

MOUNT LAWLEY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Music Support Group

Date: 5:30pm, Thursday, 19 February 2026

Venue: Music Room 3, MLSHS

Attendees: Dijon Summers* (Teacher Representative), Michelle de Rozario*, Bek Ledingham* (Chair and Treasurer), Helen Pelusey* (Secretary), Ana Santos* (P&C Vice President), Rowena Smith*, Kevin Keary *, Gee Yap*, Heath Hastings-Fernance*, Ineke Moyle *, Mirian Moretti*, Tim Jewell, Grant Ferstat, Michelle Wilkins, Jodie Steele, Peter Dare-Bryan, Abby Clark, Natasha Terry, Samadu Awuda, Sarah Duffy, Marie Rodatz, Howard Anderson, Richa Koirala,

Apologies: Shannon Edwick, Michelle Lehmann, Brad O'Dea, Jennifer Persaud*, Julie Eglin *, Ben Harvey*, Amanda Humphreys, Joli Mendez*, Hugo Hernandez*, Genevieve Wilkins *, Preeti Ramdoyal

1. Welcome, Apologies and Introductions

- Bek opened the meeting at 5:30pm, welcomed attendees and provided an overview of the Music Support Committee and its functions.
- Attendees introduced themselves.
- Apologies from 2025 voting members were noted as above. A quorum was met.
- It was noted that the AGM will be held at the meeting on Thursday 19 March 2026. All Office-bearer roles will be open for nominations. Bek would be happy to continue as Convenor but would like someone to take over as Treasurer. It would be a good year for someone to take over as Secretary while Helen is still on the Committee to provide support. Alternatively, there is the opportunity to shadow the Secretary or Convenor role this year with a view to taking it over in the future. Role descriptions will be circulated before the next meeting.
- It was noted the current [Terms of Reference](#) for this Committee only allow for 20 members and a require a quorum of 50% + 1. This was an issue last year as more than 20 people wanted to join, and at some meetings a quorum was only just met.

M2026.02.26.01 It was proposed that the ToR be revised to align with other Sub-Committees such as SVAPA:

- Composition: Any number of members one of whom shall be a member of the P&C Executive Committee.
- Quorum shall comprise of 2 Music Support Committee Position holders and 5 Music parent/ guardians who are paid up members of the P&C Association.

2. Previous Minutes

Accept the Minutes of the 27 November 2026 meeting as a true and accurate record with the following corrections noted:

- Correct Ana's surname to Santos in all places in the minutes.
- Change wording regarding proposal to have a Play it Forward '*sub-committee*' to '*working group*'.

Moved: Kevin Keary Seconded: Ana Santos Resolution: Passed

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3. Actions arising from previous minutes

Action	Status
Finance	
Move MSC Bank accounts for MSC funds. (P&C)	In progress. Accounts are open and access will be organised.
Ensure Square account is set up to connect with new account (Treasurer)	In progress. Once the new accounts are operational the Squares will be set up. Most likely they will be connected to the main P&C account and then funds transferred to Sub-Committees.
Request the Semester 2 2025 Music Parent Contributions from MLSHS Finance (Julie Moxley)	Completed. Bek will confirm the funds have reached the account.
Develop an inventory of current instruments including a forecast of instrument requirements in the foreseeable future (Music Dept)	In progress. Work will continue throughout the year. The school is receiving lots of instruments through Play It Forward which will also need to be catalogued.
P&C procedures - Send Ana Santos at P&C the MSC procedures/ log ins etc to be stored centrally by the P&C. (Helen/ Bek)	In Progress.
2026 Parent Contacts - Send Helen the contact details for the 2026 Year 7 Parents who are happy to share them with the MSC. (Dijon)	Completed
Play it Forward Add discussion on the formation of a Play It Forward Working-Group at the first meeting of 2026. (ALL)	Completed – added at Agenda Item 7

