

**Minutes of the TAS P&F General Meeting held in Lower Maxwell Room
Wednesday 15th August 2007**

Meeting opened: 7.10pm with Presidents Margot Hill and Dominique Laurie in the Chair.

Attendance:

Lyndel Taylor	Gudrun Dieberg
Margie Roberts	Deb McKern
Lynne Walker	Cheryl Oppenheimer
Lisa Sewell	Kaye Denning
Richard Bird	Paul Kennedy
Margot Hill	Dominique Laurie
Murray Guest	Susan Newey
Tim Scott	Pat Bradley
Leanne Roobol	Graham Rowe
David Brunckhurst	Shireen Brunckhurst
Martin Oppenheimer	Ian Patrick
Andrew Murray	Angus McDouall
Dominique Burke	Rose Meehan
Vanessa Kruideiner	Tania Slack-Smith

Apologies:

Karen Hutton	Kelly Lamoureux
Marion Stanton	Lexie Morrison
Martin Levins	Grant Harris
Jenny Johnston	Lyn Webster

Minutes: moved by Deb McKern that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed as a true and accurate record. Seconded Lynne Walker.

Business arising from minutes:

- The meeting was informed the P&F donated boats are currently under construction and will be painted in the school colours of blue and gold. A list of potential boat names was put to the meeting and the list was then refined to the Abel TASman and FanTAStic this was moved and carried by the meeting attendees unopposed.
- The Junior school carpark shelter has been placed on the list of works approved by the property council. The muffin drive, which was organised as a specific fundraiser for the shelter, raised \$1 190. A tea towel fundraiser and trivia night are to follow.
- The Pool furniture has been purchased and is now being enjoyed by all those who use the Sportscentre facility.

Headmaster's Report:

See Attached.

- _ Much of the discussion on Murray's report revolved around the matter of the 1:1 Laptops. Murray informed the meeting that the review to the 1:1 laptops would be comprehensive and involve visiting other schools (including all boy schools), an anonymous parent survey and small focus groups coming out of that. The review will look at how we currently do things and how we could do them better. He also highlighted to the meeting that while extensive parent dialogue would occur the school would make any final decision and that laptops were here to stay.
- _ It was suggested that parents go to the knowledge website and consult the links to research papers and if parents had suggestions of other research that would be appreciated.
- _ The suggestion was made that a list of protocols is developed coming out of the review process.

Correspondence:

**IN: Letter of Thanks from Dick Hodgson for Sportscentre funding.
 Letter of Thanks from Lou Forsythe for Playground Furniture funding.
 Letter from M Guest thanking the P&F for their Creative Arts Donation
 Letter & \$100 cheque from Greg & Joanne Vidler in lieu of help with P&F
 fundraising.
 Request for Library funding.
 ADC letter informing TAS P&F of the tender process for the rotunda**

**OUT: Funding Approval for Sportscentre furniture D Hodgson
 Funding Approval for Junior School Furniture L Forsythe
 Funding Approval for Kayak funding P Hall
 Girls Uniform Survey**

Treasurer's Report:

As at the statement date 31st July 2007 the P&F closing balance for the Cash Management Account is \$20 489.52 and the closing balance for the General Account is \$49 634.40.

Since the May statement there has been a number of transactions amounting to \$2 833.85 in deposits including a total of \$1 339 raised from the Junior School muffin drive and sale of the coffee machine \$850. The outstanding payments total \$2 784.65 which includes the payment of 4 tables for the Sportscentre. These amounts will be reconciled by the next P&F meeting.

I hereby move that the Treasurers report be accepted.

Moved by Deb McKern seconded by Dominique Burke.

Reports from:

Council: Andrew Murray advised the meeting that his term as the P&F's representative on the TAS Council is now coming to an end and that the P&F will need to seek nominations for the position.

