Strategic Plan
for Mackay West State School P&C Association
2012 – 2014

Scope:
This three-year strategic plan was developed by the P&C Strategic Sub-Committee and adopted by the P&C Association on Monday, 14 November 2011.

Context:
Approximately 850 students are currently enrolled at Mackay West State School (MWSS) and the school is growing.

In the 2010 Quadrennial School Review and annual parent surveys, ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies) were identified by parents, teachers and students alike, as an area in the school needing improvement.

A technology audit of the school, conducted in August 2011, found significant deficiencies in access to technology in the classroom and maintenance of existing technology.

In 2012, the Australian Curriculum will be introduced. The delivery of this curriculum is heavily dependent on teachers being able to access online resources.

In the past, the P&C Association has resisted investing in ICTs in the belief that this is a core area that should be funded by Education Queensland (EQ). The P&C now acknowledges that the school’s ICT needs will not be met solely by EQ, and that the P&C has an important role to play in providing advice and funds to support ICT development within the school.

Strategic Sub-Committee:
In September 2011, the P&C formed a Strategic Sub-Committee to consider the above issues and develop a strategic direction for the Association. As per the P&C Operations Manual, it is accepted that “a sub-committee is not an autonomous body, but rather a group working within the P&C framework, established to assist with the effective function of the P&C in specific areas and answerable to the Association in all respects”.

Constitutional Objectives and Functions:
The objectives of the P&C Association are to promote the interests of, and facilitate the development and further improvement of the school by - promoting parent participation; encouraging close co-operation between parents, staff and students; and promoting positive community support.

In pursuit of these objectives, the functions of the P&C are to:

- foster community interest in educational matters
- try to bring about closer co-operation between the parents, community, staff and students
- give advice and recommendations to the Principal about
  - issues relating to persons who receive educational instruction at the school, and
  - the general operation and management of the school
- give, or assist in the giving of, financial or other resources or services for the benefit of persons who receive educational instruction at the school, and
- perform any other functions, not inconsistent with the Act, as the Minister may decide.
**Values:**
The P&C values being able to work:

- **proactively** by identifying issues or concerns and working cooperatively to address these
- **reactively** by responding to issues or concerns as they arise
- **cooperatively** through strong relationships with Admin, staff, students and the wider community, and
- **independently** in decision-making whereby the P&C favours being able to stipulate where its funds are used, rather than handing over lump sums of money for the school to use at its discretion.

**Priorities:**
While the P&C will retain the flexibility to respond to a range of issues across the school, the top priority for 2012-2014 will be addressing the **ICT concerns** at the school. The P&C will also dedicate a nominated amount of funding equally to **academic, sporting and cultural initiatives** across the school each year.

**Spending:**
The P&C would like to acknowledge and thank the tireless volunteers who continue to come up with innovative and fun fundraising opportunities, as well as the wider school community which continues to generously support these events.

Using a conservative estimate based on spending patterns from the past three years, the P&C has **$25,000** to spend annually.

Over the next three years, spending is to be directed as shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spending Area</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>$</th>
<th>Prev %</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct to Families / Students</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Representative Sports</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Optiminds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>- Arts Council</td>
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<td>- Whitsunday Voices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discretionary</td>
<td></td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Applications presented to P&amp;C</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td></td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>- ICTs and Equipment</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Development and Beautification</td>
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<td>$1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Academic</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Sporting</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Cultural</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
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A consequence of this new spending regime is that the amount of discretionary funding available to the P&C is reduced from roughly $10,000 to $5,000. While this is a significant reduction, the above regime:

- allows flexibility in terms of where funds are drawn from
- is based on a conservative estimate of $25,000, and
- where additional funds become available, provides the P&C with the flexibility to direct the surplus into discretionary funding, or prioritise it as needed.
**Actions:**
The P&C has identified the following three important actions.

1. **Inclusion in the school’s ICT Committee**
The P&C would like to be represented on the school’s ICT Committee. The P&C sees the efficient working of this committee as pivotal in assessing and addressing the school’s ICT needs and developing an ICT Action Plan. Importantly, the P&C would stress the need for this committee to have provision for anonymous input.

2. **Advertising academic, sporting and cultural funds to the school community**
Awareness needs to be raised about the funding available to academic, sporting and cultural initiatives within the school. This funding should be advertised to teachers, staff and the wider school community before the end of 2011. Applications can be lodged using the *Request for Discretionary Funding Form* available on the P&C web page at [http://mackwestss.eq.edu.au/p&c.htm](http://mackwestss.eq.edu.au/p&c.htm).

3. **Seeking ICT-related funding opportunities**
The P&C grants officers are encouraged to seek ICT-related funding opportunities, particularly relating to ICT infrastructure, and to report any opportunities to the P&C.

**Evaluation and Review:**
The Strategic Sub-Committee should meet annually to evaluate and review this strategic plan. Before the first evaluation/review, the committee is responsible for developing an appropriate process of evaluation/review.

The next review is due in October 2012.