

Cairns School of Distance Education

# Newsletter

Term 4, 2021



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## TERM 1 DATE CLAIMERS

**Term 1 Dates** 24/01/22 - 28/01/22

**Orientation Week** 27/01/22 - 28/01/22 (TBC)

**Australia Day** 26/01/22

**P&C Meeting** 07/02/22 & 14/03/22 (AGM)

### Let's Connect

**Cairns** 07/03/22 - 08/03/22

**SEQ** 07/03/22 - 08/03/22 (TBC)

**Tablelands** 08/03/22 - 09/03/22

**Peninsula** 27/04/22 - 28/04/22

**STEAM Camp** 24/03/22 - 25/03/22

**Music Camp** 28/03/22 - 29/03/22

**Good Friday Public Holiday** 15/04/22

**Easter Monday Public Holiday** 18/04/22



# Principal's Report

Warm greetings everyone. Well we have made it to the end of another exciting year at Cairns SDE. I extend my thanks to all of you for your ongoing support of our school.

This edition of our newsletter outlines all our wonderful achievements and the inspirational highlights of our students, home tutors and staff for 2021.

Cairns SDE is a school that cares, and this is reflected by our partnerships with our E-Z Club (Zonta) and the White Ribbon Foundation. You can read all about our actions and efforts throughout the year in the first section of this edition. If you are interested in being involved in either of these programs in 2022 please contact our coordinator Ros Scott ([rs Scot50@eq.edu.au](mailto:rs Scot50@eq.edu.au)) to register your interest.

Our sustainability team organised some fantastic events for *Enviroweek* and our student responses are certainly worth checking out. This team also have some exciting strategies for our curriculum program as well as our infrastructure plans in 2022.

At this time of the year we have some extremely mixed feelings as we say goodbye to our Year 12 students, long term home tutors and staff. We are excited to see these people move onto bigger, better and more exciting adventures in the world. However, we are also saddened that they will no longer have the same level of involvement in our school community. I wish all our departing students, tutors and staff all the very best for their futures and I am sure they are bright ones.



I also wish to pass on my best wishes and heartfelt thanks to two long term home tutors, Mel Cowe and Karen Muccignat. Their efforts and advocacy for our school are appreciated by our students, other home tutors, our P&C and the staff of our school. I wish them

all the very best for the future and look forward to reviewing Karen's enrolment application in 2022 😊



Some staff members also finish up with us at the end of this year. I thank each one of them for their service to our school.

- Chappy Deb is moving back to the United Kingdom
- Simone Pitt is transferring to Aurukun State School
- Meaghan Jones is relieving at level in Brisbane
- Keryn Turner is transferring to another school
- Giuliano Alberti is moving to St Andrews
- Caroline Farrell is moving to Sydney
- Christian Kruger is taking pre-retirement leave.

I also wish to thank our school's brilliant P&C and especially our executive membership team of Judith, Laurie and Melissa. Their efforts and support are greatly appreciated. I look forward to working with all of you in 2022 as we celebrate 50 years of educational service as Cairns School of the Air and Cairns SDE.

Finally, I wish you all a safe, happy, restorative and wonderful summer holiday. We do not know what next year will bring, however we do know that we will be here with you to support your family's education.

Kind regards

Andrew Oliver

Principal

P.S. I hope that if you believe in the big bearded bloke who is guided by six boomers, that he brings you something nice 😊

# Parent Liaison Officer

Happy Summer holidays Cairns SDE parents, carers, students and Home Tutors.

I can't believe it has been 10 weeks since I arrived here at Cairns School of Distance Education. What an exciting, inspiring and fun time Term 4 has been for us all. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many fabulous families, chatty children and terrific teenagers. Enrolments have continued to roll in and we are looking forward to meeting continuing, and new students and home tutors via our various online orientation sessions in the new year. Make sure you keep an eye out for the sessions that will be helpful for you and your student, and join in.

## Peninsula Mini School, 11-15 October 2021

After 4 days on site I jumped in a four-wheel drive with the always-entertaining Ms Leigh Howser, Community Engagement Head of Department, water and food for 5 days as well as teaching resources in tow, and we headed up the Mulligan Highway towards the Laura Rodeo grounds. The Home Tutors and I tackled macramé creations, breathed in the bull dust through our yoga poses, and talked about kids becoming teenagers, and the grit required to be both a parent and a tutor. Uncannily while we were discussing wellbeing and anxious teens, government funding was being transacted to support the free delivery of an online program for parents coping with this. [Fear Less Triple P](#) would be helpful for all parents considering the changing world that we live in today filled with uncertainty and requiring to adapt quickly. Thank you to the awesome Peninsula families for making my 2<sup>nd</sup> week in the job warm (41 degrees +!!) and welcoming.

## Home Tutor Connect, 21 October and 18 November 2021

It was also lovely to eMeet some of the Home Tutors via the Home Tutor Connect Sessions this term. One notable outcome from these sessions is that our Writing Coach Helen Crampton will be conducting *Writing Tips for HTs of Reluctant Writers* in Term 1 2022. I will also organise a session with Helen Venables our Reading Coach. With your feedback and suggestions, we have also updated the [Home Tutor Guide](#) and will continue to freshen up the Student Portal to be user friendly and engaging. If you would like to be involved next term then send me an email and I'll share the guest link with you. The sessions take place in Week 3 and 7 every term, on Thursdays at 3.30pm, and are accessible via *Blackboard Collaborate Ultra > CSDE Space > Assemblies*.

## Celebration Week, 29 November – 3 December 2021

2021 finished with a big splash! We all know that the most popular Community Engagement event in Celebration Week is Sugarworld and this year saw the biggest turn out to date! A long-standing tradition here at Cairns SDE it is a great opportunity for students, teachers and parents/carers to interact, relax and celebrate the year. It was great for me to meet some more lovely families and put some more faces to names. Congratulations to all students who received awards at

Presentation Day and to those nominated as Student Leaders. Remember there is always the opportunity next year to *BE RESPECTFUL, BE SAFE AND BE A LEARNER*, and get acknowledged with a Positive Behaviour for Learning postcard/award next year.

## Cairns SDE 50th Anniversary

Preparation for the multiple 50th anniversary events and activities has commenced. Thank you to all those who have volunteered to join the various committees so we can make this celebration the biggest and best it can be. Please email [CairnsSDE50@cairnssde.eq.edu.au](mailto:CairnsSDE50@cairnssde.eq.edu.au) if you have suggestions or would like to help out in anyway. It would be great if any past students or teachers out there could share photos, videos, stories and memories too.



