



# TASSO NEWS

July 2020

## Manager's Address

Term 3 has started with families returning to the routine of assisting children getting off to school and coming home, students, teachers and school staff are back face-to-face, and TASSO staff have returned to their office. The commonality for all is when we all look at where time has gone since mid-March, what was put on hold until some of the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted in our state and what is happening now.

Most of you would be aware by now that mid-year reports, due out by the end of July, have been different. The usual mid-year report contains A to E, written descriptions, and comments of what is needed to focus on for the remainder of the school year. The report is usually followed with parent-teacher interviews, 3-way conversations or another version of face-to-face verbal communication between school and home. This year is different due to the impact of COVID-19, the communication about your child's progression academically in the core learning areas of English and Maths, information about their wellbeing for all students, with additional information about Science and Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) for Year 7's to 10's. Communication with parents/carers will have been by either phone, online or written. TASSO welcome your comments about this year's mid-year reports and encourage you to email them to [info@tasso.org.au](mailto:info@tasso.org.au) Your comments will help guide our conversations about schools reporting to parents and the value of parent-teacher interviews moving forward.

Communication between home and school and back the other way is beneficial to everyone and has a positive influence on children and young people being actively involved in their education. An effective conversation takes a contribution from all, the sharing of knowledge, mutual respect, and an element of trust before genuine relationships can be developed. Ask yourself when did you last contact your child's school to see how they were going, to share something that you believe may impact your child's wellbeing, behaviour at school and ability to learn? When did your child's school last contact you just to touch base and share knowledge?

TASSO believe that an education should be provided to all, which allows for the development of their abilities. This provision should ensure that all achieve their maximum potential irrespective of capacity to pay, class, disability, gender, culture, level of ability or where they live. The school system should provide a learning environment that encourages students to build on their culture, experience and skills and a safe education setting that is nurturing, and welcoming. The crux of this belief and for it to be achievable is that an effective education system is a partnership of students, families, teachers, and all other Education Department staff, and as such, can best meet the needs of all its participants.

In this newsletter, you will find information and links to the upcoming TASSO Regional workshops focussing on Effective School Communities and TASSO's Annual General Meeting. Both events are opportunities to strengthen the voice of families in Tasmanian public education and we hope that you can attend.

Debra McOrist-Mitchell  
TASSO Operations Manager

TASSO

## Tasmanian Schooling History

The first of the three teachers in this series is Maximilian Nichols, a 30 year old man from Ballarat, who was also the son of a former Lieutenant-Governor of Tasmania. Max first applied to the East Launceston Practising School in 1909 and began under supervision that year.

He received a lot of positive praise from his supervisor, but in a report to the Education Department concerns were raised about aspects of Max's teaching style. Whether it was Max's decision or not, he transferred from East Launceston to Saltwater River the very next year. There is little archived documentation of Max's time down on the Tasman Peninsula, but complaints were made upon his departure. Parents were concerned about the future of children's education. However, his time there was cut short.

In 1915 amidst the first world war Maximilian enlists and departs a year later for Fromelles in France. He did return to teaching in Tasmania briefly but by the 1920s was living on the sparsely populated Lord Howe Island. Perhaps he never fully recovered from his ordeal in the war and the quieter life on Lord Howe appealed to him, he was appointed a teacher there on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January 1924.

## Childish thoughts

There was an article in The Mercury this week that got us here at TASSO rethinking how we talk to children.

An example was made around the children's show 'Bluey' where the dad was teasing the son. The son objected but the dad continued. The episode wrapped up with the son explaining how he was feeling and how he would prefer to be treated.

It suggests that as adults, we are the ones who make all decisions, because we're adults and know what's best. Almost simultaneously ignoring the possibility that our children might have an opinion of their own, or even an alternate solution to the one proposed.

It is all about feeling as though you have been heard, irrespective of whether it has an impact on the given situation or not. Just because you listen to a child's opinion/suggestion does not mean they get their way every time but shouldn't they be heard?

