



Ready for the new year?

Don't wait for the Christmas rush to descend on your volunteers. Start your end-of-year tasks and plans for 2018 now!



Who will be on your committee?

If some members are likely to leave your P&C at the end of this year, it is not too early to start thinking of ways to get more parents involved.

It can help if retiring committee members get out and talk to other parents at the school, outline the role that they have been doing and what the benefits have been. An offer to be around next year to help the new person can go a long way to allaying any fears.

Another strategy is to divide roles and tasks between several people so that each job is not so daunting.

Also think carefully about making provision for formal training for new volunteers. If the P&C pays for training, the volunteer gains new skills and something to put on their CV, while the P&C gains a skilled volunteer! This can be especially important for treasurers and canteen volunteers.

Remind potential volunteers that Council also runs free training sessions at the beginning of each year to help P&C office bearers with their role. That means that a lack of experience isn't a reason for people to turn down a role!

We have Information Sheets with more ideas on recruiting volunteers. There is also a template for a brochure and an enrolment pack form to help you promote your P&C. These are gathered on our website under 'Promoting your P&C'.

Prepare your handover

Imagine that your predecessor had given you all the information you needed to do the job you volunteered for! That is the sort of handover your

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From the President



John Haydon

I've been Council's president for three years and while I may be on Council's executive next year, it will not be in the role of president. So this is my last opportunity to write this page, and I'd like to use it to encourage you to volunteer for roles in your P&C and on Council.

You've probably heard recently of studies that show that volunteers are happier than people who don't volunteer. The argument is that if you volunteer you will be happier. I don't believe it: I think it is an example of what journalists so often do, confuse correlation with causation. I'm not convinced that volunteering causes people to be happier, but that people who are otherwise happier are more likely to volunteer. When we are miserable we just feel like withdrawing from the world and dealing with our own issues.

One of the benefits that I think I've gained from being on Council's executive is the chance to work with a great team of people on a challenging bunch of issues. Our four part-time staff are very capable and are dedicated beyond what is probably good for them, and the members of the executive are intelligent, thoughtful and easy-going. Schooling raises a complex set of sometimes conflicting issues and trying to make a contribution when you have no special expertise but just an informed lay-person's view presents its own interesting dilemmas. I'm thinking here of many issue-focused meetings and workshops with various staff of the Education Directorate, and also Council's regular series of meetings with the Minister and separately the leadership of the Directorate. You gain a bit of insight into how government works in the ACT.

As president you tend to be called on to do more media work than other executive members. Television and radio interviews eventually become events that don't raise the

anxiety levels too much, and here too there is some reward in better understanding our media and perhaps more sympathy for those hapless faces we see interviewed on screen each night.

I've also enjoyed chairing Council's general and executive meetings and have tried to make space for everyone to have their say, no doubt failing sometimes. Upcoming meetings used to provoke a bit of anxiety, but no longer. Isn't it amazing how everything gets easier with practice? That might be a reason to volunteer for those keen to 'get on' in their paid employment: some skills to hone and something to add to a CV, and to discuss in job interviews.

We often hear how volunteering is declining and Council has used that argument to gain support from the Government for its efforts to attract volunteers to P&Cs and Council. It is true unfortunately. The Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in its 2014 General Social Survey found only 31% of adults volunteered compared to 36% just four years earlier. That is a significant decline over a short period of time. The main reason given is that people are too busy and it mirrors a decline in participation in sports groups, political parties and professional associations. We are losing social capital. Some research is being conducted by Curtin, Flinders and Macquarie Universities and preliminary findings are that volunteer organisations must be clear about the benefits they can offer and must offer a variety of flexible volunteering opportunities.

I hope from my reflections above that you can glean some of the benefits that you may obtain from volunteering, or volunteering more, for your P&C. In P&Cs there is a lot of flexibility in how, when and where you can volunteer. Council's executive also needs to be boosted by more volunteers so please consider putting your hand up. You will be welcomed and supported. All the best. ●

Ready for the new year?

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latest recruit will love! Preserve your wisdom and knowledge and make it easier for the next committee with a short set of handover notes. Of course we have resources to help including template handover notes for presidents, secretaries and treasurers ready for you to adapt to your P&C's situation. These have been updated recently to reflect new reporting requirements for P&Cs.

