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School Spectacular

Pg 8

Grandparents

Day

Pg 12

PARENT & CITIZEN





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Parent and Citizen Journal

The Journal of the Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

“Welcome” to all the new P&C members of 2017 and “Thanks for staying”, to those who have returned.

Often P&C's are thought of as simply a fundraising body for a school, many in the school community don't realise the scope of a P&C's role and the potential it has, to make a difference within their own schools and those across the State.

If you consider a raindrop – one by itself is hardly noticed, however many are a different story altogether...

This year we encourage parents and communities to come together to rally for our great public education system bringing a 'downpour' to the government – let them know that you as a representative body are not happy with the way governments fund our schools.

The New South Wales Government has been pushing for privatisation in many areas, after looking at education and support services in particular Sport and Recreation facilities. It is good news that I can advise that the government has listened to the community concerns with Sport and Recreation facilities across NSW remaining as public owned assets. We acknowledge the government has listened to the community concerns. Well done!

Our P&C Associations need to be the champions for our children's rights to a fair and equitable education.

For those thinking you couldn't possibly help, I say “of course you can”. Whether you are in a school community that is remote, regional, metropolitan, large, or small – you can all help and what's more, we need you to.

A first step, could be to contact your local State and/or Federal MP. Send them an email to find out how go to:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Guidelines_for_Contacting_Senators_and_Members

or post them a letter, ask the question/s:

“What are you planning on doing for our school this year?”

OR

“What did you do for us, last year?” (if you don't know)

AND/OR

“Do you believe that every child in NSW should receive a first-class education, regardless of where they live?”

MP's are elected to govern our systems; they make a lot of money to ensure that facilities and services are provided... How often have you checked to make sure their work is up to scratch?

If you would like to share the response's you get, or maybe learn more about advocacy, please email me at president@pandc.org.au.

Susie Boyd
President



P&C FEDERATION STILL HAS CASUAL VACANCIES IN A FEW ELECTORATES!

Are you a parent and member of a P&C Association? Do you have a passion for Public Education in NSW?

Does being the parent voice on behalf of parents in your electorate appeal to you? If you said yes to any of these questions, why not consider becoming a councillor or delegate.

Councillor: a person elected within a P&C Federation Electoral Area as a Councillor within the meaning of the Act to undertake the duties and responsibilities of a Councillor in accordance with the Act and the Constitution of the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations.

Delegate: a person elected within a P&C Federation Electoral Area to attend and participate in the Annual General Meeting of the P&C Federation in accordance with the Act and the Constitution of the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations.

Information will be sent out shortly calling for nomination to fill these positions. To ensure your P&C Association receives this information please make sure your contact details are up to date, you can do this by completing a member register update for your P&C Association on our website at pandc.org.au under the members' tab on the homepage.

FORUM INVITATION

Would your P&C Association like to host a forum for P&C Federation?

Is there a topic your P&C would like to learn more about?

P&C Federation would like to invite P&C Associations to host a forum.

Tell us which topic your P&C Association would like to learn more about, if there is not a specific topic and your P&C Association would simply like more clarification on roles, responsibilities, and functions of a P&C, that is OK too, P&C Federation would like to hear from you.

Call the office on 1300 885 982 and speak to Debbie or email: projects@pandc.org.au, with your expression of interest, what topic your P&C would like presented and details regarding when you would like to host a forum.

COUNCILLOR VACANCIES	POSITIONS VACANT	DELEGATE VACANCIES	POSITIONS VACANT
Riverina	1	Riverina	1
South Coast	1	South Coast	1
		Hunter	2
		New England	1
		Southern Sydney	2
		South West Sydney	1
		West Sydney	2



PRINCIPALS CRITICAL TO REFORM SUCCESS

By Mark Scott

Strong and effective leadership is a key to success in any workplace. The best leaders have a clear focus on what they want to achieve and build the support necessary to implement their plans.

A school is no different, requiring strong leadership and a focus on what works best for each student.

So for me, a focus on principals is critical to the success of the education reforms being implemented across the state: how we identify and appoint them; how we support them; how we work with them to remove obstacles to effectiveness and increase their impact.

There have been a great number of new policies in NSW public education in recent years with a focus on empowering local decision-making by principals in consultation with parents and school communities.

The reforms are an endorsement of the professionalism of our principals. We are backing them with more funding, autonomy and flexibility to provide the best possible learning environment for students. We are asking a lot of them.

Being a principal can be a lonely job so we need to make sure our principals feel supported. Professional development needs to be a high priority along with mentor relationships and specialist support.

The funding available to public schools through the Resource Allocation Model allows principals to calibrate spending to local priorities. One option for principals is to consider using this funding to engage administrative support. This allows principals and other senior staff to lead teaching practice. Evidence shows us that this will make a real difference to student learning.

