

Principal's Report

P&C AGM & Meeting Term 1 Week 7

AGM 2021 Wrap up

1. **Introduction:** Thank you to the school community for the warm welcome in my first year at Coniston PS.

Although the year was complex, the support of the staff ensured the smooth running of the school with all accountabilities met. A special mention and thank you is extended to the Executive Leadership Team; without their dedication, guidance and 'can do' attitude the year may have looked completely different. Under their leadership, each team excels at Coniston.

The students make every day a delight. Greeting them at the gate each morning is a highlight of everyday as is the visits to my office to show me work and share achievements.

External validation was a significant highlight of 2021 with the panel supporting our self-assessment judgements in learning, teaching and leading. The preparation of our submission took a substantial amount of time, but it allowed me to dive deeply into the inner workings, achievements and areas for development. These have informed the 2022 – 2025 Strategic Improvement Plan.

I look forward to eventually meeting many of the school's community onsite once the current climate has eased.

Thank you to the outgoing P&C Executive: Jessamy, Fiona, Amanda and Neli. The P&C would not have survived without the dedication of this group of parents who managed many roles throughout the year.

2. **2021 Strategic Improvement Plan** snapshot – Annual Report will contain more detailed information.
 - Strategic Direction 1: Growth and Attainment. Learning from home period has impacted our results although growth in target areas of reading and numeracy were evident for some cohorts, including our EAL/D students and Aboriginal students.
 - Strategic Direction 2: A culture of excellence. Relevant professional learning (PL) and collaborative planning sessions were embedded for all classroom teachers. PL included: literacy (reading, phonics), numeracy, gifted education for special populations. K-2 emphasis on new curriculum as well as decodable readers. Formative assessment deferred until stable learning environment. Collection of baseline data for 'expectation for success' and 'high skills high challenge'.
 - Strategic Direction 3: Connect, succeed thrive. All classroom staff engaged in Neuro-sequential Model in Education (trauma informed practice). K-2 teachers completed Zones of Regulation with Yrs 3-6 in 2022. Attendance 91% - above target. Collection of baseline data for 'advocacy at school' and 'sense of belonging'. Community engagement impacted by lockdown period. Newsletter revamped for ease of preparation and distribution.
3. **Finances** (it is a requirement that the Annual Financial Statement is tabled at the P&C's AGM): Closing balance as at 31 December 2021 \$184 949 with significant commitments for finalisation of infrastructure to be deducted. Less than 3% of operating budget to be carried forward at the end of 2022. Statement is published in Annual Report.
4. **School satisfaction:** students and teacher more satisfied than dissatisfied. No response from community to their survey. The teaching and care of the staff was a feature of the student's surveys while staff named opportunities to collaborate and quality, targeted professional learning as features. Further detail is published in the Annual Report.

General meeting

1. Thank you: We are continually grateful to our community for their cooperation and understanding as we move into a new phase of restrictions. The current circumstances at our school are preventing us from adopting all changes but we are constantly monitoring situation.
2. Staff update: School has employed two new school learning support officers (SLSOs). Our Burmese SLSO works each Thursday and is funded by the Warrawong Intensive English Centre. Our Aboriginal SLSO will work 3 hours each Wednesday, supporting our Aboriginal students with their personalised learning pathways and activities. Support will also be provided to our Aboriginal Education Coordinator, Ms Petsas, including links to community.

Both staff support our community engagement initiative as part of Strategic Direction 3: Connect, succeed, thrive.

3. Asset update:

- Block D roof leak (Maker Space): leaking has ceased (examined after weekend's rain event) so can now be repaired.
- Rain damage (significant) to undercover walkway Block A and Block D Maker Space classroom entry (different location). Possible cost to school for some of repair work – depends on what insurance covers.
- Basketball Court – plans being drawn up before quoting to occur, likely to be school cost (possibly > \$30 000). Natural Habitat have visited – weren't aware of many of guidelines impacting schools, planting tip given. This will be a significant unexpected cost to school and may impact other projects.
- Trees: auditor undertaking inspection this year. Eastern boundary – school cost to trim overhanging trees. Council strip on Bridge St – awaiting report on tree that damaged fence (insurance cost – yet to be repaired). Harmony Garden – trimming and removal of two trees to occur to increase light and reduce slippage from leaf litter.

5. Student activities

- Year 4 & 6 Check-in Assessments
- Kindergarten Best Start Assessment
- ChiME Program – one class per term

6. Upcoming student activities

7. Swimming carnival – regional

- Harmony Day program – new dates to be finalised
- School Leaders induction – deferred until parents can be onsite (not at present due to ongoing health concerns)
- NAPLAN Years 3 & 5 – online except Yr 3 writing. Practice with online platform to occur.
- Selective High School test – six students

Business arising from last meeting:

- BBQs – info sent to Secretary for P&C consideration
- Soccer goals – PVC not recommended by manufacturer for playground (breakage, confirmed by previous experience at school). Quotes for 3m x 2m pair: portable \$3560, fixed \$2600. Quotes for 5m x 2m pair: portable \$5500, fixed \$3200. Costs don't include anchorage or installation. Cost of project prohibitive for school as focus is on ASU playground in 2022 after significant expenditure in mainstream playground over past years. Unexpected asset repairs / tasks also impact available funds.

Rhonda Morton
Principal