



**Creative and  
Connected During  
COVID** Page 17

**NSW P&C Volunteer  
of the Year 2020**  
Page 8

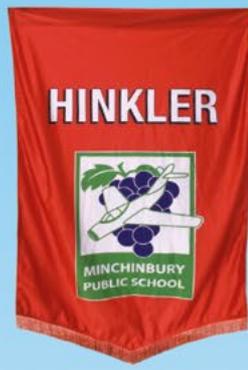
**P&C Federation  
Elections**  
Page 10

**Your P&C  
Association Year**  
Page 12

# PARENT & CITIZEN

# SPECIALISING IN ALL SCHOOL BANNERS

## CLASSIC HANGING BANNER



**PARENT & CITIZEN JOURNAL SPECIAL**

**FREE DELIVERY  
+ FREE DESIGN SERVICE**

PLEASE QUOTE "FREE DELIVERY P&C"

"Thank you and we are very happy with the final product. All flags and banners are on display and look fantastic." - Freshwater Bay PS

## MARCHING



## WINDFREE



## OUTDOOR

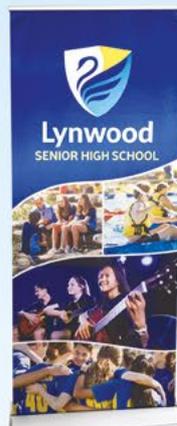


"The banners arrived on Tuesday they are ABSOLUTELY AWESOME, we are so ecstatic with them!" - St Dominic's Catholic PS

## TABLECLOTHS



## RETRACTABLES



## LECTERN / MUSIC



"Thank you for the banners and the table runner - they are amazing and have exceeded expectation. The Principal really likes them, as do the band students and conductor which is most important." - Earlwood PS

[www.schoolbanners.com.au](http://www.schoolbanners.com.au)

Email today for a quote

[info@schoolbanners.com.au](mailto:info@schoolbanners.com.au)

Proudly supplying Australian schools for over 30 years





16



21

### Parent & Citizen Journal

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

**T:** 1300 885 982

**F:** 1800 655 866

**E:** [journal@pandc.org.au](mailto:journal@pandc.org.au)

**W:** [www.pandc.org.au](http://www.pandc.org.au)

### Share your story with us

The Parent & Citizen Journal is published once a term and is a great way to showcase what your P&C Association and school community is up to. If your school, students or P&C Association is doing something special this year, share your story and photos with us and fellow school communities.

### Article and advertising submission dates

**Term 2 2021:** 22/02/2021

**Term 3 2021:** 17/05/2021

**Term 4 2021:** 09/08/2021

**Term 1 2022:** 15/11/2021

For the 2021 Advertising Pack and publication dates, visit [www.pandc.org.au/journals/](http://www.pandc.org.au/journals/)

### Contributions and feedback to:

**E:** [journal@pandc.org.au](mailto:journal@pandc.org.au)

### Advertising

**E:** [journal@pandc.org.au](mailto:journal@pandc.org.au)

**T:** 1300 885 982

### Follow us on

 Facebook: @NSWPandCFed

 Twitter: @NSWPandCFed

 Instagram: @pandcnsw

 LinkedIn: Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales

The views expressed in the journal are not necessarily those of the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales

# CONTENTS

President's Message	4
Secretary NSW Department of Education – Mark Scott	5
CEO NSW Education Standards Authority – Paul Martin	6
P&C Volunteer of the Year 2020 Finalists	8
Newly Incorporated P&C Associations	9
P&C Federation 2021 Election of Councillors and Delegates	10
Dr Saba Nabi Profile	11
Planning Your P&C Association Year	12
Online Safety	13
P&C Federation Advocacy in 2020	14
Reading Challenge	16
Arts Unit	17
School Spectacular Reimagined	18
Sports Unit	20
Levelling the Playing Field	21

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By **Tim Spencer** P&C Federation President

**W**elcome to Term 1 and, after a turbulent 2020, I am hopeful that 2021 will be a year of recovery.

The COVID-19 crisis caused many P&C Associations to struggle in the past year due to difficulties in holding their meetings, running uniform shops, canteens and band programs, as well as the nearly impossible task of holding fundraising events. This has dealt a significant blow to the revenue of many P&C Associations, which prompted P&C Federation to offer a membership fee relief program. We hope that this has provided space for those Associations to be able to continue to operate so that they can recuperate their losses and continue supporting their school.

The COVID-19 crisis also prevented the scheduled 2020 elections of P&C Federation Councillors and Delegates. These elections will instead occur this year (see p10 for details) and are an opportunity for members to take an active role at State level. If you have a child in a public school, are a member of your school's P&C Association and would like to be an advocate of public education in NSW, then I strongly encourage you to run for a position as a Councillor or Delegate. The election process begins in February and ends in July, and you are welcome to contact the P&C Federation office if you would like more information on what the roles involve.

On 26 February, we will host the annual Awards Dinner for the NSW P&C Volunteer of the Year to recognise those who go above and

beyond in their volunteering. All nominees were shortlisted by a panel of independent judges (see article on p8), and the winner will be announced at the Awards Dinner. With 2020 testing the resilience and adaptability of P&C volunteers like few other years, we are especially eager to hear about the work and experiences of the nominees.

Several new Department of Education policies are coming into effect, most notably a new Code of Conduct and a new student behaviour strategy. P&C Federation has spent significant time giving feedback on these policies, and in the instances where we raised concerns, we found the Department generally took our concerns seriously. These policies have many implications for students and parents, and P&C Federation will closely monitor how these policies are implemented, to ensure they are appropriately serving school communities. (The article on p14 further highlights the advocacy work of P&C Federation during 2020).

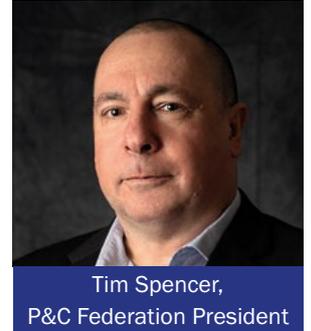
P&C Federation's Constitution Committee is continuing to review the constitutions of P&C Associations in order to streamline and modernise these documents to make them more fit for purpose and, among other things, satisfy all of the requirements for a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). We have consulted key stakeholders about how best to do this, including school principal associations and of course P&C Associations themselves. This work is complex and intricate, and we

are cognisant that what we end up with could affect how P&C Associations operate for decades to come. We are preparing and will release an Issues Paper discussing various issues and possible directions for reform, and will seek further comment by P&C Associations and other interested parties. P&C Federation will notify all P&C Associations once this Issues Paper is available. I am hopeful that before the end of this year we will be able to present revised constitutions to the Minister for Education for approval.

Term 1 is the time that most P&C Associations will have their annual general meetings, so ensure that you have your P&C Association's audited reports ready to table (see article p12). I strongly encourage you to review the P&C Federation website for resources on what to do in preparation for your annual general meeting (<https://bit.ly/2MCEcfs>) and to contact the P&C Federation office if you need anything clarified.

Finally, Wednesday 3 March will mark P&C Day, and I wish P&C Associations all the best in however they choose to mark the occasion.

I wish everyone a safe and happy start to 2021.



Tim Spencer,  
P&C Federation President

## P&C DAY 2021 – TOWN HALL (ONLINE) EVENT

This year to celebrate P&C Day on Wednesday 3 March, P&C Federation will hold a Town Hall (Online) event at 7pm.

This event is open to parents, carers and P&C Association members and will provide an interactive forum to discuss, with a panel of speakers from the public education sector and school community representatives, topics and issues relating to volunteering in

the school community and the role of P&C Associations in the future.

Given that this year is the 99th anniversary of P&C Federation's founding in 1922, this will be an opportune time to mark the occasion.

To attend the online Town Hall event, visit the P&C Federation website or call the office on 1300 885 982 or [mail@pandc.org.au](mailto:mail@pandc.org.au) to register.

**P&C DAY: A TIME TO CELEBRATE** P&C Associations will have the opportunity this term to mark P&C Day, on Wednesday 3 March. The value of the volunteer work that P&C members contribute to support public school communities is immense, and P&C Day is a time to celebrate the work of P&C Associations across NSW and their partnerships with their schools.

# CRISIS FAST-TRACKS TRANSFORMATION

By Mark Scott

In years to come, we may look back at 2020 as the moment the 21st Century truly began. The COVID-19 pandemic has been an accelerator of change in every industry, everywhere. And that includes us in Education.

The situation moved quickly, and we adapted and responded with tremendous speed, to ensure our students could continue learning. Now we have an enormous opportunity to use our learnings to fast-track transformation for the better. Keeping up the momentum, we are working at speed to create a system that will empower our young people to not only stay on top of a changing world, but to help shape it.

