



**NSW P&C Volunteer
of the Year Awards
2020 Special
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and Regulations
Pages 12-14

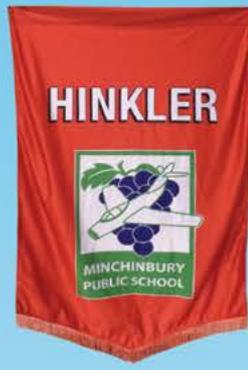
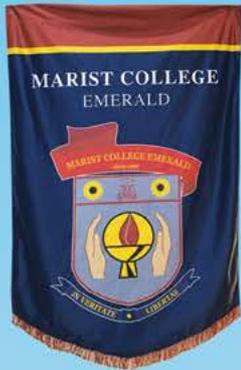
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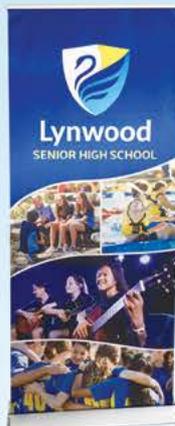


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Share your story with us

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.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Tim Spencer

As I sat down to write this message, I recalled that at this time last year, we were at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Australians were just coming to grips with the greatest restrictions on daily life ever imposed in peacetime. Many of us had serious concerns for our health and that of our loved ones, and the uncertainty fostered a palpable sense of anxiety.

Despite this, I expressed confidence in my Term 2 message last year that we would all pick ourselves up again in due course. It is heartening to know that, as I write my Term 2 message this year, we are doing just that. Our schools are essentially back to normal, and the disruption to our children's education and school life brought about by widespread shutdowns is receding. P&C Association meetings and fundraising events are again occurring on school grounds, after a year in which holding these activities on-site was almost or entirely impossible. During Term 1 this year, many P&C Associations essentially re-emerged and resumed their activities after an almost 12-month hiatus.

Despite the unwinding of restrictions, some schools are still reluctant to allow parents and P&C Association activities back on school grounds. This has caused concern in some school communities and P&C Federation has raised this with the Department of Education. While in some settings this is part of a slow transition out of pandemic restrictions, we would hope to see this transition take place as soon as possible.

On 26 February, P&C Federation held its first face-to-face function since the onset of the pandemic – hosting the NSW P&C Volunteer of the Year 2020 Awards Dinner at L'Aqua in Sydney (see articles and photos on pages 8-11). This annual award recognises a P&C Association volunteer who has gone above and beyond in their role, and I congratulate Tracey Lowrey from Dungog Public School, on being named the 2020 Volunteer of the Year. There were 16 finalists, one from each of

P&C Federation's electorates, and it was both enlightening and inspiring to hear the ways they all managed the challenges of a year like 2020.

This event was followed on 3 March (P&C Day) by P&C Federation's first Virtual Town Hall event. The interactive online forum featured a wide-ranging discussion between myself, Gemma Rygate, CEO of the Centre for Volunteering NSW, and representatives from several P&C Associations. It was an opportunity for P&C members to ask us questions on the nature and future of volunteering, and with about 180 people registered, the event covered a great range of topics (see article, p16). Following the success of the Town Hall event and previous webinars, P&C Federation will be embarking on a program of events to expand the ways we engage with our P&C Association members.

P&C Federation will embark on a program of events to expand the ways we engage with our P&C Association members.

In other news, the NSW Department of Education has launched its new Student Behaviour Strategy, and the implementation procedures supporting the strategy will be developed throughout this year. Last year and early this year, P&C Federation was involved in the consultation that shaped this new strategy, and our feedback was influenced in large part by a survey we conducted of parents, asking how they believed schools should address student behavioural issues. We were concerned that the strategy risked imposing excessive restrictions on how schools could handle student behavioural issues, and that teachers would be asked to go beyond being educators to include elements of social work or psychological counselling. We are continuing to work closely with the Department to ensure that this strategy will appropriately serve school communities. You can read P&C Federation's submission here: www.pandc.org.au/forms/Advocacy/studentbehaviour.pdf



Tim Spencer,
P&C Federation President

Towards the end of Term 1, several hundred schools in NSW were forced to temporarily close due to widespread flooding, especially in the Hunter, West Sydney and Mid North Coast regions. We pass on our sincere sympathies to the families and school communities impacted by these floods, and we hope all damages are repaired as swiftly as possible.

P&C Federation elections of new Board Members and Delegates are in progress and will wrap up at the end of July. You may visit the P&C Federation website (www.pandc.org.au/pc-federation-elections-2021/) to nominate a Councillor or Delegate.

Finally, P&C Federation's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is on 28 August, and we encourage all P&C Associations to submit motions for the AGM. If there is a public education issue that you believe P&C Federation should advocate for, then you can submit it to us for inclusion in the AGM agenda. Information on how to submit a motion is available on the P&C Federation website (www.pandc.org.au/pc-federation-annual-general-meeting-2/). You can also contact the P&C Federation team on 1300 885 982 if you have any questions about this process.

I wish everyone a happy and productive Term 2.

Tim Spencer
P&C Federation President

OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

By Mark Scott

The difference we can make in the lives of children each and every day – and through this, to their future beyond schooling – is the moral imperative of education. It fuels our ambition – working hard today to secure their tomorrows.

The Department's Strategic Plan, released in 2018, speaks of our shared purpose to prepare young people for rewarding lives as engaged citizens, in our complex and demanding society. This last year, from droughts to fires to pandemics, gives just a sense of how complex, how demanding and fast-changing their world will be.

The power and the promise of education has never been clearer and more urgent for our young people. Education has the great privilege and profound responsibility of being the ultimate 'upstream' public service – a universal entitlement to have your eyes opened, your heart lifted, your mind expanded and your future full of hope. Our success in providing that service is the best assurance we have for a society of engaged and successful citizens in the generations ahead. Our work is nation-building at its absolute essence.

One of the overarching goals – simple to say, hard to achieve – that guides the Department is that in NSW we want every student, every teacher, every leader and every school to improve every year. From wherever they are starting, and recognising the many and varied contexts across our state, everyone is moving forward, showing progress, lifting.

We need adults constantly learning in every role – teachers, administrative staff, school leaders and corporate staff – and all



Photo courtesy NSW Department of Education

working together to ensure every student is experiencing success and growth as confident, engaged and independent learners.

It is not hard in our system to find fantastic success stories of individual students who have achieved incredible results. Their stories often speak to the transformative impact that school can have.

Lifting a whole system's performance is the challenge we face. It cannot be about 2200 individual schools all seeking to improve in isolation. Strength should come from the system – from focused and strategic support to the professionals in those schools. To improve a whole system, you need to see it systemically and recognise where local decisions and actions are needed, but also where the system needs to take the strain. If the aim is to make improvement the norm not an exception – with every student and every school improving – we need a shared expectation and commitment across classrooms, across schools, as well as between schools and those who are privileged to support them from corporate roles in the Department of Education.

The School Success Model that we launched in December 2020 is our opportunity in NSW to see that kind of change. It provides a whole-system approach to supporting schools at all stages of their improvement journeys, with an understanding of each school's context, diversity, and ambitions. It is based on international evidence on school governance and system performance improvement, but it is distinctively our own. It is learning from the compelling and sustained performance of our schools from a wide range of contexts and settings across the state. It reflects our shared responsibility for young lives and sets the expectation on all of us to be accountable for the impact of our work on students.

