It has been brought to my attention that a number of parents have taken to Facebook to criticise school decisions and, in some instances, individual teachers.

These Facebook posts are based on complaints by some students regarding disciplinary matters at school. Parents are making judgements about school responses based on their child's version of events.

I have been a teacher for 34 years and a Principal for 24 years of that time. I have dealt with countless disciplinary issues in that time and it has been my experience that few children who are being disciplined at school tell their parents the full story. They usually tell the parents the bits that they feel justify their response. They view incidents from their perspective and not from other party's position and often just leave out large parts of the incident which don’t support their view. In some cases, they just don’t tell the truth.

Parents who go onto Facebook without finding out the full story can often make outrageous claims which are simply incorrect.

Often others see the Facebook post and then make comments in support of the parent’s post and they have even less knowledge of the facts.

In some cases, the supporting comments are coming from people who have never put a foot in the school. In some cases, people are making comments under fictitious names. All this creates a frenzy of ill-informed, nasty discussion from bitter, twisted people trying to cause trouble.

If, as a parent you have a concern, come to the school and find out the facts and deal with the issue face to face, don’t use Facebook to inflame the situation.

Many other social issues being experienced by young people today are caused through social media and texting. Parents go onto Facebook and criticising school decisions, is modelling the very behaviour that is the root of the problem.

If the quality of your parenting being displayed on Facebook outbursts is not of sufficient concern to stop your behaviour, perhaps the following information may discourage Facebook heroes.

Recently, courts in NSW and South Australia have awarded damages to teachers who have been slandered on Facebook. The courts have ordered payments in excess of $100,000 to teachers and the money is paid by the people making the slanderous claims.

If the Facebook posts make threats towards staff members, the police can charge the person making the threats.

If I am made aware of either of these types of behaviour, I will not hesitate to advise the teacher to take legal action.
**School Dates - Term 1**

19th March - School photos  
31st March– 4th April Half Yearly exams  
10th April - Cross country carnival  
11th April - Last day Term 1  
28th April - School Development Day  
29th April - Students return for Term 2  
16th May - Athletics carnival

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**PRIMARY SPORT**

**WINTER ZONE TRIALS**

A number of students will be trying out for a spot in the Zone teams for rugby league (11s and opens) and soccer this Friday, 14 March. We wish all those players the best of luck.

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**Transition Pre-School Program**

Ashford Central School is again running the Transition Pre-School program on Mondays. This program has been running for a number of years, and is an extra day at pre-school for students who will be starting Kindergarten in 2015. The day is free for these students, as long as they attend the pre-school at least one other day of the week.

The program began this week with many excited children. The program will run every Monday during the school term. If you have any questions, please contact the school for further details.

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**Changes to Food Technology, Middle School and Hospitality Cooking Fees for 2014**

Due to administration and purchasing requirements in Food Technology, Middle School, Technology and Hospitality, cooking fees will be required to be paid in advance, each term.

A discount will be offered if this fee is paid by Week 2 of each term. Fees must be set at a fixed rate as ingredients need to be purchased in advance.

With changes in the purchasing requirements of DEC, it will be necessary to bulk buy ingredients. These subjects are elective subjects and students are required to pay for the ingredients that are used. The fees for next year will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Discount if paid by Week 2:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Middle School</strong></td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students in Years 5, 6, 7 and 8 will only have one payment for the year.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Technology</strong></td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students in Year 7 Technology will be cooking in their Healthy Snack Unit.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 9/10 Food Technology</strong></td>
<td>$25.00 per term</td>
<td>$22.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 11/12 Hospitality</td>
<td>$30.00 per term</td>
<td>$27.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniform hire</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Jesse Kliendienst and Dylan Littlehales are involved in ongoing work experience in the school to help them achieve competencies for their HSC subject, Work and the Community. Both students will complete a number of hours each week of work experience and then will fill in log book entries on the computer with photographs of them at work.

Jesse works with Mrs Davis in the school canteen. His duties include assisting with: the preparation and cooking of food, serving customers and dealing with payment and change. Jesse has a session with Mrs Davis most days and will be required to undertake a supervised assessment task at the end of each term.

Mrs Davis has been a terrific supporter of Jesse by providing him with these experiences over several years. Thank you for your ongoing assistance and care.

Dylan is supervised by Mr Steiger for three to four hours over two days. His duties include ground maintenance: watering, landscaping, pruning of gardens and playing fields and vehicle detailing.

Thanks to Mr Steiger for providing Dylan with these opportunities.
Premier’s Reading Challenge
Starts NOW!!

Time to start recording your Premier’s Reading Challenge books for this year. Visit the website (just google premier’s reading challenge) for booklists or to record your books online. Teachers will have paper copies of recording sheets if you don’t have access to a computer. Mrs Selig also has lots of PRC books in the library. Let’s see how many certificates we can get this year.

Kinder – Year 2 need to read a total of 30 books, 25 from the Premier’s reading list and 5 books of their choice.

