Meeting opened 7:30pm

Attendance as per attendance list. Kath Styant arrived partway through the meeting. Apologies: Rowena See, Chris Styant

Confirmation of the minutes:
Moved: Bernadette Grace  Seconded: Jodie Williams
That: Minutes from the meeting held 16 July 2012 be accepted. CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING:
- Oxygen cards are ongoing.
- Uniform survey: 30 replies received.
Moved Bronwyn Lewis, seconded Nadine Marshall;
That the uniform survey be extended. Carried.
- Fruit and Veg boxes to be co ordinated by Marilyn

REPORTS:
Presidents Report:
Report read by Marilyn. Please encourage others to attend meetings so decisions can be made with broad input. Report at attachment 1.

Principals Report:
Report submitted and to be distributed with minutes (attachment 2).
- Student safety is paramount, carpark gates will be closed during the day. Due to lack of supervision, children should not be dropped at school prior to 8.30am. Children arriving prior to 8.30am are at their own risk.
- John endorsed the need for improvement to the Langford Dr/Woy Woy Rd intersection.
- Voluntary school contribution is currently $40/family, which is low compared to schools in this area. Increases are pegged at 0.5%. The number of families making the contribution has dropped from 33% in 2010 to 25% in 2011. Proposal to raise the contribution to $42 for 2013. Payment of less or more is acceptable and appreciated.

Moved John Barwick, seconded Jean Welch
That the P&C support the voluntary school contribution being extended to $42.00 per family for 2013. CARRIED

Treasurers Report:
Fathers’ Day stall expenses are paid. Insurance and affiliation due, cost similar to 2011. Details of insurance policies provided in the Treasurer's report as tabled.
Moved Kerri Mullane, seconded Jean Welch
That we insure for loss of cash to the value of $5000.00. Premium approximately $200.00 and Directors and Officers liability premium approximately $153.00.
CARRIED.

Agreed to renew the P and C Federation affiliation, cost $431.00

Discussion about insuring against loss of cash for the fete. Agenda item for September meeting

Invoice received for the electronic whiteboards, cost $4202.85. Purchase endorsed in accordance with previous agreement (November 2011). Agreed to purchase an electronic whiteboard for the TLA because this is within the budget previously agreed to. The board must be a model approved by DEC. Mark Owen and Sandra Sanders will verify the costs quoted to DET.

Agreed that an interactive projector may be more suitable for the demountable. Could the remaining funds be used to paint the TLA? Sandra Sanders will present quotes for painting the TLA to the next meeting.

As at 31 July 2012:
Westpac Balance: $1505.02
Commonwealth Bank Balance: $19335.71

Fundraising Convenors
- BBQ at the Zone Athletics carnival:
  Moved Kerry Spratt, seconded Kath Styant
  That the P&C endorse a BBQ to be held at the Zone Athletics Carnival at Mingara, with expenditure authorised to $500.00 CARRIED.

  - Cake Stall
  The P&C could hold a cake stall on election day given that Year 6 have no plans to do so. Kate Evans volunteered to run this stall.
  Moved Jodie Williams, seconded Danielle Beckman
  That we hold a cake stall on election day. CARRIED.

  - Fete
  Rides are booked. Presold wrist bands are $20 or $25 on the day. List of stalls has been circulated.
  Moved Kerry Spratt, seconded Patty Polson
  That wrist bands (for ride entry) be purchased to the value of $158.00 CARRIED.

  - Sponsorship/donations: Please obtain a letterhead from Danielle and Jodie and advise them who you are contacting, so there is no duplication.
Moved Kath Styant, seconded Bernadette Grace
That the Fete committee be granted an operating budget of $1000.00
CARRIED.

- Showbag content is being sourced, various options discussed.
Moved Jodie Williams, seconded Kerri Mullane
That showbag materials be purchased to the value of $2250.00. CARRIED.