The School Success Model (<http://bit.ly/school-success-model>) provides a platform by which we can account for the performance of our students and guide support for the improvement journey of every school. It provides a new clarity of responsibilities across the system for how we will learn and improve together, whatever role we play. Because in a system, it is not enough for each



Mark Scott, Secretary
NSW Department of Education

of us to feel accountable. Being accountable – giving your account – is necessarily a public act, because achieving improvement is necessarily a collective enterprise. We will only effectively deliver for our students by working supportively together.

Trust in government, in the value of public education and in the profession itself all depend on proactively accounting for the impact our work is having.

Working in education, we inherit an enormous trust from parents and carers – that in their time with us, their children will be safe, will be engaged in learning and will strongly and consistently improve, every year; that this investment in their growing years establishes confident, resilient, independent citizens, equipped to keep learning for the rest of their lives.

Mark Scott

Secretary NSW Department of Education

[This article is extracted from a speech delivered by Secretary Mark Scott at the Sydney Morning Herald Schools Summit on 17 February 2021]

***This is Mark Scott's last column for the Parent & Citizen Journal as NSW Department of Education Secretary. After almost five years as Secretary, Mr Scott will leave the Department in late April to take up the position of Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Sydney in July.**

NESA NEWS

By Paul Martin



Welcome back for Term 2. Here at NESA we kicked off the year with a firm focus on curriculum reform, starting with the English and Mathematics syllabuses for Kindergarten to Year 2.

We are building a curriculum that focuses on strong foundations using best practice. Consequently, the 'Phonics Screening Check' assessment in Year 1 is now compulsory in public schools.

The evidence for phonics is clear. The best results in reading for our students occurs when phonics is explicitly and systematically taught from Kindergarten before moving on to other forms of reading instruction.

This is in line with the draft syllabuses placing greater priority on oral language development, early reading and writing skills, and early mathematics skills in the formative years of school.

NESA has reviewed and refined how we engage with our stakeholders during the syllabus-development process, ensuring that teachers, parents and students remain the central focus.

In February, we collaborated with the education sectors to form a network of 200 teachers to gather feedback from across NSW, which is about ensuring the new curriculum works well in the classroom. We continue to consult in person and online with primary teachers across every sector, encouraging them to have their say.

We are also focused on gathering authentic feedback from all stakeholders – including parents and carers – to better inform the final syllabuses. The new syllabuses will mean teachers can better focus on improving the learning outcomes of every student in their class.

I am pleased with progress and look forward to streamlined syllabuses that give teachers the time and space they need to do what they do best: teach. They will be introduced to schools from next year so our youngest students get the best foundations possible for life in the 21st century.

On the topic of improved literacy, I encourage you to sign your children up to the 2021 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge at <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>. This is a great initiative aimed at encouraging students to read, to read more, and to read more widely. The 'Challenge' is open to all NSW students in Kindergarten to Year 9 and doesn't close until 20 August, so there's plenty of time to join in.

Turning to senior students, our 2021 HSC cohort of students can expect some dedicated information and resources to start rolling out later this term and next to assist them in preparing for their exams, including the HSC exam timetable on 29 April and the *HSC Study Guide 2021* mid-year. There is also an archive of past papers available on the NESA website at <http://bit.ly/hsc-exam-papers>

Stage 6 students and teachers, particularly those invested in creative arts, technology and



Paul Martin, CEO
NSW Education Standards Authority

design subjects, will also benefit from the *HSC Showcase* performance season being offered as online packages this year, due to COVID-19 impacts on live events.

The 2021 *HSC Showcase* season features 400 exemplary works submitted by HSC 2020 students in arts, design and technology. The showcases this year are unique because they reflect the unprecedented challenges and disruptions that 2020 HSC students faced, from bushfires, floods and drought, to COVID-19 and personal experiences.

The showcase exhibitions are going ahead with social distancing as required. If you are in Sydney in the coming weeks I encourage you to take the family to visit *Shape*, featuring a selection of outstanding HSC design and technology talent at the Powerhouse Museum until 9 May, or *ARTEXPRESS*, celebrating some of our best HSC Visual Arts students, at the Art Gallery of NSW until 26 April.

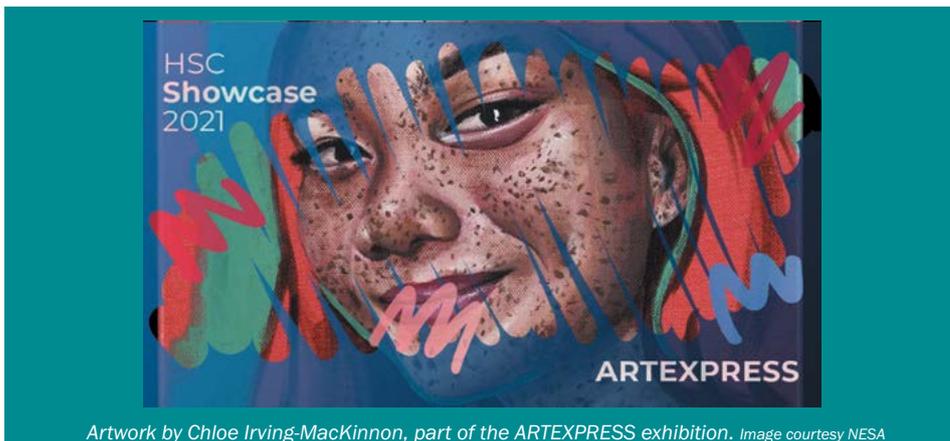
ARTEXPRESS exhibitions are also on display in Maitland, Armidale, Cowra, Tamworth and Grafton over the coming months.

You'll find more information on the 2021 HSC Showcase at <http://bit.ly/HSC-Showcase-2021> and *ARTEXPRESS* exhibition dates at <http://bit.ly/ArtExpress-dates>

All the best for the Term ahead.

Paul Martin

Chief Executive Officer, NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA)



Artwork by Chloe Irving-MacKinnon, part of the *ARTEXPRESS* exhibition. Image courtesy NESA



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NSW P&C VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2020 AWARDS DINNER

Congratulations to the NSW P&C Volunteer of the Year 2020, Tracey Lowrey, from Dungog Public School P&C Association in the Hunter Electorate. Tracey was announced as the winner at the P&C Federation Awards Dinner on Friday 26 February at L'Aqua, Cockle Bay, Sydney.

The annual award recognises a P&C Association volunteer who has gone above and beyond in their role, to the benefit of students and their school community (see next page for Tracey's story). Tracey was one of the 16 finalists chosen by independent judges, one from each of the

P&C Federation's 16 electorates (see their photos on the next page). The achievements of each finalist showcased the innovative ways P&C Associations have managed the challenges faced during COVID-19 restrictions to continue to maintain strong school communities.



The Awards Dinner was also the first face-to-face P&C Federation function since the COVID-19 restrictions were introduced.

NSW Minister for Education and Early Childhood, Sarah Mitchell, was unable to attend the event, but sent a video recording. The Minister spoke about the importance of strong school communities, the challenges faced during COVID-19 restrictions in 2020 and the valuable role P&C Associations play in public schools.

She also spoke about the Department's Rural and Remote Education Strategy (2021-2024), designed to ensure "every child in regional NSW has access to the same quality education as their metropolitan peers. ... [We want to] enable stronger partnerships

Tracey Lowrey from Dungog Public School P&C Association (centre) receives the NSW P&C Volunteer of the Year 2020 Award from Veronica Howarth and James Corbett from Commonwealth Bank. Photos: Advancedlife



CommBank School Recovery Grants NSW and QLD P&C.

