



# TASSO NEWS

Issue 8: June 2018

## WE HAVE BEEN BUSY!

- Met with Relationships Australia
- Represented parents at the DoE School Association Working Group
- Participated in a teleconference with other States and Territories who are members of the Australian Council of State School Organisations (ACSSO)
- Attended the UTAS Faculty of Education Course Advisory Committee meeting
- Met with Greg Boon, CEO Tasmanian Catholic Schools Parents Council
- Met with Michelle O'Byrne, Shadow Minister for Education
- Attended the ACSSO forum and governance workshop in Launceston
- Met with Kerryn Smith, Mediator and Education Officer with Life Without Barriers
- Reviewed draft Policies & Processes with DoE Education Act Implementation Team as identified stakeholders
- Attended the DoE Child & Student Wellbeing Unit strategy update
- Met with Rose Bray, Education Officer, Ten Lives to learn about the Educ-Cat STEM program.
- Attended School Association Committee meetings
- State Budget Community Lock-up
- TasCOSS State Budget Summary
- DoE State Budget Briefing
- TASSO Management Committee gathered at the TASSO Office for 2 days. This included meeting with the Minister of Education Jeremy Rockliff, DoE Secretary Tim Bullard and Katrina Beams the CEO of Tasmanian Assessment Standards & Certification. We also had workshops around Community Empowered Schools, Strategic Planning, TASSO Annual Conference and our Management Committee meeting.
- Met with Helen Richardson AEU State President
- Association for Children with Disabilities - Understanding Anxiety in Children Workshop
- Met with Maureen McKeown, Director of School Improvement
- Gathered with members of Family and Children Tasmania (FACT) to discuss the new Children Advice Referral Service (CARS).



**Along with attending all the above we have been busy with planning for our Conference and Annual General Meeting!**

# TASSO CONFERENCE

## ENGAGING THE 3 C's

COMMUNITY CARING COMMUNICATION

Keep an eye out for information on our conference. It will be on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of August we have an amazing group of guest speakers and workshop co-ordinators including Dr. Debbie Pushor, Professor Sue Kilpatrick (UTAS), Gemma Burns (UTAS), Mitch McPherson (Speak up Stay ChatTy), Darren Stops (Psychologist), Mez Newman (PFLAG), and more. All TASSO Member Schools will get 2 free tickets valued at approximately \$250 each! [CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS!](#)

## TASSO AGM and MOTIONS

TASSO's AGM is coming up on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August 2018. All paid TASSO Member School Associations are entitled to one vote per delegate for up to two delegates and all School Association Committees are welcome to place motions to the AGM, as well as nominate their members for the TASSO Management Committee. Forms are available on our website <https://www.tasso.org.au/agm/>. Nominations and Motions are due on **Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2018**. If you have any questions, please phone TASSO on 0362437718 or email us at [info@tasso.org.au](mailto:info@tasso.org.au)

## EXTERNAL PROGRAM and PROVIDERS

This information is TASSO's policy to check out more of TASSO's policy go to <https://www.tasso.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Policy.pdf>

### Religious Education

Religious education should fit within the overall curriculum and intended learning outcomes and should not be intended to evangelise. Requests for externally delivered religious instruction in a State school by an outside provider must be approved by the School Association. Externally delivered religious instruction in schools must be provided by persons who are approved by the school association and a Registered Teacher must be present at all times. Parents must provide permission for their child to attend externally delivered religious instruction. The School Principal must guarantee that time spent in externally delivered religious instruction will not be deducted from normal course time, ensure that provision of externally delivered religious instruction uses educational principles and relates to children's interest and abilities and complement other areas of learning and ensure appropriate duty of care for students

### Drug and Health Education

Children's education needs to include information enabling them to make life choices based on knowledge, understanding and the values of the community. Drug and life skills education programs should be incorporated into the curriculum for state schools, beginning at primary school level and being age appropriate, as part of the health education curriculum taught in the school. Drug education programs should educate children about the harmful effects of legal (including alcohol) and illegal recreational drugs and the misuse of prescription and "over the counter" medicines and household products. Drug education programs should be continuous and consistent throughout schooling and be relative and appropriate to the age of students. All school policies should reinforce the objectives of drug education programs. Programs should be provided in all schools to assist and inform students with drug dependency. Schools should keep parents informed of programs being offered to students. Counselling should be offered to students, and their parents, where inappropriate drug use at school has been identified. Parents should have easy access to support and information that will assist them in providing guidance to their children on the use and abuse of drugs and help them become good role models for children and adolescents.

# SCHOOL FACILITIES

With the State Election done and the dust is starting to settle, one item on our election position statement was around school building, grounds and facilities. We have been questioned about the process of allocating funds for infrastructure and maintenance. We have heard from school communities asking us how they get their ageing facility's upgraded that they are at capacity and have no space and are desperate for additional space to meet the needs of their growing school numbers. We are gathering information especially photographic evidence on how much in need our schools are, but in saying that we do need your help in compiling this information. Please send any information, photos to [manager@tasso.org.au](mailto:manager@tasso.org.au) or inbox us through our Facebook page. Examples images featured above.



