Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday December 3</th>
<th>Friday December 4</th>
<th>Monday December 7</th>
<th>Tuesday December 8</th>
<th>Wednesday December 9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1 Viva La Musica</td>
<td>9am School Captain Elections</td>
<td>8.50am Middle Years Assembly - Academic Parade</td>
<td>6.30 - 8pm Year 6 Social</td>
<td>House Captains Elections</td>
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<tr>
<td>2pm Volunteer Afternoon Tea</td>
<td>NO Early Years Assembly</td>
<td>P - 6 Reports home</td>
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<tr>
<td>7pm Year 6 Graduation</td>
<td>4.30 - 8.30pm Twilight Christmas Markets</td>
<td>House Captains Nominations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tea</td>
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<td>5.30pm BBQ Prep - 3 Carols</td>
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<td>6.30pm Prep - 3 Carols</td>
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<tr>
<th>Thursday December 10</th>
<th>Friday December 11</th>
<th>Monday January 25</th>
<th>Tuesday January 26</th>
<th>Wednesday January 27</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am Year 6 Bounce</td>
<td>END OF TERM 4</td>
<td>SCHOOL CLOSED</td>
<td>AUSTRALIA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
<td>8.40am School Commences for 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.30am Year 5 Cinema Party Day - Students may wear Free Dress - no gold coin</td>
<td>Regular class for students attending</td>
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Class of 2015

Our 2015 Year 6 students ready to take on new challenges!

Plans are well under way for tomorrow night’s Year 6 Graduation. All of our students will take the stage to collect their Certificate of Graduation, as well as feature in a presentation about their thoughts on their schooling here at Ferny Grove and hopes for the future. The evening will culminate with cake and a song!

What a great year it has been with many opportunities to participate and shine across a range of extracurricular activities - LOTE, Bright Sparks, Instrumental Music, Sport and SPAG BOL. Congratulations to all of you as you complete your primary school journey. We wish you all the best for your future endeavours and challenges, knowing that you leave here and move onto the next phase of your schooling, on your way to becoming the amazing young people that we know you will be.
Teacher movements

Two very special and long serving teachers move on from Ferny Grove State School at the end of next week.

Lena Roberts has been the heart and soul of our learning support program for many, many years (26 years in fact). In that time she has supported potentially thousands of students in need of programs to boost their literacy and numeracy skills. What a legacy Lena can celebrate and reflect upon. How do you replace such wisdom and experience…..in the end the answer is, you can’t. We salute you Lena and thank you for your absolute commitment to our young people.

Jenny Morrison will also leave us after 17 years as a teacher at Ferny Grove. Jenny is a calm, clear thinking and dedicated professional who has seen this school through the most significant growth in its history with the reputation as one of our finest teachers. Her connection to students and parents is to be both celebrated and acknowledged. Teachers of Jenny’s experience and expertise will always be missed and are terribly hard to replace. We wish both Jenny and Lena wonderful experiences in the next stages of their lives and careers.

As usual in a school as big as Ferny Grove we have a number of staff leaving for various reasons:
- Josh Tynan is heading off to travel the world. Great job Josh.
- Tracey Paige is taking leave in 2016 to focus on family. Enjoy the break Tracey and we look forward to seeing you again in 2017.
- Mahdieh Hossini is returning to Canada to be with family and celebrate the birth of her babies. What a wonderful time.
- Shona Chandani is leaving us to work at Dalby SHS in the Special Ed program. Thanks for your dedication to our kids Shona.

We also have some teachers returning in 2016; Rose Abundo and Tim Donnelly return from leave; Amy George and Laura Thompson will share a class next year.

Class Allocations for 2016

As per previous years students will be notified of their class, teacher and room for 2016 on Wednesday afternoon. They will meet their new teacher prior to the end of the day. No class lists will be posted for privacy reasons.

As stated in earlier newsletters I will be on leave in the final week as I take my family on a much anticipated European Vacation over Christmas. I wish everyone a safe and wonderful holiday and look forward to seeing everyone again on January 27. Don’t forget January 25 is a student free day.