Since joining the department I have learnt so much from visiting schools and talking with our directors of public schools, principals, teachers and support staff. I've heard many great stories, noted many impressive achievements, and begun to understand the challenges that different schools face each day. I've also received feedback that the additional funding is being put to good use to meet those challenges and provide more opportunities for our children and young people.

It is clear that we need to keep our focus on delivering a strong return on the additional investment so that our schools can provide tailored programs and initiatives that suit each community.

From 2017 we will increase leadership support for principals and build schools' capacity to drive quality learning, teaching, and wellbeing at the local level. This support will encourage clear plans for the school community to focus efforts where they will have the greatest impact on student achievement and develop a strong learning culture.

Parents have a right to expect that wherever they send their child to school in the public education system, the school will be well-resourced, have professional teachers, good facilities and high standards. They can be confident of that today, but we cannot rest.



We need to be a system that has high expectations and delivers on them – so that every child in our care can flourish and no child can fall through the cracks. We want to make a wonderful, world-class education system even better.

Mark Scott is Secretary of the NSW Department of Education

A blue advertisement for Thrifty. At the top left is the Thrifty logo in white. To the right of the logo, the text 'CARS ● TRUCKS BUSES ● 4WD' is written in white. Below the logo and text is a stack of four vehicles: a white truck, a white SUV, a white van, and a larger white truck. The Thrifty logo is also visible on the side of the van and the larger truck. At the bottom of the advertisement, the text 'Participating Thrifty Locations:' is followed by a list of locations: Parramatta, Blacktown, Penrith, Liverpool, Bankstown, Gladesville, Campbelltown, Caringbah, Blakehurst, Wollongong, Tuggerah, Newcastle, Beresfield, Singleton, Lithgow, Bathurst, Mudgee, Dubbo, Parkes. Below the list is the text 'QUOTE DISCOUNT No. HV000193 TO RECEIVE 10% OFF* YOUR NEXT RENTAL'. At the bottom left is a phone icon followed by the number '1300 879 289'. At the bottom right is an email icon followed by the address 'reservations@thriftnsw.com.au'. At the very bottom, in smaller text, it says '*Vehicles are subject to availability. Conditions apply.'

PREMIERS SPELLING BEE

Provided by the Department of Education

In its 13th year, more than 136,000 students in 940 public schools across NSW competed for a place in the State Final of the Premier's Spelling Bee. A final 43 finalist spellers were selected in each of the Junior (Years 3+4) and Senior (Years 5+6) divisions, facing off in front of their supporters in the prestigious Eugene Goossens Hall at the ABC Centre in Ultimo, Sydney on 9 November.

New Announcer Juanita Phillips was a charming host and ABC Radio Drive's Richard Glover broadcast the final half hour of the Senior competition live on his show.

Five schools had contestants in both the Junior and Senior Divisions, which is a remarkable feat. They were Beverly Hills North, Griffith East, Leumeah, Randwick and Tenambit Public Schools. Three schools represented by finalists (Keiraville, Mona Vale and Wilkins Public Schools) had had students take home the trophy in past years.

In the end, it was two young ladies who triumphed in both divisions.

In the Junior Division, Emma Bu (Year 4, Hurstville South Public School) raced to a win with her correct spelling of creative,

organdie, bionics, reciprocate, chorizo, vitriol, scissors, centurion, commodious and rudimentary.

The Senior Division was won by Christina Hood (Year 6, Bungendore Public School (near Queanbeyan)). Christina showed her spelling wizardry by mastering marquee, skillet, symmetry, slough, congruent, harpsichord, desperado, fictitious, enchilada, segue and expeditious.

The Bee is proudly supported by Macquarie Dictionary, ABC Local Radio and Mattel/Scrabble, with the finalists all taking home a huge hardback dictionary and a Scrabble board game.



Junior Division winner Emma Bu with Premier Mike Baird



Senior Division winner Christina Hood with Announcer Juanita Phillips



Junior finalists with special guests

MULTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVES PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITIONS

Provided by the Department of Education

Now in its 21st year, the Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition has been a thought-provoking and inspirational insight into matters of racism and harmony as seen from the perspective of NSW public primary school students.

Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli praised the competition as a valuable forum to help students develop their interest and skills in public speaking.

"The high standard of students' speeches is a credit both to their individual talent, and to the solid grounding in literacy they receive in our schools," he said.

Winners over the years have come from schools large and small, and from as far south as Jerrabomberra, as far north as Singleton Heights, and Kurrajong in the west.

This year's winner of the Years 5&6 Final was Daniel Hwang from Artarmon Public

School, whose prepared topic was "Words can hurt", followed by an impromptu speech (common to all speakers) entitled: "Take it easy."

THE MPPS IS GRATEFUL FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF MULTICULTURAL NSW.



