



## Safer school crossings

Council is delighted that our busiest school crossings are now safer, with supervisors controlling them before and after school.

Improving the safety of roads around our schools has been a long-term focus for Council. Leading up to the 2016 ACT election, Council worked hard to raise the need for safer crossings with all election candidates after parents and P&Cs repeatedly reported fears for student safety to us.

“We were able to secure a number of promises relating to school traffic and we were extremely pleased when ACT Labor committed to trialling school crossing supervisors,” explains Terry Sanders, Council’s Executive Officer. “It is a great example of what can be achieved when parents from different schools combine to lobby for solutions to common difficulties.”

“It is fabulous to see these supervisors on school crossings after years of parents and Council urging for action. I want to thank all the parents who have worked hard on this issue, and Transport Canberra for making it happen.”

As far back as 2014 Council was hearing so many concerns about traffic at our meetings that we decided to survey parents about school roads. The survey of over 1000 parents showed nearly 70% had witnessed an accident or near miss around their school and nearly two thirds of parents deemed their school roads ‘unsafe’.

“What parents told us was alarming,” says Terry. “School crossings came up as a major concern.”

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*The busy supervised crossing at Lyneham Primary.*

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# From the President



*Kirsty McGovern-Hooley*

Thank you to the members of Council for their trust and support in electing me to the role of President. I offer a warm welcome to our council representatives, P&C members, and the new and ongoing members of our executive committee for 2018. It is gratifying to work with such a strong team of engaged people who are passionate about public education, who are unafraid to share their insights and ideas.

I would like to pay tribute to John Haydon, and acknowledge the intelligent, steady and considered leadership he has provided the Council for the last three years. His diligence, dedication and strong, passionate support of public education is inspiring. The executive is very grateful he is staying on as Vice-President. I have some big shoes to fill!

Last year, the “P&C” ran a disco for my school. It was mad, exhausting and stressful, but we didn’t do it alone. Everyone (teachers, parents, students and even ex-students) helped with setup, running the event, and the clean-up. Towards the end of the night, I walked into the hall to see a massive conga line of several hundred students and parents sashaying their way around the hall, laughing and dancing and having fun. What struck me later, when we were reporting the ticket sales, was how we always measure our fundraising efforts in dollars, when really we should be measuring our success in “social capital”. Too often, the “value” of the P&C to a school is measured on its fundraising capability. Fundraising is certainly important, and provides practical and logistical support to a school, however the real value of P&Cs lies in how it builds the school’s connection with its local community, and how it brings our families together to enjoy our kids being kids.

There are some substantial challenges ahead for P&Cs. The world is changing fast, and our public education is at the forefront of this change. Minister Berry’s initiative “The Future of

Education” is engaging the community on a broad range of topics about the future of education. This has inspired our Council Executive to consider the “Future of the P&C”.

Our members range from P&Cs which run six- and seven-figure business operations, with multiple sub-committees, to P&Cs who struggle to form a committee and find enough volunteers to meet their constitutional obligations. Operationally, P&Cs function with very different levels of technical and administrative capability. We have P&Cs who livestream the principal’s and president’s reports during meetings on Facebook, and those who provide paper reports and letters. We have P&Cs who have a qualified accountant managing their financial reporting, and others that manage with an excel spreadsheet. Many operate using cheques as the main payment method. The point is, a one-size model does not fit everyone’s purpose.

In planning for our future we need to consider the role of a P&C in a school. Are we a business? Are we a service provider? Are we a source of revenue? Are we an advisory body? Are we a check and balance? And what is the appropriate governance model to meet this purpose and community expectations?

This year, consider how we can engage with the “C” in the P&C - our citizens. When forming your committees, approach and invite grandparents and neighbours, or members of local groups such as neighbourhood watch, community association, men’s shed, senior’s group, special interest group or multicultural group to join your P&C as an ordinary member or office bearer. P&C committees will benefit from the different perspectives and ideas that citizen members can bring. Form connections with local community groups to plan events, organise fundraising initiatives and work constructively together on community issues such as traffic, parking and community land use.

Wishing you well for 2018. ●

# After your AGM

The AGM is over and you find yourself on the P&C executive committee. So, now what? Here's a checklist to get you started.