One of the most important ways we are doing this is by harnessing the vast possibilities of digital innovation. Online engagement and technological ingenuity kept us connected at a time when COVID-19 forced us apart. It is clearer than ever just how important it is to have the digital infrastructure and associated skills for a modern, flexible society.

Digital access is a driver of equity. Our goal in Education is that every student is known, valued and cared for, and we are committed to creating a system that reduces the impact of all forms of disadvantage. This is why we are rolling out high-speed internet to all NSW mainland schools three years earlier than our

original aim of 2025. Our \$328 million deal with Telstra will provide 15 times our current internet bandwidth, and all rural and remote schools with poor quality satellite connections will be upgraded. Digital equity, immersive learning opportunities and enhanced professional development are some of the outcomes teachers and students can look forward to as the upgrade is rolled out.

Meanwhile, the Government's investment of \$366 million is targeted at improvements to digital capabilities in all rural and remote schools across devices, learning spaces, teaching and administration tools and platforms.

Of course, no device can replace a teacher. The personal relationship between a student and their teacher is critical to learning and wellbeing. After the disruption of COVID-19, we need to give a face-to-face learning boost to those students who require extra support. While many showed enormous resilience while learning from home, we know that some students suffered from a lack of engagement and have not had the academic outcomes we would want for them this year.

Our COVID Learning Support Program will deliver more than \$300 million to NSW public schools in the 2021 school year. This will



Mark Scott, Secretary  
NSW Department of Education

fund the delivery of additional tuition to the students who need it most.

We are also strengthening the ranks of our teachers. While the pandemic has brought uncertainty to much of the economy, the teaching profession remains strong.

We have an opportunity now to attract skilled people at different career stages into Education. This is why we are currently developing a brand new model focused on attracting the best and brightest from other professions into the teaching profession. With a \$400,000 investment, the model is being jointly developed by the NSW Government and Teach for Australia, drawing on their experience in attracting mid-career and high-achieving professionals into teaching. It is part of our reforms to ensure the highest standards for teachers in NSW.

Though last year was challenging, it was also an opportunity to innovate and embed transformative change. One of the Department's key goals is that every student, every teacher, every leader and every school improves every year. Reflecting on the lessons learned during this time will help us to achieve that goal, ensuring every student has access to the same lifelong opportunities as their peers.

**Mark Scott**  
Secretary NSW Department of Education



Digital access is a driver of equity

# NESA NEWS

By Paul Martin



**W**elcome back to a new term and the start of the 2021 school year!

From raging bushfires, the worst in living memory for this state, to widespread flooding and into a global pandemic, what a year 2020 was. Our collective appreciation must go to the teachers of this state, parents, carers and, of course, students who have demonstrated to all of us the meaning of dedication and resilience.

Last year was one our students – and certainly their parents and carers – will remember for many years to come. From bushfires affecting many regions and some students entering an unrecognisable school environment earlier last year, to COVID-19 forcing schools into remote learning with the associated challenges it brought, it was a tough one.

Despite the challenges, 2020 has given us some great gifts. We've seen the resilience of our children in the face of mountains of change, and the flexibility of schools and

teachers as they adapted quickly to new ways of operating. Families were given the opportunity to discover the merits of a slower pace and appreciate the small things as they spent more time together.

I am so proud of all NSW students, from Kindergarten to Year 12, for emerging out of 2020 with such positivity and optimism, despite the pandemic's ongoing restrictions on our lives.

Thank you to all parents who supported their children through such a demanding period – in particular, those who helped HSC students get through the year and stay safe, happy and healthy.

Challenges like those faced by schools last year turn our students' achievements in 2020 into even greater triumphs. One of those achievements was the response to our annual writing competition. 'WriteOn' is open to all NSW primary students in Years 1 to 6, including students schooled at home.

In 2020 the competition was fierce, with over 380 entries from across NSW. The work of these young students evoked genuine joy, reflectiveness and laughter from the judges tasked with the difficult job of awarding the honours.

I'd like to say a huge congratulations to all students who took part, but especially the four students from Years 1 and 2, five from Years 3 and 4, and six from Years 5 and 6 receiving WriteOn's highest accolade, the Gold Award. You'll be able to read all 15 Gold Award recipients' entries, alongside the works of the 26 other students who received Silver and Bronze Awards, in *The Best of WriteOn 2020* (available in the NESA Shop at <https://bit.ly/WriteOn-2020>). Although we were unable to accommodate a face-to-face presentation ceremony last year, the winning students were commended by NSW Education Minister Sarah Mitchell in a video message (<https://bit.ly/Ministers-message>).

Looking forward to this new school year, we now have a fresh start and although we



Paul Martin, CEO  
NSW Education Standards Authority

aren't fully back to normal, we are ready to adapt to and excel in our new normal. We at NESA, alongside all government, Catholic and independent schools, are prepared for any new challenges that may come our way in 2021.

I am confident that our students, and you, their parents and carers, will respond as admirably to the new school year as you have to the demands and vagaries of 2020.

Certainly, if there is one thing that has emerged from last year it is the understanding of the need for ongoing mental health support for our young people. It is so pleasing to note that in 2021 it will become compulsory for teachers to complete regular training in student mental health.

Finally, for now, this year will also see NESA continuing to address the recommendations of the NSW Curriculum Review (<https://bit.ly/NSW-curriculum-review>) to streamline and strengthen what is taught in schools. Our reforms will be finalised by 2024, with one of our main priorities being the new English and Mathematics syllabuses for Kindergarten to Year 2, which will be in place by 2022.

What an exciting time of change and renewal and I want to thank everyone who contributed feedback on the Curriculum Review, which will now be known as the Curriculum Reform.

All the best for the year ahead.

**Paul Martin**

Chief Executive Officer, NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA)



Daphne Hutchison from Bowral Public School, pictured with Principal Gary Graham, was one of 15 NSW students to receive a Gold Certificate in the WriteOn competition in 2020.  
Photo: NSW Education Standards Authority



- Fitness Circuits
- Playgrounds
- School Seating
- Shade Structures
- Tiered Seating
- Safety Surfacing
- COLAS
- Picnic Tables
- Covered Walkways



**PH 02 9725 5604**

[www.parkequip.com.au](http://www.parkequip.com.au)

**NSW Agent for Steel, Post & Rail**

Unit 2, 19 Tarlington Place  
Smithfield NSW 2164  
[info@parkequip.com.au](mailto:info@parkequip.com.au)



**PARKEQUIP**  
*park & play solutions*





# NSW P&C VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2020 FINALISTS

**P**&C Federation is pleased to reveal the 16 finalists chosen for the NSW P&C Volunteer of the Year 2020 Award (see list at right). The winner will be announced at the annual Awards Dinner in Sydney on Friday 26 February 2021.

By the closing date in December 2020, P&C Federation had received nominations from P&C Associations in all 16 electorates across NSW. These were assessed and the finalists chosen by a panel of independent judges, based on scores for: demonstrated benefit to the school and local community; evidence of initiative and commitment; leadership and capacity building; length of service and hours volunteered by the nominee; explanation of what is outstanding about the nominee; and obstacles overcome to achieve the outcomes of their work.

P&C Federation thanks all those P&C Associations who submitted nominations. It was inspiring to receive so many, especially in a pandemic year when volunteer work in schools became an extraordinary challenge.

P&C Association volunteers work tirelessly in schools making an enormous difference, and this annual Award is an opportunity for P&C Federation to recognise their outstanding contributions.

The Awards Dinner on 26 February will be held at L'Aqua's Gold Room, Cockle Bay Wharf, Sydney. If the in-person event is unable to go ahead due to COVID-19 restrictions, P&C Federation will host a virtual Awards Dinner to enable all our members to participate, no matter where they live in NSW.

FINALIST	SCHOOL	ELECTORATE
Leeca Lennon	Tacoma Public School	Central Coast
Raewyn Molloy	Forbes High School	Far West
Tracey Lowrey	Dungog Public School	Hunter
Shari Cooper	Newbridge Heights Public School	Macarthur
Connie Button	Tacking Point Public School	Mid North Coast
Tara Jeans	Muswellbrook South Public School	New England
Isabel Borrelli	Ocean Shores Public School	North Coast
Christine Phillips	Eastwood Heights Public School	North Sydney
Gloria Hill	North Kellyville Public School	North West Sydney
Shannon Gardiner	Koorringal Public School	Riverina
Ross Mannell	Merimbula Public School	South Coast
Marti Parolin	Prairiewood High School	South West Sydney
Renee Woodberry	Goulburn High School	Southern and Central Tablelands
Janette Allarydce-Walker	Lugarno Public School	Southern Sydney
Belinda Davey	Darlington Public School	Sydney
Mia Dacey	Windsor High School	West Sydney

*The Parent & Citizen* Term 2 Journal will feature full coverage of the event.