Daniel Hwang with his proud family, and Hakan Harman, Chief Executive Officer, Multicultural NSW

SCHOOL SPECTACULAR

Provided by the Arts Unit of the Department of Education

For the first time in 33 years the iconic Schools Spectacular featured in a new venue, Qudos Bank Arena at Sydney Olympic Park.

This year also broke box office records, with more people than ever attending Schools Spectacular over four big shows, and the broadcast blitzed the ratings with our new media partner Channel 7. In another first, 5,322 NSW public school students took part in a historic moment when they achieved a **GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™** title for the Largest Amateur Variety Act in the world!

Executive Producer Jane Simmons said that this year's theme, 'Dream Big', "captured the vast and exciting opportunities available to young people through the medium of music and dance. Schools Spectacular continues to grow in size, scale, scope and popularity and this year was our most successful to date!"

Sonja Sjolander, Creative Director, Schools Spectacular was exceptionally pleased by the success of this year's show and the quality of the premium event that showcased public education so well. "This year's show was something special and a ground-breaking achievement! To have created life-changing experiences for over 5,000 students is exactly what teaching is all about! Our theme, Dream Big, resonated with teachers, students, production and creative teams alike allowing us to embrace new challenges, inspire new work and build new futures with our confident performers aspiring to attain dizzying heights in all walks of life. And to have become OFFICIALLY AMAZING™ caps off a sensational year and puts the 2016 Schools Spectacular firmly into the history books!

Inverell High School student and Featured Artist Ashleigh Campbell performed alongside her sister, Emi, in the D'Arts Ensemble item, Better When I'm Dancing. "It was such a special moment for my sister and I to share the spotlight on that big stage, this is definitely an experience we will never forget. I've never seen mum so proud!" said Ashleigh. Schools Spectacular provides wonderful opportunities for our students with disabilities who get as much out of the social experience as they do from performing.

Over the years, hundreds of Schools Spectacular participants have gone on to become professional musicians, singers, dancers, designers, producers and musical directors. Some of our recent alumni are currently performing in premier productions such as Kinky Boots and We Will Rock You! Two of our youngest Featured Artists played the lead role of Matilda in the Sydney production of Tim Minchin's mega-hit musical both receiving Helpmann awards for Best Female Actor in a Musical.

Susan Rix, Dance Director Schools Spectacular, was thrilled with this year's show. "The dance cast was the largest ever in our history and included students across NSW from Sydney to Lightning Ridge to the far north and south coast from Kindergarten to year 12.

We had an elite group of high school Featured Dancers who performed tap, musical theatre, hip hop, ballet and contemporary. These dancers were

mentored by professional industry choreographers throughout the rehearsal and choreographic process, receiving valuable insights into the professional world. We also have a proud tradition of bringing our states Indigenous performing arts students together under the guidance of The Bangarra Dance Theatre team. Their item Treaty, was truly outstanding this year".

In terms of sheer size, scale and scope, the Schools Spectacular is unequalled in the world, and now has a **GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™** to prove it! More than a hundred thousand public school students have now benefited from the opportunity to be a part of the Schools Spectacular.

Hailing from metropolitan, rural and remote areas of NSW, students of various ages, cultures, skills and socio-economic backgrounds all auditioned to be a part of this iconic event. Along with the NSW

Department of Education's Arts Unit team, thousands of public school teachers have also provided creativity, inspiration and guidance to make this truly

spectacular and magical event happen.

Applications for the 2017 Schools Spectacular open on Monday 30 January, 2017. Visit www.schoolsspectacular.com.au to apply.

"IT WAS SUCH A SPECIAL MOMENT FOR MY SISTER AND I TO SHARE THE SPOTLIGHT ON THAT BIG STAGE, THIS IS DEFINITELY AN EXPERIENCE WE WILL NEVER FORGET. I'VE NEVER SEEN MUM SO PROUD!"





 **SCHOOLS
SPECTACULAR
2016**

ELECTRONIC EFFICIENCIES

By Tim Inman

When everything in life is electronic and available on your phone, Hornsby Heights Public School P&C President Tim Inman, began looking for a system that would take payments more efficiently. The P&C wanted to simplify the processes in the canteen and uniform shop for their volunteers, and make it easier for busy parents to make payments for their children's needs.

With a busy school community, supporting a thriving school where the P&C provide lots of services – Canteen, Uniform Shop, Band program, as well as running many fundraising events throughout the year, Hornsby Heights P&C looked at many different 'cashless' systems for close to a year, before finally making their decision. It was a bit of luck that they came across Qkr by MasterCard, via a discussion with an Electronic specialist. Hornsby Heights P&C view was, that they did not want to put extra fees on parents, make parents hold a separate account and have monthly or term fees for a payment system. Qkr, a mobile payment App for smartphones, fit all of their criteria. During their research, they also found that many 'cashless online' companies, wanted to charge a top up fee to the parents, of anything up to 2.5% of the amount topped up.

