option for them in their future.

TRHS Maths Olympiad
Congratulations to Nicolas S, Oliver S, Tyla E and Paige K for coming a close second in the recent Tweed River High School Maths Olympiad.
This was held last term, and the final placing was only decided on the last question of the day. A great team effort by all four!

Premier’s Debating Challenge
On Wednesday 30th April, 2014 eight Stage 3 students attended a Debating training day in Alstonville. They learned many new skills and worked hard to become effective speakers.

Back row students are Lily, Tyla, Kaycee, Luke and Emily. Front row are Lauren Talia and Lucy. All students represented the school well and I felt very proud of their behaviour and effort on the day.

Many thanks to Mrs Chorlton for giving up her time to drive students to Alstonville. I’m sure she knows a lot more about debating now as well. These students will be the main teams participating in the Premier’s Debating Challenge this term.

Mrs Carruthers

Term 2 Week 2 6 May 2014

Large Notes...
The canteen has recently reported that there have been several students presenting at the canteen with larger denomination notes. Please be mindful of the appropriateness of your child coming to school with larger notes, the safety concerns it brings and the fact that our canteen may not have the facilities to support this.
This term 1/2P are making Connections
Our class read "Molly's Memory Jar" - Norma Spaulding. This story helped us make memory connections about our families and the experiences we share with them. One of our tasks was to use symbols and pictures to make these connections.

Yummy Yummy Crunch and Sip
Being healthy is very important in our class. Eating the right fruit and vegetables in Crunch and Sip time helps us achieve this in all that we do.

Let's Jump
We are also learning some fundamental movements in sport. This is 1/2P doing Vertical Jumps. We also will also learn to master Hopping. Everyone did their very best when learning how to do these movements correctly.
School Banking
The School Banking is run by parent volunteers and the ladies who volunteer are being stretched with their time, they are seeking anyone who would like to learn the school banking process. Please call Brook Boyd on 0405 124 875 if you are interested.

CBA Sign on visit
The Commonwealth Bank will be holding a sign on day, to open new accounts for those interested in signing their children in this great scheme. Children learn the fundamentals of saving and the added benefit watching their account balance increase from week to week.

The CBA ladies will be available on Wednesday, 28 May, 2014 outside the canteen from 8.00 to 9.00am. Please ensure you bring your child’s Birth Certificate for verification.

Stewart House Donation Drive 2014
Win a Family Holiday worth $4,000
Stewart House Donation Drive 2014 envelopes where sent home last week. For your chance to win an amazing Family Holiday worth $4,000 simply fill in your details on the back of the envelope and enclosed $2 or more than return the envelope to school no later than Friday 16th May, 2014.

Germ Free
The school has recently acquired an antibacterial spray dispenser for each classroom to help minimise the spread of germs at our school. With the cold season now here, these dispensers placed strategically near each classroom door are an option for students to use when they go to get their food prior to eating.

They are totally voluntary but if you would not like your child to use them, please contact your child’s teacher.
PSSA FNC Soccer Experience

On Friday 2nd of May I travelled 430 km in a return trip to Grafton as part of the Far North Coast Zone PSSA team to compete at the North Coast Area PSSA Selection Trials.

It was both exciting and also nerve racking to be the only girl from my school and Tweed Area to be selected in the team. Not knowing anyone was a huge challenge that I was happy to overcome. I was eager and keen to hopefully win a spot on the NSW PSSA Football Team and was determined that I would play the best I could. It was cold, windy and pouring down rain all day and this was difficult enough without the added challenge of being one of the smallest players to try out. Even though I was playing out of my normal Centre Mid Position as Centre Back I played my hardest to clear the ball out all stop goals from being scored all day. My hard work was rewarded at the end of the day by being selected in the final 22 to play in the possible and probable game. I had beaten over 160 other girls to get to the final 22 and hoped that I would be selected in top 13 and make the NSW team, however, it was not meant to be and I fell short of the final hurdle. Even though I didn’t make the State team this time I was very proud of the way I played and am looking forward to many more chances in the years to come to make the NSW team.