The NSW P&C Volunteer of the Year 2020 Award and Awards Dinner is sponsored by CommBank (primary sponsor) and supported by Andrews Insurance and School Banners.

## Financial Wellbeing.



# CONGRATULATIONS NEWLY INCORPORATED P&C ASSOCIATIONS OF 2020



We encourage all P&C Associations to become incorporated, as an incorporated body can apply for government grants, own assets and borrow money from financial institutions. Also, if a P&C Association is incorporated, any debt or liability of the P&C Association will typically be held against the P&C itself, rather than individual office bearers. If your P&C Association is not currently incorporated, or you're unsure, contact P&C Federation on 1300 885 982 or email at [mail@pandc.org.au](mailto:mail@pandc.org.au)

P&C Associations incorporated in 2020	P&C Federation Electorate
Bardwell Park Infants School	South West Sydney
Beresford Road Public School	South West Sydney
Blackville Public School	New England
Coolah Central School	New England
Frederickton Public School	Mid North Coast
Gilgai Public School	New England
Gilgandra Public School	Far West
Granville East Public School	South West Sydney
Gravesend Public School	New England
Griffith North Public School	Riverina
Helensburgh Public School	South Coast
Highlands School	Macarthur
Jerrys Plains Public School	Hunter
Kings Langley Public School	North West Sydney
Kingsgrove North High School	South West Sydney
Kirkton Public School	Hunter
Leonay Public School	West Sydney
Luddenham Public School	Macarthur
Martindale Public School	New England
Miranda North Public School	Southern Sydney
Morisset Public School	Hunter
Murray High School	Riverina
Murrumbidgee Regional High School	Riverina
Newport Public School	North Sydney
Northern Beaches Secondary College Cromer Campus	North Sydney
Pelican Flat Public School	Hunter
Ropes Crossing Public School	West Sydney
Smalls Road Public School	North Sydney
Strathfield North Public School	Sydney
Tharawal Public School	Southern Sydney
The Jannali High School	Southern Sydney
Unanderra Public School	South Coast
Warwick Farm Public School	South West Sydney
Werrington Public School	West Sydney
Wongarbon Public School	Far West

## DO YOU HAVE A STORY YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?

Does your P&C Association have a story to tell? If so, we'd love to hear from you.

Perhaps your P&C Association held a successful fundraising venture in 2020, has big plans for 2021, or a good news story or photo you'd like to share highlighting how your Association survived and thrived despite the challenges of 2020?

Email your articles, photos or story ideas to the *Parent & Citizen Journal* team at [journal@pandc.org.au](mailto:journal@pandc.org.au). We're happy to help you throughout the writing process, so feel free to send us a rough draft for our suggestions and edits.

### Article submission deadlines for the *Parent & Citizen Journal* in 2021 are:

- Term 2 April edition: 22/02/2021, published 19/04/2021.
- Term 3 July edition: 17/05/2021, published 12/07/2021.
- Term 4 October edition: 09/08/2021, published 05/10/2021.
- Term 1 February 2022 edition: 15/11/2021, published 31/01/2022.

Keep up to date with P&C Federation news, events and resources via our website ([www.pandc.org.au](http://www.pandc.org.au)), social media channels ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#)) and e-bulletin ([www.pandc.org.au/edm/](http://www.pandc.org.au/edm/))

# P&C FEDERATION 2021 ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS AND DELEGATES

**2**021 is an election year for Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales (P&C Federation).

Positions for election are one Councillor and two Delegates to be elected from each of the 16 P&C Federation electorates. The elected Councillors form the Board. The 32 Delegates elected will attend and participate in the P&C Federation Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The election process will be conducted by NSW Electoral Commission and is an opportunity for P&C Associations to choose their representatives at P&C Federation.

P&C Associations need to ensure they are financial members of P&C Federation.

Financial member P&C Associations will also need to provide details of the voting delegate to P&C Federation. The details needed are their name, telephone number and email address. This person would be the P&C Association President (or the Secretary or another member nominated by the P&C Association if the President will be a candidate in the election). For more information, please visit: <https://www.pandc.org.au/pc-federation-elections-2021/>

## 2021 Election of Councillors and Delegates

KEY DATES	TIME	SCHEDULE
Friday 19 February		Close of roll of affiliated P&C Associations
Wednesday 10 March	12:00 noon	Close of voting delegates roll
Thursday 11 March		Open nominations
Tuesday 27 April	12:00 noon	Close nominations
Thursday 6 May		Post voting material
Thursday 15 July	12:00 noon	Close of poll

## THE ELECTION PROCESS WHERE A VOTE IS REQUIRED

### BALLOT PAPERS

Voting material, including ballot papers for the P&C Federation election, will be mailed to the schools of eligible P&C Associations. Note that the voting material will be addressed to your P&C President by name (or the Secretary or another member nominated by the P&C Association if the President will be a candidate in the election), at the school address.

### HOW THE BALLOT WORKS – FIRST-PAST-THE-POST

The method of voting for the election of Councillor (one person to be elected in each electorate) and Delegates (two to be elected in each electorate) to participate in P&C Federation AGM is first-past-the-post, i.e., the candidate(s) with the most votes is elected.

For electing a Councillor, the process is straightforward: on the Councillor ballot paper you write a '1' against the candidate your P&C Association wants to vote for. As preferential voting is not being used, do not write '2' and '3' against the other candidates for Councillor.

For electing the two Delegates, on the Delegate ballot write the numbers '1' and '2' your P&C Association most wants to vote for. However, in some cases, while only two Delegates are being elected, on a first-past-the-post basis, it is possible that one of the candidates you vote for will have been eliminated from the ballot for Delegates because they have already been elected as Councillor. On those ballot papers, the instructions will be to place a number 3 next to a 3rd candidate.

### HOW DOES YOUR P&C DETERMINE ITS VOTE – BY HOLDING A VOTE AT ONE OF YOUR P&C MEETINGS

P&C Federation has specified that your P&C Association determines how it votes by holding a vote at a meeting of your P&C Association. Exactly how you conduct a vote is up to your P&C Association, except that:

- The voting should follow any applicable rules of your P&C Association's by-laws or past practices; and
- The vote is to be conducted by your school's Principal, or their delegate; and
- The only people who can vote are those who are up-to-date paid Parent/Carer or Community Members of your P&C Association.

Suggested Motion:

That the [school] P&C Association's vote in the 2021 P&C Federation election be for:

(a) the Councillor position: '1' for [name of candidate]

(b) the Delegate positions: '1' for [name of candidate], '2' for [name of candidate] and '3' for [name of candidate]

### PLAN WHICH P&C MEETING WILL CONSIDER YOUR P&C'S VOTING INTENTIONS

The completed ballot papers are to be posted back to the NSW Electoral Commission, taking into account that voting closes 12:00 noon, Thursday 15 July 2021.

### BRIEF YOUR PRINCIPAL – THEY HAVE TO CERTIFY YOUR P&C ASSOCIATION'S VOTE

The instructions on the ballot paper requires your Principal to certify that the vote of your P&C Association has been conducted in accordance with the rules and constitution of your P&C Association and the P&C Federation Constitution by printing and signing their name on one of the ballot envelopes provided. We suggest you ensure your Principal is aware of this requirement before the vote.

# SABA EMBODIES COMMUNITY SPIRIT

One of P&C Federation's valued Board members, Dr Saba Nabi (pictured) of the Riverina electorate, was a finalist for the 2020 NSW & ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards, run by Awards Australia.

These awards recognise and reward the positive achievements of regional and rural people from NSW and ACT. The awards are split into categories, and Saba was nominated for the Leadership Award.

Living in Wagga Wagga and working at Wagga Wagga Base Hospital, Saba is the embodiment of community spirit.

She arrived in Australia from India in 2011 with her husband and young daughter to finish her PhD in Biomedical Sciences, and began volunteering and attending community events as a way to meet new people and counter homesickness.

From there, her life of community service has taken off. In addition to P&C Federation, she volunteers her time for more than a dozen other organisations, and is currently (among other roles) a member of the Riverina Regional Advisory Council, of Multicultural NSW, a Board member of Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga, the AFL Multicultural Community Ambassador, and a Board member of the Riverina Cancer Care Centre.

She is also a member of multiple committees, including at the Murrumbidgee Local Health District, the Wagga Wagga City Council, the NSW Department of Education and the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA).

