Kalbarri District High School has proven the strength of its community spirit by coming together to build a new adventure playground at the school.

Thanks to more than three years of fundraising by the school’s P&C, and the hard work and generosity of a host of Kalbarri mums, dads, fishermen, residents, organisations and businesses, the playground was finished last week.

The community team helped professional playground developers NatureBased Play to establish the playground, which includes rope bridges, tree branches to climb on, a running ‘creek’, stones and trees.

Terry Farrell and his team from NatureBased Play sourced mostly local natural materials from our landscape to create a unique and beautiful space for the students and teachers.

They collaborated with our community, connecting with many locals from all walks of life.

Kalbarri P&C president Rachael Clancy said it was so gratifying to see the community pull together for the good of the kids.

“It was amazing to see everyone out there, shovels in hand, working together to bring this long-held dream to fruition,” Rachael said.

“We had local fishermen create the rope bridges and play areas, and mums, dads and community residents helped shovel sand, pick rocks and plant trees.

“Local businesses and others donated their time and equipment and money.

“And we had amazing support from organisations like the Northampton Shire who provided equipment and time, and Northern Agricultural Catchments Council, who donated beautiful native trees to create an instant garden.

“We were blown away by the support and the feel-good factor of coming together as a community.”

Rachael also paid tribute to the work of NatureBased Play for their willingness to embrace the community volunteers’ help to enable the project to proceed on a limited budget.

“It can’t have been easy dealing with our enthusiastic, but not necessarily skilled, volunteers but Terry and Keith and the team from NatureBased Play were brilliant,” she said.

SAMILLE MITCHELL
P&C Member
Kalbarri District High School
With the biggest event on the WACSSO calendar, the 84th Annual Conference, over for another year, I am happy to report it was a resounding success.

This year's theme: Make it Happen. Make it Matter. The Power of Parents! was embraced by the 350 delegates and guests who celebrated how parental engagement with public schooling and the work of strong parent associations lead to better outcomes for our children.

Inspiring speakers, practical workshops, networking opportunities, supportive sponsors and terrific student talent on display, added up to a weekend which has given us all renewed enthusiasm for our roles.

We have already had some thoughtful and heartening feedback from Conference 2018 delegates, both on feedback forms over the weekend and subsequently in calls to myself and the WACSSO office, which not only assists us in planning for the 2019 event, but reassures us the hard work of staff and Councillors over many months was worth all the effort.

I am looking forward to building on this effort and expanding on the theme in our work in the months ahead.

A more comprehensive account of the Conference weekend and plenty of photos will be published in the Special Conference Edition of the P&C Voice in Term 4. Resolutions from the Agenda Session will also be published on the WACSSO website.

Since our last P&C Voice there has been a significant change at the Department of Education. After 12 years as Director General, and many more in education, Sharyn O’Neill has left the department to take up a new role as the Western Australian Public Sector Commissioner. On behalf of State Council and affiliates I thank Sharyn for her immense contribution to public education in Western Australia. I acknowledge her outstanding dedication and leadership as Director General which has resulted in great improvements for government schools. Sharyn leaves a legacy that provides a strong foundation for continued student success, and a school system that we believe is the envy of many. We wish her well in her new role, and thank her for her collaborative approach and the genuine engagement demonstrated with parents and WACSSO.

I have recently had the pleasure of reading the nominations for the 2018 WA Education Awards. The outstanding schools, teachers, principals and school support staff announced as finalists in August inspire and enrich the learning of their students every day and their nominations demonstrate that our public school students are in safe hands. Representing WACSSO on a judging panel is a privilege and a joy.

Also this month I attended the Western Australian Education Support Principals and Administrators’ Association Showcase event as part of their ‘What Works: Leading Inclusive Practice to Support Students with Disability and Additional Learning Needs’ Annual Conference. I was so inspired meeting all of the exhibitors and hearing about the outstanding work being done in our schools. A truly amazing group of professionals, leading and improving educational outcomes for students.

Term 3 is always a busy time for our P&Cs: running sausage sizzles at athletics carnivals and events to celebrate Fathers’ Day are just some of the things on your agendas. At this time of year the smell of freshly cut grass always means sports day to me! And with spring just around the corner, fetes and fairs are also being planned by enthusiastic P&C volunteers, contributing to the connected sense of community in schools.