CommBank is helping support schools and school communities impacted by the devastating floods.

Grants of \$5,000 are now available to support schools to replace damaged and lost equipment as part of a \$250,000 cash package under the bank's Schools Recovery Grants program. Grants are open to both Primary and Secondary schools and Parents and Citizen Associations (P&C's) in flood affected regions.

To find out how you can apply, visit commbank.com.au/schoolrecovery.





John Peacock AM



The Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC

with higher education providers, vocational education and local industry,” the Minister explained.

“Moving forward, every announcement in the education space will be linked back to the Rural and Remote Education Strategy in some way,” Ms Mitchell said.

“Moving forward, every announcement in the education space will be linked back to the Rural and Remote Education Strategy in some way.”

“We will be delivering a new Regional Education Directorate within the Department of Education. This Directorate will be located in the regions and will employ our regional education specialists of the highest expertise. ... it’s really important that regional education has dedicated, standalone support, and this Directorate will achieve that.” Ms Mitchell said.

Guest speaker John Peacock AM, CEO of Associations Forum (a network with over 500 organisations) shared a wealth of information about the value of volunteering in community groups

Commonwealth Bank returned as the Platinum Sponsor of the event, with Veronica Howarth, Head of School Banking - Retail Banking Services, and James Corbett, General Manager Customer Service Strategy and Operations at the dinner.

P&C Federation would also like to thank official supporters Andrews Insurance and School Banners, and the Awards Dinner’s exclusive photographer, Advancedlife school photographers, for their continued support of the event over the years.

NSW P&C VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2020

Tracey Lowrey, Dungog Public School - Hunter Electorate

Tracey has been involved in the Dungog Public School P&C Association since 1994, first as a parent until 2008, and then again as a grandparent from 2016 until the present.

In that time she has served as fundraiser coordinator for 12 years, P&C Secretary for 10 years, as a member of the executive committee, and in February 2020 was elected Vice-President. Tracey’s work background has enabled her to submit successful grant applications for the P&C Association to fund environmental projects, infrastructure improvements and cultural programs in the school. In mid-2000 she became a Life Member of Dungog Public School P&C Association.

In her 19 years with Dungog P&C Association, Tracey has coordinated five biannual fetes, with each raising between \$8000 and \$10,000 for the school – an enormous amount of money for a small country town. During the non-fete years, Tracey organised smaller events, all successfully raising several thousand dollars each. For eight consecutive years she also co-ordinated the school’s involvement in Tocal Field days – a major source of external funding for the P&C.

During the mid-1990s Tracey was part of the P&C committee that helped lobby the Department of Education for improved facilities at the school, including relocating the infants’ school, building a new canteen, hall and COLA, and attracting additional funding for the Special Needs Support Unit.

Apart from her work with the P&C Association, Tracey has been enormously supportive of the Dungog Public School



NSW P&C Volunteer of the Year 2020, Tracey Lowrey, has been involved in the Dungog Public School P&C Association for 19 years – first as a parent and then as a grandparent

community, including volunteering as a class parent reader, school sports coach, scripture teacher, canteen volunteer, parent supervisor of external school activities and provided volunteer support in the school’s Special Needs Unit. For over 25 years Tracey has also been heavily involved with community committees that benefit the broader school community.

P&C President Philippa Hudson described Tracey as an extraordinary person, someone who is extremely proud of the P&C Association’s outstanding achievements to improve the school, and whose focus is always on the students and never on the recognition for her work.

NSW P&C VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2020 FINALISTS



Janette Allardyce-Walker
Lugarno Public School
P&C Association
Southern Sydney Electorate



Isabel Borrelli
Ocean Shores Public School
P&C Association
North Coast Electorate



Connie Button
Tacking Point Public School
P&C Association
Mid North Coast Electorate



Shari Cooper
Newbridge Heights Public
School P&C Association
Macarthur Electorate



Mia Dacey
Windsor High School
P&C Association
West Sydney Electorate



Belinda Davey
Darlington Public School
P&C Association
Sydney Electorate



Shannon Gardiner
Koorngal Public School
P&C Association
Riverina Electorate



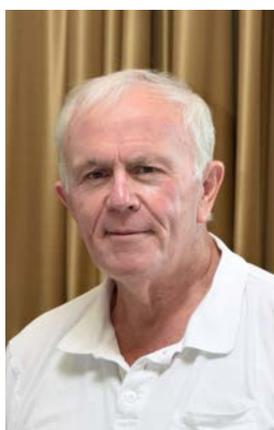
Gloria Hill
North Kellyville Public School
P&C Association
North West Sydney Electorate



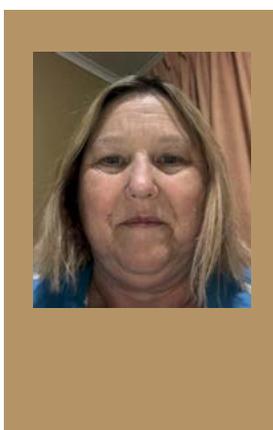
Tara Jeans
Muswellbrook South Public
School P&C Association
New England Electorate



Leeca Lennon
Tacoma Public School
P&C Association
Central Coast Electorate



Ross Mannell
Merimbula Public School
P&C Association
South Coast Electorate



Raewyn Molloy
Forbes High School
P&C Association
Far West Electorate



Marti Parolin
Prairiewood High School
P&C Association
South West Sydney Electorate



Christine Phillips
Eastwood Heights Public School
P&C Association
North Sydney Electorate



Renee Woodberry
Goulburn High School
P&C Association
Southern and Central
Tablelands Electorate

NSW P&C VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2020 AWARDS



NSW P&C Volunteer of the Year 2020 winner and finalists (back row, from left) Christine Phillips, Ross Mannell, Leeca Lennon and Veronica Howarth (CommBank); (front row, from left) Shari Cooper, Renee Woodberry, Sourina Simmavalong (representing finalist Marti Parolin), Natalie Walker (P&C Federation Vice-President, representing Raewyn Molloy), Connie Button, Janette Allardyce-Walker, Tracey Lowrey (Volunteer of the Year), Belinda Davey, Isabel Borrelli, Gloria Hill and Mia Dacey. Absent: Marti Parolin, Raewyn Molloy, Shannon Gardiner and Tara Jeans. Photos: AdvancedLife



Photos: sponsors, guest speakers, finalists, P&C Federation Board members, P&C Federation staff, and their guests, at the Awards Dinner in Sydney on 26 February



FUNDRAISING IDEAS AND GUIDELINES

Fundraising is a core activity for P&C Associations to help their school get additional resources for the benefit of students and the school community – and a topic we know P&C members want to hear more about. The following pages feature articles from two P&C Associations who ran successful fundraising ventures during 2020, despite COVID restrictions, along with fundraising guidelines from P&C Federation.

Save the date: P&C Federation fundraising webinar

P&C Federation will also be hosting a webinar about fundraising for P&C Association members in the next few months.

Check the P&C Federation website (www.pandc.org.au) and E-Bulletin (www.pandc.org.au/edm/) for details.

Share your fundraising ideas

Does your P&C Association have any fundraising tips or ideas that you'd like to share with other members via the journal (eg, what's worked well, what hasn't, what fundraising activities are you planning for 2021)? If so, we'd love to hear from you. Email details to journal@pandc.org.au and we'll be in touch.