Saba has also achieved recognition as:

- The winner of the 2014 NSW International Student of the Year Awards in the Higher Education category.
- A finalist in the 2014 CROW Awards in the category 'Young Professional Award', organised by Wagga Business Chamber.
- A 2017 eChamp of the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters Council.
- A 2017 and 2020 finalist in the India & Australia Business and Community Achievement Awards.
- A 2017 and 2020 finalist in the NSW & ACT Regional Achievement & Community Awards.
- One of 100 women in the 2018 *Australian Financial Review's* Women of Influence.
- The 2019 winner of the Riverina Volunteer of the Year Award.
- Publicity Officer of Country Women's Association Wagga Day Branch.
- Inducted to the 2020 Hidden Treasures Honour Roll – an initiative of the Department of Primary Industries' Rural Women's Network to recognise the outstanding efforts of women volunteers in NSW and the valuable role of volunteering to the community.

P&C Federation is lucky to have someone on our Board with Saba's level of commitment to the Riverina community, and we look forward to a productive 2021 with her.



Dr Saba Nabi of the Riverina electorate

## STUDENT INJURY INSURANCE REMINDER

Did you know that the NSW Department of Education DOES NOT provide accident or medical cover for students enrolled in government schools?

We recommend your P&C Association discuss and consider purchasing Student Injury Insurance.

Contact the team at Andrews Insurance on 1300 885 982 and select option 1 or email [insurance@pandc.org.au](mailto:insurance@pandc.org.au)

[APPLICATION FORM](#)



ANDREWS

INSURANCE SERVICES TO BUSINESS



**DUE 1 FEBRUARY 2021  
RENEW OR APPLY NOW**

# PLANNING YOUR P&C ASSOCIATION YEAR

Each year, there are key events and responsibilities that P&C Associations must plan for. To help with your planning for 2021, here are some of the main things that all P&C Associations must consider:

## Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The date of the AGM is recorded in P&C Association bylaws. The AGM's main purposes are:

1. To acquit your P&C Association's funds and financial situation by tabling an auditor's report. The auditor's report covers the P&C Association's financial year and should be not more than three months old when presented at the AGM.
2. To elect members to roles. The elections are hosted by the Returning Officer (usually the Principal) who declares all positions vacant. If there is more than one nomination for a role, it goes to a secret ballot conducted by the Returning Officer.
3. To allow members to renew their membership and new people to become members. Please remember that if people who are not members pay their membership fee at the AGM, they will not become members until the close of the AGM when the member register is updated. Only those who are members at the time of the AGM can participate in voting and nominating.

If any roles are not filled at the AGM, they become casual vacancies and are to be placed on the agenda for all following general meetings where nominations are called for (as per Clause 6 in both the Standard and Prescribed Constitutions).

If your P&C Association is incorporated, you must send a copy of your auditor's report to P&C Federation within one month after the AGM.

We encourage you to review the AGM Checklist on P&C Federation's website at <https://bit.ly/2MCEcFS>

## Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC)

If your P&C Association is registered as a charity with the ACNC, there is an ongoing obligation to submit an Annual Information Statement each year. If your P&C Association is a medium or large charity, there is an additional requirement to also attach and

## KEY DATES FOR 2021

### February

**Student Injury Insurance Renewal due:** 1 February  
**NSW P&C Volunteer of the Year Awards Dinner:** 26 Feb  
**P&C Association AGMs:** refer to AGM Checklist at <https://bit.ly/2MCEcFS>

### March

**P&C Day:** 3 March  
**P&C Federation 2021 Elections nominations open:** 11 March  
**Harmony Week:** 15-21 March  
**National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence:** 19 March

### April

**Easter:** 2-5 April  
**Autumn school holidays:** 5-16 April  
**Term 2 for students begins:** 20 April  
**ANZAC Day:** 25 April  
**P&C Federation 2021 Elections nominations close:** 12:00 noon, 27 April

### May

**Mother's Day:** 9 May  
**NAPLAN paper test:** 11-13 May  
**Walk Safely to School Day:** 15 May  
**National Sorry Day:** 26 May

### June

**Term 2 for students ends:** 25 June  
**Winter school holidays:** 28 June – 9 July

### July

**NAIDOC Week:** 4-12 July  
**Term 3 for students begins:** 13 July  
**P&C Federation 2021 Elections close of poll:** 12:00 noon, 15 July  
**Opportunity Class Placement Test:** 21 July  
**Education Week:** 26-30 July

### August

**P&C Associations Membership and Insurance Renewals due:** 1 August  
**P&C Federation AGM:** 28 Aug  
**Book Week (The Children's**

**Book Council of Australia):** 21-27 August

### September

**Father's Day:** 5 September  
**Term 3 for students ends:** 17 September  
**Spring school holidays:** 20 September – 1 October

### October

**Term 4 begins:** 5 October  
**HSC written exams begin:** 12 October

### November

**HSC written exams end:** 4 November  
**Remembrance Day:** 11 November

**Schools Spectacular:** 19-20 November

### December

**HSC results released:** 10 December  
**Term 4 for students ends:** 16 December  
**Summer school holidays:** 20 December 2021 – 27 January 2022

submit your audit report. This is optional for P&C Associations that are small charities with an annual revenue under \$250,000. To meet your P&C Association's compliance obligations to the ACNC, reporting must be completed within six months of your AGM.

If your P&C Association does not fulfil these reporting obligations for two years in a row, the ACNC will cancel your P&C Association's charity status.

If your P&C Association has a change of Office Bearers, you will need to update the responsible persons listed with the ACNC within 60 days for small charities, and within 28 days for medium and large charities.

## Australian Business Number (ABN)

If the primary or authorised contact person attached to your P&C Association's ABN changes, the Australian Business Register must be notified within 28 days.

## Renewal of P&C Federation Membership

Membership with P&C Federation includes \$50 million in public liability insurance, and is due on 1 August every year.

## Setting a budget

When planning your P&C Association year,

P&C Federation suggests a budget be developed. This should include things such as: your P&C Association's membership renewal; insurance renewal; any operational costs associated with any business enterprises, such as a canteen or uniform shop etc, as well as any events that your P&C Association intends to hold throughout the year. The budget would also include key purchases, maintenance provisions and projected expenses.

This budget must be adopted by the members at a properly constituted meeting.

Setting a detailed and accurate budget allows for easier long-term planning, and will help identify any financial difficulties that may arise. It also allows P&C Associations to operate more efficiently, as expenditure that falls within the budget does not have to go to a P&C Association meeting each time for approval. The only expenditure that must still go back to a P&C Association meeting for approval is expenditure that falls outside the approved budget.

For more information, the Financial Management and Control Manual can be accessed through the Members Portal on P&C Federation website at <https://www.pandc.org.au/member-links/>

## COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP GRANT SUCCESS

More than 150 P&C Association school infrastructure projects have received funding in the NSW Government's Community Building Partnership (CBP) program in 2020.

The successful applications, announced in late November 2020, include 171 P&C Association projects receiving almost \$154,000 in total. The grants range from \$80,000 for a school library upgrade to \$4215 for water bottle fill stations.

Other P&C Association projects funded in the 2020 round include upgrades to play equipment, creating nature playgrounds and sensory gardens, outdoor classrooms, stage lighting, a toilet block ramp, installation of solar systems, canteen upgrades and sports field refurbishments. All CBP 2020 projects must be completed by 31 March 2022.

Dates for the CBP 2021 funding round were not available at the time of going to press, but you can visit the CBP website ([www.nsw.gov.au/cbp](http://www.nsw.gov.au/cbp)) to sign up for alerts to find out when applications open for 2021. (In 2020, applications opened early May and closed mid-June).

More than \$334 million has been awarded to over 15,000 projects through the CBP program since 2009. Incorporated not-for-profit community organisations, such as P&Cs, and local councils are eligible to apply for grants of between \$2500 and \$300,000. As a guide, the average grant awarded is around \$20,000.

Visit [www.nsw.gov.au/cbp](http://www.nsw.gov.au/cbp) to view the full list of community projects that received grant funding in 2020 and read the program guidelines.

P&C applicants must be incorporated to be eligible for CBP funding. To determine or apply for incorporation status, P&C members can contact P&C Federation's Member Services on 1300 885 982 or email at [memberservices@pandc.org.au](mailto:memberservices@pandc.org.au)

## HUB FOR INCLUSIVE LEARNING SUPPORT

The NSW Department of Education (DoE) has launched a new online hub to support parents, families and carers of children with additional learning and support needs or disability. Inclusive Learning Support ([www.education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/inclusive-learning-support](http://www.education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/inclusive-learning-support)) is a one-stop resource to ensure parents and carers are able to easily find up-to-date information about the supports available and how to access them. The site will continue to be tested and improved to ensure it meets families' needs and we encourage you to share it with your school community and those who may have questions about how to access support. It includes a **pre-enrolment tool** to help families know when their child can start school and access information on enrolment; a **video** on what parents and carers can do; and **printable sheets** on key topics. The DoE's Disability Strategy team welcomes feedback from parents and carers on the hub, via email at: [disability.strategy@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:disability.strategy@det.nsw.edu.au)

## 'START THE CHAT' ABOUT ONLINE SAFETY

By Paul Tournas

To mark Safer Internet Day on 9 February 2021, eSafety\* has launched a range of new resources for children, young people, parents, carers and grandparents.

