



South Australian Small Schools Association Newsletter

Term 1—April - 2019—Edition 1

**Professionalism Trust Respect Sustainability Courage and Tenacity
Collaboration and Engagement Service Honesty and Integrity**

President's News—Sue Billett—Morgan Primary School

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2019. The new executive members for 2019 are: Sue Billett (President), Wade Branford (Vice President), Chris Morrison (Treasurer), Karen Murray (Secretary), Kellie Zadow (Public Relations) and committee members Barb Jones and Peter Mitchinson.

I am Principal of Morgan Primary School but have also worked in other small schools in the area. I enjoy having a close connection with families and community to ensure the best possible outcomes for our students. The staff at our schools do amazing jobs teaching multi-level classes whilst nurturing the well-being and learning of all the students in our care.

The executive and I are passionate about small schools, and are motivated to support others in this rewarding work.

What an amazing Small Schools Summit!

Besides the executive, there were five other schools represented: Nancy Soccoia (Basket Range PS), Michelle Hunt (Kongorong PS), Ann Marie Fitzgerald (Mt Burr PS), Patricia Boschetti (Snowtown PS), and Robyn Kenny (Poonindie PS). The department was represented by David Ensor (Director of External Relations) and Nigel Huxtable (Strategic Policy and External Relations).

Discussions were lively and positive. After brainstorming common issues, we also looked at the positives to small schools.

At the recent executive meeting we revisited the main areas, positives, impacts and points of interest to see how we can support our membership and small school leaders and staff. This information has been integrated into the operational plan for 2019.

Members of the executive have represented small schools at '2020 Funding Reform – Stakeholder' discussions. The areas covered were: Rural & Isolated Schools, Curriculum Specific Funding, Student Centred Funding Model, Students with Disabilities, Funding for Low-SES Students, Aboriginal Students, and Comprehensive Reforms. Once the information has been analysed, the funding arrangements for 2020 will be released in August 2019.

At our next meeting, Toni Richardson from the Education Management Systems team will give us an overview, and how this can be implemented in small schools.

The SSASA website has been overhauled and is now active. We realise that some information is out of date, and we are gradually editing pages and adding new photos. If you have a photo of your school please email it to me so we can include on the website.



Lastly and most importantly, don't forget the SSASA Conference on 'Learning Environments' that engage learners will be held on Thursday 30th and Friday 31st May at The Lakes at West lakes. Besides our guest speakers Emma Beare (Occupational Therapist) and Gordon Combes (ECL), we will be visiting Blair Athol North B-7 School to see the theory in action.

Best wishes for the rest of the term and we'll see you at the conference.

Cheers

Sue Billett

2019 Annual Conference



Small Schools Association of South Australia

**2019
Annual Conference**

“The Lakes”

***Thursday 30th May
&
Friday 31st May***

**“Learning
Environments”**

More information to follow soon

Save the Dates

Environments to engage all learners

Schools and teachers are encountering more and more students in their classes with developmental delays, behaviour difficulties, trauma and emotional regulation difficulties. This presents additional and complex challenges to a busy classroom environment. Occupational therapy can provide an alternative perspective and fresh ideas to proactively respond with an environmental and whole class approach. This workshop will provide a mix of theory and practice about setting up learning environments that engage all learners.

Emma Beare, occupational therapist, is passionate about supporting “tricky” students through modifying the environment. She has extensive experience working with a wide variety of children and young people, and providing training and “hands on” strategies to teachers and schools.

The benefits of learning about an occupational therapy perspective and modifying the environment to suit the learners in your class / school are:

- Closer connections with students
- More independent learners
- More students engaged and on task
- Less time spent in “just managing” and coping with behaviours