# MEET THE STAFF

## Debra McOrist-Mitchell Operations Manager

I have been involved with TASSO since 2012 and am currently employed as the Operations Manager. This job allows me to further develop my passion for public education.



The area I am most interested in is Authentic Parent Engagement. Where parents and schools work side by side to enhance the education of students through effective two-way communication, mutual respect and genuine relationships. Where the parent voice is represented and heard by the decision-makers in public education ranging from the local school to all levels of government and bureaucracy.

I want to see a Tasmania where students in public education receive high-quality education regardless of where they live.

### Background:

I have two children who have attended a District School for their entire school education thus far, with one now secondary and the other primary. I attended my first school association committee meeting the year my eldest child started Kindergarten and apart from a two-year break I have been actively involved in the committee, as has my partner. This has broadened my knowledge and shown me how much better a school can be if everyone works together and the on flowing benefits for everyone.

# OFFICE BEARERS

President: Lisa Gillard (Unavailable)

Senior Vice President: Jared Dickason

Junior Vice President: Nigel Jones

Treasurer: Gary Morse

Secretary: Lyn Spaulding

Northern Delegate: Peter Kearney

Northern Delegate: Vacant

Northern Delegate: Vacant

North-West Delegate: Phillip Spratt

North-West Delegate: Amina Keygan

North-West Delegate: Chis Lynch

Southern Delegate: Ellie Woolnough

Southern Delegate: Virginia Bashford

Southern Delegate: Vacant

**Nominations now open for 2018-19 Management Committee, more info email [info@tasso.org.au](mailto:info@tasso.org.au)**



## MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

15 June 2018

# Tasmanian State Budget 2018

## TASSO Welcomes Record Spend on Education

The Tasmanian Association of State School Organisations Inc. (TASSO) welcome the record investment in education in yesterday's budget. The \$192.2 million the Government is investing in education is a sound investment for our children's future prosperity and better educational outcomes and career prospects.

We are delighted about the 277 new staff including the 192 new teachers to be employed over the next four years, 10 new teachers for school farms, and 35 additional literacy and numeracy coaches. 80 fulltime equivalent teacher assistants to start in 2020.

TASSO is encouraged to see the Government continuing to support some of our most at-risk students with \$4.3 Million for Southern Support School, that has had wonderful educational outcomes that are being achieved at the Support Schools in the North and South. This coincides with improved and positive educational outcomes in Autism Units and Learning Centres in Government Schools around the state. Newly developed Autism Units in the North & North West will help see this success spread throughout the state. We are also glad to hear of the further allocation of funds to implement the Ministerial Taskforce recommendations for the *Education of Students with Disabilities*.

As well as the 10 new teachers for school farms mentioned above we are pleased to see increased funding of school farms, in the form of \$800,00 over four years and an additional \$7.3 million to infrastructure at the Jordan River Learning Federation and Sheffield District School Farms. School farms form a vital part of providing a diverse educational environment for students.

TASSO is pleased to see needs based funding role out this has been an initiative TASSO has supported now for many years and we are very glad to see it come to life.

Despite our general happiness with this budget TASSO would like to see in future budgets Student Assistant Scheme (STAS) indexed to meet the rising cost of Education, which would help relieve financial pressures on School Resource Packages.

Overall the funding in The Budget shows the Minister has been listening and working with school communities, educational professionals and organisations like TASSO for improved and positive educational outcomes.

**For further comment**

**Nigel Jones – Junior Vice President – 0448 143 085**

# July 2018



**TASSO**  
*Promote and protect  
 interests of parents  
 in Tasmanian State  
 Schools and Colleges.*

Tasmanian Association of State School Organisations Inc.

## Calendar Key

- TASSO Management Committee Meetings
- Student Free Days
- College Only Holidays
- School Holidays
- Public Holiday
- Regional Holiday
- TASSO Conference and Membership
- TASSO Office Closed

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Not Colleges	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS INC.**

ABN: 28 261 465 779

Office: 15 Rowitta Road Lindisfarne

phone: 03 6243 7718

PO Box 183 Lindisfarne TAS 7015

email: [info@tasso.org.au](mailto:info@tasso.org.au)



Website: [www.tasso.org.au](http://www.tasso.org.au)

# 'The Game Changer'

## Board Game

The purpose of the game is to generate discussion and new thinking about how your School Association Committee engages with the community.

### How you can use the board game?

- An introduction and teambuilding for your School Association Committee.
- Prepare your School Association Committee for the decisions you'll have to make together.
- Generate discussion on how your School Association engages with your community.

This board game will be coming to your school soon to get your copy early call our friendly staff on 0362437718 or email [info@tasso.org.au](mailto:info@tasso.org.au)



## Engaging the Three C's

Community

Caring

Communication

## Sponsorship & Exhibitor Packages



Annual Conference  
25-26 Aug.  
2018  
Blundstone  
Arena



If you or some you know are interested in sponsoring our Conference information is available on our website: <https://www.tasso.org.au/news-events/>. Also feel free to contact Ellie Woolnough at [ellie.woolnough@outlook.com](mailto:ellie.woolnough@outlook.com).