

Presidents Report -2020

Who knew when I landed in this role in March 2020, what the rest of the year had in store for us!

Last AGM raised concerns around the future of the PTA going forward as we struggled to fill office bearing positions and committee members. There was an element of uncertainty going forward and the potential for the committee to fold. After much discussion, the general consensus was to continue as normal and reassess down the track with annual activity being low as a result.

After a hiatus from meeting for a few months due to COVID we slowly got back into the swing of things.

No significant fundraisers were undertaken this year, however we did continue with the popular Friday BBQ and refreshments for WGT and prizegiving.

BBQ income from this was down on last year, from \$4,564 to \$1,219 most likely due to the school not operating during levels 3 and 4 lockdowns.

Income was also down at Winton's Got Talent, due to smaller attendance levels due to restrictions on gatherings.

We still contributed significantly to school activities throughout the year using funds from our reserves;

- New pie warmer
- Deep Cove Camp 37 Children @\$50 = \$1,850
- Stewart Island Camp 44 Children @\$50 = \$2,200
- Contribution to Y8 Leavers Jerseys
- Dragon Maths Books
- Year 8 Leavers BBQ

While funds look good a present, to continue providing funds at the rate we have in the past, some form of fundraising is essential this year.

There were also some large events that we usually contribute significantly towards in past years that did not run this year due to COVID which need to be considered, these being the busses for Polyfest and the Y8 Young Leaders day in Dunedin.

Aside from supporting the school in a financial sense, we also provided helpers and volunteers for school discos and cooking the Y8 leavers BBQ.

One of the significant accomplishments for the year was implementing processes or records of regularly held events. Coming into this role, I felt there was a lack of information available as to how events had run in the past and endeavoured to record this information for future committee use, particularly for new committee members.

Guidelines for the school BBQ co-ordinator were also streamlined and brought into line with food safety requirements. We also recruited some additional helpers for the BBQ from the junior school which has given us a much larger pool of volunteers to share the load. A huge thank you to Jackie O'Brien for coordinating the BBQ last year, and Steph Wilson who has taken over the coordinator role. Without volunteers we would be unable to run this popular and successful event each week.

In the pipeline for this year, ideas have already been floated for fundraising so things can get underway sooner to avoid things being left to the last minute.

Significant projects outside normal funding such as new shade sails have also been floated, however these are likely to be long term goals and would require significant funds to get them off the ground. A passionate person to drive this project is also needed to get it off the ground.

Big thank you to Megs Mitchell for organising what has become the annual ski trip, with the profit generated from this benefiting the PTA. Also a big thank you to Jacs for all she does behind the scenes for the PTA.

I am grateful to both Kirsten (treasurer) and Jodie (secretary) for all their help in helping me find my feet in this role. It has been rather daunting but we have got there! I also want to thank all the members of the committee from taking time out of your busy lives to come to meetings, put forward ideas and takes on a leadership role in organising events to ensure their success.

To the wider school community, the PTA is a very small group of dedicated parents that work tirelessly for the benefit of all students at Winton School. We all have a life outside of this committee but need more people to become involved. If the PTA no longer existed, the effect could be significant to your children, by potentially reducing opportunities available due to lack of PTA funding assistance or volunteer help.

Going forward it would be great to see new faces attend meetings and join the committee throughout the year, as the saying goes, many hands make light work. We are all here for the same reason – to support all the children at Winton School, but are unable to do so without support from the families within our school community.

Bridgett Aitken