Minutes NHSPA P & C meeting
6pm, 11 February, 2014
School common room

CHAIR: Darren Mitchell
STAFF: Stephen Gray, Peter Shields, Nilaufa Rajwar.
ATTENDANCE: Donna Huggart, Christine Williams, Nicki Wilkinson, Mark Rolfe, Tony Ryan, Jenni Wilkins, Susan Miles, Ross Moffat, Emma Walters, Kelly Burke, Katie Mann, Cathy Bernasconi, Joyce Leong, Callum Gibson, Deehna Sheen, Lannen Stapleton, Jill Dures, Peter Denholm, Sean Macken, Michelle Daly, Sean Daley.

APOLOGIES

WELCOME
Darren welcomed the principal Stephen Gray, deputy principals Peter Shields and Nilaufa Rajwar and parents, particularly parents new to the school.

Minutes of November 2013’s meeting accepted by Katie and Mark

MATTERS ARISING
Lockers
Darren congratulated Emma and Terry on their thorough report for the locker refurbishment project.
The executive signed off on providing at least 50 per cent of the estimated $12,000 cost. Nilaufa thanked Emma and Terry and said all the options provided were very good. The school supported the proposal of a 50/50 share in providing between 132 and 210 lockers.

CORRESPONDENCE
- Darren commended and tabled Leisa Munns' report on the 2013 Lemonius Garfield visit.
- Kelly tabled Darren's letter of support to the school on its tender to supply choir students for Anzac ceremonies on the Western Front from 2015.
- Various fundraising materials.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
Anzac Day
The school submitted a tender to the Federal Government's Veteran Affairs and was one of four tenders on the shortlist to provide a choir for the next five consecutive Anzac Day ceremonies.
Stephen has been notified the school is not the preferred tender. However the winner tender has yet to sign a contract so there is a possibility the school may still participate in the ceremonies.
New students
Year 7 students are settling in well. There are between 40 and 45 new Year 11 students who are expected to settle in after next week's Year 11 camp.
HSC results class of 2013
For the first time in eight years the school achieved two firsts in the state, in standard English and extension music.
Three students received 90 or more in all subjects and 71 made it onto the state achievement list gaining a mark of over 90 in at least one subject.

Staff changes
There have been a number of staff changes. Betty Romeo is back three days week sharing the deputy role with Leisa Munns.
Tom Tomesek has been appointed head of science.

News computer system
The school started new centralised finance processing system that is particularly challenging and experiencing considerable teething problems. Receipts sent to parents may not be accurate and Stephen asks for their patience. Office staff are working above and beyond their duties to deal with the problem, with special thanks to Christina Argyri and Adam Oliver. Ruth Smith is on extended sick leave.

School plan
2014 is the last year of the current plan. Stephen hopes to schedule a forum with equal representation from parents, students and staff following the P&C meeting on 13 May. Between 20 and 30 representatives from each category would be ideal.

Showcase review
The review will encompass the entire co-curricular program’ not just Showcase. It will commence in term 2 with a panel of five, including one parent representative, an outsider with performing arts expertise and a convenor.
Terms of reference will be established in the next few weeks with P&C input welcome.

Swimming carnival
There was a great turnout for the swimming carnival, with over 700 attending. Students' behaviour and participation was excellent.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
AGM
The AGM always take place at the second meeting of year, with the election of office bearers and the executive and reports tabled from the treasurer and the sub-committees.

School plan
Darren requested a report from Stephen on how the current school plan is progressing.

New students
Event planning is underway for welcoming new families. The welcome barbecue for year 7 and 11 families will take place on Tuesday, 11 March.

WEF
WEF is on Friday, 28 March. Dennis is coordinating with year 7 parents. The barbecue will start at 5pm and the AGM with start at about 6.30pm. There will be no regular P&C meeting. The executive can deal with any matters arising in the meantime.

Afternoon Tea With
Darren explained the Afternoon Tea With initiative piloted last year with success. Stephen said the school was looking at starting a co-curricular group for songwriting, which could lend itself well to an Afternoon Tea With. Lisa to discuss with Vic Woolley and Chris Miller.
Showcase
Darren thanked those who assisted with Showcase front of house. Dennis did an excellent job with the roster and Darren thanked Mark for his long-term roll as roster coordinator.
Mark explained the P&C's involvement in Showcase and the duties involved.
Mark will call for a new cafe coordinator to handle re-stocking duties at the AGM.

TREASURER’S REPORT
Total funds available are $123,130. Of that $28,000 is for general use and $92,000 is for the performing arts.
Funds disbursed in the last year totalled $82,000, including faculty grants - $36,000, upgrade of foyer - $16,000, and new speaker system - $14,000.
Only one faculty (dance) took up the Masterclass funding offered so the remaining funds of about $9,000 will be allocated to the St George’s Hall fund.
Ross will provide a detailed breakdown at the AGM.
Darren asked Ross to explain to parents the two different funds. The trust account for performing arts is managed by the school. The P&C contributions go to general funds, for student travel, equipment and upgrades.
Katie gave Ross a cheque for $500 donated by Woolworths in Erskineville.
The St George’s Hall fund is registered with the ATO and donations are tax deductible.
It was suggested the P&C explain more clearly to parents that by contributing to the voluntary fund, which raises about $60,000 a year, further fund raising activities are not required. Kelly and Ross to draft an explanation for next newsletter.
Tony suggested talking to local businesses about the St George's Hall trust’s tax deductible status.
Katie gave Ross a cheque for $500 donated by Woolworths in Erskineville.

SUB-COMMITTEES and EXECUTIVE
Darren explained how the sub-committees work. Parents attending the AGM will be given more information on what the sub-committees do and encourage parents to join a committee.
Darren outlined the achievements of the building sub-committee, with the studio foyer refurbishment now complete. Upgrading the adjacent toilet facilities is the next project.
The executive may comprise of up to 11 P&C members, including the president, two deputy presidents, a secretary and treasurer plus six additional members. All those positions will be open and available to fill at the AGM. Kelly to include details in the next newsletter.
Darren confirmed his intention to step down as president.

Meeting ended 7.05pm
Next meeting: AGM, 6.30pm, 11 March