Dear Parents and Friends of St Anthony’s

SPRING FAIR
COUNT DOWN
30
Sleeps
to go

Gospel Reading and Reflection of Sunday,
August 5, 2012

The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

Gospel Reading – John 6:22-35

‘Jesus said to (his disciples), “Amen, amen, I say to
you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from
heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from
heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes
down from heaven and gives life to the world.”….. Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life;
whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever
believes in me will never thirst.”

Reflection

In Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus entreats us not to work for
bread that perishes, but rather to work for the bread
that endures for eternal life. Of course, it is
necessary and important for us to work well here on
earth for our human needs; however, all our material
goods are means to serve the higher good of our
union with God. Today, Jesus teaches us that he is
the Bread of Life truly present in the Eucharist, whom
we encounter at every Mass.

Let us prayer together:-

Jesus, our Bread of Life,
you give us your Body and Blood
as true food and true drink.
Increase our faith in you
in this present life until the day
when you will draw us into the
eternal banquet of heaven.
You live and reign forever, Amen.

Welcome to Week 3. I hope everyone is well
and excited about all the wonderful events we
have experienced so far this term. We also have
a number of events coming up that will offer everyone
a wonderful opportunity to shine at St Anthony’s.
Since the beginning of the term Mrs Charlton and I
have missed quite a few days. I am recovering from
illness and Mrs Charlton has been supporting her
mother, Mary, during the final stages of her life. It is
with great sadness that Mrs Mary Murray passed
away last week. Mrs Carole Brigden, Joshua
Dodds, School Captain, Vanessa Daher, Vice
School Captain, and myself attended the funeral on
behalf of the St Anthony’s School community. Mrs
Charlton returned to work today and I know that it
will be a sad time for her, so I ask you to pray for
Mrs Charlton and her family during this sad and
difficult time.

On behalf of Mrs Charlton and myself I wish to
thank Mr Robert Barden for attending to the needs
of the students, staff and parents. Robert managed
the school in an excellent manner, continually
fostering a collaborative atmosphere with all staff to
achieve the numerous events, such as, the Peer
Support Training Day, Year 6 Retreat and
Grandparents’ Day. I have received many
comments of praise and admiration for the way
Robert fulfilled his role as ‘Acting Principal’.

I wish to thank a number of staff for their
contribution to the planning and implementation of
the following events:-

- Peer Support Training Day. Many thanks to Mrs
  Vicki Baiada for organising the peer support
  resources prior to the day. This required a lot of
  photocopying and collation of materials. Mrs
  Baiada was also very instrumental on the day by
  working with Ms Kate Robertson, Miss Amanda
  Stone, Miss Christine Watson, Mrs Artelle
  Lenthal, Mr Robert Barden and Mrs Linda
  McKinnon. Mrs Frances Flood did not attend the
day but she had worked collaboratively with Ms
  Robertson and Mrs Baiada in preparation for the
day. The day was also supported by a number
of our parents who worked tirelessly in catering
for our students on the day with a sausage
sizzle; the students and teachers valued their
support so much.

- Year 6 Retreat. This day was absolutely
  marvellous for our Year 6 students. A wonderful
  opportunity for the Year 6 students to think of
  ways to answer God’s call - to be a witness and
disciple for living the Good News. The day was
well organised by Mrs Flood, Ms Robertson,
Miss Stone and Mrs Baiada. Fr Paul celebrated
Eucharist with the Year 6 students, teachers and
parents. The Year 6 students have created a
sacred space in their classroom using the
different media they used to represent their retreat journey. Mr Robert Barden initiated the idea for the retreat. His vision and leadership for the day was outstanding and it is planned that the retreat will be an annual event for Year 6 students.

- Grandparents’ Day. What can I say, not having been there, I am relying heavily on the feedback from grandparents, parents, students and staff. I have received so many positive comments and correspondence stating the day was a welcoming experience and gratefully appreciated. I hear the concert was very successful in getting the grandparents engaged in tapping to the beat of the music from 50’s, 60’s and 70’s. The St Anthony’s students and parents are blessed with wonderful staff that give of their talents and time to provide opportunities for our students to display their talents. The whole school worked together to make this day a successful day in building community. I wish to thank the St Anthony’s School Community group in supporting the day by providing the scrumptious sausage sizzle for our grandparents.

