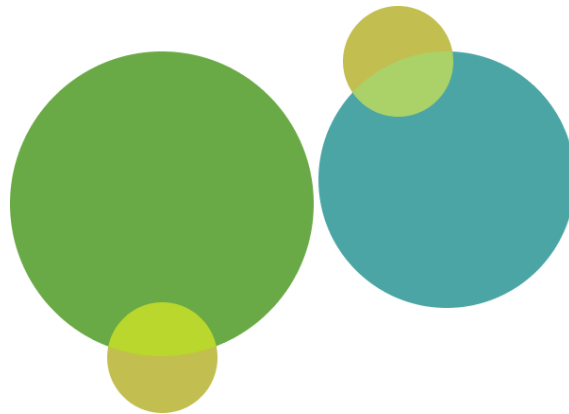




Term 2 Newsletter - 2024



Welcome to the new School Association Committee members receiving the TASSO newsletter for the first time, and welcome back to Term 2 for returning committee members.

The purpose of the School Association is to promote the value of education in collaboration with the entire school community: teachers, students, parents, and the wider community.

The School Association Committee is entrusted with representing all facets of the school community. Through the Committee, the School Association participates in the formulation and development of school policies, plans for school improvement, and reviews the school's objectives, priorities, strategic directions, and values.

We extend our gratitude for your dedication to your school and students' education.

To update your committee details, please [click here](#).

Our survey competition has concluded, and we congratulate Moonah Primary School Association on winning the \$200 gift card. However, our committee survey remains open to ensure that we capture all voices to shape TASSO

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We're eagerly anticipating updates on your committee's activities this year. Feel free to drop us an email and let us know what's happening with your School Association.



Sincerely, Jessica Bennett

Join the TASSO Board

Responsibilities:

- Hiring and overseeing leadership
- Policy development
- Risk management
- Performance monitoring
- An ambassador for the organisation

We are seeking individuals who:

- Possess a passion for government education.
- Bring governance experience (or undergo training).
- Can bring skills in a relevant area such as accounting, risk management, volunteer/change management or governance.
- Demonstrate strategic thinking skills.
- Be adept at collaborating statewide through technology.
- Embrace principles of accountability, transparency, and integrity.

The TASSO Board invites expressions of interest (EOIs) to fill roles as Board members.

TASSO stands as the peak body for School Associations across all Tasmanian State Schools. We offer support and guidance to School Association Committees while actively advocating for parents in consultations with key education stakeholders.

Submit expression to

info@tasso.org.au



For inquiries, reach out to Jessica Bennett at

6243 7718 | 0408 170 355

or via email.

VISION | Every school has an effective School Association Committee

MISSION | Strengthen and support School Association Committees

Our focus is on you, our members.

Committee Matters

One of the core purposes of the school association is to participate in the review of the school's values. As you may have noticed, the new department value set has been rolled out across schools with little to no consultation with the parent members of school associations.

One of our member school associations, Woodbridge School Association, has expressed their anger and disappointment in the apparent breach of section 113 of the Education Act (TAS) 2016.

Read Woodbridge School Association's letter to DECYP [here](#) | the DECYP responses is [here](#) and [here](#).

Read TASSO's letter to DECYP [here](#) and the DECYP response [here](#).

So what does this mean for your committee?

We recommend a discussion about the values at your next school association committee meeting and a motion be included in your committee minutes to endorse any decisions made.

You have several options to consider:

1. Whether you decide to integrate your widely consulted school-specific values with the new DECYP values.
2. Or, are you happy to endorse the new DECYP values and discuss how you can align your committee practices to sync with these values.
3. Or, do you wish to refuse the new values entirely until broad school consultation takes place.

A meeting motion might read:

MOTION: The [school name] School Association endorse/do not endorse the use of the new DECYP values of connection, courage, growth, respect and responsibility.

MOTION: in addition to the new DECYP values of connection, courage, growth, respect and responsibility the [school name] School Association endorse the embedding of the current school values of [name values] alongside these new values.

TASSO is working with the department to ensure that inclusive and wide-ranging consultation occurs in the future. Working to ensure there is an increase the value of the parent voice in our students education.

