Welcome to Denison State School for 2016! I hope that you had a most wonderful festive season basking in the company of dear friends and family. I am very excited to be here at Denison State School as I have heard only great things about the Staff, the Students and the Community. After speaking with staff, P&C and students over the last couple of weeks, it seems that Denison State School should be very proud of its collective achievements whether they be academic, cultural or sporting. May we work together to continue achieving great results and build on Denison State School's great reputation.

A little bit about me...

My name is Troy Sanson and I have the great honour of being your Acting Principal for 2016. I have come from Capella State School where I was Principal. Prior to being in Capella I was the Teaching Principal at Dingo State School. And before I was lucky enough to have been in Dingo I was teaching at Blackwater North State School. I have been in the Central Highlands area since 2011 and plan on being here for a significant amount of time as I believe it is a wonderful area, not only in terms of lifestyle but also in conditions that exist in which to raise a family. I have the great fortune to have my own family. My wife Wiraya and I have two children. Winston is our eldest and he is three years old. Rosalie is our second child and she is 16 months of age. They keep us very busy.

I am the eldest of three boys. All of us are teachers or educators. My father left school when he was twelve because he ‘didn’t get along with teachers’. Now every time our family gets together he is surrounded by three teachers. Poor bloke.

I am a great believer in the notion that it takes a village to raise a child. Our work as a school in educating children and empowering them to make a multitude of choices is enhanced or deepened by the love, care and support of family and friends — not just at home but at sporting clubs, dance clubs, drama clubs, scout groups and a variety of other arenas outside of school.

Staffing

On behalf of the staff I would like to welcome back students and their families who are part of our school community in 2015 and extend a warm welcome to those new students and their families. We know that you will enjoy your time at Denison State School. We must welcome back the returning staff to Denison State School. We must also welcome a number of new staff members to our Denison State School family for 2016. Mrs Barbara Wade will be teaching the Year 6A class; Miss Amanda Potter will be teaching the Prep/1C class; Mrs Leigh Robinson will be teaching the Year 5A class; Mrs Diane Waine-Barclay will be teaching the Year 4A and Mrs Lisa McHugh will be teaching the 4B class with Miss Maiden. I know that you will make our new staff feel at home here. Below is a list of our great teachers and the classes that they teach.

Prep A – Katelyn Poole
Prep B – Samara Patterson
Prep/1 – Amanda Potter
1A – Simone Bourne
1B – Lauren Laws
2A – Amanda Poolman
2B – Shona Shaw
2/3C – Rachael Tullock
3A – Joel Davis
3B – Elyse Douglas
4A – Diane Waine-Barclay
4B – Lisa McHugh and Nikita Maiden
4C – Jane McColl
5A – Leigh Robinson
5B – Rachael Wedmaier
5C – Kelly McGovern – Wade Thompson
6A – Barbara Wade
6B – Pauline Dunn
Arts – Monique Podolak
PE – Leigh Lawrence
LOTE – Sumadi Sumadi

A huge thank you to staff also who returned to school last week to undertake some professional development that aligned with our 2016 school improvement priorities. I was very impressed with the staff’s work during the week to support one another in planning, analysing data, setting up classrooms and developing a familiarity with the students that would be in their care.

Attendance

At Denison State School we have an attendance rate that is above the state average. Why? Our average attendance percentage is so high because our school has tight processes around tracking attendance; our teachers and support staff build positive relationships with the students so that school is a welcoming, friendly and fun place to be; our parents and community know that high attendance is related to increased academic achievement. We appreciate that some absences are unavoidable and we appreciate your prompt communication to let us know when this is the case. Pleasing has it been to see the great attendance so far this week. Thank you to everyone for making every day count.

Have a splendid week!

Troy Sanson
Acting Principal

Date Claimers

Feb 2nd Year 4,5,6 Swimming
Feb 22nd to 26th Book Fair
Mar 7th Arts Council—Michael Salmon
Mar 9th and 10th School Photos
Mar 23rd Cross Country
Mar 24th Swimming Carnival 4,5 and 6

As long as you’re going to think anyway, think big.