Prepare financial records for the auditor

At the close of the P&C's financial year (December 31 for almost all P&Cs), the association's accounts need to be collated by the treasurer so that they can be looked over by an external auditor. Our new Treasurer Handbook includes an extensive section on how to prepare your accounts and paper work for the audit, including a checklist of what you should provide. Take a look at Section 11 of the Handbook, available from our office and on our website. We also have a list of auditors if you are having trouble finding one.

Remember that your P&C may not have to pay for an expensive qualified accountant for your audit. (Council does however recommend a qualified accountant, if your P&C runs a business enterprise such as a canteen or after-school care service.) If your association has gross receipts of less than of \$400,000 per annum and fewer than 1000 members then the accounts may be audited by any adult who is not an office bearer of the association and has not prepared or assisted with the preparation of those accounts. It is simply someone willing to look over the accounts and verify that they are properly in order. With this in mind, Council is facilitating a 'book swap' whereby two P&C treasurers each audit each other's books. If you'd like to know more or be involved, contact our office.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Within five months of the end of your P&C's financial year, your association needs to hold an AGM. Almost all P&Cs do this in term one each year. Because you need to send out notice of the

meeting to your members prior to your AGM, Council recommends that you set the date for your AGM and send out notice before the end of the school year. The amount of notice required will be specified in your association's constitution (usually two or four weeks), so have a quick look at that first.

There is plenty of detail on preparing for your AGM, what needs to be covered at the meeting, and checklists to help in Council's Information Sheets 23 and 24 (available online).

Celebrate with an end-of-year event

The end of the school year is a great time to get parents together for a celebration. Why not hold a community BBQ, perhaps on the same day as your school's end of year concert or awards assembly? You could invite new families who have children enrolled for next year. Consider offering the catering to another organisation, such as a local scout or sports group, as a fundraiser. Most will jump at the opportunity and this frees up your loyal volunteers to socialise while someone else cooks the sausages!

Events like these are a great opportunity to chat to parents about what your P&C has achieved over the year and how to get involved. You could set up a table with P&C information and pictures of recent achievements, events, or purchases for the school. You may even meet someone who would like to be a committee member next year!

It's also important to make sure that your faithful P&C helpers are thanked for their hard work and feel appreciated. Many schools put on a morning tea for volunteers and some P&Cs head out for an end of year meal together.

Due to feedback from our members that they feel under-appreciated by the education 'system', Council has teamed up with the Education Directorate to create an official Certificate of Appreciation from us to all your volunteers. It has been distributed to all school principals and is also available on our website as a word document so that certificates for all your volunteers can be printed and presented at a suitable event. ●

Royal Life Saving needs your help to save lives

Royal Life Saving Society Australia is the country's peak water safety and drowning prevention organisation. Belinda Fitzgerald, from the ACT branch, has a serious message for parents.

Last year Royal Life Saving published research that reported 62% of fatal drownings for children from birth to 14 years occurred after a fall into water indicating that children's skill levels are certainly not where we need them to be!

Just as alarming is that the most common drowning location reported for this age group was swimming pools — the one location most likely to be well supervised.

Attention please parents!

The risk does not expire for our kids as they get older. The 2016 National Drowning Report reported 25-34 year olds had the highest number of fatal drownings in comparison to any other age demographic. This could be attributed to our inability to prepare them well enough for the dangers associated with different types of aquatic environments and recreational activities they'll encounter later in life.

Do you really know your child's abilities?

Since 2008, Royal Life Saving ACT has hosted Swim and Survive programs for ACT primary school groups and has used parent input as the method for grouping students with others of similar abilities ready for the first day in the pool. Last year, after the day one assessments, over 75% of students were moved down from the level of proficiency indicated by their parent/guardian.

Many children are very confident and competent in the water when they are in a controlled and familiar environment. Outside of known conditions however, it can be a very different story, and unexpected situations can prove fatal.

Help us to help you!

Parents and carers can help in the following ways.

- Recognise the need for and value of quality water safety and life saving education for your children.
- Communicate that need to your school principals, teachers and parent communities.



Photo credit: City of Temecula
www.flickr.com/photos/cityoftemecula/8550318330

- Invest in quality, structured water safety programs for primary aged children.
- Understand that traditional swimming lessons with one lesson of dedicated water safety each term may not be enough. Demand more!
- Enjoy the water together with your children in a variety of safe and controlled environments as they develop their skills and learn their limitations.
- Discuss with your children the range of risks and hazards in different aquatic areas and how to avoid emergencies.

