

Port Sorell Primary School Association Committee

Chairman's Report

OUR THIRD YEAR IN REVIEW 12th May, 2016

With our third AGM here already, there is no better time to reflect on how far we have come as a school community over the past three and a half years. New traditions are continuing to be created (and repeated) and through strengthening strong partnerships between families, our dedicated staff and our community, PSPS has a definite identity of its own now.

What have we been doing?

This is my third Annual Report I've written and I am proud of the fact that we have a 'history' now to refer back to. How have I structured previous reports? Was it this year or last year that we did 'activity A'?... the years are starting to blend into one other and we no longer feel like our work is new. Last year my report spoke of how we'd 'found our place', built friendships inside and outside of our property boundary and had found better ways of working together. This year, as I reflect on what we have achieved I am excited by the fact that for the first time, I've used the word 'review' as part of my report. In 1965 Dr Bruce Tuckman published his 'Stages of Group Development' concept and I've compared it to our progress as a SAC. The first stage, called 'Forming' saw us with a high dependence on Sam for guidance and direction. We saw little agreement or team aims. Processes were sometimes ignored. We then moved into Tuckman's 'Storming' stage, where decisions didn't come easily. There was plenty of uncertainties persisting. Luckily we moved into the 'norming' stage, when we began to form agreement and consensus was reached. Our roles and responsibilities became clear and accepted. Our commitment and unity was strong. The 'Performing' stage has consumed the last 12 months. We became more strategically aware. We knew clearly why we were doing what we were doing. We had a shared vision. As team members, we looked after one another and felt comfortable beginning to share the load outside of our committee.

Some facts that might be helpful to know:

Three and a half years ago, we started with nothing. We have a historical understanding now of what our responsibilities are and how we like to work, and therefore we've been able to seek feedback to bring about changes to the way we originally did things. We've brought about change.

We have:

- *Encouraged and supported* the formation of Traditions. 'Traditions' bring a sense of belongingness, commitment and familiarity with each other. They are valuable instruments for instilling social values and contribute to creating close community ties. Such new traditions for the year past include our participation in our first Latrobe Community Christmas Parade. Congratulations and our thanks go to Kelly Greenhill and Gemma Elphinstone for their leadership and initiative resulting in the 'Best School Float' at the 2015 Parade. We also saw the completion of the Plaque and Laying Stone over our time capsule in the school garden and hosted the very first 'Port Sorell Community Spring Fair' in partnership with the Garden Club. We also financially supported and encouraged our students during their highly successful Kidspreneur small business program.
- *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 the 'Allocation of Funds Raised for/by SAC' policy. This focusses on equity and our priority to cater for all. We also adopted the 'Guidelines for Participation in School Sports' document.

