Date: 4 August 2014


Apologies: S Hiscock, P Hazell

Minutes distributed and accepted with corrections (Louise was present, Sharon is our treasurer) (Lynne, Andrew)

Business Arising
- Unflued gas heaters (see general business)

Correspondence in
- Letter from Christopher Pyne tabled about all the good things done for education in the budget
- Letter re changes to wireless microphones
- Changes to P&C council
- P&C newsletter

Treasurer’s Report (Sharon, Cheryl)
- A reminder that we need to get our insurance from the P&C - $964 needed for insurance before we do the Bunnings fund-raiser. Andrew wrote it out at the end of the meeting.
- Three months of accounts were tabled by Sharon (attached).
- Out of Ashes money has earned $500 interest in five months, reinvested till 30 October. Six months would get us a better interest rate but funds may be needed as the new building approaches.
- Closing balance July $496.46
- Commonwealth Bank very helpful this morning.

Canteen report
- Cashbook summary tabled (attached).
- Anne has had an accident and is on crutches. She will be off for another four weeks at least. Michelle Lees is managing the canteen and Mandy is full time as well now. Michelle Southwell and Pam Hazell are doing some fill in days. It is worth asking Trudy Polsen if more assistance is required.
- The construction workers are making some use of the canteen for lunches.

Accepted (Michael, Colleen)
Principal’s report

Standout Performance: “Just the best talent” was the agreement from other schools about our music and drama students’ performance of a Cinderella sketch using Queen songs at the District Arts Festival at Canberra Theatre Centre last Thursday and Friday nights. Many thanks to the students and their music and drama teachers for such a great effort.

Regional Athletics: The school enjoyed very strong representation at the Regional Athletics Carnival in Canberra last week with three firsts, four seconds and five thirds across the full range of track and field events and all age groups - full details are up on the website. Another impressive effort by our athletes and the staff and parents who support them.

Science and Engineering Challenge Win: On Friday 20th June 29 Year 9 and 10 students won the district round of the Rotary Science and Engineering Challenge in Goulburn and will now go onto Newcastle University for the state finals of the competition on August 27th-28th. Well done, our analytical, lateral and creative thinkers!

NAIDOC Week: A stirring assembly on Tuesday 22nd July focused on this year’s NAIDOC theme “Serving Country – Centenary and Beyond” and featured an inspiring address from army chaplain Ivan Grant, a proud Wiradjuri man. Celebrations also included enjoyable and informative Year 7 workshops in Indigenous Art, Cooking and Dance, the latter presented by three dancers from Naisda Dance College on the Central Coast.

Trial HSC: Year 12 completed their Trial HSC Exams last week and results will be available later this month. Students can also now access their HSC timetables online so that they can firm up their study program for their last few months at school.

Careers Expo: Last Friday students from Years 10, 11 and 12 explored options for their future with representatives from 5 universities and various TAFE and other institutions at the school’s annual Careers Expo.

Education Week was marked last week by a spread in the Tribune featuring a Week in the Life of the School put together by Louise Pinson. This amusing diary is also in Intouch and on Twitter.

Sad Losses: A “wake” in the school hall and a moving eulogy from Phil Armour on assembly followed the funeral of our much-loved general and farm assistant, Ron Davis, at the beginning of term. Ronnie will be sorely missed around the school and especially in the Ag plot where his skills were legendary. We were also saddened to hear of the recent passing of Phil Bambach, for many years a well-known computer and history teacher at our school.

Staffing: Janet Carswell has joined us as our new School Admin Manager; she was previously SAM at Pambula Public School.

Paul Wilkinson continues the great job he’s doing as relieving general and farm assistant.

Tim O’Reilly replaces Peter Woof in mathematics until the end of the year.

New Planning Process: Following training a fortnight ago in a restructured NSW School Planning Tool, Louise Pinson and I have begun the process of developing our School Plan for the next three year phase, 2015-17. The new tool is more concise, collaborative and focused and includes an interactive structure with term by term assessment of progress.

Minister’s Visit: NSW Planning Minister, Pru Goward, expressed concern about the pressing need for the upgrade of buildings and facilities when she inspected the school with staff, student and parent representatives on Friday 25th July.

Buildings / Facilities: The rebuild is finally in full swing with completion anticipated by Term 2 next year, barring interruptions from the weather which we’ve already experienced. There is an impressive level of cooperation from the contractors with weekly and monthly formal briefing meetings as well as daily updates when appropriate.

SASS Recognition Week: 1st 5th September this year’s title “Stepping Up to the Challenge”

Please see InTouch and the school’s website for full details of recent events and achievements, including those referred to here.

Deputy Principal’s report

- School photos tomorrow
- Parent meetings: Year 11 2015 on 7 August and Year 9 2015 on 26 August
• Year 11 Crossroads course at school on Tuesday 26 August
• Transition meetings were held last week with Anne Oliver and Jane Derrin – these were very helpful. (Confirmed by Cheryl)
• Two students are doing Southern Stars Veanka Howard and Madeline McGrath. The P&C will give $100 to each girl to acknowledge their commitment. (Andrew, Sharon)

General Business
• Andrew has put a letter together re unflued gas heaters, adapting a letter from COUGH. This will be sent to our state minister of education and local member. Other parents of students or students themselves who have asthma may like to add their own letter.
• District Performing Arts Festival – the music department encouraged and included Sarah Makin and this was much appreciated by her family who believe the move to Yass High has been an excellent decision.
• Cheryl is looking into a Certificate 11 in Auslan at TAFE. She will give us details as they come to light.
• Bunnings Fund-raiser is this Sunday 10th August. Food, drink and float were organised. Year 12 could do fund-raising too if they wish. Andrew will be there at the beginning and Sharon at the end. Louise will look into a sign.
• Agriculture request: 10 mobile cattle panels @ $98 each. Agreed (Moved Michael, seconded Sharon). James will help at the fund-raiser and can leave a raffle at the table.
• Running festival on 27 September, we have been asked to man a drink station. More details at the next meeting.
• Transition and new students. What are we going to do re uniform items as Full Circle Serenity has closed. Sharon will look into some options. Alan McGrath was suggested as a possible stockist. Parents may be asked to buy navy track pants and trousers wherever they can. Our Queensland supplier may be able to supply a skirt. Students have asked about having a jean type trouser. We will encourage all students to wear navy blue items and look at encouraging a quality ‘formal’ uniform. More discussion next meeting.
• New honour boards are in the school hall. Boards from 1978-9 are still missing. Some photos look a bit tired. They will be spruced up in time for the Presentation evening.

Next meeting: Monday 1 September. On the agenda: uniform, running festival, Bunnings, term deposit (staff requests recommended) and unflued heaters