

20 FEBRUARY 2019

Meeting Minutes

Meeting to be held at 237 Bobbin Head Road,
North Turramurra 2074

In the S3 hub, 7:00pm on Wednesday 20 February 2019

1. **Welcome & Apologies**

Apologies – Katie Sumpton, Kate Duncan, Ross Brockbank

2. **Acceptance of minutes from previous meeting –**

Proposed - Bree Alami; Accepted - David Clarke

3. **Matters outstanding from last meeting**

None

4. **Correspondence**

- Workers Comp
- Marketing
- P&C Federation

5. **Executive team report**

No report supplied

6. **Principal's report**

Year has started well. Active citizenship while holding pattern was in place waiting to secure 11 teacher. The week wasn't wasted with PDHPE curriculum being covered.

Reason why we dropped- 10 students left from year 2(not usual) Barker opened up the girls stream so many with boys panicked to ensure they would get in. 8 from Year 4 –this is usual. Year 6 cohort is 34 last year was 45.

I can confirm that our actual enrolment for 2019 is 261 students.

11 classes were formed.

Rolled over with approx. \$220000- still to come out excursions, beginning teacher funds, many items that have not come out before December, pays etc.

Still a healthy amount for any issues that arise.- use to pay extra LST(for support Learning and GATS) and SLSO

Financed- out of RAM funding for SLSO and extra days learning support. Return to basics. Testing and tracking each student. SENTRAL- purchased at the end of last year and is being used to record all data.

Panel is underway and interviews will commence next week, this position is the vacancy against Lilia Turner who left at the end of last year, AP position on Year 3 class.

Target Graduate Alex Hahlos appointed taking over Amanda Rutherford's position.

Mrs Rennie took over Karen Haleblian's position.

The annual school report is being completed. Will be completed by the end of term and published on our website I will let you know via the newsletter..

We have Increased **Learning and support**. ½ day LST teacher increase plus 2 days 3-6 Executive ½ day off class release. SLSO employed 5 days per week. Extra LST support 2 days per week this year covering 5 days.

Doors have been installed in kindergarten and stage 1. Meeting with Assets regarding painting. I am getting a quote for the blinds n the Kindergarten Classrooms.

Vandalism – School security

Due to the many vandalism attacks on our school we are looking into getting CTV cameras installed in the playground particularly the back. We have tried lighting up the area and contacting neighbours and our communities to monitor and we have increased school security visits. Unfortunately this has not worked. This unfortunately is a last resort to enclose the whole school in large fences would be more expensive.

The cheapest alternative to gates is CCTV cameras. This is departmental approved and when alarm is triggered school security and response can access immediately and send images to police. Cost approx. \$27000 for 7 cameras. School will fund this.

Dr Kristy Goodwin will be presenting her cybersafety talk at Wahroonga Ps

WHAT: Parent Seminar-Raising Your Child in A Digital World

WHO: Dr Kristy Goodwin (Digital Health and Wellbeing expert)

WHEN: 12 March, 6:30 - 8:30 (Term 1 Week 7)

WHERE: Wahroonga Public School, 71 Burns Rd, Wahroonga.

COST: \$10 cash per person, to be collected on the night. (No EFT/credit cards.)

Reserve a seat through Interviews online <https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/>

CODE **4EKNQ**

All parents from our Community of School are invited.

For more information on the speaker see <https://drkristygoodwin.com/>

Technology at school

There appear to be a large range of smart watches on the market, some of which can apparently record conversations and take photographs.

A school may, after consulting with its community, decide to discourage or even ban the use of smart watches at school. It would be necessary to make reasonable adjustments to such a policy where required (for example if a student with diabetes used a smart watch to monitor their glucose levels) and provide parents with an alternative way of contacting their child if, as you have indicated, they need to let their child know who is picking them up.

If the school community doesn't want to go that far, consideration should be given to amending school discipline and welfare policies to make clear:

- what constitutes inappropriate use of a smart watch, and
- what will happen if the smart watches are used inappropriately at school or during school related activities.

At a minimum parents and carers should be advised that smart watches are worn at school at their own risk and, for students over 10 years, criminal penalties may apply for inappropriate use.

Technology is both providing great opportunities and posing increasing challenges for schools

Other business:

Dany - Thank you to Bree and all the helpers for the Welcome BBQ - it was a great night. Note that it's the same people volunteering to help out with these events.

