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**CUST SCHOOL PTA, PRESIDENT’S REPORT 2022**

It is with great pleasure that I present my final President's Report for the Cust School PTA for the Year 2021/2022, ending March 31. I first joined the PTA in 2016, becoming President in 2018. Having been a past pupil of Cust School, and from a family who had a long association with the school, it made sense that I give this role a go. It has had its challenges over the past few years, but the one thing that never waivers, is the passion, support, and dedication that our PTA members have towards the school community and the children. There is never anything that this committee won’t do, and they are most excellent at navigating their way around a dodgy PTA BBQ that loves to burn everything and manning the deep fryer for the annual disco. My youngest child is now in Year 8 and will be fleeing the Cust School safety net and moving onto High School next year, hence my decision to resign. I wish the incoming President all the very best for their tenure with the Cust School PTA.

This year has obviously thrown more curveballs to many with the COVID-19 Pandemic. PTA meetings had to be rescheduled, and our focus for fundraising remained unchanged from the previous year, where it was decided that it was more important to look after our children and their whanau, than to land multiple fundraisers on families, some of whom were struggling to make ends meet.

In saying that, we did have 3 main fundraisers which brought in significant income for the PTA.  The Annual Easter Raffle was held in March 2021 and at that time, was the most successful one yet.

Another great fundraiser in 2021 was the Annual Disco which, as usual, was a hit with the children.  This year's theme was Matariki, and there was lots of gorgeous art decorating the West Eyreton Hall and many a sparkly outfit. Of course, the highlight was Mr Schuyt leading the YMCA!

The other significant fundraiser was from the Committee and Friends carting pea straw for the Gillespie family. The money raised from this will be put towards some concrete art this coming year.

**Fundraising highlights for the financial year (to 31 March 2022)**

* School Disco
* Cookbooks – ongoing sales. Only a handful left now, so you had better secure your copy ASAP!!
* Second Hand Clothing Sales
* Easter Raffle
* Pea Straw carting
* BBQ from the Smith family’s sheep sale
* Oxman volunteers
* Mandeville Super Value stock take
* Entertainment book sales

**Other events / activities**

* PTA catered a ‘Thank you. You are awesome’ morning tea for the teachers for their dedication towards learning, and wonderfulness during another trying year
* New sandpit toys were purchased – digger, spades, sieves, watering cans, bulldozers
* Ag day sausage sizzle
* Free sausage sizzle and ice block for the students at the end of the year
* Free hot cross buns for Easter
* Purchase of a portable netball hoop
* Purchase of bark for the playground
* Donation towards the 2021 Year 8 hoodies
* New Entrant meetup January School holidays

**Building Work**

It has been wonderful to see the completion of the long-awaited new Junior classroom block. The children and teachers are loving their new space and I’m sure the older kids are feeling a small pang of jealously towards these children! “Why couldn’t we have the new rooms…we have been here longer”?!!! This coming year, the PTA and a local landscaping company are drawing up plans and will fund a landscaping project around the west side of this new block, around the new paved area by the staff room, and in the planter boxes outside Room 6.

I would like to welcome Elizabeth Button and Hollie Mason who have joined the PTA Committee this year.

The time and effort put in by our other 2021/2022 PTA Committee members also needs to be acknowledged – Anna Riley, Fran Rae, Casey Toon (Treasurers), Alisa Thompson (Vice-President), Sophie Brown, Rowan Walton (Secretaries), Nikki Denley (Honorary Audit Reviewer), Natalie Kearns, Mitzi Taylor, Natasha Donoghue, Victoria Traynor, Nerissa Thompson, Karen Gilby and Robert Schuyt.  Your help and support have been invaluable, and nothing is ever a problem with you all around.  Thank you.

I would also like to acknowledge Sophie Brown and Anna Riley, who both resigned from their respective Secretary and Treasurer roles this year.  Sophie and her family have moved to Australia whilst Anna has joined the Board of Trustees. Your support and dedication over the years has been invaluable and we can’t thank you enough.

A special thank you goes to Robert, who is at every PTA meeting, is always supportive of the Committee and who does an amazing job as Principal at Cust School.  Our children are so incredibly lucky having him at the helm. I know these last years have thrown major curveballs your way, but you have ‘been your best’ and continue to be a leader who we admire and trust wholeheartedly.

Thank you to Katie Croft, Tracey George and the Board of Trustees for your continued support of the PTA and for attending our meetings with Board updates.  Katie, we wish you all the best for your future endeavours and welcome Tracey as the new Chair. Board Elections are happening soon, so if you are interested, please make sure that you register your interest.

Thank you also to all the Parents and Caregivers who have helped us and supported us and our fundraisers over the past year.

Becoming involved with the PTA is a great way to meet other parents and to be part of what is happening in and around the school. We are always looking for people to join the PTA.

If you are interested, please get in touch with one of our committee members.

Nga mihi

Kathryn Taylor

Cust School PTA President, 2022