Last of all...

Call us! Royal Life Saving ACT is dedicated to a zero drowning goal for Canberra and we realise that parents can't do or know it all. We provide access and equity programs for those in need. We facilitate the ACT Education Directorate's subsidised AQUASAFE program for Year 2 students. We have a variety of water safety and life saving programs that teach children not just how to swim, but how to survive in the water. If you have to choose, choose swimming over athletics next term. You might just save a life! •

Belinda Fitzgerald is Royal Life Saving ACT's Schools Coordinator and can be contacted on 6260 5800 or via email actschools@rlssa.org.au

Getting the most from Google

P&Cs can access a free Google suite which can help keep committee paperwork organised.

Janet Dawson, a volunteer at Kingsford Smith School P&C Association was frustrated with using personal email accounts for P&C business.

“With us all using our own emails, there was a lack of visibility for the P&C and we were forever losing important information or documents. When people moved on, we couldn’t get to the previous correspondence or contacts, and some people were filing documents or keeping them with email, but it was haphazard.”

Other P&C members felt the same, with the need for transparency and a single place for documents being important issues highlighted at a planning session the Association held.

So Janet did some research and signed up the P&C for Google Apps for Non-Profits, a free version of the Google Apps business productivity suite. It includes business-style Gmail, Google Docs and Drive, a shared Calendar and more.

“There is normally a fee for the Google business suite, but eligible organisations can get the Non-Profits version for free,” explained Janet.

Google’s ‘eligible organisations’ should include all P&Cs because it depends on having Income Tax Exempt status with the Australian Tax Office. Council understands that all P&Cs fulfil the criteria for tax exemption (see Council’s Treasurer Handbook, section 17).

“The system works really well,” says Janet. “All our documents are now in one place — the Google Drive — and emails relating to my role on the P&C are all together, not mixed up with my personal emails. The P&C stuff isn’t *mine*, so I don’t want it in there. This way, it is clearly available for the next person and doesn’t linger after I have stopped my role.”

“It has given us transparency from year to year as well as ensuring confidentiality for things like staff contracts. All emails between the committee are there, saved for next year, so it is clear why particular decisions were made.”



In addition Google’s email and storage tools the Kingsford Smith School P&C also used Google to build themselves a professional-looking website.

Many P&Cs have a Google account for the organisation, but there is only one email address associated with the account. The suite that Janet signed up for is more powerful.

“The Non-Profit suite is more like a business account. There is an admin person and they can set up additional users — such as the officer bearers — each with their own access rights and so on. People can be added at the beginning of the year and taken off at the end. You can choose which parts of the system, which email addresses, each person can access,” Janet says.

“Instead of having one email account — like schoolpandc@gmail.com — we have a set of sub-emails, multiple addresses at the same domain. So we can have treasurer@ksspandc.org, president@ksspandc.org and so on, all separate emails but all linked.”

“The one draw-back,” explains Janet, “is that you first need to have your own domain. This can be set up pretty easily and cheaply through Google.”

Another advantage with using the Google Suite is that it mirrors the system used at school.

“That means that parents can see the same

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Future of Education consultation

Since February this year, the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development and the Education Directorate have been talking to the Canberra community about what you want for the future of schools and education in the ACT. Coralie McAlister, from the Directorate, reports on progress.

The Future of Education conversation explores how the education system can ensure every child in the ACT can access the education that will make them the best they can be.

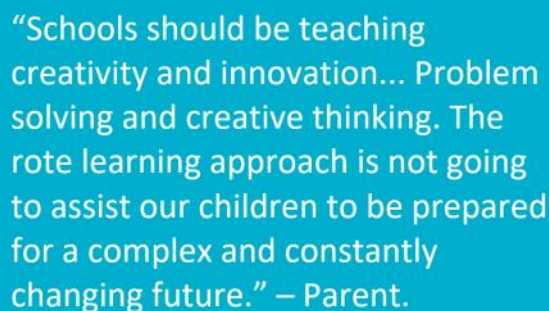
This conversation is broad, seeking voices not normally engaged in discussions about education and includes the lived experiences of students and teachers and the community.

So far we have heard from over 2,500 people across school communities, community organisations and the broader community.

Themes have started to emerge and we now invite you to help us dig a bit deeper by telling us anything that might be missing or anything that is particularly important.