ONLINE FUNDRAISER DEFIES PANDEMIC

By Amanda Kirk

We at Hornsby Heights Public School managed to come together to show the world just how amazing our community spirit is!

Had 2020 been a normal kind of year, our school's P&C Association would have held its annual Trivia Night in July, and biennial Bushland Fair in October. These are our two biggest fundraisers, with the Trivia Night raising between \$5000-\$10,000 and the Bushland Fair raising around \$30,000. But as everyone knows, 2020 was not a normal year!

We found ourselves in a position where we knew we could not hold our Trivia Night, but we were still very hopeful that our Fair may go ahead. So, we formed a small sub-committee of parents with representatives from the P&C and the school executive team. Despite pushing dates and planning spaces, we realised after the first couple of meetings that we simply had to cancel. We could not expect, even if all restrictions were lifted, that our community would all be willing to rush to events with crowds of people.

So, after a wild idea and a few meetings with the P&C Association members and school executives, we developed a plan to hold the very first Hornsby Heights Public School Art Show! Our sub-committee shuffled a bit, and we started building on what started as a vague framework.

Hornsby Heights Public School is a K-6 school in Sydney's Upper North Shore, with 468 students. We have 20 classes, and we wanted each class of 20-25 students to collaborate and produce a single piece of artwork to



One of the 20 artworks created by HHPS students for the online auction

Photos courtesy HHPS P&C Association

be auctioned off. Both our Principal Katrin Cornell and Assistant Principal Deb Dunn were instrumental in drumming up teacher support and went as far as introducing this artwork project into the school curriculum, so our students could do it during Term 3 2020.

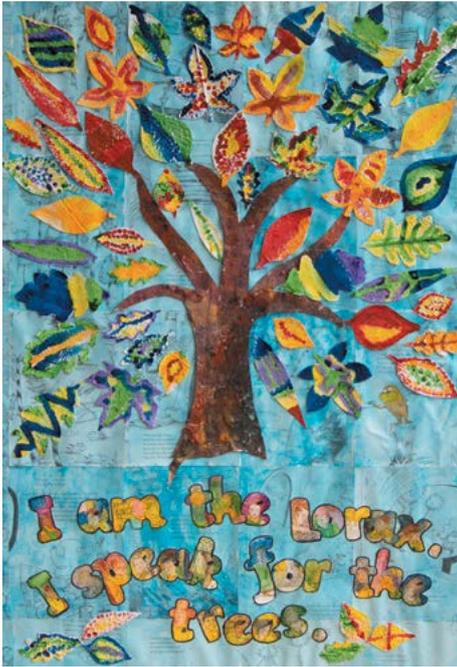
Local artists and craftspeople offered their help and advice to the teachers in bringing these pieces to life. Businesses and families in the community snapped up sponsorship opportunities and offered prizes and services for us to use. Our school parents were our official photographers, our social media experts, our graphic designers, our MCs, our delivery drivers, our mailbox droppers, our pickers and our packers. We found that although the year was tough for almost everyone – families and businesses – the support we received was

enormous. Our community is exceptional!

The result was 20 artworks that are beyond belief. The visual impact of every single one is amazing, and we are all so proud of our students.

The sponsorship we received was put towards the cost of printing greeting cards and gift tags of each artwork to be sold, paying to use a local auction/raffle platform (GalaBid), buying frames and materials for the artworks, and of course, the cash raffle prizes.

Although we had originally hoped that the Art Show would be a face-to-face event with a live auctioneer spurring us on, COVID-19 restrictions meant we had to re-imagine this as a completely online event. We held a virtual live-streamed 'Opening Night', where each



Hornsby Heights Public School (HGPS) students with one of the artworks auctioned during the online Art Show in 2020 (above), along with others (at left and right)



class introduced their artwork, we met our major sponsor, Sally Dodd from McGrath Real Estate Hornsby, and our Principal, Mrs Cornell, had an opportunity to show us all just how infectious her enthusiasm is.

Our online auction was then launched, and we had from 6-14 November to hustle and bustle with bids. The same platform showcased our catalogue which was put together by Cass and

Co Creative, and was a visual masterpiece. Our online raffle was on the same platform too, so we were able to share that link far and wide.

We raised just over \$17,500 to be put directly into our school. While we did not set any world records with our final fundraising amount, we are thrilled with the result.

Most importantly, we have proven that even in

tough times our community is here to support our school. We also realised that the children were so incredibly grateful for the opportunity to do something positive and engaging during a year in which they lost so many opportunities.

Amanda Kirk

President Hornsby Heights Public School P&C Association

WHAT CAN YOUR P&C ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISE FOR?

Any P&C Association fundraising activities must be consistent with the objectives and functions in the P&C Association's Constitution (www.pandc.org.au/constitutions-for-nsw-pc-associations/), which include:

- to promote the interests of the school by bringing parents, citizens, students and teaching staff into close co-operation, and
- to assist in providing facilities and equipment for the school and in promoting the recreation and welfare of the students at the school, and
- to encourage parent and community participation in curriculum and other education issues in schools.

Fundraising should be limited to things that benefit the school to which the P&C Association is attached. Fundraising that falls outside the objectives and functions of

the P&C Association's Constitution – such as fundraising for another school, another organisation or a charity – should not be considered.

If your P&C Association is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), there are penalties that may apply for acting beyond the objectives and functions of your Constitution.

Do you need a licence to fundraise?

No. Under the NSW Government's Fair Trading fundraising rules (<http://bit.ly/Fair-Trading-fundraising>), an organisation that is established under an Act and subject to the control and direction of a Minister can fundraise without a licence. This includes P&C Associations, which are established by the Education Act 1990 and are governed by a constitution set by the NSW Minister for Education.

Note: This may not apply if your P&C Association is incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 under Fair Trading. Contact P&C Federation if you are unsure.

Are donations to P&C Associations tax deductible?

No. The only donations to P&C Associations that are tax deductible are donations to a school building fund if the P&C Association operates one. Refer to the Australian Taxation Office's 'School building funds' page at <http://bit.ly/ATO-school-building-funds> for further information.

Do P&C Associations need to notify anyone of a fundraising event?

For insurance purposes, P&C Associations should complete a Notification of Event form if they are holding an event. This should be lodged at least 14 days before the event. Access the form at www.pandc.org.au/noe/

MURAL PROJECT A BRIGHT IDEA

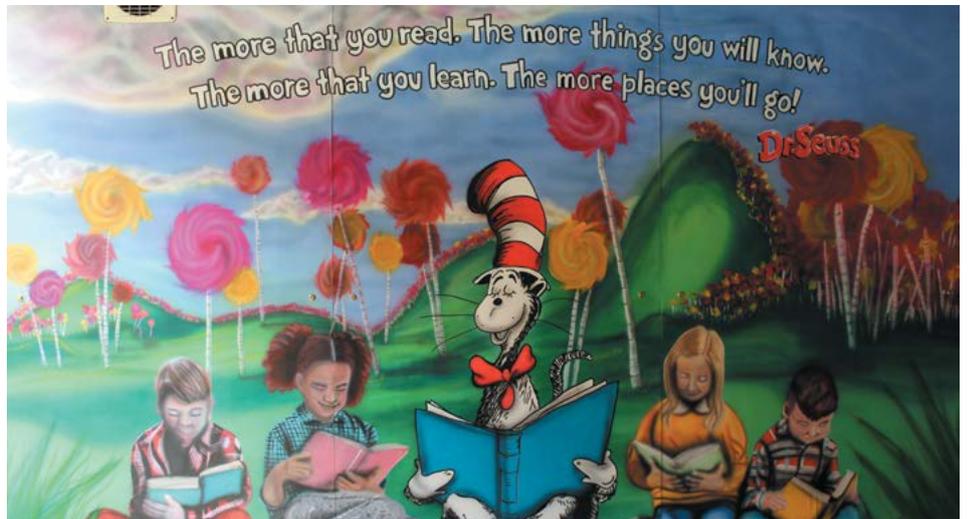
By Cheryl Davey

Ulladulla Public School, on the NSW South Coast, is the heart of our community. We have such a wonderful school consisting of 740 students with dedicated and passionate teaching staff. We are one of the largest regional schools in NSW and our children achieve great results in academic, health and wellbeing and social development.