Donald Trump

Quote of the Week
Hello and welcome to week 2 2016! This year is going to be full of fun and excitement as your child embarks on their first year of formalised schooling. This is my 3rd year at Denison State School and I have loved every minute of it! I am thrilled to be on Prep this year and to be working with such a wonderful group of children. If you have any concerns or questions that arise please don’t hesitate to come and see me. I am available after school except for Tuesdays, as this is our staff meeting day. Enjoy the rest of your week and I look forward to talking with you shortly.

Regards, Mrs Katelyn Poole

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Welcome to the 2016 school year. My name is Amanda Potter and I am excited to be starting the new year at Denison. I have been teaching for the past 6 years on the Gold Coast and have lots of experience in the early years, particularly with Prep and Year One. I would like to congratulate all the students of P/1C on a fantastic first week of school. Everyone has transitioned well and I am looking forward to a year full of laughter and learning. For Year Ones, homework will begin in week 3 and for Preps, homework will begin next week. Please ensure students bring homework folders to school EVERY day! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me at apott44@eq.edu.au. We will be addressing homework and other topics at our parent evening. Keep an eye out for upcoming dates and details. I will also be looking for parent volunteers to help out in the classroom. There will be a note over the next few weeks if you are interested in helping.

Regards, Miss Amanda Potter

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Welcome to the 2016 school year. My name is Sam Patterson and I am excited to be starting the new year at Denison. This is my third year of teaching at Denison and my second year in Prep. I am excited to be given the opportunity to work at Denison again. I am looking forward to a very successful year filled with learning, both educational and social, along with lots of other exciting and engaging experiences. Thank you.

Regards, Mrs Sam Patterson

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Welcome to the 2016 academic year! I am very pleased to be teaching 1A this year. I am looking forward to getting to know the students and their families and thank those who have already introduced themselves. I hope your first few days of school went as well as ours did in the classroom. We have a wonderful group of happy students in our class this year who tell me they are excited to be in Year One. We are busy setting the foundation for classroom expectations and routines, getting to know each other and building relationships that will enable us to not only work together but to be friends as well.

If you have any questions or concerns or would like to explain absences, please feel free to contact me via email at sxbou0@eq.edu.au.

Regards, Miss Simone Bourne

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Holidays are over and it’s time to get started on a new school year! I am very excited to be working on year 1 this year and look forward to watching the students learn and grow. If there is any parents who are interested in volunteering time in the classroom between 8:30-9:00, Monday–Thursday, please let me know. This will be to help students practice their sight words and to change home readers. Feel free to contact me via email with any concerns or to explain absences on llaws32@eq.edu.au. Homework will begin in week 3, please ensure students bring homework folders to school EVERY day! I hope you all had a fantastic first week back at school!

Regards, Miss Lauren Laws

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Welcome to 2A students and parents! We have already begun the year in style and are enjoying a fresh start with new faces and friends. We have a class full of determined and motivated learners, which is fantastic to see. During the start of the term we have been talking about behaviour expectations and what learning will look like in 2A. It is great to see that all of the students have been responding well to class routines and have had the opportunity to provide input to discussions about how our class runs and why. Our library visits will be on Wednesday, Music and PE will be on Monday and Friday. Remember Parade will run on Friday mornings, all parents are welcome. Homework starts this week, so please ensure you encourage and support your child to complete all set homework. All homework directly links to content taught and reinforces your child’s learning and work ethic. If you have any questions or concerns about homework please come and see me. During week 3 we will commence reading groups, it would be great to have some parent volunteers to help so please let me know if you can. On day 1 I sent home some brief information about myself and a questionnaire about your child, can you please return these by the end of week 2. As mentioned in the letter, I am happy to help with any questions or concerns, feel free to grab me after school (except on Mondays and Tuesdays, we have a staff meeting) or call the school to book a time. Finally, thank you parents for being so organised with books and resources, it really does help us to get into our core business of teaching and learning. I’m looking forward to a great year with 2A!