Brett Shackleton, Principal

Prep Art Show - A wonderful night out for our Prep families last Friday. Great artwork on display including portraits, sculpture and art in the style of some famous artists. The class canvas auctions were also a big hit!
Celebrating 2015

My sincere thanks to everyone involved with our school as we come to the end of yet another successful year. As a school we have achieved some really significant things in 2015 including the following examples.

- The Bright Sparks program which has exceeded our expectations in so many ways thanks in no small part to Kurt Bryant and the students and parents who have supported it.
- Performing Arts program (SPAG BOL) which has resulted in two really significant performance events with the second one concluding last week. Thanks to Mr Sandilands and all the other staff and parents that have made this possible. This project was entirely David’s idea and I applaud him for making it happen and celebrating with our students as they put themselves out there in front of large audiences. What an opportunity they have had.
- Who would ever have thought that we would end 2015 having commenced air conditioning the classrooms. What a great project. My thanks to the P and C and in particular our President Tony Clark for doing all the research.
- What a wonderful space our ANZAC Memorial has turned out to be. Four years in the design and fund raising stage but hasn’t it been worth the wait. To have then been able to honour Grant Kirby in the way in which we did adds special significance. You all know who to thank for this!!
- Festival just seems to go from strength to strength and is now an icon of this community with so many visitors here on the day.
- I wonder sometimes if our community realises that programs and opportunities such as these don’t happen in many schools. A true community school makes these things happen, sometimes without realising how special they really are. All of them rely on the skill, professionalism and dedication of teachers who are willing to volunteer their time often outside school hours. Let’s keep spruiking the wonderful things that happen at Ferny Grove SS.
- Who could forget ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day, Walk for Daniel, Bright Sparks celebrations, our most successful instrumental music result in a long time, a terrific sport and PE program, the discos, our links to Humani and the orphanage in South Africa, Expressive Arts Week and all the visits from our Pre Prep kids as part of their transition to school. Mrs Schott and our prep teachers have done a magnificent job this year with this.

What to Look Forward to in 2016

- Our trial iPad classes are fully subscribed and parents have been notified. We are embarking on exciting revamp of our curriculum in 2016 with a focus on literacy and numeracy along with engaging and real world connections.
- All of this year’s successful programs will be back including Quick Smart which has been very successful for our Year 4 and 5 students in supporting them with their number fact recall.
- We can’t wait for the Market garden to be completed. A number of teachers have expressed an interest in being involved and our students will once again be treated to another unique opportunity to learn.
- Several teachers are also starting up a debating club for older students.
- A number of new staff join us in 2016 as others move on to other stages of life and career.

Brett Shackleton, Principal
P-3 Carols

Next Monday is the Prep - Year 3 Christmas Carols. The BBQ will be from 5:30 with glow sticks for sale. I would like everybody seated and ready to start at 6:30. Our prepps will be starting on the stage so it is absolutely vital that they are there on time. Once the prep children have performed they are permitted to sit with their parents in the audience. Can I please ask that prep children and younger siblings are supervised at all times and that they stay with you. Year 1, 2 and 3 parents can I please ask that you stay until the end of the night if you can. Our Year 3 students will be the final performance for the night and it would be lovely if they still had an audience to perform for. Can I also ask that you respect the reserved seating as we have many Mums and Dads that help out on this night with the BBQ and it is only fair that we save them some seats as they are busy right up until the performance starts. This is an exciting time of year and a time to really celebrate what a fabulous year it has been. I look forward to seeing you all there – be warned...there will be a whole lot of cuteness!!

Merry Christmas

This year has certainly gone fast, especially this final term. I am so very proud of all Ferny Grove children, and it is a pleasure to come to work each day and see smiling faces and children so willing to have a go at it all. I wish everybody a very relaxing holiday and I look forward to seeing you all back again next year. Stay safe, Merry Christmas!!

Jacki Schott, A/Deputy Principal

Swimming Carnival 2015

Well another swimming carnival completed at Ferny Grove! New format / excited children / sunny day / enthusiastic spectators all made for a successful day of swimming.

The new format was not without some hiccups early in the day but Mrs Wendy Read, in particular, as well as our dedicated band of professionals prevailed and all was well that ended well!!