- The Life Education Program was organised by Mrs Charlton earlier in the year. The program has been very successful this week in engaging our students in their learning.

- Maths Olympiad. This program is being facilitated by Ms Robertson and Mrs Simonetta. I wish to express my appreciation of Mrs Simonetta in supporting the program. She regularly works with the students in developing and challenging problem-solving skills to build confidence and mathematical knowledge. I know the students are very appreciative of Mrs Simonetta’s interest and enthusiasm for their learning.

Last week the Kindergarten teachers, Mrs Sonia Awkar and Mrs Charlene Sheraton, completed the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) data collection. The Australian Government’s commitment to the AEDI will enable data to be collected nationally every three years for approximately 270,000 children in their first year of full-time school. Teachers complete a checklist for children in their first year. The checklist measures five key areas, or domains, of early childhood development:

- physical health and wellbeing
- social competence
- emotional maturity
- language and cognitive skills (school-based)
- communication skills and general knowledge

These areas are closely linked to the predictors of good adult health, education and social outcomes.

Student improvement is so important in our school community. Educational goals are something everyone strives for. One of the most important reasons for setting educational goals is for our own minds. Education should be a never-ending endeavour. We should also try to learn new things and re-learn, if necessary. Strengthening our minds can yield a lot of positive benefits for years to come. For this reason I strive to provide quality professional learning experiences for all the staff. This week the staff engaged in a two hour staff meeting facilitated by Mr David Hawkins, Clinical Psychologist, Catholic Education Office Parramatta and Ms Jacqui Rainey, Clinical Psychologist, John Blythe Child Psychology. The presentation was based on supporting students in the classroom. Many students in classrooms today present with behaviours that need to be investigated, with the aim to implement processes and interventions designed to support the child with their learning. The presentation included the following areas:

- A guide of school-age child development, covering social and emotional, understanding, physical, and speech and language
- Characteristics of specific diagnosis of children e.g. Autism, Aspergers,
- Referral process for further investigation
- Strategies to apply in class to support students with areas of need
- A focus on being proactive rather than reactive
- Understanding that there is always a reason why children present a particular behaviour, our role is to assess the situation, identify the skills to be acquired by the student, teach the skill so that they experience success and acceptance.
- Creating supportive networks for students and teachers.

I am working closely with Mrs Venessa Ward, our special needs teacher and Year 1 teacher, and Mrs Charlton, assistant principal, in building a positive and collaborative network between students, teachers and parents in addressing all student needs when they arise.

Our reading recovery programme is going well. Miss James has been working with a number of Year 1 students. Mrs Awkar and myself are now trained to support Miss James. We are proud to advise that we have had a number of students successfully complete the programme and we continue to monitor the students now and in future goals.

Our school is currently reviewing our HSIE (Human Society & It’s Environment) and Science and Technology resources. Miss Watson and Miss Small attended a professional development workshop with Primary Connections which will assist in identifying the areas of content material that are needed to supplement our resources.

The Crazy Hat day was very successful in raising funds for the Spring Fair. Thank you to everyone for supporting your child in participating in the day and donating a gold coin. A total of $339.50 was raised on the day for the Plant Stall.

Today I was very excited to work with Mr Marco Torres in introducing our students, teachers and parents to Digital Story Telling. Marco Torres is a prominent and award-winning educator from the United States who has shared some of his innovative ideas with staff and students from Catholic schools in the Parramatta Diocese in past years. Marco has worked with teaching educators, principals, teachers and students from many schools in the diocese.

