PRESENT:
Lisa Treglown, Lorraine Bradwell, Amanda Hawker, Ian Fulton, Sue Cleaves, Renae Beckett, Elke Wright, Loren Marsh, Wayan Steele, Carley Austin, Kate Rayner, Leah Windeyer, Brett Cleaves, Kylie Turner, Amanda Bleeker, Sarah Sellers, Sarah Crawford, Nicole Irvine, Jackie Pipe

APOLOGIES:
Louise Southall, Rebecca Cusack, Carolyn Muir, Kellie Patterson

MINUTES ACCEPTED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:
Lisa Treglown, Renae Beckett

TRESURER’S REPORT
Bank Balances as at 28 February 2015:

- Canteen Account $16,360.67
- Uniform Account $15,596.99
- General Account $30,995.13

Uniform Shop is up $5,000 and Canteen $1,000 on last financial year. General account was $1,000 less than last year without the fete.

$20,000 has been transferred from Uniform Shop account to General Account

Balance of money raised by Year 6 committee to be transferred to school account.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Fundraising
Bettamaid Pies - Pie Drive
2015 Fundraiser Directory
Gold Canyon - Candle Fundraiser
Comedy for a Cause Fundraising
Seed Creations - Mother’s Day Fundraiser
Laura Jean - Family Portrait Fundraiser

General
NSW DET - School Global Funding
P & C Association - Board Elections & Delegate Vacancy Elections
P & C Association - Samantha Rudd South Coast Representative

FUNDRAISING REPORT:

Hot Cross Buns Drive - Forms have gone out

Mother’s Day - Gifs have been purchased and now awaiting delivery

Election Day BBQ & Cake Stall is on March 28. Ian is coordinating the BBQ and Louise is coordinating the Cake Stall. Electoral Commission has given approval to hold this event. Request for volunteers was put in the newsletter
Trivia Night - Confirmed the date being Friday 8th May. Kate to look at the possibility of hiring the High School Hall as last year we were filled to the max in our hall.

Fete - Date confirmed for 24th October. Louise to chair the organising committee for this.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT:

School Vision - After discussions at the last meeting, Lorraine came back with the following statement: To provide students with opportunities that will allow them to exceed their potential and take their place as globally aware, well rounded citizens open to new ideas and challenges. After further talks in the meeting, it was agreed to include: To provide students with opportunities and skills that will allow them to exceed their potential and take their place as globally aware, well rounded citizens open to new ideas and challenges.

50/50 scheme is opened last week and have until the end of the week to apply. Given the success of the recent playground renovation, and also pay for an Aruba Wireless system for the infant building. We have quotes from CRS $31,887.92 plus GST who resurfaced the infant area and one from another $25,315 plus GST, however you can’t compare as what they are offering is very different. Her preference was to go with the CRS as they did such a great job. The school do not have the funds to contribute as they are in the process of replacing the mower. After much discussion, it was agreed that the P&C would contribute $25,000 if successful.

New directions with spelling – Spelling has been on the agenda for improvement in this school for many years and still needs improving. With this in mind, the school has decided to bite the bullet and look at what other schools performing well in spelling were doing, look at a couple of approaches and adapt them to our own. They have primarily used the work of some of QLD schools and also Word Their Way, a program that is also popular in QLD and worldwide but only just taking off here in Australia. What they have come up with so far isn’t rocket science but takes us back to the basics of spelling, being able to use and recognise patterns and rules and apply them to new situation note rote learning of words that is proven not to work. A scope and sequence of words and rules have been organised for each stage. These are much more comprehensive than the previous ones and have students covering almost three times the amount of ground during the two year stage as compared to previous. It’s based on kids not having the same list of words but rather having words that are at their present level and will present challenge to them. It’s also about small group teaching of spelling as opposed to whole class teaching and this is something that some teachers manage well but others are coming to terms with as it requires a change of mind set but everyone is giving it a go and at yesterday's staff meeting it was encouraging to have so many people talking about working with groups in spelling. The kids do a pre-test and post-test each week to gauge progress and the results determine which word group they are in that week and then they do a range of activities around using those words. Word Sort is a very popular activity and allows a great deal of flexibility and ownership by the students - aim to get kids thinking about the words, recognising patterns in words and applying it to new situations that they or the teacher identify. Words Their Way (parent tutorial available on You Tube) is not the only activity , there are many more, some of them tried and true but the real essence of is being done is ensuring a differentiated spelling program that will take the kids from where they are to where they need to be. Hopefully the results will improve but this will take time - all teaching does and to see results from a new approach in teaching realistically you are looking at 5-7 years to get things going really well, but for this school it is thought what we are doing wasn’t working, historical data says it hasn’t worked for a long time and we can either continue on or we can change and we have chosen to change hopefully with good end results.
Arubra - Last week, Lorraine was able to visit Victoria’s three highest performing schools. They were amazing and totally different to anything here. One thing they had in common was the use of technology to aid teaching and learning and this is something we need to work on more and we can only do a little bit at a time as it all costs money. We can by all the devices there are but in the end, we need to be able to connect them and use them in the classroom. The school is in the process of connecting the school wirelessly and the only building left is the Infant Building. The cost of the wireless device called an Arubra is $8,393. Lorraine has asked P&C for the funding to purchase this and it was agreed to include this in the 50/50 application.