Finding yourself the new P&C president, secretary or treasurer can be daunting but Council has lots of resources to help you – our members. There are a few official tasks to take care of as soon as possible.

□ Ask your predecessor for a good handover. Hopefully, the out-going committee members give you a set of notes about the role. Make sure you have a copy of the association's constitution, previous meeting minutes, financial records, and details like the association's ABN, incorporation number, bank account and any passwords (eg for P&C email, the school photocopier).

□ Report to government. Your P&C must report on your 2017 activities and finances, as well as the outcomes of your AGM. All the relevant forms can be found via the 'Essential forms' page of our website.

If your P&C is a registered charity, complete an Annual Information Statement for the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission online at [www.acnc.gov.au](http://www.acnc.gov.au) and also let Access Canberra know of any changes to your Public Officer.

If your P&C is not a charity (not registered with the ACNC) submit the Annual Return (AR form) to Access Canberra. Attach your audited Financial Statements. Either get your auditor to sign the AR form or attach their report (details in our Treasurer's Handbook). Good news! There is no longer a fee associated with submitting this form.

□ Let Council know who your new committee members are using the Office Bearers Contact Form. We have mailed information about this to you (and emailed it to the outgoing committee) or find it in the *Forms* section of our website.

□ Check out the *P&C Resources* section of our website for the answers to all your P&C questions. There is a comprehensive set of information

sheets as well as templates, samples and pro-formas to make most P&C tasks simpler.

□ Introduce your new P&C officers to your school community, perhaps through an article in the school newsletter.

□ Arrange for new officers to be signatories on the P&C bank accounts. You need to go into your bank with a copy of the minutes of the AGM where new officers are named. Remove previous signatories as they no longer have authority to operate the association's funds.

□ Attend Council's workshops to assist you with your new role (see below).

“ The whole afternoon was well run and very informative and helpful. I will look at applying some of the ideas ... in our own P&C. ”

*Participant, Effective P&C Workshop.*

Our office is available should you need help with any aspect of running your P&C. Simply phone (62415759) or email ([contact@actparents.org.au](mailto:contact@actparents.org.au)). We're open 9:30am to 2:30pm, Monday to Friday. •

## Our workshops — here to help!

Get to grips with your P&C role and your association running well with our free workshops.

### Effective P&C workshop

*Thursday April 5 at 6:30pm*

*Repeated Tuesday May 1 at 6:30pm*

Information and resources to improve how your P&C is run, recruit volunteers, raise funds and comply with regulations. Ideal for new P&C members and continuing officers alike.

### Treasurers' and Insurance workshop

*Thursday April 12 at 7pm*

Experienced treasurers and Council's bookkeeper provide information and answers about P&C finances, record keeping, annual reporting, audits, insurance, handling monies, affiliation fees, tax status, staff employment, reporting by sub-committees and more. ALL treasurers should attend.

Refreshments provided.

**To book your place and for details, go to:**  
[actparents.org.au/help-for-p-cs/training](http://actparents.org.au/help-for-p-cs/training)

# Have you heard of *Fresh Tastes*?

It may be news to some, but the *Fresh Tastes* program is probably already working in your school to promote healthy eating, writes Alana Devine from ACT Health.

Most primary schools across the ACT are involved in *Fresh Tastes*, so there's a good chance your school is taking part!

*Fresh Tastes* is a free ACT Government service for Canberra primary schools, to make healthy food and drinks a bigger part of everyday life at school. It was launched in 2014 and since then more and more schools have come on board and had fantastic results.

*Fresh Tastes* supports schools over three years to take a whole school approach to influence their food and drink culture. Many of Canberra's primary schools already promote healthy food and drink choices, teach students about nutrition, add healthier options to their canteen menus, and give students hands-on food growing and cooking experiences. *Fresh Tastes* helps schools build on these activities.

## Action planning

For each year of involvement, the *Fresh Tastes* Action Group at the school writes and implements a simple 12-month action plan focusing on their chosen *Fresh Tastes* action area. The five action areas for schools to choose from are: Classroom Learning; Food for Sale; Growing Food; Cooking Food, and Food from Home.

