



Parents and Friends Committee Meeting 13 February 2019

- Meeting Opened:** 7:30pm
Present: Chris Black, , April Hampson, Naomi Bartlett, Vanessa Collins, Marzena Mansilla, Mandy Jewell, Lorraine Bendall
- Apologies:** Elinor Allen, Jodie Redman, Sharon Miller, Sharon Clover
- Correspondence in:** Bunnings BBQ Confirmation, Street Trader Approval & Financial Report, Entertainment Book 2019-20 offer. GWS Raffle offer
- Correspondence Out:** Bunnings Acceptance with Street Trader Cert & Public Liability Cert. Entertainment Book 2019-20 confirmed. GWS Raffle confirmed.
- Welcome:** Naomi Bartlett. Members Introduced themselves and their roles.
- Opening Prayer:** Chris Black – Annual Theme: Be Not Afraid
- Previous Meeting Minutes:** not presented
- Treasurer Report:** \$10,882.62 – Entertainment Book account payment made in Dec \$196.00

Guest Speaker: **Deng Chour, Pastoral Associate Cranbourne & Clyde North Campuses**

Firstly, apologies for missing his meeting late last year. Deng shared with us his refugee (migrant) story, asking us to be aware that his story is the same story for all of our refugee students and their families. From 3 years old until age of 18 Deng endured a life that we cannot really imagine. He says that this year marks an important milestone in his life journey, being 15 years in Australia, with stability and no forced moves and instability or threat to life compared to 15 years in Refugee camps in Africa. Deng was born in Sudan, and came from a mixed marriage; his mother was Muslim and his father Christian. At age 3 when the Christians in Sudan were being persecuted by the new Muslim regime his father joined the army to fight the war, Muslim vs Christians, because his father's involvement put the family in danger his mother and 4 siblings needed to flee the country. In the first instance, they fled to Ethiopia with his mother carrying him strapped to her back and his younger sister strapped to her front. Dad stayed behind to fight in the rebellion. The country unrest was not their only threat; there was Tribal wars ongoing in the region as well. After 3 years as a refugee in Ethiopia, due to the new communist regime they needed to return to South Sudan so that they could move into Kenya. This walk took them 13 months, moving at night a lot to stay alive, regularly as a family being separated on the walk due to ability to walk and dangers around them. They would lose each other and then find each other with great joy, only to be separated again. Deng at this stage was 6 years old. Each day they practiced army training for survival tactics, some days/nights only being able to move forward by crawling on their hands and knees. They needed to stay safe from other tribes as well as the controlled army. Along the way, he saw mass murders/graves. Eventually they got to Kenya, as Illegal Immigrants, where they were herded into a jungle area and left. The UN and Red Cross supported them for 12 years. During this time, they did what they had to do to stay alive, this meant working (cheating the system) by selling food rations to allow them to travel outside of Kenya and then arrive again and get further Food Ration cards, this in turn allowed for the extra food to be sold to get clothes. They did what they had to survive. At this stage, it was still Mum and 5 children, a miracle in itself. When Deng was older, the Army for the Rebellion would come to the camp to recruit the older children to come a fight. Deng's Mum always managed to find him, in one instance grabbing him from the back of the truck to keep him from fighting and safe. Single Mothers with children were able to apply to Australia for Refugee settlement. They were rejected 3 times, each time needing to go to the High Commission where their name was called and a letter handed to them stating they were REJECTED. On the 4th time, Deng could not believe his ears, when he was called, and then his eyes as he scanned the

letter to see the word ACCEPTED. So once again Deng and his family needed to reinvent themselves to fit into a new life, one as a Refugee in Australia. Deng was only schooled to the level of Year 8, but at 18 years old, he was put into Year 11 in Australia. Once Deng completed his secondary school, he entered the seminary to become a priest.

Deng almost became a priest, but then fell in love and his wife and 2 young children have now joined him in Australia from Sudan.

