Chair: Darren Mitchell

Attendance: Stephen Gray, Peter Shields and 26 parents.
Apologies: Lyn Wise, James Burson, Robin Hall and Carmel McCallum.

Welcome and Introduction: Darren welcomed everyone, both new and old. He reminded all that hard copies of Agendas and minutes would not be available at meetings. Minutes can be found on the School website P&C page and the agendas are posted on google goup before each meeting.

Treasurers Report: Jeremy Challen – A full report will be tabled at the AGM. Approx $106,000 in bank with $45,000 earmarked for current projects. 2011 Voluntary Contribution Fund raised approximately $60,000.

Presidents Report: Darren Mitchell – AGM 13th March 2012. Positions have been left empty by parents of 2011 Yr 12 students and the Secretary, Treasurer and an executive position are currently held by parents of the current Year 12. It would be beneficial if these positions were filled by others while the existing parents are still available to mentor. The Representative to Sydney Region position is also now empty. Thanks to Carmel McCallum for holding this role for many years, even continuing after she no longer had children at the school.

The roles of the P&C Executive positions were explained. There are many ways parents can get involved in the P&C as volunteers and these are outlined in a handout, which will also be available at the AGM.

The main priorities for the use of the 2011 Voluntary Contribution Fund monies have been the upgrade of the Studio Theatre Foyer and the provision of Master classes in the Performing and Visual Arts Streams.
Darren handed over to Michael Manuell who reported that the current work in the studio theatre foyers nearing completion and will be finished before the 1st semester Showcase season begins. This is the new storage space and beautification of the Newman St entrance to the Studio Theatre plus the Display boxes and design work on the doors from the school side of the Theatre.

Darren thanked Michael and Terry Bail for their efforts in driving this project.

Donna Huggart (Vice President and P&C coordinator of the Earth Festival) was invited to speak about the Earth Festival and Welcome BBQ for new families to NHSPA. The two events will be held on Friday 9th March 2012. The Earth Festival is a whole of school community celebration including many stalls and performance by students. The School Environment committee is headed by Bran Lazendic and students in efforts to reduce waste of energy and water and other environmental issues. The P&C Environment committee is led by John Caley (Vice President) and works closely with the school on these projects. They have had great success in the past and invite other local schools to attend workshops on Earth Festival day to see how these results were achieved. The Earth Festival is from 1pm to 3.30pm and entry is only via prepurchased tickets. Due to management and security reasons entry tickets must be purchased from the
school office prior to the day. Entry tickets are $5 and will not be for sale on Friday 9th March. At the event $1 tokens will be available for sale for exchange of items from the various stalls. Volunteers are needed throughout the morning for setup and during the event in the afternoon. To volunteer to help please contact Donna: donna_huggart@hotmail.com or call 0411 631 755.

The Welcome BBQ runs from 5pm til 7pm and is open to all NHSPA families with the aim of allowing new families to meet each other as well as existing families and staff. It is also another way to get to know the P&C members, the P&C activities and ways of helping out. RSVP’s are requested for planning purposes for the dinner, consisting of a sausage on a roll and a drink, @ $5 per person (payable at the event). Deborah Charlton has volunteered to coordinate and volunteers are needed for various jobs from setup to pack up. Please Contact Deborah: deborahcharlton@y7mail.com Mob 0452 079 486

A sign on sheet for volunteers was handed around the meeting and returned to Donna.

Principal’s report: Stephen Gray
Enrollment for 2012 is 1008 students after a rapid growth over the last 3-4 years. One quarter of this number are new to the school this year making it a busy but successful time in administration, with the feedback positive. There was a large Yr11 intake and at the moment they are attending the Crossroads Camp.

The school apologise to parents who did not receive the newsletter by email even though they had supplied their addresses. Hard copies will be belatedly distributed to all Year 7 students and the glitches worked out before the next newsletter is due. The newsletter is usually published by the end of the week before the date of the upcoming P&C meeting. In addition to being emailed to families it is also available on the school website.

HSC results for 2011 were outstanding with the Value added data better than it has ever been. 50% of the cohort was on the distinguished achievers list with most students with multiple entries on the list. This achieves the target set in the 2011 School report to improve the Valued added data for the high achieving students. The staff had worked toward this report, targeting these students with mentoring programs.

The gift to the school from 2011 Year 12 was the Mural which has been well received.

The US dance tour will involve 25 dance students and will perform at the national High School dance festival in Philadelphia. Some students will be auditioning for places in US Dance schools. Students will be accompanied by Stephen Gray, Betty Romeo and Dance staff.

The new Canteen operating in the school has had some minor teething problems, with concerns being raised by staff and parents about the length of queues and the nutritional value of some menu items. The canteen will follow the Healthy Canteen Policy as part of its contract with the school and have already noticed that the students prefer the healthier choices from the menu. The school asks that the canteen Mgr, Rose, be given some time to settle in but if parents have any concerns to contact a member of the P&C Executive. Rose has been invited and will attend the P&C meeting in May.

Three year strategic school plan 2012-2014 – The process began with a school community forum attended by parents, students and staff for a brainstorming session. The School Exec drafted a plan from the results of the forum. This has subsequently been adjusted after consultation and feedback. The theme of the plan is Excellence, Equality and Creativity. Literacy and numeracy are also components as stipulated by DEC.
As part of the strategies 2012 will see-

- An effort to improve feedback to students for the work they have submitted.
- The Newtown Alumni and Industry Links team (NAIL) has been established and is headed by Tim Ailwood and Graham Bourchier and includes the Prefect body.
- The school is investing in tablet technology. The staff will be using it for creative lesson planning which can be shared with colleagues.
- The Quality of school life surveys will be administered again this year. These help measure the level of engagement and satisfaction of the students.
- There will be a review of the Pastoral Care program.
- Peer tutoring will be trialled
- Duke of Edinburgh program offered.
- The Learning support team duties will be broadened to include the Gifted and Talented students.

P& C feedback received will be considered before the plan is finalised.

Questions were received, and answered, from parents in attendance.

- Does more students equate to more staffing?
  At the moment it is very tight to staff the curriculum and the co-curriculum. Many courses are full meaning subject changes are unable to be accommodated.
  2012 sees 170 Yr 7 students in 6 classes with a buffer of 10% of local enrolment.
- What has the response been to boundary changes/
  There have been a huge number of local student enrolments in years 8-10.
  - Which year’s students are attending the USA Dance Tour?
    Some year 10 mainly year 11 & 12 with 4, 2011, Y12 students are going. This is because the tour is only every 2 years.
  - What is involved with the Peer tutoring program?
    This program is being revisited from 5 years ago, with Year 10 students tutoring younger students in the after school program.

P&C responsibility within the School Plan: Darren Mitchell

- P&C involvement includes the continuation of Master classes where industry experts come into the school to share their knowledge, in a particular field of the performing arts, with staff and students.
- Contribution to the School year book.
- Facilitation of the School patron announced last year. The first school patron is Lynne Williams CEO of NIDA.
- Exploring ways in which this relationship can benefit the school and students.
- The P&C has some responsibility in the school plan and ensuring it’s achieving its goals.

General Business: Fundraising idea suggested by parent, James Burson, will be considered at the next P &C Executive meeting.

Parent query about how much has been raised by the Voluntary Contribution Fund for 2012. Jeremy (Treasurer) responded – no details are available for 2012 yet. An update will be available at the AGM.

Meeting Closed: 7.25pm

Next Meeting: AGM -6pm 13th March 2012 in the School Library. All Welcome.