*Classroom Learning* is about providing teachers with curriculum-linked resources about healthy eating and ensuring they're confident to teach these in the classroom. *Food For Sale* helps schools to follow the ACT Public School Food and Drink Policy and the National Healthy School Canteen Guidelines to ensure any food sold in the canteen during fundraising or at schools events is 'Green' or 'Amber' under the Traffic Light System. *Growing and Cooking* food gives teachers an opportunity to learn how to include gardening and cooking activities in their lessons so students can grow, harvest and prepare healthy recipes using fresh produce. *Food From Home* is about supporting and inspiring families to pack healthier lunchboxes.



School action plans have activities that will reach everyone in the school community including students, parents, teachers, P&C, and local community and business partners. To implement action plans, schools access financial grants, curriculum resources, professional learning, communication materials and individualised assistance from the ACT Health *Fresh Tastes* team. There are also networking opportunities with other schools to share ideas for innovation.

*Fresh Tastes* also helps schools celebrate success by creating written articles and videos that can be viewed on the *Fresh Tastes* website. There are some fantastic stories about schools working together with their P&C and parent community. You can also read one example on the next page.

## Ask how your school is involved

Find out if your school is involved by checking the 'Participating Schools' page on the *Fresh Tastes* website. If your school is listed, ask your Principal for an update on your school's *Fresh Tastes* action plan at the next P&C meeting. You can also ask to be on your school's *Fresh Tastes* Action Group to help with driving forward activities.

The website is [www.health.act.gov.au/freshtastes](http://www.health.act.gov.au/freshtastes)

# Fresh Tastes at Fraser

**When *Fresh Tastes* was introduced at Fraser Primary School, it naturally evolved to cover more than one action area.**

“When we began our journey as a *Fresh Tastes* school early in 2015, we were hoping for a more streamlined approach to healthy food and drink throughout our school community,” said Todd McCoy, Teacher at Fraser Primary and the School’s *Fresh Tastes* coordinator.

The school started by exploring the Australian Guide to Health Eating and decided to focus on the Food from Home *Fresh Tastes* action area.

“We formed an action group and some great initiatives came out of our planning with teachers, the canteen manager and representatives from the parent community,” said Todd.

What they found was a need to establish better practices around their own canteen before they could encourage students to reconsider their lunchboxes.

“We redesigned the canteen and colour-coded our canteen menu to only feature green and amber foods,” explained Todd. “Then we ran a competition for students to redesign the canteen’s sign to reflect the fresh, healthy and home-cooked approach – it has become more of a kitchen than a canteen.”

Kerri’s Kitchen is now a hub for healthy options. In fact, their most successful initiative was the design and creation of *Fresh Tastes* lunch packs each fortnight through the canteen.

“The healthy lunch packs are designed by classes,” explained Todd.

“Teachers lead the children through the process by either designing them together or through a competition. The chosen pack – usually given a creative name like ‘Cloudy with a chance of meatballs’ – goes on sale through the canteen and these are starting to outsell the other standard options.”

The process of devising these healthy lunch packs is teaching students what constitutes healthy and tasty options to pack into their own lunchboxes.

“We’ve had meatball wraps with salad, smoothies, homemade ice blocks, burgers, stir-fries, tacos and burritos!” said Todd.

Now that the broader school focus is on a healthy food and drink culture, Fraser Primary School is looking to introduce more formal approaches to classroom learning and food from home.

“All the action areas really are tied together for *Fresh Tastes*,” Todd said. ●



# Help improve our schools

**Would you like to see changes in the way our schools work? Would you like your voice to be heard?**

The network of Council delegates for P&C associations brings the views of parents, through Council, to decision makers.

Make sure your school is linked in!

## **Gathering voices**

At the beginning of the year, each P&C elects a Council delegate. It is the delegate's job to gather issues, concerns and points of view from their P&C members and then voice these at Council meetings. Because of the wealth of experience present at meetings, these concerns can often be answered. However, if delegates from other schools share the concern, together the meeting will decide how Council can best take up the issue.