Regards, Miss Amanda Poolman

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Welcome to 2016! Students had a great first week getting to know each other and sorting their special year two items into draws and desks. Last week we discussed expectations of behaviour and our classroom routines to help students settle into their new environment. Remember to send in your “Me Bags” early this week for students to share in class. It is important that we maintain open communication throughout the year so please do not hesitate to contact me (my email address is sevan177@eq.edu.au) – use this to contact me about anything, including student absences). Have a great second week and remember to pop in so I can meet you all!

Regards, Miss Shona Shaw
2/3C
Welcome to 2/3C. It was great to meet so many parents on the first day and over the week. We will be holding a parent information session very shortly. More information will come home in the following weeks in regards to this. We are well and truly into the swing of things now. All the students have settled back into routine and are getting excited about all the new learning we will be doing this year. Our specialist days are:

PE: Monday and Friday
Music: Monday and Wednesday
Library: Wednesday

Please feel free to email me at ratul0@eq.edu.au if you have any questions or concerns.

Regards, Miss Rachael Tulloch

3A
Welcome to 2016 in 3A at Denison State School. I trust that you have had a relaxing and enjoyable break and were able to recharge your batteries over the Christmas/New Year period. We’re off to a great start in grade three and cannot wait to see what the year ahead has in store for us. We’ve spent this week getting to know our fellow classmates, routines and expectations to set us up for a successful year. Homework will be starting this week and will come home on Monday afternoons to be returned on Friday morning. With this time of year comes the sweltering heat of summer so please be sure to send your child to school with their water bottle and hat every day. I am looking forward to working with you and your child for the year ahead! If you have any questions or queries please feel free to get in touch with me via the school office.

Regards, Mr Joel Davis

3B
I am certainly a lucky teacher to have met such a wonderful class. I look forward to going on many learning adventures with the class; exploring creative ways to write, solving problems, investigating science questions etc. Everyone has arrived super organised, remembering a healthy brain snack, hats and water bottles.

Homework- Will start week 2 and due back on Fridays.
PE and Music- Monday and Wednesday
Library- Thursday

Parent helpers- 3B would appreciate any parent helpers on Mondays and/or Wednesdays 11:45-12:20. It's a great way to get involved in your child's learning and the students love it!
3B has a pet- A Chinese Fighting fish, who we named Derwin. The daily leaders take responsibility to feed him in the morning and at home time. Contact- If you have any questions please feel free to email me edoug54@eq.edu.au

Regards, Miss Elyse Douglas

4C
Welcome to 2016 in 4C. It sounds like most of the students had a great holiday. During the first week of school we have been getting to know each other, completing some testing and been introduced to most of our units of work for this term. Homework will start this week. Please ensure your child is completing their homework on a regular basis. Year 4 homework concentrates on reinforcing skills learnt in the classroom in spelling, writing and maths facts and also encourages students to continue to read regularly. I am looking forward to seeing the Year 4C students continue to develop their skills and achieve to the best of their ability this year. Swimming for the Year 4s starts on Wednesday this week, Week 2. Please ensure all swim gear and clothing is named with permanent marker as many items get mislaid at swimming time.

Regards, Mrs Jane McColl

4B
Welcome to Year 4 in 2016. We hope you and your family had a fun filled holiday break. We are looking forward to getting to know your child and supporting them through another exciting year of learning.
Although it may seem daunting to think your child will have two teachers this year, rest assured we have systems in place. We have made it our priority to communicate with each other daily and will keep classroom routines, expectations, behaviour and reward systems consistent to ensure our learning environment is supportive. We each have different curriculum strengths, which combined will benefit your students learning experiences. Mrs McHugh will teach English, History, Geography and Health on Mondays, Tuesdays and odd week Wednesdays. Miss Maiden will teach Maths, Science, Art and Technology on even week Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.
Please note that 4B will be swimming on Wednesdays this term and our Library day is also Wednesdays. Homework books go home each week on Monday and are to be returned to the classroom on Friday.
We are very open about communicating with you and have an open door policy in our classroom. The best point of contact is by emailing either Miss Maiden via nmaid4@eq.edu.au or Mrs McHugh via lmchu5@eq.edu.au and we will endeavour to reply to emails ASAP. If you feel you need to see one or both of us, please email or come and see us to organise a time where we can give you our full attention to attend to your questions. There will be a parent teacher information evening coming up in the next few weeks (details to be advised) which will include information about our curriculum and routines.
We look forward to meeting you all and being a part of your child’s learning journey in 2016.