Bree - We need more volunteers for these events - 280 people attended. 16 signed up to help out. 6 people turned up.

Lirize - Some people who signed up may have expected to be contacted to confirm their shift.

Karin - Had included this message in the confirmation message on the form. Noted for next time to make it clear on the sign up that if you sign up then just turn up; we can never have too many helpers.

7. Treasurer's report

No report supplied.

Other business:

We have a new treasurer! Welcome Rebecca Fitzmaurice.

8. Grounds report

Thanks to Fiona Ambrosino for doing such an excellent job as previous grounds co-ordinator, and to the committee members and others who make it all work!

Working bees and school community participation

I thought I'd do a shout out to the whole school in the newsletter to ask if anyone else is passionately interested in plants, playscapes, local ecology, painting, building exciting stuff with Cam, etc., or has any skills which would be helpful in our planned projects and maintenance. I'd really like to encourage some larger numbers for the working bees, so that we can achieve some major progress on and/or complete the projects, as well as maintain the grounds. This may take some time, but we'll make a start ...

Suggestions to increase involvement greatly appreciated, ideas so far include:

- 'sponsor a plant/garden bed' per family/child, assist in design and planting and take on responsibility for maintenance
- involving individual classes/year levels in creating or maintaining specific areas (e.g. year 6 could plan and plant a garden to leave as their gift to the younger students and teachers)
- linking projects to curriculum (e.g. creating minibeast habitats: there's plenty of published information for teachers to use, and good availability of local 'experts' and educators to present, so shouldn't add to lesson prep workload)
- making working bees more fun with extra stuff happening, esp. to involve kids who will then hopefully encourage parents to come along
- setting up a student's grounds group -- could we maybe involve Mary Muldrew with this? Any other parents or teachers?
- organise smaller, briefer 'bees to target specific areas, such as front garden, carpark, centenary garden, etc
- vary days of working bees to allow different families to attend if regular commitments preclude involvement, perhaps lunchtimes or after school
- set up registration system so we can predict numbers, and set up a 'sign up to volunteer either time or money for one of the working bees' style system, similar to many local preschools (very effective for them!)

Working bees for 2019

Propose one per term: two for maintenance and two for specific new projects.

Term 1: ?? dates to tie in with other plans for term ?? An ambitious start to the year, we have two 'wants': 1) to complete the bed under two eucalypts in quad, which was mulched last year; and 2) weed and tame the garden bed between the library and vege garden.

1) Cam is in the process of installing two of the recovered coloured curvy seats. Need to install border between grass and garden bed, to reduce ongoing weeding load. Plant selection of iconic local species such as waratahs, Christmas bush, blueberry ash (have some seedlings already, grown by friend from local seed) in layout designed to prevent through traffic but maintain lines of sight. *(Funds required for garden edging and some plants, would be good to have at least a few larger plants among tubestock.)*

2) Weeding, weeding, weeding. Cam is proposing to build a 'potting bench' with sink at some point, to assist with work in the vegetable garden, and we'll see if this area is suitable once it's clear. *(No funds needed for weeding.)*

Term 2: ?? suggest weekend of 22/23 June?? Prepare area for Schools National Tree Day Friday 26 July

Aim to extend native corridor, to tie in with existing planting and small bird habitat (established last year with council grant). Catrina will grow plants from locally collected seed again, aiming for 2 plants per student. Need to determine site and therefore materials required, such as soil, mulch, fertiliser. *(Funds required for materials once site is determined.)*

Term 3: ?? suggest weekend 14/15 September ?? General grounds maintenance Weeding, mulching, tidying of whole grounds, may be materials required, such as soil, mulch, fertiliser. *(Funds possibly required for materials, could P&C organise a barbecue for volunteers for this one?)*

Term 4: ?? early November to fit in with other school events ?? General grounds maintenance and preparation for summer, and work on new projects if available numbers

Weeding, mulching, tidying of whole grounds, more mulching, may be materials required, such as soil, mulch, fertiliser. See 'new projects' notes below. *(Funds possibly required for materials, could P&C organise a barbecue for volunteers for this one?)*

Ongoing projects

Native stingless bee garden

Beehive was finally installed by KMC Wild Things program and the bees seem very happy and busy. Cam and I will work on beautifying the hive's 'esky', which is ugly but very important for insulation and waterproofing of the box inside. We need to extend the planting area, replace a few plants and establish a 'viewing' area to allow students and wider school community to bee-watch.

