



## February News

The start of the 2020 school year has started with major concerns raised around escalating education costs for parents and carers. Many parents are going to politicians', Facebook and talk back radio to openly express their frustration of the great inequity of their child's levies and school uniform costs, along with the additional costs of returning children to school. The Department of Education figures show 36% of families are currently eligible and receiving STAS (Student Assistance Scheme) - but these families still have a range of school costs that can cause severe financial pressures.

What about working families who don't qualify for STAS? According to agencies like NILS, Anglicare and the Salvation Army, parents are racking up debt to pay for their child's levies, uniforms as well as school trips and electronic devices.

According to the latest figures from the Department of Education, over \$300,000 in school fees were still outstanding at the end of 2018.

While Tasmanian parents are feeling the pinch, are we worse off than any other student/family in the state school system in Australia? While researching for this article, I looked at the other states and was interested in the findings. Victoria, NSW, Queensland, and WA have so-called 'free education' where they have voluntary contributions in various forms, but parents still have the additional cost of books and uniforms, school trips and other associated costs. According to an ABC News story in 2019, in New South Wales, 'free public-school is provided, as stated by the NSW Government', education in the primary age group can cost parents \$1300 - \$2800 per year.

Western Australia primary schools have a voluntary cap of \$60 per child, capped at \$120 for a family of three. Parents pay extras like books, excursions, and swimming. High school fees are capped at \$235, plus books.

Tasmanian levies and charges form part of the revenue of the school, school policies are stating levies and charges will not be refunded without exceptional circumstances. Under the new Education Act 2016, 'No student will be excluded from educational instruction due to non-payment of levies and charges'.

It is time for a bipartisan government approach in Tasmania, where all relevant stakeholders should convene to formulate and deliver a model that can still deliver affordable education for families and where students can afford to complete year 12.

TASSO welcomes the Education Minister's comments on 7LA FM during Tasmania Talks 7<sup>th</sup> Feb, where he stated the department was reviewing stage 2 of the Levies and Charges and will put it out for public consultation during 2020. Consultation must involve the broad school community, through school associations and community forums.

While our levies and charges system in Tasmania certainly needs a review, compared to other States, parents here in Tasmania are in a far more affordable system compared to some other states' educational charges on parents.

Nigel Jones  
President

TASSO



## TASSO Management Committee

### WHY JOIN?

If you're reading this newsletter there is a chance you may already have some idea of the work TASSO does... maybe not?

TASSO is an independent community based apolitical organisation founded in 1947. We are recognised in Tasmania and nationally as being the peak Tasmanian body representing families, students and school communities in the realm of public education.

We believe that an effective school system is a partnership of families, students, school community and Department of Education staff.

We work to support school organisations, school communities, government and non-government stakeholders, parents / carers and students.

The TASSO Management Committee and staff can provide knowledge, support and guidance to assist others to achieve the best educational outcomes for students. TASSO provides representation on like-minded government and non-government stakeholder groups.

#### **What does your School Association get for their TASSO Membership?**

- The opportunity to attend, free of charge, TASSO workshops and forums held throughout Tasmania.
- The ability to send two voting delegates to TASSO General Meetings, including the AGM, or have one proxy vote.
- Representation through TASSO on government and non-government stakeholder groups and with Tasmanian Ministers, Shadow Ministers and Government Departments.
- TASSO newsletters and media releases.
- The capacity to invite TASSO Representatives to your Committee meetings or other events where you believe it would be advantageous.
- The ability to nominate someone from your school as a candidate for election to the TASSO Management Committee.

The opportunity to provide promotional information to TASSO for inclusion on our Facebook page and newsletter about events at your school, which would appeal to the wider community.



# For *parents and carers*

## Career information for parents and carers

The earliest and often the most powerful learning about careers is shaped by the adults in a child's life. myfuture, the National Career Information Service, has tools and resources available to help parents to guide and support their child as they explore career options and occupations of interest. Browse the [Assist your child](#) page for more information.

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## TASSO LINKS OF INTEREST

School Levies Media Release

<https://www.tasso.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Cost-of-Returning-to-School.pdf>

palawa kani In Schools Media Release

<http://bit.ly/2HyyhCl>

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# TASSO Regional Meetings

## Term 1 2020

Burnie - March 10th

Launceston - March 11th

Hobart - March 12th

[Click on the picture for more information.](#)



# Looking for a simple way to raise funds for your school?

Schools Plus connects schools in need with donors to create learning opportunities that change students' lives.

We were established following the 2011 'Gonski Review' to make it simple, effective and tax-deductible to give to eligible\* schools.

Join hundreds of schools across Australia already connected with donors through Schools Plus.

## How we can support your school



### Fundraise Yourself

Using our crowdfunding platform, schools and parent/community associations can raise funds and offer donors a tax deduction. Read more about this over the page.



### Donor Choice

Donors can nominate a school of their choice to support with a one-off or recurring tax-deductible donation. Existing donors to schools can now receive a tax deduction.



### Grants

Schools can now apply for grants that require DGR1 status. The grant application is completed by the school and submitted by Schools Plus to the grant maker.