We encourage you to continue to share your ideas, and ask that you encourage your family, friends and colleagues to join the conversation too.

Head online to www.yoursay.act.gov.au/futureofeducation for a full summary of themes and to provide your feedback.



“Schools should be teaching creativity and innovation... Problem solving and creative thinking. The rote learning approach is not going to assist our children to be prepared for a complex and constantly changing future.” – Parent.

Learning for the future

Many of you told us that students need to be learning the skills that will be necessary in the workplaces of tomorrow. Many academics predict that it will become less important for students to learn content or knowledge, and more important for them to develop the skills to acquire and interpret knowledge.

Transitions

Starting and changing school can be a challenging and exciting time for students and families, who need to adjust to new roles, identities, expectations and relationships. We've heard that the community would like more support and programs for students to help ease their transitions (including between schools and from college into work, training or university).

Individualised learning

Many of you want our school system to allow

Google Apps for Non-Profits

continued from previous page

system that the kids are using, so are in a better position to help them. Also, we are looking to share some folders with the school, like photos of events, logos and so on.”

“We also made a P&C website using Google Sites which was fabulously easy to use. It has drag-and-drop elements that you place to create your site. It was very easy to set up.”

The site certainly looks good and provides useful information for the school community – check it out at ksspandc.org. You can see why the P&C is a fan of Google!

students to learn in a way that is centred on their individual skills and interests so that they develop a love of learning. Many teachers and students told us that they would like more individualised and tailored learning options, including more extended classes for gifted students and more support for students who are struggling.

(In)consistency between schools

We have received feedback about the differences between schools across a number of areas, including what is taught, how each school links with the community and how each school uses data. Feedback has noted the importance of being able to personalise practice to reflect community needs, while also raising questions about whether there are enough frameworks in place to support consistent practice across all schools.

Opportunities and pathways for all

You have told us that we need a broader range of programs to meet the diverse needs and desires of our students, particularly those in the ‘margins’ or who are falling behind. You also told us that we need to focus less on university or academia as *the* pathway after school and to acknowledge different pathways young people take.

“We want to have learnt life and social skills, like how to deal with relationships, how to be a good person and to have learnt things that will help in later life.” - Student.

Wellbeing and life skills

Feedback has clearly told us that as well as academic skills, you want students to be learning skills around emotional and social wellbeing. This aligns with the research which has shown very strong links between emotional wellbeing and academic performance.

What we should be measuring and evaluating

The feedback clearly shows that parents’ highest priority is that their children are happy, engaged and learning how to learn. Many respondents

questioned what assessment data currently tells us and expressed a view that it does not identify the full range of individual students’ progress.

“How are we measuring a whole year of learning? One test at the end doesn’t show that - it just shows who crams best.” - Student.

Collaboration and support to meet student need

A lot of feedback discussed the need for a whole of community approach to meeting the complex range of needs of our students and families. You’ve mentioned a need for stronger partnerships with and between ACT Government services as well as between schools and community organisations.

Valuing educators

We received overwhelmingly positive comments about our teachers. Many also mentioned the need for ongoing support for teachers, including professional development, collaboration, and training about how to understand and work with complex behaviours.

What is Inclusion?

You’ve said to us that diversity in the student population should be seen as the norm, and as a strength rather than being looked at through a lens of deficit. An opportunity exists to clearly articulate what is meant by successful inclusion within learning environments. ●

Editor’s note: Council will be providing a major submission to the Future of Education consultation based on input from parents, carers and P&Cs. Our Future of Education Forum last Term attracted a good number of parents who had a lively discussion and highlighted important issues. This will form the basis of our submission, along with other comments provided to Council. If you have ideas or comments to contribute please forward them to our Policy Officer: velliott@actparents.org.au.

Marketing your canteen

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promote the healthy food messages (see resources below)

- having healthy food specials
- selling products that can be eaten with one hand (particularly in high school & college where the other hand is then free to text!)
- pricing healthier options cheaper and less healthy items more expensive
- creating a core menu with rotating specials.

When it comes to making sure your canteen is attractive and has a strong profile within your school community, consider the following tips.

- Check the quality and safety (eg temperature) of your foods.
- Don't sell anything which is not up to standard (either in presentation or safety).
- Consider doing fewer items but doing all of them well.
- Have hand washing posters up on both sides of the counter (ie for both canteen staff and students).
- Canteen staff and volunteers should present well (for example, with clean uniform and personally well presented).
- Have regular theme days and utilise your school's multicultural community for new options and volunteers.
- Use social media to promote the canteen

menu as well as specials and theme days.