Once the decision was made to use Qkr, in February 2015, the set up was seamless through the Commonwealth Bank. They were contacted by Martin Collings from MasterCard Innovation Labs, and his Qkr team to carry out the set-up process. The

first P&C service to come on board was the Canteen. The Qkr team, loaded the canteen menu into Qkr, from the school's paper menu, including photos of each item. They then trained the canteen manager in how to use Qkr Store Manager (the back end), so that future changes and updates could be done by the P&C themselves.

The launch of Qkr into the school community was done very softly, to ensure the process was simple and easy to follow. They trialled the system with 10 parents on the first day. The following week, they trialled with 20 parents. Every week for four weeks they increased the sample size, seeking feedback every step of the way, from both parents and the canteen manager and volunteers. After the four-week trial period, they opened Qkr up to the whole school.

They found that through encouragement and word of mouth, over the next three months that sales made through Qkr started to be more than 50% of the total takings in the canteen. After three terms, they stopped accepting cash for lunch orders, but continued to allow the children to use cash for counter sales at recess and lunch, to ensure the P&C were supporting the school with financial literacy.

Not long after Qkr began being used in the canteen, by the whole school, the uniform shop began using it. Over the rest of 2015 and 2016, Hornsby Heights P&C have used Qkr for Discos, Yearbooks, Fair ride passes, Calendars, Band payments, School

musical tickets and much more. They now have 95% of school families using Qkr.

The benefits to the P&C and community of using Qkr have been many. In the canteen, they have saved over an hour a day, previously spent on cash handling and order tallying. They have cut down on food wastage, as they know at the start of the day how many orders they have, rather than guessing when preparing food. Cash handling for the P&C run Disco has disappeared. All ticket sales are done on Qkr, and a report produced of all the children attending. They have even used Qkr to collect electronically signed permission notes from parents for activities such as scheduled band performances, taking place outside normal school hours.

Are the P&C committees happy? Tim says "Absolutely! They all now receive an Excel document to manage the payments they have received for each event and they no longer need to spend many hours counting and banking cash. At our End of Year performance in 2015, it took nearly 8 hours to process all the payments. In 2016, with Qkr, it took just 2 minutes to print the report!"

Tim's best advice for any other P&C contemplating going cashless, is "to warm the parents to the idea, stay positive, get your committees on board, start small and find the influencers in your school community, so they can spread the great news!"



WORLD'S BIGGEST CLASSROOM GOES DIGITAL

The World's Biggest Classroom is a project created in 2011 as an opportunity for schools to be involved in the Schools Spectacular experience in a non-performance-based way.

This year, the project was taken to a 'digital-only' platform, to enable the widest possible range of schools to participate.

Aligned with the 2016 Schools Spectacular theme of 'DREAM BIG', students were asked to tell us about their big dreams and vision for the future.

Schools then submitted these 'big dream' statements, and photographs of the students and their projects. These were then repurposed into high-quality posters for display at the schools, inclusion in newsletters, on social media, and – importantly – in a bright and colourful display of almost 100 posters all around Sydney Olympic Park railway precinct as part of the Schools Spectacular performances in late November.



The works by over 1,200 talented students contributed to the public's understanding and appreciation of the amazing and diverse work taking place in NSW public schools every day.

You can check out detail of all the projects on: <https://www.facebook.com/worldsbiggestclassroom/>

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GRANDPARENTS DAY

How many times have you heard ‘use it or lose it’ in response to so many things in life? This sentiment applies equally to the brain. If you don’t regularly use all of its various parts, you run the risk of losing some of the functions. Every day, at every age, we need to feed, water and exercise the brain. The good news is that it is very easy to keep the brain healthy and all neurons firing.

Over the past four weeks, Alzheimer’s Australia NSW and The Royal Botanic Gardens Community Greening Group have been privileged to work with Sadleir, Hannans Rd, Birrong and Hilltop Rd Public Schools on a pilot program for Grandparents Day, to show how easy and how much fun it is to keep the brain in good condition.

The centre-piece of the program was an hour or so of various activities – gardening, light physical activity, some quiet activities such as puzzles and giant word finders, reading and arts and crafts. Children worked and played with their parents, grandparents and in some cases, great grand-parents. Each school added its own flavour to the event.

All schools have commented that it was a great success and we are all planning to do it again next year.

On behalf of Alzheimer’s Australia NSW and The RBG Community Greening Group, I would like to extend a huge thank you goes to Beth Gibbins at Australian Schools Plus and Susie Boyd, President of the NSW P&C Federation for assisting us with introductions to the schools; to the P&C committees, Principals, staff and Liaison Officers who were enthusiastic and welcoming and made the program such a huge success.