Regards, Mrs Lisa McHugh and Miss Nikita Maiden

4A
Welcome back to a new year. I am excited to be working with you and your children this year. Thanks to those parents who have already introduced themselves.
My family and I have been in Emerald for a year now, after living in Charters Towers for 19 years. I worked in the Local Relieving Teacher role last year and as such, am familiar with Denison and many of the students.
You will have seen a letter from myself to your children come home. I am asking them to write back to me, sharing a bit about themselves with me. I will be reading this letter, but not marking it as it is a nice, informal way to kick off some homework, while allowing me to get to know your child a little better. Formal homework begins in week 2.
Our daily program will run mostly with English being completed in the morning sessions, maths in the middle and the other Key Learning Areas in the afternoons. Music is on Tuesday and Wednesday and library and PE on Wednesday. This term students will be swimming. If you haven’t already done so, please return the swimming note and money as soon as possible. We are in the pool at 9am, so it is imperative the children are at school at 8:30am to catch the bus. Reading groups will run on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9am to 9:30am, with a whole class reading focus lesson on Wednesday, following swimming lessons.
Please feel free to contact me via email, should you have any queries or concerns. dwain3@eq.edu.au

Regards, Mrs Diane Waine-Barclay
Welcome to 5A children and parents! I am excited to be at Denison SS this year. We are going to have an awesome year together and have started with a class of motivated and determined learners. In our class we – Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe and Be a Learner.

It’s great to see the children bringing a variety of fruit and vegetables for their Brain Break at about 10am. Please also send a water bottle that can be placed under their desk to rehydrate especially during these hot days. A hat is essential for all outdoor activities too. Swimming lessons start on Tuesday in Week 2. We are the first class to go to swimming so the children can wear their togs underneath their school uniform. If you haven’t already returned the permission note and payment, please do so ASAP.

We have dived into the learning head first this week. In Maths we are exploring multiples and factors. In English we have read a fantasy story called Dragon Quest and in Science we are investigating behavioural and structural adaptations of plants and animals. Homework will start in week 2. It will be handed out each Monday to be returned completed by Friday.

Parent Teacher Information Night will be conducted in the next couple of weeks. Further information regarding this will be forwarded to you shortly.

I look forward to working with you over the course of the year to achieve the best possible educational outcomes for your child. I’m excited by the opportunities offered to the children at Denison SS. Please feel free to contact me by phoning the school or sending a note if you have any questions or queries.

Regards, Mrs Leigh Robinson

Welcome to 6A! My name is Rachael Wedmaier and I am teaching the bright and bubbly students of 5B. We have had a great start to the term by getting to know each other and establishing our class rules and expectations. We have dived into our English unit which focuses on fantasy stories. Our Mathematics learning journey has started with factors and multiples. In Science, we will explore the structural features and behavioural adaptations that assist living things to survive in their environment.

A few reminders to start the year:
Doors open at 8:30am. Before this time students are to be in the Senior Undercover Area.
No hat, no play!
As we are still experiencing hot weather water bottles are encouraged.
Brain break occurs every day around 10am. For this time students need a piece of fruit or veg to eat.
Homework will start in Week 2 - handed out on Monday. It must be completed and returned on Friday.
Swimming for Year 5 is on Tuesdays, Weeks 2-8.
If your child is away for any reason please contact the office as soon as possible or send a note with your child when they return.
You can also email me via rwedm5@eq.edu.au.
If you have any concerns, please come and see me either before or after school.
I hope you all had a fabulous break and you are ready for a big year ahead!

Regards, Miss Rachael Wedmaier
From the Deputy Principal

Hi all and welcome to 2016 at Denison State School! I hope that you have all had a wonderful, relaxing break and are ready to begin the new school year.