For the purpose of the day, a number of students were selected across Years 4 – 6 to participate in the learning experiences. Twelve students and two teachers were
invited from Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Wentworthville, to participate in the day, with the aim to build a network for students to share their knowledge and skills across the diocese. Our teachers were invited to express an interest in attending the day, therefore, the following teachers will be working with the students:—

Miss Stone, Ms Robertson, Mrs Flood, Miss Watson, Mr Barden, Miss Younes, Mrs Digwood, Mrs Ward and Mrs Charlton. There were a number of parents who wished to attend the day, but unfortunately, there were only 4 positions available. I wish to thank the other staff members who will remain on the grades to support the school’s daily routine as a number of casual teachers were booked to enable our teachers to attend the event.

This event has been organised by Miss Elizabeth Younes, our Learning Technology Support Teacher. Miss Younes has worked with Marco Torres previously and has organised the day’s agenda and technological hardware. Miss Younes has engaged the St Anthony’s Media Team to film the day as well. Many thanks to Miss Younes for your vision and commitment to Information Technologies at St Anthony’s.

This Friday is Census Day. Mrs Laurie and Mrs Brigden in the office will be very busy finalising data collection of student and teacher information. So I would appreciate your support by providing any notes that are outstanding for your child’s absent days. Thank you in anticipation.

This week a resident from Girraween Road visited our school office to advise that a parent from our school had verbally abused their child because they believed the child was one of a group of children that ran across the road in front of their vehicle. The parent pulled up in the driveway of the child’s house and yelled at them. I wish to remind all parents to refer any incidents to the staff in the School Office rather than approach students or parents when something has happened. For your own safety and any misunderstanding that may occur it is best to report the incidents to the school staff so the matter can be followed up appropriately.

**NEW SCHOOL UNIFORM**

Yesterday a letter was sent home to all parents advising of the new school uniform that will be implemented for all the Kindergarten students who will start in 2013. If you didn’t receive the letter, please contact the office. I would like to invite you to attend the School Community Group Meeting on Monday, 6th August at 7:30pm where I will present the changes to the uniform for 2013.

**RAFFLE TICKETS**

The first two winners of the weekly draw for returning their raffle ticket books was drawn last Friday and the winners were Claire Burgess and Josh Dodds so keep selling the tickets and get them back to us so that your name can go in the draw. We would also like to remind you that the raffle tickets are due back by Thursday 16th August.

Enjoy the week and may you live in word and deed.

God Bless

Cheryl Brown
Principal

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### Feast of Sts Joachim and Ann

Thank you to everyone who participated in last week’s celebration of the Feast of Sts Joachim and Ann, the parents of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Thank you especially to all the children and teachers who helped in preparing and leading the Mass.

### Feast of St Mary of the Cross

The Feast of St Mary of the Cross (Mary MacKillop) is celebrated on Wednesday 8 August. We will celebrate this feast day of Australia’s first saint with a Celebration of the Word next Wednesday at 9:15 am in the school assembly area. All parents and friends are invited to take part in this celebration.

### Year 6 Retreat Day

On Tuesday of last week, our Year 6 students spent the day at nearby Campion College for a day of retreat and personal reflection. The theme of the day was *One Way, Many Paths*.

The first session of the day gave students an opportunity to reflect upon where they are in their lives right now; coming to the end of primary school and beginning a new chapter. Guest speaker, Theresa from Youth off the Streets, spoke to the students about how some young people find themselves in difficult situations, heading down paths they don’t want to continue along. It provided students not only with a sense of how fortunate they are in their own lives, but with a desire to learn more about, and find ways to support the work of Fr Chris Riley.

The second session of the day focused on the idea that as we journey through our lives, we cannot help but leave an impression. We were blessed to have two students from Cerdon College, Natalie and Kayla. They spoke to the students about ways they have already made positive contributions to society, through being selected to address a UNICEF meeting in Switzerland, and initiating a public awareness campaign at Cerdon about the importance of organ donation. The Year 6 students began to develop ways they could respond to needs in our community.