CHIPPING NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

On Thursday 27th October Chipping Norton Public School P&C held an event for Grandparents Day. Funding was secured thanks to a grant from FACS which enabled the P&C to host a morning tea in our newly established vegetable gardens. The grant also enabled the P&C to purchase 3 garden beds and Grandparents were invited to bring a plant that reminded them of their childhood. Grandparents planted their vegetable seedling with their grandchildren, allowing for discussions around how life has changed over the

years. We were joined by our Federal MP, Mr. Chris Hayes, who attended on the request of the P&C. A wonderful morning was had by all!

HILLTOP RD PUBLIC SCHOOL

It was a fantastic day, with lots of positive feedback from parents, students & Grandparents.

IT WILL DEFINITELY BE ON OUR CALENDAR AS A YEARLY EVENT.

We had three great grandparents, one of them celebrated her 85th Birthday with us and a grandma who drove all the way from orange.

We are looking forward to grandparents day again next year.





MY ORGANIC SCHOOL

By David Walsman

“My Organic School” is a school based nutrition program providing fresh organic produce, nutritional education, and vegie bed installation through school P&C Associations in NSW. It is a complete program which helps P&C’s raise funds to build their school vegie beds. It is having ground breaking success in creating lasting, healthy nutritional change in both students and their families.

PROCESSED, SUGARY FOODS ARE MAKING US SICK.

Rates of obesity and diabetes have reached epidemic levels in Sydney’s Western Suburbs. About 300,000 of the one million people living in the area are estimated to have diabetes or be at high risk, with more than half the population classified as being overweight. This problem is directly caused by a diet of processed sugary foods. Children find it difficult to concentrate in class after eating these foods. It’s time to get serious about our school’s responsibility to educate students about healthy eating as required under the NSW education curriculum’s PDHPE (personal development, health and physical education) which is mirrored in every State’s curriculum.

“My Organic School” makes buying organic produce affordable, creates a strong community in our schools and connects children to the source of their food.

David Walsman, the program’s founder, was forced to set up his first organic produce buying group when his daughter was born in 2010. “We simply couldn’t buy chemical free produce at an affordable price, we desperately didn’t want our new born daughter to consume toxic pesticides and herbicides in her fresh produce. Speaking to our neighbours and friends we found they had the same concerns so we banded together and set up a buying co-op”

5 years later “My Organic School” was born and its program has expanded to fund school vegie beds and run nutrition classes for students.

“This is a full loop program, we put fresh, organic produce on family’s plates cheaply by harnessing the buying power of a cooperative. Orders are placed through the www.myorganicschool.com website during the week, a pallet of wholesale organic produce is delivered to the school where parents volunteer to divvy the produce into boxes for families to pick



up. Funds are saved to build the school vegie beds and parents are educated online to give classes of students a fun experience connecting them to the source of their food. Lasting nutritional change happens when a child sees where their food is coming from and has a wonderful eating experience. Our kids not only eat vegetables, they love eating them.”

INTUITIVE ONLINE PROGRAM.

The setup, running, communication, purchasing, saving of funds and education of parents is all handled by the myorganicschool.com website. “We needed a strong administrative backend system to ensure a national roll out of schools.” Through the website fund raising is very transparent to P&Cs, students and



**“MY ORGANIC SCHOOL”
MAKES BUYING ORGANIC PRODUCE
AFFORDABLE, CREATES A STRONG
COMMUNITY IN OUR SCHOOLS
AND CONNECTS CHILDREN TO THE
SOURCE OF THEIR FOOD.**

parents. Web users can see the dollar value of funds raised and the existing beds built at each school.”Why Organic? Organic fruit and vegetable are grown without the use of pesticides, so when you choose organic, you are lowering the level of chemicals consumed by your family every day. The environment isn’t adversely effected by chemical run off and unsustainable farming practices. Children benefit from a healthy diet rich in whole foods and high in nutrients. The Australian Government releases a list of nutritious food children should be eating, top of this list is, of course, fruit and vegetables.

SCHOOL VISIT.

Intrigued to find out more I visited Bronte Public School at 2.30pm on a Thursday afternoon. This School was one of the first to start the “My Organic School” program. I was greeted by Aline, a parent of a 6 yr old at the school. She was teaching a lesson on how to make chemical free pesticide to a class of 10 year olds. The children were armed with sprayers and were coating the lettuce in the vegie beds (paid for by the “My Organic School” program) with a peppermint tea infusion. After farewelling the horticulture class and walking past the raised vegie beds overflowing with lettuce and kale I reached the heart of the program.

I found five volunteer parents and their children divvying up a large certified organic pallet of wholesale produce into 28 boxes for the families of the school’s cooperative. School children were laughing as they counted broad beans and divided them into brown paper bags, parents were filling boxes with potatoes, apples, carrots, coconuts etc. There was a genuine air of collaboration and satisfaction. These people were enjoying their volunteer work.