Introduction

My name is Nikita Vaughan and I am stepping into the role of Acting Deputy Principal. I have been a teacher for 7 years, this being my 4th year at Denison. I am looking forward to the challenge of stepping out of the classroom role and supporting both staff, students and parents at Denison. I look forward to meeting you all in the school at some point.

Attendance Data

We all know that ‘Every Day Counts’ when attending school. This will ensure your child is getting the best opportunity to learn.

Our school average attendance data has continued to grow over the past 3 years with the state average being 92.9%:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>92.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>93.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>93.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To ensure we maintain our high attendance rates, please ensure you are sending your child to school every day unless circumstances (illness, emergency) occur. If your child is away, please contact the office or send a note with your child to the classroom teacher the next day. This ensures your child is achieving the best they possibly can!

Parent Teacher Information Sessions

Parent Teacher Information Sessions will be run in Week 3 (February 8-12). Class Teachers will send a note home in the coming weeks to let you know the day and time of the year level. We look forward to seeing as many parents at these sessions as possible.

Student Leader Badge Ceremony

In the coming weeks, an invitation will be sent home to parents of student leaders to invite them to our Student Leader Badge Ceremony. More information will come in regards to this.

Nikita Vaughan
Acting Deputy Principal

Music news

Welcome to 2016 at Denison State School! We have already had lots of singing coming from our Music room with all students working towards their solo or duet singing assessment. We have been learning songs from artists such as The Beatles, Louis Armstrong, The Beach Boys to Pharell Williams, Katy Perry and ABBA. I love listening to all of the students learning new music and their eyes and smiles light up when they recognise the beginning of songs that they love. There will be a Grade 2-6 Mother’s Day Choir starting soon and the Music Room will certainly be a busy room once again! If you have any question, please pop in and say hi or I will see you around the school grounds!

Yours in Music and Denison State School talent,

Library News

How Library Borrowing Works at Denison

All classes attend the library in class time once during the week. However, the library is open at lunchtime every day for students for additional borrowing. We have a “no bag, no borrowing policy”. This ensures that books are protected in the transfer between school and home. Books must be returned each week and students have the option of extending the loan to allow more time to read the books.

Borrowing Limits

- Prep Students may borrow one junior fiction book.
- Year One and Year Two Students may borrow one junior fiction book and one non-fiction book.
- Year Three to Year Six Students may borrow two fiction books and one non-fiction book.

We try to ensure that fiction books borrowed meet the student’s reading ability. The same does not apply to non-fiction books as these are borrowed by students based on their interests.

Overdue Books

It is important to keep all of the books in circulation and so we ask that the books are returned by the due date. Students who have overdue books will have borrowing privileges suspended until overdue books are returned or the school reimbursed for lost or damaged books. Students receive a written notification of the books that are outstanding at the end of each term.

We thank you for ensuring that the books are cared for in the home environment and that your child is prepared for their library borrowing day by having a library bag and the book/s they are returning in that bag.

Happy Reading, Maree Heslin and Jean Self

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS

Hello everyone and welcome back.

This term we welcome Mrs Kylie Bain as a Special Needs teacher. Kylie already knows many of the students here at Denison, having done supply teaching work during 2015. Kylie and I will be case managing students on the Special Education Program (SEP). After day 8, numbers will be finalised along with teaching hours and case managers allocated. You will be notified during Week 3 as to who is supporting your child. This year, the Support team will again be working out of the GLA 4 classroom next to Prep B. Feel free to drop in if you have any questions.

This semester, healthy eating tips from Nutrition Australia will continue to be provided. These tips give helpful ideas on how to improve nutritive value of your child’s lunchbox. There is a wealth of research supporting the links between good nutrition and the development of children, including increased levels of cognitive functioning, activity, social interaction, and curiosity.


Marietta Sedgwick, HOSES

My Kids Won’t Eat Wholemeal

Try these ideas to sneak some fibre into your kid's lunchbox:

Hide the wholemeal bread

Make a zebra sandwich = 2 slices of wholemeal bread + 1 slice of white with fillings in between the layers.