The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary calendar was released during Celebration Week and although the school and posting has closed for the year, you're welcome to purchase a calendar via the new Qkr!

App. We can get it out to you next year. Funds raised from the sale of this, to be, annual calendar will go towards future Student Leader projects. Each month shows artwork and photos of *Life at Cairns SDE* submitted by various students and staff.

The new Qkr! App will be used for school payments moving forward. Download the app via the App Store or get it on Google Play;

1. When prompted, ensure location services are set to 'Allow while using app' OR Search for Cairns School of Distance Education
2. Add Profile and complete details
3. Calendar item is then visible to add to cart
4. Payment Method – credit card ONLY
5. Finally, View Receipt and email (envelope in top right corner) to [admin@cairnssde.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@cairnssde.eq.edu.au) to confirm your payment.



## Reach out and say HI!

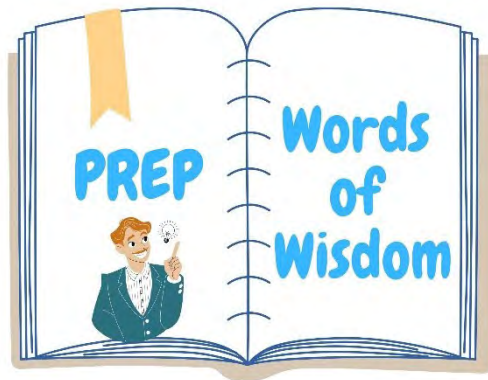
There are many more families out there for me to meet and talk to which I look forward to doing next year at our online orientation sessions, Home Tutor Connect Sessions, Let's Connect and Minis Schools throughout Queensland. If you have any queries, suggestions or feedback, then please give me a call – 07 4080 9208 or email [plo@cairnssde.eq.edu.au](mailto:plo@cairnssde.eq.edu.au).

All the best for your Festive Season, however you choose to celebrate the Summer break.

Clare Macpherson  
Cairns SDE Parent Liaison Officer

# Student News

## Prep Words of Wisdom



In this term's "Words of Wisdom" segment, Prep teachers have asked our students two questions:

### If you could be invisible for one day, what would you do?

- "I would be sneaky" – Lorelei
- "I would eat all of the lollies" – Grace
- "I would trick all the people" – Dakota
- "Sneak and prank my sisters" – Tiann
- "I would eat all of the lollies and no one would know. I would also just sit with the puppies and not have to do anything because no one could find me" – Colby
- "I would stay in my pyjamas all day and sneak into the truck with daddy and not do school" – Jackson

### Would you rather have wings or 4 legs? Why?

- "I would have wings so I could fly and see my sister, Vera" – Lorelei
- "I would have wings, a horn, a tail, and a mane and feet, I mean horse shoes, because it's a unicorn" – Chelsea
- "I would like wings so I can pretend I'm an angel" – Dakota
- "I would have wings so I can fly and travel around the whole world" – Tiann
- "I would like to have wings so I can fly around to see all of the places" – Grace
- "Wings. Because I like to go anywhere" – Daisy
- "I think I would choose wings so I could fly to work" – Mrs. Taylor

## Introducing the 2022 Student Leaders

# 2022 Student Leaders

We are excited to announce the 2022 Student Leaders.

Criteria included:

- Meeting the PB4L expectations of the school
- Submission of work returns
- Student idea's provided in application
- Nomination endorsed

Role	Name	Year level
School Captains	Amy J	12
	Jolene R	12
Social Captains	Anna M	10
	Aaliya M	4
Sports Captains	Maddie G	10
	James B	6
Cultural Captains	Mason T-A	9
	Jamaal M	6
STEAM	Sienna T	11
	Finnlay F	8

## Book Week

This term we celebrated Book Week. The theme this year was Old Worlds, News Worlds and Other Worlds. Thank you to staff and students that dressed up. We loved seeing everyone's creative costumes.



# Book Week



## Cairns SDE eZ Club Stitch n Stuff



Zonta Breast Care Cushions are jointly prepared by the Edmonton Uniting Church and Zonta Club of Cairns Inc. The finished cushions are given to the

Breast Care Nurses at the oncology dept. Cairns Hospitals. Zonta Club of Cairns Inc. provides upwards of 300 each year for women and men who have small biopsies to major breast surgery. This is one of Zonta's Service to community projects.

Cairns SDE Open Learning Centre has SHINE Girls Group and each Term they are eager to do community work. Deb Bromley or Barb Prentis can give you more info on this. The girls 'stitch n stuff' and add a personal note to the recipient of the cushions. Zonta Club of Cairns Inc. is most appreciative of the SHINE Girls Group's assistance.

### White Ribbon and Zonta

Cairns SDE is officially a Certified White Ribbon School. Cairns SDE supports the ideals of Zonta International and the eZ Club of Cairns SDE.

Zonta Clubs around the world unite for 16 Days of Activism, 25 November to 10 December each year, to highlight the Zonta International Campaign to eliminate violence against women and girls. 25 November each year is the United Nations Day for the elimination of violence against women and 10 December, United Nations Day for Human Rights.



<https://zontadistrict22.org/what-we-do/zonta-says-no-to-violence-against-women-campaign/>

Orange paper-doll cut-outs representing women and girls who have died as a result of Family and Domestic Violence were displayed in the A Block reception area during Week 8, 9 and 10. Local libraries and hairdresser salons display positive information and reading material should you need or know someone who may need some help.



Cairns SDE White Ribbon Team and Zonta Club of Cairns Inc. jointly held a fundraising Trivia Night on Thursday 25 November at the Salt House to raise awareness for both organisations and raise funds for Prevention, Education Programs and to support Cairns' three women's shelters. Please also note that the shelters are at capacity and that services are also provided for men who need a safe place for shelter with their children as sometimes the situation may be the reverse.

The eZ Club will be open in 2022 and new members, boys and girls Yr 7 - Yr 12, are always welcome to inspire, lead and achieve community projects in our school, local and International community. Whether you are thinking of a university pathway or not, community service through your school eZ Club is a valuable asset in your Resume.