School Funding - the school this year will receive $171,736 from the DET to run the school. This is to cover all casual wages, electricity, water, security etc. In addition to this we have also received $61,114 in RAM (Resource Allocation Model) Funding - This is the new way of funding schools. Each school is given money to assist based on the circumstances of that school. This is comprised of money for Aboriginal Education, Low Socio Economic, Low Level Adjustment for Disability and Non Speaking components. Woonona is classed as a "well off" community. In comparison, Coniston PS which has approx. 300 children received $2million! A vast majority of this money has gone on staffing that will ultimately given the things the school is doing assist all children. This year the school has a special (never to be repeated) opportunity to have 2 reading recovery teachers working at the same time. This will allow at least 16 Year 1 children to receive additional help and others across the school to benefit from their expertise. However, the school wasn’t funded the whole amount, we were given 0.815 of staffing but in order to make this work you need 1.0, so some of the RAM funding to buy almost one day a week to support this program. The school also buys Mrs Borst one day a week from another school, so hence, the RAM funding supports 1.5 days a week of staffing which comes at considerable cost when you include pay, holiday pay, superannuation, workers comp and other costs on top of the staffing needed. However, this allows many children to received assistance and up skills the teachers who can later transfer those skills into main stream classrooms to the benefit of all. The RAM is only a small mount for the school, but it does let the school do things we wouldn’t ne able to do otherwise.

CANTEEN REPORT:

Air conditioning is in. Thanks very much to OOSH for paying for this.

The canteen was broken into on Monday morning. The float of $20 approx was taken along with a few drinks and snacks. Thank you to Louise and Leah for assisting the Police and cleaning up along with ensuring the students still got fed their lunches.

UNIFORM SHOP:

Still waiting on the smaller caps to come in.

Put a call out for smaller boy’s shorts for the office to use for small accidents. Also purchased some underwear for the office.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Soap in the toilets is an ongoing issue. It was agreed to buy more dispensers as the school continues to get bigger. Also there doesn’t seem to be handles on all taps in the little girl’s toilets. Lorraine to look into this.

A request to have a blanket rule on homework days for Stage 2&3. This was taken back to the teachers for discussion. Amanda Bleeker spoke on behalf of the teachers and advised that the
pre-test for spelling usually took place on Friday and they usually went through the results over the weekend and allowed them time to assess what level the child is at. It was advised that if a parent has problems with the homework timeframe it would be best to speak to the individual’s teacher to discuss the issue.

Year 6 - Amanda Bleeker advised that she had done a survey with the Year 6’s regarding the farewell dinner giving them the option of the school hall or the RSL with the majority picking the RSL. They were also asked about their t-shirts and the majority chose red.

Envie will be at the next assembly to present donations to the school. It was suggested that the kids that participated in the Envie Kids Run to stand up during the presentation to acknowledge their participation. Also look at spending the money on sports equipment maybe, smaller sports singlets.

Assembly - a parent has raised the issue of the timing of assembly being changed to 11.30am. Lorraine explained that as there is only 3 assemblies a term they needed to be longer to allow more classes to do presentations. Being at 11.30am allowed 1.5 hours going into lunch time to cover this where as having it after lunch only allowed an hour and didn’t allow OOSH the set up time they require before school finished. Also having OOSH in the hall in the morning didn’t allow time to set the hall up for an assembly first thing. Obviously, this isn’t going to suit everyone however you can only try.

AGM:

Executive Positions - Lisa has decided to step down as President and Louise has also decided to step down as Vice President. Thank you very much to both of them for all of their hard work. Louise has agreed to continue to head the Fete Committee.

Elected Executive Committee
President - Position remains vacant
Vice President - Ian Fulton and Kylie Turner
Secretary - Amanda Hawker
Treasurer - Carolyn Muir

At this stage the president’s position remains vacant and this will be revisited at the next meeting. In the meantime, Lisa will continue for the short term.

Committees
Canteen - Sue Cleaves, Sharon Reid, Rebecca Cusack, Emily Coleman and Amanda Hawker
Uniform Shop - Renae Beckett and Kylie Dundas
Fundraising (new) - Loren Marsh (chair), Sharon Sellers, Carly Austin, Sarah Crawford, Nicole Irvine, Elke Wright, Kylie Turner

MEETING CLOSED: 8.23pm

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 22nd April 2015 at 6.30pm (first week back of school)