Communication List 2019

Karen Murray - 15	Barb Jones - 20	Sue Billett - 15	Wade Branford - 13	Peter Mitchinson - 18	Chris Morrison - 12	Kellie Zadow - 24
Gawler 1 - Barossa Greenock PS Keyneton PS Light Pass PS Truro PS	Mt Barker 1 - Heyson Callington PS Echunga PS Littlehampton PS Macclesfield PS	Riverland - Berri / Barmera Cobdogla PS Glossop PS Monash PS	Pt Lincoln 2 - Far West Koonibba AS Penong PS Port Lincoln 1 - Central Eyre 2 Port Neill PS Ungarra PS	Mt Gambier 1 - Blue Lake Compton PS Glenburnie PS Kongorong PS Mil Lel PS Moorak PS Suttontown PS Yahl PS	Port Augusta 1 - Far North Marree AS Oodnadatta AS Andamooka PS	Port Aug 2 - Flinders Melrose PS Peterborough PS Wilmington PS Pirie/ Kadina 2 - Pirie Airdale PS Napperby PS Solomontown PS
Gawler 1 - Great Gawler Lyndoch PS Mallala PS Sandy Creek PS Two Wells PS Williamstown PS Para Hills 2 - Salisbury Keller Road PS	Mt Barker 1 - Mount Lofty Basket Range PS Bridgewater PS Crafers PS Heathfield PS Lenswood PS Mylor PS Norton Summit PS Scott Creek PS Upper Sturt PS Uraidla PS	Riverland - Renmark / Loxton Kingston on Murray PS Loxton North PS Moorook PS Murray Bridge 2 - Waikerie Blanchetown PS Cadell PS Morgan PS Ramco PS	Port Lincoln 1 - Port Lincoln Kirtan Point PS Lake Wangary PS Poonindie PS Noarlunga 4 - Fleurieu Port Elliott PS Rapid Bay PS	Mt Gambier 2 - South East Coast and Vines Beachport PS Glencoe PS Kalangadoo PS Mount Burr PS Nangwarry PS Rendelsham PS Robe PS Tantanoola PS	Kadina 1 - Northern Yorke Bute PS Walleroo Mines PS Walleroo PS Kadina 1 - Southern Yorke Curramulka PS Stansbury PS Warooka PS	Gawler 3 - Lower Mid North Hamley Bridge PS Manoora PS Owen PS Port Wakefield PS Riverton PS Saddlesworth PS Tarlee PS Pirie / Kadina 2 - Upper Mid North Crystal Brook PS Gladstone PS Laura PS
Gawler 1 - Goyder and Light Freeling PS Kapunda PS Robertstown PS Roseworthy PS Wasleys PS	Para Hills 4 - Torrens Valley Gumeracha PS Kersbrook PS Lobethal PS Mt Pleasant PS Paracombe PS Springton PS	Murray Bridge 1 - Coorong and Mallee Coonalpyn PS Geranium PS Pinnaroo PS Raukkan AS	Murray Bridge 2 - Murraylands Jervois PS Mypolonga PS Palmer PS Tailm Bend PS	Noarlunga 4 - Sea and Vines Clarendon PS Kangarilla PS Myponga PS	Murray Bridge 1 - Tatiara 1 Mundulla PS Mt Gambier 1 - Tatiara 2 Frances PS Padthaway PS	Gawler 3 - Mid North Clare Auburn PS Blyth PS Booborowie PS Brinkworth PS Koolunga PS Snowtown PS Spalding PS Watervale

This year we have assigned Partnerships of schools to executive members in order to improve and share communication to our members and future members. This year we are looking at site visits (funding permitting) to seek input and to share the work of SSASA with our small school leaders. Communication is a two way street so if you have a concern / query or would like us to share a 'GREAT NEWS' story or 'BEST PRACTICE' from your site please contact us.

We have been proactive in 2018 and will continue in 2019 with regular scheduled meetings with DECD / External Relations / Education Minister to discuss policies and matters that are pertinent to us all and to share the successes of our small schools in the State. How, what and why we are doing what we do to make a difference for our students, our staff and our local communities...

Executive Members 2019

President—Sue Billett—Morgan PS

Vice President—Wade Branford—Lake Wangary PS

Treasurer—Chris Morrison—Yahl PS

Secretary—Karen Murray—Penong PS

Kellie Zadow—LSL (Morgan PS)

Barb Jones—Upper Sturt Bush School

Peter Mitchinson—Moorak PS



Small Schools Association of South Australia

Small School Summit

Following the South Australian Small Schools Association Annual General Meeting, on Monday 11th February, we held a Small School Summit.

Selected Small School Principals from across the state, were invited to attend the day to share issues, challenges and success stories from their individual contexts.

Participants worked through a process where, individuals were able to both discuss and share their concerns.