Thanks to Mr Mostert, Mr Menim, Staff, Teachers and Students of Bilambil Public School for giving me this chance. Thanks also to mum for driving me to all of the trial days over the last few months.

Kiana J 5/6 M

Go4Fun

Free Healthy Lifestyle Program for kids 6.5 to 14 years

✓ Helps kids reach a healthy weight
✓ Fun games & exercise for kids
✓ Build self-esteem & motivation

CALL: 1800 780 900

NSW Health Northern NSW Local Health District

Starting term 2 @ BANORA POINT

Bilambil Road, BILAMBIL NSW 2486 • 07 5590 7210 • bilambil-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au • bilambil-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
Can Breakfast Make Kids Smarter?

Last year the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing published findings from their research that says it does. The research found that children who regularly have breakfast on a near-daily basis had significantly higher full scale, verbal, and performance IQ test scores.

Why? After a whole night of fasting, breakfast serves as a means to supply "fuel" to the brain. Meanwhile, social interaction at breakfast time with others may promote brain development. Mealtime discussions may facilitate cognitive development by offering children the opportunity to expand their vocabulary, practice synthesizing and comprehending stories, and acquire general knowledge, noted the authors.

So the advice is eat breakfast – it may make you smarter. http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/sia/Pages/Can-Breakfast-Make-Kids-Smarter.aspx

Mother’s Day Stall

The P&C Mother’s Day Stall is on this Friday, 9th May 2014. Donations are still required, please place any items in the box provided in the school foyer prior to Thursday morning.

The stall will operate from 9.00am to 1.00pm in the school hall, thankyou.

Madonna & Paulette
P&C Volunteers

Crunch and Sip – ‘Vegie Wednesdays’

It was great to see so many children bringing in vegetables for Crunch and Sip last Wednesday. We hope you can continue help support this change by providing a variety of raw vegetables on each Wednesday e.g.: carrot and celery sticks, strips of capsicum, cucumber, mushrooms, cherry tomatoes, broccoli, snow peas etc. These vegetables may be served with hommus or mashed avocado with a squeeze of lemon.

Kindergarten Assembly

The children in KB, KS and Kindergarten children in KL would like to invite you to attend their Thursday afternoon assembly on May 15, 2014 at 1.45pm in the school hall. This assembly will be where Kindergarten show off their skills to the whole school.

FAIR SHOWBAGS

If your family missed out on the day there are some showbags available. Please call Anita Johnson on 0422 369 276

School Jackets available

Now the cooler mornings are here, please ensure you send your children to school with a jumper.

School polar fleeces jackets are available from the uniform shop for $25.00 in sizes 4 to 16.
WANTED - Parent/Carers or Family volunteers to train and run the new ‘Kids in the Kitchen’ School Cooking Program in 2014

Bilambil Public School will be providing students with the opportunity to develop essential cooking skills. Students need practical skill development in preparing healthy food and the Kids in the Kitchen cooking program encourages them to prepare their own fruit and vegetable meals and snacks. Students love having their parents or family come to help at school! So family volunteers (parents, grandparents, carers) are invited to come along and help run the Kids in the Kitchen program within the school. As a family volunteer you will be provided with a half-day training session during term 2 or 3.

This will mean that greater teaching and supervision with a high adult to child ratio is achieved. A ratio of one parent to 4 or 5 students will enable all to get a turn, have fun, and gain lots of hands on cooking experiences.

The training session is a fun, hands on session where family volunteers get a chance to chat, learn skills and cook simple and delicious dishes from the KIK cookbook and then share it for lunch.

The Kids in the Kitchen cooking program will then be run by family volunteers with the aim of supporting students to:
- try a diverse range of healthy foods
- learn how food affects their bodies
- learn cooking skills
- develop healthy eating habits

The program also supports student learning by directly linking to other curriculum areas including English, Science and Technology, Personal Development, Health and Physical Activity, Human Society and its Environment, Mathematics, Creative Arts and Languages

If you require further information please contact Wendy Brazel or Alison Lloyd at school on 07 5590 7210

If you are interested in being involved in this very valuable activity please complete the following slip and send back to school.