- *Supported* our reinvigorated 'School Uniform Committee' to undertake the first review of the current school uniform. This was undertaken by SAC members Rachel Jansen and Glen Miles and their trusty team of dedicated, hard-working Mum's who became heavily invested in making a difference on behalf of the school community. Many hours of research, negotiating with suppliers, surveying parents, designing and reporting their progress lead to the introduction of the much anticipated school dress and long sleeve polo. Their work continues and we thank them very much for their time and energy.
- *Strengthened* community partnerships with Bendigo Bank who funded 12 brand new guitars for our music department. The Lions Club of Port Sorell, together with the Latrobe Rotary Club each donated \$300 to our Launching into Learning program to fund take-home literacy packs.
- *Hosted* another 2 highly successful School Socials where students were able to enjoy the company of their friends and teacher's in a relaxed environment. We also hosted Launceston's Retro Rockers Dance Club for morning tea in our staffroom as a fundraiser during their annual bus trip.
- *Invited* our AST staff leadership team to our February Meeting to gain a better understanding of how their roles support staff and student learning in our school. They are really, really busy people!
- *Attended* the Minister for Education's 'Education Act Review' Forum to express our concerns and have our say on behalf of PSPS. Sam and I also attended the 'Community Empowering Schools' Seminar and together wrote a funding grant submission worth \$9000 for projects that will engage our school community. Part of this funding has paid for our annual subscription to the Skoolbag Ap. Danelle attended a Devonport Chaplaincy in Schools meeting to instigate a breakfast club in the near future which will be excellent. We look forward to progress on this matter.
- *Streamlined and simplified* the process for uniform ordering and supplying
- *Continued* our canteen service. We trialled a new format for 'class coordinators' and class 'profit percentages' to aid in encouraging parental involvement. This model provided financial support to classroom programs with over \$100 being presented to each class to spend as they wished. We are currently seeking accreditation for the 'Move Well, Eat Well' program as we continue to find new ways to ensure our canteen service is maintained.
- *Coordinated and operated* fundraising BBQ's at the Athletics Carnival, school open day and after the school's final see and share concert. Again, we thank our friends from the Lions Club of Port Sorell for also providing much needed hands on deck for these events. We love community partnerships...
- *Proudly* assisted Sam and Jo to present the Major Awards to our Grade 6 Class of 2015 at their final assembly. We also farewelled and acknowledged the contributions of departing staff at this event on behalf of our School Community.
- *Encouraged* our community to sign up to the Gonski Education movement.
- *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 who have entered into supportive partnerships with us by providing much appreciated financial and inkind support.

I thank the dedicated team that sit with me on the Port Sorell Primary School Association, 12 times a year. Thanks to our Deputy Chairs Rachel Jansen (retired) and Kerryn Hingston, Secretary Danelle Last, Treasurer Ken Smith, Parent Representative Brett Christie, Staff Representatives Tammy Baldock and Natalie Scully and Community Representative Glen Miles, for all of your hard work, robust discussion and dedication to our school. To our Principal Sam Ablitt, we really are so lucky to have you leading our team of parents, staff and the wider community, working hard for our children and their futures.

Despite farewelling SAC parent rep, Rachel Jansen mid-way through last year, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge her contribution in this formal report. Rachel left us due to increased work commitments. Rachel contributed fully to all aspects of our Association Committee and provided excellent leadership, particularly in initiating the massive task of the school uniform review. We wish Rachel all the very best with her increased work load outside of being a busy Mum and parent at Port Sorell Primary. Thank you very much for your commitment to our team, Rachel.



What now?

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 and every opportunity.

When writing this report, we will have one vacant position on our 2016-17 committee as Danelle and Ken have chosen at this point, not to renominate. Our Community Rep, Glen has also chosen not to renominate. They wish to open the door for others. This is the first time that our committee might look considerably different following our AGM. Perhaps we are entering into the final phase of Tuckman's 'Stages of Group Development'. Perhaps we may have entered the 'Adjourning' stage now. This is the 'breaking up of the original group'. This often comes about when tasks are complete and we feel good about what has been achieved. The Leader/Chairman changes. The team may produce a successor and often this phase involves seeking a review of 'how we have worked' and an opportunity for new ways of improvement. **Do you realise that this year marks the milestone where HALF of our school population have known nothing other than Port Sorell Primary School?** The cute little Kinder children from the year our school opened are currently in grade 2. Half of the lucky students who were present on that first day the doors opened have already moved onto high school. At the end of this year, my youngest will leave Port Sorell Primary, taking our family with her. We have new faces around our table to look forward to. Perhaps our school is growing up. It's exciting to be a part of that.

Together we will continue to achieve great things, even if we look a bit older!

Dayna Dennison

Chairman

Port Sorell Primary School

Association Committee 2015-2016



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Chairman – Dayna Dennison, Deputy Chair – Kerryn Hingston, Secretary – Danelle Last, Treasurer – Ken Smith, Parent Rep – Brett Christie.
Community Rep – Glen Miles, Principal – Sam Ablitt, Staff Reps – Natalie Scully and Tammy Baldock,