Some outstanding swims by our students with many triumphing in multiple events. The new format also allowed time for students to cool off between championship events and gave less confident swimmers an opportunity to earn points for their respective house.

The winning House was Kingfishers for the second year in a row – Well done all swimmers from Kingfishers!!

Age championships were again hotly contested and the winners this year are as follows

- **8 yrs**
  - Boys  Charlie Schott
  - Girls  Olivia Rich

- **9 yrs**
  - Boys  Braden Getliffe
  - Girls  Mackenzie Young

- **10 yrs**
  - Boys  Jacob Rowe
  - Girls  Amy Ryan

- **11 yrs**
  - Boys  Shaun Parker
  - Girls  Kelsey Dunn

- **12yrs**
  - Boys  Kai Tobin
  - Girls  Erin O Connell and Abi Jones

Thanks again to all competitors and their families who attend this year and helped in assuring another successful sporting event at Ferny Grove.

Gary Kirby, PE Specialist
General news

iPad classes update
If you submitted an application for the 2016 iPad classes and you have not had a response either way, please contact Dione in the office. More details to come for setup and logins.

Active School Travel – We’re In Next Year!
Next year our school has been selected as one of 18 new schools joining Brisbane City Council’s Active School Travel program.

Active School Travel promotes clean and green, active and healthy school travel modes such as walking, cycling, scootering, carpooling and public transport.

By leaving your car at home, at least one day a week on our active travel day, we can work towards improving road safety, improving our health and fitness, reducing traffic congestion at the school gate and creating a cleaner environment.

So look out for Active School Travel next year and start thinking how you and your family can use your car less and be active on the way to and from school. If you would like more information on the program you can visit Council’s website http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/traffic-transport/public-transport/school-transport/active-school-travel-program

More swimming carnival photos...
Well it’s been a whirlwind of a term for me and I have to say that it’s been a great ride so far. Thank you to everyone for being so welcoming. I’m away now until the end of the school year on leave with my mother and 15 year old daughter in Europe.

With the holidays coming up, our children have so much more access to the internet at home and sometimes with less supervision. The following blog from Michelle Mitchell is aimed at teenagers, but my experience with our upper school students has shown that many actively engage with social media. The following questions and conversation starters are a must for any family members who are online (us included) and should form the basis of being informed about your child’s online world.

**Five Questions I Ask My Own Teenagers**

When my kids were small, they lived life blissfully unaware of any potential danger around them. They would run onto the road to chase a ball or climb a fence they had no way of getting down from. I worked really hard to keep them safe, and besides a few broken bones (which happened when I wasn’t looking!) I think I did a pretty good job.

Now they are teenagers they are faced with new threats, which they remain similarly unaware of. They think they know about cyber bullying, sexting, pornography, identity theft and the like, but they really haven’t lived long enough to understand the full impact of any of them. With the same intention, effort and dedication I had when they were young, I am now focusing my efforts on keeping them safe online.

For me, keeping my kids safe online starts with open and continued conversation. Here are five questions that may help you start a conversation with your teen today:

– Have you ever googled your name to see what comes up? I ask my teenagers this question regularly for a few reasons. The main one being to remind them that anything they post online is easily accessible.

– What is your favourite app? Their interests online are constantly changing and it’s literally impossible to keep up without their help. I enjoy being taught about the latest Instagram updates from my 13 year old. He is my best teacher.

– What should we be doing to protect your younger brothers / sisters online? Older siblings are usually much more concerned about their brothers and sisters than we give them credit for. They also notice things we don’t, especially online. Asking for their input gives them the opportunity to use what they have learnt to help others.

– What is the worst thing you have ever seen online? We have to expect they will come across inappropriate content online. It’s not “if” it’s “when”. I think it is important to give teenagers a safe place to talk honestly. Be careful not to over react but work out solutions with them. They should never be punished for someone else’s online choices.

– How do you respond to criticism or hate online? The choices our teens make online determine whether they get more hate or less hate, more pornography or less pornography, etc….you get the idea. How they respond the first time they come across a challenge will make a great difference to where it leads them. Delete, block, report to an adult…..three steps every teenager needs to be reminded of regularly.

