How quickly a term passes and in reflecting on the term I listed a vast array of activities and events that were concluded. In no particular order I note the following:

The year five MacBook program has really taken off with some great learning opportunities provided. The students are really engaged and both teachers and students have learnt many new skills.

A contingent of our senior students participated in the GRIP leadership conference and came back inspired. See the report on page 2.

Twenty eight students joined the instrumental music program for the first time. Congratulations to:

Divjia, Seth, Sachi, Ashlee, Georgie, Melody, Noosh, Pari, Michael—Violin
Caroline, Derrick, Yi Quan—Cello
Imogen, Mitchell, Laurence, Sasha, Joshua—Brass
Louis, Allen, Vidun, Manuel, Amelia—Clarinet
Jed, Larisa, Avril, Si Yi, Marthe—Flute
Dylan, Reena—Double Bass

The school string orchestra has new members and the school band starts afresh again as a new group. Both these groups will perform at different times during the year under the direction of Dr Meegan-Lowe and Mrs Oliver respectively.

Our year 6 and 7 students learnt how to do lawn bowling as a different sporting activity.

The River Rangers recommenced for the year with a number of new 'cadets'. They have already undertaken some river conservation work and just this week went on a fishing expedition at Shelley foreshore. The excitement is obvious.

Swimming trials were followed by a highly enjoyable faction carnival. Well done gold faction.

Three teams (boys, girls, mixed) played in the interschool basketball competition on Tuesday with the boys and mixed teams both winning their divisions.

Staff have been engaged in professional learning with SDERA (School Drug Education and Road Aware) and begun implementing their Challenges and Choices based on the CHAT [Changing Health Acting Together] program, as part of health education, with a significant focus on developing resilience. This is a terrific program with benefits for all.

We welcomed new parents to the school at the annual P & C Sundowner early in the term. This was a great opportunity for new parents to mingle and get to know some of those who have been at Rossmoyne for some time. In addition the P & C had a bowling night in friendly competition with the Shelley P & C, which was most enjoyable.

Harmony Day was celebrated with a terrific assembly and of course followed up with a picnic with parents around the school.

P & C through Mrs Flynn organised a highly successful Bike Ed program before school in weeks 4—7.

As is usual practice the whole school participated in the clean up Australia Day campaign with a clean up our school day.

Finally a word on Tuesday’s industrial action. Parent support to minimise the impact on supervision was appreciated. We all understand that such action is less than desirable but also accept that sometimes there is a bigger picture. In this case those people taking part in the community day of action were trying to ensure there is no further diminution of the resources provided to public schools and indeed have the cuts already made returned. The impact of those cuts is not seen observably by parents as we manage the funding impacts as best we can. I can however assure you that the cuts this year have impacted on aspects of our resourcing in both human and dollar terms. We are unable to provide the same level of support programs as we might have been without the cuts and we have a reduced cash grant of over $30,000. In addition we have reduced education assistant staffing and at any time during the year could lose more. Let’s hope that over the coming months government resourcing of public education returns to it’s previous levels at the very least.

Geoff Anderson