## **Bringing about change**

There are many recent examples of Council responding to delegate concerns and representing parents to bringing about change:

- lobbying for solutions to ongoing traffic problems at schools, such as supervisors for school crossing (see our front page story!), problems initially voiced at Council meetings by delegates
- ACT Labor Government's promise of a device for every high school student came after Council pressure due to parent concerns on BYOD policies
- working with the Education Directorate and bus companies to ensure drivers of special transport services receive disability awareness training
- agitating for a major project, undertaken through ACT Health, to help school canteens in response to ongoing concerns from delegates about their financial viability. This assistance has been gratefully received, great resources have been created and a new Canteen Business Manual is coming soon!

The network of delegates, regularly and fully

informing Council about parent opinion, is vital to the way Council works. Council representative are then in an excellent position to represent your views and bring issues affecting your school and community to the attention of government.

## **Talking to decision makers**

Council is well connected to take parent concerns to those who can address them. Council executives meet regularly with the Education Minister and senior officials from the Education Directorate. The Directorate also regularly seek Council input into emerging education policies and practices. In addition, Council writes formal submissions representing the views and concerns of parents to official inquiries.

Our members are also involved in many decision-making groups and government committees where they represent parents. Examples include the Digital Citizenship Reference Group (commenting on the use of technology in schools), a Disability Education Reference Group (providing parent input on disability issues) and the Literacy and Numeracy Group. Representative roles like these provide an interesting insight for parents and a unique opportunity to have your say.

Any delegate can nominate for these committee positions. Delegates can also nominate to join Council Executive to help pilot our activities and responses.

Council also lobbies candidates in the lead-up to local elections to draw their attention to improvements needed at our schools. Last election we were successful in securing promises for major additional spending on school buildings, amongst others.

## **It works both ways**

Council meetings include a range of announcements on new information, events and services of interest to public school parents and

# Recognise your volunteers!

## Is your P&C indebted to an outstanding volunteer or team of helpers?

Nominate your dedicated helpers for the 2018 Volunteering Awards to recognise everything they do.

Not only is the nomination a wonderful way to show your appreciation, all nominees are invited to a fabulous Awards Ceremony at the National Arboretum for a spectacular evening.

Nominate online by April 6:

[vc-act.org.au/2018-volunteering-awards](http://vc-act.org.au/2018-volunteering-awards)



P&Cs. There are also guest speakers from the Education Directorate and elsewhere who provide details on new developments. So an important role for Council delegates is to report useful information from Council gatherings back to their P&C.

Ideally, there should be a place on each P&C agenda for the delegate to report on Council happenings and to gather any feedback from those at the P&C meeting. In this way, delegates can consult with their own P&C associations on the matters discussed by Council and gather views for the next Council meeting.

If possible, delegates should also help to keep the wider school community informed of what is happening in the educational arena by conveying information from Council, for example, through the school's newsletter.

Council delegates really are a conduit, connecting parents' opinions on the education of their children with Council's lobbying abilities and experience.

### **Interesting, not onerous**

Council meetings are held in Stirling on the fourth Tuesday of each month during school term (two per term). They start at 7pm and end at 9:30 sharp.

A standing agenda item 'Issues from Schools' enables delegates to raise matters on behalf of their own school communities for discussion and

possible action.

We know that getting to evening meetings can be a juggle. It may be helpful to share the load by appointing an alternate delegate so that if a delegate cannot attend a meeting for some reason, the P&C is still represented. P&C association presidents and secretaries are also encouraged to attend P&C Council meetings should their delegate not be able to attend, or if they have questions.

### **Sharing Expertise**

Council meetings are a great place to talk to officer-bearers from other P&Cs and find out how they handle the challenges of a volunteer parent organisation in their school.

Most delegates find the discussions about educational issues very interesting and informative and appreciate the opportunity to meet parent and carers from other schools.

### **Welcoming you**

Join us for a welcome event for new Council delegates at the beginning of our regular March meeting. There will be something to eat, information to help new delegates, and experienced veterans on hand to greet you. It's on Tuesday March 27, at 6:45pm at the Centre for Teaching and Learning in Stirling.

We look forward to seeing see all our delegates throughout the year. ●

# Safer school crossings

*continued from front page*

Parents at some schools simply didn't consider them safe."