**What questions do you ask your teenager?**

I hope you and your families have a wonderful Christmas break and that all our students spend some time recharging their batteries for the year ahead. To our Year 6 students, grab a hold of every challenge you encounter with both hands and use the experience to grow and develop as young people. Life is to be lived! To our departing families, all the best for 2016 wherever you are. I have no doubt that Ferny Grove will have a special place in your memories for years to come.

**Katie Stubbings, A/Deputy Principal**

Kstub5@eq.edu.au

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**Volunteer Afternoon Tea**

Ferny Grove State School would like to celebrate the many volunteers who make so much possible at our school. We will be hosting an afternoon tea on the library deck from 2pm on Thursday 3 December for those who have contributed as a volunteer in 2015. All volunteers welcome!
SPAG BOL news

Wow! What an amazingly successful first year for SPAG BOL! Our two productions for the year, 'I Spy' and 'The Dragons of Spring' were very impressive for a group of (mostly) first time actors, singers, dancers and backstage crew and the level of growth experienced by all students involved has been phenomenal. Unbelievably, auditions to join SPAG BOL for 2016 are only 8 weeks away!

Many thanks to all of the staff, parents, grandparents, brothers & sisters who have contributed their time, effort, skills and donations this year. I would especially like to thank Sarah Batch, Lenora O’Connor, Carmen Smith, Cynthia Cash, Nicole Green, Naomi Miller, Katrina Peall, Rhonda Haringcaspel and Kurt Bryant from our talented bunch of teachers for their help and assistance this year, along with Tony Clark, Jodee Harris, Reece McLennan, Sonia Skegg, Vanessa Baird from our P&C and parents who have contributed so much to the cause. The final thank you is reserved for Simone Howes for her tireless work in the role of Parent Liaison. Her invaluable contributions have been enormously valued by parents, staff and students alike.

SPAG BOL – Back bigger and better in 2016!

Mr Sandilands & SPAG BOL

Chaplaincy news

It has been a busy few weeks for Ferny Grove and for the Chaplaincy service. The Chappy Breakfast was once again a big success with many students and families turning out for this wonderful regular event. A big thank you to The Grove Baptist Community Church for providing all the food and many volunteers! The Local Chaplaincy Committee also played host for our Donor Appreciation Supper last week. This special event provided us with the opportunity to thank individuals for their donations of time and finances with a cake and coffee evening. Remember to join us next year for these and many other Chaplaincy events.

Finally a big thank you to the Ferny Grove State School for making me feel so welcome. Even though I had decided to move on from the Chaplaincy position I have enjoyed working for and with the community. Ferny Grove is a uniquely openhearted and friendly school that has made my time here as Chaplain a privilege.

Chappy Lorinda

Languages news

Guten Tag,

Much to the students' relief, we have finally finished all German assessment for the year. Just to let our hair down for a while, we spent last week doing some enjoyable Christmas activities. We made some German Advent calendars and discussed how Germans celebrate this time before Christmas.

For the last three weeks of school, we will still continue to do some meaningful learning. After many weeks and months of learning the German language, we will take this opportunity to learn more about the country whose language we are learning. Please feel free to quiz your children about any facts they have learned about Germany.

As this is my last newsletter entry, I would like to wish everyone Frohe Weihnachten und ein Glueckliches Neues Jahr! All the best to the graduating year 6 students and to the year 5s a "see you next year"!

Andrea Guerra, German Specialist

Library news - Working on Christmas Decorations during library craft time.
Bright Sparks news

For our Bright Sparks project, we chose to research four endangered sea creatures and design some form of art centered around them to raise awareness of their situation.

Combining research, art and technology, we were able to design four different postcards. These postcards display a Marine Turtle, Dugong, Australian Sea lion, and Snubfin Dolphin.

We will be selling the postcards at the **Twilight Markets this Friday 4th December** to raise money for James Cook University to enable them to continue research into these marine creatures.

The price of the postcards will be $1.00 each or two for $1.50. To learn more about James Cook University and the work they do please visit [www.jamescookuniversity.com.au](http://www.jamescookuniversity.com.au).

Thank you.