The major themes included:

- Year 7 to high school
- School based Pre-schools SIP
- School based Pre-schools QIP
- Facilities
- Staffing- TRTs, PRTs
- Funding
- Students with disabilities
- Communication
- External partnerships
- Department of Education expectations
- Workload
- Leadership PD
- Curriculum
- Partnership load
- Out of hours care

This information will be used, to form up our associations improvement plan and prioritise for this coming 12 months.

Executive members, wish to thank those people who took the time to come along.

www.ssasa.sa.edu.au

2019 Direction and Operational Plan



Small Schools Association of South Australia

Vision: To acknowledge, support and inform to work with and for small schools in South Australia

Improvement Plan 2019-2021

GOAL	TARGET	CHALLENGE OF PRACTICE	ACTIONS
Communication To support the effectiveness of small schools in SA	Initiate and increase meetings with DECD personal – 6 per year	If we ensure open and effective communication with all stakeholders we will support the effectiveness of small schools.	Communication List – Welcome email Group contact, Regular phone calls and visits DECD Meetings / Agencies – Meet with personal to address issues raised Website – Maintain and update to provide relevant and current information
Leadership To support the leadership capacity of leaders in SA	Increase membership by 10%	If we develop effective teaching, learning and management improvement processes, we will build leadership capacity of small schools leaders.	Summit – Meet with leaders to determine association priorities Newsletter – Emailed to members each term informing members of updates and sharing best practice
Teaching and Learning To ensure the sustainability of small schools in South Australia	Increased attendance at annual conference by 10%	If we support small schools to develop strategic teaching and learning, transition, staffing, facilities, we will ensure the capacity of small schools.	Conference – To meet the needs of small schools

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Operational Plan 2019

TEACHING AND LEARNING - INNOVATION			
WELLBEING	TRANSITION	STAFFING / HR	FACILITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of trauma on sites Families / Community Learning difficulties / disability Workload - Multi-facets of job Managing Performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-primary / Integrated and School Based Preschools Year 7 – High School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building – leadership / staff Early Career Development TRT support Experienced teachers in isolated / remote Professional Learning Networking Sharing best practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICT / Internet support Building Maintenance Bushfire Management Fabsnet Funding for small schools School card Learning Spaces Increasing / decreasing enrolments
COMMUNICATION – INCREASED CONNECTIONS			

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a_space is an established provider of playground and outdoor fitness equipment to schools Australia wide.

We have been designing and constructing high quality, commercial playground equipment in here in Australia since 1995, and in that time have installed more than 15,000 projects around the country. Many of these installs have happened within South Australia

Our wide range of playground equipment is designed by experienced physical educators and exercise physiologists to encourage children to explore, develop and grow in fun environments that brings communities together. We believe that playground equipment must do all this, while offering appropriate challenges with child-safety at the core.



Healthy Smiles, Healthy Lives Dental Programme

Mobile Dental Care SA will be undertaking onsite oral health promotion (distribution of toothbrushes) and onsite dental checkup including treatment at schools at no out of pocket expense from the school or parents.

To get your site registered please contact -

Phone no - 70804807 , 83618074

Mobile no - 0433624245

Email address - apurv.mdcsa@gmail.com,
mobiledentalcaresa@gmail.com

Website - <https://www.mobiledentalsa.com.au/>

Check out our sponsors in 2019

Please support their business as they are supporting our Association and believe in the work that small schools can achieve in our local communities. Catch up with them at the conference and the deals they will have for us and our small schools.





Year 7's to High School

At our State Small Schools executive meeting on Monday, Pam Kent joined us to update the group on the latest information in regard to Year 7's to High School.

The policy is in place and will be moving forward. Trial sites are preparing for 2020.

Pam explained that there may be some opportunity for country/isolated Small School parents, to decide to have their children temporarily continue as year 7's in Small Schools.

We were given the opportunity, to explain our concerns and what we consider, some of the outcomes could be for Small Schools within the policy.

Many of these, were not new to Pam and were acknowledged.

The association plan to continue communication regarding this issue with Pam.

Do you have a PROUD SMALL SCHOOL story to share?

**NEW SSASA Website www.ssasa.sa.edu.au is
UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

Like us on Facebook Page - SSASA

Is your 2019 membership up to date?

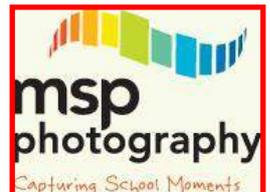
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Our Association is most grateful to our sponsors and we acknowledge their positive support.

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