This was the case for Mia Swainson, who walked her kids to Lyneham Primary School most days.

"I had a child in Kindy, plus a toddler and baby with me and often the crossing felt unsafe," recalls Mia. "Then one day a parent was hit on the crossing, with her kids there with her. It rocked the school community."

The incident spurred parents into action, counting the number of pedestrians and cars over the crossing on a typical morning.

"We assumed that the ACT had a supervisor program but when we asked, we drew blanks. So I looked into what other states were doing and found that in every other state, with the amount of traffic we were counting on our crossing, we would be eligible for a crossing supervisor."

The Lyneham Primary P&C began writing letters to Ministers. They also brought the issue, and their research, to Council. Parents created a detailed proposal for a trial of crossing supervisors and, through Council's regular meetings with the Minister, it was presented to the Minister for Education three years ago.

"Council asked the ACT government for a crossing supervisor program at election time. Labor committed to creating a program if elected. And now we have this program. It is very exciting," Mia says.

"It is fabulous to know your kids are safe on that last part of the journey to school. It gives us confidence. It really encourages parents to drop kids off part way to school so they can walk the rest of the way."

Pedestrians are not the only winners. Traffic flow is also expected to be better on the supervised crossings.

Kylie Heffernan, who trains the new crossing supervisors, says the job includes "managing traffic flow so that you don't get cars backing up, pooling the children together" before stopping

the traffic.

She says the system is working well. "It is now a process of educating drivers, pedestrians and cyclists as they get used to how this works."

Presentations at school assemblies have helped teach the kids the new drill. "The kids are on board. They say 'wait mum – you have to wait for the two whistles!'"

The trial of school crossing supervisors is in place at 20 schools. Council was part of the panel which assessed need and decided on which schools would be part of the trial.

"Not every school needs supervised crossings and the trial was always limited to 20," explains Terry. "The panel looked at the size of the school, the traffic volumes which Transport Canberra measured, and things like how popular active transport was at the school. It was a rigorous and fair process."

For schools not getting a supervisor for their crossing, there is still good news. Council was also able to secure a promise at the last election for individualised Traffic Management plans for each ACT public school. These will be developed over the next few years.

Council expects that the Traffic Management plans will address school-specific traffic difficulties and cover the whole of government including roads, infrastructure, policing, and public transport. "We hope this will address the frustration of many P&Cs and schools in having to deal with multiple agencies," Terry says.

"We hope the plans will identify simple measures to improve safety and traffic flow around each school, based on their particular circumstances. Our expectation is that they be developed in consultation with parents and the P&C."

Council encourages parents to get involved. Ask your Principal at your next P&C meeting about your school's plan.

"In the end, the school crossing supervisor



program and Traffic Management plans are about making our schools safer and giving parents more confidence in the safety of school roads and crossings.” Terry says. “We hope this

will lead to more students walking to school, which will in turn further reduce traffic problems around our schools.” •

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# Recognising our new Life Member

*continued from back page*

learn about the environment, biodiversity and sustainability, and also to urge that schools lead by example and adopt sustainable practices. She helped create sustainability policies for Council and ACSSO (federal parent body) at a time when climate change wasn't as widely accepted as it is now, which is a considerable achievement.

Viv was part of the steering committee which established and secured funding for the Youth Parliament on Sustainability (and, of course, a volunteer 'on the ground' at the event). This has now become annual event for school children across Canberra, where they can develop creative proposals to make Canberra a more sustainable city and present their ideas to local politicians.

## **A lifetime of volunteering**

Viv has been a steadfast presence at Council for years and the driving force behind several school P&Cs for over two decades. She first got involved at Giralang Primary where she helped in the canteen, with fundraising, craft group and other volunteer roles and positions. She repeated this feat at Kaleen High, serving as P&C President and on the school board, and then Lake Ginninderra College for whom she is still the Council delegate.

Viv joined Council in 2005 and has been a member of Council Executive since 2008, leading as President for three years, and providing a parent view to many Government committees, working groups and reference groups.

As well as advocacy, Viv has had a great impact on the way Council helps its members, instigating improvements to our website and magazine over the years. Realising that many P&Cs needed more support, she was a long-term convener of the

Schools and Communities in Partnership Committee and visited many P&Cs to offer advice, from her long experience, on how to make the P&C work best for the school community.

