

Welcome everyone to the 2019 AGM of The Launceston Preparatory School Association.

The ordinary business that we as an association transact tonight is:

- We confirm the minutes of the previous year's AGM
- We receive reports on the association's affairs during the preceding year, of which this Chairman's address is one
- We elect officers and board members of the association
- We appoint the auditor & last but not least
- We determine the remuneration of the staff

In terms of the affairs of your board in the last year there is a stand out achievement being the removal of student numbers on the title and the commencement of the redevelopment. For the record, I will now go through how we got there and the appreciation as Chairman that I have for all involved.

- Following Board discussion, in January I met with LCC officers. It would be July before we did as suggested by Council officers and submitted a DA that could then be assessed on its merits. The initial hesitation of the Board was that going through the expense of preparing a DA if we couldn't then remove the numbers on the title was a risk that needed to be thought through.
- Board discussion continued in Feb. when the decision was made to engage an expert planner to guide us through the process of preparing a DA and dealing with the matter of the restriction of student numbers on the title.
- Between March and August, when the DA was advertised, plans were drawn up and reviewed by staff, experts, including traffic engineers, were engaged and the decision was made to submit the redevelopment DA separate to the application to have the numbers restriction removed from the title.
- Comments were made, in relation to our application to having the student numbers restriction removed, which required our attendance at a LCC Council meeting in September. A nervous Chairman sat in silence while Board Member Michael Valentine, Co-Principal Leonie McNair and our expert planner put our case.
- We are thankful to the LCC for deciding in our favour and providing the basis on which we now proceed. At the October Board meeting, in Mrs McNair's absence, we toasted success.

For this small school the removal of student numbers and the redevelopment is a big thing and I thank all board members, the Co-principals, the Business Manager and the staff who reviewed the plans for their input and interest. I also thank the professionals who we have engaged along the way, particularly the planner, the architect & the builder.

The above change, and innovation if you like, is hard and it is and does challenge us but nonetheless we owe it to ourselves and the school community to take these things on and get them done.

The above is not the only matter that your Board dealt with in 2018 and not all Board discussions and work is obvious to staff but we hope you will have noticed the new air-conditioning units.

Other discussions and deliberations included changes to various legislation including the privacy act, enacting changes to procedures brought to our attention by auditors, reviewing various policies and ongoing work regarding various risks, in particular around the security of Board documents.

This focus that your board, as volunteers, has on continual improvements will stand this small school in good stead.

Part of the broader role of board members is to embed themselves, as time allows, in the school community. For me this is the exciting part of the role. The capture the magic production was a highlight. The executive producer, the original music, the lighting and the costumes were all fantastic. The children fully engaged and were versatile with taking on new roles if others were sick and the issues explored “capture the magic or stick to the facts” were excellent.

Not to be out done the volunteers assembly and debate about whether we should look after ourselves first or look after others first was very well debated on both sides. The car boot sale was also fun. I purchased, apart from some raspberry cupcakes a halibor that thanks to my wife’s attention is still alive in our garden, and I particularly enjoyed riding the children around for a short time in the Howard’s bicycle.

In closing I thank everyone for their part in achieving all of the above successes and I look forward to working together in 2019 to achieve and contribute more.

Thank you