4. Music Department Report

Update on activities and upcoming events:

- The Music Program now has 420 students (113 Year 7s) so is one of largest programs in the state. There are 20 ensembles including a new Symphony Orchestra. Denise Cleasby is the Music Administration Assistant.
- There are lots of events coming up including:
 - a 3-day Jazz camp run by WAAPA staff in the mid-year holidays,
 - the strings orchestra and classic guitar ensemble premiering a local work at the OPUS concert, which features ensembles from government schools.
 - Festival of the Bands - the first major concert for 2026. It will be in Week 9 and feature most of the larger Concert Bands (including Year 7s) and jazz bands.
- The Year 7 BBQ is coming up next week.
- SVAPA students are attending Perth Festival performances.
- There are currently 4 contemporary ensembles. Electric guitarists tend to wait a little longer to be placed. Bass players will be placed over the next few weeks.

- The Committee discussed potential options to provide more performance opportunities for contemporary musicians – it was noted this is somewhat limited by space and staffing resources.

Artist in Residence Initiative Update

At the end of 2025 the MSC supported a motion to fund an Artist in Residence, an initiative proposed by IMSS teach Lee Stanley. The concept was to bring someone national or international to work with students and teachers. Over the holidays Lee approached a variety of people and the following has been set up:

- Two guests will come to MLSHS this year:
 - Rick Keenan is Director of Music at Eltham College in Melbourne and Conductor of the Melbourne Youth Wind Symphony. Eltham is a big and successful music school with a different approach to many other schools with lots of tours and hands on experience. He is from Perth originally so was excited by be involved. Eltham have given him a paid sabbatical and considered the opportunity to be professional development, so MSC funds are not being used for his position.
 - The MSC funds will be used for Mark Bain, who Rick has recruited. He is a trumpeter with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and also leads [Performance Under Pressure](#) working with young people around performance anxiety. Dijon noted that on a daily basis the Music Department works on students' confidence as much as their musical skills, so this will be a great addition.
- Rick and Mark will come to the school from Week 6. Outside school hours they will work with all the large ensembles. Timetables are being developed and some of the Concert Bands or orchestras may come together to make it work. During the academic day they will work with staff to show different ways to embed band curriculum in classroom curriculum and include all music types etc in one syllabus.
- It was noted this will complement the work already in progress eg Lee Stanley and Wendy Tait from IMSS have been developing a Year 5-12 program to build on the feeder primary school involvement.
- Rick is also keen to explore the possibility of MLSHS students and staff visiting Eltham in the future. They often take their students to different parts of Australia a couple of times a year to do workshops with other students so there may be an opportunity for a reciprocal arrangement.

5. Funding Requests

The following funding request was made:

M.2026.02.19.02 to allocate up to \$500 for bassoon reeds.

Background – Basoon reeds are specialist and expensive. The Basoon IMSS teacher has the contacts to get a good deal on good quality reeds which won't crack or split easily. \$500 will buy one or two reeds per student for the year, and the Music Department would like to be able to offer this. The Committee could consider adding it as an annual motion. It was queried if there are other instruments with costly incidentals that the MSC should seek to fund. Dijon does plan to bring further proposals like this – eg Double Bass strings are very expensive to replace compared to eg guitar strings.

Moved: Bek Ledingham

Seconded: Heath Hastings-Fernance

Resolution: Passed

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6. Treasurer's Report

- Some background was provided regarding the allocation of Committee Funds. At the end of 2024, for various reasons the Committee had funds on hand that exceeded the usual annual running costs which are approx. \$40,000. The Committee voted to spend 50% of the 'excess' funds on instruments and other equipment needed now and set aside 50% towards a new grand piano if the move to WAAPA facilities goes ahead (not yet confirmed). The plan is to put this into a high interest bank account and if priorities change in the meantime, the Committee can vote to allocate the funds to something else.
- The decision was made last year to move from CommBank to Bendigo. The new accounts are now open so once access has been sorted the financial operations will be easier.
- Exact balances of the MSC bank account will be reported at the next meeting.