‘Kids in the Kitchen’ School Cooking Program in 2014

I am interested in being involved in a half day training session and would be available to help run a ‘Kids in the Kitchen’ cooking program at Bilambil Primary School during term 2 or term 3.

Name: ___________________________________________ My child’s class is __________________________

Mobile number: _________________________________ Home: _________________________________

Email: __________________________________________
HOST FAMILIES NEEDED IN JUNE/ JULY 2014
EXPERIENCE ANOTHER CULTURE, MAKE NEW FRIENDS - IMPROVE YOUR LANGUAGE STUDIES AT HOME

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand is a not-for-profit organisation that is registered with all state and territory Departments of Education around Australia and with the Ministry of Education in NZ. We are the first and only secondary exchange organisation in Australia and New Zealand to be certified to ISO 9001 (Quality Management System) and we ensure the highest standards of care and support to our participants.

In June-July we will be receiving exchange students from Europe, the USA & Latin America. Our new arrivals will live with a host family and attend a local school for 2 or 10 months.

Hosting an exchange student can be a truly rewarding experience. It allows a family to experience a foreign culture first hand, be exposed to a new language and pass on a bit of our own culture. You might even make a friend for life!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST AN OVERSEAS EXCHANGE STUDENT

Learn about another culture, learn a new language or perhaps improve your culinary skills

Host - An Experience for Life

Student Exchange is looking for host families across New Zealand to welcome overseas students into their home.

Visit www.studentexchange.org.au/host-a-student or call 1300 135 331 for more information.

---

Health
Northern NSW
Local Health Network

Children between 0-18 years who have a Medicare card are eligible for FREE dental services at any of the NSW Health public dental clinics located at the Tweed Hospital, Pottsville Health One and East Murwillumbah Public School.

Please phone 1300 651 625 to register for an appointment.

TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER

Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by volunteering to host one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2014 for their 3, 5, or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Spain and Colombia will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money, and comprehensive insurance cover, all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange.

You choose the nationality, the gender, the duration and the interests of the student that you feel is the best match for your family. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaustralia@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!
What a great effort and amazing day at Bilambil Community Fair on Saturday 5 April 2014. On behalf of Bilambil P&C Association a big thank you to the wider Bilambil community and all those who came along and showed their support at the Fair. We estimated that over 2000 people came through the gates on the day and we hope everyone enjoyed the Carnival Rides, Animal Farm, Live Entertainment, and Kidz Zone activities, Food, Drinks and many Community Stalls on the day. To all the staff, teachers and students at Bilambil Public School I would like to thank you for your contribution in the lead up to and during the Fair, especially with the Art Expo. It looked amazing and showcased the talent of our wonderful students to the wider community. Together we managed to raise over $15,000 for the school!

What a fabulous day! It was so lovely to see current and past students helping out on the day and watching everyone celebrate our wonderful school. With everyone pitching in together it is incredible what we can achieve from only a small school community. The money raised will be put towards a new playground for our children to enjoy.

A huge Thank you to all our stall coordinators and parent volunteers who did a phenomenal job leading up and on the day, and to everyone who worked tirelessly behind the scenes making the day run smoothly. Also to the teachers, parents and students who put their hand up for the sponge throw.

Thank you also to everyone who donated lucky bottles, chocolate bars, quack a duck donations as well as the many white elephant stall items. Thank you to those parents who helped canvas the local businesses for donations. Without all this generous support the Fair would not have been such a huge success.

Thank you to our sponsors big and small who helped make the day a success. Without your financial support or donations of prizes we would not have raised as much money as what we did.

WOW, what a show! The various entertainments all day was certainly amazing. Special thanks to Lissy Stanton, Wild Call Wild Life Shows, Minjungbal Aboriginal Dance Group, Tweed River High music and dance students, Bilambil Public School Choir, Guitar & Band Students as well as the many other local groups who kept us entertained all day on the various live stages. The entertainment and music added to the amazing atmosphere of the day.