As the weeks fly by, good luck to all students preparing for upcoming assessments, particularly Year 12 students with your final high school examinations on the horizon.

Finally, thank you to all P&C members for your continued efforts to support your school communities. Every day we Make it Happen and Make it Matter with the Power of Parents!

KYLIE CATTO
WACSSO President
We are coming to the end of Term 3 and about to start what I know is a busy time for you all.

The McGowan Government has also had a busy first half of the year.

We announced a record $51 billion investment in education in this year’s budget. This includes $468.7 million to build and improve public schools and $10.25 million to refurbish ceilings in older schools and equip schools in recently zoned bushfire risk areas with extra preventative measures.

We have also invested in STEM in our schools, because we know the job opportunities of the future will require the skills these subjects teach.

Regardless of whether students become science practitioners or take another career path, we know the skills STEM subjects help develop – teamwork, problem solving, creativity, independent thinking, critical analysis, initiative and communication – will be in high demand for future jobs.

This term, we have seen the first round of primary school classrooms transformed into science labs. Our $17 million election commitment included $12 million to convert 200 existing primary school classrooms into science laboratories by 2021, with an additional $5 million for resources.

The labs are set up with laboratory equipment and resources such as 3D models of the solar system and human anatomy, digital microscopes, 3D printers, virtual reality headsets, robotics kits and renewable energy kits.

Half of the allocated schools are from low socio-economic areas where students are often disadvantaged by not having access to science facilities.

We also recently announced a boost for small primary schools – many of them in regional WA. Selected small public primary schools with a maximum of 100 students will receive funding grants for science resources for their classrooms.

We want our young people to have access to equipment like telescopes, salinity testing kits, lego kits and solar cell kits so an interest in science is ignited at an early age and they continue the study through secondary school.

In November, we will recognise those schools leading the way in science education with the 2018 Governor’s School STEM Awards.

The awards recognise primary and secondary schools that demonstrate excellence in leadership, teaching, collaboration and student engagement in STEM education.

The winning schools will be announced at a presentation ceremony at Government House in November 2018.

Thank you for having me at your recent conference. I look forward to working with WACSSO for the remainder of the school year.

HON SUE ELLERY MLC
Minister for Education and Training
FULL HEARTS AND OPEN ARMS AT GREENMOUNT

This is not your typical Good News Story.

Yes, I can tell you about all the money we’ve raised this year and all the amazing things we have achieved with this money! And we have achieved some amazing things... such as, purchasing an untold amount of iPads to help our school navigate the ever-expanding digital curriculum; planting a host of beautiful, mature trees to establish shade over our senior sports playground; running the Safety House program; and launching an exceptionally successful Fathering Project, aptly named Guardians of Greenmount, which saw 50 Dads and their kids turn out to our first event!

But none of that is as important as the people that make it happen.

We are honoured to say that the real ‘Good News Story’ at Greenmount Primary School P&C is our group of committed, hard-working volunteers. Those amazingly awesome people who give their time and their energy to make these things happen; most importantly, with love and with kindness, by simply being who they are. They are our ‘Good News Story’.

People like Emma Rohrbach Spinks, our Secretary, and Cass Mingo, our Grants Officer, who we chose to send as delegates to the 2018 WACSSO Annual Conference. These ladies freely and openly give their time and their energy, and they are not alone! Our P&C has cultivated a culture of giving. Without people like this, nothing would happen at GPS P&C, or any P&C, for that matter!

Greenmount Primary School P&C thanks each of their volunteers, especially Emma and Cass, for all that they do and all that they are. Cherish your vollies!

KARLIEN MATTHEE
President
Greenmount Primary School P&C

ROLEYSTONE COMMUNITY COLLEGE P&C – GOOD NEWS STORY

One of our overriding principles at the P&C is that, wherever possible, we will always try to put the fun in FUNdraising. We want as many of the fundraising activities we do as possible to be fun for our fabulous volunteers who help us run them, but particularly for the children and/or parents who are involved in them. Think: Colour Run, Gift Stalls, Trivia Night and Disco!