Hannah and Emily

Instrumental Music News

All of the Beginners 2016 Instrumental Music forms, payments and camp information should now be in. This will now allow us to finalise arrangements for the Beginners Music Camp week 1 and 2 next year with our other cluster schools. Ferny Grove has the largest contingent of IM students and we’re extremely fortunate to have such dedicated and expert teachers to foster a passion for music in our younger students.

Many of our Year 6 students have just completed their auditions for the Ferny Grove SHS program and all reports indicate that our students performed wonderfully. All the best for your transition!

**Senior and Junior Band Updates**

**Weeks 9 and 10**

- No Instrumental Lessons or Band Rehearsals

**IMPS Update (Instrumental Music and Performing Arts Support)**

Next meeting is in Term 1 2016. We will be seeking parents of students in the Instrumental Music and Performing Arts programs to take over the positions of Secretary and Treasurer (This will be supported by current Treasurer for 2016)

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** IMPS are seeking a parent to take over the Junior Band CPR role for 2016. Tanya Newsome will move up to looking after the Senior Band but will always be available to support this parent as needed.

This role doesn’t require you to attend IMPS meetings (however good for info) it is more about being able to provide updates from the Junior Band Teacher or reminders from the Newsletters and updates from Katie Stubbings as they come up throughout the year. We are always aiming to streamline processes.

Please let Tanya know if you think you can assist. You are welcome to call her to discuss on 0409 729 970.

Katie Stubbings, A/Deputy Principal
Photo ops

Prep Class canvasses sold to the highest bidder in each class at the Prep Art Show last week.

Year 5 Amazing Maths Race - who knew maths could be so much fun!

Year 5 & 6 students were lucky to experience a free showing of "Jigsaw", a short educational film to inspire students to; have a vision, know yourself, accept others, make good decisions and overcome difficulties. Thanks Tony Clark for organising this for our students!
P & C news

Important Dates
November
4 Twilight Market - 4.30pm Hall
7 BBQ for Prep - 3 Carols—5.30pm Hall

Stationery & Uniform Store
ORDERS to be collected BEFORE school finishes should be placed by Thursday 3 December (otherwise stock cannot be guaranteed).
ORDERS TO BE COLLECTED IN JANUARY - please note that orders are placed with our suppliers in December so to ensure stock availability your order should be placed by FRIDAY, 11 December.

iPAD BOOKLIST ORDERS - MUST be placed by FRIDAY, 11 December at the latest (some 'big ticket' items are not included in these booklists & this will impact on the stocks we need to order)

'BACK TO SCHOOL' HOURS 2015
8-10am MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY mornings
2-5pm WEDNESDAY afternoons

January 2016 opening hours:
Wednesday, 20 January 8-11am and 4-6pm
Thursday, 21 January 4-6pm
Friday, 22 January 9am-12 noon
Monday, 25 January 8-10am (pupil free day)
Wednesday, 27 January 8-10am & 2-5pm (first day of school)
Thursday, 28 January 8-10am
Friday, 29 January 8-10am

ASSISTANCE IN THE STORES:
help STILL required in both stores ESPECIALLY IN JANUARY (up to & including 27 January). If we are unable to get enough help, your queue waiting times will be greatly increased. Please go to the online link to sign up: https://www.volunteersignup.org/3FHH7 or contact Charyl or Madonna direct.

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS: Parents wishing to sell their uniforms should complete the appropriate form, include it in the bag of uniforms & deposit the bag in the appropriate container just inside the Uniform store AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (don't forget your bank details).
We need to be able to process the paperwork for these BEFORE the busy 'back to school' period begins. School uniforms from all year levels can also be brought in. PLEASE WASH ALL UNIFORMS FIRST. (Only uniforms sold in the store can be accepted. We cannot accept chain store items)

Charyl Cowles, Stationery Convenor
3550 5359 (0431 265 068
stationery@fernygrovepandc.com.au

Madonna Morton, Uniform Convenor
3550 5342 (0409 272 062
uniformstore@fernygrovepandc.com.au

Tuckshop
How busy are we at the tuckshop?
Just to give you an idea, There were 12,500 lunches ordered via Flexischools this year, another 400 over the counter, at least 100 missed lunches. Let's not forget that we also serve our staff with a choice of hot foods and a variety of sandwiches, wraps, salads, focaccia and café style muffins. On top of all that we occasionally cater for staff meetings. With only 16 committed hard working volunteers we often start early, finish late and miss our own lunch break! To continue our high standard of service, great quality food and reasonable prices we need your help. Any help is appreciated, even just for an hour after drop offs. Come visit us at the tuckshop.

