With just a few weeks before the end of the school term, it’s time to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and all the very best for New Year 2016. As always, it’s been a busy year for both of our Schools. We value our community support and look forward to making connection with you via the newsletter next year.

Your contributions are always welcome, so if you have information to share, items for sale, help required or advertising events, please contact us at either School so your articles can be included in the newsletter. If you would prefer to receive your copy via email rather than from the local shops, please let us know.

LOCAL HISTORY

GOLD BUYERS ON THE TURON

The Turon goldfield attracted many people trying to make their fortune from the riches of the earth. Gold buyers were some of the people who fall into this category. Most of the business people in town traded gold for goods and food.

Some of the gold buyers were:
- **Mary Black**, owner and licensee of the original Royal Hotel.
- **Catherine Quayle**, wife of Charles Quayle, owner and licensee of the Globe Hotel.
- **Samuel Peek & Co.**, owner of the first store set up in Sofala, June 1851.
- **Thomas Atkinson**, drapery store owner, Denison Street, Sofala, June 1851.
- **Mary Turley**, owner of a women’s clothing store, August 1851.
- **Henry Alderton**, owner of Alderton’s General Store, Denison Street, Sofala, July 1851.

Wealthier private citizens also traded gold, including:
- **Jane Watson**, Dullabree;
- **Susan Radcliffe**, Sofala;
- **John Davis**, Sofala;
- **James Scoobey**, Upper Turon.

(Source: N.S.W. list of registered gold buyers for the Western Goldfields)

- Article submitted by Ken Webb

WATTLE FLAT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

We want to hear from you. The newly elected committee is determined to revitalise the Progress Association and its activities.

Representatives of Bathurst Regional Council including the Mayor, Mr. Gary Rush, and senior staff are coming to Wattle Flat on **17 December at 6.30 p.m for a public meeting**. This meeting will be held at the race and golf course facilities on Limekilns Road and will be followed by a Christmas party BBQ. All residents are invited.

It is an opportunity for an exchange of views with Council on matters that are important to the local community and to ask and get answers on questions relating to the local community and region.

However, the Progress Association committee wants Wattle Flat to put its best foot forward and provide Council with a structured agenda/questions well ahead of that meeting so that they have an opportunity to respond in detail.

To achieve this, we are inviting all residents to the next Progress meeting, also to be held at the race and golf course facilities, Limekilns Road, **17 November at 6.00pm** so that you can air your views and let us know what is important to you. This is your opportunity to put forward items and questions you would like included on the agenda, to be discussed and answered at the meeting with Council on 17 December.

This meeting will be followed by a BBQ/sausage sizzle at approximately 7.30 p.m. (Please bring your own drinks.)
COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOFALA MARKET - 21 November, 2015 at the Sofala Showground.


“The Jollies” from 10.00am – 2.00pm (and every second Wednesday of each month) at the old Sofala Hall. Please bring a small plate of something to share. For further information please phone: Buelah on 6337 7177 or Margaret on 6337 700.

Dr Wilson: First Tuesday of the month From 2.30pm till 4.00pm.

Community Nurse: Every Monday From 10am till 11am @ Sofala Community Hall.

SOFALA PROGRESS ASSOCIATION — Fourth Monday of each month @ 10 am SOFALA MEMORIAL HALL.

WATTLE FLAT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION — Third Tuesday of each month @ 6pm - WATTLE FLAT PUBLIC SCHOOL.

BATHURST LIBRARY VAN — The Bathurst Mobile Library will next visit Wattle Flat and Sofala on Wednesday, 2nd December.

WANT TO PLAY A ROUND OF GOLF? Check out Wattle Flat Golf Course, Phone Ron (6337 7538) for more information.

SES MEETINGS— First and third Mondays of each month at 7.00pm, SES Shed, Sofala.

WATTLE FLAT POST OFFICE SHOP
3822 SOFALA ROAD, WATTLE FLAT
AUSTRALIA POST OUTLET
GAS BOTTLE EXCHANGE
NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES & GROCERIES
6337 7567

WESTERN GOLDFIELDS MUSEUM
82 Upper Turon Road, Sofala
Phone: 02 6337 7196
The collection includes local gold and artefacts, police and convict relics, antique weapons, vintage engines, meteorites, minerals, medical instruments and lots more.
We have again enjoyed a busy and productive time since the last newsletter.

