Many years ago a famous shoe company sent one of its salespeople to a far away country to start a business. After a few months the salesman sent back a message: 'I am coming home. Nobody wears shoes here.' The same company sent another salesperson to the same backward area. After a few months she also sent a message to the home office, but this message was quite different: 'This place is fantastic! Nobody wears shoes here. Send more order forms; I'm cleaning up.'

The second salesperson saw the opportunity in her situation - not the difficulty. She succeeded because she was courageous; she showed faith in the people and courage in her ability to canvass customers.

'Courage! Do not be afraid' are the opening words from last Sunday's first reading at Mass. Let us be courageous in trusting in God and look at every situation as an opportunity, not a difficulty.

Perhaps this kind of thinking could also apply the disastrous situation for many refugees and asylum seekers. Their plight could be an opportunity for us to think differently.

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2015-16 challenges Australians to think again about our national response to asylum seekers, especially those who come to Australia by sea. It invites us to recognise the desperation that has driven these people to seek refuge far from their homes.

The Statement's title is For Those Who've Come Across the Seas: Justice for refugees and asylum seekers. The title, taken from the words of our National Anthem, is intended to remind all Australians of how this nation has aspired to be a place of welcome and inclusion.

In this Statement, the Bishops address the divisive national debate over asylum seekers, especially those who arrive by boat. They confront Australia's current deterrence-based response and remind us of the needs of the nearly 60 million people who are displaced around the world. The Statement takes its inspiration from the actions and words of Pope Francis on his 2013 visit to the Italian island of Lampedusa, where he met the survivors of a refugee tragedy and mourned for those who had died. It begins and ends with the Pope's own words and is strongly based on the Scriptures and Catholic teaching.

The Bishops' document traces the experiences of asylum seekers from their flight from persecution and danger, through their perilous journeys, to their experience in Australia of indefinite detention, deprivation and insecurity. It asks why both sides of Australian politics have felt the need to introduce such cruel and self-defeating policies as offshore processing and indefinite detention.

We are invited to reflect on the call of Jesus to welcome those in most need and to give comfort to those who come to us in flight from fear and suffering.

Yours sincerely

Frances Robertson
Principal
A Message from the AP

Thank you to the parents who came to the forum on ‘Engagement in our Schools” last Thursday evening. Tim Smith from Catholic Education presented some alternative ways that could encourage parents to have the opportunity to be involved in the school. One of those ways was to combine the P&F and the School Board into one more comprehensive organisation, called a School Council. In the Archdiocese, 48 out of the 57 schools have done that.

Next term we will present you all with the relevant information and then ask you to help make a choice as the direction that we go.

During the holidays the fence will go up around the top oval on Secondary as the building company moves in to begin the project. We are preparing an alternative arrangement for the playground space and will have additional staff on duty to support this.

Thank you to the students and parents who supported the craft afternoon last Sunday in the Art Room. There was a lot of busy activity making things for the Bazaar Fair.

You may have seen in the local media the front page highlighting the volunteer work of one of our students Sami Lee Frazer in Year 6. Sami was nominated for an award recognising her contribution to the care of elderly people at the nursing home. In particular, Sami’s Fred Hollows Humanity Award acknowledged that she was ‘bridging the gap between the young and the old’. This is an amazing achievement and she should be proud for being Highly Commended.
A Message from the AP continued....

Prayers for our community
There are quite a few students and their families that are facing challenges in the next few weeks and months. These range from serious medical issues to uncertain futures in the town. As a community we provide various types of support to these families. This sometimes includes financial consideration so every child can access co-curricular opportunities and sporting events, meals and assistance with replacement of outgrown school uniforms.

On behalf of the staff I would like to thank all those who regularly support school events. It is your generosity that enables us to provide assistance to these families and students.

First day back term 4
The first day for all students K-10 will be Wednesday 7 October.
Monday 5 October is a Public holiday. Tuesday 6 October is a staff professional development day.

Transition dates for term 4
The transition to secondary school SPOT days, for our Year 6 students, will occur on 31 October and 20 November. These SPOT days usually include the first two lessons each day, recess and a secondary assembly. They are designed to provide students with a taste of high school.