- Make the canteen exterior and interior more attractive and colourful.

HKA have almost finished writing a marketing manual which will capture all these great ideas and more, and step canteen managers through the process of promoting their canteens more effectively. We will let you know as soon as it is available via our website (check the Canteen Support page) and social media.

Meanwhile, there is a wonderful array of new resources to help.

Stickers and matching templates

Council has created fun, colourful stickers for canteens to use to clearly identify – and increase the appeal of – healthy food products prepared in the canteen. We think they look great and they were very well received by canteen managers and co-ordinators at our stall at the Canteen Connect event. The stickers are available in purple, green, and black and white, and with three different messages: 'Good Fuel Food', 'Boost your Brainpower' and 'Good Fuel = Play Longer'. They are perfect for adding to your packaging for wraps, salads, burgers, and other healthy items, for that extra professional touch. We are happy to send them out to your canteen free of charge if you email admin@actparents.org.au with your requested number and type.

We have also created a matching menu template and a template for a banner for the top of your specials board. These use the same graphic elements as the stickers to create a professional look for your canteen which carries right through to the products the students receive. They are available to download on the Canteen Support page of our website and are ready for you to adapt them to the needs of your school.

Posters

A major project which we jointly funded with ACT Health – several years in the making – has been the creation of marketing 'messages' for



If you'd like some colourful stickers to jazz up the packaging of your healthy foods, just contact Council.

healthy food at school. Working with an external consultancy firm, the project created a suite of ideas, words and ‘slogans’ which will influence and motivate school students to buy greener food from the canteen. These have been tested, in several rounds, with ACT school students to ensure that they are understood and really have an impact on their thinking. It has been great to see the methods of the advertising world – so well employed by junk-food producers – being turned to help canteens and our kids’ health!

The most useful output from all this work for canteens is probably a range of eye-catching posters (pictured on the back page) which use the tested ‘messages’. We think that your customers will love them, so they are available on our website for you to download, print and hang at your canteen.

Council is extremely grateful to ACT Health for progressing this excellent project.

Great recipes with matching imagery

Using a Healthy Canberra Grant, HKA have created a fabulous resource for canteens looking for healthy menu items, fresh ideas, and a professional look. There is a comprehensive selection of delicious healthy recipes, along with visual aids to use around the canteen, or to showcase the items in school newsletter or on your menu. Several of the recipes also come with a video to show you how to make them. This means you can select a new recipe – such as Vietnamese salad, tandoori and mint yogurt pockets, or egg muffin cups – and add it to your menu, accompanied by a professional, enticing photograph. The video makes it easy for your volunteers to create the same dish, at a high standard, every time.

To access these fabulous resources, go to healthy-kids.com.au/marketing-food-at-school-catalogue

They really are worth a look!

‘Go for Green’ guide

Even the most experienced canteen manager can



A practical guide to using the traffic light system, Go for Green is an essential tool for all canteens.

be tripped up by the details of the traffic light system of food classification, and knowing if your home-cooked stir-fry really is ‘Green’, or has slipped into ‘Amber’ can be tricky. Coming to the rescue is an easy to use guide from ACT Health and Nutrition Australia called ‘Go for Green’.

The guide details how to apply the National Healthy School Canteen Guidelines in practice, how the Traffic Light System works and how to classify any food or drink. It includes clear worked examples, including classifying your own recipes. There is an extensive list of popular ingredients, tips about greening your menu items and links to recipes. Every canteen should have a copy on hand!

Find it on the Fresh Tastes website under ‘schools’, ‘food for sale’ – goodhabitsforlife.act.gov.au/fresh-tastes.

Contact Council

We’re currently updating on the Canteen Support page of our website to include all of these resources so that they are easier for P&Cs to find.

Please contact Council if you have any questions or an idea or suggestion for the resources. We are keen for canteens to make the most of them and happy to help! ●

At our P&C...

The P&C at Arawang Primary School has got their community cooking up a storm!

We all know that food is a great leveller and a terrific way to get people involved. This year, the Arawang P&C have been building community involvement at the school by running adult cooking classes.

“We have an amazing kitchen at the school which is used to teach cooking to the kids. The Principal, Jeni Page first floated the idea of using the facilities to run cooking classes for parents,” explained P&C President Heather Frisken.