Our most recent example of this ethos, was our fantastic Scitech Night. We had an amazing response to this event, with over 180 people turning out for a dedicated night at Scitech, just for Roleystone Community College. Everyone had an incredible time, the pizzas were plentiful, the soft drinks flowed and the desserts wowed. And the added bonus, the P&C raised some money that will help us in our efforts to make our wonderful College even better.

What makes the story even better is that it was organised by a first time P&C Organiser, was put together in a very tight timeframe and, as the dates worked out, had to “compete” against a big local Roleystone event on the same night.

Despite these curly variables, the buy in from our school community was unbelievable – especially the support we had for dessert donations.

We can positively say, the event was a roaring success, with an upbeat vibe that certainly put the fun in FUNdraising! Mission accomplished.

It’s an exciting time for the RCC P&C as we ponder our next big project and continue to work closely with the College and with the school community. We look forward to bringing you a similar Good News Story next year and we also look forward to hearing of others Good News Stories. It is always so rewarding and inspiring to hear of the great things P&Cs do and deliver to their school communities.

SCOTT MOSEY
President
Roleystone Community College P&C
NORTH PERTH PRIMARY P&C’S ANNUAL OLIVE HARVEST PRODUCING GREAT RESULTS

Each year the North Perth community comes together to harvest the local olives and produce the award-winning Harvest 6006 Olive Oil – North Perth Primary P&C’s biggest annual fundraising event.

Started in 2013, by a North Perth Primary parent, Sonia Hills, Harvest 6006 has been a great way to celebrate the school’s link to local community and our suburb’s heritage.

It truly is a community event, as we rely solely on volunteers and donations from local businesses. It brings all generations together, from young to old, to learn about North Perth’s history that has been strongly influenced by Italian and Greek immigrants, with olive trees being an iconic part of the area.

It also educates the children who come along about the agricultural process for making olive oil, from harvesting the olives, pressing of the olives to turn it into oil, bottling of the oil and then selling and marketing of the end product.

This year’s May harvest was one of the biggest yet. Together the North Perth community collected close to 1500 kilos of olives, producing more than 200 litres of olive oil with more than 800 bottles of Harvest 6006 Olive Oil expected to be filled.

Previous harvests have been silver and bronze medal winners at the annual Perth Royal Show, with this year’s result being highly anticipated. The 2018 Harvest 6006 Olive Oil was launched on Saturday, 28 July 2018 at the North Perth P&C’s Mini Fete. To find out more, follow @Harvest6006 on Facebook and Instagram.

PAUL HAZELWOOD
Fundraising Coordinator
North Perth Primary School P&C

Do you know?

Information sessions are FREE with affiliation

Dates available to book – check them out!

If you think your P&C could benefit from some training and development this year, call the office on 9264 5026 to host a General P&C Information Session at your school – we will bring all the resources!

P&Cs in regional areas can contact Richard Brand, our Training and Development Officer on 0264 5026 to book a 2018 training.
Q&A

Every day, the WACSSO office receives enquiries from P&C members about the running of their P&C Association. The following are just some of the questions asked with answers that may be helpful to your Association.

If there is a question you would like answered that does not appear here, please contact the WACSSO office or your WACSSO State Councillor.

Q: The P&C Treasurer is providing verbal reports, no reports are provided in writing, is this ok?
A: It is vital for the P&C to understand its financial situation, this is for the protection of the P&C Treasurer as well as the P&C Association. The Treasurer’s report must provide the following to the General P&C meetings:

- an up-to-date bank reconciliation;
- amount of money available to the Association;
- details of all money received;
- confirmation of payment of previously authorised accounts; and
- a copy of the latest bank statement/s.

The Treasurer must be prepared to answer members’ questions relating to the report. If for some reason the Treasurer cannot attend the meeting in person to give the report then it would be suggested that the Treasurer appoint a delegate and brief that person on the content of the report.

Q: A community member wants to become a member of the P&C but does not have any children at the school, is this allowed?
A: Yes as stated in P&C Constitution Rule 5.1: Membership is open to parents and guardians of children attending the school and to citizens being over the age of eighteen years who are interested in the work of the Association.