I asked Tina, a parent of another 6 yr old at the school, why she was volunteering. Tina said, “I had a breast cancer scare 6 years ago and decided to eliminate all toxins from my diet. I’m only required to volunteer for one 45 minute divvying session per month but I love it and help out every second week. The produce boxes are waiting for me when I pick my child up from school, so it’s actually more convenient than going to the local

supermarket. My child is getting excited about the school vegie beds and most importantly my kids are actually eating vegetables after being engaged in the processes of growing vegetables!” If you are interested in starting a “My Organic School” program at your school there is information at www.myorganicschool.com or you can email admin@myorganicschool.com

The ACNC and my P&C Association

A quick guide for Parents & Citizens associations

Many Parents and Citizens (P&Cs) or Parents and Friends (P&Fs) are registered as charities with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). Due to the high turnover of P&C boards, many P&Cs do not receive correspondence from the ACNC, including reminders to submit their Annual Information Statement, as the contact details we hold are often out of date. This can result in P&Cs losing their charity registration with the ACNC. We want to support all registered P&Cs to submit their reports on time and encourage you to contact us if you need assistance.

What is the ACNC?

ACNC is the independent national regulator of charities that was established on 3 December 2012. Charity registration with the ACNC provides P&Cs with access to tax-exempt status with the Australia Taxation Office (ATO).

What is a charity?

Charities are organisations which: have a charitable purpose such as advancing education, advancing religion, and advancing social and public welfare do not operate for the profit, personal gain or benefit of members and meet other requirements. Charities register with the ACNC to access charity tax concessions such as income tax exemptions. There are over 54 000 ACNC registered charities; many of which have traditionally been thought of as charities, such as those that provide support for people who are homeless or living in poverty. There are also organisations that people do not immediately identify as charities. For example, non-government schools, universities, churches, and Parents and Citizens (P&C) or Parents and Friends (P&F) associations.

Is my P&C a registered charity?

P&Cs often meet the legal meaning of charity; they are not-for-profit as all money raised goes back into supporting the school. They also have a charitable purpose of advancing education. Some P&C are registered with the ACNC, you can check this on the ACNC register.

My P&C is registered with the ACNC, what does this mean?

Being registered with the ACNC means a number of obligations including notifying the ACNC of any changes to their details, complying with the ACNC

governance standards, and submitting an Annual Information Statement (AIS).

One of the biggest challenges for P&Cs is keeping their contact details up to date. Committee members (we call them responsible persons) often change from year to year, and the new members are not always aware of their ACNC obligations.

I'm not sure if my P&C is up to date! What should I do?

Visit your P&C's register page by going to acnc.gov.au/findcharity and:

1. Check that your P&C's registration status is 'Registered'. Some P&C's have had their registration revoked due to failure to report to us. **If your P&C's registration status says 'Revoked' and you believe it should be registered, please contact us on 13 22 62.**
2. Check that the Charity Address for Service is correct. We keep in touch with charities and send reminders to submit the Annual Information Statement to this address or email. If the address is out of date, you can change it on the Charity Portal. We generally recommend that charities use a centralised address or email. That way when there is a change of volunteers you will still receive the important information we send you. You need to make sure that the incoming board has access to this email address.

Should I consider deregistering my P&C?

Your organisation does not have to be registered with the ACNC, however registration does provide a number of benefits, including access to charity tax concessions. You can read about the benefits on our website under the Why Register page.

If your P&C is considering deregistering, give us a call and we can talk to you about the implications of voluntarily revoking your registration. As there will be tax implications if you revoke the ACNC registration, we recommend that you also speak with the ATO on 1300 130 248.

To deregister the charity you must complete [Form 5A Application to revoke charity registration](#).

Further information

There is a lot of helpful information on our website. Information about ongoing obligations of registered charities acnc.gov.au/managemycharity. Information about the Annual Information Statement acnc.gov.au/AIS.

You can contact us on **13 22 62** or by emailing advice@acnc.gov.au

INSURANCE FAQs

Q.1. How will the Student Injury Policy response in the instance where a student has Private Health Insurance with their family?

A.1. If a student were to have Private Health Insurance through their family, they will have the option to claim under either policy in the event of an incident. The policy will respond either way, however we recommend that the student to claim under the private health insurance first. This is due to the fact that Private Health insurance premium for the following year will not be impacted by claims incurred in the previous period of insurance. Whereas the Student Injury policy will have changes to premium structure at renewal pending the claims incurred.

Q.2. How is the Student Injury Policy arranged when accounting for changes in numbers of Students throughout the course of the year? As most schools will see changes in student numbers within the 12 month period.

