Welcome to our first newsletter for 2016. This year promises to be just as busy as previous years.

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**

**Chinese Marriages on the Goldfields.**

Marriages between Chinese men and white or European women were common on the goldfields of N.S.W. By 1888, 397 of these marriages had been recorded in the colony of N.S.W. One of the reasons for this was the lack of Chinese women coming to the Australian goldfields. Some of these marriages occurred in other areas but most were on the goldfields of N.S.W.

Sofala had a small share of these marriages. The following is a list of the Chinese/White/European marriages recorded in Sofala.

A Chin married Sarah Peaus at Sofala in 1862  
Ah Lee .. Alice Ann Cross .. 1863  
Wong Hoi Loy .. Olive Allcock .. 1863  
Chong Sing .. Ellen Jones .. 1866  
Joseph Ah Chong .. Margaret Giheen .. 1872

Other towns in this area also had these marriages recorded. Bathurst 21, Mudgee 6, Tambaroora 4, Hill End & Rylstone 1 each.

Source. N.S.W. B.D.M. Chinese/ European Marriages Index.

- Article submitted by Ken Webb
COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rebellion on The Turon Sofala 12 & 13 March 2016
“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 RECREATION HALL, Bray Lane

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.

Healing Massage, Reiki, Mediumship Readings Wattle Flat phone Lyn 0417470970

GALLOPING GUMNUTS PLAYSESSION Tuesday 15 March 2016 9.30am WATTLE FLAT RECREATION HALL, Bray Lane

THE 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.
PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Welcome back to another action-packed year! We now have thirty one students including nine Kindergarten children. We welcomed eight new families to School.

The children have settled well into the new year and I am very proud of their attitude, effort and behaviour.

The first P&C meeting was held recently and attendance was exceptional. Lead by a strong executive team, plans have been made and fundraising has commenced. I look forward to working with a dedicated group of parents.

Kerry Halley, Principal

BATHURST SMALL SCHOOLS SWIMMING

At the recent carnival the children consistently gave 110% in all events and displayed exemplary behaviour and good sportsmanship. We are all very proud of them. Thank you to the parents and grandparents who attended. It is always lovely to see such enthusiastic supporters!

Congratulations to Riley, Alex, Shelley, Zali, Taylah, Benson, Marcus, Cooper M, Sam, Cooper K, Jacob, and Myles.

Riley, Marcus, Sam and Myles qualified for the District Carnival held on 26 February. The relay team, Myles, Sam Cooper and Jacob, has qualified for the Western Region Carnival which was held on 4 March. We wish them the best of luck.

SOFALA SHOW

The children’s work entered in the Sofala Show last weekend was well critiqued by the judges. Prizes were awarded to Alex, Carter, Christopher, Claire, Cooper, Cooper Emi, Jacob, Jacob, Jake, Jayde, Lilly, Noah, Sam, Sarah, Shelley and Zali.

The children’s calendar was entered in the under 12 School Group Project, was awarded first place and the trophy for “Work Excellence”.

A Population Explosion at Wattle Flat!

For me this is an exciting year in our learning journey. Our School is a dynamic and vibrant learning environment with enthusiastic students and dedicated staff. New programs such as L3 - Language, Learning and Literacy, Fun with Friends and Friends for Life, and Computer Coding as well as established programs such as targeted literacy and mathematics, robotics and music continue to provide opportunities for students to engage in personalised learning.

The School looks great!

Over the holidays our new fence was installed and new carpet was laid in the library and office. I’m sure you will agree that the fence looks fantastic and creates a safe and secure environment. We are also eagerly awaiting the arrival of a new classroom.

Thank you to the parents, children and community members who have generously given their time to help tidy the School.
Principal’s Report

We have had a fantastic start to 2016 at Sofala Public School. We are a school who will spend a great deal of time celebrating the learning successes of our students throughout this year! I am very proud to be the Relieving Principal at such a wonderful school, where the students value their learning and try their very best to continue to improve.

We are continuing our kitchen garden program which is teaching our students how to grow and cook healthy foods. The students have really enjoyed trying a wide range of vegetables and fruits that they had never experienced before. This program is also linked to the teaching of Science for all age groups.

To cater for the individual learning needs of the students at our school we have employed a Speech Pathologist to work with the students each fortnight. This has already had noticeable benefits for the students.

Miss Jones

Sofala Show

The students and staff put a great deal of time and effort into the entries for the Sofala show. We took out a huge amount of prizes in the Art, Cooking, Photography and Craft sections. As a team the students under 9 won the group school project, which was a scarecrow made from recycled materials. I would like to thank all the parents/carers and community members who helped the students and staff during the lead up to the Sofala Show. We would also like to thank the show committee and judges for producing a fantastic event that gives the students a chance to shine in their community.

To continue our success, we will be entering our winning items into the Royal Bathurst Show.

Swimming Carnival

Our students travelled to Bathurst to participate in the Bathurst Small School’s Swimming Carnival. This was a fantastic event that allowed our students to compete against students from all the Bathurst small schools around the area. They represented our school with pride and fantastic sportsmanship. Congratulations Sofala!

Rebellion on the Turon

As part of the Rebellion on the Turon Weekend we are opening the school to the wider community. We would like to invite you to come and view the historical pictures and documents that we will have on display, take a tour of the school, build a scarecrow (11am) and even have your face painted! The School will be open from 10am til 2pm. Everyone is welcome to come and join in the fun.