The Rides & Show bags went off with a Bang! Thanks to Party Time Amusement and Ponies Ponies Ponies for their fabulous rides, Animals Farm and Ponies. Our students, siblings, preschoolers and other community children were kept entertained all day with the many wonderful activities. We would also like to thank Benson Show Bags for the lolly & novelty show bags as well as blow up novelty toys that were also a big hit on the day.

I hope that Bilambil Community Fair will be a tradition that will continue for many years to come. Even though there is a lot of time and effort involved in the lead up to the fair seeing all the students and families smiling faces on the day and raising the amount of money we did from one event makes it all worth it. Thank you to all of the P&C Committee members who supported me in this exciting and rewarding experience.

Anita Johnson
Fair Coordinator
# Bilambil Fair Student Competition Winners 2014

## PHOTOGRAPHY

### Scenery - Infants
1st Tahlia C 1/2B  
2nd Manaia H 1/2B  
3rd Amelie D KB

### Selfies - Infants
1st Ruby I 1/2B  
2nd Reef H 1/2P  
3rd Chloe H

### Animals - Infants
1st Isaac P  
2nd Malia W KB  
3rd Michael H K/1L

### People - Infants
1st Evander M  
2nd Ruby I 1/2B  
3rd Ruby I 1/2B

### Scenery - Junior 8-10 yrs
1st Jasmin R 5/6M  
2nd Taji V 3/4M  
3rd Zoe D 3/4S

### Scenery – Senior 11-13yrs
1st Indi V 5/6C  
2nd Kiana J 5/6B

### Selfies -Junior/Senior combined
1st Adam M  
2nd Talia L 5/6B  
3rd Sarah-Jane M

### Animals - Junior 8-10yrs
1st Sarah-Jane M  
2nd Sarah M 3/4B  
3rd Talia L 5/6S

### Animals - Senior 11-13yrs
1st Indi V 5/6C  
2nd Kiana J 5/6B

### People - Junior/Senior combined
1st Talia L 5/6B  
2nd Adam M  
3rd Kiana J 5/6B

### Overall Winner for best single photo
Infant – Evander M 1/2M  
Junior – Sarah-Jane M  
Senior – Indi V

### Overall Winner for best photographer/most consistent photographer
Infant – Ruby I  
Junior – Talia L  
Senior – Indi V

## LUCKY BOTTLES DECORATION

### Kindergarten
1st Zac T KP  
2nd Zoe C KP  
3rd Kirra-Lilly B KJ

### Year 1
1st Adrianna R  
2nd Ben H  
3rd Priya H

### Year 2
1st Tahlia C  
2nd Ruby I  
3rd Adam M

### Year 3
1st Maddison M  
2nd Flynn M  
3rd Tiani B

### Year 4
1st Sarah-Jane M  
2nd Joshua C  
3rd Angus P

### Year 5 & 6 combined
1st Stella R 5/6B  
2nd Kaycee-Jane W  
3rd Cate H 5/6M
**BAKING CONTEST**

**Infants**
1st Priya & Maya H
Chocolate brownie

2nd Isaac P
Sweet potato fudge brownie

3rd Zachary S
Mini cupcakes

**Junior**
1st Maddison Turnage
Caramel Lovers Cupcakes

2nd Adam M
Chocolate caramel slice

3rd Jacob T
Coconut Cake

**Senior**
1st Jade M
Checkerboard cake

2nd Jesse R
Baklava

3rd Oliver S
Coconut Ice in Bilambil PS colours

---

**OOSH News:**

**Active After School Sports**

This starts again from Monday, 5th May 2014

---

**Mondays** - **Skateboarding**

If you have them, BYO skateboard, helmet, knee and elbow pads. Only 3 places left, so if you’re a casual, you might want to book in permanently on Mondays for this term.

**Wednesdays** - **Kung Fu and Poi**

Every second week we will have Kung Fu and every other week will be Poi (traditional Maori dance).

