

Port Sorell Primary School Association Committee

Deputy Chairperson's Report

OUR INAUGURAL YEAR IN REVIEW 1st April, 2014

With our first Annual General Meeting here already, there is no better time to reflect on what our founding School Association Committee has achieved since it was formed only 9 months ago, in June last year.

What have we been doing?

We are very aware that unless you are part of an organising committee, the management committee of an event, or even a board of directors of a company, it is difficult for those being represented to fully appreciate what is happening behind the scenes. We have provided regular updates through the newsletter on our progress to date and we have many ideas about how to better disseminate information in the future, to ensure that all interested parties are aware of what forms our core business and what our goals and activities will include.

Some facts that might be helpful to know:

Our committee has spent many hours debating, discussing, delegating, deciding and informing each other on how it is that we plan to operate, and move forward. We needed to establish boundaries and rules. It has been exhausting, time consuming and sometimes frustrating, but a very necessary process as we have established ways of working, together as a committee and with our broader school community.

We started with nothing... no constitution, no guidelines, no boundaries in which to work.

We had no 'historical practise' that answered our question 'How has this School Association Committee operated in the past?'

We had no historical understanding of who was responsible for what.

So that is where our conversations started. As a result we have:

- decided who will be responsible for what, decided 'who decides' on lots of the topics that fall under our control, sphere of influence or defined responsibility,
- conducted a uniform survey, begun a review and managed uniform orders for this year,
- trialled a very successful canteen day in 2013 and another successful 'Boardies Day' lunch service last week,
- opened a bank account and registered ourselves as an incorporated body,
- drafted and had our constitution approved by The Minister for Education,
- designed a policy template,
- supported the opening of the school and the grade 6 leavers assembly,
- acknowledged our staff with a 'thank you' afternoon tea at the conclusion of 2013,
- explored ways to engage the parent community,
- initiated talks regarding student banking,
- established a joint working relationship with our Student Council,
- supported staff in the instigation of the 'KidsMatter' initiative,



- joined with staff to instigate a school Chaplaincy program and have elected Danelle Last as our representative on the Chaplaincy Management Team,
- have represented our School Association by bringing topics for discussion to our table as requested by you.

Thanks!

It is my honour as Deputy Chair to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of our Inaugural Chairperson, Mr Dave Ashcroft, who has recently resigned from his position. Dave has been a driving force in getting Port Sorell Primary School going. He has given many hours of his time and has led us in healthy debate that has been vigorous as well as highly productive. I speak for the entire Association Committee and all those we represent when I say that it has been a pleasure to work with Dave. We have admired his commitment and passion to make this school the best it can be. Many thanks, Dave.

I also thank the enthusiastic contributions of our two Community Representatives, Phillip Spratt and Tom Parker. These two gentlemen have brought much to our table and our school is so incredibly lucky to have community members so willing to give so much for the benefit of our School and the relationship it has with the Community it belongs to. I also take this opportunity to thank the wonderful groups and businesses who have entered into supportive partnerships with us by providing much appreciated financial support. Sincere thanks goes to The Lions Club of Port Sorell, The Bendigo Community Bank, Ghost Rock Vineyard and Petuna Seafoods.

What now?

We now have policies and procedures in place. We have initiated 'subcommittees' as a way of sharing the load and engaging the school community and have formed strong, reliable relationships so that this year, we can really start to consolidate on our teamwork and make things happen.

This is now our second year. We aren't new anymore. The hard yards (policy and philosophical decision making) are done and dusted and now it is time to 'get the ball rolling'.

Our two main goals for this first term were to get the canteen up and running and to begin some School Association Fundraising. We are already well on the way to achieving these goals. Through last week's Boardies Day lunch service over 40 parents enlisted their support to assist a regular canteen service. We also have prioritised the importance of building a positive parent and community culture through holding events that get us together. This will begin with our first 'Student Social' and 'Meet your Committee' parent event which will take place next week.

We are very lucky to have such a committed Principal and team of staff. Together, we look forward to engaging you in the future and joining together for the benefit of ALL our students.

Dagna Dennison

*Deputy Chairperson
Port Sorell Primary School
Association Committee
2013-2014*