It was a pleasure to welcome Fr Paul to our final session of the day. While there are many paths we can choose to travel in our lives, Fr Paul reminded us that Jesus is “the way, the truth and the life”. Not only did he share some interesting astronomical facts, but used them to very cleverly remind us that God guides us along the journey of life. In addition, in living according to the mission of Jesus, we journey towards living forever with him. Students completed the session by sculpting their own image of Jesus; responding to the question of *when you look to Jesus to guide you along life’s journey, what do you see?* The students’ responses were deeply personal and carefully crafted.

These images were then taken into the chapel and placed in front of the altar in preparation for the Mass that concluded the day. It was wonderful to have parents and teachers join the students for the Mass and take an interest in what the students had been doing over the course of the day.

The day was very successful, and was only made possible through the work of the Year 6 teachers and Mrs Baiada.
In particular, I must take this opportunity to thank Mrs Patricia Baker, principal of Cerdon College, for allowing her students to contribute to the day. The staff of Campion College were extremely generous with their time and support, and in making available the resources and facilities of the college both for this day, and the Peer Support leadership training the day before. We are very fortunate to have Campion College within our own parish. Finally, I would like to thank Mrs Brown for her support of the retreat day, the Year 6 students and staff.

Below is a poem written by a Year 1 child.

**Thank You God For Our Senses**

My favourite smell is the smell of my dinner when I get home from school.

My favourite taste is the taste of dinner from my loving mum.

My favourite sound is the sound of my family talking to me.

My favourite thing to touch is my mums back when I'm giving her a hug.

My favourite thing to look at is my house that keeps me safe.

Thank you for giving me five senses so I can enjoy your world.

**Love from Clare Pooley.**

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### Upcoming Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat 4 Aug</td>
<td>Men's Breakfast, 7am at Church Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 4 Aug or 5 Aug</td>
<td>First Communion Session 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 8 Aug</td>
<td>Celebration of the Word, St Mary of the Cross, 9:15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 11 Aug or 12 Aug</td>
<td>First Communion Section 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 15 Aug</td>
<td>Parish Mass, Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary, 9:30am – Stage 2 are attending</td>
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Kind Regards

Robert Barden

Religious Education Coordinator

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### NUMERACY UPDATE

Helping your child with **Arithmetic: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division**

Through everyday activities and play situations children will naturally use numbers. Young children are very capable of sharing out things such as lollies so that each person has a fair share or adding a friend’s collection to his or her own and finding the total. We need to help children discover quick and easy ways of using numbers.

**How do children learn to use numbers?**

When first learning to use numbers, children will need to have the objects with them in order to add, subtract, multiply or share equally (divide). They will go through a process of needing to see and count each thing, one at a time.

We need to help children learn to start counting from a larger number and add or subtract a second number. We also need to help children build mental images of a group or quantity so they do not always have to rely on seeing the objects. Helping children to mentally “see” groups of things will also help them with understanding multiplication and division before they learn the “tables”.

**What can you do at home?**

- Play board games such as *Snakes and Ladders* with two dice and encourage your child to add the two numbers rolled. Show them how to count from the larger number.
- Play card games such as *21 or bust*. In this game, two cards are dealt to each player who adds the numbers together. Each player may ask for more cards from the “kitty” with the aim of being the person with the highest score that does not go over 21.
- Share fruit such as mandarins with your child and add the number of pips you both have.
- Set the table for one person and ask your child to put out enough plates for everyone. Ask them how many more were needed.
- Count the number of eggs in a carton, and again after some have been removed. Ask your child, *How many were taken away?*
- Read a book to your child that has a contents page. Look for a story or chapter on a certain page and work out how many pages until the next story.
- Use empty toilet rolls or empty plastic bottles and a ball to make a game of skittles. Encourage your child to tell you how many were knocked down and how many are still standing after bowling. Keep a score of how many are knocked down to see who is the winner.
- Sing songs that include numbers. Ask your child to tell you the next number in the song before you sing the next verse.
- Go for a drive and point out the signs that indicate the distance to the next town. In the country the numbers on the kilometre signs go down by 5. Ask your child to work out what number will be on the next sign.
- Have your child help share out food to the family. *How many slices will I need to cut the pizza into so that everyone has two slices?*
- Ask your child to share out items fairly with others.
- Count the number of things in a collection such as shells in a bag or a large jar of buttons. Ask your child if there is a quick and easy way of counting, say counting by lives.
- Decorate patty cakes with sultanas or smarties. Place the same number of sultanas or smarties on each cake and ask your child to find out how many you will need altogether.
- Count the number of ice cubes in a tray. If your child counts by ones suggest counting by the number in each row of the tray. (This will usually be counting by twos.)
If you need help in understanding your child’s homework, a good website to explain mathematical terms is the following:

