



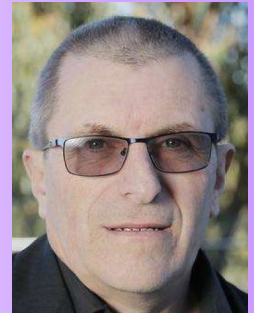
TASSO NEWS

President's Address

September 2020

To Tasmanian state school families,

As I come to the end of my time as President of TASSO. I want to reflect on how important education is regardless of your circumstances, all children are welcomed at state schools and colleges. This term is so important academically, emotionally and psychologically for your children, especially those in years 10, 11 and 12. There is no doubt many families have and still are being affected by the current pandemic COVID-19, 'you're not alone.' Help is available if your family is experiencing difficulties with your child's learning or mental health. Families should contact your child's school and arrange a meeting with the principal. The school will have resources where they can assist you and work out a learning plan individualised for your child. If you are not happy with the assistance provided by the school we encourage you to call TASSO on 6243 7718 so we can guide you, hopefully, to a satisfactory resolution.



The Education Minister has waived all school Fees for 2020 and terminated all previous levies and fees outstanding from previous years so families are debt-free of school fees and can use that money to support their families during the pandemic. The recent data from the DoE informed us that home learning registrations have increased by 50%. This is due to many factors but certainly, the pandemic is the main contributor.

Over my time in education I have seen many Improvements in state education. New schools built to suit community growth, amalgamations and refurbishments. There are also new projects on the horizon, like the Inner-City School Project.

I have seen TASSO play a significant role in the new Education Act, the New Disability Funding Model and the creation of numerous updated policies for schools. uniforms, mobile phones, respectful student behaviour, parent behaviour, bullying and school chaplains, were all implemented for better educational outcomes for students. TASSO has conducted many surveys to hear from parents on various issues. I have been very vocal in pushing for seat belts in school buses, while other states have invested millions on regional and rural school buses to be fitted with seat belts. The Tasmanian Governments have ignored reports including the 'Rural and Regional Seatbelt Program Taskforce Report' undertaken by the NSW Transport Department in 2019. Sadly, it seems, the safety of your children is not a priority.

School associations are no longer required to pay a fee to be a member of TASSO, and as such all, bar one, are now members.

The global pandemic has seen the TASSO Management Committee, like most, move to an online world of holding and participating in meetings, which will be evident at the 2020 TASSO AGM on September 16th. At our AGM a proposed TASSO Constitution will be presented, as will motions relating to Work Place Law and Students, and membership to the Australian Council of State School Organisations. The proposed TASSO Constitution if adopted will allow the organisation to operate more fluently.

Finally, I would like to thank the school associations that I have visited, and families I have spoken to over the last two years and the management committee and office staff for their support over a remarkably busy two years. The Department of Education, the Minister's Office and Opposition Spokesman for Education all have been a delight to work with.

The biggest joy a family can have is being involved in their child's education.

Nigel Jones

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



16th September

- 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?
- Would you, or someone you know, be a perfect addition to our Management Committee?

Attend the AGM in person or online and put our kids first!

For details go to: <https://www.tasso.org.au/agm/>



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](#)

Hobart City Partner Schools Public Consultation Launch

get involved

SHAPING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER



Regional Meetings

Over the last two weeks, TASSO ran its regular series of Regional Meetings with the focus being 'Effective School Communities'. There were three such meetings, in the North, Northwest and South, all of which could be attended online. This ability dramatically increased our attendance which is a really positive sign going forward.

Through a discussion-based meeting style, we were able to identify common issues across multiple school associations. This was particularly helpful as it brought issues to the surface that the other attendees may not have experienced or even been aware of before the meeting.

The meetings were also a great networking opportunity for the attendees. A good example of the benefits includes association members from 'feeder schools' making contact with a member from their high school. This can create a channel of information between the schools potentially streamlining that transition from primary to high schools.

Our Regional Meetings are an ongoing effort to help our school associations and their communities and will continue at a minimum of 1 per term. To aid this we have purchased new online conferencing equipment, for each region, to provide an improved experience for all those joining us online. It will also improve our recordings and we are potentially looking into using them as a learning resource.

Thank you to all those who participated in this round of meetings and for providing feedback to help us moving forward.

Tom
Communications Assistant



Curious Climate Tasmania * – Schools Edition

Do your students have questions about climate change? We want to answer them!

During **Global Climate Change Week** 19-23 October, climate researchers from UTAS and CSIRO will be visiting Tasmanian schools, in person or online, to answer students' questions.

We have experts on **Antarctic science** (What happens to the penguins when all the ice melts?), **Bushfires** (How do bushfires create their own weather?), **Communication** (How can you persuade someone that climate change is real?), **Disasters and Extreme weather** (What if we get fires and storms at the same time?) **Fish and other marine species** (Will we be able to find Nemo in Tasmania?), **Governments** (Why aren't they fixing the problem?), **Health** (will climate change cause new pandemics?) and pretty much any other climate change subject in the alphabet.

Do you want to know how scientists predict the future climate? Or how we'll grow food in a warmer world? What will happen in Tasmania when sea levels rise? Can animals adapt to climate change? What can I do? If you've got a climate question, big or small, we'll find a scientist who will do their very best to answer it.

How it works:

This program is for groups of up to 50 students, from grades 4-12.

If you are a teacher who would like to host a scientist for a 1 hour visit or 30 minute zoom call between 19-23 October, fill in our Expression of Interest form: <https://tinyurl.com/y4zu96qj>

1. The Teacher nominates a climate subject that students are interested in (see the list on our EOI form);
2. Students come up with a list of questions broadly relating to this subject;
3. We find a scientist who can answer your questions;
4. Teacher and scientist liaise to decide on a time for the visit/zoom call.
5. During the visit or call, the scientist will give a presentation on what they do, and will be ready to answer plenty of questions!



