

Report Paper	APCS P&C AGM
Meeting Date	7 December 2020
Category	For Noting
Item No	Annual President's Report

Report of P&C President to AGM

The 2020 year and the impact of COVID-19 meant that 7 of the 9 annual planned activities for the P&C were cancelled.

The two events that went ahead as scheduled were the start of the calendar year welcome and meet the teachers for primary school Tuesday February 18 and the high school meet the teachers evening Monday 10 March. Both events were well attended and in particular the primary school BBQ allowed newer parents to meet other parents, join the P&C and discuss the new build and all of the opportunities it presents for the future.

The Tuesday 18 February meet the teachers BBQ managed to raise some useful funds for the P&C largely off the back of the wonderfully generous donation of food and drinks from Brett and Clare Davis from the Kurrajong Hotel. Our VP Craig Nicolson was also able to secure a new BBQ for the event donated from the good people at Bunnings Alexandria.

Our main planned engagement and fundraising exercise for the year, the Alexandria Sunday Funday co-hosted with ARAG and planned for Sunday 29 March was cancelled as a result of COVID-19. There was a lot of preliminary work put into the Sunday Funday and a big thanks to all the volunteers who worked in advance of the event.

On Monday March 10 I visited the Erskineville Primary School P&C Meeting and did a presentation about the new Alex Park School rebuild. It was an engaging session that went for 1 ½ hours and I think the parents of Erskineville appreciated the opportunity to ask questions about APCS, its values, offerings and how parents think about the school. There were visits planned to other feeder primary schools such as Bourke Street, Darlington and Tempe but all were cancelled. I have spoken to Di Featherstone about the external engagement with those and other primary schools and think that we should undertake visits again in 2021 and make it a regular thing.

One of the COVID-19 forced impacts on us as a P&C was the move to online meetings. We dipped our toe in the water with a gathering in April of parents on line via zoom and then in May we recommenced formal P&C meetings on zoom. The rhythm of those zoom meetings settled and interestingly attendances were quite high with over 30 people attending most meetings through the COVID-19 restrictions coming on campus.

Ron Hoenig MP Member for Heffron met with me on 16 March 2020 with respect to the new school build and how the parents viewed the re-development. He was supportive of us moving through the transient state of pop-ups and how resilient the students had been in the process. He followed up our meeting in writing on 23 March and continued to offer an open door for the P&C of APCS to approach his office at any stage.

Megan Cassidy resigned her P&C Executive position in May 2020 and the position was filled via a vote at the June meeting and Lisa Moir was elected to the Executive. Megan has been a long term contributor to the APCS P&C and a former President and we thank her for her dedication to the school over recent years.

Treasurer Chris Tackenberg and myself have been approached by the CEO of Camp Australia and will catch up with him in the new year to discuss the after school offerings and opportunities. The new school development should present some interesting options and we will ensure that a current user group of parents who access after school care are able to meet with Camp Australia and provide some feedback about what they do well and what they could do better.

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The relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions have meant that the P&C will be able to undertake some tours of the new school building. It is planned that a series of ½ hour tours will happen on the afternoon of Monday 14 December and Tuesday 15 December. It will be fantastic to be able to get parents into their children's classrooms and get a more full picture of the magnificent and suburb defining school.

On Tuesday 10 November we were able to facilitate a meeting of 35 APCS parents with two planning officers of the City of Sydney who were able to present and answer questions with respect to the eastern side sporting precinct of the new school and the dovetail of the synthetic soccer pitch with Alexandria Park. The session enabled some clarification about the shared facility use deal with City of Sydney and the maintenance of green space and trees. Thanks Jess Miller for working to have the meeting happen.

In November I started a discussion with an interested group of about 30 parents around an exercise that we have called 'APCS – the Next Horizon'. There is a strong opportunity for us as a parent group leveraging off the new school development to better position, profile and promote APCS to the local community and beyond. It is a unique place that we are part of, and we want to share our story widely and proudly. At a meeting on 10 November there was a broad discussion about APCS relative strengths and opportunities and a report of the meeting will be discussed at the December P&C with a view to developing a questionnaire for parents and carers early in 2021.

What a year ! It didn't look anything like I had thought or planned after about the first week in March. I want to thank Di and Louise and Deb and Lucy and all the staff at APCS who shifted (I think the trend word is pivoted) their entire pedagogical world with next to no notice. It was an amazing achievement that coupled with the move from pop-up to new building must surely mean the staff deserve a summer break more than most.

Thanks also to the P&C for staying so engaged and to my executive colleagues Chris, Craig, Lisa and the super-woman Rowena for making things in the P&C continuing to tick over and meet our various obligations. And one final word or name. Rachel Dulson. As valuable as gold to any P&C and is always there and always helping and delivering. Zero fuss and just gets stuff done. Thanks Rachel, your award last month from the School was very very deserved.

See you in 2021.

Neil