7. Fundraising Events and Activities

Lawley Art Auction 2026 Update

- The Lawley Art Auction will be held on Saturday 20 June 2026. The art sold is sourced from professional artists – not student artwork. There will be a raffle on the night so if you can't give your time or attend, consider buying tickets. MLSHS Music Students perform on the night and it's a great event to attend and to volunteer for.
- Last year it raised approximately \$60k with \$24k going to SVAPA, \$24k going to Music and the remainder being retained for the following year's LAA running costs.
- This year the Committee has already raised about \$9k in cash and \$2k in vouchers.
- Most roles were filled at the initial meeting of the LAA. They are still seeking someone with good spreadsheet knowledge to look after the database management. This is an important role as there is a lot of data to manage; the artwork, the artist, the purchaser, the price etc and this all has to sync in the spreadsheet to ensure easy transactions on the night.

P&C Quiz Night

- The P&C are running a fundraiser quiz night on 13 March at 6:30pm at the Inglewood United Football Club. 80% of tickets have sold already so a few more tables have been added. Tickets can be purchased at <https://events.humanitix.com/mount-lawley-senior-high-school-p-and-c-fundraising-quiz-night>

Sundowner 2025 Reflection

- Event went very well. There was a minor issue at the start of the night when the Square server went down just as the event opened so that despite having the Square App set up on several Committee Members' phones, it could not be used for about 20 minutes. However, customers were given the option to transfer payment using the MSC bank details or a PAYID, or return to pay later, so no sales should have been lost and people were very patient. There was nothing that could have done in advance to prevent this.
- The following points were noted for next year:

- Start the liquor licence earlier than 5pm so the bar can start serving as soon as it's ready as the primary school children's parents are there from 4:30pm and looking to buy drinks.
- There were quite a lot of leftover sausages this year although the same number were cooked as in the previous couple of years. Not sure if audience numbers were down?

Play it Forward Update

- Interest in forming a working group for this initiative will be explored at the March meeting as it is too much for one person to run.
- There is the possibility of a donation of a good baby grand piano. This could replace one of the uprights in a classroom for now. It was noted this doesn't replace the need for concert grade grand piano for the future.

MSC Quiz Night Fundraiser 2026

- Bec has been working on the idea of a Music Quiz Night fundraiser for the Music Program.
- It will include a name that tune type round possibly with Music students playing the songs a bit like Spicks and Specks.
- Interest in forming a working group will be explored at the March meeting. Bec is happy to lead it and also be quizmaster.
- It will most likely be held in winter, possibly Term 3 so as not to compete with LAA, though it will need to work around concert and festival dates.

8. NEW BUSINESS / OTHER BUSINESS FOR NOTING

- The Music and Drama Departments have requested that no P&C food or drink be stored at school going forward including left over sauces etc as this is causing problems with pests etc and causing damage to school property stored in the same cupboards. Anything left over from events needs to be given away, passed on to Student Services for their events, thrown out or stored offsite.
- The Music Department is keen to hear any suggestions about how to run the Term 1 Festival of the Bands Concert. Last year, they experimented with venues offsite eg Perth Town Hall and Perth Modern, but this was not overly effective cost or space-wise. This year they would like to run it as an outdoor concert but more formal than the Sundowner, so with the audience seated in rows watching the performance to give the students a different experience. One suggestion was to dress the audience chairs with seat covers to convey the more formal feeling. Please forward any other suggestions to Michelle or Dijon.

9. SUMMARY OF ACTIONS:

- No new actions noted

Meeting closed: 6:40pm

NEXT MEETING

Date: Thursday 19 March 2026,
Term 1 Week 7

Time: 5:30pm

Venue: Music Room 3

Please enter school through rear gate off Learoyd St
(accessed via Stancliffe St)