To read the article for yourself, including a lot of academic insight, head over to The Mercury by going to:

<https://www.themercury.com.au/news/opinion/talking-point-its-a-high-bar-but-we-should-listen-to-our-kids-like-the-heeler-family/news-story/f63cbd3a3c1a1fbd31b60ce99464ef52>

### Inside this issue

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AGM Info

Links :

- myfuture,
- PFLAG
- Rotary Citizenship Awards
- Suzie the Scientist



# Hobart City Partner Schools Public Consultation Launch

get involved

SHAPING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER



From left: Jeremy Rockliff (Minister for Education), Duncan Groves (Principal of Ogilvie High School), Jared Dickason (TASSO Treasurer), David Kilpatrick (Principal of New Town High School),

## The Future of High School Education in Hobart

Single-sex, co-ed or a combination of both?

On Tuesday (28/07), TASSO's President and Treasurer attended an event at New Town High School, showcasing what may be a new way forward for public education in Hobart City. The Hobart City Partner Schools formed in 2019 with Ogilvie High School, New Town High School and Elizabeth College to increase subject offerings for the students at each school.

The partnership currently sees 240 Year 9 and 10 students involved in 13 co-ed subjects at Ogilvie and New Town and several Year 11 and 12 students studying a combination of subjects across the three schools. This partnership has received a great deal of support from the students and the school communities, so is now exploring options for a future model of 7 – 12 education for Hobart City that will best suit their students.

The event was attended by Jeremy Rockliff (Minister for Education) and MP Madeline Ogilvy and some representatives from TASSO). Information can be found here: [www.education.tas.gov.au/get-involved](http://www.education.tas.gov.au/get-involved)

If you would like to help determine a model of high school education for Hobart that is flexible and adaptable to make sure learners' needs are met you can fill out a survey at [www.education.tas.gov.au/get-involved](http://www.education.tas.gov.au/get-involved) or send an email to [getinvolved@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:getinvolved@education.tas.gov.au) to share your ideas.

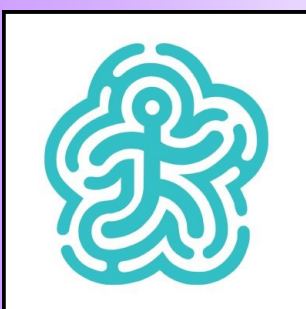


- Want to have a greater say in how we advocate for Tasmanian state schools and colleges?
- Do you feel limited by your actions in your school association?
- Are you or someone you know be perfect to join our Management Committee?

Put forward a nomination and help put our kids first.

To find out just what's involved take look here

To nominate go to [link](#), save the nomination form and email completed form to [manager@tasso.org.au](mailto:manager@tasso.org.au)



In the future, young people will enter a world of work unique in history. It will demand new skills, bring forth new industries and occupations, and feature advanced technologies that alter how we work, among other changes. There may be challenges, but there will also be new opportunities brought by these shifts. To help career influencers discuss the future of work with young people, we have collated content from a range of sources on this topic. View myfuture's [Future of Work feature page](#)

# SEPTEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Southern Regional Meeting.	<b>2</b> TASSO AGM <u>RSVP Due.</u>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> High School Education in Hobart – public consultation closes.	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> TASSO Newsletter due out.	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Closing date – Rotary Junior & Youth Citizenship Awards	<b>16</b> TASSO AGM	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Last Day of Term 3	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

TASSO Regional Meetings will be coming to your way in  
**TERM 3 2020**



**LOCK THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY**

## What Makes for an Effective School Community?

### When & Where:

- LAUNCESTON:** Tuesday, August 25th, 2020  
Grand Chancellor Launceston, 29 Cameron Street, Launceston
- ULVERSTONE:** Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Gnomon Room, Ulverstone Wharf Precinct
- HOBART:** Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020  
TASSO Office, 15 Raminea Road, Lindisfarne
- Online:** For those who want to participate but cannot be at a venue in person, there is an option to join via Microsoft Teams.

