

# **Ngaio School Parent Teacher Association – Annual General Meeting**

**Wednesday 1 April 2020**

## **President's report**

### **THE PAST YEAR**

Thank you all – our core parent and staff PTA representatives – for your hard work, dedication, and good company. We would struggle to operate without the support of key Ngaio School staff and the new-ish Board of Trustees (BOT). Over the past year our group has grown, bringing enthusiasm for new initiatives. None of our committee members have indicated they are stepping down from their rolls – thank you Sarah, Roslyn, Melissa and Lisa for your continued commitment.

The PTA relies on volunteer hours and donations gifted by the wider Ngaio School community. Many helpers operate outside of formal meetings such as Bec Clouston who extended her Scholastic Book coordinator role to run the popular Scholastic Book Fair in August. Others bake, brainstorm, coach, cook, design, encourage, host, research, serve, shop, sort, supervise, support, teach, water, weed, and so on.

This was my first formal year as Chairperson. I appreciate the help that many of you provided and that of former PTA President Leanne Hay.

Over the past year, we have focused on three major areas – holding regular meetings to provide a *forum* for parents, *fundraising* and *purchasing* extras for our children and *building community*.

### **Fundraising and purchasing**

Funds raised have come from the sale of Scholastic books, Entertainment Books, Ngaio School hats, hoodies and t-shirts, Jackson Estate and C J Pask wine, plastic free July goods and raffle tickets. We also raised revenue (or resources) through assisting the school with their kids' art fundraiser, the Scholastic Book Fair, the 88 Keys to Unlock the Magic of Music fundraiser and the Inspire Photography mini sessions.

Our major spending includes (amounts approximated):

- \$5000 to the Ngaio School Library for books
- \$1,200 to fund sports equipment for the new Sports Start curriculum
- Funding the Enviro Club including a new storage shed, bedding plants, equipment and trees for the new orchard
- The new junior school friendship seat built and painted by Peter
- Replenishing the sunhat stock at the end of 2019 for Term 1 demand
- \$500 to boost classroom board games for wet lunchtimes
- \$1000 on the school piano (plus raising that again to maintain and tune it)
- \$1000 on emergency lockdown kits for classes and shared spaces.
- \$800 on the leavers' book

In addition, we have voted to spend money on the cost of hiring the Ngaio Community Hall for syndicate assemblies, the long-life playground markings from EduMarking (due in the country mid-April with install to be confirmed), further sports gear/outdoor games for classes and football goals.

### **Building community**

Welcoming new members of our community and facilitating community connection has been achieved through a number of events including: the new families' breakfasts each term, whakatau mornings, encouraging classes to establish contact lists and hold parent social functions, and celebrating volunteers at our end of year function. Simply calling for volunteers provides opportunities for parents to interact with others. I've met some really neat people this past year!

Connecting our homes with our school has occurred at the new families' breakfasts with a wonderful turnout of senior staff members and even staff as parents. Our community-made morning teas for staff, held at the end of each term, have afforded parents (particularly busy parents) with an avenue to channel their appreciation. At the end of 2019 we also showed our gratitude for the school support staff by buying them all a little gift.

We have sort to create a little fun by organising a coffee cart for Cross Country, offering flavoured water at the support tent on Athletics Day, and running Mothers' and Fathers' day raffles.

Through our Ngaio School PTA Facebook page we regularly update our community on our activities and spending as well as advertise for volunteers when needed.

Our community has sometimes needed our help, whether this be lending our equipment for other community fundraising, funerals or small conferences, and meal train endeavors, baking etc.

Like the wonderful parents who help with The Clinic, Roslyn has literally mucked in working with the kids of the Enviro Club.

### **THE YEAR AHEAD**

The challenges for the year ahead have been widely discussed at meetings.

Building community, we believe, means it is more likely that everyone will want to work towards common goals at school. Roslyn and I attended a Term 3 2019 BOT meeting to raise the issue of connecting parents with the school and making them part of their children's learning. The return of assemblies has been positively received. The forthcoming school communication strategy and new website will help. PTA discussions have highlighted the benefit of establishing clear streamlined standards across the school for parents – on collaborative teaching practice, on teacher in-class contact time, on device use, minimum expectations of summative and formative feedback on our children's learning, on behavior etc. The recently outlined strategic plan includes common themes.

We have attempted to work with key staff members at school to better understand what we can practically do or the "extras" to fund. For instance, Mel and Stacey's ongoing discussions with Dan Byrne and his attendance at a PTA meeting helped answer questions on why access to sports equipment at breaks was limited and what would be useful to provide to classes. Similarly, discussions with Bronwyn O'Halloran have centered on emergency preparedness.

Without a major fundraising stream like that provided by the Ngaio School Gala historically, we are not able to commit to large-scale funding of things like ICT. Any future major event would need to

be tied to a project to generate support from volunteers. A Ngaio School hall, for example, would be a popular project!

Since our previous Disco Coordinator resigned, we have not held social events for the children and these are greatly missed. We would benefit from a parent (or kids under parental supervision) to run such events.

Now we are dealing with COVID-19 and plans have been put on hold until the impact of COVID-19 and the duration of the lockdown period are known. This includes the clothes swap scheduled for May. Asking our community for money and sponsorship could be constrained in future depending on the economic impact of the virus. We will need to be realistic in our response and perhaps focus on helping our community rather than on revenue raising.

The \$34,000 from the 2018 Ngaio School Gala remains reserved in our account to allocate to a project now that the prefab classrooms (previously located next to stage) have been removed. We are excited at the possibility of putting this money towards a bike track or future playground development.

We have offered advice to Mark Palmer on a grant application to replace the astroturf and those of us with some grant experience are very happy to help with the proposal. Grants have not been widely utilised in the last 4 years with the emphasis on construction, and remain an area for further exploration.

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Wishing you all - BOT, school and parents - a safe lockdown period. I very much look forward to seeing you all and resuming the valuable work of the Ngaio School PTA.

Mā te wā

Jessie Williams-Shigeeda