Details of the SPOT days will be given to students early next term.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)
We are running two more information sessions for the BYOD program.
  Session 2:
    6:00pm on Tuesday 13 October
  Session 3:
    6:00pm Tuesday 27 October

We have included these dates due to the demand from parents and positive response to our first session on 13 August. The information sessions for BYOD were designed to inform parents/carers of the rationale behind BYOD, the timetable for implementation and the devices they should be considering for their child. Demonstrations of possible classroom applications for BYOD are also included.

Next term we move into our summer uniform. We are mindful of the requirement that girls’ dresses from Kindergarten to Year 10 need to be below knee length.

We are also aware that many Year 6 students have outgrown their summer uniform from the beginning of the year. Therefore, we are giving permission for the Year 6 students to move into the Secondary uniform in Term 4. Several parents have approached about this and we think it is a sensible option, rather than purchasing a Primary dress or beige shirt for just one term.

The staff wish all our families and students a safe and relaxing break.

Thank you
Mark van Ommen

Farewell from Mrs Tina Mayhew
Dear St Patrick’s,

“How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.” A A Milne.

For almost ten years I have had the pleasure of being a member of the St Pat’s community; a school with altitude! It’s been a great adventure, assisting teaching staff in Science, children in learning support, being a parent and various other roles. Sophie and I felt part of a very gentle and supportive learning environment with great staff who truly cared!

It is with great sorrow that I will be ending my time here in the last week of Term Three. Brian and I will be moving to Traralgon in Victoria once settlement of our new home has been finalised.

Very best wishes to you all.

Regards
Tina Mayhew
Year 9/10 PASS CAMP

On Wednesday, 2 September the Year 9/10 PASS class set off at 5.15am in the morning to make our way to the Blue Mountains for some serious bushwalking and some interschool bonding with St Joseph’s Lochinvar, from the Hunter Valley. We pitched our tents at Blackheath Caravan Park and then set off for our first walk: the Grand Canyon Walk. The students took in some beautiful waterfalls and spectacular views. We then shared our first dinner together with Lochinvar students.

The next morning, we were up early to tackle the Ruined Castle walk. Students enjoyed the challenge of the Golden Stairs and Landslide but the view from the Ruined Castle was definitely worth the walk. The Scenic Railway train was also worth doing because it took us back up to the top of the cliff, so we did not have to climb those “Golden Stairs” again! Some great friendships were being established while on the walk and when relaxing at the end of our strenuous day.

On our final day, we arrived at Echo Point in Katoomba to have some group photos taken in front of the Three Sisters. Then came our huge steep descent down the Thousand Stairs, we then walked along the valley floor to make our way back up the Furber Steps, near the Scenic Railway. I am not sure the students wish to climb another stair for some time! We then needed to say our goodbyes to Lochinvar and make the journey home.

I would like to thank Mr Tim Lawley for attending the camp and Dean Stacey for voluntarily giving up three days and two nights in a tent, to drive us around on our camp. I would like to thank all the students for their enthusiasm and cooperation- I was extremely proud of all the students and they were wonderful ambassadors for our school. We all had a brilliant time!

Ms Tina Wawrzyniak
Organising Teacher
Year 9 & 10 PASS Camp
Attention Year 8 students

Secondary electives 2016

We are currently in the process of organising information to go out to our current Year 8 student about Elective choices for 2016. The process for students to submit their selections will be as follows:

- Week 10 Year 8 students will be informed of the elective selection process and will receive booklets.
- Parents will receive and explanatory letter

Term 4

- Wk 1 Students will receive the first selection form. An information evening for parents will be held in the secondary Library on Thursday 8 October at 6pm
- Wk 2 First preference forms due back to school office Tuesday 13 October by 3:30pm
- Wk 3 2nd selection form given out with the lines allocated
- Wk 4 Final class lists drawn up and staffed.

Students will have this process explained in detail and be given the opportunity to ask questions. Final allocation of students to elective classes will be determined by the Principal in consultation with teachers and the Leadership team. Electives are for two years.

