



CUST SCHOOL PTA, PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023

This is my second year as President for the Cust School PTA and I am happy to present the report for the Year 2023/2024, ending March 31. I first joined the PTA in 2018, and when I was elected Chairperson in 2022, I was assured by the committee that I would have plenty of support and thankfully they have come through with that promise. Our PTA members are constantly dedicated to the school community and the children. We are truly a team made up of many strengths and skills and our ability to provide for and support the school is only possible because of this team effort.

This year was a first for most of the current members, as we hosted the Cust Casino Night. Since I have been a member of the committee, the teachers have never asked for anything substantial. However, last year, with a change in pupil numbers, teacher Aide support was not as strong as it has been. We were approached by the principal to help pay for an all important teachers aide for the school. The PTA and Casino Committees went above and beyond raising approximately \$25,000. The Casino was an amazing night and well received by the community and the Art Work Auction led by Victoria was a huge success. A Special thank you to Victoria, Hollie and Taryn who took the reins on this amazing event.

Another great event in 2023 was the Annual Disco which, as usual, was a hit with the children. This year's theme was Glow Party. We encouraged the children to dress so that the extra black lights we set up would make their clothing and hair glow. The disco was held at our local Cust Community Hall and was given as a FREE Event for the children this year as a thank you from the PTA for everyone's hard work at the Art Auction and Casino Night. A special thank you to Hollie Mason for her balloon decorating expertise.

Term 2 was a time of endings and change. Our beloved Principal Robert Schuyt, his wife and teacher Anne Marie Schuyt and our long time school secretary Jennifer Thompson all said farewell. We as the PTA helped the staff organise 2 beautiful morning teas. Our members were able to serve the visiting friends and families, bake delicious treats and take part in both momentous assemblies. It was a special time at Cust School and we were so happy to be a part of it. A beautiful ornamental pear tree was gifted to Mr and Mrs Schuyt, with one tree at school and a matching tree in their home garden. A framed quote and leaf were included, mentioning that they will always have roots at Cust School.

After our farewells in Term 2, we found Term 3 was a time for new beginnings as we welcomed our new Principal, Gerhard Potgieter in July 2023. The PTA provided a welcome tea after the official school Mihi. Gerhard has already proven to be a big part of the PTA as our main connection to the school. We wish him the best of luck as Principal at Cust School. Our children are lucky to have him and we look forward to what the future holds..

Fundraising highlights for the financial year (to 31 March 2024)

- Casino Night
- Student Art Auction
- Second Hand Clothing Sales
- Easter Raffle
- Movie Night
- PTA members served at the Cust Fire Brigade Ball

- Pizza Lunches have continued to be a student favorite
- Entertainment book sales

Other events / activities

- Free entry to our Annual School Disco
- Free sausage sizzle and ice block for the students at the end of the year
- Free hot cross buns for Easter
- Donation towards the 2023 Year 8 hoodies
- Cross country and athletics day ice blocks
- Forest and Bird annual subscription for the school to use in the classrooms organised by Rowan.
- The teachers and staff treated the PTA and other school volunteers to a morning tea which was a lovely time to sit and chat with the teachers.
- We funded the very popular and hilarious Pedalmania activity for the children before the final year prizegiving.

Special Projects at School

Led by Taryn, we put together “Wet Weather” boxes for each classroom. Teachers were asked to make a wish list based on the interests of the children in their classes. We were able to create amazing activity boxes for the rooms to use on rainy days which have been a big hit with the students and the teachers.

Led by Taryn and Shannon McLeod, we were able to obtain funding for new Kapa Haka uniforms. This amazing effort will see the Cust School Kapa Haka team in beautiful, functional and great quality uniforms. Thank you to all of our sponsors: Mainpower, Waimakariri Irrigation Limited and Kiwi Gaming Foundation.

As a new requirement for Waimakariri Charities, Fran and I have worked long hours and attended many workshops in order to create a new constitution for the Cust School PTA. This has been a steep learning curve but will hopefully serve our future committees well.

I am blown away by the amazing time and effort put in by our 2023/2024 PTA Committee members. The success and organisation of the inaugural Casino Night is proof of the dedication each and every member has to the school. Special acknowledgement to – Fran Rae and Casey Toon (Treasurers), Elizabeth Button and Rowan Walton (Secretaries), Anna Riley (Honorary Audit Reviewer), Hollie Mason (Vice-President), Natalie Kearns, Nerissa Thompson, Karen Gilby, Sarah Johnson, Sweetness Standfast, Kylee Gillman, Taryn Graham, Brittany Peacock, Justine Moffat and Gerhard Potgieter. Thank you.

We welcome new committee members: Brittany Peacock, Justine Moffat and Taryn Graham and farewellled Karen Gilby and Natasha Donahue.

Thank you to Tracey George and the Board of Trustees for your continued support of the PTA and for attending our meetings with Board updates.

Thank you also to all the Parents and Caregivers who have helped us and supported us and our fundraisers over the past year, especially for providing baking and assistance at events.

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

Mitzi Taylor, Cust School PTA Chairperson, 2023-24