

**Minutes of the TAS P&F General Meeting held in Lower Maxwell Room
Wednesday 21st February 2007**

Meeting opened: 7.25pm with Presidents Margot Hill and Dominique Laurie in the Chair.

Attendance: Lyndel Taylor
Margie Roberts
Lyn Webster
Richard Bird
Lynne Walker
Sandra Keynes
Gaye Piper
Marion Stanton
Graeme Fletcher
Gudrun Dieberg
Deb McKern
Murray Guest
Lisa Sewell
Christine MacKenzie
Michelle Laurie
Vanessa Kruidiner
Cory Dewhurst

Apologies: Mindy McDouall
Linda Pearson
Paul & Lexie Morrison
Cheryl Oppenheimer
Dominique Burke

Minutes: moved by Sandra Keynes that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed as a true and accurate record. Seconded Lynne Webster.

Business arising from minutes:

- _ Final Net Profit figure for the 2006 RazzamaTAS Fete was \$10 991.34. This was very pleasing given the weather on the day.
- _ Margot spoke with Chet Davies (Head of TAS Maintenance) during the week and the repairs and maintenance to the Costume Hire area are being attended to. The electrician will install a new circuit breaker so that the short outs between the Costume Hire and Clothing Pool will no longer occur. Telstra has been notified of the telephone outage and this will also be addressed this week.
- _ Gaye Piper updated the P&F on the Eftpos machine for the Clothing Pool. A mobile unit would cost \$70/mth as opposed to a Static unit, which would cost \$30/mth. A static line would also normally require another line, which would also entail a rental fee. It was decided that a static unit on the existing line would be an adequate solution.
- _ The P&F were also informed that Tim Scott's Design & Technology class are working on creating an online shop which would hang off the TAS website. In its initial stage it will be a static site but eventually the class wish to make it interactive. Gaye will follow-up with the P&F, Rosemary Marshall, Anne White and the class to determine which products the boys should photograph to place on the site and the price list. The mechanics of the site will be, the front office print off orders and give to Rosemary then she will advise the office when these orders are ready and the office will email the parents and cc the child/ren to let them know they are ready for pick-up.

Headmaster's Report:

See Attached.

Correspondence: IN Shona Eichorn email requesting P&F assistance for Grandparents Day. Susan Hoddinott's request for P&F assistance for the Monty Python night.

Thank you from Dick Hodgson for P&F support for both Swimming Carnivals.

Letter from Mindy McDouall suggesting the P&F consider funding a boat/s to be used by the school especially for the Hawkesbury classic.

OUT Thankyou letter to Lynne Walker & Richard Bird for their cheque from part of the proceeds from the Open Gardens Scheme.

Thank you to Barry & Lucy McCann for their cheque from part of the proceeds from the Open Gardens Scheme.

Letter of funding approval to the Equestrian Team to purchase browbands, saddlecloths and banner.

Letters sent to Croft, Tyrell and White Houses with cheques for 80% of their stalls proceeds from the fete.

Treasurer's Report: moved by Gaye Tombs that this be accepted. Seconded Deb McKern.

Reports from:

Council: (Andrew Murray) - nil

Foundation: (Barb Moritz) – nil

Clothing Pool: (Rosemary Marshall) – nil

Costume Hire: (Sue Lennon) – nil

General Business:

- Addressing Susan Hoddinott's request for the Monty Python night. Support required is twofold a) to serve a light a supper (unsure if the P&F are required to supply the supper as well, b) to provide parents to perform a Monty Python skit on the night. Margot will call for parental support through TAS Talks and let Susan know. She will also seek further clarification from Susan about supplying the light supper.
- Addressing Mindy McDouall's request for funding a boat/s for the school. The letter explained that a number of the boats were in bad condition and made completing the race in the required time difficult. The P&F were informed a state-of-the-art boat could cost as much as \$5 000 but that cheaper or reconditioned boats are available. The P&F could be guided by Peter Hall. While the P&F agreed in principle that this would be a worthwhile cause it was decided that the P&F executive would present to the next meeting a budget which compares our fundraising efforts to a list of prioritised goals for the year.
- Other possible or definite funding issues include the last Creative Arts payment, furniture for the Sportscentre, tables for the Junior School and a bus shelter for the Chapel Street carpark.
- The donated coffee machine is currently at the repairers but there is a concern that it is not going to be able to be repaired. A suggestion was made that the P&F consider purchasing a mobile state-of-the-art machine costing approximately \$20 000. Concerns were raised that a lack of parental support to operate the machine would make this venture unviable. A suggestion was muted that we investigate a profit share arrangement with a local coffee provider Anthony Chick. Margot and Dominique to investigate.