## **Giving and receiving**

When asked why she gives up so much of her time for these activities, Viv tells us: “I've always found that by participating in volunteer organisations, I meet interesting people. For all that I've given, I've got much more back in experiences and learning.”

“Sometimes people tell me that I could be doing something else, but what could be more important than a better education for our kids?”

“It's rare that, as an individual, you get to make a difference. But with P&Cs and Council you're an individual working with others as a team for a common goal and we *do* make a difference, putting forward parent views, keeping a school-focus for the community. I realised as a primary school parent that I could contribute to the education of my kids. Now I can contribute to the school experience of other people's children.”

“Things don't happen suddenly, but if there is a concerted, long-term parent voice, if you keep asking, eventually politicians *will* do something. I think getting the government to look more closely at school road safety, and the new school crossing supervisor trial, is a good example of this and something I'm very proud to have been involved with.”

Viv's Council Life Membership is obviously wholly deserved and we offer her our congratulations and deepest gratitude. •

# At our P&C...

**The P&C at Gold Creek School has been live streaming their meetings via Facebook for a year – to a growing audience. We caught up with President David Pollard to learn more.**

How can you get more people to your meetings? It's a perennial question for P&Cs and Council alike. So when David Pollard saw live streaming working for another community organisation, he thought it would be worth a go.

"It is such an easy thing that P&Cs can do," he said, "so it was definitely worth trying."

"It was just the same eight people coming to meetings, but there was such great content generated there. We wanted to expand the audience and let more people benefit from what we hear at our meetings."

"We don't stream the whole thing, just 10-15 minutes each time – none of the boring committee stuff like who will buy sausages for the weekend! We only do the Principal's report, plus a special topic."

David uses a very simple set up – just a phone on a cheap tripod.

"For the first one, I actually just held the phone. Once we saw it work, we added the tripod which is much better. We find in the quiet room where we have our P&C meetings that we don't need an additional microphone, just the one on my phone."

Live streaming on Facebook is simply a matter of opening the Facebook App on a mobile device and hitting the "Go Live" icon. The video then appears on your feed. If you want to livestream from a Page (such as your P&C Facebook page), find the "Go Live" link in the Pages App. People can watch live on your page, or any time afterwards.

Obviously you also need an internet connection. David uses his personal internet package on his phone, but P&Cs could ask their school if they could use the school wifi.



***You don't necessarily need fancy equipment. A cheap tripod and your phone can get you live streaming.***

So, did it work?

"It's certainly been a success," David said. "Now we have eight people in the room, sometimes a dozen more watching live and more still more watching the video later."

"The first video got over 200 views and then each time there have been 100 more than the last time! Admittedly only some of those viewers watch the whole thing, but it is still a great response."

"Both the P&C and school Facebook pages promote the video for a while after each meeting. I also copy it across to YouTube and circulate that link for families who have decided not to have Facebook. We aim to make it as available as possible. In fact, the videos continue to be a good resource for parents on the special topic that was covered in that meeting. I know parents from other schools who have had a look and found them useful."

# About us

ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations is the peak body for Parents & Citizens (P&C) Associations in the ACT.

We represent over 60,000 parents and carers in 87 ACT public schools.

## About our magazine

*ParentACTion is a free journal published four times a year. It is available online, plus hardcopies are provided to all ACT public school P&Cs and school boards, the ACT Legislative Assembly, senior ACT Education Directorate staff, public education organisations, the media and interstate parent associations.*

*Contributions, advertising and feedback are always being sought. Contributions can be emailed directly to the Editor, Janelle Kennard, at [jkennard@actparents.org.au](mailto:jkennard@actparents.org.au).*

*Views expressed in this journal are not necessarily those of the ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations.*

After the Principal's report, each live stream includes a special topic.

David explained: "This might be something that the Principal wants to cover, like the school improvement journey or the Future of Education consultation. But we also ask parents what they want to be covered. We don't get many requests, so when there is one we jump on it."

