



# Byron Bay High School

## Parents & Citizens Association

2 Arakwal Court Byron Bay NSW 2481

w: [www.byronbay-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.byronbay-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)

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t: 02 6685 8188

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|  | <b>Minutes of BBHS P&amp;C meeting Tuesday 21 October 2025</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|  | <b>Acknowledgement of Country</b> – Michelle Pullen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|  | <b>Introduction and welcome</b><br>This meeting was streamed via MS Teams. The tech held up.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|  | <b>Privacy Options for meeting attendees</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|  | <b>Meeting attendees:</b> Michelle Pullen, Jane Stanton-Gillan, Wandy Hochgrebe, Amanda Wasmer, Chris Byrne, Janine Marcus (P), Kristy Collins, Kelly Todoroska, Murray Cronin, Sarah McGregor, Aoife Richardson, Jacqui Lachmann, Torsten Lachmann, Toby Bourke, Nikki Bourke, Conor Reid, Katie Wall<br><b>Apologies:</b> Carmen Finch, Emma Rolley, Bronwyn Watts |
|  | <b>Previous minutes from 16/09/2025</b><br>Passed - Chris Byrne<br>Seconded - Michelle Pullen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|  | <b>Treasurer's Report</b><br>Treasurer absent                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |



### HPGT Policy

Raised by Nikki Bourke last meeting. Michelle officially welcomed visitors and emphasised that the P&C provides a forum for parents to raise items and connect with the school community.

Sarah McGregor - Head Teacher English gave a brief an overview of what is happening in the school. The High Potential and Gifted Education (HPGE) Policy has been mandatory in all NSW public schools since 2021, but BBHS has had a policy in place well before this. From 26 January 2026 it will be called HGPT.

There was a day of training for staff earlier this year. Rolled out by Kristy Collins. High Potential or Gifted students can be academic, creative, physical and social-emotional.

This process is not a one off change, but more of a dynamic process with teachers being trained, systems adjusted and teaching personalised for students.

Sarah McGregor continued about how HPGT policy is applied in English. Kelly Todoroska presented how HPGT policy is applied in Mathematics. Both teachers conveying that teachers at Byron Bay High School are passionate about teaching and wanting the best outcome for each and every student.

Parents raised questions regarding communication and accessibility of information about the HPGT policy. Some parents felt that more details could be available on the school website.

Janine Marcus stated that parents are always welcome to call, email ([byronbay-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:byronbay-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)) and connect to the school and teachers.

Michelle Pullen mentioned the Parents Information evenings held at the beginning of each year and for parents to connect to the school community by attending those kind of evenings, reading newsletters, attending P&C meetings etc

Janine Marcus noted that parents are encouraged to contact relevant staff directly for any information and support or concerns they might have about their child.



### President's Report

- COLA Meeting on September 18 with Peter Campbell, Director Northern NSW Education & Brad Townsend from Infrastructure, Janine & myself was... SUCCESSFUL!

Byron High will be getting a COLA in approximately 12+ months. Janine and I wanted to see this in writing before announcing.

I'd like to thank everyone's involvement for getting this project off the ground, in particular Sarah Aldridge for the Architectural render, and Amanda Wasmer for her work with the campaign strategy. In truth it is all members of the P&C who are to be congratulated, it is as a group that we have advocated for this project for the benefit of all students and teachers at the school.

-I met with James Maxwell (Chief of Staff) from the Office of Tamara Smith in Ballina - September 24, 2025

At the time I had confidence that the COLA project would be approved and funded by the NSW Department of Education. However I also proposed the Creative Art Space (CAS) as our next project: A new state of the art theatre space, recording rooms and workshop space, that is also available to be used by the community.

James highly recommended that we look at any Grants that would work for our school. There are often Grants that support the arts, and James suggested that the CAS would be a good match for grant applications.

Unfortunately, the Community Building Partnership Grant (for approx \$100,000) which was due to open for 2026 has been rescheduled to be every second year.

This would be a very worthwhile grant to apply for in 12 months for a project that might enhance the prospective COLA, e.g. landscaping or a structure to connect it to the school gym.

James explained that the grants awarded rarely reach \$100,000 as it is a bucket of money (last year \$450K) that is shared for a range of projects. The highest in 2024 was \$68,000.



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|  | <p><b>Fundraising</b></p> <p>Amanda Wasmer has organised \$15000 in prizes for the raffle - funds raised will go toward the audio visual fit out in the newly renovated hall.</p> <p>Ticket sales will start next week on-line, in front of Woollies and at the Farmer's Market on Thursdays for the next 6 weeks or so.</p> <p>Students and parents are asked to volunteer for these short stints.</p> <p>Winning tickets will be drawn on the 1st of December 2025.</p> |
|  | <p><b>Other Business and close</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |



### President's Report – Michelle Pullen

#### COLA & CAS

- Letter received from the office of Hon Prue Car MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for Education and Early Learning.

Written by Parliamentary Secretary Greg Warren MP. In it they blamed the previous government for inaction, also the expenses of flood recovery / rebuild, suggested we apply for a grant with NSW Government's Community Building Partnership (CBP) - I looked at this and the maximum is \$100,000 which would cover the landscaping. I still think we can look at this at a later date, It has just opened for the next 12 months.

- Contacted Peter Campbell (Director, Educational Leadership | Lennox Coast Principals Network Public Schools | Rural North Directorate) to discuss the project and our frustrations, and arrange a meeting with Brad Townsend from Infrastructure. This has been scheduled for this week on Thursday at the school.

- Also contacted the Office of Tamara Smith MP, and a meeting is arranged with one of her staff next week on 24th.

There was also the suggestion to apply for the Community Building Partnership Grant.

If anyone would like to attend either of these meetings please let me know.

- A parent by the name of Joelle Grover has asked if there is any scope to consider whether P and C meetings might be run virtually, or at least have an observer link set up? This might encourage a more inclusive/diverse set of participants who have work/carer responsibilities/other reasons that make physical attendance challenging?

- Contacted by Anthony Stante (Road Safety Advocate) about a community petition to stop Council approving the proposed Special Entertainment precinct or SEP. Whilst I think this does affect our school community, I think this is up to the individual to choose to be part of this. Should the P&C include this petition and QR code in any communication we put out to parents? Just to get it out there?



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|  | <b>SRC Update -</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|  | <b>Fundraising Update</b><br><br>The annual Trivia Night - Spring Fling - organised by Carmen raised \$4336.43<br>Great result, but Carmen felt a few things might be considered for next year:<br>Time of year might have been a problem and ticket price had increased.<br><br>Amanda Wasmer has started the prize drive for the big raffle and has collected a lot of prizes already. Ticket sales will run from Thursday October 23 until drawing date Monday December 1 2025 |
|  | <b>Other Business</b><br><br>Next meeting HPGE - we need to look at this next meeting. Nikki Bourke                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|  | Next meeting 21 October 2025 at 7pm - 8:30pm in school library                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |