

PRESIDENTS REPORT - MAY 2020

Thank you for joining us in the most unusual way of holding our P & C Meeting. I think many of us have been embracing technology in new ways in order to connect with one another. These are unusual times and I must start my report with nothing but praise for the way the Admin Team and staff of Meridan State College have managed the current pandemic situation. From the regular and informative updates to the quick responses to emerging situations and the support for Meridan families. It makes me proud as a staff member and parent to see the effort and work that is being noticed and appreciated by our community as we move through this unprecedented phase. Likewise, I would like to note the great support shown by our parents and families in the face of having to learn from home.

In light of the school closure, the Tuckshop also closed and we had to stand down our Tuckshop Team from Friday 3rd April until further notice. It has been difficult to secure JobKeepers Allowance due to the way our accounting figures are kept and the ATO requirements for lodging details. I would like to acknowledge and thank Jarrod Bleijie who wrote to the Treasury to look into this matter on both our behalf and other P & C's. After further investigation we were thankfully able to apply, as a not for profit organisation, based on a decrease in fundraising, not Tuckshop turnover.

As agreed at a previous meeting last year, we decided to employ the services of an accountant to double check our bookkeeping on a term by term basis. We put this on hold when the pandemic struck, however, we decided to employ an accountant who had been recommended to us as having experience and knowledge of working with P & C's and the current Jobkeepers Allowance situation. The services of Meredith Matthews Accounting were appointed for the purpose of lodging a claim for JobKeepers Allowance and other services. Setting this up cost \$220. However, the application was complex and mistakes can lead to hefty fines.

To confirm, we have lodged and been successful for the period of 30th March to 12th April. As we had the funds available, we paid staff for this period last Tuesday. To get back into the regular pattern of payments, their next payment is due this Friday and I would like to suggest that we continue to use the services of the accountant to lodge this until further notice. The fee for the next stage should be far less as all of the systems and access have been set up.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the immense work undertaken by our Admin Officer and Bookkeeper Denise who has literally spent hours on the phone to the ATO, watching webinars and seeking support from CM Solutions, our employment support agency.

Kerri, Kristin and I have started discussing the re-opening of the Tuckshop and Kristin and I would like to request a Zoom meeting with Kerrie Natoli and Kerri in the next couple of days to discuss this.

I would like to acknowledge the letter the school received from Minister Grace Grace regarding air conditioning. I know the school has been surveyed and I look forward to seeing some progression in the supply and installation after the current pandemic situation has passed.

So in closing I would like to acknowledge the strength of our Meridan community in supporting each other through this new and difficult time. Stay safe and please remember that we are all in this together.