A.2. Accident & Health Insurance (AHI) have advised that the premium is set on day one of the policy and due to the inability to administer additions and deletions, AHI agreed that they would waive this during the period and thus the premium is set at 100% of students at the school on day one of the policy and would remain at that premium despite any additions or deletions. However; we currently are working with AHI to look towards building up an IT solution where we can administer movement in student numbers at each P&C and thus not requiring 100% take-up at inception his is still in development stages and we are due an update from AHI.

Q.3. Can CGU provide a property insurance policy which will allow coverage for Bring Your Own Devices? Ipads/ Laptops/Computers etc. These devices will not be an asset of the P&C and in fact owned by the families of Students?

A.3. Essentially the feedback provided by CGU is that they are uncomfortable to provide cover for property which is not owned by the P&C, and that this would not fall into CGU's current risk appetite. They believe that this should be responsibility of the property owner to insure, and as investigated before with a query through Ela - the cost to insure such devices would be astronomical by comparison to rates currently provided for the standard Cash & Property policy.

FINDING A BUDDY AND A BOOK TO READ IS EASY AT NUWARRA PUBLIC SCHOOL

By Reg Corney

The word on the street is that reading is cool at Nuwarra Public School with the introduction of Street Libraries and Buddy Benches in the playground.

Two new brightly decorated Street Libraries and Buddy Benches have been installed this term - one set in the K-2 playground and the other in the 3-6 playground. An initiative of the Nuwarra P&C Committee, the Street Libraries and Buddy Benches are designed to encourage the joy of reading and create an inclusive playground environment.

Donated books will be placed in each Street Library for students to take and read during break times. It is designed to be an informal and easy borrowing system as books don't need to be checked in or out. Children will simply be encouraged to take a book that interests them and then return it when finished.

A Design Competition was held within the school community to create the artwork for each of the boxes. The winners and their classes then painted the Street Libraries in their own colourful and unique designs.

In conjunction with the Street Libraries, Nuwarra Public School has installed brightly painted Buddy Benches which are somewhere for children to go who may be feeling lonely, upset or isolated in the playground. When teachers or other pupils notice someone on the bench they can check if they are okay or invite them to play with them. The Buddy Bench is designed to reduce feelings of isolation and promote empathy and friendships in the playground.

Nuwarra Public School principal, Reg Corney said "The great thing about our Buddy Benches is that we will also be using them as Buddy Reading Benches to work alongside our Street Libraries in each playground. The Nuwarra P&C add so much to our school. In the last two years, we have purchased home reading books, air conditioning, soccer shirts and many more items due to their tireless work, making Nuwarra the place to be. I would like to thank our wonderful P&C for always placing student improvement and wellbeing first."



SOMEWHERE FOR CHILDREN TO GO WHO MAY BE FEELING LONELY, UPSET OR ISOLATED IN THE PLAYGROUND.



STRONGER HSC STANDARDS

MINIMUM LITERACY AND NUMERACY STANDARD

Set for success in day-to-day life

The minimum standard is set at a level of literacy and numeracy needed to do things like:

- ✓ follow simple written workplace procedures
- ✓ interpret routine tables, graphs and charts
- ✓ write a job application



ONLINE LITERACY AND NUMERACY TESTS

Students will need to pass online reading, writing and numeracy tests to demonstrate achievement of the minimum standard.

From 2018, these tests will be available for students to sit at least twice a year in:

- ✓ Year 10
- ✓ Year 11
- ✓ Year 12
- ✓ for up to 5 years after starting the HSC

A demonstration test is available:
hscliteracynumeracy.bostes.nsw.edu.au/

TIMELINE



2017

Courses and support material to improve pathways for Year 9 and 10 students wishing to study maths in Year 11 and 12 published

Consultation on exemption policy

Minimum standard rules and guidelines published

Online reading, writing and numeracy tests piloted

Schools Online and Students Online websites updated

2018

First Year 10 students sit online reading, writing and numeracy tests

2020

First HSC students required to meet minimum standard

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



From 2020, students need to demonstrate a minimum literacy and numeracy standard to be eligible for the HSC



There will be multiple opportunities to pass online reading, writing and numeracy tests before and after the HSC



Early identification and support for students most at risk of not achieving the minimum standard is available under the NSW Literacy and Numeracy Strategy



Students with Band 8 or above Year 9 NAPLAN results in reading, writing and numeracy will not need to sit the online tests. They will be deemed to have met the minimum standard early



Some students, including those studying Life Skills courses, will not need to meet the minimum standard to be awarded the HSC

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THE SAFE SERIES

Maria Kaivananga

Everyday parents and carers face the challenges of keeping their children safe... and safe can mean anything from cyber safety monitoring, to physical safety in all its forms, with everything else in between. Most of the time, safe children are usually defined by rules and laws that are made to protect them, and parents and carers are the ones who implement this effectively... but how do we know what information we need and how to use it?