- Jodie and Danielle will pursue contacts for a coffee cart.
- Linda Heffer will organise choir and dance group to perform at the fete.
- Fiona Lloyd will contact the Central Coast Childrens’ Choir to ask whether they will perform.
- Year 6 may assist with luckydip wrapping (Jean Welch has some items)
- Agreed to hold a mufﬁ day with payment being donation of goods. Goods could be requested soon, with the mufﬁ day held later. List of preferred items to be circulated, but any donations gratefully received.
- Agreed to advertise in the Kariong Connection commencing asap, continuing until the fete. Promote via school signs and newsletter. Other promotion also, at the discretion of Jodie and Danielle.
- Second hand goods can be stored in Jodie’s shed. Thank you Jodie!

Moved Wendy Thomas, seconded Sandra Sanders
That the fundraising report be accepted, with thanks for the work done.
CARRIED.

Jodie expressed her thanks for the flowers.

KPS representative to CCC P&C, Paul Jacobson
Kath Styant is the ‘even year’ Country Vice President of the Federation of P&C Associations. The CC Forum is Thursday 23 August. Paul to provide a report for circulation with the minutes. Agreed to send CCC P&C information to Kristen to be placed on Facebook page

Moved: Bronwyn Lewis, seconded: Patty Polson
That: the reports be accepted: Carried

CORRESPONDENCE:
- Cheque received from Community Audit, being a donation of $150.00. Received with thanks. Our audit expense was therefore $250.00.
- Fiona Lloyd: requested support for a campaign to improve the Woy Woy Rd/Langford Dr intersection. A petition has been presented to the State Member (1400 signatures). The value of individual letters was discussed. Members should email or write to State Members Chris Holstein. A collection box will be provided at school, Fiona will forward letters.
Moved Brett See, seconded Jodie Williams
That The P&C write a letter of support for an upgrade to the Woy Woy Rd/Langford Dr intersection. CARRIED

- Tracie Gosling: raised the question of removing the no stopping zone in Truscott Ave. Members present agreed that the limited traffic management measures in Truscott Ave were hard fought, and valuable as a safety issue. Crossing flags were discussed, many options have been explored previously to have these put out, none successful in long term. Technically the school’s responsibility, difficult to achieve.

- Purchase of get well gift.

Moved Darren Atkinson, seconded Nadine Marshall-Wade
That Marilyn Powell be reimbursed $60.00 for the gift she purchased. CARRIED.

Kerry noted that she has created another letterhead, the previous version not being forthcoming.

Moved: Patty Polson, seconded: Jean Welch
That the correspondence be accepted. Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- Kath Styant: Federation Annual Conference report. Issues discussed were Local Schools/Local Decisions and Every Student/Every School initiatives, P&C membership, National Curriculum 2013 and student portals for extracurricular activities.

- Marilyn Powell: a ‘parents’ meeting’ would be another means of communication. Suggested focus is identifying strengths and weaknesses. Meeting could be held on 19 September, just before dismissal.

- Discos have been scheduled previously

Moved Bernadette Grace, seconded Brett See
That the discos be granted a operating budget of $1000.00. CARRIED.

- softdrink is to be withdrawn from sale at the canteen.

- Sun Protection policy to be reviewed this week. Bronwyn Lewis requested advice on any other polices requiring review.

- Brooke Harvey: Nitbusters has been held, sincere thanks to the same volunteers each time. More people urgently needed. Brook will collate results. May change day next term, Fridays seem better for volunteers.

Next meeting 7.30pm, 17 September 2012.

Meeting closed 9.30pm.
Thank you to all the members who are continuing to support the P & C meetings. Numbers are dwindling at the meetings. At the last meeting we were not sure whether we were going to get a quorum by 7.35pm. Fortunately we did and the meeting went ahead. Please encourage your friends to attend at least one or two meetings a year. We do not want the decisions of the P & C to be made by 10 families when there are over 350 families in the school.

