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## TASSO NEWS MAY 2020

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## May News



April 2020

Dear families and carers of students in State Schools and Colleges,



Well, all I can say is that from my last report to you in March a lot has changed and everyone's world has been turned upside due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

The Coronavirus has impacted greatly on the school community with Jeremy Rockliff, the Minister for Education and Training recommending an early closure to schools just prior to the Easter Break.

With the commencement of Term 2 in the South and North of the state on Tuesday, 28 April 2020, and the North-West on the 4 May 2020, many parents have elected to keep their children at home in line with the Government's request, minimising movement amongst the community so as to diminish the risk of exposure to the virus. Class sizes at the return of this School Term have been reported as minimal.

It must be recognised that teachers have done a great deal of work to ensure all students have access to their relevant curriculum whilst schooling at home during these trying times.

***"The health and safety of all Tasmanian students remains our top priority for the Tasmanian Government as we face the challenges of COVID-19.***

***Public Health advice has always been and remains that our school sites are safe. However, we have asked our students to learn from home to limit people's movements, which is the best way we can get on top of this terrible virus.***

***The Department of Education is undertaking a large amount of work to determine the best way to return our students to the classroom, when the time permits. The Government has established a Recovery team, which is considering a range of options for the return of students to face to face learning. This is projected to Happen By 3rd Term but is being Monitored Weekly.***

***The key focus of this team includes considering how best to support the needs of priority areas such as Years 11 and 12, and the early years.***

***We will ensure that any transition will be very well communicated, and that there is enough time for students, teachers and families to prepare for the change.***

***The current advice remains that the best place for students to learn is at home, if they can be supervised and supported to learn at home."***

Minister Rockliff advised on the 30 April 2020

To help families who may have lost their jobs or been temporarily stood down, the Minister announced school levies would be waived for 2020. Those who have already been paid the levies or part paid will be refunded.

If students are struggling with creating a routine, and you are reaching your wits end, contact your school, they have knowledge and resources that can help. No family needs to feel they are on



their own. No issue will be that complex that it cannot be overcome by talking and exploring solutions.

There are many positives that are occurring with families learning and working at home. I am sure parents are now enjoying new interactions with their children, which previously weren't available. This new experience could lead some to continue the practice of being actively engaged in their children's education once this pandemic has passed and all students return to their school. Parents will have gained an insight into what is being taught and the subjects that their child/ren are particularly interested in.

Students may also share what they learn with their family or may start interesting and constructive conversations about maths, english, Australian history or life skills – subjects not previously discussed in the home. These discussions should be encouraged. From these discussions parents will be able to share this information with educators, who then can gain a greater understanding of what drives students and families around engagement for better educational outcomes for students.

Positive relationships between families, children, youth, school communities and schools, nurtured and developed during the COVID-19 restrictions could lead to more genuine engagement which will have a lasting positive impact on student learning.

Become engaged in your child's learning, but remember you are supervising, the teachers do the teaching.

I would like to thank all teachers, school staff, The Secretary and Minister for Education and their hardworking staff, students and families for their understanding and support during this challenging time and their outstanding commitment to ongoing learning.

Remember be safe and comply with social distancing.

#### **Contact with TASSO**

Whilst TASSO staff are currently working from home, they are working hard to keep School Associations, families and school communities informed about current events. Like a large part of the community their platform of work has changed with having to work from home, but if you should have any matter you wish to discuss please do not hesitate to make contact. All calls are treated with the strictest of confidence.

TASSO can be contacted by ringing myself on [0448 143 085](tel:0448143085) or Debra McOrist-Mitchell, Operations Manager on [0408 377 585](tel:0408377585). Alternatively you can forward an email to [info@tasso.org.au](mailto:info@tasso.org.au) or contact us via our website [www.tasso.org.au](http://www.tasso.org.au) or inbox the TASSO Facebook page.

