Welcome to Nowra Hill Public School all new Defence families. Nowra Hill is a wonderful school and I’m sure you’ll enjoy becoming part of the community.

In 2015, there are 37 Defence students from 26 families attending Nowra Hill. Five students were farewelled from the school at the end of 2014, and this year, we have welcomed 11 new students - 10 to Kindergarten and 1 student to Year 2. Welcome: Abigail, Xander, Hayden, John, Heidi, Matilda, Jai, Riel, Lily, Eva and Oscar.

This year’s **Kindergarten** students have made a great start at Nowra Hill with Miss Barry as their teacher. They’ve enjoyed spending time with their Stage 3 buddies.

The **Shoalhaven Defence Community Family Day and Expo**, organised by DCO, Nowra will be held on Saturday 28 February 2015 at the Fleet Air Arm Museum, HMAS Albatross. It promises to be a fun and informative day. An information flyer is attached.

Last night, the whole school enjoyed a **Welcome BBQ** celebrating the start of the school year. It was a terrific way for newcomers to get to know the school community.

**Kids Club** is held in the school library at lunchtime on Fridays. The Club provides an opportunity for students to have some quiet time in the library playing games or making craft.

The first Kids Club was held last Friday and nearly all of the NHPS Defence students were in attendance.

Captain Sailor Bear, our new Defence teddy, will be enjoying his first sleep-over at Abigail and Alex’s home. The teddy is looked after by one Defence child each week. If the child wishes to, she/he can document their adventures by drawing, writing or including photos in the accompanying scrapbook.
Defence Community Organisation, or DCO, offers a broad range of programs and services to help Defence families manage the military way of life. The DCO website is full of helpful information for Defence families relating to deployment, relocation, education, special needs and emergency and crisis support. The DCO website is: www.defence.gov.au/dco/. To access any of DCO’s support services, contact the all-hours Defence Family Helpline on: 1800 624 608.

The Shoalhaven Defence Families Association (SDFA) is a non-profit organisation which was established to bring fun and friendship to Defence families in the Shoalhaven and surrounding areas. SDFA is managed by Rachel Birkmyre, Co-ordinator and a Committee of volunteers who come together each week (during school terms), to run activities such a playtime, scrapbooking and craft groups. These activities are run at the SDFA’s community house – Kookaburra Retreat, which is located at Flats 1 & 2 Canberra Drive, Nowra Hill. If you would like any information about SDFA, or you would like to be placed on their email list, please contact Rachel on phone: 4421 5766; or by email: shoalhavendfa@gmail.com; or visit the SDFA website at: www.shoalhavendefencefamilies.com.au.

I have arranged for the school to borrow a Memorial Box from the Australian War Memorial for the first 2 weeks of March. There are 6 themed boxes available, each containing hands-on artefacts, written information, uniforms and much more. We have borrowed Box #1 relating to Australia in the First World War, which is timely given the Anzac Centenary commemorations (2014-2018).

Congratulations to:
- Nayana who was elected school vice-captain for 2015.
- Isabel who was elected as one of the captains of Buru House for 2015,
- All of the winners from the 2015 swimming carnival, particularly Halle, who was awarded Junior Champion Girl, and
- Declan, Alexandra and Charley, all of whom won awards in the Term 4, 2014 Artist of the Term Competition.

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I am at Nowra Hill two days per week for 36 weeks of the school year (Thursdays and Fridays). During this time, I work with the teachers and students in the classrooms, open the Library at lunchtime for Kids Club and work with those Defence students with a deployed parent, or those who are moving to another school.

I can be contacted by email at leanne.millard1@det.nsw.edu.au or by phoning the school office on 4421 5671.

Please remember to advise me of any current or future deployments so that I can support your child at school.

I look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Leanne Millard
DSTA
Nowra Hill Public School