

Presidents' Report

AGM, 16 February 2021



To all members of the P&C and school community...

2020 will undoubtedly go down as one of the more memorable years in all our lives, as the challenges of COVID-19 pushed our ability to adapt on the run. Together as parents, teachers, administrators, P&C executives and volunteers we spent most of the past year confronted with a rotisserie of new challenges that left most of us exhausted by Christmas, all the while knowing we got off comparatively lightly here in Queensland when compared with the impact of COVID-19 on other states and countries.

The effect of COVID was felt across our P&C operations – we can't remember a time when it was so crucial for us, as a P&C Exec team, to personally keep on top of government announcements (almost daily at times). The government's assistance packages – JobKeeper, 'Free Childcare' and cashflow boost payments - helped us to keep our staff employed and our services operating throughout, caring for the children of essential workers through YOSHC, providing meals through the Tuckshop, and supplying uniforms through Flexischools. Thank you to our P&C Finance Officer, Cara Burrus, for her outstanding work ensuring the P&C received all funding for which we were eligible.

We also send a huge thank you to all the parent volunteers who have contributed to a positive school life for our children in 2020. Your efforts are a significant silver lining during a challenging year! To list everyone individually is to risk missing many, but from class parent reps to committee members; snow cone, Easter raffle and Father's Day stall helpers; to Tuckshop, Uniform Shop and school banking volunteers; and public works consultants, so many of you contributed to a year which in the end was very positive for Yeronga State School indeed.

The 'gingerbread fence people' project was a highlight, with children in grades Prep to 4, and senior leaders, creating 150 new 'fence people' that now colourfully adorn our school fence line. Thank you to Sue and Jeremy Tape and their team of parent helpers for leading this mammoth project.

In November, we accepted the Qld P&C of the Year award for our school for the 'Band 9' category. This was a tribute to all who have contributed to the P&C over the last few years, especially to the efforts to air condition our school, and should make everyone feel very proud.

If successfully re-elected, 2021 will be the last year for Kym and Hamish as Presidents. We came aboard in 2019 with a primary agenda of growing and simplifying the running of the P&C and its services. The consistent growth of the school's services, exciting building works projects and government and non-government advocacy had led to the P&C needing to assume greater levels of responsibility, making the executive roles less attractive for parents. Many changes have had to occur in order to create a more manageable structure.

The introduction of an Operations Manager to oversee the day-to-day work of the P&C has been a life saver. While the role's position description has come under scrutiny since it was created, the events of 2020 and the volume of work created through the impact of COVID-19 meant that this role, held by Sarah Cordingley, was the difference between a difficult and an impossible year – thank you Sarah.

The incredible work of Stacey Resetti, Yvonne Starr, and more recently Claire Vermey, in the Tuckshop and Uniform Shop must be highlighted - their ability to maintain quality standards and profitability in these crucial services, when volunteers were no longer able to offer support, created the most trying of circumstances. Stacey and Yvonne were champions, and they were ably supported by YOSHC staff volunteers when parents weren't able to volunteer due to covid restrictions! Stacey and Yvonne's daily dress ups and Facebook posts will be long and fondly remembered for keeping us entertained and creating connections through the period of home schooling when our daily lives were so disrupted.

In 2020 it became clear that YOSHC has now reached capacity in meeting our community's demand for care, with several families having to be placed on waiting lists. To position YOSHC for successful growth to meet the needs of our community, the P&C has enlisted the advisory service of the peak body for OSHC services in Queensland, QCAN (Queensland Children's Activities Network).

The requirements of the National Legislation and the National Quality Framework (NQF) under which YOSHC operates make expansion a complex process through which we are required to demonstrate that we are equipped with the physical and human resources to increase capacity, and to submit a detailed plan to the regulatory authority (Early Childhood Education and Care within the Queensland Department of Education).

The support provided by QCAN to the P&C Executive and YOSHC teams will ensure the service is poised for successful growth when the time is right and space is available to increase the YOSHC licence. Changes to the organisational structure, and updated policies and procedures, are on the horizon to support our people to continue to deliver quality care and programming for our children, while ensuring we have capacity to care for significantly more children when space becomes available.

The introduction of our new YOSHC Manager, Elizabeth Fainga'a, will assist greatly in moving these positive changes forward. The P&C executive are extremely thankful to Cate Jordinson and Alec Higgins who stood in as temporary managers from the beginning of term 4, 2020, to the start of term 1, 2021, performing the role so well Kym and Hamish were able to take time to find the best person for the role. We also thank Charlee Young, who left to pursue her teaching career at the end of term 3, for her 5 years of service, including nearly 2 as YOSHC Manager.

Throughout 2020 the P&C was proud to play an advocacy role explaining to Hon Mark Bailey, our local state member, and Education Minister, Hon Grace Grace, the significant need for upgrades to Yeronga State School's buildings and grounds - most notably the urgency of the transformation of the dental building into much needed teaching and administrative space. It is hoped a great deal of the work involved in these projects may be completed in 2021 resulting in the P&C services being able to meet the growing needs of the school. These upgrades have been long hoped for by the P&C and the School and will be very exciting for the whole school community.

We are most grateful to our fellow P&C Executive Committee team members for their outstanding leadership, support and input as we navigated the various shifting parts and decisions that needed to be made throughout 2020. A massive THANK YOU to Vice-Presidents, Darren Cosgrove, Anna Rimpau and Juliet Brooks; Treasurer, Amy Smith; and Secretary, Julia Connors! And to Correspondence and Communications Coordinator, Anita Forbes, for her fortnightly reminders to that ensured the P&C report made it into the school newsletter more often than not.

Yeronga 150

Finally, 2021 is a momentous year in our history as we turn 150 years old. Throughout the year there will be events that celebrate our history and community and we hope everyone finds something to connect with. Juliet Brooks and our 150th Committee, and Fete Committee, teams have been hard at work for over a year to prepare a wonderful series of celebratory activities and events to mark this special milestone, and make the 2021 Fete a truly festive event for our whole community to enjoy.

Sometimes there are years we can pause and celebrate, and after the 2020 we endured there couldn't be a better time than now.

In closing, we sincerely thank you to the school leadership team – 2020 Principals Kate Paynter and Michelle D'Netto, and deputy principals, Tracy Freeman, Louise Vaggs, and Clare Triggell - for your valuable leadership, support and guidance for our children, the school community and P&C. We warmly welcome Eunice Webb as our new Yeronga State School Principal and look forward to supporting our great school with you throughout 2021.

Thank you.

Hamish Townsend and Kym Mansfield

Co-Presidents

Yeronga State School P&C Association