At any time, if you have an advocacy matter you would like the TASSO Board to consider, please email us. We may invite you to speak to the matter at a Board meeting, held online.

Upcoming Events



Walk Safety to School Day is Friday May 10

The initiative aims to raise awareness of the health, road safety, transport and environmental benefits that regular walking, or alternative active transport (especially to and from school) can provide for the long term well being of our children, not just on 10 May, but every day. Apart from the physical benefits, regular walking (or similar) also has a favourable impact on children's cognitive and academic performance.

It can serve a good time to assess the environment around your school.

Crossing guards:

The Department of State Growth undertake an assessments of children's crossings to determine if they meet the criteria in the [School Traffic Control Facilitates Guidelines](#). If the criteria is met, State Growth will provide a School Crossing Patrol Officers (SCPO). However, if the criteria is not met, State Growth will work with the local council and school community to implement a number of other safety initiatives. This may include infrastructure (wombat crossings or automatic signage) upgrades or the adoption of the Volunteer SCPO program.

The email address to request an assessment for SCPO is: info@stategrowth.tas.gov.au

For understanding which roads are State Growth roads and Local Council for advocacy efforts check out the List: https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/managing_the_roads/who_owns_the_roads



Free digital support for families!

Libraries Tasmania is offering free digital skills support to parents, carers and families.

Digital skills are critical for every child's success. We know how important learning outside of the classroom is to a child's development, and we are helping families feel more confident supporting their child's online learning at home.

The Digital skills for families team are offering one-to-one support and group sessions.

We can help with:

- Online safety for families
- Creating a supportive home environment
- Tips for being online together
- Online searching and troubleshooting
- Emails, attachments and file management
- Canvas Parent learning platform
- School communication applications
- Microsoft 365
- Getting connected
- Device settings and parental controls

Email digitalskillsforfamilies@libraries.tas.gov.au to organise a free session for families in your school community.

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MOVE WELL EAT WELL

Get involved in Move Well Eat Well's program Refresh!

The Department of Health invites you to participate in [Move Well Eat Well's](#) (MWEW) program Refresh. Join us to reimagine how MWEW can best support nutrition and physical activity in Tasmanian primary schools and early childhood services.

Face-to-face conversations (April/May):

Chat with the MWEW team about physical activity and nutrition at your school or service. We are keen to learn more about how MWEW can support your school or service in the future.

- Conversations will be conducted by two MWEW team members in-person or online, for 30-45 mins.
- Up to four staff are welcome to attend.
- All participating schools/services will receive a \$50 Modern Teaching Aids voucher.

Express your interest [here](#)

Collaborative workshops (May/June):

Come to a collaborative workshop to share your thoughts on how MWEW can best support schools and services in the future.

- Workshops are 90 minutes with up to 30 people from the primary school and early childhood sectors.
- Up to two people from your organisation are welcome to attend a workshop.
- Both face-to-face and online workshops are available.
- Part-day relief payment is available for schools and services on request.

Workshop details:

South: Wednesday 22 May, 9:30am-11:00am, Glenorchy library, Glenorchy - **Register for South workshop** [here](#)

North-West: Wednesday 29 May, 9:30am-11:00am, Point Function Room, Burnie - **Register** [here](#)

Online: Wednesday 5 June, 3:30pm-5:00pm via Microsoft Teams

- Register [here](#)

Learn more about the program Refresh and other consultation

opportunities: [Move Well Eat Well Refresh Updates | Move Well Eat Well](#)



MANDATORY REPORTING TRAINING

Mandatory reporting training will be a requirement for all volunteers on school grounds by the start of Term 1, 2024.

[You can complete training by visiting the DECYP Safeguarding Page](#)

One aspect to consider is how, as a committee, you will incorporate the training into any large events that you plan to hold in 2024 and beyond. It's important to note that all volunteers at fairs or school association events where children are present will need to have completed the training.

You might also want to think about inviting the Safeguarding Lead to your Term 2 meeting for further discussion and clarification.

Share with your School Association Networks.