Only 1 week to go till end of the year therefore some items on our menu may not be available - please check flexischools or simply give us a call.

Our tuckshop is open up and including 9th Dec 2015 and will resume January 27 2016. Yes we are open first day of school!

Friendly reminder for any money owing, must be paid by this Friday 4th December.

Thanks for great support from parents, students, teachers and staff - we had a great year . Enjoy the schools holidays and tune in for our 2016 Tuckshop Menu.

Liz Mu, Senior Managing Tuckshop Convenor
3550 5361
tuckshop@fernygrovepandc.com.au

QUALITY COMPACT SCHOOL UMBRELLAS

Special introductory price of $22
at the Uniform Shop

Don't Cry, Keep Dry

Bright Sparks

School Umbrellas

uniformstore@fernygrovepandc.com.au

☑ Great kids & families ☑ Great staff ☑ Great learning opportunities
Community news

Fun, creative and unique school holiday workshops

The Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts is running DeadlyArts – indigenous culture workshops for primary school aged children this Christmas holidays at its easy to access, Kangaroo Point studios. Deadly Arts brings Aboriginal culture to life and opens children’s minds to a world of holiday dreamtime. Let your child learn first-hand about the inspiring and ago-old culture of Australia’s first people. Contact ACPA on 3392 4420 for further information and bookings, or email admin@acpa.net.au
Community news

HOOK IN2 HOCKEY ~ COME & TRY PROGRAM

Hook in2 Hockey is for boys and girls who have never played club hockey before and introduces the basic skills of hockey using games. It is the ideal opportunity to try hockey ahead of the 2016 season.

Cost: $50 per player
Who: Boys and girls aged 5 to 13
When: 3 x Friday evening sessions: 5, 12 and 19 February 2016
Time: 6.00-7.30pm
Where: Pine Hills Hockey Club grass fields: James Drysdale Reserve, Jinker Track, Bunya

Every player receives a beginners equipment pack to keep that includes:
- Hockey stick
- Shin guards
- Hockey ball
- Mouthguard
- Singlet
- Stick Bag

**REGISTER NOW FOR HOOK IN2 HOCKEY**
to ensure your pack arrives in time for the first session

For all enquiries & registration details:
Visit www.pin ethanol hockey.org.au
Email join@pine hill hockey.org.au
Or call Megan on 0414 340 843

DARE SPEECH PATHOLOGY
EMPOWER CLINIC

Every School Holidays!

Tackling big assignments can be daunting, but having a ‘plan of attack’ can help. This clinic will step your child through what to do from the moment they get handed an assignment, to the moment they submit the finished product.

Is your child struggling with:
- Assignment work?
- Knowing how & when to get started?
- How to research?
- Referencing requirements?

Phone: (07) 3161 5002
Email: admin@daresp.com.au
www.daresp.com.au

SMASH & SPLASH HOLIDAY CAMP

January/December Holidays

This Xmas holidays we are teaming up with the Ferny Hills Swimming Pool to bring you OUR BEST CAMP EVER!

*Early drop off/pick up options available*

PURE TENNIS ACADEMY

Ferny Grove School Tennis Lessons

Before School Weds AM

Term 1 commences 27th January

BOOK ONLINE @ ferny hills.puretennis.com.au
OR CALL US on 3851 0444, Early Bird Special - book before 5th December to receive a discount!

QParents

Secure online parent portal

Have you signed up yet? Don’t forget to download the App for easy access at your fingertips!
Come and join the fun!
Registration Day
Saturday 30 January 2016

Sign on at
www.pinehillsnetball.club
Or visit us between - 9am-1pm
Downstairs at Bunya Sports Club,
Jinker Track, Ferny Hills
For further details contact
registrar@pinehillsnetball.club