Foundation: (Barb Moritz) – nil

Clothing Pool: (Rosemary Marshall) – nil

Costume Hire: (Sue Lennon) – nil

General Business:

- The TAS P&F catered for the PSSA Rugby Carnival earlier in the term which looks like raising in the vicinity of \$5 000. Many thanks were extended to all the parents who helped make this event a great success. Thanks also go to Scott Fittler who did the BBQ and will donate 10% of his takings to the P&F and Anthony Chick who made coffees and will donate 20% of takings to the P&F.
- The Trivia night is planned for the 15th Sept 2007 in the Memorial Hall a sub-committee to organise this event has been established.
- A meeting will be held on Wednesday the 22nd August with Liaison Parents to continue preparations for this year's 3rd November fete. Some jobs have already been distributed Gaye Tombs is looking after advertising and Mindy McDouall has offered to co-ordinate the Emporium.

Next meeting: 7pm, Wednesday 14th Nov 2007, McConville Centre

Meeting closed: 8.10pm

Headmaster's Report to the P&F

15 August, 2007

Enrolments

I am pleased to report continued growth in enrolments this term, particularly in boarding. We currently have a total enrolment of 614, with 213 boarders. Whilst space is tight in all houses, beds for casual boarding remain set aside along with space for students on experience visits.

Recent Activities

Round Square – Regional conferences in Ballarat (Middle School) and Singapore (Senior School) were held at the end of Term 2 and I was delighted by the reports I received of both the conference activities and the contributions of our student delegates. Unlike most adult conferences, these conferences demand high levels of engagement, both mental and physical, from the students and the diversity of backgrounds of those attending gives a richness to that engagement which is very special.

The Forensic Science Camp, still being driven by Kel Hardingham, again drew strong numbers from around NSW, the ACT and Queensland and provided great opportunities for both the student ‘campers’ and the student leaders who effectively construct and run the camp. It is an extracurricular holiday activity with a real difference and I am very pleased to see it flourishing.

The TAS Rifle Club was well represented at the GPS competition in Sydney, with strong and very young 1st and 2nd teams performing very well. Our three shooters selected in the Combined GPS Team who are in Years 10 and 11 have done particularly well.

Two of our senior cattle team, Mitch Thomas and Luke Heagney, won the *National Herdsperson of the Year*. This perpetual trophy from the Australian Poll Hereford Society is awarded to the Australian stud showing the greatest level of commitment over the past 12 months. This means that our boys were competing against commercial studs across the country and their success is a great credit to them.

More recently and reported in the last two editions of TAS Talks, the School has enjoyed success and positive profile in winning the Prime Cup Rugby Competition in Tamworth, entering a team of 21 students in the City to Surf, having 5 students' works hung as finalists in the UNE sponsored school art competition at NERAM and having the Big Band invited to play for the opening of the new K-Mart Plaza.

Front Field

Most will have seen that the steel and timber work for the new fence is in, with the chain-link mesh to be applied when it arrives. We are still awaiting development consent for the new sign and unfortunately this delay means that it is unlikely that the sign will be ready for Passing Out Parade.

Buses

Two new buses – a mini-bus and Hi-Ace 14 seater - arrived recently and, along with the P&F mini-bus, provide us with a flexible fleet in good condition.

Creative Arts Centre

The final plans and engineering detail for the building have been completed and the development application process is in train. I believe that we are still on track to go to tender at the beginning of September, with construction to be underway before the end of the school year.

Displaying of Colours on the Senior Blazer

The survey regarding colours which was distributed with the end of term newsletter has provided overwhelming support for the inclusion of lettering on the blazer which identifies the areas in which colours were awarded. Of the 73 survey forms collected from parents, 65 favoured lettering and of the 15 collected from staff, 12 favoured lettering.

On this basis, we will re-introduce lettering for colours effective immediately.

Laptops

The sub-committee of School Council reviewing the process of introducing 1:1 laptops is making progress in three areas:

1. Research on the impact on school operation: The research from Steve Knowles is well under way. Steve conducted focus group sessions with all staff, one group of students and three groups of parents. He will return to the School on 3 and 4 September to present data to the staff and to conduct the on-line survey with staff. Those students and parents who attended the focus groups will then have the opportunity to engage in the survey.