All meetings will commence at 7.00 pm with light refreshments available from 6.30 pm. Children are welcome. Invitations will be sent to all school associations and shared on the TASSO website and Facebook page by August 4<sup>th</sup> at the latest.

### AGM's & Committee Meetings:

Your Constitution allows for meetings to be held by using technology if it is agreed to by all members of the Committee (clause 14.3). Some Committees are holding meetings via Microsoft Teams and Zoom.

TASSO is developing a process to enable school associations to use our platform to hold AGM's and School Association Committee meetings. If you would be interested in using our platform please email [manager@tasso.org.au](mailto:manager@tasso.org.au)

# Junior & Youth Young Tasmanian Citizenship Awards

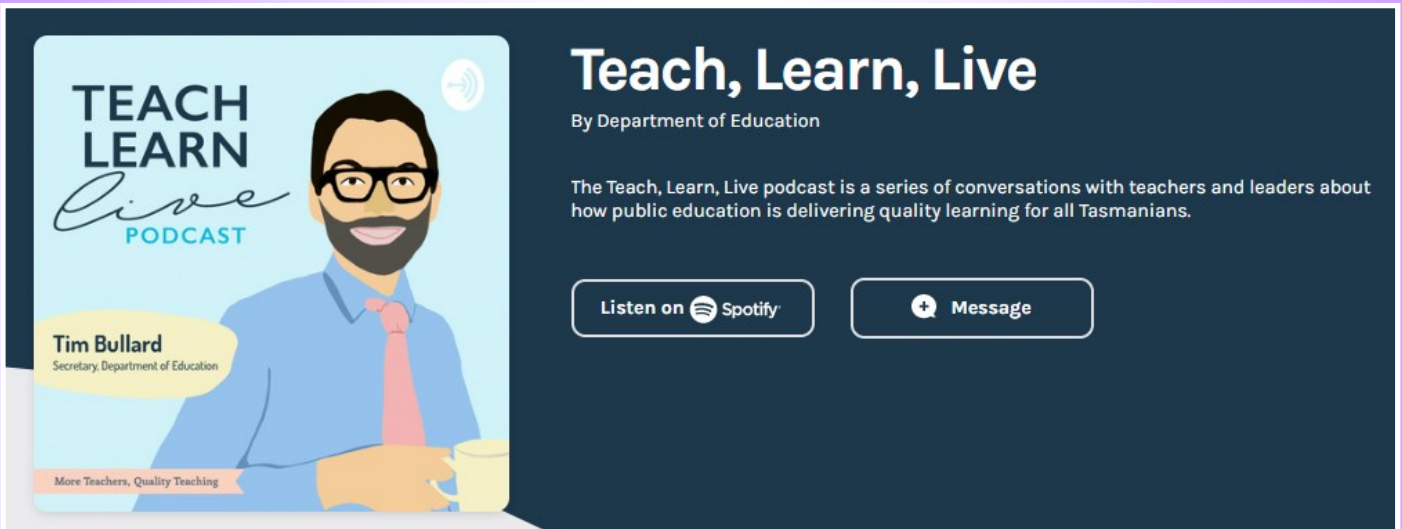
Do you know someone who is an inspiration to others?

Do they go the extra mile to make a difference?

Nominate them for the monthly Rotary Tasmania Passport Club

Junior & Youth Young Tasmanian Citizenship Award.

NOMINATE NOW!



**TEACH  
LEARN**  
*live*  
PODCAST


**Tim Bullard**  
Secretary, Department of Education


More Teachers, Quality Teaching

## Teach, Learn, Live

By Department of Education

The Teach, Learn, Live podcast is a series of conversations with teachers and leaders about how public education is delivering quality learning for all Tasmanians.

Listen on  Spotify

 Message