Work with Dany and teachers to organise for Wild Things educator to come and talk with students (and any interested parents, perhaps?) about bees and importance in our

local ecosystem. Cam will extend the coloured poles arc around garden area to reduce foot traffic through garden bed. Suggest installing a few pavers or similar to beehive, possibly involving LeeAnn Plasto in art project with students to design mosaic or other artwork to reflect the ideas behind the bee garden. *(Should still be funds in account from council grant to acquire plants, but will need money for pavers.)*

Schools National Tree Day Friday 26 July

Continue school's involvement in National Tree Day to promote planting and caring for native trees and shrubs to support local biodiversity. This year we'll extend the native corridor with local plants grown by Catrina, and revivify the small bird habitat installed last year. Students can wear green and bring a gold coin donation to plant their trees or shrubs -- the money will go towards purchasing materials such as fertiliser, and soil if needed.

Work with Cam to establish watering regime and available equipment, resources, etc. Work with Dany to determine details of students' involvement on day. I've registered with Planet Ark to see what resources are available -- stay tuned. *(See term 2 working bee notes: funds required for materials once site is determined.)*

New projects to be considered

We would like to establish some 'natural playscape' areas including sandpit, large rocks, logs, etc. for kids to play in -- this should be done in consultation with Dany and Cam in terms of his plans for maintenance of certain areas. Ideas so far include between hall and courts, where soil is washing downslope onto courts and rapid remediation would be advised, and area between existing play equipment and the hub, in patch of sandy dirt not covered by softfall fabric. We could use some logs from the turpentine which need removing.

Creation of a quiet space for kids in the playground, such as curved seating area partially enclosed by vertical posts with climbers trained up them.

Planting of a sensory garden, with design input from kids.

Creation of frog pond habitat around existing pond in quad.

Construction of a performance deck/stage viewing platform for sports, etc. over mulched area looking over oval with soil mounding surrounding to allow for new plantings over contaminated soil.

Revivify garden around Wollemi pine (it's languishing) and perhaps revisit idea of outdoor learning space here.

Other business:

To help encourage participation in working bees, and also give families an alternative way of contributing to the grounds program of work if they're not able to attend working bees, Dany offered, to include an optional \$50 ground levy per family, in the Semester 1 fees schedule. *Added to minutes made 12/3/19*

9. Uniform shop report

Refurbishment

Cam is progressing, and has found some shelving at Bunnings that will work.
Expect costings soon.
Dany may have some more information.

New starters

All new starters had individual appointments and were accommodated with fittings going well.

Second Hand Uniforms

Mounds of second hand uniforms of varying quality have been received.
Free box and table setup planned for meet the teacher evening.
Any leftovers will be donated to Stewart House.

Baseball caps

Baseball caps have been ordered for PSSA season. Small stock initially to see how it goes.

School Website

Updated to remove references in Uniform Shop link to 2018.

Other business:

Nadine - Website still has uniform shop opening on Wednesday

ACTION - David to arrange with Sanchia to update uniform shop opening hours on school site.

Bree - Some students are asking to buy the cap and being told it's only for PSSA students.

ACTION Dany - To arrange note in newsletter re caps in uniform shop only for PSSA students to wear on Fridays.

10. NTOOSH report

No report supplied.

Other business:

Arnie has stood down as **NTOOSH** co-ordinator. No parent committee. Note from Becklyn sent to NTOOSH parents requesting volunteers for the committee.

Karin - Roles mentioned in Becklyn note don't align with the roles we've had on the committee in the past.

ACTION Bree to arrange another note to be sent, also mentioning that if there's no committee the NTOOSH will need to be privatised.

11. Canteen report

No report supplied.

12. Fundraising report

No report supplied.

Other business:

Need more helpers for fundraising events to happen. Briar and Emily can't be the only two people organising this year's events.

ACTION - Briar to arrange message to go in SchoolStream re helpers to organise fundraising events. If no helpers, events won't happen.

ACTION - Karin to send Lend a Hand sign-up form via newsletter/SS inviting the school community to inform the P&C of their intention to lend a hand this year.