Amelia Earhart Day is 11 January, a day to consider your technological and science pathway to the aerospace industry with an Amelia Earhart Fellowship. Check this out on the Zonta International webpage. [http://www.zonta.org/Web/Our\\_Programs/Education/Amelia\\_Earhart\\_Fellowship/Web/Programs/Education/Amelia\\_Earhart\\_Fellowship.aspx?hkey=87230eef-bcc2-4e78-97bc-97f0cdd281ac](http://www.zonta.org/Web/Our_Programs/Education/Amelia_Earhart_Fellowship/Web/Programs/Education/Amelia_Earhart_Fellowship.aspx?hkey=87230eef-bcc2-4e78-97bc-97f0cdd281ac).

[melia\\_Earhart\\_Fellowship.aspx?hkey=87230eef-bcc2-4e78-97bc-97f0cdd281ac](http://www.zonta.org/Web/Our_Programs/Education/Amelia_Earhart_Fellowship.aspx?hkey=87230eef-bcc2-4e78-97bc-97f0cdd281ac).

International Women's Day is in March 2022 and this is always a great opportunity to see first-hand the wonderful achievements of women in our local community. More information for this event will be available next year.

Take care to Learn, Give and Take Action in your community.

### Enviroweek

National Enviroweek 18- 22 October 2021 encourages students to connect with their local environment and community; and promote Eco-Action. Our students and school community have been involved in a range of initiatives throughout the year including Clean Up Australia campaign, sustainable practices during school camp, National Tree Day, participating in Enviro-Club workshops and the promotion of recycling in the school grounds. Students were invited to participate in an Enviroweek Art competition focusing on the theme 'Our Excellent Earth'. Please see our student entries below. All students received an environment themed prize bag for their participation.



Lilly-Grace (Year 3)



Anna M (Year 9)



Daniel S (Year 6)

### 2021 Cairns Speaking Competition Indonesian

At the end of Term 3, the Modern Languages Teacher Association of Queensland once again hosted the Cairns Languages Speaking Competition for Indonesian. This year there were entries from Year 5 and 6 students. Students from 11 schools around Queensland competed by sending in a recorded speech. The competition requires students to use a set speech framework to introduce themselves as well as including some individual sentences demonstrating their skills.

Special congratulations go to Jamaal M. from Cairns SDE who was awarded 1st place in the Year 5 division. Jamaal will receive a 1st place certificate and a medal. Jase D. also in Year 5 from Normanton SS who is studying Indonesian through Cairns SDE received a Highly Commended certificate. The judges commented that the entries were of a high standard and all participants are to be congratulated for their efforts. Recommendation for next year is for students to focus on their presentation skills as well as their language skills.



**2021 Tablelands Japanese Speaking Competition**  
Congratulations to our Year 10 student Sora for receiving First Place during 2021 Tablelands Japanese Speaking Competition. Thank you Mr. Kenny for supporting Sora in her competition.



**StuditaliA Awards 2021**  
The Queensland Department of Education and the Consulate of Italy in Brisbane are proud to support the 2021 StuditaliA Prize—an initiative to promote excellence in Italian language studies in Queensland schools and reward the high achievement of Year 12 students of Italian.

In its 27th year, the prize provides students with the opportunity to be awarded a \$3,000 travel voucher prize to undertake future independent travel to Italy to enhance their language proficiency and deepen their knowledge of Italy's society and culture.

StuditaliA is based on the collaboration between the Consulate of Italy, Brisbane and the Queensland Department of Education and it is supported by the voluntary contributions of institutions and the associations of the Italian community. The Organising Committee comprises Comites Queensland and Northern Territory, COASIT Brisbane/ Italian Language

Center (ILC), Dante Alighieri Brisbane, Griffith University.

This year there were five recipients including Andre Oberleuter who is enrolled in Italian at Cairns SDE. The awards ceremony took place at the Queensland Department of Education in the presence of the Queensland Minister of Education and Industrial Relations, Grace Grace and the Consul of Italy in Brisbane, Dr. Salvatore Napolitano.

Congratulations to Year 12 Italian teacher Mr Giuliano Alberti and congratulations to Andre on achieving this prestigious award. We are proud of you!



**Ava on holiday of a lifetime**  
An Australian family circumnavigates the globe on board Utopia - article by Sara Bavato.

**Captions:**  
Ava swimming with sea lions in Mexico  
A close encounter with a chameleon

Una famiglia australiana circumnaviga il globo a bordo di Utopia  
di Sara Bavato

CAIRNS. Forse il modo meno comune di andare in vacanza è quello di circumnavigare il globo. Un'impresa, spaventosa, che fa pensare a vagabondaggi e avventure di un tempo o a una missione di pace. Invece, in questi giorni, una famiglia australiana sta facendo il giro del mondo a bordo di Utopia, una nave a vela che ha rotto il record del tempo per circumnavigare il globo. Il record è stato stabilito da una famiglia australiana, la famiglia Deeley, che sta facendo il giro del mondo a bordo di Utopia, una nave a vela che ha rotto il record del tempo per circumnavigare il globo. Il record è stato stabilito da una famiglia australiana, la famiglia Deeley, che sta facendo il giro del mondo a bordo di Utopia, una nave a vela che ha rotto il record del tempo per circumnavigare il globo.

Cairns – Perhaps only few know that there are more people who have climbed Everest than those who have circumnavigated the globe. The latter is an undertaking that is reminiscent of explorers and adventurers from other times, and probably not one you would expect from a contemporary Australian family. On board their Utopia for eleven years, the Deeleys have in reality

sailed the seas of every corner of the Earth, from the Pacific Islands to the Gulf of Mexico. Karen, Andrew and their four children – Josh, Tristan, Max and Ava – had their first trip as a family eleven years ago, in 2010, along the coast of Queensland, marking the start of an adventure that is not yet finished. And for Ava, student of Cairns School of Distance Education (CSDE), the sailboat is synonymous to home, given that she has lived there since she was four.

“My family and I spend all year in the boat,” she explains, “Every one or two years we go back to Australia for medical checks and to visit relatives, but not since the pandemic started.” Utopia is practically self-sufficient: the Deeley’s generate electricity through solar panels, a wind turbine, and a generator. They have a small water desalination plant and they own a dinghy, the equivalent of a car that they use for travelling from Utopia to the mainland.