Last week I attended a “Communicating with your school community” course which is part of a two day course. The second day which I will attend is on 12th September. This course is for a representative from the four major sections of the school community, Principal, office manager, staff and P & C executive. The purpose is to enhance school communication and promote positivity inside and outside the school. A lot of schools which attended were looking at increasing enrolments at their schools by focusing on the positive points about their school and communicating these points effectively within the school community.

I see that Kariong P & C can use some of these strategies to improve communication from the inside out. The current executive, committees and some members are working hard to raise the profile of the P & C by assisting the school where necessary at events, functions, fundraising, banking, Book Club and holding meetings where information can be relayed. Unfortunately P & C meetings at all schools generally have a bad reputation with the majority of parents from the school especially those who don’t attend the meetings as they only hear negative comments about the meetings and most are unaware of what is achieved by the P & C. A lot of people who I asked why they don’t attend our P & C meetings, replied that they hear that there is always trouble at the meetings and people end up arguing. They do not want to attend a meeting where there is always conflict.

As members of the P & C it is our responsibility to change this image of the P & C as sometimes perception can override reality and the true purpose and achievements of the P & C are not known. We need the community to hear about the positive things concerning the P & C. After all there must be something positive about the P & C otherwise we all wouldn’t all be here.

We all need to approach any P & C business with decorum and sensitivity to others. We don’t want members not wanting to assist with P & C activities for fear that they make a mistake and get criticized. We are not all perfect at what we do but we all do our best. Everyone one has the right to be heard but everyone needs to do it by following the correct procedures. I am sure everyone here is capable of that and also willing to support each other. After all our children all go to the same school.

At the course it was suggested that the P & C hold a meeting with no teachers or staff present where parents and the school community put forward their opinions and expectations of our school. These would then be discussed by the 4 people attending the course so they can identify the school’s strengths and weaknesses. The teachers and staff would hold separate meetings. I know a survey is being planned but I propose that this meeting be set down for during school hours or after school so that more people may be willing to attend.

I suggest we all work together to make Kariong Public School a school where we are proud to be a part of, whether parent, student or staff. This will start with a positive profile for the P & C.

Marilyn Powell
President
Student safety
The safety of our students is one of the two most critically important accountabilities of any school (the other, of course, being student learning). I would like to briefly touch on a few areas that we are working on at the moment to make the school a safer environment for your children.

- The decision to close the car park gates in the afternoon was taken to decrease the risk of a child being injured. I am happy that the vast majority of parents have been very supportive of our stand.
- We continue to request that students not arrive at school before 8:25. This is also for obvious safety reasons, not to inconvenience working parents. There is an alternative (OOSH).
- I am very supportive of the community campaign to upgrade the intersection of Langford Drive and Woy Woy Road. This is the intersection between a major vehicle entrance to a suburb of 7000 people and one of two main commuter routes between the peninsula and the F3. There should be a more controlled traffic environment than currently exists. As we have children crossing the road to the tennis courts and playground, and some of our children live on the other side of Woy Woy Road, it also has a direct impact on the safety of our students.

Voluntary school contributions
The rate of the voluntary school contribution has been unchanged at $40 per family since 2004. At the same time, the total school budget has increased significantly, so that now the amount raised by voluntary contributions constitutes a very small proportion of the total school income (about 0.5% in 2011).

To give you an idea of how much is raised for the school through voluntary contributions, we received about $6400 in 2010 (about a third of families paid), and only $4300 in 2011 (about a quarter of families paid). In fact the amount gathered has decreased steadily over the past decade. This is a pity, as these funds have traditionally been used to buy extra resources which are used in classes to extend and enrich the learning experiences of all students.

The Department’s rules regarding increases to the voluntary contribution are quite restrictive. In 2008 increases were capped at 2.7% each year. This has been increased to 2.8% a year from 2012. On advice from the Department’s School Finance Unit, the maximum we could raise this year’s contribution would be $42 per family.

I am asking for your approval to increase the rate to $42 per family for 2012. I would also like your suggestions and guidance on the best time of year for the request for contributions, and on how we can increase the proportion of families who pay voluntary contributions.

John Barwick