Our current Year 9 students will be doing the same electives as they move into Year 10 in 2016. This was made clear in the information that was given to students last year.
Canteen News
Add some vegie sticks or a slinky apple to your order for Fruit & Veg Month!! Try something different!!

A reminder that Sushi is only available Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

A big thanks to all of the K-6 classes who have invited me to their classrooms recently. All of the students learnt about Fruit & Veg Month, our school canteen, and participated in some taste testing. It’s been great fun and the taste testing feedback has been very positive.

Thank you to my wonderful canteen volunteers for another term of your assistance. I simply can’t do it without you all. Sometimes it’s been short notice and I really appreciate all that you do.

Volunteers - Thank you!
Thursday 17/09, 10am Sara Souter
Friday 18/09, 10am Grant Pascoe
Wednesday 07/10, 1.15pm Howard and Elsa

*** Mini-canteen WILL happen for K-6 on the first day back at school next term, Wednesday the 7 October ***

All items on the price list are available this week; I hope everyone has a happy and safe break, thank you for your support.

Caroline Blyton
Canteen Manager

Trash and Treasure Stall - School Bazaar Fair
Fr Mick is co-ordinating this stall and is looking for donations of saleable items.
- Household goods
- Tools
- Trinkets and ornaments

Any donations can be left outside the Presbytery garage (one closest to the garden wall) or at the Presbytery front door.

Fr Mick will also be looking for volunteers to help out on the day at the stall. If you can help please phone the Presbytery on 6452 2062, Fr Mick’s mobile 0419 010 870 or email coomaparish@bigpond.com

For Sale

St Patricks Parish School has some second hand lockers for sale. Would be suitable for a workshop or as garden beds. If interested contact the school office on 64521721. Price is a donation and will have to be picked up from the School.
It’s only a short time until our first Shakespearean production—*A Midsummer Night’s Dream*.

Please note the dates on your calendar: 21, 22 & 23 October.

It’s going to be outdoors and we are rejuvenating the ‘Secret Garden’ so the fairies have somewhere to hide. We really appreciate the little bit of magical sprinkling of fairy dust last week that meant some new outdoor plants arrived. We would still love some more if you have a very frost hardy plant that you could donate.

You probably remember the play from your school days... but in case you don’t, here is a quick summary!

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**Parish Home-based Sacramental Program**

**First Communion**

Letters of invitation will be sent out in the holidays to those families whose children will be preparing for their First Holy Communion. The first meeting will be on Tuesday 13 October 2015 at 6.30pm in the Church. If you miss out on receiving a letter, and you feel your child in Year 4 and onwards should be part of this program, please contact Lou Mackay c/- the Parish Office on 64522062.

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**Roads Condition Campaign**

Snowy River Shire Council is conducting a “Condition Campaign” to discuss our rural and urban roads and we want to hear from our community!

**Have your say**

Council has launched an online survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/srscroadscampaign

You are also invited to come along to the Community Meeting on Saturday 26 September 2015 at the Berridale Hall from 3.00pm.

**Keep up to date on everything roads**

Sign up to our distribution list by emailing records@snowyriver.nsw.gov.au with the subject: *Roads Condition Campaign*.

For all the information on our roads and the campaign visit our webpage: http://www.snowyriver.nsw.gov.au/Council/Publications/Rate_Increase_Proposal/Roads_Condition_Campaign
**Around Town....**

**Cricket Clinic Thurs 24 & Friday 25 September - Rotary Oval?**

Mark Higgs is coming to Cooma to run some coaching clinics in school holidays - Thursday 24 and Friday 25 September. Mark has a wealth of experience having played for both Australia & Australia A in early 2000. He is a Level 3 accredited cricket coach & has coached a number of elite squads.

**WHEN:** Thursday 24 and Friday 25 September.
- Under 12’s: 9 am – 12 noon
- Over 12: 1 pm – 4 pm

**WHERE:** Rotary Oval, but that may change depending on the net situation

**COST:**
- Under 12 - $55/session ($110 for 2 days)
- Over 12 - $65/session ($130 for 2 days)

Places will be limited, so if you would like to attend, please email Lisa Phillips as soon as possible. Payment either by cash or cheque only on first day.

