

Report of the Mount Lawley Senior High School Council 2010

This report outlines the activities of the School Council from March 2010-March 2011.

2010 has once again been an extremely busy year for students, staff and parents.

Milton Butcher (and Stephen Spice, in his capacity as Principal from January to August 2010) reported to Council on the school's objectives, priorities and general policy directions. At each Council meeting a full report was presented outlining the current position of the school. All major issues have been discussed, including staffing, finance and policies including the sponsorship arrangements for the school.

The financial position of the school has been provided by way of reports and explanation both by the Principal and Business Manager, Ms Yvonne Scott. The budget, charges and voluntary contributions have been approved after consideration by the Finance Committee.

It was extremely pleasing that the Financial Audit was conducted and all requirements were met. This saw the first audit in over twenty years being passed. The following recommendation was passed: *To congratulate Yvonne Scott, Milton Butcher and admin staff on their excellent job in putting structures into place to meet audit requirements with special commendation to Yvonne from Council, which is appreciative of her efforts to enable the audit to be passed.*

The "early rollover" for the Year 10 to 11 and Year 11 to 12 students was instigated in Week 5 of Term 4. This program has had mixed comments from students, parents and staff and is currently undergoing a review to ascertain the advantages and disadvantages and whether it will continue in the future.

The Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Policy Review has been endorsed by Council and is now available on the school web site. It states clearly the conditions and expectations for using devices by our students.

Graduation results and the school's 2010 academic performance were reported by Milton Butcher. Whilst the results for Year 12 2010 were pleasing, a number of academic areas continue to underperform and strategies must be implemented to ensure that the results of the "tail" of each cohort is monitored and improved upon in 2011.

The Uniform Review Committee with representation from Council, staff, parents and students met to discuss the current uniform and any amendments required.

Sponsorship guidelines for the school and projects are still being discussed.

The Proactive Keep Active @ Lawley project funded by Healthy Active Australia, a Federal Government initiative, continues to be a major contributor to the health and well-being of the school community. The Coordinator of the program is now funded via a voluntary contribution by parents. This underpins the valuable contribution that this program makes.

The Building Fund Terms of reference have been endorsed by Council and it is anticipated that fundraising for major projects including the air conditioning of the school will be deposited to this fund. All contributions will be tax deductible.

The Year 10 Working Party saw the introduction of a special diary for the Year 10 cohort. The anecdotal feedback has seen the widespread use of the diary with the students preferring this model to the traditional diary used in the school. The second Year 10 Barbecue has been held and was a great success.

The continuation of Independent Public Schools (IPS) by the State Government once again saw consultation with Council, staff and the community where approval was given to submit an application for MLSHS to become an IPS. Unfortunately, this status was not approved in 2010. After the recent opening of 2011 IPS applications, consultation is currently being undertaken with staff and community to seek feedback from all parties as to whether an application for the 2011 allocation will be submitted.

I would like to thank our Community members, Mr. Kevin Pilkington, Mr. Ron Pearce and Mr. Glenn Scott who have given willingly of their time to attend meetings and represent Council at various events. Kevin and Ron have completed their time with Council and their efforts are sincerely appreciated.

Mrs. Jo Furness, an elected Parent representative is now leaving Council after two years and I would like to thank her for her commitment to Council and her valued input to the Uniform Review Committee.

Mr. Don Rowe, our second Parent representative and Mr. John Cloake, the P&C representative are valuable members of the Council and their input is also appreciated.

To Neil Hudson our retiring Staff Representative, Mr. Geoff Clayton, Ms Yvonne Scott, Kate Prast, Saxon Goodrick and Claire Raphael, thank you for your attendance and input at meetings and for attending other activities on behalf of Council. Representation from the School community is a vital part of Council and your expertise and comments are extremely valued. Without all of these volunteers, we would not be able to perform our extremely important role and advocate on behalf of Mount Lawley Senior High School.

Catherine Smith
Chair MLSHS Council
21.03.11