These highlight strategies for staying safe online, and raise awareness of the safe and positive use of digital technology and the role we can all play in creating a better and safer world online.

Coordinated by eSafety nationally, and celebrated in 130 countries, the theme for this year's Safer Internet Day was 'Start the Chat'. The new eSafety resources are designed to help you start the chat about online safety with your children and family.

To access these resources, visit [www.esafety.gov.au/sid](http://www.esafety.gov.au/sid), where you can:

- Sign up for a free parent webinar on 16, 17 and 22 March on *Cyberbullying and Online Drama* (see below for more details).
- Download or order a free copy of eSafety's new picture book about online safety for young children, called *Swoosh*,

*Glide and Rule Number 5.*

- Listen to eSafety's online safety song for young children – *My Family Rules*.
- Download or order a free copy of eSafety's new guide, *Online Safety For Grandparents and Carers*.

You can also visit eSafety's Parents' page ([www.esafety.gov.au/parents](http://www.esafety.gov.au/parents)) which provides support for parents and carers to help their children and families have safer experiences online, including skills, advice and tips on the *Hard-To-Have-Conversations*, plus *Online Safety For Under 5s*, and a *Guide To Online Bullying*.

### National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence

eSafety is hosting a number of free webinars, on the 16, 17 and 22 March, called *Cyberbullying and Online Drama*. The webinar will look at how parents and carers can support young people to have safe and respectful online relationships, and what to do if something goes wrong.

It will cover:

- Starting conversations with your child about their online friendships and positive ways to deal with changing relationships.
- Understanding the rights, laws and community expectations that govern social media use.
- Where to seek help if your child is involved in a cyberbullying incident.

The webinar will include case studies, research and targeted advice. To register for our webinars, visit [www.esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars](http://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars)

\*eSafety is the world's first government agency committed to keeping its citizens safer online. To learn more, visit [www.esafety.gov.au](http://www.esafety.gov.au)

**Paul Tournas**

Education Strategy Advisor  
eSafety Commissioner

# P&C FEDERATION ADVOCACY IN 2020

**P**&C Federation advocates for students across NSW in public education in various ways, such as councillors sitting on committees, lobbying Parliament, lodging inquiry submissions and building strong relationships with stakeholders. In 2020, P&C Federation made submissions to the following inquiries, which can be found on P&C Federation's website at [www.pandc.org.au/advocacy-1/](http://www.pandc.org.au/advocacy-1/):

**1. Inquiry into Reducing Trauma on Local Roads in NSW (February 2020):** P&C Federation's main recommendation is that for any traffic matter that impacts a school, the Local Traffic Committee overseeing the matter should include parent representatives from that school (see <https://bit.ly/3shYziR>).

**2. Education In Remote and Complex Environments (March 2020):** A Federal inquiry into improving education in non-metropolitan settings, P&C Federation's submission focused on improving the quality and accessibility of school technology, boosting the number of teachers, and improving preparation for life after school (see <https://bit.ly/3bvGVID>).

**3. NSW NAPLAN Review (March 2020):** While agreeing with the need for national assessments, P&C Federation believes NAPLAN is a disservice to students in numerous ways. Our submission to this review outlined the flaws of NAPLAN and our views of what a better standardised national assessment would look like (see <https://bit.ly/3qb3S1v>).

**4. Australian Education Amendment (Direct Measure of Income) Bill 2020 (March 2020):** This bill was to amend the ways in which the Federal Government funds non-government schools. Our submission noted that a major problem with education funding is the underfunding of government schools, which this bill left unaddressed (see <https://bit.ly/3bvHBYd>).

**5. Inquiry into COVID-19 (May 2020):** A Federal Government inquiry into the COVID-19 crisis, P&C Federation's recommendations were broadly similar to those made to the NSW inquiry outlined in item 6 below, but with more focus on matters specific to the



*P&C Federation has advocated for school parent representatives to be part of the Local Traffic Committee overseeing any traffic matters impacting their school*

Federal Government (such as the impact of JobKeeper on small businesses like P&C Associations) (see <https://bit.ly/38C0cOK>).

**6. Identifying Key Learnings from Responding to COVID-19 (July 2020):** A NSW Department of Education inquiry into its response to the COVID-19 crisis. P&C Federation's key recommendations were: for clearer and more consistent strategies and communication; to improve the adequacy of online learning; to improve consultation with and communication to P&C Associations; and for faster legislative changes to allow P&C Associations to operate during the crisis (see <https://bit.ly/2Kd3X5K>).

**7. Inquiry Into Review of the New South Wales School Curriculum (August 2020):** P&C Federation made a host of detailed suggestions on how to revamp the NSW Curriculum, including allowing more flexible timing for students to achieve outcomes so that they do not fall behind, removing overcrowding and duplication in the curriculum and requiring the curriculum to be regularly reviewed (see <https://bit.ly/2K5WuFm>).

**8. Feedback to the Draft Student Behaviour Strategy (October 2020):** This strategy reforms how student behavioural

issues are handled, with a particular focus on suspension and expulsion processes. Our feedback focused on the risks of making schools and teachers more responsible for behavioural or mental health issues of students without adequate support (see <https://bit.ly/2XZKp8d>).

**9. Revision of NSW Department of Education Code of Conduct (October 2020):** In the NSW Department of Education's review of its Code of Conduct, P&C Federation was consulted as a key stakeholder. Our feedback focused on protecting students by tightening the Code's rules on staff crossing professional boundaries with students, and on improving the Department's complaints process (see <https://bit.ly/3qfhVDr>).

**10. Review of the Education State Environmental Planning Policy (December 2020):** This policy contains most of the regulations for infrastructure development in schools, child-care centres, TAFEs and universities. Our submission focused on how this policy can be amended so that government schools can develop in a more timely, easy, and efficient way (see <https://bit.ly/3sGPrEJ>).



In its 24<sup>th</sup> year of trading, **Sun Shade Australia** is a leading supplier of **Sun Shade products** to the education and community sectors.

We at **Sun Shade**, enjoy an excellent reputation for our customer service, attention to detail and the exceptional quality of our products.

With changes and improvements to the shade cloth fabrics being made regularly, we can now offer **up to 99.7% UV protection**, an exciting range of colours to co-ordinate with your setting and importantly, the consistently high quality structural components for which **Sun Shade Australia** installations are recognised.

Each installation is structurally designed for the specific site by Northrop Consulting Engineers – one of Australia's leading engineering firms, offering reliability, safety and integrity in the consistency of our product.

Improve sun safety and the appeal of any playground by providing covered areas for learning and play with **Sun Shade Australia**.

Our team look forward to continuing to supply excellent Sun Shade solutions to the Australian community and welcome the opportunity to meet with you for an obligation-free consultation and shade assessment of your site.



t: 1300 784 481

e: [sales@sunshade.com.au](mailto:sales@sunshade.com.au)

w: [sunshade.com.au](http://sunshade.com.au)

# READING NO CHALLENGE FOR LEILA

Supplied by the NSW Department of Education

**W**hen NSW went into lockdown in early 2020, Leila Spataro's main concern was – would she have enough books?

Last year the Year 3 North Sydney Demonstration School student completed the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge, reading a staggering 440 books in six months, from February 2020.

The NSW Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and enables them to experience quality literature.

As part of the Challenge, Years 3-4 students are asked to read 20 books across six months, meaning Leila completed the feat 22 times.

Leila said the day before libraries closed, her family borrowed 98 books for her, using all the family library cards. During the lockdown she also read some of her mother's and grandparents' books, bought books online and borrowed books from a neighbour.

"My mother says if it wasn't for libraries, we would have no money, but we'd have ... books," said Leila.

Her ability to almost swallow books is helped by the fact she is a fast reader and doesn't get car sick.

**"I can feel that I'm  
a different person in  
another world and learn  
how to feel like them."**

**- Leila**

"I love to read in the car when we go out, otherwise I get bored. I do not get in the car on the weekend without a book," Leila said.

She counts Enid Blyton and Jacqueline Harvey among her favourite writers, but also loves to read anything by British adventurer Bear Grylls.