Deng was very excited to get the offer to work at the College, because he could do the 2 things he loves, firstly liturgies and then working with the large number of Sudanese students and families in our community. Deng's first year at St Peter's College as Pastoral Associate saw him having to very slowly break down the barriers, in the first instance because the Sudanese Refugees here in Australia come from the 2 warring tribes In Sudan, and so there is a great deal of distrust. He knew he needed to find a way of winning over the students and in turn their families. His key initiative was to form a Basketball Club, something that the Refugees were passionate about. But to take part in the Team they need to undertake Homework Club for 1 hour before training, and any behavioural or study issues reported for each student will mean that court time to taken off the students. What started with 6 male students has now grown to over 50 boys and girls.

To Read More about Deng, his journey and his important work at the College please go to this link:

<https://medium.com/@michael.badrock/african-australians-rising-4a738cb6da50>

Principal Report: Chris Black

Beginning of the school year has been wonderful for all at the College.

Chris takes Yr7 RE classes to meet all Yr7's and to introduce them to St Peter and our School theme and student motto, he also asks them what they like about the College so far. Their answers are numerous but include, older students look out for us, enthusiastic & kind teachers, love their new subjects, love being spoken to in a different way than Primary school. Not treated like a baby.

Landscaping & Cross installation at Clyde North Campus is complete, with Fr Denis blessing the Cross week 1. There is a Service Leadership focus to the installation with washing of the feet story depicted.

Yr11 Retreats have been undertaken. Faith Life experience focus.

Academic Assemblies, where we acknowledge our high achieving students from 2018. This sets the standard for all our students and particularly our Yr7's, inspiring them to always strive to do their best.

Opening Masses have been conducted by Fr Abutu and Fr Denis. Clyde North Campus student and staff body now nearly the same size as Cranbourne Campus.

School Improvement Plan discussed in brief. SIP booklet to be produced and distributed in the coming weeks.

Policy Focus for 2019: SunSmart, Mobile phones, Positive Behaviours & Code of Conduct for Parents.

Building focus for Clyde North Campus is Stage 6B and at Cranbourne Campus the Arts Precinct with the VCAL area to follow. Administration Bld will start later this year, and new traffic control plan will need to be implemented at this time. (Chris to meet with Local Police before Vic Roads and Council submissions).

General Business:

SunSmart Policy: Parents asked to comment on the option of Hats being compulsory for Term 1 & 4 for all outdoor activities. This includes recess and lunch.

Majority of parents were in favour of compulsory wearing of hats at this time, with some strong discussion afterwards of the impact that would have on disciplinary actions by staff and the impact of breakdown of staff/student relationships.

Opportunity for Student led change practices should be considered.

P&F Committee Secretary Role to be deferred until next meeting.

Closing Prayer: Chris Black

Meeting Closed: 9.00 pm

Next meeting:

13 March 2019

2019 dates:

Sat 16 Mar	8.00 am – 4.30 pm	Bunning Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser
Wed 1 May	6.15 pm	Solomon Islands Fundraising Mtg
Wed 1 May	7.15 pm	P&F Meeting
Tue 28 May	6.00 pm	Yr 7 2021 Information Evening Clyde North Campus
Wed 29 May	6.15 pm	Solomon Islands Fundraising Mtg
Wed 29 May	7.15 pm	P&F Meeting
Thur 30 May	6.00 pm	Yr 7 2021 Information Evening Cranbourne Campus
Tue 25 June		St. Peter's Day BBQ lunch
Wed 17 July	6.15 pm	Solomon Islands Fundraising Mtg
Wed 17 July	7.15 pm	P&F Meeting
Fri 2 Aug	7.00 pm	Solomon Islands Trivia & Silent Auction Evening
Wed 16 Oct	7.00 pm	Gr 6 Family Orientation Evening Cranbourne Campus
Tue 29 Oct	7.00 pm	Gr 6 Family Orientation Evening Clyde North Campus
Wed 6 Nov	7.15 pm	P&F Meeting
Wed 11 Dec	7.15 pm	P&F Meeting
Tue 3 Dec	6.30 pm	SPC Presentation Night
Tue 3 Dec	8.50 am to 9.30 am	Yr 7 2020 Orientation Day