Q: One of our P&C Office Bearers has had to resign during their term of office. What do we do now?
A: When the P&C receives the resignation in writing, advertise the vacancy within your school community and the P&C’s social network. At the next P&C General Meeting, ensure the resignation is recorded in the minutes and hold an election for the role. When the vacancy is filled, please contact the WACSSO office to update your office bearer contact details.

Q: The P&C President has resigned, does the P&C Vice President automatically take on the role of P&C President?
A: No but the Vice President can act in the capacity until the position is filled. An election for a new President can take place at the next General P&C meeting. It is recommended that the vacancy of any Executive position is notified through the P&C’s social network and the school newsletter.

RECOGNISING P&C MEMBERS

At WACSSO, we take every opportunity possible to thank and celebrate our priceless P&C volunteers; your contribution to society is invaluable. Year after year we are impressed by your passion and dedication to public education.

P&Cs not only raise much-needed funds for their schools, they selflessly give countless hours of their time and provide a strong voice for the school community.

Do you have some outstanding volunteers on your P&C Association, working to better your school community?

Research shows that volunteers live happier and healthier lives, so we know that volunteering is a reward in itself. However, it’s always a good idea to acknowledge and thank your hard-working volunteers for their efforts.

WACSSO offers two types of certificates to P&Cs: The Certificate of Merit and The Volunteer Certificate.

The Certificate of Merit is awarded by WACSSO on behalf of an affiliated P&C for long and meritorious service – a minimum of 10 years, and it is a wonderful way to recognise the longstanding contributions of people in your school community.

Please include the following details with each written nomination: full name of person sponsored, length of service, positions held, duties covering period of each office held, details of service and any special activities undertaken on behalf of the affiliated P&C, and details of community activities where relevant. The certificate may be presented at a special function, school assembly or a P&C meeting.

If you would like to nominate someone for a Certificate of Merit, please complete the form on our website: https://www.wacsso.wa.edu.au/resources/volunteer-certificates/

You may also like to create a your own Volunteer Certificate to recognise other contributions from the template on our website. This can be filled in and presented at a significant event.

WACSSO State Council
Joondalup West Electorate Ballot Result

WACSSO is pleased to advise that at the close of ballot on 30th May 2018, the Returning Officer declared Tony Osborne the successful State Councillor for the Joondalup West Electorate. Tony can be contacted at joondalupwest@wacsso.wa.edu.au or phone: 0419 925 701.

A letter has been mailed to affiliated P&C Associations in the Joondalup West Electorate.

Canning West and Swan West – Resignations

We regret to advise that Carolyn Galbraith, WACSSO State Councillor for Swan West, has resigned as of 10th June 2018, and Jen Clune, State Councillor for Canning West, has resigned as of 24th August 2018. Letters have been mailed to affiliated P&C Associations in these electorates. WACSSO wishes Carolyn and Jen all the best for their future endeavours.

Interested in being a WACSSO State Councillor?

State Councillors represent P&C Associations within their electorate and work to influence the direction of education for the benefit of students in government schools.

If you would like to know more about becoming a State Councillor for a vacant electorate, please visit the WACSSO website www.wacsso.wa.edu.au or phone the WACSSO office on 9264 4000.

REMINDER: Affiliation Fees 2018/2019

WACSSO advises that Affiliation Fees were due on 30th June. A small number of P&Cs have not paid their affiliation invoice for this financial year. Is your P&C one of them? If your Association has not paid their affiliation by 30th September 2018, you will receive a suspension notice.

What does this mean? Your membership provides your Association with $20million Public Liability Insurance, Volunteer Accident Insurance, free education and training, resources, support, one delegate to Conference, advocacy and representation. Don’t risk it!

If your Association has not received your initial invoice or the reminder, please email Debbie Booth, WACSSO Finance Officer, at finance@wacsso.wa.edu.au if paying by EFT please include the invoice number, school name or both.
Contact the WACSSO office on (08) 9264 4000 if your P&C would like to nominate someone to represent a vacant electorate or if you would like further information on the roles and responsibilities of a State Councillor.