Ava and her brothers are active members of the crew and take part in the practical operation of the ship: they help with the provisions, they take turns to check for obstacles on the route (a whale, some floating debris), they pay attention to the winds and the need to adjust the sails. They know how to use a satellite telephone, different radio frequencies and, before every journey (which can last for several days), the family revises all the emergency procedures to be ready for anything that may arise. In spite of experience, they say, everyone suffers from sea sickness. The long stretches of navigation (the longest was 23 days, from Mexico to the Marquesas Islands) are the part that Ava likes the least due to possible storms and night shifts. Apart from this, she has no hesitations: “I love all of my life, the best part is travelling: seeing new places, experiencing different cultures and admiring the beauty of other countries (even if I don’t love the heat and visiting historical sites too much).”

Among memorable experiences with her family around the world, Ava remembers travelling Namibia and South Africa in a campervan; snorkelling with sea lions (“smelly and loud”) and whale sharks (harmless, but of “frightening” size); the visits around Europe, including France and Italy; close encounters with orangutans in Borneo and with lemurs in Madagascar.

Last year, at the outbreak of the pandemic, the crew of Utopia saw their plans go up in smoke – like the rest of the world – remaining stuck in Mexico with two other families in their own boats. “We self-isolated in the Gulf of California for a month to ensure we didn’t have COVID” says Ava. “In Mexico the situation was very alarming, we were living with the constant anxiety of getting sick, especially my parents who have some health problems.”

The Deeley’s were very careful: they got supplies once a month, trying to avoid contact with others as much as possible and they remained anchored in isolated places with the company of the other two families who had children then same age as Ava. The group tried to keep morale up with creativity, games, costume parties, bonfires on the beach, however it was anything but

simple and they were able to resume their travels only this year.

Even if she doesn’t miss the “sedentary” life, Ava always finds it difficult to say goodbye to friends met during travels, to relatives in Australia and her two older brothers Josh and Tristan who have returned to land to get work experience and attend university. “Nevertheless, I wouldn’t change my life for anything in the world.”

Even school is an out of the ordinary experience: mother Karen, who has a background in the education field, supervised the children’s educations in primary school, enrolling them in CSDE for high school, a state school in Queensland, one of a kind in that it allows for a Queensland Certificate of Education to be obtained completely remotely. For Karen, the experience with all four of her children was very positive thanks to the preparation, constant support, and flexibility of the teachers.

Ava has taken classes at Cairns School of Distance Education since she was ten: “I like the school, it offers many elective subjects. It’s not always easy to manage the workload, Ava admits, especially when there isn’t internet available and it’s not possible to submit work in a timely manner. “It also makes Italian a difficult subject to study given that it needs more internet connection compared to other subjects,” explains the student who chose to study Italian after a trip to the peninsula in 2016. “I was 10 years old and maybe my opinions were influenced by ice cream,” she jokes. “The culture, the language and the beauty fascinated me. I think that Italy is one of the most beautiful countries I’ve ever visited, especially Tuscany. I hope to go back one day, maybe to live there.”

Ava’s plans for the future include: continuing to study Italian and writing in English (she has done creative writing lessons for two years at CSDE and has a novel in the works); finishing high school and enrolling at university. To discover the itineraries and adventures of the Utopia and her crew and stay up to date with their travels, it’s possible to follow their blog [edventureutopia.com](http://edventureutopia.com).

### Wonder of Science

Congratulations to five of our Cairns SDE students: Isaac B (Year 7), Tyson B (Year 8), Danyelle P, Anna M and Kenny W (Year 9) who



presented their scientific investigation virtually at James Cook University (JCU) to students from other high schools in Far North Queensland and scientists from JCU and UQ. Over 5300 students compete in the Wonders of Science Competition. Not only did they complete an experiment and a scientific report at a very high standard but they also had the courage to present, answer questions and discuss their work. Students also enjoyed the workshop with PHD student Jasmine, who studies the change of hump back whale diet due to climate change and Dr Anita Milroy’s presentation, of her study in Paleobotany. Now for the drum roll – Isaac

B was awarded 3rd place in the Wonders of Science Competition. Well done team!



### Fusion of Culture – Year 9 Food Studies

Year 9 Food Studies students created their own 'fusion of culture' dish as part of their assessment task. Ms Steel (Year 9 Food Studies Teacher) is delighted to share two of the students final products.

Brandon L:

My dish consisted of two parts the arancini balls stuffed with crab meat and mozzarella and a bush tomato relish using the indigenous ingredients pepper berry and bush tomato. The relish complemented the arancini balls with a subtle peppery flavor. If I made the relish again, I would add the chili which I substituted with the pepper berry. This would give a bit more bite to the relish and would still work with the pepper berry. The balls were a little hard to roll even though the mixture was cooled, I think putting the mixture into the fridge for half an hour would make the ingredients easier to roll. You could adapt this recipe using a different protein if you didn't like crab for example, you could add prawns or even pulled pork to the mixture or if vegetarian you could add tofu cubes to the center. I made this dish for my family and friends, and they said it was delicious, I would definitely make them again but try a different protein.



Joel M:

Italian Arancini Balls served on a bed of mashed yams and fried bush tomatoes.



### German climate action heroes

Who's ready for action? – check out Year 5/6 German climate action heroes!

When given the creative writing task of inventing hero's, based on their self-identity and by enhancing their best qualities and abilities, students conjured heroic and caring characters ready to tackle a variety of climate challenges.

Ruby M. – My Climate Action Superhero name is Waste Warrior, she is 10 years old, she can dance and fly. Waste Warrior is nice and friendly.

Jacob M. – My Climate Action Superhero name is Amazon and he is 5 million years old. He is part of Earth. Amazon can make plants grow and make animals do what he says.

Jana S. - Climate Action Superhero name is Fantastische Anima. She is 1078 years old. She can make friends and speak to animals. Fantastische Anima is nice and an animal lover.

Hayley H. – My Climate Action Superhero name is Fashion Fabricator and she is 500 years old. She can mend and reuse all clothing items. She can see through walls. Fashion fabricator is beautiful and friendly.



### A special message from Ally (Year 11)

As this year comes to an end, I sit and reflect on how lucky I am to attend such a wonderful school. I previously went to a Catholic Education School and one slogan they have is "experience the catholic education difference" much to my own opinion I think everyone should "Experience the Distance Education Difference". I cannot even describe how happy Distance Education makes me. I have been at Distance Ed for over a year now and I don't think I've ever been so excited to attend



a class or take an exam. I truly believe you have snatched up all the great teachers for Distance Education.