"I like to feel like I'm in the story," Leila said. "Some [books] are so dramatic, that I feel like



*Leila Spataro with her school's teacher librarian Elizabeth Williams, who helped extend her range of reading interests*

it's true. I can feel that I'm a different person in another world and learn how to feel like them.

"I learn about different things, especially in books like the Bear Grylls series where I can learn different ways to survive in different situations. I would like to meet Bear."

Leila's mother, Julie Lentle, said school librarians should be recognised for the work they did in encouraging children to read and extend themselves.

"Library day is always Leila's favourite day and previous years we would often find ourselves in the library together before school. You can see our library teachers enjoy their role and put a lot of effort into the children. This has definitely influenced Leila, as I'm sure it has many other children, and I am only grateful," she said.

Leila said she read for an hour each day from 7.30pm until 8.30pm "when my mother makes me turn the light off".

"We argue most nights [because] I always insist on finishing the chapter and don't want to stop in the story," Leila said, adding that she wakes at 6am to get another hour of

reading in before school.

Her habit is helped by the fact she doesn't have a device and doesn't watch TV.

"Reading is more interesting than playing on a device or watching TV. You learn different ways of doing things," she said. "In some books you can learn interesting skills for survival in unexpected situations."

Leila said her reading habits were instilled in her as a baby, when her Mum would read to her every night.

"I did not learn to read until Kindy. Mum and I would read together, then by Year 1 Mum stopped reading to me because I would finish the page before her," she said.

## **NSW Premier's Reading Challenge 2021**

**Challenge opens:** Monday 1 March 2021

**Challenge closes for students:** Friday 20 August 2021

**Challenge closes for coordinators:** Friday 3 September 2021

Details at: <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

# KEEPING STUDENTS CREATIVE AND CONNECTED DURING COVID

By John Benson

On the morning of Friday 13 March 2020, students all over NSW were eagerly preparing to attend The Arts Unit's Solo Vocal Camp or finalising plans for their trip to the City Recital Hall in Sydney's Angel Place to see Encore, the HSC music showcase. ARTEXPRESS was showing at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Art Centre and the Armory Gallery at Sydney Olympic Park. The Premier's Reading Challenge had just kicked off and students and teachers were busy preparing auditions for the 2020 Schools Spectacular.

That evening, everything changed. Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced a ban on mass gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and on 23 March, NSW parents were asked to keep their children home from school. The Arts Unit\* of the NSW Department of Education, along with the hundreds of thousands of students and teachers who annually engage with its programs, embarked on an extraordinary nine-month journey that started with uncertainty and ended with incredible adaptation and success.

The Arts Unit quickly responded to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially when students moved to learning from home, by creating targeted digital resources. The first set of resources, *Art Bites*, is a series of short video lessons, produced for students who were missing out on co-curricular arts activities at their schools. The second set, *Creative Classes*, provided an engaging and accessible suite of digital resources, in the form of mini-websites with high-quality stimulus content and independent activities, that could be delivered at home, and ultimately, in classrooms across NSW.

Since 2014, The Arts Unit has been accumulating digital assets, including videos of performances, workshops, masterclasses, competitions, exhibitions, rehearsals and author talks, and was therefore in a good position to draw on these assets and



A screen shot of The Arts Unit website, showing the digital resources created for students and teachers during 2020. Photo: The Arts Unit, NSW Department of Education and Training

repurpose them for the benefit of thousands of students and teachers across the state.

Many of these performances, competitions, exhibitions and author talks were included in the Unit's *Lunch Bites* series, released just as students were returning to school full-time. Originally these 20-minute compilations were designed to be used by students and teachers as an opportunity to simply sit back and enjoy the wonderful work of other students, however, they continue to be viewed every week and are regularly used as teaching resources.

During COVID-19 in 2020, The Arts Unit staff redeployed and developed skills in video editing, content writing, webpage building, caption proofing, scriptwriting, digital production and accessibility guidelines,

amongst others, and also engaged industry professionals, practising artists and authors and teachers from our schools to create and present content.

ARTEXPRESS, the annual showcase of exemplary works from the previous year's NSW HSC Visual Arts students, also went online at [www.artexpress.vr.artsunit.nsw.edu.au](http://www.artexpress.vr.artsunit.nsw.edu.au). While planning for this virtual exhibition had been underway since mid-2019, it was enhanced, and the opening date brought forward. The ARTEXPRESS Virtual Gallery has been so successful that, like many of the creative responses to COVID-19, it will definitely become part of the 'new normal'.

By the end of 2020, more than 110 Creative Classes had been published on The Arts Unit's Digital Engagement website (<https://digital.artsunit.nsw.edu.au>).

(continued next page)

Keeping Students Creative... from page 17

[artsunit.nsw.edu.au/the-arts-unit-home/creative-classes](https://artsunit.nsw.edu.au/the-arts-unit-home/creative-classes)). Just as with the 175 *Art Bites* and *Lunch Bites*, students and teachers are still engaging with Creative Classes, with thousands of page views every week. Since April 2020, the *Creative Classes* have had 106,000 views and our *Art Bites* have had 24,000 views.

Once students returned to school full-time, The Arts Unit turned its focus to teachers. The *Creative Teachers* suite of digital resources includes technical advice for staging, filming and recording or live streaming performances and events. These resources were particularly useful for teachers and schools as they grappled with the COVID-19 guidelines relating to presentation days, school formals and other events, where they would normally engage with their whole school community.

More than seven *Creative Teachers* resources had been published by the end of 2020, and there will be many more in 2021, including: practical tips on creating pieces for drama; how to start a dance group or a new choir; developing basic conducting skills; and commentaries on performances from previous State Drama Festivals that will provide an insight into bringing the creative process to the stage.

In 2021, everybody at The Arts Unit is keen to resume the programs that have engaged students and teachers for many years. We are all very proud of what we created in 2020, and the reach that it had across our state, and will endeavour to continue to expand that reach – both face-to-face and virtually.

### John Benson

Leader, The Arts Unit  
NSW Department of Education

\*The Arts Unit of the NSW Department of Education provides a state-wide infrastructure for arts education. It delivers programs in dance, drama, music, visual arts, debating, public speaking, reading, spelling and special events. More than 500,000 students and teachers engage in its programs annually.

# SCHOOLS SPECTACULAR REIMAGINED

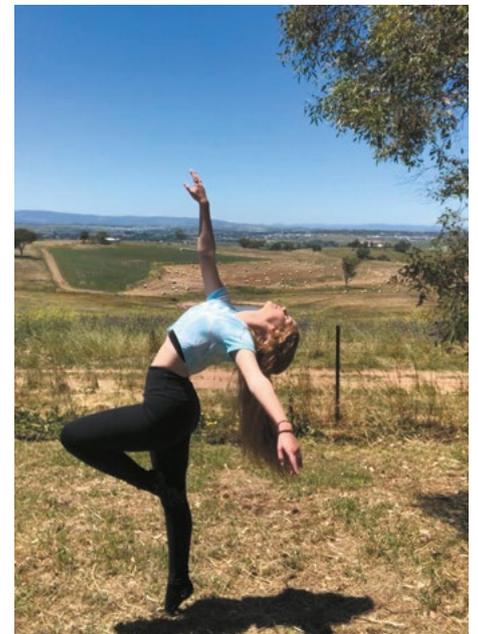
By Sonja Sjolander

**A**fter a stunning conclusion to 2019 with the highly successful and inspirational Schools Spectacular production *Stars*, the Spec team was geared up to create the 37th annual variety show in 2020 for NSW public schools. Applications were open, the search for new talent was on and the first show run was created. Then COVID-19 struck and the world shut down.

Quickly, it became apparent that 2020 was going to be a year of survival, not of celebration. Every effort was made to reconfigure the event but, with the focus firmly on people's wellbeing, on 24 March we announced that the 2020 Schools Spectacular was cancelled. Fear and uncertainty replaced hope and jubilation.

An overwhelming amount of support poured in. Expressions of condolence and resilience reassured us of the extraordinary value that the Spectacular holds in people's lives. It is unparalleled for the opportunities it offers and the community it creates. With nearly 40 years of history, the Spec is a flagship event that has showcased the talents of over 100,000 students. With a reputation for teamwork, inclusiveness and pioneering achievements, the Spec team had to find a way forward. But there were knockbacks at every turn with restrictions against large-scale events such as ours.