13. Band report

Enrolments

Registration is complete, and for the first time has been all online which made the process vastly simpler to manage. Regular rehearsals have commenced, and although final numbers are still shifting around, the number of children participating looks as follows:

Junior Band: 23

Senior Bands: 40 (Jazz Band: 10; Performance Band: 25; Radio Band: 27)

Total enrolled: 63 (Plus 10 in the 2 parent bands, with a few more joining)

Camp

This year the camp is moving to a new site – Uniting Venues Elanora Heights – but is being held on the same weekend as we have traditionally used: May4-5. Although not a change we asked for (Crusaders changed our date to week 3 as a result of our numbers being about half of what was anticipated 3 years ago), the new venue is closer, better from a child safety/supervision perspective, and cheaper: this year's charge is \$300 (down from \$330) which still leaves us an increased margin over last year.

The other bonus of the new site is that in return for providing permission to use pictures of the children (without any identifying names or other information) they will be able to participate in their "Rise Above Outdoor Education" activity at no extra charge. Each parent/carer will have to complete & sign a form issued by the site (already distributed in hard copy, and downloadable from the band web site) for their child to participate – alternate activities and supervision will be provided for those children whose parents choose not to sign.

Preparation is well underway, with Vicki Woodhouse having done an amazing job of pulling things together. Next Tuesday after rehearsal at 5.30 there'll be a camp information evening for parents in the hall, and all information and links etc. are in the process of going up on the band web site – online registration will go live on Friday.

Instrument Hire

Firstly - thank you to the P&C for the purchase of 2 new French Horns. These are quality "bombproof" instruments which will be serving the school long after we've all moved on from the band. Thanks also to Turramurra Music for not only sourcing these instruments (there's been a national rush on horns as bands have been refocusing their line-ups, and these were the last two available until the next shipment arrives in June), but also having sold them to us at cost.

Having moved the instrument records to a MySQL database in an effort to get away from the confusion of endless different spreadsheets, I'm completing a php admin interface on the back of the website for to provide quick web access to the records. This is going live next Tuesday, and will allow us to quickly and simply record changes in hire, instrument swaps, and give a better overall picture of where the instrument fleet stands.

Overall many of our instruments are reaching their twilight years, but rather than replacing them on an ad hoc basis it makes more sense to develop a plan, and the database will make this much easier.

Sign In/Out

At the last meeting Bree raised the question of children being signed out after rehearsal. I've started asking around to find what other schools do, and generally it seems they either do nothing (kids just go), or else they have a sign in/out system. As the band rolls are moving to the database later next, it wouldn't be too much of a task to expand this into an online sign-out like that NTOOSH uses – what do people feel?

Finances

Quite a few parents still have fees outstanding from last year – I've put off chasing these until we have the new account set up. Hopefully this will be good to go shortly (we're holding off taking payments for camp until the new account is ready) so that the reminder process can begin. Next fees will be collected in Term 2 (we're moving to a 2 semester format) – hopefully this could also include the option of regular direct debit. I've also started investigating the process of the band becoming authorised to accept the State Gov \$100 "Creative Kids" vouchers. While schools can't accept these, P&Cs can, and while there are few hurdles to get through (eg all supervisors may have to complete a child-protection eLearning module) there's nothing which seems too onerous, and it would be of help for many parents.

Performances & Program

This year the band's focus will be moving from competitions and eisteddfods to a greater emphasis on performances and community events. While the Performance and Junior Bands will still be competing in the Wahroonga P.S. Festival, and probably one other competition (along with the Jazz Band) in September, discussions have begun with Hornsby and Ku-Ring-Gai councils to find more venues and/or events in which we can participate – hopefully there should be some more concrete information by the time of the next Committee Meeting in Week 7.

Incidentally, the web site now also features a Google calendar page, with details of all the years' rehearsals and events which can easily be synced to parents' own phones and laptops, while the front page sidebar features all upcoming events.

Other business:

Still several empty positions on the band committee, including treasurer

ACTION - David to send another message to band parents re filling committee positions and need to outsource if committee can't be filled.

ACTION - Band committee to meet and agree on options re filling committee positions.

Zoe - Question to Dany, who is the band teacher contact for this year?

ACTION - Dany to check who is the teacher contact for band and get back to Zoe and David.

14. Other Business

None.

Meeting ended 8:30pm

Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month @ 7:00pm in the S3 Hub

Term 1: 20 Mar;

Term 2: 15 May; 19 Jun;

Term 3: 21 Aug; 18 Sep;

Term 4: 16 Oct; 20 Nov; AGM: Date TBC