It has been an absolutely fantastic year crammed full of non-stop activity and quality learning experiences. I imagine most students are as exhausted as our hard working staff but we still have some important work to finish. It is amazing what quality experiences we have managed to fit into the school year. I would like to publically thank Mrs Roberts and Mrs Martin for their commitment to their classes this year. Their care and approach to each student in this school overcomes many obstacles for students which in other environments would lead to significant issues. Thank you to our reliable and dedicated casual teaching staff Ms Wilson, Mrs Tofaeono, Ms Turner and Ms Brasche who have all made a mark on each student in their own positive way. A special thank you to Mrs Higgins for her support of the running of the school all year. Thanks Denise and Craig for their work ensuring the school is genuinely a beautiful place for children to come to each day. Finally, thank you to the students who have made me smile and appreciate why we love making a difference every day. It is always an exciting time as we approach the end of the year as we get to see a lot of planning and hard work come to fruition with our kids. But it’s also a sad time of year for us because when we come back to school next year, some of us won’t be here. We would like to wish Monique, Chase and Woolley and Julia a great time next year on their new adventure at Port Macquarie. Both Mum and Dad have been active parent members on the School Council and Julia has also contributed strongly to the P&C during my 3 years on LHI. We know you always look back on your time at our school & LHI with great memories. We also farewell Hudson from our Kindergarten class as he returns back to the mainland. Isabella will finish her Primary schooling and start DE with us and Camden Haven next year. The staff will be taking Isabella out for her Year 6 farewell on the 14th December. This will be a special night to farewell a special girl. On the last day of school all the students will finish the year at Ned’s with our special Gold Day Secret Santa and farewell arch for all our students who are leaving.

Presentation Day - The students and team are working over-time to really out do themselves to put on a super exciting show for Presentation Day. A huge thank you to the teachers for their extra work, effort and dedication to push on with our best foot forward to celebrate and appreciate a special year for the kids. Presentation will be held at School on the grass like last year at 6:45pm. We will celebrate the success of our students in style on Thursday, December 10th here at 6:45pm. The students will need to wear black shorts or bike pants, a Christmas coloured T-shirt (that is appropriate for Gym) and a dressing gown. The audience will have the grass area to view the performances. Please feel free to get right up the front for the best viewing spot to see the kids. We will have a few seats out which will be reserved for the elderly. The rest of the grass is for everyone to use. Please bring their own seating. There is plenty of room for families and friends to enjoy with a picnic rug.

Kind regards
Trev Mason
School Finish and Start dates - School finishes for students on Wednesday the 16th of December and staff will finish on the 17th of December. School resumes for staff on Wednesday, January 27 2016. Students commence their first day on Thursday, January 28. We look forward to our 2016 Kindergarten students starting their schooling career. Best Start will start on Monday in Week 2 for our new students.

Swim School – Hats off to the team and especially Mrs Roberts for the fantastic swim school program. The kids are having a ball learning to improve their vital swimming skills. The intensive swimming training supports our students to be able to swim safely in the holidays.

School Reports – The teachers are organising all their assessment and are busy writing the final end of year reports for the students. The reports will go out on Tuesday in the last week of term – 15th December.

School Council - The School Council gives the school learning community representation a strong voice. It provides an avenue for representation from the broader perspective of parents, staff and the community. Julia Thompson will be moving to the mainland and will not be available as the parent representative role in 2016. This presents an exciting opportunity for a parent on the committee. Nominations are now being called for the position of Parent Representative on our School Council for the start of 2016. The position carries a two year negotiable tenure. In accordance with the Lord Howe Island School Council Constitution, nominees must be proposed and seconded by members of the parent community and the nominee must sign the nomination form, indicating a willingness to accept. Completed nominations should be left in the bucket at the front office or faxed through to school on 6563 2238. Nominations will close on Wednesday the 2nd of December by 3:00pm.

P&C - The final P&C meeting for 2015 will be held on Monday night in the library from 7.30p.m. Well done to our awesome P&C and in particularly Kelly, for such a stellar year. Agenda items include Yachties BBQ Wrap up, Christmas tree & Gymnastics 2016. The P&C needs all the mums and dads to catch some fish for the Fish Fry/Discovery Day which is on the 17/02/16. Any fish caught can be dropped up at Ocean View for cleaning and freezing ready for Discovery Night. The P&C AGM will be held on Monday, 1st of February in the library. All Welcome!
The Isolated Children’s Parents’ Association of New South Wales Inc.

What is ICPA?
The Isolated Children’s Parents’ Association (ICPA) is a voluntary, not for profit organisation that has its roots firmly embedded in rural and remote Australia. ICPA was founded in 1972 in Bourke, NSW following the outcry over the closure of the Bourke Hostel. The hostel had provided much needed accommodation for children living on remote properties so that they could attend local schools in town.

The mission of the newly formed Association then, as now, is access to an appropriate education. Distance is a major barrier to accessing education for geographically isolated students and a major cost to families.

ICPA has a federal body, ICPA (Australia), and all states and territories (except Victoria and the ACT) have their own autonomous state organisations. ICPA (Australia) lobbies the Australian government on issues affecting education nationally, and ICPA-NSW lobbies the NSW government on state issues.

Branches
Australia-wide there are about 3,000 members in rural and remote locations. In NSW there are approximately 1,000 members across 30 branches. Families join ICPA through their local branch. For those people who have no local branch nearby but wish to join the association, there is the facility to become a “lone member”.

Publications
Member subscriptions are split between the branch, the state council and the federal council, and subsidise the cost of the national publication “Pedals” and the local state newsletter, which in NSW is “The Top Wire”. Both publications are quarterly.

ICPA Councils
Federal Council and each State Council consist of 13 annually elected member representatives. Each councillor is responsible for one or two portfolio areas relating to education to advocate to government. ICPA has no paid employees and all work done on behalf of ICPA is completely voluntary.

Conferences
State conferences give members, through their branch delegates, the opportunity to bring issues affecting rural and remote access to education for debate and a vote. This sets the policy agenda for newly elected councillors to pursue for the ensuing year. Conferences are convened by individual branches that volunteer to host them and are subsidised by sponsors and fundraising.

Federal Conference is the only time whereby members get together Australia-wide to hear firsthand what is happening in other states; to hear keynote speakers who are leaders in their field; to hear what the politicians have to say, and to debate issues from interstate branches.

Conference representation
Each branch is allowed two voting members to attend conference. Branches cover the costs of their two delegates including registration, accommodation and travel. Depending on the location of conference, the travel component of attending conference can sometimes be prohibitively expensive for branches.

www.icpa.com.au