Year 3 – Year 6 need to read a total of 20 books, 15 from the Premier’s reading list and 5 books of their choice.

Books which parents read to children can be included. Contact class teachers if you need help.

Fostering a love of reading and good reading habits is vital for all students of all ages.

The more you read the more you know, the more you know the more you grow!
Voluntary School Contribution

In an effort to simplify the payment of money to the school for visiting performances, books and school contributions, the school introduced a system of a one off payment for all costs for the year. This system was introduced in 1995 with the support of the P & C and AECG. The big advantage to parents is that they get a considerable saving by paying the one off levy.

The advantage to the school is the reduction of interruption to teaching time and more effective use of clerical time.

The school benefits from Equity Funding and many programs in the school are subsidised.

The Voluntary School Contribution does not cover the cost of excursions during the year.

The contribution for each class is as follows: Kindergarten to Year 6 is $40.00 per year, Year 7 to Year 12 is $40.00 per year.

Secondary Subject Contribution:

There is a family discount for families with more than two children attending Ashford Central School. No family pays more than their eldest 2 children's levy. The levy can be paid off on a term basis if you wish. If there is genuine hardship and families cannot pay their voluntary contribution, they are asked to contact the Principal for an interview.

The contribution covers free ambulance, books, paper supplies, art and craft materials, text books, visiting performances (three per year), PSSA and CHS fees, Life Saving Awards and Life Education Van.

At a P&C meeting at the end of 2007, a parent reported hearing a number of parents discussing “voluntary school contribution”. They were saying it was cheaper to pay for the visiting performers at the time of the show.

This is in fact true, but, if you choose to do this you are making no contribution for books, paper supplies, art and craft materials, text books, Life Education van, PSSA/CHS fees etc. In 2012, the school spent $101,527 on such items or about $580 per student.

Asking parents to contribute $40 per student does not appear unreasonable and represents exceptional value for money. Payments can be made at the office at any time. Several parents have already made payments for 2014.

School Photos

Students have received their individual photo envelopes. Family envelopes can be collected from the front office.

The date for the Ashford Central School photos is WEDNESDAY, 19th MARCH, 2014. Please wear full school uniform.

If you would like your child’s or family photos taken, please return your envelopes with payment to the front office by **Friday 14th March, 2014**. Family photo envelopes may be collected from the front office.

**Please return all envelopes even if you do not wish to order photographs.**

Late orders will not be accepted by the photographer.
Thought For The Week

“If evolution is fact, why do mothers only have two hands?”

Ashford Bushfire Brigade

Next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 12th March, 2014,**
7.30pm at the fire station.
All members are asked to attend.

ASHFORD SHOW SOCIETY

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, 13th March, 2014
7.30 pm at the Bowling Club.

Agenda item - debriefing on 2014 Show

Ashford Presbyterian Church

Pastor: Trevor Ewart
Sunday Service - 9.00am
Bible Study - 9.30am Wednesday at the Manse.
All welcome. Stay for a cuppa and a chat.
Email: trevorewart@activ8.net.au
Phone 67258761
mobile 0448876161.

WANTED

Relief cleaners for Ashford Central School.
Please phone 0417690714 for more information.
ASHFORD MEMORIAL BOWLING CLUB
FRIDAY, 14th March, 2014.

Lucky Member’s Draw $220.00 drawn 8:30pm
Progressive Members’ Draw starts 7.15pm @ $20. If not won increases by $10.00 every 15 minutes till 8.00pm.

Meat tray raffles starting at 6.30 pm.
Saturday, 15th March
Euchre 2.00pm start
Social Bowls Saturday, 15th March, 7.00pm start
Happy Hour: Fridays 8.30 - 9.30pm

CATERING ON FRIDAY NIGHT
6.30–8.30pm • Bookings desirable
Phone 67254202

ASHFORD GOLF CLUB
16th March - Stroke - Emmaville Open
23rd March - OOM Junior Tournament Ashford
29th March - Pony Club 3 Person Ambrose.

Please be advised that membership is now due:
Adults $60.00
Juniors $30.00

Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, 19th March, 2014,
7.00pm at the Golf Club.
All welcome.

VET IN ASHFORD WED, 19th March, 2014
Inverell Vet Clinic will be in Ashford on Wednesday, 19th March at the RTC.
Phone the clinic on 67210266 to make a booking or for enquiries.

CATERING ON FRIDAY NIGHT
6.30–8.30pm • Bookings desirable
Phone 67254202

Catering available on alternative days for private functions. Minimum 20 people. Bookings essential.

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6.30–8.30pm • Bookings desirable
Phone 67254202

Catering available on alternative days for private functions. Minimum 20 people. Bookings essential.

Town’s Ashford Service Station
27 Duff Street,
Ashford NSW 2361
Phone (02) 67254070

CAKES
Rainbow cakes, jam rolls, sponges, carrot cakes, lamington bars, vanilla slices, apple slices, caramel slices, lamingtons.
Products supplied by:
MACINTYRE HOT BREAD
Let us know of any special requirements and we can have it fresh on Fridays.