Available through Libraries Tasmania, Studiosity is available to help students with their homework.

All you need is a library card and you can ask questions using online chat, collaborative whiteboards and file sharing tools, to get feedback on essays and assignments.

For more information visit: libraries.tas.gov.au/public-libraries/studiosity

Book a Meeting with Us

To schedule a meeting with TASSO Operations Manager, Jessica Bennett, please use the following information:

Jessica is available to meet one-on-one with your Chairperson or a small group of committee members (Chairperson, Secretary, and Principal) to discuss your committee, create solutions for recruiting members, help develop an annual plan, or address any other needs. Meetings can be conducted either face-to-face or online.

Availability for **Hobart**:

May 21 to 24: contact me for available times

Availability for **Launceston**:

June 12: contact me for available times

If you are based in the North-West, Jessica's meeting availability may be more flexible, so don't hesitate to get in touch.

Email: info@tasso.org.au | **Phone:** (03) 6243 7718 | 0408 170 355

Feel free to reach out to coordinate a meeting that works for your committee's schedule and needs.

Grants

CRIPPS - Dough for the People 'Mixture' Grants

Grants are open to any clubs, organisations or community groups within Tasmania who require assistance to provide facilities or services which are beneficial to their local community.

Grants: up to \$1,000-\$2,000

Closes: end of May

Find out more: <https://www.cripps.com.au/community/>

TasPorts Community Grant Program

Supports local organisations, community groups and events that benefit communities surrounding our port operations.

Grants: up to \$5,000

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Open: 1 August, 2024

Closes: 21 August, 2024

Find out more: <https://www.tasports.com.au/grant-program>

TASMANIAN COMMUNITY FUND - Governance for Social Impact Training

Applications from individuals from across Tasmania to participate in Governance for Social Impact training. Training occurs in Launceston (28-29 Oct) and Hobart (31 Oct - 1 Nov). I highly recommend!

Eligibility requirements: NFP Board Member or Senior Exec reporting to the Board

Closes: 15 September, 2024

Find out more: <https://www.tascomfund.org/what-we-fund/leadership-and-capacity-building/governance-for-social-impact>

VARIETY - School Breakfast Club & Community and School Grants

Enabling schools to deliver a nutritious breakfast five days a week, to all students in their school – to eliminate the stigma of partaking.

Eligibility requirements: ICSEA score of less than 1000

Closes: 30 September, 2024

Find out more: <https://www.variety.org.au/tas/grants/community-grants/>

VARIETY - Community and Schools Grants

Granting items such as Educational Resources, Interactive Playground Equipment, Mobility Equipment and Communication Devices.

Grants: up to \$10,000

Closes: 30 September, 2024

Find out more: <https://www.variety.org.au/tas/grants/community-grants/>

Calvary - Community Council Grants 2024

Provides grants for not-for-profit Tasmanian organisations to improve the health and wellbeing of marginalised and vulnerable Tasmanian communities.

Grants: up to \$5,000

Open: 9 September, 2024

Closes: 21 October, 2024

Find out more: <https://www.tasports.com.au/grant-program>

TENNIS AUSTRALIA - Kids Tennis Program

Kids Tennis Program offers grants to schools and clubs to provide free before-and-after school tennis programs for disadvantaged kids. The program focuses on building confidence through rewarding positive behaviour, teaching valuable resilience skills and promoting social connections.

Grants: up to \$3,500

Eligibility requirements apply

Closes: 1 November, 2024

Find out more: <https://www.tennis.com.au/>

TASMANIAN COMMUNITY FUND- Community Action

The Tasmanian Community Fund is calling for applications from not-for-profit community organisations for projects that support strong, vibrant and resilient communities, through programs and activities that remove barriers to learning

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Grants: \$5,000 - \$50,000

Closes: 31 December, 2024 (assessments made in February, April, June, August, October and December)

Find out more: <https://www.tascomfund.org/what-we-fund/meeting-the-need>

LOCAL COUNCIL GRANTS- search your local council website for community grants your School Association can apply for.

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Our mailing address is:

info@tasso.org.au

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