

Yanco Agricultural High School

P&C Association Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 3

September 2020

Editor's Note

We wish all students and families a safe, restful school holiday period. If there are any families in NSW who are willing to adopt a Victorian student for the holiday period please let the school know. We appreciate this may be a difficult time for families in our community with border and travel restrictions due to Covid-19.

Jacqui Herrmann, Editor



President's Update

Term 3 is nearly at an end, we say goodbye to our wonderful class of 2020 leaders very soon and welcome our class of 2021 into the leader's role.

There has been some great outcomes for the P&C in the last few months, with many parents support we successfully lobbied to find a safe way that all students could go back to school. This was helped enormously by us linking with key organisations, ICPA NSW and CWA NSW. Both organisations lent their experience, their connections, their support and importantly their understanding. We are very grateful to both organisations and encourage all our parents to support them.

Then another win with the exciting announcement of stage 1 of a new dormitory construction. This came after the P&C and many parents writing letters to politicians, doing media, and also the students getting on board giving their important perspective.

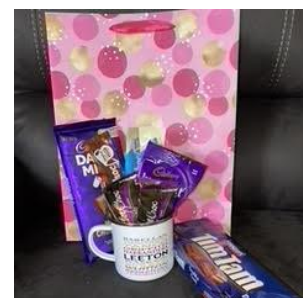
We are very lucky to have our local State MP Helen Dalton, who put a lot of effort into bringing the Minister for Education Sarah Mitchell MP to Yanco, as well as follow up media, and her office were very helpful giving advice and assisting us lobby.

We had a welfare meeting (via Zoom) in early August and the P&C executive really appreciated hearing all that the school has in place in regards to student welfare. We are always looking at ways to improve the welfare of students at YAHS and we have another meeting scheduled in Term 4, so if you have any ideas, then we would love to hear them.

I do hope that most farming families have had some rain and while we hope they all get lots of rain to finish their crops, we all have our fingers crossed for a wonderful harvest.

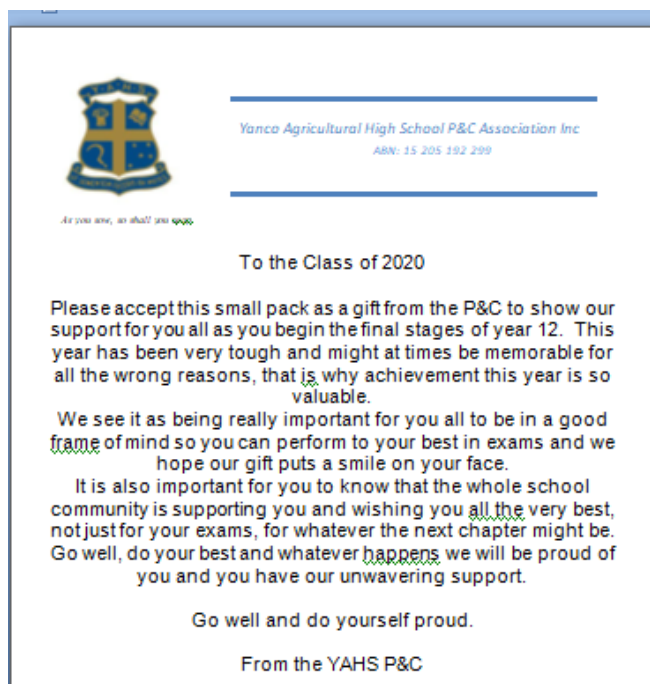
Enjoy the holidays coming up and we hope all our Victorian families can be together over that period, it is very important for all our students to have time with their families.

Cheers Gus Whyte



Year 12 HSC Study Packs

In August the P&C tried to improve the wellbeing of the Year 12 students as they headed into the HSC trials within the turmoil of changes to their Graduation plans, providing them with a bag of chocolate goodies, an enamel mug with local towns labelled on it, and a message from the P&C with special thanks to Gus Whyte and Melissa Clancy.



