

COFFS HARBOUR PUBLIC SCHOOL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING 9MAY06

1. **Opening** Meeting opened at 1900hrs with President Alex in chair.
 2. **Acknowledgement of Country** Alex acknowledged the Gumbayngirr people as traditional owners of the land.
 3. **Attendance** Robyn Spies, Ian Muldoon, M. Yarob Haddad, Elaine Norman, A. Langfield, D. Polack, A. Guise, R. Spies, Libby Feez
 4. **Apologies** Nil
 5. **Minutes** Ray Moved Yarob Seconded *That the minutes of the meeting of 11Apr06 be accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.* **Passed**
 6. **Matters Arising** Investment in school program – see Principal’s Report.
 7. **President’s Report**
 - a. Mothers’ Day on Friday 12May05
 - b. Thank you to Debbie and Amanda
 - c. Elaine agreed to ring up about road tarring
 8. **Treasurer’s Report** Tabled. Balance \$2792.92
 9. **Principal’s Report - see below**
 10. **Councillor’s Report**
 - a. CHUCK DUCK and ROSTER CLUCK’s GOOD LIFE TRUCK pty Ltd is a company providing both performances in schools and meeting the growing needs of school breakfast provision, currently operating in the Hunter Region. They will be providing a performance at Annual Conference. Colouring in posters passed to school.
 - b. Seems to be increasing number of road accidents involving children. Noter that Road Safety program budget for schools was cut by 30%.
 - c. Support for Boys program running again this year – Federal Government funding – schools can apply.
 11. **General Business**
 - a. Moved Ray seconded Libby *That \$200 be donated to Royal Far West Home.* **Passed**
 - d. Moved Amanda Seconded Deborah *That letter of thanks be sent to HOMESHOP WAREHOUSE.* **Passed**
 - e. Moved Libby Seconded Yarob *That fundraising scheme be set up for Buckley family.* **Passed**
 - f. Discussion on school uniform and noted that reasonable quality maroon jumpers are available at CABA’s for \$25. Meeting agreed that students should be discouraged from wearing multi-striped stockings.
 11. **Next Meeting** Next meeting 1900hrs (7.pm.) Library 5Jun06
 12. **Meeting Closed** 8.10pm
- Ian Muldoon Secretary 0423974270**

Principal's Report

Staff News

Some joys and some sorrows have occurred since our last meeting. Two of our wonderful office staff accepted transfers with Yvonne Klepzig moving to Toormina High School and Suzanne Quinell moving to Mereweather High School. While these ladies were sad to leave us and we were sad to see them go, we know they will soon settle into their new schools. We have welcomed to our school office, Mrs Julia Podbury who has taken on the role of Suzanne and for Term 2, Mrs Tania Shipman who is filling in the role of Yvonne. In Term 3 Mrs Jane Seymour will take this position up on a permanent basis.

Happy news was that Miss McKenzie married and is now Mrs Mifsud. Mrs Lacey is on Leave and 5/6L was to be taught by Miss Allen in her absence. Unfortunately Miss Allen broke her leg and we were very grateful that Mr Wade Parker agreed to teach 5/6L. Mr Pike has stepped once again into the RFF and computer role.

Angie Skuthorpe is in Sydney for two weeks as part of her university training and Miss Christie Craigie is working as the Aboriginal Education Assistant during this time. Miss Theresa Blair is another familiar face around the school. Miss Blair is working under a number of different hats. She is assisting Mrs Howlin with administration in the library, and throughout the school as an Aboriginal tutor, and working in an employment program as well as giving us extra time on a voluntary basis. Lynne Smart is also working as an Aboriginal Tutor and giving us additional time through the employment Program.

We have also had the assistance through the employment program of two excellent workers, Mr Jay Parker and Mr Martin Ward, in the school grounds.

Our whole school has been distressed by the passing away of Mrs Rhonda Jones. We have held a brief celebration of her life with the children where we all wore a ribbon of her favourite colour and planted a jacaranda tree in her memory. Its growth will be an ongoing reminder of Mrs Jones presence within the school and her joy of life that she shared with us all.

In addition to losing Mrs Jones our community also lost Mr Ray Babbage who drowned at Diggers Beach over the vacation period. Mr Babbage was a student at Coffs Primary, a student teacher and a classroom teacher of 20 years before transferring to Boambee PS. Staff were very grateful of the cooperation and support of parents where possible in the late start to school on Friday that allowed them to participate in Mr Babbage's Memorial Service.

Investing In Our Schools Program

Our school was unsuccessful in gaining funding in this round of funding despite the quality of the submission and the appropriateness of the application. I have contacted by the Director of this program from Canberra who encouraged the school to reapply and saying that we had been particularly unfortunate in being just below the 'cut off line' in

not receiving funding. Representatives from Luke Hartsuyker's office also gave the same advice.

The new application is almost complete. We are waiting on updated quote from the building contractor and will have the application submitted in the defined timeframe.

Bike Shed demolition – we are still waiting on quotes for the demolition of the bike shed – one has come in at over \$3000 – outside the budget of \$1600.

I am also seeking quotes for construction of entry paths to the school. One alongside the OOSH building where the “kiss and drop” parking will be and another near the bike shed that will be wheelchair and pram accessible.

Operation Art – The school will host workshops for Operation Art in Pottery this week with two days for students and another as a training day for teachers.

Sport and Recreation are also holding a training session for teachers here on Wednesday. Our central location is ideal.

ANZAC Day – Our thanks to parents who brought their children along to the parade in town on ANZAC Day. Our schools' commitment to such a significant community event is very important.

Teacher Training – Our staff are constantly updating their skills. Currently we are focussing on a number of programs that include, technology – using computer skills and associated filming/videoing/camera work. Visual literacy is taking a more significant role in education.

Gifted and Talented – Staff are undertaking a training program in this area and spent a considerable time on School Development Day with this focus. Mrs Lacey and Mrs O'Donnell have travelled to Sydney for training and Mrs Mulligan participated in local training.

We also have an Academic Partner (a professor from the University of Western Sydney) who will work with Mrs Traynor and Stage Two staff in another teacher/learning program. We applied for funding for this program and were granted \$20000 to support this program.

This week Ms Pont and Mrs Traynor travelled to Sydney to participate in further training in Quality Teaching and Training. They will share their experience with the rest of the staff. We have also linked with CHHS in a Quality Teaching program in the area of HSIE. This will particularly benefit Stage 3.

Ms Libby Feez has done a magnificent job in constructing an internet site for Coffs Harbour Public School. Parents, family and friends will be delighted when they see the content. At this stage it is in a test mode. There are a few technical hitches to be worked through and a letter will need to be sent home to all parents giving permission for children's photos to appear on the site.