**BATHURST EISTEDDFOD**

Congratulations to the children for their spectacular performance at the Bathurst Eisteddfod. They were awarded first place in the Small Schools Choir Section and second place in the Small Schools Verse Speaking. Thank you to Mr Bullock and Miss Cengic for making sure the children were well prepared.

**EDGELL JOG**

Congratulations to Sam, Alex, Claire, Ms McGee, Mr Bullock, Mrs Zapel, Mrs Clark and Miss Cengic for completing the Edgell Jog.

**STATE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**

Congratulations to Myles, who represented Western Region at the State Athletics Carnival recently in shot put. Myles placed fifteenth in a field of more than thirty. Well done Myles!

**BEGINNING SCHOOL**

The final sessions of our beginning school program will take place on 20 and 27 November and 4 December.

Any local children who are eligible to commence school in 2016 are welcome to join us. Please contact the School for more information.

**PRESENTATION NIGHT**

Our annual Presentation Night and Concert will be held in our School Hall on Friday, 11 December 2015 at 6.00pm. Community members are invited to join our family and friends for this important event.

**BATHURST 1000**

We travelled to Mount Panorama to participate in the Bathurst 1000 “Students on Track” program in the first week of term. We were able to enjoy the thrills and spills of V8 Supercars practice sessions, support category sessions and on-track entertainment as well as getting close to the excitement of the team transporters and the action in the garages. As usual, the children’s behaviour was exemplary.

**P&C NEWS**

The children are working on artworks to be included in our first fundraising calendar and key rings. Hayley is co-ordinating the calendar which will go on sale in December for $10.00, with key rings selling for $4.00. To gauge interest in the calendars and key rings, an order form will go out prior to printing. Please contact the School if you are interested in purchasing.

**THANK YOU**

The students and staff of Wattle Flat Public School would like to say a big THANK YOU to our wonderful parents and community for their continued support. We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and look forward to doing it all again in 2016.
Principal’s Message
It has been a very busy and exciting term so far with students taking part in our annual swim school program and getting ready for the end of year presentation and Christmas concert.

Presentation Night
This year we will be holding our presentation night from 6pm at the Town Hall on Wednesday 9th December. I would like to invite all families, friends and community members to attend this wonderful night. There will be a special guest giving gifts for all children who attend.

Gonski Week
You may be asking “what or who is Gonski?” Gonski is the surname of the man who researched and wrote an extensive paper to the government on the best way to fund and support students in public schools. This report is the reason we receive much of the funding that we use to support your students. At Sofala we have utilised these funds to employ Phil, provide training to staff so they are better equipped to teach and support students and purchase vital resources.

The Government has committed to the first four years of this funding model but is yet to assure us that this funding model will continue in the fifth and sixth years as it was originally proposed. The reason behind the six-year funding model is to track the benefits of the interventions and support the money provides for the primary school life of an entire cohort of students from Kindergarten all the way through to Year 6.

Our School benefits greatly from this funding and I would ask that you support the rallying for this to continue in any way you can. Social media campaigns are an easy way to show your support.

Fantastic learning from the students at Sofala School

“The Wrong Path”
One day there was a little boy named Max, who lived with his mother in a small town. He had brown short hair and ragged clothes. His house was the oldest in the town. His mum cried out “Max, I need you to go to the shop because I forgot to get some stuff for dinner. Can you go down and get some eggs and milk please?” “Yes mum,” said Max. “Hurry please, it is going to be dark soon.” He started to make his way to the gate, when his mum yelled out, “Leave the gate open!” It took him five minutes to walk down there. When he got the stuff there were two paths to choose to walk back on, but they looked the same. He decided to take the path on the left. As he walked along it, it got darker and darker. When he got to the end of the path he saw a part of town that he had never seen before. He heard a sound. It sounded like a zombie! It saw him. It ran after him. Max fell over….. The zombie looked hungry.

By the time he got home the zombie had fallen behind. He told his mum everything and how lucky he was to survive.

- Chelsey