Our school community continues to benefit from the content written for families on schooltv.me. See emails from the school on relevant topics.



Student Wellbeing Meeting

On Monday, 20th August, 2020, the Welfare Committee met via zoom to discuss Student Welfare at Yanco. The Welfare Committee consists of the schools Head Teachers Welfare (HTW) Jason Sachs and Tara Arnall plus members of our P & C Executive.

It was a very positive meeting with many topics discussed. Some of the topics included:

PBL – Positive Behaviour of Learning. The School is focussing on PBL rather than discipline. The approach of PBL is to teach expected behaviours within situations and then reteach if required – not to go directly to a punishment. Currently the students have two sessions per week, first for theory of **expectations** and then the second session is to practice the learned theory in **real situations**. The aim is to create consistency across the school. Signage is going to be installed around school outlining PBL values and descriptions.

Communication within the school community. The P&C executive have discussed with the school regarding communications with the parent body, and we are working together to ensure all information is timely, respectful and clear for all concerned, to avoid unnecessary worry, frustration or concern.

The P&C requested that the school use the P&C to 'soften the landing' on announcements and/or involve the P&C so parents understand the context when certain announcements are made. We are working together with the school to make these improvements.

Support of Duty Staff. The P & C asked for clarification around raining/qualifications/preferred qualities for, and required of, duty staff at Yanco. We look to clarity on these issues, and how the PBL values instilled in the day school are consistent with the values duty staff are working in, within the context of the boarding school.

Full Time Counsellor. YAHS will soon have a full time school counsellor who will be available 5 days per week. This will be two people that will share the

role to ensure we have a counsellor on site 5 days a week.

Full Time Youth Worker Rebecca Arnold, YAHS Youth Worker, has been appointed to work at the school 35 hours a week. Rebecca has been with YAHS on and off for over a year now but is now permanent.

The P & C recognise and appreciate that both positions will be valuable assets for our students and supported their continuation.

After School Activities and Compulsory Sport. The P & C have received reports that the variety and inclusiveness of after school activities has improved. The school and its welfare staff are trying their hardest to encourage students becoming involved in sport, with hopes to include sporting variety for both male and female students, and other activities for students that are not sporty.

The P & C recognises the importance of compulsory sport and encourages it but would like to ensure that the students have also got some down time where they can choose to do what they want with their friends. It's all about getting the right balance.

Online Learning. The School is currently working on improving online learning systems in case of further lockdowns. Improvements discussed include more lessons via Zoom.

Other topics in the meeting included: Mental Health Days for students; supporting students and school community throughout the pandemic with particular focus on Year 12, their graduation and the Victorian students; the homework centre and prep time; new Gym facilities for the students; cameras to monitor behaviour in the school; training of Dorm Prefects; valuing and ensuring equality for all students; disciplinary guidelines and building a culture against bullying.

There was a lot to get through. In future, we hope with regular Welfare meetings we're on top of all welfare issues mentioned and we see the benefit of the School working with the P & C to promote and improve the welfare of the whole school community at YAHS.

Gala Day Dates

If you're planning ahead for Gala Days in 2021 and 2022, here are the dates:

- Saturday 13 March 2021
- Saturday 12 March 2022



Beach Carnival is always on the Friday prior to Gala Day, ie Friday 12 March 2021 starting at 8.30am – and a very special sports and picnic day on the banks of the Murrumbidgee Rive - not to be missed!



Please note that the Centenary of Yanco Agricultural High School is Wednesday 9 March 2022, and will be celebrated during that week - so please book ahead for your accommodation as it will be a very special event and accommodation will definitely need to be booked in advance.

Gala Day plans are currently being made, with the school taking responsibility for the Gala Day arrangements in 2021, in preparation for the 2022 Centenary. The P&C is waiting for information from the school as to how parents can be involved. Our P&C contact for Gala Day is Cassandra Scott.