But as we all know, 2020 was a difficult year for everyone. As well as the COVID-19 pandemic, our children and the local community also had to endure floods, fires and cyclonic storms. The trauma is still very raw and real for many families who are trying to rebuild or fix their homes and deal with the emotional impact of these events.

As a result, our P&C Association was unable to fundraise as we had in past years. We did get one fundraising opportunity off the ground, but fell short of our goal. But when one door closes another opens, and late last year we decided to raise money for a project to brighten up the outdoor area around the school library with painted wall murals featuring book covers and quotes from children's stories. This was a very dark area, providing no inspiration for the children. We wanted to create a small, quiet area where the children could take their classes in an outdoor environment that was inspiring, relaxing and whimsical – a place to read and learn and where all their cares and worries could be left behind for a few hours.

I started the fundraising push in October 2021 by emailing local businesses and organisations asking for donations, ranging from \$500-\$200 (or whatever they could afford). We raised a total of \$9000 – \$3000 of which was donated by local businesses and \$6000 by the P&C Association, P&C canteen and P&C uniform shop. In exchange, we have listed all the companies who donated on a dedicated plaque in the library so everyone can see the wonderful support they gave us.



Ulladulla artist Lincoln Johns (Linx Art Lab) painted this mural for the Ulladulla Public School library mural project

I also organised for the local paper to write an article about the project, with a photo of our Principal, Trent Burns, and donors in front of the murals.

Four local artists were engaged to paint the murals – Lincoln Johns from LINX Art Lab, Shane Ogilvie (a children's book illustrator), and mother-daughter team Nathel and Paris Fishlock. All donated their time to the project and all the fundraising money raised was spent on this project. Ulladulla Public School librarian Kate Jepsen helped coordinate the project.

In all, the artists painted seven stair-treads and four wall murals. The murals were completed on 27 January 2021, in time for the students' return to school in Term 1. P&C members and the teaching staff knew of the project, but the students and parents were unaware. We wanted to create a sense of wonderment and excitement for the students when they entered the library area. Their response to seeing the murals for the first time was total surprise. As parents were not allowed on the school grounds due to COVID-19, teaching staff shared a video on the school website for

everyone to see.

The reaction from students, staff and parents has been overwhelmingly positive, with so many wonderful comments, including "best ever, fantastic, vibrant, awesome, amazing". The library mural project has been such a success we've decided to expand it, with more fundraising planned to install lighting, heaters and seating in the area.

Our other P&C Association fundraising projects for 2021 include erecting a sun shelter over the infants' play equipment and a slippery slide connecting some of the classrooms.

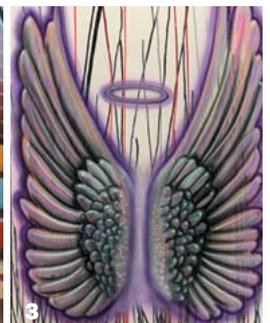
My advice for other P&C Associations when fundraising is to be confident, be driven, believe in what you're doing and be passionate about leaving a legacy for the children of the future. The more you engage with the school and the community the more you can contribute.

Cheryl Davey

President Ulladulla Public School P&C Association

Photos courtesy Ulladulla Public School P&C Association

1. Ulladulla artist and children's book illustrator Shane Ogilvie's mural at Ulladulla Public School.
2. The stair treads outside the library were painted by one of the school's teachers, Nathel Fishlock, and her daughter Paris Fishlock
3. Another mural by Lincoln Johns, brightening up the area outside the school's library





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P&C DAY VIRTUAL TOWN HALL A SUCCESS

On P&C Day, Wednesday 3 March, P&C Federation marked its 99th year by hosting its first virtual 'town hall' event, the Community Leadership Virtual Town Hall, with participants from around NSW.

This interactive online forum focused on volunteering and future challenges for P&C Associations, generating a wealth of valuable ideas, discussion and sharing from our members on how P&C Federation can support our members into the future.

Hosted by P&C Federation President, Tim Spencer, the Town Hall event was open to parents, carers and P&C Association members. The guest speakers were:

- Gemma Rygate – CEO, The Centre For Volunteering NSW.
- Ingrid Waite – P&C Volunteer of the Year 2019, Past P&C Association President and Vice-President, Castle Hill High School.
- Kate Masoch – P&C Association President, Orana Heights Public School.

The evening was an intensive, freewheeling event. The discussion covered all manner of topics and issues relating to volunteering in schools, and the role and future of P&C Associations. Gemma Rygate revealed that voluntary contributions in Australia amount to about \$290 billion each year, and that a fifth of Australian volunteers are in schools – making schools the third largest sector for volunteers.

Some of the issues and questions raised by P&C Association attendees included the challenges of running canteens and uniform shops (eg, managing employees, employment law and processes), understanding executive roles, the need for fresh ideas for fundraising, especially for small P&Cs, and the challenges of recruiting volunteers.

On a positive note, some P&C members reported that holding P&C meetings via Zoom, as a result of COVID restrictions, had actually boosted the number of attendees and they were now using a hybrid model of virtual

and face-to-face meetings. One attendee reported that their virtual AGM in February had attracted 130 people, compared with about 30 who usually attended the face-to-face meetings.

Some of the ideas suggested by attendees included the need for a platform for P&C Associations to share information, and establishing a P&C Association of the Year Award (in addition to the Volunteer of the Year Award), to recognise P&C Associations as organisations. Mr Spencer told attendees that the latter had been discussed and was being considered by P&C Federation.

The ideas and feedback from this Town Hall event will also be considered during P&C Federation's strategic review taking place this year.

A recording of the Town Hall event can be viewed on the P&C Federation website at www.pandc.org.au/pc-federation-webinar-recordings/

AFTER AN AGM: REMINDERS FOR P&C ASSOCIATIONS

As many P&C Associations have completed, or are completing, their Annual General Meetings (AGM), here are some points to remember for incoming office bearers:

1. Affiliate emails: Does your P&C Association have one set up? If so, you should reset the passwords if there are newly-elected office bearers. If your P&C Association does not have an affiliate email, you may set up one. You can email affiliatesupport@pandc.org.au to set up affiliate emails or reset the passwords.

2. Current office bearer details: If you are newly-elected or re-elected P&C Association office bearers, you should update your names with P&C Federation. This can be done through either the Member Register Update (www.pandc.org.au/member-register-update/) page, or by logging onto the Member Portal (<https://membersportal.pandc.org.au/>)

3. Audit report: Incorporated P&C Associations are required to send a copy of their audit report to P&C Federation within one month after their AGM. This can be uploaded through the Member Portal, the Member Register Update (www.pandc.org.au/member-register-update/) or by attaching in an email to mail@pandc.org.au

4. Bank accounts: If new office bearers are elected, the signatories on P&C Association accounts must be updated. The signatories must be at least two office bearers, and you may consider making all office bearers signatories.

