



Save our school Tharwa www.savetharwaschool.com

Welcome to the first newsletter from the Save Tharwa School Campaign.

Media Group- 22 nd June

The role of media group written by Narelle Phillips

Keeping all forms (print, radio and TV) of the local media informed about our responses to the 2020 proposal through positive, constructive



media releases and planned interviews. We are also aiming to sustain media attention on Tharwa School and the issues affecting it by instigating positive story lines throughout the remainder of the year so that we are constantly a “current” community issue. In conjunction with this, we are keeping an archive of relevant articles etc. to have for posterity’s sake when the school continues forward in leaps and bounds after Dec.06!!

Contributions to the media group

Please note, we are requesting articles and stories from past students who have achieved

particular success and may be interested in sharing their story, or have a story to share about how their experiences at Tharwa Primary contributed to their successful transition to High School. In particular, we would love to hear from recent past



Tharwa Primary School students wore “Save Tharwa School” slogans and sang their school song at the community meeting with the minister. The minister I was talking with at the time, John Hargreaves seemed uncomfortable with paying attention to, and looking directly at, the children.

students, in their own words. These stories could really help us in our positive campaign to keep the school open. Please contact the Media Group if you need any further information. bbotanic@bigpond.net.au



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alternate strategies group

The key messages regarding the alternative strategies are as follows;

- We still need to ascertain the background to the data that has been provided by the Government regarding the enrolment and financial figures
- We need to investigate how we can reduce the \$19,000 per child down to a figure that is acceptable to the Government. This could involve a P-6 school model that fits in with their new model, expanding the number of preschool places available and sessions, ensuring that we have maximum enrolments for the primary school each year i.e. 35 and to look at ways to ensure that they can fit comfortably; looking at how the Federal Government grant can be best spent to maximise space.
- The key issue is economic rationalism and if we can make a good case regarding the small amount of savings that can be achieved by closing Tharwa and our uniqueness, then we will have a strong basis for remaining viable and open.

From the Communications group:

As Communications Group, our role is to provide both intra-group communication, and assist in maintaining 'external' communication with both the supporters of the campaign, and with the broader community of Canberra and beyond. We are "facilitating the mechanics of getting things done" to quote Malcolm!

This is happening via the email list savetharwaschool@googlegroups.com This list is closed to the general public in order for it to be an effective intra-group system, however new members can easily be added so if you would like to join it, please email James@wilderdom.com There are also hard copies of important announcements being distributed to those who don't have email, and Val's store window is another point of contact with copies of notices being posted regularly, and newsletters available from Val.

We are endeavouring to keep everyone in touch and informed, please let us know if you want help to alter your emails to reduce or expand the amount coming in, or if you want to let us know how we can do better!



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The Community Support Group

would like to invite everyone to an

End of Term Celebration

at the Tharwa Store on Friday 7th July starting from whenever you get there!

We have leftover chips and poppers for the kids.

So come along and have a yarn, find out what has been going on and enjoy yourself

This is also an opportunity for the community to catch up on news about the campaign, find out information, ask questions and informally brainstorm ideas. Please come along any time after school finishes to learn about how the save Tharwa School campaign has gone so far, and where it is headed.

See you there!!

Save Tharwa School Group Coordinator Contact List

Last Name	First Name(s)	Group Coordinator	Email	Phone
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UPDATE FROM THE PROPOSAL RESPONSE WORKING GROUP

At the meeting on 13th June the group agreed that before a proposal could be developed we would require more information on the government criteria for selection of Tharwa Schools for closure. The group agreed that whilst we were waiting for the government to respond to requests for information on the criteria, background information could be collected on the areas of information the group considered important to the response.

- Financial
- Community focal point
- Education
- Historical and Tourist Significance
- Impact on local educational system

Information relating to these areas is being collected and is available on the Save Tharwa School website and the Google discussion group. As yet no response to requests for information through the DET feedback mechanisms has been received. However, since the community meeting there has been some progression through the Tharwa rep's meeting with Andrew Barr this week. At this stage the Minister is open to continuing discussions with Tharwa reps in relation to the size and structure of Tharwa Pre and Primary Schools that will reduce the cost of education per student head at Tharwa. While we are working on negotiating a satisfactory cost-saving arrangement for the government that will prevent the closure of Tharwa, information relating to the other areas we considered important to address in our response is still being collected and collated in preparation for a formal response.

If you are working on information with the Response to Proposal group can you please let Emily know either by email emily@savetharwaschool.com or phone 6294 8931 so I can ensure you have access to the current information collected!

Public Support Group

Tharwa public support group was given the task of gaining support from the broader Tuggeranong community. We came up with loads of ideas such as petitions, stickers, badges, letters to the minister, flyers and heaps of signage.

Our original plan was to really emphasize the need to save the Tharwa primary and preschool, and try to gain as much sympathy as possible. However, after a very productive meeting with Mr. Barr we are now shifting our focus to increasing enrolments at the school. We have put the stickers, badges etc on hold and are in the process of having some signs made up. The focus of the signs will now be on enrolments. The signs are being made at cost price.

We are also placing flyers on local notice boards encouraging people to enroll at Tharwa.

A petition has already been distributed and collected and has almost 1000 signatures. This was over a short period of time (1 week) as I am going away and wanted to have things finalized before I leave.

I am very grateful to the following businesses for their support with our petition.

- Lanyon Newsagency – provided free photocopies of petition
- Bunnings Tuggeranong
- Dimitries Jeweller
- Muffin Break
- Dymocks
- Roger David Hairdressing Salon
- Lowes
- Rock Wallaby
- Angus and Robertson
- Bakers Delight Tugg Hyperdome
- The Good Guys
- Bruce The Butcher
- The Athletes Foot
- Boomerang Software Exchange
- Hyperdome Newsagent
- Stardust Childcare Centre – also provided free photocopying