You should be proud of the teachers, all the teachers I have had, have been the best teachers I have ever had. Nothing is ever too big of an ask, they show kindness, patients, and understanding. One teacher in specific Ms. Hepburn went above and beyond for me; I was struggling a bit with my mental health, and she called me and asked what she could do to help me and asked what I needed in support wise. Never would I have gotten that at any other school. Mr. Gentle, he's the coolest teacher I have ever had, he is always ready to help me if I need it.

Distance Education offers opportunities like no other school, I spent 3 months of work experience at Bega Dairy and Drinks, and it has been an experience of a lifetime I learned so much there.

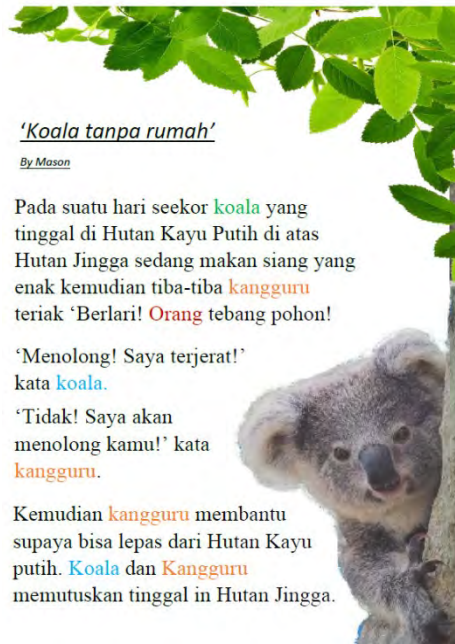
Distance Education has changed me as a person for the better, you have no idea how much I love this school, I tell just about everyone if you or someone you know needs a change go to Distance Education because at Distance Education you'll thrive like a cactus in the desert.

I am insanelly proud to be part of Cairns School of Distance Education.

## Binatang Australia

This term in Year 8 Indonesian, students have created simple stories to introduce Australian animals to Indonesian children. This unit gave the students the opportunity to extend their literacy repertoires, strengthen understanding of their own culture and identity while enhancing their creative and critical thinking. We discussed similarities in oral traditions between Australia and Indonesia and how we have similar popular animal characters in the koala Blinky Bill and Indonesia's Kancil (mouse deer). The languages of the Indonesian archipelago have been used in Australia since contact several centuries ago between the peoples of the islands now known as Indonesia and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of northern Australia.

The Year 8 students have been given the opportunity to create a story that can continue this legacy as their stories will be made into a book that can be enjoyed by other students learning Indonesian and visitors. I hope you will agree that the students did great work when formatting the stories, they look great. Kerjaan bagus Kelas 8 – Good job Year 8.



### 'Koala tanpa rumah'

By Mason

Pada suatu hari seekor koala yang tinggal di Hutan Kayu Putih di atas Hutan Jingga sedang makan siang yang enak kemudian tiba-tiba kangguru teriak 'Berlari! Orang tebang pohon!

'Menolong! Saya terjerat!' kata koala.

'Tidak! Saya akan menolong kamu!' kata kangguru.

Kemudian kangguru membantu supaya bisa lepas dari Hutan Kayu putih. Koala dan Kangguru memutuskan tinggal in Hutan Jingga.



### QUOKKA DAN BILBY

Suatu hari yang cerah seekor Quokka dan Bilby yang tinggal di hutan bersantai dan makan siang yang enak. Tidak lama lagi, teman mereka seekor magpie tiba dan berkata berita kurang baik. 'Rumah Anda akan dihancurkan.' Dengan cepat Bilby dan Quokka kumpulkan teman-temannya.

Quokka, Bilby dan temannya lihat truk besar dan lihat orang-orang besar yang menakutkan. Ayo mengigit roda truk! Mengatakan Bilby. Quokka, Bilby dan temannya mengigit roda truk besar. Sekarang truk tidak bisa bergerak. 'Tidak! Roda rusak!' 'Saya mau membangun kota besar' berkata orang itu. 'Jangan karena ini adalah rumah kami' berkata Quokka.

Quokka, Bilby dan temannya kelihatan sedih. Orang besar juga sedih. 'Saya tidak akan menghancurkan rumah anda' mengatakan orang itu. Quokka dan Bilby Gembira



## Open Learning Campus (OLC)

### Hair Services

One of the projects we have run this term at the OLC is Hair Services. Although we have done the Hair Services project before, where students practiced their skills on mannequins, this term students worked on actual customers. An invite to all staff was put in the notices and interest has been ongoing. Each session we have various volunteers and students have been able to put their braiding, straightening, curling and clippers skills to the test. Working with actual people has provided the opportunity to practice customer services skills as well. Throughout the project, students have overcome nerves and insecurities through the patience and happy faces of their customers. Thank you to Cairns SDE staff for your kind offers to provide this experience to our kids. Well done to Ashley, Jess, Carla, Chantal, Dallas, Ena, Gemma and Ebony for your hard work.



### Dungeons and Dragons sessions

This term at the OLC, we have plunged into the world of fantasy, creativity and problem solving. Although it took us some time to get our Dungeons and Dragons sessions going, Wild (student) stepped up to the plate and as our Dungeon Master, developed several themes and challenges. We have enjoyed our die rolling missions.



## Staff News

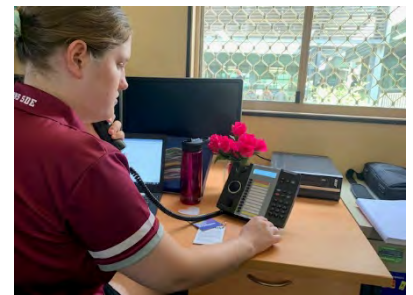
### Chappy Chat

Hi Cairns SDE Family,

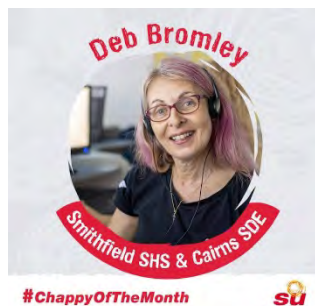
I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Cairns SDE community for nearly 4 years of incredible experiences in my role of Chappy at the school. In January I venture to pastures new as I head back to the UK, my homeland, to take up a role as a Families and Youth Worker and be closer to family members there. I am reflecting on the many initiatives I have been involved in here at Cairns SDE, from connecting with our more remote students at our Let's Connect and Mini School events and running many Wellbeing activities at those events, to supporting our Open Learning Campus students in Hope Projects - most notably the Shine Program and our Outdoor Education Programs. I've valued each and every moment and it has been a privilege to invest into the lives of many young people. I have also valued being part of our Staff Wellbeing Committee and impart some wellbeing tools to help staff with newsletters, chocolates, massages, Mental Health

Week activities and even dressing up as a Zookeeper to deliver our Aus Identities Personality Test initiative!

