Anna Letsius

Prior to the monthly P&C meeting, Anna Letsius, the School’s Careers Adviser, spoke about a number of issues.

- Careers Advisers have a much broader brief (and more hats) than previously and are actively engaged in many aspects of the School.
- Anna explained the *Employment Related Skills Log Book*, wherein students record employable skills in a way that can be transferred onto a CV later. This is part of the government’s ‘School to Work’ program.
- There are employment-related aspects to all curricula.
- The School has direct links with a number of industries and employers of which students can take advantage.
- Options for some students include school-based traineeships for years 11 and 12, where a student can study for the HSC concurrently while doing paid work for an employer. Interviews for this program are held in year 10.
- Advice for subject selection for years 11 and 12 is available (in various forms) throughout year 10. Blackwattle Bay has approx 65 subjects available. Approx 80 TAFE subjects are also available. A full list with descriptions are available on the Blackwattle Bay web site.
  Anna’s advice is to focus on subjects with which the student is comfortable and in which they are likely to do well. Particularly, a good result in Standard English will result in a higher UAI than a struggling result in Advanced English.
- Anna is on campus every day and can be contacted via the School Office.
Meeting opened 7:40 pm, Suzy Velcou (president) in the chair.
Minutes of previous meeting accepted.

Special Speakers

The meeting decided to continue the practice of having guest speakers. There was general interest in hearing from all the Faculties; and it is hoped that someone from the English Faculty will be able to come to the next meeting.

Homework

Spilling over from the discussion about speakers and topics of interest, there was considerable interest in aspects of homework, of encouraging students, of appropriate homework practices, of use of the diary, and whether teachers followed up on homework. Terry will raise these issues with the School Executive and will report back next meeting. Parents decided to keep a close eye on the use of diaries, noting that diaries seem to have been little used this year, but that they are a good idea.

Locker Scheme

Although the details of the locker use seem to be clear (see minutes of the March meeting), it is not clear that the School Office is clear about it. Eileen will talk to the office to try to clear it up.

Bus Depot

It appears that most bus traffic in and out of the depot does happen outside of hours of concerns; but we should keep an eye on it.

Suzy will check with John Stephens of the Council regarding the proposal for traffic lights.

Federal Government Chaplains Funding

Daphne reports that the closing date for applications was last Friday, but that new applications will be invited in the next few months with submission dates likely to be advertised in late May or early June.

The guidelines are apparently quite broad. The primary question is: what are the School’s needs wrt spiritual guidance. There is an expectation of mainstream religion, but the guidelines are broad and could include, for example, an Aboriginal spiritual leader.

The proposal must come from the School Council and Suzy will raise it at the next council meeting.
Election Day Fund-raising

During the State Election Day, a sausage sizzle, book stall, cake stall were held on the Leichhardt Campus. The total profit was fairly modest (approx $360) due to over-optimistic catering and a poor voter turnout at the polling booth. Nevertheless, we did raise some money, had a great time and waved the flag for the School (a caring and sharing community). Thanks to all who volunteered to come along and help.

For more details, see the report on the P&C web site.

The meeting chose to donate the left-over sausages to the School for use by the SRC.

Bubblers

The SRC has raised $500 from selling flowers on Valentine’s Day to upgrade the School’s bubblers. After some discussion meeting considered providing drinking water to students; using the $360 from the Election Day. See Treasurer’s Report for more details.

Treasurer’s Report

Summary (full report will be posted on the web site):

The balance of the general account is currently $4,460.05 (including membership fees from the last meeting, and $220.60 in donations from the Open Night). There is also approximately $1,000 to be paid from the School for credit card payments from last year’s Trivia Night.

The balance of the (currently inactive) library account is $2.43.

The balance of the uniform shop account was $12,633.41 as of the last statement; but cheques have been written and more sales income has been received. The actual balance is still likely to be very healthy and we should be in a good position to begin repaying the School for the initial stock as per the Uniform Shop Agreement.

There was discussion about uses for our money and it was in general decided to use money for:

- Bubblers
- Lostock
- Other items as suggested by the School (the principal was invited to propose several options of interest to the School)

The meeting moved to donate $500 for bubblers.

Moved: Jeff, Seconded: Geoff
The Web Site

It was noted that the P&C web site is now active. However, the School web site has some out of date information regarding the Uniform Shop and Lostock. Terry will arrange that the School information matches the P&C information.

Lostock School Camp

John reported at length about issues regarding risk and insurance relating especially to working bees at Lostock. It is clear we need to do a risk assessment of the site and various tasks; and to keep log of who is involved and generally what work they will be doing.

John proposed a list of work that needs doing this year with a total cost of $4,700+.

The meeting moved to allocate $1,700 to build four new bunks and to cover thirty mattresses. Moved: Daphne, Seconded: Fran

There is also likely to be urgent roofing work done and the P&C will consider assisting with this when the actual costs are known.

Some funds are currently available in the Lostock Holding Fund (managed by John, includes booking fees for Lostock) which pays for some maintenance, but this is unlikely to be enough to pay for the roofing.

Lostock School Camp Working Bee

Assistance is still needed for the annual working bee at the campus’s Lostock School Camp in the Hunter Valley. The working bee is open to all parents and families of the campus and is being planned for the Easter break and first week of the holidays (April 6th to approx 11th). A variety of painting and maintenance jobs are being attempted — no particular skills required. There is no charge to stay at Lostock at this time.

A new Lostock brochure and flyer about the working bee is available on the P&C web site or from the Office foyer. Please read through and confirm your availability ASAP to John Hart via Lostock-School@hotmail.com or 0412 114 325 (bookings also). Space is still available for Campus families to stay at Lostock during the mid-term break, but hurry.

Fund-raising

Wine tasting and sales were suggested, probably in conjunction with the Trivia Night. This was reported as being profitable elsewhere and we all started feeling thirsty.
Oval

The oval will be handed over to the School in late April. It now has grass, but this needs time to get established and the official opening will need to be sometime later.

The department has allocated $16,500 to help with establishment and maintenance; it is expected that this will buy a mower and some equipment.