Nigel Jones  
President  
TASSO  
4 May 2020



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There's a lot of changes about what we're allowed to do since the lockdown has been put in place in Tasmania. Here is a basic summary that you can use to help your child understand the "do's and don'ts"



â-2â-2 [Click on me!!](#) â-2â-2

Just remember that things are changing all the time, so only use this as a guide.

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The information here was kindly sourced from

Richmond Primary's very own website -  
<https://www.richmondprimary.education.tas.edu.au/history/>

Another great website I found was

<https://richmondtasmania.com.au/history-richmond-tasmania/>

If anyone is interested in knowing more it would be worthwhile taking a trip to Richmond and have a look around for yourselves. There is plenty of history to be discovered.

What us here at TASSO would like to see in our next newsletter is an article written by a student telling us all about their school! Not every school has a history quite as long as Richmond's, but every school has a story. Let's hear yours! -  
[info@tasso.org.au](mailto:info@tasso.org.au)

If you're struggling for ideas talk with your teacher about something that might be suitable (we love pictures too!)

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## Scholarships of up to \$5,000 for current and aspiring female leaders!

Scholarships of \$1,000 to \$5,000 are currently available to women working in schools education to help support their participation in a range of online career building leadership development programs.

The initiative is providing junior teachers, school administrators and senior principals with scholarships to support their growth and development via participation in one of three flagship courses. Participants will benefit from course content such as Elements of a Successful Team, Team Dynamics, Purpose Priorities and Professional Development, Empowering Teams, and Evolving Strategic Change.

### Expressions of Interest

Find out more and register your interest by completing the Expression of Interest form here prior to Friday, May 15:

<https://www.wla.edu.au/education.html>

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**The Tasmanian Principal's  
Association**







Go to <https://bit.ly/2xGVP7e> for all of  
the resources above and more!

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† TASSO is welcoming the applications of local  
groups and businesses to advertise through  
TASSO News †

Whether its a community event, a fundraising effort or a business with a product aimed at the schooling sector we will consider all applications.

If you would like to advertise with us, please email [info@tasso.org.au](mailto:info@tasso.org.au) or call 6243 7718 and share with us a brief description of what you are seeking to advertise. If applicable,

also provide us with some content (via email) to review for suitability for publication.

If you have any other general questions or queries regarding advertisements or publications of any kind, please send Tom an email at [comms@tasso.org.au](mailto:comms@tasso.org.au)

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## TASSO LINKS OF INTEREST

### School Levies Media Release

<https://www.tasso.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Cost-of-Returning-to-School.pdf>

### palawa kani In Schools Media Release

<http://bit.ly/2HyYhCl>

### COVID-19

<https://www.tasso.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/190320-COVID-19-v.2.pdf>

### Scurrilous - Private School Funding

<https://www.tasso.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Scurrilous.pdf>

### Courage, Patience & Respect

[https://www.tasso.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Courage\\_-Patience\\_-Respect-Together-We-Will-Achieve.pdf](https://www.tasso.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Courage_-Patience_-Respect-Together-We-Will-Achieve.pdf)

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In the world of COVID-19 we realise that many parents have chosen to remove their children from school as is their right! As such we've put together a list of sources of quality education that you can access from your own home!

*Online Learning*



Department of education

<https://www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/learning-at-home/>

Susie the Scientists and Millie the Mathematician

<https://www.suziethescientist.com.au/free-downloads/>

eSafety Commissioner

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Report Authority (ACARA)  
ACARA draws on the best national talent and expertise, and consults widely to develop the Australian Curriculum and resources.

<https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/parent-information/>

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TASSO is a not-for-profit community based organisation, providing guidance and support to parents/carers of students in State Schools and Colleges, assistance and resources to School Associations and school communities.

TASSO does not directly endorse any events, workshops or products advertised on our newsletter unless clearly specified.

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May 13th, 2020

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CONTACT US

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TASSO is the recognised peak state body and a not-for-profit community organisation representing Tasmanian state schools and colleges. We also provide guidance and support to parents, students, communities and School Associations.

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