The research work being conducted by Steve Knowles has focussed on the implementation of ICT generally at TAS, rather than the introduction of 1:1 laptops generally. I believe that a number of parents were disappointed that the focus groups they attended did not give them the opportunity to express their concerns about laptops adequately and alternative means for this are being put in place.

2. Parent feedback: The Council sub-committee is working on a survey to be distributed to all parents and this will be presented to Council next Tuesday and distributed shortly after. The survey will cover a wider range of issues than previously thought and will be separate to the work of Steve Knowles.

At the same time, meetings have been held with a number of parents who have voiced concerns and these have been very useful.

Following the survey, meetings with parents will continue in small groups (perhaps of 6) to flesh out the issues which arise from the survey.

3. I and a member of Council will be visiting a number of schools to investigate specific issues related to 1:1 computing. This will include OH&S issues and responses as well as a range of academic and non-academic issues that will arise from the parent survey, parent meetings and staff feedback. Similar work was done by the Teaching and Learning Committee (TaLC) which has been working on the 1:1 introduction since 2003. Whilst their work was future oriented, this next phase of research will be conducted in the context of our experiences thus far.

Murray Guest

Headmaster's Report to the P&F

16 May, 2007

1 Enrolments

I am pleased to report that enrolments have grown again this term and reaching the highest boarding numbers in a decade is particularly encouraging.

However, whilst growing numbers indicates good health in the TAS community, the School Council has determined that further expansion through double streaming the Junior School will not continue next year. This decision is made in line with the desire to retain the community nature of the School and the balance between boarding and day student enrolments in the secondary school (which have been evenly balanced for some time). This means that whilst the two classes presently in Transition will continue through the Junior School, there will be only one Transition class offered in 2008.

Growth in boarding numbers has also put pressure on places for casual boarding and I encourage parents who require casual boarding to enquire about places with as much notice as possible.

2 Holiday Activities

- Mr Ball, five members of the TAS Cattle Club and three head of cattle spent 11 days living and working at the Royal Easter Show in Sydney. What might seem like a very demanding commitment to outsiders was clearly enjoyed by the team and their success in winning first, second and third place ribbons reflects their love of the job.
- The 3rd TAS Primary Rugby Carnival was a great success by every measure, with 30 teams and around 400 adults experience Armidale and TAS at their finest. To Jason Lincoln and his large team of volunteer staff, P&F, referees and students, congratulations have been well earned.
- A number of senior cadets attended the CUO's course in Singleton, with all passing the course. Special congratulations are due to Robbie Oppenheimer for on being placed first in the Course and awarded the 'Student of Merit'.
- Mr Newton and Miss Owen travelled with students to work in the 'Just Enough Faith' project feeding and supporting the homeless on the streets of Sydney over Easter, before heading to Katoomba to join the huge Christian Youth Convention – Kyckstart.

3 ANZAC Day

- The 14 members of the TAS Cadet Guard represented both school and community on ANZAC Day at services at Dangarsleigh and Central Park before our own ceremony at School on the first Friday of term. Their performance and the discipline and commitment it reflected is cause for great pride for all of us and I congratulate them on it.

4 P&F Funding for Canberra Trip

I offer thanks to the P&F for again subsidising transport for the Year 10 excursion to Canberra. This support has been in place for many years now and this means that many families have benefited from it.

5 Laptop Computers

The 1:1 laptop environment is now in its second term and our uses and approaches to this technology, both in academic and non-academic arenas, have developed rapidly. This has included development of boarding house protocols for computer use outside of prep time, ensuring that students in Junior and Middle Schools are not spending their play time in front of screens and taking a pro-active approach

education programs for responsible use of the internet (Cybernetrix, run by the federal funded Netaalert project, which will be in operation later this term).

