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## Update regarding COVID-19 & the resulting changes to TASSO operations.

TASSO Office closed on Monday March 30th, 2020.  
Staff are working from home.

To contact TASSO you are invited to do one of the following:

TASSO Manager Debra by email [manager@tasso.org.au](mailto:manager@tasso.org.au) or phone 0408 377 585 during business hours.

TASSO President Nigel by email [president@tasso.org.au](mailto:president@tasso.org.au) or phone 0448 143 085.

TASSO Treasurer Jared by email [treasurer@tasso.org.au](mailto:treasurer@tasso.org.au) or phone 0409 316 526.

Please note the President's Message was written on March 20 and a lot has changed since, due to COVID-19.

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March 2020

Dear families and carers of students in State Schools and Colleges,

The beginning of the first term has been a challenging one for educators, families, students and school communities adapting to many changes revolving around the implementation of new school policies, the impact of bullying in schools and the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

The Coronavirus has now impacted on the school community with Jeremy Rockliff, the Minister for Education and Training announcing precautionary Coronavirus measures to be implemented in Tasmanian Schools. Premier Gutwein was reported on ABC News 23 March 2020 saying that public schools will remain open for the time being and term dates will not change, that if you take children out of school look after and be responsible for them and learning resources would be provided for students where possible if parents kept children home.

Following the latest advice from Public Health, the Tasmanian Government is asking schools to adopt social distancing measures, requiring the cancellation of assemblies, excursions, travel, School Association AGMs some events and conferences. Other non-essential school activities will also be postponed, including events such as: fetes; fairs; concerts (with audiences); assemblies and presentation nights; all sports carnivals; school camps; and parent teacher meetings. This is a precautionary measure to reduce potential exposure and will be in place until further notice.

While Minister Rockliff advised that at this time (15/03/2020) it is not required to close any school sites, the situation is evolving, and the Department will continue to take advice from Public Health.

School Association meetings are also being reviewed, and all the announced measures will be in place until further notice but will be regularly reviewed.

### **Respectful Student Behaviour Policy**

I am extremely pleased to announce that a school policy, that TASSO along with stakeholders in education contributed to - Respectful Student Behaviour Policy – has now been released. The seventeen-page document has been put together to reduce bullying and disrespectful behaviour in schools. I urge all parents and carers to read the document. If your school has not provided it to you please contact your school and request a copy. The school is obliged to share this document with you.

There is no place in education for bullying, racist slurs or physical violence. As a society we must do better. TASSO is working with all stakeholders to make schools safe places for students, staff and the school community.

### **Other Policies**

School Associations and Committees may have been in consultation with their Principal in relation to Mobile Phones, National School Chaplaincy Program, Respectful School Visitor and Volunteer Behaviour Policy and Respectful Schools Respectful Behaviour

### **School Association Membership**

All school association will receive additional information in coming weeks about this year's affiliation to TASSO. Thanks to the Minister for Education and Training and the Department of Education, School Associations will no longer have to pay a membership fee - this is a saving for all School Associations.

### **Regional Meetings**

TASSO's Operations Manager has been very busy hosting 3 regionals meetings in the North-West, North and South of the State. Denise Foggo, Manager Differentiation and Diversity, Disability Services, Department of Education discussed Learning Plans - an important tool used by teachers to help personalise learning to help students reach their fullest. These meetings were very informative with plenty of questions being asked by attendees. These meetings were organised as many parents were perplexed with the New Education Adjustment Model (needs-based funding). While some schools have voice concern that they appear to be worse off under the new model, the new model has allowed 1000 additional students to receive funding they never had before under the former complexed model.

### **School Infrastructure**

This term has seen talk around new schools, mergers and closures. It must be highlighted that community consultation with any change should be paramount. A case in point is where former educators and community suggested closing a school, because the school was only a three-minute drive away from another school. This type of conversation can send panic and concern through a school community, particularly when the school is the heart of the community and a social hub for community events. It was very positive when the neighbouring school and Minister offered support and united to quash any merger talks.

### **Co-Education**

This term has seen discussion about Co-Ed between New Town High and Ogilvie High for Years 9-12, in partnership with EMC College - offering more choices and better educational outcomes. While some parents and educators are sceptical that these two prestigious schools with a long history of excellence in single sex education will be fully transformed into full Co-Ed schools. The apparent lack of public consultation to future families and feeder schools has caused some angst for those parents wanting a single sex public school education for their child. Information provided by DoE is that Years 7-8 are still single sex at both New Town and Ogilvie High Schools.

### **Contact with TASSO**

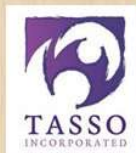
Our office staff are working hard every week to keep School Associations informed about current events and receiving calls from parents with education matters that they require assistance with. If you should have any matter you wish to discuss please do not hesitate to

call our office. All calls are treated with the strictest of confidence unless the caller advises otherwise. The TASSO office can be contacted on 6243 7718 .

As we come close to Term 1, the Management Committee and staff of TASSO, wish everyone a safe and healthy break.



Nigel Jones  
President  
TASSO



## SCHOOL ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES

DO WE HAVE YOUR  
CURRENT CONTACT DETAILS?

PLEASE EMAIL [INFO@TASSO.ORG.AU](mailto:INFO@TASSO.ORG.AU)  
THE EMAIL ADDRESS OF YOUR  
SECRETARY + CHAIRPERSON.

OUR AIM IS TO MAKE YOUR ROLE EASIER BY SHARING  
INFORMATION.