Engagement became purely digital. Days turned into weeks, weeks into months and suddenly the end of November, traditionally known as 'Spec week', loomed. What could we offer? How could we create a showcase platform and reignite hope? And then, the idea was there: it would be a Spec reimagined; a Spec of celebration. Not of the current climate but of the history and all that the name stood for. And so it was determined that the 2020 Schools Spectacular would be 'remixed'. Instead of live performances, *The Schools Spectacular 2020 Remixed* was created as a televised showcase of some of the greatest moments from the past four years of School Spec, and broadcast nationally on Channel 7 on Saturday 5 December.



Students recorded their performances for the Year 12 virtual item in locations ranging from backyards, parks and hay bales to driveways and lounge rooms.

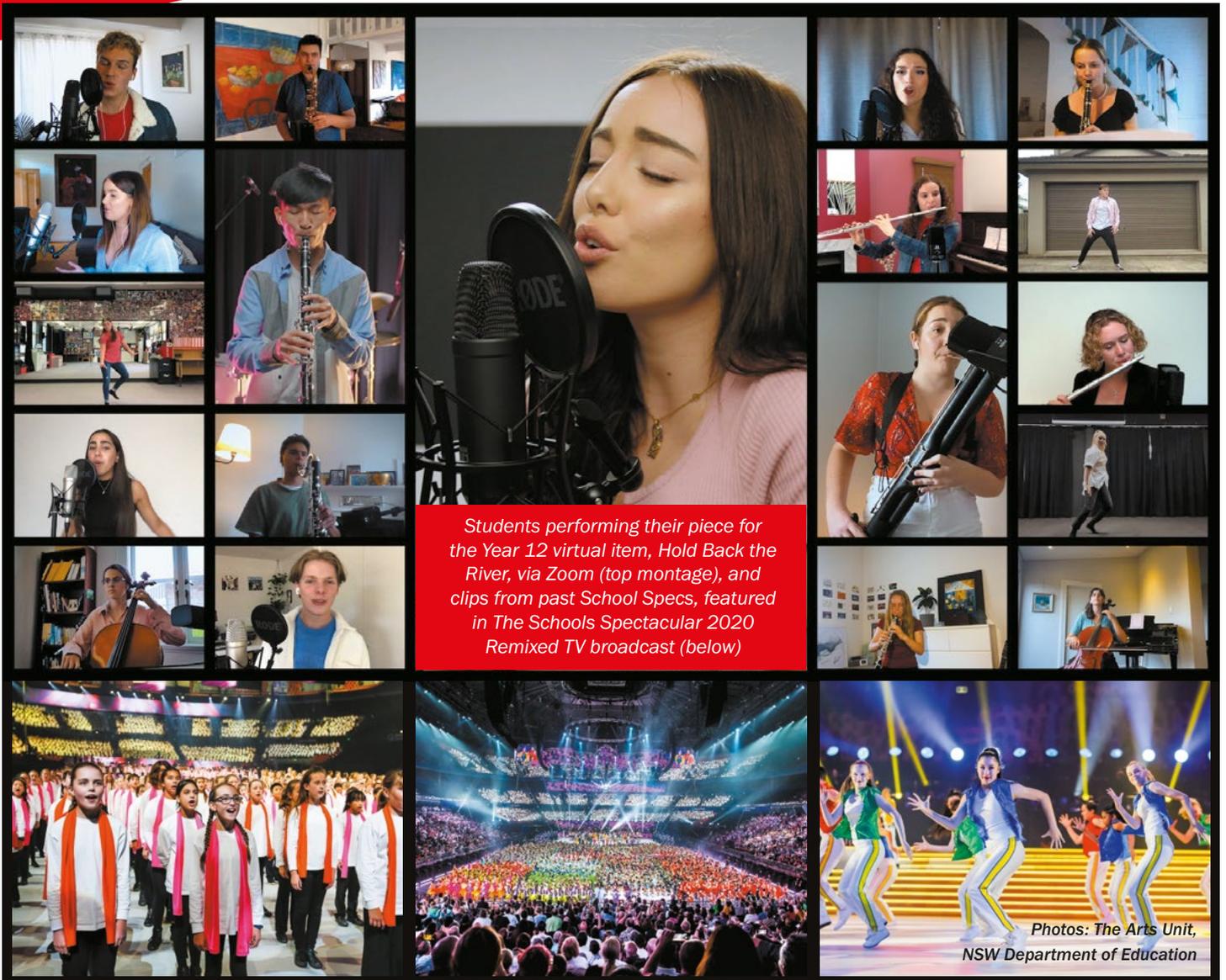
### Schools Spectacular 2020 Remixed

*Remixed* began with numbers from the 2016 show. *Dream Big* was the theme as we migrated to the new home of the Schools Spectacular, Qudos Bank Arena. After 32 years in the Sydney Entertainment Centre it was a big deal to expand the event from 3000 students to over 5000 and move the audience to Sydney Olympic Park. This was the show that set the new standard. We even achieved a Guinness World Record for the world's largest amateur variety show. Next came segments from the 2017 show, *Own The Moment*, followed by 2018's *The Greatest*, with stunning music from *The Greatest Showman*, and finally, 2019's *Stars*.

*The Schools Spectacular 2020 Remixed* can be viewed for free on 7plus <https://7plus.com.au/2020-nsw-schools-spectacular-remix>

### Year 12 virtual item

Our Year 12 students also featured in *Remixed*, with a specially produced virtual item. Whilst everyone felt the impact of



Students performing their piece for the Year 12 virtual item, *Hold Back the River*, via Zoom (top montage), and clips from past School Specs, featured in *The Schools Spectacular 2020 Remixed TV broadcast* (below)

Photos: The Arts Unit, NSW Department of Education

COVID during 2020, Year 12 students had their fair share of the battle. Not only were their studies in Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts affected, but they also lost the wellbeing benefits of connecting with like-minded peers and extending their skills and knowledge through state-level opportunities.

Through the Schools Spectacular we wanted to find a way to help them to the finish line and give them the accolade they deserved. The song *Hold Back the River*, by James Bay, was born purely out of overwhelming emotion and tells of the struggle to hold back the tears, fight the loneliness and push through with resilience and pride, knowing that others are by your side. This was our vehicle. The song was arranged and choreographed by our Spec tutors and parts were handed out to the students to practice independently.

With the generous support of sponsor RODE Microphones and working with producers Gravity Media, each student performed their piece for the Spec team via Zoom. Digital

recordings of the audio and visual components were captured from over 60 dedicated and talented artists from throughout NSW. The performances were electrifying, in locations ranging from backyards, parks, jetties, hay bales and driveways to lounge rooms, bedrooms, store rooms and studios.

An enormous editing process amalgamated these performances into one slick item that captured the essence of the song and each artist's journey. The energy and excitement of the musicians, singers, signers and dancers is palpable, and the item is a reflection of Spec itself, with excellence, diversity and inclusivity at its core.

As well as being featured in the *Remixed* broadcast, the Year 12 item went viral on social media after its release, and is available to watch at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=5u8Gr9UZ0L4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5u8Gr9UZ0L4)

We are incredibly proud of our Year 12 graduates. They created history by performing the first item specifically dedicated to Year 12

students and the first purely digital item in the Schools Spectacular. They pioneered a new way forward and added to the legacy of outstanding achievement.

On the strength of their success, planning is now underway for the 2021 Schools Spectacular to be held on Friday 19 November and Saturday 20 November 2021 in Sydney... fingers crossed! With elements of live and virtual performance being considered, we're looking into the possibilities of Schools Spec being delivered in new and exciting ways, stepping up to meet the challenges of life in a COVID world every step of the way. There is no lack of enthusiasm from the Spec community for the resurgence of this iconic event. We will continue to reach for the stars together.

**Sonja Sjolander**

Arts Initiatives Advisor  
Creative Director Schools Spectacular  
NSW Department of Education  
[www.schoolsspectacular.com.au](http://www.schoolsspectacular.com.au)

# STAYING ACTIVE AT HOME AND SCHOOL

By Peter Banks

To meet the significant challenges presented by COVID-19 and its impact on NSW schools during 2020, the NSW Premier's Sporting Challenge (PSC) team in the Department of Education School Sport Unit developed a suite of strategies and programs to support physical activity in schools and in the home.

These included:

- **GetActive@Home** – a digital online program developed to support primary school staff, parents and students during the period of home learning. To date, the program has had over 40,000 views. It includes a series of episodes that teach students specific techniques for a range of foundational movement skills. It also includes other resources such as lesson guides, assessment proformas and tracking cards. All these can be accessed on the School Sport Unit website at <https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/sport/participation/getactive>

Teachers are encouraged to continue using the program to support the teaching of Physical Education and as an option for classroom energisers or active homework.