Contact: Lisa Phillips email: lisa@granitesolutions.com.au

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**Cricket**

Looking for cricketers interested in playing in the Monaro District Rep side. We have under 12s, 14s and 16s team, who will play 5 games over 5 weeks, starting on 25 October. Any cricketers 10 – 16 years of age who might be interested in playing should ring Chris Haylock on 64546312 or email achaylock@bigpond.com

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**A Thank you to Mini Vinnies Team**

Greetings. Here is the report on the spending of the donation for $922.65 (42147 Indian rupees)

We have purchased a two pairs of uniform and a pair of school shoes for 26 orphan children.

Usage particulars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dress material</td>
<td>455x26x2</td>
<td>23660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stitching charges</td>
<td>200x26x2</td>
<td>10400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoes</td>
<td>300x26</td>
<td>7800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Balance 287 rupees are being added to the daily maintenance of the home.

On behalf of the orphan children, we thank you sincerely all the staff and students for their sacrifices and great love shown to this unprivileged children. May God remember your cheerful and generous help to His lost and least children.

Thanking sincerely St Patrick's School.
Fr Anand Reddy
India
TEN STEPS TOWARDS JUSTICE FOR REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

The Australian Catholic Bishops’ Social Justice Statement for 2015–2016 challenges us to face the reality of the terror and danger that people face around the world and to work to change Australia’s response to people seeking asylum.

When we Australians support policies of cruelty and rejection, we close our ears to Christ’s call and turn him away from our doors. We know that we are better than this. As Christians, we know that it is within us to hear the call of Jesus. As Australians we have shown ourselves willing to take the path of generosity and leadership. We can do so again. (Social Justice Statement 2015–16)

Following are ten steps – actions – we can take personally, locally and nationally.

1. Listen to the stories

Pope Francis, in his words and actions at Lampedusa, cuts through the global indifference by making the issue personal. He shows us that, when we look into the face of the asylum seeker and really hear their story – each stage of their journey – they are no longer a stranger to be feared and we can no longer be indifferent to their need. (Social Justice Statement 2015–16)

On your own or with others: read stories about asylum seekers and refugees. See a film, read a poem or a book. Go to:

Refugee Council of Australia Fact Sheets and Resources: www.refugeecouncil.org.au
Edmund Rice Centre, Asylum Seekers and Refugees Education Resource: www.erc.org.au

2. Allow yourself to be touched by the stories of asylum seekers and refugees

Has any one of us wept for these persons who were on the boat? For the young mothers carrying their babies? For these men who were looking for a means of supporting their families? We are a society which has forgotten how to weep, how to experience compassion – ‘suffering with’ others: the globalisation of indifference has taken from us the ability to weep! (Pope Francis at Lampedusa)

In your family, parish, community, gather a group to pray and mourn for those who have lost their lives seeking a safe place to live. Two examples of such prayers are available from:

Catholic Religious Australia (www.catholicreligiousaustralia.org/index.php/events/item/1260-national-lament) and

3. Get the facts

Australia’s political debate has focused not on the millions of people displaced around the world, but almost entirely on a small segment of its immigration intake, the refugee and humanitarian program of 13,750 places annually. The policies of both major parties are aimed at deterring so-called ‘illegal maritime arrivals’ who, at their height in 2013, amounted to about 20,000 people. (Social Justice Statement 2015–16)

There is a great deal of misinformation in the community about refugees. Some reliable sources of information are:

Refugee Council of Australia: www.refugeecouncil.org.au
The Edmund Rice Centre: www.erc.org.au
Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office: www.acmro.catholic.org.au
Australian Catholic Social Justice Council: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au
Jesuit Refugee Service: www.jrs.org.au
Australian Churches Refugee Task Force: www.acrt.com.au
Amnesty International Australia: www.amnesty.org.au
4. Pray regularly for refugees and asylum seekers
Pope Francis showed us at Lampedusa how deeply he was touched by the plight of asylum seekers. We can follow his example by remembering those displaced around the world in our daily prayers, with family and friends, and by encouraging our parishes to include them in the Prayers of the Faithful at Mass. Use the prayer card published with this Statement.