In recent weeks I have loved connecting with many of our Year 7 students at our popular on-line Lunch Club and also being involved with the distribution of our Wellbeing cards to all our full-time students. Recently I connected with Kids Helpline with our School Captain, Tiahn Davis, to simulate a call to Kids Helpline - as illustrated on the 'Seek Help' Wellbeing Card. The call was videoed as part of a suite of videos we are compiling for our students, so sit on the Student Portal, showing how to make practical use of the Wellbeing Cards.



Thanks to everyone at Cairns SDE involved in making my time here so rewarding and memorable. I also was accoladed as the SU Chappy of the Month this month - what a send-off!



Be Blessed Always.  
With love,

Chappy Deb

### Great news from the Sustainability Team

We listened to our whole staff and based on our Green survey results we put together our August 2021-July 2024 Cairns SDE Sustainable Environmental Management Plan.

We would like to share with our community the main issues/topics for our plan:

1. Produce and promote materials for teachers and teacher aides on weekly sustainable living tips and suggested actions with their classes.
2. Deliver professional development to build capacity on teaching & learning Education for Sustainability
3. Continue our primary and high school Enviro-Club activities
4. Improve our energy efficiency and water usage
5. Increase recycling and reduce waste
6. Restore and manage the Palustrine wetlands ecosystem adjacent to our school and transform the area into an outdoor educational precinct.
7. Support biodiversity in 'Rainforest zone' between C and F blocks
8. Purchase outdoor furniture from 'Replas' (Australian Made Recycled-Plastic Products)
9. Deliver education for sustainability activities in face to face events or online community engagement events
10. Continue to promote and support National, State and local environmental events, such as National Recycling Week and Clean up Australia Day

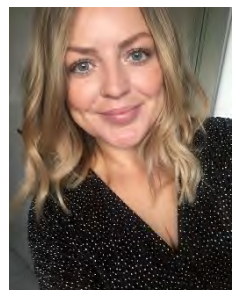


The Sustainability Team currently consists of the following staff: Ken Callaghan, Andrea Watters, Renata Machado Medeiros, Amanda Morellini, Lyn Melville-Rea, Maricar Payumo, Martin Kohler, Steve Comport and Sarah Lethridge.



### Meet our new staff

#### Jo Elliott



Hi Everyone. I am originally from South Wales in the UK and have been living in Australia for over 12 years (I came to Australia as a backpacker and never left!). I moved to Cairns from Melbourne in April of this year and have taught in a variety of settings including mainstream (Prep to Grade 6), a specialist school for ASD as well as Cairns State Special School. I am excited to be a part of the Cairns SDE community.

#### Andrea Chamberlain



Our family moved to Cairns from Tarzali in Term 2, 2021. Wife of Stuart, mother to 3 boys and 2 dogs we've done mainstream, distance ed, unschool, HEU, vocational and anything else our boys need to succeed. Connection and community are my passions, we don't know what we don't know.

Andrea is working in our enrolments team in A Block.

#### Clare Macpherson



Hi all! My name is Clare Macpherson and I have just commenced at Cairns SDE this term as the Parent Liaison Officer. For the last few years I have worked as the Marketing Coordinator for a national organisation with various companies including disability support, youth and community development. Prior to this, I did Marketing and Executive Services for 6 ½ years at Cairns State High School. I have sporty kids – a daughter in primary school and son in high school. I look forward to meeting families at Community Engagement events each term.

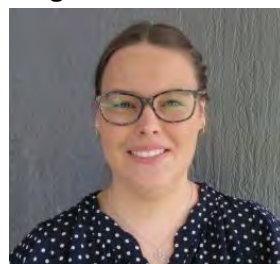
### Laurel Smith



Hello! My name is Ms. Laurel Ann Smith. I am 52 years old and have two grown children (a boy and a girl). I am a local, and I was born at the Cairns Base Hospital. I am physically disabled and use a wheelchair. I suffered a stroke in October 2019, which left me paralysed down the left side of my body. I was shocked, as I was very fit

running the Red Arrow every day of the week. I am fortunate that my situation is not degenerative. I am being rehabilitated and will one day not require the use of a wheelchair. I am a fully qualified Teachers Aide of 10 years, located at Edge Hill State School. I was entering my return to work and found my school needed to adjust to the physical environment before returning. Cairns School of Distance Education has graciously offered me a position to start my return process until my school is ready. At this stage, it looks like I will be here until the end of 2021. At the same time I am also applying for teaching positions to start full time next year. I completed my Bachelor of Education Degree Teaching Primary in June of this year. I am very excited about being a part of the Cairns SDE school community.

### Paige Senior



Hi, my name is Paige. I am a born and bred Cairns local. I come from a background of Strata Management, so I am really looking forward to a new and exciting role here. Paige is working with our Enrolments Team in A Block.

### Sarah Bonda



Hi, My name is Sarah and I have come from Trinity Beach State School having worked as a Teacher Aide for close to 8 years, and Administration roles for 1 year. I have joined the Community Engagement Team as an Administrative Officer, and I am looking forward to the challenges and the journey to come! I am married with two

children. Our other "baby" is our Maltese X Shitzu Ace and he is of course adorable and can do no wrong! I enjoy cooking and baking, spreading love through the tastebuds!

# Community Engagement

## Peninsula Mini School

It was almost a Covid casualty but Peninsula Mini School finally went ahead in Week 2 of this term. What a successful week it was!

We had:

- Tie-dyed shirts
- Sculpey creations (some more burnt than others)
- Team challenges
- Touch football
- Stop motion animations
- Talent show
- Drone obstacle course

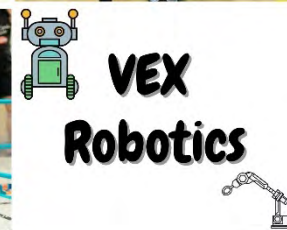


...all in high 30 degree temperatures!

Students, Home Tutors and Teachers had a fantastic time together with lots of laughs and cemented strong relationships with new, and known, friends. Thanks to all who made Peninsula Mini School such a wonderful event. Bring on 2022!