- **Race Around Australia (RAA)** – a virtual physical activity challenge (pictured) that supports participation in daily physical activity in NSW schools. The program was to be piloted in 2020 to a small group of schools. However, due to COVID-19, the pilot size was increased to provide more schools with the opportunity. RAA was piloted in 46 schools and 46 corporate department office teams, totalling 4300 participants. The schools

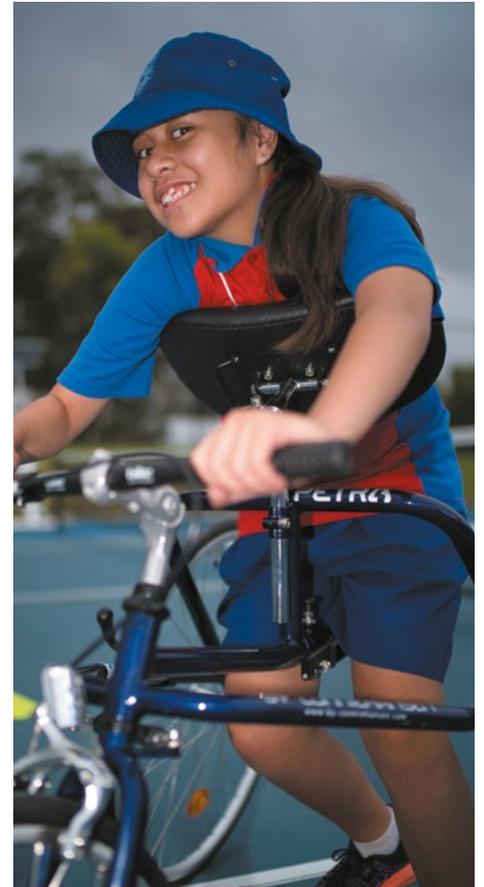
and teams raced around a virtual map of Australia, clocking up RAA kilometres from their daily activity. Along the way, participants unlocked content blogs aligned to curriculum key learning areas and also received personal achievement badges.

The review of this pilot challenge has shown very positive results, such as increased physical activity time across the week for most participants and, specifically for students, improved on-task behaviour in the classroom. The most exciting outcome is that students have continued to ask their teachers when they can take part again. This challenge will be offered to all Department of Education schools in 2021.

The PSC team was also delighted that overall participation in the **PSC 10-week Challenge** in 2020 exceeded that of 2019, with a significant increase in the number of staff and secondary students participating. Existing resources were amended during 2020 to be more accessible for online learning and new resources were developed.

The PSC Tracker app was adapted to be accessible on any device, so that activity can be tracked online. A series of activity cards provide teachers and students with quality options to engage in various skill-based and foundational movement activities whilst at school and at home. New digital and editable logbooks were created so teachers could share with their students through online learning at home. New PSC@Home certificates were also created so parents and carers could recognise their children for their efforts in completing their physical activity.

The traditional face-to-face nature of professional learning also had to be considered during 2020. The School Sport Unit worked with various partners to develop online courses to support remote and self-paced learning. Webinar delivery was also trialled for some courses, including support for school leaders



*The Department of Education School Sport Unit has developed a suite of strategies and programs to support physical activity in schools and in the home in response to COVID-19.  
Photo: School Sport Unit*

to implement the 2021-2024 School Excellence Cycle, Meet Manager Online and Burn2Learn.

These new developments allowed teachers from across NSW to access the learning opportunities and have been highly successful. This type of course delivery will be further explored throughout 2021, with courses such as Thinking While Moving and Games-Based Learning currently being developed.

**Peter Banks**

Leader, School Sport Unit  
NSW Department of Education



# LEVELLING THE PLAYING FIELD FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

By Peter Banks

The School Sport Unit prides itself on offering a variety of opportunities and pathways for students with disability across NSW, and 2020 was no exception – despite the interruptions and challenges caused by COVID-19.

The School Sport Unit offers students with disability participation and representative options, adapted to meet individual needs, promoting enjoyment and skill development.

Participation events include:

- Multi-sport days, where students experience a variety of sports in one day, coached by industry experts.
- Gala days, where students engage in sport-specific skills and drills, then learn to apply these in modified and adapted games.
- Come-and-Try days, which give students the chance to try a new sport and learn the rules, modified ways of play and training ideas, building their confidence to enter these sports via our representative pathway.

Representative sports offered to students with disability include:

- Athletics
- Cross Country
- Swimming
- Boccia
- Sailing (high school only)
- Gymnastics (high school only)
- Trampolining (high school only)

To increase our effectiveness in the delivery of sport and physical activity opportunities to students with disability, and to expand the reach of our programs, we created two Disability Inclusion Officer positions in 2020. These officers have played a significant role in increasing the opportunities on offer and provided much-needed support to staff, schools and the wider community.

The School Sport Unit has also created a database of more than 5200 teachers from every school in NSW who are nominated



*Students at the Multi-Sport Day held at Blacktown, Sydney on 3 December 2020 to mark the International Day of People with Disability. Organised by the School Sport Unit, the event gave 195 students from 10 schools the chance to experience modified and adapted sport. Photo: School Sport Unit*

as school sport disability contacts. This database is used to disseminate information and provide details of sport and physical activity opportunities for students with disability. These contacts are an important link between the School Sport Unit, schools and the community, increasing our audience and enhancing delivery of our messaging.

The School Sport Unit website was also upgraded in 2020 to include more content specific to sport and physical activity for students with disability. A new suite of accessible online videos and web content is now available, with information for parents, carers and staff about the opportunities on offer, the representative pathway, and what's required for a student with disability to be classified as eligible for representative school sport. The new classification content was widely promoted and viewed and shared by more than 12,000 people on the first day of its release. To access this online material, visit <https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/sport/disabilities>

The School Sport Unit is also undertaking a research study, in partnership with Edith Cowan University, into School-based Provision of Physical Activity for Students with Disability. This project includes a review of national and international best practice in the delivery of adaptive physical activity in physical

education and sport. Findings will be used to enhance future delivery of inclusive practices for students with disability.

Despite the interruptions caused by COVID-19 in 2020, the School Sport Unit successfully delivered a variety of sporting opportunities to students with disability throughout Term 4. These included nine Boccia Come-and-Try Days, nine Multi-Sport Days and three ten-pin bowling events, with 1770 students from 134 schools participating. A special event held to celebrate International Day of People with Disability on 3 December gave a further 195 students from 10 schools the chance to experience modified and adapted sport, whilst promoting awareness, understanding and highlighting the abilities of our students with disability.

In 2021, the School Sport Unit will continue to promote sport and physical activity opportunities for students with disability, providing a multitude of events state-wide. Current programs will be expanded and new events and competitions are also being planned.

**Peter Banks**

Leader, School Sport Unit  
NSW Department of Education

# NSW COVID -19 Fundraising Results

**MILTON PUBLIC  
SCHOOL RAISED**

**\$114,058**

Highest in Australia

**LINDFIELD PUBLIC  
SCHOOL RAISED**

**\$91,858**

Highest in NSW

**TOP 20 NSW SCHOOLS  
AVERAGED OVER**

**\$55,000**

during COVID-19!

**GOOLGOWI PUBLIC  
SCHOOL RAISED**

**\$8,514**

with just 35 students!

Save your school fundraising with School Fun Run this year. We have COVID-Safe options, even if your kids are remote learning!



**PRIMARY SCHOOL SPECIAL OFFER!**  
CLAIM YOUR FREE COLOUR POWDER!  
CALL **1800 FUN RUN** AND MENTION THIS AD.

# SCHOOL FUNRUN

# \$114,058

**RAISED IN A SINGLE SCHOOL FUN RUN  
DURING COVID-19 BY MILTON PUBLIC**



**FUNDRAISING COMPANY OF THE YEAR**

3764SB



**\$21<sup>85</sup>**  
inc GST

EVERYDAY

R4331B



REVERSIBLE

**\$8<sup>40</sup>**  
inc GST

SAVE \$1.50  
WAS \$9.90



TRY US ON FOR SIZE  
REQUEST A SAMPLE

57605



**\$9<sup>75</sup>**  
inc GST

SAVE \$1.10  
WAS \$10.85

NEW IN  
COTTON  
BACK

3762SH



**\$15<sup>40</sup>**  
inc GST

EVERYDAY

5760TP



FROM  
**\$15<sup>95</sup>**  
inc GST

EVERYDAY

5766SP



**\$12<sup>15</sup>**  
inc GST

EVERYDAY



5766SH



**\$11<sup>50</sup>**  
inc GST

EVERYDAY



For orders:  
[www.lwreid.com.au](http://www.lwreid.com.au)



For Customer Service:  
Call 1300 LW Reid (1300 59 7343)  
Email [care@lwreid.com.au](mailto:care@lwreid.com.au)



LWReid1922