* Curious Climate Tasmania was developed in 2019 as a collaboration between the ABC, UTAS and CSIRO. We asked for questions from the general public via callouts from ABC radio. We then put teams of scientists together that went out to these communities and answered their questions directly via public events. This year, we're inviting school students to ask all the questions! You can see videos answering the public's climate change questions from 2019 here <https://curiousclimate.org.au/>

SEPTEMBER 2020

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
	1 Southern Regional Meeting		3	4 High School Educa- tion in Hobart – public consultation closes
7	8	9	10	11
14	15 Closing date – Rotary Junior & Youth Citizenship Awards	16 TASSO AGM	17	18
21	22	23	24	25 Last Day of Term 3
28	29	30	31	

Taste & Learn™

CSIRO's vegetable education program for Australian primary schools

Are you interested in teaching the Taste & Learn™ program in your class?

<https://research.csiro.au/taste-and-learn/>



RoadSet™

RoadSet was presented to TASSO recently and I thought it would definitely be worth sharing here. Its a fully interactive program designed to teach road safety. It's stated it's aimed at year 9 students but I think all high school students could gain a lot by completing the program.

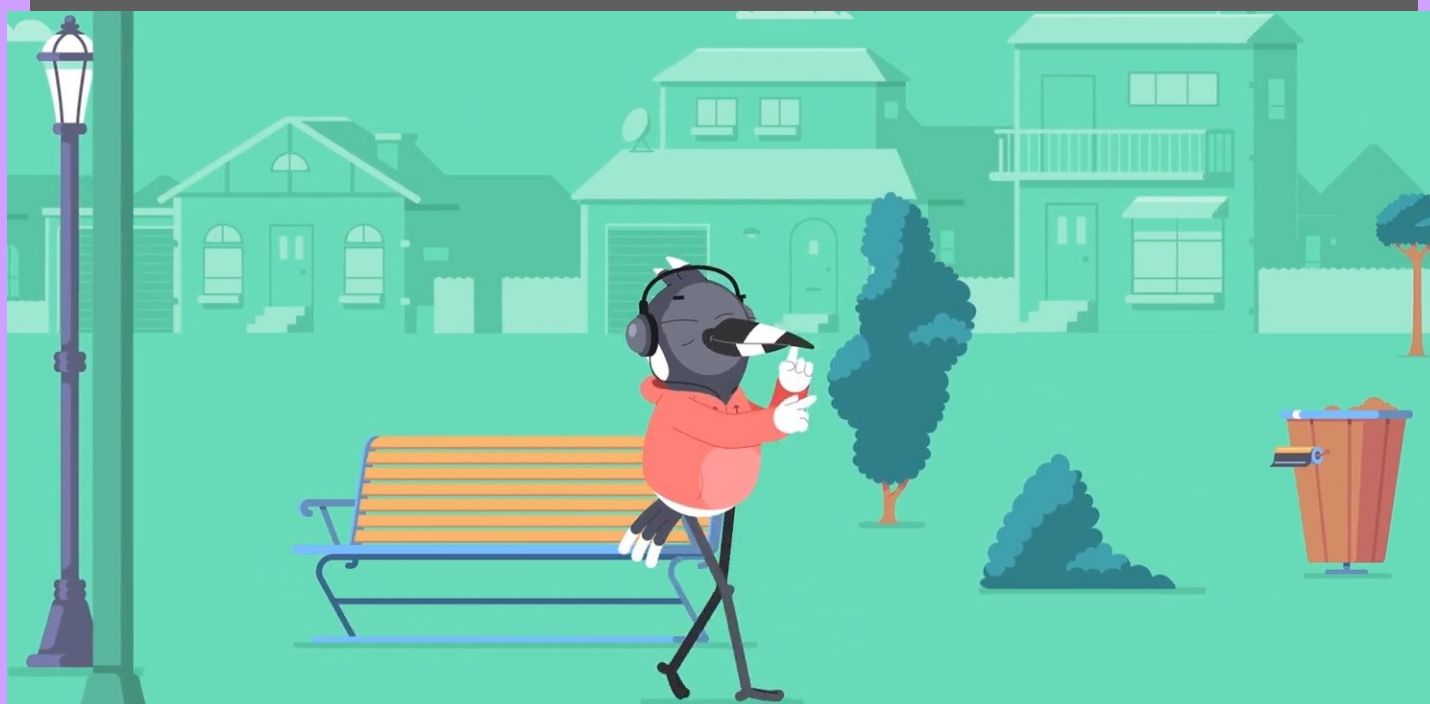
It's a fully interactive experience where characters take you through all 10 modules in a cartoon style world. Within these modules are games that will test your knowledge and your

skills as they provide us with the information to improve your performance.

I think those that start the program will firstly, enjoy it, but more importantly learn heaps! It is just the sort of thing that would help prepare students prior to starting out as a learner on the roads.

I highly recommend this, check it out!

<https://www.roadset.com.au/>



October

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
			1	2 High School Education in Hobart – public consultation closes
5	6	7	8	9 Last day of school holidays
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22 Hobart Show Day	23 Professional learning (South)
26	27	28	29	30 Professional learning (North)

<https://www.education.tas.gov.au/about-us/teach-tasmania/teach-learn-live-podcast/>



TEACH LEARN
Live
PODCAST

EPISODE 10:
Ashley McPherson
Principal, Bruny Island District School

More Teachers, Quality Teaching