Promoting the interests and rights of children is the Office of the Children's Guardian, an independent government agency that works to protect children by regulating quality, child safe organisations and services. One of their most recent innovative and exciting initiatives they've introduced is their SAFE Book Series, a resource that child safe organisations can now access free of charge. The Safe series is a set of four books for children under six and is based around the characters Sam, Andy, Fiona, and Steve (link) <http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/news-training-and-events/safe-series>

In the culminating hype of buzzing photographers and journalists with the presence of dignitaries Family and Community Minister the Hon. Brad Hazard, the Mayor of Burwood Councillor John Faker, the NSW Children's Guardian Kerry

Boland and the Royal Commission, the launch of the books and the characters fundamental to the message of the SAFE series, was warmly welcomed by them and their constituents in October.

Hosted by Mia Freedman, Co-founder of Australia's largest independent website 'Mamamia', her statement of "children's feelings of being powerless and voiceless as a result of abuse or neglect" resonated with many representatives present. Councillor John Faker added that in a society of rich diversity, how do we communicate effectively to our communities to help our children identify "what's wrong and what's right" when confronted with all forms of abuse. He concluded strongly with "If we can save one child, we've made a change".

So what does that all mean for us as parents? We think we may live in a day and age where our children are all bubble wrapped with so many legalities, however we can absolutely be rest assured that the support of government and non government organisations putting in place plans that strengthen all forms of safety for our children is enough for us to calm our worries and join in and take part in the Children's Week celebrations that happen every year. To learn more go to: <http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations/safe-series>



Mia Freedman, host of the launch



Interior of Eve



Cover of Fiona



Amazing cupcakes



The Hon. Brad Hazard, Mia Freedman, Kerry Boland, Jodi McKay MP - Member for Strathfield, John Faker and James Hackett, founder of Hackett Films who produced the books.

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MERIT SELECTION

QMI: Merit Selection Panels

WHAT ARE MERIT SELECTION PANELS?

Merit selection panels are formed for the process of employing advertised classroom teachers, principals, and executive positions. Their role is to recommend the most suitable applicant to fill a vacant position based on the extent to which they meet the criteria for the position. All panel members participate in writing the advertisement for the vacant position, including the selection criteria, developing a shortlist of applicants to interview based on comments from two applicant referees and the interview. After the interviews, the panel submits its recommendations to Teacher Recruitment for approval.

Note: The reference checks are the only part of the process the parent representative does not have to participate in.

DOES A P&C REPRESENTATIVE NEED TO BE ON A MERIT SELECTION PANEL?

Merit selection panels should include a parent representative, elected by the P&C Association. The principal or Director for Public Schools New South Wales will ask the P&C Associations, to nominate a parent representative within 10 working days. If there is a school council, the president of the school council should endorse the nominated representative.

HOW DO WE NOMINATE A MERIT SELECTION PANEL REPRESENTATIVE?

The parent representative can be nominated at any P&C Association meeting by a majority vote of financial members, following the rules and procedures of your P&C Association.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A MERIT SELECTION REPRESENTATIVE IS REQUESTED BEFORE OUR NEXT GENERAL MEETING?

The Department of Education policy provides for 10 days' notice when requesting a parent representative, this allows for a special meeting to be called, 7 days' notice must be given to all financial members, as per all constitutions on special meetings, and the business for which the meeting is being held must be in the notice.

IS PROXY VOTING ALLOWED?

No. There is no enabler in the Standard or Prescribed constitution for proxy voting - voting can only be in person at the meeting.

CAN OFFICE BEARERS MAKE A DECISION REGARDING A REPRESENTATIVE?

It is not advised or recommended as best practise as sufficient notice is given to call a special meeting, if for some reason this was to happen this would then need to be ratified at the next general meeting.

DOES THE PARENT REPRESENTATIVE WE NOMINATE NEED TO BE A FINANCIAL MEMBER OF THE P&C?

The parent representative chosen should normally be a financial member of the P&C Association whose views represent that of the P&C Association. Nonetheless, P&C Associations are ultimately free to nominate whomever they consider appropriate for the role however in doing so the P&C Association must be aware that the representative may not hold the same views as the P&C Association.

IS ANY TRAINING NECESSARY FOR PANEL MEMBERS?

Yes. All panel members must be trained in the selection procedures; the training package is available online at: <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/careers-centre/e-learning>. It is the Principal or Director Public School New South Wales responsibility to organise training for any untrained panel member.

Note: A person selected as the parent representative does not require to be trained prior to their selection.

WHAT IF THERE IS NO PARENT ORGANISATION AT THE SCHOOL?

Where if there is no school parent organisation, the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales are to be contacted and given the option to nominate a representative.

Would you like more information on merit selection panels?

Further rules and functions of merit selection panels are laid out in the Merit Selection Procedure, found at: http://www.teach.nsw.edu.au/documents/sel_panelproc2.pdf

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