

# HOMEBUSH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

## P & C ASSOCIATION meeting

15<sup>th</sup> March 2011

**Meeting opened:** 7.40pm

### Presidents Welcome :

Simon Ford welcomed parents to the joint AGM and March P & C meeting and thanked his outgoing Executive members and those people who contributed to the success of the 2010 Trivia night. A copy of his address will be posted on the school website under P & C.

The AGM commenced and those minutes will also be posted on the school website. Mr Jurd congratulated office bearers and then proceeded to formally introduce our guest speaker, Mr Chaeb Elaro, Head Teacher English who introduced himself to the meeting and presented an informative talk titled 'Literacy and Learning'.

In 2009 Mr Elaro initiated a programme called Reading for Understanding (R4U). It was an action research in reading strategies using the ERICA reading model (Effective Reading Skills In Content Areas) to extend the more able students' literacy skills at HBHS. Strategies looked at teaching the boys to engage in deep learning and understanding for expressing themselves through writing. In 2010 two Year 9 classes were compared in this learning technique. One class was taught the strategies; the other didn't receive the techniques. Conclusively it proved that this new form of teaching was a success and by the end of 2010, one teacher from each KLA was taught these strategies which they passed on to other teachers in their faculties. 2011 sees all subjects implement at least one of the strategies (front-loading, cloze, diagramming and question-setting) into the junior programs.

Mr Elaro concluded that Literacy is a crucial part of our lives and for boys to make their ways through school and life they must engage in reading and learn the fundamental steps of literacy.

Parents were reminded that the school runs the D.E.A.R reading programme four mornings/wk for 20 minutes before classes begin. D.E.A.R means **DROP EVERYTHING AND READ**. The school also has a peer support reading programme for boys struggling with reading and Ms Edward (support reading teacher) runs an after school tutoring group.

In-depth discussions took place about what the English Faculty are teaching our boys in school. Discussions on the Premiers Reading Challenge, School Exam Coaching, Gifted & Talented classes, Naplan, Battle of the Brains, Net Surfing, class writing tests and finally, 'The Great Book Sale' of which Mr Elaro initiated recently to encourage boys to read by donating old good quality books to school to sell at lunchtime and all profits are donated to the Indigenous Literacy Programme. **ASK YOUR SONS TO CHECK OUT WHEN THE NEXT SALE IS ON!**

Mr Elaro was very generous with his time on very interesting subjects. Thank you Mr Elaro.

**Attendance:** Per attendance book

**Apologies:** Myra Craig, Richard Blaxland

**Min of Prev Meeting:** Accepted Fiona Murray Seconded Kim Houhlias

**Business Arising:** Nil

**Correspondence In:** Fundraising Fliers

**Correspondence Out:** Nil

**Principal's Report:**

Mr Jurd presented his report. Road safety concerns around the school were discussed, together with an update on the school's Diamond Jubilee celebration later in the year. Also discussed were: Laptops for Learning – Stage 3, SRC Shave for a Cure, NZ Disaster Relief Fund, International Women's Day, School Sport, New Student Leaders, Korean Cultural Exchange, Support from Rotary - Don Hughes, Art displays in and around the school (Excellent work boys!) and finally, improved signage on display around the school.

**Treasurer's Report:** Anita presented the official end of year report and current bank balance.

**General Business:**

**DIAMOND JUBILEE – DATE CHANGE.** The official festivities and dinner has been changed from 2-3<sup>rd</sup> September to **26<sup>TH</sup> & 27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**. The dinner will take place at the Waterview Restaurant in Homebush Bay. Mr Jurd and his organising committee are well into the planning stages of the celebrations to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> year Jubilee of HBHS.

**P & C MEETING IN SEPTEMBER** has been **CANCELLED** due to the clash of school holidays.

**ROAD SAFETY AROUND THE SCHOOL.** The building of a raised pedestrian crossing in McKenzie Street to slow the flow of traffic around morning and afternoon peak times was discussed together with the erecting of flashing Lights to notify a 40km zone. Simon Ford will contact the local police command centre to look at bringing more police presence to the school at these peak times and Mr Jurd will talk to the school's Police liaison Officer for more ideas on improving safety around the school. A motion was made by Gibran Webbey for the P & C to officially ask Mr Jurd to lobby Council to install a raised foot pad in McKenzie Street. Seconded Cheryl Miller.

**CLEAN UP DAY.** Mr Jurd is trying to arrange a big clean up around the school before the celebrations for the Jubilee begin. He will write to Bunnings in our local area for assistance. Parents also mentioned cleaning the school interior and silverware that sits in the glass cabinet at entrance to school.

**Meeting Closed 9.45pm.**

**NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MAY.** Guest speakers will be Gina Sorensen and Calle Egan, Counsellors, Student Welfare. "The roll of Counsellors in the School".