Wholemeal for snacks

Try wholemeal biscuits with reduced fat cheese + sliced tomatoes or low fat cream cheese + 100% fruit jam.

Wholemeal pizza bread

Make wraps using wholemeal pizza bread - kids can’t tell the difference.
This term, the psychologist from Bushkids, Myles Chadwick, is running free Triple P Seminars at Denison State School in the Library. The dates for the program are February 25, March 10 and March 17 from 3.30-5.30. Please see the below information for registration details.
Get involved in the School Banking program

Denison State School is excited to offer the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program to all students. The School Banking program provides children with an opportunity to deposit money into their Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account at school each week. The program is about how often your child makes deposits, not how much they deposit.

To encourage regular savings behaviour the program offers an exciting Rewards Program. Every deposit earns your child a silver Dollarmites token, and once they've collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for a reward.

The rewards available during 2016 are:
- Flying Snake Tail
- Wildlife Writer Set
- Mud Splat Handball
- Outback Pat Bag Tag
- Backtrack Eraser Pen
- Jump and Skip Rope
- Bush Fly Fan
- Wriggly Glow Worm

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. Our school receives $5 when a student makes their first ever School Banking deposit and 5% on every deposit made through the school (to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit).

Getting involved in School Banking is easy!
You can get involved in the School Banking program by opening a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account at your local branch. All you need to bring is your current identification as well as your child’s birth certificate. If you are an existing Commonwealth Bank customer and have NetBank, you can open an account online.

If your child has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account they can start banking straight away. They just need to bring their deposit in every week on School Banking day using their Dollarmites deposit wallet.

School Banking day is Wednesday. Each week you need to put your bank book with your money into the commonwealth banking satchel in your classroom.

If you would like to know more about School Banking, please ask for a 2016 School Banking program information pack from the school office.

Emerald Scout Group
COME & TRY DAY
Sunday 7 February
9 am – 12 pm
Emerald Scout Den,
Cnr Opal & Theresa St
CHALLENGE YOURSELF, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, HAVE FUN
Boys and girls aged 6 - 26 years.
Adults (male & female 18 yrs +) to become Leaders.
No experience necessary as training is provided.
For further information, contact Lyn –0437446874

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

Tennis starts Monday February 1st for both coaching and junior fixtures. Senior fixtures will commence Tuesday February 2nd at 6:30pm.
All new juniors will receive a free racquet and playing t-shirt for coaching.
If you would like any more information or just book in please Glenn in 0407 693 900.
See you around the courts

St Patrick's Catholic Church
Reconciliation, Confirmation, Eucharist Sacramental Program
(Year 4 and above)
Reconciliation
Parent Information Session - Tuesday, 2 February 2016 at 3.30pm
Reconciliation Ceremony, Saturday, 5 March 2016
Confirmation & Eucharist
Parent Information Session - Wednesday, 13 April 2016 at 3.30pm
Confirmation Ceremony, Friday, 10 June 2016 at 6pm
Eucharist Ceremony, Saturday, 11 June 2016 at 6pm
Enquiries contact Mrs Francie Hartley, 4982 1066

SCHOOL PHOTO DAYS
ARE
WEDNESDAY 9TH OF MARCH 2016
AND
THURSDAY 10TH OF MARCH 2016
PHOTO ENVELOPES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED SOON.
ALL ENQUIRIES AND PAYMENTS ARE TO BE HANDED DIRECTLY TO MSP PHOTOGRAPHY ON THE DAYS OF THE PHOTOS.

Emerald Netball Association
2016 sign-on

Juniors – Monday, February 1 at Rundle Park clubhouse, Opal Street, Emerald
4.30pm – Girls and boys born 2006 to 2010
5.30pm – Girls and boys born 2004 and 2005
6.15pm – Girls born 1999 – 2003

Seniors – Tuesday, February 9, 6pm at Rundle Park clubhouse (Females born 2001 and earlier)

All intending players must register at the sign-ons.
A birth certificate is required for new players under 18.
For more information, contact Nanette Hall on 4982 1301 or visit www.emerald.qld.netball.com.au