

**Houghton Valley School Home and School Association**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Tuesday 16 June 2020**  
**7.30 School Staff Room**

**CHAIR REPORT**

The 2019-20 financial year for the Houghton Valley School Home and School (HVSHSA) will go down as being in stark contrast to the current year and the challenges we find ourselves in because of the severe impact COVID-19 has had on the school community and the Association's role to foster community engagement in the school.

The careful financial management of the HVSHSA and the distribution of funding for critical school needs, whilst maintaining solid reserves, stands the school in good stead to manage the uncertainty presented by the impact of COVID-19.

Fortunately, 2019-20 was also a very successful year for HVSHSA, with profit of more than \$30,000 earned from the annual school fair; exceeding all fair taking in recent years. Much of the success of the fair was due to the commitment of coordinator Karen Parr and a trusty crew of very capable and committed volunteers. The achievement of this team cannot be underestimated. While Karen and her family, as well as Kevin and Caz Hales have moved on from HVS, fortunately, a core group of volunteers remain, enough, hopefully, to pick up the blueprint for the Fair established by Karen and previous coordinators.

It is important to reflect that the profitable fundraising events and community engagement opportunities enable the school to invest in important initiatives and activities, which wouldn't have been possible without the efforts of the supporting community.

However, worryingly the HVSHSA continues to be challenged by reducing community engagement in some of its activities, including its regular monthly meetings. A number of innovations were identified to help drive engagement in these gatherings, however they were of limited success.

After two years as Chair of HVSHSA, I am, regrettably, standing down. I am truly hopeful we will be able to find a committed and focused Chair to continue the achievements of the Association over many years. Despite regular calls for new committee members over the past year we have been unable to secure additional representation to the team. Without additional committee members the HVSHSA is at risk of not having sufficient members to meet its constitution. I sincerely hope it does not come to this.

I'd like to acknowledge the significant contribution of former Treasurer Kevin Hales and thank our new Treasurer (Dougal Wylie) and Secretary, Megan Taylor for their work all year. They are truly an outstanding team.

Finally, a huge thank you to the parents, teachers and Principal who gave up their valuable time to be involved in the events during the year - we simply couldn't do it without you.

## **2019- January 2020 EVENTS, SUCCESSES and PURCHASES**

### **2019 Houghton Valley School Quiz at The Pines - Term 03**

This social event and fundraiser is for the parents/guardians of the school community, and has become a winter tradition at The Pines. This was the fourth annual event and is proving to be a winning formula. The team of organisers ensure a well run, successful and fun event for those who attend.

### **2019 School Disco - Term 04**

For the third year in a row, this was held at SWIS and was a great start to the term. The event raised some funds for the school and this was despite a deliberate drive to reduce plastic products for sale.

### **2019 Houghton Valley School Fair Term 04**

A considerable effort goes into running the fair and we were very grateful for the initiative of Karen Parr once again in leading the coordination of this record-breaking event. This continues to be a fantastic event, supported by an incredible bunch of volunteers and well supported by the local community.

Despite the date being scheduled later than in previous years, the sun shone and it was a great success with all areas steady during the day.

### **Cake sales**

A number of home baking sales were held and coordinated through each class. As well as raising funds, these events also engage the children in promotion, baking, cooking and cash handling.

### **Flying Fox**

Originally built / commissioned by the community, this is an ongoing joy to the local community and children! HVSHSA contributes towards the maintenance costs of this asset.

### **Cycle track**

The cycle track continues to be a well-used and important addition to the school and community. HVSHSA makes a sizable contribution to the maintenance of the bikes.

## **HVSHSA FINANCES**

2019-2018 was another good year for HVSHSA, ending up with a net operating surplus of around \$39,000, an increase from the previous year. We have organised payment of the yearly 80% donation to the board. The detailed financial report will be presented at the AGM.

### **HVSHSA working with the Principal & Board of Trustees**

HVSHSA continued to work well with the Board and Principal at HVS, with HVSHSA represented at the BoT meetings, and vice versa. This partnership is crucial. Having a clear understanding of priorities enables HVSHSA to identify and deliver necessary funding where possible.

## **FUNDS RAISED & DONATIONS**

The funds raised this last year (2018-2019) have contributed in 2019/20 to the following:

- Flying Fox maintenance (ongoing)
- Bike fleet maintenance (ongoing)
- Library services
- Disco costs
- Year 6 leavers books
- Year 6 Camp contribution
- End of Year 'Fun Day' contribution

## **FINALLY - THANKS**

We truly appreciate the support of everyone who helps in any and every way to the work of HVSHSA - it's a real team effort.

**Ian Long**

**Chairperson Houghton Valley School Home and School Association**