FRESHLY MADE SALADS
Coleslaw
Pasta salad
PIZZAS NOW AVAILABLE
Supreme, chicken and bacon
Meat lovers, ham and pineapple.

MARK O'BRIEN
CARPENTRY
LICENSE NO 246346C
0423 773 770

RENOVATIONS • DECKS • KITCHENS • BATHROOMS
GENERAL MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS
ALL YOUR CARPENTRY NEEDS

Cherished Memories
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Single Children – Sibling & Family
Hands Available
D.I.Y Casting Kits Available

Call Kristy: 0409 035 958
Ashford Roosters’ RLFC General Meeting

The next meeting of the Ashford Roosters’ Rugby League Football Club will be held on **MONDAY, 7th April, 2014 at 7.00pm.**
The meeting will be held at the Ashford Memorial Bowling Club.

Bonshaw CWA

The next meeting of the Bonshaw CWA will be held in the Bonshaw Memorial Hall on Monday, 20th March, 2014 at 10.00am DST. All welcome.

Ashford Senior Citizens

Senior Citizens’ Week luncheon will be held at the Ashford Memorial Bowling Club on Wednesday, 19th March, 2014. All senior citizens are invited to come. Morning tea provided $2.00 each. Lunch 12.00 for 12.30 - cost $15.00.
Entertainment, raffle, lucky door prize.
Bookings - Ashford Bowling Club 67254202.
Ann Manca - 67254063.
Bookings close 16th March, 2014.

Advertising Space Available
Reasonable Rates
ph 67254101
Trivia Night at The Wallangra Hall

5th April 6.30pm

Bring your friends and family along for a night of fun. You can put together a table of eight or just turn up on the night for a lucky dip.

Cost: $10 per adult & kids under 15, $5. BYO picnic basket (finger food) and drinks.

Tea, coffee and cake provided. RSVP by 29th March, 2014.

We will have lucky door prizes, instant raffles and guessing games.

You have to be in it to win it, so don't forget your spare gold coins!

All monies raised are for paying off the toilet block at the sportsground.

For info or RSVP, call Helga on 0412 530 713.

Markets in the Park

The Texas Lions Club

Is proudly holding a

“Markets in the Park”

SUNDAY 6TH APRIL 2014

AT

APEX PARK

Everyone is invited to book a site. As is the saying, one man’s trash is another’s treasure. So please join the Texas Lions to make this a great day.

CONTACT;

Trevor Ellis 07-46530483 6pm-8pm

(leave message)

Or see Lion Les at the Texas News

For Bookings 07-46531384
‘Waterbirds Return as the Gwydir Floods’

The exhibition celebrates the large-scale breeding of colonial nesting waterbirds that occurred in the Gwydir Wetlands, during the summer of 2011-2012. The exhibition will be on display at the Ashford Local Aboriginal Land Council during March 2014.

Cooking Classes Are Back!!!

Starts 18th March 2014

Venue: Ashford Local Aboriginal Land Council

Time: 10:30AM

Exercise Classes

The Ashford LALC is proud to offer the Ashford community exercise classes for the youth and adults.

Bradley Brown will conduct different exercise classes such as boxing and kickboxing, skipping ropes, weights, crossfit training, walking and jogging, exercise classes at the pool and much more!!!

The first YOUTH exercise class will take place on the 18th March 2014 at 4:00pm

Followed by the ADULT exercise class which will begin at 5:00pm

All classes will take place at the Ashford LALC building

Please bring a towel, water and proper shoes and clothes for exercising
RACQ Careflight Golf Day

12 Hole 3 Person Ambrose
Saturday 15 March 2014
Texas Golf Club
Shotgun start at 11.30am
Nominations by 11.00am
Cost $20 per person
(Includes green fees and burger)
Over $4000 in prizes.

Major Sponsors

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!
DOUBLE OOM POINTS!

Ashford Golf Club

With NEDGA and Jack Newton Junior Golf present the Ashford Junior Golf Order of Merit Competition
SUNDAY 23RD MARCH 2014
at
Ashford Golf Club Limestone Rd,
Ashford 2361

- 18 HOLES- $20
- 9 HOLES- $12
- 4 HOLES- $8
- 10AM hit off.
FOR MORE INFORMATION & BOOKINGS PHONE: ALAN BEVERIDGE 0267254333 OR EMAIL: bevs1234@bigpond.net.au

18 hole Sandgreen course
State of Origin is coming to Ashford...

Ashford Roosters

Goondiwindi

Vs

Boars

Saturday 15 March

Ashford Town Oval
Tingha vs Goondiwindi Under 18s – 2.00 pm
Ashford vs Goondiwindi Ladies League Tag – 3.00 pm
Ashford vs Goondiwindi Seniors – 4.00 pm

Auction of commemorative Origin Inspired Jumpers after the Game at the Ashford Bowling Club along with reception for all sponsors, supporters and players.

Bus from Tatts Hotel 1.00pm

Bookings essential contact
Robert Walsh: 0427 411 222