(See a story about the origins of Gala Day at the end of this newsletter)

Girls' Dorms Update

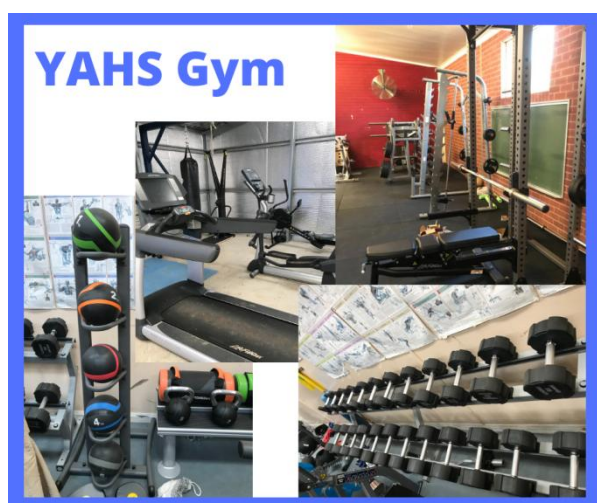
The P&C has been working with the school to reach out to a wide range of groups to resource support for new Girls' Dorms. This has been forthcoming, and we expect arrangements to begin in the coming months. There are no firm plans in place, however we will include the Girls' Dorms on our Agenda at each P&C meeting to ensure you're kept up to date.



Yanco Ag's New Gym

Open early mornings and after school, the school's made available a designated gym and workout area for students, upgraded with new state-of-the-art equipment.

Dozens of students have taken to the benches, weights and stretching zones, with great enthusiasm, with reports of older students helping younger students to develop a good daily fitness and strength routine.



Ram Sale – this Wednesday

On Wednesday 23 September, the school will be conducting its annual online ram sale.

Ag Teacher, Ellie Quinn has made arrangements for online auction information in an email to our school community, with the AuctionsPlus catalogue here: <https://auctionsplus.com.au/auctionV2/New/#/catalogue/13770>

It has all the links to the most current data and the Ram Videos. There is a bidder induction process, so if you intend to bid but have not registered, please register at least 24 hours before and complete the induction process.



Yanco Ag P&C on Facebook

Our own P&C Information on Facebook – an informal chat group of over a hundred Yanco Ag parents and community – join us on the link [HERE](#)

Yanco Ag High School Website

Looking for details on Enrolments, Ag and Equine, Forms and Downloads? Visit the school's website [HERE](#)

Join the P&C – membership renewal

Joining the P & C is easy and there are loads of benefits to being involved. "You only get out of it what you put into it", and this is true!

Either join online or by filling in a Family Details Form – see our Y_Ag P&C Info Group on Facebook

[HERE](#) for the form and banking details, or email our Membership Co-ordinator, Pip McBride via the P&C Secretary email:

yancoagpandc.secretary@gmail.com - It's just \$25 per family per year to be a member of the Yanco Ag High School P&C.

We are a vibrant and proactive group of parents who promote the interests of YAHS by bringing parents, students and staff together. We help provide facilities and equipment to the school as well as normally run Gala Day, McCaughey Ball and the Transition Dinner.

All our fundraising is invested back into our school and the welfare of our kids. There is no obligation to volunteer or be at meetings but you need to be a financial member to vote, so please join the P&C to celebrate all that is good about our school.

Centenary Celebrations – 2022

suggested fundraising items to produce/sell/share:

- Olive oil- we bottle and sell
- celebratory sticker,
- umbrella,
- tie,
- scarf
- tea towel
- jumper,
- shirt
- Rugby top
- Sketch/etching of McCaughey House

We will work in conjunction with the Old Yancoians Union (OYU) so if you would like to offer you expertise or energy to this project, please let the P&C executive know as soon as possible.