5. Australian Business Number (ABN) details: If the primary or authorised contact person attached to your P&C Association changes, the Australian Business Register (ABR) must be notified within 28 days. Refer to the ABR for how to update these details (<http://bit.ly/ABR-updates>)

6. Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC): If your P&C Association is registered as a charity, ensure the responsible people have been updated and mandatory reporting is completed. For small charities (with an annual revenue of under \$250,000), the reporting involves submitting an annual information statement. For medium charities (with annual revenue of more than \$250,000 but less than \$1 million), there is a further requirement to submit financial reports that have been either reviewed or audited, while large charities (with annual revenue over \$1 million) must submit audited financial reports.

Incorporated P&C Associations should also note that the Prescribed Constitution was amended in May 2020, so ensure that the current version (available at www.pandc.org.au/constitutions-for-nsw-pc-associations/) is listed with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) as your governing document.



CONGRATULATIONS NEWLY INCORPORATED P&C ASSOCIATIONS OF 2021

P&C Associations incorporated in 2021	P&C Federation Electorate
Booragul Public School	Hunter
Estella Public School	Riverina
Ilford Public School	Southern and Central Tablelands
Kingsgrove High School	South West Sydney
Melrose Park Public School	North Sydney
Narrabri High School	New England
Narrabri West Public School	New England
Woongarrah Public School	Central Coast

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@panc.org.au

GOVERNANCE OF P&C ASSOCIATIONS

It is important that P&C Association members understand how P&C Associations are governed. There are several layers to P&C Association governance:

Constitutions

P&C Associations can fall under one of several constitutions:

1. Prescribed Constitution: this is the governing document for all P&C Associations as defined in the Education Act 1990, which are incorporated under the Parents and Citizens Associations Incorporation Act 1976.
2. Standard Constitution: this is the governing document for all P&C Associations as defined in the Education Act 1990, which are not incorporated.

P&C Associations cannot amend these constitutions in any way – they can only be amended by the NSW Minister for Education. Some P&C Associations may also be incorporated under Fair Trading, and they would need to refer to Fair Trading for their constitution.

Bylaws

Additionally, each P&C Association has its own bylaws. P&C Associations can adopt

and amend bylaws in any way that does not contradict the constitutions. Bylaws specify things such as how much the membership fee is, when meetings are to be held and how to handle conflicts of interest, among other items. If your P&C Association does not have written bylaws, the P&C Federation website (www.pandc.org.au) has sample bylaws that P&C Associations can use as a template for putting together their own.

Other policies and procedures

P&C Associations can also consider adopting policies such as a code of conduct, a grievance/complaints procedure, sub-committee rules and a social media policy. P&C Federation also has templates for these and other policies (see www.pandc.org.au/membersguides/)

Reviews of bylaws and policies/procedures

Reviewing your bylaws and other policies annually ensures that your P&C Association's processes are current and serving their purpose. It also helps ensure that your P&C Association's processes keep up with any changes that occur, whether they be amendments to the P&C Association constitutions, or changes to other laws or regulations.

SURVEY OF MEMBERS



Thank you to everyone who completed P&C Federation's 2020 survey of members.

You have given us focused ideas about the information and services provided by P&C Federation that you most value, and suggestions for other ways you would like to see us engage with our members. The survey has also given us an excellent picture of how you would like us to communicate with you and how you would like to access information on the P&C Federation website.

This valuable feedback will form the basis of P&C Federation's strategic review, planned for this year.

\$150,000 COMMUNITY GRANT CREATES A NATURAL PLAYGROUND

By Daina Hogan

In February 2019, the Terranora Public School P&C Association, in collaboration with school Principal James Hackett and Assistant Principal Shelli Bahnsen, began the process of applying for a My Community Project grant.

My Community Project was all about local ideas, local projects and local decisions and provided NSW residents with an opportunity to propose and vote for new projects in their local area.

As P&C President, I proposed the idea of a Nature Space natural playground for our school.

Terranora Public School is located in northern NSW, in the Tweed Shire. It is committed to the healthy wellbeing of all its 370 students. In a world where technology and electronics consume us all, it is important for children to have access to an escape – a place to connect with nature and take time out to explore.

Children have an innate interest in the natural environment and all it has to offer. It helps them feel connected. Multiple studies have shown that natural learning spaces and play areas enhance cognitive abilities and wellbeing. Exposing children to natural elements leads to increased attention span, focus, creative thinking, problem solving, risk taking and physical and emotional health.

The My Community Project invited people to submit ideas to benefit their local communities and then community members voted for their favourite local projects. Applications for My Community Project closed on 15 May 2019 and voting was open for four weeks from 15 July-15 August. More than 1500 eligible projects were put up on the voting website.

Continued next page



The Nature Space playground at Terranora Public School, built with a \$150,000 grant from the My Community Project. Photos courtesy Terranora PS P&C Association

My Community Project

The NSW Government invested \$24.6 million in 248 projects across NSW as part of the My Community Project, to help improve the wellbeing of the people and communities that live there. Between \$20,000 and \$200,000 was allocated to each successful project to make the community more liveable, cultural, accessible, safe, revitalised and healthy.

My Community Project's successful projects were announced in September 2019 and

can be viewed on the My Community Project website at www.mycommunityproject.service.nsw.gov.au/. The project was the first community initiative funded by the NSW Generations Fund.

The Government is currently reviewing options for future programs to be supported by this fund, so keep an eye on the project website for announcements of future grants.

From previous page

Voters had to choose between three and five projects in their electorate and rank the projects in order of preference.

This process required our whole school community to get behind the Nature Space project and vote. The P&C, along with the staff, spent hours campaigning to get the project across the line. We handed out 'how to vote' flyers, and members of our P&C pounded the pavement and did letterbox drops in the Terranora community.

Multiple studies have shown that natural learning spaces and play areas enhance cognitive abilities and wellbeing.

If I'm really honest, I never thought for one second we would actually get the funding. This was the first grant application I had ever written, and I while I thought it was a good experience, I just didn't think we could pull it off.

We were notified on 4 September 2019 that we had been successful in securing a grant for \$150,000. Shelli Bahnsen rang me while I was at my daughter's swimming lesson and I was laughing and crying all at the same time. I just couldn't believe it – it was so wonderful to think that our whole community got behind the idea and made it happen.

Boyd's Bay Garden World completed the design and construction of the Nature Space at the end of 2020 and it opened for our students in Term 4 2020. After such an uncertain year, it was lovely for them to have a new space to enjoy. It is an area that the P&C hopes to keep adding elements to, to keep it current and interesting for the students. Lots of learning and creative play happens in this space.

Daina Hogan

President Terranora Public School
P&C Association

YOUR GUIDE TO GRANTS



Creating new play areas (above) and enabling school children to get involved in sustainable food production (next page) are just some of the projects funded by grants

Photos: Cherylt23/Pixabay (playground, above) and Tawatchai07/www.freepik.com (plant, next page)

If you haven't already started, now is the time for your P&C Association to think about how you can tap into available grant programs during 2021. Many organisations offer grants for volunteer organisations, those involved in education and those that assist children.

It's a good idea to nominate a grant finder within your P&C Association who can keep the P&C Association up to date with the grants that may be suitable and available. This person may also be nominated to lead the research and writing of submissions and reporting back to members on outcomes.

Don't be daunted if your P&C Association has never applied for a grant before. Most (if not all) the organisations offering grants provide guidelines for you to follow.

