

Port Sorell Primary School Association Committee

Chairman's Report

OUR SECOND YEAR IN REVIEW 28th April, 2015

With our second Annual General Meeting here already, there is no better time to reflect on how far we have come as a school community over the past two and a half years. Traditions have been created (and repeated) and through extreme commitment from staff and the school community, PSPS is building a strong identity of its own.

What have we been doing?

As I sit down to write this report, I am comforted by the fact that I have last year's report to reflect upon first. I have evidence of how we have been conducting our business and I can compare it to how we were travelling this time last year. I have a path to follow and a sense of achievement that I can highlight in this report. This may not seem like a big deal, but in fact, I believe this is our greatest achievement of all. Last year my report spoke of how we had needed to establish boundaries and rules and ways of working together. We were focussed on deciding what our role was and defining what it meant to be Port Sorell Primary School. This year, we are able to look at the new traditions we have created, relationships with our community that we have fostered, and new bonds that we have made as a school community. We have found our place!

Some facts that might be helpful to know:

Two years ago, we started with nothing... no constitution, no guidelines, no boundaries in which to work. NOW we have a historical understanding of what our responsibilities are and how we like to work, and therefore have been able to seek feedback and build on our solid foundation.

As a result we have:

- *Focussed* a great deal of time and energy into 'Getting People Together'. Through our subcommittee structure we have been able to build relationships within our school community by holding several 'coffee and chat' afternoons and one parent 'coffee and chat' evening, school socials and other significant events such as the Time Capsule Ceremony in December and 'Messtival' in March.
- *Encouraged and supported* the formation of Port Sorell Primary School Traditions. 'Traditions' bring a sense of belongingness, commitment and familiarity with each other. They also pave the way for positive memories that last a lifetime. Traditions bring with them the opportunity to 'pass the torch' and are valuable instruments for instilling social values and contribute to creating close community ties. Such traditions include our Grade 6 Hoodie, School Socials, See and Share Assemblies, Athletics Carnivals, 'Messtival', End of Term BBQ's, a Grade 6 Celebration Dinner and unique ways of Celebrating Student



**Students enjoying their School Social
Term 3 - 2014**

Achievement, such as the recent inclusion of 3R's awards at Pod Meetings. These are just a few of the many traditions that are evolving. What other PSPS traditions can you think of?

- *Developed policy.* Discussions around what our core values are and what it means to be a member of the PSPS community assisted us to develop and ratify both a 'Code of Conduct' Policy as well as a 'Port Sorell Primary School Association Committee Issues and Concerns Procedure'. We also reviewed the status of the functions of our Association and ratified the 'Respectful Schools : Respectful Behaviours' document that has been developed by our staff, complimenting their continued work with 'Kids Matter'.
- *Supported* our newly formed 'School Fundraising Events Committee' in the highly successful, inaugural Port Sorell Primary School 'MESSTIVAL'. This highly successful day was the result of hundreds of hours of planning, researching and organising. Congratulations to Yvette Blizzard, Andrea Douglas, Kayla Christie, Aimee Sayers, Rebecca Triffit, Toni Coward, Emma Woodcock, Jo Rann, Kerryn Hingston and 'Operations Manager' Jason Woodcock on an incredible day that 'Brought People Together' and celebrated what it is to be Port Sorell Primary! A fantastic family day out... and hopefully the beginning of another new 'Tradition'.
- *Instigated and contributed* to the funding of the PSPS Skoolbag App which makes school orientated daily tasks much easier by providing updates to parents on school calendar events, reminders, notices, newsletters and provides streamlined ways of communicating with school
- *Funded* additional sports shirts and basketball singlets which will enhance the pride students have in our school when they both look like, and play like a team
- *Streamlined and simplified* the process for uniform ordering and supplying
- *Continued* our canteen service. We are currently trialling a new format for 'class coordinators' and class 'profit percentages' to aid in encouraging parental involvement. This new model also provides financial support to classroom programs
- *Sought feedback* about reporting to parents, uniforms and other topics that increased parent and community engagement
- *Worked with* our local Service Clubs, Businesses and Sporting Clubs to identify opportunities for partnerships that will enhance the educational and social programs for our children
- *Welcomed* our new School Chaplain, Mr Tom Parker
- *Represented* our School Association by bringing topics for discussion to our table as requested by you.

Thanks!

I take this opportunity to thank the 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.

I thank the dedicated team that sit with me on the Port Sorell Primary School Association, 12 times a year. Thanks to our Deputy Chair Rachel Jansen, Secretary Danelle Last, Treasurer Ken Smith, Canteen Coordinator Kerryn Hingston, Staff Representatives Tammy Baldock and Simon Payton and Community Representative Glen Miles, for all of your hard work, robust discussion and dedication to our school. To our Principal Sam Ablitt, we are so incredibly lucky to have you and your team of committed staff that devote your professional lives to enriching our children's education.

Despite farewelling Mr Simon Payton at the conclusion of the 2014 School Year, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the incredible contribution that Simon has made to both our School Association Committee and School Community. Simon, we have valued the honesty, dedication and

professionalism that you have brought to our table, and we wish you all the very best for your pending retirement. Enjoy.

What now?

Over the past year we have extended our bank of policies and procedures and have the beginnings of new traditions in place. We have refined our 'subcommittees' as a way of sharing the load and engaging the school community and have formed stronger relationships and have 'made things happen'.

Moving forward we must continue in our vital role of advocates for our staff and the conditions in which they work. This year began with many challenging budgetary constraints forced upon us by decisions that were out of our control. Despite creative accounting and drawing on all support available, these cuts have resulted in students in larger classes and vital and highly valued programs being 'benched'. As a School Association Committee, we are in the position to ensure that our School Community remains informed on what operational decisions are being made and why and communicate our situation to the Minister and other decision makers in positions of power.

As always, we encourage our school community to make contact with us about any questions or suggestions they may have and urge them to become involved at any opportunity.

In reflection, my personal highlight of the past twelve months, other than the obvious 'MESSTIVAL' event, was seeing the SAC concept of a Time Capsule Entombment and Ceremony come to fruition. It was wonderful to see our students, teachers, parents and members of so many community groups and organisations come together to participate in this historically significant event. Our Time Capsule Ceremony drew attention from local businesses, community members, media outlets and Local Government Representatives. Educationally, it inspired many interesting conversations at school as well as at home about what life might be like when the capsule is opened! I hope all of us are lucky enough to be there in 50 years' time, to see it all again.

Together we will continue to achieve great things.

Dayna Dennison

Chairman

*Port Sorell Primary School Association Committee
2014-2015*



**Port Sorell Primary School Association Committee
2014-2015**

Chairman – Dayna Dennison, Deputy Chair – Rachel Jansen, Secretary – Danelle Last, Treasurer – Ken Smith, Canteen Coordinator – Kerryng Hingston, Staff Reps – Tammy Baldock and Simon Payton, Community Rep – Glen Miles, Principal – Sam Ablitt