### Smart Giving

We match school projects with donors who know the value of a great education. These are strategic projects, chosen by our assessment panel including independent experts.

Since 2015, Schools Plus has added \$15.5 million into the Australian school system, supporting more than 620 projects and benefiting over 183,000 students.

## Find out more

### Visit our website

<https://www.schoolsplus.org.au/>

### Or contact our Schools Team

02 8880 0296 | [schools@schoolsplus.org.au](mailto:schools@schoolsplus.org.au)

\*Eligible schools have a value below 1000 on the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) or are special schools, as defined by ACARA.





## TASMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE SCHOOL ORGANISATIONS INC.

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# School Association Annual General Meeting (AGM)

## Timeframe & Checklist

*Please note this has been developed for School Associations whose Association Year ends on March 31<sup>st</sup>, you will need to adjust the time frame to suit your School Association Year.*

*Planning for your AGM should begin in Term 4 of the preceding year. Don't worry if this didn't happen, try and catch up now, then put process in place for the next time Term 4 rolls around.*

### Term 4 – tasks to complete:

- |  |
|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Identify members due for retirement. (Those who were elected 2 years earlier or filled a casual vacancy as a representative in a position that would have naturally expired at the end of the current Association year. (Model Constitution Clause 9.4b) Retiring members may re-nominate.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notify the Principal which members of the Committee are due to retire. (Model Constitution Clause 9.3d)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Set the date for the AGM as close as practical to the end of the Association Year being March 31 <sup>st</sup> . (Model Constitution clause 13.1a) (By setting the date now it allows for the information to be included in the communication strategy around the calling for nominations and to backward plan of requirements for conducting the AGM.)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Set a date for the closing of nominations and include it in the communication strategy. Remember to allow enough time to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• conduct a ballot if there are more nominations than vacant positions,</li><li>• call for more nominations if insufficient were received to fill all the vacant positions.</li></ul>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Determine a process for conducting a ballot if more nominations are received than positions vacant.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Develop a communication strategy for calling for nominations which informs <u>all</u> members of the school community (Association). For example, social media, school newsletter, emails or notes home.<br><br>The communication should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the number of and type of vacancies to be filled (i.e. parent representative, staff representative, community representative)</li><li>• how to get a representative nomination form and what is required to complete it</li><li>• the closing date for nominations and where to lodge completed nomination forms</li><li>• the process for conducting an election if necessary.</li></ul> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Principal to appoint Returning Officer. (Secretary's Instructions No.7 point 3.7)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Returning Officer is to <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• publicise the calling for nominations as per the prescribed communication strategy</li><li>• receive nominations</li></ul>  |

- Check that the Auditor appointed at the previous AGM is still available to audit the Association's financial records, other information they might require and how much time they will require to complete the Audit. This will assist with having an audited financial report ready for the AGM.

### Term 1 – tasks to complete

- Re-issue the communication calling for nominations.
- Deliver the financial information the Auditor needs as per the conversation with them in Term 4.
- Returning Officer after the closing date for receiving nominations is to decide if their needs to be (Model Constitution clause 8.5):
  - a ballot and then conduct one; OR
  - Call for further nominations to fill vacancies; OR
  - If there is the exact number of nominations to fill all vacancies declare as duly elected the candidates nominated in each category of Committee Membership (i.e. Parent and Staff Representatives and if the Committee has Community Representatives).
- At least 14 days prior to the AGM, the Committee Secretary (or if there is none the Principal) must advertise the time, date, venue and business of the AGM, the Association's Constitution outlines this. (Model Constitution clause 13.4a and 13.2)
- Prepare a written School Association annual report for presentation at the AGM. This report can include what has been done during the previous 12 months and previously planned future activities or direction.
- Have copies of the Minutes of the previous AGM available and the minutes of any Special General Meetings held during the past year, available for presentation at the AGM.
- Have copies of the audited Financial Report available for presentation by the Treasurer.
- Have copies of the Schools Annual Report. This report is written and presented by the Principal.

#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

**Quorum:** No business is to be conducted at the AGM unless a quorum is present. Information about the quorum can be found in your School Association Constitution.

**Specified Officeholders:** Elections for the roles of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer are conducted at the first meeting after the AGM. Office-bearers are only elected of one year. Most school associations conduct their first Committee Meeting immediately after the AGM.

For further information and ballot form templates please contact the TASSO Office on 6243 7718 or email [info@tasso.org.au](mailto:info@tasso.org.au)

Document Available Here: [https://tasmania.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/operations/EY-ufSTCMQdEu\\_hoQbf1288Bsm938labQf1VMrR9t6Dw4w?e=caRK3r](https://tasmania.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/operations/EY-ufSTCMQdEu_hoQbf1288Bsm938labQf1VMrR9t6Dw4w?e=caRK3r)  
[https://tasmania.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/operations/EY-ufSTCMQdEu\\_hoQbf1288Bsm938labQf1VMrR9t6Dw4w?e=caRK3r](https://tasmania.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/operations/EY-ufSTCMQdEu_hoQbf1288Bsm938labQf1VMrR9t6Dw4w?e=caRK3r)

## TASSO – Out and About

The commencement of a new year and Term 1 has been a very busy time for TASSO Reps and staff. TASSO Reps have been extremely busy with contact from the Media covering topics around Back to School Expenses – Levies / Uniforms, the New Needs Based Funding Model, report on Education Budget Cuts and the potential introduction of the palawa kani language into Tasmanian schools.

Listed below are meetings and other activities TASSO Reps have participated in since our last newsletter in December 2019

- Mon Jan 20 - DoE Family Engagement Officer introduction
- Wed Jan 22 - DoE Kindergarten Funding Briefing
- Thu Jan 23 - DoE Approved Learning Program: Requirements & Guidance
- Meeting with Josh Willie

Tues Feb 4

Wed Feb 5 - 7LA Tasmania Talks re cost of school

Fri Feb 7 - Andrea Brumby, English as an Additional Language,  
Unit Manager

Wed Feb 12 - Meeting with Sally Milbourne – Tasmanian Principal  
Association

Sat Feb 15 - Management Committee Meeting

Wed Feb 19 - Meeting with Katrina Beams & Fiona Lowenthal – Tas  
Assessment Standards & Certification

NB DoE is the acronym for Department of Education (Tasmania)

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## School Levies:

Should they differ between from school to school? What would you do to lower your levies?  
Please take 5 minutes (probably less) to complete our short survey!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/school-fees>

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## Move Well Eat Well



### Children and Young People

## About *Move Well Eat Well*

*Move Well Eat Well* is funded and managed within Health Improvement Public Health Services, the Department of Health. The Primary School and Early Childhood Programs have a range of internal and external reference groups that provide guidance to the respective programs.

Find out more about the [organisations that govern, advise and support us](#).

*Move Well Eat Well* promotes a healthier Tasmania in which children can enjoy healthy eating and physical activity every day. It contributes to a healthy lifestyle and to the prevention of a range of chronic conditions such as obesity, diabetes, heart disease, some cancers and dental decay.

*Move Well Eat Well* is **celebrating its 10th year in primary schools**. As part of the 10 Years Celebrations we are recognising leaders and advocates for *Move Well Eat Well* within primary schools. [Find out more about nominations and prizes](#).

## About the *Move Well Eat Well* Award

The *Move Well Eat Well* Award is available to Tasmanian early childhood services and primary schools. Schools and services are supported to meet key criteria which reinforce healthy eating and promote physical activity.

The *Move Well Eat Well* Award Program is a comprehensive, straightforward guide to creating a healthier environment for children.

The Award is made up of six healthy messages:

- [Tap into Water Every Day](#)
- [Plant Fruit & Veg in Your Lunchbox](#)
- [Limit 'Sometimes' Foods](#)
- [Move, Play and Go](#)
- [Turn Off, Switch to Play](#)
- [Stride and Ride](#)

The seventh [Health Promoting School/Service](#) criterion ties the *Move Well Eat Well* messages together to promote lasting change and link with families.

The *Move Well Eat Well* Award offers:

- Recognition of achievement
- A positive whole early childhood service or primary school approach to promoting sustainable healthy eating and physical activity.
- A simple framework for planning and action

- Tailored Tasmanian resources for educators, teachers, parents and health professionals, with clear links to the curriculum.
- The *Move Well Eat Well* team provides coordination and helps build partnerships between health professionals in local areas and participating services and schools.

## Questions about the award

[How quickly do we need to meet all of the Award criteria?](#)

[Can we work on the criteria in any order?](#)

[What if we can't meet one of the Award criteria?](#)

[What if a staff member or parent does not support an Award criteria?](#)

[What about other initiatives to support healthy eating and physical activity?](#)

[How long does the Award status last?](#)

## Become a *Move Well Eat Well* Member

Membership is free. Member early childhood services and primary schools and are offered an orientation, resources and support. Working towards an Award can be done at a pace appropriate to the service or school. In many cases, services and schools find they have achieved many of the criteria already and use the Program to make their approach sustainable and embedded in their daily practice.

Download a [Primary School](#) or [Early Childhood Service Membership form](#)

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FEB 02

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- 3 - Term 1 begins (teachers)
- 5 - Term 1 begins (students)
- 10 - Royal Hobart Regatta
- 26 - Launceston Cup



MAR 03

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29	30	31				

- 3 - King Island Show
- 9 - Eight Hour Day
- 10 - Burnie Regional Meeting
- 11 - Launceston Regional Meeting
- 12 - Hobart Regional Meeting

S M T W T H F S

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Moderation (K-10)	10 Good Friday	11
12 Easter Monday	13 Easter Tuesday	14 School Holidays Begin	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 School Holidays End	25 Anzac Day
26	27	28	29	30	31	

APRIL



TASSO  
INCORPORATED

TASSO is a not-for-profit community based organisation, providing guidance and support to parents/carers of students in State Schools and Colleges, assistance and resources to School Associations and school communities.

TASSO does not directly endorse any events, workshops or products advertised on our newsletter unless clearly specified.

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