## VEX Robotics Competition

Congratulations to all our students who participated in the first ever Far North Queensland VEX competition. This was a challenging competition. Students were required to build robots that are able to push and fling balls around a game field with the extra challenge at the end of getting the robot to hang on to a bar. A special shout out to two of our teams who progressed to the finals.



## Graduation Night



### Jole Muccignat – Graduation Speech

Good evening teachers, parents, faculty staff and fellow graduands. May I just say CONGRATUATIONS!!! While I'm honoured to be speaking here tonight, I must admit that writing this speech was possibly my greatest challenge here at CSDE. What an adventure it has been, a story, 13 years in the making, through a lot of ups and A LOT of downs we've arrived at the last page. And there isn't an ending without a few emotions. There's been a lot of blood, sweat, and tears in the last 13 years but tonight is the night we celebrate our adventure! Tonight, we pat ourselves on the back and say "we made it". And made it we have.

Tonight we celebrate overcoming all of the hurdles we faced, whether that was having a breakdown the night before an assessment was due, or the many nights where we reconsidered if finishing school was the right path. But we got through it all, and like a knight at the end of a battle we stand triumphant. Regardless of what paths each of us has taken and what we have faced to get here, we should all be proud of ourselves. For me grade 11 was challenging to say the least, I felt like I was trying to find a needle in a hay stack, but I was never told which paddock to look in, I remember thinking to myself "I can't do this." I couldn't see myself making it past the first semester of grade 11 let alone grade 12. But through a lot of support, by my friends, teachers and most importantly loved ones I managed to keep it somewhat together!

So this brings me to my most important part of my speech, my appreciation. I simply wouldn't have enough time in my life to list every person and moment at CSDE I'm grateful for. Firstly, I'd like to thank Bridie. She is the reason I'm up here speaking tonight, we've been through 13 years of distance education together and somehow made it out in one piece. Thank you to all of my teachers; I know how painful I must have been, especially in English classes! Thank you to all the teachers behind the scenes who made camps possible. To all the teachers who took the time to ask me how I'd been going, whether it was on school camps or throughout my exams you made my day a little bit brighter and I can't thank you enough. Special thanks to my grade one teacher Mrs Hopkirk who always brought a smile to my face each time we met, from making 5 minute chocolate mud cakes on grade 1 lessons, to sharing our first graduation 12 years later. A huge thanks to all my senior teachers, every single one of you had such incredible patience with me. Your passion for your subject made me want to learn more, and the

dedication was unbelievable. You guys really go above and beyond and I take my hat off to all of you. You may not get much praise but to me you are the unsung heroes in this long journey.

Now the time has come for our new beginning, we are the authors to our stories, with the world in the palm of our hands; we set off on a new adventure. Our decisions will define who we are; our chapters will be filled with our best moments and our worst decisions. This can be daunting. Many of us will leave tonight not knowing what lies ahead, scared of what the future will hold, but that's okay. The unknown is what we human fear the most but it is also filled with endless opportunities. There's no point worrying about a book that hasn't been written, we should focus on the present. Let's leave tonight proud of ourselves, proud because every single one of us has conquered our demons, we've learn how to be patient, independent and persistent and now we're ready to face our next adventure- to start our first chapter in own our book. So let's make it a good one!

Finally, a huge thank you to my mother the patience and dedication you have is truly remarkable. I'd just like to say sorry for being such a difficult child; we certainly had more than our fair share of fights and arguments but I wouldn't change it for the world. I feel really blessed to have you as my mother and as my home tutor and I can honestly say, I'll miss the time we spent together in the classroom, and I'll treasure it forever. I love you Mum. We all have someone special whether a home tutor, parents or carer, who has helped us through our education and I encourage everyone to show your appreciation, tell them how much they mean to you. I truly wish every single one of you the best of luck in any further endeavours. Good luck and goodbye!

### Grace Frazer-Sneddon – Graduation Speech

Good evening everyone and welcome to the Cairns School of Distance Education 'Class of 2021' Graduation Night. A graduation doesn't just celebrate this moment in time. It's taken us 13 years to reach this point - 13 years of school, learning and life. Our graduation acknowledges the long hours of hard work and procrastination, the late nights (or very early mornings!), the teachers and friends we've met along the way and our families who have supported us throughout our journey. And our graduation night isn't only about receiving our award, it's about celebrating us. How we've grown, the challenges we've overcome, the experiences that we've shared, and our hopes and dreams for the future.

Congratulations 'Class of 2021'! Graduation is a massive achievement under any circumstances. However, our journey has been a challenging one. COVID19 restrictions have closed our state borders, separated us from our family and friends, made mask wearing our new normal, and put our future on hold. The past two years have pushed us further than we ever would have imagined. However, we have shown strength and resilience in re-evaluating our goals, in the face of lost opportunities. Let's harness our disappointments and challenges, our highs and lows and make something powerful out of it. After all, we need to be the change we want to see in this world. We

are the best educated generation in history and, dare I say, a whole lot more tech savvy than our parents and grandparents!

We have all come to Cairns School of Distance Education for a variety of reasons. I moved away from home at age 15 to pursue my dream of a career in classical ballet. Whilst being be a full-time dance student at Tanya Pearson Academy in Sydney, I have completed years 10, 11 and 12 through Cairns SDE. This has allowed me to focus on my career goals in classical ballet whilst also attaining my QCE.

My dual studies in dance and school have kept me very busy over the last 3 years. It hasn't always been easy trying to stay awake and complete a full day of schoolwork after a day of dance. And, for the last three years, weekends have become school days for me. But whatever our individual journey has been to bring us to this point, tonight we can all be proud of ourselves for finally graduating high school. Let's always remember the teachers who inspired us and motivated us to work hard to become the best version of ourselves. And our heartfelt thanks to our parents, carers and families for always supporting us in our life adventures.

Next year I will be moving across the world to start the next chapter in my dance career. I wish each and every graduand happiness and success in wherever their paths take them, be it further studies, moving into the workforce or following their dreams or adventurous spirit.

Class of 2021 - Enjoy your graduation night celebrations with your family and friends. Take the time to personally thank those who have helped you along the way. Be proud of your achievements. Your school days are behind you and your future awaits!

And remember, you can't be truly successful without being happy, so choose happiness now and forever.

### Celebration Week



## Celebration Week



Celebration Week – A week that students, families and staff members get to come together and celebrate a year of hard work, success and growth.