"One parent asked for bullying to be covered, so school staff spoke about that. Another Kindy parent had questions about helping with home readers so we expanded that to focus on home learning, how that is different from homework, and how to help."

"We have tried to make it as interactive as possible and encourage live questions. This is still rare, but it is growing all the time."

"For people in the room, they can be part of the discussions too. But we fix the camera on the Principal or other staff members who are doing the presentation or leading the discussion, so that other people in the room are just voices."

When asked whether the faithful eight still turn up to meetings, David told us "Yes".

"We still have our committee business to do and events to organise once the camera goes off." •

### Editor's note:

You can take a peek at the videos at [www.facebook.com/pg/GoldCreekPandC/videos](http://www.facebook.com/pg/GoldCreekPandC/videos) or via [goldcreekschoolpandc.org.au/about-the-pc/meetings-and-minutes/](http://goldcreekschoolpandc.org.au/about-the-pc/meetings-and-minutes/)

# Our Executive

President:	Kirsty McGovern-Hooley
Vice President:	Andrew Bidwell, John Haydon
Secretary:	Cecilia Shlegel
Treasurer:	Crystal Cox
Committee:	Sharon Ding, Jackie Floro, Vivienne Pearce, Jayne Trustum, Bonnie Rappola

## Life members

Grant Battersby, Pam Cahir, Trevor Cobbold, Graeme Evans, Ian Morgan, Richard Scherer, Vivienne Pearce

# Contact us

## ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations

Maitland House  
100 Maitland Street  
Hackett ACT 2602

(02) 6241 5759  
[contact@actparents.org.au](mailto:contact@actparents.org.au)  
[www.actparents.org.au](http://www.actparents.org.au)

## Office staff

Executive Officer:	Terry Sanders
Policy Officer:	Veronica Elliott
Communications Officer:	Janelle Kennard
Executive Assistant:	Rachel McGrath

## Office hours

9.30am - 2.30pm Monday to Friday.  
Closed public holidays and school holidays.

# Dates to remember

**Feb 27 Council General Meeting**  
7.00pm - 9.30pm  
Centre for Teaching and Learning  
51 Fremantle Drive, Stirling

**March 27 Council Hot Topics/General Meeting**  
7.00pm - 9.30pm  
Centre for Teaching and Learning  
51 Fremantle Drive, Stirling

**April 5 Effective P&C Workshop**  
6.30pm - 9.00pm  
Centre for Teaching and Learning  
51 Fremantle Drive, Stirling

**April 12 Treasurers & Insurance Workshop**  
7.00pm - 9.30pm  
Centre for Teaching and Learning  
51 Fremantle Drive, Stirling

**April 14-29 Office closed for term break**

**May 1 Effective P&C Workshop (repeat)**  
6.30pm - 9.00pm  
Centre for Teaching and Learning  
51 Fremantle Drive, Stirling

**May 10 P&C Constitution Workshop (if sufficient demand)**  
7.00pm - 9.00pm

## Recognising our new Life Member

In November last year, Council recognised the life-long commitment that Vivienne Pearce has made to P&Cs and school education in the ACT by welcoming her to the select company of official Council Life Members.

### Advocating for parents

Viv is a passionate advocate for parents and public education. She has been one of the most active people in Canberra lobbying for the Gonski report recommendations to be implemented and, earlier, opposing public school closures. She has been passionate in calling for improvements for special needs students and better understanding and support for migrant families. Viv also helped steer school canteens towards including healthier options, and lobbied the government to support canteens in making the change while remaining financially viable.

“Viv’s clear and effective advocacy for public school students is longstanding and backed up by a strong sense of fair play,” explains John Haydon, who has served next to Viv on the Council Executive for many years.

“Viv is always ready to provide support to those who do not have the opportunity to best represent themselves, shown especially in her promotion of the needs of refugee and migrant communities. Her integrity shines through together with an infectious smile and an ever-present good humour.”



*John Haydon, as Council President, presents Council Life Membership to Vivienne Pearce in recognition of years of dedication to advocacy and member services.*

### Environmental focus

An area of particular interest and passion for Viv is ensuring that our children have the skills they need to adapt to a changing world and climate. She has worked hard to ensure that more is done in our schools to prepare students, to help them

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