

Examining educational options following the Bridgewater High School fire

Community Update No. 1 - December 2007

The Taskforce has met twice now and we believe that it is very important to keep the community up to date with our work. Here are a few points about what the group has been asked to do, how we will be doing it and when:

- We intend to have a website specially set up for the Taskforce but in the meantime we will post information on the Bridgewater High School website www.bhs.tased.edu.au/taskforce and the Brighton Alive website www.brightonalive.com.au
- We have been asked to look at education in a very broad way for all ages and for the whole of the Bridgewater and Southern Midlands community.
- The exact details of this task have been set out in the “Terms of Reference” which appear on the websites and in this brochure.
- We all see this as an opportunity to improve on the educational facilities we had in this area before the fire.
- No decision has been taken at this stage about what will be built or where.
- The Taskforce will conduct a wide survey of the community. This will be done by an independent consultant. The results of the survey will be reported back to the community and everyone will be given an opportunity to respond. This process will be very important in helping the Taskforce make decisions.
- The Taskforce has to report back to the Minister by the end of March 2008.
- There is a list of Taskforce Members and a Timeline on the websites and in this brochure.

Should you wish to ask questions about any of this or make a comment, please do so by e-mail to david.forshaw@education.tas.gov.au

Taskforce Membership

NAME

POSITION

Councillor Tony Foster - Chair	Mayor Brighton Council
Ms Yolande Lincoln	Chair Bridgewater High School Association
Ms Jenny Gale	General Manager Strategic Policy & Performance Department of Education
Ms Susan Parr	Chair Learning Services South-East School Improvement Board
Ms Jackie Brown	Bridgewater High School Farm
Mr Robert Rockefeller	Deputy Chair Learning Services South-East School Improvement Board
Mr John Klug	Community Liaison Officer Brighton Council
Mr Shaun Grice	Community Representative
Mr Shane Denny	Community Representative
Ms Chris Gee	A/Principal Bridgewater High School
David Forshaw (Executive Officer to Taskforce)	Department of Education
Anne French (Recorder)	Department of Education

Terms of Reference

The Taskforce is required to advise the Minister for Education on the following questions:

- What are the likely future enrolments in State schools in the whole area? This will involve estimating any likely increase (or decrease) in the population of the area due to current and future developments.
- How can we make sure that the way schools in the area are organised in the future fits with Department of Education policies and Local Government priorities?
- How well are existing schools and other facilities actually meeting the educational needs of the community? In this question we are thinking about “educational needs” of babies to adults with all ages in between.
- What should new educational buildings look like so that they deliver everything that young people in this area need from their education?
- How can we best provide opportunities for students in the area to continue into Grades 11 and 12 and beyond? This may involve some sort of training facilities and must link with the current review of colleges and TAFE (Tasmania Tomorrow).
- How will education in the area be managed in the future?

TASKFORCE TIMELINE

16 January 2008

Taskforce meeting with input from local Mayors and others

January/February 2008

Community Survey by Focus Groups

7 February 2008

Taskforce meeting with Natalie Jackson (Demographer) and Brian Caldwell (Educational Consultant)

28 February 2008

Taskforce meeting

13 March 2008

Taskforce meeting – results of Community Survey

March 2008

Results of Community Survey to community for comment

27 March, 2008

Final taskforce meeting

31 March 2008

Taskforce report to Minister