5. Envision a new way of responding
There is another way; a way to make a real difference ... No longer need we fear the alien approaching our shores as a burden. Instead, we would realise that we are blessed because we do have the means to welcome our brothers and sisters. This other way is characterised by acceptance, leadership and generosity. (Social Justice Statement 2015–16)

Following the Vietnam War, Australia helped forge a humane regional response to boat people and accepted thousands of refugees. Now, ‘Australia is the only country in the world with a policy that imposes mandatory and indefinite immigration detention on asylum seekers as a first action.’ (Australian Human Rights Commission, 2014)

Find out how other countries respond humanely to far greater numbers of asylum seekers than Australia faces. Some examples:

- People fleeing from the violence in Syria have increased the population of Lebanon by 25%. To see how Lebanon’s schools have responded, go to the Jesuit Refugee Service website: www.jrs.net/multimedia.
- How have Italy and the European Union responded to thousands of asylum seekers in the Mediterranean?
- How do Scandinavian countries respond to people who seek asylum within their borders?

6. Work to raise awareness in your parish, schools and communities
We can work within our parishes to ensure that they are welcoming places. Creating social events, organising or joining support networks, introducing refugees and hearing their stories: all these are ways in which we can recognise the humanity of those who have come in need of protection. (Social Justice Statement 2015–16)

Where asylum seekers are rejected and excluded from our communities, they may be viewed with fear and suspicion. As Christians, we can work to break down that fear. See the resources in Steps 1 and 3; encourage your parish to make these resources available to people in your area; arrange for speakers from organisations supporting refugees in the community.

7. Join or set up a support group for asylum seekers and refugees in your parish
The treatment of asylum seekers in detention is cruel. So are the conditions for those permitted to live in the community while their claims are assessed ... they experience severe hardship and the indignity of having to search for charity wherever they can. (Social Justice Statement 2015–16)

Find out what support is already available in your diocese. Find out where there are asylum seekers or refugees in your local area and set up or join a parish group to support them.

Look up the 2015 Refugee Week Resource Kit for ideas and practical advice for organising events: www.refugeeweek.org.au/refugee-week-resources
8. Support agencies assisting asylum seekers and refugees

We acknowledge the untiring efforts of women and men of Church and community organisations who offer material and financial assistance, as well as emotional and social support to asylum seekers in poverty ... They have stood in true solidarity with the vulnerable in the face of inflammatory public debate. (Social Justice Statement 2015–16)

Many organisations are working to support asylum seekers. Volunteer your skills, or make a donation, to groups such as:

- Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA): http://capsa.org.au
- Asylum Seekers Resource Centre (Melbourne): www.asrc.org.au
- Jesuit Refugee Service Australia: www.jrs.org.au
- Sisters of Mercy: www.mercy.org.au
- Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education: www.erc.org.au
- St Vincent de Paul Society: www.vinnies.org.au

9. Challenge your political representatives to take a stand

Politicians need to know that we feel passionately about this issue, and not just at the ballot box, when we cast our vote. Writing to local members and ministers does have an effect, and can give encouragement to those in Parliament who also seek a better way. (Social Justice Statement 2015–16)

Write to the Prime Minister, the relevant Minister, your MP and Senators, and officials of political parties. The Refugee Council has suggestions on how to do this, including addresses of politicians: www.refugeecouncil.org.au/campaigns/take-action/write-to-be-heard.

10. Join in 2016 events: Refugee Week and Refugee and Migrant Sunday

The essential issue for Australia is whether we will live up to our reputation as the land of the ‘fair go’ that lends a hand to those in desperate circumstances. (Social Justice Statement 2015–16)

The Social Justice Statement is current for a full 12 months until Social Justice Sunday 2016. So work on all these ten steps and plan to participate in events in 2016.

Refugee Week begins on the second Sunday in June. Resources are provided by the Refugee Council of Australia www.refugeecouncil.org.au.

Refugee and Migrant Sunday is celebrated on the last Sunday in August. Resources are provided by the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office www.acmro.catholic.org.au.
The Tim Draxl Performing Arts Fund Presents:
A Musical Theatre Workshop with Shaun Rennie.