**Thursdays** - **Ball Games with Brad**

Brad has been a favourite coach for several years now. His games are always fun and keep the children on the go.

---

**Here are a few things you might not know about OOSH:**

- We provide 2 afternoon teas. The first is straight after school when children are ravenous. Children have sandwiches, fruit and crackers. We also cook with the children at least once a week and they have this or another snack for second afternoon tea at around 5.00pm.
- Three days per week we provide AASC sport for free! See above for this term’s timetable.
- We have an indigenous worker on Mondays to bring aboriginal culture into our program.
- Children can catch the bus to OOSH from Carool, Terranora and Pacific Coast schools. They can also catch the bus to Carool and Terranora schools in the morning from before school care.
- We are the cheapest OOSH in our area. The next closest service in distance and price is $10.00 dearer per child per day than we are and they don’t provide any of the above.
I grew up as one of five kids in a close-knit family, and from an early age I wanted nothing more than to be a stay-at-home mum. I’d met Robert when I was almost 16 and, after nine years together, starting a family seemed as natural as night following day.

I gave birth to Jonathan two days before Christmas in 1984. He was an adorable baby and as a toddler he was boisterous and creative. I enjoyed every minute of those years at home with him and Chris.

Becoming a mother defined me. How can you not change when suddenly there exists something that is more precious than your own life? I discovered new things about, and deeper levels within, myself – because I held so much more in my arms. Of course the boys took my time, my space, even my patience – but they gave it all back with a smile.

Now that my boys are men, it’s not the fancy holidays or big events that are my most golden memories. It’s the ordinary, everyday things. Bedtime stories were a special time because they opened up their imaginations. Music, playing their favourite songs and dancing crazily with them. Dinner times: every night, without fail, we ate at the dining table together – the same meal for everyone, too. This was, and is, an important ritual in the milieu of our family life, it’s where we partake in each other’s day, share thoughts and exchange memories. Often I call the dinner table ‘my altar table’ – it’s like a religious conviction, I guess, where I get to nurture and nourish my family.

On Sunday, May 18, 1997, I was cooking one such dinner for us when everything changed. Jonathan was 12 and I was 37. He’d been playing outside with the boy from next door and I was making nachos. Just after 5 pm I called Jon inside and minutes later I heard a huge bang.

Jonathan didn’t see the car coming. The car took him out and sent him flying for 20 metres. I found Jonathan lying on the street, his leg all twisted, with a horror amount of dark-red blood coming out of his mouth and nose. There were two voices in my head – one telling me to scream hysterically and the other telling me to stay calm because my baby needed me calm. That was the voice I chose to listen to.

At the hospital I didn’t cry; I just felt numb. A doctor told us a CT scan indicated a brain injury; that Jonathan’s clinical signs weren’t good, and he couldn’t tell us if he’d make it. I thought, ‘You don’t know Jonathan’.

Jonathan was in an induced coma for the first month and for four more months I didn’t leave his side. Some deep reserve of energy kicked in and I knew I was making a difference to his recovery. All day long I told him how much we loved him; that he was going to be all right. But Jonathan got worse before he got better and each day felt like a ghostly repeat of the one before.

Jonathan was in intensive care for three weeks and then his eyes started to open. From early on, I knew he knew me. I’d lie on his bed and cuddle him and tell him about his life and read him stories. I was completely driven in my mission to restore what little semblance was left of my family. I saw signs of positivity everywhere.

Around the two-month mark I knew I’d found something to work with. I wheeled Jonathan to a piano in the hospital music room. He had no neck control, he was still dribbling and not talking, but he was just starting movement in his right arm. He’d begun to reach up and touch my face and take my rings off and do little things he’d done as a toddler. At the piano he reached out and started playing ‘Charlotte’s Fire’, which he’d been learning at the time of the accident.
There were no doctors around but the teachers saw it and everyone was crying – me hardest of all. That’s his theme song now, and he played it at the launch of my book.