Joanne Digwood
Maths Coordinator

**STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

**SCHOOL BANKING TOKEN REDEMPTION**

Tuesday 7th August is the next token redemption day. Bring in your 10 tokens and redeem them for a prize of your choice. Please present them at the banking table between 8:20 and 8:55am with your banking deposit.

PLEASE ENSURE YOU ARE ON TIME TO SCHOOL ON BANKING DAYS TO ALLOW ENOUGH TIME SO THAT YOU ARE FINISHED BEFORE THE BELL RINGS FOR CLASS.

Thank you – Debbie and Emma
School Banking Coordinators

**CALENDAR UPDATE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>3 Aug</td>
<td>Census Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>6 Aug</td>
<td>School Community Group Meeting 7:30pm</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
<td>7 Aug</td>
<td>Captivate Showcase</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>8 Aug</td>
<td>Brainstorm Human Race K-2</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>8 Aug</td>
<td>Cumberland Zone Athletics Carnival, Blacktown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>8 Aug</td>
<td>Feast Day of Mary Mackillop</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>10 Aug</td>
<td>Olympics 2012 Celebration Day – more details to follow</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>13 Aug</td>
<td>Spring Fair Meeting 7:30pm</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
<td>14 Aug</td>
<td>ICAS Mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>14 Aug</td>
<td>Blacktown Zone Athletics Carnival</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>15 Aug</td>
<td>Feast of Assumption</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>17 Aug</td>
<td>Mufti – Favourite Team Colours – more details to follow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>20 Aug</td>
<td>Book Week</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
<td>21 Aug</td>
<td>Netball Gala Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>22 Aug</td>
<td>Maths Olympiad Test</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>24 Aug</td>
<td>Diocesan Athletics Carnival, Blacktown</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>27 Aug</td>
<td>Voice of Youth – Greystanes</td>
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<td>Thur</td>
<td>30 Aug</td>
<td>Fathers’ Day Breakfast, Liturgy and Gift stall</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>31 Aug</td>
<td>Prepare for Fete</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>1 Sep</td>
<td>Spring Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>3 Sep</td>
<td>Staff Development Day – Pupil Free Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>17 Sep</td>
<td>Spring Fair Wrap Up Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>20 Sep</td>
<td>Voice of Youth – Grand Final</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>21 Sep</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 3</td>
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**CANTEEN NEWS**

**CANTEEN ROSTER – AUGUST 6 - 10**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Judi Adams</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Rachael Christie, Denise Andree-Evarts</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Sav Cosgrove, Sue Adams</td>
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**PARISH NEWS**

All Men of the School and Parish are invited to the St Anthony’s Parish Men’s breakfast on Saturday 4th August at 7am to 8:30am in the Parish Hall. Our guest speaker this month is Dr Claire Shepherd a research scientist specializing in neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease. Come along, enjoy a hearty breakfast and listen to this interesting speaker. Please contact Peter Gardener on 0419 262 464 or Cameron Laurie on 0404 196 726 to RSVP

**SPRING FAIR NEWS**

Craft Stall
"The craft stall is looking for any crafty hands to make items for this year’s stall at the Spring Fair. All costs will be reimbursed. Get those creative juices flowing!! Please contact Julie Brownlow if you can help 0403565182."

**BREAKING NEWS**

We have just heard that Mrs Leach has had a baby girl this morning and has named her Charlotte Rose Leach. Congratulations to both Kylie and her husband Adam.