Who:
Singer, actor, producer Shaun Rennie trained at the National Institute of Dramatic
Art, and for the last ten years, has produced and directed ‘Light The Night’, an
annual benefit concert raising money for Leukaemia research.
Shaun’s acting credits include Bert in ‘Mary Poppins’, Munkustrup in ‘Cats’, Fyedka
Productions and directing credits include ‘Rent’ and ‘Phantom of the Opera’.

When and where:
Saturday 24th October, 9.30 til 3.30 at Jindabyne Central School Hall.

Eligibility:
This workshop will provide the attendees with the opportunity to work with a
globally renowned singer, actor, producer, helping them to develop their skills and
gain vital insight into the industry. It promises to be a fun, challenging day for
students 12 – 18 years. Please note that 12 is the minimum age for participation.
There will be no exceptions.

Cost / Payment:
Please return attached registration form with payment of $20.00 cash or cheque
(made out to The Tim Draxl Performing Arts Fund) in a sealed envelope labelled
Shaun Rennie Musical Theatre Workshop – Tim Draxl Performing Arts Fund
to Jindabyne Central School, Snowy Mountains Grammar School, Cooma Visitor
Centre or PO Box 4 Jindabyne 2627, by Monday 19th October.

Inclusions:
Lunch is provided. Please bring a water bottle. Please advise the organisers of any
food allergies or special requirements via the registration form.

Media:
On the attached form you will find a ‘permission to use name, voice and likeness
clause,’ which allows the Tim Draxl Performing Arts Fund and its sponsors to use
participants names and photographs to promote the fund. Please read the statement
carefully.

For more information contact:
Del Draxl on 64561457 or 0412785410
Di Brulisauer on 64567020 or 0412237930
Gil Boehm on 64563012 or 0439339311
A MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP with Shaun Rennie.
Saturday 24th October 2015 from 9.30 till 3.30 pm.

Name: ____________________________________________

Age and Date of Birth: ______________________________

Phone: ____________________________________________

Email: ____________________________________________

Name of Parent / Guardian: __________________________

Phone: ____________________________________________

I ____________________________________________, wish to participate in the Shaun Rennie Musical Theatre Workshop on Saturday 24th October 2015 at the Jindabyne Central School Hall.

In registering for this workshop I agree to abide by the rules set forth by the organisers and to treat everyone involved with the workshop kindly and respectfully. Further, I hereby:

- Agree that the Tim Draxl Performing Arts Fund Committee, Jindabyne Central School, Shaun Rennie, the host venue, and their officers, leaders, volunteers and staff shall be released from, and shall not incur any responsibility or liability whatsoever for any accident or injury sustained by me or any other member of my family included in this application, or for any damage or loss of my family’s property.

- Authorise you to obtain at my cost medical / ambulance assistance in case of emergency involving the applicant/s.

- Agree to allow the Tim Draxl performing Arts Fund, its partners and sponsors, to use my child’s name, voice and likeness in promotional materials related to the work of the fund, inclusive of traditional and social media.

I, ____________________________________________, parent/ guardian of ____________________________________________ have read and agreed to the conditions set out above and allow him/her to participate in the above outlined workshop.

Parent / Guardian signature: ______________________________

Date: _________________________________
Cooma Gymnastics Club
September Holiday Workshops

Saturday 19th & Monday 21st September

- Kinder Gym  9 am-10 am ages 2-5 years old
  (must be accompanied by a parent or carer)
  Cost $10.00 per child
- Gymnastics Fun and Games 10.15 am-12.15 pm ages 5-8 year old
  $20.00 per child
- Gymnastics Fun and Games 1.00 pm-3.00 pm ages 8-12 year old
  $20.00 per child

Bookings are essential phone 0437 763 616 or email coomagymclub@gmail.com

You will need to wear comfortable shorts or tights and a fitted T-shirt or
Leotard and bring a bottle of water.

Cooma Gymnastics Club is located in the Gymnastics Stadium
Bolaro St Cooma North.

Come and try Gymnastics

Fitness. Fun. Strength.

We run a number of different programs. Suitable for age’s 18mths to 12 year olds. Classes start
at $11. Bookings essential. Contact Denise on: E: coomagymclub@gmail.com  M: 0437 763 616