Jono had post-traumatic amnesia for about 10 months, which indicates the worst kind of brain injury and the unlikelihood that memory will be regained. But we didn’t listen to the doctors. I see his memory improving all the time and that’s because he has a full and active life.

It’s been a long, hard journey. At three months he started making moaning sounds. I saw that as positive – he was trying to communicate. And then he started making ‘mmmm’ sounds. I literally pulled apart his lips to get his mouth moving but I closed the curtains around us because people thought I was crazy. But then one day he looked at me and said ‘Mum’. I can’t describe the joy I felt.

The first day I left him, to go to the hairdresser because I was a mess, my sister stayed with him and gave him a drink of grape juice that hadn’t been diluted. He gagged and blurted out: ‘I want my Mum!’ I’d cried all the way through getting my hair done but I walked back into his room and he was talking! We called Robert and I said ‘Someone here wants to speak to you’. Without any prompting, Jonathan said in the softest voice: ‘Hi…Dad…I…Love…You…Dad’. We were all in floods of tears.

Jono’s accident not only changed who I was, it also changed the complete dynamic of our family. I had to wear so many different hats in my new role as mother to Jono. I was – and, to varying degrees, still am – his carer, his rehabilitation case manager, speech therapist, occupational therapist, physiotherapist; tutor, social secretary, counsellor for depression, and by and large his navigator through life.

My mothering of Chris did a complete 360, too. Chris was only 10 at the time of Jonathan’s accident and I had to neglect him and his needs for the best part of five to 10 years because my entire energy was driven towards getting Jonathan better. To this day, I feel an enormous amount of ‘mother-guilt’ about not being there throughout probably the most crucial years of a boy’s life: adolescence.

I was also guilty of being overprotective because I was terrified something bad would happen to Chris too. But I learnt, with time, to let him find his own way and I’m so glad I did, because he has become the most extraordinary young man, with the right blend of compassion and empathy, integrity and humility, He’s a civil engineer and he married his girlfriend Danielle last year, with Jono as his best man. It was an incredibly happy day for our family. Jono made a five-minute speech he’d memorised, jokes and all, which brought the house down.

I’m enormously proud of both of my boys although Chris is probably my proudest achievement, because he’s done it all by himself. But our kids learn through watching us, in ways we don’t even realise at the time.
PLUMBING MATTERS
“Run All Your Plumbing Matters”
Plumbing - Gasfitting - Backflow testing
Paul O'Connell
Mobl: 0407 796 330
Phn: 07 5590 7205
44 Kangari Ave, Bilambil Heights NSW 2486
Lic No: APF 2486258 CLD: 248652 MOD: 248645
P.O. Box 308, Bilambil Heights NSW 2486

Kip McGrath
Leaders in Learning
Herman & Marie Bakker
0404 495 384
Suite 11, 65 Wheat Street
Tweed Heads NSW 2485
Phone: 07 5538 8225
Fax: 07 5538 4174
Lennox 085 0684
lennoxtk@aol.com
www.kipmcmgrath.com.au

BILKIDS
EARLY LEARNING CENTRE
AND PRESCHOOL
P: 07 5590 9345
F: 07 5590 9347
A: 24 Buenavista Drive,
Bilambil Heights NSW 2486
E: info@bilkids.com.au
www.bilikids.com.au

Sharna Mulach
0415155049
Bilambil Heights NSW
Sharna’s
Family Day Care
Registered with Queensland Department of Employment and Further Education

Bilambil Community Preschool & OOSH
[next to Bilambil Public School]
Providing Preschool and Out of School Hours (OOSH) care for your family.
OOSH is available for Permanent and Casual bookings
Monday to Friday for both Before & After school care.
Preschool Program available 9am-3pm.
Preschool waiting list for 2015 & 2016 NOW OPEN.
Ph: 5590 7722
kelly@bilambilpreschooloosh.org
bilambilpreschooloosh.org

We sincerely thank our advertisers for their support of our school. The NSW Department of Education and Communities and Bilambil Public School do not endorse these companies or their services and products.