We've also compiled the following list of just some of the grant programs available that may be suitable for your P&C, along with websites that offer grant directories and tips and resources on preparing and writing grant applications.

In April, P&C Federation will be hosting a webinar for P&C Association members on how to prepare and apply for grants. Details will be available on the P&C website (www.pandc.org.au)

and in the regular E-Bulletin (www.pandc.org.au/e-bulletins). To receive the E-Bulletin, sign up at www.pandc.org.au/edm/

GRANT PROGRAMS

NSW Government Community Building Partnership (CBP) grants program:

Incorporated not-for-profit community organisations, such as P&C Associations, and local councils are eligible to apply for grants of between \$2500 and \$300,000 under this program. As a guide, the average grant awarded is around \$20,000. 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) to sign up for alerts to find out when applications open for 2021, read the program guidelines, criteria and eligibility and view the list of projects that received funding in 2020. (In 2020, applications opened early May and closed mid-June). In 2020, 171 P&C Association projects received funding under the program. 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 memberservices@pandc.org.au

Continued next page



Volunteer Grants Activity: this annual program provides grants from \$1000 to \$5000 to eligible not-for-profit community organisations to support the efforts of Australia's volunteers. The program is delivered by the Australian Government and is an element of the Department of Social Services Families and Communities Program. Details: <http://bit.ly/volunteer-grants-activity>

NSW Government Sustainable Schools Grants: School Infrastructure NSW's Sustainable Schools Grants offers funding of up to \$15,000 to individual NSW public schools (and preschools) to deliver practical sustainability-focused projects that link to the NSW curriculum, help students learn about environmentally sustainable practices and enhance the sustainability of their school environment. The grants are part of a four-year, \$10 million dollar program. Examples of projects funded in Round 1 include the establishment of kitchen, bush tucker and sensory gardens, a koala rescue project, waste audits and even the creation of a bee highway. Round 2 grant recipients will be announced shortly. Check the website (<http://bit.ly/sustainable-school-grants>) for updates on when the next round of grants opens. All NSW public schools are eligible to apply.

Junior Landcare Grants: This annual grants program offers both funding and in-kind support for schools and before and after school centres (as well as early childhood centres and youth groups) for projects that inspire kids from across the country to get hands-on with projects that focus on sustainable food production, improving waste management practices or enhancing native habitats. Visit

the website (<https://juniorlandcare.org.au/grants/>) to check for updates on available grants. Junior Landcare's grants support team will also help with grant applications.

Local Government grants: Local councils often provide grants to schools in their area for specific projects, so don't forget to check what is available from your local council. If you are unsure of your local council area you can do a local council search at www.olg.nsw.gov.au/public/find-my-council/

Many other government departments offer grant programs: visit their websites and subscribe to updates or talk to your State or Federal MP about government grants programs. For example the NSW Environmental Trust provides funding for projects that promote environmental education and sustainability. Details: <http://bit.ly/environmental-trust-grants>

National companies and businesses: they often offer grant programs in specific areas or for specific purposes. Check company websites for details.

GRANT DIRECTORIES

The Grants Hub: an Australian directory of government, education, not-for-profit, health, business and sport grants. There is a monthly fee for access to its Grant Directory, alerts and support: www.thegrantshub.com.au/

GrantGuru: a comprehensive Australian grants database for business and community based not-for-profit organisations. Subscription fees apply, but there is a free package which allows you to search for a total of three grants: www.grantguru.com.au

The Funding Centre/EasyGrants: The Funding Centre's subscription-based EasyGrants monthly newsletter and database provides details of all government, philanthropic and corporate grants funding available in Australia. A subscription to The Funding Centre starts at \$85 per year for community groups. It's an initiative of Our Community, a social enterprise that provides advice, resources and training for Australian not-for-profit community groups: www.ourcommunity.com.au/findgrants

Australian Government GrantConnect: provides centralised publication of forecast and current Australian Government grant opportunities: www.grants.gov.au

The Australian Government's business.gov.au website has a search function on its website for finding government grants, funding and support programs to help businesses grow and succeed: <https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs>

GRANT TIPS AND RESOURCES

Sustainable Schools New South Wales: has a downloadable PDF on 'Tips for Applying for Grants'; 'Eco Schools grants - tips and tricks'; and 'Sustainable Schools grant - project ideas' on its website: <http://bit.ly/sustainable-schools>

The Funding Centre (mentioned earlier) has free resources on its website, including checklists and help sheets on how to search for grants, write grant applications (including sample answers to help frame your thinking), use evidence in your application, monitor grant performance and much more: <http://bit.ly/fundingcentre-resources>. There's also free help sheets on 'Fundraising fundamentals' <http://bit.ly/fundraising-fundamentals>

The Grants Hub (mentioned earlier) has lots of free resources including pointers and information on writing grant applications, turning ideas into projects, applying for government grants, reading grant guidelines, budget development, building relationships with funding providers and grant terminology: www.thegrantshub.com.au/grant-resources

Disclaimer: The mention of specific organisations, products and websites in the Parent & Citizen Journal does not imply endorsement by the Journal or P&C Federation. The grants and websites listed above may not be relevant or suitable for all P&C Associations.

GUESS WHAT? PUBLIC EDUCATION ISN'T ENTIRELY FREE

By David Hetherington

Many people don't realise that public education still involves costs for families and that sometimes these can be prohibitive. Students need books, laptops, internet access, uniforms, materials for school projects and money for camps and excursions to participate fully in school.

The promise of public education is that any student can attend a public school and get a high-quality education. Sadly though, we know that there are students who still go without important educational basics.

This insight is what inspired the establishment of the Public Education Foundation (the Foundation). Set up in 2007, the Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to providing life-changing scholarships to students and educators in public education, and enhancing the value and reputation of public education. The Foundation supports students with particular educational needs or talents to reach their full potential and improve overall educational outcomes – students who, without extra help, will struggle to reach their full potential.

Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded almost 2000 scholarships. In 2019-20, it offered a record number of scholarships to students, teachers and principals in public schools, distributing support to 398 students and 27 educators.

The Foundation offers scholarships to primary and secondary students, indigenous and refugee students, students in rural and remote areas, students with disabilities transitioning to university study, and many more.

It also offers scholarships to teachers and principals to enable them to undertake study programs that may not otherwise be available to them, so they can continue to develop their skills and share with their public school colleagues.

The scholarships are funded by individual donors, and organisational partners, including the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of NSW, the NSW Teachers Federation, Teachers Health and Teachers Mutual Bank.