The P&C was happy to pick up the idea and run with it, thanks to their indomitable fundraising parent volunteer, Alison Manners. This year, they have run two successful evenings of Asian cooking.

“We ran the first evening in term one and the second one in August,” said Heather. “They were both a huge success.”

Despite the winter weather, 11 eager parents and teachers went to the August class, stepping out of their comfort zone and into the kitchen. According to the P&C, the results were a lot of laughs and a table filled with delicious food to share. Everyone also left with nine new recipes to cook with confidence at home.

In return, each participant paid \$50. According



The long table set for a feast with all the happy participants (below).

to Heather, most of this was to cover the costs of the evening, with a small profit going to the P&C

“In setting the fee, we wanted to make it affordable,” she explained.

“Craig Midgelow, our chef for the night, is one of Arawang’s talented teachers and a chef to boot. We are lucky to have him teaching our kids in the kitchen and to have him give up his time and teach the school community in the evening.”

So what if there is not a chef available? Heather didn’t think it was a deal-breaker and that parents with particular culinary skills could equally be involved.

“They just need to be willing to share



their knowledge and support those who have come to learn," she said.

The P&C certainly seems to have a lot of culinary enthusiasm and a willingness to try new ideas.

"In term two, we promoted a Mexican food evening but had to cancel due to low numbers, either it was not a popular food choice or it was too cold, so we returned to Asian cuisine," said Heather.

"We have plans to extend the idea to parent-child cooking classes and something special for Christmas, in term 4."

"Another idea, which might appeal to a different group of parents, is to run a session with recipes that use just four ingredients. We are certainly keen to do more." •

SMALLSHOWS presents

GRAN'S BAG

BY GREG LISSAMAN. SONGS BY CHRISSIE SHAW

A magical show for P-3 children, perfect for Book Week, Grandparents' Day, Christmas Parties or any special occasion.

When Gran comes to visit she brings her giant red bag, a treasure trove of surprises and delights. With stories and songs, Gran takes us to the beach, to China and to a lonely witch's house in a dark Russian forest.

Teachers said: "The children were thoroughly engaged and talked about the show for some time afterwards"



Cost: \$5.50 per person, minimum \$450
Bookings: 0407 079 748
chrissieshaw@apex.net.au
Info: chrissieshaw.com
Available 2017 and 2018
Addresses many criteria in the Australian Curriculum

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 86 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.

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

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Office hours

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

Dates to remember

Nov 28 Council Annual General Meeting
7.00pm - 9.30pm
Centre for Teaching and Learning
51 Fremantle Drive, Stirling

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

Dec 20 Council office closed for term
- Jan 28 break

Marketing your canteen

Launched at last month's 'Canteen Connect' extravaganza, a range of new resources will help you market your canteen and its healthy food to your school community.

Over the past few years P&Cs which run canteens have been working especially hard on their menus and increasing the number of healthy options available in order to meet the ACT's School Food and Drink policy. It hasn't been in vain — nearly half of all canteen menu items across ACT public schools are now 'green' (high nutritional value) and the proportion of unhealthy 'red' food and drinks has dropped from 23% to only 3%. Congratulations everyone!

At Canteen Connect in September — an event drawn together by ACT Health — the success of canteens in creating healthy menus was celebrated. ACT Education Minister Yvette Berry presented certificates to 30 school canteens that had recently been assessed as meeting the National Healthy School Canteen Guidelines.

But here at Council, we know that it hasn't been easy and that help is still needed to keep menus fresh and appealing and to promote the healthier foods to your community. That's why we've been part of a collaborative working group that has been focusing on healthy eating at schools. The group has been running several projects to help canteens market healthy foods and a great range of new resources are now available, free for all to use. Many of these were launched at Canteen Connect. In case you couldn't make it, we've outlined the new resources below, and where to find them.



Creative new posters are now available to make healthy options more sought-after at your school canteen (see page 8 for details).

Marketing workshop

A major focus at Canteen Connect was a presentation by the Healthy Kids Association (HKA) on strategies for marketing your canteen (partly funded by a grant from Council's school canteen improvement program). The presentation gave the more than 50 attendees some good ideas on how to better market the healthy food options at their canteens. Suggestions included:

- placing the healthy foods up front on the counter
- using interesting names to describe the good options
- providing taste testing of new and healthy foods
- using colourful posters and packaging to

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