- Volunteers are required for the P&F Tennis Day (11th Mar), Grandparents Day (16th Mar) and the Athletics Carnival/s. The P&F will advertise for volunteers through TAS Talks and will contact Liaison Parents to help enlist help for these events.
 - The P&F have agreed to provide morning and afternoon teas and lunch at the home of Gordon & Dominique Burke for the Open Gardens scheme on the Saturday and Sunday of the Easter long weekend. Friends of NERAM will operate the gate and Margot will co-ordinate TAS parents to assist with the catering.
 - The TAS Rugby Carnival is scheduled for the last weekend of the April school holidays. This year the event has been marketed heavily to the supporters of the players so a much bigger crowd is expected than last year, possibly in excess of 600 people. Historically the proceeds have been shared between the Rugby Supporters and the P&F. This year it has been suggested that the funds be pooled and they be used to upgrade the seating around Backfield, any residual funds will go towards the 2008 Rugby Tour. The P&F voted unanimously for this proposal.
 - The catering on the day will require much volunteer assistance. A committee has been formed consisting of Jason Lincoln, Marg Fenicke, Dominique Laurie and Margot Hill. They will target the TAS Primary Rugby Team, the TAS Rugby Development squad and the TAS Rugby 1st X1 for their support but would also like to appeal to the general TAS community for their assistance. The coffee machine, in some form, will also be in operation..
 - An issue was raised that the Broughton Courtyard was not being made available for the Year 12 boys. Murray was unaware of the issue and will investigate.
- Cory Dewhurst presented a cheque for \$850 to the P&F for the TAS Cookbooks. The P&F were thrilled with this and congratulated Cory and her helpers for such a wonderful effort. She mentioned that there are still some cookbooks available and have been reduced in price to \$10.

Next meeting: 7pm, Wednesday 16th May, Lower Maxwell

Meeting closed: 8.35pm

Headmaster's Report to the P&F

21 February, 2007

1. Enrolments

The total enrolment of 610 is a record for the School, passing the previous high of 606 in 1990. This represents an increase of 40 from the start of 2006 with half of this coming from the new Transition class and the other half from growth in the Middle School.

Boarding numbers have remained strong and have again grown this year.

2. Staffing

New teaching appointments:

- Miss Amanda Robins joins our senior Maths staff from NEGS.
- Mr Michael Hill returns to TAS and the Middle School staff after a year away.
- Mr Tim Hadfield joins the Junior School staff from Macarthur Anglican School and will teach Year 5 this year.
- Miss Anna Owen comes to us from Sydney and takes up the newly created position of Assistant Chaplain and will work particularly with Junior School classes and chapel services.
- Mr Chris McEnroe joins the English and Middle School boarding staff on exchange for this year from Tabor Academy in the United States where Mr Buntine is now teaching.
- Mme Lucette Bailliet is taking time off from her PhD in French Literature to teach French across the School this year whilst Mme Tamminga is on leave.
- Mrs Theresa Grills will teach Year 4 in Term 1 whilst Mrs Wright is on long service leave.
- Mrs Amanda McDonald will assist Mrs Trenerry's Transition class 1 day per week.
- Ms Fiona Wake will teach Mrs Ball's Transition class in Terms 1 and 2 as she takes maternity leave.

Other staffing changes:

- Mrs Inglis has been appointed as Mathematics Coordinator.
- Ms Boydell has been appointed as Acting Languages Coordinator whilst Mme Tamminga is on leave for 2007.
- Mr Lincoln has been appointed as Acting Croft Housemaster as Mr Buntine is on exchange in 2007.

3. Major Holiday work

- Middle School classroom extensions were completed on time and have been received very well. In conjunction with the extension, the McConville path has been re-laid (with tree root guards), the Old Boys' barbecue area has been refurbished and new turf laid around Middle School. I particularly congratulate Pat Bradley and his team on the success of this project.
- Sight screens for the oval have been constructed and are working well and improvements have been made to the turf nets.
- The bus shelter has been relocated and a new path to it laid.
- Front Field is also progressing well, with sprinkler systems and earthworks completed and the field sprig sowed with kikuyu.

Armidale's hail storm in the holidays created a major interruption to this work, with over 200 windows broken, damage to roofs and vehicles, some areas flooded and gardens flattened. TAS grounds and housekeeping staff rose to this challenge, putting in long hours to ready the campus for the start of the school year and this is worthy of commendation.

4. 2006 HSC

The 2006 HSC results were good and met our expectations. I was particularly pleased to see 5 TAS students with UAI's over 95 and a third of the candidature above 80. This represents solid achievement from a candidature of state average ability and I am pleased with the results overall.

5. Creative Arts Centre

Detailed building plans were presented to School Council yesterday and I am pleased to report that this means we are ready to proceed to the Building Application phase. Following approval, tenders will be called for.

6. Laptop Program

The process of distributing laptop computers to 475 students from Years 3 to 6 has been completed well ahead of schedule and appears to be working well in all areas. Further information on the program, with frequently asked questions, is available at: <http://knowledge.as.edu.au>

In conjunction with work at school, students are being encouraged to make good and frequent use of the online tutoring service: <http://www.tas.yourtutor.com.au> This service provides online access to specialist tutors in all Science, Maths and English courses, as well as research skills relevant to other subject areas.

7. Holiday and Other Recent School Events

A number of school activities and trips occurred during the holiday break and reports from each have been very positive. These included:

- Senior cricket tour to New Zealand and the annual interschool cricket festival which was hosted by TAS this year.
- Japanese language exchange to Meitoku school for 5 students over 10 weeks.
- Junior School trip to Tezukayama school in Japan.
- Pilgrimage of Hope to Kolkata along with 9 other schools.
- A number of commercial camps held at TAS – including Rugby, Basketball, RYLA, Cricket and Tennis.

8. Upcoming Events

At the risk of highlighting two upcoming events amongst many, I draw P&F attention to

- The Round Square evening on Thursday 1 March – an opportunity for parents to have a look at possible future opportunities for their sons and plan ahead.
- The Year 9 Father and Son weekend to Kunderang on 23/24 March – a great opportunity for fathers and sons to have a special time together.

Finally, may I offer special thanks to the P&F for the great support at the swimming carnivals, barbecues and family welcomes that have helped make the start to the year such a happy and positive one.

Murray Guest
21st February 2007