As part of the evolution of this policy and practice, we are engaging in a thorough review of the impact of this significant ICT development on our students, their educational progress and the School as a whole.

The independent study will be undertaken by a Griffith University research team and is a university funded PhD research project. This promises to be a comprehensive study and represents a considerable time investment for staff and includes broad input from parents and students. We have chosen this form of evaluation because it lies at the whole school level, rather than the macroscopic or microscopic levels typical of other evaluations of ICT effectiveness. In taking this approach, the project will directly analyse the effectiveness of TAS' own implementation and provide direct comparisons to other schools.

Murray Guest

Proposals for the 16th May 2007 P&F Meeting

After closely analysing the 2007 Projected P&F Profit & Loss (see attached) the P&F Executive would like to propose to the P&F meeting the following 2 proposals.

1. Proposal 1 – to fund these 3 projects

- a. 2 new Nomad Kayaks
- b. 4 replacement tables for the Sportscentre
- c. 3 new tables for the Junior School Playground

a. 2 new Nomad Kayaks (Est \$4 700)

As was raised by a letter from Mindy McDouall at the last P&F meeting, the current fleet of boats used for the Hawksbury Classic (a major TAS charity fundraiser) is ageing and a number of boats struggle to allow the boys to finish the race in the allotted time.

The proposal is to purchase 2 new Nomad boats. These craft are lighter and shorter than the traditional Sea kayaks and are made from a new material known as Kevlar. Being lighter will mean that they afford the boys a better opportunity to finish the classic in the allowable time. The other big advantage to these boats is that we can purchase 2 for the price of a standard Sea Kayak, approx. \$2 250 ea as against of \$4 500.

To strengthen the ties between the P&F and this funding project, the P&F would be able to select the names and oversee the sign writing and colours.

Peter Hall has also advised me that if the P&F were to purchase these two boats, an anonymous donor who will match the P&F's contribution dollar for dollar will come forward. Peter feels that if this occurs the Old Boys Association may be willing to also contribute. This means that our donation of 2 boats has the potential to snowball into a total donation of six boats.

b. 4 replacement tables for the Sportscentre (Est. \$1 500)

The current tables in the Sportscentre are quite old and starting to show their age and the abuse from the amount of use they endure. The proposed tables would be of a sturdier build and have a centre pedestal which would make fitting the chairs underneath much easier.

This project does not involve replacing the chairs.

c. 3 new tables for the Junior School Playground (Est. \$1 680)

This initiative involves providing the Junior School with playground furniture appropriate for very small children i.e. Transition and Kindergarten. At present the outdoor settings used at lunch and recess are difficult to access for the small children because of the height of the seats.

Conclusion

The P&F Executive consider this proposal an all encompassing one as it enables the P&F to support all the schools, Junior, Middle and Senior and the TAS and Armidale communities as a whole through the Sportscentre funding.

We put this proposal to the P&F meeting for endorsement:

“that the P&F support the funding of 2 new Nomad boats, 4 replacement Sportscentre tables and 3 new Junior School Tables, estimated expenditure \$7 880”

2. Proposal 2 – Specific Fundraising for a covered Chapel St Carpark Shelter

The issue of a shelter at the Chapel Street carpark was raised at the previous P&F meeting. Upon further investigation into this idea the opportunity has arisen to secure from the Armidale Dumaresq Council, for possibly no monetary outlay, the arbour which was removed for the Beardy St mall.

If this were to come to fruition, the P&F executive feels it is an opportunity to good to forgo. The proposal is therefore to embark on a number of specific fundraising initiatives to enable the P&F to raise the funds to erect and cover this structure to create the shelter the children require. These fundraising activities include a Muffin Drive, Tea towel fundraiser and Trivia Night.

We put this proposal to the P&F meeting for endorsement:

“that the P&F embark on specific fundraising events to raise the necessary funds to erect and cover a shelter for the Chapel Street Carpark”

P&F Executive

14th May 2007