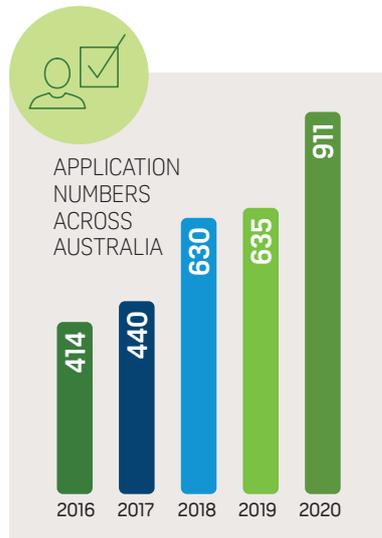
IMPACT REPORT

We have given from early 2009 to the end of June 2020:

1471
Scholarships

STUDENTS
1373

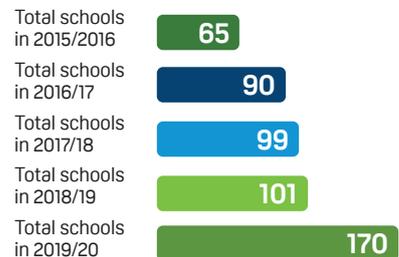
EDUCATORS
98



Scholarship funding
\$4,303,985



Schools



Scholarship recipients:



410 TOTAL SCHOOLS ENGAGED SINCE 2011

105 Phillip Street Parramatta NSW 2150 | 02 7814 2806
info@publiceducationfoundation.org.au | publiceducationfoundation.org.au | @PEFOZ | facebook.com/pefoz | Publiceducation

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land throughout Australia, and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

To adapt to the disruption of COVID-19, the Foundation rapidly reconfigured its support to public school students. With the generous support of donors and partners, it was able to distribute hundreds of laptops and SIM cards to students lacking technology access in the wake of school closures. The Foundation's staff and volunteers spent days driving to students' homes delivering phones, printers and desk chairs.

The Foundation regularly surveys its scholars, and the most recent results show that over 90% of recipients believe that their scholarship gave them the resources they needed to achieve their academic potential, and that the amount they received was enough to make a difference to their schooling.

"For me, school is the path that will open the door to my future," wrote Fatima in her

Public Education
Foundation student
scholarship
recipients

Photos courtesy Public
Education Foundation



application form. A refugee student from Syria, Fatima is currently in the second year of a Foundation scholarship designed to support her through her HSC.

"I want to ensure Ryan is provided with the best opportunities in order to break the cycle of disadvantage that many young Indigenous children face," said Ryan's grandmother, who applied on his behalf. Ryan is seven years old and about to start Year 2.

As Josephine Tovey reports in *The Guardian**: "Despite decades of school funding wars, the landmark Gonski report and major increases in Commonwealth funding to schools, children from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds in Australia are still falling well behind their wealthier peers at school.

"More than a third of students from this most disadvantaged group still do not finish high school, and only a quarter go on to university... It's a much bigger problem than charities and not-for-profits can fix alone," she writes.

Public schools continue to be funded below the Federal Government's own Schooling Resource Standard, which defines adequate funding levels. At the same time, increasing school segregation is occurring with affluent families opting-out of local comprehensive schools, leaving disadvantaged students overly concentrated in those schools.

Education can break the cycle of disadvantage – that's the wonder of education – but it's got to be properly resourced. That's where we're still falling down in Australia.

This is what motivates the Foundation's focus on removing barriers to achievement created by social and economic disadvantage, and on acknowledging and rewarding excellence throughout our public schools. It is the basic insight that education has the power to change lives and transform communities.

If you'd like to know more about the Public Education Foundation, apply for a scholarship or support the Foundation's work, please visit www.publiceducationfoundation.org.au

David Hetherington

Executive Director, Public Education Foundation

Reference *Students going without the basics: "I was heartbroken when I missed school", Josephine Tovey, *The Guardian*, 12 May, 2019.

A GUIDE TO STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



The following list includes just *some* of the student scholarships on offer for Australian primary and secondary school students:

1. Public Education Foundation: The Foundation offers scholarships to primary and secondary students, indigenous and refugee students, students in rural and remote areas, students with disabilities transitioning to university study, and many more (see story above for more details): www.publiceducationfoundation.org.au/scholarships/

2. The Harding Miller Education Foundation Scholarship Program: these scholarships are for girls currently in Year 8 and entering Year 9 the following year in Australian secondary public high schools. The program provides practical support to lift the educational and career aspirations of high-potential girls who are facing socio-economic hardship. New

scholarships are valued at about \$20,000 over four years. Applications for 2022 scholarships open in July 2021: www.hardingmillereducationfoundation.org.au/ and go to 'Scholarships'.

3. AVCAT Scholarships For Tertiary Studies: Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust is a national charity providing tertiary education scholarships and bursaries to children and grandchildren of ex-serving veterans planning to enrol (or enrolled) in an undergraduate degree, TAFE college or registered training organisation. Applications open on 18 August 2021 and close on 31 October 2021: <https://avcat.org.au/scholarships/>

4. NSW Department of Communities & Justice: the Department offers scholarships to students enrolled in education or training in one of the

following: Year 10, 11, or 12 at a NSW high school or equivalent at a TAFE college; a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship; a VET subject at a NSW high school. Students must also be either a social housing client or living in out-of-home care. Applications for 2022 scholarships will open late this year (around October) and close in early 2022. Applications for 2021 have closed: <http://bit.ly/dcj-scholarships>

5. The Good Universities Guide website: lists scholarships available in Australia for higher education and vocational study, covering an array of costs from tuition fees to living and accommodation costs. It also has scholarship tips, advice and news, including how to apply for a scholarship: www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au/scholarships

PREPARING FOR YEAR 10 SUBJECT SELECTION



By Careers Advisers Association of NSW & ACT Inc

Year 10 subject selection can be a daunting prospect for many students and their parents. There is a wealth of information to be understood and considered. For example, what are the options after school? Are there prerequisite HSC subjects that need to be taken? What is the subject content? Are the subjects the right choice for the student? Will they enjoy these subjects for the next couple of years?

So who do you turn to for knowledgeable, objective, independent advice that is tailored to the student's individual needs and aspirations? This is where a careers adviser starts to play an important role in helping students plan for the future. A careers adviser is a highly-trained educational specialist who understands the educational demands of the HSC, but also has a wealth of knowledge about post-school options and pathways.

Parents also have an essential role to play in supporting and advising their child through the Year 10 subject selection process. A careers adviser can help parents by providing up-to-date information about pathways, application processes and future job roles – things that have changed a great deal since most parents were at school. Working as a team, parents and the careers adviser can help the student to make well-informed choices.

Role of careers advisers

Careers advisers act as a sounding board for students, helping them to better understand themselves, explore and plan careers and learn about the labour market and the tertiary education sector. Their role is to listen, advise and assist students with the career decision-making process.

Planning and goal setting

It is vital for students to identify their interests, skills and abilities, values, career personality and aptitude. Careers advisers can assist with this self-evaluation process by helping students to research their career



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interests, make suitable subject and career choices that align with their capabilities, skills and aspirations, and understand how self-knowledge connects with goals and plans for the future.

Careers advisers may also arrange individual career consultations with the student and their parents to support the self-evaluation process before subject selection, after exams

gained through attending university, TAFE and private college open days and career expos. Students should also understand the University Admissions Centre (UAC) submission process, including the difference between the HSC and the ATAR. Careers advisers may also highlight recommended or prerequisite HSC subjects and alternative pathways to tertiary study beyond UAC.

Career exploration

An important part of career exploration is work experience, which can promote both self-discovery and career exploration. Students will discover if the career they are considering is either ideal or unsuitable. The careers adviser may facilitate this process. At the same time, students should also develop their skills in researching the labour market and employment trends so they are empowered to transition to the world of work and become autonomous adults capable of navigating an ever-changing job market.

The guiding principle when students are choosing a career path is to 'do what you are interested in and good at'. A careers adviser has the skills, knowledge and expertise to work with students to help them answer these questions.

It is vital for students to identify their interests, skills and abilities, values, career personality and aptitude.

and following a career assessment analysis. Before choosing Year 10 subjects, students should have knowledge of all tertiary pathways including early entry, Equity Access Scheme, scholarships, Adjustment Factors (for university applications), as well as TAFE and private college options. This knowledge is

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