*Patricks Primary School Walcha**Parents and Friends Association*

**PO Box 165 WALCHA NSW 2354**

President Jess Williams Vice President Aimee Norton

Secretary Elyce Laurie Treasurer Amanda Scott

Canteen Coordinators Bek Partridge Emma Wauch

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Minutes**

**Meeting date:** Tuesday 18.02.2025

**Time:** 6:30pm

**Location:** Library

**Chairperson:** Jess Williams

**Meeting opened:**  6.35

**Prayer and Welcome**  You have given us the caring, supportive community of the diocese of Armidale and its schools in which we can flourish.

Here among our hills, slopes, plains, and rivers you call us to live well and learn well.

You give us earth and water to use responsibly as stewards of creation, as people have done here for tens of thousands of years.

Thank you for our abundant learning opportunities Send your holy spirt t watch over and guide students in their learning, teachers in their teaching and those who work to lead and support learning in other ways.

May our catholic education shape our knowledge and understanding and help us on our path to you.

Through Christ our lord, Amen

**Acknowledgement of country:** *We acknowledge the aboriginal people as the traditional owners of this land and pay our respects to Elders past and present.*

**Attendance:**

**Present:** Karen Bloomfield, Aimee Mason, Jess Williams, Amy Clark, Trina Fletcher, Dallas Hyatt, Meggie Davey, Emma Waugh, Bec Patridge, Belinda Payne, Bec Whillock, Kate Mansfield, Amanda Scott, Elyce Laurie, Amiee Norton, Chloe Hoy, Kate Lisle.

**Apologies**: None

**Absent: /**

**Acceptance of minutes from previous meeting:**

**Read By:** Elyce Laurie

**Accepted by:** Amiee Norton

**Election of Office Bearers** – all positions to be declared vacant. Election to be chaired by Dallas Hyatt.

**President:** Jess Williams

**Nominated By:** Elyce Laurie

**Seconded By:** Trina Fletcher.

**Accepted: Yes**

**Vice President:** Amiee Norton

**Nominated By:** Amanda Scott

**Seconded By:** Jess Williams

**Accepted: Yes**

**Secretary:** Elyce Laurie

**Nominated By:** Jess Williams

**Seconded By**: Amanda Scott

**Accepted: Yes**

**Treasurer:** Amanda Scott

**Nominated By:** Amiee Norton

**Seconded By:** Chloe Hoy

**Accepted: Yes**

**Canteen Coordinator:** Emma W and Bec P

**Nominated By:** Kate Lisle

**Seconded By:** Trina Fletcher

**Accepted: Yes**

**AGM closed at: 6.33**

**General meeting Opened: 6.33**

**Present:** Karen Bloomfield, Aimee Mason, Jess Williams, Amy Clark, Trina Fletcher, Dallas Hyatt, Meggie Davey, Emma Waugh, Bec Patridge, Belinda Payne, Bec Whillock, Kate Mansfield, Amanda Scott, Elyce Laurie, Amiee Norton, Chloe Hoy, Kate Lisle.

**Absent : none**

**Apologies: none**

**Correspondence in:** Mother’s Day shopping catalogue – Yes great idea! We would like to pre sell gifts before the mother’s day morning tea.

**Correspondence Out:**  Letter to local member regarding pedestrian crossing. Local council has decided they do not wish to go ahead with marking a crossing out the front of school. Dallas has escalated this issue to our local member and will follow up with outcome at next meeting.

**Treasurers Report:**  Firstly, thank you to all the parents that have helped at various events throughout the year these events could not take place without all of you. This year the P & F has raised $25,849.32

In first term was the bulb drive organised by Kylie Faux which raised $337.20. The school Easter raffle was also held at this time and raised $1314.00. Thank you to everyone for their kind donations.

In April the Long Luch was held and what a great day it was. We raised $15,161.00. Well, done to the Long Lunch Committee.

In term two, a pie drive was organised by the Aimee Norton, raising $1664.00. We also held the Mother's Day Breakfast and $272.10 was raised. We had the Athletics carnival BBQ which raised $790.79.

A Father's Day stall was held at the schools Father's Day/ Grandparent's morning tea, this stall was run by Sally & Karen and the Minnie Vinnies students for a total of $264.83. Also Thank you to Elyce for organizing the Father's Day Breakfast.

The readathon raised $1664.65 this year, thank you to all the parents and families for donating and the children for reading so many books. In October, our street stall was held raising $1293.35 from the raffle (with prizes being donated by families) as well as from the sale of baked goods.

Our final fundraisers in Term 4 were the sale of tea towels / art gifts featuring the students work $702.00 being raised. This was a great idea and provided great Christmas gifts. Sam and Kate Lisle organized the Ham Drive and raised $1320.49. The hams were delicious. We also had our Christmas Raffle organised by the Clarke Family which raised $1065.00.

This year the canteen profit was down due to the purchase of new items such as the Bain Marie, chopping boards and knives to comply with the new food safety act. We still managed a $1346.83 profit. Thank you to the parents who have helped throughout the year and those that have filled in at short notice. A massive Thank you goes to Emma Waugh & Bec Partridge for all their efforts in purchasing food, doing the rosters and the reminders on the group chat. All your hard work doesn't go unnoticed.

In 2024 the P & F contributed $50,000 to air-conditioning for the classrooms, $79,000 to the new playground, $5000 to Transition programs, $2000 for excursions and $2000 for Mini minstrels Programs. So again, thank you to everyone who contributed to St Patrick's P & F in 2024.