TASSO never shares your information unless  
you give us written approval.

# ADVERTISE HERE

☆TASSO is welcoming the applications of local groups and businesses to advertise through TASSO News☆

Whether its a community event, a fundraising effort or a business with a product aimed at the schooling sector we will consider all applications.

If you would like to advertise with us, please email [info@tasso.org.au](mailto:info@tasso.org.au) or call 6243 7718 and share with us a brief description of what you are seeking to advertise. If applicable, also provide us with some content (via email) to review for suitability for publication.

If you have any other general questions or queries regarding advertisements or publications of any kind, please send Tom an email at [comms@tasso.org.au](mailto:comms@tasso.org.au)

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## TASSO – Out and About

Term 1 has been a very busy and very interesting time for TASSO Reps and staff. TASSO Reps have been extremely busy with contact from the Media covering topics around bullying in schools, mobile phone policies in schools, Co-Ed Programs in yrs 9-12 and the potential impact of Coronavirus in schools moving forward. A lot of support has also been provided to School Associations around their upcoming Annual General Meetings.

Regional Meetings were also conducted in Burnie, Launceston and Hobart – with the guest speaker, Denise Foggo from Disability Services – DoE, delivering information on Individual Student Learning Plans & Parent Participation.

Listed below are meetings and activities TASSO Reps have participated in since our last newsletter in February 2020.

<b>Thu Feb 20</b>	Win TV interview re palawa kani language
<b>Fri Feb 21</b>	TASSO eNews was distributed
	TASSO Survey – School Levies – went live
<b>Tue Feb 25</b>	Education Science Research & the Antarctic IAC
<b>Tue Mar 3</b>	Meeting with Leanne McLean – Children’s Commissioner
<b>Tue Mar 10</b>	Regional Meeting - Burnie
<b>Wed Mar 11</b>	Stop & Prevent Bullying meeting
	Regional Meeting – Launceston
<b>Thu Mar 12</b>	Regional Meeting - Hobart
<b>Thu Mar 19</b>	meeting with Kasia Kremzer-Kozlowska from the DoE provide TASSO Reps with an update on the 2019 Intake Area review
<b>Wed Mar 25</b>	meeting with DoE Secretary Tim Bullard, provided TASSO Reps with an update on COVID-19 in relation to Education
<b>Thu Mar 26</b>	Australian Council of State School Organisations Member Representative’s Teleconference

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In the world of covid-19 we realise that many parents have chosen to remove their children from school as is their right! As such we've put together a list of sources of quality education that you can access from your own home!

### Online Learning

Department of education

<https://www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/learning-at-home/>

Susie the Scientist and Millie the Mathematician

<https://www.suziethescientist.com.au/free-downloads/>

eSafety Commissioner

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Report Authority (ACARA)

ACARA draws on the best national talent and expertise, and consults widely to develop the Australian Curriculum and resources.

<https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/parent-information/>





### 5 ways to clean up your digital footprint

In today's world, your digital footprint matters. Remind your students about the importance of building a positive digital footprint to represent the person that they aim to be, to achieve their career goals. Companies and recruiters regularly search online to learn more about potential employees. [myfuture](#), Australia's National Career Information Service, provides some steps to help them to clean up their digital footprint.

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## Advice to School Associations re activities amidst COVID-19 pandemic

This advice on holding School Association annual general meetings (AGMs) applies Government advice as a precautionary measure to reduce the spread of coronavirus and reflects the requirements of [Education Act 2016](#) and [Education Regulations 2017](#).

### School Association AGMs:

- The [Education Regulations 2017](#) allow for an AGM to be held "as close as practicable to the end of each School Association Year". For most School Associations this is March 31.
- Currently, until official advice changes, if the School Association has not already held the 2020 AGM, the 2020 AGM can be rescheduled to be held at the earliest practical date that it is safe to do so in line with official advice from the Department of Education.
- If the School Association chooses to postpone the AGM the Association Secretary or Principal should inform the school community of the course of action it is taking.
- If an AGM is postponed, the School Association Committee should try to make the documents received at an AGM available to all School Association members. This includes electronic or printed copies if requested of:
  - Previous AGM Minutes
  - School Association's Annual Report
  - School's Annual Report
  - Audited financial statements of the Association
  - Annual reports of sub-committees

These documents will need to be ratified when the AGM is held.

### Election of new School Association committee:

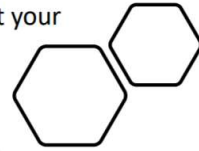
- If known, the election results for the School Association Committee should also be announced to all School Association members. If election results are not yet known, continue the election process and announce results.
- If School Associations cannot continue with an election at this stage, the existing committee will remain in place until a time when the election process can be completed and the first committee meeting after the AGM is held.



Do you have any upcoming events at your School that you would like to advertise?

Events like a:

- ❖ Twilight Fair
- ❖ Carnival
- ❖ Spelling Bee
- ❖ Stall
- ❖ Musical
- ❖ Free Dress Day



Then please contact TASSO and we will be able to advertise this for you in our Newsletter.

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

We are interested in your school! Do you have an event coming up? Is your school reaching a milestone? Is there someone at your school who deserves a mention?

We are an organisation all about state schools and we want everyone to share in these moments!  
Help us do that!

## 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.

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### **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.

# 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.



# 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>

## COVID-19

<https://www.tasso.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/190320-COVID-19-v.2.pdf>



**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.