P&C Contact Information:

- President, Gus Whyte – email: wyndham3@bigpond.com
- Secretary, Belinda Maclure - email: yancoagpandc.secretary@gmail.com
- Treasurer, Melissa (Lil) Clancy – email: yancoagpandc.treasurer@gmail.com

Vice-presidents:

Jacqui Herrmann and Andrew Brewer

Yanco Ag High School website (for forms and downloads):

<https://yancoag-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

Resource Centre:

Learning Potential is a government website with hundreds of articles on all aspects of your child's learning and development, from the early years to the end of high school, with more articles added all the time!

Topics include: Brain Food, Preparing for Post School Options, Social Media, Managing Choices and Time Management, Teen Confidence, Music and Learning, and many more topics. Find out more [HERE](#)

Seeking Newsletter Editor (2021)

If you'd like to create the Yanco Ag P&C quarterly newsletter in 2020 please contact Jacqui Herrmann before end Term 4, on 0427 552369. This is a quarterly publication using templates that already exist in Microsoft Word. Reports are derived from P&C executive and meetings held within the term.

YAHS P&C Association Life Members

Douglas Milvane – 1990 Carol Lane – 1991 Wes Browne – 1991 Julie Campbell – 2006 Di Gill – 2013 Kay Goldsworthy – 2016 Stacey Lugsdin – 2016, Kerrie Johnston – 2018.



Old Yanconians' Union Inc

Membership and Contact Details:

Under 21's Life Membership - \$50

Over 21's Life Membership – \$90

Annual Ordinary Membership - \$15

Parents may like to consider purchasing an Under 21's OYU Life Membership for your child as a gift for their Yr 12 Graduation or a Christmas gift.

Old Yanconians' Secretary, Bill Barwick

Ph: 02 6953 4793 or 0428 680 688

Email: whbarwick@hotmail.com for more info

If you have further inquiries about the OYU, membership, updates on the annual reunion and OYU involvement in Gala Day, please contact me as necessary. Bill Barwick, OYU Secretary
[e.whbarwick@hotmail.com](mailto:whbarwick@hotmail.com)

Origins of Gala Day

Old Yanconian Union Secretary, William (Bill) Barwick recounts how Gala Day came to the P&C's annual fundraising event:

"Gala Day was a creation of the School Council (the name by which the P&C used to be known for many decades) around 1947.

Its first objective was to raise funds for the construction of a war memorial swimming pool. There had been at least one student drowning in the river (two weeks after the school had opened in fact) and it made good sense, particularly for sport, PE and general student recreation.

This specific was finally realised in 1961. I was reliably informed a couple of decades ago (by a previous School Council president, Ken Robertson) that, although the pool was completed and opened

for use, there was still a amount of debt to be paid off.

In 1965, when there was a change of government in NSW, Wal Fife, the Liberal Member for Wagga and Minister for Education was lobbied by the School Council then quietly found funds within the department and paid off the debt for us without any fanfare.

Gala Day has continued as the major School Council / P&C fundraiser ever since. In the early 1980s, when I was School Council Secretary, we were still generating two or three times as much as the average P&C fete in other schools and the funds were being directed, principally, into resource purchases for the educational side of things at the school.

Other projects, over the years, like a Cow and Calf scheme in the 1990s were seeded from Gala Day funds that were raised.

Gala Day has played a significant role in equipping the school library, specific faculty requests, some text book purchasing and other projects such as seeding the initial Art Show of 1987 (and afterwards)....

...I've always thought one of the strengths of the day was the social opportunities for widely scattered families to get together on one day, raise a bit of money for their kids' education, then spend it as they determined on the basis of school requests and projects."



YAHS Shearing Competition, Gala Day 2014



Beach Carnival 2018



YAHS School Hall, used for P&C events, such as Wild Wacky Women, mental health days



Reception and admin, McCaughey Mansion, YAHS



Farmer's Challenge, Gala Day 2014



Usual venue to Speech Day, end of School Term 4.



YAHS Shearing Competition, Gala Day 2014

End.