**School Advisory Board** **Committee Report: Has not been held yet.**

**Canteen Report:**  Canteen in 2024 raised a profit of $1346.82, which is down on previous years. As we purchased new items for the canteen, such as the Bain Maire, knives, chopping boards, mop/bucket and pots to comply with the new food and safety act.

We also had two incidents with the freezer where we lost two full freezer loads of food at the end of the year, which would have roughly cost us $1000-$1200 dollars. We have put bright pink tape over the freezer plug for it not to be turned over when cleaning up. We purchased a blind for the window to reduce the heat in the room for the freezer not to overheat and making sure it is not pushed up against the wall.

We introduced two new products with the mini pizzas which are selling well. We removed the pasta and sauce and replaced it with a Spaghetti bolognaise product that sells as well.

We have a created a canteen checklist that needs to be completed and dated at the end of every shift to meet compliance.

With the purchase of the Bain Maire, it helps to reduce the preparation time near lunch time for serving as you can precook and placed the children's bags of food in at the right temperature and it is all ready to go. It also helps to make the canteen more stainable in our practise as we can reduce the use of foil.

We are looking into reviewing the canteen price list for 2025 and updating the canteen information folder.

We would like to say a big thankyou to all the volunteers that help each term, the canteen couldn't run with out you and I know the children enjoy having a canteen lunch during the week.

Thanks. Bec Partridge and Emma Wauch

**Principal’s Report:** A warm welcome to everyone attending our Parent Information Night and P&F AGM for the 2025 academic year. As we reflect on the past year, 2024 was truly an outstanding year for St Patrick’s Primary School, filled with remarkable events and achievements.

We proudly celebrated special occasions such as the installation and grand opening of our new playground equipment and drainage works as well as Grandparents and House Day, the Book Fair, and the Father’s Day Breakfast. Our students flourished in music and transition programs, with highlights including our school band, Mini Minstrels, and the Transition Program. We also marked important faith milestones, including First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

On the sporting front, our students participated in school and diocesan swimming, athletics, and cross-country carnivals. Beyond school events, many showcased their talents in local weekend competitions, excelling in soccer, outdoor and indoor hockey, rugby, tennis, and cricket.

Academically, our students achieved outstanding results, surpassing both the Diocesan and State averages in NAPLAN. Their talents were further recognised through ICAS testing, where they earned numerous credits and distinctions. At the Walcha Show, our students dominated, securing the majority of the awards. These achievements were celebrated at our Presentation Night, a fitting tribute to their hard work and dedication.

These highlights only scratch the surface of what has been an incredible year, and I could list many more accomplishments.

Over the past year, our P&F has taken on many responsibilities, and I have seen first hand the incredible effort they have put in. They have successfully organised a variety of events, including numerous fundraisers that have significantly supported our school's projects.

Through their generosity, the P&F has provided funding for several initiatives, helping to subsidise many of the school's endeavours throughout the year. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone involved with the P&F for their invaluable support—your dedication and hard work are truly appreciated!

Now moving forward to 2025.

It has been a smooth transition so far for the new academic year. At the moment our official enrolment number is 90 students and we have 10 more students compared to this time last year. This year we have been quite stable with our general staffing but I welcome Elyce Laurie and Amy Clark who both have just commenced temporary education assistants this year. Otherwise, all staffing is the same from 2024.

All Kindergarten students have now completed their Best Start Assessments, with results recently sent home. We look forward to holding follow-up parent interviews in the near future.

Yesterday, we celebrated our Opening School Year Mass, where we officially recognised and inducted our School and Sporting Captains, along with this year’s School Leaders.

Last Friday, we held our School Swimming Carnival, and I would like to sincerely thank everyone in our school community who contributed to its success. As a result of their outstanding performances, eleven students have qualified to represent our school at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival in Gunnedah next Friday. We wish them all the very best!

Also, Mini Minstrels has commenced for the year and this will now be taking place every second Thursday. Band lessons for students in Years 3-6 will be commencing this Friday.

In conclusion, I look forward to working alongside each of you to ensure another successful year for everyone in the St. Patrick's Learning Community. I am also confident that our shared dedication will continue into 2025. It is essential to recognise that without your invaluable contributions, our students would not have access to the high-quality educational resources that support their academic growth.

Again, thank you, it is very much appreciated.

Dallas Hyatt

**General Business:**

* It might be a good idea moving fowatd to include a P&F article within this newsletter once a year to highlight all the things we help fundraiser for – Elyce Laurie to work on this with Dallas. Minutes couldn’t be attached to the newsletter for easy access.

* Fundraising Items for 2025:

**Bulbs:** Feb

**Readathon:** Meggie Davey. September

**Street Stall:** Chloe Hoy – Elyce Laurie to book for November

**Pie drive:** Amiee Norton – May

**Mothers day:** May

**Fathers Day :** September

**Ham:**  November and December.

**Easter Raffle:** April – Karen, Sally and Amy to do tickets**.**

**Cook Book –** to be followed up

**Trivia Night** Christmas in July ugly jumper night – Emma Waugh

* **Anthill pottery** – yes absloutly!
* **Can we purchase a new BBQ** – yes, could we buy 2 smaller ones for easier lifting.

**Next Meeting:** 25.3.25 zoom and library. 6pm

**Meeting Closed:** 7.25

*St Patrick’s P&F AGM 18.02.25*