It was great to see everyone's faces at the Woree Pool for swimming, Australian Armour & Artillery Museum excursion, Presentation Day at the Cairns Colonial Club, Community BBQ at school where we celebrated Year 6 students transitioning into secondary school, and last but not least, Sugarworld for the last day of fun in the sun. Santa even came for a visit to spread some Christmas cheer. Thank you to all of the families that travelled far and wide to be here for the end of year celebrations.

A special mention to Karen Muccignat and Mel Cowe who have been home tutors at our school for 18 years and 16 years. You will be missed dearly by our school community. We hope you all have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to beginning the 2022 school year on Monday 24 January.

### Presentation Day

We celebrated students' achievements for the year at the Cairns Colonial Club on Thursday 2 December. We held the Prep-6 session in the morning followed by the Year 7-12 session in the afternoon. Families and students that were unable to attend were able to watch the ceremony via live stream. Congratulations to all of the students that received awards for their efforts this year and to our Ampol All-rounder - Jole Muccignat and DUX recipient - Sarah Pilbeam.



## Presentation Day

# Parents & Citizens Report

Greetings to the Cairns SDE Community,

So here we are at the end of another year that wrapped up with a wonderful Celebration Week. It is always such a fun time to catch up with school mates, friends, and staff, while we attend the week's activities.

How joyful it was to watch my 4 year old Misha as she progressed with her swimming skills over the Bush Kids'R'Water Smart program, then to practise those skills at Sugarworld. Thank you to all the wonderful staff who make this program possible each year. What a great turnout of students and families to the Australian Armoury and Artillery Museum. Thanks also to staff for organising this excursion which was a fantastic opportunity for students to connect.



Congratulations to our P-12 awardees, especially to the Classes of 2021 - graduating Year 6s and Year 12s – what a momentous milestone in your lives. Thank you to Karen Muccignat and Mel Cowe for presenting the P&C address at the 7-12 Presentation Ceremony. I will also take this opportunity to thank Karen and Mel for their incredible volunteering efforts, dedication, and support over the years as members of our P&C. Between them, Mel and Karen have over three decades at Cairns SDE as Home tutors for their respective children who have excelled at our school. We will miss you!



Thank you to our outgoing Student Leaders for your efforts and initiatives this year and congratulations to the new Student Leaders for 2022. We look forward to the wonderful things you will do for our school next year.

As you know, the P&C is the voice of the parents and community. At meetings held twice a term, decisions are made impacting on and benefitting your children at school. We are lucky to have a strong P&C comprising dedicated school staff and parents. Thanks to our

amazing Exec team – VP and Secretary Laurie Weeden and Treasurer Melissa Fitzgerald, for your incredible volunteering work throughout the year. Thanks also to our cluster reps Mel Cowe, Sharon Willmann and Pamela Rose for your support and commitment to ensure that the voices of your clusters are heard. A special thanks to Mel who worked tirelessly to make sure the cluster shirts became a reality this year – and don't they look fantastic?

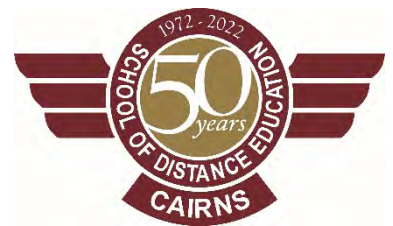
All funds raised by the P&C are used for the improvement of our school and for the benefit of our children's education. This year our major fundraising event of the year, the C2K Bike Ride, raised \$25,300 for the P&C, our Mother's Day Raffle raised \$1,277.64, and we are making \$9 profit on each Cookbook sold. There are plenty of cookbooks left in stock if you would like to buy one or more.



When this Newsletter is published, the winners of the P&C Christmas Raffle will have been announced. Congratulations to the lucky winners and thank you everyone for your support by purchasing raffle tickets. Proceeds will help fund 2022 Community Engagement activities including Celebration week.

We always welcome new ideas and volunteers so I invite you to join the P&C and if you are an existing member, please renew! Membership and renewal forms and Office bearer and Cluster representative nomination forms can be found on the school website at <https://cairnssde.eq.edu.au/Ourcommunity/PandC/Pages/PandC.aspx>.

As our school approaches its 50th birthday we reflect on the role of our P&C as the voice of our parents and community, and the message we are hearing is that care and compassion, and commitment to the success and wellbeing of every student are the values our school should embody. These are the values we are committed to advancing in 2022 and beyond.



Thank you for your support, everyone, Happy Holidays and see you next year!

Best regards,

Judith Eriksen  
P&C President



# General News

## School Holiday Boredom Busters

Fingers crossed our borders stay open and our Summer holidays aren't disrupted too much this year.

Here are some ideas to keep yourself and our students entertained until Monday 24 January 2022.

- [Toyota Dream Car Art Contest](#) - let your imagination run wild and submit a *hand-created* artwork (painting, drawing, collage etc) of your dream car [online](#) by 28 February 2022. More details and entry requirements at the link above.
- [Fear-Less Triple P](#) online program is now FREE! The latest of the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program® suite is for parents of anxious children and teens. is based on more than 10 years research and can help parents learn how to support their child.
- [Cool ideas for thrill-seeking activities](#) whether you live or are visiting destinations on and close to the QLD coast this summer.
- [Make a garden or get creative in your garden](#) – plant some seeds, decorate terracotta garden pots, build a frog habitat or encourage your local native bees to visit.
- [Throw on the lab coat and learn through experimenting](#) – for kids keen on STEM and STEAM activities try out these ideas.
- [Commit to performing a Random Act of Kindness](#) – as simple as writing a card or helping someone carry something.
- [Screen break ideas](#) – if the kids can't think of anything to do here is 130 ideas for you that
- [Duolingo](#) - learn a language
- [Listen to a podcast](#) – there are loads of young person appropriate podcasts for learning, intriguing, bed time, road trips and more.
- [Be grateful](#) – start a diary about what you're grateful for, or write it on a piece of paper and place it in a jar, tell someone why you appreciate them.
- [Cultural enlightenment](#) – learn how other cultures celebrate Christmas or about other ceremonies or traditions other families have during Summer.
- [Practice wellbeing](#) – we all need to work on our wellbeing and the newly introduced Cairns SDE Wellbeing Cards is one strategy to achieve this.
- [Get active](#) – go on a hike, stretch out with yoga, join some friends with a ball at the park, cool off in a croc-free watering hole, dance the night away!
- [Be sun safe](#) – Slip, Slap, Slop, and Wrap... and get your skin checked.